The Pennsylvania Gazette

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The Pennsylvania Gazette **DIGITAL EDITION** is an exact replica of the print copy in electronic form. Readers can download the magazine as a PDF or view it on an Internet browser from their desktop computer or laptop. And now the Digital Gazette is available through an **iPad** app, too.
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Drawing Down the Lightning, Making the Moment

24 On her inauguration day as the University’s ninth president, Liz Magill shared a vision of even greater impact and influence for Penn’s next chapter, picnicked on Shoemaker Green with members of the Penn community and some favorite musicians, and hosted a wide-ranging conversation with Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan at a critical time for the institution.

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Obstacle Course

32 The Penn Athletics Wharton Leadership Academy aims to turn varsity athletes into lifelong masters of team dynamics. Among the obstacles? Snowplow parenting, youth sports, self-reinforcing gender stereotypes, and the culture of leader-worship itself. Oh, and possibly a rattlesnake or a freak mudslide.

By Trey Popp

House of Resiliency

42 Opened in 1972 as a safe haven and a hub for Black students, Du Bois College House has overcome turmoil and undergone evolution over the last half century. Now, as it celebrates its 50th anniversary, what will the next 50 years look like for the small dormitory with big ambitions?

By Dave Zeitlin

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The value and responsibility of preserving and building on tradition is a theme in “House of Resiliency,” in which associate editor Dave Zeitlin C’03 combines historical research with the fond and vivid memories of former residents to recount the first 50 years of W. E. B. Du Bois College House. In the face of repeated bomb threats and other attacks over the years, the house nevertheless became a hub and anchor—a home—for Black students at Penn, which was often the case whether they lived in the house or not. Like Penn, Du Bois has new leadership this year and is looking to the future while celebrating its past. Dave’s piece also deals with the impact of changing demographics among residents—though it’s always been open to other students, the percentage of Black residents has been shrinking over the years—at a time when broader housing and social options at Penn means that Du Bois no longer has to carry the full weight of serving Black students.

NOTE: The dictates of space (available pages) and time (our production schedule) required that we split our coverage of President Magill’s inauguration and of Homecoming Weekend and the Alumni Awards of Merit—which will appear, as they usually do, in the Jan/Feb issue.

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Magill welcomed, Constan remembered, “old white men” defended, and more.

A “Natural Social Worker”

Putting together your full introduction to Liz Magill (“Liz Magill Is Listening (in a Good Way),” Sep|Oct 2022), and the emphasis offered in Proudly Penn [a supplement mailed with some copies of the issue], I see our new president as a much-needed gift for the present, a leader with long awaited qualities. As a graduate of our School of Social Work (now the School of Social Policy and Practice) and a former board member, it is clear to me that a university that protects a School of Social Work echoes its conscience and commitments.

Liz Magill both highlights and lives this commitment, one that can only serve our proud, historic university and all we touch and inspire very well. In your description of a woman who is available, listens deeply, and treats all with respect, yet is tough and decisive when this is called for, Liz Magill qualifies for the highest compliment I can offer. She, like the present dean of my grad school, Sally Bachman, is a “natural social worker.”

SaraKay Smullens SW’65, Philadelphia

Common Ground: Ice Cream

I was pleased to meet President Magill in the recent Gazette. I was resolved to dissociate myself from Penn after the former president’s treatment of President Trump during her time at Penn. Let’s hope things will be different. Anyone who likes ice cream has to be good.

Najiye Bekir Lynch CW’55, Kihei, HI

Penn Can Do More

In light of Penn having a new president, I thought it would be an appropriate time to mention something that our new administration and alumni outside of Philadelphia may not be aware of. For many years now, there has been extensive and ongoing local support for our beloved University to make payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTs) to the City of Philadelphia.

Over the years, there have been protests at trustee meetings, editorials and op-ed pieces in Philadelphia newspapers (including the Daily Pennsylvanian), a petition signed by more than 1,000 Penn faculty and staff, and even a website in support of Penn making PILOT payments that I hope alumni will visit.

Penn’s $20 billion endowment makes it one of the wealthiest charities/endowments in the world, yet the University pays no real estate taxes as well as many other city taxes and fees to Philadelphia, a city with a 24 percent poverty rate, underfunded schools, and deteriorated infrastructure. Using publicly available information in 2018, my accountant calculated that Penn is exempted from over $500 million annually in combined city, state, and federal taxes.

Penn’s previous administration would tout the numerous programs and funding that Penn implements and supports in our city, which we are all proud of. However, compared to Penn’s endowment, or its current annual budget of $13.5 billion, it is clear that this support is paltry.

The previous administration would also tout the wage taxes that Penn employees pay, but the wage tax rate has been reduced every year since 2005. The fact that we are a huge employer in Philadelphia is impressive, but every Penn employee uses city services that Penn does not contribute to. The University also uses many city services that the city is not compensated for, including police, fire, courts, parks, licenses and inspections, and streets.

Penn can well afford to financially help Philadelphia more than we already do, and with alumni support and the spirit of noblesse oblige, we can help our hometown address and fix many of its problems and deficiencies.

Hanley Bodek C’77, Philadelphia

We Welcome Letters

Please email us at gazette@ben.dev.upenn.edu. Letters should refer to material published in the magazine and may be edited for clarity, civility, and length.
those of us who were fortunate enough to know him. Not only did he befriend, uplift, support, guide, assist, advise, and make us smile (usually with a simultaneous groan), he did so for decades. He was doing so as a dorm counselor in 1962 when I started at Penn and was still doing so some five decades later.

One of my favorite things about returning to Penn football games was to go to Franklin Field’s second deck (visitor’s side, in the sun), find Nick, and catch up. He’d have you smiling in about a minute. Thank you, Uncle Nick, and thank you Sundiata for your remembrance.

Ted Underwood C’66 WG’68, Cohasset, MA

A Prince Among Men

Nick Constan L’64 interviewed me for admission to the College in spring 1965. His passing brings back so many memories for me, of Sunday mornings lounging with other freshmen in Nick’s comfortable book-laden apartment in the Quad. It was there I heard the Pirates of Penzance for the first time, and Charles Aznavour singing La Bohème. There also I learned to find Hirschfeld’s “Ninas” in the Times, and memorized dozens of Churchill quotes.

I kept in touch with Nick sporadically over the decades. I wish now it had been more, since every visit or call always left me aspiring to earn his highest accolade: “a prince among men.” It requires doing the little things right, like the time he treated this poor, hungry rower to breakfast at the diner up where the bookstore used to be near Smoke’s.

Our waitress was in a foul mood and slammed our plates down and spilled our coffee. Nick paid the bill and left a $20 bill for a tip. I said, “Nick, that’s a $20, and she doesn’t deserve a dime.” I hear his answer as I write this: “If anyone could use a nice tip this morning, it’s her.”

Anthony R. Parrish Jr. C’70, Coconut Grove, FL

Constan Kept Flags Flying

In Sundiata Rush’s kind collection of Nick Constan’s memories, he mentioned that he would occasionally meet Nick along Boathouse Row. Nick was a member of Undine Barge Club, founded in 1856 and housed in a Frank Furness–designed boathouse at Number 13, Boathouse Row. Nick was a recreational oarsman, well liked by all members and a behind the scenes mystery contributor to the club. For years I would look up at the American club flags on the flagpole to determine the direction and intensity of the winds that day as I set my racing shell in the water. I secondarily wondered why our club flags were always in good shape while the other club flags along the river were tattered and torn. It was Uncle Nick who quietly and at his own expense restored our flags as needed.

When Nick moved into his final residence and let the club know his rowing days were over, I went to visit him to talk about flags. He gave me his final collection of new flags and assigned the job of replacing them to me, which included a pun I don’t remember but which caused a smile and distraction that did not allow me to refuse the assignment. Nick’s new flags are waving in the wind and the club has named a beautiful racing Quad (four oarsmen with two oars apiece) the “Uncle Nick,” which was christened with great humor and fanfare before being sent afloat for many years of racing and rowing pleasure.

John Cantrill W’68, Ardmore, PA

Innate Bias Exposed

I’ve just been invited to my 60th Reunion and solicited for another donation to Penn. Now I find in “Fresh Faces” [“Gazette,” Sep|Oct 2022] that biology professor Mecky Pohlschröder kicked off a review of portraits in the department’s halls and rooms by asking a “nonchalant” question about “why do we have a bunch of old white men on the walls?” A department art committee, probably with no old white men, chose a set of new portraits and returned those of old white men to University Curator Lynn Marsden-Atlass, who noted that 90 percent of portraits were “painted by white males of white males.”

Certainly, there is no problem broadening the portrait galleries to recognize diversity. However, if Penn doesn’t discriminate on the basis of age, race, or sex, if images matter, and if acknowledging the importance of all of the people who make Penn what it is, then recognize all those who built—and still build—the foundations of Penn.

You can find their names on the endowed chairs, on campus buildings, colleges, lectures, programs, schools. You can find them teaching, publishing, and serving here and elsewhere to brighten Penn’s name. You’ll also discover that a lot of them are “old white men,” perhaps even the chair of the board of trustees.

You can do all of this without celebrating the removal of the portraits of “old white men” and exposing the innate bias of those who resent what came before them.

Peter A. Korn WG’63, New Rochelle, NY

Characterizations Capture Key Challenge

The Gazette has done it again: two articles with clearly connected messages that reinforce their importance. And in this case, the messages are on consecutive pages.

The articles in the Sep|Oct 2022 issue are “Professional Contrarian” by Dave Zeitlin and “Getting It Right(er)” by Alyson Krueger.

On page 39, Zeitlin quotes the subject of the article, journalist Dan Rottenberg, as saying, “I get very uncomfortable … around people who think they own the truth.” On page 40, Krueger, writing about “Superforecasters,” quotes Penn professor Philip Tetlock (who coined the term) as saying that their “most distinctive quality … is being openminded. You don’t hear a lot of dogmatic assertions from them.”

These two characterizations capture one of the major challenges facing American and other societies—accepting the idea that points of view other than your own may be valid and worth considering. And this perspective gets in the way of dialogue needed to bridge the gap of understanding and possibly develop a high-
er degree of acceptance of differences. Hopefully, the consistently high quality journalism of the Gazette will help its readers become more like Superforecasters.

*Jim Waters WG’71, Pearl River, NY*

**Photo Archive Suggested, and Kudos on “Contrarian”**

The obituary for Daniel L. Murphy W’50 [Sep|Oct 2022] saddened but did not surprise me. Some time after the obituary for Aram “Jack” Kevorkian C’50 appeared [Jul|Aug 2004], which included a reference to me and my late husband, Alan S. Oser C’52, I received a note from Dan enclosing black-and-white photos of him with Jack from their days together on the *Daily Pennsylvanian* and from their lifelong friendship.

Alan was also on the staff of the *Daily Pennsylvanian* with both of them for a time, and he had corresponded with Dan over the years. I gathered that Dan was clearing out his stuff for the sake of heirs for whom the photos would not have the sentimental value they had for Dan.

Now as I try to clear out my stuff for the sake of my heirs for the same reason, I am thinking how fine it would be if the alumni association or some Penn organization could sponsor a digital archive for elderly graduates with photos of lifelong friends made at the University. It might be funded by a fairly hefty fee for those sending in prints of photos, perhaps less hefty for those who are able to email their photos.

And kudos for the article “Professional Contrarian” on Dan Rottenberg C’64 by Dave Zeitlin. Alan’s career was as a journalist, and he was also a professional contrarian, so perhaps that tends to come with the job.

*Janice Auritt Oser CW’52, Rhinebeck, NY*

**Thoughtful Representation of Neglected View**

Since graduating from the College in 1999, I have stayed connected to Penn in many ways. Particularly working with the Greenfield Intercultural Center, Makuu, and Du Bois College House, as well as supporting Christian groups on campus. Throughout my time, I often felt a lack of affirmation or support of my whole person, especially related to my faith.

That wound found a salve in reading “The Law, The Gospel, and David Skeel” [Jul|Aug 2022], which sought to present a thoughtful representation of the theological, philosophical, and ethical dimensions of Skeel’s scholarship and evangelical faith in a way that was respectful and even understanding.

As someone who appreciates my experience at Penn but also recognizes my contributions to society don’t fit into the typical narrative of what is celebrated, I’m grateful for this piece.

Simlar to Skeel, my approach to faith leans into justice and ethics, and while holding to beliefs that are traditional, also eschew the tenor, tone, and toxicity of the religious right’s culture wars as un-Christian.

Thanks for including this often neglected point of view.

*Rasool Berry C’99, Brooklyn, NY*
Through a Window, Darkly

“A litany of sounds floods the room.
I sense possibility and my own vulnerability.”

By Cynthia McVay
I sleep with the window open. Wide. It’s not just the window but the wall that opens. The five-by-five-foot pane sweeps over Dexter’s dog pillow, brushes the foot of the bed, and is secured by a two-foot stump. The Great Outdoors lies just beyond a sheer nylon screen. The pulsing, screaming, shrieking, clicking, crashing, fluttering, threatening, unabashed nocturn washes into the room. And so, I am a voyeur of the night.

I spent two summers living in a tent while studying monkeys in the heart of the Peruvian Amazon decades ago, and adored it, but I don’t go camping. There’s no need. My bed’s proximity to nature is akin to sleeping in a tent, but with a good deal more comfort, amongst Belgian linens, propped on a half dozen pillows.

For reasons not entirely understood, Dexter—as well as deer, coyotes, birds, and, for the most part, mosquitoes—accepts the screen as a barrier. I am amazed and thankful that my English Setter, bursting with excitement having heard a howl, say, will not even paw the screen.

As a puppy, Dexter sat outside in the grass by the open window at dusk, while I sat inside on my bed, with a laptop or book. Now he sits on a comfortable chair, which we sometimes occupy together, scouring the field for movement. Occasionally he runs to the lawn’s edge to investigate or intimidate an intruder. Dawn and dusk are his favorite times at his perch, on watch. When he’s had enough, he turns to the window and stares me down almost patiently until I let him out to chase the deer. Sometimes he stalks slowly, almost imperceptibly, and then bursts into a barking frenzy to surprise them. It’s the best he can do, since he’s contained and comparatively small. Mostly they don’t pay him mind, aware of his limits. Sometimes I join him and do a deer-bark, their warning call, a heaving cough from the chest, half seal. “Huh! Huh!” I clap my hands or run toward them. Dexter throws me a glance, pleased by our collaboration.

When Dexter’s safe inside, the biologist in me tries to separate individual voices, without success, to count how many are in the pack. On a clear night, if I sneak to catch a glimpse, to assess whether their yips coincide with a kill, the slightest movement in the dark—even behind a closed window—silences them.

I’ve heard that a house built in the woods on five acres impacts 30 acres of ecology around it. I am aware I leave wounds and footprints, but it is hard to believe nature hasn’t moved back in. It seems I am forgiven my trespassing, released of my human presence, as the nocturnal creatures let it all hang out. Shrieking owls, cooing and hooting ones. Screaming rabbits and jarring squeals.

On spring mornings, I roll over in bed to see robins every six feet, pulling and snapping elastic worms from the lawn. I keep a meadow beyond the lawn to encourage wildlife that has nowhere else to go in a mostly tilled and otherwise wooded region. We’ve lost three billion birds over the past 25 years in the US in part because their Midwestern habitat is consumed by commercial agriculture, and in part because of domestic cats. Many birds have relocated to the more hospitable Northeast, and perhaps to the field outside my window. At least I hope so.

In the wee hours, when the deer wake and move from the deep grass where they’ve bedded down for the night across the field to the apple trees, Dexter senses movement, stands at the window, points with his tail, tracking. He emits a supersonic whine, or stands looking at me until I let him out to chase the deer. Sometimes he stalks slowly, almost imperceptibly, and then bursts into a barking frenzy to surprise them. It’s the best he can do, since he’s contained and comparatively small. Mostly they don’t pay him mind, aware of his limits. Sometimes I join him and do a deer-bark, their warning call, a heaving cough from the chest, half seal. “Huh! Huh!” I slap my hands or run toward them. Dexter throws me a glance, pleased by our collaboration.

Despite my love of the nocturn, I am a morning person. I often lay awake in the final hours of the night in anticipation, not wanting to miss dawn’s magic: the orange smear of sun behind the poplars or a shaft of light through the birches catching the fog rising from the meadow on a cool, wet morning, or creating blocks of light.

Before the fence, a half dozen turkeys strutted and gobbled at arm’s length outside the window. I lay witness to

Nocturnal creatures let it all hang out. Shrieking owls, screaming rabbits, jarring squeals.

A couple years ago, I erected a four-foot-high fence so Dexter could run unencumbered, but not away. Before the fence, at night, coyotes used to pad and yelp right there, outside the window. They would have taken playful, innocent Dexter like they did the orchard’s sheep-dogs next door. I found coyote feces atop the four-foot round bales in the field; surely, they could jump the fence. Perhaps, even with their menacing and endlessly fascinating howls, they are shy.

When I hear them, I use my stern voice—Come. Now. Dexter races back to the door, sensing urgency. It occurs to me that it may be too late—that is, too late for Dexter. The coyotes likely lurk nearby, quietly, long before they make their presence known.

When Dexter’s safe inside, the biologist in me tries to separate individual voices, without success, to count how many are in the pack. On a clear night, if I sneak to catch a glimpse, to assess whether their yips coincide with a kill, the slightest movement in the dark—even behind a closed window—silences them.

Dexter as well as deer, coyotes, birds, and, for the most part, mosquitoes—accepts the screen as a barrier. I am amazed and thankful that my English Setter, bursting with excitement having heard a howl, say, will not even paw the screen.
competition and courtship. Turkeys can fly, of course, but their preferred mode of transportation is waddling. I have not seen them inside the fence.

Visitors rarely leave their window open. I so want friends and family to experience nature as I do, but, inevitably, they close the window to a slim crack or completely. My daughter dons an eye mask and earbuds and draws her curtain, the only curtain in our barn.

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It’s been a while since I’ve slept through the night. Home. I have never had curtains in my bedroom, not in my entire life. In most places I’ve lived, no neighbors are within sight, even when I was an urban dweller, so there was no need for privacy. A curtain would shut out the natural light. Why would I do that?

And so, visitors miss the night. They miss the morning, too.

Can it really be too cold? Do the lights in their room attract mosquitoes? I’m not sure, and don’t press. But I suspect it is the unvoiced, unarticulated sense of vulnerability that precludes others from experiencing what I adore, indeed, seek and need.

Or perhaps, simply, they desire uninterrupted sleep. Admittedly, it’s been a while since I’ve slept through the night. Far too much is going on for that. I have always been a light sleeper, so am easily roused by coyote calls, even Dexter’s body tensing before his bark pierces the night.

From late spring until mid-fall, the window remains open until a thunderstorm threatens to throw art off the walls—as it did once, knocking a porcelain lamp to pieces—or heaves rain at angles soaking Dexter’s pillow. When a storm is in the forecast, or the sky turns slate, I watch the windows to see which way things are going and blowing, then edit the openings.

People nod. They, too, like to sleep in a cool bedroom. They tell me how they set their AC to 60, missing the point entirely. I am not a climate-control person. I mostly take whatever nature serves up. It’s not just about saving money or the planet, although that’s reason enough. Rather, I resist shutting out the outdoors, under humming AC or a bubbling furnace. Perhaps if I lived beside industry or traffic, I’d succumb.

But I have the luxury of a natural context. I purchased this property for what many people spend on a home in a trailer park, or a studio in Queens, with all its demands and generosity. I consider myself privileged in recognizing its bewildering treasures.

This October morning, the thermometer in the room said 49 degrees. When I got under the covers to warm my nose last night, the sounds were muffled, inaudible, compromised. The window may need to close soon. This is not a casual decision but an admission that the seasons are moving on, winter is nigh. Already I mourn the raucous sounds and smells of summer. I remind myself as I swing the window closed, that this, too, is part of nature’s cycle, that things are quieting down. The crickets and peepers are tucked away. Through the glass, I will try a little harder to hear the owls.

Cynthia McVay G’S88 WG’S88 is an artist, writer, and rower based in the Hudson Valley and St. Croix.
Way Station
Among the Ukrainian refugees in southeastern Poland.

By Alexei Dmitriev

The 5:02 a.m. passenger train from Kyiv is held up in customs, as usual. An early morning fog gives the empty platforms of the Przemyśl railway station, and the handful of church spires rising above it, an almost Monet-like feel of pre-dawn calm and peace. The station’s 160-year-old pavilion is one of the grandest buildings on the rail line between Krakow and Lviv, and its amply decorated neo-Baroque interior is a tourist attraction in this southeastern Polish border town.

But we have not come in mid-August to sightsee. When the train finally arrives, it disgorges hundreds of Ukrainians fleeing war and the deprivation it has brought to their country. In a matter of minutes, all traces of the idyllic morning are wiped out. The people rushing into the station don’t particularly care about its architectural grandeur. They are preoccupied with satisfying basic survival needs: shelter, food, and safety. I have come with my two daughters, 28-year-old Dora and 15-year-old Bella, to help them in any way we can.

We volunteer under the umbrella of Russians for Ukraine, a grassroots charity that brings together people primarily of Russian origin. Some live outside Russia, like us. Others have taken circuitous journeys to get here from Russia. But everyone shares the same inability to remain idle, and the same impulse to help Ukrainians.

At the station we work two shifts that are dictated by the arrival and departure schedules for Ukrainian trains (today about as many Ukrainians are heading back as are fleeing): 5 a.m. to 11 a.m., and then 7 p.m. to midnight. Noticing our yellow vests in the crowd, people approach us with all kinds of problems.

We help ferry luggage up and down flights of stairs. (The poorest and the oldest have the most, since they don’t know what to expect and lack the means to buy what they may need.) We provide advice about onward travel based on the diminishing list of destinations that still accommodate refugees—many of whom have literally rushed out of their homes without knowing where they are going. We help with buying train tickets, sometimes by pooling our own money, and sometimes by entering PIN codes for those whose hands are shaking too badly to do it themselves. We find accommodation for those who are stuck in Przemyśl, sometimes driving them for hours to other towns where free lodging is available. Any time a young Ukrainian girl gets into a taxicab, we take photos of the driver’s license; Dora prevented what looked like a classic kidnapping attempt when one driver and his buddy became uncooperative. We help people contact their relatives by making phone calls on
their behalf or taking them to a place where they can get a free SIM card. We take pets to vets to procure the proper EU paperwork. We stock leashes to replace those chewed up by stressed dogs.

We trace missing luggage, pets, and people. We distribute water, food, toys, and toiletries. We try to find free medical care for those who need it—even if it involves fixing broken dentures with super glue right on the platform.

In the grand scheme of things, these problems are minor nuisances. But not for the Ukrainians streaming daily onto the platforms. To reach safety, many of them have traveled for days, arriving in Przemyśl hungry, comatose-tired, confused, and often still scared. We're not supposed to ask, but each has a story about how the war has changed their life—often culminating in the particular missile strike, mortar explosion, or death that made them finally abandon their home. They catch us taking breathers outside and unload stories that weigh so much that at night we find ourselves crying for no specific reason.

Sometimes the most mind-boggling stories emerge from those who do not want to talk about what happened. Like a limping woman who assured some fellow volunteers that she was OK—but when they took her to a doctor anyway, he discovered that her leg had been shot straight through: an experience so traumatic that her leg had been shot straight through: an experience so traumatic that her leg had been shot straight through: an experience so traumatic that her leg had been shot straight through: an experience so traumatic that her leg had been shot straight through: an experience so traumatic that her leg had been shot straight through: an experience so traumatic that her leg had been shot straight through. What occurs next can be so shocking that when, on our first day in Przemyśl, we asked another volunteer what it was like, she refused to talk about it.

When I first witness it, I understand why. Mothers with babies—many of them Carpathian Roma—jostle with invalids in a battle for the best position, but their pleas are ignored. The process is chaotic, emotions run high, and it is hard for volunteers and the police to manage the crowds that flock from door to door at the station waiting for a free train. When the staff shuts the doors to take a count of free seats, a shudder runs through those remaining on the platform. When the doors reopen, pushing and shoving resumes. Police officers bark at refugees and volunteers alike. On the days when everyone manages to get in, it feels like a major victory. The volunteers cheer the departing train and hug one another.

Toward the end of our stay every encounter feels even more intense—especially the last family I try to help before I leave Przemyśl. Two out of the three children are autistic. While the older autistic sister and her brother stay on the platform to watch the luggage, the younger autistic child gets nervous in a ticket line and starts touching strangers. His parents cannot control him, the situation gets tense, and they have to leave. They want to go to Vienna, and I take them to the bus station nearby.

The heavyset father walks slowly on legs afflicted by some kind of malady. At the bus station, he has trouble processing the information that the clerk gives him in Polish and loudly tries to speak over him. He wants to appear to be the head of the family no matter what. (I speak Russian, but no more Polish than he does.) While gesticulating, he drops the free buns he had earlier obtained to feed them all. His wife quietly picks one up, and then he drops another. She has already figured out which buses to Vienna are available, and softly tries to persuade him that the children would fare better on earlier but more expensive routing than cheaper non-stop that would force them to wait many hours more. He tries to object but quickly succumbs, pulling from inside his shirt the stack of euros into which they had converted all their money. But Poland uses zloty. And they have no credit cards. And the exchange office is still closed.

So we head back to the station.

Back on the platform, their daughter is wailing out of fear that something had happened to her parents. Her little brother has been trying to console her. Now their mom hugs them, whispering in Ukrainian, as their father appears momentarily lost before he produces the buns, thinking they might bring his little girl solace.

Their journey is far from over, and they will need more help to complete it, but at least they are together now, safe from the shelling that has driven them so far from home.

policies proliferate at the world’s largest financial institutions, encompassing issues that range from equitable treatment of workers to carbon-emissions targets.

One such policy implemented by Citigroup in 2018 addressed responsible firearm dealing. In the wake of the 2017 Las Vegas shooting (in which 60 people were killed) and the Stoneman Douglas High shooting in 2018 (in which 17 people were killed), Citigroup announced a policy “to do our part as a company to prevent firearms from getting into the wrong hands.” The three-pronged policy forbids Citigroup clients from (1) manufacturing bump stocks, (2) selling guns to anyone under 21, and (3) selling guns without a background check. Several other banks, including Bank of America and JP Morgan Chase, followed suit with similar policies that year, and in 2019 Goldman Sachs announced that it “doesn’t work with companies that make assault weapons, bump stocks and high-capacity magazines.”

A common thread between these four institutions (plus Fidelity Capital Markets) is that Texas lawmakers passed two laws that effectively barred them from participating in the Texas public finance market on September 1, 2021. Texas used its public finance market to punish banks that may limit credit to industries that are important to the state. The first of these bills, Senate Bill 13, barred banks from Texas public finance markets if the banks discriminate against oil and gas companies in the provision of credit. Senate Bill 19, also named the Firearm Non-discrimination Act, similarly bans banks with policies restricting credit to firearms-related businesses.

Although many media outlets framed this development as a culture-war skirmish, the financial ramifications are arguably more interesting and consequential. Texas accounts for a large share of the $4 trillion US municipal bond market, which represents money that investors give to state and local borrowers to finance projects such as new school buildings, water system upgrades, roads, and hospitals. For example, Texas governments raise $50 billion in external funds each year—and the total outstanding debt of these governments is roughly $300 billion.

In our new paper, “Gas, Guns, and Governments: Financial Costs of Anti-ESG Policies,” we explore the impact of the anti-ESG laws on the financing costs of state and local governments in Texas. It was not immediately clear what would happen in the Texas public finance market when institutions had to choose between ESG policies and access to the public finance market.

The Texas Tax

The Lone Star State fired a shot at banks pursuing ESG policies. Local taxpayers are taking the hit.

By Daniel Garrett and Ivan Ivanov

Illustration by Chris Gash
to the Texas market. Underwriting data show that Bank of America, Citigroup, Fidelity Capital Markets, Goldman Sachs, and JPMorgan Chase underwrote an average of 35 percent of the bond volume issued in Texas from 2017 through the first half of 2021. Yet on September 1, all five entities abruptly left the Texas market—choosing their ESG policies over the state’s public finance business.

But the banks were not the only ones with the potential to lose out in this situation. An extensive literature on banking competition in public finance shows that, in general, a greater number of competitors helps keep the costs of issuance low and supports product variety. And one thing that makes the Texas rule interesting from an academic perspective is that it reduced banking competition in an uneven way; it was precisely the biggest and most diversified institutions, which are not overly dependent on any single state market, that were likeliest to choose ESG policies over Texas business.

Because banking relationships in public finance tend to be very persistent, the exit of five of the biggest players was bound to be disruptive. We use historical underwriting data to calculate how reliant each municipal borrower in Texas was on the exiting banks. Although some Texas towns had never hired one of the exiting banks—like Lewisville, a 107,000-person city near Dallas—we found that the state as a whole was more like El Paso, which had used one of the exiting banks to underwrite 64 percent of its historical debt. Texas itself had used one of these five banks to underwrite more than 60 percent of its state-level debt.

We used a difference-in-differences approach to compare how borrowing outcomes evolved beginning September 1, 2021, for Texas issuers with significant previous reliance relative to the Texas governments with less reliance. The intuition behind the exercise is that borrowers who never interacted with the exiting banks are a type of control group, and they experience no, or at least much less, negative impact from the underwriter exodus from the market. Then we compared the outcomes—like borrowing costs—of the issuers with reliance on the exiting banks to see if they change relative to the outcomes of the control group.

