

THE PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE

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Rethinking History (and History Class)

Alumni Entrepreneurs in Education

NFL Coach of the Year Kevin Stefanski C'04

Gutmann Nominated as US Ambassador to Germany



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By Dave Zeitlin



COVER

Illustration by Chris Gash

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Fresh Starts

Consider it a great piece of luck that Trey Popp, the *Gazette's* senior editor, and Walter Licht, the Walter H. Annenberg Professor of History Emeritus, happened to run into each other in West Philadelphia back in the spring. Their encounter led to this issue's cover feature, "(Re)Introduction to US History," which is a kind of story we don't do often enough, even though what it describes is central to what can make going to college such a memorable and transformative experience—a deep dive into what happens in a particular course.

In this case, the course was History 011: "Deciphering America," an entry level class in the department that was developed and is co-taught by Licht and Kathleen Brown, the David Boies Professor of History. Shortly before he and Trey met, Licht had led his final class in the course—and at Penn—before retiring, and he told Trey that teaching it had been "the most rewarding" experience of his long career.

The class is designed to be the antithesis of the introductory survey lecture course that flourished a few decades ago—the article includes shoutouts to two notable practitioners of the genre at Penn, Alexander Riasanovsky and Richard Beeman—but that was rendered mostly

redundant by the proliferation of AP history courses in high schools, as well as increasingly problematic as more thematic scholarly approaches and contested perspectives made it harder to sustain an overarching historical narrative with a beginning, middle, and end.

Students in the class attested to its eye-opening impact.

Drawing on a range of primary sources—from newspaper clippings to product ads to a finely made handsaw from Philadelphia's industrial heyday and music videos from MTV's—the class calls on students to interpret whatever they're looking at without preconceptions and then see how their views change once the week's prompt is put in context via lectures and readings. With any and every historical fact instantly available on the internet, the goal of an introductory course becomes less about imparting information and more about teaching students "how to *think* historically," as Brown put it, and to be able to ask questions about

"how the past is being reconstructed or used."

Besides hearing from the two professors, Trey also talked with some students in the class, who attested to its eye-opening impact. One called the experience of realizing how much information and how many perspectives could be discovered from studying a single artifact "mind-blowing." Another approvingly compared the class's methodology to being given a set of tools and having to build a house. "Most of the time they teach you how to build a house and you have to reconstruct it on a test."

Aly Murray C'16 talked with assistant editor Nicole Perry about the joy that comes with that spark of insight among the high schoolers working with her company, UPchieve, which provides free tutoring and college counseling for low-income students: "One of the best moments in a tutoring session is when something clicks for the student you're helping. It's literally the message that is just a long string of O's and a long string of H's." Murray—who started UPchieve after an educational journey that took her from community college to Penn and a job with J.P. Morgan, and who hopes to make its services available to some 8 million low-income students by 2030—is one of three alumni entrepreneurs in education who are profiled in "Opening Doors."

As well as a new school year, fall also marks the start of a new football season. NFL fans in Cleveland are

looking forward to this year's with a rare sense of anticipation, thanks to Kevin Stefanski C'04, who led the Browns to their first postseason win in a quarter century and was named NFL Coach of the Year in 2020. Associate editor Dave Zeitlin C'03 profiles him in "The Cleveland Comeback" (which, it turns out, owes a fair amount to Penn's famed "spirit coach," Coach Lake). He also checks in on some Penn alumni who have managed, against the odds, to carve out playing careers in the NFL in an accompanying story, "The Glory and the Grind."

As the University returns to full in-person operations for the fall semester, some major administrative changes are in the works. In July, Penn President Amy Gutmann was nominated to be the US ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany, and so may be leaving College Hall sometime before her planned departure next summer, depending on when the Senate confirms her. There's also a new chair of the board of trustees, Scott L. Bok C'81 W'81 L'84; while former chair David L. Cohen L'81 Hon'21 has been nominated to be ambassador to Canada. Read more in *Gazetteer*, where you can also see a striking view of Penn's New College House as it awaited its first residents, who moved in in August.

Embracing Today with an Eye on Tomorrow

A parable of Penn in these times.

By Amy Gutmann

As I write, our Penn community busily prepares for a historic new beginning. Move-in and orientation have become treasured rites of passage at Penn. Our campus pulses with excited students, siblings, and parents. They push big blue carts of belongings toward a College House destination that will become a new Penn home for each student. Our dedicated move-in staff come prepared to the hilt and eager to help in every way possible. It is a huge welcoming effort, combining a little bit of cacophony with a whole lot of anticipation and exhilaration for the campus living and learning experience of a lifetime.

August marks our first-ever double welcome. We joyfully greet the Classes of both 2024 and 2025 as for the first time they begin their academic year on campus.

The Class of 2025, remarkable by every measure, faced unprecedented COVID-caused challenges in concluding their time in high school and applying to college. We all take special pride in their accomplishments, empathy with their resilience in the face of adversity, and unalloyed delight in being able to watch them grow and thrive at Penn in the years ahead.

The Class of 2024 are already Penn exemplars in so many ways. They had to forego the particular joys of arriving on campus as summer gives way to the fall semester. In September of last year, for the first time ever, Penn could not safely welcome its newest class of students to our physical campus. We chose to ensure their health and safety—and that of our entire community—through virtual matriculation instead. For these adaptable

second-year students and their families, particular recognition as well as unique events are therefore very much in order. We celebrate their arrival with a slew of fun-filled activities, and all are conducted in keeping with updated health guidelines. These include a picnic and class photo, walking tours and School-specific events, a uniquely tailored second-year orientation, and perhaps most beloved of all, a postponed-but-not-forgotten gala event at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

many ways groundbreakers, and not just because of their unusual beginnings. Our second-year students are the first Class to fully engage in Penn's two-year College House system, which is made possible this semester with the long-anticipated opening of New College House at Walnut and 40th Streets. This 450-bed, 13-floor tower flanked by two five-floor wings embodies and indeed epitomizes the College House ideal that has defined a Penn education for more than two decades now.

This is the essence of a forward-facing, future-oriented university—recognizing a profound commitment to meeting the needs of the moment while always looking ahead.

With an uplifted heart, I look forward to this swirl of welcoming activity commencing a new academic year. I know our students, families, faculty, and staff share my eagerness to resume in-person campus living and learning. We continue working tirelessly toward our goal even as we keep abreast of the latest science and public health precautions in the ongoing pandemic. If this pandemic has taught us anything, it is that abrupt changes can and do occur. So while Penn currently plans a full return in the fall, we must and we will remain vigilant, resourceful, and nimble.

The Classes of 2024 and 2025 are in so

Everything we know about what makes the College House experience both a profound learning environment and an unparalleled opportunity to form lifelong friendships has been incorporated into the design of this magnificent new residence. Home to second years, juniors, and seniors, this House will provide the keystone benefits that define the Penn College House experience—faculty leadership and neighbors in the House, and a dedicated staff of professionals to assist with our students' needs, along with a House staff of student Resident Advisors to provide social and educational programming.

New College House was designed from the ground up to include state-of-the-art in-House amenities such as communal study areas, common living and social spaces, seminar and music practice rooms, and other features that encourage a robust and inclusive community. It features a coffee bar, a meditation room, a fitness space, six club rooms with kitchens, and a tinker space. In the Quaker Kitchen, which is a unique demonstration and teaching kitchen, students will be able to participate in hands-on discovery of different cooking techniques while learning how to prepare a range of healthy and scrumptious recipes. Most importantly, by joining together to enjoy the food they prepare, they discover new friends and shared interests in the process.

In developing these plans, foremost in our minds was the idea that we were designing and building not just for this new Class or this new generation and the Penn of today, but for our university to come: the Penn of the future, and for generations of students who will tread these halls decades and even a century hence.

This is the essence of a forward-facing, future-oriented university—recognizing a profound commitment to meeting the needs of the moment while always looking ahead.

A 10-minute walk away, at the other end of our campus, this same outlook has guided the design and construction of the single biggest building project in Penn's history, the soon-to-open Pavilion at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. On the site of the former Penn Tower located directly behind the Penn Museum, the Pavilion, Penn's new 17-story, 1.5 million square foot inpatient hospital, has been designed to deliver the most advanced care today while ensuring innovation in healthcare well into the future. Rooms are equipped to flex between intensive and basic care unit setups, and the Pavilion features an interchangeable platform to readily shape and adapt to the profound evolutions in patient care technology to come.

Far more than a building, the Pavilion represents a new way of delivering care, health, and wellness in the ever-advancing, rapidly evolving context of 21st century medicine. It is both a reflection of Penn Medicine's global leadership today, and a statement of where we are going to be 100 years from now. Perhaps not surprisingly, proof of concept for such a bold venture arrived long before our planned opening and building dedication this fall. Last year, as the first waves of COVID morbidity challenged medical systems across the country and around the world, construction crews worked around the clock at the new hospital to complete 120 patient rooms fully 15 months ahead of the building's planned opening. Sixty rooms in the emergency department and 60 inpatient rooms designed for extended care were brought online to serve as overflow spaces for low acuity patients to free up beds at HUP for patients with COVID-19 in the earliest days of the pandemic.

The success of that effort was just one outward manifestation of a far deeper commitment to the fight against COVID-19. For decades prior, Penn medical researchers Drew Weissman and Katalin Karikó had been investigating synthetic messenger RNA as a new and completely different way to prompt specific antibodies to fight against a targeted disease. Quietly in their laboratories, without fanfare, they created the breakthrough technologies that underly two of the most effective vaccines being employed to battle the pandemic: the Moderna and the Pfizer-BioNTech shots. This perfectly captures what we do so very intently and well at Penn. Identify an opportunity today. Imagine how it could bring a brighter tomorrow. Then apply intelligence, imagination, grit, time, and determination to do all that is humanly possible to make that far-off dream a reality. We shape the future in what we do, and this year as in every year, we attract some of the very best and brightest young minds who come

from across the country and around the world to join us on this journey. They then become prized members of our amazing Penn alumni family.

This sense of untold opportunities ahead imbues our students with palpable excitement to meet the future with the Penn education they receive. In science, medicine, clinical care, and social work, in education and engineering, the humanities, social sciences, architecture and the arts, in business, communication, and law, they will become the discoverers of tomorrow.

This will always remain in my mind, a parable of Penn in these times: a University that—with confidence and focus and verve—confronts the challenges of today always, always, with a keen eye on the needs of tomorrow. This is Penn. Truly, a place and community like no other.

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Inspiring

Thank you to Dave Zeitlin for his fine article, “Century Club” [Jul/Aug 2021]. Perhaps you will be interested in a related anecdote from the early Title IX era of the 1970s. I was having my ankles taped in the Hollenback Athletic Center in the spring of 1974 or 1975, when a tall, fit oarswoman walked into the *sanctum sanctorum*, the all-male training room. “I need treatment,” was her direct statement as I recall it. Trainer Don Frey shoed a magazine-reading baseball player off a table and invited her to “hop up here. Let’s see what you’ve got.” Meanwhile the other trainer, Mr. Matthews, scurried around the room tossing towels to less than fully clad men. The next day shorts were required in the training room, and the place became coed. Her courage was remarkable.

Also, let me observe that some of us playing sports in the first half of the 1970s knew exactly who Julie Staver was and were in awe of her. She played field hockey and lacrosse with a stunning dominance. She was, in my opinion, the best athlete at Penn, male or female, during that era. Her humility was inspiring.

The hardships were real, and the Penn women overcame them.

Archibald Montgomery IV C’75, Asheville, NC

Upward Trajectory

“Century Club” got me thinking about my coach Lois Ashley. I had the pleasure to graduate from the University in 1981. I had the great privilege to play basketball all four years I was at Penn. Lois Ashley deserves recognition for taking women’s basketball on an upward trajectory.

When I started at Penn it seemed there were many enthusiastic players, but bas-



“The hardships were real, and the Penn women overcame them.”

ketball was more of an extracurricular activity that could easily fall by the wayside. We did not compare favorably to the teams in the Ivies or to the other Philly teams. My first year we started four freshmen and one senior. Lois helped to turn the program around, so by the time I was a senior we finished in third place in the Ivy League Tournament, which was our season finale and biggest goal.

Lois was a fierce advocate for her players. She championed the cause of the young women athletes. She simply thought that women should have the same support and treatment as their male counterparts.

Lois insisted we practice and play in the Palestra rather than Weightman Hall, and even got the Palestra equipment manager to hand out practice uniforms. She insisted our team travel outside the local area as we progressed. In the 1979-80 season we played at Stanford, where Andy Geiger was the AD after leaving Penn, and at the University of San Francisco. After I graduated, the team was lucky enough to go to the Great Alaska shootout. After my time, Lois oversaw the improvement to our locker room in the Palestra and invited previous players to send in a tile to commemorate their time at Penn.

My favorite Lois memory is this: It was customary when I was at Penn that the captains of the men’s teams got a Captains Jacket. It was a blue blazer with the split P embroidered on the pocket with a gold embroidered bar running vertically along the split P. Lois insisted I have one of those blazers, and she called the tailors that made the jackets for the men. I was, and still am, inordinately proud of that jacket. It is still in my closet all these years later.

I congratulate the women and the coaches who came after us. I just looked at the support staff for the women’s team. It is amazing how much the program has grown. I am happy for the progress today’s young women enjoy. They are the lucky recipients of the efforts of coaches like Lois Ashley who helped build the foundation. I am forever grateful.

Mary Monahan Glynn SAMP’81, Villanova, PA

Just Go Out and Do It

I am a 1962 graduate of the School of Arts and Sciences with a doctorate in chemistry. I do not remember any comments regarding female PhD candidates,

though we were in the minority. We did our work and taught our classes (as graduate assistants) and made it through. Our male colleagues were friendly, and we all helped each other.

I entered high school in 1950 in a very small town in New York State. Throughout high school I never had any teacher make comments about the girls taking the math and science courses.

I went to college to major in physics. The first year went well, but on the first day of the second-year course for physics majors, the professor's first words were, "I don't believe in girls in physics." It was downhill from there. I completed the year—squeaked through is more accurate—with the help of an understanding lab partner, a boy, and changed my major to chemistry. I never had another problem.

The writer of "Math League Dropout" ["Notes from the Undergrad," Jul|Aug 2021] seems to have had misgivings of her abilities. That was never me. My mother wanted me to apply to one of the Seven Sisters for college and I declined. Who wanted to be in a class full of girls when I could be with mostly boys?

Due to family commitments, I had to reconsider my long-term goals to go into research after getting my PhD from Penn. I taught in a division of SUNY for 18 years and then went to law school, on a whim and a suggestion from a colleague. When I graduated in 1986, there were many law firms that would not hire a woman. I am now a patent attorney.

Convincing male inventors that I really do understand their devices has been challenging. However, once the patents have issued, I have been given many compliments, the best of which are second projects from the same inventors.

I have always enjoyed the competition of school and the challenges that went with it. Being in class with mostly boys was fun for me, not a problem—though my mother did tell me once, "Don't let the boys know you are smart." The writer of "Math League Dropout" must have been discouraged in other and more

subtle ways long before that boy made his remark to her. I hope she has seen the film *Hidden Figures*. Those women had more than being female to deal with but proved that if you have the ability and the talent to pursue something, others will recognize your abilities.

There is one addendum to the above. Originally, I wanted to be an archaeologist. This was something I wanted from a young age. When I was a senior in high school, I wrote to the Museum of Natural History in New York City inquiring as to the job possibilities for a woman in that field. Much to my surprise, I received an answer. I was advised that unless I had independent means (which I most decidedly did not), the best position I could hope for was an assistant curator in a museum. That ended my digging career. One does have to be practical at some point.

My advice to anyone today, but especially women, is if you want to do something, no one can tell you that women or girls can't do something just because they are female. Just go out and do it.

Sandra M. Kotin Gr'62, Monticello, NY

To Avoid Ethical Dilemmas, Consider Self-Employment

I found your article about G. Richard Shell's book, *The Conscience Code*, to be very inspiring ["Gazetteer," Jul|Aug 2021]. In addition to the suggestions made in this article pertaining to dealing with ethical dilemmas at work, I would like to add one other suggestion: consider the possibility of self-employment. I was self-employed prior to the pandemic and, had I considered this option much earlier in my career, I believe the rewards of my career would have been greatly enhanced.

You can't be placed into ethical dilemmas by bosses if you are self-employed and, obviously, you have greater autonomy as well. The one caveat is that self-employment is more difficult in many ways than "secure" jobs, so one needs to exercise this option with eyes wide open, and with a great deal of advice.

Harry Toder G'71, St. Louis

What a Shame

I thoroughly enjoyed "Enforcer on the Ice" ["Profiles," Jul|Aug 2021] and the laudable achievements of Paul Stewart C'76 being the only Penn grad to play in the NHL and the only American to both play and referee in professional hockey. What a shame that our Ivy League university—in which many other institutions field Division I teams in men's ice hockey—can't navigate the return of this sport to prominence! If Penn had a Division I hockey program, I guarantee it would be a top five spectator sport and instill some real interest into the student body for Penn Athletics.

Jeffrey H. Schneider C'88, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Great Reading!

The May|Jun 2021 issue contained some very timely and interesting articles. Dave Zeitlin's "Fighting Poverty with Cash" was especially interesting because the guaranteed income issue is one that requires careful study to determine if it can be effective governmental policy. While the qualitative/quantitative study design described is on the right track, I have some concerns about the qualitative side. Self-reporting can be problematic, and a gift card reward could influence responders. Overall, the article was excellent, and I anticipate further reports from researchers Stacia West and Amy Castro Baker.

"The Vaccine Trenches" by Matthew De George highlighted the persistence required by Penn's researchers and how their tenacity contributed to the successful development of the COVID vaccines.

JoAnn Greco's "Webside Manner" put the spotlight on a major change in healthcare, which many of us experienced during the current epidemic.

Great reading!

Michael P. Sawczuk GrEd'90, Nanticoke, PA

Target the Unvaccinated Audience

I read about the amazing work of Dr. Susan Weiss ["The Mother of Coronaviruses," Nov|Dec 2020] and of Drs. Katalin Kariko and Drew Weissman ["The Vaccine Trenches," May|Jun 2021] studying the

LETTERS

coronavirus and mRNA. What I fail to understand is why Penn is not screaming it from the rafters. Call CNN, PBS, specifically Fox, targeting the unvaccinated audience. Get on the news so people who think the vaccines were developed too quickly can be reassured that researchers have been working on them for decades.

Susan Smith Grant GNU'81, Pensacola, FL

Generation Gap

I never wanted to be one of those people who writes a Letter to the Editor of the *Pennsylvania Gazette* about previous Letters to the Editor of the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, but here we are ...

The Jul/Aug 2021 "Letters" section featured eight letters discussing "Fighting Poverty with Cash," taking up more than two full pages. With one exception they ranged from critical to hostile toward Amy Castro Baker's work on providing no-strings-attached income to people facing poverty, and were sent in by authors from the Classes of 1961, 1969, 1960, 1952, 1948, 1976, and 1968 (two letters from this year).

Fellow Quakers, I have two words for you: *OK, Boomer*.

As a communications major, I don't have very sophisticated or nuanced thoughts on topics such as a universal basic income, negative income tax, or guaranteed allotment. In general, I think that giving money to people who need it is a good thing. However, I do believe that the generations who graduated between 1948 and 1976 had their chance to address income inequality already, and clearly have failed miserably at that task. Maybe let people who are still paying into Social Security take a stab at improving the lives of the young and poor?

Us spring chickens who graduated college in the 1990s and 2000s have had enough of you olds pooh-poohing creative social ideas and kiboshing them before they have a chance to potentially work. Maybe it's time for you all to sit back, enjoy your student-debt-free, government-funded retirement and allow a new generation of thinkers to try to

make some progressive change.

Michael Silverstein C '01, Los Angeles

People Want Justice, Not Charity

In his letter regarding the article "Fighting Poverty with Cash," Michael Pschorr lambastes the concept of guaranteed income, and then as a man of privilege rants on about "throwing other people's money" to those among us who are poor.

Mr. Pschorr apparently does not realize that what such programs are intended to do is to *finally* provide in the United States the social, economic, and educational benefits that are guaranteed in all of the Western democracies and Japan—maternity and paternity leave, sickness and disability benefits, mandatory and provided pensions, child benefits until age 18, a living minimum wage, childcare benefits for working mothers, and much, much more.

Mr. Pschorr needs to realize that people do not want charity—they want justice. And justice requires compassion. Perhaps he will dismiss my thoughts as those of a bleeding-heart liberal.

S. Reid Warren III SW'61, Spring City, PA

Some Help From the Government Is Not a Bad Idea

With a Wharton School degree and law school education, I have had a successful career in law and real estate, including investments in properties where immigrants and working-class people live. They are good people and work very hard for insufficient pay. If Mr. Pschorr got to know a brown or Black person, he might climb off his high horse and realize that the deck is stacked against these people and some help from the government is not a bad idea, even if the richest people in the United States were required to pay some income taxes. I do.

The minimum wage in my state is \$11 an hour. No one working for that amount can support a family without having two or more jobs, as most of my tenants do in order to survive. If we are going to solve the persistent problem of poverty

in the United States, we are going to have to consider new ideas such as presented by Dave Zeitlin's article in the May/June 2021 issue of the *Gazette*.

Arnold G. Shurkin W'60, Passaic, NJ

Unions Are an Answer to Poverty

Indeed, I support UBI and the \$15 minimum wage and all the other poverty mitigation proposals. But first consider this: \$15 minus deductions for a full-time job yields \$600 a week. We were taught in basic economics that rent ought to cost a quarter of one's monthly income. Assume a two-parent family with an infant and a toddler so one parent has to stay home. Does anyone know where one can find even a one-bedroom apartment for \$600 or even \$800 a month?

One of the best answers has always been and continues to be union organization. The ability of workers to organize together and demand better wages and working conditions, including health insurance and on-site childcare, represents the best way of exhibiting "self-reliance, determination to forge ahead, critical thinking, and recognition that life is a challenge."

Eliot Kenin C'61, Martinez, CA

Vaccination Has Been Offered Equally

I question the author's thesis in "Shot of Confidence" ["Expert Opinion," May/June 2021] that the reluctance of African Americans to get vaccinated against COVID is due to their historical mistreatment by the US healthcare system. That can hardly be the reason when vaccination has been offered to all Americans equally, regardless of their race. Rather, the answer should be sought in the mindset of others who refuse vaccination, such as many Americans who have conservative political and social views. It seems to me that in considering this problem, the author has allowed his professional background in "healthcare disparities" to overcome his critical faculties, as in the saying, "To a hammer, everything looks like a nail."

Robert D. Kaplan L'61, Sarasota, FL





Dancing With My Mom

Feminist, librarian, book lover, belly dancer.

By Susan Senator

I was born a girly-girl, but my mom didn't know it. She was and is a true feminist. She went to library school and worked when I was a kid in the 1960s and '70s, back when the other moms were bringing in home-baked goods on their kids' birthdays or running the local Brownie troop. Some of them looked down on Mom and whispered, because once in a while she'd be late picking me up and *it was because*

she worked. Mom didn't care. She wanted to work, and because she did, I wanted to work when I grew up. She wasn't a playing sort of mom; she left me to the dolls and dress-up on my own. But she was always recommending books for me to read. She was all about the life of the mind: quality over mediocrity, reading over watching TV.

I think Mom was always torn between supporting what I wanted and being

afraid of where that would lead. If she encouraged my dress-up games, would I become a shallow woman concerned only with clothes and make-up? She ended up treating all my fantasy play with a worried half-smile. Whenever I paraded around in her old nightgowns, with sweaters buttoned around my head to imitate long hair, she'd smile but clearly did not connect with it.

Mom signed me up for modern dance lessons because she loved it. But it was too butch for me, with the cut-off black leggings and bare feet—especially when I noticed the girls in pink in the ballet class before mine. I pleaded with her to let me take ballet instead. I don't know why she had steered me away from it; maybe she knew I wouldn't fit in. And I didn't. My tights were the wrong color. My curly brown hair didn't twist perfectly into a shiny bun. I wasn't skinny and even at 11, I was not flat-chested. I only lasted about a year in ballet. Then I left dance behind me, feeling like there was no place for me there.

But in my 40s I felt like I needed something new, something that was not related to my professional life. My taste in music was changing, but more than that, I wanted an escape from my hectic family life and career as a writer and speaker. I happened to catch a video performance of Shakira, the Colombian singer, and her wildly successful single "Hips Don't Lie." This was not my kind of music, but I was enthralled. There was Shakira, adorned in sparkles while veils billowed around her, her body curving into shapes so quickly I could not catch it all. She was belly dancing—something I'd never seen other than in old James Bond movies.

Something inside of me broke wide open and I realized that I wanted to dance like that, too. I wanted the ruffy gauzy skirts. I wanted to inhabit the music: powerful yet languid, sweet and heavy as caramel, light as birdsong. I wanted to move like that—soft and yet utterly controlled, at the same time. But right away the voice in my head said,

"No. At your age? Go to a gym, do yoga, get a dog, walk with friends. Do Zumba. Or modern dance..."

But the girly-girl in me rose up like Cinderella's fairy godmother and retorted, "Do what you really want to do."

I signed up for a local adult-education belly dance class, and everything clicked immediately in a way I'd never experienced. I was completely at home in that class—because it didn't matter if you started at 43 or 16, if you were fleshy or skinny. Belly dance was about being exactly who you were while figuring out how to move in ways few people could. It was—unbeknownst to most people—as disciplined and difficult a dance as ballet but without the rigidity of mind and body.

During a holiday visit home, I told Mom about belly dance. As always, my choices baffled her, but she was happy to see me so happy. She was especially pleased about how I was teaching belly dance to anyone who would try it. I had a "Baby Bellies" class in an afterschool program, which was basically six-year-olds running around with my veils, but we did manage to put on recitals for their ecstatic parents. I also gave a workshop at our local senior center. Mom would smile when she heard about my classes and was clearly proud of my teaching. And so one day I took a risk and offered to teach a group of her friends. I thought she'd refuse politely ("Oh, no, that's not for them, heh heh"), but to my delight she took me up on it.

Her friends all stood before me, in their 70s and 80s, each in a different colored outfit from my extensive collection. They giggled at the strange moves, the emphasis on isolating body parts like the chest. The obvious celebration of women's bodies as they really are was new, embarrassing, but also joyful to them. And Mom was my best student! At 80, because of her Pilates and her modern dance training, her body understood what to do. At the end of class, her face was shiny with sweat and pride.

Then came the day last summer when I timidly asked her if she'd like more dance lessons, just the two of us, and she said "yes!" right away. I guided her through hip drops and snake arms and began to get a sense of what she could and could not do, due to knee and leg troubles. We would set up a space in the kitchen of her summer house and dance, her eyes trained on my moves and my face. I had a trembly cautious feeling of joy: she liked it! I didn't want it to stop.

Neither did Mom, it turned out. Now we do semi-regular Zoom dancing. A half-hour of class and a half-hour of chatting. I asked her how she feels when she belly dances: "Don't edit yourself, Mom, just tell me," I said, and we laughed because we both know how cerebral she is. But I realized how hard I was gripping the phone, hungering for a good answer. She said, "Lots of different feelings—I wish my legs didn't hurt, I wish I were younger. I love the music.

But what I love best is being with you, watching your sweet face."

For Chanukah I knew immediately what I would get for her: a belly dance costume. I bought her balloonish harem pants with a bold peacock pattern, and a tank top embossed with sequins reading "Bellydancer." I chose it to make her laugh, of course, but also with that tremulous little-girl hope that she'd actually love her costume and want to wear it. She called me when the packages arrived and said, "This is what you get your 81-year-old mother for Chanukah?"

But the very next time we danced, she was wearing the whole thing. This wiry, smiling woman with those deep-set black eyes that see everything. Basically, playing dress up with me. But so much more. This was my mother. And now, my favorite dance partner.

Susan Senator C'84 G'85 is an educator, journalist, and author living in Boston.



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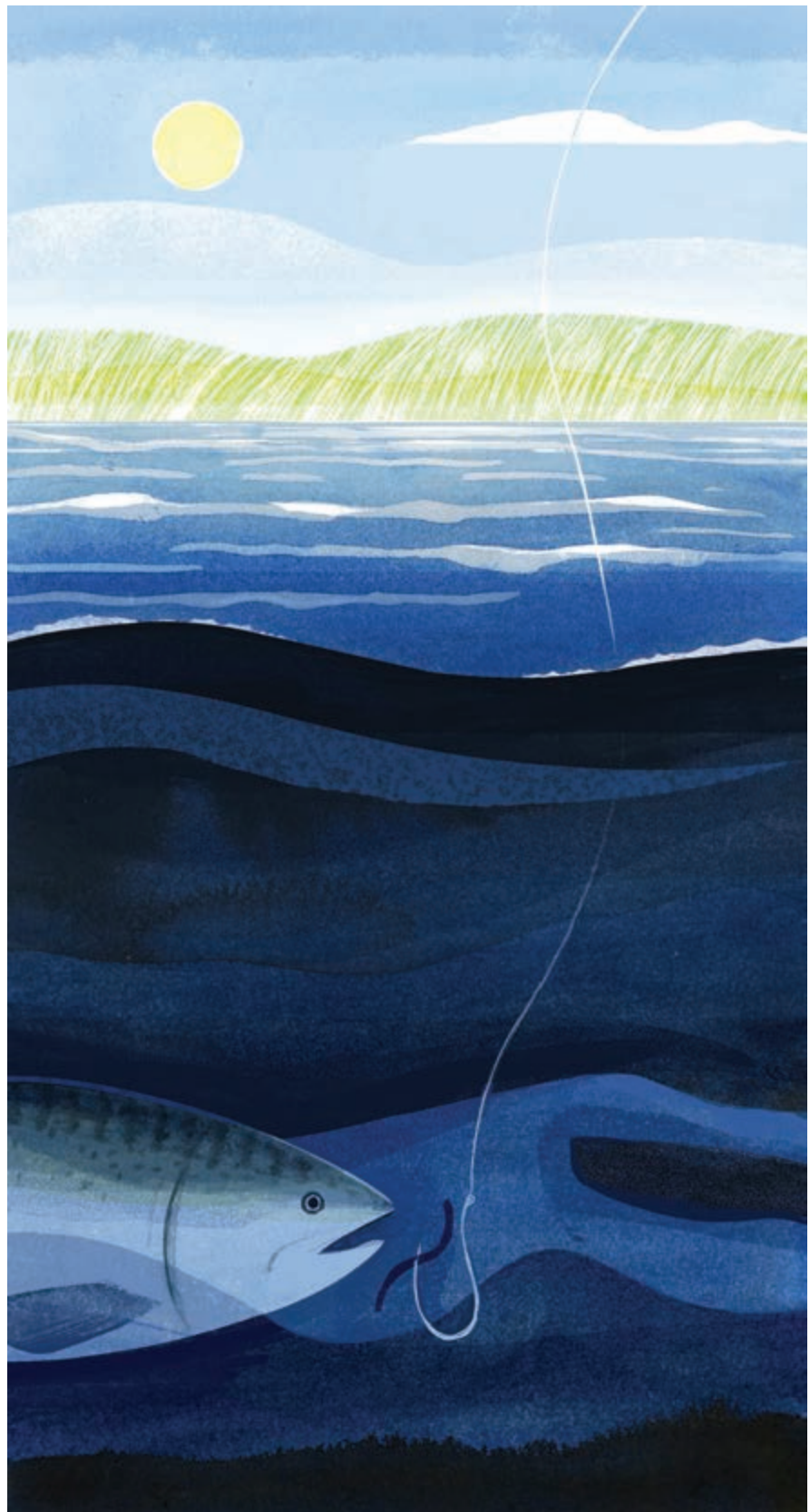
An upsurge of bright silver.

By Nick Lyons

Nearly seven decades ago I simultaneously fell in love with literature and a tall girl with frizzy hair. I had never been in love with girls or books before and lived most of my days in dumb terror. The poetry of Donne, after the insurance I had studied for my undergraduate degree, was as alien to me as Swahili. The poetry and girl, swarming in my head, led me to stumble about the campus of Bard College, where I had registered as a freshman, in a daze, muttering like a madman.

