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“Franklin Emanation” (and More)
Alexander Dallas Bache
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Creative Forces

One special satisfaction for me concerning this issue’s cover story, “Time Stretcher”—on percussionist and composer Tyshawn Sorey, a MacArthur Fellow and Presidential Assistant Professor of Music at Penn since 2020—lies in the match of author and subject. Writer Nate Chinen C’97 was an early stalwart of Kelly Writers House (his first appearance in the Gazette was an essay on a poetry-magnet project there) and has written some memorable pieces for us since, including an early profile of John Stephens C’99 as he was on the cusp of wide fame under a different last name (“Making a Legend,” Jan/Feb 2005).

More to the point, over the last couple of decades Nate has written widely and perceptively on music for magazines and websites, as a jazz critic for the New York Times, and in his book Playing Changes: Jazz for the New Century (“Arts,” Jan/Feb 2018). His work is both precise and poetic, and though his own tastes seem to range far from the more traditional musical precincts where I’m at home, he always persuades me I should expand my listening horizons (at least while I’m reading him!).

Nate first alerted me to Sorey’s presence when Sorey joined Penn’s faculty, calling the appointment “huge news for avant-garde music” with “fantastic implications for the music department at Penn.” It was the early days of the pandemic, and we never got together on a story at the time. But in the intervening years, that assessment has been amply justified.

In addition to detailing Sorey’s growing impact as a teacher and mentor to Penn students at all levels, from the opening passage, about a recent premiere at Girard College, the article includes some wonderful descriptions of Sorey’s compositions and his own performances as a drummer (captured in the photos accompanying the article) with a dizzying array of collaborators, many of whom Nate spoke with. There are many insightful comments from them in the piece, but the most telling for me came from Sorey himself—who seems exceptionally reluctant to put labels on the music he makes—about searching for an artistic space where “anything that happens is allowed.”

Another quote that struck me—this one in “The PZ Project,” by senior editor Trey Popp (who, incidentally, edited Nate’s story)—was from the Kislak Center’s Lynne Farrington: “What are the books that stay with people? They tend to be books they read as children.”

Taking off from recent exhibits of the work of the illustrator and writer Ashley Bryan, the story delves more broadly into Penn Libraries’ holdings in children’s literature (shelved mostly under PZ) and the reasons for making space for “kid lit” in an academic library, along the way sketching in the history of efforts—halting at best until relatively recently—to broaden the representation and perspectives on offer in the genre, and the ongoing backlash to those developments.

And I am still thinking of the phrase “an emanation of the great Franklin!”—which appears in Dennis Drabelle G’66 L’69’s latest historical piece for us, “American Science’s Promoter-in-Chief,” whose subject is Alexander Dallas Bache (Ben’s great-grandson). For some years Bache taught natural philosophy and chemistry at Penn, before taking a leading role in fighting against “quackery” and raising the standing of American science through participation in professional associations and as director of the US Coast Survey from 1843 until his death in 1867. Bache was also a close friend of Confederate president Jefferson Davis—in earlier days, a key supporter of the Survey in the US Congress. Thus, the discussion of “The Field Cry of Penn” that starts the article.
Dialogue in the Seat of Democracy

Big issues, ideas, and opportunities lie ahead.

By Liz Magill

At the end of June, I experienced one of those moments that serves as a reminder of just what a great university like Penn is all about. At the start of a busy and event-filled weekend, I had the opportunity to sit in a circle with a half-dozen or so newly minted Penn graduates for a relaxed but freewheeling discussion about the big issues, ideas, and opportunities that lie ahead as, collectively, we look to the future.

The setting could not have been more appropriate or conducive to our conversation. We were in Athens, in the National Library of Greece, located within the stunning Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center overlooking the Aegean Sea. Our chairs were drawn in a loose circle—a handful of Penn faculty and staff along with the students who had the distinction of forming the inaugural cohort of Stavros Niarchos Foundation Paideia Fellows and who had graduated only a month earlier in May.

Appropriately, our conversation occurred within the aptly named “book castle” of the National Library, a square tower measuring 20 meters on each side that extends the height of the soaring building, with open shelves holding some of the most important volumes in the library’s million-plus book collection. Just the day before, CNN Chief International Anchor Christiane Amanpour had sat in the same space to conduct a wide-ranging discussion about world affairs with former US president Barack Obama. In our own way, we were having the same conversation, but with the leaders of tomorrow.

This was a very special group of students who had come to Athens. They had flown in to attend an annual conference and festival of arts the Stavros Niarchos Foundation hosts in support of its mission to promote access to art, education, healthcare, and life’s other essentials across the globe. Less than five years ago, the foundation made an important investment in the future of undergraduate education at Penn by funding the SNF Paideia Program, designed to advance and promote civic dialogue in undergraduate education. The word paideia comes to us from ancient Greek and conveys the concept of educating the whole person—morally, intellectually, and physically. It is rooted in the concept of a complete education, combining active learning with synthesis of diverse types of knowledge to create well-rounded citizens and future leaders. In recognition of the importance the foundation places on Penn’s program, we were joined in our discussion by our host and friend Andreas Dracopoulos W’86, the copresident of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation and original patron of Penn’s Paideia Program.

In true Penn fashion, our SNF Paideia Program has gone from idea to effective implementation in a remarkably brief time. Since the program was announced in March of 2019, it has welcomed three separate cohorts of Paideia Fellows from among our undergraduate classes, sponsored or cosponsored more than 100 events, and helped identify and promote over 30 Paideia-designated courses in the undergraduate curriculum. Fellows, participants, and casual visitors to any of the program’s events are exposed to the skills and knowledge useful to engage in dialogue across lines of difference. Underlying the effort is the belief that democracy doesn’t work without citizens committed to the core democratic values of free thought, robust and respectful exchange of ideas, and the commitment of each to the good of all.

This last value is what came across most clearly in our discussion on that day in Athens. Each one of the Paideia Fellows spoke about how they intended to use their Penn education and the opportunities they were afforded by the Paideia Program to make their own individual marks as champions of civil society.

It was a discussion, not a presentation, which lent the get together a wonderful sense of optimism and excitement at what lies ahead. For these newest Penn graduates, the world was all before them and was an energizing prospect.
That discussion sticks with me because it offers insight into two questions I have been exploring since I arrived at Penn last summer. What does the world need from Penn and how do we best cultivate a community that will rise to that challenge? These questions guided our Red and Blue Advisory Committee's work for the Tomorrow, Together strategic planning process, which I’ve described in previous columns.

The committee has since fulfilled its charge. They held more than 40 focused meetings with the University community; facilitated three open forums for students, faculty, and staff; closely read hundreds of comments submitted online; and engaged deeply with all 12 Schools. Led by Provost John L. Jackson Jr., the committee then collated and condensed all they heard from our Penn community and earlier this summer reported their findings to me.

At their core, their findings centered on how to advance Penn's excellence across the board: from the transformative Penn student experience to our world-class teaching, research, and clinical care, from our cross-disciplinary strengths to our partnerships both local and global.

Major themes that emerged included furthering Penn’s interdisciplinary teaching and research; our uncommon combination of excellence in both the liberal arts and professional education and how each can support and enhance the other; the opportunities at hand to build on Penn's signature strengths to address pressing challenges such as climate change and global health; and continuing to ensure that we undertake Penn's academic missions with a clear eye toward improving lives and communities in our great city and across the globe.

As I write this, I’m considering the committee’s findings as well as reflecting on my own observations and taking into account the many sources of input I have received in the past year. All with the goal of soon sharing next steps for shaping a vision for this remarkable institution.

As I write this, I’m considering the committee’s findings as well as reflecting on my own observations and taking into account the many sources of input I have received in the past year. All with the goal of soon sharing next steps for shaping a vision for this remarkable institution.
Varied responses on climate, praise for Arboretum and Ira, missing whom, and more.

Essential First Steps

I graduated from Ian McHarg’s inimitable course in Landscape Architecture at Penn in 1958 when the public was just beginning to hear about global warming and the impending environmental crisis. Rachel Carson’s *The Sea Around Us* and Professor McHarg’s weekly TV program *The House We Live In* gave impetus to environmental awareness.

Now, 60 years later, the global warming crisis is evident by the dramatic rise in sea level from the melting polar ice cap.

What your article “Mann in the Middle” [Jul|Aug 2023] calls Michael Mann’s “message”—that “it’s still within our power to save the planet”—presupposes finding a magical technical breakthrough, rather than changing our way of life. The impediment to finding such a technical solution is one of scope and cost, like carbon capture and storage, which Mann mentioned. Any resolution involving changing the planet’s atmosphere suggests a human engineering project dwarfing any ever attempted, and the costs thereof are not reimbursable.

As essential first steps:

Figure out a way to prevent the cutting down of trees in the five megaforests on Earth, to prevent the release into the atmosphere of vast encapsulated carbon.

Find a government or billionaire ready to buy out and close down the massive operations of the fossil fuel conglomerate and replace with solar and wind energy in the next 20 years or less.

Replace the worldwide projects to plant a trillion seedling trees on fallow land that have less than a 20 percent survivability rate with nursery grown saplings that have a near 100 percent survivability.

And to suggest that, if the planet did need saving, we’re capable of saving it is to grossly overestimate our agency.

This perspective is further reinforced in using the language of “climate crisis.” The climate is not in crisis; it has simply been adapting to our behaviors and adapting far better than us. In fact, it would be more accurate to say the climate is responding exactly as it ought to. And yet we use language that sustains a perspective that the problem lies “out there,” which unfortunately gives rise to exactly the kind of techno-solution fantasies that Professor Mann knows are illegitimate. “The environment” isn’t broken, though we and our systems may well be.

I support Professor Mann wanting to place the focus on systemic change and appreciate that he is ready to battle “the forces of inaction.” Unfortunately, I fear our scientists who have studied natural systems can sustain a level of optimism because they haven’t studied human-constructed systems—economies, governments, organizations, not to mention those places where they overlap and reinforce one another. Somewhere in the mix, among deniers and doomists and optimists, we need to make room for realists who know that large-scale systems change is not our strong suit. We may want to change, know we have to change, and yet still be unable to.

Ken Victor C’77, Chelsea, Quebec, Canada

We May Want to Change, Yet Still Be Unable To

Professor Mann, and the writer/editor, take a perspective that is part of the problem. To call the issue “How We Can (Still) Save the Planet,” as the text on the cover has it, misidentifies what needs saving. The planet is not going anywhere; it’s not the planet that’s at risk, it’s humanity.

Change “the American way of life” that is “consumerism.”

If we cannot achieve these essential goals in our next half century, then it will not matter because we will be under water.

*Henry F. Arnold LAr’58, Newtown, PA*

An Optimist, Despite Ominous Events

I’m delighted to see Michael Mann featured in the *Gazette*. He’s been a role model as I photograph natural places in Florida, noting changes in the land-

*We Welcome Letters*

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scapec. Despite the losses of habitat, wildlife, and plants, enough beauty remains to inspire me to continue this work.

My dad is also a role model. In 1922 he graduated from Penn’s medical school when the world was emerging from a pandemic. He set up his practice in West Philadelphia where he was sometimes paid in chickens and eggs. Days after Pearl Harbor he shipped out to the Pacific with the Naval Medical Corps. A doer and a fearless optimist.

Lately I’ve been telling my doctor to keep me on the planet until I am 105 so I can see how humanity solves climate change, but suddenly in one year with the rise in temperatures I am catapulted into a future I thought was safely years away.

Despite this ominous turn of events, I remain an optimist. I will never be ready to abandon this beautiful planet. And I take comfort that a great university like Penn has the resources, including Dr. Mann, who can take on this crisis in ways which inspire and unite us and the world community.

Frances Knight Palmeri CW’63, Nokomis, FL

Woke Deception

Were I to place a copy of Michael Mann’s *The New Climate War* (2021) on my bookshelf between my copies of Farnside & Holther’s *Fallacy* (1959) and Bernays’ *Propaganda* (1928), I’d have a complete guide to modern—aka progressive and/or WOKE—political, economic, and cultural deception. I knew it as soon as writer JoAnn Greco noted that “this ‘new climate war’ adopts the playbook of deflection campaigns mounted by the tobacco industry and the gun lobby.”

Stu Mahlin WG’65, Cincinnati

Problem is India, China, and the UN

Like my fellow well-known Wharton 1968 classmate, Donald Trump, I see excellent discussion, but no pragmatic solution. The problem is not the issue. There is climate change, and while there are deniers, the problem is India and China, and the United Nations. The United States does remarkably well and not necessarily through legal edict, but voluntarily. So, let’s figure a means that these rapidly developing huge countries accept responsibility and join in the solution.

Michael Judge W’68, Canton, GA

Refuge of Beauty and Delight

Thank you for your article on the Morris Arboretum and Gardens (“Birthday Blooms,” Jul|Aug 2023). It has been a part of our lives for many years as a refuge of beauty and delight in every season.

Vicki Strigari Dawson CW’75, Philadelphia

Some Harkavy—and WXPN—History

The opening of the story about Ira Harkavy and the Netter Center [“Ode to Ira,” Jul|Aug 2023] brought back a unique memory from Spring 1969. At that time, WXPN was the student-run radio station (that’s a subject for another story or letter) located on the third floor of Houston Hall. When the College Hall sit-in began, we ran a wire across the courtyard from an open third floor window to College Hall and proceeded to record and broadcast the proceedings.

I distinctly remember Ira’s impassioned speech that ended the sit-in. It began with “The University has accepted the principle of community involvement…” WXPN supplied audio clips to Philadelphia-area radio and TV stations and later that spring prepared and broadcasted a one-hour documentary entitled *The Peaceful Confrontation—University of Pennsylvania 1969*. As the 50th anniversary approached in 2019, I presented an audio file to [the now professionally operated] WXPN-FM management as well as to the Penn archives.

And I still have a copy of the audio file of that broadcast! At that time, WXPN was Penn to the world!

Richard Ritskin W’69, Deerfield, IL

More Coverage Expected

Having returned to Penn in May for my 50th Reunion, I was looking forward to the Jul|Aug 2023 edition of the *Gazette* to see the coverage of Alumni Weekend. As one of the two most important Penn events in May (along with Commencement), I expected much more coverage than the two-page photo collage that was accompanied by exactly zero words. No article, no interviews, and no acknowledgement of those of us who came back were included in this edition, which was 80 pages long, but I guess that Alumni Weekend wasn’t important enough to merit an article on a couple more of those pages.

Given that your target audience is Penn alumni, you need to do better for next year’s Alumni Weekend because we alumni think it is an important link back to Penn or we wouldn’t come.

Edward (Ward) Sproat EE’73 G’88, Frederick, MD

Egregious Error

I was discouraged as I flipped through the latest issue and saw the headline “Heritage for Who?” [“Gazetteer,” Jul|Aug 2023]. It is surprising that a magazine published by a world-renowned university would include such an egregious grammar error. Did no one notice during the editing and proofreading process that it should correctly read “Heritage for Whom?”

Alice Huffman Birch C’88 W’88, Woodinville, WA

Grammar Hammer Strikes (Gently)

Thank you for JoAnn Greco’s interesting story on World Heritage sites. Although I knew there were such sites, I didn’t know how the system works. Needless to say, I was not familiar with the difficulties involved that were pointed out.

There was one aspect of the piece that caught my eye: the “Heritage for Who?” headline.

My initial reaction was to wonder why it didn’t read, “Heritage for Whom?”

However, it’s been a long time since the nuns required me and my fellow grade-school students to memorize a list of common prepositions. I also realize that languages change over time. So, I did some checking.

Fortunately, I still had my *Harbrace College Handbook*, 4th edition. It has several
**A Rare Person, Teacher, and Mentor**

It was with great sadness that I read about the passing of Dr. James Stinnett M’65 GM’70 in the *Gazette* (“Obituaries,” Jul|Aug 2023). He was indeed a rare person, teacher, and mentor.

As an undergraduate, I was lucky to select an independent study with him to do medical research at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center. In the mid-1970s he was a young member of the psychiatry faculty and a shining star. He supported my work in many ways, teaching me the rudimentary aspects of psychiatric diagnosis and enabling me to apply my basic science knowledge and statistical skills to complete the research project and publish the work.

He was so much more than just a teacher. He nurtured my interest and supported my growth. He demonstrated the finest traits as a physician and became a model for the doctor I wanted to be. When I came to Penn, I was already interested in psychiatry; after my work with Dr. Stinnett it became a passion.

We remained in contact during my medical school years, and I had the pleasure of inviting him to present grand grounds at my psychiatry training program. Even after the passing of many years, I think of him often. He has been by my side in my own career in psychiatry for the past 38 years.

Mentors never leave you. They become part of your spirit and soul, always there to access throughout your life. Penn is not about the buildings or statues, but about the people you indelibly encounter. Dr. Stinnett is proof of that. How lucky I was, along with the thousands of other students, to cross his path.

**Justin O. Schechter C’77, Old Fort, NC**

Hope, and a Roadmap

“I didn’t know if you’d seen this. I remember your reverence for him.”


When I first started at the Roundabout, Todd showed me what was possible when you bet on yourself. Fresh out of college and not sure where my life or career was going, his example gave me hope, and a roadmap.

Todd went to the University of Pennsylvania for undergrad, as did I. He got an MBA, which I would get seven years later following his example. He knew his career was not on stage (he acted in only one play), but on the administrative side. The same was true for me as well. He often described himself as an orchestrator with a talent for getting the right people around the table and removing any roadblocks so they could create something incredible together. I think of myself that way, too.

Todd was the first person who helped me realize not only that I could love business and the arts equally, but that the two benefit one another. It’s a lesson I’ve never forgotten in all the years since I worked at the Roundabout, and it’s been the basis for my entire career and life—to use rock-solid business principles to support creative endeavors.

When I found out Todd got cancer in his 40s, I was devastated. Then I was inspired because he kept going in spite of it—for 20 years!—and his star rose higher than ever. I also got cancer in my 40s during the pandemic, and again Todd’s example showed me what’s possible, even in the face of a difficult diagnosis. (I am thankfully now cancer-free.)

Though Todd physically left this world in April after his long battle with cancer, the energy, enthusiasm, and talent he wielded to completely transform Broadway theatre lives on in our beautiful city of New York, artistic communities all over the world, and the many people whom he inspired. Me included, of course.

They say the neon lights are bright on Broadway, wrote Weil and Mann. I say they shine brighter because Todd Haimes dedicated his life to making them so.

**Christa Rose Avampato C’98, New York**
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Second Life

“I was now attending a reunion as a widow.”

By Margot Freedman Horwitz
As I walked into the first event of my recent 65th Penn reunion, my mind flashed back to past iterations, when my Class of ’57 husband and our children often joined me in what became a fun time for all of us. But there was a big difference this time: our adult children are living their own lives far away, and my husband has been dead for more than a year. I was now attending a reunion as a widow, a single woman who has moved into a new phase of life.

Ellis’s illness did not last long, but it was intense. The health challenges he’d faced over the years had been manageable and we’d always been able to enjoy our life together. But shortly before he turned 85, he developed a bacterial infection that was difficult to treat, in the hospital and at home. Soon it became clear he could not recover. Despite my heavy heart, I realized his time had come.

When he died I mourned an amusing, caring, talented husband, father, and friend. One is never prepared to lose a loved one, and I still feel grief a year after his passing. Yet with this sorrow has come a profound sense of gratitude. I realized throughout this first year how fortunate I’d been to have so many wonderful years with him—even as I’d hoped he would reach 90, and that we would have celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary as many friends have.

But that was not to be, and I’ve tried to be realistic about it. Yet my attitude has somehow set me apart from many of my peers. I seem to have a different mindset from others in my situation, who cannot get beyond their sense of ill fortune and even anger. I can understand that. It’s a struggle to adjust to a new, often painful way of life, and perhaps it’s natural for a surviving spouse to ask, “Is this all there is?” Some friends who have faced bereavement have told me they don’t know how to deal with their lives. I listen to them, but am not sure how to respond—or whether they even want me to.

This dynamic reared up frequently as I made phone calls ahead of the Class of ’58 reunion, as our committee worked to develop a good attendance. Following the first, delighted greetings after many years, conversation soon turned to our personal lives—and losses. Along with memories of friends who’d attended our 60th reunion but were now gone, there was the inevitable talk of the death of spouses. This was understandable, at our age, as was the attendant melancholy. When I called an old friend and reached her husband—not knowing our classmate had died—I perceived such profound sadness as he haltingly told me the news that I could hardly speak.

How do you plan ahead to make the most of the time remaining, however old you are?

I think about the people who have shared their bereavement stories. Grief is different for each person, and changes as time passes. Much depends on the immediate circumstances: the age of the loved one; the timespan of a fatal illness or suddenness of an accident. But regardless of the cause or timing of the loss, the spouse is left alone. Children can be a great comfort—mine and my extended family and friends offer solace in many ways. Yet the burden is the survivor’s alone to carry.

But then what? How do you plan ahead to make the most of the time remaining, however old you are? This is where my outlook seems to diverge from that of some widows and widowers I know whose losses happened some time ago. I have wondered about the deep despair which seems to have taken over their lives with no sign of evolving. I understand, of course, that there is no one single path out of mourning. Everyone deals with it differently, and a survivor’s feelings are not to be criticized. Yet as I moved through my first year after Ellis’s death, it became clear to me that continuing immersion in sadness would only worsen an already difficult situation. Although grief is not linear—it has ups and downs—I feel the need to seize the better moments in hopes of gaining a new perspective on life and my new place in it.

Much of my current life is, not surprisingly, different from what Ellis and I shared. But there are similarities, too. Shabbat dinner was special in our home, throughout our marriage. Whether eating with our parents in the early years, or later on with our children and their friends—Jewish or not—it was to be savored. Even during the last, difficult year of his life, Ellis made a big effort to get ready for Shabbat, and never failed to tell me how much he enjoyed the meal.

After he died, as I sat in our dining room with candles and challah, I decided to create my own rituals—first with special books given to me by family and friends, then by sharing the meal with others. Over the year I have prepared Shabbat for those who enjoy being part of an evening they would not have created for themselves. It is a pleasure to set out a good meal, in a home filled with Ellis’s fine photographs, which keep him very much alive. I look forward to continuing this tradition, as I hope to continue to offer friendship to those who are having their own hard times in life.

I have also reached out beyond my personal life, and it has brought me great satisfaction. Our nation’s midterm elections came six months after Ellis’s death, and my political concerns led me to carry on the political work I had done before. Ellis had always encouraged my efforts, and often joined me. As I worked on postcards and made phone calls, I felt his hand on my back, urging me on.
Reaching out beyond myself never stops adding positivity to my life. For many years we had organized a food drive at our townhouse complex, writing letters to the residents about the problem of food insecurity and asking for their participation in our annual collection. Since his passing, I write the letter, but now I sign it with only my name—still requesting their help. Because even without my spouse, the hunger issue remains, and I am determined to do what I can to fight it. I am also working on social action projects through my synagogue’s community efforts, and those of other local groups. I know they need my help and I want to give it.

Moving away from my personal issues has reinforced a beneficial transition to my new life, rather than worsening my bereavement. While it is not easy to get beyond loss, I have found it meaningful to recognize the wider environment beyond myself. Our Jewish tradition urges us to repair the broken world—something all of us, of any faith, can understand. I have found that taking even small steps in this regard not only helps me to make a difference in what I can accomplish for others, but also offers me a path beyond grief. And I take comfort in the thought that my mate would be proud of how I am handling my life, as it is now.

Margot Freedman Horwitz CW’58 ASC’62 has written for the Gazette since 1978. She is a writer and activist based in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.

**Wolf in the Weave**

“I felt a warm energy: eyes on my back, focused like lasers.”

By Beebe Bahrami

I was in Asturias, Spain, an arrowhead-shaped green land defined by the toothy gray Cantabrian Mountains to the south and the liquid blue Atlantic to the north. I had come in hopes of inhabiting more intimately this land of wild ocean and rugged mountains, where humans have herded, foraged, farmed, and fished on a small sustainable scale for millennia. On prior visits I had discovered myriad footpaths that snaked along the north Atlantic coastline, knitting together forests and fishing villages across a verdant plateau edged with steep gray cliffs that dropped to the water below. All I wanted to do was walk them, learn about life from locals, and get lost in wild, deep nature.

In the fishing town of Luarca I settled into a harborside inn run by a retired fisherman who quickly became my spiritual guide to Asturias without ever stepping away from the bar counter of his cafe. As soon as I arrived, he made me a strong coffee and told me about the fishermen I could see working in the harbor. Most rose and went to sea at three in the morning, he said. Some would return.
the same afternoon and others not for many days. A shrine devoted to Mary stood on the harbor’s outer ridge, gazing out to sea to protect the seabound while also looking after their loved ones remaining on land.

When the retired seaman learned of my intent, he told me to look for the footpaths between the better worn paths—the ones that were nearly invisible, faint pencil lines that traced passages through forest, farm, and field.

“Locals use them all the time,” he said, “even when they cut across a neighbor’s field. Just wave as you pass.”

I set off early the next morning, after fishing crews had taken half the boats in the harbor out to sea. I followed a steep trail up and over the rocky bowl protecting Luarca’s harbor and went west—ocean to my right and mountains to my left—along a patchwork plateau that alternated between oak and chestnut forests and small secret meadows over-taken by wildflowers. My goal was the neighboring fishing village of Puerto de Vega, about a three-hour walk away.

Deeper in, I could smell the ocean but could no longer see or hear it. The mountains remained constant giant companions. I paused and focused my vision. Like that state of mind that shifts when you go mushroom hunting or berry picking, invisible local paths began to appear that led me like a gentle companion through forest and field, each new vista opening previously hidden passages marked by the soft tilt of grass, the bobble of a wildflower over a parting, a dragonfly using the opening for passage. My mind and body aligned and sharpened into total presence, forgetting past and future, aches and regrets. I had a hawk for company, landing and flying to the next treetop as I walked below. Numerous tiny forest inhabitants shuttled or flitted across and along with me. I encountered no people and heard no cars.

An hour after leaving Luarca, I cleared the woods and followed a thin path onto the wider dirt road that slipped through the hamlet of San Martín. I approached the small cluster of homes. No people were about but three village dogs lay out front, fast asleep, their ribcages rising and falling in slow, deep, syncopated motion.

I moved past the houses, the dogs, the small village church, the cows grazing in the pasture, and then stopped to locate the next faint path. I heard and felt everything: the soft wind rustling the chestnut leaves, the vibration of a bee in a stand of flowers, the cows chewing grass, the heavy breathing of the dogs.

Then it all stopped, as if everything suddenly held its breath, and I felt a warm energy: eyes on my back, focused like lasers. I turned slowly and froze. Twenty meters away stood a wolf. He too was stock still. Our eyes met, and whether it was advisable or not, I couldn’t unlock mine and look away. I felt agitation, his and mine. But I felt something else—hesitancy, a mutual not knowing what to do. We had each surprised the other. I had probably spoiled his plan to slip unseen by people and sleeping dogs toward the ocean to scavenge for fish at low tide.

And that’s when it happened. As I stood there—staring, frozen, fully present—the barriers of space and time dissolved and I felt myself woven into an outrageous interconnectedness. I felt the invisible weave that wove us all together. I was one thread and the wolf another, and all of us, all life, were threads, too, all caught in the same warp and woof, magnificent invisible footpaths everywhere threading everything into an interconnected whole.

The dogs woke. Perhaps it was the stillness or perhaps the scent. I felt a sudden jerk in my solar plexus at their erupting barks. In that same moment, the wolf was gone. I looked south in time to see a gray form fleeing to the mountains. But the thread didn’t snap, it elongated, elastic. Part of me flew south, too.

In recent decades, wildlife biologists have developed a better understanding about interactions between wolves and humans. Where there is conflict, it is typically humans who have created the circumstances for it. We are the ones who have cut access to their natural corridors of movement through their native territories. We have deforested and overdeveloped their traditional hunting grounds, restricting their access to wild prey, thereby encouraging these opportunistic hunters to take down a sick or weak sheep—a hard thing for a hungry animal to pass up. And it is we who gave rise to the wild feral dogs who now account for more livestock attacks than wolves, as Spanish researchers have documented.

But in Asturias there seemed to be a different pattern at work. Humans weave themselves mindfully into the land, plying an almost invisible web of footpaths that offer passage without blockage, to us and to all inhabitants—just wave as you pass. Instead of tearing the fabric, people join the weave.

I continued west. The barking diminished. I was glad the dogs were tied. A shade of sadness followed me, but a deeper enchantment pulsed in my bones. I stopped often and glanced toward the mountains, still feeling watched, still feeling the thread. It grew long and thin but remained supple and strong.

I arrived in Puerto de Vega and took the local narrow-gauge rail back to Luarca by nightfall. When I walked into the old seaman’s bar, he was holding court over cold beers with a customer. He looked at my face, pulled me a draft, and set it on the counter. “Tell us,” he said.

“I met a wolf,” I said, and told them more, the magic of the meeting written all across my face.

“Every day has its dangers, and every day has its gifts,” he said after listening carefully, “and often, they are from the same thing.” These hit me as perfect operating instructions for how to live a fully woven life from someone who had.

Confidence Game
A first-generation college graduate looks back.