We found that market uncertainty increases significantly for issuers with past reliance on the targeted banks. The first decision an issuer has to make when seeking public financing is whether to hire an underwriter early on to structure the underlying bonds (negotiated sale) or to skip this step and directly hold an auction (competitive sale). The former approach, negotiation, allows issuers additional flexibility to structure and time the offering. Our examination of the data showed that borrowers with more reliance on the exiting banks tend to move away from competitive sales toward negotiated sales, which is a common tactic of assuring risk but sometimes comes at a higher average financing cost.

Second, the data show that the yields for previously reliant borrowers rise relative to the yields that comparable borrowers pay. This pattern held true even after removing daily and monthly variation in average muni bond interest rates. When examining an issuer with all of their historical borrowing underwritten by a bank that left, our estimates showed an almost 40 basis point increase in average yield to maturity from September 2021 through April 2022. When applied to the average dollar of borrowing by public entities in the state, our estimates imply that SB 13/19 caused Texas borrowers to pay at least an additional $303 million more to investors in net present value on the $32 billion in external financing in the first eight months after the laws went into effect.

This is a steep cost for ordinary Texas taxpayers to bear. Could our analysis be biased by a faulty premise—specifically, the implicit assumption that issuers in Texas previously reliant on the five targeted banks are similar to Texas issuers that do not have significant reliance on those banks? Issuers and underwriters, of course, select each other for a reason. Typically, it was the largest issuers in Texas that used to hire the targeted banks. So, could it be that their expensive change in yields was just because large issuers did worse in general all around the US in the months following September 2021? To assess that potentially confounding factor, we conducted two additional analyses, comparing the affected Texas issuers to both similar municipalities in other states and to large issuers within Texas that rarely used the targeted banks. But these analyses ended up supporting the main finding: Borrowers in Texas that lose access to their underwriters pay significantly higher yields after SB 13/19, and that pattern is not showing up in similar borrowers in or out of Texas.

As of the end of July 2022, there were 44 proposed or passed rules in 17 states to enact similar restrictions on bank behavior by restricting bank access to local markets. Our research highlights several important lessons from the trailblazing rules in Texas. First, several of the largest financial services firms are choosing their ESG policies over participating in a large market. Second, when underwriters leave, issuers face a significant increase in uncertainty and react by trying to mitigate risks. Third, despite taking actions to limit risks, municipal bond issuers experience a striking increase in borrowing costs when seeking external finance.

Whether such laws are worth the costs they impose on local residents is ultimately a question for voters and merits more study in the future. But legislators overseeing tight municipal and state budgets—or seeking to minimize tax burdens—should recognize that limiting their own borrowing options can be a surprisingly expensive way of pursuing unrelated goals.

Daniel Garrett is an assistant professor of finance at Wharton. Ivan Ivanov is a senior economist in the research division of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.
Night Fever

DJ “Michael the Lion” (also a researcher and lecturer in the Weitzman School of Design) is a big believer in the nighttime economy.
The Japanese used to call it the floating world: hours of darkness when urban pleasure seekers tore the figurative veil from their public faces and partied at theaters and restaurants.

Michael Fichman GCP’16 GFA’16, a researcher and lecturer in urban spatial analytics at Penn’s Weitzman School of Design, more practically refers to this burning of the midnight oil as a “nighttime economy.” And he believes it’s ripe with opportunities for “licensing and zoning and transportation changes, harm reduction, inclusivity, safety and lighting improvements, and bringing government and community partners together.”

Fichman waxes poetic about the “spiritual undertones of the darkness” too. “I’ve experienced a lot of amazing, fantastic things that took at place at night, in the city.”

who’s also been deejaying since high school, using the name “Michael the Lion”—may align himself most closely with those who create, consume, and cruise during the night, but he recognizes that he can best advocate for them by speaking the language of city planning.

Since joining PennPraxis, the applied-research arm of the Weitzman School, in 2016, Fichman has worked on several projects related to fostering and bolstering nighttime economies, including editing and contributing to the Global Nighttime Recovery Plan, a guide for cities in the post-pandemic era; consulting for the Creative Footprint, an initiative to map and index urban creative spaces for client cities including New York, Berlin, and Tokyo; and founding 24HRPHL, a resource for Philadelphia’s nightlife community.

Two years ago Fichman was invited to serve on the Philadelphia City Council’s arts and culture task force and was named cochair of its nightlife committee. That body soon called for the creation of a nightlife economy office and this summer Raheem Manning, Fichman’s cochair on the committee, took office as the city’s first nighttime economy director.

The position, popularly referred to as “night mayor,” has been around for about a decade, institutionalized first in Amsterdam and now in about 50 cities including Paris, London, Tel Aviv, and New York. As Fichman points out, “night mayors” are not in charge of the city when daytime mayors go to sleep; instead, they are responsible for coordinating municipal services, regulations, and engagement between the government and nighttime businesses and communities. Too often, he believes, fear, protection, and a “culture of no” have governed the night. “The night city’s going to be the night city,” he says. “If you take a deliberative and supportive approach to managing it, you get better outcomes when it comes to safety and harmony.”

Penn will construct a new theatre building adjoining the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, to be named for Stuart Weitzman W’63. The 3,100-square-foot glass, steel, and concrete structure will seat 300–350 audience members; allow multiple stage configurations, including combined indoor and outdoor performances; and feature state-of-the-art lighting and sound capabilities. It will be used by student groups as well as professional companies.

Occupying a portion of the south side of Annenberg Plaza, the Weitzman Theatre will be the first major addition to the center complex, which opened in 1971 and includes the 936-capacity Zellerbach Theatre; the Prince Theatre, which seats between 217 and 239; and the 115-seat Montgomery Theatre. Additional planned renovations in a campaign launched with the Annenberg Center’s pandemic-delayed 50th anniversary celebration include conversion of the Montgomery Theatre to allow film screenings and the creation of a reimagined and expanded gateway entrance to the plaza from Locust Walk.
him consulting for cities, performing in clubs (from the divey Dolphin Tavern in South Philly to the fancy Four Seasons), running his own record label, and enjoying family time with his wife and two kids in West Philadelphia. In the MUSA courses that he teaches—including Public Policy Analytics, Smart Cities Practicum, and Land Use and Environmental Modeling—his varied skills and interests merge. “These students and me, we’re very much alike,” he says. “And so we find each other. I’ve had students who are musicians, standup comedians. … This work is especially exciting for them because they have an intuitive grasp of why nighttime arts and culture are important and an appreciation for the concerns of the people who populate them.”

Too often, he continues, nightlife boosters stress the economic impact of what they do. “It’s natural to do that when you’re speaking to tourism officials or economic development people,” Fichman observes. “But you’re never really going to beat other sectors. I prefer to use a different lens to view the way night economies contribute to cities: how multi-disciplinary are these spaces? How old and how big are they? How much local and experimental programming do they offer? How much do they promote artists versus food and drink? We need to learn to think of the urban nighttime as a thing that’s specific and unique.”

—JoAnn Greco

High School, he landed smack in the middle of a new generation of hip-hop artists. (Rappers Wiz Khalifa and Mac Miller graduated from the same school a few years after him). “I would go to parties in the park,” he recalls, “and look at the DJ and think, ‘I don’t know how to talk to girls, I don’t know how to breakdance, I can’t buy a beer. But I love music. That’s who I want to be!’”

After graduating from Haverford College, he was all set to pursue a PhD at the Marine Biological Laboratory. But his once fledgling career as a DJ had taken off and “people were flying me all over the place [for gigs],” so he decided grad school could wait for a beat or two. He eventually settled in Philadelphia, where “this form of DJing was being perfected by Jazzy Jeff, Cosmic Baker, King Britt—everyone was looking to Philly. I was part of that scene and I guess it was a matter of a rising tide lifting all boats.”

It was his friend, neighbor, and fellow night owl Ken Steif GFA’09 Gr’15 that encouraged Fichman to consider coming to Penn to study planning. When Steif, who ran the Master of Urban Spatial Analytics (MUSA) program, died in 2021 from a rare form of cancer [“Obituaries,” Jan|Feb 2022], Fichman observes. “But you’re never really going to beat other sectors. I prefer to use a different lens to view the way night economies contribute to cities: how multi-disciplinary are these spaces? How old and how big are they? How much local and experimental programming do they offer? How much do they promote artists versus food and drink? We need to learn to think of the urban nighttime as a thing that’s specific and unique.”

—JoAnn Greco

Photo by Eric Sucar, University Communications

Convocation

Protests and Disagreements

Housing activists shouted down President Magill during her welcome message to first-year students.

Penn President M. Elizabeth “Liz” Magill’s first speech to students was all about productive disagreement. But when the she stood in front of College Hall during this year’s Convocation, she may have encountered a little more “disagreement” than she had bargained for.

During the late-August ceremony to welcome the Class of 2026, protestors converged on Locust Walk and interrupted Magill’s speech on behalf of the mostly Black and low-income Philadelphians fighting displacement from the University City Townhomes on the 3900 block of Market Street. The management company of the 70-unit rental complex just north of Penn’s campus announced plans last year to sell the property to a developer instead of renewing its 40-year housing contract with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), leaving its residents with a deadline to find new homes.

Although the University has no direct involvement with the townhomes and has pledged not to purchase the property, the UC Townhomes protestors held up signs that read “Penn Is Displacing Black Families” and “Black Bottom Reparations”—a callback to 1960s-era urban renewal projects that displaced residents in West Philadelphia, including the neighborhood once known as “Black Bottom” where the UC Townhomes have stood since 1982.
In a guest column published in the *Daily Pennsylvanian* on September 29, Penn Senior Executive Vice President Craig Carnaroli W’85 wrote that Penn representatives have talked with IBID Associates, which owns the UC Townhomes, about “treating Townhome residents respectfully” during the relocation assistance process. And in the future, he wrote, the University “will be among the parties working to increase the supply of quality affordable housing in West Philadelphia”—through a partnership with an organization called Rebuilding Together Philadelphia (which transforms vulnerable, owner-occupied houses into safe, healthy, and energy-efficient homes) and by commissioning a study from the Penn Institute for Urban Research that would explore university-community partnerships.

Protestors from the Save the UC Townhomes Coalition had previously disrupted a talk at Irvine Auditorium between then interim Penn President Wendell Pritchett Gr’97 and Ken Burns in April (“Gazetteer,” Jul|Aug 2022), and have organized marches, encampments, and a September rally outside of Philadelphia’s City Hall.

During Penn’s Convocation, Magill was able to continue her remarks, which she also recorded without interruption inside College Hall, and expressed solidarity with the some 2,400 students in the Class of 2026. “As you may know,” she said, “it’s my new University, too.” She then touted the “most diverse class ever assembled at Convocation” with students coming from 84 countries, 49 states (including one from North Dakota, where Magill grew up), Washington, DC, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, and American Samoa.

“Thanks to this diversity, your time at Penn may be one of the most unique opportunities you have ever had or will ever have,” Magill said. “You have the opportunity to learn everything you can about one another and to seek out those who are very different from you. You will also—and this is important—have plenty of opportunity to disagree.”

Magill went on to praise Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the late Supreme Court Justice for whom she once clerked, for always trying to understand the other side’s argument, particularly with her “staunch opponent and good friend” Antonin Scalia. “Why does this matter to us?” she asked the crowd. “Our willingness and our ability to engage with and understand views different from our own, to hear out ideas we disagree with, and to be humble enough to rethink our own views and question orthodoxies—this is essential.”

“Be open to others who are very different from you in all sorts of ways,” Magill continued. “Hone your skills and your appetite for listening, learning, and yes, productive disagreement. Seek chances to engage in good faith across divides and differences. It’s not just your personal growth and Penn’s academic mission that depend on it. The fate of our world may as well.” —DZ
partisan opposition as Australia’s 29th prime minister from 2015 to 2018—was emphatic about the need for action now.

“The bad news is, if we don’t cut out burning fossil fuels, we’re going to wreck this planet and make it uninhabitable. The good news is we have the means to do it,” he said. “Technology will improve, efficiencies will improve, but we have the means to have abundant energy at affordable prices delivered in a reliable manner with zero emissions.”

Wind and solar energy are already the cheapest forms of generating electricity “pretty much anywhere in the world,” and storage methods, from batteries to pumped hydro projects, are available. “We have the tools to do the job, but what we need to do is get cracking with it,” Turnbull insisted. “We have been bedeviled by crazy politics and crazy media—none crazier than Rupert Murdoch’s Fox News here in the United States, which regrettably is even more influential in Australia.

“Fundamentally, science denial, climate change denial is the biggest problem that we have—and of course the vested interests, the fossil fuel lobby,” he continued. “So, if we can replace ideology and idiocy with engineering and economics, we can get the job done—and that’s what we should all be seeking to do.”

Mann recalled traveling to Sydney, Australia, while on sabbatical in 2019 to work with scientists at the University of New South Wales only to “come face to face with the impacts of climate change” as the country experienced its “Black Summer,” in which “Australia witnessed unprecedented heat and drought and these bushfires, these wildfires, that literally blanketed the continent,” he said.

This was also when he got to know Turnbull, which he called “one of the more delightful opportunities that came my way,” and the two bonded over their “mutual dislike” of Murdoch “and our willingness to call out bad actors in the media.”

Expressing his pleasure that the first event of his new center would also feature Turnbull, Mann said, “I think we are both here at a very important time in history where we are seeing the devastating consequences of climate change play out in real time. There’s no question about that, but we’ve also seen progress that we didn’t expect to see at this point.”

Australia and the US are back in leadership positions on climate change, he added. “That doesn’t mean we’re doing everything we need to do, but we are getting onto that path now. We can see a path forward to where we keep warming below a truly catastrophic three degrees Fahrenheit—where we do commit to the worst consequences of climate change.”

Reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2050 is essential, but “that’s kicking the can very far down the road,” Mann noted. “Governments love to make commitments to targets in 2050 because they’re not going to be held accountable for whether or not those targets are met. That’s why it’s so important to talk about the near-term target, 2030. We’ve got to bring carbon emissions down by 50 percent by 2030.”

One lesson from Australia, he said, was that despite the dominance of Fox, Australians “have been somewhat resistant and indeed they elected a government that defied Murdoch’s climate denialism and delay.” Currently, according to Turnbull, the country is “installing more renewables—by which I mean solar and solar PV [photovoltaics] and wind—per capita than just about anywhere else in the world.”

In the US, climate provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act, passed over the summer, “probably gets us to about 40 percent” reduction in emissions, Mann said. That constitutes important progress, but “it doesn’t go far enough.” Further progress, he added, hinges on a larger US Senate majority that has the will to pursue more aggressive legislation.

A hotter planet is one of greater extremes in weather, as can be seen in Australia, where years of devastating droughts and wildfires are “now being followed by years that have been the wettest on record,” Turnbull noted. “We’re seeing the consequences of global warming in all of their extremes, but so are many other parts of the world. The bottom line is when people say they believe or disbelieve in global warming, it’s about as intelligent as saying you believe or disbelieve in gravity.”

Modeling the future of the climate is dauntingly complicated and involves a type of uncertainty that should motivate us to act fast, Mann said. Contemporary computer models do a good job projecting linear changes—things like how warm or dry it might get under certain scenarios. “What we don’t do so well is thinking about how these different changes may interact with each other in a nonlinear way to produce things that we might not have thought about,” he added. “In some respects these impacts are actually playing out sooner and with greater magnitude than we expected. That’s true with these very persistent extreme weather events, it’s true with the collapse of the ice sheets and their contribution to sea level rise. When somebody tells you that uncertainty is somehow cause for inaction, it’s just the opposite—uncertainty is a reason for even greater action.” —JP

Complete video of the discussion, moderated by Annenberg Public Policy Center Director Kathleen Hall Jamieson, can be found at the Perry World House YouTube channel, along with other sessions from the colloquium.
Combatting Abortion Stigma
Why a “true culture change” is needed in post-Roe America.

In September the Leonard Davis Institute hosted an online panel bringing together three experts to discuss “Health Care and Abortion in a Post-Roe America.” Moderated by Courtney Schreiber, professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the Perelman School of Medicine, the conversation featured Aletha Akers, vice president for research at the Guttmacher Institute, which specializes in research and policy to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR); Heather Shumaker, director of state abortion access at the National Women’s Law Center; and Raegan McDonald-Mosley M’03, the CEO of Power to Decide, which works to prevent unplanned pregnancies by providing accurate information on sexual health and contraceptive methods to young people.

The LDI panel touched on how the Supreme Court’s June decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization overturning the constitutional right to abortion—enshrined 50 years ago in Roe v. Wade and reaffirmed in 1992 in Planned Parenthood v. Casey—will affect individuals, families, and communities’ access to reproductive health services; how research organizations like Guttmacher will adjust their approaches to continue to collect and analyze data to inform and support SRHR; and the impacts on abortion providers and support organizations of the uncertain legal environment created by ambiguous language in state laws banning or restricting abortions.

Here are remarks from McDonald-Mosley, who highlighted the need for “a true culture change” as part of a long-term strategy to overcome and reverse the loss of Roe. (The full recording can be viewed on LDI's website.) —JP

Remember that because of the way that some of these laws were written, in the nefarious use of aiding and abetting clauses, many [providers and support organizations]—particularly in Texas and other states that have these clauses—have stopped operating because they are concerned about criminal charges against them. And so not only do we now have a situation where abortion provision has gone completely dark, or almost dark, in these states, the people who are generally funding and supporting and helping these people connect to care and services are also no longer operating, adding insult to injury.

So, there’s huge need there. In the short term, focusing on just whatever we can do at the community level to connect people to care and services for abortion care, and also reducing system barriers to access to contraception—those are immediate needs across the country and that’s all work that we can be doing in our own communities, our own hospital systems, in our own pharmacies, wherever we have influence.

Longer term, I think the only way we get through this and past this is true culture change to combat stigma for abortion. We have allowed abortion to be marginalized in our institutions. We have avoided talking about it. It has not been people’s primary political concern, for many of us, and now that has allowed us to get to this place. And I think the only silver lining I see in this is that we’re having more conversations about this.

We’re talking about it more in social media. Kansas [which voted in August to preserve abortion rights]—you know, unexpected win: I think it shows that people are willing to take a stand on this, but it’s not the only issue that people care about. And if someone has to sort of weigh voting on the economy or voting on abortion, that’s going to be really challenging. So I think we really need to just undo and address abortion stigma writ large across our systems, in our hearts, to get to a better place on this long term.
James Husson to Head Development and Alumni Relations

New leaders also named in public safety and finance.

Over the summer, new vice presidents for development and alumni relations, public safety, and finance were named, filling key slots in Penn President Liz Magill’s administrative team.

In August, Magill announced the appointment of James J. Husson as vice president of development and alumni relations, effective October 17. For the past two decades, Husson headed development and alumni relations efforts at Boston College, where he led a fundraising campaign that raised $1.6 billion, exceeding its goal and more than doubling the previous record of $440 million. He previously worked in development at Harvard and Brown universities.

At Penn, he succeeds John Zeller, who retired after leading the department since 2005. In the announcement, Magill praised Zeller’s “extraordinary” contributions to the University through the highly successful Making History and Power of Penn campaigns and called Husson “a worthy successor who will continue to build on the tradition of excellence that John established.” “Jim is a visionary leader, and I am thrilled to welcome him to the Penn family,” Magill said, citing Husson’s experience at multiple institutions and record of success in recruiting, developing, and mentoring staff to encourage collaboration, diversity, teamwork, and the setting and achieving of ambitious goals.

“I am honored to join President Magill and her leadership team at such an exciting time for Penn, and it’s a special privilege to work alongside Penn’s outstanding community of development and alumni relations professionals,” Husson said in the August announcement.

Interviewed by the Gazette in mid-September, Husson pointed to Penn’s “incredible reputation”—both as a university and within the advancement profession—as key attractions of the position. “John Zeller is somebody I’ve known professionally for a long time and somebody I just admire greatly,” he said. “I wasn’t in a mode of actively looking around, but Penn and this opportunity was something that really spoke to me in some important ways and at a point in my career when I was excited to try something new.”

Though he’s lived mostly in New England, Husson is not without connections to Philadelphia and to Penn. His older brother Michael did his residency at Pennsylvania Hospital and has remained there ever since, and Husson remembers visiting him in his lab as a high schooler and many later excursions to the city with his own children to see their cousins. “I feel a real affinity for Penn, and Penn Medicine in particular, because of the role it’s played in my brother’s life and therefore my family’s life for all these years.”

A first-generation college student, Husson grew up in Lowell, Massachusetts, where his mother was a bookkeeper and his father, who died when he was young, worked as a short-order cook in a diner. At the suggestion of a school counselor, he applied to and was accepted at the Northfield Mount Hermon School (NMH), a co-ed boarding school in Gill, Massachusetts—which would lead to his introduction to the development and alumni relations world.

During his college years at the University of Rochester, he remained active at NMH as an alumni volunteer. That sparked his interest in the field, and after graduation he went to work in fundraising at the school. “I was thinking about law school, and I decided to defer that,” he said. “I took a job in the annual fund, and I fell in love with the work. I’ve been doing it ever since.”

Husson moved to Harvard and stayed there from 1989 to 1999, ultimately directing the university’s major gifts program. He then joined Brown, initially as head of principal gifts and later as vice president of development.

In 2002, he was named senior vice president for advancement at Boston College. (Terminology varies across universities, but functionally advancement and development and alumni relations are interchangeable, Husson explains.) There he grew the college’s relatively modest development operation, which had averaged $50–60 million in fundraising annually, to ramp up for a more ambitious effort—the Light the World campaign, which despite being launched in 2008 in the teeth of the Great Recession, managed to exceed...
its goal of $1.5 billion. He also negotiated the reorganization of the advancement program to incorporate Boston College’s alumni association, which had operated as a separate 501(c)(3) organization, into the department.

“One of the things that I was being asked to do was to build an advancement organization for the long-term future of the university,” Husson said. “I came in with a real sensibility of the importance of alumni relations.

“At universities we talk often about the endowment in financial terms, but I believe for every educational institution its alumni community is also a form of endowment—they represent institutional memory; they serve as brand ambassadors of the university, if you will; they’re great sources of advice and perspective.” Husson worked closely with the alumni association board to “explore the possibility of aligning more directly,” prompting an external review that led to a unanimous vote by the board “to come in under the advancement umbrella.”

As with the emphasis on alumni outreach and engagement that featured in Making History and Power of Penn, one goal of Boston College’s campaign was to double the number of alumni volunteers, “which we did,” Husson said. “I don’t believe that you can have fundraising success without strong alumni engagement, and I don’t think you need to be in a campaign to have goals that speak to that.”

In the runup to his October start date, Husson spent time meeting with Penn’s deans and center directors via Zoom. “I’ve learned a lot from those conversations,” he said. He expected his early focus to be “working with those leaders to really understand what are the priorities that they have ... and how development and alumni relations can best advance those priorities,” he said. “And I should also say that one of the reasons I am hopeful that I’ll be able to come in and hit the ground running is that I’ve been incredibly impressed with the development and alumni relations team that’s here. This is a high-quality group of outstanding professionals—people who have served the institution with distinction for so many years—and I’m eager to come in and be part of their team.”

The other two recent appointees are new to their positions but not to Penn. In June, Kathleen Shields Anderson was named vice president of public safety. She had been serving in the position since January on an interim basis following the retirement of Maureen Rush. Previously, she had spent a decade at Penn as executive director of operations and Rush’s chief of staff.

In August, Senior Executive Vice President Craig R. Carnaroli W’85 announced the appointment of Mark F. Dingfield as vice president for finance and treasurer for the University, effective October 17. Dingfield has worked at Penn since 2017, serving as the associate provost for finance and planning. —JP

Research Briefs

Heat Deaths Rising

As memories linger of last summer’s record-breaking temperatures in many parts of the US and the world, a pair of studies out of Penn’s Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics reinforce the connections between extreme heat events and increased mortality—and highlight the need for action to mitigate their effects as climate change intensifies.

In the first paper, published in JAMA Network Open, researchers wanted to get at the overall impact of extreme heat events on deaths from all causes, a matter which has mostly been studied only with regard to urban areas. Using public data collected from all 3,108 counties in the contiguous US between 2008 and 2017, they determined that each day of extreme heat (a heat index of 90 degrees or more) caused an additional .07 deaths per 100,000 adults, with estimated annual totals ranging from 752 deaths in 2008 to 2,337 in 2011.

The second paper, published in June in the journal Circulation, focused on cardiovascular deaths and found that each day of extreme heat resulted in a .12 percent increase in mortality from cardiovascular diseases, or an estimated 5,958 deaths over the study period. In both analyses, larger impacts were seen among men compared to women, Blacks compared to whites, and older adults compared to younger. The studies were led by Sameed Khatana GM’19 Gr’22, a cardiologist who is an assistant professor at the Perelman School of Medicine and a senior fellow at LDI, and were coauthored with LDI Executive Director Rachel M. Werner and Peter Groeneveld, the institute’s research director.

“Although there has been a growing realization that extreme heat can be detrimental to the health of individuals, many local governments still have no heat plans; and access to cooling centers, particularly for vulnerable individuals, is often lacking,” Khatana told an LDI publication. “Many areas, such as the Northeast, that in the past have not had much extreme heat are now experiencing these events with increasing frequency. Therefore, creating plans for how to get access to cooling for vulnerable individuals during extreme heat events is crucial.”

Oh Deer

Transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus from humans to deer populations appears to be a common phenomenon, based on a study measuring the incidence of the virus in white-tailed deer in Pennsylvania that was conducted last fall by a team of researchers in the lab of Penn microbiologist Frederic D. Bushman, creating a potential reservoir for future infections in humans. SARS-CoV-2 was likely sparked by an animal-to-human transmission, and the same is true for the original SARS virus and MERS, as well as many other viruses that have
caused human epidemics. Since the COVID-19 pandemic took off in late 2019, the virus has moved from humans to a variety of animal populations, including great apes, mice, cats, dogs, deer, mink, and hamsters. And some evidence exists of the virus having jumped back to humans from mink and deer.

From the beginning of October to the end of December 2021, researchers tested 123 white-tailed deer in Pennsylvania for COVID-19. Of these, 20 deer, located in 10 of 31 Pennsylvania counties, tested positive for the alpha and delta variants of the virus. This finding represented the “first examples of alpha and delta lineages in wild white-tailed deer.” Researchers also identified “five likely independent spillovers from humans to deer among seven fully sequenced genomes” from samples in the study.

Extrapolating from the infection rate of 16 percent found in the sample to the total deer population of the state, estimated to be more than 1 million, “suggests an enormous number of spillovers and infected deer in the state,” the authors write, though the mechanism of human to deer transmission “remains obscure.”

The study showed no evidence of “spillback” into humans, but continued efforts to “characterize human and deer SARS-CoV-2 lineages are valuable to maintain surveillance for such events,” they note. —JP

The donors behind two scientific centers at the Perelman School of Medicine have made additional gifts totaling $1.05 million to further advance their work fighting a type of hereditary breast cancer and autoimmune diseases, respectively.

Mindy Gray C’92 and Jon Gray C’92 W’92 have made a $55 million donation to the Basser Center for BRCA at the Abramson Cancer Center, building on their $25 million gift to establish the Center in 2012 (and overall support for Penn that exceeds $125 million in the last decade). The new gift creates a “Cancer Interception” Institute at the Basser Center to develop tools to detect BRCA 1 and 2 mutations that can lead to breast and ovarian cancers much earlier, with the first abnormal cells or even before cancer starts—similar to HPV tests for cervical cancer or colonoscopies for colon cancer. It will also design timetimed interventions that could prevent cancer from occurring over a patient’s lifetime.

Stewart Colton W’62 and Judy Colton gave $10 million in 2021 to launch the Colton Center for Autoimmunity at Penn, one of four similar centers they have established to support work on conditions such as celiac disease, type 1 diabetes, multiple sclerosis, and rheumatoid arthritis that affect 23.5 million Americans and account for $100 billion in healthcare costs annually. They have now contributed an additional $50 million to create a dedicated space for the center that will bring together programs in immune health, vaccinology, virology and viral immunity, SARS-CoV-2 research, fundamental immunology, and related fields to foster interdisciplinary collaboration, as well as enhance recruitment and provide additional scientific resources.

C onstructed almost 100 years ago, and housing Penn’s Christian Association for decades, the building most recently known as the Arts, Research, and Culture House (ARCH) on 36th Street and Locust Walk has been through several transformations.

On September 7, students and administrators got to see the latest one, filling the ARCH for a grand reopening event to celebrate a remodeled building with more dedicated space for Penn’s cultural resource centers and minority student coalition groups.

Makuu: The Black Cultural Center, La Casa Latina, and the Pan-Asian American Community House had already been located in the ARCH’s basement but shared the building with Penn’s Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships (CURF). Following years of student advocacy, those cultural centers will now have full use of the building, which includes event and meeting spaces, offices, and study rooms on the second and third levels that had previously been occupied by CURF, which over the summer was moved to another building just across Locust Walk. Natives at Penn, which has called the Greenfield Intercultural Center home, will also have a visible presence inside the ARCH.

“Students can now envision what it means to utilize a full building,” says Will Atkins, the associate vice provost for diversity, equity, inclusion & belonging for University Life, which is overseeing the renovations. “Now we’re seeing what the opportunities are for students, who are really looking at this as a place that is theirs—their home away from home in a way.”

Brian Peterson EAS’93 GEd’97 Gr’13, the director of Makuu whose office was moved upstairs, has been excited to see students take advantage of the entire building, recalling how La Casa was able to host a big open house early in the se-
Sports

More Than Just Dingle

The Penn men’s basketball team is hoping to get plenty of scoring punch beyond last season’s star.