Naturally I had taken my rod and reel and a small bag of fishing tackle, and all that terrible fall and winter I kept eyeing the stream that formed the southern edge of the school property in a happy series of runs, riffles, sharp bends, and deep plunge pools. By opening day of trout season on April 1st, I could stand the tension no longer. I dug half a dozen worms behind one of the men's dorms, readied my gear, and slipped away into a cold, drizzly, predawn morning. Mist rose from the stream at the sweeping bend I had spotted behind the math professor's house. I waded into the lower end of the turn, in the shallows, and shuffled closer where I thought the trout would be lying. My sneakers held back none of the icy water.

On my first cast, a little upstream, I felt a slight tug, a slow tightening of the line, and there was an explosion: in an upsurge of bright silver, rising like Excalibur from the dark water, a great fish rose high, then higher, then bent double and shook, suspended in the cold air, then



leapt twice again, burnished silver, a fish larger than any I had ever caught or even seen. I may have peed in my pants but I couldn't tell for I had followed the great fish into water higher than my waist. It had to be a salmon—but from a small creek in the Hudson Valley?

My line was thick. The hook was placed deep. The enormous silver fish had little chance. In a few minutes it rolled twice, leapt once more half-heartedly, and then skittered onto the shallow bar and turned slightly to one side. I high-stepped toward it and then threw my whole body on the poor creature, trapping it against my chest in the frigid shallows and grasping it with both hands. Its head and shoulder were all that fit into my shoulder bag.

Still dripping wet, I promptly took the fish to meet my friend with the frizzy hair. Half asleep she smiled and mumbled something like, "That's a nice little fish, Nicki," and then turned back to the pillow. Then I took it to show the novelist who I knew to be a serious brother of the angle and he reported that, yes, it was definitely a salmon.

That night the wife of the chair of the English department baked the fish whole. When it came out of the oven it was placed upon a salver large and bright enough to please a king. Her husband, a poet, recited Elizabeth Bishop's poem "The Fish," with its haunting ending in which she lets the fish go. I loved the poem but had done nothing of the kind, and half an hour later the group of us had reduced the lovely fish to a backbone and a head. Our talk ranged between that strange thing called "literature" and my prize fish and I felt a happy sense that the two could be joined, especially when the frizzy-haired girl pressed my arm warmly when I snuck in a few words that sounded half-intelligent. As the pleasant evening unfolded the novelist remembered hearing that the owner of the great estate, who had left his mansion and lands to the college, had stocked the stream with great specimens of exotic fish.

That explained my salmon, and in the next few weeks I caught a splendid ouaniche under one of the falls, a fat lake-sized brookie, and a brown trout of unusual girth.

The girl with the frizzy hair, a painter, gave me a watercolor from memory of the salmon, and we soon married, had four children, and spent 58 years together, madly in love.

I have since caught many remarkable fish on flies in far-flung famous waters. But none has remained as vividly etched in my brain as that fish caught in a time of first loves: that poor Atlantic salmon in the small Hudson Valley creek with a fatal lust for a worm.

Nick Lyons W'53 is the author, most recently, of *Fire in the Straw: Notes on Inventing a Life* ["Writing Lives," May/June 2021]. This essay will appear in *My Catch of a Lifetime*, ed. Peter Kaminsky (Artisan, 2023).



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Dog Days

The pandemic upended the lives of some pets. The return of “normality” could be even more stressful. But help may be a click away.

By Kathryn Levy Feldman

About eight months into the pandemic, I received a plea from my high school class’s secretary for material she could use in the class notes section of our alumni newsletter. What, she wanted to know, had people learned from the pandemic thus far?

I did not have to think twice. “My dogs truly are therapy dogs,” I wrote back. My golden retrievers, Millie and Franklin, are certified, together with me as their

handler, as therapy dog teams by the Alliance of Therapy Dogs [“Power of the Pup,” Jul/Aug 2020]. Before the pandemic, I had only been on the giving end of this service. My dogs and I worked with children with learning differences as well as at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. But when our official therapy work shut down, my husband and I became the default beneficiaries of their therapeutic skills.

Franklin camped out most days in my husband’s home CPA office and kept him company while he navigated the never-ending tax season. Franklin learned to ignore the shrill speakerphone and the pings from constant emails. He sidled up to my husband throughout the day for extra scratches and pats, but for the most part was content to snooze until it was time to go for a walk, eat, or, best of all, play ball. He monitored the comings and goings of the UPS truck and Instacart deliveries from the window and seemed pleased that no one was leaving the house very much. My husband was equally delighted to have an office assistant and I often caught him taking a break by giving Franklin extra belly rubs.

Millie was my constant companion. She followed me wherever I went in the house—which is pretty normal for her. My behavior was a little less normal: I found myself talking to her all the time. She knew how I planned to spend the day and what we were going to have for dinner. We did a lot of ball retrieving in the backyard. For the most part, I tried to uphold the dogs’ regular routine of daily walks to the park and around the neighborhood. It did as much for me as it did for them. I was able to see my dog park friends, from a safe distance, grateful that Franklin and Millie continued to provide me with those connections.

One thing was different: for an entire year, I don’t think that we ever left the dogs alone in the house.

I thought the dogs had weathered the pandemic pretty well. Apart from putting on a few pounds from lounging about and chowing down on extra snacks, they seemed none the worse for wear. So when I got a call that therapy visits were starting up again—outdoors, with very small numbers of children—I signed up with Franklin, who has the most natural affinity for kids.

Our session with five children and three dogs began with a brief introduction in a classroom before a planned

walk. Everything was going beautifully. Franklin flawlessly laid down on command and was focused on me (and the treat bag) when out of the corner of his eye he spied another therapy dog in the corner of the room. All of a sudden, my certified therapy dog was barking and lunging at that dog. I quickly removed Franklin from the room and retreated to a far corner of the property. Out of range, he morphed back into my perfect pet and the kids were able to walk him without incident—as long as we kept our distance from the other dogs.

Shocked and somewhat mortified by Franklin's outburst, I called a trainer. It turns out that I was hardly the only pet owner noticing a dog's bumpy transition back to pre-pandemic life. Dr. KimMi Whitehead V'10, a criticalist at the Veterinary Specialty Center of Delaware and CEO of Intellivets, a veterinary telehealth company, suggested that despite my good intentions, my dogs had spent the last year picking up on a lot of "nonverbal cues" that I hadn't thought about. When I did start to think about it, some of the problems became quite clear. I had spent months wearing a mask and moving to the other side of the street whenever another person or dog approached. No wonder Franklin had grown wary of strangers and other dogs. And that wasn't the only thing. Remember the early pandemic days when everyone was wiping down groceries? Well, I was wiping down my dogs with alcohol towelettes every time they encountered another dog or person. And while it would take a lot for Franklin to be afraid of kids, he clearly was picking up on my anxiety each time we had contact with someone outside of our house.

In Franklin's case, I had also gotten lazy at making him work for a reward. A training session reminded me to go back to basics and make Franklin earn his treats. I'm happy to report that Franklin has completed four more therapy sessions with no more incidents. He

is again a lovable creature who basks in the attention of adoring fans. One student even asked him to sign her yearbook—which he did, of course, with a big pawprint.

Although my story has a happy ending, not all pets are figuring out post-pandemic life. According to Carlo Siracusa, associate professor of clinical animal behavior and welfare and director of Penn Vet's small animal behavior service, pets have faced a twofold challenge. First, they had to adapt to our pandemic schedules, which were often very different from their previous routines. And now, having made that adjustment, they are faced with another set of adjustments as the pandemic's grip loosens. These changes have intensified pets' feelings of powerlessness to control their environments. "They have to take whatever we decide," Siracusa explains. "If we want to take a walk when we want to take a walk, then they will follow. The exception, of course, is dogs that have access to backyards where they can go and spend some time away from us."

The rules governing the next phase of life are unpredictable. "It is not necessarily going back to what it used to be," Siracusa notes. However quickly or slowly particular dogs are able to adapt, "there is going to be some level of challenge that our dogs are going to experience." When those challenges fall on new owners of "pandemic puppies," the consequences can be heavy.

"Behavior problems are a leading cause of surrendering animals to a shelter," says Siracusa, noting that separation anxiety is a classic trigger for dogs acting out. Dogs whose underlying behavior problems were eased by constant companionship during the pandemic are liable to relapse if their owners abruptly leave and spend eight hours a day at the office.

Will newly busy families have the bandwidth to deal with that challenge, or are animal shelters about to be overwhelmed by surrendered dogs?

"I think the human-animal bond is very strong," Siracusa says. "So I do expect most people to be able to work on the problem—but there will be a percentage that will not have any other choice but to surrender the pet back to the shelter." One thing is certain, he says. "If we take the time to make a gradual adjustment, then it's going to be much easier on our pets."

For people who are struggling with behavior changes in their pets, Penn Vet has a new telehealth behavior platform, Penn Vet Behavior App, that can be accessed through your veterinarian. Developed by Intellivets in conjunction with Connect for Education and Penn Vet's Center for the Interaction of Animals and Society, the app creates a three-way conversation between the pet owner, the referring vet, and a behavioral specialist. The consultation encompasses a questionnaire, the pet's medical record (which often can provide insight into behavioral issues), and the ability to upload videos of troubling behavior. By examining the dog's body language in addition to other information, the behavioral team can offer suggestions for the owner. The app also houses a resource library curated by Penn Vet for the benefit of both owners and veterinarians, which is accessible to all users—even if they don't use the consultation function.

Since the pandemic began, Siracusa says this service has seen an increase in requests for consultations. "Is this coming change going to be another major one?" he asks. "I think it depends on how gradual the change is going to be for the caregivers, the owners."

"Our pets are doing their best to understand what is happening in our lives," he adds. "Their behavior is not related to being very spiteful or misbehaving. They are trying to recalculate their route."

Kathryn Levy Feldman LPS'09 last wrote for the *Gazette* about therapy dogs in the Penn Hospital system.

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Turning the Lights Back On

After almost 18 months of campus being completely or partially closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, students will receive a fully in-person learning experience at Penn this fall (with vaccine requirements and, per new guidance as of August 5, a mask-wearing requirement while indoors in public or shared spaces). And when students returned to University City, they likely saw some new things—including this building with a fitting name. New College House, located at 40th and Walnut Streets, welcomed its first-ever residents in August. The 450-bed, 13-floor tower features suites with single bedrooms and possesses a lot of similarities to Lauder College House near 34th and Chestnut—which, you guessed it, was previously named New College House [“Gazetteer,” Sep/Oct 2019].

President Joe Biden has spent a lot of time at Penn with Amy Gutmann, including this walk through campus in 2017 with students in tow.



Ambassadorships ahead for Amy Gutmann and David Cohen

The White House has tapped Penn's president and former trustees chair for senior diplomatic posts.

In early July it was announced that Penn President Amy Gutmann had been nominated to serve as the US ambassador to Germany by President Joe Biden Hon'13, and a few weeks later the news came that David L. Cohen L'81 Hon'21 was the administration's pick for US ambassador to Canada.

Before defeating Donald Trump W'68 in the 2020 presidential election, Biden served as the Benjamin Franklin Presidential Practice Professor and led the Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement. Family members including his late son, Beau Biden C'91, and daughter, Ashley Biden SPP'10, hold

Penn degrees, and Biden had been a regular visitor to campus over his years in the US Senate and as vice president, including serving as Commencement speaker in 2013.

Cohen recently concluded a 12-year term as chair of the University's board of trustees. Gutmann has been Penn's president since July 1, 2004. Her contract was extended

multiple times, most recently through June 30, 2022, but now her remaining time in College Hall will depend on when Senate hearings on the nomination are scheduled and her appointment is confirmed.

"I cannot overstate what a meaningful and extraordinary honor it is to be nominated by the President for this important position of service to our country," Gutmann said in a statement to the University community on July 2 when the nomination was announced, confirming a report first published a few days earlier in *Der Spiegel*. "As the daughter of a German Jewish refugee, as a first-generation college graduate, and as a university leader devoted to advancing constitutional democracy, I am grateful beyond what any words can adequately express to President Biden for the faith he has placed in me to help represent America's values and interests to one of our closest and most important European allies."

Gutmann expressed confidence that the search for her successor and the transition to new leadership would go smoothly. "We have a most dedicated and talented leadership team and Board of Trustees that are altogether unsurpassed in higher education," she said, "so there is every reason to be confident that the operations of our University will proceed apace without any interruptions."

Virtually every aspect of those operations has been shaped by Gutmann's consequential presidency, the longest in Penn's history. At her

inauguration in fall 2004, she laid out the Penn Compact, setting out the University's key principles "to increase access, to integrate knowledge, and to engage locally and globally." Tweaked and modified in expression along the way, those principles continue to guide the University's efforts, with an emphasis on the overarching goals of inclusion, innovation, and impact.

Gutmann has led two highly successful fundraising campaigns, the \$4.3 billion *Making History* ["Big Finish, Fresh Start," Mar|Apr 2013] and the recently concluded *Power of Penn* (for which totals have not been announced but are likely to exceed the initial goal of \$4.1 billion). The University accomplished this despite the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression happening in the course of the first campaign, and a deadly pandemic sweeping the world during the second one.

Starting in 2009, Gutmann established Penn's all-grant financial aid program, the largest in higher education, and has expanded support and programs for first-generation, low-income college students during her tenure. The Penn Integrates Knowledge (PIK) Professorships, which involve appointments to departments in multiple schools at Penn, and other endowed professorship programs have strengthened the University's ability to attract and retain the best teachers and scholars to the faculty.

And the University's physical plant has been transformed under her leadership,

from the athletic facilities and green space of Penn Park to the newly opened New College House at 40th Street (along with Lauder College House, which opened in 2016, the first new student residences to be built on campus since the 1970s), and to the Pennovation Center startup incubator, the health system's Pavilion for patient care, and numerous academic buildings and renovation projects. (Look for a full retrospective of Gutmann's tenure in a future issue.)

In her July 2 statement, Gutmann noted that hearings on the nomination had not yet been scheduled (still the case as the *Gazette* goes to press) and promised to "continue to avidly work as Penn President" until she served out her term next June or was confirmed. "I remain absolutely energized and engaged in leading Penn with an unrivaled leadership team and community of faculty, students, staff, and alumni," she said. "The Penn community has shown its true mettle more than ever this year, and to great effect for our city and Commonwealth, country and world."

Looking ahead to "our joyful return to on-campus operations" in the fall, Gutmann emphasized that she remains dedicated to furthering the University's mission of "research, teaching, patient care, and civic service" and making Penn "a more impactful, innovative, and inclusive institution—and that certainly does not change with my nomination." —JP

Leadership

Scott L. Bok Begins as New Trustee Chair

College, Wharton, and Law School alumnus succeeded David L. Cohen as Penn's top volunteer leader.

Toward the end of a June interview on his being elected chair of the University's board of trustees, Scott L. Bok C'81 W'81

L'84 touched

briefly on the issue of presidential succession. "Obviously, Amy will be transitioning out at

some point. It will be very sad to see her go," he said, but added that it is "always exciting to see what new energy and skills somebody new might bring."

At the time, that point was expected to be mid-2022, at the expiration of Penn President Amy Gutmann's current contract. But it approached closer—by exactly how much was still uncertain as the *Gazette* went to press—with the announcement in July that President Joe Biden Hon'13 had nominated her to be the next US ambassador to Germany (see previous story).

"No one is more deserving of this recognition," Bok said in a statement on July 2—one day after the formal start of his term as chair—calling her selection a "brilliant choice" on Biden's part. "Amy has been a

superb president for Penn, and we have total confidence that she will remain fully focused on advancing Penn's agenda until the conclusion of her time at the University."

He noted that transition planning had already begun on the assumption that Gutmann—who assumed the presidency on July 1, 2004—would be leaving office after 18 years in College Hall and promised more details to come. "As Amy has said many times herself, we have an exceptional leadership team at Penn, so we are confident that the transition will go smoothly."

As chair, Bok succeeded the also-long-serving David L. Cohen L'81 Hon'21, who had held the post since 2009. At the June meeting where Bok's election was formalized, the trustees also approved a resolution of appreciation for Cohen, the recipient of an honorary degree at this year's Commencement ["Gazetteer," Jul|Aug 2021]. "David has fostered progress on critical initiatives as varied as educational access, state-of-the-art facilities, world-changing discovery and innovation, and scholarly diversity," the resolution stated. "In his tenure, the University has developed and



grown exceptional life-changing efforts such as all-grant undergraduate financial aid, first-generation programs, and a two-year residential experience in tandem with expanded interdisciplinary academic opportunity. Even the distancing challenges of an extended pandemic did not hinder the University's progress in path-breaking education, life-saving research, healing, and service, nor the spectacular success of its just-ending *Power of Penn* campaign."

Bok echoed the plaudits for his predecessor, praising his legal and governance expertise, long involvement in the Philadelphia community, and deep knowledge of local, state, and federal politics. "He was a terrific chair for this period and a terrific supporter and advisor to Amy, and hopefully I'll be able to fill his shoes—to some degree, anyway," Bok said of Cohen.

Bok joined the board of trustees in 2005 and most recently served as vice chair. He has been a member of the investment board since 2016, and has served on the executive, audit and compliance, academic policy, compensation, development, and nominating committees. Other service has included membership on boards for the School of Arts and Sciences and the Lauder Institute of Management and International Studies, as well as on the steering committees for the *Making History* and *Power of Penn* campaigns. "I've been involved at Penn for a very long time in a lot of dif-

ferent ways, and I've enjoyed every minute of it," he said.

The first person in his family to go to college, Bok picked Penn sight unseen from the Barron's guide because it sounded like a great school and one that would lead to a good job, he said. "So, I applied, I got in, traveled with my parents from Michigan and moved into the Lower Quad—and on that first day met people who are still among my closest friends today."

In addition to fulfilling the coursework for undergraduate majors in political science and economics, Bok was active on the *Daily Pennsylvanian*—he even considered pursuing journalism for a time—and served as the student liaison to the board of trustees. The position was largely ceremonial ("You're not there for the really important inside discussions"), but it offered a "glimpse into how the University is governed, and I did find it fascinating," he said.

Bok also met his wife—Roxanne Conisha Bok C'81, author of *Horsekeeping: One Woman's Tale of Barn and Country Life* and currently a member of the Veterinary School's board of advisors—when she moved in across the hall from him in High Rise North (now Rodin College House) as a transfer student. They married soon after graduation, "which was quite early, quite young back then." The couple has two children, Elliot W'17 and Jane C'22.

After graduating from Penn Law, Bok practiced mergers

"We want to have a more diverse and interesting student body from all over the country and the world, of all different types of people with all different interests."

and acquisitions and securities law for two years and then joined Morgan Stanley, where he worked from 1986 to 1997, before joining the independent investment bank Greenhill & Company where he is currently chairman and CEO.

For five of his years at Morgan Stanley, the Boks lived in London, during which time they, "didn't get back to the US that often, let alone Philadelphia," he said. The couple reconnected with the University as alumni first through their shared interest in writing, meeting Paul Kelly C'62 WG'64 and becoming involved with Kelly Writers House as it was getting started in the mid-1990s. Bok called Kelly, a fellow trustee who died due to complica-

tions from COVID-19 this past year ["Obituaries," May/June 2021], "just a wonderful human being" who "thought I had the potential to maybe play some roles at Penn, and he helped introduce me to various people as well."

Much of their involvement has been focused on the School of Arts and Sciences, including establishing the Bok Family Foundation Professorship in the Humanities at SAS and the Bok Endowed Visiting Writers Series Fund at the Kelly Writers House. "The undergraduate liberal arts education is just so central to any university and certainly to the success of Penn," Bok said.

Outside the University, Bok chaired the board of the educational support group Prep for Prep in New York (until recently stepping away to take on his current role at Penn). The organization "finds high potential young people of color about 10 years old across the New York City public school system, gives them kind of an intensive extra educational program, and then it places them in the top schools throughout the Northeast," including private schools in New York, and boarding schools like Lawrenceville, Andover, and Exeter. "And the kids go there, and they thrive."

He said that Penn is among the top handful of schools accepting graduates of the program, recalling that a few years ago the cover of its annual report showed "Amy Gutmann standing next to the Ben Franklin statue surrounded by all the people

then on campus who were Prep alumni” and noting a broader connection between the goals of Prep for Prep and the University’s goals “in terms of diversity and inclusion.”

Increasing resources for financial aid is one of the main strands of the University’s *Power of Penn* fundraising campaign, which concluded on June 30. “We’ll find out the final numbers soon, but they’re going to be extraordinary,” Bok said, adding that the results will be especially impressive for being achieved “even with the pandemic intervening and all the problems of going out to connect with alumni and solicit donations.” There was some initial concern that the disruptions to people’s lives could cause them to pull back from participation, “but Penn alumni did not do that.”

Overall, in terms of the pandemic, Bok said the “University did a fabulous job,” reacting with necessary speed and decisiveness to close campus and move instruction online. Now, as the campus returns to mostly normal operations this fall, Penn is well positioned to continue to advance its mission, he said. “I’m sure there will be challenges that we can’t foresee today, but at least as we sit here now, I think most of the issues have been identified and it’s a matter of just doing the best we can on those.”

That includes making Penn “more accessible than ever,” he said. “We want to have a more diverse and interesting student body from all over the country and the

world, of all different types of people with all different interests.” Building endowment will be a continuing focus as well, “because we want to be able to fund more research, more faculty, more student aid,” he added.

“One of the challenges of a university with Penn’s qualities is that you have a lot of local responsibilities. You’ve got to fit into the local community and be a good community member, but you also are trying to impact the whole world,” Bok said. “Penn’s got alumni that stretch across the globe, it’s got alumni running all kinds of organizations of different types and playing big roles in all aspects of society, so Penn has a big role across the world, which is in many ways equally important to that local role.

“So, we’ll try to balance all those things and just continue to inch forward in terms of the quality of the University, but frankly it’s been an extraordinary 17 years under Amy Gutmann’s leadership. I’m sure there are ways we can improve from here, and we’re absolutely going to be committed to doing that,” he said.

“I think what makes Penn great is the breadth and depth of people who are committed to its success,” from his fellow trustees to the University’s senior administrators and staff to the “tens of thousands” of alumni involved as volunteers, Bok added. “I am grateful to be part of that team and very excited at what the future holds for Penn.” —JP

Housing



HIP Check

The Housing Initiative at Penn tackles issues of affordability and accessibility before, during, and after the pandemic.

COVID-19 has added millions to the roster of people struggling to keep up with housing costs, but the struggle itself is nothing new, says Vincent J. Reina, associate professor of city and regional planning at the Stuart Weitzman School of Design. According to the US Census Bureau, as of this summer about 8 percent of homeowners and around 16 percent of renters were behind on their payments, and the fate of the Centers for Disease Control’s nationwide eviction moratorium remains in doubt even after a recent two-month ex-

tension for the majority of the country that will last until October 3.

“The pandemic highlighted that many of us have no safety net when it comes to housing—but that’s been the case all along,” says Reina, who is also faculty director of the Housing Initiative at Penn (HIP). “We just needed to acknowledge these supply and demand issues and to realize that government can use tools to alleviate them.” One of HIP’s primary missions, he adds, is to help local jurisdictions get a handle on housing barriers and develop strategies to address them effectively.

Reina worked at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development and as a senior program officer at the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), where he underwrote financing for affordable housing developments across the country, before coming to Penn in 2016. Not long after that, he and one of his then-graduate students, Claudia Aiken GCP'18, partnered with LISC to prepare *Housing for Equity*, the City of Philadelphia's first ever housing plan.

"Through detailed neighborhood planning efforts and a robust effort to develop a historic preservation plan, the city had set the foundation for a lot of meaningful work," Reina says—which was "a great start, but if you want to meaningfully address housing in any city, you need to make links between all of those components."

Housing plans dig into supply shortages, repairing or upgrading existing housing, and issues of fairness, affordability, and access. "The idea is to identify opportunities for improvement and figure out how the government can play a role and if the private sector can help," he explains.

The work for Philadelphia generated interest from officials in other cities, who approached Reina for help writing their own housing plans. Realizing "we had a thing," he says, he and Aiken set up the HIP program and she was hired to run it. Sydney Goldstein GCP'18 soon joined them as research director. The group has pro-

duced housing plans and studies with local practitioners for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the cities of Cincinnati and Cleveland (with the participation of Akira Drake Rodriguez, assistant professor of City and Regional Planning).

HIP has also developed a concurrent research specialty in examining government responses to the pandemic when it comes to rent relief programs and other housing assistance. The CDC has cited HIP's reports in previous extensions of the eviction moratorium. While the agency approached this from a COVID-related public health standpoint—reasoning that allowing people to stay in their homes would facilitate isolation should they become sick, as well as keep them out of "congregate settings" like homeless shelters—the public health dangers of housing inequities go beyond the pandemic. When people struggle to pay their housing bills, that money also comes out of other expenses like healthcare and food.

If keeping up on the rent (or mortgage) payment is one half of the problem, the other half is the increased difficulty of locating affordable housing, a struggle that has grown increasingly familiar to middle-class Americans. Over the past five decades, new housing construction has gradually shifted toward larger and more expensive homes. Last year only about 7 percent (65,000) of new homes completed could be considered entry-level, which is less than

one-fifth the number of entry-level homes built annually during the late 1970s and early 1980s, according to mortgage loan company Freddie Mac.

Creative takes on increasing affordability and accessibility include erecting "tiny" houses (as small as 300 square feet), legalizing accessory dwelling units (from backyard shacks to mother-in-law suites); encouraging co-living communities with shared kitchens and baths; enacting zoning that restricts single-family home construction in favor of more multi-family units; and converting hotels to housing for the homeless, as has been done on a temporary basis during the pandemic.

"There's no one single solution," Reina says. "Housing is so entangled with a broader set of societal problems—segregation, discrimination, barriers to credit—that it's become a persistent national crisis."

Geography matters, too. "Two cities can have an affordability problem, but the drivers can be very different," Reina points out. "San Francisco, for example, is a high-cost market with a distinct undersupply of affordable housing. In Philadelphia, though, there's plenty of aging housing stock—but not enough incentives for investing in them."

Even when government lends a hand—with tax incentives or Housing Choice Vouchers, federal rental subsidies more commonly known as Section 8—the need greatly exceeds the

funding, he adds. Nearly 200,000 households applied for 20,000 spots when Los Angeles reopened its waiting list for vouchers for the first time in more than a decade.

HIP recently partnered with six jurisdictions—Atlanta, Baltimore, Los Angeles, Oakland, Philadelphia, and the State of California—to evaluate their varied approaches to COVID-related rent relief. "We'll be asking questions like: What restrictions do they come with, how are they designed, who's using them, how are dollars getting out the doors, what are the administrative burdens, how do they relate to political control, how do they address broader issues of racial equality?"

With a new administration in Washington and a renewed interest in housing, Reina feels optimistic. "I'm excited to see the lack of federal commitment toward housing reversed," he says. "For too long, we've politicized housing and stopped abruptly in the face of criticism. The reality is that these are complex issues and so we have to keep looking at them from new angles."

And by doing that, he hopes HIP can use the assets of the academy to realize practical solutions. "With the rent relief work, we've been placed at the center of a national conversation that I wasn't expecting," Reina says. "It's showed me that there's real opportunity in partnering with municipalities and developing new and innovative programs."

—JoAnn Greco



A Pipeline to a Medical Career

Perelman School and Netter Center give Philly high schoolers exposure to medicine and mentorship.

Karen Xu first learned about the Perelman School of Medicine's Educational Pipeline Program before she had even committed to the University. "It was during Penn Preview," the 24-year-old MD/PhD candidate recalls, "and we visited a high school with the program's director to watch some of the work that the students were doing. I was really excited by what I saw, and one of the first things I did when I actually began med classes was to sign up as a volunteer for the program." Xu has returned several times during her first

four years at Penn, and now serves as a coordinator, where she designs and implements lesson plans for the high schoolers. "I love seeing these kids get excited about topics they haven't been exposed to before and that might wind up being their career," Xu says. "To be able to reach them in high school seems like a very pivotal moment."

The Educational Pipeline Program, which pairs pre-med and pre-vet undergrads and Perelman and Penn Vet students with local Philadelphia high school students to introduce them to career tracks in medicine and

healthcare, is a win-win situation for everyone involved, points out Sharon Lewis, the program director and associate professor of neurology. "Our students bring their amazing enthusiasm to the high school students," she says. "They pour their hearts into it, and they get so much back. Since most of them will eventually end up in academic medical careers, this is a really important way for them to hone their teaching skills and work on communicating complicated concepts to lay populations." As for the high school students, the goal is to give them a taste of college

life and entering a professional field. "It's to teach them self-efficacy and a sense of belonging to the Penn community," Lewis says.

The idea is one of "mutual transformation," adds Cory Bowman, associate director of Penn's Netter Center for Community Relations, which facilitates the program. All the participants "can expect to be changed by the experience," he says.

Karen Hamilton Gr'79, a former Perelman assistant dean of student affairs and director of minority affairs, developed the program in 1998 in response to a challenge set forth by the Association of American Medical Colleges to increase the matriculation of underrepresented minorities in medical school. Initially, the program recruited students from schools scattered around the city, but it soon switched to four of Penn's more immediate neighbors: Sayre, West Philadelphia, Mastery-Shoemaker, and Robeson high schools. With that new focus, the program became less about trying to find minority students who would become doctors and more concerned with getting them to finish high school through exposure to the healthcare industry, one of the area's top employment sectors. Encouraging students to act as ambassadors who spread the word to their families and neighbors on wellness issues relevant to the Black and brown community emerged as another facet. In the neurologic curriculum, for example,

students learn about hypertension and diabetes mellitus, which are disproportionately high in their communities, and discuss the steps that can be taken to reduce stroke risk.

In addition to that 10th-grade neurology course, students explore gastroenterology in 9th grade, cardiology in 11th grade, and veterinary medicine in 12th grade. In the fall, Penn's undergrad students visit the local high schools; in the spring, the high schoolers come to Penn to tour labs and interact with the medical and vet school students and residents. During the summer, a public health session, covering topics like epidemiology and food insecurity, is also available. Altogether, about 100 high school students participate each year.

That number will likely grow as the program continues to evolve and young alumni build their own medical careers. Take Samuel A. Funt C'05, a physician at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and his wife Mia Beldegrun Funt C'05, who in 2019 established the Mia and Sam Funt Educational Pipeline Program Fund, the first-ever gift made to the initiative. While studying neuroscience as an undergrad, Sam says he was drawn to participate in Pipeline because he "had already benefited from inspiring mentors during my education and wanted to serve in that role for others. I [also] felt that the exposure to Penn medical students would be invaluable in helping me

to navigate that next step in my own career path. Multi-tiered mentorship is what Pipeline is all about," he adds. "It's often those individuals that are just ahead of you in the educational journey that can provide the most relevant and practical advice."

In fact, Sam started a similar Pipeline effort in 2010 while attending Emory University School of Medicine and, more recently, Mia encouraged her younger brother Ron Beldegrun C'08, who cofounded the infant nutrition start-up ByHeart with her a few years ago, to consider funding Pipeline. Now, thanks to the support of he and his wife, Karrie, a new life sciences and management track for 11th–12th grade students is set to be added this year in collaboration with the Vagelos Program in Life Sciences & Management. As Pipeline matures and its high school, undergraduate, and graduate students find their way in the world, the program plans to start formalizing its self-evaluation and success measures with the aim of national replication and adaptation.

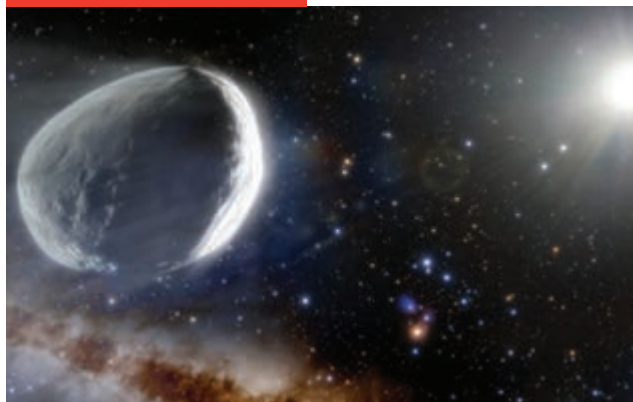
For now, the Penn students who participate in Pipeline can clearly understand the value of their participation on a one-to-one basis.