By Phyllis Lev Brust

Penn is a place for self-assured, accomplished students. I wasn’t one of them. I graduated in 1975, a first-generation college student from Philadelphia who commuted from home until the second semester of my junior year. At first I was awestruck at Penn; I was a kid in a candy store. Producer Joseph Papp and director Harold Prince C’48 Hon’71 tried out plays at Penn before opening in New York. Tickets were free and students could watch from the wings. The actors brunched on omelets in my dorm. The NHL’s Philadelphia Flyers practiced at the Class of 1923 Ice Skating Rink and anyone could watch. I joined the University’s first women’s ice hockey club.

But my undergraduate peers intimidated me. I had never met so many students who could afford to fly away on vacation, whose parents had graduated from college, who majored in philosophy, or who owned a car. I once heard students discussing Anais Nin, and I had no clue who she was. I thought I’d missed a memo everyone else had received.

What I really lacked was confidence—a hazard for first-generation students. Without confidence, I was on a slippery slope: afraid to take risks, afraid of being embarrassed, and afraid of being punished. I was asked to write for the Daily Pennsylvanian. I declined because I didn’t think I was good enough. I felt lost, afraid that I was letting the University down.

First-generation students weren’t on anybody’s radar when I was in school. We were pretty much left on our own. That remained the case for decades after my own experience. A 2021 Pew Research Center survey found that only 26 percent of 22- to 59-year-olds without a college-educated parent had completed a bachelor’s degree, compared with 70 percent of adults with at least one college-educated parent. In 2019, University of California public-policy professor David Kirp argued in the Chronicle of Higher Education that colleges haven’t given students “the we-have-your-back-support they need.” He called for financial aid reform, mentoring, and other initiatives to help level the playing field for first-generation college students and others in need.

Now first-gens are considered a vulnerable group. Universities across the country have suddenly rushed to support them. In 2015 Penn students Sam Trinh C’16 and Yessenia Gutierrez C’15 started the student group Penn First expressly to advocate for and represent first-generation and low-income (FGLI) students [“Gazetteer,” Jan|Feb 2016]. Penn First’s web page reads, “There are many students just like you.” That’s a powerful message. Being a first-generation student can be isolating.

The next year Penn’s University Life department established a FGLI program at the Albert M. Greenfield Intercultural Center, and a couple years after that the University launched the Penn First Plus initiative to ensure that "all
I have never said, “Why are you talking to me?” I tell them what makes them special when they can’t see it. I have sought to expose students to as many different hands-on experiences as possible.

So here’s my advice for today’s under-confident students—first-generation or not—whether they’re starting out or looking back, or whether they are a parent, teacher, or friend trying to help:

• You are likely to take your gifts and interests for granted. You think that if something comes easy for you, it comes easy for everyone. It doesn’t.

• No journey is a straight path. Embrace your mistakes. The knowledge gained from those mistakes will differentiate you and help further your career, though you probably won’t realize it at the time.

• If a sibling or friend is considered the smart one, that doesn’t mean that you are the stupid one.

• Grades are not necessarily indicative of ability. They could reflect anxiety, a lack of interest, or perhaps even an undiagnosed learning disability. And grades rarely measure such critical skills as empathy and dedication.

• Don’t bury your desires just to please others, including parents.

• It’s OK not to know what you want to do. Learn what you are good at, what you enjoy, and what makes you unique.

• Avoid being a square peg squishing yourself into a round hole. Don’t limit your universe to published lists extolling the best-paying jobs. The world is more complex than “STEM equals success and humanities majors fail.”

• People often think they are too old to change. They aren’t. My 69-year-old husband received a PhD in history last year.

• Find supporters. They are there.

• Forgive yourself. It’s not easy.

• Finally, take risks. At times you will fail. But that beats looking back regretfully—even if you’re recollecting dancing robots in a dystopian play.

Phyllis Lev Brust C’75 G’83 Gr’90 is the founder of CareerMutt. She lives in Gainesville, Florida.
A facelift and more for College Hall, a high-profile expansion at GSE, and new facilities for data science and energy research are among the highlights of ongoing campus building and renovation projects.
It's a time of transition at Penn, with President Liz Magill just completing her first year, a new provost and multiple new deans settling into their positions, and the groundwork being laid for the University's next phase of development with the findings of the Red and Blue Advisory Committee expected to be announced this fall (“From College Hall,” this issue).

But campus construction never hits pause, least of all during the summer months.

“I’d say it's a lot,” said University Architect Mark Kocent C’82 GCP’91 GFA’91 in July, when asked how this season’s level of activity compared to previous ones, and he quickly tallied up a billion or so dollars of current construction, renovation, and infrastructure projects on a paper pad. (A June report to the trustees put total approved budgets at $1.5 billion, with 870,000 square feet of projects completed or underway in 2023.)

Current work includes renovations of the Quadrangle dormitories and Stouffer College House, façade repair and other refurbishments to College Hall, a 33,100-square-foot upgrade to the Graduate School of Education, and construction of Amy Gutmann Hall and the Vagelos Laboratory for Energy Science and Technology—hubs for data science and energy research, respectively.

Besides providing top-flight facilities for key fields of study, the latter two buildings promise to have a significant impact on the streetscape at the University’s eastern edge. Gutmann Hall, which replaces a parking lot at 34th and Chestnut streets, had its “topping off” ceremony in July and is scheduled for completion next August.

Budgeted at $137.5 million, it will provide 116,000 gross square feet (gsf) for teaching labs and research centers, an auditorium, and offices and common spaces for faculty and students to promote collaboration on data-intensive projects across Penn’s schools and centers.

Gutmann Hall is the first new mass-timber structure to be built in Philadelphia; its six-story height is about the limit for the method, Kocent noted. Use of the material, which is fabricated from multiple wooden boards—“like compressing 100 two-by-fours,” he said—wasn’t planned initially, but design architects Lake|Flato, “a very progressive, sustainable firm from San Antonio,” which had done similar projects, asked to evaluate it alongside concrete and steel. Cost and life-cycle factors were comparable or better, and “from an environmental point of view it was an easy [choice]

because it has a much smaller carbon footprint in its manufacturing,” Kocent said.

Tucked within a semicircle formed by the Class of 1923 Ice Rink, the Palestra, and David Rittenhouse Laboratory (DRL) on Walnut Street and scheduled for completion in February 2025, the $175.5 million Vagelos Lab will consolidate Penn’s research on energy and sustainability in 112,500 square feet of laboratory space for chemistry and optics research and associated collaborative and support spaces on seven floors. The project also includes a new green space and courtyard to be created below Walnut at the 32nd Street level to link the Palestra, DRL, and the Vagelos Lab, with a ramp connecting to Shoemaker Green.

One distinctive feature of the design, by the Boston office of the German firm Behnisch Architekten, are rows of “solar sails” on the building façade, which serve both as a kind of “billboard” and an energy-saving measure, Kocent said. “Part of it is designed to bounce light in and up, so that it catches the white ceiling, and you don’t have to have electric lighting on,” he explained. Meanwhile “the lower two thirds of it have a pattern that knocks out about 40 percent of the light coming in. So, you save some energy that way.”

At 37th and Walnut, a $35.6 million project has given the Graduate School of Education a new front entrance and integrated GSE’s building with the School’s
space in neighboring Stiteler Hall. Completed in August, the project was split about evenly between new construction (16,200 gsf) and renovation (16,900 gsf).

The design, by Boston-based Ann Beha Architects (now Annum), improved accessibility issues (Stiteler didn’t have an elevator, for example) while adding new student space to the east and classroom space to the west. The two-story addition, built in the GSE courtyard above an underground garage, includes space for Catalyst@PennGSE, an innovation lab for education that had previously been in leased space in an office building on Market Street.

Also completed in August was a $35.3 million renovation of Stouffer College House, involving 125 student beds, common spaces, restrooms, and infrastructure, plus façade, window, and accessibility improvements. One “interesting” aspect was that, as originally designed, the building stepped down almost like a rowhouse block on a slant. “Inside, there were two steps down, three steps down, two steps down, so nothing was accessible,” said Kocent. All that came out in the renovation, and the interior was ramped instead, “so the whole building is accessible. And then everything in there was gutted, totally redone.”

A much bigger renovation effort has gotten underway in the Quad, where a $238 million project involving 1,400 student beds and a range of system upgrades is scheduled for completion in August 2026. Architect Beyer Blinder Belle, based in New York, “did the original Ellis Island renovation,” said Kocent, as well as “a large project like this at Harvard, where they took apart a couple of old dorms and put them back together. In the end, they kind of look like they always did, but systems and
support behind the scenes” are modernized and upgraded.

Originally, the project was going to be done in pieces over six summers, but that proved impractical. “It was just too hard to get materials ordered and ready to go, like, the day after graduation,” Kocent said. “By the time you mobilize and get much done, the kids are coming back.”

Instead, the architects “convinced us to do it in three chunks,” beginning with work on the Lower Quad, which started in May and will continue through the year: “The next phase will be the hardest, because you’re taking the middle of the building” offline while the two ends remain occupied, he said. “And then the third—but it’ll be nice when it’s done.”

And scaffolding has gone up on the even more venerable College Hall, whose eastern wing was refurbished back in the 1990s, in an $87.4 million project by Philadelphia-based AOS Architects to restore the west wing and improve the overall infrastructure. Scheduled for completion in September 2024, the work will include masonry repairs on the deteriorated serpentinite stone, restoring windows and roof replacement, as well as renovating the building systems and interior, and installing new elevators and all-gender restrooms.

Some other notable projects include:

• The addition of new floors totaling 210,000 gsf to an existing tower at 3600 Civic Center Boulevard to provide much-needed laboratory space and a vivarium for the Perelman School of Medicine. Though less “sexy,” this $343 million project is the largest currently underway, Kocent noted.

• In athletics, renovations to the newly named Burk-Bergman Boathouse—including accessibility improvements and new amenities, restoration of the upper-level grand hall, creation of locker rooms with equal space for men’s and women’s teams, and façade work—were completed in summer 2022. Ongoing projects include a $27 million slate of improvements to locker room, meeting, equipment, and other spaces at Franklin Field, expected to be fully complete by next March, and the Ott Center for Track and Field, scheduled for completion in August 2024. That $69.4 million project, behind the Hollenback Center near the South Street Bridge, will include an indoor running track, throwing area, and seating for 990 spectators.

• A six-story office building is going up at the corner of 40th and Walnut streets, where a 24-hour McDonald’s had long held pride of place before being demolished. A new McDonald’s will return to the ground floor when construction is complete, through a condo agreement that gave them ownership of the space when Penn bought the land.

As Magill and her administration digest the findings of the Red and Blue Advisory Committee and move toward developing Penn’s next strategic plan, and deans new and old set out their priorities for the future, more announcements will no doubt be forthcoming. In the meantime, recently unveiled projects include a new theater addition on Annenberg Plaza (“Gazetteer,” Nov|Dec 2022), a new student performing arts center to be built along Woodland Walk and 33rd Street (inset), and a renovation of the former Morgan Hall along 34th Street to provide additional space for the Weitzman School of Design. And maybe a few more that we’ve missed.

“You sort of can’t stop,” said Kocent. —JP
A pair of $10 million gifts from University alumni will bolster the college experience for international students and aspiring healthcare entrepreneurs beginning this fall.

In May, Daniel Sundheim W’99 and his wife Brett Sundheim C’01 gave $9 million to create the Sundheim International Scholars Fund, which will provide scholarship aid for international students at Penn Arts & Sciences with demonstrated financial need, and an additional $1 million to launch the Sundheim Penn First Plus International Opportunity Fund. That fund will provide resources for experiences including summer internships, research programs, and academic courses for international students who are also involved in Penn First Plus (P1P), Penn’s hub to support students who are the first in their families to pursue a four-year baccalaureate degree or come from modest financial circumstances.

“Brett and I recognize that even with significant financial aid, certain elements of the Penn undergraduate experience will remain out of reach for aided international students,” Daniel Sundheim, founder and chief investment officer of the global investment firm D1 Capital, said in the release. “That’s why we established the Sundheim P1P International Opportunity Fund to help eligible students afford to participate in the kinds of important out-of-the-classroom experiences that so meaningfully augment a Penn education.”

The Sundheims previously supported student financial aid at Penn by establishing the Sundheim Family Scholarship in 2009. They have both served on the board of advisors at Penn’s Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA), where they’ve also endowed the Daniel and Brett Sundheim Chief Curator position.

“Attracting the most talented students from around the globe and providing the resources for them to thrive, regardless of their financial situations, is a key priority for Penn,” University President Liz Magill said. “We are extraordinarily grateful to Brett and Dan Sundheim for their shared commitment to increasing educational access and the impact they will have on generations of students.”

The following month, Magill and Wharton Dean Erika James announced a $10 million gift to establish the Robin S. Wolpow and Marc B. Wolpow W’80 Fund for Healthcare Entrepreneurship at Venture Lab, Penn’s center for student entrepreneurship housed inside Tangen Hall on 40th and Sansom Streets.

The Wolpows’ gift, facilitated through the Arbour Way Foundation (which the Wolpows established to support health equity, educational opportunity, reproductive rights, and environmental defense), will “provide the resources for students and faculty to develop, test, and scale more of their innovative ideas to have a long-lasting impact on healthcare.”

Sarah Banet-Weiser has been named dean of the Annenberg School for Communication, effective August 14.

The Lauren Berland Professor of Communication at Annenberg, Banet-Weiser is the founding director of the Center for Collaborative Communication, a partnership between Penn’s Annenberg School and the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, where she was a member of the faculty for 19 years and served in administrative roles. She was also head of the London School of Economics and Political Science’s media and communications department from 2018 to 2021.

In the announcement, Penn President Liz Magill called Banet-Weiser a “visionary leader and a deeply respected voice in the field of communication … [whose] record of accomplishment and leadership makes her the ideal person to lead Annenberg into its next era of excellence.”

Banet-Weiser’s discipline-crossing research focuses on how women, communities of color, and youth use media and engage in politics. She’s written or edited eight books, most recently coauthoring Believability: Sexual Violence, Media, and the Politics of Doubt (2013), which explores the convergence of the #MeToo movement and the crisis of post-truth.

A fellow of the International Communication Association (ICA), Banet-Weiser has received several awards, including the ICA Outstanding Book Award for Authentic™: The Politics of Ambivalence in a Brand Culture (2012) and the Mellon Graduate Student Mentoring Award.

“This is a moment of great importance and excitement in the field of communication and media, when thinking globally has never been more urgent, when political divisions and affiliations are shaped and enhanced by information and data, when we all inhabit an ever-changing world of media and culture, when we need to create policy about health practices, the climate crisis, and beyond,” Banet-Weiser said. “I could ask for nothing more than to work with the brilliant faculty, staff, students, and alumni of Annenberg on tackling the important issues of our time.”

Banet-Weiser succeeds John L. Jackson Jr., who was Annenberg’s dean for four years before becoming Penn’s provost on June 1 (”Gazetteer,” May|Jun 2023). Michael X. Delli Carpini C’75 G’75, the Oscar H. Gandy Emeritus Professor of Communication and Democracy and a former dean of the school, then briefly served in the role on an interim basis until Banet-Weiser took over.

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Curriculum

New Majors and Concentrations at Wharton

The School’s DEI and ESGB programs will better prepare students for a changing workplace.

Facing public pressure since the onset of the pandemic and the summer of racial unrest in 2020, many companies finetuned or created from scratch DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) policies and ESG (environmental, social, and governance) initiatives.

To better prepare business students entering or returning to a transforming workplace, the Wharton School announced the introduction of two new curricula designations to debut this fall semester. The School’s Environmental, Social and Governance Factors for Business (ESGB) and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) programs will function as either a concentration at the undergraduate level or a major at the MBA level—and will see their first students graduate in May 2025.

“There’s a growing awareness that issues like these affect business decisions and the bottom line,” said Witold J. Henisz, vice dean and faculty director of Wharton’s ESG Initiative. “We were looking for a way to signal that the questions around them might merit further study. So in July 2022, the School began a close examination of student programming to try to build on the strengths that were already there and to identify logical opportunities for expansion.”

In a recent Deloitte survey of more than 22,000 Gen Zs and millennials—cohorts that will make up more than 60 percent of the workforce by 2025—more than half reported researching a brand’s societal impact and environmental sustainability policies before accepting a job. Meanwhile, a recent Nasdaq report showed a significant leap in the number of companies getting ESG-related questions on their earnings calls, including requests on climate transition plans and sustainability efforts.

Wharton—which has noticed that recruiters are seeking graduates with ESG skills, particularly on behalf of financial and consulting organizations—first made a move in this direction in 2018 when it unveiled a similar major in Business, Energy, Environment and Sustainability (BEES), which “proved very successful,” Henisz said. “These new offerings are a broadening of that major as part of an effort by Dean [Erika H.] James to recognize these critical new opportunities for business research and pedagogy.” In general, BEES and the new ESGG and Social and Governance Factors for Busi-
ness (SOGO) majors are all designed to “provide in-depth foundations for those interested in the complex relationships between business and the natural environment … and the ways in which firms incorporate ESG factors into their governance,” according to the Wharton website.

The new program incorporates 30 or so relevant courses—such as Henisz’s own Corporate Diplomacy, which looks at the financial significance of ESG factors, and Corrine Low’s Economics of Diversity and Discrimination—that are already offered. “When we looked at this suite of existing offerings, we saw a way to signal to potential and current students that there’s a significant body of material that merits study,” Henisz said.

A similar trajectory led to the introduction of the DEI major, according to Stephanie Creary, an assistant professor of management and Faculty Fellow of the Coalition for Equity & Opportunity. When Creary arrived at Wharton in 2017 it was to teach Leading Diversity in Organizations, a course she created. Over the years, the students “have changed from being mildly interested in the topic for personal reasons to those who want to go into DEI roles in their professional lives,” she said. “That’s especially the case with the MBAs, who want to become better managers.”

And while DEI has been around for decades, it’s only in the last few years that corporations have developed roles such as chief diversity officers. Yet while LinkedIn reported 168.9 percent growth in hires for chief diversity positions between 2019 and 2022, there has since been a drop-off in such opportunities as companies look to shed costs (and as some company’s diversity efforts have been dragged into culture wars, with Bud Light, for instance, seeing a major drop in sales after a collaboration with a trans-gender influencer sparked a right-wing boycott).

“My students began to want to learn more beyond my class,” Creary said. “First, they wanted a required DEI course, then they started asking for a major.” In 2020, Creary reached out to alumni for their input based on the classes they had taken while at Wharton. Together she and the former students began drafting a skeleton of a curriculum. “We shared our thoughts with the management department and they took the lead on gauging interest school-wide. After they saw broad support from other departments, the idea moved on to the curriculum committee.”

As is the case with the ESG majors, no new DEI courses have been added but include courses like Kevin Werbach’s Big Data, Big Responsibilities and Creary’s and Low’s classes. “Many of our past students have taken these courses,” Creary said. “What’s new is that there’s now an acknowledgment that this [track] exists and there’s a mechanism in place to let new students know that it’s something they can pursue.”

—JoAnn Greco

Insulin by the Leaf
Penn Dental’s Henry Daniell inches closer to the elusive dream of oral insulin.

Ever since the first injection of insulin in 1922, scientists have been trying to figure out how to administer the blood-sugar-regulating hormone in a swallowable form. The history of that quest, as one researcher put it in a late-20th-century appraisal, has been one of “great ambition and continuous failure.” So the treatment of diabetes has long relied on subcutaneous injection, whose drawbacks range from high cost and needle phobia to weight gain and dangerous hypoglycemia.

For more than 15 years, Henry Daniell, the W.D. Miller Professor at Penn’s School of Dental Medicine, has been producing proinsulin (and other therapeutic molecules) within the leaves of genetically engineered lettuce plants (“The Lettuce Cure,” May|Jun 2014)—and this summer his team inched one step closer to treating diabetes with a simple pill.

In a study on diabetic mice, Daniell and Penn Dental colleagues showed that their lettuce-based proinsulin regulated blood sugar quite similarly to the way naturally secreted insulin does in healthy mice. After a 15-minute lag as the freeze-dried lettuce powder passed through the stomach to the
small intestine, where gut microbes can cleave the plant cell walls to release the pro-insulin within, the diabetic mice regulated their blood sugar without triggering the hypoglycemia characteristic of basic injections—the most common treatment method for most of the world’s roughly 500 million diabetes sufferers, for whom advanced insulin pumps are prohibitively expensive.

In addition to containing all three peptides that are present in natural insulin—one of which is missing from current clinical formulations—the lettuce-based proinsulin was delivered from the gut to the liver, where it appeared to function much the way naturally secreted insulin does. That would explain the happy lack of hypoglycemia, which can occur when insulin is injected directly into the bloodstream. Yet that very biological advantage poses a challenge in drug development because the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) typically demands evidence of a therapeutic agent’s bioavailability—that is, its measurable presence in the circulatory system.

The bioavailability problem has dogged oral insulin development for decades. But Daniell derives cautious optimism from the FDA’s 2020 approval of Palforzia, a treatment for peanut allergy.

When evaluating that agent, which is essentially a minute quantity of defatted peanut flour, “the FDA asked the same question,” Daniell notes. “And the peanut allergy guys from Duke, in the clinical trial, said that the level is so low that you cannot detect it in [blood] plasma.” Although Palforzia has been a commercial disappointment, the regulatory precedent it set could be important, says Daniell. “It’s an example where the FDA has accepted that you don’t have to measure the quantity in the plasma in order to win approval.

Another of the FDAs classic concerns has been about the purity of therapeutic agents. Injectable insulin, for instance, is typically produced via yeasts or bacteria that must be removed, as potentially toxic impurities, from the end product. Indeed, that purification process is one reason clinical insulin is so expensive. Under the traditional paradigm, the lettuce cells containing Daniell’s proinsulin could also be viewed as impurities. Yet purifying them out would undercut a critical part of the delivery system, since the lettuce cell walls are precisely what protect the proinsulin cargo from destruction by stomach acids.

On that front, Daniell takes heart from a regulatory triumph of his own. Last year he led a large team of researchers in a study demonstrating that a chewing gum containing lettuce-produced molecular agents could trap and potentially neutralize the SARS-CoV-2 virus in saliva. On the strength of a preclinical study, the FDA approved the gum for a Phase I/II clinical trial—effectively blessing the presence of lettuce cell material in another precedent that Daniell hopes will help the cause of his oral insulin approach.

“Oral insulin still faces significant hurdles. Many previous studies have found that its effectiveness varies widely between subjects. The non-standard nature of the gut microbiome, which can vary from one person to another, poses a challenge for a delivery method that relies on gut bacteria. And oral insulin’s potential interactions with other food and drink represent another complication.

Yet this treatment’s apparent similarity to the action of naturally secreted insulin is a welcome step forward. And...
the lettuce-based platform has another attraction. Past attempts to develop oral insulin have failed to advance to the clinic “because of low bioavailability and the 50- to 100-fold higher insulin dose requirement” compared to injections, the researchers noted in their study, published in the July issue of the scientific journal *Biomaterials*. “But this concern is addressed by the low cost of insulin produced in plant cells,” they added. Daniell has also demonstrated that his lettuce-produced proinsulin remains pharmacologically active and shelf-stable for a year at ambient temperature. “This offers, for the first time, the ability to transport insulin to remote villages in the globe that lack cold storage and transportation facilities,” he says.

Daniell now aims to move from mice to canines and humans with Type 2 diabetes. Oral insulin remains a great ambition, but with a bit of luck perhaps a century of “continuous failure” will one day be overcome, stepwise progress. —TP

**Food Meets Photography**

West Philly high school students got a taste of food culture and visual storytelling during a Penn Museum pilot program.

Despite the humidity, some 250 revelers gathered in the courtyard of the Penn Museum for one of its popular Garden Jams in late July. They listened to an Afro-centric drumming group and noshed on offerings from several ethnic food trucks. Inside, they meandered through a special exhibition called “Ancient Food & Flavor.” Meanwhile, serving as “station guides” for the exhibition on what ancient communities were growing, eating, and drinking were several pairs of ebullient teenagers who were telling museum visitors about their own relationships with food.

“Our food journey is about sugar,” Kobe, a 10th grader, said. “I knew that just about everything we eat has sugar, but I had no idea that it comes from a plant called sugar cane and that some people chew on it and spit it out.” Her schoolmate, Samaar, relayed a story about his mom’s baking. “Mmmmmm, so goooood,” he said, puffing out his cheeks in memory of stuffing his mouth with chocolate chip cookies. “She would try to stop me from eating so much. She’d go, ‘Calm down, they’re not that good.’”

Those lighthearted interactions with museumgoers were just a part of “Your Food Story,” a partnership between the museum, Sayre High School, the Netter Center, the Agatston Urban Nutrition Initiative (AUNI), and the TILT Institute of the Contemporary Image. The multifaceted six-week summer program brought together 12 Sayre students for field trips and conversations about photography, food culture, and museum research. The pilot aimed to introduce these West Philadelphia students—several of whom were already engaged in an urban gardening project through AUNI—to topics ranging from how museum exhibitions are created, to what kinds of museum careers are open to them, to our connections to food and the past, to the craft of visual storytelling.

“In doing an analysis of the new audiences we were looking to engage, the big one was teens, especially our West Philadelphia youth,” said Tia Jackson-Truitt, the Penn Museum’s inaugural chief diversity officer. “We had already reached 40,000 middle school students through our wildly successful in-school ‘Unpacking the Past’ program [‘Gazetteer,’ Jan/Feb 2015] and we wanted to continue with that pipeline to keep older kids engaged by figuring out what interests them.”

The special exhibition that went up this summer provided the hook they were looking for. “Our food journey is about sugar,” Kobe, a 10th grader, said. “I knew that just about everything we eat has sugar, but I had no idea that it comes from a plant called sugar cane and that some people chew on it and spit it out.” Her schoolmate, Samaar, relayed a story about his mom’s baking. “Mmmmmm, so goooood,” he said, puffing out his cheeks in memory of stuffing his mouth with chocolate chip cookies. “She would try to stop me from eating so much. She’d go, ‘Calm down, they’re not that good.’”

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The special exhibition that went up this summer provided the hook they were looking for, added Jennifer Brehm, the museum’s director of learning and community engagement. “Food is a great connector, an experience that we all have and enjoy,” she said.

For a final project, the organizers decided to mount a photography exhibition at the museum in mid-August for Sayre students and their...
families, before transferring it to Sayre for installation. “One young woman took a photo of ginger and then talked about how even honey didn’t make it taste better when it was presented as a remedy in her West Indian culture,” Brehm said.

The installation only had room for one photo per student, Brehm continued, “so although we’re encouraging them to take their cameras everywhere, it may be that they share their story in writing, with just an image of a single plant. We want them to have agency.”

The teenagers’ shyness didn’t seem to hamper their creativity. At the late-July museum event, Kobe and Samaar giggled excitedly as they discussed the photo submission that they’d staged and shot: an AriZona juice bottle that they’d thirstily drained then refilled with a small pile of granulated sugar representing the rough sugar content of the drink. “We’re so glad we picked this ingredient,” Samaar said. “What could be more fun to research?”

For Jackson-Truitt, such sugary sentiments have been music to her ears. “We hope they learn life skills and career readiness,” she said. “But primarily, we want them to use their voice, even if it shakes. Ultimately my intention is to make this museum and the campus feel welcoming to everyone. We want to attract people who can see themselves in the collection: indigenous, African Americans, all of the voices of the community.”

—JuAnn Greco

Uncharted Waters

Swimmer Matt Fallon makes history at the World Aquatic Championships, blazing a trail toward the 2024 Olympics.

Matt Fallon had three modest goals when he arrived in Fukuoka, Japan, in late July for the World Aquatics Championships. “Swim fast, take in the experience, and have fun,” Fallon said after cruising through a preliminary heat of the men’s 200-meter breaststroke.

He wound up exceeding that humble bar by some distance. Fallon left Japan with a bronze medal in the 200 breast with a time of 2 minutes, 7.74 seconds, becoming the first Penn swimmer to medal at the World Championships.

“I’m very happy with it,” Fallon said in Fukuoka. “This entire trip has just been kind of an adjustment, and even though I didn’t feel the best in that race and I definitely feel I have faster times in the tank, that was definitely a very good swim overall. And I was just grateful that I was able to get it done for Team USA.”

Still only halfway through his college swimming career, Fallon has quickly entered rarefied air on the national scene. His swim was .03 seconds off his best time, set at June’s US National Championships, which served as the qualification meet for Worlds.

That time of 2.07.71 is the 10th fastest among American breaststrokers, hot on the heels of the national record set by Josh Prenot (2:07.17) in 2016. Fallon won the 200 breast and was fourth in the 100 at nationals, after having won a national title last summer in the 200.

In Japan, Fallon finished behind the world’s two fastest men in the event. China’s Qin Haiyang won the race in 2:05.48, becoming the first individual to win all three distances of the same stroke (50, 100 and 200 meters) at the same World Championships. The swimmer whose world record he seized, Australia’s Zac Stubblety-Cook, finished second in 2:06.40.

Fallon was in eighth place after the first 100 meters with Stubblety-Cook in sixth, before both relied on superior closing speed in the back half to make up the distance. “It doesn’t make me feel like I’m
totally in the back,” Fallon said. “I was very happy to be next to him in all three races, and I kind of look up to him not only as someone to race against but ever since he set the world record.”

The bronze culminated an up-and-down 18 months for Fallon. The Warren, New Jersey, native burst onto the scene at the NCAA Championships as a freshman in 2022. He earned a bronze medal in the 200 breast, setting an Ivy League record. He also finished 10th in the 100 breast, having already set a Penn program record at the Ivy Championships.