The casual way in which Jordan Dingle talks about the uncommon feat of scoring 30 points in a college basketball game gives you the impression of a guy deciding his lunch order from a food truck.

“I have no problem replicating those performances again if that’s what we need,” says Dingle, who last season became the first Penn player since Ernie Beck W’53 to record six 30-point games in a season. “If not, I have no problem doing whatever else my coach decides. I’m just preparing myself for anything.”

Dingle has the numbers to justify his confidence. The 6-foot-3 junior guard ranked 11th in the nation in scoring last season, averaging 20.9 points per game—the fifth player in Penn program history to average more than 20 points per game in a season.

But while Dingle has every chance to improve in his junior season, he’ll likely be asked to score fewer points for the betterment of the team, which last season sputtered, especially down the stretch, because few other players could carry the offensive load. “That’s not how we play here typically,” head coach Steve Donahue says of Dingle putting the team on his back. “I also think Jordan will show another aspect of his game. I think he’s one of our better passers. I think he’s a high IQ player. I think he can do a lot more than just high usage scoring.”

Last season, in which the Quakers finished 12–15 overall but 9–5 in Ivy League play to qualify for the four-team conference tournament, was unique. Due partly to injuries, and partly to the pandemic having wiped out the entire 2020–21 campaign, the Quakers were among the most inexperienced teams ever, in Donahue’s estimation, yet faced an early gauntlet of brutally difficult nonconference games.

This year’s schedule still has its share of challenges but includes 15 home games (compared to nine last year, most of which were played in a near-empty gym due to COVID attendance restrictions), including a Thanksgiving weekend Palestra tournament and three Big 5 contests in late November and early December.

The Quakers also return just about every key cog in the rotation, including junior guard Clark Slajchert and junior forward Max Martz, the only other two players to average in double figures in scoring last season. “It’s always great when you have such an experienced group,” Donahue says. “It’s probably the exact opposite of last year. We flipped it so quickly.”

Donahue is particularly optimistic about having a more seasoned collection of big men, barring repeat injuries to centers Max Lorca-Lloyd and Nick Spinoso that crippled the unit last season, and feels that this year’s squad will shoot better from long distance. “One inconsistency last year was our inability to make people pay from the perimeter, which I think we can now do,” the coach says.

For Penn to navigate an increasingly challenging Ivy
League slate, which begins at Brown on January 2, and show why it was picked by the media to win the conference, Donahue hopes Dingle can be among the players to improve his three-point shooting, from 34 percent last season to over 40 this year, while also cutting down his turnovers and increasing his assists. “In terms of physical attributes, Jordan’s really as physically talented as anyone I’ve coached,” Donahue says. “But Jordan understands he’s got to have a complete game for us to take the next step.”

Dingle says he’s ready to do that and has been working in practice to learn where each of his teammates like to catch the ball and shoot from on the court. “I’m trying to make it as easy as possible for them to score,” the guard says—though maybe he’ll still piece together the occasional 30-point game in front of the “amazing environment” of a packed Palestra (which he hasn’t gotten to see often at Penn), while continuing to emerge as a player whose reputation extends beyond the city and the Ivy League.

“I put in just as much, if not more, work than anyone else in the country,” Dingle says. “I’m confident in my skills and my ability, and god willing, I’ll be able to showcase them this year.”

‘The Book of Ted’

“Memories of Ted blur fact and truth into the Myth and the Man.”

So said Alex Cook C’77 about former Penn rowing coach Ted Nash, in an oral history-style book of anecdotes and photographs compiled by Cook’s classmate Sean Colgan C’77.

Cook—one of many former Penn rowers to share stories about Nash for Colgan’s recently released and aptly named The Book of Ted—went on to explain how Nash, who had a Black Belt, once taught the athletes a supposed martial arts technique called the Grim Reaper. “Ted described the move as using only the fingers to penetrate the chest, grab an enemy’s heart, and pull it out dripping hot. This move made quite an impression. The team forever and forward took up the name ‘The Grim Reapers,’ taking the heart out of all crew opponents.”

The grisly metaphor was perhaps apt for the tall, energetic, larger-than-life former Army pilot Colgan likens to “a ferocious warrior on the water.” Known as a legend in the sport, Nash won Olympic medals as a US rower in 1960 and 1964 and coached 12 different Penn boats to Intercollegiate Rowing Association (IRA) national titles while coaching the University’s men’s heavyweight varsity from 1970 to 1983 and the freshman team from 1966 to 1969. Among other achievements, he also helped to establish the women’s rowing program at Penn and was a longtime Olympic coach.

Colgan had already been planning to write a book on his coach, mentor, and friend when Nash died in July 2021. “I think it’s been in my brain for about 30 years,” Colgan says. But it wasn’t until the COVID-19 lockdown of 2020—which was especially restrictive in New Zealand, where he currently lives—that he found the time to fire off countless emails, collect stories and photos, and edit and condense them into a well-designed remembrance. “I thought this would be a fitting tribute to a man who attached himself to so many people in so many different ways.”

Some of the tales have perhaps gotten a tad taller in the retelling, like when Nash leapt out of his car and dove into the Schuylkill River to try to save a drowning man, or fended off a gang of people attacking a woman near the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Others show his softer side: teaching himself to play the piano, knotting a freshman’s tie on the bus, helping walk-ons love the sport even while insisting that practice go forward in the most adverse weather conditions.

Ken Dreyfuss W’69 GED’77 recalled that he had “never even heard of rowing until I got this letter from Ted Nash in the mail informing me that I was the perfect size and weight to be a coxswain at Penn. I literally had no idea what he was talking about. I had never played a sport in my life.” But out of curiosity, he went down to the rowing tanks and “ended up staying with it”—to an undefeated season and appearance in Sports Illustrated as a freshman, to three straight heavyweight IRA team championships, to the Olympics, and ultimately to a coaching vocation of his own. “Ted changed the course of my life,” said Dreyfuss, adding that his “tireless” coach would write him notes at 4 a.m., even long after he graduated.

Colgan hopes readers will enjoy stories like these “bite by bite, not all at once” and says he designed the full-color, hardcover book so that it “could sit on someone’s coffee table for a long time.” He’d like to see it gain traction in the Penn rowing community, which in mid-October celebrated renovations to its boathouse along Kelly Drive, but “I would hope it has a wider readership,” he says. “I think it should be sent to every coach, of any sport, to understand how you can really mold athletes.” —DZ
I. THE INAUGURAL CEREMONY

“The future awaits, but we’re ready. Let’s draw down the lightning—together,” said Penn President Liz Magill at the conclusion of an inaugural address that employed founder Benjamin Franklin’s famous kite and key experiment on the nature of electricity as a metaphor for Penn’s abiding ambition to advance knowledge for the good of all—and for what comes next in that “unending” quest. “The challenges are many and the need is great,” Magill said, “but here’s my message: in its long and illustrious history Penn has always met the moment. Now and for the future, we will help make the moment.”

“On land first walked upon by the Lenape people, in a state named after and reflecting the welcome of William Penn, at a university founded by and carrying the spirit of Benjamin Franklin, in an auditorium designed by Julian Abele, Penn’s first Black graduate from our department of architecture, on this glorious morning, would you please join me in a spirit of prayer for our invocation,” said University chaplain and vice president for social equity and community Charles L. “Chaz” Howard C’00, after the academic procession—including Penn’s two former presidents Judith Rodin CW’66 Hon’04 and Amy Gutmann Hon’22—had made its way into Irvine Auditorium for the October 21 ceremony to inaugurate M. Elizabeth Magill. “May our new president be blessed and led by a mighty current of love as she journeys with Philadelphia and the surrounding area. May she and our university create more opportunities, help to heal brokenness, celebrate joys, and be of gracious and generous service to our neighbors, and may she be blessed as she leads and serves on our campus.”

Stepping to the podium, board of trustees chair Scott Bok C’81 W’81 L’84 noted that the “remarkable” Irvine Auditorium was built just one year before Penn’s first president, Thomas Sovereign Gates W’1893 L’1896 Hon’31, took office in 1930. (Prior to that Penn’s provost, now
since Franklin's time, we remain true to his mission and I know you share these ideals,” she added. “As alumni, we’re grateful that you have accepted the important responsibility of Penn president, we know that you recognize the value of a strong and energetic alumni base, and we cannot wait to work with you to help move Penn forward for current students and future generations alike.”

Bracketed by a musical performance and dance medley by students, Hunt read her poem composed for the occasion, “Dear Neighbor,” which included a call to “meet this moment with virtuous impatience”—a formulation Magill had used at her election by the trustees last March and to which she would return in the course of the ceremony.

The main speaker preceding Magill was James E. Ryan, president of the University of Virginia, where Magill was provost before coming to Penn. The two are also longtime former colleagues at UVA’s law school, and close friends—as indicated by Ryan’s opening anecdote about how Magill talked him down from sending a letter he had drafted (“with a heavy dose of hypocrisy”) of a policy change at his children’s preschool. Magill counseled that he call or visit the school instead, which he did, and the problem was resolved.

“I raise this somewhat frivolous story because it captures much of what I admire and love about Liz Magill,” he continued. “First and foremost, she is a fiercely loyal friend. When she decides she’s on your side, she is on your side. You become like family to her. Your hopes become her hopes, your challenges her challenges. She makes time to help when you ask and even when you don’t,” he said. “Her response to my letter was not driven by a desire to point out how ridiculous it was—and it was ridiculous. It was driven instead by a desire to prevent me from embarrassing myself and from making the situation worse. She was at once sticking up for me and protecting me. I can tell you that the entire Penn community now falls in the category of Friend of Liz, and you will not have a better or more determined champion.”

Praising Magill as both empathetic and tough, he called her “a natural leader,” but added that that description fell short. “It misses the fact that few people, if any, work harder than Liz Magill. She’s an effective leader because she works hard at it. I saw this time and again when she was in the provost’s office at UVA, but especially during the COVID crisis,” he said.

At the start of his remarks, Ryan had called Magill the first “Cavalier Quaker,” referring to UVAs’s mascot. He went on to draw connections between the schools’ famous founders. “Franklin was a trusted friend and mentor to Jefferson, who succeeded Franklin as ambassador to France and called the experience of following Franklin a lesson in humility,” he said. “And while Jefferson was the primary author of the Declaration of Independence, Franklin served as editor, supplying the critical and immortal phrase ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident!’”

Ryan also noted the coincidence that both he and Magill are their institution’s ninth president—like Penn, for much of its history UVA also did not have one. “This is a fact I think about a lot, and when I forget, others helpfully remind me that UVA did just fine for a century without a president,” he said. “Luckily at least for Penn, a decision was made to create the president’s role in 1930. I cannot think of anyone better than Liz to fill this role and to succeed the extraordinary presidents who served Penn prior to Liz’s arrival.”

As the moment for Magill’s formal investiture arrived, Bok expressed appreciation for Ryan’s comments but added that they came as no surprise. “I had the great honor of leading the search committee that nominated Liz Magill, who was confirmed without hesitation,” he said.

Bok praised Magill’s legal scholarship and her devotion to the advancement of higher education. Quoting the advice of Supreme
“Let the experiment be made,” Magill began her inaugural address.

She explained that she was quoting from a note Benjamin Franklin wrote—dated November 7, 1749—that would ultimately lead to his famous 1752 kite and key experiment that revealed the nature of electricity, a subject of great debate at the time.

“Within the next few years he would fly that kite and he would prove that lightning and electricity are one and the same,” she said. And, typical of Franklin, that fundamental discovery would lead to “something eminently practical: the lightning rod that protected homes and cities from devastating fires”—among the earliest of which were installed at Independence Hall and “a young University of Pennsylvania.”

Two weeks before making the note, Franklin had published his pamphlet “Proposals Relating to the Education of Youth in Pennsylvania,” she noted. “This timing isn’t coincidence. Franklin knew that knowledge solved problems. It is the single most powerful force for improving life and our understanding of it. And so, let the experiment be made.

“There’s a wonderful urgency there,” she said. “What do you hear in that phrase? I hear the enterprising spirit of invention that defines this University as much as our founder. I hear restless curiosity and I hear tenacious investigation. More than anything, I hear the call that Franklin answered his whole life: the call to meet the moment and make a better future.”

Penn has continued to answer that call throughout its history, she said. “We are just the latest in a long and celebrated line of individuals who have been given the privilege and the solemn responsibility of determining how Penn will meet this moment. How can the future be made better by what we do in the days to come.

“It is in that sense then that today is not a moment where we gather to celebrate the inauguration of Liz Magill. Today we come together to celebrate Penn.”

Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, for whom Magill served as law clerk in 1996–97, to “fight for the things that you care about but do it in a way that will lead others to join you,” he added, “Clearly Liz has taken this advice to heart. She has a great talent for people and for building relationships to reach a common goal. She understands, like every successful leader—including our very own Benjamin Franklin—that we will achieve so much more collectively than we ever could separately.

“Today we celebrate Liz Magill. Her inauguration marks a renewal of our aspiration for Penn and all that it can be. Like any new beginning, we face it with excitement and joy and with seriousness of purpose. We live in complicated times, and we cannot know what challenges are ahead. But what I do know is that we are ready, with the University resolved to academic excellence and service to others, a red and blue spirit that is strong and tenacious, and, beginning today, a president who was handpicked for this moment at Penn.”

“So it is now my great privilege formally to invest M. Elizabeth Magill as the ninth president of the University of Pennsylvania.”

With that, Bok conferred the University’s symbols of office on Magill, placing the silver president’s badge, created in 1981, over her head and handing over three brass keys originally delivered by Pennsylvania Governor Daniel Hartman Hastings to Charles Custis Harrison C1862 G1865 Hon1911 on his induction as provost in 1895, “symbols of the custodianship of this great university.” (“By the way there’s only one set, so try not to lose them,” Bok quipped.)
Magill then acknowledged her predecessors Rodin and Gutmann as “two giants in the history of this University” whose “leadership utterly transformed Penn to become the globally renowned institution we know it to be today” and Wendell Pritchett Gr’97, “who as interim president steered Penn with a steady hand, upholding our preeminence while supporting a seamless transition.”

Remarking that she was the fourth of six children, who now also have children, Magill thanked her extended family—the “many Magills here in attendance today, and Trousdale and Shines, and not a few Szeptyckis as well, including my husband Leon and our children, Alex and Claire”—along with friends, former teachers, former students, and “even former bosses,” for having come “from near and far, and I am so grateful to have you here today.”

Referencing her childhood in Fargo, North Dakota, “a place that sometimes proudly identifies itself as ‘north of normal,’” she said that the “values of High Plains pragmatism and caring for others had a formative influence in my early life. The fundamental importance of community is at its core. Which is what I see as being so special and potent about Penn and Philadelphia today.”

Magill went on to trace the significance of each of the University’s moves from Arch to Market streets and then across the Schuylkill River to West Philadelphia (“our boldest, our last, and our greatest move”). She also highlighted one move—maybe equally significant—that wasn’t made, when the University did not take up a proposal to relocate out of the city to Valley Forge, first proposed in the 1920s and not formally laid to rest until 1959.

“Our move to Valley Forge would have been a flight away from who we are. Being directly involved in and informed by this great city has always been a catalyst.” The decision to stay, she added, came from “knowing what fuels our vitality and committing to it. At every step and with every brick the university confronted the challenges of the time by declaring, ‘Let the experiment be made,’ not just for us but, in the spirit of our founder, for the good of all.”

In the centuries since Franklin wrote those words, “time and again Penn has met the moment. Today our effect in and on the world has never been greater, and so we must ask: What comes next? What does the world need from Penn?”

The many challenges facing our world include an eroding faith in “the promise of democratic self-government and the usefulness of institutions” and the existential threat of climate change, she said. “We stand on the cusp of revolutionary changes in medicine and health and are only beginning to realize the promise of those discoveries, and too many people lack access.”

Society is “profoundly polarized,” she continued. “Many people no longer believe that knowledge, education, service to others, arts and culture, are the surest path to well-lived and better-lived lives, and we require leaders broadly and deeply learned, service minded, and bearing all of the hallmarks of an excellent education.

“So the challenges are many and the need is great, but here’s my message: in its long and illustrious history Penn has always met the moment. Now and for the future, we will help make the moment. We can be confident enough in our strengths to be bold, to take risks, to play offense, and we can stand tall in our distinctive values and the creativity and tenacity of Penn people.”

Magill likened this effort to “drawing down the lightning”—a phrase, she explained, used by Franklin in a generous response to a Scottish physician who wrote asking about his experiment. “Here is what making the moment, what drawing down the lightning, looks like to me,” Magill said. “It requires the right kite and key. Ours are opportunity and truth.”

Historically, these qualities have been the special province of universities. “At our most fundamental, we seek truth, and we convey it, and at our most aspirational, we enhance opportunity and hone the tools for attaining it,” she said. “Today the very nature of truth is contested and the means to opportunity are fragile. The University of Pennsylvania is called upon to redouble our historic and our forward-looking commitment to these two principles.”

That means “maximizing possibilities for people of all backgrounds, it means increasing fairness, it means strengthening our diversity and our inclusion. Both within Penn and all around,” she said. “It is the sum of all of our efforts through our city, our nation, and the world.”

In its history, Penn has never been more strongly positioned to increase opportunities and empower truth through its teaching, research, and invention, Magill added. “We will do even more to bring together the very best minds with the best resources. We will fuel that signature Penn drive to create and disseminate knowledge, to bring about a better world,” she said. “We welcome a challenge here and we thrive on it. To answer the great challenges of our time, opportunity and truth will be our conductors, our kite and our key, our means to draw down the lightning.”

Magill called “an unblinking focus on the future” the throughline of Franklin’s life and Penn’s history and present. “Franklin sometimes regretted being born too soon, deprived of knowing what would be known 100 years hence,” she said. “We have that impatience, that virtuous impatience, that urgency to put our knowledge and our discoveries to work in order to make a better world,” she said. “We have that impatience, that virtuous impatience, that urgency to put our knowledge and our discoveries to work in order to make a better world.”

“The reason we’re all here today, really, is for tomorrow. Opportunity, truth, tomorrow. These ideas define our history, our mission, and what Penn can bring to the world. They embody an uncompromising commitment to excellence in all we do while at the same time constantly striving for better in everything we do. That work is ongoing, and it is going to remain unending.”

“One thing we commit our university and ourselves not only to meeting the moment but to making it. It’s the right
thing, it’s the necessary thing, and we are capable of it. What is truly and uniquely Penn? It’s making the experiment, it’s making the moment, it’s drawing down the lightning,” she said. “As Penn’s ninth president I pledge to do everything in my power to support this university, this city, and our people in making the moment. The future awaits but we’re ready. Let’s draw down the lightning—together.”

III. ACADEMIC SYMPOSIUM

Why US solicitor general is the best job in law, reflections on being “first” and on campus free speech, and the larger lessons of an obscure patent case involving a “Spider-Man glove” were just a few of the topics covered in the academic symposium featuring Penn President Liz Magill and Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan that closed out the inauguration festivities.

As Penn’s newly inaugurated president was about to pose her first question to Kagan—about why she chose law as a career—the justice interrupted to share something with the audience inside Irvine Auditorium and watching via livestream. “[Liz and I] go back a long way,” she said, “and I can tell the entire Penn community they’ve got the real deal here. You’re going to get, I think, a lot of innovative ideas, a lot of good sense, judgment, a lot of integrity all wrapped up in one package, so you’re a lucky university.”

“I hope I can live up to that billing,” said Magill.

“Well, you better.”

Kagan went on to say that she applied to law school for “all the wrong reasons,” as a former undergraduate history major who had rethought getting a PhD. The turn to the law from history was one of several points Kagan has in common with Magill, along with service in government, clerking for iconic figures on the Supreme Court (Kagan with Thurgood Marshall, Magill with Ruth Bader Ginsburg), and serving as dean of leading law schools.

II. PICNIC AND CONCERT ON SHOEMAKER GREEN

After Magill’s address, the inauguration party joined a bigger, and hungrier, gathering on Shoemaker Green, where Penn faculty, staff, and students formed snaking lines for a smorgasbord picnic highlighted by offerings from the local restaurateur power duo Steven Cook W’95 and Michael Solomonov [“Bistro Days,” Mar|Apr 2008]. Celebrators could tuck into pomegranate lamb shoulder from the James Beard Award–winning Zahav, nibble on chicken sandwiches and fresh-fried mini donuts from Federal Donuts, or opt for pork banh mi sandwiches from the Australia-born, Philly-fledged PaperMill food truck. The 5,000-plus attendees also had the chance to enjoy a variety of beverages in free commemorative tumblers and scoops of a special batch of the “Penn-augural Berry Chocolate Chunk” flavor from the nation’s oldest ice cream company, Bassetts.

In the toasty sunshine, embroidered red flannel blankets—which were given to guests upon their arrival—soon dotted the eastern portion of the lawn, near a bandstand where alt-country icon Jeff Tweedy played an intimate solo set with his acoustic guitar. “I feel like I’m playing at nap time,” the introspective singer, best known for leading the Grammy-winning rock band Wilco, wryly ruminated between searchingly mellow tunes. The energy shifted into a higher gear with the appearance of mid-1990s superstar Sheryl Crow. Taking the stage with a rollicking five-piece backing band, Crow belted out MTV-era hits with a vocal thrust to be coveted by singers who’ve known nothing but YouTube. Like Tweedy, the 60-year-old singer was also self-deprecating (she joked that if anyone knew one of her songs, they must have been shopping at a Home Depot or Whole Foods recently) but also praised Magill and the role of higher education and encouraged everyone in the audience to vote.

Tweedy and Crow were both invited to perform because they’re favorites of Magill, who enjoyed the concert alongside the other attendees. The new Penn president and her husband Leon Szeptycki danced close to the stage, which doubled the following evening as an especially enviable platform for the ninth annual Blutt Band Slam [“Homecoming 2016,” Jan|Feb 2017].
(Harvard and Stanford, respectively), as Trustee Chair Scott Bok noted in his introduction to the symposium.

“But whatever bad reason took me to law school, I was very lucky,” Kagan continued. “From the very first moment, I loved it. And what I loved about it was that it’s incredibly intellectually stimulating. It’s like a gigantic puzzle if you’re a person who likes analytical sorts of puzzles, but at the same time it makes a real difference in the world.”

A surprising amount of the ensuing discussion revolved around the solicitor general’s office, which represents the US before the Supreme Court and appellate courts. Kagan held the position for a year or so during the Obama administration before being nominated to the Supreme Court in 2010. When Magill asked Kagan to name the best job in law, that was her pick—and, she added, her opinion was shared by Thurgood Marshall, who she called the “greatest lawyer of the 20th century.”

Kagan’s first argument as solicitor general—which was also her first argument before the Supreme Court ever, she emphasized—was Citizens United, which removed restrictions on independent contributions to political campaigns. While she felt the stress of arguing a high-profile case, it was clear how the court was going to rule in the end. “I could have done the greatest job in the world and probably the result would have been the result,” Kagan said, “but I was still pretty nervous.”

She recalled that she only managed to get one sentence out before Justice Antonin Scalia “leaned over the bench and said, ‘Wait! Wait! Wait!’ And then he proceeded to tell me why the single sentence that I had said—which was something about the history of campaign finance regulation in America—was completely wrong,” Kagan said.

She and Scalia, who was a Harvard law alumnus, had gotten to know each other when she was dean “and we had a very good relationship,” she said. “I’m quite convinced that he did it just to get me in the game. It was like this moment of, the voice is a little bit shaky, and I’m standing up here and what do I do now? Now I have to remember the second sentence that I memorized. It just got me in the game.”

Magill asked about Kagan’s hunting trip with Scalia after she joined the court, which she said arose from a promise she made to a senator skeptical of her Second Amendment views—“the only promise I made in 82 office visits” during the nomination process—and which Scalia thought was “the funniest thing in the world.” Before Scalia’s death they went bird shooting in Virginia a few times a year, she said, and once went duck hunting in Mississippi, “which was great,” but she didn’t care for an excursion hunting game in Wyoming. “I said no more of that.”

In one exchange—nominally about a patent dispute Kagan referred to as “my Spider-Man opinion,” but with implications for last summer’s Dobbs decision that were hard to miss—Kagan offered an eloquent defense of the doctrine of stare decisis and of incremental lawmaking. The case, Kimble v. Marvel Entertainment, involved a glove that shot webs—occasioning “no end of clerk shenanigans” in her chambers—in which the court upheld an old patent doctrine that almost certainly would not have been devised in 2015 (when the case was decided), “because the doctrine of precedent was of great importance in our law,” Kagan said.

She told Magill that Scalia, as senior judge in the majority, had assigned her to write the opinion. “He said, ‘I think that this is a great opinion for you to write, Elena, because it’s kind of a statement opinion. There are not so many opportunities you get around here as a junior justice’—and this was like maybe my third year—‘to really say how you think about the doing of law and the business of judging,’” she recalled. “It’s an opinion I’ve gone back to, and I’ve cited a lot of times over the years, and I continue to think about why it is that this doctrine is so important. You want to know why?”

“Yes, I do. I think all of us do,” said Magill, which the audience confirmed with applause.

“The first reason is that law should be stable. People depend on the law; people rely on law. You give them a legal rule and they order their life, and they order their conduct and that’s true of things that are economic transactions and it’s true of non-economic” matters too, she said. If “you give people a right and then you take that right away, well, in the meantime they’ve understood their lives in a different kind of way.

“So, laws should be stable, and judges should be humble. Stare decisis is a doctrine of stability, but it’s also a doctrine of humility,” she added.

“The way law develops best is when it develops slowly and incrementally by the work of many judges over time, and it’s a kind of hubris to say we’re just throwing that all out because we think we know better,” she said. “So this is a doctrine that sort of forces judges to be humble.

Moreover, she went on, “it prevents the court from becoming politicized, and again this is something that people have been talking about—not just me and Spider-Man—but people have been talking a long time about why do we have this doctrine?”

While it seems “counterintuitive” for a judge to preserve a doctrine they think is wrong, “if you have judges and they come on to a court and they say ‘We’re sort of overthrowing the apparatus and we’re overthrowing legal rules,’ it starts not to look like law anymore,” she said. “Maybe some other justices will come out and they’ll do the same thing.”

As a result, instead of the law building over time, “there are all these jolts to the system, and it begins to look not like a court and more like a political institution. And that’s something that the courts need to be incredibly cognizant of and wary about,” she said.

Kagan drew a distinction between “ordinary dissents” in which justices have simple differences of opinion on interpreting a law, and “the kinds of dissents
Kagan talked about her experience on the nation’s highest court—as well as being the first woman to lead Harvard Law School, hunting with Justice Scalia, and serving as US solicitor general—in conversation with President Magill.

that you speak from the bench, the kind where you think something very important is at stake,” she said. “You realize there are going to be other cases coming down the pike which are going to involve similar issues … and you’re going to approach it from a different vantage point than the majority does and that’s going to continue to be the case. You want almost to give notice of that, and at the same time to speak to the future and to say, ‘This court has made a decision, but there are various ways to remedy or to limit or to cabin mistakes, and we should be looking to do that and to give people some guidance or give people some hope that that might happen.’”

With precedent-defying decisions involving environmental protection and gun rights, in addition to Dobbs, during the Supreme Court’s session last year, Magill asked whether Kagan considered herself the “dissenter on the court.” “You hope that you don’t have to think of yourself that way,” the justice said. “Last year I thought of myself that way for sure, but I think it would be a really bad thing if that was just what the court is going to be like.

“I like to think of myself as a clear-eyed optimist—I’m clear eyed about the challenges but still remain hopeful.”

turned out, she learned, that it meant a lot to women graduates of Harvard Law.

Magill also asked for her thoughts on campus free speech. “My theory was you should be able to have people feel that they’re being respected, and you should also be able to have really vibrant, robust debate and both of those things are important,” Kagan said. “There are not many ideas that you can’t convey in a respectful way, and indeed if you’re trying to persuade somebody, it’s better to convey them in a respectful [way] than in a way that hurts people or offends people.”

At the same time, “it’s just really important for people to feel free to express their views,” adding that there’s “nothing worse” in a classroom than when people are silent out of fear of being misconstrued. “When that kind of thing happens, nobody’s learning from each other.”

On the rarity of non-judges ascending to the bench—she was the first since William Rehnquist and Lewis Powell in 1971—Kagan said it’s “probably because people are more focused on [knowing] exactly what kind of justice you’re going to be, and the best way to think about that is to see what kind of judge you were. I’m not sure it says anything great about the nomination and confirmation process that it’s moved in that direction, but it has.”

Backgrounds of all kinds are possible, but Kagan put forward her old job of solicitor general as “pretty much the best preparation” for service on the Supreme Court. “I used to think, my job last year was to persuade nine Supreme Court justices and my job this year is to persuade eight Supreme Court justices—and it’s not all that different.”

In a “lightning round” towards the end of the discussion, Magill asked Kagan what other thing she might like to be, if not a Supreme Court justice—or solicitor general. After mulling the question, Kagan replied, “How is it being a university president?”

“It’s a great gig,” Magill said. “I recommend it.”
It’s definitely not going to rain.

That was the word going around a meadow below Shawangunk Ridge as a Wharton Leadership Ventures team prepared for the arrival of roughly 20 Penn student-athletes on a bright mid-August morning in upstate New York.