"Sure, I've made contacts and improved my pedagogical skills," Xu says. "But I'm really doing this for the students. Having the opportunity to help them visualize their future is the best aspect of the program for me."

—JoAnn Greco

ASTRONOMY

Largest Comet Ever Discovered



A giant comet potentially larger than the island of Hawaii has been spotted by Penn astronomers. The Bernardinelli-Bernstein comet (C/2014 UN271) is named after its discoverers, Pedro Bernardinelli G'21 Gr'21 and Gary Bernstein, the Reese W. Flower Professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics, who found it after sifting through archival images from the Dark Energy Survey (DES) this past June. The pair had identified more than 800 novel icy objects with orbits larger than Neptune's; but one, designated C/2014 UN271 (in reference to the date the picture was taken, October 2014) was "by far the most interesting one we found," Bernardinelli told the *New York Times*. At the time the image was captured, the object showed no features associated with comets, but its dimensions were notable. Within days after it was announced, astronomers from two other observatories recorded new images that showed a fuzzy border, known as a coma—a telltale sign of a comet.

The Bernardinelli-Bernstein comet is currently not the largest object beyond Neptune, but as it moves closer towards the sun's glare, more of its ice will vaporize, enlarging its coma and making it the largest comet ever observed in recorded history. Bernardinelli conservatively estimates that its nucleus is between 62 and 125 miles long.

It was also discovered at a greater distance than any previous incoming comet. First seen by DES in 2014, it was 29 astronomical units (au) from the sun, and as of June 2021 it had moved closer to 20 au. It will reach its perihelion (nearest point to the sun) in 2031 at 11 au, when it grazes Saturn's orbit.

Despite the comet's great size, it won't get close enough to Earth to be visible to the naked eye. It's also unlikely that any spacecraft will be able to get a closeup look, given its distance and the amount of fuel required for such a mission.

Still, astronomers are excited about the chance to observe this comet in detail over the coming years. Bernardinelli said in *Penn Today* that the Vera C. Rubin Observatory, a telescope under construction in Chile, "will continuously measure Comet Bernardinelli-Bernstein all the way to its perihelion in 2031 and probably find many, many others like it."

Rendering courtesy NOIRLab/NSF/AURA/J. da Silva

Prince Emili, seen here attacking the Columbia offense, decided to finish his college football career at Penn even when the pandemic altered many of his teammates' plans.

Back on his Throne

The only remaining member of his Penn football class, Prince Emili is ready for a long-delayed swan song.

When the Ivy League canceled fall sports in July 2020, student-athletes throughout the conference had a decision to make.

Some decided to transfer to another school. Others chose to remain on their graduation path rather than trying to extend their athletic career.

For Prince Emili, a standout defensive lineman for the Penn football team, the choice was easy. He'd do what was necessary to make sure he'd finish his college football career exactly where he started it. "I really like the staff and I didn't really want to switch anything up," Emili says. "I decided to stick it out and finish everything up here."

Emili, who first got to Penn in 2016, was eligible to return for a fifth year in 2020 when the pandemic delayed his plans. He considered graduating last December and then trying to make it in the NFL, but instead took a two-semester leave of absence from Penn, going to his home in New City, New York to work out in his garage or nearby fields, "trying to stay ready and stay sane," he says.

"My goal is to go to the next level and I've seen people do that from the Ivy League," notes Emili, adding that he didn't feel the need to put his name into the transfer portal, where he undoubtedly would



have drawn interest from NCAA programs that did have a football season last year. "I didn't really want to muddy the picture," he says. "I just wanted to lock in on my own plan."

Emili, who only has one half-credit class left to finish his degree in healthcare management, is now one of the few veteran leaders on a Quakers' football team that looks a lot different from the last time he stepped on

the field. Even head coach Ray Priore has a hard time gauging the 2021 Quakers, who open their season against Bucknell on September 18. Their first home contest is slated for October 1 versus Dartmouth—more than 22 months since their last game at Franklin Field. Because the 2020 season was wiped out, no current freshmen and sophomores have ever taken a real snap and most juniors haven't played

much either. "There's not a lot of experience," Priore says. "But everyone's in the same boat in our league."

Although Emili is the only remaining member of the class that came to Penn in 2016—"It's lonely," he laughs—there's a handful of fifth-year returners who first arrived in 2017, led by linebacker Brian O'Neill and running back Isaiah Malcolm, who Emili believes is primed for a big season. But

other members of that class opted to move on from Penn. Ryan Glover, who was poised to be Penn's starting quarterback had there been a season last fall ["Sports," Sep/Oct 2020], decided to graduate early and transfer, leaving Penn without a QB that's ever taken a varsity snap. "Teams that have quarterbacks coming back would obviously have a little leg up," the coach says.

Finding a new player to run the offense might seem like a quaint problem for Priore, who notes that this past fall was the "first time in 50 years" he didn't do anything with football. But he still had a lot to do, from recruiting a whole class without being able to see them in person—"We were one big infomercial," he says—to managing a few COVID infections on the roster early in the spring semester when the vast majority of players returned to campus. ("No one got anything serious," he says.) The highlight of last semester, undoubtedly, was the 12 days of spring ball, which culminated with an intrasquad spring game that was broadcast live on YouTube. "That was different and interesting," Priore says. "But I think we learned a lot about ourselves." The graduating seniors who opted not to return for the 2021 season were honored before the game by "running through the tunnel one last time," Priore says.

Aside from learning more about his team heading into the 2021 season, the Penn coach sensed a stronger-than-usual feeling of enjoy-

ment from the players who were able to get into pads and tackle for the first time in roughly 500 days. "The kids had fun at practice," Priore says. "Not a lot of people have fun at practice."

Emili, who missed out on those spring practices while on his leave of absence, is planning to have fun playing college football at Franklin Field one last season. He'll also be striving for the program's first Ivy championship since 2016—his freshman campaign, which he missed with injury—while building his own resume for NFL scouts and helping out his younger teammates.

It's a different kind of role for Emili, who didn't start playing football until he was a sophomore in high school because his parents—Nigerian immigrants—were afraid of the sport's violent collisions. His parents have since mostly come around on Emili's football dreams and were supportive of his plans to take a leave of absence before he graduates from Penn this December. (If the NFL doesn't work out, he might go to medical school and follow his mom, a nurse, and his dad, an internist, into medicine.)

"I'm just kind of embracing my role, trying to lead people, trying to show people the way," says Emili, a first team All-Ivy player in 2019. "I feel strong. I feel fast. I still know the plays, so that's good."

"I still really like the guys that I know. It'll be interesting to see how it all comes together on the field." —DZ

Olympics

Quakers in Tokyo

Across several sports and countries, these Penn alums and students carried the Olympic torch.



Fresh out of college, Sam Mattis W'16 set his sights on the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

"It will be tough," he told the *Gazette* after winning the 2015 NCAA championship in the discus throw. "It will definitely take a ton of work and maybe a little bit of luck. ... But I think with a plan and enough hard work and dedication, I can get there."

He didn't get there then—and neither did anyone else from Penn, ending a streak of 25 straight Olympics in which the University had been represented ["Penn in the Olympics," Jul/Aug 2012]. But that didn't stop his Olympic flame from burning. And five years later, it was a much different story.

At this summer's Tokyo

Games, pushed back a year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mattis led the largest collection of current and former Quakers at an Olympics in more than 30 years.

The discus thrower was joined on Team USA by Regina Salmons C'18, who rowed on the women's eight boat which came in fourth place, just off the medal stand. "Had I gone to any other school, I don't know if I would have made it," Salmons told the *Daily Pennsylvanian* after she was named to the team. Another former Penn rower, Dara Alizadeh C'15, represented Bermuda in the men's single sculls and was the flagbearer for the tiny island at the Opening Ceremonies.

Other Penn Olympians included Shaul Gordon C'16, a



Sam Mattis (previous page) represented the USA Track & Field team at the Olympics while Keanan Dols swam for Team Jamaica.

fencer representing Canada who fell in the Round of 32 of the men's individual sabre competition; Connie Hsu C'14, a tennis player representing Chinese Taipei who lost to the eventual gold medalists in the opening round of the women's doubles bracket; and Jasmine Chen C'11, also representing Chinese Taipei, in individual equestrian jumping.

Current students who traveled to Tokyo were freshman Katina Proestakis, a fencer representing Chile who lost her opening match in the women's foil tournament; sophomore Blake Broszus, who fenced for the Canadian men's foil team; and Keanan Dols, who swam for Jamaica.

Dols swam two seasons at Penn from 2017 to 2019, qualifying for the Ivy League Championships in three events both years, before taking a gap year in 2019–20 to position himself for the Olympics. The pandemic complicated his plans and led to an extended leave of absence—but made his trip this summer to Tokyo even sweeter.

"It's been a dream come true," Dols told the *Gazette* from the Tokyo Aquatics Centre, after competing in the men's 200-meter butterfly. Dols made history as the first Penn swimmer to compete in the Olympics since 1972, when American Ellie Daniel CW'74 won bronze in the women's 200 butterfly. The last Penn aquatics Olympian was diver—and current Penn diving coach—Rob Cragg C'75 in 1976.

Dols, who moved from Jamaica to Sarasota, Florida, when he was three, prepped for the Olympics by joining the elite postgrad training group at the University of Florida that includes American star Caeleb Dressel, who won five gold medals in Tokyo, and 12-time Olympic medalist Ryan Lochte. "I got my ass kicked every day by Caeleb and Ryan and all of them," Dols said. "They've had such an impact on me the last two years, and it's been a pleasure. ... It's a super fun training environment."

The training proved vital to get him to Tokyo. As a nation

that lacked an automatic qualifying time, Jamaica was allotted one men's spot to the Olympics. Dols earned his place in April by lowering his national record in the men's 200-meter individual medley to 2:02.15. (He also holds the Jamaican record in the men's 200-meter backstroke.)

Dols turned in a strong swim in the men's 200 fly in Tokyo, coming within 0.22 seconds of his best time at 2:02.25 to finish 34th. He was more than two seconds slower than his IM record in finishing 43rd in 2:04.29.

He also got to walk in Jamaica's colors at the Opening Ceremonies, which though pared down because of COVID, was still "an incredible experience," he said. "I tried to soak it all in and just enjoy the moment."

The upside of the five-year wait for Tokyo is the condensed cycle before the 2024 Olympics in Paris, which Dols can bridge with two years of college eligibility remaining. "It's just been awesome to get to experience all this," he said. "Being a part of Team Jamaica is incredible."

Mattis, too, looks like he wants to return to the Olympics, writing on his Instagram page that it's time to "set our sights on Paris." In Tokyo, he was the only American to advance to the discus final, finishing eighth overall after two season-best throws. "Sheesh. 8th place at the Olympics," he wrote on Instagram. "Obviously wish I could have thrown farther, but it's been a crazy year—for track, for training, and for

everyone, and I'm glad I could manage a season's best when it mattered."

Mattis made headlines after passing up a lucrative offer from JPMorgan Chase to spend the last few years training in Fleetwood, Pennsylvania, while working odd jobs and relying on online gambling to make ends meet. "You only get a chance like this once," Mattis told the *Philadelphia Inquirer* before leaving for Tokyo. "There was just no way I was going to work for a bank instead of trying to make the Olympics. That seemed crazy to me."

The first Penn alum to compete for the US Olympic track and field team since Fred Samara W'73 in the 1976 decathlon, Mattis also made headlines by raising his fist in the air with the camera on him before the discus final, telling the *Washington Post*, "I'm hoping that sparks a conversation" about issues of social justice on which he has been vocal. Mattis, who is Black, later explained on Instagram that he marked his arm with an X inside a circle, with the X representing "the intersection of the injustices all oppressed people face."

"The stated values of the Olympics are to place sport at the service of humankind and build a better world through sport," he wrote. "That is exactly what we are trying to do."

—Matthew De George and
Dave Zeitlin C'03

For more on Mattis' Olympic journey and future plans, visit our website at thepenngazette.com.

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(Re)Introduction to US History

How two Penn professors revamped
the entry-level history class for an age of
instant information access and endless quarrels
over the meaning of America's past.

By Trey Popp

GENERAL FREMONT'S PROCLAMATION.

The following Proclamation was issued on 31st ult., at
St. Louis:

"HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE WESTERN DEPARTMENT,
"St. Louis, August 31, 1861.

"Circumstances, in my judgment of sufficient urgency, render it necessary that the Commanding General of this Department should assume the administrative powers of the State. Its disorganized condition, the helplessness of the civil authority, the total insecurity of life, and the devastation of property by bands of murderers and marauders who infest nearly every county in the State and avail themselves of the public misfortunes and the vicinity of a hostile force to gratify private and neighborhood vengeance, and who find an enemy wherever they find plunder, finally demand the severest measures to repress the daily increasing crimes and outrages which are driving off the inhabitants and ruining the State. In this condition the public safety and the success of our arms require unity of purpose, without let or hindrance, to the prompt administration of affairs.

"In order, therefore, to suppress disorders, to maintain as far as now practicable the public peace, and to give security and protection to the persons and property of loyal citizens, I do hereby extend, and declare established, martial law throughout the State of Missouri. The lines of the army of occupation in this State are for the present declared to extend from Leavenworth by way of the posts of Jefferson City, Rolla, and Ironton, to Cape Girardeau on the Mississippi River.

"All persons who shall be taken with arms in their hands within these lines shall be tried by court-martial, and, if found guilty, will be shot. The property, real and personal, of all persons in the State of Missouri who shall take up arms against the United States, and who shall be directly proven to have taken active part with their enemies in the field, is declared to be confiscated to the public use; and their slaves, if any they have, are hereby declared free.

Imagine yourself into a mid-semester Sunday afternoon. You're easing into a quiet hour in the Quad. Or as quiet as a Quad hour gets, anyway, as water whines through shower pipes and music floats across the lawn. It's the first warm day of March. Some classmates are out tossing a Frisbee. Or maybe it's the kind of spring that dumps eight inches of snow onto Philadelphia 10 days before the equinox, and your hallmates are frolicking in it before it melts. This is your reverie. You're in charge.

But you have work to do. The weekly prompt for History 011 has come out, and it's time to respond. What is this artifact? And what's the trick this week? Usually the task seems a little more difficult: without resorting to Google, but secure in the knowledge that no grade will penalize an errant reply, write three sentences describing the origin and historical significance of the item at hand. Yet this one is already stuffed with clues: a dated proclamation by one General Fremont, pertaining to an obvious conflict in a specific state. So your job is at once simpler and harder: Why does this document matter? Say so in three or four sentences.

Seriously: Write down three sentences. Read the prompt again if need be. The rest of this article will be waiting for you. Don't fret if Fremont's first name escapes you. What might a historian glean from this news clipping? What significance would it have had to a Missouri farmer who read it in the summer of 1861—or to an enslaved stevedore on a Mississippi River ferry, or to a Washington insider, or to the president himself? Three sentences: Go!



In May, I happened across Walter Licht, the Walter H. Annenberg Professor of History, walking a few blocks west of campus after having delivered the final lecture of his 44-year teaching career at Penn. His retirement was news to me. I asked how it felt to address his last class. Different than he'd always imagined, he replied. "After I finished and took my last question," he said, "I clicked a button and the window on my computer closed."

In a year unclouded by COVID-19, there might have been an hour of well-wishing and bittersweet camaraderie outside the lecture hall.

I was curious about the subject of his final lecture. Licht specializes in the history of labor and industrial capitalism. But as fitting as it might have been to end with one final trip to his scholarly wheelhouse, he told me he'd lectured about the evolution of American conservatism from George Wallace to Ronald Reagan to Donald Trump W'68. His swan song, in other words, had come in an entry-level introduction to US history course. But the last thing Licht needed from me was neighborly commiseration, for sparks of intellectual electricity seemed to shower the sidewalk as he buzzed on about this class. He and Kathleen Brown, the David Boies Professor of History, had completely reimaged this course from top to bottom, along with the educational goals they had for it. The result, he told me, had been the most rewarding teaching experience of his entire career.

When Licht joined Penn's faculty in 1977, the history department vibrated with charismatic professors whose flair at the podium had ushered in a golden era of the introductory survey course. Few, if any, were more beloved than the late Alexander Riasanovsky ["Obituaries," Jan/Feb 2017], a Russian émigré whose family had been driven from their home in Chinese Manchuria by the Japanese invasion when he was nine years

old. With a rich baritone voice whose cadence quickened into a "thunderous roar" at climactic moments—as recalled by Lee Gordon C'68, who named his firstborn son Alex in tribute—Riasanovsky mesmerized generations of history, pre-med, Wharton, and engineering students with his magisterial survey of Russia and the Soviet Union.

Riasanovsky was one of "a bunch of hams," Licht recalled with fond admiration, "who did it extremely well." Another was Richard Beeman, the John Welsh Centennial Professor of History Emeritus, whose 43 years on the faculty included stints as department chair and dean of the College. His introductory survey of American history may have featured the most extensive wardrobe in the annals of undergraduate education. His death in 2016 ["Obituaries," Nov/Dec 2016] triggered an outpouring of memories about the costumes he donned to transform lectures into full-fledged theatrical performances. When Beeman covered Davy Crockett, his colleague Bruce Kuklick C'63 G'65 Gr'68 recalled to the *Daily Pennsylvanian*, "he would dress in buckskin and suck on a corn cob pipe and have his trusty great big brown dog sit down beside him."

This heyday carried into the early 1990s but was flagging by the turn of the millennium. Riasanovsky retired in 1999, Beeman stepped down in 2011, and nobody could fill their shoes with quite the same panache. Other dynamics were also eroding the classic survey course—particularly in the realm of US history. The proliferation of Advanced Placement US History classes in American high schools made a collegiate-level survey seem redundant to many incoming Penn students. Popularity shifted to more narrowly defined courses, like Drew Faust G'71 Gr'75's class in Southern history ["Alumni Profiles," May/Jun 2007] and Tom Sugrue's class on the 1960s ["The Vital Thread of Tom Sugrue," May/Jun 2009]. Interest leaked away from the classic introduction to US history, imperiling

a traditional gateway for history majors—whose number was also sliding.

An intellectual challenge also confronted the traditional American history survey course. Contemporary historical scholarship had introduced "so many contested perspectives that challenged the overarching narrative" long presented by conventional textbooks, as Brown puts it, that "it became harder to sustain a course with a linear beginning, middle, and end." Works like Wendy Warren's 2017 *New England Bound: Slavery and Colonization in Early America*, for instance, have complicated the traditional treatment of plantation slavery as an essentially Southern phenomenon, by revealing the influential economic role played by New England shipping firms and financial houses in directing its development. And that is just one example among legions. Several decades' worth of scholarship excavating the experiences of overlooked groups, and interrogating familiar stories through unconventional lenses, have enriched the American story with a wealth of complexities.

The educational landscape was changing, as well. "In an age where any student who graduates from Penn will be able to Google a question of historical fact any time they want," asks Brown, "wouldn't the primary task be to teach them how to *think* historically ... rather than absorbing information?"

"Information itself is kind of passé at this point as a way to spend your time in a college classroom," she says, "when the more difficult thing to teach—and the more valuable skill to take with you after you graduate—might be asking the right kind of questions about how the past is being reconstructed or used."

Assessing the state of civic discourse in the early 2010s, Brown found herself increasingly frustrated by "how history got used and abused politically to make political points, by all kinds of people—not just by people whose politics I disagreed with, but even the ones I did agree with. And it seemed to me that anyone who had

only just absorbed a narrative,” she concluded, “wasn’t going to be sufficiently skilled to ask the right questions about how the past was being used.”

Sensing an opportunity to do something different, Brown and Licht came together and brainstormed ways to create a new kind of entry-level course. It would have minimal resemblance to the AP US history curriculum so many undergraduates already had under their belts. There would be no textbooks—ideally, no books at all. Primary sources would rule: news clippings, political cartoons, a handcrafted saw from Philadelphia’s manufacturing heyday, a small-appliance advertisement from the 1950s, Billy Joel’s “Allentown” music video. They hoped to foster the kinds of epiphanies that gripped seniors working on history honors theses. “You see them catch fire,” Brown says, “Because they’re doing research, working with primary sources,” and learning in a deep way that big overarching narratives—whether they’re organized around the Founding Fathers of 1776 or the importation of slaves to Jamestown, Virginia, in 1619—can distort as much as they reveal.

They called it History 011: “Deciphering America,” and debuted it for 45 students in 2012.

VanJessica Gladney C’18 found her way to History 011 as a junior looking to fill a curricular requirement. She’d taken AP US History in high school but experienced it as a massive chronology of events to memorize, along with their textbook treatment, in hopes of passing the year-end exam. It convinced her to focus on engineering. She spent her first couple years at Penn in the School of Engineering and Applied Science’s interdisciplinary Digital Media Design program, but then shifted her major to English. Mary Frances Berry’s “History of American Law” was the only history class she’d taken before enrolling in “Deciphering America.”

Licht had a mantra for the course: “We will make the familiar unfamiliar, and the

Cover of a 1914 Disston brochure. Companies like Henry Disston’s saw works were one aspect of the economic dynamism that made Philadelphia a magnet for immigrants and a “workshop of the world.”



“A Full and Complete Account of the Late Awful Riots in Philadelphia”: Burning of St. Michael’s Church by anti-Catholic nativists, on Wednesday afternoon, May 8, 1848.



unfamiliar a little more familiar.” Gladney felt like she’d been tossed into the deep end of the pool. It was “mind-blowing,” she says, to discover how much information lived in a single artifact—especially when you examined it from multiple perspectives. Brown specializes in the history of gender and race in early America. Licht’s bread and butter are labor markets and economic history. “The contrast between their areas of study was one of the most important parts of taking that as an introductory course,” Gladney says. “It reminded me that there are different people in different positions,” she continues, “that would have seen these issues

differently. Not only are the issues themselves complicated, but the people around those issues are complicated.”

Licht, for example, liked to bring in a steel handsaw from the Philadelphia saw works of Henry Disston, an immigrant who crossed the Atlantic in 1833 steeped in the hardware manufacturing traditions of his native Sheffield, England. Made of high-tensile specialty steel that held its sharpness and never warped, Disston’s handcrafted saw exemplifies many dynamics that shaped 19th-century Philadelphia: technology transfer from the Old World to the New; immigration as a driver of economic growth; special-

History Mystery I

Who might have said this?

Why? When?

"I think that we have sufficient stock in America now for us to shut the door, Americanize what we have, and save the resources of America for the natural increase of our population. . . I believe that our particular ideas, social, moral, religious, and political, have demonstrated, by virtue of the progress we have made and the character of people that we are, that we have the highest ideals of any member of the human family or any nation. We have demonstrated the fact that the human family, certainly the predominant breed in America, can govern themselves by a direct government of the people. If this Government shall fail, it shall fail by virtue of the terrible law of inherited tendency. Those who come from the nations which from time immemorial have been under the dictation of a master fall more easily by the law of inheritance and the inertia of habit into a condition of political servitude than the descendants of those who cleared the forests, conquered the savage, stood at arms and won their liberty from their mother country, England."

ized industrial manufacturing as a determinant of urban development; and even the long arc from built-to-last tools to business models oriented around planned obsolescence. "I tell the students of meeting carpenters who work with prized Disston saws that have been passed down through four to five generations," Licht says. Later in the course he examines the forces that ultimately unraveled firms like Disston's—namely mass-market Sears saws "produced at one-tenth the cost, totally mechanically, with galvanized steel guaranteed to warp and lose it sharpness," but which satisfied consumer preferences that were shifting toward cheap, disposable products.

Yet stories like that of Henry Disston—who was part a giant wave of immigration that helped Philadelphia earn its moniker as "workshop of the world"—gain additional layers of complexity when Brown picks up the thread in a lecture touching on the anti-Catholic Kensington Riots of 1844, the rise of nativism, and the use of arson as a form of "ethnic cleansing" targeting Black and immigrant communities.

"Learning about how arson was used as a political tool to remove certain businesses and attack certain ethnic groups," Gladney says, "really changed the idea that any conflict in US history is a binary conflict." That dynamic, after all, was nested in other complexities, like the early 19th-century temperance movement—which was at once a middle-class outgrowth of religious revivals emphasizing moral perfectionism, a political cudgel against German and Irish voting blocs, and a women's movement grappling with truly prodigious alcohol consumption among American males.

The course took its rhythm from paired journal entries: three or four sentences in blind response to a prompt on Sunday, and then a second stab at the same prompt after the week's lectures and readings. Anders Bright, a doctoral student who led discussion sections as a teaching assistant, felt that even

though the pedagogical emphasis fell squarely on critical thinking, the class's heavy emphasis on primary sources and artifacts "leaves students with a certain residue that they're going to remember for a long period of time."

"We started out with fresh eyes and submitted before we saw any presentations or slides," says Tulio Tagliaferri, who took History 011 as a freshman during the pandemic, when lectures shifted to an online platform. "Sometimes I felt like I was a news reporter describing an image that we had to look at ... And at end of week, we could compare it to what we had learned, and say, 'Oh, I was completely wrong!'"

"It's a sort of learning I'd never experienced in school," he continues. "They

give you the tools and you have to build a house. Most of the time, they teach you how to build a house and you have to reconstruct it on a test."

Perhaps no passage of American history has provoked more historiographical contention—or more self-righteous contemporary punditry—than the Civil War. The arguments start with where to begin.

"When are you going start the story of the Civil War?" Licht asked at the outset of a lecture this past March (distilled into a slightly abridged form here). "Do you start it in 1619, with the arrival of the first Africans in North America? Do you start it with the writing of the Constitution—which does not include the word *slavery*, but ensconces slavery, particularly with the 'three-fifths' resolution allowing Southern states to dominate the halls of Congress? Would you start it with the British textile revolution, which changed and entrenched slavery at a point in the 19th century when it might have seemed like it was withering away, with 'King Cotton' and that raw material that would be fed into the machinery of metro industrialism? Do you start it with expansion: the Louisiana purchase, and other purchases and seizures of land that begged the question of what is going to happen in these territories when they become states—will slavery be allowed?"

And within Civil War historiography, no figure inspires more argument than Abraham Lincoln, who wrote and spoke so much that "you can cherry-pick" your way to any verdict you like. Was he a moral paragon who boldly sided with the "better angels of our nature," as he phrased it in his first presidential inaugural address, to deliver the United States from its original sin of human bondage? Or was he at best a reluctant abolitionist, an opportunistic shapeshifter whose comfort with slavery is right there in the very same speech, wherein he endorsed a Constitutional amendment to guarantee the legality of slavery in any state that wished to keep it?

Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, issued by executive order on Sep. 22, 1862, to go into effect on Jan. 1, 1863.



“Boy, is there a spectrum of opinion about Lincoln,” Licht concluded after a tour through some of it. “See where you come out on this,” he told the students, “when you do the readings.”

In the meantime, he asked them to consider a counterfactual: What if Lincoln had not won the 1860 election? What if, instead, victory had gone to John Fremont—who had been the Republican Party’s very first presidential candidate in 1856? Or what if Fremont had challenged Lincoln for the nomination in 1864, as was the hope of some abolitionists dismayed with what they saw as Lincoln’s excessively flexible moderation on the issue of slavery’s future.

In a classic instance of “making the familiar unfamiliar,” Licht deployed a series of facts that had first sent Gladney (who served as a teaching assistant in 2021) reeling from her high-school history class’s simplified view of the conflict as two sides facing one another across Mason and Dixon’s iconic line. When Southern states considered secession after the Confederate Constitutional Convention in the spring of 1861, Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, Arkansas, and Missouri rejected it—and Kentucky, Maryland, and Delaware declined to formally consider it at all. The attack on Fort Sumter by South Carolina secessionists spurred many of those states to join the Confederacy; but Maryland, Kentucky, and Missouri remained in the Union as slave states. While some New Jerseyans continued to hold enslaved people in bondage, the western portion of Tennessee was sufficiently at odds with eastern secessionists that Andrew Johnson continued to represent Tennesseans in the US Senate until 1862, when Lincoln appointed him military governor of his home state. And the complexities only blossom from there.

So where, in all of this, does John Fremont’s 1861 proclamation fit? One might start by identifying it as an emancipation proclamation: a unilateral order by the general to free slaves confiscated

from rebels in Missouri. But the August 31 decree proved ill-starred. Fearing it would tip Missouri and other border states toward secession, Lincoln revoked it on September 11 and relieved Fremont of his command soon thereafter. Yet although Fremont’s emancipation proclamation came more than a year before the capitalized version American high schoolers learn about, it was neither unique nor even the first. He was not the only general chafing under Lincoln’s narrow focus on restoring Southern states to the Union, even if that meant restoring their slavery regimes in the bargain. General Benjamin Butler had pursued a similar course in Virginia, where his refusal to return fugitive slaves to their owners became standard procedure. In the spring of 1862, General David Hunter pulled a Fremont by means of a similar proclamation covering South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.

Lincoln revoked that one, too. But these developments had a cumulative effect on the president. “He is being pushed and pushed,” Licht said, “to have a more militant prosecution of the war, and also to take up the issue of freeing the slaves. The biggest people who are pushing him are his own generals ... and he is also being pushed in Congress.” Figures like Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass, of course, were pushing against still other levers.

Wherever a student comes down on Lincoln, in other words, the 16th president had at least one thing in common with every occupant of the White House before and since: no action he took occurred in a vacuum, for the life of a democratic republic is influenced by a large cast of actors.

“The biggest moral to the story is that heroes of the past are much more complex than basic American history writes them to be,” reflects Tagliaferri. “Lincoln is renowned as one the greatest presidents, if not *the* greatest president, in US history. ... In the end, I fell on the side that there’s no bad reason to do

good. At the end of the day, Lincoln did what is mostly regarded as the morally correct thing to do—even though it wasn’t necessarily for the reasons that are painted today.”

“A war to disarm a dictator has become an open-ended occupation of a foreign country. This is not America. This is not who we are.”

—Sen. Barack Obama, October 2, 2007, speech about the US war in Iraq

“I stand with the people gathered across the country tonight defending our values & our Constitution. This is not who we are.”

—Defeated presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, responding to an executive order by President Donald Trump temporarily banning the entry of travelers from seven Muslim-majority countries and suspending refugee admissions.

“This is not America,” a woman said to a small group, her voice shaking. She was crying, hysterical. “They’re shooting at us. They’re supposed to shoot BLM, but they’re shooting the patriots.”

—Participant in the January 6, 2021, march against the US Capitol, as reported by Andrew McCormick in *The Nation*.

One way to gauge the success of History 011: “Deciphering America” is by the traditional measure: butts in the seats. From their initial enrollment of about 45 students in 2012, Brown and Licht grew it to over 140 in 2019—the last in-person iteration before COVID-19 scrambled the basis for meaningful comparison. The course will outlive Licht’s transition to emeritus status; its format is tailor-made to accommodate another professor, who might deploy a different set of prompts and perspectives. (To judge from student feedback, a certain perspectival tension in this team-taught class would be an important quality to preserve.)

Another way to judge the class is by holding it up to the professors’ intellectual goals. Has it bolstered students’

abilities to cast a critical eye on how the past is mobilized to advance contemporary agendas? Has its thematic approach, keyed to the complications of “emblematic moments” rather than the dubious coherence of a single overarching narrative, helped them draw their own lessons from the past in a way that helps them make better sense of the present?

By the time Gladney took the class in the spring of 2017, after Donald Trump’s electoral college victory had sent half of the American news commentariat into paroxysms of incomprehension, she was frustrated by her own inability to make sense of her country.

“This class allowed me to make connections from the past to the present,” she says. “Thinking critically, rather than merely factually, changed the way I understand history.” It also reduced her susceptibility to a species of rhetoric whose kudzu spread through the gardens of American civic discourse had compounded her frustration.

“Whenever something terrible happens, it’s, ‘Oh, this not America. This is not our country,’” she says. “But once you learn about history, you realize that it is! And if we want to change anything, we can’t just think about changing the surface of things now—we have to get to the core of these issues and think about the ways these systems were built, and when they were built, and who was building them.”