Fallon parlayed that into a strong summer, though he opted to take time off from swimming instead of trying to qualify in June for the 2022 World Championships. His mental and physical reset paid off at July’s US national championships, where he won the title in the 200 breast and finished second in the 100.

But a back injury short-circuited his sophomore season, as he failed to qualify for NCAAs or defend his Ivy League crowns. His time in the 100 breast at the conference meet was more than a second off the pace of the previous year, and his 200 breast time was four seconds slower than at NCAAs in 2022.

With his back now healed, Fallon is hoping the lighter workload may help him prepare to qualify for the 2024 Olympics. “I think it helped me in the long run,” he said.

Following the end of his sophomore year, Fallon stayed with Penn teammate Daniel Gallagher for a short training camp in Georgia, where he got a crash course in the Olympic long-course distance (as opposed to the short-course pools used in college competitions). “I put in some good long-course training where I’m just focused on swimming for two months,” Fallon said, “so that was a good thing to have under my belt.”

Fallon now makes the turn toward an Olympic year as one of the top American male breaststrokers in both the 100 and 200. The former comes with a chance to swim in the medley relay—which has traditionally been as close to a guaranteed gold medal as exists in swimming. (The US has won every gold in the event at a non-boycotted Games since 1960.)

Fallon’s trajectory to elite American swimming seems unusual, but it’s getting less so. He was one of six male swimmers from New Jersey on Team USA in Fukuoka, all of whom earned at least one medal. Hailing from the Mid-Atlantic region and the Ivy League is a unique distinction that Fallon carries with pride.

“It shows that no matter where you’re from, if you put in the training, you’ll be able to achieve your dreams,” he said. “There are definitely different college teams that can obviously help you with your training, and they have programs that are very conducive, but it’s about finding what’s right for you. And I think everything that I have is what’s best for me, and I’m going to continue with it.”

—Matthew De George

A Blanket and a Bond

A reunion gift, from one Class of ’73 standout swimmer to another.

Mary Ellen Olcese CW’73 didn’t know what to say when she looked inside a bag Ted Kriebel C’73 GEd’75 handed her during their 50th reunion lunch in May. “I really was flustered,” Olcese recalls.

Inside the bag, neatly folded, was a red blanket bearing blue stripes and a big “P” beneath three stars. Kriebel had received it from the Penn athletic department 50 years ago to mark his participation on Penn’s varsity men’s swimming team.

Olcese, a standout member of the Penn women’s team, was not given one of her own when she graduated. That’s because the University did not consider athletic team representation when she graduated. That’s because the University did not consider women’s athletics at Penn.

Listening in, and “shocked at the disparity” between men’s and women’s sports at the time, Kriebel vowed to surprise Olcese with his blanket at their reunion—even though the two classmates hadn’t seen each other since graduating. So before heading with his wife to campus from their home in Virginia (to attend a Penn reunion for the first time, he notes), he transferred his blanket from a closet into a gift bag with a plan to track Olcese down at their picnic tent outside of College Hall.

“You should have seen her face,” Kriebel recalls. “It was like she had gotten a diamond ring. She just sparkled. She could not believe it.” Since Kriebel had kept the blanket in plastic wrapping all these years, “it was in beautiful shape,” says Olcese, who attended the reunion with her sister Janet Olcese PT’70, her daughter Maura Olcese C’08, and her baby grandson. “It looked like it was brand new.”

A member of the Penn Athletics Hall of Fame, Olcese certainly had an athletic career that warranted recogni-
tion. She’d been a renowned swimmer well before arriving at Penn, setting national age group records in the butterfly and backstroke as well as a world record in the 440-yard individual medley as a 14-year-old (which the New York Times wrote up in an August 22, 1965, article). “The biggest disappointment of my young life,” she says, was failing to qualify for the 1968 Olympics. At that point she turned her attention to college, though “swimming was not dictating where I was going to go,” Olcese notes.

surprised that a Penn coach was not sent to accompany them. “We had to travel with West Chester’s swim team as our chaperones,” she says. Over the next three years not much improved for the women’s swimming team, which was not yet a member of the Ivy League and mostly competed in dual meets against nearby schools like West Chester (the big powerhouse at the time), Swarthmore, and Ursinus.

“Swimming for women on the college level at that time was pretty sparse,” says Olcese, who was the team’s captain and MVP in 1972 and 1973. “I was a distance swimmer, but on the college level they only offered 50s and 100s, which was not my forte.” She did receive a bathing suit—but not a sweatsuit, she recalls. “They covered our travel, gave us some orange slices, but there was not a whole lot of expense.”

Following the passage of Title IX in 1972, women’s athletics began to resemble the men’s game more closely ("Century Club," Jul|Aug 2021). A few years after Olcese graduated, the Ivy League began to include women’s swimming, and a few years after that women’s national championships became a part of the NCAA program. Olcese, who went into coaching after graduating, enjoyed seeing that growth but always felt something was missing, even after her induction into the Penn Athletics Hall of Fame 20 years ago. (Based on a conversation with field hockey and lacrosse star Julie Staver CW’74 G’82, she believes women may have begun to receive varsity blankets the year after she graduated, though the tradition was discontinued for men and women alike at some point thereafter.) That’s why it was so meaningful to receive the blanket from Kriebel—a standout swimmer in his own right who helped Penn capture an Ivy League and an Eastern regional championship in 1971 and was part of the Quakers’ Ivy-winning 800-yard freestyle relay team that year.

“It’s really not the physical thing itself, though I do love it,” Olcese says. “It’s Ted’s recognition of the blanket as an important thing to me—because it was the acknowledgement of a swimming career. That’s what touched me so much.”

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USA Champ, Times Two

Two of the most accomplished Penn athletes of the last decade continued to make their mark on the national stage.

At the 2023 USA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in July, both Nia Akins Nu’20 GNu’20 and Sam Mattis W’16 brought home titles. In a thrilling race at Eugene, Oregon’s Hayward Field, Akins came from behind and outkicked Olympic medalist Raevyn Rogers on the final straightaway to win the 800-meter national championship in 1:59.50. Akins, a record-setting middle-distance runner during her time at Penn, had already won the USA indoor 800 title in February and qualified for the US team that will compete at the World Athletics Championship in Budapest in late August (held after this magazine went to press).

Mattis also qualified for Worlds by winning the men’s discus title with a throw of 216 feet, 3 inches (65.93 meters). It was the second US title for Mattis, who captured one in 2019 and also won the 2015 NCAA championship while at Penn.

Mattis came in eighth place in the discus at the last Summer Olympics ("Quakers in Tokyo," Sep|Oct 2021) and has said he has his sights set on another Olympic run in 2024. —DZ
The midcourt line of a high school gymnasium probably isn’t the first place you’d go looking for a heralded composer’s world premiere. But late last spring, it formed the epicenter of an absorbing new work by Tyshawn Sorey: *Be Holding*, a site-specific piece designed for the century-old Armory at North Philadelphia’s Girard College.

Dusk was descending, a blue-black filtering through the Armory windows, as lead performers David Gaines and Yolanda Wisher came to a pivotal point in the libretto—a book-length poem by Ross Gay, also titled *Be Holding*, that builds a rhapsody out of Julius Erving’s iconic reverse layup in the 1980 NBA Finals. “What’s my study?” Gaines recited, a touch of urgency in his voice. “What’s my practice? What are we trading in? What are we looking at? My arms now cutting circles in the air.”

At that cue, five Girard College high school students joined Gaines and Wisher in coordinated movement—darting back and forth, sneakers chirping on the parquet floor, as they each crooked an arm above their heads. Then, a sonic boom: the furious wallop of a bass drum, timpani, and bongos from the new-music quartet Yarn/Wire. Up to this point, *Be Holding*’s musical score had been all about shifting resonance and eerie dissonance, a subtle backdrop for the lyrical flights of the poem. So the cacophony startled like a jump scare in a horror film, thundering mightily within the cavernous dimensions of the gym.

*Be Holding* emerged from a multiyear collaboration between Gay and Yarn/Wire along with director Brooke O’Harra, who has been on Penn’s Theatre Arts faculty since 2016, and Sorey, who came to Penn in 2020 as a Presidential Assistant Professor of Music. Gay, speaking courtside, marveled at how the artists had all inhabited and enlarged his poem over time. “There were these moments of stillness and quiet in the beginning of the process, as they were learning how each other work,” he said, recalling some early rehearsals. “And I was like, ‘Oh, that’s how you learn how to think together—in this kind of silence.’ And that was really moving to me. That was beautiful.”

The heart of that stillness was Sorey, who embodied the same quality during the premiere—bearing silent witness in his trademark black hoodie from a folding chair beside the bleachers. O’Harra, reflecting on the alchemy of their work together, later mused: “It wasn’t until I was sitting with him watching the show that I could fully see what he made, in a way.” Watching Sorey watch *Be Holding*, it was possible to visualize that absolute faith in an emerging picture, along with the quiet intensity of his listening.

As the raucous explosion in the piece subsided, giving way to a shimmer of overtones—a brush of mallets on a vibraphone, blending with a barely struck gong—Gaines reached a passage in Gay’s poem that hails “the black pull of genius.” The line jumped out as a fitting encomium for Sorey, who has been honored with a MacArthur Fellowship (commonly known as the “Genius Grant”) as well as a United...
States Artists Fellowship and a slate of prestigious commissions. His music has been praised as “awesome confounding” by the august New Yorker classical critic Alex Ross, partly because of its refusal to conform to expectation or category.

That last part is important, because even as Sorey, at 43, has ascended to an exalted tier of prominence among new music composers, he’s also solidified his stature as one of the most thrilling drummer-bandleaders in jazz. And for the last few years, he’s been just as busy outside of public view, shaping a culture in Penn’s music department that aspires to the same voracious, capacious imagination found in all of his work.

Sorey lives with his wife Amanda Scherbenske, an ethnomusicologist who also lectures at Penn, and their two young daughters on the Philadelphia Main Line, a short drive from campus. The week before Be Holding, we met at a Havertown coffee shop where he often camps out to compose. The imposing figure that Sorey cuts onstage—a mountain of a man, clad head-to-toe in black, brow furrowed in monastic concentration—softens considerably in person. He’s gregarious, thoughtful, and approachable, not one to give off airs. (On this day, his phone pinged with news of a hassle on the home front: a busted appliance had led to a minor plumbing emergency.)

At one point in our conversation, I half-apologetically raised the subject of musical taxonomy—all those genre terms he’s taken pains to shrug off or ignore. “What the music is depends on who the listener is,” he said, with a certain equanimity. “For me, I’m a listener who’s curious not only about the music that I’m playing, but all music in general. So terms like jazz—or even terms like improvisation—carry so much historical baggage and negative connotations that I feel shouldn’t align with what I’m doing.”

Sorey was born in Newark, New Jersey, in 1980, just as the crack epidemic was beginning to exact its brutal toll on the city. His parents separated when he was three, and he spent some of his childhood in a housing project. His musical education came where he could find it: on the weathered piano at his grandmother’s Catholic church; over the FM dial, via public radio stations WKCR and WBGO; in the elementary school band, where he played the trombone. But percussive was always in the picture: he clattered on pots and pans until his grandfather scraped up enough to buy him a drum set, around age 12.

At Newark Arts High, and later William Paterson University, Sorey immersed himself in the jazz tradition—meaning not only the work of canonical modernists like Charlie Parker and Miles Davis but also avant-garde mavericks like the pianist Cecil Taylor and multireedist and composer Anthony Braxton. He also delved into the work of 20th century classical modernists like Karlheinz Stockhausen and Morton Feldman. And he began to circulate on the scene in New York, most visibly with the pianist and composer Vijay Iyer. This was the context in which I first encountered Sorey more than 20 years ago, playing drums in Iyer’s trio at the Greenwich Village jazz club Sweet Rhythm.

“He was still a kid,” recalled Iyer—a MacArthur “genius” himself, lauded recording artist, and now a tenured faculty member at Harvard—of those early gigs with Sorey. “I remember [pianist] Michele Rosewoman saying at the time, ‘Tyshawn is still just figuring out how to be.’ I think we all are, around that time in our lives. But he was already, I knew, one of the greatest artists I would ever know: one of the greatest musical minds, and one of the greatest performers of all time. I just felt like I could do anything with him, that he could do anything, and that whatever we did together, he would always make it shine.”

Sorey went on to distinguish himself in groups led not only by Iyer, but also the saxophonists Steve Coleman and Steve Lehman—as well as Fieldwork, a collective trio with Lehman and Iyer featuring music by all three members. Even in a jazz era full of dazzling drummers, Sorey stood out for the acuity of his playing: his ability to combine multiple pulses in a sort of vortex; the rare power and velocity at his disposal, handled so casually as to seem an afterthought; and his way of reconciling fiery abandon with a careful, almost dainty attentiveness to texture and tone.

His own recent output has engaged in earnest with the jazz idiom, notably on a surprising pair of albums released in 2022: Mesmerism, a gemlike studio release by an acoustic piano trio; and The Off-Off Broadway Guide to Synergism, an ecstatic three-disc testament of a quartet residency at The Jazz Gallery in New York, with a distinguished elder, Greg Osby, on alto saxophone. Both albums feature the virtuoso pianist Aaron Diehl, who has a reputation as a fastidious steward of jazz and classical traditions. Sorey, who had never played with Diehl before the recording session for Mesmerism, found an instant affinity rooted in their mutual commitment to precision and aversion to stereotype. “He’s like a brother to me, basically,” Sorey said.

His recent turn toward songbook standards in a swinging time feel would hardly seem revolutionary, if not for the precedent that Sorey set with his work. He recalls writing his own combo music in the mid-2000s and realizing that it sounded a lot like the rhythmically assertive, harmonically restive music he’d been playing with Lehman and Iyer. That hint of mind-meld was affirming but also limiting, Sorey felt. “I wanted to do something that was completely different,” he said, recalling the desire to establish his own signature as a composer and bandleader. The result, beginning with his 2007 album That/Not and extending to Oblique-I and others, was a style that put combustible action and watchful quiet on a conceptually equal footing.

“It’s this state of consciousness that you enter where anything that happens is allowed,” Sorey explained. “And any-
thing that happens is full of intent, and integrity, and full of, um, chutzpah.” He laughed at his choice of words, then quickly added: “Like, it's all there, no matter whether you're playing a single note for four minutes, or you're playing a bunch of notes. It’s really the intent that 100 percent has to be there.”

Sorey intensified this conviction during his studies at Wesleyan, where he earned a master’s in music composition and was mentored by Anthony Braxton. He then studied composition under trombonist, composer, and electronic music pioneer George Lewis at Columbia University, earning a doctor of musical arts degree. Both Braxton and Lewis are members of the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians, an organization committed to sustaining new original work independent of market considerations or presumptions of style. (Lewis’ 2008 book A Power Stronger Than Itself: The A.A.C.M. and Experimental Music is an essential resource.)

At Columbia, Sorey ran up against a prevailing culture of academic composition. As in many ivory tower music departments—including Penn’s, in a previous era—there was a tradition of venerating grand theoreticians who create the music but would prefer not to get their hands dirty playing it. For Sorey, who was onstage with Iyer at The Village Vanguard the night before defending his doctoral dissertation, this seemed exactly backwards.

“I’m happy to be part of a generation that is turning that around,” Sorey said, “and part of an institutional model that

“Tyshawn has unbelievable ears. He hears the truth in you that you haven’t yet heard.”
does away with that kind of old-school thinking—where a performer’s not a real composer, and a composer shouldn’t necessarily subject themselves to performing. We’re far removed from that now, and I thank people like George Lewis and Anthony Braxton for setting a precedent for this model.”

That precedent also entails a refusal to be painted into a genre corner—something Sorey has internalized completely. He recalls that when he first began working with the International Contemporary Ensemble, known as ICE, “I told them that I want to make music from a space where none of these genre names or divisions related to compositional performance existed in the first place.”

Flutist Claire Chase, the founding artistic director of ICE and one of the most galvanic figures in new music, maintains a collaboration with Sorey. “He’s such an important community builder,” she said after one of their concerts in New York. “I see him as this glue for so many different musical movements and energies that are afoot right now. And it is because he is wildly open-minded. That’s a very, very unusual quality for any composer to have, especially now. We’re so siloed and can become so blinded by our aesthetics and histories and successes. But Tyshawn has the most voracious musical appetite of any musician that I know. He is constantly listening to other people’s music.”

Sorey has channeled this openness back into his work, notably through a series of dedications that function as personal offerings. “For George Lewis,” a nearly hour-long piece that he recently composed for the ensemble Alarm Will Sound, captures a quality of patient permutation that marks Lewis’ own work. (“Bells toll in the piano as winds and strings stretch their notes to breathtaking lengths,” wrote NPR classical critic Tom Huizenga, describing the piece, “while chromatic chords twinkle like stars in the firmament.”) Sorey has created a series of other pieces with meaningful dedications, like “For Fred Lerdahl,” after the composer who served as his principal advisor at Columbia, and “For Arthur Jafa,” after the pioneering Black cinematographer and video artist.

These gestures stem from Sorey’s insistence on rooting his work in genuine emotion. “If there’s no emotional import there for me, I have to change it so that I can have some kind of feeling,” he said. “And it took many years of doing that to arrive at a place where I could touch on these inner feelings that I may have, be they related to politics or be they related to people who have had a tremendous influence on me.”

Hence the dedications, he added. “Or it could be for somebody I’m mourning, or wish I’d had more of a collaborative relationship with. I think that that’s especially inherent in the piece ‘For Jaimie Branch,’ because the two of us talked for quite some time about doing some sort of collaboration together.”

Branch, a brashly original trumpeter who straddled the new music and improv realms, died in 2022, at 39. The shock of her death led Sorey to compose a work in her honor. “It was like, ‘How do I convey this feeling that I get from listening to her music, but in a way that does not sound like her music?’” he said. It’s precisely the sort of puzzle that would seem to suit Sorey, who once named an album Koan, and seeks meaning in a play of irresolution and implication that many others might brush aside.

For Jaimie Branch” was a co-commission of TAK Ensemble, an experimental chamber quintet, and the New York Philharmonic, which presented its world premiere last December. TAK Ensemble spent 2022 as a Visiting Ensemble in Residence at Penn, and it was there, crowded into an upstairs classroom in Fisher-Bennett Hall, that the group held its final rehearsals of the piece.

Sorey occupied a chair near the door, while the ensemble members sat in a circle, making notes to his score on their iPads. TAK Ensemble had commissioned a previous piece by Sorey, “Ornations,” whose brisk formal convolutions and technical demands posed a formidable challenge. Jaimie Branch had been a friend to several of the group’s members, charging this new work with a different sort of difficulty.

But it was also clear, as the musicians worked through the piece, that “For Jaimie Branch” required immense proficiency and focus of its performers. Sorey set the piece at a glacial tempo, with soft expressions that often require an instrumentalist to sustain a timbre at the edge of their comfortable threshold.

Sorey, listening intently to the ensemble’s efforts, suggested the occasional alteration, like a tailor fitting a bespoke garment with a client. He offered to have soprano Charlotte Mundy move one note down an octave, for instance, if she couldn’t find the right sonority in her higher register. (She declined, resolving to preserve the integrity of the original idea.) Elsewhere in the piece, there’s a split tone on clarinet, achieved using multiphonic techniques and held for several long seconds.

“Is that hard to achieve at that dynamic?” Sorey asked the group’s clarinetist, Madison Greenstone, after hearing her struggle slightly with the part.

“It’s not,” Greenstone answered, sounding determined. “I mean, it is, but it’s not.”

Marina Kifferstein, TAK Ensemble’s violinist, later described another issue: “The pulse is so slow, it’s kind of like syncing our heart rates,” she said. “Being able to feel that extremely slow pulse together is very challenging and requires a tremendous amount of focus—which kind of speaks to the intention of the piece.”

Rehearsal ended with the first full run-through of “For Jaimie Branch”—and over the course of 18 minutes, TAK Ensemble fully embodied that ruminative intention. Like many of Sorey’s signature works, the piece involves a deep engagement with silence, and with a shifting of timbres as gradual as the lengthening of a shadow along a wall. Different members of the group took turns sustaining long tones, sometimes in a pinpoint dis-
sonance and sometimes in what felt like a prayerful attunement.

Remarkably, for a work so suffused with abstract gestures, the piece left an extraordinarily vivid emotional impression. After the final bar, the musicians seemed almost stunned, reluctant to let the moment pass. After a few seconds of weighted silence, Sorey cleared the air with a joke: “All we’re gonna do is mess it up Saturday,” he said, referring to the premiere. Amid relieved laughter, he quickly added: “Great work. Thank you so, so much. Great rehearsal today, and ... wow.” Moments later, he encased flutist Laura Cocks in a bear hug as she buried her face in his chest and wept, overcome by the grief made manifest in the music.

“I think that the most virtuosic thing that anybody can do, whether it’s in music or interpersonal relations, is to be vulnerable,” Cocks later reflected. “It takes concerted effort, and a lot of care. And I think Tyshawn’s music—especially what he’s been crafting over the last several years—really speaks to that kind of vulnerable virtuosity, and a very mature virtuosity. It’s such a privilege to play; I feel like to engage with it makes me a better person. It’s the kind of virtuosity that I hope we all aspire to.”

For Sorey, this mode of working is not just an antidote to the clinical nature of so much composition in the academy; it’s a way of anchoring himself in the world. “Whenever I’m working on music, I just have a tendency to tap into something that’s reflective,” he said. “I tend to have that feeling about a lot of things that I experience in life, and that I read about. So how do I write music that is reflective of these inner emotions, and these other feelings that maybe we don’t tend to engage with? It’s like: how do I get to that?”

The most ambitious manifestation of Sorey’s drive toward these unanswerable questions, at least up to this point, is Monochromatic Light (Afterlife), which he presented in two versions last year. Originally commissioned by the Rothko Chapel in Houston, along with the Houston performing arts organization DACAMERA, the piece evolved into a multimedia opus by the time it reached New York’s Park Avenue Armory last fall. In addition to Sorey’s haunting score, it grew to include abstract visual art on a monumental scale by the prominent painter Julie Mehretu, and a corps of contemporary “flex” dancers choreographed by Reggie “Regg Roc” Gray.

This ambitious, immersive staging had been designed in collaboration with legendary director Peter Sellars, who told me during rehearsals: “Every time I’ve heard Tyshawn’s piece—and I’ve heard it a few thousand times in the last eight months—I hear a different piece. I mean, Tyshawn’s music just constantly reaches you in different ways, and opens different portals in your depth of feeling and imagination and historical consciousness.”

Monochromatic Light (Afterlife) began as a double response of sorts: a tribute to the painter Mark Rothko’s abstract canvases made for the Rothko Chapel, and also a nod to Morton Feldman, who premiered his “Rothko Chapel” at the dedication in 1971. As a deep admirer of Feldman’s, Sorey embraced the challenge—choosing a similar instrumentation of viola, percussion, and chorus, though with piano in place of celesta. The commission happened to coincide with the coronavirus pandemic, and a summer of protest after the police killings of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, among others. Sorey found himself reaching for another layer of resonance; he swapped out Feldman’s soprano part for a bass-baritone, specifically the dynamic young singer Davóne Tines. “I’m thinking of our past history,” Sorey explained, “in terms of Black trauma and Black grief, having experienced centuries of this kind of violence towards us.”

At the Park Avenue Armory, where Monochromatic Light (Afterlife) sprawled to some 90 minutes, more than twice the length of its Houston premiere, Sorey was
making tweaks to his score up to a day or two before opening night. This seemed to unnerve some of the members of the Choir of Trinity Wall Street, though the other musicians—violist Kim Kashkashian, percussionist Steve Schick, and pianist Sarah Rothenberg, all elite musicians in their field—took it more in stride. Like Tines, they were committed to channeling Sorey’s personal truth through the work. “It is just staggering, what he holds inside of him,” marveled Rothenberg, who not only played the piano part in Monochromatic Light (Afterlife) but also commissioned it as the artistic director of DACAMERA. The piece joins a series of recent works by Sorey that reflect on the Black American experience—along with Perle Noire, an oratorio he wrote about the entertainer Josephine Baker, set to verse by the poet Claudia Rankine; and Cycles of My Being, a song cycle with lyrics by poet Terrance Hayes. (Both pieces, which respectively feature the soprano Julia Bullock and the tenor Lawrence Brownlee, were met with considerable acclaim.) “Doing the performances over and over,” Rothenberg said of Monochromatic Light (Afterlife), “I was struck by the idea that there was so much pain and intensity in the piece, but no anger or aggression. Tyshawn is a very special musician in terms of how deeply he lives inside music. His pieces are a kind of environment that one lives in.” That immersive quality, along with the way it encourages introspection, imbued the piece with a shimmering emotional power. It wound up as a finalist for the 2023 Pulitzer Prize in Music.

It’s important not to lose sight of the fact that Sorey’s forthrightness with feeling is braided with the highest degree of musical rigor—a quality whose meaning can change according to the context. Chase, the flutist, provided a perfect illustration when she mentioned “Bertha’s Lair,” a piece she commissioned Sorey to write in 2016, as a duet for percussion and contrabass flute. I witnessed a performance of this piece at the Ojai Music Festival in California not long after its creation; as written, it’s a difficult, dynamic work. “It’s gorgeous flute writing,” Chase said. But during a recent performance in New York, she added: “Just as we were walking out on stage, he said, ‘Forget the ink entirely. This is the piece. This piece now is just the two of us onstage together.’” Only the most supremely assured musician would be prepared to handle such a sudden shift, but Sorey knew that Chase would embrace the risk—along with the discipline of spontaneous composition that tends to more often get filed under “jazz.” She belongs to the growing contingent of classically trained musicians eager to work with these parameters. Regarding her overall rapport with Sorey, she enthused: “We meet in a space that is unknown to both of us until that very moment.”

Teaching, for Sorey, is a natural extension of his musical practice. Some of his early experience as an educator came more than a decade ago at the Banff International Workshop in Jazz and Creative Music, a summer program that Iyer led as artistic director. “I’d bring him every year,” Iyer recalled. “Every participant came to worship him, because he gave them so much, and because he really heard them as who they were.”

Iyer, who eventually got Sorey appointed as Banff’s co-artistic director, elaborated: “Tyshawn has unbelievable ears, so he hears the truth about everyone and everything. It can be almost a curse, but it becomes a blessing to everyone around him. Because of that, as an educator he’s unbelievably present for people, in a way that shakes them. He hears the truth in you that you haven’t yet heard. So that’s been beautiful to witness, too—to see him become the teacher that he is.”

Since his appointment at Penn in 2020, Sorey notes with satisfaction that the music department has seen an influx of students who are interested not only in composition as such but also so-called improvisation—you know, spontaneous composition and that sort of thing.” He has mentored a cohort of graduate composition students, including the cellist Erin Busch Gr’28 and the electronic musician James Díaz Gr’28. But he also works with undergraduates both in and out of the music department, in a man-
“You know, nothing can be played the same way twice, really, no matter how hard you try.”

Nate Chinen C’97 is the editorial director at WRTI, a contributor to NPR, and a music critic whose work has appeared in the New York Times, JazzTimes, Pitchfork, and the Village Voice. He is the author of Playing Changes: Jazz for the New Century and co-author of Myself Among Others: A Life in Music, the autobiography of impresario and producer George Wein. He writes a Substack newsletter on music and culture, The Gig.

The interaction of abstract concepts with tactile expression resurfaced clearly during performances of Be Holding, the multimedia piece at Girard College. Sorey presided over its staging during a typical whirlwind of activity for him: just before the premiere, he was in New York at the Long Play Festival, performing a Morton Feldman piece with pianist Conrad Tao.

He also had a new double album out: Continuing, a sequel to Mesmerism. It features just four songs, one on each side of an LP, composed by jazz titans like Wayne Shorter and Ahmad Jamal. Among the most “conventional” of Sorey’s albums, it reflects a new sense of freedom. “I don’t have anything to prove anymore,” he said. “And because my phone is not ringing from other musicians to play standards, why not make an opportunity where I not only do that, but also do it in a way that keeps me guessing?”

The week after Be Holding, Sorey took part in a residency of a different sort—with Iyer and Lehman, in a reunion of Fieldwork. The group, which hadn’t performed a proper engagement in a dozen years, settled in for three nights at Solar Myth, a new Philadelphia venue on South Broad Street, at the invitation of the presenting organization Ars Nova Workshop.

On the second night of the run, the room was packed solid as the members of the trio committed to a combustible yet selfless form of synergy. The music was a whirl of kinetic fury and dramatic incident, along with complex cyclical patterns that often rendered a melody in Cubist form. Each player shaped the sound, but Sorey had the most colorful expressive range: rubbing an open palm across the surface of his snare to create a frictive shudder; thrashing at his cymbals with both hands, his wrists like pistons. No matter how much of a rhythmic maelstrom he made, there was stoicism in his posture behind the drum set, as if he was engaged in a form of meditation.

The intensity of his physical outpouring in Fieldwork registered as something quite different from the power of his writing for Be Holding. That’s part of what makes him such a compelling figure, and why it’s worth remembering another creative truth he holds as self-evident. “To me it’s as if no work is ever finished,” he said. “You know, nothing can be played the same way twice, really, no matter how hard you try. The sound is not going to translate to the listener in the same kind of way.”

Whatever other considerations enter the making of a work, that last part is key. “It’s not about simply connecting the dots,” he said. “It’s really: How is this taking care of the listener? How is this going to transform the listener?”

