

THE PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE

JAN|FEB
2024

Justice Chaser Jared Fishman C'99

Recipes for the "Wedding Cake of Life"

Rajiv Shah M'02 GrW'05 Bets Big on Change

Homecoming & Alumni Awards of Merit

Interim Penn President J. Larry Jameson

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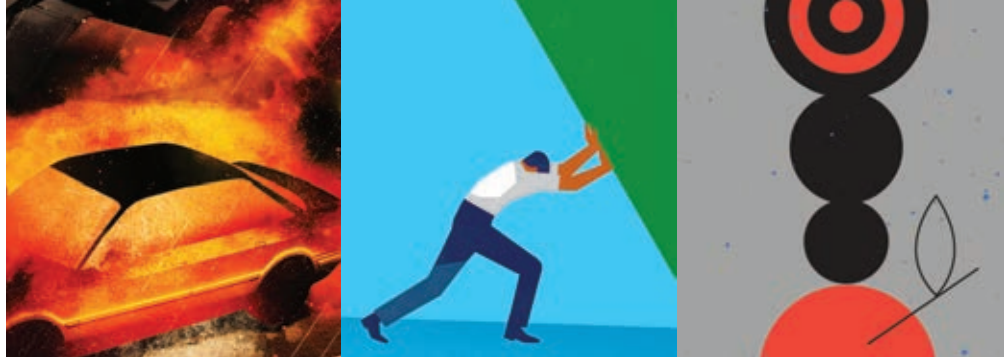
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Reform and Redirection

AS associate editor Dave Zeitlin C'03 writes at the start of this issue's cover story, you probably haven't heard of Henry Glover, who was shot dead and his body burned in a car by police in New Orleans in 2005 in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The case never received the national attention that the later deaths of George Floyd and too many others generated, but his is "one of the most egregious cases of police misconduct in recent American history," according to Jared Fishman C'99, who as a federal civil rights attorney led the prosecution of the officers involved.

In "Chasing Justice," Dave describes Fishman's work investigating the case alongside an African American female FBI agent (earning them the nickname "The Black Girl and the Jew"), his time at Penn, and how his quest for justice for Glover's family was inspired by the tragic death of a former camper he'd known from his work as a counselor at the Seeds of Peace camp in Maine. (Also included is an excerpt from Fishman's 2023 book about the case, *Fire on the Levee: The Murder of Henry Glover and the Search for Justice After Hurricane Katrina*.)

Jared Fishman's work as a prosecutor required extraordinary persistence against long odds, but these days he channels that impulse towards systemic reform. In 2020, he left the DOJ to create a nonprofit called Justice Innovation Lab. "In the Balance," by JoAnn Greco, highlights four books by alumni that, in different ways, make the case for setting off in new directions in life and work.

In *Quit: The Power of Knowing When to Walk Away*, Annie Duke Gr'92 asserts that, despite its connotations of failure or lack of nerve, developing a knack for knowing when to abandon a job, relationship, or any pursuit is a necessary and equally important corollary to the more widely lionized *grit*.

The book draws on examples from Duke's days as a professional poker player, stories of people and companies wrestling with their choices, and the insights of top researchers on human behavior and decision-making.

Simone Stolzoff C'13's *The Good Enough Job: Reclaiming Life from Work* includes multiple examples from people in diverse work situations to make the case that, as with parenting, good enough is fine. Also featured are authors Rachel Friedman C'03 G'07 and Marci Alboher C'88, who respectively explore crafting a life after early artistic ambitions turn sour and pivoting to second careers or other pursuits later in life.

I'm not sure Rajiv J. Shah M'02 GrW'05 knows when to quit. The title of his new book, *Big Bets: How Large Scale Change Really Happens*, leaves some room for doubt. In "Risk and Reward," Julia M. Klein profiles Shah—possessed of "unflagging optimism," a "fierce sense of mission," and formidable powers of persuasion—who became president of the Rockefeller Foundation in 2017 after stints with the Gates Foundation, as USAID administrator in the Obama Administration, and in other positions in government and the private sector working on global public health, climate, and development issues.