Barack Obama’s 2007 intimation that deposing distant leaders or occupying foreign lands somehow lay outside the American experience cannot survive any honest engagement with the history of 20th-century US foreign policy—as the then-senator surely knew. To Hillary Clinton’s suggestion that immigration restrictions were likewise beyond the historical pale, a History 011 student might retort, “What about the Immigration Act of 1924?”

As for the invasion of the US Capitol, setting aside the question of who should rightfully have been shooting whom, “I can obviously see ways in which that was unprec-

History Mystery II

Who might have said this?

Why? When?

“This Court’s cases and the Nation’s traditions make clear that marriage is a keystone of our social order. ... This idea has been reiterated even as the institution has evolved in substantial ways over time, superseding rules related to parental consent, gender, and race once thought by many to be essential. ... Marriage remains a building block of our national community. ... For that reason, just as a couple vows to support each other, so does society pledge to support the couple, offering symbolic recognition and material benefits to protect and nourish the union. Indeed, while the States are in general free to vary the benefits they confer on all married couples, they have throughout our history made marriage the basis for an expanding list of governmental rights, benefits, and responsibilities. These aspects of marital status include: taxation; inheritance and property rights; rules of intestate succession; spousal privilege in the law of evidence; hospital access; medical decisionmaking authority; adoption rights; the rights and benefits of survivors; birth and death certificates; professional ethics rules; campaign finance restrictions; workers’ compensation benefits; health insurance; and child custody, support, and visitation rules. ... The States have contributed to the fundamental character of the marriage right by placing that institution at the center of so many facets of the legal and social order.

edented,” says Brown. “But the culture of political violence runs very deep in this country. It’s about as consistent a theme as you can find. And I don’t think it serves anybody’s purpose to whitewash that.”

If there’s an overarching goal to this class, it’s to instill a healthy skepticism about the very notion that any single

point in time contains the seeds of everything that came thereafter. “Something we try to tell the kids is that nothing gets solidified in any one moment,” says Licht, venting frustration about the current craze for locating America’s original DNA—a dodgy metaphor under any circumstances—in the year 1619, or 1776 to the exclusion of 1619, or 1836 (where Texas Republicans recently proposed starting their state’s clock on “patriotic education”), and so on. “Even in our dealing with the coming of racialized slavery, it’s something that is cemented and then recemented” by a long succession of statutes and legal decisions, Licht elaborates. “And it’s not one generation that are the ‘sinners.’”

History 011 “helped change some of the questions I was asking,” says Gladney. “Instead of saying, ‘How could this happen?’ one could start looking at dynamics like the rise of the New Right and the New Left” in response to widely varying dissatisfactions with the bipartisan liberal consensus of the mid-20th century, “and the way that parties were either emboldened or undermined based on the demographics of their constituencies.” Gladney caught the history bug that entry-level classes aim to spread. “It helped me move from shocked and surprised to energized and ready.” She is now a doctoral student at Penn, where she applies her digital-media chops to the website of the Penn & Slavery Project [“Gazetteer,” Nov/Dec 2018].

Tulio Tagliaferri, who is majoring in political science, credits the class with fostering a slightly different sort of intellectual growth. Its emphasis on critical inquiry from multiple angles made him “more humble” about what he still has left to learn—not just about a past that’s more complex than he had appreciated, but about the moment he is living through and the future he may one day help to shape.

“We as people in the present should be cautious,” he says. After all, future historians will scrutinize us too.

Opening Doors

From early education to college prep, three entrepreneurial alumni are forging new paths to support online learning and enrichment.

For Chris Bennett W'07 it was the lure of starting a tech company targeting an underserved niche. For Lyndsey Wheeler C'14 it was the need for a quick pivot when COVID-19 upended her in-person-dependent business—combined with fond memories of summer camps. The road was a little straighter for Aly Murray C'16, who wanted to extend the kinds of tutoring services she'd been offering since high school to a wider audience of low-income students. But all three have found their way to creating companies that use the internet to improve educational options for young people.

Reinventing Childcare

The CEO and cofounder of Wonderschool wants to “ensure every child gets access to high-quality early childhood education.”

Every working parent knows the challenge of finding childcare, but that wasn't on Chris Bennett W'07's mind when he moved to San Francisco three years after graduating from Wharton.

Initially, he was mostly interested in launching a tech company, “because I found that with tech companies you could really build things that benefit a lot of people,” he says. “And five years in, I started hearing from a lot of my friends that they were having a hard time finding childcare.”

The wheels started turning, back to his own childhood. Growing up in Miami, Bennett attended an in-home childcare program after school. “I remembered that the woman who ran it did really well financially,” he says. “So I thought, *why don't we create more of these programs?*”

Bennett didn't envision turning his own home into a childcare center, but the knowledge he was gaining, combined with the concurrent desires to build a tech company and meet the needs of people around him, planted the seeds for Wonderschool, which he cofounded in 2016 and has been serving as CEO.

Wonderschool supports micro-schooling and family childcare directors from soup to nuts—helping them through the launch and licensing process, choosing a name, creating a business plan, offering resources for curriculum development, recruiting families, and more. (“Micro-schooling” is defined on Wonderschool's website as “the reinvention of the one-room schoolhouse, where class size is smaller (anywhere from 4–15 students) and there are mixed age groupings.”)

“If you run a childcare program in your home, and you focus on keeping it full, you keep your tuition rates above your costs, and make sure that you collect all of your payments on time, you could actually build a really good small business,”



he says. For \$150 per month, Wonderschool provides childcare entrepreneurs with a digital business-support platform that helps them launch their businesses, manage billing and enrollment, collect payments, and interact with families.

Wonderschool has a family-facing side as well: information resources including a search engine to find the care environments with the desired qualities. There is no set curriculum or philosophy—each care center is individualized. For families that require extra guidance, Wonderschool partners with Cleo, an app designed for working parents, which can be offered as an employee benefit.

Indeed, the road to finding good childcare is riddled with potholes. “Parents are sort of clueless on how to solve this problem,” Bennett says. “They need help with it.” And even with knowledge, there are a lack of programs. “There’s just not enough,” Bennett says. “Parents don’t find high quality childcare near them.” And finally there’s the cost. “A lot of parents don’t have enough money for it. They can’t afford high-quality childcare. And so that’s where I think our governments really need to step in and provide support.”

Costs range widely by region and locality, but full-time daycare for an infant averages around \$10,000 annually in the US. According to a 2019 report from the Center for American Progress, the average family spends roughly 10 percent of its income on childcare—significantly higher than the 7 percent affordability benchmark set by the US Department of Health and Human Services.

Bennett, who does not have children, found himself motivated to respond to the need for childcare access when he met Laura Jana, a pediatrician and early childhood development expert. “She explained to me that a lot of the social-emotional skills that I use as a CEO I learned in preschool—that 90 percent of the brain develops before age five,” he says. “Connecting all of those dots led me to start this company.”

Lacking professional experience in early childhood education, Bennett hired someone with nearly two decades of experience in the field to be the head of early care and education. Wonderschool doesn’t focus on educational curricula—that’s up to each individual owner—but it does offer curriculum support, so it was important to see things through the providers’ eyes.

Working with a handful of early childhood teachers, the company created and beta-tested childcare programs in two rented houses in Berkeley and Los Angeles, each one serving 12 families.

“It was really scary and exhilarating,” he says. “I didn’t know how to create an early childhood education program. I didn’t know how to market a program. I just had to learn along the way. We learned everything we could about starting an operating childcare program, and realized it was something we could start to scale. And it was really rewarding to see how happy parents were with it. It was a really great addition to the community.”

The mission of Wonderschool, which has schools on its platform in cities throughout the country, “is to ensure every child gets access to high-quality early childhood education that helps them meet their needs,” Bennett says.

Although Wonderschool doesn’t promote any particular approach, one general advantage of a microschool is the low student-teacher ratio, which presents the opportunity to practice mastery learning, a concept that allows students the opportunity to pursue a subject until they fully grasp it.

“Another big benefit of microschools,” says Bennett, “is that as a parent, you actually have more choice, because you’re able to pick a curriculum or a teacher that you believe in.”

The son of Honduran immigrants, Bennett saw his parents work hard to give him a quality education, from preschool to Penn, and he wanted to be able to offer the same sort of access to excellent early

education to other families, particularly in underserved communities.

“[My parents] always wanted to make sure I did really well, they wanted to make sure I didn’t do things to put myself behind,” he says. “They were always mindful of the racism that exists in the country and making sure I wasn’t harmed by it, and I was prepared for it.”

Bennett says that socioeconomic and demographic metrics show that Wonderschool is serving a wide spectrum of families. “Every type of person uses Wonderschool. We have venture capitalists; we have people who are in the lowest median income in their communities. Everyone needs access to childcare. It’s like, who eats food?”

“It’s very much part of the mission of the company, to ensure all children get access to high quality, early childhood education, that helps them realize their potential. That’s all children, Black children, white children, Latin children, everyone, in all communities, and so we want to really be mindful of what’s happening in certain communities, for certain types of children, and solve for that with our platform.”

—Holly Leber Simmons

Super Screen Time

A young entrepreneur believes a virtual summer camp can thrive all year long—even in a post-pandemic world.

In April 2020, Lyndsey Wheeler C’14 desperately needed a side hustle. Here/Now, her company that organized in-person mixers for singles, was reeling from the pandemic. Short on money, she considered tutoring children but realized it couldn’t satisfy her creative itch. Then it dawned on her: Why not run a virtual summer camp?

“Every parent I knew was in a pit of despair trying to homeschool kids,” she says. “What is more fun than summer camp? It’s a place where everyone’s worries go away.”

“What is more fun than summer camp? It’s a place where everyone’s worries go away.”

And so she launched Supernow, a virtual platform that provides live, interactive classes for kids. Initially, with the pandemic in full swing in 2020, it operated like a summer camp with children signing up for two-week sessions. Every day had a different theme (on “rock star day,” kids made mics out of tinfoil and competed in air guitar contests), and actors took them on educational adventures they could do from home. “I originally thought we would hire teachers, but we needed people who could be really silly and engaging,” Wheeler says. “All of these out-of-work actors signed up.”

Liffey the Earthy Emerald Crusader, for example, got kids outside, in their yards and on the sidewalk, to learn about sustainability. Queen Dee, the drag queen, helped kids learn how to express themselves authentically through art and theater projects. The participants not only got to watch these fun characters but engage with them. “It’s like watching *Sesame Street* and being able to chat with Elmo,” says Rachel Breitenwischer, Wheeler’s business partner. “Or being able to talk to Mister Rogers and tell him you feel sad today.”

Kids form bonds with the characters, observes Jasara Norton, whose six-year-old son started taking classes in summer 2020. “He really loves Captain Tamara because it’s all about going on an imaginative adventure that includes miming and discovering what he can convey through facial expressions and body movement.”

With many kids returning to in-person school and camp in 2021, Supernow shifted to a subscription model; parents pay \$18 a month to access unlimited live classes throughout the week. The company,

which has raised money from outside investors, currently has four full-time staff members and 20 contractors, along with an evolving entourage of actors and other experts across a range of disciplines, to run classes on movement, music, arts and crafts, STEM, mindfulness, and more.

tional Inventors Hall of Fame—she gained fond memories of creating new types of board games and taking apart old household items and reassembling them as new inventions. (Some activities she remembers have made their way into Supernow’s curriculum.)



“We want to be Peloton meets PBS,” Wheeler says. “We want to make it possible for the most people around the world to get the best content ever for their kids.”

Wheeler’s passion for summer camp comes from her own busy childhood in Alexandria, Virginia. “I participated in tons of camps, afterschool activities, and classes,” she says. At one of them—Camp Invention, a program run by the Na-

After her time at Penn, where she studied international relations and journalism, she worked at Fahrenheit 212, a global innovation consultancy where she got a taste for designing consumer experiences. For Saks Fifth Avenue, she concocted a loyalty program. For Richard Branson’s adult-only cruise line Virgin Voyages, she envisioned programming for the ships. In her free time, she visited

raves, immersive theater productions, and festivals like Burning Man to see what kind of adventures truly made an impact on people.

She then spent two years at Rent the Runway, a designer clothes rental company where she met Breitenwischer. The duo spent so much time sitting in a conference room dreaming up new companies, they decided to quit and go for it.

They launched Here/Now in the spring of 2019 at a 24-person event at a shoe store in New York City. “We tried to make it feel like a speakeasy,” says Wheeler. “Everyone took a service elevator up, and they didn’t really know what they were walking into. Inside everyone was ready to mingle and have fun.” They made rules to keep everyone present, including no cell phones and no work talk—“a crutch that people hide behind.”

Before the pandemic, Here/Now was running weekly events and about to start a subscription service where customers paid a set price for unlimited or discounted events. After the pandemic shut down in-person mingling, they experimented with virtual dating. It was fun, but the business model was untenable; not enough people would pay to meet strangers on Zoom.

Supernow solved a pressing problem for parents, says Norton. “My then five-year-old son was home all the time, and I knew he needed a social outlet,” she says.

“We heard from many parents that they were worried about what lessons their kids were missing by being out of a social environment,” Wheeler says. “We doubled down on that in our sessions. For example, we are teaching kids about volcanoes, but it’s being taught by a mad scientist who calls on the kids and listens to them and has them talk to each other.”

Because of its virtual format, Supernow has attracted an international clientele. “We have people in Venezuela, India, Budapest, London, Australia, and Morocco,” Breitenwischer says. “Parents seem to like it because their kids are meeting other kids from all over the

world and interacting with them live. We are writing that into our curriculum, helping our students understand each other’s differences and similarities.”

Wheeler said that’s the beauty of a virtual format. “Peloton taught us that you can be in the middle of nowhere North Dakota, but still take a class from the best cycling instructor by using these new platforms,” she says. “That’s the vision here.”

—Alyson Krueger

Tutoring Them to the Top

UPchieve empowers low-income high school students to reach their educational goals with free 24/7 online tutoring and college coaching.

“One of the best moments in a tutoring session is when something clicks for the student you’re helping,” says Aly Murray C’16, cofounder and executive director of UPchieve, a free online tutoring and college counseling nonprofit for low-income high school students. “It’s literally the message that is just a long string of O’s and a long string of H’s.”

Oooohhhh!: This feeling of relief, to finally understand something you were struggling to understand, is “a great moment for a learner, and then by extension, a great moment for the tutor,” she says.

Murray, who started tutoring math and science in high school as a way to earn money, founded UPchieve in 2016 while she was working at J. P. Morgan. She saw it as a way to help level the playing field for low-income students like her, so they can get into college and eventually achieve upward mobility (hence the name, UPchieve).

“If you don’t get middle school math, and you never get a tutor, then you’re going to go into every subsequent math class feeling stupid and falling further and further behind, growing to hate math and hate school because you never got that little bit of help that you needed

to understand something,” she explains. “I really want any student, regardless of their starting point, to be able to get support on their journey at UPchieve.”

Raised by a single mother who emigrated from Cuba, Murray was the first in her family to attend college. Math came easy to her but applying to colleges did not. “There are a lot of things about my journey, where I look back and think, ‘Wow, these things were so much harder than they should have been,’” she recalls about growing up in a first-generation American, low-income household.

In the 10th grade, maxing out her public school’s Advanced Placement courses, she thought school was “a waste of time,” and that she should “just drop out, get my GED, and go straight to college.” She went to her guidance counselor, who told her, “Well, you probably shouldn’t do that, but we do have a dual enrollment program with the local community college.” For Murray’s last two years of high school, she enrolled full time at a community college and received her associate’s degree at age 18. But, as she puts it, she “missed out on the regular, limited guidance counseling that a student normally would have received if they were still in a high school environment,” and that’s when her college application process became complicated.

She applied to “a ton of random schools nearby” and got into a lot of them—but realized their financial aid offerings were nil. Even the state school would be too expensive. She made spreadsheets to track her research, and somewhere along the way discovered the existence of “no-loan schools,” which determine how much a student’s family can pay and then offer the remaining balance as a grant and work-study job. (Penn’s no-loan policy went into effect in 2009.)

“So my new goal became making myself competitive enough to transfer to one of those schools,” she says, explaining that she enrolled a third year at community college to load up on science,

“There are about 8 million low-income high school students in the US today. By 2030, our goal is to scale free tutoring to all of them.”

technology, engineering, and math courses that would help her stand out in applications.

“There’s a lot of interesting stats about how students who begin at the bottom quintile of the income scale, once they get into a selective university like Penn, they have a huge chance [of financial success]—something like 60 percent of students from that bottom quintile will end up in the top quintile after attending a school like Penn,” says Murray. They just have to get through that first door.

To that end, UPchieve’s mission is “to democratize access to academic support so that all students have an equal opportunity to finish high school, attend college, and achieve upward mobility.”

Murray quit her job at J. P. Morgan in 2018 to work on UPchieve full time. It now has nine full-time staff members, a pool of more than 7,000 volunteer tutors and college coaches, and \$1 million in funding from individual donors and corporate partners. The organization has also won a number of early-stage business competitions, which come with cash prizes. Recently it received its first grant, from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. “That was a big milestone,” says Murray, who has been featured on the *Forbes* “30 Under 30” list in Education (2021) and honored as a Roddenberry Fellow (2021).

“The cost per student is actually pretty low,” she says. “Because we’re tech-

enabled and volunteers are the ones who do the tutoring, it costs us about \$10 to give one student access for an entire year of unlimited academic support.”

That support includes “judgement-free” responses from math and science tutors 24/7 (more subjects will be rolled out later) and help with the college application process, from the exploration phase to essay writing. Students can access UPchieve from any internet-enabled device, and a mobile app was added one month into the COVID-19 pandemic when demand from students skyrocketed. “When schools started closing, it was so obvious that students needed UPchieve and they needed it now,” Murray says.

To date, UPchieve has helped more than 2,700 students in all 50 states, and about 75 percent are Black or Hispanic. Students who attend Title I high schools, which serve predominantly low-income families, are eligible to use the platform for free, and others can apply.

“There are about 8 million low-income high school students in the US today,” says Murray. “By 2030, our goal is to scale free tutoring to all of them.”

Murray points to a student named Esmeralda as an emblem of the program’s mission. She started using UPchieve during the pandemic and “very quickly racked up almost 100 sessions.” Esmeralda reported she had struggled her entire life with math, but “this version of learning was really empowering for her,” says Murray, and she felt she had learned more with UPchieve than she had “in pretty much her entire life.”

“Some students who we’ve interviewed, especially over the last year, have talked about how hard school has been during COVID and then also just how much UPchieve has made it possible for them to keep learning,” she explains. “For a lot of students, it’s the first time they feel like they’ve been able to understand math and science.”—NP



THE CLEVELAND COMEBACK

Inspired by his Penn football mentors and his father—a former Quakers’ basketball player—Kevin Stefanski rocketed through the NFL to become one of the league’s youngest head coaches. Now, after leading the Cleveland Browns to their first playoff win in 26 years, the reigning NFL Coach of the Year hopes to turn the long-tortured franchise into a perennial contender.

By Dave Zeitlin

Back and forth across the basement he paced, never once plopping down on the couch, his eyes planted on a 60-inch high-def television for three hours and 23 minutes. His phone was shut off. He didn’t yell at the TV but he did talk to himself. His players were more than 100 miles away. So were his fellow coaches. Even his wife and three kids couldn’t be on the same level of their house as him, as the Cleveland Browns—the tortured franchise whose fortunes he had been tasked with changing—took on their nemesis, the Pittsburgh Steelers, in a marquee NFL playoff game this past January.

It was the biggest moment of his life in sports, and Kevin Stefanski C’04 was all alone, quarantined from the world because of a positive COVID-19 test that came earlier that week, forbidden by the league from contacting anyone on the team—*his* team—during the game.

Well, he was *almost* all alone. You could say there was another coach down there in the basement with him—six inches of red plaid and tiny championship rings, the word “WIN” pasted onto a ceramic forehead. And as the Browns stunned the Steelers, 48–37, for their first playoff win in 26 years, the Coach Lake bobblehead—created by Penn Athletics to honor the

longtime Penn football “spirit coach” and gameday coordinator who died in 2010—smiled and nodded along, helping the first-year Browns head coach through what he’d later call an “extremely surreal, out-of-body” experience.

“The Coach Lake bobblehead was with me, and I know Coach Lake was with me,” Stefanski says. “He’s really, truly, someone I think about all of the time. He’s such a big part, I hope, of who I am. He’s always with me—bobblehead or otherwise.”

As Stefanski, the reigning NFL Coach of the Year, gains acclaim from football pundits and full-blown adoration from fans in Cleveland who celebrated the



Stefanski, second from right, learned a lot about positivity and morale boosting from Coach Lake (seen here showing off his Ivy League championship rings).

playoff triumph over Pittsburgh like it was the Super Bowl, his ties to Penn remain strong. He texts often with Penn football head coach Ray Priore, his position coach when Stefanski patrolled the defensive backfield for the Quakers in the early 2000s. He remains good friends with many of his ex-teammates. Among his most prized keepsakes are a Penn football helmet and his first business card as Penn's "assistant director of football operations"—a job created for him after he graduated by former head coach Al Bagnoli, another one of his mentors.

But nothing has helped him as much as the lessons imparted by Dan "Lake" Staffieri, best known for his bright clothing, quirky catch phrases, and endless positivity ["The Mascot in an Old Man's Suit," Jul|Aug 2010]. Once a regular assistant coach, Lake had morphed into more of a cheerleader by the time Stefanski arrived on campus in 2000: an almost 80-year-old former Marine hollering his *esprit de corps* chants in the middle of team huddles after practice. "DO BETTER THAN YOUR," he'd yell three times, and the Penn players would respond "BEST" each time without missing a beat. "As I look back, I can reflect how important he is to the morale of a football team," Stefanski says. "I think for a lot of us as young kids, it was hard because he was just an old guy in plaid pants and bowties saying these crazy things and you kind of got lost in the fun of it. But then you realize later how impactful it was in the moment—and then how impactful it's been over the course of your lifetime."

Known around the league as a humble, even-tempered coach with a high football IQ, Stefanski hasn't brought Lake's unique flair (or plaid clothes and bowtie) to Cleveland's FirstEnergy Stadium. And Lake's catchphrases likely wouldn't work as well on millionaire professional athletes (though Stefanski's own kids know to respond "Oh, very well" when their dad asks "How youuu doin'?"—another one of Lake's trademark back-and-forths). But the spirit, the zeal, the resilience, the mo-



rale boosting that Lake brought to Franklin Field until his battered body could no longer handle it—well, that stayed with Stefanski as he shot up through the NFL ranks and especially now as he commands a locker room every day. "One of my main jobs is messaging," the Browns head coach says. "What you say, your words, matter. While I may not use those slogans, I do think oftentimes about our team and our mindset and what we want to be thinking going into every week."

So Priore wasn't too surprised when, after the Browns were demolished by the Baltimore Ravens in Stefanski's first game in charge last September, the Cleveland coach texted him the motto of resilience that Lake made popular at Penn. That same motto is scrawled on a piece of paper behind Stefanski's desk in Cleveland—a handwritten note that Lake left in Stefanski's locker almost 20 years ago when a crushing injury could have derailed his football journey:

Setbacks pave the way for comebacks.

When he wasn't dealing with injuries, Stefanski was one of the anchors of Penn's defense in the early 2000s.

Ed Stefanski W'76 remembers the play when his son tore his anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee. It was in Penn's season opener against Lafayette in 2001, and "Kevin just ran out of bounds" before pulling up lame, recalls Ed, a former Penn men's basketball player and longtime NBA executive. "Nobody touched him."

On the face of it, the timing couldn't have been worse for Stefanski, who was hoping to build off a strong freshman campaign in 2000 in which he was named the Quakers' Defensive Rookie of the Year. But in another way, it turned out to be almost fortuitous, as the safety used that lost season to develop a lasting bond with Coach Lake, driving him around Locust Walk in a golf cart on Fridays so Lake could yell through a bullhorn and encourage students to come to games the next day. (Stefanski continued to be Lake's driver even when he was healthy and suiting up, and his brother David Stefanski C'10 would later assume the role too.) And since he wasn't able to practice, he began to more closely examine how the rest of the team's coaches operated throughout the week, learning a different side of the game. "That probably was my first experience of what coaching felt like," Stefanski says.

Even before that, Priore had noticed how adept Stefanski, a high school quarterback at St. Joe's Prep, seemed to be at understanding complex schemes. "There are a lot of gifted, talented players out there," Priore says. "But they play the game slow because they can't process it. He played it fast." As a freshman, Stefanski would sometimes wave off a play from Priore, then the defensive coordinator and defensive backs coach, as if to say, "yeah, I got it," because he "already knew what the call was," the Penn head coach recalls. "He just had that football mind."

"I think about the 18-year-old version of me sitting in a position meeting for the first time in August, and Ray up on the chalkboard describing Cover 2 and Cover

"Any time he played a sport, every coach was very complimentary, basically saying that Kevin was like a coach on the field."



3 and Cover 4," Stefanski says. "It was eye-opening for me. And I ate it up. I loved it—absolutely loved it. ... And it certainly started me on a path of loving the Xs and Os side of the game."

In truth, the path had been laid before he got to Penn. Growing up with three brothers, it was "all sports, all the time in our house," Ed says. "And you could tell he was sharp from the very beginning. Any time he played a sport, every coach was very complimentary, basically saying that Kevin was like a coach on the field." Initially, it seemed like he might follow in his father's footsteps and play basketball. "He thought he was Jason Kidd growing up," Ed says. But when he figured out he wasn't as good as the former

NBA All-Star point guard, he hung up his basketball sneakers to focus on football.

The Stefanskis spent a lot of time at both the Palestra, where Ed played under Chuck Daly from 1973-76 and was later a color commentator for Big 5 games, and Franklin Field. They'd climb to the upper deck of the football stadium and sit on the opposing team's side ("because the sun was on that side," Ed says) and the boys would play with toys on the concrete between the aisles.

The allure of Franklin Field certainly played a role in Kevin's decision to come to Penn. It also helped keep him there. After a strong junior campaign in 2002 in which he was named All-Ivy honorable mention as the Quakers swept through the league, Stefanski hurt his same knee in 2003, tearing his meniscus and missing most of the season. But he returned to play a fifth year in 2004 while plotting out his plans to remain in football after graduating. "I wanted him to get out of Penn because he was costing me a fortune," quips Ed. "But listen, he followed his dreams."

Ed should know. He spent more than 20 years in the mortgage banking business after graduating from Wharton, before switching gears to work in the front office of various NBA teams, beginning in 1999 with the New Jersey Nets ["Alumni Profiles," Jan/Feb 2008]. He's currently a senior executive with the Detroit Pistons following stints with the Memphis Grizzlies, Toronto Raptors, and his hometown Philadelphia 76ers.

Kevin's path through professional sports has been different. Unlike his dad, a job in the business world didn't stick; he worked in commercial real estate "for a hot minute" before realizing that wasn't for him. Through a connection with James Urban, a longtime NFL assistant coach who used to serve as Penn's director of football operations, he landed an internship with the Philadelphia Eagles during the team's training camp in 2005. That's when he caught the bug. "It was crystal clear to me that I wasn't going back to

commercial real estate—or the real world for that matter,” he says. Later that year he accepted a freshly created position to work on the Quakers’ staff, sitting side by side with his former coaches and “loving every minute of it.” The following year he was off to the Minnesota Vikings, where he remained for 14 seasons before moving to Cleveland.

“At no point in my life prior to getting into the NFL was I thinking I was going to be an NFL coach, let alone a head coach,” Stefanski says. “I was playing, and then all of a sudden, I couldn’t play anymore, so now what? I do think long and hard about those times at Penn and how they shaped me.”

Although Kevin has looked to his father’s career as inspiration, Ed has been equally inspired by how his son has navigated the professional sports world with such a level head—the same trait he first noticed some 30 years ago. “He doesn’t get too high and he doesn’t get too low,” Ed says. “And that’s a good trait when you have to manage a lot of personnel.” It’s also what helped Kevin remain on the Minnesota Vikings staff under three different head coaches, which Ed notes from firsthand experience is “very difficult in our business” since incoming coaches or general managers typically “want their own people.” Not only that, but he also took lessons from all of the coaches he served under while moving up the ladder: from assistant to the head coach, to assistant quarterbacks coach, to tight ends coach, to running backs coach, to quarterbacks coach, to offensive coordinator.

Despite having been a college defensive back, Stefanski proved to be a gifted offensive play-caller, and as the Vikings had some success he became a hot commodity around the NFL. In 2019 he was a finalist for the Browns head coaching position but lost out to Freddie Kitchens. When Kitchens was fired after just one season, Stefanski had a leg up at the beginning of another Browns coaching

A fan base scarred by Modell’s betrayal and decades of losing just might have found an unlikely savior in a not-yet-40-year-old former Ivy League safety.

search, and was hired as Cleveland’s head coach on January 12, 2020, at the age of 37—which made him one of the youngest head coaches in the NFL.

Stefanski’s introductory press conference in Cleveland was “a very proud day for the entire family,” says Ed, who attended it along with Kevin’s mother, his three brothers, and his wife and their three children. The room laughed when Stefanski promised his kids a dog and a trip to Disney World because of the difficult move from Minnesota, and also when he had each media member tell him if they preferred the East Side or West Side of Cleveland before asking a question. But there was also an air of cynicism about whether Stefanski could actually be the one to change the fortunes of a franchise that had cycled through seven head coaches in the last decade and hadn’t made the playoffs since 2002. “With all due respect,” one reporter said, “we’ve heard many other coaches say the same thing, undeterred, coming in here very, very confident. What makes you different?”

All Stefanski could do was respond with typical coachspeak. “We’re not looking backward,” he said at the time. “We’re moving forward.” But he delivered on his promise by unlocking star young quarterback Baker Mayfield’s potential and making it clear to the team’s dynamic supporting cast that “personality is welcome [but] your production is required.”

(He showed his own personality with playful jabs at tight end Stephen Carlson, a Princeton alum. “I think sometimes he must think I’m crazy because I’m taking shots at him at every turn.”) The result was an 11–5 regular-season record as Stefanski accomplished what the team’s previous nine head coaches could not in leading the Browns to the playoffs. Cleveland’s subsequent postseason win over the Steelers was its first since the franchise’s rebirth in 1999 (former owner Art Modell had controversially relocated the team, founded in 1945, to Baltimore in 1995), making Stefanski a runaway choice as the NFL AP Coach of the Year.

Now, with a young and exciting nucleus led by Mayfield, the Browns seem to be a legitimate Super Bowl contender for the 2021 season. And a fan base scarred by Modell’s betrayal and decades of losing just might have found an unlikely savior in a not-yet-40-year-old former Ivy League safety. “We’re focused on trying to do something special for these fans,” Stefanski says. “And I tell you what, it’s a unique fan base.”

Stefanski got a small taste of Cleveland’s passion for the Browns—which his father, a lifelong Eagles fan, insists is unmatched even by Philadelphians—but with COVID-19 limiting attendance in 2020 (among other pandemic measures that made his first season as head coach extra challenging, his own diagnosis included) he’s eager to see a full stadium this fall and winter. That includes the section in the bleachers known as the “Dawg Pound,” where fans wear outlandish costumes and yell for hours straight, embodying the city’s resilience and blue-collar identity—something Stefanski’s idol, Coach Lake, once knew something about.

“That Dawg Pound mentality has been passed down by many generations,” Stefanski says. “For me, I see it around town, I hear it around town. And now I’m looking forward to having a full experience and seeing what that feels like ... what that *sounds* like.”

Brandon Copeland, left, and Greg Van Roten have both been playing professional football for the last decade, often bouncing from team to team.



THE GLORY AND THE GRIND

The former Penn football stars playing in the NFL have “have fed off each other.”

Greg Van Roten W'12 and Brandon Copeland W'13 have circled the date.

October 10. The New York Jets versus the Atlanta Falcons. London, England.

If all goes to plan, it will mark the first time in their NFL careers that Van Roten, an offensive lineman for the Jets, will face off against Copeland, a Falcons linebacker.

“Every time I’m about to play Greg, I end up having an injury,” says Copeland, who signed with Atlanta in March. “God willing, this year is the year. I’ll make sure I tread lightly before that game in London.”