Nate Chinen C’97 is the editorial director at WRTI, a contributor to NPR, and a music critic whose work has appeared in the New York Times, JazzTimes, Pitchfork, and the Village Voice. He is the author of Playing Changes: Jazz for the New Century and co-author of Myself Among Others: A Life in Music, the autobiography of impresario and producer George Wein. He writes a Substack newsletter on music and culture, The Gig.
In April, the Penn Libraries’ Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts opened its third exhibition devoted to Ashley Bryan (1923–2022), an African American artist best known as an illustrator and writer of children’s books. After two smaller ones that catered largely to an online audience during the pandemic—one featuring mid-1960s protest drawings and another sampling his portrayals of women—the Kislak Center marked the centennial of Bryan’s birth with displays ranging from puppets to cut-paper collages to paintings he made while serving in the segregated US Army during World War II.

A bench in one corner of the Goldstein Family Gallery was piled with well-used copies of a dozen or so picture books: brightly illustrated collections of poetry, African folk tales, Black American spirituality, and sheet music geared to a child with a C-recorder, and slim volumes like *My America*, a kaleidoscopic paean to the diversity of US landscapes and citizens.

The exceptionally quiet Goldstein Family Gallery, which lone visitors frequently have all to themselves, is not a space given to people-watching. But it’s easy to imagine that many of those who came to “Beautiful Blackbird: The Creative Spirit of Ashley Bryan”—which ran through July 21—lingered with the picture books longer than they gazed into the richly varied glass display cases. Eight of Bryan’s books won Coretta Scott King Awards. He was honored in 2009 with the Laura Ingalls Wilder Medal for “lasting contributions to children’s literature.” Encountering these color-daubed volumes in a university library registered as a rare treat.

Less rare, however, than it used to be. The Ashley Bryan exhibit, which drew from an archive donated to Penn Libraries in 2019, is emblematic of recent efforts by Penn librarians and the Graduate School of Education (GSE) to expand and diversify the University’s holdings of books for young readers.

From picture books to *The Poet X*, Penn Libraries are expanding and diversifying their holdings of books for young readers.

By Trey Popp
of children’s and young adult literature. Van Pelt’s PZ section—the call numbers dedicated to “fiction and juvenile belles lettres”—is on the march.

Books for young people have long been a part of the Penn Libraries’ holdings. The Horace Howard Furness Memorial Library, for instance, holds about 400 editions of Shakespeare’s works adapted for juvenile audiences—ranging from a 1907 Dandelion Classics for Children copy of A Midsummer-Night’s Dream, for Young People to thirsty Hamlet, a 2015 OMG Shakespeare! title that swaps out iambic pentameter for emoji-strewn text-message exchanges. The Geoffrey Denison Gulliver’s Travels Collection includes many editions for children; they run the gamut from 19th-century illustrated English and French works to a 1995 Italian-language parody featuring Donald Duck in the title role. The Japanese Juvenile Fiction Collection, which began with the discovery of 188 brittle, pocket-sized adventure stories from the late Meiji and Taisho periods (1900–1920) in Penn’s East Asian collection, has grown steadily to become the “most extensive single collection of such fiction in the world,” according to Penn Libraries. Thomas Woody, a historian of education who taught at Penn from 1919 to 1960, gifted a fascinating trove of 1920s–30s Soviet picture books. Their creators, many trained at a tuition-free proletarian art academy founded by Marc Chagall in 1918, would exert long-lasting influence on the design of children’s books far beyond the Soviet Union—where some eventually fell out of favor (and into gulag labor camps) for failing to adhere to the strict “socialist realism” favored by Joseph Stalin. One struggles to imagine a more tragic fate for men and women who played an integral part in the expansion of Russia’s literate population from roughly 1 million to 40 million in the space of a single decade.

The Ashley Bryan collection fits into a series of Penn Libraries initiatives that aim to document a more contemporary development in Anglophone children’s and young adult publishing: the fits-and-starts drive to diversify the range of authorial voices and thematic material available to young readers. As a historical phenomenon, this is a 20th-century story whose latest phase is reverberating in the form of school- and library-based book bans and other forms of reactionary backlash.

Bryan traced his own vocation in children’s literature to a 1965 Saturday Review article that bore the blunt title “The All-White World of Children’s Books.” In it, former president of the International Reading Association Nancy Larrick documented a survey of 5,206 trade books published for children between 1962 and 1964. Nearly a decade after the Supreme Court’s Brown v. Board of Education decision promised the integration of America’s schoolchildren, Larrick found that only 6.7 percent of the books published for them contained a Black character in text or illustration. And those that did tended either to “show him as a servant or slave, a sharecropper, a migrant worker, or a menial” or as a “counter-stereotype ... who is always good, generous, and smiling in the face of difficulties.”

“Across the country, 6,340,000 non-white children are learning to read and to understand the American way of life in books which either omit them entirely or scarcely mention them,” Larrick observed. “There is no need to elaborate upon the damage—much of it irreparable—to the Negro child’s personality. But the impact of all-white books upon 39,600,000 white children is probably even worse. Although his light skin makes him one of the world’s minorities, the white child learns from his books that he is the kingfish. There seems little chance of developing the humility so urgently needed for world cooperation, instead of world conflict, as long as our children are brought up on gentle doses of racism through their books.”

The story since then can be told in two ways. On the one hand there are writers and illustrators like Bryan, whose varied catalog runs to almost 50 books, most printed by major publishing houses. In 2018, book collector Joanna Banks gave Penn Libraries some 10,000 books, periodicals, recordings, and photographs related to African American authors (“Gazetteer,” May|Jun 2020). Her only condition, she said at a 2020 Kislak Center symposium, was that the 1,000 or so children’s books in the collection “were not locked away behind closed doors, so that no child would have access to them.”

Banks’ children’s books joined another collection that, in a roundabout way, illustrates the flip side of the story. Atha Tehon G’49, who earned a master’s in fine arts from Penn, spent a decade as art director of children’s books at Alfred A. Knopf, served as a designer and art director at Dial Books for Young Readers from 1969 to 2001, and continued designing children’s books after her retirement. She worked with authors ranging from Maurice Sendak to William Steig. Several years before her death in 2012, she wrote that “probably the most important book [she] worked on is White Ships/Black Cargo by Tom Feelings, and the most enjoyable The Old African by Julius Lester and Jerry Pinkney.”

Tehon’s papers reside in the Kislak Center along with her personal collection of 1,217 children’s books. Of these, 67 are classified by Penn Libraries as treating African American subject matter. (A few dozen more bear the illustrations of the prolific Jerry Pinkney.) Considering that the vast majority of these books were published well after Nancy Larrick’s 1965 cri du coeur—more than half of the Tehon collection derives from...
the 1990s and 2000s—it is plain to see that the world of American children’s books diversified at a snail’s pace in the half-century that followed it.

That dynamic is all the more remarkable given the dramatic diversification of the country’s youth population over the same time period. In 2014, Sibylla Shekerdijiska-Benatova, a senior conservation technician for paper at Penn Libraries who is currently completing a master’s degree at GSE, founded A Book a Day, a nonprofit that works to expand literacy among children in underserved and diverse communities. Her goal was simple: provide a multicultural population with books as varied in theme and authorship as the kids and families who’d be reading them. The organization focused on West Philadelphia students at the Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander and Henry C. Lea schools, which serve large numbers of bilingual families. (Both schools also have partnerships with GSE.)

Shekerdijiska-Benatova wanted to enrich the schools’ libraries with titles that would allow students “to recognize themselves and their classmates in the pages” and also “open up the kids’ cultural horizons beyond their own individual experience.” But she was taken aback by how hard it was to find high-quality books that met those marks. Her experience reflected a stubborn status quo that University of Madison-Wisconsin’s Cooperative Children’s Book Center had been documenting for years. Of 3,400 children’s books CCBC reviewed from the 2015 publishing year, 7.6 percent featured Black characters, 3.3 percent included Asian/Pacific characters, while Latinos appeared in only 2.4 percent. Animal, vehicle, and other nonhuman characters nearly outnumbered all minority groups combined. White characters were present in 73 percent of the books.

“It was really chilling,” says Shekerdijiska-Benatova. But by 2016 she began to notice an uptick in the kinds of titles she was seeking. A Book a Day has now...
donated hundreds of them—and over 7,400 copies in all—to school libraries, community centers, and young readers. (Penn Libraries provided funding between 2014 and 2019.) The books are fabulously varied in nearly every way imaginable: artistic style, subject matter, cultural traditions, reading level, authorship. In poetry and prose, fiction and nonfiction, titles like Wangari Maathai: The Woman Who Planted Millions of Trees, Cora Cooks Pancit, Ramadan Moon, and Can I Touch Your Hair? Poems of Race, Mistakes, and Friendship reflect a newfound vigor in the marketplace for juvenile books. (The CBCC’s 2022 survey of children’s literature registered an approximate doubling, tripling, and quadrupling of books about Black, Asian, and Latino characters, respectively, compared to 2015; and authorship in each of those categories increased even more dramatically. Books featuring LGBTQ themes, characters with disabilities, Judaism, and Christianity have also ticked upward since 2018, when the center began analyzing those attributes.)

Penn’s Graduate School of Education has played a modest role in amplifying this trend. In 2015, Ebony Elizabeth Thomas, an associate professor at GSE who joined the University of Michigan’s School of Education in 2021, launched an annual Best Books for Young Readers list that explicitly aimed to “showcase authors and illustrators dealing with issues like gender, race, ability, ethnicity, religion, sexuality, and socioeconomic class in authentic ways.” Each year the GSE list features approximately 50 titles spread between picture books, middle grade, young adult, and graphic novels. They range from illustrated books like Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow’s Mommy’s Khimar, about a Muslim girl who plays dress-up with her mother’s headscarves; to the late civil-rights leader and Congressman John Lewis’s March trilogy; to Elizabeth Acevedo’s pathbreaking novel-in-verse The Poet X. (Shekerdjiska-Benatova, who helped curate the latest edition in connection with her master’s work, has a tender spot for Eugene Yelchin’s middle-grade The Genius Under the Table: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain, which resonated with her own experience as a child in Bulgaria.)

The Poet X exemplifies the way the young adult category has transformed the publishing marketplace in the 21st century. Acevedo’s Afro-Dominican protagonist is “just a normal 15-year-old in a dogmatically religious household” in Harlem who spends the book “working out her relationship with Christ, with God, and with her mother—as a Holy Trinity,” riffs Melissa Jensen C’89 G’93, a lecturer in the English department who has taught popular seminars on immigration in this country,” Farrington says. “To help people understand who immigrants are, where they’re coming from, what their lives are like—all of these kinds of things are really important.”

You can view this through the lens of an academic research library—what kinds of books are being produced for young readers during an era of elevated immigration and opposition to it? “There have been so many issues around immigration in this country,” Farrington says. “To help people understand who immigrants are, where they're coming from, what their lives are like—all of these kinds of things are really important.”

But on another level, the project addressed the straightforward interests of a multicultural University community. “You have lots of parents at Penn who...
There’s no doubt that public libraries continue to reign supreme as sources of discovery for young readers. When celebrating its 125th anniversary in 2020 the New York Public Library released a list of its nine most borrowed books of all time. Four were picture books (including the number one, Ezra Jack Keats’ *The Snowy Day*, with 485,583 checkouts), and almost all the rest were school-age classics like E. B. White’s *Charlotte’s Web*, Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and (of course) J. K. Rowling’s *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone*. The only unambiguously adult-oriented title on the list was Dale Carnegie’s *How to Win Friends and Influence People*.

Measuring the engagement with juvenile books at the Penn Libraries is difficult. Last year, books from the PZ section were checked out roughly 1,000 times—but PZ excludes nonfiction and a great deal of what is most popular with young adults. (The fictional works of Elizabeth Acevedo and Jason Reynolds, for instance, reside in PS as “American literature.”) Yet for Penn’s champions of children’s literature, these books’ value to an academic library transcends their borrowing history, their utility to GSE faculty and students, or their potential usefulness to students of arts and design.

“They are the gateway to literary studies,” Jensen declares. “They are the first step in readership. I’m sure there are plenty of voracious adult and young adult readers who were not read to as small children. But I don’t know any! So we talk endlessly about the importance of reading to your children.”

“What are the books that stay with people?” Farrington asks. “They tend to be books they read as children—and they’re the books that they want to then share with their children, and their children’s children.”

It may seem strange that a library that exclusively serves adults would think seriously about picture books and novels that might appear on a middle- or high-schooler’s summer reading list. But maybe it shouldn’t.

“Perhaps people will think twice about relegating kid lit,” Jensen hopes. “Perhaps it will bring the acknowledgment that within this pantheon of children’s literature are texts that are valuable because they are enjoyable—and have real cultural importance and literary importance.”
DOMESTIC

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

ARIZONA
Phoenix
Christopher Kaup, L’91
president@pennciubaz.org

CALIFORNIA
Central California
Kennon Wolff, C’99
kwolff@ojaivalleyinn.com

Los Angeles
Omid Shokoufandeh, C’09
omid.shokoufandeh@gmail.com

Orange County
Jeannie Quan Hogue, C’88
pennciuboc@gmail.com

San Francisco
Susan Louise Shinoff, C’06, WG’06
president@pennciubf.org

San Diego
Lourdes Martinez, GR’11
pennciuds@gmail.com

Silicon Valley
Jessica Myers-Schecter, C’95
svpennciub@gmail.com

COLORADO
daralumniclub@dev.upenn.edu

CONNECTICUT
Fairfield County
Candice Moore Babiarz, C’88
Sara Nelson Goertel, C’98
fairfieldpenn@gmail.com

Hartford
Denise Winokur, WG’73, GR’81
dwinokur@comcast.net

New Haven
daralumniclub@dev.upenn.edu

DELAWARE
Linda Farquhar, WG’93
pennciubdelaw@gmail.com

FLORIDA
Roca Raton/ Ft Lauderdale
Palm Beach
Pamela Harpaz, ENG’94
penngoldcoastalumni@gmail.com

Central Florida
Rachel Scheinberg, C’98
rachelyn49@yahoo.com

NE Florida/Jacksonville
Jeffrey E. Bernardo, W’92
jeffreybernardo@yahoo.com

Miami
Gracie Kaplan-Stein, C’08
Allison Hechtman, C’19
miamipennciub@gmail.com

Sarasota & Manatee Counties
Sharon Avison, G’00, G’04
pennciubsarasota@gmail.com

Southwest Florida
Jodi Grosflam, C’83
jodigrosflam@gmail.com

Tampa
San Eng, W’92
san@skytiancapital.com

GEORGIA
Atlanta
Kate Armstrong Lee, C’89
katealee@alumni.upenn.edu

HAWAII
Honolulu
Raj George, C’95
rajgeorge@gmail.com

ILLINOIS
Chicago
Neal Jain, ENG’99, W’99, WG’06
president@pennciubchicago.com

INDIANA
Indiana
daralumni@dev.upenn.edu

KENTUCKY
Louisville/ Lexington
Amy Lapinski, C’91
adisapinski@gmail.com

LOUISIANA
New Orleans
Astin Levon, C’06
pennciubfolousiana@gmail.com

MARYLAND
Baltimore
Jameira Johnson, C’19
pennciubaltimore@gmail.com

MASSACHUSETTS
Boston
Heena Lee, C’95
info@pennciubofboston.org

Worcester
Margaret Saito, W’94
Tony Saito, D’95
drtorysaito@alumni.upenn.edu

MICHIGAN
Kapil Kedia, ENG’00
president@pennciubi.org

MINNESOTA
Minneapolis
Dan Rutman, C’86
dan_rutman@alumni.upenn.edu

MISSISSIPPI
Suganth Kannan, W’19
suganth@perfect-steel.us

MISSOURI
Kansas City
Keith Copaken, C’86
kcopaken@copaken-brooks.com

St. Louis
daralumniclub@dev.upenn.edu

MONTANA
Jay Weiner, C’92
pennciubmt@protonmail.com

NEVADA
Las Vegas
Seth Schorr, C’99
vegasquakers@gmail.com

NEW JERSEY
Central New Jersey
Mark Peppard, C’78
mdpeppard@aol.com

Metropo New Jersey
Dan Solomon, L’97
danielrsohomnr@yahoo.com

NEW MEXICO
daralumniclub@dev.upenn.edu

NEW YORK
Central New York
Don Fisher, C’75
dfisher@fisherspoint.com

Long Island
Richard Liebowitz, C’10
upenncluboflongisland@gmail.com

New York City
Laura Loewenthal, C’86
president@ppenn.nyc

Rochester
Robert Fox, W’87
rafox4455@gmail.com

Westchester/Rockland Counties
Gary Blum, W’97
president@pennciubwestrock.org

NORTH CAROLINA
Charlotte
James Powell, C’76
jegp1954@gmail.com

The Triangle
Steve Strickman, ENG’85, W’92
pennciubofthetriangle@gmail.com

OHIO
Cleveland
Mary Ellen Huesken, C’86
maryellenhuesken@gmail.com

Southwest Ohio
Jill Gruetzmacher, C’00
jgruetz18@gmail.com

OKLAHOMA
Tulsa
Nikki Sack, C’03
tulsapennciubprotonmail.com

PENNSYLVANIA
Bucks County
Steve Rosner, C’89
Susan Vescesa, GE’92
penbucksalumni@gmail.com

Central Pennsylvania
Brian Krier, ENG’91, W’91
penncentralpa@gmail.com

Lehigh Valley
Paul Ferrante, LPS’09
pennciubleighvalley@gmail.com

Northen Pennsylvania
Anthony T.P. Brooks, C’89
tonybrookswsb@gmail.com

Philadelphia
Anna Rapes, C’08
Alex Rivera, CGS’03
daralumniclub@dev.upenn.edu

Western Pennsylvania
Donald Bonk, C’92
donald.m.bonic52@alumni.upenn.edu

PUERTO RICO
Frederick B. Martinez, L’01
fmartinez@nocpr.com

RHODE ISLAND
Valerie Larkin, C’79
vlarkin9@gmail.com

SOUTH CAROLINA
Emily Chubb, W’06
epchubb@gmail.com

TENNESSEE
Memphis
Sally D. Feinup, C’06
sallyfeinup@gmail.com

Nashville
Chris Przybyszewski C’98 CGS’00
przybyszewski11@gmail.com

TXAS
Austin
Catherine Tien, C’12
tien@tian-jean.com

Dallas/Ft Worth
Laura Lai, ENG’02
Thomas Trujillo, W’98
dfwpenn@gmail.com

Houston
Kazi Indakwa, W’89
pennhoustonalumni@gmail.com

San Antonio
Kyle Jones, GRD’16
sapennciub@gmail.com

UTAH
Art Warsoff, W’83
adwarsoff@comcast.net

VIRGINIA
Hampton Roads
Will Yarick, W’02
yearickw@gmail.com

Central Virginia
Tom Bowden, WG’83, L’83
bliawplc@gmail.com

WASHINGTON
Seattle
Belinda Buscher, C’92
pennciubseattle@gmail.com

WASHINGTON D.C.
Vivian Ramirez, C’96
pennciubofdc@gmail.com

WISCONSIN
daralumniclub@dev.upenn.edu
AFGHANISTAN
Sanzar Kakar, ENG’05
sanzar@alumni.upenn.edu

AUSTRALIA
Melbourne
Ann Byrne, CW’75
Julie Ballard C’89
annw@eowolf.us

BELGIUM
Aisha Saraf, W’11
aisha.saraf@gmail.com

BERMUDA
Julia Henderson, WG’09
pennbmmuda@gmail.com

BRAZIL
Annie Kim Podlubny, WG’03
annie.kim.wg03@wharton.upenn.edu

BULGARIA
Rado Lambev, C’01
radi123@yahoo.com

CANADA
Toronto
Christian Kellett, G’09, WG’09
Daniel Yeh, ENG’99, GEN’03
presidents@pennwhartonToronto.com

CHILE
Danielle Gilson, C’86
danielle.gilson@gmail.com

CHINA
Beijing
Gary Zhao, WG’95
president@pennclubbeijing.com
beijing@alumni.upenn.edu

Shanghai
Renee Shi, GED’11
renee.shi@tcgcapitalpartners.com

Shenzhen
Bailu Zhong GL’14
egre.tulu@hotmail.com

Guangzhou
Gene Kim, W’92
gene@pennclubgz.com

COLOMBIA
Susana Galofre, C’90
susana.galofre@gmail.com

DENMARK
Ada Stein, C’00
ada.stein@gmail.com

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
Gisselle Rohmer, WG’09
grohmer@ifc.com

ECUADOR
Juan Carlos Salame, W’03
juan.c.salame@gmail.com

EGYPT
Mariam Georges, ENG’10, GEN’11
mariam@challengeforxg.com

FRANCE
Alex Lewenthal, L’11
pennclubfrance@gmail.com

GERMANY
Malika Shah, C’06, GEN’06
malihashah@gmail.com

GREECE
Panagiotis Madamopoulos – Moralis, GL’09
panos.mad@gmail.com

GUAM
Patrick Wolff, Esq., C’70, GED’71, G’74
atty.pwolff@wolff.com

GUATEMALA
Sofia Zaror, W’13
sofia.zaror.w13@wharton.upenn.edu

HONG KONG
Bernard Wai, W’96
Simone Chao, C’04, WG’10
pennclubhk@gmail.com

HUNGARY
Istvan Szucs, C’95, ENG’95
istvan@pobox.com

INDIA
Bangalore
Ravi Gururaj, ENG’89, W’89
rgururaj@mba1999.hbs.edu

Delhi
Rohan Tibrawalla, W’06
rohant1@gmail.com

Priyanka Agarwal, W’97
pr@pencilin.com

Kolkata
Anil Vaswani, ENG’97
anilvaswani@weisman.com

Mumbai
Sneha Nagvekar, GL’17
snehanag@pennlaw.upenn.edu

Arti Sanghera C’08, ENG’08
art@alumni.upenn.edu

INDONESIA
Nicolette Jizhar, W’16
pennwhartonindo@gmail.com

IRELAND
Alicia McConnell, C’85
ajm4071@gmail.com

ISRAEL
Dov Hoch, C’86
dov@clarityholdings.com
Dalia Levine GEN’07, G’10
dalia.levine@gmail.com

ITALY
Milan
Monica Buzzai, CGS’01, GR’07
pennclubmilan@gmail.com

Rome
Erica Firpo, C’94
erica@ericafirpo.com

JAMAICA
Deika Morrison, ENG’94, W’94, WG’08
deika@alumni.upenn.edu

JAPAN
Randy McGraw, W’90
Debbie Reilly W’95
pennclubjapan@googlegroups.com

AZERBAIJAN
Maksutbek Aitmaganbet, GED’18
maksutbek@gmail.com

KENYA
Kisimbi Kyumwa Thomas, NU’02, W’02
thomaski@stwing.upenn.edu

KOREA
Young Kyoon Jeong, GAR’89
ykjeong@heerim.com

KUWAIT
Majed Alshehhe, GEN’01
malarsehhe@yahoo.com

MALAYSIA
Chin San Goht, C’15
gohc@sas.upenn.edu

MEXICO
Luis E. Izaa, GL’12, WEV’12
lizaazia@gmail.com

NETHERLANDS
John Terwilliger, W’83, C’83
pennwhartonclubnetherlands@gmail.com

NICARAGUA
Alberto Chamorro, W’78
ecisa@aol.com

PAKISTAN
Ana Karina Smith Cain, C’98
anaksmitcain@gmail.com

PHILIPPINES
Tomas Lopes reviews W’95
tpl@torrellorenzo.com

POLAND
John Lynch, WG’89
polandpennclub@gmail.com

ROMANIA
Victor V. Constantinescu
vconstantinescu@birisgoran.ro

SINGAPORE
John Tsai, WG’01, G’01
pennwhartonsg@gmail.com

SWEDEN
Stephanie Bouri, C’00
stephanie.bouri@gmail.com

SOUTH AFRICA
Cynthia Ntini, C’06
daralumniclub@upenn.edu

SWITZERLAND
David France, C’89
pennclubswitzerland@gmail.com

TAIWAN
Wellington Chow, WG’89, G’89
wellington.chow@gmail.com

THAILAND
Sally Jutabha, WG’90
upenn.thailand@gmail.com

TURKEY
Kerem Kepkep, EE’96, GEN’97
kkepkep@yahoo.com

UAE
Nikita Patel, W’14
pennclubuae@gmail.com

UNITED KINGDOM
Margot Neuburger, C’12
info@pennclubuk.com

VIETNAM
Eleanor Yang, C’05, WG’05
eleanor_c_yang@yahoo.com

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Penn Alumni
Regional Clubs
“Hang Jeff Davis on a sour apple tree” goes the first line of “The Field Cry of Penn,” now mostly banished (for a vulgar refrain, among other things) but once regularly sung at Franklin Field—and still familiar to many alumni. The tune was recognizable as that of Julia Ward Howe’s “Battle Hymn of the Republic,” itself borrowed from the existing song “John Brown’s Body,” which in turn was set to the melody of “Say, Brothers, Will You Meet Us?,” a Methodist hymn attributed to William Steffey, who may have cribbed from a folksong.

Aside from this impressive history of pilferage and its on-again, off-again presence in the Penn Band’s repertoire, the song is worth remembering because it figures in a historical irony. One of Jefferson Davis’s best friends was a fellow West Point graduate who taught at Penn and later became what the historian William H. Goetzmann called “the most powerful force for professional pure science in America.” The force’s name was Alexander Dallas Bache, and he happened to be a great-grandson of Benjamin Franklin.

Sarah Franklin, the daughter of Franklin and his wife, Deborah, married Richard Bache, an underwriter of ships and cargoes. In 1805, one of the couple’s sons, also named Richard, married Sophia Dallas, daughter of Alexander J. Dallas, who served as President James Madison’s secretary of the treasury; in that capacity, Alexander Dallas supervised an agency called the Coast Survey, which his grandson and namesake was to transform into an incubator of scientists. Sophia’s brother, George M. Dallas, became vice president under James K. Polk, and altogether the Baches could hold their own with the Franklins when it came to political influence and social standing.

It’s noteworthy, then, that Dallas Bache, as the second Alexander was called, had little use for what Penn sociologist E. Digby Baltzell W’39 Hon’89 labeled Proper Philadelphia in his study Puritan Boston and Quaker Philadelphia. The sticking point for Bache was what he called the prevailing “negative attitude toward academics and intellectuals in general,” as evinced by the Penn trustees’ opposition to establishing a graduate school in the 1850s. In a letter to a friend, Bache distanced himself from “the old Philad. stamp.”

Born in Philadelphia in 1806, Dallas was the first of Richard and Sophia’s nine children. Before there could be a 10th, Richard fled to Texas, probably to get away from his creditors, leaving Dallas to help his mother raise the rest of the brood. With her encouragement, the boy accepted an appointment to the US Military Academy in West Point, New York, at age 15. Though almost certainly the youngest...
cadet in his class, he graduated as its top student four years later—without getting a single demerit. Yet his own assessment of his intellect was guarded: “I knew that I had nothing like genius, but I thought I was capable by hard study of accomplishing something.” As explained by Bache’s biographer Merle M. Odgers C1922 G’24 Gr’28, the boy employed a trick to keep his mind on his work: studying while seated on an unstable chair. Should he lose his concentration, a wobble from the chair would recall him to duty.

After graduation, Bache stayed on to teach at West Point for a year, then transferred to the prestigious US Army Corps of Engineers. While working on the construction of Fort Adams in Newport, Rhode Island, he met Nancy Clarke Fowler, whom he wed a few years later while on leave from the Army and teaching natural philosophy and chemistry at Penn. Bache was only 22 years old, but that didn’t stop him from also being appointed secretary of the University.

Bache resigned his commission and taught at Penn for seven years, demonstrating a remarkable ability to control his classes during a period of marked undergraduate rowdiness. The punishment meted out to one poor fellow—expulsion for making a “shrill noise in Chapel”—shows how determined to impose order the University was. An admiring colleague thought he knew how Bache managed to keep his classroom shrill-free: “Even his successors had trouble with his students, so it can hardly have been the fascinations of the subjects of physics, chemistry, and geology that kept the students orderly. It would seem to be possible to make teaching so interesting that students will not want to misbehave.”

Despite teaching three classes a day five days a week, conducting research, and performing his secretarial duties, Bache found time to become a stalwart of the American Philosophical Society, the Franklin Institute, and the Wistar Club—and to dabble in educational reform. Bache’s espousal of that cause appealed to the trustees of Girard College, an embryonic private grammar and high school, and they lured him away to become its president in the fall of 1836.

Established by the will of Stephen Girard, a French immigrant who made a fortune as a merchant and banker, Girard College was still in the planning stages when Bache took the helm. In the interim, its trustees sent him off to Europe on a mission to learn all he could about modern education.

In his monograph *Patronage, Practice, and the Culture of American Science: Alexander Dallas Bache and the U.S. Coast Survey*, historian Hugh Richard Slotten brings up what could have been a touchy issue for Bache both in Europe and at home: the inevitable comparisons of him to his world-famous great-grandfather. In fact, however, Bache didn’t seem to mind greetings like the one he got from an elderly German educator: “Mein Gott, now let me die, since I have lived to see with mine own eyes an emanation of the great Franklin!” The Franklin emanation even tackled problems once addressed by his ancestor, such as the movement of storms along coastlines.