It passed from Jules Roy LPS’19, who spent 22 years in US Air Force Special Operations as a rescue specialist before joining WLV in 2015, to Dave Ritchie and Zak Shaw, two WLV partners who’d just touched down after roundabout journeys from their home base in New Zealand. Gonna be hot and clear, guys. Remember sunscreen. It bounced from Erica Montemayor LPS’20, who came to WLV from Outward Bound in 2016, to Kiko Guzman and Gabriel Becker, a pair of longtime program affiliates from Chile.

It reached your intrepid reporter around midday Thursday, as a mixed crew of wrestlers, rowers, gymnasts, and softball and women’s lacrosse players dumped their bags at the edge of the clearing. Not that I needed to be told. I’d seen the forecast. I’d even gone the WLV team one better and left my Gore-Tex at home.

The students had largely been kept in the dark about what the next 30 hours would bring. Their packing lists telegraphed the presence of deer ticks. They’d signed liability releases covering everything from fatal mudslides to “dangerous contact with rescue vehicles or aircraft”—but when’s the last time a sentient human actually read every sentence of an online waiver? What they knew is that their first two years in the Penn Athletics Wharton Leadership Academy (PAWLA) had been building up to this junior-year excursion.

They learned a little bit more after gathering in a big circle where Roy laid out the mission of WLV, which is housed in Wharton’s McNulty Leadership Program (“Gazetteer,” Nov|Dec 2016). “Our bread and butter is to build programs where we bring people into uncomfortable situations,” he told the group. “So we get to go through this experience together, and then we get to talk about it. We pull out valuable stuff and then repurpose that stuff into our real lives—figure out how it fits, both on the field of play, and beyond the field of play when we leave Penn.”

Then the students heard from Rob Griffiths, a local guide tasked—for the moment—with alerting them to the presence...
of poison ivy, rattlesnakes, and copperheads. Thinking better of a crash course on species identification, he left it simple: “I would say just don’t try to pick up any kind of snake.”

After a few more icebreakers, the athletes formed five-person groups (engineered to split up as many varsity teammates as possible) to discuss some of their individual goals and fears pertaining to the still-mysterious “mission” awaiting them at dawn. Intricately structured by WLV facilitators, these exchanges doubled as training modules for the following month, when each junior would be handed a group of freshman athletes to induct into the multiyear program. They also served as brief, tentative bonding sessions ahead of a pre-mission competition whose results would influence the next day’s proceedings.

The crux of that contest was easy enough to guess from the sight of Dave Ritchie tossing tent sacks onto the grass. Just how foreign this form of shelter was to nearly every athlete on hand would soon be revealed. But for the moment all eyes had shifted to the sky, whose pale blue had been blotted out by a fat-bellied cloud that now tore wide open, pounding the meadow with a staggering downpour of rain.

The venture began at that instant. If the students wanted to know who to thank for being summoned here in the precious waning days of summer, the chief culprit was Dave Pottruck C’70 WG’72, who catalyzed the establishment of PAWLA in 2017 with a $1 million gift. (Ben Breier C’93 W’93, the only three-year captain in Penn baseball history and at the time the CEO of Kindred Healthcare, was another key donor and supporter. In 2021, Pottruck contributed an additional $6.3 million.)

A three-year varsity football starter who also captained the wrestling team, Pottruck credits collegiate athletics for fostering the leadership skills that ultimately carried him to the CEO chair at Charles Schwab in the early 2000s. But he says it wasn’t until after he graduated—and worked as an assistant coach of the wrestling team while pursuing a Wharton MBA—that those lessons clicked.

“I saw my wrestlers excel or disappoint not because of their athletic skill but because of their mental preparation, or their belief in themselves, or their ability to get the most out of their athletic gifts,” he told me. “And I began to appreciate that this is the way life is. Life is not just about the gifts you’ve been given, but how to maximize those gifts—and how you maximize the performance of everyone around you.” Wrestling’s one-on-one nature lacks football’s explicit team dynamic. “But you can only be as good in wrestling as the quality of the competition you have every day in the practice room,” Pottruck pointed out. “You get better—or you don’t—based upon the contributions of your teammates. Because you don’t succeed on your own as a wrestler.”

Which isn’t so different from corporate life.

“In business, and in sports, you’re competing against other teams—other companies—but you’re also competing internally against other people who want to get promoted. There are eight guys doing a job in a department, and one gets promoted because the boss leaves for another role. And the question is: Who’s going to be promoted?” Pottruck said. “I wanted to be that one who got promoted. But how do you do that in a way where you’re doing it not because of your selfishness but because of your generosity? Not because of your ego but because of your graciousness? How do you distinguish yourself on the basis of those kinds of qualities as opposed to self-serving, self-aggrandizing qualities? That took some learning for me. It’s almost a Zen thing—that you succeed by lifting all of those around you, rather than just by trying to lift yourself. And good bosses will see that, and that’s the ultimate quality that people are looking for in leaders to be promoted within any organization.

“My initial training in that was as an athlete,” he concluded. “But my awareness of it was magnified when I stepped back from the field of competition and I was coaching. It was then that I really began to appreciate: Oh, that’s what’s going on, that’s how this works.” Why not make those lessons more explicit for current student-athletes, he thought, by tapping Wharton faculty who specialize in leadership and team dynamics?

PAWLA took shape around conversations between Pottruck, former athletic director M. Grace Calhoun, and her then deputy Alanna Shanahan C’96 GEd’99 GrEd’15, who succeeded Calhoun as athletic director in 2021 after a stint at Johns Hopkins University (“Sports,” Jul|Aug 2021). Head women’s lacrosse coach Karin Corbett emerged as a natural choice as the inaugural director. Having led her program from the Ivy League basement to national renown since taking the reins in 2000, Corbett had already incorporated explicit leadership training—complete with assigned reading—into her coaching. Enough so, in fact, that a player named Lauren D’Amore W’17 had taken it upon herself to connect her coach with the professor of her required Wharton undergraduate gateway leadership course, Anne Greenhalgh, who is deputy director of the McNulty Leadership Program. By the time PAWLA got off the ground, Corbett had taken a couple Wharton leadership classes and told Calhoun that if Penn Athletics ever launched a broader initiative, she wanted in.

Corbett had a specific motive. “Over time, I’ve noticed that the kids coming into our program have less in the way of leadership skills. And it seems to keep going down every year.” Indeed, before the rain squall, she had described PAWLAs purpose to the big circle of athletes in those very terms. “I’m not going to blame you guys,” she said. “What I’m going to blame is a lot of youth sports.

“When we were growing up, we used to play pickup in the neighborhood,” Corbett explained. “We didn’t have cellphones, so
you had to call somebody’s home phone and say, ‘Hi Mrs. So-and-so, is Johnny home? We’re going to have a wiffleball game.’ And you’d have to get Johnny to bring the bases, and then call around to everyone else, and get everybody there. And if Johnny forgot the bases, you’d be like, ‘Hey, you have to go back and get the bases or we have no game’—so you held a kid accountable at a young age. And there were no adults running any of it. So you might fight: Amy could slide into home and say she was safe, and you’d say she was out, and you’d argue about it—but how do you continue the game?

“And I really believe, especially as I now have a 10-year-old,” she went on, “that youth sports robs kids of owning the games: of setting it up, making the rules, picking the teams, getting kids out, dealing with the conflict, holding people accountable. Kids rise to the top of leadership because they’re comfortable in it ... but I think youth sports has put an adult in your life” every step of the way: from the maximalist parents forever shepherding their children to club practices and showcase tournaments and the right prep schools—fetching forgotten cleats along the way—to the coaches who direct every drill and mediate every conflict that arises. “So the personal responsibility, the leadership of just stepping into a team when you’re little with nobody guiding you—you don’t get that opportunity as kids these days,” Corbett concluded. “So what I’ve found as a coach is, I’m expecting my seniors to know what they’re doing, and they don’t.”

Senior leadership is particularly critical in the Ivy League, whose limitations on official varsity practice time create a structural disadvantage relative to other Division I teams. “For us to compete nationally,” Corbett told me before the trip, “our kids have to practice. So we have captains’ practices. The kids run it—so they have to be able to run that where they come on time, and they have a standard for how they practice. And are they teaching?—because they’ve learned how the sport goes” at the collegiate level, where elements like shot clocks and more permissive physical contact changes the complexion of some sports, including lacrosse. Over the years, in various team contexts, Corbett noticed a worrisome trend among her seniors: “They’re saying less. And we’re asking too much of them because they don’t have the skills.”

Whether the blame lies with the intensification of youth sports, “snowplow parenting” that clears away obstacles, or the simple reality of hypercompetitive college admissions, it’s safe to say that the road to Ivy League athletics no longer runs through pickup wiffleball fields (if it ever did). Consider that no fewer than eight current members of the Penn men’s soccer team—not traditionally a national powerhouse—came up through Major League Soccer franchise development academies, whose rigidly structured training programs demand exclusive devotion to that single sport and whose best performers have ultimately commanded multimillion-dollar transfer fees to top-flight European clubs. “My Saturdays as a kid,” lacrosse player Maria Themelis told me on the bus ride up, “were like going to a soccer game in the morning, then a basketball game in the afternoon, and then a lacrosse practice or game at night.”

Adult-mediated sports loomed equally large in many of her peers’ memories. “I absolutely think Karin’s onto something,” her teammate Sophie Davis reflected later. “And as much as I hate to say it, I think a lot of us are products of that.” Though Davis credited her parents with fostering her independence and characterized her own youth sports experience positively, “I had friends whose dad was their coach for 10 years. You’re just being handheld through everything.

“Our team had a struggle with that this past season,” she continued, reflecting on a rare losing campaign after two scuttled seasons (due to the Ivy League’s unusually severe COVID response) that sapped the squad’s leadership ranks and cohesion. A couple of the team’s stars transferred to other marquee programs, leaving a vacuum that may have posed a particular challenge for a women’s team. For in Davis’s view, adult encroachment into American childhood can be especially stunting for girls, who are already steeped in a culture that’s often hostile to female assertiveness.

“It can be hard for girls to be straightforward, be direct, to tell someone something they don’t want to hear,” she observed, “because then people are like,
‘She’s such a bitch.’ If a guy does that, no one cares—and that’s great, that’s how women need to be!” Davis exclaimed. “But that’s not how we were raised. And when you add: Oh, the coach is going to handle it—or, The coach, who is my dad, is going to handle it—make sure everyone gets equal playing time, and make sure so-and-so doesn’t get her feelings hurt,” there’s even less space for the players themselves to step up and try to influence the behavior of their peers. “And I think it creates a cyclical dynamic,” she added. “Because if you can’t say something to someone and be direct, then you also can’t receive it—when someone does it do you, you’re like, ‘Oh, she’s being such a bitch, I would never do that!’

“And we find so much more validation in how our friends think of us,” she noted. “That’s why being on a team with your best friends in the world is scary, to then have to get over that hump of: Oh, the last thing I want in the world is for my best friend or roommate to think I’m being mean.

“I think I’m a very straightforward and direct person, but I still struggle with it,” Davis concluded.

The small-group sessions on the meadow revealed that fear of conflict—and anything that might trigger it—was pervasive, especially although not exclusively among the women. (It bears mention that female athletes outnumbered males four to one on this venture, due mostly to the heavy participation of women’s lacrosse players among PAWLA’s spring-sports cohort. The fall-sports iteration was split evenly.)

“I don’t want any situation to be misconstrued,” and I think a lot of conflict starts that way,” said lacrosse midfielder Aly Feeley. “Also, our generation has a heightened sense of how other people are viewing you. I think it has to do with social media. I never want people to think of me in a bad way, or think I was trying to do something mean or something to upset them.”

Corbett—who is no stranger to gender double-standards—sees half of PAWLA’s battle as equipping student-athletes to overcome these kinds of discomforts, because they impede what she considers the lifeblood of any team or organization: the enforcement of accountability. If players can’t hold one another accountable—for executing game plans, for giving 100 percent in practice, for the state and mood of the locker room, for comportment off the field as particularly visible representatives of the University—then success will be rare and fleeting. The other half of the battle is making participants more resilient to failure, which is a first-time experience for many collegiate athletes who have only ever been the best on their youth teams. So PAWLA’s freshman-year programming breaks the big question—How can I get more playing time?—into practical steps: How can I identify my weaknesses? How can I formulate specific and effective goals? How can I manage my time to achieve them? How can I contribute to the team even from the end of the bench?

What struck me most while talking to Corbett was how seldom she deployed anything resembling the rhetoric of the Transformational Leader, that iconic figure who bends the will of everyone around them in feats of charismatic inspiration. Instead she continually emphasized concepts like responsibility, accountability, self-awareness, community, and trust—terms that are certainly germane to leadership but are more directly rooted in organizational dynamics. Interviews with PAWLA-affiliated Wharton faculty went the same way, centering scholarship on the structure, management, and performance of organizations.

“When we talk about leadership, notice that we actually don’t talk about ‘leaders,’” Anne Greenhalgh told me. “If you have a whole host of ‘leaders’ who all think they’re in charge, that is a recipe for disaster. But if you have a host of people who are committed to leadership—to the act—you have hope, I think, of a high-performing team. It is about stepping up—and it’s also about following: Knowing when to step up, when to step back, when to step aside.”

Dave Pottruck casts the mission in similar terms. “We don’t try to model how you become a celebrity CEO—how you give interviews to the Wall Street Journal that focus on your tweets and your grandeur. That’s not what we teach,” he emphasized. “Great leaders revel in team success rather than their own. Their own success is a function of how well the team does under their leadership. And leaders above them look for that kind of humility, that kind of graciousness, that kind of character: people who bring everyone along with them, not just beat their chest about how great they are.”

Most surprising was how frequently everyone—including the students themselves—talked about “followership.”

Within PAWLA, the chief proselytizer of followership is Jeff Klein, the executive director of the McNulty Leadership Program and a lecturer in Wharton and the School for Social Policy and Practice. Part of his classroom-based PAWLA programming, he told me, was informed by surveys coaches, captains, and underclassmen about how each group perceived the expectations of the others.

“One thing we found was that freshmen had an idea that they were supposed to put their head down and stay quiet, and follow directions,” Klein recalled. “But what we were hearing from coaches and team leaders is: We want your voices, we want you pushing the more senior athletes in practice, we want you engaging with them in the locker room, and we don’t want you hanging back passively.

“So when we talk about followership, we’re trying to share research by Robert Kelley and others that in organizational life, the best followers are the ones that show initiative and contribute their own independent critical thinking,” he explained, citing a Carnegie Mellon management professor who jumpstarted academic interest in followership with an influential 1988 Harvard Business Review article.

“And those are the folks who really move
"When we talk about leadership, notice that we don’t actually talk about ‘leaders.’"

After a freshman-year focus on followership and a sophomore year that’s heavy on building self-awareness and insight into different personality types through the use of psychological questionnaires, PAWLA’s juniors turn toward group dynamics and more recognizable mentorship and leadership skills. (Teams participating in PAWLA make it mandatory for freshmen, optional for sophomores, and require juniors to apply for a limited number of spots geared toward developing aspiring captains.) As the downpour tapered into a light rain, they launched into a contest that showed how much room for improvement they had.

The first part of it involved erecting tents. First Ritchie explained the components, from bottom to top: the ground cloth, the “innie” that forms the sleeping chamber, the skeleton that holds it up, and finally the “outie”—a rainfly that shelters everything below it. Then the students raced off to find suitable sites for the spectacle that ensued.

Caught between time pressure and the novelty of the task, three out of the four groups blundered their way into bizarre procedures. One team laid their innie perpendicular to the ground cloth—whereupon a gymnast crawled inside the limp fabric, flailing her limbs around as though unpredictable motions would somehow make it easier for others to affix it to the exoskeleton. Half of another team held...
their rainfly taut in midair, heeding one of Ritchie’s tips for keeping the tent-construction zone dry... even though the rain had stopped falling. Meanwhile, a third team stood in mute paralysis after layering their “outie” underpar their “innie” and wondering what came next.

Surely no one can be expected to pop up an unfamiliar tent flawlessly on the first try. Yet given these particular false starts—and the Ivy League minds making them—it sure seemed like novelty was less to blame than the simple reluctance of any one person to step up and point out a glaring misstep.

The competition’s second phase (which I will not spoil for future cohorts by divulging) ramped up the need for coordination, communication, and ideally the formal assignment of roles—but proceeded with levels of rhyme and reason that each team later deemed wanting. They passed these self-judgments in “after-action reviews” modeled on US military debriefings.

Indeed, both this preliminary challenge and the next day’s mission had something of a military flavor, reflecting not only Roy’s Special Forces background but WLY’s foundational DNA. It dates back to the late 1990s, when Michael Useem, the William and Jacalyn Egan Professor of Management who is now faculty director of the McNulty Leadership Program, was teaching an MBA cohort that happened to include a West Point graduate and two former US Marine F-18 pilots. Classroom instruction, he felt, worked well for many subjects, “but for leadership comes up short on the issue of moving ideas into action, theory into behavior.” So he had experimented with taking students to Gettysburg, where they engaged in role-playing exercises and analysis keyed to the pivotal Civil War battle. The three veterans in his class urged him to check out the Officer Candidate School at Quantico.

Useem took four MBA students to the base and was blown away. Working as a five-person “fire team,” they faced a series of intricately structured challenges that each required the designation of a leader.

“So if I’m designated as team leader, I have to be very good at listening to my teammates, then weave the five of us together under enormous time pressure, to solve a seemingly impossible problem,” Useem recalled. “Typically, on the first few attempts the teams fail—so then the Marine officer will tell you how you messed up.” The feedback could be deceptively simple, from the body language of “the way you stood” to a hard-firing tendency to dismiss ideas without giving them a fair hearing. “And it was amazing,” he said: “As we went to the next station, and then the next after that, tangibly we as a team of five became better at making tough, hard-to-reach decisions under enormous time pressure.”

A quarter-century on, Wharton continues to offer MBA students intensive two-day programs at Quantico. Useem, who is also an avid mountaineer, adapted some of the underlying concepts for use in week-long expeditions in places ranging from the Chilean Andes to New Zealand’s Southern Alps. It was participating in one of these that sold wrestling coach Roger Reina C’84 WEv’05 on the potential of adapting the model for undergraduate student-athletes. Reina liked how every day, two MBA candidates would be thrust into leadership roles with wide latitude (backstopped by expert guides to ensure no one fell into a crevasse) to determine camp locations, summit-attempt timetables, and the like. “And they could do it any way they wanted—by vote, dictatorship, whatever they chose... then at the end of the day they would get peer feedback,” Reina recalled. The combination of “really experienced facilitators in leadership development and the “peer-to-peer feedback loop” created “incredibly visceral experiences” that seemed to transform the way every participant, himself included, thought about leading groups.

That combination was conspicuous out on the meadow, where the facilitators used virtually every interaction as a teachable moment. When it came time for Ritchie to introduce himself to the group, for instance, he strode into the big circle and reeled off a 30-second spiel in practiced but unpolished Mao— a familiar ritual in New Zealand that drew some puzzled looks here. Zak Shaw quickly used it to make a point about building trust within a group.

“Role modeling is a key leadership behavior,” he observed, slipping from good-humored affability into didacticism for the first of many times. “Dave role-modeled something which I think is essential to team development and culture within a team,” he continued, “and that is being brave, being vulnerable, and stepping into the space where you feel a bit socially nervous. I would argue that you won’t quite get the result you’re looking for if you’re not prepared to do that. It’s really key that you lean in, step into the space, and make yourself vulnerable.”

Later, facilitating a smaller group, Shaw deployed a tactic meant not to diffuse tension but to harness it. After failing to coax adequate reflection from his clutch of students in response to a query, Shaw posed it again and fell quiet, inviting another spell of silence to hang in the air just a little too long for comfort, before someone finally broke it. “Did you notice what I just did?” he asked soon after. If these juniors found themselves facilitating a group of clammed-up freshmen, he suggested, a purposefully awkward silence might be one way to unco the tongues.

So it continued all afternoon and evening, often emphasizing the arts of feedback: how to solicit it, how to articulate it, how to receive it. By the end of the after-action reviews, the cycle was in full swing—producing more than a few pains faces, at least in the group I was observing. It can be a little overwhelming, after all, to endure immediate critical feedback about the way you’ve just attempted to couch critical feedback.

But this was a crash course in the decision-making, coordination, and communication skills each team would need the next day. Their mission: navigate a series of backwoods trails—some better
marked than others, and incompletely represented on the contour map—to locate a “precious cargo” (of who knew what size, shape, fragility, or tractability) to be ferried over rugged terrain, unscathed, to a delivery point. This was paired with an “intelligence gathering” task at once dead-simple and devilish, in that it freighted every step of the journey with a cognitive burden that could be shared but never escaped.

It was in one sense an artificial endeavor. “When I was in Special Operations, our objectives were people,” Roy told them. “But we have a saying in the military: We don’t rise to the occasion; we fall back on our training.”

Sophie Davis and Aly Feeley rose shortly before sunrise along with their teammates, gymnast Kiersten Belkoff, softball catcher Jill Kuntze, and wrestler Lukas Richie. They struck their tents; scarfed down a distressingly caffeine-free breakfast; filled backpacks with water, snacks, and a coil of climbing rope they’d won in a challenge the day before; and hit the trail in sneakers still wet from yesterday’s rain.

In the wake of the previous day’s muddled lines of responsibility, they’d divvied up roles of their own devising. Lukas and Aly would navigate. Kiersten would monitor everyone’s hunger, thirst, and physical well-being. Sophie didn’t want to be the team’s formal leader but was happy to serve as “team mom.” Actually no one had displayed eagerness to be designated the titular leader, until Jill relieved the social discomfort by stepping up to the plate.

I’m not going to say anything about the “precious cargo,” other than that I was happy enough to be its witness rather than its steward. For me, this was an invigorating ramble through a landscape that inspired painter Thomas Cole to launch the United States’ first major art movement in the early 1800s. Likewise, the “intelligence” the team was charged with gathering is not for me to describe. That’s partly because this excursion has become an annual ritual that depends on an element of surprise—but also because the team’s mission was ultimately theirs alone, and it was only through firsthand experience that they could gain anything from it.

There was, however, one particularly interesting passage on the way to their quarry: a literal passage, between stone walls that closed in around what looked like a narrow cave except for a hint of sunlight at the end of the darkened corridor. Having followed red trail blaze markers into this labyrinth of glaciated quartzite, the team pressed deeper in. Aly, fortuitously, had neglected to turn in her headlamp from the night before. Out it came. “Hey, I bet this is where we can use that rope!” somebody else exclaimed, spurring the group forward on all fours.

A few minutes of delicate maneuvering—“Watch out for that overhang” … “Put your foot there” … “Do you need light?”—delivered us into a steep-sided chamber piled with untrodden leaf litter. Another couple minutes of deliberation ended in a quick-and-dirty poll: point in the direction you think we should go. Every finger agreed: onward and upward, though quite how was hard to fathom.

Roy pivoted away from quiet observation. “Anybody see a red blaze?” he asked. No. “When’s the last time anybody saw one?” On the other side of the tortuous passageway they’d half-crawled through.

“Wait,” somebody groaned, “Does that mean we have to go back?”

Roy shrugged his shoulders and let the scene play out a little longer, then swooped in with some didactic reflections: about groupthink, and the common bias favoring forward motion, and the sunk-cost fallacy.

It’s one thing to encounter those concepts in a classroom, and another to confront them in an unfamiliar setting, having to manage the emotions of a group, under pressure to achieve a goal within a limited time frame.

“I’ve had teams of executives get to this spot and argue for 20 minutes about every option except retracing their steps,” he said, “even though that’s the only way you can get out of here.”

In the moment—and after retreating to discover that the team had veered off course partly because of an easy-to-miss turn into an even darker crevice—I mar-
veled at the cleverness with which the WLV team had planned this route. But it turned out that none of the other teams made the same mistake. (Perhaps they’d created more space for dissenting voices to pipe up at tricky junctures. PAWLA students, Roy remarked, don’t typically veer into this particular dead end—although executives charge into it all the time.) This is what makes the wilderness a powerful learning platform. “You don’t actually have to make it contrived, or throw a lot of wrenches in,” Roy told me, “because an environment like that already contains a lot of ambiguity.”

Not to mention strangeness, difficulty, frustration, and exhilaration—especially for young people who’ve rarely set foot in a forest or boulder field. Lacrosse defender Vanessa Ewing may at no point have found herself dangling upside-down from a cliff edge attempting dangerous contact with a rescue aircraft, but she nevertheless called the excursion “the most dramatic thing I’ve ever done.” Post-trip survey responses frequently echoed that feeling of challenging novelty.

Refining their approach as they went along, my adoptive team found their precious cargo and managed to deliver it intact. They weren’t the fastest (nor the slowest), and they probably didn’t hit on the optimal strategy, compared to one or two other groups. But they functioned better than they had the day before, and when they hit their stride they shared common burdens with fluidity and even grace. Fatigue frayed their coordination toward the sweaty end, predictably. But there was a reason she’d been chosen: they had finished introducing the program, three things were immediately clear: the underclassmen were restless, ready for the day to end, and way outnumbered their elders. I would not have wanted to be given charge of any of them.

Yet within the space of a few minutes, there was Aly Feeley addressing a dozen strapping football players. “It’s important to set goals,” she was saying, “but before you can do that, you have to step back and ask yourselves a bigger question about your life: What do you want? So go ahead and flip over your sheets of paper…” she continued, and by and by she and Vanessa Ewing were moving from one guy to another—attention firmly under command—coaxing them to refine their first goals of the semester. I’d been more anxious, however, on behalf of Sophie Davis—who along with two partners had been saddled with the men’s lacrosse cohort, who’d hammed it up with insouciant bids for each other’s attention in a rear corner of the lecture hall while PAWLA’s adult leaders spoke.

Davis was upbeat but matter of fact when I asked her about her assignment: “I don’t think they’re going to listen to me.”

But there was a reason she’d been chosen. I watched it as she led her freshmen through Steinberg-Dietrich’s lobby to a smaller classroom. Following her through the door, the boys made a beeline for the furthest row from the lecture hall—attention firmly under command—coaxing them to refine their first goals of the semester. I’d been more anxious, however, on behalf of Sophie Davis—who along with two partners had been saddled with the men’s lacrosse cohort, who’d hammed it up with insouciant bids for each other’s attention in a rear corner of the lecture hall while PAWLA’s adult leaders spoke.

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But there was a reason she’d been chosen. I watched it as she led her freshmen through Steinberg-Dietrich’s lobby to a smaller classroom. Following her through the door, the boys made a beeline for the furthest row from the lectern. “Hey, no back row!” Davis exclaimed, firmly but with an invitingly bemused smile. “Come on, guys!”

With scarcely a word, the underclassmen filled the front row and the one behind it.

She was off to a good start.
For donations of $100 or more, we’ll send you a limited-edition Gazette mug inspired by Benjamin Franklin and the history of print.

thepenngazette.com/support-the-gazette
Our history is, amazingly, everywhere.”

Kay Lloyd is walking through the halls of W. E. B. Du Bois College House, stopping to admire photos and plaques spot-lighting prominent African American Penn graduates and collages of old Polaroids and Daily Pennsylvanian newspaper clippings marking significant moments of the house’s last half century.

Lloyd has appreciated these easy-to-access lessons. She came from Harvard to Penn this year, moving into Du Bois as its house director 50 years after the residence opened to celebrate African American culture and serve as a safe haven and hub for Black students during a tumultuous time on campus and in the country.

Named in honor of the prominent author, sociologist, and civil rights activist from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the house has evolved with the needs of its student population and overcome challenges ranging from irksome misconceptions (such as that the house only accepts Black students) to menacing episodes (like several bomb threats that have evacuated the dormitory).

Like any old building, Du Bois could use some sprucing up—a bit of new paint here, some better lighting there, maybe some new furniture in the communal spaces—as Lloyd points out while basking in the smell of freshly baked cookies in the fourth-floor lounge. (Recent upgrades to the four-story low-rise, which is located near the northwest corner of campus along the 3900 block of Walnut Street, have included air conditioning and a renovated common kitchen.)

But the new house director has already noticed the same inviting qualities that have long been a hallmark of the University’s smallest college house, which about 165 students call home each year. “When you come into Du Bois, there’s just this overwhelming feeling of warmth—from people at the front desk, to the guards, to the students walking by who just say hello to you in the halls,” Lloyd says. “I’ve been at other institutions where you don’t
get that same feeling. I love the fact that our history is on the walls everywhere. You get to learn so much about the house and how it came to be—and what we hope to one day become, as well.”

Along with faculty director Amalia Dache, an associate professor in Penn's Graduate School of Education, Lloyd is prepared to help “reimagine the next 50 years” for Du Bois, whose demographics have changed significantly with the advent of other welcoming spaces for Black students on a more racially diverse campus.

But before that, house leaders past and present, as well as students and alumni, have been reflecting on the house's first half century—and what 50 years means at a place like Penn, where many buildings, programs, and organizations have been around far longer while others have fizzled out before reaching any major milestone. “Any Black institution to start hitting numbers like that is a triumph,” points out Charles “Chaz” Howard C'00, Penn's chaplain and vice president for social equity and community and a former Du Bois resident. “It makes me very proud.”

“That number really feels like resiliency,” Lloyd says. “The building still stands, and the mission of the building still holds firm: really celebrating our culture and creating spaces for folks to come in and call a place home.”

Howard was among the alumni in attendance for Du Bois House’s “family reunion” in April—part of a two-semester anniversary celebration that also includes a Homecoming event with the Black Alumni Society and the reopening of the house's art gallery in October. The April event, led by Will Gipson, Penn's associate vice provost for equity and access and Du Bois's faculty director at the time, featured poetry readings from students, an a cappella performance by the Inspiration, and remarks from Penn's then interim president Wendell Pritchett Gr'97, who said the University owes a debt of gratitude to “the legions of Du Bois residents that have worked together to overcome resistance toward the aims and the very existence of this community.”
that someone would be there one semester and the next semester they’d be gone, and a lot of times people didn’t know what had happened to them.”