If the two line up opposite each other, it might feel like they’re looking into a mirror. Not only are they both Whar-

ton graduates and former Penn football teammates, but they’ve also charted similar paths in the NFL, going from undrafted free agents to reliable veterans. And London, where games are occasionally held as part of the NFL International Series, would be a fitting place for them to meet, since their football journeys have taken them all over the map. “I think Cope and I have fed off each other,” Van Roten says. “And we’re lucky we have each other.”

Van Roten began to think the NFL was a possibility a decade ago after winning back-to-back Ivy League championships in 2009 and 2010 and earning first-team All-Ivy honors in 2010 and 2011. Looking through the 2012 draft class, “I was like,

‘I feel like I’m just as big as these guys and just as talented,’” he recalls. But it’s rare to make the jump from the Ivy League to the NFL, and Van Roten wasn’t selected in the 2012 NFL Draft. A homemade website and highlight tape caught the attention of the Jets and San Diego Chargers, who invited him to their rookie minicamps. He had to miss an accounting final and his Wharton graduation to attend both, but he didn’t make either team. His persistence paid off, however, when the Green Bay Packers signed him ahead of the 2012 season. “Being undrafted is difficult,” he says. “We’re not an afterthought but it feels pretty close to that sometimes.”

Van Roten played in 10 games for the Packers between 2012 and 2013 but was released in February of 2014. He was signed by the Seahawks but cut before the 2014 season, leaving him without a team and the realization that his pro football career could be over after just two years

(especially when he worked out for the Vikings, who “went with a younger guy, even though I was 23.”)

The next year, he decided to play in the Canadian Football League (CFL), signing with the Toronto Argonauts. It was a culture shock. The pay wasn’t great, and neither were the facilities. And he had to quickly learn the different rules and nuances of the CFL game. “When I first got up there,” he says, “I was like, ‘Man, what am I doing? I’m in Canada. I don’t know anybody. It’s a different game.’ I was very homesick.” But he stuck it out for two years and played well enough that he received good offers to remain in the CFL in 2017.

While pondering what to do next, he got a valuable piece of advice from a coach, who asked him, “Was your dream to play in the CFL your entire life?” Van Roten also followed closely as Copeland was making a living in the NFL, moving from the Tennessee Titans to the Detroit Lions [“The Optimistic Realist,” Nov/Dec 2016].

Justin Watson shows off the Lombardi Trophy with his parents Terri and Doug after winning the Super Bowl with Tampa Bay in February.

"I was like, 'I can get back because he's still doing it,'" Van Roten says.

So at 27, he returned to the US and got a workout with the Buffalo Bills (who signed someone else at his position instead) and then the Carolina Panthers. Recognizing that if the Panthers didn't sign him "it probably wasn't going to happen" at all, the former Ivy League and CFL lineman surprised a lot of people by making Carolina's opening day roster. "Who is Greg Van Roten and how in the heck did he make the Panthers?" blared a headline in the September 4, 2017, edition of the *Charlotte Observer*. "My mom says I'm tenacious—a dog that latches on and doesn't let go," Van Roten explained in that same *Observer* article. "I like to prove people wrong, and that's pretty much been my M.O. my entire football career." He continued to surprise people by ascending to the starting left guard position, starting every game in 2018 and the first 11 of 2019 before a turf toe injury sidelined him.

After a strange free agency period at the beginning of the pandemic, Van Roten signed a three-year contract with the Jets—the Long Island native's favorite team growing up—but again spent some time on the injured reserve list last season.

Injuries have also made Copeland's NFL journey more challenging. He tore his pectoral muscle with the Lions in 2017 and with the New England Patriots last Octo-

ber, causing him to miss the second half of the 2020 season. (Between stints with the Lions and Patriots, he played for the New York Jets for two years, just missing out on being teammates with Van Roten, who signed with the Jets the season after Copeland left.) Copeland called it an "honor" to play for a recent dynasty like the Patriots but had to move on this past off-season, inking a one-year contract with the Falcons—his sixth professional team, just like Van Roten.

"Greg set the blueprint for me," says Copeland, who in Atlanta will be reunited with another former Penn football captain, Brian Griffin W'91, the Falcons' director of coaching operations. "I'm a veteran now so I feel a little bit more comfortable with my place on the roster. But I'm still the guy that was cut and told he wasn't good enough and who's been hurt multiple times. So I understand how none of this stuff is promised." The idea that an NFL team can cut you at any time was the foundation of the money-management advice he gives to teammates—which he developed into a financial literacy course he taught at Penn ["Professor Cope," Jul/Aug 2019] and an online "Life 101" course open to anybody (life101.io).

Transforming into "Professor Cope" has been one of several off-the-field entrepreneurial endeavors for Copeland, which he hopes will set up him and his wife Taylor Copeland W'13 (whom he



met on their first day at Penn) and their two-year-old son Bryson nicely once he retires from football. But the 30-year-old linebacker is not yet ready for that day to come. "Ultimately we understand this is a moment and an NFL career doesn't last forever," he says. "So we've got to make moves and move around and do what we need to do." Van Roten, who at 31 now finds himself as one of the oldest and most experienced players on the Jets, agrees. "I love the game," he says. "And I think that's why you put up with how physically and mentally demanding it is as you get older and start a family and have kids."

The ultimate goal, of course, is winning a Super Bowl—something Justin Watson W'18, the third Wharton alum playing in the NFL last season, accomplished in February with Tom Brady and the Tampa

Bay Buccaneers. "J-Wat, hoisting a trophy, that's what we're all doing it for," Copeland says. One of the most accomplished wide receivers in Ivy League history, Watson was the second former Penn football player to win the title, after Jim Finn W'99 did it with the New York Giants in 2008. Though Watson didn't make Tampa Bay's gameday roster for the Super Bowl (and, more recently, had knee surgery in July, putting his 2021 season prospects in doubt), he "did help his team get to that point," says Penn football coach Ray Priore. "And to be on that stage three years out of college is pretty awesome."

"It's pretty wild," adds Van Roten. "It's cool for a Penn guy to get drafted and win the Super Bowl and play with someone like Tom Brady. If one of us makes it, we all make it. That's what it feels like." —DZ



Calendar

Annenberg Center
Pennlivearts.org

Sep. 25 **Alarm Will Sound**
Nov. 19 **Maceo Parker**

Arthur Ross Gallery
arthurrossgallery.org
Open Tues.–Sun.

Roberto Lugo: God Complex
Sep. 11–Dec. 19

Red satin robe for the Peking Opera (detail). Qing Dynasty.

Photo courtesy Penn Museum

ICA

icaphila.org

Closed through Sep. 17

Ulysses Jenkins:

Without Your Interpretation

Outside In: Na Kim

Both Sep. 17–Dec. 30

Kelly Writers House

writing.upenn.edu/wh/

Sep. 1 **Printing & Postcards:**

"Hands-on" Letterpress Event

Sep. 9 Reading by poet **Rachel Zolf**

Sep. 14 **Sam Apple's Ravenous**

Oct. 4 **Cindy Spiegel** on

Independent Publishing

Oct. 5 Reading by **Vi Khi Nao** and

Marc Anthony Richardson

Oct. 27 Reading by **Julian Brolaski**

Penn Libraries

[library.upenn.edu/collections/
online-exhibits](http://library.upenn.edu/collections/online-exhibits)

Remarkable Figures: Women in the Art of Ashley Bryan

The Jewish Home: Dwelling on the Domestic, the Familial, and the Lived-In

In Sight: Seeing the People of the Holy Land

Red Etchings: Soviet Book Illustrations from the Collection of Monroe Price

The Midwest Experience:

Ormandy in Minnesota

plus dozens more online

Penn Museum

penn.museum/collections

Galleries open; advance booking recommended

The Stories We Wear

Opens Sep. 25

World Café Live

worldcafelive.com

Provisionally scheduled:

Sep. 29 **Re-Opening Party** with SnackTime & Deborah Bond

Sep. 29 **Maggie Rose**

Sep. 30 **Nicholas Payton**

Oct. 1 **Heartless Bastards**

Oct. 2 **Sun Ra Arkestra**

Oct. 7 **The Jayhawks**

Oct. 8 **Mike Pinto**

Oct. 13 **The Felice Brothers**

Oct. 15 **Simrit**

Oct. 17 **Christian McBride**

Oct. 19 **Eilen Jewell**

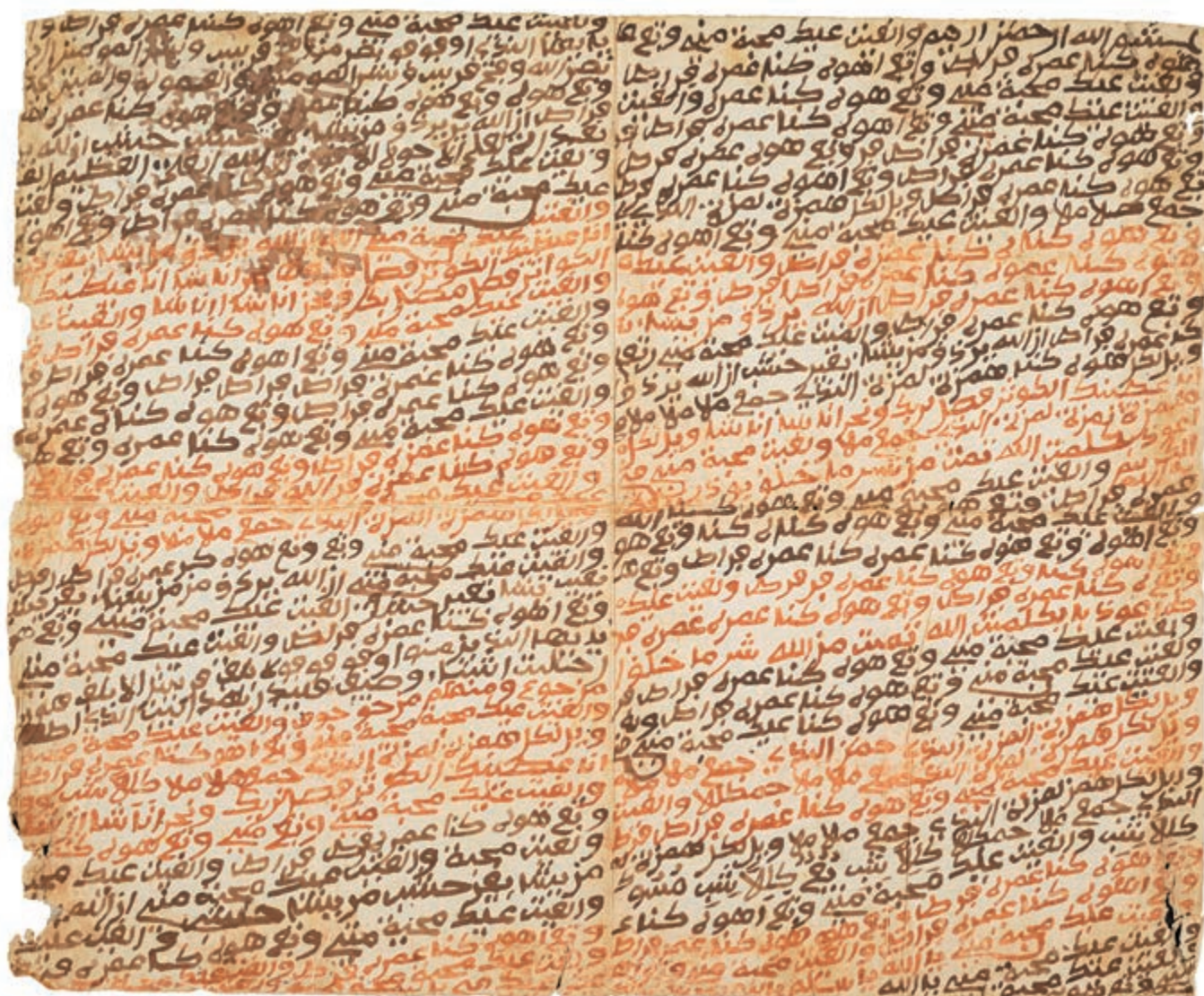
Oct. 20 **Arooj Aftab**

Oct. 23 **Red Wanting Blue**

Oct. 30 **Chris Smither**

Check website for up-to-date information

Talismanic charm written large format to be folded; mostly comprised of several repeated verses from the Qur'an. A few words in Soninke also appear in Arabic letters. 18th century.



Textual Treasures

A three-year digitization and cataloging project made nearly 700 Islamic manuscripts freely available to scholars—and everyone else.

The talismanic charm dating from the mid-1700s—a single large leaf, designed to be folded, containing “repeated verses of the Qur’an in Arabic as well as bits of the West African Soninke language rendered into Arabic script”—was not the oldest item in the Manuscripts of the Muslim World

project. Nor was it “the most brilliantly illustrated or textually significant” artifact in the collection, said Mitch Fraas, director of special collections and research services at the Penn Libraries. But it “really defines the power and promise of projects like this one [to] tell us something about the past.”

In a Zoom presentation celebrating the completion of the three-year digitization and cataloging effort, Fraas explained that the manuscript was created (or at least owned) by an enslaved Muslim in Haiti (or possibly Jamaica), and since 1785 had been part of the collection of the Library Company of Philadelphia. Its inclusion among the 684 bound volumes, single leaves, and scrolls dating from 1000 to 1900—including illuminated manuscripts; copies of the Qur’an and Hadith; works on mathematics and the sciences, history and philosophy, law and religion; and written in many different languages—exemplified the wide net cast in the effort, a col-

Page from the Deccani portrait album beginning with the Mughal emperors, proceeding to the Deccani kings, then closing with the Safavid shahs. Possibly produced during the reign of Abul Hasan Qutb Shah (r. 1672-1687).



laboration among 10 Philadelphia institutions and Columbia University. “The goal was not just to digitize the most beautiful or the most well-known manuscripts,” Fraas explained, “but to reveal the entirety of our manuscript collections related to the Islamic world, writ large, to a global audience.”

Among the Philadelphia participants, Penn (including the Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books, and Manuscripts; the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies; and the Penn Museum) and the Free Library of Philadelphia were the main players, accounting for most of the materials scanned.

Miniature, octagonal Qurʾān, nearly complete, likely used as an amulet. The leaves were probably numbered when the copy was out of order; then it was rebound in the correct order, causing the foliation to be out of sequence. 1800.



Bryn Mawr and Haverford colleges also made their collections available at the start, and the Library Company, Philadelphia Museum of Art, American Philosophical Society, and Temple University joined in along the way. The New York connection came about because Penn and Columbia, contemplating similar proposals, decided to join forces rather than compete for \$500,000 in grant funding from the Council on Library and Information Resources’ Digitizing Hidden Special Collections and Archives program.

Thanks to the project, some 216,000 pages totaling more than 10 terabytes worth of data are now accessible online for scholarly research, use in classes, and to the general public through the University’s OPENN portal, as well as the Internet Archive and individual participants’ websites. In Philadelphia, most of the digitization work was done by the Penn Libraries’ staff of camera technicians—who were among the handful of employees with permission to work on site during the pandemic.

But the grant also provided funding to develop detailed catalog information on the collections, which had been sorely lacking. “We had some typed notes done by students over the years, or visiting professors who had come to see an item, but nothing was searchable online,” said Fraas about Penn’s materials. “The only way you would know we had a lot of these manuscripts would have been by asking someone and them happening to

remember.” (One of his PowerPoint slides showed a sample notation: *Beige Shoe Box, Manuscript C.*)

“A big part of this was the ability to hire someone, for the entire duration of the project, as a full-time expert Arabic and Persian cataloger.”

Cataloger Kelly Tuttle made about 500 entries personally, and enlisted graduate students and other volunteers to flesh out information. Volunteers also assisted with cataloging works in languages Tuttle didn’t know, which turned out to be “a substantial number, because we were being really universal in our scope,” Fraas said. “We had Coptic and Syriac and Avestan and Tamashek, which is a Berber language. She was able to connect to a network of basically international volunteer scholars, who were like, ‘Oh wow, you have a Berber manuscript? Sure, send me images. I’ll tell you about it.’”

In her presentation, Tuttle also emphasized the project’s broad reach and touched on her experience running its Twitter account. “I’m fairly bad at guessing what would be interesting to folks other than knowing that, um, animals seem to be popular, as are interesting outfits, as are illuminations, especially if they’re fancy, and tweets about Qur’an manuscripts,” she said. Unusual sizes—though hard to communicate via digital image—also get attention. The single most liked tweet, she said, was for “a miniature amulet Qur’an at Haverford College.”

For his part, Fraas said he is drawn to “both the older scientific illustrated masterpieces as well as the mundane but really historically important stuff.” In the former category, he pointed to a “fabulously illustrated” medieval astronomical manuscript from southern Spain during the Islamic period, as well as a “Persian one that has great charts of the color spectrum.” Among the historically significant items were a “fatwa written in the 19th century from what’s now Algeria relating to the French occupation.” Another discovery was a fragment of a “semi-famous” copy of the

Qur’an that had been divided up into 30 sections and by “total surprise” turned up in Penn’s holdings.

Even items that were adequately documented in the various collections, Fraas remarked, were not exactly accessible before now. For example, among Islamic art scholars, “It was relatively well known that the Free Library had an amazing collection”—but few had seen it. “This has really transformed that, because instead of just being able to say, ‘Oh yes, they have an amazing collection, which I think there’s a list of published somewhere,’ we can actually go and look at, like, an amazing Mughal album that I would never be able to see except maybe in an old art journal with one black and white photograph.”

Though the project is officially over, “I think we feel pretty strongly that if other Islamicate manuscripts turn up in Philadelphia we’re interested in adding them,” said Fraas. They’ve had a few inquiries and plan on “continuing that outreach to other institutions who might have one manuscript or two manuscripts.”

Over the next two years, the Free Library will be doing extensive public outreach to Philadelphia’s large Muslim community. The initial plan had been for coordinated exhibitions of manuscripts from the collection at the Free Library and Penn, but “COVID has sort of messed with our timelines,” he added. “The Free Library is definitely doing theirs. Whether we can do ours at the exact same time is sort of up in the air.”

While the primary users of the collection are likely to be scholars pursuing their own research, Fraas highlighted its value for classroom teaching. “The audience for these now is no longer just sort of hardcore scholars who know exactly what they are doing. We’ve really opened it up to undergrad classes, beginner grad classes,” he said. “And even in an Intro to Islam class at Penn, having the digitized images encourages physical use, because our faculty might say, ‘I had no idea you had this amuletic scroll. Can you bring it out?’” —JP

Briefly Noted



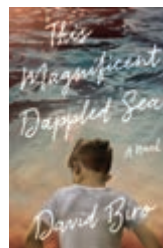
MORTALITY by Richard Saul Wurman Ar’58 GA’59 and Nigel Holmes (Richard Saul Wurman, 2019, \$20). Presented graphically, this book contains statistics on

death, life, longevity, causes of death, and related topics, such as “Which states have the most doctors in the US?” and “How many hospital beds are there in the US?” A conversation between Wurman and medical doctor Islon Woolf runs along the bottom of the pages throughout the book.



SAY WHAT YOUR LONGING HEART DESIRES: Women, Prayer, and Poetry in Iran by Niloofar M. Haeri C’81 Gr’91 (Stanford University Press, 2021, \$25.00.) Haeri, a professor of anthropology at

Johns Hopkins University, presents an ethnography of a group of educated, middle-class Iranian women as they debate religion and engage with the classical poetry of Rumi, Hafez, and Saadi in their daily lives.



THIS MAGNIFICENT DAPPLED SEA by David Biro C’86 (Lake Union Publishing, 2020, \$14.95.) In a small Italian village, a young boy needs a bone marrow transplant. An unlikely match comes up in a

Brooklyn rabbi. Terrible secrets from World War II are uncovered, challenging the characters’ identities, but ultimately this novel celebrates the ties that bind us together.



LOVING IN TRUTH: New and Selected Poems by Jay Rogoff C’75 (Louisiana State University Press, 2020, \$25.95.) Drawing on 40 years of work, this volume presents over 100 poems from earlier collections

alongside 47 new poems that contemplate immigrant ancestors, foreign adventures, baseball, ballet, love, and mortality.

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Not Just for Laughs

A President's Engagement Prize project blends quick-thinking repartee and a social mission.



Meera Menon W'20's friends always marveled at her ability to shine in employment interviews and, as Philip Chen W'20 puts it, "get every job she ever wanted."

"We always would say, Meera, how do you do it?" Chen recalls. "And she'd say, *I improvise*. That's when the lightbulb clicked."

Now Menon and Chen are cofounders of the Unscripted Project, a nonprofit that brings the same skills Menon used to land jobs and ace impromptu class presentations into Philly public school classrooms.

"Improv is such a powerful medium to develop those people skills—so-called soft skills," Menon says.

"We did a lot of academic research," adds Chen, "and everything we read tied to life skills in the classroom had to do with a form of improvisation."

Each Unscripted lesson centers on a particular life skill, from humor and

laughter to persuasive speaking techniques. Over the course of nine weeks, learning takes the form of classic improv games, with teaching artists at the helm. In Menon and Chen's hands, those playful games become tools to help students feel more confident, more creative, and more at home in social situations and even job interviews.

"One improv game can teach a million different things," Chen says. One exercise, for instance, calls on one student to play-act the role of an interviewer while another portrays a job candidate. The rest of the class calls out suggestions for a silly job they might be discussing—like chicken nugget scientist or plant whisperer. "Both the interviewer and interviewee are practicing real-world skills," Menon says, "but the stakes are really low, because I'm interviewing for chicken nugget scientist."

In a further twist, the students might be asked to speak only in gibberish during the faux interview. It gets lots of giggles, but there's an embedded lesson: "They're no longer using words to show that they're confident, but instead have to rely on tone of voice and body language," Menon says.

Through data gathered in pre- and post-program surveys, Menon and Chen report that more than 80 percent of students emerged from their program feeling more attuned to their own and others' emotions, more confident participating in class, and more comfortable interacting with their peers. They also found that 23 percent of students who had screened positive for social anxiety disorder no longer met the criteria after completing the Unscripted Project.

"The biggest thing has been seeing these students develop self-confidence," Chen says. "Some have said, if I can do [that improv game], then I can raise my hand in class."

And Unscripted wouldn't exist without Penn. It's where Menon and Chen met, on the first day of Wharton's freshman orientation. It's where they soaked up the business expertise to turn the Unscripted Project from a well-intentioned dream into a serious nonprofit organization. It's also where they landed a \$100,000 prize (plus a \$50,000 living stipend) to launch their program ["Gazetteer," Jul/Aug 2020].

"I don't think what we're doing would have been possible at this scale without the President's Engagement Prize," Menon says. Their win also marked the first time that an arts-based project bagged the prestigious award.

The duo tapped into Penn's faculty and alumni communities for help, too. Marcia Ferguson, a senior lecturer in theatre arts, became their faculty advisor and now serves as a board member. Greg Maughan C'05 G'05, the founder and executive director of Philly Improv Theater, became a close mentor and helped craft the program's pilot curriculum.

Further support came from all around the University: faculty in Wharton, the Graduate School of Education, the School of Social Policy and Practice, and Penn Law assisted Menon and Chen on their quest. And with further guidance from improv pros in Chicago's Second City and the Magnet Theater in New York, the Unscripted Project was ready to roll.

But just as Menon and Chen were launching pilot programs inside Philly's Science Leadership Academy in February 2020, the COVID-19 crisis forced everything to a halt. They haven't been able to offer Unscripted in-person since.

In a real-time demonstration of the agility that improv requires, they adapted to a fully virtual 2020–21 school year. "Teachers were telling us about the sense of loneliness students felt with virtual learning," Menon says. "So we revamped our program to have a strong focus on creating community in the classroom."

Through laptop screens, the Unscripted Project reached 359 students in middle and high schools last year. This fall, they'll be in 16 classrooms across the Philadelphia area. The plan is to hover around that number each spring and fall for the next couple years while pursuing grants and other funding to help them expand.

And at the same time their program is affecting students' everyday lives, Menon and Chen are finding themselves changed by the experience of running it. They plan to eventually detach from day-to-day operations as the program continues to grow, but "this really caused us to examine what matters to us and what we're looking for in our jobs," Menon says.

"This year we gained so many skills that we never would have gotten if we'd gone straight into the jobs that are typical for Wharton graduates," notes Chen.

"We might be young," he adds, "but we can create meaningful, tangible, measurable impact on the communities we serve. We hope we can inspire our friends and the people around us to think seriously about service and the roles we can all play in creating a better world." —*Molly Petrilla C'06*



Through a Rose-Tinted Lens

With SeeingHappy, Mandy Seligman aims to blend photography and positive psychology.

Mandy Seligman G'86 wanted to get out of the house. But not too far. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the photographer focused on slowing down and paying attention to details whose closeness to home made them easy to overlook.

Finding satisfaction and gratitude in quotidian moments is the theme of her new project, SeeingHappy (seeinghappy.org), an open forum that filters photography through the lens of positive psychology.

"Positive psychology has a number of exercises shown to increase well-being," she says. "I discovered that if I generally followed that path I was much happier. I took photos of moments that touched me." Whether it was her daughter Jenny playing the flute (above) or strangers lined up

on a bridge anticipating fireworks, Seligman zoomed in on happy moments.

SeeingHappy started out as a Facebook page before morphing into a stand-alone website that welcomes contributions from all comers.

It's a decidedly democratic collection. "My mom is 87 and almost blind," Seligman says, allowing that crisp focus is not the strong suit of her mother's contributions. "But they're the things that bring her joy."

"To be able to go out and see things in a different way," Seligman adds, "and notice what's really beautiful—whether it's a child, or a connection between somebody, or some kindness I see—just anything that feels good ... that to me is just a little piece of hope that the world is not as bad as I think it is." —*TP*



On Top of the World

How an “ordinary” retired lawyer became the oldest American to climb Mount Everest.

As he neared the top of the world's highest mountain, Art Muir C'68 WG'72 could not escape thoughts about death. More than 300 people have died attempting to summit Mount Everest, and as Muir made his ascent this past May, he saw two bodies still hanging from ropes in the high-altitude, low-temperature area known as the "death zone."

"That was a real wakeup call," says Muir, noting that bodies often remain on the mountain for a long time because they're difficult and costly to retrieve, serving as an ominous warning for climbers. "I'm thinking, *What was happening in his body? Do you suddenly just collapse? Do you stop breathing? Did he feel fine and all of a sudden, his heart just burst?*" I had no idea." At 75 years old, Muir was particularly mindful of altitude sickness, exhaustion, avalanches, crevasses, and all the other dangers associated with such a perilous pursuit. He carefully monitored how he felt as he climbed higher and higher, surpassing 25,000 feet in elevation for the first time in his life. Was he in control? Could he handle this? Was his oxygen mask working? Each step, every motion, had to be precise. "My whole mantra was *no mistakes, no mistakes*," he says. "I said that hundreds of thousands of times. Only a lawyer can do something like that."

When the sun rose and he began to recognize certain landmarks near the top of

the mountain—the Yellow Band, the Balcony, the South Summit, the Hillary Step—Muir had "this really emotional response." Upon reaching the summit at 29,031 feet, the relieved climber sat down for about seven minutes and snapped a couple of photos with the two Sherpas who helped guide him on his journey. "But," he says, "that was only half of the job." Only later, after making most of the steep descent down the mountain and getting showered with adulation from his teammates on the trek, did his remarkable achievement finally come into focus: Art Muir, a 75-year-old retired corporate finance attorney from the suburbs of Chicago, had just become the oldest American to scale Mount Everest.

"I'm a pretty ordinary person," says Muir, who's been humbled by the attention he's since received, from a *Today* show interview to Instagram plaudits from Penn President Amy Gutmann. "I mean, I worked hard to get ready for this. But I think you're going to see a lot more of this. You've got to understand: there's 70 million Baby Boomers in this country, and people are doing a lot more stuff than they used to do."

Muir is an unlikely person to wear a climbing crown. Growing up in Colorado, he felt the allure of the mountains and remembers enjoying a book, given to him by his father, about French climber Maurice Herzog's exploits in the Himalayas. But at Penn he had a "pretty rou-

tine experience" devoid of athletic adventures, and he was a self-admitted "desk jockey for 35 years" at the law firm McGuireWoods. And the "regular vacations" he took with his wife Leslie Fisher Muir GEd'72 and their three children were not the thrill-seeking kind. So he was surprised when his pal Jim Daverman WG'73, whom he first met at Wharton, called him up about eight years ago and invited him to climb volcanoes in Ecuador. "I remember saying to my wife, 'Why would I want to do that? It's just so bizarre,'" he recalls. "And she was at the sink and turned around, looked at me, and said, 'Because he's your friend.' So then, all of a sudden, I'm in Quito, climbing these volcanoes." Nearing 70 and retirement at the time, Muir was unsure how he'd fare—or even if the guide company would allow an "old geezer" like him to attempt it without having to prove what kind of shape he was in first. But he quickly found out he had a knack for it, learning mountaineering tricks, getting used to all the gear, and enjoying meeting new people and taking in the scenery. "It just spiraled after that," he says. "Some might say it spiraled out of control."

After climbing those Ecuadorian volcanoes—Cayambe and Cotopaxi—Muir climbed to the top of Russia's Mount Elbrus, the highest peak in Europe, and then skied off it. He scaled all 8,000 meters of China's Shishapangma (the background of his Zoom). He

"I wasn't going there to die. That was not my plan. I was planning to come back."

found other remote locales to climb and ski, from Alaska to Chile to Japan. "It's just so funny, when you look back, how life takes you down unexpected pathways—if you're willing to put yourself out there," Muir says. Still, while his wife and kids were supportive of his escapades, some of his friends weren't so sure, especially as he made plans to spend roughly two months in Nepal during the pandemic to climb Everest this year. "I got a lot of push-back from them, basically saying, 'You're insane, that's really stupid,'" he says. "But they didn't understand I wasn't going there to die. That was not my plan. I was planning to come back."

Muir had actually been to Everest before. He took a trip there in 1990, which he says "fired up my imagination," and then returned in 2019 to try to summit the mountain. But he didn't make it beyond Camp 2, falling twice, once into a narrow crevasse (he managed to pull himself back up) and another time off a ladder, hurting his ankle and ending his expedition prematurely. "You don't want to make mistakes on these big mountains," he says. "Bad things happen."

Because COVID-19 wiped out Everest's 2020 April-May climbing season, "I had two

years to think about it,” Muir says, “and not make the same mistakes again.” He spent his quarantine working out a lot during the day—“as much as you can at my age,” he says—and going to bed envisioning the same ridge that tripped him up. By the time he arrived in Nepal in late March, he was feeling far more experienced, and his confidence grew as he practiced technique with teammates he met and bonded with through expedition leader Garrett Madison’s mountaineering company. And he leaned on those climbing companions, as well as Madison and the local Sherpas, to get further than he did in 2019: from base camp to Camp 2 to Camp 3—which he says was pitched on the side of a precipitous slope, during a cyclone of wind and snow. “It was not fun,” he says. “I don’t want to go back there.” But he kept pushing, to Camp 4 (where “you can hardly talk because the sound of wind slapping tents is so loud”) and through the final homestretch, much of which he made in the dead of night. “Because of weather and delays, we were up there for 10 nights above Camp 2,” Muir says. “That’s a long time. But weather and COVID were really challenging for a lot of the expeditions, and although a lot of people got to the top, many more did not because of those two things. So we were very lucky.”

Muir tried to downplay his accomplishment of being the oldest American to scale the mountain—and third oldest overall. He reached out to Bill

Burke, who previously held the American record, having climbed Everest multiple times, including in 2014, at 72. “He’s more legitimate,” Muir says. “I’m more or less a pretender to the throne.” He also figures someone might come along and break his record—if they want to spend a lot of time and money like he did, or don’t gravitate to an even more technically challenging mountain.

“I think of myself as an ordinary guy who’s been able to do these extraordinary things,” he says.