Thanks to Bache’s strong work ethic, his European trip was far from a junket. In two years abroad, he visited an estimated 278 schools in a dozen or so countries, along with numerous institutes of science. His industriousness culminated in a 666-page report that Odgers rates “a masterpiece of educational research and compilation.” On returning to Philadelphia, however, Bache found that Girard College had yet to open its doors—indeed, they were to remain unopened for another decade. Though still nominal president of Girard, Bache served as superintendent of Philadelphia’s Central High School from 1839 to 1842, helping to draw up a curriculum strong in the sciences.

While at Central, Bache had to deal with a prankster who reduced everybody to tears by sprinkling red pepper into the heating system. Within an hour, Bache knew the culprit’s identity but kept in mind that this was his first offense. “He took the boy aside,” Odgers writes, “talked to him in a fatherly manner, urged him to straighten himself out and not ‘blast his life,’ and then let him go.”

Bache left Central High School and Girard College to rejoin the Penn faculty in 1842. The director of the Coast Survey died a year later, and Bache was appointed his successor. At age 37, he had found his calling.
several more barbed questions. The Bache–Henry project, in other words, was part of an American urge to catch up with Old World culture and learning. (For the record, within a few years of Smith’s diatribe lots of people in the four corners of the globe were reading books by Washington Irving and James Fenimore Cooper.)

The two young scientists also had a specific malady in mind: charlatanism. In an 1838 letter to Bache, Henry said that since his return from Europe he had “often thought of the remark you were in the habit of making that we must put down quackery or quackery will put down science.” As examples of the crackpots who gave American science a bad name, Slotten cites the polymath Constantine Rafinesque, who maintained that Black indigenous people were living in North America before the first Europeans reached its shores; and the physician Henry Hall Sherwood, whose views on terrestrial magnetism Henry scorned as “perfectly puerile and entirely unworthy.”

Almost as bad was Matthew Fontaine Maury, superintendent of the US Naval Observatory and author of The Physical Geography of the Sea (1855), which Bache cited as containing “more absurd propositions than are to be found in any book ever published by a person in such a high position.” It didn’t help Maury’s cause that Bache saw him as encroaching on the Coast Survey’s work. Along with Henry at the Smithsonian and Louis Agassiz and Benjamin Peirce at Harvard, Bache made the newly formed American Association for the Advancement of Science a vehicle for undermining Maury’s influence.

At times Bache’s campaign to elevate American science smacked of elitism—he envisioned the ideal practitioner as belonging to “an aristocracy in the form of an elite of wealth and family influence.” Yet Joseph Henry had risen from a humble background, so professional mobility was not foreclosed. He and Bache can also be accused of provincialism for touting Philadelphia science as the model to be emulated and dismissing New York as home to, as Henry put it, “all the Quacks and Jimcrackers of the land.” In any event, Bache saw to it that his agency elevated American science by patronizing—in the sense of “doing business with”—it. One of his methods was to commission papers from his own employees and outside consultants, and to hold the submissions to high standards. Bache did this hundreds of times during his tenure at the Survey, and 42 of his authors eventually made it into the Biographical Dictionary of American Science.

Bache also drew upon his political savvy. In his second year of directing the Coast Survey, he raised the number of states in which it operated from nine to 16. He also made two other politically astute moves: scrapping his predecessor’s policy of using New York as the base from which surveys proceeded north and south in favor of having multiple points of departure; and winning support from the Massachusetts congressional delegation by making the
survey of Boston Harbor a high priority. “Before the close of the forties,” Odgers reports, “scientific work was being carried on in every state on the Atlantic seaboard and on the Gulf of Mexico, and parties with their instruments had begun to conquer geodetically the coast of the Pacific.”

For all of Bache’s caniness, however, his agency ran into opposition from legislators representing landlocked states. “For many years,” a friend of Bache’s observed, “there was scarcely a session of Congress, without some vehement attack upon the Survey in each House, made for the purpose of defeating the appropriations.” In his defense, Bache could cite an American Association for the Advancement of Science report claiming that the Survey was saving the nation $3 million a year in prevented shipwrecks.

He could also rely on support from a powerful crony: Jefferson Davis, secretary of war under President Franklin Pierce and later a US senator from Mississippi. The two former cadets took a road trip to New England in 1853, visiting Boston, the White Mountains of New Hampshire, and the Coast Survey camp at Blue Mountain, Maine. Five years later, Senator Davis returned to Maine with his wife, Varina, to stay with Bache at another Survey camp, on Humpback Mountain.

In her *Jefferson Davis Ex-President of the Confederate States of America: A Memoir by His Wife* (1890), Varina shows her husband risking his health for Bache the following year. While recuperating from a long illness, one day “Mr. Davis was taken in a closed carriage to address the Senate on an appropriation for the coast survey.” Varina had tried to talk Jefferson out of going, but he had replied, “It is for the good of the country and for my boyhood’s friend, Dallas Bache, and I must go if it kills me.” He ... carried his point, then came almost fainting home.

Bache’s own health suffered from his tendency to work too hard, and he enjoyed getting away from the office and roughing it with his survey crews. “We have been half roasted in our tents within the last week, after actually suffering with cold a week before,” he wrote in a letter from 1848. “Such is canvas life.” Speaking of canvas, one of Bache’s employees for a time was the future painter James Abbott McNeill Whistler, who found his work as a Survey draftsman boring and sometimes played hooky. Whistler learned how to etch during his stint with the Survey, a skill he used to good effect as an artist.

Bache and his wife had no biological children but adopted his nephew Henry Wood Bache after the boy’s father, George Meade Bache, a naval officer on temporary duty with the Survey, died in a shipwreck. Thus, fatherhood joined Alexander’s lengthening list of responsibilities, which also included being a Smithsonian regent, president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a member of numerous American and European scientific societies. In December of 1858, he took time out to write a letter of recommendation for a Penn alumnus, Isaac Hayes M1853, who was drumming up support for an expedition to discover the reputed open polar sea [“Pointing the Way to the Pole,” Nov/Dec 2011].

In 1863, still leading the Survey, Bache oversaw the construction of fortifications for the defense of Philadelphia during the Civil War. A colleague remembered him working 18-hour days, with the result that “his health gave way and he was sent to Europe.” Two years later, Bache was in such bad shape that the same colleague had to cross the Atlantic and bring him and his wife home. After Bache died in Newport on February 17, 1867, Joseph Henry eulogized him as “a martyr to the cause of his country in the hour of its peril.”

Earnest and self-disciplined as he was, Bache could also be a boon companion. He enjoyed serving and drinking wine—a taste Varina Davis attributed to the time he spent with Humboldt, who kept a fine cellar. In her book, she recalls hosting a bibulous Christmas party at which the Baches were guests.

“Mr. Davis ... was persuaded to sing an Indian song, and Dallas Bache put on a fur coat to personate Santa Claus, and gave [out] the presents in the most truly dreadful doggerel. Six months afterward, one warm summer day, Mr. Davis exclaimed that he felt oppressed; ‘but,’ said he, ‘I think it is not the weather, it must be the memory of my Indian song last Christmas, and dear Dallas Bache’s execrable doggerel. I am sorry I did not make him sing, and do the rhyme myself.’ As the Professor could not turn a tune, and Mr. Davis had no capacity for jocular rhyme, I thought they had reached their utmost limits as it was, but refrained from venturing an opinion.”

We lack direct evidence of the Civil War’s effect on the Bache–Davis friendship, but the glow that suffuses Varina Davis’s *Memoir* almost every time she mentions the Baches is telling. Also relevant is a January 20, 1861, letter from Jefferson Davis to his old boss Franklin Pierce. Under the salutation “Dear Friend,” the incoming president of the Confederacy explains to the former president of the United States that “Civil war has only horror for me, but whatever circumstances demand shall be met as a duty and I trust be so discharged that you will not be ashamed of our former connection or cease to be my friend.” (Pierce fulfilled Davis’s “trust” by paying him a visit after the war, when Davis was incarcerated in Fort Monroe in Hampton, Virginia.)

If, as seems likely, Davis wrote a similar letter to Bache, it must have been galling for the recipient to learn that his “boyhood’s friend” was doing his utmost to destroy the Union that Bache’s great-grandfather had worked so hard to establish. Yet it’s hard to imagine the compassionate Alexander Dallas Bache deciding to cancel the friendship, let alone go looking for the nearest sour apple tree.

Dennis Drabelle G’66 L’69 is the author, most recently, of *The Power of Scenery: Frederick Law Olmsted and the Origin of National Parks.*
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Above: The Acting Company: Odyssey
Photo courtesy The Acting Company
The Letter A

Lou Kahn was not the kind of father I could rely on to be there when I needed him, but we could still connect through art and ideas.

By Alexandra Tyng

One of my clearest early childhood memories is of my father and me drawing side by side with oil pastels at the dining room table. He asked me what I wanted to draw and I said, “A castle!” and we both drew a castle. As our drawings developed, we talked about whether our castles should have one or more towers, or a drawbridge and a moat with water. Periodically I would look over to watch him and learn how he made things look three-dimensional. Two feelings stand out. One is our mutual delight in sharing an activity we both loved. The other is my trust in our family unit that came from sharing meals and often falling asleep knowing my mother and father were both there.
My father stopped visiting our house when I was five years old. I felt instinctively that our family unit no longer existed, but no explanation was given; perhaps because my parents weren't married they felt it was unnecessary to mention that their relationship had ended. For the rest of my childhood, I saw him infrequently. My early trust in my father was replaced by a combination of love, insecure attachment, and anger. Lou's feelings about me became more complex as I ceased to be readily affectionate toward him. He possibly felt a combination of love, guilt, and hope that I would need him less as he was involved in a new relationship and traveling constantly.

When we resumed seeing each other, our interactions were more intense. Secretly I wanted to run up to him and hug him, but my natural affection was stifled by knowing I couldn't depend on him to be there for me. Somehow in this difficult relationship we found that we could still connect through art and ideas. He would ask to see my drawings and look through them making appreciative sounds. I still have a stack of sketchbooks that he began giving me when I was not yet two and continuing into my teens. They were real hardback books with black, pebbly-textured bindings and smooth white pages that I filled with colored-pencil drawings. As soon as I had finished a book, another would appear, and my mother kept track of my progress by putting a colored sticker on the cover. When I was finished with a book, I would go to my closet, Lou thought maybe I would like egg tempera, rummaged in his desk drawers through old dried-up tubes to see if any were usable, then finally gave up: "Let's go to Taw's and buy you some tempera. Not gouache, real egg tempera!" I took the tempera set to Maine that summer and discovered I enjoyed painting outside from observation. Lou was telling me it was time to work in color, and he was right.

If I wanted to see my father, I went to his office. I would watch his hands as he sketched a building in charcoal, adding shadows with strong parallel strokes, and foliage and people with a few curved, expressive gestures. These marks looked to me like the shapes that he made when signing his name, and I realized that drawing is rather like handwriting. I could almost see my father's ideas take form as they traveled down from his mind through his arm and into his hand, emanating from his fingertips through graphite, charcoal, or pastel to make the thoughts into marks. Lou's hands had solid, square palms and long fingers. When he handled a pencil or stick of charcoal, his movements were sensitive and sure, intentional yet playful. His strokes of varying pressure conveyed solidity or translucence; movement, eternity or ephemerality. My mother described his lines as "alive," and she especially admired the way he drew trees. Even as a child, I knew she meant he drew trees as if they were growing, moving with the wind or reaching up to celebrate the light, and that this quality was more important than drawing every detail.

My father died when I was 19 and a junior in college. I had been on the verge of asking him some difficult questions, and part of my grieving process involved accepting that I would never hear his response and would have to accept the lack of closure. I read everything I could find that he had written or spoken, and the following year I wrote my senior thesis on his philosophy of architecture and life.

In this way and in other ways, Lou was still communicating with me through art after his death. Right after college, I began painting seriously, but I wanted to transition from simply recording what I saw to understanding the color relationships generated by nature. In Lou's words, "We only know the world as it is evoked by light." One of Lou's pastels hung on the wall of my mother's workroom, and I wondered why he had made the shadows red when the light was yellow. Shouldn't the shadow color be complementary to the light? But one winter day I noticed that the snow appeared golden in direct light, orange with a violet tinge in oblique light, and ultramarine blue in shadow. The color of the direct light on the snow was clearly not complementary to the color of the shadow; instead, the areas hit by indirect light were complementary to the shadow. In my paintings I began to approach color systematically by first considering the color of the direct light and then choosing the colors generated by it, mixing them with local colors and adding reflected light. In this way I unified the color relationships in my work. In 1991, when Jan Hochstim's *Paintings and Sketches of Louis I. Kahn* was published, I saw the vast majority of Lou's pastel drawings for the first time. Because Lou worked in pastel, his distinct marks of complementary colors were visible in the halftones and shadows. I was beyond excited to see that, in drawing after drawing, he created color schemes by using the same kind of three-color relationships I was using to indicate the time of day and to "turn" form from light to shadow, thus creating the illusion of three dimensions.
In recent years I have returned to a very early love of mine, narrative figure painting. More than anything, I wanted to paint my family, especially my father, but I hesitated. After spending my childhood feeling as though I had to stay “in the shadows” and not acknowledge our relationship out in the world, I was still holding back. Finally I realized, “This is my story; it belongs to me; I’m giving myself permission to tell it,” and I began a series of multi-figure paintings of various family members interacting in environments. The scenes are constructed from my imagination but they are based on actual situations and experiences. As I am painting, I feel as though I’m illuminating problems and creating possibilities for positive resolutions.

I feel hopeful that I might somehow be able to communicate my personal emotions, challenges, realizations, and visions not just as “Alex’s experiences,” but as human experiences. The Letter A is a self-portrait of me at age 5, making sense of my world, but it is not just about me, because we all go through our journeys of self-discovery.

Lou was not the kind of father I could rely on to be there when I needed him, but I never doubted that he loved me and supported me in other ways. He suppressed my public voice by not openly acknowledging my relationship to him, but he encouraged my private, personal voice through art-making. He gave me the sense that art was a worthy challenge, and that I was capable of taking up the challenge. It was up to me to find my voice out in the world and use it well.

Alexandra Tyng GEd’77 is an award-winning figure and landscape painter. Her work has been exhibited worldwide and her portrait of her father, Louis I. Kahn, is in the permanent collection of the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery in Washington, DC. This piece was adapted from one that appeared in Reader’s Guide to the Notebooks and Drawings of Louis I. Kahn, edited by Richard Saul Wurman (Designers & Books, 2021), from which it has been reprinted with permission.

Laurence Salzmann was barely a teenager when he started walking to the Penn Museum with a 35mm camera in hand. It was the mid-1950s, and he would set out from his home on the 1800 block of Pine Street, carrying the Kodak Pony 135 he’d just received as a bar mitzvah gift. On the other side of the Schuylkill he’d connect with his father’s old college friend Reuben Goldberg Ed’30, who was a Penn Museum photographer from 1937 to 1960. “He said, ‘Hey, come on out to the museum,’” Salzmann recalls. “So I started walking across the South Street Bridge on Saturday mornings and working with him.” Goldberg taught Salzmann how to develop and print film and nurtured his love for photography.

Salzmann’s first photographs as a young man included portraits of family and friends, as well as the social world around him. Attending Philadelphia public schools in the 1950s made him more keenly aware of issues of race and social justice, both through the mixed demographics of the schools and, in high school, firsthand experiences of anti-Semitism as an athlete.

Salzmann also had a deep interest in the wider world. At 16, he hitchhiked to Miami and made his way to Cuba to study Spanish. Over the next three years he journeyed widely, often hitchhiking and taking odd jobs. He made his way around the Caribbean, Central and South America, and Europe. Yet only upon his return to Philadelphia did he...
begin to make his photography public—focusing on his native city. His inaugural work was the 1966 film The Ragman, which followed an African American rag collector driving a horse-drawn cart through old Philadelphia streets gathering cast-off textiles to sell for reuse in papermaking and recycled cloth.

Salzmann’s first major international work followed soon thereafter. It arose from his experience training for the Peace Corps, to which he applied in order to avoid the Vietnam War draft. Due to a record of challenging authority while training for the Peace Corps, Salzmann’s application was ultimately rejected and he was “deselected”—as he describes it. But prior to his dismissal, as a part of his language instruction, he had gone to Juárez, Mexico, for a homestay in a shantytown with a family of brickmakers. There, he forged a meaningful connection with his hosts, and returned and documented their way of life through photography and film in a project titled The Family of Luis.

With that pair of early endeavors, Salzmann set a pattern of deep engagement and return that would mark his long career in photography and filmmaking. Spanning nearly six decades, Salzmann’s broad body of work explores the lived experiences of Jewish communities in the US, Romania, Lithuania, Turkey, and Israel; the lives of migrant workers and laborers in Mexico; young wrestlers and folkloric dancers in Cuba; salt harvesters in Peru; pilgrims in Argentina; herders in Romania; and portraits of wide-ranging rural and urban communities. In 2018, he and his wife Ayşe Gürsan-Salzmann G’69 Gr’92, an anthropologist and archaeologist who has been his longtime creative collaborator, donated his photographic archive to Penn Libraries’ Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts. The archive includes some 2,700 photographs and related materials that encompass Salzmann’s most influential and exhibited works.

A Philadelphia-born photographer and filmmaker who earned a master’s degree in visual anthropology from Temple University in 1971, Salzmann has spent most of his career trying to tell the stories of unheard and forgotten people. “There’s several levels to it,” he says. “One is preservation of ways of life and living, and sharing that with the larger community. Everything that I’ve done, I’ve always created both books, traveling shows, and movies. I have been able, through those three mediums and lectures, to bring the stories that have been gathered to a larger public. I’ve also in many cases been fortunate enough to return to visit these communities.”

To celebrate the archive donation, a public exhibition, Laurence Salzmann: A Life with Others, is on display through December 4 in the Goldstein Family Gallery on Van Pelt-Dietrich Library’s sixth floor. The Kislak Center will also host a symposium on October 10 featuring several guest speakers along with presentations from the photographer and his family, a tour of the exhibit, and a reception. (The Salzmann Collection is viewable online through Colenda, Penn Libraries’ online image database.)

A richly illustrated exhibit catalogue of the same title, with essays from fellow photographer Jason Francisco—a longtime friend and associate professor of film and media at Emory University—frames the 20 distinct projects now held by the center within a holistic appreciation for Salzmann’s vision, art, and activism.

“Salzmann’s long career has touched an exceptionally broad range of inquiries,” Francisco writes in A Life with Others: “cultural anthropology, folk and folklore studies, race and ethnicity studies, American studies, Latin American studies, Romanian studies, Turkish studies, Jewish studies, memory studies, migration studies, Holocaust and post-Holocaust studies, post-Communist studies, post-colonial studies, urban studies, and peasant studies, among others.”

Arthur Kiron, the Schottenstein-Jeselson Curator of Judaica Collections, says that the collection’s importance goes beyond “the beauty, depth, range, and human significance of its images.” It also “advances our ongoing curatorial efforts to rethink the role of photography in libraries, both as primary sources to collect and as a foundation for building and teaching visual literacy.” Salzmann discovered what would prove to be perhaps one of his deepest vocational callings during a 1974 trip to study folklore in Romania. His travels...
through the country took him to the town of Rădăuți on a Saturday. Seeing
the town synagogue near the main square, he entered to find nine men
gathered, waiting for a tenth so that they could form a minyan and begin
their prayers. Salzmann joined them and soon knew he’d found the focus of
his study.
“Prior to World War II, [the Jewish community] made up a quarter of
the town’s population,” Salzmann says. “All of them were deported by the
Romanian fascist government to an area called Transnistria, next to the
Ukraine. Many of them died there. They weren’t sent to the extermination
farms; they were left to die from the hardships that they suffered.” A small
number of survivors returned to Rădăuți. “By the time we got there, what
had been maybe 8,000 Jews was reduced to 250.”
Salzmann was joined in Romania by Gürsan-Salzmann, whom he’d met
two years before. She was teaching at the University of the Arts inPhiladelphia when she
took Salzmann’s visual anthropology workshop at Temple University in order to
prepare for a study of women and markets in Mexico. She invited Salzmann to come
along as a photographer, launching a collabora-
tion that continues to this day, both
in the field and on the page, where Gürsan-
Salzmann’s writing often complements
Salzmann’s photographs. Both also main-
tain their own independent research:
Gürsan-Salzmann, a consulting scholar in
the Penn Museum’s Mediterranean section,
member of the Gordion Archaeological
Project, and director of the Gordion Cul-
tural Heritage Program, is also known for
her work in Iran (“Arts,” May|June
2007) and Turkey (“Arts,” May|Jun
2019).
Gürsan-Salzmann and Salzmann lived
in Rădăuți for two years. The two, who
married in 1976, became deeply woven
into the town and community—a con-
nexion that is palpable in the resulting
photos and book, The Last Jews of Rădăuți
(1983), which features Gürsan-Salzmann’s
prose. “[Her] writing, her portraits of
people,” Salzmann says, “are almost like
poetry.” The images too are moving and
intimate: bath scenes, funerals, men at
prayer, people at their kitchen table bar-
ing their souls.
A few years later, Salzmann returned
to Romania to document shepherds as
they moved their sheep across the coun-
try seasonally, as ultimately captured in
the 1999 book Miorița. In the mid-
1980s, Salzmann went to Turkey intend-
ing to spend a few months photograph-
ing Jewish tombstones. That project led
to another, joined by Gürsan-Salzmann
and their young daughter Han. They
lived in and traveled across Turkey for
five years, documenting living Jewish
Sephardic communities, resulting in
traveling exhibits, two books—Anyos
Muchos I Buenos (1991) and Travels in
Search of Turkish Jews (2011)—and the
1989 film Turkey’s Sephardim: 500 Years.
Salzmann also continued his visits to
Mexico and Cuba, among other places
in Latin America. Most recently, through
a connection from Rădăuți, Salzmann
went to Peru, where he was inspired by
people in the Sacred Valley still en-
gaged in the ancient practice of salt
harvesting. He studied Quechua, re-
turned with a Fulbright fellowship, and
produced Mish‘I Kachi Runakuna/
Sweet Salt People (2021).
“I think my legacy has been to both re-
member the past, be in the present, and
preserve stories and ways of life,” Salz-
mann reflects, “learning about other
people’s ways of life, sharing that, being
collaborative with them, and preserving
stories of others so that others have a voice
that could be reached and remembered.”
“It is not that he only takes the pictures
and puts them up or exhibits them,”
Gürsan-Salzmann adds, “but he makes
sure that his work goes back to the peo-
ple, the community he came to know.”
—Beebe Bahrami Gr’95

Mr. Thau’s Funeral from The Last Jews of Rădăuți,
Radical Passage

Drew Gilpin Faust examines her own youthful journey from the Virginia gentry to New Left activism with a practiced historian’s eye—but stops short of probing her adult trajectory into another elite establishment.

By Maureen Corrigan

“How did you become radicalized?” That’s the question the late Todd Gitlin—the New Left activist, scholar, and former president of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS)—once asked me at a board meeting of the long defunct “Progressive Book Club.” (I’ve since learned that Gitlin often asked that question of people.) My stumbling deflection must have disappointed him. A “radical” in my conservative corner of the 1960s was a high-schooler who attended Up With People concerts, which promoted a cheery vision of multiculturalism, instead of joining the local chapter of Young Americans For Freedom, as several of my classmates did.

Drew Gilpin Faust’s new memoir, Necessary Trouble, offers the kind of response that Gitlin was no doubt expecting from me. Faust—who was the Walter Annenberg Professor of History at Penn before serving as the founding dean of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study in 2001 and becoming the first female president of Harvard University from 2007 to 2018—chronicles her journey from a privileged post-World War II childhood on her family’s horse farm in segregated Virginia to gradually “becoming radicalized” in high school and joining SDS in 1964, her first year at Bryn Mawr College. (Necessary Trouble includes a photo of Faust’s original 25-cent copy of The Port Huron Statement, the founding document of SDS.)

Galvanized by televised footage of the vicious “Bloody Sunday” attack on John Lewis and other protesters attempting to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge on March 7, 1965, Faust forsook her midterm exams at Bryn Mawr and drove with a college boyfriend in a borrowed car to Alabama, where they joined in the historic voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery led by Martin Luther King Jr. Faust writes at the end of Necessary Trouble that, in a conversation a few months before Lewis died in 2020, he blessed her use of his signature phrase for her own memoir—which, however, places a burden on the text that it understandably can’t bear.

Like other memoirs written by Americans who became activists during the early 1960s, Necessary Trouble tells the inspiring story of an individual life intersecting with History—in this case, the civil rights and burgeoning anti-war movements, as well as the Sexual Revolution. What distinguishes Faust’s account from a contemporaneous “awakening-into-activism” account like Ann Moody’s Coming of Age in Mississippi is not so much the arc of her narrative but, rather, the dispassionate style in which she chronicles it from the perspective of a half century later. As befits a distinguished historian whose 2008 book This Republic of Suffering (“Arts,” Mar|Apr 2008) won the Bancroft Prize and was a finalist for both the Pulitzer and the National Book Award, Faust has written a charged memoir about the ’60s, but not of the ’60s.

“As a historian,” she writes in the book’s prologue, “I have spent much of my life listening to voices from the past and trying to use them as bridges of understanding to times distant from our own. Here I am seeking to be one of those voices. History is about choices and about how individuals make those choices within the structures and circumstances in which they find themselves. I want to illuminate what those choices looked like to one girl trying to become a person during two decades of rapid transformation and powerful reaction in American life.”

Accordingly, Faust generally opts for the informed wide view, rather than intimate confidences. This is a memoir augmented by statistics on women’s higher education in the early 20th century, changing post-New Deal income tax rates for the wealthy, and capsule social histories. For example: broaching the subject of shifting attitudes toward premarital sex at Bryn Mawr, which she entered in 1964, Faust offers a brief background on the Pill, which became available in 1957, but was not accessible to “unmarried minors without parental consent” until the late ’60s. As a teenager, Faust was prescribed the Pill to treat her irregular and painful periods. Consequently, she says, “I never had to worry about getting pregnant.” The door then closes on that subject.

Necessary Trouble richly—if selectively—chronicles Faust’s family history and her own life and times up to her graduation from Bryn Mawr in 1968. The memoir opens on tragedy: the death of her mother on Christmas Eve 1966 from what Faust suspects may have been adult anorexia. Faust’s uncertainty derives from the silence that shrouded “anything difficult or unpleasant” in her family. Both her parents, who met and married during World War II, came from affluent families who belonged to the “horse set.” Faust’s grandfather bred and sold thoroughbreds and racehorses; her
father attended Princeton and “looked as if he had been invented by F. Scott Fitzgerald.” (A photo in this memoir from a 1940 Esquire article on “collegiate fashion” bears out this claim.)

Faust observes that her mother, a transplant to the South who was “deeply unhappy in 1950s Virginia,” focused her considerable energies on her three children, particularly her bookish only daughter, Drew, who resisted training to “be a lady.” About her mother’s life and early death, Faust starkly observes, “Few could have done better at achieving what [Betty] Friedan called ‘the forfeited self.’ She would live through her children even as they struggled to escape her control. Her death ... was a final act of self-abnegation.”

Faust would also part ways with her family over the issue of racism. If her parents accommodated the racial status quo in segregated Virginia, Faust pushed back remarkably early. In 1957, as Virginia Senator Harry Byrd called for “Massive Resistance” against plans to desegregate public schools, the nine-year-old Drew Faust wrote a letter to President Eisenhower sharing her “many feelings about segregation.” For a historian of the Civil War era who would go on to comb through thousands of archival letters in the course of her research, Faust understandably was delighted to discover that her elementary school letter “now rests among twenty-three million pages of manuscripts in the Eisenhower Library in Abilene, Kansas.”

Higher education—boarding school and Bryn Mawr—was Faust’s pathway to a wider world. (She also credits books featuring fictional and real “girls who dare”—like Nancy Drew, Scout Finch, and Anne Frank—as a deep influence.) The Bryn Mawr that Faust entered in the mid-1960s was an intellectually rigorous institution marked by “a very peculiar sort of feminism”: one in which the students were seen as every bit the equal of a man, yet to “even speak of women as a category was seen as a kind of special pleading, an acknowledgment not so much of difference as of deficiency.” (Disclosure: for several years in the 1980s, I taught English at Bryn Mawr and worked in the president’s office. By that time, Women’s Studies was in its ascendency.)

The ethos of “participatory democracy” that Faust embraced by, for instance, volunteering with other students to go door-to-door in economically-distressed South Philly to discuss community issues as part of the SDS-sponsored “Economic Research and Action Project”—“We had no idea what we were doing,” Faust confesses—also transformed life at Bryn Mawr. Faust describes a surreal meeting with the Board of Trustees in Atlantic City—as the Miss America Pageant was underway, no less—where she and other members of student government successfully argued for the abolishment of antiquated curfews and “parietal rules” designed to safeguard the virtue of female undergraduates. The Sexual Revolution had officially arrived.

When Faust became the president of Harvard, she aspired to an Olympic position within the institutional elite of American society. Perhaps the most frustrating gap in this perceptive, yet distant memoir is that readers cannot infer any clues as to how Faust subsequently navigated the winding path from New Leftist to establishment eminence. Faust mentions that, shortly before his death in 2022, she and Todd Gitlin corresponded about Camus and his influence on the New Left. In invoking Gitlin and Camus, Faust implicitly points to issues of power within social hierarchies—the radicalizing analysis of her youth—that make one curious about her later life. Several years earlier, when she was still serving as Harvard’s president, Faust found herself in conflict with her former SDS compatriot, who was leading alumni and students at Harvard and Columbia, respectively, in fossil fuel divestment movements. During her tenure, she was, at best, indifferent to the organizing of mostly female workers at a Harvard-owned hotel. If Faust writes a sequel to Necessary Trouble about her professional life as a historian and college president, it would be revealing and powerful for her to go from the question of “How did you become radicalized?” to “How does a young woman sustain her impulses to transform the world?” even as her gifts, worldly ambition, and the advantages of her class origins ultimately take her from the streets to the suites.