This issue also includes our annual Homecoming photo essay and citations for the Alumni Awards of Merit, Penn Alumni's highest honor. As always, our congratulations to all the winners!

And news came as we were going to press that Penn Medicine's J. Larry Jameson had been named interim president of the University. See his first message to alumni in "From College Hall" and read more about him in "Gazetteer."



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Challenge and Progress

Penn can truly lead in this moment, and emerge better and stronger than before.

By J. Larry Jameson

In early December, I accepted the position to become Penn's interim president in the wake of some of the most challenging times our University has ever faced. I am honored that the board of trustees asked me to serve in this role and embrace the responsibility clear-eyed about the difficulties facing Penn at this time.

Like you, I love Penn.

I have dedicated many years of my life to this amazing institution. I have been fortunate to serve as executive vice president of our health system and dean of the Raymond and Ruth Perelman School of Medicine for more than 12 years.

In the coming weeks and months, I look forward, with curiosity and an open mind, to learning from the Penn community and to sharing my own views. I am trained as a physician—healing is in my nature and skill set. I also trained as a scientist—hard-wired to ask challenging questions, pursue rigorous inquiry and debate, and ready to be proven wrong. I am a Penn parent, and I have had the pleasure of watching incredible students grow, explore their passions, and chart a path to make an impact on the world. My leadership role at Penn has exposed me to its unparalleled breadth of expertise and diversity of thought. It is humbling but invigorating to consider how I, along with other leaders at Penn, can serve the broad Penn community of faculty, students, staff, caregivers and, not least, alumni.

The last few months have been a profoundly painful chapter for our institution, for higher education, and for the world. Our recent leadership transitions have been distressing and destabilizing for all of us. There is pain, fear, and uncertainty in our community. I want to reiterate that every person at Penn should feel safe and be secure in the knowledge that hate has no home here. This is fundamental, but it is not enough. Together, we create and share values that make the University of Pennsylvania an institution where creativity flourishes, innovation creates new tools and medicines, civil debate poses and addresses challenging societal questions, and learning prepares us all to make the world a better place.

Our entire community—faculty, students, staff, alumni, caregivers, and the many friends of this University—can contribute to a new chapter in Penn's nearly 300-year history. I have experienced the strength and solidarity that defines this remarkable place. With respect for one another, support for one another, and adaption to our changing world, Penn can truly lead in this moment, and emerge better and stronger than before. I hope you will join me in this important work and come together to support one another and the University we love.

J. Larry Jameson is the interim president of the University of Pennsylvania.

In the coming weeks and months, I look forward, with curiosity and an open mind, to learning from the Penn community and to sharing my own views.

Neglected Nobelists, praising Shulman(s), teacher tribute, and more.

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. For more letters, visit thepenngazette.com.

Why Not Nobelists on the Cover?

After reading the Nov|Dec 2023 issue of the *Pennsylvania Gazette* I am disappointed in and frankly embarrassed for your publication.

There are many deserving people associated with the University of Pennsylvania who may deserve to be on the cover, but in my opinion two Nobel laureates should be placed in that position over just about anyone.

Drs. Katalin Kariko and Drew Weissman, who won the 2023 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, are not just deserving scientists but the two whose research led to the mRNA vaccine against COVID-19 “that saved millions of lives” [“Gazetteer,” Nov|Dec 2023]. They have not worked for recognition but to have the results of their research be a tool against disease to be shared globally—and not just any disease, but one that has killed close to seven million people.

Surely such an accomplishment should be recognized sooner than page 14 of your publication. Dr. Weissman’s quote, “We need to encourage our children, our grandchildren, our neighbors—everybody—that science is what moves the world forward,” in my opinion should have been on your front cover.

Sadly, Penn lost an opportunity to recognize these two heroes of humanity as they truly deserve.

Maria Salvaggio VMD’87, Searsmont, ME

The Gazette also wrote about Drs. Kariko and Weissman and their long research collaboration toward the discoveries that led to the mRNA vaccines against COVID-19 and their much-deserved Nobels in “The Vaccine Trenches” [May|Jun 2021].—Ed.