While he was up on Everest, Muir did have the fleeting thought that this might be the end of his mountaineering career. Maybe he’d settle into a more typical retirement and spend more time with his six grandchildren (one of whom was born while he was on his most recent expedition; another is named Everest). But then he started to think of all the things he’d still like to do, places to visit, people to meet. Skiing off France’s Mont Blanc “would be such a cool thing,” he says. So would climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. And hiking, biking, and kayaking across Costa Rica. “The question now is how long can I reasonably expect to do this,” he says. “I’m trying to do some of this while I still can.”

“My takeaway from all of this is that people my age can still do amazing things, if you put in the work. If you have the right doctors, the right coaches, the right teammates, the right guides, the right support, your body will respond. It’s like a miracle.” —DZ



Threading Lightly

Step into the shoes of the Allbirds cofounder set on eliminating his company’s carbon footprint.

What do you get when a retired soccer star with a new fashion idea meets a business school grad with a background in renewable energy? “We’ve never believed we’re a shoe company, nor are we a wool company,” says Joey Zwillinger WG’10, cofounder of Allbirds and the aforementioned energy expert. “And we are definitely not a wool shoe company.” Instead, he asserts, “our real objective is centered on climate change.”

In 2019, for instance, Allbirds—the popular footwear and apparel brand Zwillinger co-launched in 2016—embarked on a quest to figure out exactly how much carbon it emitted and announced a goal of carbon neutrality (including offsets). Last year, it began labeling each product with information about the sources of its fibers, and the way the company’s material inputs and finished products are transported through the course of the shoes’ lifecycle. (Tradi-

ALUMNI

tional sneakers are manufactured from carbon-emitting chemical polymers and can take decades to decompose.)

Zwillinger met his cofounder Tim Brown—a former New Zealand soccer player of some renown—through his wife, Elizabeth Leonard Zwillinger L'10, who had roomed with Brown's wife at Dartmouth University. “Tim had this great idea about creating a new kind of sneaker and he'd had some success with a Kickstarter campaign,” Zwillinger recalls. “But he was going through a challenging time as far as the nuts and bolts of starting a business.” Zwillinger thought that with his consulting savvy and environmental credentials—he had worked for management and investment firms before settling in for a long stint at Solazyme, a biofuels start-up—he might be able to help. After a few months of informal conversations, Brown flew from London to visit Zwillinger in Marin County, California. “We walked and walked through the hills for three days and coalesced a partnership that would be bigger than the individual pieces,” Zwillinger says. Along with that realization, the two came to another understanding. “We knew that our wives would kill us if we ruined their friendship.”

Within a year, Allbirds—a name Brown derived from early explorers who viewed New Zealand as a place of “all birds” and not many mammals—had released its first line of sneakers. *Time* magazine quickly pronounced

the \$95 Wool Runner the “world's most comfortable shoe” in 2016.

Two years later, the company had sold its one millionth pair, mostly online. In 2019, it introduced 10 new colors for its Merino Runners and Tree Breezers, a line of ballet flats made from eucalyptus fibers. These days, the company employs upwards of 400 people and operates two dozen stores worldwide. It recently added another \$100 million to its venture capital pot and achieved a valuation in the neighborhood of \$1.7 billion in anticipation of an upcoming initial public offering. Meanwhile, new products, including underwear and leisurewear made from tree fibers, continue to roll off the production line.

While the pandemic presented a major challenge, it didn't knock Allbirds off course. “During COVID, we were tested in so many different ways,” Zwillinger says. “We lost money—which we hadn't done before—because we had a huge retail staff that we wanted to keep onboard and keep paying while most of our stores were shut.” In March 2020, through a long-standing partnership with the nonprofit Soles for Souls, Allbirds donated 500,000 pairs of gently worn shoes to essential workers in just five days. Later that spring, timed perfectly to the closure of gyms, it went ahead with a planned launch of its new running shoe, the Tree Dasher, which proved to be its best-selling debut to date.

Aside from the sustainable materials that users see in All-

birds designs, there's also a lot going on behind (or underneath) the scenes. “One of the most ubiquitous components in sneakers is the chemical EVA [ethylene-vinyl acetate] and we developed a way to make the same polymer using Brazilian sugarcane,” Zwillinger says. “We've outsourced that technology for two reasons. One is pragmatic—if lots more people use it, the price comes down. The second is altruistic—not only is sugarcane an incredibly renewable resource, it also sucks carbon out of the atmosphere.”

Materials are where the lion's share of the footwear industry's carbon footprint lies, Zwillinger points out. “We have great ideas, but we don't have a building full of scientists. So if there are companies out there already doing great stuff and we can help commercialize their technologies, that's our sweet spot.” As an example, he points out that in pursuit of plant-based alternatives with the performance attributes of cow leather, Allbirds recently invested \$2 million in a company called Natural Fiber Welding. It also partnered with Adidas to produce a not-yet-released running shoe with a carbon footprint of less than 3kg (compared to an industry standard of 12.5–13.6kg).

For Zwillinger, confronting climate change and wanting to make a difference in the world comes from his family, where “social and societal progress were deeply interwoven.” His sister is an attorney who now works as a water rights advocate. Their mother

left her native South Africa during apartheid and met their dad at San Francisco State University, where he was a professor who, Zwillinger notes, played a role in helping establish what became the nation's first Black Studies department. “So, we listened to those lessons carefully,” Zwillinger adds. “Those conversations really got me behind environmental causes early on. I was interested in making a difference via entrepreneurship, though, rather than policy.”

Zwillinger has extended his personal commitment to the climate crisis and other causes by creating a venture capital fund, Good Friends, with three Wharton classmates—Dave Gilboa WG'10 and Neil Blumenthal WG'10, cofounders of eyewear maker Warby Parker [“Alumni Profiles,” Jul/Aug 2012], and Jeffrey Raider WG'10 of Harry's, the men's grooming retailer. The fund has made more than 60 investments to companies like Daring Foods, which sells plant-based “chicken,” and Grayce, a start-up (cofounded by another classmate, Julia Cohen WG'10) aimed at helping family caregivers navigate the healthcare system.

No wonder Zwillinger jokes that Penn “was pretty good to me. I got a wife and through her found a business partner,” he says. “I got great friends who support me in my business endeavors and invest with me. And I learned that I can focus on having some kind of impact that I can feel proud of.”

—JoAnn Greco

Big Man at the Big Ten

The first Black commissioner of a major college conference has had to navigate turbulence at the helm.

In his old office at Minnesota Vikings headquarters, Kevin Warren W'85 hung reminders of people who cleared the path for him. In more than a decade with the NFL franchise, including the last four years as its chief operating officer, Warren decorated the walls with photos of trailblazers in sports and American life: Martin Luther King Jr., Jackie Robinson, and the 1966 Texas Western men's basketball team—the first with an all-Black starting lineup to win a national title.

Upon his move to Chicago to take over as commissioner of the Big Ten, becoming the first Black man to run a Power Five conference, he added a set of portraits of the five men, dating to 1922, who had previously run college athletics' most prestigious league. They provide a constant reminder of both the history Warren is the steward of and the history his presence in that office is making.

"I recognize that these are five white men and I'm a Black man here," Warren says. "And so I need to do everything I possibly can to continually elevate the con-



ference, to represent the conference with class and grace and style, to work hard and continually build bridges between various communities and provide opportunities for individuals who have been marginalized."

Warren's ascent to the helm of the Big Ten joins two threads of his professional life. He comes from a family of pioneers, particularly in the business of sports. And he is guided by values he first learned as a student-athlete for two seasons at Penn in the early 1980s—from empha-

ing hard work to accepting people from diverse backgrounds to focusing on athlete well-being.

Warren has needed that fortitude to navigate a unique first year-and-a-half on the job. He took office in January 2020, mere weeks before COVID-19 ground the world to a halt. The cancella-

tion of the Big Ten basketball tournament on March 12 was one of the first American sports dominoes to fall, and the cancellation of the spring season followed soon after.

During the tumultuous summer of 2020, Warren was equal parts commissioner and conciliator, impaneling groups to help meet student-athletes' changing needs.

That included creating a Big Ten Mental Health and Wellness Cabinet in May and the Big Ten Conference Anti-Hate and Anti-Racism Coalition in June after the death of George Floyd. (That event hit particularly close to home for Warren, who lived in the Twin Cities for 15 years and operates the Warren Family Foundation there.) In the fall, he launched a voter registration initiative for Big Ten student-athletes.

The Big Ten was also thrust into the election-year spotlight when it became the first major conference to cancel its fall season on August 11. Though Warren based the decision on an "overwhelming" vote of league presidents and chancellors, it drew the ire of many football fans, parents, and politicians, eventually leading to a call between Warren and President Donald Trump W'68, who exhorted the Big Ten to change course.

Ultimately, Warren took in new sources of information, established a Return to Competition Task Force, and the Big Ten returned to the gridiron in late October—later than most leagues but with still enough time for Ohio

"I need to do everything I possibly can to continually elevate the conference, to represent the conference with class and grace and style."

Kevin Warren eyes the basketball in a game against Princeton during the 1981–82 season.

State to qualify for the four-team College Football Playoff.

That ability to adapt is a trait Fran McCaffery W'82, Warren's friend and former teammate, has recognized in him since college. Warren was a reserve guard as a freshman on Penn's 1981–82 Ivy League men's basketball championship team, but he saw his playing time dry up under new head coach Craig Littlepage W'73 the following season. He transferred to Arizona State—where the coach who originally recruited him to Penn, Bob Weinbauer, had gone—and then to Grand Canyon University, where he became a 1,000-point scorer and an NAIA All-American. But Warren still has fond memories of Penn, which he says “exposed him to a new world” when he arrived on campus as a 17-year-old from Tempe, Arizona.

“I was forced to grow up very quickly,” he says. “But I had not only incredible teammates but incredible friends, some of whom I’ve stayed in touch with. ... And that set the cornerstone for my academic and athletic career.”

McCaffery, the senior point guard and leader on the 1981–82 squad, is now the head coach at the University of Iowa [“Alumni Profiles,” Jan/Feb 2011], one of four Big Ten men's basketball teams to finish in the top eight of the final Associated Press poll of the 2020–21 season. He reconnected with Warren in the late 1980s at Notre Dame, where McCaffery was an assistant coach and Warren



studied law. When Warren was floated for the commissioner's job, McCaffery had no doubt his former teammate was the right man. The way Warren has navigated the last year by finding consensus among radically opposed stakeholders has only reinforced that belief.

“He’s somebody that I just thought had the special qualities that would inevitably make him incredibly successful,” McCaffery says. “So when he carved his path into the NFL, I wasn’t surprised at all. And when the Big Ten hired him, I wasn’t surprised at all. I was thrilled for our league, for all of our members.”

Warren has also grown close to Littlepage—who served 16 years as the athletic director at the University of Virginia until 2017—even though he didn’t play much for him in college. “He has always offered words of wisdom,” Warren says. “I spoke

with him on occasion to seek advice, and he’s incredibly bright and insightful and wise. He guided me with great wisdom during the pandemic and I’m incredibly grateful.”

Warren long ago proved his managerial prowess. After practicing sports law, he won a Super Bowl ring as a vice president for the St. Louis Rams. He was hired by the Detroit Lions as a vice president, then moved to the Vikings in 2005. He helped the team build a new stadium and host a Super Bowl, and he won a slew of awards for his emphasis on diversity and community.

Warren comes from a family of trailblazers. Kevin's father, Morrison Warren Sr., played football at Arizona State in the 1940s and briefly in the NFL before becoming chairman of the 1982 Fiesta Bowl, the first Black man to hold such a position. Warren's older brother, Morrison Jr., was the first

Black football player recruited to Stanford in the 1960s.

Kevin's children, Peri (volleyball at Occidental) and Powers (football at Mississippi State and now Michigan State), are NCAA athletes.

He was raised in a “melting pot” family with Native American and Mexican grandparents. His father, a soldier who liberated concentration camps in World War II, emphasized generosity, duty, and faith, envisioning college sports as a vehicle for success. Warren's mission is to replicate for Big Ten student-athletes the opportunities he's had.

“It’s been a pleasure to serve them and work side by side with them and to make sure I listen to what’s important to them,” Warren says. “We seek to build an environment here at the Big Ten to make sure we do everything to empower them.”

—Matthew De George

"I've fulfilled a lifelong dream and written a children's book."

—Elyse Sitner Barroway W'90

1951

Burton J. Greenwald W'51 writes, "After graduation I attended Navy Officer Candidate School (OCS) in Newport, Rhode Island, and served for three years in the Navy at sea with the Atlantic and Mediterranean fleets. For more than 60 years, I have been active in the mutual fund industry as CEO of two major management companies and as founder and CEO of a management consulting company with a distinguished roster of domestic and international clients. I was a longtime member of the board of governors of the Investment Company Institute, where I served as chairman of the Industry's Public Information Committee. I currently serve as an independent director of a cluster of Franklin Templeton Funds, where I plan to step down at year end 2021. I lost my loving wife of 60 years four years ago and I miss her every day. Fortunately, our three children, seven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild provide great support and a source of ongoing love and comfort. I would enjoy hearing from classmates and friends. Feel free to email me at bgreenwald@aol.com."

Celebrate Your Reunion, May 13-16, 2022!

1952

Jeanette Brener Axelrod Ed'52 writes, "I am 90 years of age, the mother of eight children (two daughters and six sons), and to my knowledge the first manufacturer of natural cat and dog food. As a result of two of my sons being slow learners, and the fact that we lived in a wealthy Main Line community that had no special education programs, I embarked on a course of work. The only interests that my

special sons shared with me was a love of animals and children. Since the baby birth boom in 1975 had plummeted, it seemed natural to manufacture pet food. The times called for natural food and I chose to extend that concept to pet food. I called my product Mother's Natural Pet Food. The concept immediately exploded. Within a few years the boys were making two *tons* of pet food weekly. I opened my first store October 8, 1976, and in short order we were selling the pet food along the East Coast. My story was written in the July 2, 1985, issue of *Family Circle* magazine. After 18 years of constant work, I sold the business to three investment attorneys who, after a year, walked away. Their planning was to get these products in all stores in America. At that time, premium pet food was only sold in pet shops or by veterinarians. Both sons are gainfully employed. I am now living in a retirement community, Lions Gate, in Voorhees, New Jersey."

1954

Lois Pulver-Krop SW'54 writes, "I'm excited to be celebrating my 90th birthday, as well as my 67th wedding anniversary to a Penn Stater. I recently published my first book, *Family Hour, Family Power: The Road to Family Unity*. I am still working and enjoying every moment."

1956

Irene Sofian Herman CW'56 writes, "The Canine Companions Facebook Page featured a poem that I wrote about my hearing service

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dog, Butterfly. It was written while I was part of a poetry circle sponsored by the Senior Friendship Center of Sarasota, Florida. It is titled 'No Greater Love': It was loss that brought us together / A void I thought could never be filled / But you sat with your head cocked and looked at me / Your huge brown eyes deep pools of compassion and understanding / My beautiful Butterfly - whose name symbolizes change, hope and love / Delivered that message to me by placing your paw on my hand. / A nudge from your cold pink nose forced me to see that beauty and hope abound / Your dignified demeanor and puppy playfulness brought a smile I thought I had lost. / I thank you, my guardian angel, for all the love that you give / And for leading me back to the sunlight that I thought had forever dimmed."

1958

Rev. Glenn J. Fisher C'58 writes, "I have been elected a director of the Norfolk and Western Railroad Historical Society in Roanoke, Virginia. As the author of 16 articles in the society's news magazine, *The Arrow*, I was the keynote speaker at their last convention in 2019. I also write for four other railfan magazines and am the author of the book *Life Is Like a Mountain Railroad: A Model of the Spiritual Journey*. Having served 41 years in the ordained ministry of the United Methodist Church in eastern Pennsylvania, I've been retired for 21 years. I live with my wife of 61 years, Sunny, in Cornwall, Pennsylvania. I'm a third generation Quaker, with my daughter, Linda, being a fourth."

1960

E. Gerald Riesenbach W'60, senior counsel at Cozen O'Connor, has been recognized by the *Legal Intelligencer* with a 2020 Professional Excellence Award in the Lifetime Achievement category.

1961

Dr. Eli Goodman C'69 writes, "On June 1, I received an official US Design Patent (US D921,104 S) for my previously trademarked punctuation mark, the rhetoricon—an entity that I first conceived approximately two years ago after reading a *Reader's Digest* article that described 11 obscure, essentially never-used, but legitimate punctuation marks, such as the interrobang, acclamation point, and snark mark. My rhetoricon is suitable to mark the end of a sentence, phrase, statement, or comment that is both rhetorical and sarcastic, with or without a sense of double entendre. An example would be: What could be better than to be at once both rhetorical and sarcastic? An image can be seen on my website, eligoodmanmd.com."

Curtis Pontz W'61 has published *The Stranglehold: How to Break the Palestinians' Unyielding Grip on the Middle East Peace Process* (Dorrance Publishing). He writes, "The book examines the impactful topic of whether the establishment of the modern State of Israel was justifiable and just, my reasoning being that if the Palestinians can be convinced of the justifiability and justness of Israel's creation, they will abandon their long-standing rejection of Israel's legitimacy and right to exist. I argue that eliminating the real obstacle to a resolution of the conflict, i.e., the unwillingness of the Palestinians to accept Israel's presence in the Middle East, will open the door to a pathway to an enduring peace agreement. The book is available at DorranceBookstore.com, Amazon.com, and Barnes&Noble.com."

Celebrate Your Reunion, May 13–16, 2022!

1962

Steve Stovall W'62 ASC'63 writes, "After a 15-month break from racing due to the pandemic, I ran a 5K race on D-Day 2021 in Denver. I never stopped running and training, just

didn't race during that break. Meanwhile, turned 80, so I raced in a new age category. My time was an embarrassment, but I was fortunate enough to win first place in the 80-plus age group by three and a half minutes. There were four men in that category. Later, I celebrated July Fourth in the four-mile Liberty Run. Alas, I came in second in the 80-plus age group, but at least I was pleased with my finish time. As always, I wore a Penn shirt. Penn distance runners keep it up longer. I started running 50 years ago."

1964

Lawrence Brody W'64 has joined the law firm Harrison & Held as senior counsel with a focus on estate planning. He works out of the firm's St. Louis office.

Dr. Edward Rossomando D'64, professor emeritus at the University of Connecticut School of Dentistry, writes, "The Center for Research and Education in Technology (CRET), an educational nonprofit corporation of which I am president, was founded in 2004 to introduce innovative equipment and products into dental education. Through a rigorous selection process, CRET identifies a dental school for the award of an Innovation Center. Each award provides the school with more than \$1 million in in-kind contributions of new emerging equipment and products. To date, CRET has awarded four dental schools Innovation Centers. CRET is pleased to announce the recipient of the 2021 Innovation Center is Lincoln Memorial University dental school in Knoxville, Tennessee. More information about CRET can be found at cretdental.org."

1965

Charlie Dagit C'65 Ar'67 GAR'68 see **Howard Freedlander C'67**.

1966

Pamela Burke CW'66 has authored and coedited a new book with Patricia Caso, titled *20 Women Storytellers: Taking Action with Powerful Words and Images*. She writes, "It follows my first book, *20 Women Changemak-*

ers: Taking Action Around the World. *Storytellers* is a compilation of inspiring stories from my website (thewomenseye.com) of documentarians, photographers, journalists, and broadcasters who are changing the world with their stories and photographs. We spotlight women driven by their passion to make a difference. You can find more information @womenstorytellersbook.com. The book is available on Amazon, bookshop.org, Barnes and Noble, and at local bookstores."

Celebrate Your Reunion, May 13–16, 2022!

1967

Howard Freedlander C'67 writes, "I am happy to report that the Class of 1967 managed the COVID-imposed isolation by engaging in monthly Zoom calls beginning in August 2020. Beyond some substantive conversation, we asked two classmates, **Arthur Sculley W'67** and **Ron Bornstein W'67 L'70**, who live in London, to discuss Brexit; **Hon. Midge Rendell CW'69** talked about her decade-old efforts to teach civics in our schools; and we listened to a recent presentation by **Charlie Dagit C'65 Ar'67 GAR'68** (husband of **Alice Murdoch Dagit CW'67**) about the renowned architect and Penn professor **Louis Kahn Ar'24 Hon'71**. The Zoom platform has been a unifying force during the pandemic, providing classmates (about 30 a call) a place to connect and reconnect. The conversations have been lively and animated. Classmates have been eager to talk about the personal impact of COVID, their families, their Penn experiences nearly 55 years ago, and their plans for the future. Communicating as part of a photo gallery is endemic to the Zoom culture. It's been a necessary facet of our personal, professional, and nonprofit lives."

Stanton Peele C'67 writes, "I've written a memoir that discusses my time at Penn, titled *A Scientific Life on the Edge: My Lonely Quest to Change How We See Addiction*." From the book's description, "Stanton Peele has created a very different kind of addiction book—a memoir of his tumultuous career in the addiction field interwoven with his personal life story. [His conception of addiction] has

set him in opposition to the demonization of drugs. But he also opposes the ostensibly humane but actually disempowering notion of addiction as a disease. This wrongheaded idea views addiction as if it existed only in a person's brain and body and not in the person's mind and soul—and community."

Dr. Stephen Permut C'67 was inducted as the 160th president of the Philadelphia County Medical Society on June 25. Steve is a tenured professor and former chair of the Department of Family Medicine and Community Medicine at the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University.

Martin Seligman Gr'67, a Penn professor and director of the Positive Psychology Center, was awarded an honorary doctorate from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) on May 28. He also took part in an RCSI MyHealth Series guest talk, entitled "Positive Psychology, Agency and Human Progress," which can be viewed at www.rcsi.com/myhealthlectures.

Warren B. Smith C'67 has written a new book, titled *The Titanic and Today's Church: A Tale of Two Shipwrecks*. From the book's description, it is "the story of two shipwrecks. One took place over a century ago; the other is in progress and is happening today. The similarities are astounding as they compel us to become more aware of our Spiritual Adversary's schemes and devices (2 Corinthians 2:11), effectively 'stand against' them (Ephesians 6:11), and 'come out from among them' (2 Corinthians 6:17)."

1968

William W. Schwarze L'68, partner emeritus at the intellectual property law firm Panitch Schwarze Belisario & Nadel LLP, has been named among the 2021 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers.

1969

Stephen A. Spitz W'69 has joined the Pennsylvania-based law firm Saxton & Stump as senior counsel. He will continue to provide services to clients with his partner Irish "Ryan" Neville under the name Spitz & Neville in Charleston, South Carolina. Stephen focuses his practice on real estate, property, and equity.

1970

Kenneth L. Fredrickson L'70 writes, "Over the past x number of years (more than I care to remember) I have been researching for two books I have been writing. The first one, *Killing Atheism: Powerful Evidence and Reasons to Believe Jesus*, has been published by Wipf & Stock. This book was written for those who are struggling with their faith or trying to help others but cannot get around the problem of 'If there is a God, why doesn't he show himself?' It bypasses traditional apologetics and powerfully shows that God does not hide. We offer secular evidence demonstrating that the story of Christ must be true. My website is www.killingatheism.com, for more information."

Sandi Shustak Kligman MT'70 writes, "70 is the new 50th! Forever, whenever ... and our 'whenever' will be this May 13-16! Reunion cochairs **Ted Gilmore W'70**, **Maureen Hare Luschini Nu'70** and I, along with class copresidents **Nina Robinson Vitow CW'70 WG'76** and **Tim Carson W'70**, can't wait to greet you in person but urge you to make hotel reservations now as Alumni Weekend 2022 will be huge with three sets of Reunion classes celebrating! Reunion information can be found on our class website (www.alumni.upenn.edu/1970). Book your hotel now—most have generous cancellation policies. Plan to come early (watch for details about a reception event on Thursday, May 12, that 1970 will be invited to) and stay through Monday, May 16, to gown up and march in the Commencement procession along with the other 50th Reunion classes of 1971 and 1972. Thursday and Sunday nights will be great times for private dinners with old friends, without missing 'Drinks with the Sphinx' on Friday night or our Union League 'Bask in the Glow' Saturday night gala. Please join our new Facebook Group, started by **Ann Kent Cowen CW'70**, 'Penn Class of 1970—50th Reunion,' for all the latest news."

1971

Jack Narvel ASC'71 writes, "My first book, *Like Eating Jelly with Chopsticks*, is now available as an audiobook! I have nar-

Events

PHILADELPHIA

Join the Penn Alumni Club of Philadelphia for two virtual book club events featuring alumnae authors. On September 15 we will talk with Chandler Baker C'08 about her new novel, *The Husbands*, and on October 13 we will meet with Sanaë Lemoine C'11 to discuss her work, *The Margot Affair*. Visit www.pennclubphilly.com for more information and to register.

VIRTUAL

In light of ongoing global health concerns, visit www.alumni.upenn.edu/clubs to find the latest information on Regional Club events in your area. And be sure to check out www.alumni.upenn.edu/govirtual for an abundance of virtual events and digital resources available for alumni.

rated it myself. It is a compendium of my life story interwoven with illustrations from the Bible. A sample audio track is available from either chirpbooks.com or nookaudiobooks.com. Just search for the title. I think anyone, and particularly those of Christian faith, would enjoy listening to this story."

Celebrate Your Reunion, May 13-16, 2022!

1972

Dr. Stephen Kramer C'72 writes, "I recently retired after 38 years of clinical practice as professor emeritus of psychiatry and behavioral medicine at Wake Forest Baptist Health Sciences in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. During my tenure I helped develop programs in forensic psychiatry and neuropsychiatry. Previously I retired after 25 years of service to the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. I continue with my work for the Joint Commission as field representative/physician surveyor, and as a topic editor for DynaMed, an EBSCO product. I'm enjoying my second term on the board of directors of the Winston-Salem Symphony, and grandparenting with my wife, **Rochelle Prague Kramer CW'74 Gr'74**, who also retired from the medical center as a reference librarian."

1973

Lawrence Finkelstein W'73 L'76 writes, "I retired at the end of 2018 after 42-plus years at Blank Rome LLP (although I'm currently working there on a very part-time schedule). My wife Barbara and I were hoping to travel extensively and spend more time with our nine-year-old twin grandsons; obviously, the last year put a kibosh on those plans. I can report, however, that a number of Class of '73 classmates met remotely as an Organizing Committee to begin planning our 50th Reunion (to take place May 13-14, 2023), including **Anita Sama CW'73**, **Wendella Fox CW'73 L'76**, **Bill Keller C'73**, **Mark Maas C'73**, and **Robert Drumheller C'73**. Since then, more than a dozen classmates signed on. We're eager to hear from classmates who have 50th Reunion ideas and energy to serve on outreach, communications, fundraising, programming, and social committees. We are planning to meet (virtually and hopefully in person) for meetings and many class events in advance of our reunion. As boosting attendance is job one, we need help finding contact info for those in the Class of 1973 for whom Penn has no email address or other contact info. Please send alumni news, and contact details, as well as your ideas and willingness to participate, to reunion@ben.dev.upenn.edu, and stay alert for more info and plans as they unfold."

Dr. Samuel Forman C'73, a historian and Harvard University faculty member, has written a new nonfiction book, *Ill-Fated Frontier: Peril and Possibilities in the Early American West*. From the book's press materials: "*Ill-Fated Frontier* is at once a pioneer adventure and a compelling narrative of the frictions that emerged among entrepreneurial pioneers and their 60 slaves, Indians fighting to preserve their land, and Spanish colonials with their own agenda."

1974

Sanford M. Jacoby C'74, Distinguished Research Professor at UCLA, has written a new book, *Labor in the Age of Finance: Pensions, Politics, and Corporations from Deindustrialization to Dodd-Frank* (Princeton University Press, 2021).

Rochelle Prague Kramer CW'74 Gr'74 see **Dr. Stephen Kramer C'72**.

John Quelch WG'74, dean, vice provost, and professor at the University of Miami, has been awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and received the Alumni Award of Merit from the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health.

1976

Joan Lipman Brown Gr'76, who holds the Elias Ahuja Chair of Spanish at the University of Delaware, was inducted into the Order of Don Quijote by the national Spanish honorary society Sigma Delta Pi and the national professional organization AATSP (American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese) in May. The award "recognizes exceptional and meritorious service in the fields of Hispanic scholarship, the teaching of Spanish, and the promotion of good relations between English-speaking countries and those of Spanish speech." Brown was recognized for her "cutting-edge theoretical work on the canon" that has "shaped the identity and curriculum of Spanish and Latin American Studies," as well as for her scholarship on Spanish author Carmen Martín Gaité, Spanish literature by women, and oral-language acquisition. Brown's book *Calila: The Later Novels of Carmen Martín Gaité* was published by Bucknell University Press in April. She writes, "The book's roots were planted at Penn in the mid-'70s, when I asked the late Spanish professor Gonzalo Sobejano a question that would shape my career: 'Are there any great contemporary Spanish novels by women?' I discovered the fiction of Spanish author Carmen Martín Gaité and wrote the first dissertation on her early novels, followed by the first book on her fiction. Martín Gaité—whom I called Calila—and I became close friends, and my book features letters and conversations between us over the course of 25 years."

Michael P. Malloy L'76 writes, "I served as a member of the organizing committee and cohost for the 8th Annual International Conference on Business, Law, and Economics, sponsored by the Athens Institute for Education and Research. The conference took place in Athens, Greece—virtually—during May 3–4. On the first day of the conference, I offered welcoming remarks. I also presented a paper,

entitled 'Promises for the Future,' that examines recent developments in contracts law involving the use of the theory of promissory estoppel as an alternative to traditional formal contract formation. This paper is drawn from a larger, book-length project on contracts law that will be published next year."

Celebrate Your Reunion, May 13–16, 2022!

1977

Alex Sirotkin C'77, an attorney and businessman in Raleigh, NC, published his debut novel in January, *The Long Desert Road*, which, according to the book's blurb, "explores timeless questions of our place in the universe through the lives of three unforgettable characters." He writes, "I modeled the character of Lauren after my daughter Stephanie, a bipolar heroin addict, and to whom the book is dedicated. Stephanie died from an overdose just last year, on October 2. She was almost 27. I was the primary source of emotional and financial support for her for the last decade. When I started the novel in 2016, I was quite hopeful, even delusional perhaps, about my daughter's prospects. So while the story contains some graphic violence, and otherwise depicts the grim life of a bipolar addict, it's ultimately optimistic. I dreamed of releasing the novel to some acclaim, about which Stephanie and I would celebrate together. Instead, when the book was published this past January, it was bittersweet for me, even surreal. My novel is about addictions, certainly, but there's so much more. I want people to read my book, most of all, because it says things that are important to me." To learn more about the book, visit <https://amzn.to/3eO2C1q>.

1978

Creighton Meland Jr. W'78 has published *COVID-19 Litigation: A Discourse on Nondelegation, Constitutional Rights and Statutory Interpretation*, an analysis of pandemic litigation. It is available on Amazon.

Dr. Gary S. Moak C'78 writes, "I was promoted to associate professor of psychiatry at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth where I direct the Geriatric Psychiatry Fellowship Pro-

gram. I am a past president of the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry and author of *Beat Depression to Stay Healthier and Live Longer: A Guide for Older Adults and Their Families* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2016, 2018)."

1979

Rick Rosenberg W'79 writes, "I am pleased to announce that I was recently elected as chair of the board for Shalom Austin, the hub of Jewish life in Austin, overseeing the Jewish Federation, Jewish Family Service, the Jewish Community Center of Austin, and the Jewish Foundation. I am honored by this opportunity to give back to our community. In my day job, I am a managing principal for the real estate consulting firm DPFG Incorporated, assisting developers identifying financing solutions for their infrastructure and other public improvement needs."

Judith Stellar Nu'79 received the Alumni Award for Clinical Excellence from Penn Nursing on May 14 in a virtual program.

1981

Michael Kelley C'81 has written a new novel, *The Lost Theory*. From the book's description: "Sean McQueen, a staid, middle-aged NYU literature professor, is rattled when he receives a letter from his best friend, Dylan, claiming he's discovered 'the theory of everything,' a revelation that promises to alter man's view of existence and reconcile science with spirituality. After Dylan's mysterious death, Sean vows to track down his friend's now-missing scientific theory. ... As Sean stumbles through this dangerous journey for a lost theory, he also pursues true love and rediscovers a primal desire for self-realization. Fans of mystery, magic, love, and explorations of self-discovery will relish this adventure overflowing with wit, intrigue, and redemption."