Maureen Corrigan Gr’87 is the book critic for the NPR program Fresh Air and the Nicky and Jamie Grant Distinguished Professor of the Practice in Literary Criticism at Georgetown University.
Small Town Dream

Inspired by Penn’s MLA program and the allure of rural Pennsylvania as a setting for a mystery, a debut novelist is born at 55.
F
rom his home in the Roxborough section of Philadelphia, Ken Jaworowski GGS’00 only had to drive about two hours west to get to Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania. But it may as well have been a world away.

On his first morning of college in the late 1980s, he was awoken with a start by a sound he didn’t recognize. “I’m like, What the hell is that?” Jaworowski recalls. “You know what it was? The Amish riding by with their clip-clop. It blew me away.”

Though charmed by the horse and buggy and other quaint aspects of rural Pennsylvania life, Jaworowski soon returned to cities—Philadelphia, where he began a career in journalism and took night classes at Penn, and later Manhattan, where he worked for the New York Times and wrote plays.

But about three years ago his small-town memories came flooding back when he took his daughter across Pennsylvania to visit colleges. And he thought: “Man, this would be such a great place to set a novel.”

Seven months later, Jaworowski completed Small Town Sins (Henry Holt), a page-turning thriller that follows three down-on-their-luck page-turning thriller that followed a pinch-yourself moment for Jaworowski, who at 55 had been just about ready to give up on his dreams of being a novelist. “I was like, This is the last one. If I don’t publish this, I’m not going to waste my time anymore,” he says. “It just eats up so much time and I worry about it. But son of a gun, I finish it. And then three weeks later, my agent sells it to Henry Holt. I’m jumping out of my skin.”

Sporting the “worst Philadelphia accent,” Jaworowski is a fast talker with an infectiously positive spirit. He often deploys the word awesome—whether he’s talking about getting fan mail from a reader, hearing back from authors he blindly emailed to blurb his book, or especially the opportunities that stemmed from his nontraditional journey through Penn.

When he was at Shippensburg, from which he graduated in 1991, Jaworowski “was a completely horrible student who barely got out with his undergrad degree.” Partying a bit too hard might have been one reason. Another, he reckons, was his decision to study finance. “I didn’t even like that, but I figured that’s the way you make money,” he says. “I love books, I love writing, I love reporting, I love journalism. Why did I get a finance degree?”

It worked out for him insofar as he started covering business as a reporter for Bloomberg News after college. But there was still an itch he needed to scratch. So on top of daily commutes from Philly to Skillman, New Jersey, for his Bloomberg job, he enrolled in Penn’s Master of Liberal Arts (MLA) program in what was then the College of General Studies (now the College of Liberal and Professional Studies). That’s when, he says, “everything opened up.”

From the fall of 1998 to the spring of 2000, Jaworowski embraced classes in a way he never had at Shippensburg, even though he usually took them after a full day of work. He soaked in lessons on literature and theater, “picked up the energy” of students a decade or so younger, and felt inspired by his professors—particularly Ralph Rosen, the Vartan Gregorian Professor of the Humanities and a professor of classical studies, and Deb Burnham G’76 Gr’89, who taught courses in American and British fiction. “They were the two best professors I’ve ever had in my life,” says Jaworowski, who wrote a play for his thesis and loved hearing remarks from Nobel Prize–winning poet Seamus Heaney Hon’00 at his Commencement.

Jaworowski also started a newsletter to try to connect “a loose group” of MLA students (who have access to classes and departments across the University and can customize their coursework). And he studied abroad at the University of Oxford through an exchange program—“which was awesome,” he says, “a highlight of my life.”

“I’m getting woken up by Amish people in a state school in one place, and a couple of years later, I’m at Oxford—Oxford!—studying Shakespeare,” laughs Jaworowski. His time at Penn, he says today, changed the direction of his life.

A few years later, after having moved to New York following his Penn graduation, he left Bloomberg—“How many great stories can you write about banking?”—to become a culture editor and critic at the New York Times. And on top of reviewing theater, he wrote some of his own—“smaller stuff, mostly nonprofit theater” produced off Broadway and in Europe, he says. One of his six full-length plays, Exchange, enjoyed a sold-out run at New York’s WorkShop Theater and was optioned for movie development (though the film hasn’t been made).

Yet publishing a novel remained a tantalizing dream. Thinking about the way he grew up in Roxborough, Jaworowski “always wanted to write the next The Outsiders,” he says of S. E. Hinton’s famed 1967 coming-of-age novel. “I didn’t grow up in a gang or anything, but it was a little bit on the rough side.” His first couple of attempts fell through. Then he “tried to write a semi-mystery,” but “that didn’t seem to work” either.
When he started writing *Small Town Sins*, he didn’t tell his wife or anyone else, bracing for another letdown. He isn’t sure why this one clicked in a way that earlier ones did not. Perhaps one reason was his richly nostalgic sentiments toward Rust-Belt American towns, which the novel describes as “the kind of place that generous people would call quaint, dismissive ones would call the boon-docks, and smart-ass ones would call Pennsyltucky.”

Leading up to the novel’s release date, Jaworowski sent the book to some of his favorite authors and was pleasantly surprised to get about 10 blurbs in return, including one from Laura Dave C’98, who wrote the bestseller *The Last Thing He Told Me* (recently adapted into an Apple TV+ series starring Jennifer Garner).

Another author, Emma Donoghue, replied to Jaworowski that she didn’t have time to read the novel but told him something even more memorable. “I said, ‘Look, I’m 55 and this is my first novel,’” Jaworowski recalls. “And she said to me, ‘Hey, it’s not gymnastics—you can start at any time.’”

He plans on paying that advice forward to other aspiring novelists and people like him who might be “pissed” they didn’t get something published. “It’s never too late,” says Jaworowski, who’s already completed another novel that he hopes will soon be released. “You’re never too old. You can always start. It’s not gymnastics.” —DZ

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**Vanishing Treasures**

This National Park Service conservationist combats the impact of severe weather on fragile historic structures.

Fort Union in Watrous, New Mexico, is an important piece of the Southwest’s cultural heritage. It was the largest military fort in the region during the mid-19th century—holding 1,600 troops in 1861—and the site is now part of a 721-acre park that contains the remnants of numerous adobe buildings. Fort Union is also what Lauren Meyer GFA’02 GFA’03 of the National Park Service (NPS) calls a “canary in the coal mine” for climate change.

As rising temperatures amplify storm intensity, wildfire risk, and other severe weather events, historic structures are uniquely vulnerable due to their aging, fragile materials. As the program manager of the NPS Intermountain Historic Preservation Services Program—which includes the History, Historic Structures, Cultural Landscapes, and Vanishing Treasures teams—climate change is a growing concern for Meyer.

“For a long time, park staff saw just small-scale degradation over time happening because of storm systems moving through,” she says. “But as we got into the mid-2000s, we started seeing stronger, more severe bursts of weather happening with no drying time in between storm events. And we started seeing more mass degradation.”

The program covers more than 87 parks in the region, located in both mountainous and desert environments. Based in Santa Fe, New Mexico, Meyer provides support and guidance to national parks for developing conservation strategies at cultural heritage sites, including the ruins of traditional stone masonry and adobe buildings.

Some sites, like Fort Union, are especially sensitive to changing weather conditions. Fort Union’s adobe compound was constructed using bricks made from dried mud mixed with straw and other organic materials. However, as the climate changes, these materials become more susceptible to degradation.

Photo courtesy National Park Service
materia]. Although some adobe buildings have endured for hundreds of years, severe weather is weakening the historic earthen structures. Heavy, prolonged rains that cause flooding and don’t allow any time to dry out in between downpours, as well as strong winds, have destabilized both freestanding walls and multi-wall systems, she explains. The Fort Union site is also situated in an area prone to wildfires.

Research on minimizing the effect of climate change on aging building materials has lagged behind studies focused on protecting nature. That’s because harm to the environment from flooding, droughts, and wildfires is more obvious than climate-related damage to the remains of historic buildings, many of which already register as ruins, according to Meyer. Complicating matters is that the adobe materials require constant maintenance to slow degradation. At Fort Union, for example, conservation of the site’s 200,000 square feet of ruins includes the ongoing reinforcement of deteriorating walls.

Then there’s the sheer number of NPS cultural heritage sites in the region, many of which have value to the communities in their midst. “We can’t keep up with the amount of work that needs to be done to be able to maintain these resources in a condition that allows them to withstand the unpredictable environmental changes that are happening,” she says.

Meyer, who grew up in New York, earned a master’s degree in historic preservation as well as an advanced certificate in architectural conservation and site management from Penn. She became interested in historic preservation while doing archaeological fieldwork up and down the East Coast. “I’ve always been interested in history, culture, community, and material culture, and trying to understand how people lived,” Meyer says. “So, historic preservation is just a natural extension of archaeology.”

While at Penn, Meyer spent a summer working on the conservation of a sprawling cliff dwelling at Mesa Verde National Park in Mancos, Colorado, known as the Cliff Palace, with her mentor Frank G. Matero, the chair of the department of historic preservation at the Weitzman School of Design (“The Future of Our Past,” Jul/Aug 2009).

In their free time, they visited former students of Matero’s, who were scattered around the Southwest doing preservation internships and fieldwork. By the end of the summer, Meyer received a job offer to be a field technician/architectural conservator at the Bandelier National Monument in Los Alamos, New Mexico, where pueblo dwellings dot the landscape’s mesas and canyons. “Literally two days after I got my degree, I got in the car and drove to New Mexico,” she says.

In 2012, as the program director of the Vanishing Treasures Program, Meyer collaborated with Matero and others at Penn, as well as additional partners, to create a rapid assessment survey on the effects of climate change at cultural heritage ruins in the Intermountain Region. The pilot program created a framework for identifying and monitoring site vulnerabilities at Fort Union. Researchers compiled existing data on climate change in the Southwest, identified the climate forces that are most destructive to man-made structures, and developed climate projections for the region. The survey has since been expanded to other cultural heritage sites within the NPS.

The rapid assessment survey not only supports maintenance, stabilization, and monitoring decisions, it has helped spotlight and prioritize the need to protect cultural heritage resources from climate change. In fact, the initiative has caught the attention of specialists who previously focused solely on natural resource conservation and are now participating in cultural heritage preservation projects, says Meyer.

“Prioritization is a huge thing,” she explains. “Anything that we can do to help us better understand conditions, to help us prioritize and to address those things that are most at risk first is going to move us along in a more positive direction.”

—Samantha Drake CGS’06
The Jewish Netflix
Meet the trio that launched a niche streaming service specializing in Jewish and Israeli content.

Neil Friedman C’75 and Heidi Bogin Oshin CW’75 met their first day at Penn. She was wearing what he describes as “those little white sneakers that cost three dollars from the local Five and Dime.”

“Nice sneaks,” Friedman quipped.

So began what Oshin describes as an “on again, off again” relationship between the two urban studies majors with law degrees and a shared passion for film. After assorted geographic and romantic detours, the Los Angeles-based couple are now personal and professional partners. And they’ve teamed with Bill Weiner W’76, a former executive at New Regency Productions, to start ChaiFlicks, a niche streaming service specializing in Jewish-themed content from around the world.

“It’s a Jewish Netflix,” Friedman says.

The service officially launched in August 2020 and, as of this July, featured 1,700 hours of programming. It costs $9.99 a month, or $72 a year, after a seven-day free trial, and is available on a variety of streaming platforms. Top shows include two popular Israeli television series: The New Black—“Entourage in the yeshiva,” in Oshin’s elevator pitch—and The Lesson, an award-winning drama about a classroom conflict between a teacher and student that spirals out of control.

ChaiFlicks—whose name contains the Hebrew word for life—is a “Mom, Pop, and a friend” operation, says Weiner, also a Los Angeles-based lawyer. He supervises business affairs, weighs in on programming, and, as a lover of computers, has been known to answer tech queries. At one point, he says, ChaiFlicks was “listing my home phone number as a place to call” when subscribers had problems.

Oshin’s job is finding Jewish-themed films from around the globe. Friedman curates television series, which ChaiFlicks distributes exclusively in its territories (the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom). Many originate in Israel, a top TV producer whose shows have inspired such American series as Showtime’s Homeland and HBO’s In Treatment.

Netflix had what Friedman calls “tremendous successes” with two Israeli series: Fauda and Shtisel. “I went to school watching what they did,” he says. “I knew that the Israeli TV series were extra special. I decided to check every single Israeli series that’s ever been made.”

ChaiFlicks was the outgrowth, in part, of frustration. Friedman had some success selling distribution rights to Menemsha’s films to Netflix. The required threshold for such a sale generally was $1 million in box office receipts, he says. But Menemsha hit a wall with the Hungarian black-and-white film 1945, about two Holocaust survivors who return to a Hungarian village after World War II.

Despite the 2017 film’s critical plaudits and healthy (for an art film) box office sales, Netflix wasn’t interested. “If we can’t make a deal with Netflix for a film this special,” Friedman recalls saying to Weiner, “we’ve got to start our own service.”

The pandemic accelerated their conversations. In March 2020, in a soft launch, the partners put 40 Menemsha films on the video hosting service Vimeo. “Week two,” Oshin says, “we went out scouring the world for additional content.”
Penn was foundational to the trio’s passion for cinema. While Oshin’s background included watching “every old movie possible” with her mother, both Weiner and Friedman (who double-majoried in history, with a concentration in film) took film classes at the University. For Friedman, “Film as Social and Intellectual History,” taught by Stuart Samuels, then professor of the History of Ideas, was seminal. “I just fell in love,” he says. Friedman became a teaching assistant in the course his senior year and remains close to Samuels, a documentary filmmaker and producer whom he considers his mentor. “But for that class, I doubt we’d be having this conversation today,” he says.

Weiner, a photographer from a family of artists, transferred to Penn from the University of Rochester. An accounting and economics major at Wharton, he studied film history with the late Amos Vogel, a film studies professor and founder of the New York Film Festival (“Obituaries,” Sep|Oct 2012). Weiner later spent more than two decades at the film production company New Regency, where he was executive vice president for business affairs and general counsel. He met Oshin and Friedman through friends in 2010. He and Friedman “knew a lot of the same people, the same deals,” Weiner says. “We were talking like brothers about the film business, we were so in sync.”

In December 2020, ChaiFlicks reached an agreement to sell 30 percent of the business to an Australian distributor, Moving Story Entertainment. Though the service remains “a labor of love,” that cash infusion, plus monthly revenues, has left ChaiFlicks debt free, Weiner says.

The partners won’t release subscriber figures or revenues. But Weiner says that audiences are growing at a rate of 5 percent a month, and he predicts that ChaiFlicks will become “cash-flow positive” within 12 to 18 months.

ChaiFlicks looks to other niche streamers—such as BritBox, specializing in British television, and the Criterion Channel, which presents classic and contemporary films—as models, Friedman says. And he notes that its competition in the Jewish space is limited. One competitor, JEWZY.TV, a UK-based service that launched in December 2020, has folded, Weiner says. Another, IZZY, remains narrower in scope, offering only Israeli content.

The ChaiFlicks founders have ambitious plans for expansion, including becoming available in additional countries. Another goal is to produce original content. First up: a Jewish cooking show that the partners hope will debut in six to nine months. “It fits in with the mission of our service: preserving Jewish culture,” Weiner says. —Julia M. Klein
“I’ve created a University of Pennsylvania trivia puzzle on AnagramQuest.com, a mobile game released this year, that marries anagrams to trivia questions.”

—William D. Volk C’79

1957
Dr. Larry S. Harte D’57 writes, “I have recently published my fifth book, *Then and Now*. The book is about historical sayings with cartoons of famous people. I am making the book available to 1957 Dental School classmates gratis for a limited time. It should make you laugh while you chug through life.” Larry can be contacted at drlarryharte@gmail.com.

1960
Marvin Fein W’60 has been inducted into the Taylor Allderdice High School Hall of Fame for his almost 60 years of public interest law. According to the Pittsburgh school’s website, he was “a founding member and director of the Pennsylvania Environmental Strike Force, the first cohort of lawyers to enforce environmental laws in the state. As Pittsburgh’s deputy city solicitor in the 1980s, he is credited by the sports media with helping to prevent the Pittsburgh Pirates from relocating.”

1963
Ed Mannino C’63 L’66 writes, “In July, Lexington Books published my second peer-reviewed book on the US Supreme Court. *Reinterpreting the Constitution: How the Supreme Court Changes the Law* details how the Supreme Court, over time, has changed constitutional law not simply by overruling past cases but in many different, subtle ways. The book reviews more than 200 Supreme Court decisions starting with the early 19th century but focuses mainly on the many different changes made by the Roberts Court in the 21st century. Hunter Clark, an early reviewer [and professor at Drake University Law School], called the book ‘new and important,’ and ‘of immense value’ to legal scholars, practitioners, journalists, and political scientists.”

1964
Steve Fisher EE’64 writes, “I’ve completed the final action novel in my Carswell trilogy. My first novel, *The Carswell Covenant*, includes both fact and fiction about my archaeologist grandfather, Clarence S. Fisher Ar1898 Hon’25 (who served as curator of the Penn Museum’s Egyptian section). In the first novel, I spot an incredible treasure. In the second novel, *The Carswell Mandate*, the fictional Penn Expedition excavates the object. And in the third, *The Carswell Betrayal*, I try to protect an important papyrus taken from the treasure.” At Penn, Steve was a varsity swimmer and a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon and the Hexagon Senior Society. His brother is Rev. Dr. Glenn J. Fisher C’58.

1965
Dale Richard Perelman WG’65 has completed his 10th book, *Chuck Tanner and the Pittsburgh Pirates* (The History Press). He writes, “Tanner became known for hitting a home run on his first major league pitch in 1955, only the seventh player to do so at the time, and for winning a World Series in 1979 as the manager of the Pirates. Most importantly, ‘Mr. Sunshine’ radiated an aura of positivity and kindness to his teammates and fans.”

1966
Geo•rey Evans Moore CGS’66 has coauthored a new book with the financier and philanthropist Michael Milken WG’70. He writes, “Faster Cures: Accelerating the Future of Health is part memoir, part recent history of medicine, and part call to action as recent experiences like COVID-19 fade from memory. Reviews of Faster Cures have praised it as a must-read book. The *New York Times* bestselling author Dr. Dean Ornish called it ‘extraordinary and inspiring.’ Dr. Deepak Chopra said, ‘It should encourage everyone to find their higher purpose.’ Nobel laureate James Allison said, ‘I loved this book!’” Geoffrey and his wife live in La Jolla, California, where he is working on his next book, a personal finance guide.

1970
Albert R. De Salvo GCP’70 writes, “I retired after serving nine years as chair of the Albany, New York, Planning Board. Board membership is volunteer based. I was appointed by Albany’s mayor in 2014. Dur-
ing my tenure, we developed a new Unified Sustainable Development Ordinance that incorporated design guidelines, form-based zoning, complete streets, and density development near high employment centers. During these nine years, over $1 billion was invested in new and rehabilitated properties. I remain active on three other boards. The Catskill Water Discovery Center is an organization that advocates for clean water by using the reservoir system that provides New York City with its water to teach conservation, ecological sustainability, and the importance of pure water worldwide. I am also on the boards of Albany Pro Musica and Capital Repertory Theatre and on the finance committee of Habitat for Humanity Capital District. My two years as a master’s degree candidate in Penn’s planning department afforded me the opportunity to put into practice the many skills I learned in classes and studio workshops.”

Thomas Madden ASC’70 is founder of the public relations firm TransMedia. He is also an author of five books and publisher of several others, including most recently Transforming Lives: A Refugee’s Counteroffensive Against Life’s Challenges by Karina Safarova, a Ukrainian refugee and life coach.

Michael Milken WG’70 see George Evans Moore CGS’66.

1971

M. Stuart Madden C’71 shares that his book Tort Law and How It’s Tied to Our Culture is now available as an updated 2023 edition, published by Ewings Publishing LLC. He writes, “Tort Law is a sociolegal history of the norms, customs, and eventual private laws for wrongs, or tort. Kirkus Reviews describes it as ‘impressively expansive’ in offering ‘delightfully unconventional views,’ while US Review of Books calls it ‘highly informative, well-researched and engaging,’ and ‘a fascinating overview for laypeople and professionals alike.’” More information is available at mstuartmaddenbooks.com.

Barbara Phelan Sheer Nu’71 has received the Fellows of American Association of Nurse Practitioners Legacy Award for a lifelong career having a profound and enduring impact on the profession and the nurse practitioner role. She recently published the article “Evolution in Healthcare: The Journey from a US Demonstration Project to an International Concept” in Nurse Practitioners and Nurse Anesthetists: The Evolution of the Global Roles. Barbara is a professor emeritus at the University of Delaware and continues to be involved with the International Council of Nursing’s Advanced Practice Network and the history committee of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners.

1972

Deborah R. Willig CW’72, managing partner at law firm Willig, Williams & Davidson, has been named a 2023 Pennsylvania Super Lawyer by Super Lawyers. She was also named to City & State Pennsylvania’s Law Power 100 List for her impact on the Pennsylvania legal community as a labor and employment attorney.

Fred Samara W’73 retired in June after 46 years as Princeton University’s men’s track and field head coach. Fred coached the Tigers to 51 Ivy League Heptagonal team and 502 individual championships. He also coached 10 different athletes to nine NCAA championships and guided six of his athletes to the Olympics. A two-time track All-American at Penn and a member of the Penn Athletics Hall of Fame, he competed for the United States in the 1976 Olympics in decathlon.

Robert M. Steeg C’73 ASC’75, managing partner of Steeg Law Firm in New Orleans, was ranked by Chambers USA 2023 in the Real Estate practice area. He has received this recognition every year since 2008.

1976

Francis D. “J. R.” Burke Jr, W’76 has been recognized by the Philadelphia Estate Planning Council with the 2022 Distinguished Estate Planner Award. In addition, in the fall of 2022 he was recognized by Forbes as the No. 5 Top Financial Security Professional in Pennsylvania and No. 94 in the country. J. R. Burke is a financial advisor and the founding principal of Perspective Financial Group, an Alera Group company, located in Berwyn, Pennsylvania. J. R. and his wife, Betsy, have lived in Berwyn for 40 years and have four sons and four grandchildren.

1977

W. C. Latour W’77 has written a debut novel, The Bargain Shopper: The Confessions of a Soldier of Truth in the Age of Pandemic. From its BookLife review, “This devilish novel of the pandemic era revolves around the ‘Liliputian niche’ that is the life of Charles Rochambeau, our narrator and presently a ‘certified personal shopper’ for an aristocratic divorcee, Beatrice Wolcott. … Takeaway: Rabelasian satire of the pandemic age, written with wit and giddy overkill.”

1978

Susan Stewart Gr’78 CGS’03, a poet and English professor at Princeton University, has been elected as a member of the American Philosophical Society.

1979

Jennifer Clarkson C’79 writes, “I recently retired in June from my position as an associate marketing director for the insurance company UnitedHealthcare. For the last 25 years, I have been privileged to support the marketing efforts for the AARP Medicare Supplement plans. Working with AARP on the program, I’m very proud to have contributed to this worthwhile organization supporting so many initiatives and programs for the senior population. With our two grown sons successfully on their way, I’m now looking forward to an active retirement with my husband of 33 years and anticipating many new adventures ahead. William D. Volk C’79 , writes, “This December will mark my 44th year in the video...”
game industry. I’ve held positions at Activision (vice president of technology, 1988–1994), Avalon Hill, and others. I’m best known for The Return to Zork (1993), and for coming up with the game concept for iWhack (2007), the first released iPhone game. More recently I created TheClimateTerror.com, which gave me my 15 minutes of fame on the Weather Channel, and last year directed Shiba Eternity, a mobile collectable card game. This all started my senior year at Penn when a fellow resident of the Ware College House asked if this physics/astronomy major wanted to take a class in micro-computers at the Moore School, where I wrote a lunar lander game as a class project. Well, in honor of that and to show off my latest creation, I’ve created a University of Pennsylvania trivia puzzle on AnagramQuest.com, a mobile game released this year, that marries anagrams to trivia questions. You can find it in the ‘Free Samples’ category on the app. Enjoy!

1980

Dalton F. Phillips L’80 has written a new book, The Struggles of a Born-Again Agnostic. He shares, “The book analyzes the various books of the Bible to determine the authorships and historical bases. It argues that faith alone is insufficient on which to base one’s important beliefs; evidence is essential.”

1981

Susan Rudofsky Schwartz C’81 and David Schwartz have coauthored a new coffee table book, The Joy of Costco: A Treasure Hunt from A to Z. From the book’s press materials: “David and Susan Schwartz are two of the biggest fans of Costco in the world, yet they live in one of NYC’s smallest apartments. On a search to get answers to all things Costco, as of March 2023, these superfans have visited over 200 of Costco’s 850 warehouses in 46 US states and 13 countries. ... They hope to share with the over 3.2 million people who enter one of Costco’s warehouses every day the answers to some pressing questions, such as how does Costco keep the price of its foot-long hot dog at $1.50?”

1982

Dick Knapp GCP’82 writes, “I spent 35 years developing, renovating, and owning 30,000 multifamily apartments, units, both market-rate and government-assisted, in Washington, DC, and its suburbs of Arlington, Alexandria, Falls Church, Fairfax, Silver Spring, and Bethesda. I left private practice in 2018 to start Indelible Housing, a nonprofit engaged in the acquisition, renovation, and preservation of distressed Project-Based Section 8 Housing that now has a portfolio worth $75 million. I’ve been active the last 20 years in renovating and re-tenanting—with restaurants, boutiques, and loft apartments—underutilized buildings in the downtown central business district of my undergraduate alma mater, Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa. I recently made a lead gift to the college for the Knapp Film and Media Center, Grinnell College’s first academic department to be located downtown.”

Jack Wiener L’82 writes, “In addition to my day job as an international securities attorney and adjunct law professor at Brooklyn Law School, I’ve represented fencers pro bono of late. In June, after a two-year effort in which I represented a number of victims, I succeeded in having the US Center for SafeSport permanently ban Olympic-level fencer Alen Hadzic for sexual misconduct. Also, in a full-page article on July 8, the New York Times covered my representation of three Russian Olympic fencers who have defected to the US and denounced Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.”

1983

Dr. Sonya Naryshkin GM’83 writes, “I’m now a (mostly) retired pathologist turned medical thriller novelist! My first novel in the Pathologist Chronicles series, Cancer Under the Carpet, was published in October and is available on Amazon in print and ebook, and as an audiobook on Audible and iTunes. It was so much fun to narrate it myself! The second book, Misplaced Scrutiny, is almost completed. I draw my inspiration from life experiences both within and outside the world of medicine. I am sprinkling my memoirs throughout my medical thriller novels, and the kids and grandkids will have to figure out what is fiction and what is fact!”

Celebrate Your Reunion, May 17-19, 2024!

1984

Bruce Bellingham Gr’84 L’97, senior litigation counsel at Spector Gadon Rosen Vinci P.C., has been selected as a 2023 Pennsylvania Super Lawyer by Super Lawyers.

Joseph L. Palladino GEng’84 Gr’90, a professor of engineering at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, received the Charles A. Dana Research Professorship Award at Trinity’s commencement ceremony in May. Joseph teaches classes in biomechanics; and his research, which has been funded by the NIH, NSF, and NASA, focuses on cardiovascular system dynamics.

1985

Barry Moss W’85 writes, “I recently retired from EY LLP after 35 years as a senior partner in the real estate practice. I also focused on the not-for-profit area as the audit committee chair of a social service agency and real estate industry organization (Urban Land Institute). With my younger son’s college selection process...
squared away, I began working on two new not-for-profit boards effective July 1 and am looking for a few public company board slots. I can be reached at barryg-moss7@gmail.com.”

Dr. Neil W. Schluger M’85, a pulmonologist, has been elected dean of the New York Medical College’s School of Medicine and was recently recognized by Crain’s New York Business as a 2023 Notable Health Care Leader.

1986

Ann Kruger Leeb C’86 writes, “My 15-year-old daughter Mora and I were featured in a National Public Radio segment about neuroplasticity that aired March 22 on All Things Considered. The audio segment is worth a listen and can be found by searching ‘Meet the Glass Half-Pull Girl’ at npr.org. The segment was also expanded into a podcast on NPR’s ‘Short Wave’ feed. The Leeb women aren’t the only ones in the family getting recognition as my husband of 18 years, Seth, was named Architect of the Year by the New Jersey chapter of the American Institute of Architects. After a nearly two-decade career in college admissions, specializing in international applicants and college counseling, I left professional employment and have spent considerable time over the last decade and a half involved in the special-needs community, particularly supporting other parents. In 2022, I graduated from New Jersey Medical School and was among the very first to receive Orthodox Rabbinical Ordination (semicha) online in 2004. Then, through some tragic miscarriage of justice, I lost my law license (and my civil rights) for almost two decades. During that time, I founded Warranty of America, an extended warranty company that provides unlimited coverage for just $9.95 per month. I also founded A/C Innovations which replaced disposable air conditioner filters with a water filtration system to replace the billion used filters that are contributed to landfills every year. I worked at a family office, a family accounting firm, supervised the kosher food stand at Miami Heat games, and started the Alliance of Blacks & Jews, which is part of the world’s largest conservation forest in Africa, comprising over 25 million hectares over five countries and a $4.5 billion green hydrogen plant. The revenue from these projects will provide schools, hospitals, electricity, and clean water to around 500 million Africans. More recently, I started a new social media platform that pays the members the lion’s share of what we make selling the members’ data to brands, marketers, and advertisers. You can sign up for the waitlist at EarnKee.vip. I also wrote a book on growing a business and I am an executive and business coach. Also, I am proud to share that my eldest son, Jonah, just qualified for the US Amateur Golf Championship in Colorado, and my daughter just gave birth to a baby boy, my fourth grandchild.”