Particular Joy of Life

The story of Amanda Shulman and Her Place Supper Club [“Fake Simple,” Nov|Dec 2023] illustrated a particular joy of life. Albert Einstein wrote, in a remarkable (but perhaps apocryphal—*Ed.*) letter to his daughter, about a most powerful unseen force. He wrote that this universal force was love. I sense in this story Amanda Shulman’s love of personal development to benefit others and her love to promote the interactive activity of persons. Thank you, *Gazette*, for presenting this manifestation of love in a time of such hate in our own nation as well as abroad.

David Karp Ar’59, San Mateo, CA

Forgotten Father

I enjoyed Trey Popp’s well-deserved paean to Philadelphia’s newest restaurant *doyenne*, Amanda Shulman. I have just one small quibble.

I write as a member of a little-known minority group: parents who’ve been overshadowed by their children. For ex-

ample, my journalistic career has periodically been celebrated (see “Professional Contrarian,” Sep|Oct 2022). Yet the minute people learn that one of my daughters wrote for *Sex and the City* and its current TV sequel, they lose all interest in me. I could cure cancer or eradicate global poverty, and the reaction would be the same: “Yes, but your daughter wrote for *Sex and the City!*”

A similar fate seems to have befallen Amanda Shulman’s father, whose name is not mentioned once in Popp’s long profile or in John Prendergast’s extensive editor’s note. Please permit me to rectify this oversight.

I was among the 34,746 adrenaline-charged spectators who flocked to Franklin Field on November 13, 1982, to witness the titanic battle between Penn and Harvard that determined that year’s Ivy League football champion. That thrilling contest was not settled until the final play, when a clutch field goal kicked by David Shulman W’84 turned a seemingly certain Penn defeat into victory and gave Penn its first Ivy League title in 23 years [“Old Penn,” Nov|Dec 2022]. That kick was actually Shulman’s third field goal of the game, earning him Ivy League Player of the Week honors. And he continued his kicking feats the following season, as as Penn won its second of five consecutive Ivy football titles.

Dave Shulman might justifiably have coasted on these triumphs for the rest of his days. Instead, as an adult, he fathered, helped raise, and presumably inspired a daughter who is now revitalizing Philadelphia’s culinary life.

To Dave Shulman, I say: You are not forgotten. You’ve earned a place in at

least two pantheons. Now, take the rest of the week off!

Dan Rottenberg C'64, Philadelphia

Even Better Than Usual

Thank you for an even better issue than your usual high standards.

The cover story, “Fake Simple,” and “Poisoned Gifts,” “Field of Dreams,” and “Out of the Box” [“Alumni Profiles,” Nov|Dec 2023] were all exceptional. (I’ve already ordered some wine). Keep up the great work!

George Fern C’51, Oceanside, CA

A Teacher’s Dream Fulfilled

You have a recurring dream when you are a teacher: You dream that someday one of your students, maybe decades after you have taught them, will stop and say, “I get it. I understand what my teacher was trying to teach me; and I appreciate what they did for me.”

“Bridled Wit,” Daniel Akst’s gracious and warmhearted recollections of his English Professor Daniel Hoffman [“Alumni Voices,” Nov|Dec 2023] demonstrates that Hoffman’s dream was fulfilled.

Edward C. Halperin W’75, Chapel Hill NC

Root of Recruitment Problem May Be Gen Z’s Grandparents

I want to offer a simple explanation for the Gen Z military recruitment problem cited by Matthew Weiss in his article “Beyond Boot Camp” [“Expert Opinion,” Nov|Dec 2023]: Gen Z’s grandparents.

For many of us, military service in the Vietnam Era was the worst experience in our lives. I started college five years after graduating high school in 1963. I was drafted in 1965. I don’t want to itemize my grievances, but they entailed all of the injustices that are today acknowledged for Vietnam Era conscription, and then some. Even though I never saw combat nor heard a shot fired in anger, I came home suffering from what I have since self-diagnosed as mild PTSD. (It interests me that a very large number of contemporary veterans are being diagnosed with

PTSD, also without any particularly traumatic experiences; apparently military service itself can be trauma enough.) For years I had nightmares, in which I would have been drafted again. As decades went on, it would be for the third or fourth time. Some part of me was whispering the absurdity of the premise, but they still were nightmares.