An article in the Gazette’s December 1969 issue, titled “Black Student Needs: Pennsylvania’s Response,” painted it as a trend that transcended Penn, suggesting that a “significant increase of black undergraduates at predominantly white institutions” was spurring a nationwide reckoning. “A new vocabulary has emerged on the campus, drawing attention to the ‘felt needs’ of these students both in a social and academic sense,” the Gazette’s Ellen James wrote, highlighting plans at Penn for the creation of a modest Black social center as well as an early iteration of what would become the Africana studies department (which also recently marked 50 years).

But a Black student named Cathy Barlow CW’71 L’76 believed more was needed. “I was watching a lot of my friends and contemporaries fail,” Barlow told the Gazette 10 years ago during Du Bois’s 40th anniversary celebration [“Gazetteer,” Mar|Apr 2013], recalling instances of harassment from police and indifference from white professors. “Just admitting Black students wasn’t enough—it isn’t meaningful enough. What’s truly meaningful is those students getting their degrees.” As a sophomore, Barlow helped plan a sit-in at College Hall for a variety of progressive demands. She also earned a research grant from the provost’s office to create a Black Studies Commission that examined what other colleges were doing to address retention and graduation rates among African American students. Discouraged by the “largely superficial” initiatives she found—“little more than environments for Black students to socialize and hang out together”—she envisioned something bigger for Penn: a residential program that could foster true connection, mentorship, and academic success among Black peers. In February 1972, she and other student leaders proposed to University administrators such

“I love the fact that our history is on the walls everywhere. You get to learn so much about the house and how it came to be—and what we hope to one day become, as well.”

For Howard, who also spoke at the event, the fact that Penn’s first Black president marked the occasion—even if Pritchett only served in that role for less than five months to bridge the gap between Amy Gutmann Hon’22 and Liz Magill—showed how far Penn has come since the house was founded, in an era when efforts to recruit any Black faculty were only just beginning to take hold. Noting that his grandfather was friends with W. E. B. Du Bois, Howard postulated that if Du Bois were still alive today, “he would be stunned and proud that the president of the University of Pennsylvania is a Black man.”

“Don’t ever take that for granted,” Howard continued, to applause from the audience. “It’s a big deal.”

‘COMPLEXITIES TO THIS BEAUTIFUL STORY’

Although Penn admitted its first African American students in 1879—as documented on the walls of Du Bois—the University remained an extremely white institution for most of the next 90 years. It wasn’t until 1967, when Penn changed its admissions policy to increase the recruitment of minorities, that the status quo began to change. Between 1966 and 1969 the number of Black students entering Penn more than tripled, from about 40 to 140.

Yet the admissions shift created a new problem. “At the time, a big concern was the retention rates of Black students,” Gipson says. “Word on the street was that someone would be there one semester and the next semester they’d be gone, and a lot of times people didn’t know what had happened to them.”
“To me, it didn’t feel like some of the other resident spaces felt. It was always kind of the center of triumphs and challenges on campus.”

a residence for about 120 students, along with advisors and faculty members, that “was to be a learning environment with a course taught on site, a speakers’ forum, library, film series, and ‘independent community study’ courses,” wrote Wayne Glasker C’80 Gr’94 in his 2002 book *Black Students in the Ivory Tower: African American Student Activism at the University of Pennsylvania, 1967–1990.* “The program would focus on Afro-American culture and the counseling needs of students. This was very different from a nonresidential social and recreational center.”

In a *Daily Pennsylvanian* article on March 8, 1972, about the “controversial black residence proposal” being brought up for debate at a University council meeting, Penn President Martin Meyerson Hon’70 offered what seemed like a reluctant nod of approval for the proposal as an experimental living and learning program, saying, “I recognize how very unhappy many of the Black students are and I am awfully sad they have not found in the range of choices offered by the University, the satisfaction they want.”

On August 31 of that year, the W. E. B. Du Bois Residential Program was launched on the first two floors of Low Rise North, which had been built the prior year (and was officially named Du Bois College House in 1981), with Barlow serving as the inaugural administrative director. But the debate surrounding its existence continued to swirl.

Even though Barlow and others said from the start that the residence would be open to students of all races, “the impression that Penn had approved a ‘black-only’ facility proved exceedingly difficult to rectify,” wrote Glasker, a professor of African American and 20th century US history at Rutgers University [“Safe Places,” Nov|Dec 2002]. And while the admission of a few white students in those early years helped to fend off litigation over issues of discrimination, Du Bois “remained the object of criticism and hostile scrutiny,” Glasker added. Detractors—including not only faculty and students but the American Civil Liberties Union and the NAACP—lamented the perception of self-segregation after the hard-earned achievement of integrating elite universities.

Those laments have persisted through much of the last 50 years, often in the form of *Daily Pennsylvanian* editorials, but so has Du Bois, which “stands as a testimony to the enduring desire of African American students at Penn to preserve their own culture and autonomy,” Glasker wrote. The fact that the NAACP and other Black leaders “didn’t want them to do it because they viewed it as a separatist effort adds complexities to this beautiful story,” Gipson reflects. “Nevertheless, the students forged a legacy here at Penn that really matters to a lot of folks.”

‘THERE WAS ALWAYS SOMETHING HAPPENING’

“I will really lose it if I see that dorm blow up.”

So said the late Claire Lomax C’84 ("Obituaries," Sep|Oct 2022), a former attorney and Penn trustee, in a University-commissioned video about diversity at Penn. Recalling a bomb threat that evacuated Du Bois during her sophomore year in 1981, Lomax said she was “so scared”—and underwhelmed by the spectacle of her housemates singing “We Shall Overcome” outside the building. That “rang a little hollow to me at that point. I just felt it was really shameful we had to still endure that type of racism—overt racism.”

Sadly, that wouldn’t be the only bomb threat or racially harassing phone call made to students inside the building. Sonia Elliott C’88 GEd’01, a former resident and house dean at Du Bois and the current house director at Ware College House, and

Photo by Candace diCarlo
"There's something nice about a four-story spot where you can feel like you know the whole building and, by the end of the year, almost every face that comes through."

Brian Peterson EAS’93 GEd’97 Gr’13, who lived in Du Bois for nearly 10 years as an undergrad and graduate associate and now serves as the director of Penn's Makuu: The Black Cultural Center, both recall different instances of phoned-in bomb threats clearing the building and the feelings of panic and confusion that ensued. So does Chaz Howard, who lived there for three years as an undergrad in the late 1990s. “There's a bomb in the building. I'm gonna blow all you n-words up,” is what Howard was told the person on the other line said. “We had heard about it happening before, so it wasn't a surprise,” the Penn chaplain continues. “It happens, we go back in, we roll our eyes, surprise,” the Penn chaplain continues. “It wasn't a surprise.”

But quickly found brotherhood with his three suitemates, enjoying the house's ties he enjoyed (like trading hip-hop cassette tapes with hallmates) and he also felt a certain sense of responsibility. “There were a lot of upperclassmen who lived there and took us under their wing and made sure we knew how to navigate Penn,” says Peterson, who in addition to running Makuu is currently a lecturer in Penn's Africana and urban studies departments. “It became one of those people over the years. I wanted to do for the first-year students coming in after me what those juniors and seniors did for me.”

The large Multi-Purpose Room, commonly called MPR, became the source of many of Peterson's fondest memories—from trying to get a glimpse of the civil rights activist Julian Bond teaching a class there during a pre-freshman visit, to lobbying Elliott to reserve time there for the community outreach programs he ran as a graduate student. “It was just a hub for everybody,” Peterson says. “It didn't matter if you were a resident or not.” Elliott says that when she was working as Du Bois's house dean from 1995 to 2001, “my joke used to be you never knew who lives there because everybody considered it home.” (That was her undergraduate experience; she only officially lived in Du Bois as a freshman but was there just about every day for the next three years.)

“To me, it didn't feel like some of the other resident spaces felt,” says Elliott, who worked at other schools and colleges for the last 20 years before returning to Penn this year to be Ware's house director. “It definitely had a different kind of purpose.”

Given its roots in African American activism, one purpose was as a hub for brainstorming about improving the Black experience on campus. “It was always kind of the center of triumphs and challenges on campus,” Elliott notes. And, she adds, those conversations had a way of happening organically, without direction from administrators.
“We’ve had a diverse Black community, not a monolith,” Howard says. “Some people are like ‘Fight the power.’ Some people are bookworms whose revolutionary act is graduating magna cum laude.”

Just as W. E. B. Du Bois himself might have wanted.

**‘THIS IS HOME’**

Discussing why she hoped to become the faculty director of Du Bois College House, as she did this year, Amalia Dache starts by referring to herself as a “Du Boisian.”

“I was always rooting for Du Bois’s arguments that it was intellectual excellence, intellectual cultivation for the Black community that will lead to change,” instead of Booker T. Washington’s “more Southern perspective” that Blacks first needed to focus on economic advancement and not higher education in the early 1900s, Dache explains. As an Afro-Cuban immigrant, first-generation college student, and scholar who researches the college-access experiences of African diasporic students and communities, “the great equalizer of education was something I always believed in,” continues Dache, who cites Du Bois’s seminal 1901 sociological study *The Philadelphia Negro* in her research at Penn GSE, where last year she became the first tenured Latina professor. “So when I got the opportunity to apply for this position, I said, ‘Oh, this is right in my wheelhouse.’ Being at Du Bois is just so central in my work, and also the vision of the University and my vision for scholarship.”

Now Dache hopes to use that scholarship to push Du Bois House into the next half century. Pointing out that the dorm’s leadership is mostly new, “it really feels like this is the beginning of another transition for Du Bois College House,” she says. Faculty fellow Audrey Mbeje is expanding the house’s Zulu in Residence program, which exposes students to the language and culture of the Zulu people of South Africa, while another faculty fellow, Jack Drummond, is continuing a tutoring initiative in West Philadelphia public schools. “It gives you a breadth of the African diaspora within the house,” Dache says. Meanwhile, Dache has started a Spanish language immersion experience on Fridays called Cafecito, complete with Cuban coffee and pastries from a Latino bakery, and has worked to expand the house’s Amistad Gallery to highlight more global art. She and Lloyd also hope to add more research-related programs featuring visiting faculty fellows and to restore the Souls of Du Bois conference, which is named in honor of Du Bois’s *The Souls of Black Folk: Essays and Sketches*. (Although a plaque by the house entrance quotes a line from this 1903 book, Du Bois had a complicated relationship with the University, where he taught classes and conducted research that would lead to *The Philadelphia Negro* but was never offered a professorial appointment. Penn tried to make symbolic amends 10 years ago by posthumously bestowing him with an emeritus professorship in sociology and Africana studies.)

“I think it’s going to become a house that students know will have strong scholars visiting,” Dache says, “with artwork that represents up-and-coming photographers and artists from across the African diaspora.”

Before crafting future plans, Dache talked to previous house directors, including Gipson and her GSE colleagues Howard Stevenson (who served in that role from 1994 to 2002) and Valarie Swain-Cade McCoullum (1978–1980), to “build off their visions and hard work over the last 50 years.” They emphasized the importance of in-house tutoring, support for student-based research projects, and continuing to embrace the family nature of the four-year house—which is something that doesn’t go away after graduation.

Among Elliott’s proudest accomplishments as house director was reengaging Du Bois alums “and getting them to fall in
“I don’t think people realize that it can be really hard being away from home, especially when you have to worry about walking into a classroom and being the only Black student there. I feel like knowing you have a space where people relate to the stuff you’re going through makes such a huge difference.”

love with the house again,” which led to the formation of an endowed scholarship fund to provide financial assistance to residents as well as alumni-student mentoring programs. She’s also remained close with many former Du Bois students, who are now “doing everything from serving as educators to running corporations,” Elliott says. “The one common denominator is there’s always love for Du Bois, and that love is there whether they officially lived in the house or not.” Peterson has similarly enjoyed watching his old housemates move on to big things, from Pulitzer Prize winner Salamishah Tillet C’96 G’04 to spirits expert OJ Lima C’94, and he remains close with his current Penn colleagues Stevenson, Elliott, and Howard.

Older alums who return to Du Bois are apt to notice a greater percentage of residents who don’t identify as African American. Although that kind of diversity has existed for decades, it has steadily increased with the advent of other places for Black students like Makuu, which was founded in 2000 as a comfortable space for students of the African diaspora to gather, and the African-American Resource Center. “I want our students to live where they want to live,” says Howard, adding that compared to the 1970s, today’s Black students are more likely to come from, say, a prep school and feel more comfortable living in majority white spaces. “And I love that non-Black students want to live in Du Bois,” Howard continues. “We’ve raised a generation that’s more progressive.”

“Everyone should have a choice,” adds Peterson. “If people think they want to live in a space celebrating Black culture, that’s their choice, no matter who that person is.” Dache attributes the shifting demographics to “Penn and their college houses doing a really good job of making students across racial lines feel safe and providing spaces where they can thrive.” And she also points out this trend has extended beyond Penn, even to historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), which have seen a rise in the enrollment of white and Hispanic students. “The demographics changing means more opportunities, more options—which is a good thing,” she says.

Not everyone agrees. Sophomore nursing student Djine Mentor, who grew up in Haiti, was surprised to see that her floor was less than half Black when she moved into Du Bois this semester, echoing a concern other Black residents shared in a Daily Pennsylvanian article last April. “I know the housing application doesn’t take race into consideration, but I feel like it also erases the whole purpose of having Du Bois College House,” Mentor says. “Fifty years from now, what will happen? I just feel the number [of Black students] will keep on being less and less. … It’s still our home but will it be the home of the upcoming generation? Fifty years from now, will it still be the same?”

Yet Mentor has still enjoyed living in Du Bois, and when discussing her favorite aspects of dorm life, brings up many of the same welcoming qualities that have been touchstones for the last 50 years—from working out with her suitemates in their “huge living room” to baking in the community kitchen to studying, admiring art, and hanging out with friends in the MPR, Paul Robeson Library, Sonia L. Elliott Recreation Room, and other tucked-away spaces. And her reasons for choosing Du Bois echo those of residents of previous eras, too.

“I don’t think people realize that it can be really hard being away from home, especially when you have to worry about walking into a classroom and being the only Black student there,” Mentor says. “I feel like that’s a lot. And I feel like knowing you have that space where people relate to the stuff you’re going through makes such a huge difference—emotionally and mentally.”

And so, as Du Bois marches into a new half century, its mission largely remains the same. Elliott for one is grateful that Penn has grown as an institution so that the “entire weight” of being a hub for Black students no longer rests solely on Du Bois, and that the house “can now share in those efforts with Makuu and other spaces that can function in partnership.”

“Du Bois is lucky enough to have this amazingly powerful history, but what’s also nice about Du Bois is that it can continue to change and grow and evolve,” she says. “It’s not this thing that needs to be stuck in time and place.”

“Fifty years—what does that mean?” Elliott continues. “It just means hoping for 50 more years for Du Bois. And 50 years after that. I hope it continues to be an institution in terms of supporting communities and supporting students.”

Perhaps Howard put it best at the anniversary celebration in April when he reflected on the last 50 years and called on people to continue loving Du Bois for the next 50 and beyond. “This is home,” Howard told the familiar faces who once lived in the building with him and have forever remained linked. “It’s not a dorm. It’s a home.”
Above: Ur (Tell al-Muqayyar) was one of the earliest and longest-lived ancient cities in southern Iraq. The main settlement mounds of Ur were once surrounded by a city wall that enclosed an area of 50-60 hectares. Soil discoloration and mounding visible in U2 photographs suggest that the city was originally much larger than this and incorporated several suburbs.

Photo courtesy Penn Museum
Head Trip
A Penn Libraries exhibit melds Arthur Tress’s surreal photography with his voracious appetite for Japanese illustration.

Arthur Tress (b. 1940) started snapping photos as a teenager scouring the decaying amusement parks of postwar Coney Island. That surreal and melancholic landscape made a lasting impression. Extensive travels in Asia and Africa fostered an interest in ethnological photography, which led to a professional assignment for the US government documenting endangered folk cultures of Appalachia. Yet Tress’s most profound journeys were into the shadowy realms of dreams, sexual desire, and “magic realism” that melded landscape depictions with staged fantasies.

On a parallel track he also collected Japanese illustrated books. Starting with a shoestring budget during a 1965 visit to Kyoto, Tress spent more than 50 years amassing a remarkable cross-section of Japanese print culture. Ranging from 17th-century calligraphic manuscripts, to 18th-century masters like Katsushika Hokusai and Katsuma Ryusui, to popular guidebooks, kimono design manuals, and 19th-century erotica, the 1,400-title collection merges pop-cultural curiosities with rarities rivaling the holdings of the Smithsonian and Japan’s Chiba City Museum of Art, according to Julie Nelson Davis, a University professor of Modern Asian Art.

After reading Davis’s 2014 book Partners in Print: Artistic Collaboration and the Ukiyo-e Market, Tress contacted Davis and ultimately gave his collection to Penn. It formed the basis of two curatorial seminars Davis taught in 2019 and 2020, which led in turn to an exhibition cocurated by Davis and her students that opened this fall in Penn Libraries’ Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, where it will be on view through December 16.

The small exhibit sparkles with surprises. The lavishly detailed landscapes of Katsushika Hokusai’s One Hundred Views of Mount Fuji (1834–35) offer a familiarly idyllic depiction of the late Edo period, which found Japan’s intricate social order at peace and still largely isolated from global affairs. Barely a quarter-century later, after US Commodore Matthew Perry’s gunboat diplomacy pried the country’s ports open to foreign traders, Sadahide Utagawa would present images of American sailors approaching on vessels flagged with stars and stripes—and then staggering around in apparent drunkenness on land. Here’s a late 19th-century comics broadsheet summarizing the plot of a kabuki play. There’s an 1830 full-color rendering of how fabulously a set of sheets can be messed up by the missionary position. And from some year in between you’ll find a book-cover wrapper bearing a flowery pink cartoon dog that looks like a Pokémon spirit animal.

On the gallery walls surrounding these elegant and motley treasures are several dozen of Tress’s photographic prints, 2,500 of which were given to the University by Penn parents Patricia and J. Patrick Kennedy along with an anonymous donor. These too are a striking
Enablers
A business school professor examines the many flavors of complicity.

By JoAnn Greco

We often use expressions like “just following orders” or “drinking the Kool-Aid” to tease sycophants. They also come in handy for excusing our own questionable behavior. After all, points out behavioral economist Max Bazerman W’76 in his latest book, *Complicit: How We Enable the Unethical and How to Stop*, we don’t have to be full-on Nazi sympathizers to be morally culpable for the things we do.

“Many of us face decisions about whether to be complicit in others’ unethical behavior,” he writes in the book’s preface. “Sometimes we assist in less damaging areas … sometimes we help the wrongdoer commit harm more directly.” Bazerman’s aim, he told the *Gazette*, “is not to relay the stories we already know, but to focus on the secondary casts of characters” to help us realize just how easy it is for ordinary people to become complicit in bad deeds.

Delivering on his assertion that “compilcitors always surround the most famous evil-doers,” Bazerman examines the people, cultures, and social systems that have enabled a wide variety of wrongdoers to thrive. His case studies range from charismatic corporate ne’er-do-wells like WeWork founder Adam Neumann and Theranos founder Elizabeth Holmes, to more identifiably villainous figures such as Adolf Hitler; police officer Derek Chauvin, the killer of George Floyd; and movie producer and convicted sex offender Harvey Weinstein.

A professor of business administration at Harvard Business School who specializes in negotiations and decision-making, Bazerman has in recent years turned to the ethical aspects of those disciplines. Although most of the stories (and the studies he cites) are drawn from the world of commerce, a handful come from other contexts, including politics.

For example, if thoughts of ‘complicity’ bring to mind Scarlett Johansson as Ivanka Trump sashaying in a gold gown during a *Saturday Night Live* mock-ad for the perfume “Complicit,” you’re not alone. Bazerman says his 13th book was prompted by President Donald Trump W’68’s attempt to prevent the lawful transfer of power. Case studies of a “true partner” (Steve Bannon) and two “collaborators” (Senators Mitch McConnell and Lindsey Graham) occupy prime real estate in its pages.

These two types of “obvious” compilcitors are covered in Part One, which also features appearances by some of the physicians, pharmacies, and distributors that acted as middlemen between opioid manufacturers and their users; and examines governments—think Vichy—that abetted Hitler during the Second World War. These parties are “explicit and intentional” about their alignment with the “core goals of the wrongdoer,” Bazerman writes. True partners succeed if the core wrongdoer succeeds, while collaborators such as the investors who turned a blind eye to the embellishments and feints of Neumann and Holmes are a notch down. They, too, stand to “benefit from the wrongdoer’s behavior . . .[but] these coalitions are often created as a matter of convenience . . . even when the harm doer has crossed the collaborators’ ethical red lines.”
Yet the bulk of *Complicit* focuses on subtler instances of “ordinary” complicity, a rubric that collects “implicit, non-deliberative” behaviors such as those exhibited in two examples that Bazerman shares from his own past.

The first involved an epiphany he had while he was writing this book. In early 2021 he received an annual request to nominate fellows to the Academy of Management. A fellow himself, sometimes he nominated a doctoral advisee and sometimes he ignored the request. But as he reflected on his past practice, he became fairly certain that every last one of the nominees he had ever submitted had been white—since all of the students for whom he served as dissertation chair from 1985 to 2000 while at Kellogg School of Management were. (“This hasn’t been true in the new millennium while I’ve been at Harvard,” he notes, “but many of my nominees were from my time at Kellogg.”)

The upshot, of course, was that without any intention—or much reflection—he had reinforced the systemic exclusion of non-white scholars from the upper echelons of his own field.

“I think it’s shockingly common that we nominate people who we know and who therefore may not be all that representative,” he says. “So, I wasn’t evil in that I didn’t have people of color around me—but I was nominating people without thinking about who I was not nominating. It’s that kind of passive neglect that leads to discriminatory patterns that become systemic.”

In a later chapter examining another cause of ordinary complicity—which might be characterized as over-trusting in the ability or integrity of teammates and associates—Bazerman examines a black mark on his own academic career. It stems from a paper that he and four colleagues published in 2012, which was called out from a paper that he and four colleagues were working on this book. “While I did not commit the fraud, I was complicit,” he baldly writes in his introduction to the tale. “My trust was central to my complicity. … I too readily accepted the answers I was given [about the data collection] when I should have pushed even harder.”

“I could have and should have looked over the data myself,” he elaborates in an interview. “I think that if I’d done that, I’d have seen the problem.” In July of 2021, he and the others requested that the paper be retracted. Still, he says, “this terrible episode for an academic who cares passionately about ethics” continues to haunt him.

Bazerman finishes his book by examining the psychological biases behind complicity, which include traits like a propensity to place blame on only a single actor, and failure to grasp that inaction or indirect harm can be just as dangerous as the direct sort. Be on the lookout, in other words, for sins of omission. And although the rather generic (and admittedly broad) solutions he offers for tackling the problem won’t break any ground—they include creating moral organizations and just societies—he does present two more specific ideas. One is that those lower on the totem pole who find themselves being roped into ethical lapses respond by leveraging the power of the group to confront and block them. And leaders, he suggests, should be courageous enough to break the ice when it comes to acknowledging problems—fostering an organizational culture that removes the whistleblowing onus from subordinates alone. Most compelling, though, are his last words, precisely because they are so personal.

“I hope that if I had access in 2011 to the knowledge that I have now about complicity that I would have done more to stop the publication of a paper with fraudulent data,” he writes. The story, he continues, offers a final message.

“When something is wrong, we must not accept the easiest explanation … sometimes this puts our relationships at risk. Sometimes it will be uncomfortable. But it’s the ethical thing to do.”

JoAnn Greco is a Philadelphia journalist.

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**Briefly Noted**

**JOLLOF RICE AND OTHER REVOLUTIONS**

*by Omolola Ogunyemi GEng’94 Gr’99* (Harper-Collins, 2022, $27.99.)

Nigerian author Ogunyemi makes her American debut with this novel exploring her homeland’s past, present, and possible future through the interconnected stories of four fearless, globe-trotting women.

**THE GIRL IN JAPAN:**

*A Young Soldier’s Story*  

*by John A. McCabe LPS’15* (Assiduous Way, 2022, $19.99.)

After being exposed to the ravages of atomic bomb detonations in the Nevada desert, Joe McGrath, an Army recruit, meets the titular girl in Japan, Reiko, who also experienced atomic detonations, albeit an ocean away, at the end of World War II. A special connection forms as the two begin to expose the horrors of nuclear threats.

**TAMING INFECTION:**

*The American Response to Illness from Smallpox to COVID*  

*by Gregg Coodley C’81* (Atmosphere Press, 2022, $19.99.)

A primary care doctor tells the story of how 15 major infections such as tuberculosis, yellow fever, malaria, and syphilis have affected American history.

**1960:**

*When Art and Literature Confronted the Memory of World War II and Remade the Modern*  

*by Al Filreis (faculty)* (Columbia University Press, 2021, $35.00.)

This cultural history shows how artists processed the trauma of World War II through songs, literature, poetry, and film. Filreis, an English professor, asks, “What does it mean for an avant-garde (nominally a trailblazing group, ahead of its epoch) to be looking not ahead but—at least initially—backward to the past?”

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Sea Stewards
In a pair of new books, on coral reefs and sperm whales, two impassioned ocean lovers offer contrasting visions of how to safeguard its splendors.

By Ashley Lefrak

The ocean,” says David Guggenheim C’80, “was my first love.” It has been a complicated love: providing solace and forcing him to confront coral reefs so devasted as to be “reminiscent of WWII newsreels depicting Europe’s bombed out cities.” That pain-sharpened emotional connection not only has propelled him through decades of work in science, education, and policy, it also pulses through the pages of his new book, *The Remarkable Reefs of Cuba: Hopeful Stories from the Ocean Doctor*.

Raised in land-locked Elkins Park, Pennsylvania, Guggenheim was an unlikely seafarer. But that changed when he convinced his skeptical parents to send him to a marine biology summer camp in the Florida Keys, where he was riveted by the world beneath the waves. “I marveled,” he writes, “at the towering jet-ties of coral around us, living mountains of corals upon corals, brown and mustard-colored rock-like structures, encrusted with brilliant red, violet, and orange coralline fans and branches, swaying in the warm, nourishing current.”

There was something almost indescribably exuberant about a healthy reef, where a kaleidoscopic variety of “invertebrates, algae, and all manner of colorful corals” throbbed with “fish, crustaceans, and worms, leaving no space uninhabited or undefended.” Guggenheim was then bitten hard and repeatedly by a “pissed off” little damselfish protecting its territory.

Defending coral reefs, he came to understand, is a noble cause. But a challenging one. Compared with whales or dolphins or sea turtles, there’s a bit of a marketing problem: What is coral, actually? Guggenheim clearly communicates this and other curiosities. Addressing a general audience with short passages bearing titles like, “Animal, Mineral, or Vegetable?” he explains what coral is (all of the above) in prose so thoroughly saturated with his own wonder that a reader can’t help but absorb a good helping of reverence while digesting the facts. We learn how the well-being of a sprawling ocean food chain rests largely upon the shoulders of a tiny free-swimming snail, less than a centimeter in length. We grow acquainted with a sea urchin so sharp and slow-moving that an untrained eye might mistake it for a rock, but upon which coral depends to create a white halo of algae-free sand upon which to settle. These sections—as accessible as they are fascinating—could be read aloud to an inquisitive child, or as part of a science podcast.

With similar lucidity, though tinged with sorrow, Guggenheim describes how a wide variety of human activities have proved catastrophic for reefs. Miracle-Gro on lawns, sewage discharge, coastal development, fertilizer-heavy farming, bacteria in cargo ship ballast water, and destructive fishing practices are just a few of the topics Guggenheim covers while illuminating what, exactly, is wiping out coral reefs. He also tells us why this mass destruction matters: not only are reefs the “font of life” for most marine creatures, they are also unsurpassed in their ability to protect shorelines—absorbing up to 97 percent of wave energy—an increasingly urgent job in an era of powerful storms and rising sea levels. They are a critical link in the global ocean.
ecosystem, sustaining not only fish humans are accustomed to eating but thousands of other life forms, many of which are thought to harbor medicinal potential. Losing corals, Guggenheim contends, represents an “annual loss of billions of dollars from the global economy and the end of a way of life for billions that depend on coral reef ecosystems.”

The hope Guggenheim offers is Cuba, whose reefs are remarkably healthy. Through an unrepeatable mix of historical accident, idiosyncratic ocean currents, the government’s decision to codify “the right to a sound environment,” and the efforts of policy makers, scientists, and dedicated citizens, Cuban reefs are, Guggenheim declares, an “Eden” just 90 miles south of the devastated Florida Keys. Yet if the book’s title hints that Cuba might hold a conservation roadmap for the rest of the world, the text shows that its lessons are anything but simple. Consider the algae blooms, fed by fertilizer runoff, that smothered and compromised Cuba’s reefs in the 1970s and 1980s. When the collapse of the Soviet Union cut off the Castro regime’s fertilizer supply, offshore waters quickly cleared and the coral bounced back—illustrating the benefits of organic farming practices. The downside: hunger. Food shortages plagued Cuba for many years and today the nation still imports most of its food. The devastating impact of farming with synthetic fertilizers is the obvious take-home, but how to transition the giant agricultural business to healthier farming practices—in ways that don’t dramatically sacrifice yields—remains a thorny challenge.