John D. Woodward Jr. W'81, a Professor of the Practice of International Relations at the Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies at Boston University, received the Pardee School's 2021 Gintner Family Prize for Faculty Excellence, awarded for excellence in teaching and mentoring students.

Since 2015, John has taught national security and intelligence courses at Boston University. He is a retired CIA officer and former Department of Defense official.

Celebrate Your Reunion, May 13-16, 2022!

1982

Robert Carley C'82, an artist based in Connecticut, writes, "A mix of my photos of flags from across the country and my homemade flags are on display at the Mattatuck Museum in Waterbury, Connecticut, through September 12. The exhibit marks my 20 years of photographing 9/11-inspired tributes across 45 states. In addition, two special flags were on display for July 4 at my local beach in Darien: one made of face masks and another of paint liners, rollers, and trays. For a year, I decided to save my used face masks and recycle them into face mask flags. The face mask flag celebrates our new freedom from many face covering mandates. Also, I will be having a book out soon, titled *Liberated from the Flagpole, the Metamorphosis of the Flag Since 9/11*." You can read more about and see photos of Robert's flag art in a profile that ran in the July 3 issue of *Republican American*, available online at bit.ly/2T2l6n6.

1984

Mark Wasserman W'84 writes, "I am looking for a fellow alum who is a labor attorney. I can be contacted at markwassermannyc@gmail.com."

1985

Blaise Noto ASC'85 writes, "Since receiving my MA from Annenberg, I began my career in public relations and marketing, rising to executive vice president of worldwide publicity at Paramount Pictures. Taking a turn in my career, I moved to Maui and opened Blaise Noto & Associates, serving clients in the United States (I worked on a number of Mel Gibson productions) as well as doing business in China, Cambodia, and Thailand. Returning to the mainland in 2012, I taught briefly at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts before becoming assistant professor in com-

munications at Barton College. I also am serving as chair of the Greater Chapel Hill area for the Penn Alumni Interview Program. I am active in the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (a member since 1985), including judging for the Student Academy Awards and the Nicholl Fellowship in Screenwriting, as well as the Oscar pre-nomination judging process for a number of motion picture categories."

1986

Betsy Sands WG'86, her husband Jeffrey Sands, and Jeffrey's sister Deborah Sands Gartenberg, who are administrators of the George H. and Estelle M. Sands Foundation, received an Honorary Alumni Award from Penn Nursing.

Celebrate Your Reunion, May 13-16, 2022!

1987

Abigail Abrash Walton C'87 is the recipient of the 2021 William R. Freudenburg Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences. This year, Abigail also joined the advisory board of Columbia University's Center on Sustainable Investment.

1988

Jeanne Shen W'88 writes, "I joined the board of trustees of Noblis, an organization that provides scientific and technical solutions to the federal civil, defense, homeland security, and intelligence and law enforcement sectors. I look forward to working on strategic issues with my fellow trustees—especially in the areas of risk and human capital. Governance has been a topic of interest and study for the last several years. Last year I earned my directorship certification from the National Association of Corporate Directors and am glad that I have a dynamic setting to use it."

1989

Sharon Farman Cooper C'89 has joined Cuddy & Feder LLP as partner in the Trusts, Estates, and Elder Law Practice.

Lolita Jackson EAS'89, former special advisor of climate policy and programs for the Office of the New York City Mayor, has been recognized by the UK Honours System. Lolita has been made an honorary Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) in recognition for her services to transatlantic business relations and climate diplomacy. Currently, she serves as executive director of communications and sustainable cities for Sustainable Development Capital.

Thomas Lambert C'89 has launched a new law firm, FLB Law, based in Westport, Connecticut, of which he is one of the managing partners.

1990

Elyse Sitner Barroway W'90 writes, "I've fulfilled a lifelong dream and written a children's book, *When I Grow Up*. Its simple yet powerful message fosters thought-provoking discussions between children and those that love them. It is available on Amazon."

Alycia Bischof Nu'90 GNu'95 GrNu'21 and **Sherry Greenberg Nu'90 GNu'92 Gr'14** are coauthors of a paper in *OJIN: The Online Journal of Issues in Nursing*, titled "Post COVID-19 reimbursement parity for nurse practitioners." In addition, Alycia received the Alumni Spirit Award from Penn Nursing on May 14 in a virtual program.

Rachel Grace C'90 has been named chief people officer at ConcertoCare, a New York-based in-home care provider for adults and seniors with complex health care needs. In this role, Rachel will develop hiring and employee advancement solutions in support of ConcertoCare's planned US expansion.

Alison Velez Lane L'90, CEO and director of the Campaign Train Group, has been named to the *Daily Record's* 2021 listing of Maryland's Top 100 Women. She was also one of 12 women who were inducted into the Circle of Excellence, receiving the award for a third and final time. Alison was profiled in a special magazine that was inserted into the May 14 issue of the *Daily Record*, available online at thedailyrecord.com/top-100-women.

Jonathan Ringel C'90 W'90 has joined Poston Communications, a public relations agency that serves law firms and other professional service firms, as senior vice president for content. Jonathan writes, "I moved to the agency after 26 years of reporting and editing news articles about the legal community for ALM Media. My tenure included two years in Washington, where I covered the US Supreme Court, and 16 years as managing editor of the *Daily Report* legal newspaper in Atlanta. I'd love to hear from any Penn alums and can be reached at ringel@postoncommunications.com."

1991

Ezra Glenn C'91 was recently inducted into both the Boston Society of Film Critics and the Boston Online Film Critics Association. In addition to teaching a course on "The City in Film" at MIT, his writing on films and urbanism have appeared in *Experience Magazine*, WBUR's *The ARTery*, Bloomberg's CityLab, *Bright Lights Film Journal*, and the *New York Observer*, and he is the regular film reviewer for *Planning Magazine*.

Alyssa Goldstein Sepinwall C'91 has written a new book, *Slave Revolt on Screen: The Haitian Revolution in Film and Video Games* (University Press of Mississippi), described by the publisher as "a trailblazing book on the depiction of the Haitian Revolution in film and video games." Alyssa is a professor of history at California State University San Marcos.

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1992

Lisa Scopa W'92 has been appointed chief financial officer of the Boston-based start-up Lovepop, which creates pop-up cards and gifts.

Eric Werwa MTE'92 has been appointed deputy assistant secretary for policy and environmental management within the Office of Policy, Management and Budget at the US Department of the Interior by President Joe Biden Hon'13. Previously, Eric served as chief of staff and legislative director for Rep. Deb Haaland, who is now Secretary of the Interior. He and his wife, Jenny, live in Washington, DC.

1993

Lisa Nass Grabelle C'93 L'96 and **Kiera Reilly C'93** write, "We are already thinking about our 30th Reunion in May 2023. We invite anyone that is interested in helping us plan our reunion to join our already robust board. Contact us at lisagrabelle@yahoo.com or kiera1993@gmail.com. Stay connected with our class and learn about upcoming Zoom calls via our Class of 1993 Facebook group, or on Instagram @Penn_1993 and Twitter @Penn1993."

Margaret Wilmoth Gr'93 received the Outstanding Alumni Award from Penn Nursing on May 14 in a virtual program.

1994

Douglas "Lefty" Leferovich C'94, a magician working in Las Vegas, was honored as the 2021 Magician of the Year from the Society of American Magicians Parent Assembly #1 of New York City in a virtual show streamed live from Las Vegas on June 22. Douglas writes, "The show opened with a video from Mr. Las Vegas himself, Wayne Newton, welcoming everyone to the 112th annual Salute to Magic show (the first time in 112 years that the show was not held in New York City). Then the first half of the show featured Murray Sawchuck and I doing some of our best tricks from the last 10 years on the Vegas Strip. Flying in from New York was the first vice president of the Society of American Magicians Parent Assembly #1, Sterling Lee, who presented me with a plaque and a 3D custom art piece to honor me as the 2021 Magician of the Year. This is truly an honor and a highlight of my life." More information can be found at salutetomagic.com.

Pelayo Primo de Rivera WG'94 see **Luis Ramon Redondo WG'12**.

1996

Elizabeth L. Davis C'96 has recently been elected chair and president of Murphy & McGonigle, a boutique law firm specializing in financial services with offices in Chicago; Washington, DC; New York; Richmond, Virginia; and San Francisco. She joined the firm in 2018.

Falguni Desai W'96 has joined Microsoft in New York as a digital strategy advisor. She

writes, “I’ll be focused on helping C-suite leaders at banking and capital markets clients on digital strategy and transformation. In my free time I continue to support marine and forest conservation groups. I look forward to reconnecting in the real world as things open up.”

Joseph Sciorra Gr’96 won the 2021 Working-Class Studies Association’s Studs Terkel Award for Single Published Article or Series, Broadcast Media, Multimedia, and Film in Media and Journalism for his online essay “Protesta Per Sacco e Vanzetti,” which he wrote for the Library of Congress’s National Recording Registry. The essay concerns a 1927 Italian immigrant recording that protested the then-pending execution of the anarchists Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti. In addition, Sciorra coedited a Festschrift to literary scholar Robert Viscusi, titled *This Hope Sustains the Scholar: Essays in Tribute to the Work of Robert Viscusi* (Bordighera Press, 2021).

Tish Squillaro CGS’96 has coauthored a new book with Timothy I. Thomas, *HeadTrash 2: Dealing with and Overcoming Other People’s Junk*. This follows their previous book together, *HeadTrash: Cleaning Out the Junk that Stands Between You and Success*. Tish is CEO of CANDOR Consulting, where she advises executives on how to clear up their “head trash,” which she and Timothy describe as the “thought patterns and emotional tendencies that hinder your ability to respond to business issues in a productive and professional way.”

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1997

Sam Chandan W’97 GEng’01 G’03 GrW’04 see **Luis Ramon Redondo WG’12**.

Mark Nevitt W’97 writes, “I owe a lot to Penn, which has been absolutely essential in helping me launch two incredibly diverse and rewarding careers (so far!). I arrived at Penn’s campus in 1993 with the goal of receiving a Penn degree and receiving a commission in the US Navy (I come from a family of military veterans). Following my graduation from Penn in 1997, I took the somewhat unusual post-Wharton path, bypassing Wall Street to attend Navy flight school. I served in the Navy for 20 years, first as an aviator and later as an at-

torney (JAG). Penn leadership had the foresight to allow its students to enroll in Navy ROTC on campus following the tumultuous Vietnam War period, where many Ivy League schools pushed ROTC off-campus or made it exceedingly difficult for prospective military officers to serve. This decision opened the door for students like me to receive a top-notch education at Penn and then take that degree in service of our nation. Following my Navy career, I returned to Penn’s campus to serve as the Sharswood Fellow at Penn Law from 2017 to 2019. This two-year fellowship was critical in helping me transition from the military to legal academia—quite a leap! Since leaving Penn, I’ve served as a professor of law at both the US Naval Academy and Syracuse University College of Law (where I am on the faculty now). I try to make my way back to Penn Law or Perry World House as much as I can for scholarly events. It truly speaks to Penn’s strong interdisciplinary approach that the University has been there for me throughout a diverse and incredibly rewarding professional journey in the military and academia.”

1999

John H. Walker Gr’99, an associate professor of anthropology at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, writes, “My colleagues and I just put out a new article in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, titled ‘Pre-Columbian Fire Management and Control of Climate-Driven Floodwaters Over 3,500 Years in Southwestern Amazonia.’” The story was picked up on several news sites and can be read at bit.ly/2THFBFs. It begins, “A new study ... shows that pre-Columbian people of a culturally diverse but not well-documented area of the Amazon in South America significantly altered their landscape thousands of years earlier than previously thought.”

2000

Sheldon Fields Gr’00 received the Lillian Sholtis Brunner Award for Innovation from Penn Nursing on May 14 in a virtual program.

Dina Greenberg CGS’00 GGS’04 has written a new novel, *Nermina’s Chance*, which will

ALUMNI IN BUSINESS

A guide for Gazette readers seeking to reach

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be published on October 29. From the book’s press materials: “[It] reimagines the essence of family and plumbs the depths of a mother’s ardent connection to her daughter. Though a work of fiction, the book gives voice to Bosniak survivors who have long remained silent.”

Rudy Pakravan GAR’00 and **Kristen Sidell GAR’00** founded Sidell Pakravan Architects in 2014. This year, *Architectural Record* has honored their firm as one of “10 emerging practices advancing issues of form, construction, sustainability, and community engagement” in its 2021 Design Vanguard awards. In particular, it was noted for its commitment to community outreach, as demonstrated by providing pro bono services for the city of Berkeley, California, by creating a “Parklets” template for local restaurateurs to build pop-up cafés during the COVID-19 pandemic. The article can be read in the *Record’s* June issue at bit.ly/3gV3eSO.

Anya Plutynski G’00 Gr’02, associate professor of Philosophy at Washington University in St. Louis, has won the 2021 Lakatos Award from the London School of Economics

and Political Science. She won the award for her book, *Explaining Cancer: Finding Order in Disorder*. The Lakatos Award is given annually for “an outstanding contribution to the philosophy of science, broadly construed, in the form of a book published in English during the previous five years.” It includes a £10,000 (approximately \$12,620) prize.

2001

Lt. Col. Ryan Little C’01 writes, “I recently returned from a deployment to Saudi Arabia, where I served as the senior attorney representing the US to the Saudi military as it responded to a series of attacks by Iran and its proxy forces. Currently, I serve as the chief of international humanitarian law for US Central Command, which commands all US forces across the Middle East and Afghanistan. Previously, I was deputy general counsel and assistant professor at the US Military Academy at West Point.”

Shayna Maskell C’01, an assistant professor at George Mason University’s School of Integrative Studies, writes, “My first book, *Politics as Sound: Washington, DC, Hardcore 1978–1983*, will be published by University of Illinois Press on September 28. The book explores the innovative and uncompromising hardcore punk scene in Washington, DC, which birthed a new sound and nurtured a vibrant subculture aimed at a specific segment of the city’s youth. Led by bands like Bad Brains and Minor Threat, hardcore in the nation’s capital unleashed music as angry and loud as it was fast and minimalistic. *Politics as Sound* tells the story of how a generation created music that produced—and resisted—politics and power. You can read more or get the book on Amazon or from UI Press.”

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2002

Regan Shields Ives GAR’02 has received her Accredited Learning Environments Planner designation from the Association for Learning Environments Commission on Educational Facility Planning. She currently serves as principal and K–12 Educational studio leader at Finegold Alexander Architects.

Megan O’Leary C’02 writes, “A few years after graduating from Penn, I found myself craving adventure, so I sold most everything I owned and bought a one-way ticket to the US Virgin Islands. I lived on St. Thomas for four years, working on boats and taking mental notes. After many years of writing, revisions, and editors’ notes, I just released a mystery novel, based on my experiences in the USVI. It’s called *Into the Blue*, and it’s currently available on Amazon.” Find out more at meganoleary.com/amazon.

2003

Eric Johnson L’03, the current mayor of Dallas, writes, “My wife Nakita and I welcomed our third child, Lela Reece Johnson, on May 21. Lela joins big brothers William (age seven) and George (age three).”

2005

Isaac Benzaquen WEV’05 see **Luis Ramon Redondo WG’12**.

Taylor Hamilton W’05 was quoted in two recent *Forbes* articles discussing the online investing app Robinhood. Taylor, an IT worker, made well over \$100,000 in profits and paid off his student loans using the app. The articles are titled “How GameStop and an Army of Reddit Traders Exposed the Riskiest Market in Decades” (January 31, 2021) and “The Inside Story of Robinhood’s Billionaire Founders, Option Kid Cowboys and the Wall Street Sharks That Feed on Them” (August 19, 2020).

2006

Emily Baron Bernstein C’06 has been promoted to senior vice president of development at McCormack Baron Salazar, an affordable housing developer headquartered in St. Louis.

Lauren Weinstein C’06 and her coauthor Cathy Wasserman have released a new book, *A Practical Guide to the Empowered Job Search: Build a New Mindset and Get a Great Job in an Unpredictable World*. From the book’s description: “You’ll discover powerful tools to navigate every step of your job

search, from setting up your daily schedule and clarifying your ideal work, to creating a one-of-a-kind resume and cover letter. ... Our approach is based in both theory and practice: we draw on positive psychology, Buddhist principles, and Nonviolent Communication, as well as our leadership and career coaching work with thousands of clients.”

Jamila Justine Willis C’06, cochair of the law firm DLA Piper’s Consumer Goods and Retail sector and chair of its New York Restructuring practice, was named to *Bloomberg Law*’s inaugural “They’ve Got Next: 40 Under 40” list, highlighting up-and-coming attorneys across various practices.

2009

Sarah Kaminetsky Jonas C’09 writes, “Isaac Jonas and I are thrilled to announce the birth of our son, Joseph Micah, on March 9. Joseph joins his very excited big sisters Claire and Margot at our home in New Rochelle, New York. After a year of social distancing, we are so grateful that our family was able to celebrate Joseph’s birth with us, including uncles **Dr. Josh Kaminetsky C’14** and **Dr. Tzvi Jonas WG’19**.” Sarah and Isaac work in Manhattan where Sarah is an attorney at Morrison Cohen LLP and Isaac is an investment analyst at Loews Corporation.

Dr. Rosemary Lelich C’09 D’14 has achieved board certification from the American Board of Orthodontics. She practices orthodontics at Family Orthodontics in St. Louis Park, Minnesota.

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2012

Luis Ramon Redondo WG’12 writes, “Two years ago I launched Pallantia Partners, a business venture that allows foreign investors to take part in the booming US single-family residence market while consistently bringing foreign investment to the US generating jobs in America. We buy portfolios of single-family homes in high growth secondary cities of the US where tech is booming (Austin, Charlotte, Raleigh, Nashville), rent them out to people working in tech/medicine/academia and then,

after a period of five years, we sell them ‘as a block’ to large family offices (mostly international) or ‘aggregators’ (intermediaries) who then resell them to large pension funds such as CPPIB, CALPERS, etc. Our idea was born organically, in parallel to my day job, when I was a lawyer at Skadden in New York. I started investing personal money in US real estate during the 2008 crisis and started learning some tricks of the trade. One day, in the summer of 2018, after experiencing the tragic deaths of two Wharton classmates, I decided to leave my well-paid stable job and launch my own venture. During this exciting journey, I received lots of help from the Penn community. Penn professor Asuka Nakahara was one of the first ‘luminaries’ I consulted with before launching my business, and countless of alumni in the US (e.g., **Sam Chandan W’97 GEng’01 G’03 GrW’04**, dean of NYU’s Schack Institute of Real Estate) and abroad (e.g., **Isaac Benzaquen WEv’05**, founder of Ben Oldman Partners; and **Pelayo Primo de Rivera WG’94**, founder of Kefren Capital) opened their doors for me and either met up with me or invested with me or gave me valuable advice. I couldn’t have achieved what I have achieved if it weren’t for Penn and Wharton.”

Monica Rhodes GFA’12 was among 10 global leaders selected as a 2022 Harvard Loeb Fellow. According to the website, “Loeb Fellows are accomplished practitioners, influential in shaping the built and natural environment, whose work is advancing positive social outcomes in the US and around the world. ... Fellows audit classes at the [Harvard Graduate School of Design] and throughout the vast network of Harvard and MIT.” Monica is director of resource management for the National Park Foundation. She also advises Penn’s Weitzman School of Design at the Center for the Preservation of Civil Rights Sites, helping to establish partnerships to advance the Center’s work.

Angela Wang Nu’12 GNu’17 received the Early Career Alumni Award for Excellence from Penn Nursing on May 14 in a virtual program.

2013

Stephen Fritz C’13 has joined Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP as an associate

in the Litigation Practice Group. He works out of the firm’s Jackson, Mississippi, office.

2014

Dr. Josh Kaminetsky C’14 see **Sarah Kaminetsky Jonas C’09**.

Eric A. Santoli LPS’14 writes, “I recently found out that I am one of two artists who have been chosen for the Versailles Foundation’s Munn Fellowship Artist Residency Award, which will allow me to live and work for three months in 2023 at Claude Monet’s house and gardens in Giverny, France. I am planning to write a journal-style book about my experience in 2023 at Giverny. I am an artist and teacher currently living and working in northern New Jersey. More information can be found on my website, ericsantoli.com.”

2015

Johnna Marcus SPP’15, a senior addiction social worker at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, recently published an article about addiction in the Spring 2021 issue of *Social Work Voice*, published by the National Association of Social Workers (Massachusetts Chapter). Titled *Logging on: Building a Clinical Alliance in Substance Use Disorder Treatment*, it was also covered in the *SP2 News* online and can be viewed at bit.ly/3xqKbGX.

John A. McCabe LPS’15 spoke at a virtual author event hosted by the Bucks County (PA) Free Library on August 18. He is the author of a book of short stories, *Tracks Through Our Lives: Stories Told on Philly El Trains*, and a novel, *The Girl in Japan: A Young Soldier’s Story*, which centers on his studies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

2016

Laura Soderberg Gr’16, assistant professor of English at the University of Southern Indiana, has authored a new book, *Vicious Infants: Dangerous Childhoods in Antebellum US Literature*. From the book’s press materials: “*Vicious Infants* offers a counterhistory of literary childhood as both perceived social threat and site of resistance, revealing that many children

were not only cut off from family and society, they were also preemptively excluded from the rewards of citizenship and adulthood.”

Celebrate Your Reunion, May 13–16, 2022!

2017

Maureen “Molly” Hood GEd’17 writes, “Since I graduated, I created a mentorship program for teenagers, called Imaginarium. Our mission is helping students achieve confidence and practical advanced skills through student-led, passion-based learning, so they can start vocational careers with experience. You can find more information on our website, www.imaginariumhomeschooling.com.” Molly invites alumni contact at mhood@alumni.upenn.edu.

Allison Barnes Reichhold GNu’17 has been named a ANCC Magnet Nurse of the Year by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. The awards recognize “the outstanding contributions of clinical nurses in each of the five Magnet Model Components,” and Allison was honored under the Transformational Leadership category.

2019

Dr. Tzvi Jonas WG’19 see **Sarah Kaminetsky Jonas C’09**.

2020

Dave Liu LPS’20, a 30-year veteran of Wall Street and Silicon Valley, has written a new book, *The Way of the Wall Street Warrior: Conquer the Corporate Game Using Tips, Tricks, and Smartcuts*. From the book’s press materials: “Perfect for aspiring professionals climbing the corporate ladder, *The Way of the Wall Street Warrior* is a must-read guide for anyone in a highly competitive industry looking to get, and stay, ahead of the pack.”

2021

Jamie Chung Nu’21 received the Alumni Spirit Award for Graduating Students from Penn Nursing on May 14 in a virtual program.

1939

Dr. Raymond H. Schneider C'39, Rancho Mirage, CA, a retired physician; June 24, 2019, at 101. His daughter is Nancy S. Spelke CW'73.

1940

Fred G. Clark ChE'40, Sarasota, FL, a retired chemical engineer for Union Carbide; Aug. 14, 2020, at 102.

1941

Dr. Erwin Klingsberg Ch'41, Falls Church, VA, a researcher in organic chemistry at the American Cyanamid Company; March 10. He also taught chemistry at several colleges and was an accomplished amateur pianist.

1942

Russell S. Hunt ChE'42, Norfolk, VA, Jan. 27.

Dr. Beatrice P. Troyan CW'42, Philadelphia, a retired obstetrician-gynecologist; April 23. One of the first women to attend Hahnemann Medical College, she'd go on to serve on the faculty and staff at Hahnemann for more than 30 years, delivering countless babies and training obstetrical residents and fellows. She also ran a fertility clinic, served as a project director of the Maternal and Infant Care program at Crozer-Chester Medical Center, and was a lifelong advocate for women's reproductive rights.

1943

Robert A. Billstein W'43, Toledo, OH, founder of a steel corporation and a roller rink; May 8. He served in the US Army during World War II. At Penn, he was a member of Zeta Beta Tau fraternity.

Homer V. Buescher CHE'43, Cincinnati, a retired chemical engineer for Procter & Gamble; July 30, 2020. He served in the US Navy during World War II.

Alan R. Scott W'43, Branford, CT, an actor, writer, and lyricist of musical commercials with his wife, who wrote the music; Feb. 5. At Penn, he was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity, Penn Players, Mask & Wig, *Daily Pennsylvanian*, and the lacrosse and

soccer teams, where he earned letters in both. He served in the US Navy during World War II. His daughter is Anne B. Scott WG'83.

1945

Marvin Benjamin Levitties W'45, Bala Cynwyd, PA, a retired clothing company executive and former professor of retail and the history of fashion at Harcum College; May 17. His sons are John A. Levitties C'91 G'92 and Matthew Sean Levitties WG'96.

Dr. Carl K. Newhart D'45, Naples, FL, a retired dentist; Feb. 21. He served as a dental officer in the US Navy during World War II and remained in the US Navy Reserve for 26 years, retiring as a commander.

1946

Ruth Ingraham Galvin OT'46, Ocean View, DE, Jan. 24.

Vernon L. Langlinais C'46, Fort Worth, TX, a retired chemical engineer; April 26. At Penn, he was a member of the Navy ROTC and he later served in the US Navy Reserve.

1947

Charles H. Hindersman W'47, Indianapolis, a retired vice president for financial affairs at Southern Illinois University; May 6. At Penn, he was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity, Friars Senior Society, the basketball team, and the ROTC.

1948

Dr. Frederick J. Boehlke C'48 G'51 Gr'58, Paoli, PA, professor emeritus of history at Eastern University, where he also served as the university's archivist and historian; April 10.

Helen Exar Cummings Ed'48 GEd'51, Bala Cynwyd, PA, a history and social sciences teacher at Upper Merion (PA) High School; April 12.

Benjamin Dangerfield III W'48, Wallingford, PA, a retired accountant; May 11. He served as a combat medic for the US Army during World War II.

Joy Dienes Lindy CW'48, Bala Cynwyd, PA, a civic volunteer; May 10. She helped get resident sticker parking in Center City Philadelphia and bring the Tall Ships to Penn's

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.

Landing during the nation's Bicentennial. At Penn, she was a member of Sigma Delta Tau sorority, Penn Players, and WXPEN. One son is Dr. David C. Lindy C'74 M'81 GM'03.

Ewing H. Miller II Ar'48 GAR'48, Washington, DC, a retired architect who designed many large, complex projects; March 29. His work spanned from planning 24 American air bases in the UK to designing 31 buildings at Indiana State University and the University of San Diego Master Plan. He served in the US Army Air Corps during World War II and became a prisoner of war, earning a Purple Heart, among other medals. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

Mary Anne McNelis Myer Ed'48, Philadelphia, a longtime Philadelphia public school teacher; April 22. At Penn, she was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority. One grandson is Harry P. Surer C'25.

Richard E. Winston G'48, Havertown, PA, a retired chemical engineer; May 10. He served in the US Navy. One son is Steven P. Winston ChE'80 and one grandson is Michael Winston C'10 EAS'10.

1949

Helen A. Carroll GEd'49, Mount Carmel, PA, a retired high school business teacher; April 23, at 102.

Harold Guckes W'49, Glenmoore, PA, owner of a car dealership; June 4. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity and the rowing team.

Dr. Donald F. Heiman C'49 M'53 GM'57, Warrington, PA, a retired cardiologist at the Wilmington (DE) Veterans Affairs Medical Center; May 5. He served in the US Army during World War II. At Penn, he was a member of Tau Epsilon Phi fraternity.

Robert A. Kuhn WG'49, Basking Ridge, NJ, a retired product supervisor at Allied Chemical in the chrome chemicals division; Oct. 21, 2019. He served in the US Navy during World War II.

John P. Ondrechen G'49, Burnsville, MN, a retired pension manager for the old Bethlehem Steel Corporation; June 19, 2020. He also taught mathematics at Lehigh University. He served in the US Navy during World War II.

Jack M. Pollin GEE'49, Tucson, AZ, a retired brigadier general in the US Army and a mathematics professor at West Point; May 26. He served in the US Army during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

Howard "Mike" Spencer W'49, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL, a retired executive in the chemicals industry; Nov. 11. He served in the US Army Air Corps during World War II and recently wrote about those experiences in a book, *One Man's Journey: The Life, Lessons & Legacy of a World War II Fighter Pilot*.

1950

Dr. Theodore Adler D'50 GD'51, Stamford, CT, a retired orthodontist; Jan. 17. He served in the US Army.

Robert J. Kidd C'50, West Grove, PA, retired pension manager at an insurance company; May 19. He served in the US Navy during World War II.

Rev. Ann Robb Smith CW'50, Northeast Harbor, ME, an Episcopal priest and civil rights activist; June 6. Her husband is Dr. Kaighn Smith M'54 GM'58, and one brother is Edwin G. Robb C'57, who died June 25 (see Class of 1957).

1951

Lila Wolfman Booth Ed'51, Philadelphia, Nov. 29. At Penn, she was a member of Debate Council and WXP. One son is David B. Rosenbaum C'79.

Rev. Elwood J. Culp C'51, Sarasota, FL, a reverend who led the Lutheran Social Services of South Central Pennsylvania; Nov. 26. He served in the US Navy during World War II. One granddaughter is Eliza Culp C'20.

Nicholas C. Cummins W'51, London, a manager for a manufacturer of construction products; May 30. At Penn, he was a member of the ROTC and the *Daily Pennsylvanian*. He served in the US Navy during the Korean War, earning a National Defense Service Medal and a Korean Service Medal.

John J. Donnegan WG'51, Weston, MA, Nov. 22, 2019. He served in the US Marine Corps during World War II.

Frank C. Fryburg WG'51, Lancaster, PA, a former manager at RCA Corporation; May 12. He served in the US Navy Reserve. One daughter is Susan P. Scott DH'73.

Colleen MacKey Grotzinger Ed'51, Harrisburg, PA, a retired middle school English teacher; Nov. 14.

Kathleen S. Yale HUP'51, West Hartford, CT, Aug. 3, 2019.

1952

Dr. Roy G. Nagle C'52 M'56 GM'60, Lehigh Acres, FL, a retired physician and medical director of Kona Community Hospital in Hawaii; May 3. He served in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Epsilon Pi fraternity.

Arthur J. Yu C'52 Gr'57, Basking Ridge, NJ, retired head of research and development at Borden Chemicals; April 23. One granddaughter is Nicole P. Lam C'15.

1953

John P. Anderson C'53 L'56, Kennett Square, PA, a retired corporate and regulatory lawyer for Columbia Gas Systems; May 10. His twin brother is Robert M. Anderson W'53.

James A. Britton W'53, Southbury, CT, a retired commercial and financial property appraiser; May 3. He appraised properties in 49 of the 50 states and coauthored a textbook on financing income-producing property. He also worked as a college football official. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

Gordon Cavanaugh L'53, Bethesda, MD, a retired attorney and general counsel to the Council of Large Public Housing Authorities; May 26. He was also appointed by President Carter as administrator of the Farmers Home Administration within the Department of Agriculture. One son is Sean Cavanaugh C'86.

Dr. David R. Fink GEd'53 Gr'57, Vero Beach, FL, May 6, 2020.

Helena Mitchell Grandy CW'53, Naples, FL, June 27. At Penn, she was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority. She received the Alumni Award of Merit in 1976.

June Miller Kimmel CW'53, Davidson, NC, a retired region administrator for the Council on the Status of Women; May 25.

Dr. David M. Stabins D'53, Watertown, NY, a retired dentist; April 25. He served in the US Army.

Norman A. Stevens W'53, Flemington, NJ, a retired tax assessor for Bedminster and Bridgewater Township (NJ); April 11. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity and Friars Senior Society. His brother is John K. Stevens W'61.

1954

Richard S. Chew Jr. FA'54 GFA'55, Narberth, PA, a former teacher at Episcopal Academy; Dec. 31.

Jill Holdstein Edelson CW'54, New York, Aug. 21, 2020. She was active in New York's theater community and was a champion of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. At Penn, she was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority and Penn Players.

Allen H. Fisher W'54, New York, a CPA and later a CFO; Nov. 28, 2020. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of Beta Sigma Rho fraternity. His daughter is Caren Fisher Berlin W'81, who is married to Edward A. Berlin L'84.