When my grandchildren question me about my military service, I try to answer objectively and dispassionately, but I suspect it comes through that I had no enthusiasm for the experience, and no pride in it. About the only suggestion I can make is, wait for the Vietnam Era to be forgotten, after my generation moves on.

*Andrew E. Barniskis ME’72 GME’74,
Levittown, PA*

Racial Playing Field Has Never Been Even

I was disheartened to read the arguments against affirmative action from Creighton Meland and Gary Leiser [“Letters,” Nov|Dec 2023]. These sound like alumni who are not from minority or marginalized groups. If they were, they would understand that the racial playing field in this country, and in education, has never been even, hence the need for affirmative action.

I am pleased that Penn has been, and still is, interested in maintaining campus diversity and offering a hand up to deserving students who are not in the white legacy group. The other letters in support of first-generation, low-income (FGLI) students indicate how much this is needed and valued.

Karla Werninghaus C’79, Reno, NV

Affirmative Action Is Essential for US

As a Black Class of 1957 graduate and a Penn admit prior to the Supreme Court school desegregation ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education*, I take extreme exception to the bigoted statements contained in “Nothing Will Change” [“Letters,” Nov|Dec 2023]. The outdated prejudicial slogans focusing on looting, fatherless young men joining gangs do not recognize

the extremely heavy burden that Blacks have faced over our entire painful presence in the United States. My undergraduate Class of 1957 included a minuscule total of approximately eight Black graduates (three in Nursing, two in the College, one in Wharton, and two in Engineering), relative to a total class size of 1,812. Employment opportunities were also horrendous. I personally took employment interviews with the Class of 1958. It was not until 1964, when I received a graduate engineering degree from Columbia University owing to the great sacrifices rendered by the civil rights movement, that I received numerous job offers. In summary, for the US to prosper and to remain relevant in the 21st century, support and implementation of affirmative action concepts and programs must continue and receive universal support.

Henry Coshburn ChE’57, New York

A Beautiful Story

Thank you, *Penn Gazette*. I am a February 1954 graduate of the Illman-Carter Unit, and I was so happy to see your review of that area [“Old Penn,” Nov|Dec 2023].

The picture doesn’t show the colorful, industrious, crowded classrooms. A wonderful project always underway. I student-taught at the Illman School, kindergarten, under a master teacher, Miss Watson. At that time, in addition to our daily routine, the nursing students observed our classes because this was their opportunity to see the “well” child.

On graduating I was fortunate to get a full-time position with a suburban community—teaching two sessions a day in kindergarten. Three years later my husband and I moved out of the area. On announcing my departure the superintendent of the school district told me that I was the first Penn graduate and from now on they were only going to Penn for their openings. Do tell the story of the Red and Blue, it is a beautiful one, and this comes from a 70th-year alumna.

Evelyn Hymowitz Brown Ed’54, Allentown, PA



Some Teachers

“I come not to teach but to awaken.” ▶

By Nick Lyons

A professor of mine once fell asleep in the middle of his own lecture. He was an old, much lauded medievalist and he regularly droned on, reading word for word from lecture notes that had turned yellow, trying to fill us with facts as if we were so many eager vessels. He rarely looked up. He never asked or allowed questions. He could not have known that dozens of us, among the 200 students, often slept too. He merely tipped his head that day to the side and rested it on his podium. We thought he was gone—with his boots on, you could say.

Everyone awoke. The silence was electric. You could have heard a dull fact drop.

And then, after a long couple of minutes, he roused himself, peered over his half-inch-thick glasses, and blithely returned to his reading—so a lot of the students promptly returned to sleep.

This is a true story. I was there, and I've never forgotten that day. In fact, his snooze was one of the most dramatic moments in my long academic life.