Other moves, such as Cuba’s 2002 decision to ban bottom trawling, the destructive practice of dragging nets across the seabed, seem well within the capacity of policy makers, but have yet to be repeated in Mexico or the US. Cuba’s willingness to regulate in favor of the reefs also has extended to creating Marine Protected Areas where fishing is regulated. Guggenheim suggests that even in the absence of sufficient enforce-
To suggest that animals have intentions or emotions similar to ours is typically deprecated as bad science, suggesting lack of objectivity. But Rosenwaks isn’t so sure. Her entire project, after all, aims to show how these giant-brained, warm-blooded, fiercely loyal mammals care for one another. “It’s hard not to observe humanlike traits,” says Rosenwaks in an interview. “We can never know what they are thinking or feeling,” she carefully adds—yet can’t help characterizing them as playful, curious, and most provocatively, wise. “It pierces through you,” she marvels. “It’s like they knew more about me than I knew about myself.”

These are the remarks of a scientist grappling with the kinds of knowing that are possible. That each interaction is different, suggesting encounters with unique individuals, comes as no surprise to anyone who has ever had more than one dog, or child. Whether creatures more capable of revealing their individualities—and thus their similarities to us—are worthier of our protection than, say, coral polyps, is a matter of debate. But Rosenwaks is doing something quietly radical by creating work that raises questions like these. Her book suggests that a scientific practice that reflexively dismisses the kind of knowing exchanged in extended eye contact—knowledge that takes the form of feelings but resists numbers, or even words—closes the door on something essential. And to close this door comes at no small cost: it risks an unthinking brutalization of the environment and other creatures, one that not only causes harm but also diminishes our own humanity. The hope Rosenwaks offers is rooted in the spiritual, not economic, realm. If we can see whales not as a commodity, but part of a world we’re collectively bound to protect, we’ll all be better off, together.

Ashley Lefrak Nu’10 is a writer whose work has appeared in the New York Times, McSweeney’s Internet Tendency, and Real Simple.
The Final Hunt

The Justice Department veteran who tracked down Nazis has a new—and possibly last—mission targeting war criminals in Ukraine.
If this were a movie, the scene would write itself.

After nearly four decades pursuing Nazi perpetrators and other war criminals for the US Department of Justice, Eli M. Rosenbaum W’76 WG’77 [“In Pursuit of Justice,” Mar/Apr 2017] was preparing for a well-earned retirement. For years the work had been virtually nonstop, a marathon with the urgency of a sprint, powered by the need to locate and prosecute the guilty before they died. Now, finally, Rosenbaum was looking forward to traveling with his wife and reconnecting with friends and family.

Then, one evening in mid-June, Attorney General Merrick B. Garland called, requesting that he stay on for one final mission.

“Life is what happens while you’re making other plans, right?” Rosenbaum, director of the DOJ’s Human Rights Enforcement Strategy and Policy since 2010, says. “And this is a classic example.”

When Rosenbaum answered the phone, Garland asked him to lead the Justice Department’s efforts to investigate war crimes in Ukraine, where reported atrocities against civilians by Russian troops have included bombings, torture, rape, and murder. “I was double-gobsmacked,” says Rosenbaum. But he quickly assented to the one-year commitment. “People are dying. What more important thing could I do?”

A week later, as the newly appointed Counselor for War Crimes Accountability, Rosenbaum found himself in the western Ukrainian border town of Krakovets, meeting with Ukrainian prosecutors.

“Whatever hesitation I might have had about whether I should be doing this work completely dissipated,” he says. “Seeing the determination of our Ukrainian colleagues to pursue justice even while their country was being decimated by cruel Russian Federation attacks was beyond inspiring.” He gained further inspiration, he says, from a mid-July conference on accountability for Ukrainian war crimes held in The Hague, in the Netherlands.

Rosenbaum, known for his prodigious work ethic and meticulousness, will be directing US activities on two fronts: investigating the still-small number of cases involving American citizens, over which the US has jurisdiction, and providing operational and legal assistance to Ukrainian and other European prosecutors in potentially thousands of other instances. In September, Garland and Ukrainian Prosecutor General Andriy Kostin signed an agreement to facilitate and expand the two countries’ cooperation.

Rosenbaum’s mandate will widen further if Congress succeeds in passing the Justice for Victims of War Crimes Act, which has bipartisan support. It would permit prosecution of war crimes committed by anyone found in the United States, even if neither the alleged perpetrator nor the alleged victim is an American citizen. On September 28, Rosenbaum testified in favor of the legislation before the Senate Judiciary Committee, saying it would address gaps in the law that had caused him and his colleagues “deep frustration.”

In his new position, Rosenbaum, assisted by lead prosecutor Christian Levesque and others in the Justice Department, will draw on a deep well of experience.

The first high-profile case that Rosenbaum directed for the DOJ’s Office of Special Investigations (OSI) was against the former Nazi rocket scientist Arthur L. Rudolph, who led the development of the US rocket that put a man on the moon. Rudolph marshaled evidence of Rudolph’s responsibility for the suffering and death of enslaved concentration camp workers during World War II. In a 1984 deal with OSI, Rudolph renounced his US citizenship and returned to Germany.

Even during a four-year break from the Justice Department in the mid-1980s, Rosenbaum, the son of German Jewish refugees and a Harvard Law School graduate, couldn’t look away. As general counsel of the World Jewish Congress, he investigated former UN Secretary General and Austrian presidential candidate Kurt Waldheim, who had covered up his wartime Nazi associations and activities. Waldheim won the presidency but was barred from the United States.

Returning to OSI, which he would later head, Rosenbaum helped resolve its most notorious case, involving John Demjanjuk. The Cleveland autoworker had earlier been misidentified by wit-
Alumni

nesses as the Treblinka concentration camp guard “Ivan the Terrible,” an embarrassing mistake. But it turned out that Demjanjuk was no innocent; he had served as a guard at another Nazi death camp, Sobibor. Rosenbaum secured his denaturalization and deportation to Germany, where in 2011 he was convicted by a Munich court.

So intense is Rosenbaum’s focus that even his hobbies are work-related. Over the years he has assembled a massive collection of rare books, letters, photographs, and other memorabilia centered on what he calls “accountability efforts in the wake of the Holocaust.” Among his thousands of treasures is a copy of the first published excerpt of Anne Frank’s diary, from 1946, signed by one of her childhood friends.

He also owns the original Israeli police transcripts of the interrogation of Adolf Eichmann, one of the organizers of the Holocaust. The six-volume set is signed by key participants in the case that led to Eichmann’s 1962 execution, including the Mossad agent who captured Eichmann in Argentina, the presiding judge at his trial, and Holocaust survivors who pursued him or testified against him.

Rosenbaum generally dislikes the sobriquet “Nazi hunter,” which he finds reductive and overly heroic sounding. But he had no objection to the New York Times print headline announcing his new position, “US Taps a Hunter of Ex-Nazis to Help Ukraine Track Russian War Criminals,” because “a big part of what I’ve been doing is deterrence messaging.”

To prospective perpetrators in Ukraine, Rosenbaum offers this warning: “If you dare to even think about obeying a criminal order, understand we’re coming for you. We came after Nazis, however long it took. It took over 50 years sometimes.” Even if it requires decades, he says, “we’ll still be looking for you.”

As an example of his persistence, Rosenbaum cites his office’s most recent Nazi case. It involved the deportation to Germany in February 2021 of Friedrich Karl Berger, a 95-year-old German accused of guarding concentration camp prisoners and presiding over a death march. The case rested, in part, on the recovery of waterlogged records from a German ship that had been sunk by the British during World War II. As is common, Germany declined to prosecute Berger—“one of the frustrations of the job,” Rosenbaum says.

In Ukraine, as in the Nazi cases, “we’re proving crimes that took place in Europe,” Rosenbaum says. But the differences are significant. In the Nazi cases, the “evidentiary trail had grown cold” but often included troves of captured Nazi documents, Rosenbaum says. In Ukraine, cases are more likely to rely on witnesses, electronic communications, and sophisticated techniques such as geofencing, which can pinpoint cellphone signals. And, while postwar German governments were generally cooperative, Rosenbaum knows that he can’t count on assistance from the current Russian government.

“What is primarily different here, and what makes this the most urgent work I’ve ever done,” says Rosenbaum, “is that the crimes are ongoing. This is the first time I’ve ever worked on a matter where the core international crimes are being committed while we’re doing the work.”

But Rosenbaum, who in recent years has pursued perpetrators from Guatemala, Bosnia, Rwanda, and elsewhere, stresses that he is no stranger to urgency. “I’ve always felt my work was rather like being told, ‘Run a mile in four minutes.’ And then you get a year older, and they say, ‘Well, now you’ve got to run it in 3:55, because these Nazis are dying.’ And then each year, you have to run it faster and faster and faster, even though you yourself are getting less able to run faster.”

In the case of Ukraine, Rosenbaum says, “almost contrary to logic, time is our friend. No government lasts forever. One day, as happened in Germany, a new [Russian] government may be empowered that is responsible and appreciates the importance of seeking justice in these cases. And we could gain access to evidence in Russia.”

Over time, too, perpetrators could end up migrating to the United States, just as many Nazis managed to do. Even if prosecuting them specifically for war crimes isn’t feasible, Rosenbaum says, “we have a lot of experience in using other tools,” such as proving immigration or naturalization fraud. “Participants in the perpetration of these ghastly crimes need to know that they will more or less be stuck in Russia for the rest of their lives because they can never be confident that any other country is going to be safe.”

Since the Russian invasion, allegations of Russian military atrocities against Ukrainian civilians in places such as Bucha and Mariupol have dominated the news. But Rosenbaum says he would not shrink from cases involving Ukrainian perpetrators if evidence pointed in that direction. “I’ve worked with Russians before,” he says. “It’s a strange world.”

Along with their legal savvy, Rosenbaum says, he and his colleagues “also have a certain fearlessness. The word ‘impossible’ doesn’t scare us too much. We’re impatient in that we want to pursue justice as expeditiously as can be done. But if patience is required, we have that.”

“I couldn’t think of anything that I would rather do than this,” Rosenbaum concludes. Then he signs off for a Zoom meeting with Ukrainian prosecutors in Kyiv.

—Julia M. Klein
The Laws of Entertainment

The three cochairs of Jenner & Block’s content, media, and entertainment practice share a Penn connection.

Over the last couple of decades, the content, media, and entertainment practice at the law firm Jenner & Block has been responsible for many high-stakes cases involving television and movie studios, record labels, and social media companies.

Counting many major studios and record labels as clients, the firm has garnered courtroom wins for Viacom-CBS, the Recording Industry Association of America, Disney, Fox Sports, and Chance the Rapper, among others.

And leading the charge in these litigations over trademarks, piracy, copyright infringements, and content protection are three attorneys who share more than just a passion for the law: all three cochairs of the practice happen to also share an alma mater.

Andy Bart C’75, David Singer C’96 L’99, and Alison Stein C’03 L’09 didn’t know one another until they started working for the firm. But now, Stein says, “We feel a total bond, and I do think having all gone to Penn is a part of it.”

“The three of us get along extraordinarily well,” adds Bart. “There is a collaboration and an almost seamlessness in working together.”

The veteran of the group, Bart is based in New York City (where he grew up, captaining the debate team for Bronx High School of Science) and works mostly in the music space. His love for music was solidified at Penn, where he worked for WXPN. “It was a purely student production at that point,” he says of the radio station. “We did playlists, we did scheduling, we did the shows.” He was an on-air performer and DJ and played everything from late ‘60s rock-and-roll to spoken word.

After graduating from Columbia Law School, Bart worked for two firms—first Pryor Cashman and then Jenner & Block—that had big entertainment practices. He represented record labels against musicians including Janet Jackson, Led Zeppelin, and MC Hammer, all of whom claimed their music was stolen. But occasionally he would go over to the artist’s side, as when he won a copyright infringement case for Jay-Z, who had been accused of using part an Egyptian musician’s melody in the song “Big Pimpin.”

Bart noticed a shift starting in the early 2000s when, rather than battling each other, artists and record labels came together to fight against the pirated use of their music. “Ever since the internet disrupted the traditional market models of music and TV and film by making illegal files available to everyone on the internet for free, there have been all sorts of attempts to cope with that,” Bart says, adding that he’s now gearing up to protect clients’ content in the metaverse.

“The music lawyer”

David Singer

“The Hollywood entertainment lawyer”

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“The music lawyer”

David Singer

“The Hollywood entertainment lawyer”

Singer, who is based in Los Angeles, has carved out a niche as a Hollywood entertainment lawyer. A Montreal native, he began to gravitate toward the law as a junior at Penn, both because he loved watching lawyers on TV (Ally McBeal was popular at the time) and because the internet was just emerging, and he was interested in the legality of it all. “Penn was at the edge of the internet,” he recalls. “Everyone had Macs because Penn subsidized that, and you had all these big floppy discs from the Penn IT desk. We were on the web before Netscape.” He ended up staying at Penn for law school and taking classes in copyright and intellectual property.

He moved to Los Angeles and soon started working for Hogan Lovells, a company whose clients included News Corp and Disney. In one notable case he represented MySpace when it was sued by parents of minors who had been exploited by predators on the internet. “It was early precedent for the protections social media companies have from those kinds of lawsuits, which would have crippled the whole industry,” he says. “If everyone can post, you can’t be liable for the crazy stuff people say and do.”

In 2011 he joined Jenner & Block, where he has represented film and television studios. When the writer Leslie Weller claimed Gone Girl was based on her screenplay, he got the lawsuit dismissed.
on behalf of 20th Century Studios and the film's creators. He also has represented Fox Sports for more than 15 years on television license agreements, production, and distribution matters—which became a particular challenge when “all the sports just stopped on a dime” early in the pandemic.

Stein—who, like Bart, is based in New York—has made a name for herself in the video game and social media space. At Penn, she played the violin in the orchestra and was passionate about women's issues. After college, she founded a national organization called Younger Women's Task Force that involves young women in the policy-making process. Realizing that most of her female role models had law degrees, she headed to Penn Law and then completed two clerkships. During a big copyright trial, she was introduced to entertainment lawyers who made a positive impression on her. She thought that a legal practice focusing on the arts and music might help plug a hole that opened when she stopped playing the violin after college.

In late 2011 she joined Jenner & Block, where she has worked with many technology companies. She recently led two copyright infringement cases on behalf of Nintendo against websites that sold technology that could hack the Nintendo Switch, and she was part of a trial team that won a federal jury verdict of $13.15 million in damages for the estate of Elaine Steinbeck, the late wife of author John Steinbeck. (Stein also still works on women's issues on a pro bono basis, recently helping Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin contest multiple laws including one barring nurse practitioners from performing abortions.)

Stein believes that the three attorneys complement one another well. “David is the real Hollywood entertainment lawyer, Andy is the music lawyer first and foremost, and I’ve become the tech/video game/new media lawyer,” she says. “That is the role the three of us play, and it’s really good to have representation that way.”

“Andy Bart was part of that initial growth phase of the company, and then I joined, and Alison showed up shortly after,” Singer adds. “Alison is just a dynamo. She has a lot of energy. And I really see us as taking the reins and taking Jenner into the next decade.”

—Alyson Krueger C’07

Growing up in Northern Virginia, Raymond John C’08 watched his parents—two immigrants from Korea who spoke little English—head out to sort mail at odd hours of the day and night inside a local post office. They eventually bought “a small home in a really small neighborhood,” which his classmates called the poor part of town, John recalls. “But in reality, I was very fortunate to grow up there,” he says. “Having access to those schools provided so much opportunity for me. I could find people to motivate me and support me and have doors opened for me and opportunities given to me. That was a huge, huge deal.”

John now believes that his high school experience is the reason he got into Penn and, ultimately, founded 12+—a nonprofit that’s generating similar opportunities for thousands of Philadelphia-area high schoolers in underserved communities by opening doors to a post-secondary education.

Ten years ago, John and his former classmate Abe Kwon C’08 G’11 L’11 launched the organization as a small volunteer-based mentorship program, naming it 12+ because, per its website, “Gone are the days when it’s sufficient to conclude one’s education in 12th grade … due to the growing need for a college degree or vocational training in almost every oc-

Beyond Senior Year

Why this son of Korean immigrants spurned med school to run an educational nonprofit (and a coffee shop too).
operation in today’s job market.” They established its first “PLUS Center” inside Philadelphia’s Kensington Health Sciences Academy (KHSA), placing it in the former in-school suspension room—which hadn’t exactly been known for inspiration and warmth—and refashioning it into a combination library/computer lab/study space/college and career resource center, open to all 350 students in the high school.

From the outset, John hoped to infuse KHSA with a culture like the one at his own high school, where virtually every student was working toward college. When the first PLUS Center opened, only 13 percent of seniors at KHSA had post-secondary education plans, John says. After 12+’s first year in the school, its college acceptance rate soared to over 70 percent.

“When we first started, the feeling [among KHSA students] was, what’s the point of applying to college? No one from our school ever goes,” John says. “Now everyone knows and understands that that’s a path they should pursue.”

Today 12+ maintains PLUS Centers inside six Philadelphia high schools and every public high school in Camden, New Jersey, the latter of which began in the middle of the pandemic thanks to a $370,000 grant. In all, the nonprofit has helped steer more than 10,000 students through the post-secondary application process and serves more than 4,000 students each year.

Staffed by many recent Penn alums, the PLUS Centers offer one-on-one advising, grade-specific workshops, and drop-in hours both during and after school. “It requires a lot of buy-in from schools themselves, because we’re so incorporated and integrated,” John says. “But that buy-in only continues to grow over time. We’ve never left any of the schools that we’ve partnered with, which is something that we’re really proud of.”

A psychology major at Penn, John expected to go to medical school after graduation. He took a gap year to think it over before putting in his applications, working a hospital research job, and, at night, for a nonprofit that served unhoused people in New York City. “That was an eye-opening experience that helped me understand there’s something really powerful about nonprofit work,” he says of the latter. “I saw for the first time that there are other ways to help people and communities outside of medicine.”

Still, John was nervous to tell his parents that he wouldn’t become a doctor after all. “Since they don’t speak English, it was particularly challenging to explain to them, because my Korean is not amazing,” he says. “As far as I know, there is no direct translation in Korean for ‘nonprofit.’ I basically just said ‘no money.’”

Sometimes, that was a little too close to the truth. As he tried to expand 12+, John ran into the usual difficulties of fundraising for a new nonprofit. “We have always had to claw our way to build out revenue and improve our ability to sustain our work,” he says. “I wanted to be a bit more creative.”

John’s creativity manifested itself in a unique way. He’d been dreaming of starting a coffee roastery for a while—specifically one that focuses on Vietnamese beans. Along with Kwon—who is now a partner at a law firm but still sits on the 12+ board—and a former 12+ employee named Thu Pham, John opened Càphê Roasters in 2018. It’s the first Vietnamese specialty roaster in Philly, and it’s located beside 12+’s main office in Kensington.

“We saw that there were all these opportunities to support 12+ through that business,” John says. That includes featuring 12+’s logo and a description of the nonprofit on each bag of coffee (which are sold at Di Bruno Bros. and other popular Philadelphia establishments), creating jobs for students, and donating some of the roastery’s profits to 12+. “As that business grows, there’s the possibility that 12+ can have funding on a more consistent level that is unrestricted, allowing us to flexibly support our programs and the people who work for us,” John says. “I think that’s potentially really exciting.”

In October, 12+ celebrated its 10-year anniversary with a gala at the Mann Center that featured acclaimed filmmaker M. Night Shyamalan, who received an award for his longstanding support of the organization. And as John looks ahead to the rest of the 2022-23 school year, he’s continuing to seek out new partnerships and sources of funding—and imagines unfurling 12+ even further into the world.

“I think our expansion into Camden has shown that our model can be scalable,” he says, “so we are starting to really consider what it could look like to replicate 12+ in new cities and new districts.”

—Molly Petrilla C’06

**Early Stage**

Former classmates Vedant Saboo WG’20 and Mike Weber WG’20 recently founded a tropical fruit–flavored ice cream company. Visit thepenngazette.com/cream-of-the-crop to learn their story.
The Penn Club of San Francisco

ALUMNI CLUB AWARD OF MERIT | The Penn Club of San Francisco is honored to be the 2022 Alumni Club Award of Merit recipient and is recognized for an exceptional job building their board, maintaining reliable communications to their alumni constituency, and increasing their event offerings by 20%—all during the pandemic. The club has offered an average of 2-3 events per month and more than 45 events annually, ranging from social gatherings to community service projects to professional networking opportunities. The Penn Club of San Francisco caters to a large and diverse alumni population and their annual calendar of events reflects their commitment to Bay Area Quakers.

The Penn Club of Utah, The Penn Club of Westchester & Rockland Counties, and PennNYC

INNOVATION AWARD | The Innovation Award goes to the Penn Club of Utah, the Penn Club of Westchester & Rockland Counties, and PennNYC. For many years, the Penn & Wharton Sundance Schmooze has been an innovative model of club collaboration. When the 10th Annual event, scheduled to take place in person, was derailed due to the pandemic, the clubs quickly pivoted to a virtual event. Partnering with Penn Cinema Studies Professor Peter Decherney, the clubs hosted a dynamic virtual program during which 100 alumni networked with one another and heard from an exclusive, curated panel of Penn alumni in the entertainment industry.
Over 120 Penn Alumni Regional Clubs around the world serve to bring the spirit of the University to their regions. Wherever you are, you’re never far from another Penn alumnus or a Penn Club. In connecting the Penn community across the globe, clubs offer opportunities for fun and socializing, networking, learning, and collaborative initiatives that impact the people and communities where they live.

**The Penn Club of Central New Jersey**

**SERVICE AWARD** | Congratulations to the Penn Club of Central New Jersey, recipient of the Service Award for 2022. Representing over 6,000 Penn alumni from Trenton to the Jersey Shore, the club has made it a priority to serve the local Central New Jersey community. This past year, the club offered a free virtual concert from Penn Dental alumnus and local musician David Fenster, D’77, GD’80 and used the occasion to raise $250 for Mercer Street Friends, a Trenton nonprofit focused on poverty. In the Spring, club members came together in person to clean a portion of the beach on Monmouth County. The club looks forward to making an annual tradition of the beach cleanup.

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**The Penn Club of Hartford**

**ENGAGEMENT AWARD** | The Penn Club of Hartford is the Engagement Award winner for 2022. Despite launching in the midst of the COVID pandemic, the club has already created a thriving community of Penn alumni in the greater Hartford area—all due to the hard work of a dedicated board. The club maintains engagement with their community using a personal touch, sending individual notes to past event attendees to thank them for their participation and invite them to upcoming events. With a robust and diverse array of annual events, the Penn Club of Hartford continues to increase both its first-time attendees and its returning friends!
“Daily, I water several huge marijuana plants, going crazy on my terrace and legal here in Vermont.”

—Elinore Hart Standard CW’55

Celebrate Your Reunion, May 12–15, 2023!

1953  
Nick Lyons W’53 see Moshe Sonnheim SW’56.

1954  
Daniel Lerner C’54 ASC’61 and his wife Lyn were honored with the dedication of the newly named Lyn and Daniel Lerner Visitor Center at the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens. The Lerners, who live in Merion Station, Pennsylvania, have been coming to Maine for over 30 years, and they are longtime supporters of the Gardens. The Lerner Garden of the Five Senses opened in 2009.

1955  
Arlen Blechman W’55 writes, “I continue to lead a discussion group for seniors 55+ as a contractor for Trinity Health, now in my 17th year. My 25 members meet for two hours twice a month, now virtually. Subjects and relevant reading materials are emailed to members five days before each session.”

Elinore Hart Standard CW’55 writes, “The last time I wrote in this space [Alumni Voices, Sep/Oct 2020], COVID was felling old people like me at a sickening rate. I think I was 86 then and now I’m going on 89. We’ve slowly emerged, reclaiming our everyday lives, sort of. I’ve stuck pretty close to home, making forays around town, still driving within a limited range. I’m not so fearful about COVID as I was, figuring I’ll get sick, or something, sooner or later. My balance is bad and, aside from being pulled over by the dog and doing a face-plant in the driveway, I’m OK. I don’t cook much; I eat oddly. I read newspapers online and subscribe to two print magazines. But here is the thing: I Zoom at least once a day for meetings, and thank goodness, mostly, for that technology. I read books on my laptop; some are what you’d call literature, some not. I just finished 23 Inspector Bill Slider novels by Cynthia Harrod-Eagles and wish there were more. I write a little into a random kept journal. I listen to Aoi Teshima on Spotify through the little speaker system I installed. Daily, I water several huge marijuana plants, going crazy on my terrace and legal here in Vermont. When the ladies, that’s the plants, are fully budded, harvested, and dried, I plan to make a healing ointment from infused THC oil, beeswax, and coconut oil. I’ll get two-ounce jars from Amazon, that squid, where I get everything else. Sorry to say. So that’s it for now. As I said last time, trying to keep up is hard. In a shuttdown process, I’ve managed to let go—not only of lots of stuff, but of old fears and regrets.”

1956  
Moshe Sonnheim SW’56 writes, “Since my retirement from teaching social work at Bar Ilan University in Israel, I’ve returned to my ‘first love,’ creative writing, at age 83, and now have stories and poems online and in anthologies. To date, I have 10 books published in English and Hebrew. The latest, Bashert: A Family Memoir, is relevant to ‘Nearing Ninety’ by Nick Lyons W’53 [Alumni Voices, Sep/Oct 2022]. As I near 90, I reflect on the past, but look forward to the future. Unlike Nick Lyons, I am relatively healthy; my appetite is good, my memory is good, my weight is unchanged in 20 years, I walk 45 minutes a day (without falling), and my still-beautiful wife, Jolene, is nearing 85. Our years together have been a paean to life. We fell in love at first sight: I, a Philadelphia boy who grew up in the lap of security; and she, an Amsterdam girl, a ‘Hidden Child,’ who grew up in the shadow of the Shoah. We met in Jerusalem shortly after my Aliyah in 1971. We married in Holland and have lived in Israel for more than 50 years. We have ‘produced’ two beautiful daughters and nine Sabra grandchildren. We are considering a family cruise to celebrate my 90th, Jolene’s 85th, and our eldest daughter’s 50th birthdays. Meanwhile, in the quiet moments when we are alone, Jolene and I try never to go to sleep angry. We kiss goodnight and kiss good morning, Jolene’s soft and gentle hand on mine keeps the spark of love alive, and we look forward to the years to come.”

1957  

1961  
David Gilman W’61 writes, “My active naval service (1961–65) included a memorable evening in Guantanamo harbor as a small boat officer during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Later, I spent my career as a general contractor and developer of high-rise oceanfront condominiums in Florida. Young and unconcerned with ignorance and inexperience, my first project was an intracoastal seven-story condominium designed by my wife, Gail. She had no formal design education, and it was the architect’s first multistory project. All sold in five months. We continued working
together for 30 years on a handshake, and many purchasers followed us from building to building. I’ve been married 60 years to my wife, whom I met on a college graduation trip to Florida. We have three daughters—two lawyers and a realtor—and they’ve added four grandsons and a granddaughter to our family. In these ‘dotage’ years, I’m completing a new oceanfront condominium project. As always, I continue to enjoy tarpon fishing in the Keys where a warning sign should read, ‘Park Your Shoulders at the Waterfront.’ Attended my 50th Penn Reunion and was grateful for name tags, especially mine.”

Celebrate Your Reunion, May 12–15, 2023!

1963
Harry Groome C’63 has published Giant of the Valley, which contains two novellas, including the title story and The Witness. Giant of the Valley is a tale of a family struggling with the encroaching dementia of its aging patriarch. The Witness follows a revered concert pianist who pays a horrendous price to protect his Muslim granddaughters from being killed or raped during the Bosnian War.

1964
Dr. Edward F. Rossomando D’64 writes, “On September 7, a CRET Innovation Center was opened at the Lincoln Memorial University’s College of Dental Medicine in Knoxville, Tennessee. This is the fifth Innovation Center opened by CRET (Center for Research and Education in Technology). The opening remarks by CRET CEO Susan Ferrante contained many kind remarks about me and my role in founding CRET and in promoting dental education. A transcript can be read at cret.org, and in addition there are some photos of me (the old man with very gray hair). There is one with Ms. Ferrante (who is much taller than me) and one with my wife, Nina Primakoff Rossomando CW’64, in the black dress.”

1967
Eleanor Hubbard CW’67 GFA’71, an artist living on Martha’s Vineyard, exhibited a series of paintings created during the COVID-19 pandemic, titled Marking Time, in the Feldman Family Art Space in Vineyard Haven, September 12–October 10. Eleanor notes that the gallery is endowed by Sam Feldman W’50. Her paintings can be viewed at eleanorhubbard.com.

Charles “Chuck” W. Newhall III C’67 has published two new books, Dare Disturb the Universe: A Memoir of Venture Capital (Koehler Books, 2022) and The Chronicles of Stanley the Pug (Koehler Books, 2021), which is a children’s book, illustrated by Embla Granqvist. Chuck is a third-generation venture capitalist and co-founder of New Enterprise Associates, an early-stage venture capital firm. From his memoir’s press materials: “Dare Disturb the Universe is a compelling narrative that sheds light on an industry that’s behind many of the success stories in business that have created today’s economy.” Chuck was profiled in our Mar/Apr 2017 issue.