1989

Lisa Niver C’89 writes, “Thank you so much for all of your support for my writing! My book, Brave-ish: One Breakup, Six Continents, and Feeling Fearless After Fifty, publishes September 19 (lisaniver.com/braveish). I am part of our class’s 35th Reunion committee and look forward to seeing the California alums at events in Los Angeles and San Francisco in October and on campus in November and May! I am excited to reconnect with old friends and celebrate our shared memories.”

Keith Wasserstrom W’89 L’92 writes, “After serving as president of the Undergraduate Assembly and captain of the cheerleaders at Penn, I went on to practice law at some of the largest and most prestigious international law firms. I became a city commissioner in Hollywood, Florida, and was among the very first to receive Orthodox Rabbinical Ordination (semicha) online in 2004. Then, through some tragic miscarriage of justice, I lost my law license (and my civil rights) for almost two decades. During that time, I founded Warranty of America, an extended warranty company that provides unlimited coverage for just $9.95 per month. I also founded A/C Innovations which replaced disposable air conditioner filters with a water filtration system to replace the billion used filters that are contributed to landfills every year. I worked at a family office, a family accounting firm, supervised the kosher food stand at Miami Heat games, and started the Alliance of Blacks & Jews, which is part of the world’s largest conservation forest in Africa, comprising over 25 million hectares over five countries and a $4.5 billion green hydrogen plant. The revenue from these projects will provide schools, hospitals, electricity, and clean water to around 500 million Africans. More recently, I started a new social media platform that pays the members the lion’s share of what we make selling the members’ data to brands, marketers, and advertisers. You can sign up for the waitlist at EarnKee.vip. I also wrote a book on growing a business and I am an executive and business coach. Also, I am proud to share that my eldest son, Jonah, just qualified for the US Amateur Golf Championship in Colorado, and my daughter just gave birth to a baby boy, my fourth grandchild.”

1990

Dr. Nikki Gorman C’90 announces a new social media page devoted to parenting advice. She writes, “I’m hoping to spread valuable pediatric and parenting advice around the world. My followers are from all around the globe, including Costa Rica and the Philippines! While my day job is still my practice Village Pediatrics in Westport, Connecticut, I love making these videos!” You can follow her on TikTok @drnikki_.

Travis Richardson C’90 writes, “After leaving the Circuit Court of Cook County, I accepted a position with the Office of the Cook County Clerk as its chief legal counsel and chief FOIA officer. My son, Ellison, who is a rising junior at Howard University, will be a Fulbright Scholar through the University of Pennsylvania’s Fulbright-Hays Zulu Group Project Abroad (GPA) in South Africa this summer.”

1991

Ali Shapiro Cudby C’91 WG’97 will be receiving Penn’s Alumni Award of Merit at the 2023 gala. She writes that she recently moved to the Boston area and has been catching up with Penn friends from undergrad (Susan Correa C’92) and grad (Meredith Rosenberg WG’97, Mark Schwartz WG’97, and many more). She also joined the board of the Penn Club of Boston. In July Ali celebrated the joint birthday of Lisa Silverman C’90 WG’97 and Tereza Nemessanyi C’92 G’97. She writes, “Goodwin LLP, has been elected as a Class WG’97 and was recently recognized by Crain’s New York Business. I am an executive and business coach. Also, I am proud to share that my eldest son, Jonah, just qualified for the US Amateur Golf Championship in Colorado, and my daughter just gave birth to a baby boy, my fourth grandchild.”

1992

Daniel A. Schwartz C’92, a partner at the Connecticut law firm Shipman & Goodwin LLP, has been elected as a Class of 2023 fellow of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers.
1993

Lisa Nass Grabelle C’93 L’96 and Kiera Reilly C’93 write, “Penn Class of 1993’s 30th Reunion ‘Talk Thirty to Me’ festivities continue as we celebrate our Class Award of Merit at the Alumni Award of Merit Gala during Homecoming on Friday, November 3. Join our Facebook and LinkedIn groups for more details and follow us on Instagram @Penn_1993 with the hashtag #talk30tome93, or email upenn1993@gmail.com.”

Adele Grinn C’93 has published her first adult novel, *The Favor*, about “two very different women who make an unexpected connection when one decides to carry a baby for the other,” according to the press materials.

Dr. Samantha Pozner C’93 has been named chair of the department of family medicine at Overlook Medical Center in Summit, New Jersey. She writes, “At the end of 2023, I will be completing my three-year term as a member of the board of trustees of Atlantic Health System, and I will be stepping down as chair of the system-wide Medical Staff Leadership and Development Committee. I continue to be managing partner of my four-physician outpatient practice, Summit Springfield Family Medicine. My daughter Tabatha Hickman EAS’19 GEng’19 is now working as a senior software engineer at Walt Disney Animation Studios.”

Gabrielle Sereni GEd’93 see Hadley Perkins C’99.

1995

Dr. Mark Fabrizi GEd’95, a professor at Eastern Connecticut State University, was elected chair of the university’s education department. He recently published the second edition of *Writing a Watertight Thesis* (Bloomsbury Press).

Marisel Moreno C’95 has been promoted to full professor at the University of Notre Dame, where she teaches Latinx literature. In addition, her book *Crossing Waters: Undocumented Migration in Hispanicophone Caribbean and Latinx Literature & Art*, has won the 2023 Caribbean Studies Association’s Gordon K. and Sybil Lewis Book Award and received an Isis Duarte Book Prize Honorable Mention from the Latin American Studies Association’s Haiti-Dominican Republic Section.

Tony Saito D’95 writes, “We had a fantastic time at the inaugural meeting of the Penn Club of Worcester (MA). It was great to see so many of our alumni in the region come together, share stories, and build long-lasting connections. Thank you to our special guests, vice president of Development and Alumni Relations Jim Husson and associate vice president of Alumni Relations Hoopes Wampler GrEd’13.”

1996

Suzy Levinson C’96 has published a new children’s book with illustrators Kristen and Kevin Howdeshell. *Animals in Pants* features 23 short poems about a host of animals wearing a variety of pants.

1997

Alyson Landa Margulies C’97 has joined the board of directors for the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago. Alyson is senior vice president of talent management and diversity and inclusion (TMDI) at US Foods.

Dr. Kiran Bakare Pandit C’97 has been promoted to assistant dean for faculty development at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

1998

Eduardo Briceño EAS’98 W’98 writes, “I have a book coming out on September 5 about fostering learning at work and in life. *The Performance Paradox: Turning the Power of Mindset into Action* is about the difference between performing and learning and shares strategies that individuals, teams, and organizations can use to advance learning and performance.”

Eduardo’s book was selected as a September 2023 Must-Read Book by the Next Big Idea Club. More information can be found at briceno.com/the-performance-paradox, and Eduardo’s TEDx talk, “How to Get Better at the Things You Care About,” can be viewed at tinyurl.com/eBriceno.

1999

Hadley Perkins C’99 and Gabrielle Sereni GEd’93 write, “We are excited to announce the launch of our student-focused law practice, Sereni & Perkins LLC. Located on the Main Line, Sereni & Perkins represents students in all stages of education, from early intervention through college, with a particular expertise in special education, 504 Plans, Title IX, and discrimination and retaliation claims. We welcome inquiries at www.sereniperkins.com.”

2000

Michelle Eisenberg C’00 has been named executive director of the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts in Philadelphia, after serving as its deputy director for six years. She writes, “I am thrilled to lead a group of highly skilled fine art conservators and preservation consultants working with museums, libraries, archives, and other humanities collections across the country. We also offer our services to private collectors and people looking to care for their family treasures (books, photos, paper-based documents, and artworks). Following graduation, I worked as part of the founding fundraising team at the National Constitution Center and pursued my MBA at Temple University. I spent nine years working as a consultant to nonprofits at the Philadelphia-based firm Schultz & Williams, with clients including the Annenberg Center at Penn and WXPN. When not at work near Fitler Square, I can be spotted at hockey and baseball games, and marching band performances, cheering on my two sons. I also serve on the board of Camp Galil in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.”

2003

Rev. Ashley Coulter Brown C’03 writes, “After attending my 20th Reunion this year, I realize how important it is to keep my alma mater aware of my progress and all that Penn equipped me to do. During my time at Penn, I worked closely with then university chaplain William Gipson who...”
truly supported me in my decision to answer a calling to ministry. I chose to be at the forefront of the COVID-19 crisis, running towards those dying of COVID who were requesting chaplaincy services, rather than running away from them. I realized that otherwise most of them would have died alone. In the end, I received an award from the state of Rhode Island for my work in the city’s equivalent of the Superdome that housed the most critical COVID cases. Now, as a hospice chaplain, I have continued providing spiritual accompaniment for many a solitary dying patient of all faiths.”

2005
Jung Mee Park C’05 writes, “Everett Schlauin and I are thrilled to announce the birth of our second child, Gloria ‘Goldie’ Young Schlauin. She was born on May 23.”

2006
Justin Ennis C’06 has been tapped to serve as executive director of the Philadelphia Outward Bound School. Previously, he was executive director of the After School Activities Partnership. The Philadelphia Outward Bound School is a non-profit educational organization serving people of all ages, backgrounds, and socioeconomic status through challenging learning expeditions that inspire self-discovery, both in and out of the classroom.

Irina Zhorov C’06 has published a new novel, Lost Believers. Inspired by true events, it is “an immersive and striking debut novel about a meeting between two women from very different worlds in 1970s Soviet Russia,” according to the press materials. “Inspired by true events, this chance encounter between an ambitious scientist and a deeply religious homesteader on the plains of Siberia will profoundly alter the course of both their lives—and call into question long-held beliefs.”

2009
Ben Alisuag C’09 and Michael Watterson Gr’18 were engaged on March 30 in the Carneros region of Napa Valley, California. They write, “We plan to marry next year in San Francisco with our Jack Russell terrier, Bruno, as the ring bearer.”

DeAngela Burns-Wallace GrEd’09 has been named CEO and president of the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. Based in Kansas City, Missouri, the foundation supports startup businesses, their workers, and communities through its grantmaking, research, programs, and initiatives.

2011
Ryan Morgan C’11 W’11 WG’20 has been promoted to partner at Crossbeam Venture Partners, a venture capital investment firm.

2013
Je Chen C’13 has been selected to participate in Leadership Atlanta’s LEAD Class of 2024 program. LEAD Atlanta is an intensive eight-month leadership development and community education initiative targeted at promising young professionals in metro Atlanta. Jeff is an associate at the law firm Bondurant Mixson & Elmore.

2015
John A. McCabe LPS’15, author of The Girl in Japan: A Young Soldier’s Story ("Briefly Noted," Nov|Dec 2022), has been invited to participate in the Bucks County Book Festival’s Writers’ Market on September 23–24 in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. This is a juried event where a select number of authors are chosen by a panel of judges to meet readers and sell their books.

Rick Pezzullo C’15 and Allyse Suganuma C’16 were married on May 5 in Sanford, Florida. Rick writes, “Allyse and I met in 2014 in Mayer Hall (Stouffer College House) through a mutual friend. We dated for a few years and then we split up when we each went to graduate school. Five years later we reconnected on Face-Time, but she lived in Hawaii and I was in New York. We did long-distance for a year and then I moved out to Hawaii. We live happily in Kapolei, where I work as a physical therapist in outpatient orthopedics and Allyse is a veterinarian at an emergency hospital.”

2016
Allyse Suganuma C’16 see Rick Pezzullo C’15.

2017
Austin Kreinz C’17 is founder and CEO of Atomix Logistics, an e-commerce fulfillment company. In August, the company relocated to a 60,000-square-foot warehouse in Milwaukee. In a press release, Austin said, “We started with 500 square feet, and frankly, weren’t much more than a dream and vision back in 2020 during the pandemic. Today, our 30-plus person team is the core of what we do. We plan to double our employees by 2024.”

2018
Nora Laberee C’18 has graduated from the University of Michigan with a Master of Public Health degree (MPH) focused on population health and biostatistics. She writes, “I’m grateful for the steadfast support and encouragement of my parents, Rosemary and Peter Laberee C’78 L’82.”

Meghan Pierce LPS’18 has been appointed president and CEO of the Forum of Executive Women. With more than 600 members, the Forum works to leverage the influence of professional women in the greater Philadelphia region.

Michael Watterson Gr’18 see Ben Alisuag C’09.

2020
Terri Broussard Williams SPP’20 has been appointed head of state and local government relations at Edward Jones, an investment services company. In her new role, Terri will oversee Edward Jones’s lobbying strategy nationwide, becoming the first person to hold this position. Before joining Edward Jones, Terri was Amazon’s head of social justice policy and partnerships.

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1941
Leroy Fadem W'41, New Rochelle, NY, former chairman of the doll company Effanbee; April 17, at 102. He served in the US Navy during World War II. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Beta Delta fraternity and the Penn Band. His son is Steven S. Fadem W'72.
Louis A. Jaskow Jr. C'41, Port Chester, NY, a businessman; Dec. 9, at 102. He served in the US Army during World War II. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Beta Delta fraternity. His brother is Ralph Jaskow W'46. His son is Peter A. Jaskow C'69. His grandchildren are Kevin Jaskow C'94 and Rebecca Jaskow Blackman C'98, who is married to Keith Blackman C'98.
Anna M. Ruggiero Ed'41, Roseto, PA, an author and artist; Feb. 10, at 103. At Penn, she was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority.

1942
David Dargan WEv'42, Louisville, KY, June 1, 2022.

1943
Dr. Frederick A. Blount M'43 GM'47, Winston-Salem, NC, a pediatrician and professor emeritus at Wake Forest University School of Medicine; September 27, 2021, at 102. He served in the US Navy during World War II.
Myron “Mike” Feldman W'43, Short Hills, NJ, vice chairman of the Board of Allied Beverage, founder of the Sommelier Society of New Jersey, and former director of two banks; Feb. 28. He served in the US Navy during World War II. At Penn, he was a member of Tau Epsilon Phi fraternity. His brother is Edward Feldman W'48, one daughter is Allison Feldman LeVine CW'73, and one granddaughter is Rebecca LeVine C'12.

1944
Mildred Marks Siegel CW'44, Peabody, MA, April 27, at 102.

1946
Robert S. Elegant C'46, London, UK, a journalist and author of 18 books; June 20. At Penn, he was a member of the Daily Pennsylvanian, ROTC, and WXPN. One son is Simon D. B. Elegant C'82, and one granddaughter is Naomi C. Elegant C'19.
Dr. John P. McLauryn Jr. M'46, Oxford, MS, an obstetrician-gynecologist; June 19, 2022, at 99. He served in the US Army during World War II.
Lillian “Libby” Berkowitz Rankow Ed'46 GEd'47, Medford, NJ, a retired academic guidance counselor; May 18. Her children include Sheryl Barsky Rand C'76 and Dr. Gail B. Slap CW'73 M'77 GM'80 GM'83 G'83.
Polarie Blackman Wilson CW'46, Havertown, PA, co-owner of a pharmacy with her husband; Nov. 13. One daughter is Dr. Michele D. Wilson-Helfaer C'76.

1947
Jacqueline Schwartz Becker Ed'47, Mechanicsburg, PA, a retired middle school English teacher; May 13.
Lenore Linsalata Cahill CW'47, Virginia Beach, VA, a retired newspaper reporter; Feb. 8.
Dr. George R. Moritt Jr. M'47 GM'51, New Cumberland, PA, a retired cardiologist; May 25. He served in the US Marine Corps during the Korean War and in the US Navy Reserve.

1948
Dr. John C. Adler M'48, Rockford, TN, a retired physician; March 30, 2022, at 101. He served in the US Army during World War II.
Stanley E. Carnarius C'48, Ephrata, PA, retired director of management training and development for an agricultural machinery manufacturer; Oct. 20. He was also a book author and editor. He served in the US military during World War II. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity and the choral society.
Dr. Bertram M. Kummel M'48, Stone Mountain, GA, a retired orthopedic surgeon; May 4, 2022.
Barbara Doehler Schneible DH'48, Bethlehem, PA, a former dental hygienist; Jan. 28.
Dorothy E. Turner HUP'48, Ocean City, NJ, a former elementary school nurse and owner of an antiques business; April 22.

1949
Frances H. Abramson CCC'49, Pittsburgh, Aug. 5, 2021. One daughter is Jo Ann Abramson CW'73.
Herbert B. Baron G'49, Jacksonville, Fl, a retired entrepreneur; April 25. He served in the US Army during World War II.
Harry S. Fenson W'49, Endwell, NY, a retired elementary school math and science teacher; May 10. He served in the US Navy during World War II. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity and the rowing team.
Agnes Troxell Paist Ed'49 GEd'50, Emmaus, PA, a former instructor at Penn; April 10, 2022, at 101. She served in the US Army Nurse Corps during World War II. Her son is Dr. Wistar B. Paist D'80.
Dr. George W. Plonk GM'49, Kings Mountain, NC, a retired general surgeon; April 24, 2022, at 103. He served in the military as a physician during World War II.

1950
Dolores Knudson Akin HUP’50, Birmingham, AL, a former head nurse of the children’s ward at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania; Feb. 14.
Peter S. Daules W'50, Waldwick, NJ, retired comptroller of the Antiochian Orthodox Church of North America and a certified financial planner; May 28. He served in the US Army. One granddaughter is Lauren Sietmsma G'N22.
Doris Mozenter Greene Ed’d50 GEd’51, Voorhees, NJ, a former middle school social studies and music teacher; Jan. 20. Her husband is Arthur E. Greene C'44.
Joanne Veness Keill CW’50, Old Tappan, NJ, a former social worker and homemaker; May 21.
Dr. Ephraim C. Lewis D’50, Rochester, NY, a retired dentist; Nov. 4. He served in the US Army during World War II.

Edward Lipp G’50, Millersville, MD, a retired military intelligence analyst and technical editor; June 27, 2022. He served in the US Army during World War II.

Sidney Margulies W’50, Wynnewood, PA, a retired lawyer; Feb. 5. His wife is Adele Levin Margulies W'57.


Beverly Bennett Rutstein CW’50, Chapel Hill, NC, a retired director of development for Harvard Medical School; Sept. 19. Earlier in her career she worked for the CIA. In 2002, she established a fund at Penn Libraries for the purchase of books or scholarly materials in the humanities.

Harvey A. Share G’50, Rockford, IL, a retired high school economics and social studies teacher; April 23.

1951

Carolyn Kauerman Deming CW’51, Media, PA, a homemaker and tour guide at Longwood Gardens; Feb. 9, 2022. At Penn, she was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority. One son is Robert W. Deming GEng’89.

Dr. Victor H. Frankel M’51, Kirkland, WA, a retired orthopedic surgeon and president of a hospital; August 12, 2021. He served in the US Army Medical Corps.

Dr. Burton Giges GM’51, New Rochelle, NY, a sports psychologist; March 7, 2022. He served in the US Army during the Korean War.

Dr. Morris J. Lipnik GM’51, Bonita Springs, FL, a retired dermatologist; November 23, at 100. He served in the US Army.

Russell McCormick Jr. W’51, Lower Gwynedd, PA, a retired sales manager for Kraft Foods; May 14. He served in the US Army during World War II and the Korean War. At Penn, he was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

Martin H. Rubenstein W’51, Purchase, NY, a retired executive at a management consulting firm; Feb. 13. He served in the US Army Air Corps during World War II. At Penn, he was a member of Beta Sigma Rho fraternity. One son is Donald P. Rubenstein C’80.

Daniel J. Tumolo WEv’51, Trappe, PA, retired manager of grant accounting at Temple University; May 16. He served in the US Navy during World War II.

1952

Janice Kohl Baylinson Ed’52, Atlanta, a retired schoolteacher; April 23. Her husband is Rabbi David A. Baylinson C’51, and one grandson is Maxwell K. Levy C’17.

Donald A. Marshall W’52 L’60, Wynnewood, PA, a retired lawyer; May 22. He served in the US Navy during the Korean War.

Dr. Aaron Medow C’52, Pompano Beach, FL, a retired cardiologist; May 5. He served in the US Navy as a flight surgeon and in the US Navy Reserve. At Penn, he was a member of the fencing team.

A. Donald Mingle W’52, Martinsburg, PA, former owner of a department store; April 28. At Penn, he was a member of Theta Xi fraternity and the Penn Band.

John K. O’Brien W’52, Scarborough, ME, owner of an insurance agency; March 15. He served in the US Army during World War II. At Penn, he was a member of the sprint football team. His brothers include Hugh P. O’Brien W'55.

Philip J. Ruedig WG’52, Vernon Hills, IL, retired founder of a flavors business; April 24. He served in the US military during the Korean War.

1953

Elaine Dart Barnes SW’53, Bowie, MD, a retired middle school counselor; Jan. 28.

Mary “Polly” Harvey Dunn SW’53, Gwynedd, PA, a retired social worker; Oct. 21, 2021.

Richard W. Grafton C’53, Sarasota, FL, Aug. 24, 2022. He retired from Xerox and then operated a flight school. He served in the US Marine Corps. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity and the rowing team.

Dr. Ward C. Miles M’53, Lacey, WA, a retired physician; April 15.

Dr. James W. Smith M’53 GM’57, York, PA, a retired obstetrician-gynecologist; Jan. 30. He served in the US Army.

1954

Joan Peck Arnold CW’54, Dover, NH, retired director of religious education at a church; June 2. At Penn, she was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

Paul H. Cohen W’54, Simsbury, CT, a partner in a furniture promotions business; May 16. He served in the US Army.


Dr. Doris Sell Emerson V’54, Upper Black Eddy, PA, a retired veterinarian; Jan. 19. She later worked as a realtor. Her husband is Dr. John G. Emerson V’54.

Dr. John R. Mohler II V’54, Rockville, MD, a retired veterinarian; Feb. 14.

Gene S. Moss W’54, Northbrook, IL, June 3, 2022. At Penn, he was a member of Tau Delta Phi fraternity.

Frank J. Mukhallian WEv’54, King of Prussia, PA, Dec. 29, 2021.

Robert M. Nied W’54 WG’55, Jacksonville, FL, Feb. 2. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity and Penn Players. His children include Dr. Linda Nied Prieto C’86, Stephen D. Nied EAS’88 W’88, and Joel R. Nied C’90; and his grandchildren include Samuel B. Prieto C’16 WG’23 and Elena M. Prieto C’19.

William Perilstein W’54, Gladwyne, PA, a retired executive at a glass company; May 20. He served in the US military. At Penn, he was a member of Pi Lambda Phi fraternity. His brothers include Dr. Linda Nied Prieto C’86, Stephen D. Nied EAS’88 W’88, and Joel R. Nied C’90; and his grandchildren include Samuel B. Prieto C’16 WG’23 and Elena M. Prieto C’19.

A. Betty Temoyan Richards CW’54, Gladwyne, PA, a retired German professor at Temple University; Oct. 6, 2022.

Mary Whiting Winner DH’54, Denver, PA, a former dental hygienist; Sept. 8, 2022.

1955

Dr. Joseph G. Brewer V’55, Limekiln, PA, a retired veterinarian; April 21.
Dr. Crawford S. Brown GM’55, Gaithersburg, MD, a retired dermatologist and professor of dermatology at George Washington University and the Walter Reed Army Medical Center; Jan. 30. He served in the US Navy.

George N. Graf Jr. W’55, Essex, CT, a retired investment banker; March 30. He served in the US Army Reserve. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Upsilon fraternity, ROTC, and the rowing and sailing teams.

Marie Sladek Heinz HUP’55, Spring, TX, a retired school nurse; Feb. 9. She also taught nursing at Penn earlier in her career.


Robert L. Hesse L’55, Sarasota, FL, a retired lawyer who specialized in admiralty law; May 16.

David H. Katzman W’55, White Plains, NY, former president of a fragrance and flavor supplier; Dec. 31, 2021. At Penn, he was a member of Tau Epsilon Phi fraternity.

Joann Michaels Majetich HUP’55, New Kensington, PA, a retired nurse; May 7.

James C. Massey Ar’55, Winchester, VA, a historic preservationist and architectural historian; Nov. 10, 2021. He served in the US Army.

Patricia Hartsough Masucci CW’55, Seminole, FL, a real estate broker and manager of a clothing shop; May 4. At Penn, she was a member of the swimming and basketball teams.

Ronald A. Miller MTE’55, Parma, OH, a retired service engineer for a steel company; May 13. At Penn, he was a member of Theta Chi fraternity.

Phyllis Link Randall G’55, Durham, NC, a retired English professor at North Carolina Central University; Feb. 9.

Dorothy Weisser Riesdorph CW’55 GEd’64, Southampton, PA, a retired fourth-grade teacher; Feb. 5.

1956

Dr. Heber T. Graver D’56 Gr’72, Norristown, PA, a former associate professor of restorative dentistry and histology-embryology at Penn’s School of Dental Medicine; April 29. He joined the faculty at Penn Dental after his graduation, rising to full professor in 1979. He taught courses in histology, embryology, preclinical restorative dentistry, and clinical dentistry, and served as director of operative dentistry. He received multiple teaching awards, including the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching in 1979, and he received the Penn Dental Medicine Alumni Award of Merit in 2009. He served in the US Navy. His wife is Lois Greiss Graver DH’56, and one son is Jay D. Graver C’82 D’86.

Frank A. Kapral Gr’56, Columbus, OH, a retired professor of immunology at The Ohio State University; Nov. 23.


Dr. Kamthorn Sukarochana GM’56, Ross Township, PA, a retired pediatric surgeon; Jan. 11.

Donald S. Wasserman WG’56, Washington, DC, a labor relations expert and former chairman of the Federal Labor Relations Authority; May 21. He served in the US Navy during the Korean War.

1957

Susan North Andorn CW’57, Wrightsville, PA, owner of a yarn shop; May 6. At Penn, she was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority and the softball team.

William C. Balph W’57, Fort Lauderdale, FL, retired president of a plumbing supply company; May 13. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity.

Linda Pink Harris Ed’57, Huntingdon Valley, PA, April 30. At Penn, she was a member of WXPN.

Walter G. Kusters WG’57, Warminster, PA, founder of Omega Electronics Sales; May 24. At Penn, he was a member of Theta Chi fraternity.


1958

Ellen Gleicher Alfandre W’58, Las Vegas, a stockbroker and competitive bridge and backgammon player; Feb. 26.

Merwyn S. Bear ME’58, West Roxbury, MA, founder of a mechanical engineering company; May 15. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Alpha fraternity and the Daily Pennsylvanian. His wife is Marion Weiss Bear Ed’58, and two children are Michael J. Bear ME’81 and Barry A. Bear C’87.

Dr. David B. Kirby Jr. C’58, Niceville, FL, a retired periodontist and dental instructor for the US Army; Feb. 7. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

Jerold I. Mander W’58, Honokaa, HI, an activist and ad salesman who wrote advertisements for nonprofit groups like Planned Parenthood and the Sierra Club; April 11. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Sigma Delta fraternity and the golf team.

Barbara Marano O’Brien CW’58, Rockville, MD, an elementary school math instructional aide; Feb. 3. Earlier in her career she was a biochemistry lab technician at Penn and the National Institutes of Health. At Penn, she was a member of Kappa Delta sorority. Her husband is Paul J. O’Brien Gr’60.

Dr. Charles D. Peters M’58, Emmaus, PA, a physician and assistant clinical professor of medicine at the former Medical College of Pennsylvania and Penn State University; Aug. 17, 2021. He served in the US Army Medical Corps and the Delaware National Guard.

Dr. Lawrence R. Rubel W’58, Huntington, IN, a retired pathologist; Feb. 5. At Penn, he was a member of Tau Delta Phi fraternity and the orchestra.

Harry P. Schmidt Jr. WG’58, Shrewsbury, MA, a retired aviation consultant; May 7. He served in the US Air Force during the Korean War.

George K. Stennett WG’58, Chambersburg, PA, an executive in the industrial development industry for Greene County, PA; May 24. He served in the US Army during the Korean War.

1959

Anton R. “Tony” Dreslin W’59, Norristown, PA, a computer systems analyst,
real estate developer, and farmer; May 10. He served in the US Army during the Korean War. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Chi Rho fraternity.

Frances Haldeman Ellis Nu’59, Watchung, NJ, a retired school nurse; June 24, 2022.


Dr. Ralph A. “Al” Heising GM’59, San Diego, a dermatologist; May 3, 2023.

Paul H. Johnson G’59, Portsmouth, VA, a retired English professor at Tidewater Community College; May 27.

George S. Lloyd WG’59, Park Forest, IL, a municipal government consultant; May 19.

Paul C. Mims G’59, Saint Louis, a retired high school English teacher; Jan. 26, at 99. He served in the US Marine Corps during World War II.