Dickens's Mr. Gradgrind in *Hard Times* announces that hard facts are what's needed in classrooms and that nothing else matters. The old medievalist had certainly turned the wit and wisdom of *The Canterbury Tales* into hard facts, and I remember nothing of his lectures except the drama when he seemed to die.

It's easy to remember such drama in a classroom. At Wharton I had a fine professor of business law who taught me forever the principle of *caveat emptor*. Beware before you buy. If you're worried that tomatoes might be frozen, ask, as he once suggested, play-acting the role of a would-be rube, "Hey, Joe, are dose tomatos froze?" And I remember Solomon Huebner, the "father of insurance education," saying boldly that he had gone to Congress and told them, "You have got to put a dollar value on a human life." I later sought other values in life, and used his comment ironically, but I knew what he meant and never forgot it.

We remember little from the mumbler, the overly technical teachers, the unprepared, the ones with too much pedagogy and too little wisdom. Father Taylor, the "seaman's" preacher, prototype for Father Mapple in *Moby-Dick*, once shared his pulpit with a bright young graduate fresh from Harvard Divinity School, whose talk was filled with quotes and allusions.

"That was a brilliant sermon," he told him as they walked out together, "but if the text had had the pox you wouldn't have caught it."

I have remembered teachers with some flair for drama along with those who were unique in some memorable way—one who conducted tutorials while walking along a stream; an English poet nearly blind, with a stunning capacity to share the secrets of a dozen poets; a young professor of 19th-century Russian fiction who positively loved what he taught ... and liked to call on me who was reading three novels for every one he assigned. I remember a great scholar who walked around the seminar table, never with notes, and taught me how to think about literature as a world full of connections and contrasts. And the teacher who sat cross-legged on top of a desk, with a Coke in one hand, and introduced me in a dreary, sparsely attended night class to Nashe, Lilly, Bacon, Sir Thomas Browne, Jane Austen, and a flock of others who created the richness of English prose style. He talked with passion about a subject he loved—and I caught his passion.

Of course, nothing can happen in a classroom without some help from students who must hold up their end of the bargain. Damp or wet straw won't burn. And after wasting precious years ignoring who I was, I went back to college fiercely wanting to learn, and then to teach.

Emerson says that the main goal for a teacher must be to set the hearts of youth on flame. And the great Indian master Meher Baba said, "I come not to teach but

to awaken." Sometimes it takes something starkly unusual, vivid, even dramatic to penetrate the recalcitrant mind.

I tried. I taught with passion, trying somehow to share not only the subject I had learned to love but some of the spirit with which my most effective teachers taught. I had my successes. One student in a night course I taught became a seated professor at a first-flight college. Others, meeting me on the street or in a restaurant, had appreciative words for me 50 years after I left the academy.

One night, teaching Melville, whom I loved, I came to the chapter where Ahab, the obsessed captain of the Pequod, puts the point of his peg leg into an auger hole and decries what untold and dark purpose he and his crew are about. Suddenly I stepped up on a chair—and from there onto the desk, planting one foot in an imagined auger hole and declaiming in a loud voice, "And this is what ye have shipped for men, to hunt the white whale!"

Oh, come on, Nick, I thought when the class ended. *Did you have to act like a lunatic?*

Perhaps I had thought of Wittgenstein's distinction between what can be said and what can only be shown. Maybe.

Dining out that night I heard someone at the table behind me begin to say something to her companions about the crazy professor she'd just had ... and before she could say more I asked her politely to wait until my wife and kids left before she finished the sad story. And many years later a woman I didn't recognize declared that she had been a student of mine and vividly remembered that fateful evening—which made me worry if there are still students out there, in the opaque world of the past, who remember only my theatrical Ahab and his bold revelation and little, if even anything, about that great and mysterious masterwork.

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



Shelf by Shelf

How could I live without a real library?

By Linda Willing

When I moved from the Denver metro area to a small mountain town 20 years ago, my life improved in most ways. I was done with traffic and crowds and happy to find dark skies and a wealth of wilderness trails. I was sure I could live without big-box stores or specialty groceries and be happy with a restaurant scene that centered on the local barbecue place. I

was happy with my choice—until I went to the local library.