Sidney Perkowitz Gr’67, professor emeritus of physics at Emory University, has published his second collection of articles and essays written for general readers. Science Sketches: The Universe from Different Angles (Jenny Stanford Publishing, 2022) explores “the outer and inner universes from cosmic space to the human mind, from the artistic use of science to the impact of technology and AI in the justice system, in medicine, and in dealing with COVID-19.”

Richard C. Robinson C’67 has been named to Best Lawyers’ 2023 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in the Litigation–Construction category, an honor he has received every year since 2010. Richard is a member of Connecticut law firm Pullman & Comley’s construction law and litigation section and has been practicing law for more than 50 years.

1969
Joseph H. Cooper W’69 L’72 writes, “I’m happy to report that my COVID-era debut picture book, Grandpa’s Lonely, Isn’t He?, has been favorably reviewed by Kirkus Reviews and Foreword Reviews. The book is about so-
cial distancing during a pandemic and a young child’s concern for his family. Kirkus describes it as ‘an earnest kids’ story that aims to build resilience and optimism in young readers.’ Foreword says, ‘The color illustrations are intricate works of art. … Even the black-and-white pictures include myriad clever components.’

1970
Ruth Lepson CGS’70 recently published On the Way: New and Selected Poems (MadHat Press). She has retired from the New England Conservatory of Music, where she was poet-in-residence for 25 years.

1971
Jack L. B. Gohn C’71 G’71 has published a book, What I Was Listening to When… A Memoir Set to Music (McHenry Press, 2021). He writes, ‘It’s a memoir that follows me from nursery to pandemic; it also follows the music I was listening to at moments along that journey. As I state in the introduction, the music evokes the moments, and the moments evoke the music. Many of the moments brought to life were during my years at Penn. And the text is accompanied by a free public Spotify playlist that enables the reader to hear as well as read about most of the music I consider. The book is partly confessional, partly poignant reminiscence, and partly an interrogation of the music that did not merely reflect but often structured my thoughts and feelings over the years.’

Adele Lindenmeyr CW’71, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Villanova University since 2014, has been named the inaugural William and Julia Moulden Dean of the College. From the release: “The endowed deanship was recently established with a $7.5 million anonymous gift, which will allow the college to invest in key programmatic and student-focused initiatives, while honoring William and Julia Moulden, a Black, Catholic couple who provided crucial support to the Augustinian founders of Villanova College in the 19th century.”

1972
Deborah R. Willig CW’72, a managing partner at Willig, Williams & Davidson, spoke in July at the 2022 National Labor-Management Conference about her experience securing the first-ever collective bargaining agreement for US professional women soccer players.

Celebrate Your Reunion, May 12–15, 2023!

1973
Marlene Rabinowitz C’73 has published a new children’s book, under her pen name Dr. Marlene MD, titled Happy Ever After: A Pandemic Tale. She writes, “This children’s book evolved from my short story The Day the Unicorns Came to Delray Beach. The tale is a fun, educational way for children to learn and discuss the pandemic.”

1974
Susan Danilow CW’74 G’74 writes, “The Class of ’74 will celebrate its 50th Reunion on May 17–19, 2024, and we would love to have you with us! We’ll have the chance to reconnect, remember, and reminisce about our time as Penn students—and to share updates about our lives post-graduation—while enjoying a wonderful time on campus. Please mark your calendar! Plans will feature a welcome cocktail reception, an afternoon picnic following the traditional Parade of Classes down our beloved Locust Walk, a Saturday night dinner, and a farewell brunch. We are also hoping to arrange for museum visits and the opportunity to hear from Penn’s new president, Liz Magill. Our reunion committee has met by Zoom several times so far, but it is not too late to join us. Please let us know if you would like to help in planning the celebration by reaching out to Class Co-President Harve Hnatiuk EE’74, at hnat463@gmail.com. We would be so excited to include you and promise you’ll have fun along the way!”

H. Ronald Klasko L’74, a partner at Klasko Immigration Law Partners, has been selected for the 29th edition of The Best Lawyers in America in the area of immigration law.

1977
Anita DeFrantz L’77 has been selected as an award recipient for Sports Business Journals 2022 class of Champions: Pioneers and Innovators in Sports Business. According to the press release from SBJ, “Anita DeFrantz was an American Olympic rower, winning bronze in the 1976 Games in Montreal in the women’s eight and qualifying for the boycotted 1980 Games in Moscow. She was the chair of the prototype of the IOC [International Olympic Committee] Women in Sport Commission and was elected in 1997 as the first female vice president of the IOC Executive Committee. She was elected back on the IOC Executive Board in 2013 and to a four-year term as IOC vice president in 2017. She is on the board of directors of the AI Oerter Foundation. DeFrantz was awarded the Olympic Order in 1980 for her contributions to the Olympics. She has twice been vice president of the International Rowing Federation.” Anita was highlighted in a feature in our Jul/Aug 2012 issue (“Penn in the Olympics”).

Howard Kelrick C’77 writes, “After 45 years in the diamond jewelry manufacturing business, I have retired. And, wasting no time, I have already begun my new career: I am the new head pickleball instructor at a beach club in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.”

Celebrate Your Reunion, May 12–15, 2023!

1978
Ed Glickman EAS’78 W’78, executive chairman of AIP Asset Management in the US, has received a Fulbright Specialist Program award to Uzbekistan from the US Department of State. He will complete a project at the Uzbekistan Direct Investment Fund “that aims to exchange knowledge and establish partnerships benefiting participants, institutions, and communities both in the US and overseas through a variety of educational and training activities within the field of public administration.”

Vincent T. Lombardo C’78, a retired attorney at the Ohio Attorney General’s Office, will be inducted into the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Hall of Fame on November 4. He writes, “I am extremely honored—I cried when I read Dean Lee Fisher’s email notifying me. My deepest thanks to my wife, Barbara Stanford, for all of the support and assistance that she has given me throughout my career and my volunteer activities. I share this award with her.”

Dr. Sam Okpaku GM’78, clinical professor of psychiatry at George Washington University, is editor of a new two-volume series from Springer Reference, titled Innovations in
Global Mental Health. Sam is a former assistant professor of psychiatry at Penn.

1979

Bill Friedman W'79 writes, “Ross Smotrich C'79, Michael ‘Zvi’ Stern C'79, Gadi Hill W’79, and I have remained close friends and schedule one or two or more (depending on who has some spare change for drinks) gatherings every year with our better halves. A recent gathering celebrated the Honey Deuce cocktail as featured at the US Open. A good time was had by all.”

1980

Gayle Kartoz Printz C'80 has been named one of 2022’s 60 World Master Artists by Art Tour International magazine. She received her 22-carat gold award in late June at the Art Tour International Award Ceremony in New York. As Gayle made her televised acceptance speech, her artwork appeared on a Times Square billboard. Gayle began painting in May of 2020 and her work can be viewed at www.GaylePrintz.com.

1981

Mike Bellissimo C'81 has joined TBD Health as its chief revenue officer. He writes, “Founders Stephanie Estey and Daphne Chen have built a powerhouse start-up where everyone can own their own sexual and reproductive healthcare. As a safe, supportive, stigma-free, and secure care provider, TBD Health offers a holistic and integrated care experience through its first standalone clinic in Las Vegas (vegas.tbd.health) and through telehealth services and testing in Florida, Nevada, Arizona, Washington, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. We are looking to partner with universities, employers, insurers, providers, digital health organizations, and labs in delivering these necessary care services. Email me at mike@tbd.health or visit hello.tbd.health to learn more.”

Paul R. Schaefer C’81 writes, “I recently completed a 25-year tenure at Grove City (PA) College to pursue other teaching and preaching activities. Having chaired the department of Biblical and Religious Studies for most of my time there, I was honored for my work by being awarded the Samuel P. Harbison Chair of Religion. I also authored the book The Spiritual Brotherhood: Cambridge Puritans and the Nature of Christian Piety and am a contributor to Carl Trueman’s Protestant Scholasticism: Essays in Reassessment. My wife Bonnie Maclay Schaefer C’84 and I recently celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary, after having met at Penn. She is currently using her Temple MBA and software company background at a tax accounting firm. We are pleased to announce the graduation in June of our son Andrew, magna cum laude, from Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design, with a BFA in Game Art. He is pursuing employment in level design and 3D modeling/animation. We’re also the proud parents of Stephanie Renae Schaefer Sipe, a Grove City College graduate who married in late May and works as a youth minister in Pittsburgh.”

1982

Dee M. Robinson C’82 has written a new book, Courage by Design: Ten Commandments +1, for Moving Past Fear to Joy, Fulfillment, and Purpose. Dee is founder of Robinson Hill, a concessions management firm specializing in retail and restaurants at airports and other nontraditional venues. From the book’s press materials: “Each section presents a Courage by Design Commandment and uses compelling stories from Robinson’s experience and that of other highly successful individuals... to demonstrate the commandments in action. End-of-section journaling questions and implementation guides support you in building your courage muscle and learning to get into ‘goodtrouble,’ taking risks to create opportunities for yourself—and for others.”

Celebrate Your Reunion, May 12–15, 2023!

1983

Athena Anthopoulos C’83 GEd’93 and John H. Grady L'85 were married on June 12, 2021, in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.

1984

David Fidelman C’84 is a writer, philosopher, and editor of the Stoic Insights website (stoicinsights.com), which offers modern reflections on ancient Stoic philosophy. His most recent book is Breakfast with Seneca: A Stoic Guide to the Art of Living (W. W. Norton, 2021).

Deborah A. Katz C’84 has been named president of the nonprofit Jewish Genealogy Society of Cleveland.

Bonnie Maclay Schaefer C’84 see Paul R. Schaefer C’81.

1985

Liz Kenny C’85 has been appointed chief marketing officer at Truth Initiative, a national public health organization with a mission to prevent youth smoking, vaping, and nicotine use. In this role, Liz leads the organization’s truth campaign and manages its suite of products and services, such as an anonymous text-message quit vaping program, and a digital, peer-to-peer curriculum on vaping in thousands of high schools nationwide.

For advertising information, contact Linda Caliazzo: caiazzo@upenn.edu; 215-898-6811.
1987
Jeffrey Masten G’87 Gr’91 has been named a 2022 Guggenheim Fellow. He is professor of English and gender & sexuality studies at Northwestern University and author of Queer Philologies: Sex, Language, and Affect in Shakespeare’s Time (Penn Press, 2016).

Celebrate Your Reunion, May 12–15, 2023!

1988
Lisa Andujar W’88 has been promoted to director of diversity, equity, and inclusion at Columbia Business School.

1989
Anne Evens G’89, CEO of Elevate, has received a Heinz Award, which annually recognizes “a small handful of outstanding individuals with a $250,000 unrestricted cash award,” according to the press release. It continues, “[Anne] has dedicated her life’s work to ensuring equal access to climate solutions that provide clean and affordable heat, power, and water in homes and communities throughout the US.”

Thomas Lambert C’89, a managing partner at FLB Law in Westport, Connecticut, has been named to the 2023 edition of The Best Lawyers in America by Best Lawyers, in the Litigation–Insurance category.

1990
Barry E. Moscowitz C’90 has been appointed acting director and chief administrative law judge of the New Jersey Office of Administrative Law by Governor Phil Murphy. Barry has served as an administrative law judge since 2006.

1991
Matthew B. Malozi EAS’91 has been named chair of the board for the Lehigh and Northampton County Transportation Authority (LANTA). He will serve a two-year term. Matthew is cofounder and president of Civitas Regio, a Bethlehem, Pennsylvania–based civil engineering firm.

1992
Jennifer Arbittier Williams C’92 L’95 has joined Freen Sporkin & Sullivan LLP as partner. Most recently, Jennifer served as United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. She is also an adjunct professor at Penn’s Carey Law School.

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1993
Dr. Marc Arginteanu M’93 has written a new horror novel, Azazel’s Public House. Marc is an associate clinical professor in neurosurgery at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York and an adjunct instructor in psychology at Florida International University in Miami.

William C. Kashatus Gr’93, a historian, educator, and author of more than 20 books, has published a new biography of Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher Steve “Lefty” Carlton and catcher Tim McCarver. Lefty and Tim: How Steve Carlton and Tim McCarver Became Baseball’s Best Battery details the duo’s relationship from 1965, when they played the St. Louis Cardinals, through 1980, when they played for the Philadelphia Phillies.

1995
Michael Rosenberg L’95 has transitioned from the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) Division of Enforcement and Investigations to the PCAOB’s Office of International Affairs, where he is an associate director. He writes, “In this new role, I advise the board in connection with its oversight of non-US firms. My wife Sheryl Rosenberg and I are empty nesters living in the Maryland suburbs of Washington, DC.”

Asha Bhatiani Scielzo C’95 has been named president-elect designate of the American Health Law Association, a nonprofit “devoted to advancing excellence in health law by educating and connecting the health law community.” Asha is also director of the Health Law and Policy Program at American University Washington College of Law. She and her husband, Henry Andrew Scielzo W’95, reside in the Washington, DC, area with their two daughters.

1996
Şebnem Gökçen C’96 writes, “I’m happy to share that my first book of short fiction in Turkish was published in August. It’s a collection of 20 stories and more than 30 characters that I’ve been loving and living with for the past five years. I hope you, as English readers, can meet them one day, too. More information on my book, together with my very short stories in English, can be found at sebnemgokcen.com.”

1999
Jordan Licht C’99 has been hired as chief financial officer at Burford Capital, a finance and asset management firm focused on law. Also at the company are David Helfenbein C’08, vice president of public relations, and David Perla C’91 L’94, co-chief operating officer.

2002
Benjamin Folkinshteyn C’02 L’06 see Jennie Wolff C’04.
Celebrate Your Reunion, May 12–15, 2023!

2003
Col. James Goetschius GCP’03 took command of the US Army Health Facility Planning Agency on May 12 in a ceremony at the Defense Health Headquarters in Falls Church, Virginia. Matthew Wich C’03 writes, “I am pleased to announce that this past June, Phinest is celebrating the second anniversary of our Stamshteyn C’02 L’06, specializing in labor and employment law. We are deeply committed to civic responsibility and see our family-owned legal practice as an extension of our deepest values. Ben serves on the Penn Law Alumni Society’s board of managers, is a member of the City of Stamford’s board of ethics, and is also on the board of the Kings Bay YM-YWHA, located in Brooklyn. Jennie is one of the founding board members of Wheel It Forward, a free lending library for durable medical equipment, and speaks frequently regarding emerging legal issues affecting labor and employment law.”

2004
Harpreet Dhalliwa GA’04 and her spouse and partner Chris Dameron are designing the next phase of the Kijana Global Innovation School in Western Kenya to be built in partnership with the Kijana Educational Empowerment Initiative. The couple is designing a library/media center with indoor collaboration spaces and an amphitheater, while showcasing sustainable building practices, like rainwater collection, permaculture gardens, and the use of 100 percent local materials and labor. More information can be found at kijana.org.

Grace Su Patel C’04 has joined financial research and benchmarking firm Hearts & Wallets as a client success relationship manager. Jennie Woltz C’04 and Benjamin Folkinshteyn C’02 L’06, spouses and partners at Woltz & Folkinshteyn P.C., write, “We are celebrating the second anniversary of our Stamford, Connecticut-based boutique law firm specializing in labor and employment law. We are deeply committed to civic responsibility and see our family-owned legal practice as an extension of our deepest values. Ben serves on the Penn Law Alumni Society’s board of managers, is a member of the City of Stamford’s board of ethics, and is also on the board of the Kings Bay YM-YWHA, located in Brooklyn. Jennie is one of the founding board members of Wheel It Forward, a free lending library for durable medical equipment, and speaks frequently regarding emerging legal issues affecting labor and employment law.”

2005
Jill E. Desimini GA’05 GLA’05, associate professor of landscape architecture at Harvard, has published Cyclical City: Five Stories of Urban Transformation (University of Virginia Press, 2022). From the book’s description: “As cities evolve and resources shift with time, spaces within those cities are often left fallow and abandoned. Cyclical City tells the stories behind these sites, from Philadelphia’s Liberty Lands park to Lisbon’s Green Plan, and it looks at the ways in which these narratives can be leveraged toward future engagement and use.”

2006
Kathryn Heninger Britton CGS’06 has written Sit Write Share: Practical Writing Strategies to Transform Your Experience into Content that Matters. She writes, “It captures what I’ve learned from years of writing, publishing, running writers’ workshops, and coaching authors. A handbook for people who want to become better at the craft of writing, it is available from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and various e-book providers.”

Robert Forman W’06 celebrated his wedding to Benjamin Fink on October 15 at a ceremony in Los Angeles.

2007
Dr. Christine A. Chen EAS’07 D’16 writes, “After being the lead orthodontist at a private practice in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, where I treated a wide range of malocclusions, I decided it was time to go out on my own. In January, I started my own orthodontic practice as a Damon braces and Invisalign exclusive provider, and I’m proud to carry on the Penn tradition of excellence in North Potomac, Maryland, serving the greater DMV area (DC, Maryland, and Virginia). Three days after starting my office, my husband and I welcomed a healthy baby boy. I’m carefully monitoring how his teeth are coming in! The American Association of Orthodontics recommends the first orthodontic checkup at age seven, no referral needed from the dentist. I’m new to the area and would love to hear from fellow Penn alumni! My office welcomes kids, teens, and adults. For a complimentary consultation, please call 301-977-1441 or email me at hi@northpotomacortho.com.”

Celebrate Your Reunion, May 12–15, 2023!

2008
David Helfenbein C’08 see Jordan Licht C’99.

2009
Shane D. Valenzi C’09, a commercial litigation attorney, has joined the Pittsburgh-based law firm of Whiteford, Taylor & Preston.

2010
Justin Chen L’10, a commercial litigation attorney at Alavi Anaipakos PLLC in Houston, has earned selection in the 2023 edition of Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America, which recognizes the country’s top young lawyers.

Christina Kim Suh C’10, an attorney at Tucker Ellis LLP, has been selected by her peers for inclusion in Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America for 2023 in the area of Banking and Finance Law.

2011
Amber Efie Tingle Gr’11 has joined Microsoft as managing editor for research publishing.

2012
Ufuoma A. Abiola GE’12 GrEd’17 LPS’23, an adjunct assistant professor at Penn’s Graduate School of Education and School of Arts and Sciences, has been named Princeton University Library’s inaugural executive lead and associate university librarian for diversity, equity, and inclusion. She was also named the 2022 Educator of the Year by Penn GSE.

George Aulisio LPS’12 has been named dean of the Weinberg Memorial Library at the University of Scranton. His scholarship

Patricia Melloy Gr’02, a biology professor at Fairleigh Dickinson University, has published her first college-level textbook, Viruses and Society (Routledge, 2022).
includes work in both philosophy and library science, and he recently published a book, titled Sudden Selector’s Guide to Philosophy Resources, for an imprint of the American Library Association and has served as editor of the Library Materials and Pricing Index since 2018. Prior to being named dean, he was a professor and department chairperson of the library faculty at the University of Scranton. He is currently completing his PhD in philosophy from Temple.

Teryn Thomas GEd’12, CEO and cofounder of EdLight, has been accepted into the Google for Startups Accelerator: Black Founders Program. From the release: “EdLight is emerging as an innovator on the pathway to developing artificial intelligence to classify mistakes in handwritten work. Its mission is to support and enrich teachers in K–12 who faced challenges offering remote learning experiences, especially during the pandemic. … Google for Startups’ 10-week program of mentorship and technical support will advance the development of EdLight’s AI to identify common mistakes in handwritten student work.”

Celebrate Your Reunion, May 12–15, 2023!

2013
Taylor Cook C’13 see Lars-Patrik Roeller EAS’15 GEng’15.
John Onwuauwu W’13 and Ariana Tabatabaei C’14 were married on May 7, in Santa Barbara, California. They write, “We were surrounded by friends and family, including nearly 30 Penn alumni. Ariana was a member of the Penn track & field team as well as Alpha Chi Omega sorority, while John was a member of the Penn football team as well as Saint Anthony Hall. While we were at Penn we built an overlapping community. We dated for two years on-campus surrounded by friends and teammates and continued growing surrounded by a very strong Penn community in New York City! Since our undergraduate days, we’ve lived in New York, Santa Barbara, Washington, DC, and now San Francisco, but have managed to stay very close to the Penn community along the way. Given our origin story, John found it fitting to surprise Ariana on January 9, 2021, with a proposal on Locust Walk, and we decided to officially become a family where our relationship began more than eight years earlier.”

2014
Sarah Van Sciver C’14 has composed an opera, which made its world premiere in October by Wilmington Concert Opera, an exclusively woman- and minority-run company based in Delaware. From the press materials: “Girondines, based on historical fact, focuses on the story of six real life French Revolutionaries who presumably knew one another, met in secret before the Reign of Terror, and supported one another during the political upheaval. All six of the revolutionaries are women, and of these, three are guillotined and three live.” Learn more about Sarah’s work at sarahvansiver.com.

2015
Lars-Patrik Roeller EAS’15 GEng’15 and Taylor Cook C’13 joyfully announce the birth of their daughter, Arielle Francine Roeller, on May 4 in New York.

2016
Benjamin Behrend C’16 and Emily Alexander were married on August 21 at Congregation Rodeph Shalom in Philadelphia. Among the guests in attendance were Daniel Behrend WG’71, Susan Behrend C’80 Nu’80 GNu’86, Dona Horowitz-Behrend G’94 Gr’05, Keith Alexander C’83, Lori Paster C’83 GEd’85, Lois Alexander Ed’55, Oscar Serpell C’15 LPS’16, and Madeline Vincent W’13. Emily is a program manager in the Office of Evaluation, Research, and Accountability at the School District of Philadelphia, and Benjamin is a fundraiser for the University of Pennsylvania.

2017
Aimee Gilmore GFA’17 is an artist living in Philadelphia. A project she started as a graduate student, Milkscapes, uses breastmilk as a medium for art. In a collaborative effort with Mural Arts Philadelphia and the Maternity Care Coalition, Aimee created flags with designs made from spilt breastmilk that line the outside of an Early Head Start building in South Philadelphia. Aimee has also incorporated breastmilk into a meditation necklace that is part of the collection at Boston’s Museum of Fine Arts. She was recently profiled in the August 13 issue of the Philadelphia Inquirer (tinyurl.com/milkscapes). More information can be found on her website, aimeegilmore.com.

Michael Shafir GAr’17 GLA’17 and Sam Geldin Gr’22 write, “We were happily married in Toronto this past August at the Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art. We were joined by friends and family, including Laura Carey C’09 GAr’14 GLA’14, Christina Franz GAr’15 GFA’15, Hannah Gompers GAr’17, Joanna Karaman C’12 GAr’15 GLA’15, Jia Kim GAr’14, Ella Lu C’12 GAr’15 GFA’15, and Emma Molloy GAr’17 GFA’17 GLA’17. We live and work in Washington, DC.”

Celebrate Your Reunion, May 12–15, 2023!

2018
Michael A. Ciocio GrEd’18, president of Rowan College at Burlington County, has been named a 2022–23 New Presidents Fellow by the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program. He will join a cohort of 25 community college presidents that, according to Aspen, “are innovators who are willing to take risks and are prepared to take strategic action.”

2019
Ioannis Rutledge GEng’19 and Lamiaa Dakir married in New York on May 7. Ioannis writes, “Funny enough, even though we went to the same college as undergrads, we did not meet in college. We actually met in Jersey City, where, as luck would have it, we only lived two blocks away from each other! In other news, I’ve transitioned away from the startup and consulting world into New York residential real estate. I’m pleased to announce that last year I joined Cooper & Cooper (a top-tier luxury New York real estate brokerage) as an agent. I handle sales and rentals throughout the city and state. If you (or a friend) are looking to buy or rent in New York, I would be delighted to be of assistance. I can be reached via my associate page: coopercooper.com/ioanniisrutledge.”

2022
Sam Geldin Gr’22 see Michael Shafir GAr’17 GLA’17.
1946
Anne Deshong Hockenberry Trout CW’36, Bryn Mawr, PA, a longtime volunteer at children’s schools and Philadelphia hospitals; June 19. At Penn, she was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

1947
A. Bruce Mainwaring C’47, Bryn Mawr, PA, a University trustee emeritus, chair emeritus of the Penn Museum Board of Advisors, and founder of two firms that manufacture metal tubing and related products; Sept. 6. In 1987, he was recognized with the Alumni Award of Merit. He was appointed University trustee in 1991. He and his wife Margaret Redfield Mainwaring Ed’47 Hon’85, who is also a trustee emerita, were lead supporters of creating the Penn Museum’s East Wing and renovating its West Wing. They also endowed the first teaching specialist at Penn’s Center for the Analysis of Archaeological Materials, the Mainwaring Teaching Specialist for Archaeozoology. In addition, they endowed the museum’s chief operating officer position, established the Robert H. Dyson Near East Curatorship, and made provision for endowment funds supporting the Director’s Discretionary Fund as well as marketing and outreach activities. They supported several other areas of the university, as well. He served in the US Navy Reserve during World War II. As a student at Penn, he was a member of Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity, Mask & Wig, and the ROTC. After graduating, he served as president of Mask and Wig and remained a distinguished alumni member of the club for many decades [“Still Kicking,” May/June 2014]. His children are Susan Mainwaring Roberts CW’09, Zachary R. Roberts C’09, and Elizabeth Mainwaring Daniels CW’76, and Susan Mainwaring Roberts CW’72 G’76, a member of Pi Lambda Phi fraternity.

1948
Robert I. Benjamin W’48, Virginia Beach, VA, a retired professor of information studies at Syracuse University; June 21. At Penn, he was a member of Pi Lambda Phi fraternity and the crew team.

Harry W. Kartoz C’48, Atlanta, founder of a dye supply company; July 2. He served in the US Navy during World War II. One daughter is Gayle K. Printz C’80.


1949
Margaret “Miggs” Shilling Stamm Coleman G’49, Rochester, NY, a high school math teacher and director of support services for a counseling center; April 10.

Virginia E. Jordan G’49, Skowhegan, ME, a former dietician and professor of human development at the University of Orono and the University of New Hampshire; July 12. One son is Dr. W. Edward Jordan III ChE’72.

Edward Rosenstein W’49, Charlottesville, VA, July 17, 2020. At Penn, he was a member of Zeta Beta Tau fraternity.

Dr. Gerald J. Schwab M’49, Peoria, IL, a retired physician; June 11. He served in the US military during the Korean War as a surgeon.


1950
Alban S. Goldberg WG’50, Charlotte, NC, a retired textile finishing equipment salesman; July 21. He served in the US Army during World War II.

Alan S. Moscowitz W’50, West Orange, NJ, a retired founder of a scrap metal business; July 17. He served in the US Army during the Korean War. As a student at Penn, he was a member of Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity. He was also active in the Class of 1950 alumni group. One son is Barry E. Moscowitz C’90.

Leroy Packer GEE’50, Guilford, CT, a retired electrical engineer; July 15. He served in the US Army during World War II.

Charles T. Townsend ME’50, Feasterville, PA, a retired senior engineer for PECO; Aug. 18, 2021. He served in the US Army during World War II, earning a Purple Heart and Bronze Star.

1951
Anne Hommer Eaton HUP’51, Fort Lauderdale, FL, a retired nurse; Feb. 24.

Adolph “John” Gottstein Jr. W’51, Maplewood, NJ, a retired pension actuary for American Home Products; June 22. He served in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, and the football and wrestling teams.

1952
Dr. John P. Light C’52, Montgomery, TX, a retired radiologist; Aug. 2. He served in the US Marine Corps during the Korean War. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity.

Julian A. Magnus W’52, Montgomery, OH, June 7. He retired from his family’s municipal bond firm. He served in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of Zeta Beta Tau fraternity and WXPN. His son is Richard A. Magnus W’79.

Joseph E. Silverman C’52, New York, a retired lawyer; Aug. 4. He was a veteran of the Korean War. At Penn, he was a member of Kappa Nu fraternity. One daughter is Lisa Silverman Meyers C’90 WG’97.

James F. Simon W’52, Mill Stamford, CT, a retired lawyer; Jan. 5. At Penn, he was a member of Pi Lambda Phi fraternity, the orchestra, and WXPN.

1953
Gerald Beckerman W’53, Rochester, NY, an attorney; June 30. At Penn, he was a member of Kappa Nu fraternity.

John C. Diller Jr. W’53, Sun City, AZ, a retired auditor for a car company; June 12. He was also an Air Force Academy and ROTC liaison officer. He served in the US Army Air Force.
and later the US Army Air Force Reserve. At Penn, he was a member of Theta Chi fraternity.

**Tamar E Steerman Gordon FA’53 G’75**, Bala Cynwyd, PA, an artist and former attorney; June 15.

**Dr. Saul Jeck C’53**, Elkins Park, PA, a retired obstetrician-gynecologist; June 16. At Penn, he was a member of the orchestra.

**Dr. John A. Kastor C’53 GM’69**, Saint Louis, a physician and former faculty member in Penn’s School of Medicine; May 5, 2021. He worked at Penn from 1969 to 1983, eventually serving as chief of the cardiovascular division. He later moved on to the University of Maryland, where he was a medical professor and chairman of the department of medicine. His specialty was cardiac arrhythmias, which he diagnosed for himself in 1992. He served in the US Army. As a student at Penn, he was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity and WXPN. His wife is Mae Eisenberg Kastor CW’53, who passed away on June 5.

**Mae Eisenberg Kastor CW’53**, Saint Louis, a retired psychotherapist and former psychiatric social worker in Penn’s student health division; June 5. She later worked in student health at Johns Hopkins University. As a student at Penn, she was a member of WXPN. Her husband is Dr. John A. Kastor C’53 GM’69, who passed away on May 5, 2021.