Ronald M. Katzman C'54, Camp Hill, PA, cofounder of the law firm Goldberg, Katzman, P.C.; Jan. 8. He also served as assistant attorney general of Pennsylvania. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity, Glee Club, Debate Council, and the Army ROTC.

George F. Keane L'54, Trumbull, CT, retired founder of the investment firm Commonfund, and a noted philanthropic investment strategist; May 20.

Harvey L. Miller WG'54, Atlanta, a former state program manager for the IRS; Feb. 16, 2020. He was a veteran of World War II and the Korean War.

Alan S. Smith W'54, San Francisco, retired president and co-owner of the Crown Market, a kosher supermarket with stores in Connecticut and Massachusetts; June 14. He served in the US Army during the Korean War. At Penn, he was a member of Kappa Nu fraternity.

1955

Richard J. McGowan Jr. C'55, McKinney, TX, a retired English teacher for the US Department of Defense, who taught at American schools abroad in Turkey, Germany, and England; Feb. 25. He served in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity. His daughter is Anne McGowan Johnson C'92.

Stanley Schneider GEE'55, Swarthmore, PA, Sept. 9, 2020.

David W. Smith C'55, Falmouth, ME, a retired attorney for the New York State Department of Health; May 5. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Kappa Psi and WXPB.

Malcolm H. Stull C'55, Denver, CO, a retired attorney; Nov. 27. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity. His son is Dr. Philip A. Stull C'84.

1956

Rose Sachs Cooperman Ed'56, Villanova, PA, Dec. 3. At Penn, she was a member of Delta Phi Epsilon sorority. One daughter is Laurie Dameshek W'83, and one grandson is Alex J. Vigderman C'12.

Dr. Jerome Dersher GM'56, Boca Raton, FL, an ophthalmologist and sculptor; May 14. He served in the US Air Force.

Dr. Milton Newman D'56, Riverview, FL, a retired dentist; March 3. He served in the US Air Force.

Charles Graydon "Gray" Rogers WG'56, Vero Beach, FL, retired president of an investment management firm; June 25. He served in the US Navy during the Korean War.

Lionel Savadove W'56, New Hope, PA, a former tax attorney who later became a fashion store executive; March 2. He served in the US Army.

Robert L. Stevens W'56, Goleta, CA, former manager of his family's clothing store who later became a real estate agent; March 1. He served in the US Air Force. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity and the sprint football team.

William J. Wason W'56, Troy, NY, a retired senior securities analyst; June 6. He served in the US Air Force during the Korean War. At Penn, he was a member of Acacia fraternity and the heavyweight rowing team.

1957

Marilyn Smith Hipple DH'57, Pennington, NJ, May 6. She was the first person to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in oral hygiene at Penn. At Penn, she was a member of Alpha Xi Delta women's fraternity and the Choral Society. Her husband is Dr. William P. Hipple C'55 D'57 GD'62.

Harold Oslick CE'57 GCE'59, Somerset, NJ, former project manager of New Jersey Transit's Hudson-Bergen Light Rail; May 25.

Edwin G. "Ted" Robb C'57, Bryn Mawr, PA, a retired marketing executive for a manufacturer of foil and wood-grain components for cars, consumer products, and electronic appliances; June 25. He served in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Psi fraternity and the wrestling team. His former wife is Lee Cooper van de Velde CW'58, and his sister is Rev. Ann Robb Smith CW'50, who died on June 6 (see Class of 1950).

Harvey Rosenberg GEE'57 W'63, San Diego, CA, March 28. At Penn, he was a member of Debate Council.

Lee G. Tagliaferri W'57, Lawrence Township, NJ, founder of an investment management firm and a professor of accounting at Pace University; May 23. He served in the US Army. One son is Mark Tagliaferri W'85, and two grandchildren are Isabella H. Tagliaferri C'20 and Natasha H. Tagliaferri W'22.

1958

Stephen C. Adamson W'58 ASC'63, Chelsea, MA, a retired educational sales manager; Sept. 21. He served in the US Navy and the US Navy Reserve. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Sigma Delta fraternity, Friars Senior Society, and the lacrosse team.

Robert F. Fogelman W'58, Memphis, TN, a real estate executive and philanthropist; May 30. At Penn, he was a member of Zeta Beta Tau fraternity, Friars Senior Society, Mask & Wig, and the cross country and track teams. One daughter is Catherine S. Fogelman C'91.

Faith Christensen Johnson DH'58, Berwyn, PA, Jan. 23. She worked in dental health and real estate.

David B. Kresge G'58, Chadds Ford, PA, a retired teacher at what is now known as

East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania; Sept. 20, 2020.

Dr. Lawrence M. Pass C'58, Scottsdale, AZ, a retired hematologist-oncologist who maintained a practice in Youngstown, OH; March 24. He served in the US Air Force. At Penn, he was a member of Tau Delta Phi fraternity.

Elayne Soffer Stamm CW'58, Merion Station, PA, a former reading teacher in the Philadelphia School District; July 17. Her husband is Stephen L. Stamm ME'54.

David J. Steinberg L'58, Narberth, PA, a retired entertainment lawyer; Jan. 8. One granddaughter is Anabel J. Silver C'23.

1959

Virginia Ann Boch Bus DH'59, Wayne, PA, a former pediatric dental hygienist; May 3.

Joanne Tweed Hopper Nu'59, Downingtown, PA, a retired nursing instructor and supervisor; May 9. She served as a captain in the US Army Nurse Corps.

Dr. William R. Muir GM'59, Lumberton, NJ, a retired surgeon; May 24.

Feodor U. Pitcairn C'59, Huntingdon Valley, PA, a retired banker with Pitcairn Trust; May 13. He was also the director and cinematographer of several documentaries on underwater wildlife and authored four books. He served in the US Army.

Hon. Allen L. Schwait W'59, Baltimore, a retired Baltimore City Circuit Court judge and former chairman of the University of Maryland Board of Regents; May 27. At Penn, he was a member of Beta Sigma Rho fraternity and the basketball team.

Charles F. "Charley" Shaffert G'59, Shrewsbury, MA, professor emeritus of English and American studies at Castleton State College (now Castleton University) in Vermont; May 2. He served in the US Navy during the Korean War.

1960

Dr. Geraldine M. "Gerry" Phipps Ed'60 Gr'71, New Bedford, MA, a professor of Russian history at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth; Jan. 30. At Penn, she was a member of the *Daily Pennsylvanian*, Mortar Board Senior Society, and the basketball and tennis teams.

Alan T. "Al" Willoughby WEv'60, Newtown Square, PA, a retired systems engineer for IBM; April 7. He served in the US Army Medical Corps. His wife is Roberta M. Willoughby CW'65.

1961

Dr. Enso A. Mattioli D'61, Williams Township, PA, a retired dentist; June 26. He served in the US Army as a dentist.

Dr. Richard A. "Dick" Miller Gr'61, Waynesboro, VA, a retired high school science teacher and former chemist; April 29.

1962

Sally Ann Allen CW'62 GED'76, Lower Merion Twp., PA, Sept. 22, 2020.

William Samuel Hipp III WG'62, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, a founder of a soil engineering corporation who previously worked as a computer programmer, stockbroker, and IT specialist; April 16.

1963

James D. "Jim" Bower Jr. W'63, Tuckerton, NJ, a former production plant manager who also served as a councilman and mayor of Tuckerton; May 30, 2020.

Samuel M. Jannetta C'63, Atlanta, a retired executive at IBM; Nov. 6, 2020. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity, Friars Senior Society, and the baseball and lightweight football teams. His wife is Susan Butler Jannetta SW'65, and one brother is Anthony P. Jannetta W'56, who is married to Sally Stull Jannetta PT'57. One granddaughter is Laura A. Jannetta C'25.

Dr. Donald R. Lundy Jr. V'63, Muncy, PA, a veterinarian; April 21.

Ei-ichi Negishi Gr'63 Hon'11, Indianapolis, IN, Nobel Prize winner and Herbert C. Brown Distinguished Professor of Chemistry at Purdue University; June 6. Born in Japanese-ruled Manchuria, he came to America as a Fulbright scholar and completed his dissertation work under Penn chemistry professor Allan Day in 1963. He went on to work at Purdue University under Herbert C. Brown, who had won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1979. He worked for a time at Syracuse University, then returned to Purdue and was even-

tually named the Herbert C. Brown Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, before winning the Nobel Prize in Chemistry himself in 2010. The prize recognized his research in using palladium complexes as catalysts to link together carbon molecules into larger, more complicated structures. He shared the Nobel Prize with Richard Heck of the University of Delaware and Akira Suzuki of Japan's Hokkaido University. He was the seventh Nobel laureate with ties to the Penn chemistry department. He retired from Purdue in 2019.

Stephen B. Schneider W'63, Roslyn Heights, NY, a retired accountant; June 9. At Penn, he was a member of Tau Delta Phi fraternity. His children are Dr. Jeffrey Harris Schneider C'88 and Bonnie E. Schneider C'91, and one grandchild is Sydney M. Schneider C'16.

1964

James L. Alkire WG'64, Pleasant Hill, CA, a retired city manager; April 22.

Dr. Kenneth J. Forman C'64, Huntingdon Valley, PA, a retired cardiologist; May 9. His wife is Dr. Barbara Rifkind Forman CW'64.

Dr. Richard A. Inciardi GEE'64, The Villages, FL, an aerospace executive; Feb. 1.

David F. Kleeman W'64, Newtown Square, PA, a retired international tax partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers; May 6. One daughter is Jeannette Kleeman W'00.

Lynn Popowsky Kramer CW'64, Hammononton, NJ, chief financial officer of the Kramer Beverage Company; March 1. At Penn, she was a member of Alpha Epsilon Phi sorority. One brother is Irwin A. Popowsky L'77.

Irving S. Shapiro C'64, Rockville, MD, Jan. 27.

Dr. Paul Silverstein M'64, Oklahoma City, a plastic surgeon who designed and directed a state-of-the-art burn treatment center at the Baptist Medical Center (now Integris Health) in Oklahoma City; April 19. The burn center was renamed in his honor in 2000, and in 2019 he was honored at the Oklahoma Creativity Ambassadors Gala as a "surgical innovator for burn victims." He served in the US Army during the Vietnam War, evacuating and treating burned soldiers. One brother is Dr. Peter R. Silverstein M'72, whose wife is Linda G. Silverstein CW'71.

Dr. Jorge A. Tramontana GM'64, Atlanta, a retired surgeon; May 7.

Betty Jean Shropshire Waters SW'64, Voorhees, NJ, March 12.

1965

Gerald E. Gajnos Gr'65, Hudson, NH, retired chemistry professor at Western New England University who later taught at St. Anselm College and UMass Lowell; June 4.

Edward S. Hurwitz D'65, Sanibel, FL, a retired dentist; May 27, 2020. His wife is Rosalie Moses Hurwitz CW'64 GED'84.

Theodore H. Tung Gr'65, Cleveland, OH, a former senior vice president and chief economist for National City Bank; May 11.

1966

Elizabeth A. Buchanan CW'66, Penn Valley, PA, April 26.

Delmont F. Fleming Gr'66, Fredericksburg, VA, professor emeritus of English at what is now the University of Mary Washington; May 4.

Carolyn Oswald Kendall GED'66, Lancaster, PA, a retired fourth grade teacher; May 23.

Phillip W. McClanahan WG'66, The Sea Ranch, CA, a retired investment banker; September 20, 2019.

Clifton C. Olds Gr'66, Brookline, MA, a retired art history professor at Bowdoin College; April 8.

H. Donald Pasquale L'66, Valley Forge, PA, founder and managing partner of a commercial real estate development firm; May 25. He served in the US Army Signal Corps.

Rev. Mother Dorcas Rosenlund (Dr. Mary L. Rosenlund) GM'66, Bethlehem, CT, a former pediatric gastroenterologist and clinical professor at Penn's School of Medicine who later entered the Abbey of Regina Laudis; May 20.

D. Garth Wise WEv'66 CGS'71, Denver, PA, a retired Amtrak employee; May 14.

1967

Dr. John H. Bell Jr. D'67, Windber, PA, a retired dentist; May 20. He served in the US Navy as a dentist during the Vietnam War.

Robert Y. Justis Jr. WG'67, Telluride,

CO, retired head of economic development for the electric provider Central Vermont Public Service; May 3. He served in the US Army Reserve.

Dr. Michael D. Levin M'67, Elkins Park, PA, a pediatrician; April 25.

Alexander "Scott" Logan L'67, Fort Myers, FL, a retired certified financial planner; April 28. He served in the US Navy and the US Navy Reserve.

Edmund J. Purdy C'67, Mebane, NC, a retired executive at an executive recruiting firm; June 9. At Penn, he was a member of the *Daily Pennsylvanian*, WXPN, and the track and cross country teams. One brother is David E. Purdy Gr'82.

1968

Edward C. Friedrichs III GAR'68, Reno, NV, retired president and CEO of the architectural firm Gensler; May 13. He served on the board of advisors for Penn's School of Design.

Arthur T. McManus WG'68, Ambler, PA, a retired banking executive and controller; May 1. He spent his retirement years as a docent at the Philadelphia Zoo. He served in the US Navy and US Navy Reserve, retiring as captain.

Joseph S. Vincent Jr. WG'68, Clemmons, NC, an accountant; April 13.

Thabet "Zak" Zakaria Gr'68, Rose Valley, PA, retired deputy director of transportation planning at the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission; May 13.

1969

Samuel M. Fineman W'69, Boca Raton, FL, retired owner of a fabric business called Homemaker's; May 17. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity. The Samuel M. Fineman Library at Boston University Law Libraries is named after him.

Ruth V. Powers GEE'69, Henrico, VA, a retired computer analyst and project manager at TRW Incorporated, a former aerospace company; May 10.

Mary Winder CW'69 GCP'71, Boise, ID, a retired senior planner and supervisor for the Sarasota County (FL) Planning Department; March 23. Earlier, she had a long career as a city planner in the state of New Jersey.

1970

Sean J. O'Callaghan L'70, Havertown, PA, a retired administrative law judge for the US Department of Health and Human Services; May 13. He served in the US Navy. His daughter is Margaret M. O'Callaghan G'04.

Alexander B. Sidline GEE'70, Philadelphia, April 28.

Dr. Philip P. Toskes GM'70, Gainesville, FL, a gastroenterologist and professor of medicine at the University of Florida; May 19. He served in the US Army.

1971

Ann Shorey Bishop Nu'71, Yardley, PA, a retired nurse; Jan. 13.

Nemia Briones Melgarejo Chai Gr'71, Columbus, GA, professor emerita of linguistics at Columbus State University; May 26.

Dr. Michael J. Gratch C'71, New Hope, PA, an orthopedic spine surgeon; May 5. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity and the sailing and track teams. One son is Michael J. Gratch C'06.

George N. Paraskevopoulos Gr'71, Warren, NJ, a retired economics professor at Iona College; April 12. His son is Nicholas G. Paraskevopoulos EE'82.

Raymond L. Reaves GCP'71, Parker, CO, a former director of planning for Allegheny County (PA); Dec. 6.

1972

Dr. Mary P. Cullinan CW'72, Spokane, WA, a college professor and administrator who most recently was the first woman president of Eastern Washington University; May 3.

David L. Freidl W'72, Blackwood, NJ, a retired civil engineer/project controls manager who worked at United Engineers & Construction, Raytheon, and Washington Group International. At Penn, he was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity and the sprint football team.

Thomas J. Gambino W'72 WG'76, Broomall, PA, a retired executive at SunGard, a software company; July 3, 2020. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity. His wife is Patricia Flounders Gambino Nu'75 GNu'79, and two sons are Jeff Gambino W'00 and Jon Gambino C'02.

Joseph R. Horgan C'72, Oakland, CA, an attorney; March 19.

Dr. Jan E. Paradise CW'72 M'76 GM'80, Newton, MA, a retired pediatrician; April 12. Earlier in her career, she served as assistant professor of pediatrics at Penn. Her husband is Dr. Gary R. Fleisher GM'79, and one son is Daniel A. Fleisher EAS'01.

Lt. Col. Lawrence "Larry" Reimann Nu'72, Albuquerque, NM, a retired lieutenant colonel in the US Air Force who later worked as an anesthetist; Dec. 3. He served in the Vietnam War.

Stephen Strasser C'72, Dublin, OH, a professor at the Ohio State University's College of Medicine; June 19. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Epsilon Pi fraternity and the tennis team.

1973

Fraser Bryan Wilkins C'73, Washington, DC, a journalist who later became a trainer of thoroughbred racehorses; May 19.

1974

Dr. Charles Brindis M'74 GM'77, Boulder, CO, an anesthesiologist at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center; May 16.

Carlton J. Norris GAR'74, Camden, DE, April 21, 2020.

Dr. Arthur V. Tennyson V'74, Melbourne, FL, a retired assistant executive vice president at the American Veterinary Medical Association; Jan. 24. He served in the US Air Force and the US Air Force Reserve.

1975

Jing Jue Young GrE'75, Whittier, CA, March 20.

1976

Glenn N. Eichen WG'76, New York, a retired tax planning executive at a bank; April 7, 2020. His sister is Susan Eichen WG'79.

Dr. Alan L. Schneyer C'76, Concord, MA, a physician and researcher in the Reproductive Endocrine Unit at Massachusetts General Hospital who later founded a startup working to cure diabetes; Nov. 18, 2020. His siblings include Barbara Engel CW'73 GEd'78 and Mark C. Schneyer C'86.

1978

Richard J. Craig WG'78, Lafayette, CA, retired CEO of the North American branch of MOL, a shipping company; April 24.

Stuart I. Gold C'78, Vauxhall, NJ, an attorney and adjunct professor of law at Seton Hall University and Rutgers University; May 30.

Richard Q. Whelan C'78, Merion Station, PA, a maritime lawyer; March 19. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Psi fraternity and the soccer team. His wife is Virginia Jarvis Whelan C'78.

1980

Eleanor Warren Derr GNu'80, Williamsport, PA, a retired nurse and director of the school of nursing at Lycoming College; June 5.

Leslie J. Newman C'80, Slingerlands, NY, March 24.

1981

Eugenia Vasant Pearson GNu'81, Emmaus, PA, a nurse and a lecturer at several colleges; April 9.

1982

Virginia Sickles Legler GNu'82, Monongahela, PA, a retired nurse practitioner for a Veterans Affairs Medical Center; May 20.

1983

Mark E. Thometz GAr'83, Edmonds, WA, a real estate developer; Aug. 5, 2020.

1984

Michael J. Konigsberg W'84, New York, a former financial executive at Lehman Brothers, Barclays, UBS, and Apollo Global Management; May 24.

Shirley R. Shils CGS'84 CGS'90 G'93, Penn Valley, PA, a philanthropist and lifelong learner who received her bachelor's degree at age 70 and her master's degree at age 75; Feb. 1, at 100. With her late husband, a former Wharton professor, she endowed the Edward B. Shils and Shirley R. Shils Term Professorship in Entrepreneurial Management at Wharton and the Edward B. and Shirley R. Shils Term Professorship in Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution at the Penn Carey Law School. The Penn

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
GEEd	master's, Education	GV	Veterinary, post-degree	WEv	Wharton Evening School
		Hon	Honorary	WG	master's, Wharton
				WMP	Wharton Management Program

Dental Edward and Shirley Shils Clinic is also named after them. One daughter is Nancy Shils C'77 G'86 GED'98 GED'01 GrEd'01, and one grandchild is Max Szczurek WEv'03.

Ronald Turner L'84, Houston, a law professor at the University of Houston; June 3.

1988

Godfrey M. Hodgson G'88, Oxford, UK, a journalist and historian of American society and politics; Jan. 27. One of his best known works was the landmark study *America in Our Time: From World War II to Nixon* (1976).

Lee C. Horne Gr'88, Philadelphia, a former research associate at the Penn Museum and the former editor of the museum's magazine *Expedition*; April 10. After receiving her PhD from Penn in 1988, she was hired by the Penn Museum as a research associate and the editor of *Expedition*. She wrote several articles detailing her work in south Asia and Mesopotamia. She also assembled a "Pyramid Explorer's Kit" that was a popular children's item in the museum's gift shop. In 1994, she published her first book, *Village Spaces: Settlement and Society in Northeastern Iran*, with Smithsonian Institution Press. Four years later, she coauthored *Treasures from*

the Royal Tombs of Ur with Richard Zettler, published by Penn Press. She also published several peer-reviewed articles about cultural transmission and ethnoarchaeology. She retired in 2003 to pursue her hobby of painting, though she was called back several times to give lectures and tours and as a guest consultant and editor of *Expedition*.

Sarah Bankson Newton WG'88, Concord, MA, May 2. She worked for a real estate pension advisory firm and later served on the boards of several schools and organizations.

1989

Leonardo R. Mateu EAS'89, Atlanta, a management consultant and woodworker; Sept. 24, 2020. At Penn, he was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha and Phi Sigma Kappa fraternities.

1991

Michael L. Thompson G'91 Gr'98, Philadelphia, a former general manager at several Borders bookstores; Feb. 2.

1994

Alison S. Greenspan C'94, Pacific Palisades, CA, a film and TV producer well

known for her work on the ABC drama series *For Life* and the movie *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* and its sequel; June 27. At Penn, she was a member of Bloomers and Friars Senior Society.

2004

Pamela D. Ransome CGS'04, Philadelphia, an attorney for the US federal government; March 2. She served in the US Marine Corps.

Edward D. Watson WEv'04, Miami, Feb. 1.

2018

Ross C. Gordon C'18, San Francisco, an associate at an investment management firm; June 4.

2021

Matthew Y. Wang C'21 D'24, Princeton Junction, NJ, a student in Penn's seven-year accelerated biology-dental program; May 3.

Faculty & Staff

David F. Babbel, Bryn Mawr, PA, professor emeritus of business economics and public policy and a professor of finance at Wharton; May 20. He came to Wharton in 1985 as an associate professor of finance and risk management and an associate professor of insurance. In 1993, he became a full professor of insurance, and four years later he became a professor of risk management and finance. While at Penn, he published over 130 peer-reviewed papers and presented his research before district courts all over the country. In 1997, he spoke before Congress in opposition to a bill that would result in mutual insurance policyholders losing their ownership stake as company executives got rich. He retired in 2002. In 2003, he received Wharton's William G. Whitney Award for Distinguished Teaching. During retirement, he wrote a book about his missionary experience in Brazil, titled *Mine Angels Round About You*.

Richard A. Davis, Villanova, PA, a retired neurosurgeon at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (HUP) and an associate professor emeritus of neurosurgery at the Perelman School of Medicine; May 7. He joined Penn as an associate in neurosurgery in 1958, becoming an assistant professor in

1963 and an associate professor four years later. During his teaching, he discouraged cold language like referring to patients as "cases" and urged compassion. He also conducted influential research and published more than 50 peer-reviewed papers in medical and scientific journals. At Penn, he organized a research laboratory to investigate central nervous system control of gastric secretion and its relationship to peptic ulcer disease. His findings anticipated surgical innovations for neurologically based ulcers. His sister was former first lady Nancy Reagan. He served in the US Navy during World War II and the Korean War.

Lee C. Horne. *See Class of 1988.*

Anthony S. Kroch, Philadelphia, professor emeritus of linguistics in the School of Arts and Sciences; April 27. In 1978, he obtained a fellowship to work with William Labov, a professor of linguistics at Penn, to conduct sociolinguistic interviews and analyze the language of upper-class Philadelphians. Three years later, he joined the faculty as an assistant professor of linguistics. He became a full professor in 1991. He conducted research that won University Research Foundation grants in 2003 and 2007; and in 2006, he was named the Edmund J. and Louise W. Kahn Endowed Term Professor in the Cognitive Sciences. He is best known for his work on historical syntax, demonstrating that grammatical changes over time occur at a constant rate, and he also helped pioneer the construction of large, annotated databases of historical texts and tools to search them. His daughter is Deborah Kroch Leaf C'96 Nu'96, who is married to Brian F. Leaf C'95 W'95.

Malcolm A. Lynch, a former professor of oral medicine and an interim dean of Penn's School of Dental Medicine; June 4. He joined the faculty of Penn Dental as an instructor in 1965, working his way up to full professor of oral medicine in 1975. In the early 1970s, he served as assistant dean for hospital and extramural affairs, and then from 1988 to 1989, he was the interim dean of Penn Dental. A renowned teacher, he received both a Lindback Teaching Award and Penn Dental's Student Council Award for Excellence in Teaching. His expertise was not confined to dental

medicine. In 1965, he joined Penn's Student Health Service as an attending physician. He rose through the ranks there, eventually serving as its acting director from 1983 to 1985. He was also on the attending staff of the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (HUP), and from 1974 to 1977, he served as the chair of its department of dental medicine. He served as a dental officer in the US Navy.

Dr. Jan E. Paradise. *See Class of 1972.*

Heather A. Peters, Philadelphia, an anthropologist, global human rights activist, and a former assistant curator at the Penn Museum and lecturer at the School of Arts and Sciences; April 24. She came to Penn in 1981 as a lecturer and research specialist in the School of Arts and Sciences' anthropology department. She also served as the assistant curator of the Asian section of the Penn Museum. In this position, she undertook a variety of initiatives to foster scholarly communication, like launching *Buried Treasure*, a radio series about the Penn Museum's finds, and recruiting professors from universities in Asia to speak at Penn. After leaving Penn in 1993, she embarked on a career that included consulting and development projects with agencies such as UNESCO. Her work included advocating for minorities, preventing human trafficking, and increasing awareness of HIV/AIDS. A special focus was social justice work in Asia, standing up for ethnic minorities and advocating for their rights and culture.

Nicholas M. Rongione, Havertown, PA, a lecturer in legal studies and business ethics at Wharton; April 27. A popular professor at Villanova University, he joined Penn's faculty as an adjunct professor at Wharton in 1997. Three years later, he became a lecturer there, teaching classes at Wharton and the Aresty Institute for Executive Education. In 2005, he also became a consultant on business ethics at Wharton. During his time at Wharton, he was highly regarded, and in 1999, he received the Teaching Award for Affiliated Faculty and the 2001 and 2002 William G. Whitney Awards for Teaching Excellence. He also had an appointment at Penn State University.

Rev. Mother Dorcas Rosenlund (Dr. Mary L. Rosenlund). *See Class of 1966.*

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Michail Dorizas was an athlete of “mythical proportion” competing for Greece at the Olympics and for Penn as a three-sport star.

The “Big Greek”

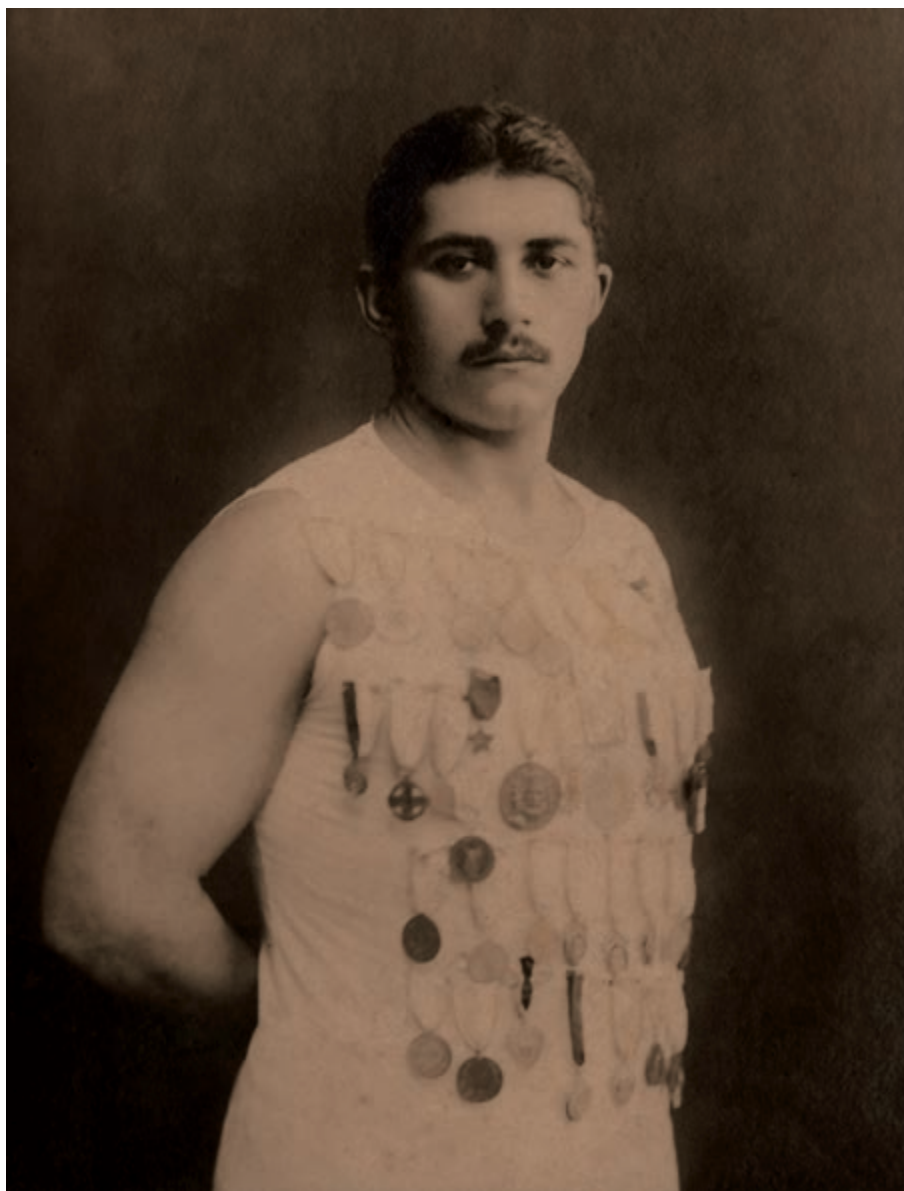
Beginning in 1900 in Paris and continuing through this summer in Tokyo, Penn has had strong representation at the Summer Olympics.

Few if any of the University’s Olympians, however, have been as colorful of a character—or as strong—as Michail “Mike” Dorizas G1915 Gr1924.

Born in 1890 in Turkey to Greek parents, Dorizas represented Greece at the Olympics in 1908, winning a silver medal in the javelin, and again in 1912. The next year, he decided to matriculate at Penn, where he studied philosophy and continued to compete in track and field as well as football and wrestling.

A member of the Penn Athletics Hall of Fame’s second class, Dorizas was described by Penn Athletics as a competitor of “mythical proportion.” The writeup of the man known as the “Big Greek” continues: “One newspaper ran a story saying that ‘his thigh is 29 inches, equal to the girth of an average freshman.’ ... Another story tells of a grudge match between a Penn State wrestler and Dorizas, which filled Weightman Gym with spectators, where Dorizas took three minutes, 50 seconds to pin his opponent—the longest bout of his career.” Most of his bouts were far shorter as he dusted off his competitors to win three straight US intercollegiate heavyweight wrestling championships, never losing a single match. He also broke the collegiate javelin record with a throw of 169 feet, 6 1/4 inches to become a track and field All-American while playing guard for the Quakers’ football team.

According to Penn Archives, “for a long time Dorizas was known as possibly the strongest man to ever attend Penn and actually broke a strength-



testing machine during a physical examination when he first enrolled to earn his master’s degree.”

Dorizas remained at Penn to earn his doctorate and teach geography at the University—a subject well suited to the native of Turkey who served in the US Army in France during World War I and later made three trips around the world.

A popular professor until his death in 1957, Dorizas not only showcased photos of his exploits across Europe but also his feats of strength.

According to a *Gazette* writeup in 1943, Dorizas told his students that while traveling in the Gobi Desert, he was attacked by a band of Mongolian bandits before winning them over by lifting one up with one hand. “On hearing this the students gave Mike an ovation that rocked the foundations of Logan Hall,” the *Gazette* reported. But that wasn’t all. When asked for an encore performance, Dorizas selected “an innocent victim” from the crowd and lifted him up with one hand, “over eight feet in the air.” —DZ



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