At that time, the town library measured 700 square feet, nearly half of which was taken up by children's books. And I wasn't encouraged by a display at the entrance that featured serial mysteries and romance novels, neither of which interested me. I remember walking out that first day depressed and wondering

whether I'd made a mistake, after all. How could I live without a real library?

But this was my new home, so I returned to give the collection a second look. The adult fiction shelves lined one short wall, organized alphabetically into four-foot-wide sections containing maybe 25 books apiece. I decided that as my introduction to my new community I would travel through the library shelf by shelf, choosing one book to read from each section and giving that book my best effort before moving on. I started at the top left shelf—fiction in the As.

I was quickly swept down a rabbit hole lined with books. Now that my options were even more limited than when I had first walked through the library door, suddenly a whole new world opened to me. In this way I discovered *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe and spent evenings by the wood fire curled up with Rick Bass. I surrendered to the spell of Octavia Butler and had fun with Helen Fielding and Nick Hornby. Each book I selected was one I would almost certainly have left untouched if I'd had the endless choices to which I'd previously been accustomed.

I think about this experience now when I hear about libraries going digital, both at colleges and even in high schools. Some libraries are eliminating physical books altogether. One state university planned to get rid of its stacks, and replace them with a food court, before student and faculty pushback halted the initiative—for now. Some public schools in Texas have fired librarians and converted library space into student detention centers. A librarian in New Mexico told me that her town was planning to cut the budget for real books because circulation was down subsequent to COVID.

The first time I heard all of this I was appalled. And heartsick. For me, one of the major purposes of a library is the chance to get lost in the stacks. When I was a freshman at Penn, most of the required readings for my classes were held in the Rosengarten Reserve Library in

the basement of Van Pelt, but I never limited myself to that place. Every time I went to the library I would wander off to the upper floors, aimlessly perusing the endless bookshelves. I loved exploring other campus libraries too: soaking in the High Victorian Gothic details at the Fisher Fine Arts Library while I browsed architecture magazines and sat in awe of large-format art books, or watching business students practice making deals from a corner of the Lippincott Library. Being in the library, I felt like the wealthiest person on the planet. Here I was in the best bookstore in the world, and everything was free!

Libraries are more than resource centers; they are refuges. They are places where you can be alone, at any age, and no one bothers you. During a difficult year when I moved in fourth grade, the library at my new and unwelcoming school became my sanctuary. It was there I first met up with Loretta Mason Potts and the Borrowers and dreamed about running free with *Misty of Chincoteague*. Later I wandered around the town library, with its mysterious mezzanines, and accidentally discovered Kurt Vonnegut's *Cat's Cradle* in the seventh grade.

You simply cannot have the same experience in a digital universe. Digital searches are focused rather than free ranging. There is no peripheral environment. How many times have I gone looking for a book on a particular subject or by a particular author, only to have my gaze diverted by something on the shelf above or behind me? I can spend hours roaming the stacks, making serendipitous connections and life-changing discoveries.

Being in a library surrounded by books provides an opportunity that is not possible in the digital world. You can pause, look at a book's cover, feel its weight in your hands, flip open to a random page. Perhaps most importantly, you can check out books on similar topics that reside near the one you may have origi-



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nally sought out. Digital searches often result in either too much information or not enough. Cast a wide net with a broad term, and you'll trigger an avalanche of options that are impossible to sort through. Target a specific book, on the other hand, and you'll only get what you were looking for—nothing more. It's like being shown a single point on a map, whereas the physical stacks of a library immerses you in an entire landscape.

Don't get me wrong: the digitization of books is a wonderful thing. It makes vast resources accessible to a huge number of people, and lightens your suitcase on long trips. Technology can be a boon to library lovers as well. My own tiny local library has since joined a statewide network that gives me borrowing privileges at any library in Colorado. But, for me, none of this is a substitute for being face-to-face with real books.