**Lawrence W. Pollack W’53**, Philadelphia, a retired attorney; June 29. At Penn, he was a member of the sprint football team. His son is John H. Pollack G’92 Gr’14.

**Vivian Center Seltzer SW’53**, Philadelphia, professor emerita of human development and behavior in Penn’s School of Social Policy and Practice; Aug. 20. She taught developmental psychology at Penn for three decades. She is the author of three books on adolescent psychological growth, including original theory on the developmental significance of peers in psychological growth ("Alone Together," May-Jun 2010). She developed an original model of glitches in adolescent development, diagnostic instruments, and Peer Arena Lens (PAL) Therapy. Her husband is William Seltzer C’49, and her children are Aeryn Seltzer Fenton C’87, Dr. Jonathan Howard Seltzer M’88, and Francesca Seltzer Rothschild C’82 L’85, who is married to Andrew Rothschild C’79. Two grandchildren are Jared M. Fenton C’17 and Veronica P. Fenton C’21.

**Margueritta “Marge” RussellSutton CW’53**, Elkton, MD, a former technical writer for the pharmaceutical company then known as SmithKline; May 10. She was also a substitute teacher. She served in the US Marine Corps. At Penn, she was a member of the choral society.

**1954**

**Omer M. Burton W’54**, Schenectady, NY, a retired accountant for General Electric; July 18, at 100. He served in the US Navy during World War II.

**Dr. Donald M. Chesen V’54**, Hollywood, FL, a retired veterinarian; Dec. 3.

**Anne Gruhl Hess Ed’54**, Louisville, KY, a retired actuarial assistant; July 21. At Penn, she was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority.

**James A. Kehl Gr’54**, Sewickley, PA, a professor emeritus of history at the University of Pittsburgh; Aug. 20, at 100. He served in the US Navy during World War II.

**James T. Lile Ar’54**, Conestoga, PA, a retired architect; July 4. He served in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity and Mask & Wig.

**Donald G. Lubin W’54**, Highland Park, IL, a corporate attorney and counsel for business titans such as McDonald’s founder Ray Kroc and J. R. Simplot, the potato magnate; June 5. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Epsilon Pi fraternity.

**Dr. McHenry Peters Jr. M’54**, Glen Mills, PA, a retired radiologist; July 30. He served in the US Army.

**Dr. Philip J. Tannenbaum C’54 M’58**, Southampton, PA, a retired physician and attorney; Jan. 26, 2021. One grandchild is Jordan M. Tannenbaum C’17.

**1955**

**Joanne Teets Geayer HUP’55 Nu’61**, Willingboro, NJ, a retired nurse who worked for a healthcare quality improvement organization; July 14.

**Hon. Charles K. Keil W’55 L’61**, Wilmington, DE, a retired family court judge for the state of Delaware; June 28. He served in the US Air Force. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity, the ROTC, and the Daily Pennsylvanian.

**Sandra Deacon Miller CW’55**, Cape May, NJ, a retired elementary school teacher who owned and operated a bed & breakfast; Aug. 8. At Penn, she was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.


**Donald J. Rodriguez WG’55**, Toms River, NJ, a retired founder and executive of a telecommunications firm; June 20. He served in the US Army during the Korean War.

**Richard Zitser W’55**, Woodbridge, CT, a former founder of a custom furniture business; June 13. He served in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Epsilon Pi fraternity and the rowing team. Two daughters are Andrea Zitser Benjamin Nu’82 and Emily Zitser C’84, and one grandson is Ryan Z. Benjamin C’09.

**1956**

**Donald “Barth” Brooker WG’56**, Church Hill, TN, a retired senior educator in systems networks at IBM; July 6. He later started his own company, Barbrook Systems Network.

**Marvin S. Brown W’56**, Boca Raton, FL, a retired publishing executive at Penguin USA and a former advisor for PEN Libraries and trustee for Penn Press; July 15. He served in the US Army Reserve. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity and the fencing team.


**Fredric J. Freed W’56 L’61**, Hollywood, FL, a retired attorney who formerly held executive positions at Occidental Petroleum and Motown Records; Oct. 3, 2021. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of the Tau Epsilon Pi fraternity and the ROTC. His daughters are Dr. Lori Freed Garg C’88 and Sharon C. Freed C’90.

**Alex M. Galbraith WG’56**, Newark, OH, a retired faculty member and chair of the business management department at Central Ohio Technical College; July 7. He served in the US Army during the Korean War.

**Peter L. Pointer W’56**, Dublin, OH, a stockbroker; July 27. He served in the US Air Force for 20 years, including during the Vietnam War. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity, WXPN, the ROTC, and the golf team.
Jacob M. Price W'56, Dedham, MA, a retired manufacturer's representative; June 30. He served in the US Navy Supply Corps and the US Navy Reserve. At Penn, he was a member of Tau Delta Phi fraternity, the ROTC, and Penn Band.

Jerry L. Williams WG'56, Tampa, FL, founder of an investment firm; April 10.

1957
Dr. Blair R. English V'57, York, PA, a retired veterinarian; June 19. Two sons are David A. English C'91 and Donald B. English C'78, who is married to Ann Elizabeth English C'80.

Dr. J. Dale Graham D'57, Durham, PA, a retired dentist; May 18. He served in the US Navy. One granddaughter is Abigail P. Graham C'16.

Dr. Howard H. “Pete” Hine Jr. V'57, White Hall, MD, a retired veterinarian; June 1.

Esther Hall Warner HUP'57, Bridgeport, CT, June 14.

Benjamin B. White Jr. WG'57, Richmond, VA, founder of a real estate company; July 2. He served in the US Navy.

1958
Dr. Vincent M. Funaro D'58, Brooklyn, NY, a dentist; Sept. 5, 2019. He served in the US Navy for 34 years.

David G. Gil SW'58 GrS'63, Lexington, MA, a professor emeritus of social policy and retired director of the Center for Social Change at Brandeis University; March 6, 2021. He was a Holocaust survivor. One son is Daniel W. Gil Gr'85.

Coles (B. Cowles) Mallory Jr. WG'58, Newport, RI, former city manager of Newport, who spent his career in public administration; June 6.

C. Edwin “Ed” Shields W'58, Butler, PA, a real estate agent and educator at Butler County Community College, Duquesne University, and Penn State; June 2. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity and Penn Players. His wife is Grace Shaffer Shields Nu'59.

Josephine Balistrere Shore HUP'58, Rockville, MD, a retired nurse; Feb. 17.

1959
Marion Rutledge Murphy SW'59, Exton, PA, a retired assistant director of social services at Paoli Memorial Hospital (PA); July 16. One brother is Robert E. Rutledge Jr. SW'61.

Herman A. Nied GME'59 Gr'69, Fallbrook, CA, a retired engineer for General Electric; Dec. 12, 2021. He served in the US Air Force.

James L. Tito W'59, Wilmington, NC, former CEO of Latrobe Brewing, known for its Rolling Rock beer; April 24, 2021. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

1960
Dr. Bernard J. Grimes M'60, McMurray, PA, a retired physician; Feb. 28.

John F. Herber Sr. Gr'60, Webster Groves, MO, a retired research chemist for Monsanto; Feb. 25.

Robert E. Landry C'60, Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA, an antiques dealer and fine arts appraiser; June 20.

Avraham Perlmutter Gr'60, Pacific Palisades, CA, founder of an engineering company; August 2022. He was a survivor of the Holocaust, and his autobiography, Determined: The Story of Holocaust Survivor Avraham Perlmutter, was made into a documentary of the same name.

Dr. Paul A. Selecky C'60 M'64, Huntington Beach, CA, a retired pulmonologist; March 20. He served in the US Navy at Penn. He was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity, Mask & Wig, and Sphinx Senior Society. His siblings include John A. Selecky C'63 and Mary C. Selecky CW'69.

George T. Smith W'60, South Egremont, MA, an accountant; August 2. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Psi fraternity, Friars Senior Society, and the lacrosse team.

1961
Dr. Donald Abt V'61, a professor emeritus of aquatic animal medicine and pathology, director of the Laboratory for Marine Animal Health (LMAH), and a former associate dean at Penn’s School of Veterinary Medicine; July 29. After graduating, he joined Penn Vet’s faculty, teaching anatomy and doing graduate work in biostatistics and epidemiology, eventually rising to full professor, serving as the associate dean for academic affairs, and directing Penn Vet’s Aquavet program, an intensive introductory course in aquatic veterinary medicine. In 1989, he was named the Robert Marshak Term Professor of Aquatic Animal Medicine and Pathology. As part of this role, he assumed direction of LMAH, a diagnostic laboratory established by Penn and the New York State College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University and located in Woods Hole, MA. He retired from Penn and LMAH in 2001 but continued teaching in the Aquavet program. His daughter is Dr. Deborah J. Abt V'89.

Dr. Bayard W. Allmond Jr. M'61, Berkeley, CA, a behavioral pediatrician and family therapist; July 18.

Russell G. Harter WG'61, Framingham, MA, a financial investor; June 25.

Dr. James P. Kartell C'61, Andover, MA, a retired plastic surgeon; June 30. At Penn, he was a member of Beta Sigma Rho fraternity and the Daily Pennsylvanian.

George F. Kesel WG'61, Missoula, MT, retired president and CEO of a bank; July 11. He served in the US Navy.

Frederick Ollison III W'61, Grosse Pointe Park, MI, a retired real estate agent; June 9. He served in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity.

Dr. Peter M. Schantz C'61 V'65, Atlanta, a veterinarian and retired epidemiologist for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; July 26. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity, the Daily Pennsylvanian, Sphinx Senior Society, and the football and wrestling teams.

Karl G. Vogelsberg Jr. W'61, Media, PA, a former manager at an automobile tire manufacturer; Aug. 20. He served in the US Air Force Reserve. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity.

1962
Kenneth A. Clements WG'62, Greenwich, CT, a retired financial advisor; Jan. 23.

Robert G. Kelly Jr. W'62, Lancaster, PA, an attorney; Sept. 4. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity and the basketball team. His late father was Robert G. Kelly Sr. C'33 L'36, who also played basketball at Penn.

Marylyn J. Calabrese G'63 Gr'87, Philadelphia, a retired high school English teacher; July 7. She later taught writing at Saint Joseph's and Cabrini Universities.
Dr. Robert E. Ribbe M’63, Grand Rapids, MI, a retired orthopedic surgeon; July 10. He served in the US Army during the Vietnam War.

Michael A. Sand C’63 L’66, Harrisburg, PA, a nonprofit management consultant, author, and community and civil rights activist; May 15. At Penn, he was a member of the Daily Pennsylvania. His wife is Diane Zubrow Sand G’68 Gr’72, and his sons are Jay Philip Sand C’94 and Marc S. Sand C’97 GEd’02.

1964

Myles C. Cunningham W’64, Point Lookout, NY, a retired New York state judge; June 26. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity.

Allen L. Gordon C’64 G’66, Philadelphia, a computer systems analyst; December 13. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society and the debate council.

Peter D. Kane W’64, Fall River, MA, an accountant; June 20. At Penn, he was a member of Beta Sigma Rho fraternity. One brother is Joel S. Kane W’59.

Herman Kaufman C’64, Stamford, CT, a lawyer; May 20. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity. One brother is Dr. David Kaufman C’68.

Sharon Ribner Schlegel CW’64, Saint Augustine, FL, a retired journalist at the Times of Trenton (NJ); July 16. At Penn, she was a member of the Daily Pennsylvania.

1965

Cicely Travis McGowin CW’65 GEd’68, Redwood City, CA, May 6. At Penn, she was a member of Chi Omega sorority and the lacrosse team.

1966

Donald E. DeMart GCE’66, Placitas, NM, a retired manager at Duke Energy; June 30.

Dr. Thomas M. Dick V’66, Chincoteague Island, VA, a retired veterinarian; July 30.

Walter Gelazin W’66, Milford, CT, an actuary; March 8, 2021.

Rev. Frederick E. Goos C’66, Millville, NJ, a former bereavement coordinator at a hospice center; Dec. 7.

Alan J. Lord GCP’66, Reston, VA, a retired planning coordinator for the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission; Feb. 6.

Michele de Groot Makinen MT’66, Chicago, a retired social worker and psychotherapist; Feb. 14. She also did crisis intervention work for the Orland, IL, police department and was an esteemed quilter. At Penn, she was a member of Chi Omega sorority and Penn Singers. Her husband is Dr. Marvin W. Makinen C’61 M’68.

William H. Rabel Gr’66 G’70, Tuscaloosa, AL, a retired professor of insurance and financial services at the University of Alabama; July 15.

1967

Dr. Philip R. Cook V’67, Loysville, PA, a veterinarian; Feb. 18.

Dr. Charles H. Harkins Jr. V’67, Exton, PA, a veterinarian; Jan. 23.


Krishna V. R. Murthy Gr’67, Austin, TX, a retired chief engineer for the Texas Water Commission; Feb. 3, 2021. He was also an instructor at Penn from 1967 to 1968.

Dr. Craig R. Reckard M’67 G’74, Wood Dale, IL, a retired physician and transplant surgeon; October 25, 2021

1968


Charles E. Dewey Jr. C’68 WG’71, Scarsdale, NY, a commercial real estate developer; June 16. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity, Friars Senior Society, and the golf, lacrosse, and soccer teams. One son is Clint M. Dewey C’09, and his former spouse is Caroline Terry CW’67.

Dr. Marjorie Seltzer Stanek CW’68, Huntingdon Valley, PA, a cardiologist; June 20. Her children are Susan Lisman C’00, Rachel E. Cohen GEd’03 CGS’04 Nu’06 GNu’09, and Steven R. Stanek C’03.

Dean J. Torkelson WG’68, Seattle, president of an investment bank; Feb. 11.

1969

Walter V. Discenza Jr. GEE’69, Georgetown, TX, former chief information officer for the research company PerkinElmer; July 19. He served in the US Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Dr. Thomas L. Kowalchick V’69, Berwick, PA, a veterinarian; Feb. 16. He served in the US Navy Reserve and the US Army Veterinary Corps.

Jeffrey J. Rhodes C’69 WG’71, New York, founder and president of a real estate investment firm and a former member of Penn Athletics’ board of advisors; Aug. 17. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, and the lacrosse and soccer teams. His son is Nicholas W. Rhodes C’15.

1970

Robert V. Henning Jr. WG’70, Roslyn, NY, a former manager at a metals supplier; July 13. He served in the US Navy during the Vietnam War.

Col. Dr. Ronald G. Sarg D’70, Dover, DE, July 22. He had a long career in the US Air Force and served during the Vietnam War. He was also a former instructor in Penn’s School of Dental Medicine.

1971

Terence P. Hubka GCP’71, Bridgton, ME, owner of a construction business; July 13.

Josef Messmer WG’71, Fayetteville, PA, a consultant in the transportation industry; Oct. 19, 2021. His wife is Lidia Lau Messmer CGS’72 G’75.

1972

Pearl S. Hellman SW’72, Springfield, MA, former director of social work at a senior home; April 4, 2021.

1973

Dr. Edward A. Budnikas D’73 GD’75, Vestal, NY, a retired orthodontist; Aug. 7. One brother is Dr. Peter K. Budnikas D’71.

Gary R. Donner C’73 WG’75, Bluffton, SC, Aug. 23. At Penn, he was a Franklin Scholar.

Michael A. Kennedy L’73 WG’73, Marlton, NJ, an accountant; June 25.

John C. Thom III WG’73, Portland, OR, a retired financial advisor; July 3.

Alfred B. Whelan WG’73, Rockville, MD, retired founder and president of an executive search firm; July 8.
1974
Judith Lowenthal Gr’74, Elkins Park, PA, a retired psychologist; June 1, 2021.

1975
Rick R. Gaskins WG’75, Cambridge, MA, a retired forensic economist; March 26.
Alice E. Pollard WEv’75, Orangeburg, SC, a retired senior accountant for the School District of Philadelphia; July 18.

1976
John P. Freeman GL’76, Seattle, a professor emeritus of business and securities law at the University of South Carolina; Oct. 21, 2021.

1977
Dr. Gene R. Newton M’77, Glenside, PA, a retired physician; June 18. He served in the US Army.
James M. Vipond Gar’77, Waverly, PA, an architect; Aug. 13.
Susanne R. Whitehead C’77, Jenkintown, PA, director of donor relations for the environmental nonprofit Citizens for Pennsylvania’s Future; July 1.

1978
Frances M. Carter GrEd’78, Springfield, PA, a former high school and college-level English teacher; Aug. 1. At Penn, she was a member of Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society.
Larry A. Cowan W’78, North Andover, MA, retired owner of an insurance agency; June 30. His wife is Janet Kaitz Cowan W’78, and his brother is Joseph R. Cowan W’78.

1979
Betty Burton Reina GEd’79, Newtown Square, PA, a literacy specialist with the Delaware County (PA) Intermediate Unit, an education services agency; Sept. 11. Her sons include Randall L. Reina C’80 GEd’81 GrEd’90 and Roger A. Reina C’84 WEv’05, who is head wrestling coach at Penn.

1980
Gregory A. Berry L’80, Gaithersburg, MD, a longtime legislative counsel in the US House of Representatives; March 15.
Elizabeth R. Hershey SW’80, Easton, MD, a social worker; Aug. 17.
Steven F. Korostoff L’80, Hamilton, NJ, a retired attorney for the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA); March 8.
Theodore T. Micka W’80, Hayward, CA, a financial advisor for Morgan Stanley; May 27.

1981
Sandra L. Webb G’81, Burlington, VT, a former copy editor; March 28.

1982
Dr. Robert J. Connelly Jr. D’82, Eggertsville, NY, a dentist; Nov. 4, 2021.
Ann E. Frame WG’82, Jackson, WY, former executive at an asset management firm; July 9.
Beth McLaughlin Wall Nu’82, North Grafton, MA, March 26. She worked for various medical device manufacturers, including Dupont, EMD Serono, and Olympus. At Penn, she was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

1985

1987
Lisa D’Alessandro WG’87, Los Altos, CA, a retired marketing manager at Hewlett-Packard; April 13.

1988
Dr. Bentley “Ben” A. Merrick D’88, South Burlington, VT, a dentist and a clinical instructor at the University of Vermont Medical Center General Dental Practice Residency; July 2. His father is Dr. Bentley “Ben” A. Merrick D’56.
Lisa Rayder WG’88, Newtown, PA, a retired executive at a market research company; July 15.

1989
Glenn S. Cohen WG’89, Tennent, NJ, a former direct mail marketer and pilot; March 6. His father is J. Richard Cohen W’51.

1990
Mark G. Samuelian WG’90, Miami Beach, FL, a city commissioner of Miami Beach; June 22.
William K. Slate WG’90, Mount Pleasant, SC, retired president and CEO of the American Arbitration Association and International Centre for Dispute Resolution (AAA/ICDR); June 10. One daughter is Dr. Eliza H. Bakken M’08.

1991
Scott James Harrington WG’91, Riverside, CT, a managing director at JP Morgan Chase; Aug. 3.
Kathryn A. Williams C’91 GPU’94, Avon Lake, OH, an attorney; July 4, 2021. At Penn, she was a member of Delta Sigma Theta sorority and a Franklin Scholar. One brother is David S. Williams III W’94.
Timothy J. Trybus W’91, Kensington, MD, a founder of several healthcare companies; June 29.

1992

1995
Jerre L. McManama Jr. WG’95, Indianapolis, a high school educator and football coach; Dec. 31, 2021. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Lambda Kappa fraternity.

1997
Im Ja P. Choi G’97, Blue Bell, PA, founder and CEO emeritus of the nonprofit Penn Asian Senior Services; June 22.

1998
Geraldine Long G’98, Buckingham, PA, a former flight attendant for Eastern Airlines; May 31. She was previously an accountant
and a certified fraud examiner for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

2011
Miata Loretta Coleman L’11, Pittsburgh, CA, Nov. 28, 2021.

2012
Meva Moore Justice G'12, Philadelphia, a retired Verizon manager and youth mentor; July 20.

2024
Sarah Katz C’24, Jersey City, NJ, a student in Penn’s College of Arts and Sciences; Sept. 10.

Faculty & Staff
Dr. Donald Abt. See Class of 1961.
Elizabeth Ellery Bailey Hon’16, Reston, VA, the John C. Hower Professor Emeritus of Business Economics and Public Policy at the Wharton School; Aug. 19. She joined the Wharton School in 1991, after having served as vice chair of the Civil Aeronautics Board, where she and her colleagues helped implement the Airline Deregulation Act of 1978. She had also helped found the Harbor School in Monmouth County, NJ, after becoming dissatisfied with the opportunities available to children with disabilities, such as her son James. At Penn, she served as professor and chair of the department of business and public policy before retiring in 2010.

Karl Engelman, Hilton Head Island, SC, an associate professor emeritus of medicine in the Perelman School of Medicine; Aug. 19. He joined Penn’s faculty in 1970 as an associate professor in the department of medicine. During the 1980s, he served on the University Council’s Personnel Benefits Committee, and he served as chief of the hypertension and clinical pharmacology section in the cardiovascular pulmonary unit and as the director of Penn’s Clinical Research Center. He retired in 1995. His sons are Harold K. Engelman W’82, Jeffrey S. Engelman W’90 WG’99, and Ross M. Engelman W’85, who is married to Elizabeth Schull Engelman W’85.

Dr. John A. Kastor. See Class of 1953.
Mae Eisenberg Kastor CW’53. See Class of 1953.

A. Bruce Mainwaring. See Class of 1947.
Clelia “Sally” Wood Mallory, Bryn Mawr, PA, a former lecturer in the department of chemistry in Penn’s School of Arts and Sciences and the director emerita of Penn’s organic chemistry laboratory; July 28. She joined Penn’s faculty in 1980 as a lecturer in chemistry and advanced to senior lecturer four years later. There, she was responsible for the undergraduate laboratory program in organic chemistry, teaching the lab courses that were required for pre-health professions. She won a Provost’s Award for teaching in 1989 and a Dean’s Award for Distinguished Teaching by Affiliated Faculty in 2007. She retired in 2018.

Charles Isley Minott, Philadelphia, an associate professor emeritus in the history of art department in Penn’s School of Arts and Sciences; June 16. He joined Penn’s faculty in 1966 as an assistant professor of the history of art. He advanced to associate professor in 1973. While at Penn, his research interests centered on Medieval and Northern Renaissance Art, including sculpture, painting, manuscript illumination, and graphic arts. He retired in 1997.

E. Neil Moore, Gladwyne, PA, a professor emeritus of biomedical science in Penn’s School of Veterinary Medicine; May 13. He joined Penn Vet’s faculty in 1962 as an assistant professor of physiology and animal biology. He rose through the ranks to become a full professor in 1970. While at Penn, he conducted research with colleague Joseph F. Spear about lethal cardiac arrhythmias using electro-physiology. He published this research extensively in peer-reviewed journals, drawing connections between treatment of disorders in animals and humans. Two daughters are Candice Moore Babiarz C’88 and Kimberly Moore Walsh Nu’86 GNu’92.

Donald F. Morrison, Newtown Square, PA, a professor emeritus of statistics in the Wharton School; July 11. He joined Penn’s faculty in 1963 as an associate professor of statistics in Wharton. From 1978 to 1985, he chaired the department of statistics. He retired in 1999 but remained active as a secretary to the statistics department. In his retirement, he served as a trainman at the Wilmington & Western Railroad from 2001 to 2011. One son is Norman H. Morrison EE’92 EEng’95.

Dr. Neal Nathanson, Cambridge, MA, the former chair of the department of microbiology in the Perelman School of Medicine as well as its former associate dean for global health.

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I certify that all information furnished above is true and complete. —John Prendergast, Editor
programs and Penn’s former vice provost for research; Aug. 11. He joined Penn’s School of Medicine faculty in 1979 as chair of the microbiology department. At Penn, he rose to prominence for his definitive work on the epidemiology of polio and did some of the first studies of the visna virus of sheep, the prototype of the lentiviruses, of which the AIDS virus is another member. He was also a staunch advocate for women and hired Susan Weiss (“The Mother of Coronaviruses,” Nov|Dec 2020), who was the second woman to join the microbiology team. He became the School’s vice dean for research in 1995. In 1998, he was named director of the Office of AIDS Research at the National Institutes of Health and served for two years. He returned to Penn as vice provost for research. While he was in this position, the departments of microbiology and neurology endowed a lectureship in his honor. In 2003, he retired from the Provost’s Office and returned to teaching as professor emeritus of microbiology. He continued pouring time and effort into his teaching, winning the Perelman School of Medicine’s Special Teaching Award in 2014 and also served as the School’s associate dean for global health programs from 2004 to 2014. He served in the US military as an epidemic intelligence service officer. His daughter is Dr. Katherine L. Nathanson M’93, the Pearl Basser Professor in the Perelman School of Medicine, and one son is John A. Nathanson L’93.

Mihai “Michael” Pimsner, Havertown, PA, a professor of mathematics in Penn’s School of Arts and Sciences; July 17. He joined Penn’s faculty in 1991 as a professor of mathematics, a position he held for the rest of his life. He taught classes in calculus and contributed to Penn’s math department’s research presence, especially in the K-theory of operator algebras. His daughter is Ingrid M. Pimsner C’08.


Leonard Rico, Kennett Square, PA, an associate professor emeritus of management and industrial relations in the Wharton School and an eminent scholar of labor relations; June 30. He came to the Wharton School in 1961 as an assistant professor of industry and taught at Wharton for most of his career, except for leaves of absence to teach at the University of Pittsburgh (1968–1969), to conduct research at MIT (1978), and to serve as an academic visitor at the London School of Economics (1985). While at Wharton, he was a longtime teacher of human resources, labor, and industrial relations courses to graduate, undergraduate, and evening school program students. He also worked to align the University of Pennsylvania with affirmative action standards in the 1970s. In 1993, he won the Sigma Kappa Phi Honor Fraternity Outstanding Professor Award, given for outstanding undergraduate teaching in the Wharton School, and he was also voted the outstanding professor in the Wharton Evening School program for 1987–1988.


Vivian Center Seltzer. See Class of 1953.

Michael L. Wachter, Berwyn, PA, the William B. and Mary Barb Johnson Professor of Law and Economics Emeritus in Penn’s Carey Law School, a faculty member in the School of Arts and Sciences and the Wharton School, and Penn’s former interim provost; Sept. 3. He joined the School of Arts and Sciences as an assistant professor of economics in 1969. Four years later, he was named the Janice and Julian Bers Assistant Professor in the Social Sciences, a position that lasted until 1976, when he became a full professor of economics. From 1975 to 1979, he was the personal assistant to then-Penn president Martin Meyerson. In 1980, he joined the faculty of the Wharton School as a professor of management, and four years later, he was named director of the Institute for Law and Economics, a center that combined faculty from Penn’s Law School and the School of Arts and Sciences, and the same year he also became a professor of law in Penn Carey Law School. In 1993, he was named the William B. Johnson Professor of Law and Economics at Penn. He became a deputy provost in 1995 and was appointed interim provost in 1997, after Stanley Chodorow left the post. As interim provost, he laid out a cohesive plan to develop Penn’s western campus, fleshed out the then-fledgling college house system by appointing several faculty directors, and convened committees to search for numerous Penn leaders. After retiring from Penn’s governance, he remained an active teacher and mentor. In 2012, he was named the William B. and Mary Barb Johnson Professor of Law and Economics. He continued his research on corporate law and governance, publishing books and articles into the 2010s. He retired in 2020; in his honor, the law school established the Michael L. Wachter Distinguished Fellowship in Law and Policy, naming Hon. Leo E. Strine Jr. L’88 to the position. His wife is Susan M. Wachter, the Albert Sussman Professor of Real Estate at Wharton; and his daughter is Jessica A. Wachter, the Dr. Bruce I. Jacobs Professor in Quantitative Finance at Wharton.
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Forty years ago, “the Pennsylvania Quakers made time stand still,” according to the Daily Pennsylvaniaian’s recap of one of the most memorable games in Penn football history. Indeed, the game clock showed all zeroes before Dave Shulman W’84 drilled a game-winning 28-yard field goal in Penn’s thrilling 23–21 victory over Harvard for the Ivy League championship on November 13, 1982.

Moments earlier, Shulman had missed a kick, appearing to cede victory to the visiting Crimson as time expired—and with it Penn’s hopes of capturing an Ivy title for the first time in 23 years. It looked to be a brutal end to an emotional roller coaster that saw the Quakers blow a 20-point lead to fall behind 21–20 before Penn quarterback Gary Vura W’83 marched the team down the field in the last two minutes to set up the culminating drama.

But then: the sweet sight of a yellow flag on the field.

The referee had whistled Harvard for a roughing the kicker penalty for running into Shulman during his follow through. “The penalty is against Harvard! Do you believe this game? I don’t!” exclaimed announcer Merrill Reese on the radio broadcast.

After Shulman made the most of his second chance, Penn fans poured onto the field to celebrate an unbelievable turnaround for a program that had won only two games combined during the previous three seasons. “They mobbed the players,” the Gazette reported in December 1982. “Shulman was lifted into the air. [Head coach Jerry] Berndt hitched his fingers into the waistband of one of his players for protection but was soon aloft. ... Fans climbed the goal post at the west end of the field, forced it to the ground after some prolonged and giddy whirling, broke it, then carried it to the South Street Bridge, where they pitched it into the Schuylkill River.” —DZ

Photography by Annette G. Lein
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