Joseph D. Romasco G’59, Blue Bell, PA, an executive at a metals distributor; Jan. 27.

Thomas L. Stapleton L’59, Washington, DC, an attorney; April 24. He served in the US Army.


Dr. Robert H. Williams ChE’59 D’63, Newtown Square, PA, a retired orthodontist; Dec. 9. He served in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and the wrestling team. His wife is Margaret S. Williams CW’62 GEd’85.

Franklin A. Wurman L’59, Elkins Park, PA, an attorney; April 29. His brother is Richard S. Wurman Ar’58 GAr’59.

1960

William S. Beatty WVe’60, Ambler, PA, corporate accountant for the Pennwalt Corporation; Feb. 17. He served in the US Army during the Korean War, as well as the US Army Reserve.

Carl D. Covitz W’60, Los Angeles, president of an investment and real estate development company; May 10. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Epsilon Pi fraternity and the golf team. One son is Philip E. Covitz C’95.

James W. Donley WG’60, Stamford, CT, former press secretary for the US Treasury Department and founder of a public relations firm; April 26. He served in the US Army.

Joseph F. Gibson Jr. W’60, Lutherville, MD, a retired salesman for a pharmaceutical company; Aug. 4, 2022. At Penn, he was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

William H. Herrman WG’60, New York, a retired investment advisor; May 2, 2022.

Howard L. Kaye W’60, Kansas City, MO, a financial advisor; May 13. He served in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Sigma Delta fraternity and the ROTC.

Dr. Mary D. Lekas GM’60, West Boylston, MA, a retired otolaryngologist and professor of clinical otolaryngology at Brown University; Jan. 24.

Ruth Baker Mecklin CW’60, Glen Mills, PA, a retired middle school teaching assistant; Oct. 1. At Penn, she was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

Diane Seip Mook Nu’60, Wheaton, IL, a retired nurse; July 2, 2022. Her husband is David A. Mook C’55 L’58.

Stephen R. Weber ChE’60, Stockbridge, MA, a retired investment banker and former member of the board of overseers of Penn’s Institute of Contemporary Art; March 16. As a student at Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity and Friars Senior Society. One daughter is Meredith Weber C’08.

1961

Dr. Glenn S. Breidenstine GD’61, Lancaster, PA, a retired orthodontist; May 18. He served in the US Navy as a dentist.

Lawrence Foster C’61 Gr’66, Boston, professor emeritus of philosophy at the University of Massachusetts Boston; June 25. He also taught philosophy to inmates at a prison. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity. His wife is Lynn Vasco Foster CW’64 and his brother is Howard Foster W’58.

Winnifred E. Gillette Nu’61, Sarasota, FL, a retired assistant director of nursing at a hospital and owner of a ceramics shop; April 19. She served as a flight nurse during the Vietnam War.

Elliot R. Halpern W’61, Berkeley, CA, owner of a tax practice and an activist who fought for fair policing and civil rights; April 15. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Epsilon Pi fraternity.

David C. Hamme GAr’61, Philadelphia, a former architect, urban planner, adjunct professor at Drexel University, and lecturer at Penn; Nov. 6. He served in the US Army.

Dr. Margaret C. Heagarty M’61, New York, retired director of pediatrics at Harlem Hospital Center; Dec. 23. She was also a professor of pediatrics at Columbia University.

David E. Hooper C’61, Georgetown, TX, former executive director of the Texas Thoroughbred Association; May 28.

Robert E. Miller CE’61, Anchorage, AK, a retired professor of engineering at the University of Alaska; April 26. At Penn, he was a member of the rowing team.

Dorothy Lentz Monaghan GEd’61, Schuylkill Haven, PA, a retired reading teacher for children with special needs; May 13.

Dr. Jay R. Moore M’61 GM’63, Philadelphia, former chief of nephrology at the former Graduate Hospital; June 10. He was chief of nephrology at Graduate Hospital (now where Penn Medicine Rittenhouse is located) from 1972 to 1983, where he earned four annual Farrell awards for outstanding teaching. From 1983 to 1995, he was the team internist for the Philadelphia Eagles. Until the time of his death, he was a staff member of Temple Physicians and was chief of the section of general internal medicine at Temple University’s Jeanes Hospital.

Cindy Rawitt Spector DH’61, Bryn Mawr, PA, an entrepreneur who ran several small businesses, including a candy confectionery; April 27. Her husband is Martin W. Spector L’62, and one son is Steven W. Spector C’87 L’91.

D’Etta H. Tracy Nu’61, Anchorage, AK, a former real estate broker; April 1.
Dr. Merrill J. Cohen C’62, Potomac, MD, a urologist; May 19.  
Gary C. Dolde SW’62, Hollywood Beach, MD, retired assistant director of Kent County (MD) Social Services; Feb. 12.  
Suzanne Borow Rubin CW’62, New Hope, PA, a former executive at an animal hospital; May 24. At Penn, she was a member of Phi Sigma Sigma sorority and Penn Players. Her husband is Dr. Ellis F. Rubin V’62, and her daughter is Dr. Deborah F. Rubin C’91 V’95.  
Ruth White Weaver Nu’62, Media, PA, a retired nurse; January 31. Her husband is James R. Weaver WEv’69.

1963
Stanley M. Barnett Gr’63, Wakefield, RI, a retired professor of chemical engineering at the University of Rhode Island; March 16.  
John F. Birmingham WG’63, Dartmouth, MA, a commercial banker and college-level economics and business teacher; April 30. He served in the US Marine Corps.  
Dr. Churchill L. Blakey M’63, Broadway, VA, a retired physician; June 12. He served in the US Navy as a physician.  
Anthony A. Buford Jr. W’63, Vero Beach, FL, retired cofounder of an investment firm; Feb. 1. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Psi fraternity and the ice hockey team.  
Rev. Daniel G. Gambet Gr’63, Center Valley, PA, retired president of DeSales University; Feb. 28, 2022.  
Rev. Mildred Skerrett Keeyes SW’63, Deptford, NJ, a retired children’s social worker; May 20, at 104.  
Elizabeth Lamond Kramer CW’63, Maple Glen, PA, a high school math teacher and real estate broker; May 20.  
Martha G. Satz CW’63, Richardson, TX, an English professor at Southern Methodist University; Jan. 26.  
Peter M. Saylor C’63 GA’65, Gwynedd, PA, an architect; June 1. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity and Mask & Wig.  
Dr. Murray Simon D’63, Charlotte, NC, a dentist; Oct. 29. He served in the US Navy.

Dewey Lee Yoder GE’d 63, Penney Farms, FL, a retired schoolteacher; May 17. He competed in the 400-meter hurdles at the 1952 Summer Olympics and later coached the US field hockey team at the 1984 Olympics.  

Emory Raworth Allen Gr’64, DeFuniak Springs, FL, an anatomy professor at Louisiana State University; May 3. He served in the US Navy.  
Deh Bin Chen GEE’64, Old Bridge, NJ, May 19. He retired from CBS Broadcasting.  
Mary Epping Crowther CW’64 G’65, Norman, OK, an office manager for a medical association; Aug. 4, 2022. At Penn, she was a member of Penn Players and the tennis team. One son is John C. Crowther C’93 Gr’01.  
James S. Curtin WG’64, Hinsdale, IL, professor emeritus of law at Loyola University Chicago; May 10. He served in the US Navy.  
Elizabeth “Betty Jane” Artman Freas DH’64, Media, PA, a retired dental hygienist and real estate agent; May 2.  
David H. Krantz Gr’64, Stanford, CA, cofounder of the Center for Research in Environmental Decisions; May 20.  
Janet A. Martin G’64, Georgetown, DE, a retired high school English teacher; May 10.  
Edwin H. Reitman W’64, Atlanta, former president of UPS Europe; May 2.  
Edmund P. Rihbany WG’64, Fairfield, CT, a retired sales manager in the plastics industry; March 19.  
Paul L. Silver Gr’64, Johnson, VT, a history professor at Johnson State College; Dec. 16.

1964
Robert R. Bishop L’65, Wayne, PA, head of a private school; May 4. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Psi fraternity.  
Dr. Richard Creech M’65 GM’69, Fort Washington, PA, a medical oncologist and former faculty member in clinical medicine in Penn’s Perelman School of Medicine; July 1. He served as an assistant professor of clinical medicine from 1973 to 1979, then as an adjunct assistant professor from 1979 to 1982. He also served as chief of medical oncology on the Penn service at the Philadelphia General Hospital and as chairman of medicine at Temple University Hospital’s Jeanes campus from 1992 to 2014, practicing hematology and medical oncology. He also served as the division chief of medical oncology at Temple and as an adjunct professor of medicine at the Temple University School of Medicine. His wife is Charlotte Goetz Creech G’65.  
Robert N. de Luca L’65, Devon, PA, a former assistant US attorney and US attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania; May 9.  
Dr. Robert J. Dreher M’65, West Rockport, ME, a retired ophthalmologist; March 16. He served in the US Army Reserve.  
Rev. Lynda Gehris Elmer G’65, Seal Beach, CA, a retired pastor at a Lutheran church; April 15.  
Richard Hannes G’65, Pittsford, NY, a retired computer scientist; May 10, 2022.  
Philip T. Heesen Gr’65, Lancaster, PA, a retired professor of Latin and Greek studies at Millsersville University; March 23. He served in the US Army during the Korean War.  
David G. Hunscher WG’65, Ypsilanti, MI, a retired chief executive of Washtenaw County (MI); Feb. 1. At Penn, he was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity and the soccer team.  
Richard J. Jacobs WG’65, Ocean View, DE, a retired marketing executive at a bank; April 19. He was also a professor of marketing at Salisbury University  
Joseph P. O’Grady Gr’65, Glen Mills, PA, a retired history professor at La Salle University; Aug. 15, 2021. He served in the US Army and the US Army Reserve.  
James M. Paxton WG’65, Henrico, VA, an executive of government relations for AT&T; Jan. 5. At Penn, he was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity.  
Dr. Ronald E. Rossman M’65, Philadelphia, a physician; May 31, 2022.  
James D. Simpson III WG’65, Little Rock, AR, an investment bank executive; Feb. 19.
**Joan C. Wood GEd’65**, Schwenksville, PA, a retired elementary school teacher; May 29.

**1966**

- **Robert C. Svedberg Gr’66**, Perry, MI, a retired engineer at Westinghouse Astronomical Laboratory; Feb. 7.

**1967**

- **Yoginder K. Alagh Gr’67**, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India, a former Union Minister of the Government of India and a professor emeritus of economics; Dec. 6.
- **Roland C. Jordan Jr. G’67**, St. Louis, a retired music professor at Washington University in St. Louis; May 18.
- **Dr. Alan M. Kelly Gr’67**, Glen Mills, PA, dean emeritus of Penn’s School of Veterinary Medicine; May 13. He joined the faculty of Penn Vet in 1967 as an assistant professor of pathobiology, advancing to full professor in 1979. He received Penn’s Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching in 1974. He served as chair of the School’s department of pathobiology from 1990 until his appointment as acting dean in January 1994. He was appointed dean of the School a year later, advancing its status as one of the most renowned veterinary schools in the country. He spearheaded laboratory renovations and construction of several new buildings and facilities, and increased financial aid. In 2005, he departed as dean but continued to teach until he retired in 2010. In his retirement, he returned to Penn frequently to give guest lectures.
- **James H. Lloyd III WG’67**, Glastonbury, CT, a lawyer; May 9. He served in the US Army during the Vietnam War. His wife is Blakeslee Benjamin Lloyd G’66.
- **Sylvia P. Nespoli GEd’67**, Media, PA, a retired elementary school teacher; May 5.
- **David M. Wallman C’67**, West Simsbury, CT, a lawyer; Feb. 8. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Upsilon fraternity.

**1968**

- **John H. Crossman GCP’68**, Seattle, a retired manager of several regional programs at the US Department of Health and Human Services; April 30. His wife is Elsie Garces Crossman GCP’68.
- **Lawrence G. Golden WG’68**, Scottsdale, AZ, a marketing executive and professor emeritus of marketing at the Community and Technical College of the University of Akron; April 25.
- **F. Reed Hainsworth Gr’68**, Syracuse, NY, a retired biology professor at Syracuse University; May 10.
- **John Kay Gr’68**, The Villages, FL, a retired English professor at the University of Toronto’s Scarborough College; April 25. As a student at Penn, he received the Thourown Award.
- **Dr. Richard E. Pearson V’68**, Sunderland, MD, a veterinarian; April 26.

**1969**

- **David W. Howe WG’69**, Big Canoe, GA, retired founder of an electronic merchant processing company; May 22. He served in the US Navy during the Vietnam War. One brother is Douglas E. Howe WG’78.
- **Myrena Moore Kickasola G’69**, Waltham, MA, a music teacher at various schools; Feb. 5.
- **Helen Keim Moss Nu’69**, Woodbury, NJ, a retired school nurse; Feb. 6.
- **Dorothy Moskowitz Orwitz GEd’69**, Wynnewood, PA, a retired teacher; Feb. 20.
- **Joseph E. Perna ME’69**, Newfields, NH, Jan. 31. He retired from the human resources sector.
- **Peter M. Ramsey WG’69**, Annapolis, MD, managing director of a bank; June 8.
- **Michael D. Tozer WV’69**, Fairless Hills, PA, a retired real estate agent; Feb. 12.

**1970**

- **Joseph J. Barrette D’70**, Dunmore, PA, a retired dentist; April 27. He served in the US Navy during the Vietnam War.
- **Lawrence D. Cowell WG’70**, State College, PA, August 2020. He developed computer systems for Richardson-Vicks, maker of Vicks VapoRub.
- **Thomas C. Hutchison EE’70**, Newark, DE, owner and operator of a restaurant and bar; May 28. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, Friars Senior Society, and the soccer team.
- **Kent R. Logan C’70**, Black Mountain, NC, a special education consultant; May 7.
- **Glensy A. Waldman G’70 Gr’75**, Wernersville, PA, retired head librarian at the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia; May 1.

**1971**

- **Allan H. Erbe WG’71**, Stroudsburg, PA, a retired technical writer for a computer systems company; May 31. He served in the US Army.
- **Dr. Jon J. Halpern C’71**, Hollywood, FL, a radiologist; April 25. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Epsilon Pi fraternity and the squash and tennis teams. His brother is Dr. Stephen W. Halpern C’68.
- **Harry R. Hinney C’71 Gr’76**, South Charleston, WV, principal chemist at Bayer Corporation, a manufacturer of pharmaceutical and agricultural products; May 30. Earlier in his career, he was a chemistry instructor at Penn. As a student at Penn, he was a member of the ROTC.
- **William G. Landis C’71**, Dallas, GA, a nursing home administrator; April 24.
- **Robert Silverstein W’71**, Great Falls, WA, an attorney; Nov. 17. He served in various capacities in the US House of Representatives and the US Senate, including as staff director and chief counsel for the Senate Disability Policy Subcommittee. One brother is Michael Silverstein W’73, and two sons are Evan Silverstein C’06 EAS’06 and Mark L. Silverstein W’04 L’07,
who is married to Stefani Topol Orland Silverstein C’04 WG’08.

Dr. Benjamin I. Smolenski GM’71, North Chatham, MA, a retired orthopedic surgeon; June 9.

Irene Hadrinske Speake MTE’71, Oxford, CT, a metallurgical engineer; April 27.

1972
Joan Colgan Barth GEEd’72, Doylestown, PA, a retired psychotherapist; May 14.
Robert Navitski CE’72, Newmanstown, PA, a civil and structural engineer; July 27.
William L. O’Neill C’72, Ipswich, MA, a former insurance sales man; May 7. At Penn, he was a member of the football team.
Mitchell A. Rosky W’72, Portland, OR, founder of Better World Club, a 100% carbon neutral roadside assistance club for cars and bicycles; June 16. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity and WXPN.

1973
Robert H. Aronson L’73, Seattle, professor emeritus of law at the University of Washington; June 4, 2021.
Steven K. Chance L’73, Santa Fe, NM, an executive at a medical device company; Jan. 28. His daughter is Anna C. Slack C’94 Nu’03, and one brother is Mark R. Chance Gr’86.
Dr. Dennis M. Farrell C’73, Hampton Bays, NY, an equine veterinarian; May 22. At Penn, he was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity and the football, lacrosse, and wrestling teams.
Jerome M. Gartman WG’73, New York, an executive at Business Services Company; May 26.
Richard D. Zweig C’73, Portland, OR, a retired general manager of an environmental waste management company; Dec. 24. At Penn, he was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity and the football and wrestling teams.

1974
Pauline Schroeder Mehta Nu’74, McHenry, MD, a retired cardiac care nurse; Feb. 18, 2021.

Daryl Edward Wiser C’74, Berwyn, PA, a life insurance broker; Nov. 18, 2021. At Penn, he was a member of Kappa Alpha Society, the Glee Club, and Penn Singers. His brother is Randall F. Wiser C’77 GEE’84.

1975
Dr. Park W. Haverstick V’75, Meyers ton, PA, a veterinarian; May 25. One sister is Dr. Jane H. Fuhrman V’83.
Dr. John E. “Jay” Hunt Jr. GM’75, Southampton, NY, a retired obstetrician-gynecologist; April 22. He served in the US Air Force.
Michael G. Kristovensky G75 WG’75, Lebanon, PA, retired director of the Lebanon County Area Agency on Aging; May 19.
James Patrick Scott W’75, Albuquerque, NM, an aerospace executive; March 22. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity. One son is William P. Scott C’01.
Dr. Drew B. Thomas V’75, Huntingdon Valley, PA, Nov. 1, 2021. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity.

1976
Dr. Gladys M. Glenn M’76 Gr’79, Loganville, GA, a retired clinical staff scientist at the National Institutes of Health; March 9, 2022.
Dr. Kathryn Bowman Matthews GNu’76, Decatur, GA, a retired assistant clinical professor of nursing at Emory University; April 17.
Mary C. Quinn C’76, West Chester, PA, co-owner of a guest house in Ocean City, NJ; Dec. 29.

1977
Howard B. Fatell ASC’77, Bryn Mawr, PA, June 10.

1978
Edgar C. Haag Jr. GLA’78, Sacramento, CA, a landscape architect; Oct. 3.
Todd Haimes C’78, New York, artistic director and CEO of Roundabout Theatre Company; April 19. One of the largest not-for-profit theater companies in the country, Roundabout runs five Midtown Manhattan theaters, including three Broadway theaters (“Curtain Up!” Nov|Dec 2021 and “The Roundabout Way,” Nov|Dec 2015). At Penn, he was a member of Penn Players.

Bernard M. Turowski GEE’78, Cinnaminson, NJ, a senior engineering manager for Lockheed Martin; Feb. 6.

1979
Richard A. Battles III C’79, McDonald, PA, May 8. He retired from the insurance and banking industries.
Anthony H. Brown SW’79, South Fayette Twp, PA, a psychotherapist, professional singer, and human rights advocate; May 22.
Dr. Reynold M. “Remmie” Crane Jr. GD’79, Danville, PA, an oral surgeon; April 21.
George S. Loomis WEV’79, Berlin, NJ, a retired business administrator for the physics and astronomy department in Penn’s School of Arts and Sciences; May 8.
Dr. Edith A. McFadden M’79 GM’84, Milwaukee, WI, a retired otolaryngologist; April 12.
Rosalie Ghilardi Direnda GNu’79, Mantua, NJ, president emerita of Neumann University and a former nurse and professor of nursing; May 13.

1980
Jerry A. Sherman WG’80, Edina, MN, a commercial real estate and finance consultant; April 24.
Vicki M. Van Horn WG’80, Albuquerque, NM, executive director of a nonprofit that taught financial literacy; May 2.

1982
Gerald B. Hinson WG’82, Tallahassee, FL, owner of a music production studio; Feb. 15.

1983
1984
Janna L. Dieckmann GNu’84 Gr’97, Cincinnati, a retired clinical associate professor of nursing at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; May 24.
Robert A. Fisher GEE’84, Phoenixville, PA, an engineer for Lockheed-Martin; Feb. 7.
Peter C. Morris WG’84, San Jose, CA, a retired treasurer for a nonprofit scientific research institute; April 16.
Cheryl R. Pringle CE’84, Newark, DE, a retired engineer and business manager at a power company; May 5. She also owned an art and fashion doll clothing business.

1986
Hui-Chen Ku GNu’86, Berwyn, PA, a retired nursing instructor at Bryn Mawr Hospital and Chester County Hospital; March 31, 2022. One son is George C. Ku EE’82.

1987
Scott P. Strochak WG’87, Pompano Beach, FL, a sales executive; Feb. 7.

1989
Dr. Murray H. Grossman GM’89, Wayne, PA, professor emeritus of neurology in the Perelman School of Medicine; April 4. He joined Penn’s faculty as an assistant professor of neurology in 1989 and was promoted to full professor in 2008. He also held secondary appointments in the departments of otorhinolaryngology and psychiatry, and lectured in the College of Liberal and Professional Studies (LPS). He was a renowned physician-scientist, developing pioneering treatments for frontotemporal degeneration (FTD), Alzheimer’s disease, and related dementias. He was the founding director of the Penn Frontotemporal Degeneration Center, where he contributed to the study of familial FTD by pioneering genetic counseling and outreach to families at risk for early-onset neurodegenerative disease. One son is Dr. Scott N. Grossman C’06 M’14.

1991
Dr. David M. Emanuel D’91, Framingham, MA, an oral surgeon; Feb. 4.

1992
Jason A. Staneci W’92, Deerfield, IL, an executive in the credit card industry; Feb. 12.

1993
Cynthia Kramer Paris WG’93, Louisville, KY, a former executive at Delta Airlines; March 4, 2022.
Stephen Ashcroft Ross WG’93, Newtown, PA, a former executive at GlaxoSmithKline; Aug. 10, 2021.

1994
John T. Jensen GFA’94, Philadelphia, an artist, landscaper, and archaeologist; April 2.
Brenda Robinson G’94 GrW’02, Fort Washington, MD, an insurance executive; Sept. 9.

1995
Jeffrey M. Goodman L’95, Delray Beach, FL, an attorney; April 14.
David Warren Long G’95, Dunstable, MA, an executive for Corindus, which develops surgical robots for coronary procedures; Feb. 6.

1996
Melanie C. “Lanie” Moore Zippy C’96, Memphis, TN, a filmmaker; June 25, 2022. She directed the 2020 film The Subject, starring Annjanue Ellis and Jason Biggs. At Penn, she was a member of Kappa Delta sorority and the softball team.

1997
Dan Ben-Amos CGS’97, Philadelphia, a former professor of Near Eastern languages and civilizations in the School of Arts and Sciences and a renowned expert in folklore; March 26. He joined Penn’s faculty in 1967 as an assistant professor of anthropology. By 1977, he had advanced to full professor of folklore and folklife. In 1999, he joined Penn’s department of Asian and Middle Eastern studies, and after that department was split into sub-specialties in 2004, joined the department of Near Eastern languages and civilizations. During the 1980s and 1990s, he also taught in Penn’s College of General Studies (now the College of Liberal and Professional Studies). A leading specialist in folklore and folklife, he won the American Folklore Society’s Lifetime Scholarly Achievement Award in 2014. His wife is Batsheva Ben-Amos Gr’81 GGS’04, and two sons are Ariel A. Ben-Amos C’03 G’09 GCP’09 and Itamar Z. Ben-Amos LPS’19.
Heather Nelson Brame SW’97, Rocklin, CA, a social worker; May 1.

1998
Bryce Buchanan WG’98, West Bountiful, UT, a retired partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers; Nov. 30.

1999
Marc F. Fried G’99, Norfolk, VA, a former general manager at the transportation company Ryder; April 17.
Kevin R. Maurer EAS’99, Reston, VA, a software engineer for a manufacturer of home and business security systems; May 24.
Jason T. Terp W’99, Manitowoc, WI, a finance and real estate executive; March 27.

2001
Dr. Andrew S. McWilliams C’01 GM’09, Philadelphia, an emergency doctor at Pennsylvania Hospital; May 12.

2002
Dr. Joel B. Frankel C’02 D’06 GD’10, Margate City, NJ, a periodontist; July 8. At Penn, he was a member of Theta Xi fraternity and the rowing team. His father is Alan H. Frankel C’67 D’70, and one sister is Dr. Sunne E. Frankel Nu’07 GNu’14 GrN’20.

2006
Dr. Susan Higley Bray Gr’06 Gr’13, Philadelphia, a nephrologist and palliative care doctor at Chestnut Hill Hospital; June 6.

2007
Selma Harris Forstater CGS’07, Overland Park, KS, Feb. 9.

2009

Justin R. Ehrenwerth L’09, New Orleans, LA, former assistant counsel to President Barack Obama and president and CEO of the environmental nonprofit the Water Institute; May 11.

Stephen Khou EAS’09, Philadelphia, a cyber officer for the US Air Force, deployed to Kuwait; May 24.

2012

Harold Kim WG’12, New York, managing director of a financial advisory firm; May 20.

2014

Loretta B. Clift G’14, Chalfont, PA, April 26. She worked for Resources for Human Development, a Philadelphia nonprofit.

2017

Chijoke “Chichi” Nwabufo Okeke WG’17, South Hamilton, MA, assistant vice president and director of state operations for Florida at Liberty Mutual Insurance; Feb. 8. Earlier in his career, he was an instructor at Wharton.

2018

Katie N. Brizendine Wittekind LPS’18, Flagstaff, AZ, a leadership coach and wellness consultant; May 14.

Faculty & Staff

Dolores Knudson Akin. See Class of 1950.


Dr. Richard Creek. See Class of 1965.

H. Terry Fortune, Media, PA, a professor emeritus in the department of physics and astronomy in the School of Arts and Sciences; June 16. He joined Penn’s faculty in 1969 as an assistant professor of physics, moving up to full professor in 1976. He was renowned in the field of nuclear physics, giving guest lectures at other universities around the world and conducting research in nuclear structure physics at Oxford University and Groningen University in the Netherlands. He retired from Penn in 2011.


Marie Sladek Heinz. See Class of 1955.


Dr. Akira Kaji, Philadelphia, a longtime professor of microbiology in the Perelman School of Medicine; May 13. He joined Penn Medicine’s faculty as an associate of microbiology in 1963, advancing to full professor in 1973. In 1972, he earned a Guggenheim Fellowship to support his early work in protein recycling. He discovered that dedicated machinery was required to terminate translation and recycle ribosomes.

Dr. Alan M. Kelly. See Class of 1967.

George S. Loomis. See Class of 1979.

Dr. Andrew S. McWilliams. See Class of 2001.


Paul S. Moorhead, Easton, MD, a former associate professor of human genetics and pediatrics in the Perelman School of Medicine; April 17, at 99. In 1969, he became an associate professor of human genetics and pediatrics at Penn’s School of Medicine. He held numerous administrative and leadership appointments in professional societies, and was renowned in his field. He retired from Penn in 1985. He served in the US Navy.


Agnes Troxell Paist. See Class of 1949.

Frank A. Pepe, Philadelphia, a professor emeritus in the department of anatomy in the Perelman School of Medicine; June 20. He came to Penn in 1957, advancing to full professor of anatomy in 1970. In 1984, he was named the Joseph Leidy Professor of Anatomy. He served as department chair from 1977 to 1990. He was renowned for his research in the structural molecular anatomy of muscular fiber myosin and his use of highly specific monoclonal antibodies to study myofibrillar organization in fluorescence and electron microscopy. His work focused on the molecular organization of the contractile apparatus of muscle cells. He retired from Penn in 1997.

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In a planning meeting for their 55th reunion last year, the Class of 1968 discussed taking alumni on a tour of the National Constitution Center. “I suggested we might also want to visit Penn’s first campus only a block away and other sites tied to the University, our founder Ben Franklin, and his other brainchild institutions,” recalls Conni Billé CW’68. She offered to draft up a tour of historic sites that would interest Penn alumni. It eventually became a 22-page booklet, listing 20 locations, a map, detailed histories, and images.

“A number of supportive classmates read and reviewed her drafts: Hans Binnendijk C’68, Michael Crow C’68 WG’70, Douglas Frenkel W’68 L’72, Carol Soiffer Greco CW’68 G’70, Elsie Sterling Howard CW’68, and Peter Marvin C’68 L’72. And during Alumni Weekend 2023, the Historic Philadelphia Tour for Penn Alumni map was put to the test with a bus tour for the class, complete with their very own Ben Franklin tour guide.

Unfortunately, “the drawbacks of driving in Center City traffic on a Friday afternoon, when you cannot pause and block traffic, became apparent,” admits Billé. “Nonetheless the response to the booklet and map has been uniformly positive and enthusiastic.”

She thinks the tour would best be done on motorized scooters, or, if walking, “do it one section at a time, depending on your energy and schedule.”

The entire area is less than a half square mile, bordering 2nd and Arch Streets at the northeast to 10th and Lombard Streets at the southwest. But packed into that small space, “there is so much to see,” says Billé.

Rather than the University’s first campus at 4th and Arch Streets, or Franklin’s grave a block west at Christ Church Burial Ground, Billé’s favorite part of the tour, “hands down,” is “the story behind the destruction of the Pennsylvania Hall of the Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society.” Infuriated racist mobs burned the structure to the ground four days after it opened in 1838. “But the ladies did not stop pursuing justice, and in the long run the ladies prevailed.” A plaque at 5th and Arch Streets marks the PFASS Headquarters site.

The map can be viewed at tinyurl.com/pennhistorytour. —NP
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