I took a folklore class my junior year at Penn, which turned out to really be a linguistics course focused on Native American languages. I was in way over

my head, but at the urging of the professor, I stuck it out. Our semester project required each student to research a particular American Indian language that was assigned to us. I remember following call numbers into the stacks and feeling completely intimidated by the books they led me to. But as I puzzled through the technical aspects of linguistics that I barely understood, my attention was drawn to the books on the shelves nearby—studies on the culture and religion and lifestyles of the people whose language I was supposed to be studying. Those were the books that I ended up reading in depth, and although I may have only learned a little about the language assigned, I ended up learning a lot in so many other ways.

But maybe that was exactly what the professor had in mind all along.

Linda Willing C'76 is a former urban firefighter, National Park Service backcountry ranger, and the author of *On the Line: Women Firefighters Tell Their Stories*.

Apocalypse, Now What?

A prepper's guide.

By Joshua Piven and David Borgenicht



Editor's note: In the nearly 25 years since publishing the original Worst Case Scenario Survival Handbook, Joshua Piven C'93 and David Borgenicht C'90 have churned out editions on how to survive everything from college to parenting to holidays. Their latest offering cuts straight to the endgame: the apocalypse. For readers disinclined to wait idly for the next pandemic—or robot uprising, or cloned dinosaurs—they have some practical advice ... and a beverage-pairing suggestion for the Last Days.

How to Apocalypse-Proof Your Finances

1) Go back to paper.

The global financial system is digital. With the exception of hard currency and gems or minerals (which have no intrinsic value on their own), all accounts, records, credits, debits, and investments are held electronically. In an apocalyptic event—even a major cyberattack—records of your

assets may be lost or inaccessible for long periods. To prepare, go online and print records of your investments and bank accounts at the end of each trading day. These will serve as proof of ownership later, should you need it.

2) Ensure you have an “air gap.”

Dedicate a separate computer and printer to the process of collecting and printing your documents, located in a secure,

fireproof room. Disconnect the computer from the internet (called air-gapping) when it's not in use to protect against cyberwarfare.

3) Avoid digital currency.

Bitcoin, Dogecoin, Ethereum, and the like do not exist as physical money. In the apocalypse, they will be inaccessible and worthless, and the energy-intensive mining system will collapse.

4) Hold some cash, but do not convert everything.

The US dollar and all other major currencies are independent of the gold standard and are essentially a promise to pay. In the early stages of the apocalypse, when the banking system is faltering, there will be bank runs and moves to cash, and dollars may continue to be accepted in place of credit. However, with time hard currency will likely become worthless as a barter and exchange economy re-forms. Keep whatever's left for starting fires.

5) Buy land, especially good farmland or timberland.

In a postapocalyptic feudal, agrarian, or preindustrial society, landowners will control both the means of production and, potentially, any housing stock that still remains. The more property you own, the more options you will have not only to evacuate, but to begin again with something of value. If you already own your home and/or land, keep good paper records of any deeds to prove ownership.

6) Consider mortgage options.

In a global apocalypse, banks and mortgage companies will disappear, so paying off your mortgage beforehand may be pointless: there will be no one left to foreclose on you. However, in a more temporary disaster, these organizations will almost surely bounce back after some period of instability and come for what you owe.

7) **Hold some physical gold.**

Gold is essentially indestructible and may be useful as barter early in the apocalypse, but less so as time passes. Though ancient civilizations valued gold—a soft metal—it was for ornamental, not practical, purposes.

8) **Stockpile barterable items.**

Space permitting, use currency today to purchase things that will be useful in the coming apocalypse, such as solar chargers, portable batteries, water purifiers, seeds, coolers, axes and bush knives, and guns and ammunition. If you have room, raise chickens and rabbits.

9) **Spend it all now.**

Expect, and prepare today, to live simply later. Spend down most of your assets before the apocalypse. This will both minimize regret at what's been lost later and, once your possessions are mostly gone, provide necessary practice for living a more subsistence-based life.

How to Hide Your Preparedness

1) **Shop late at night, or online.**

Other shoppers may be suspicious if your cart is filled with 50 cans of Dinty Moore Beef Stew, 200 pounds of rice, or 12 car batteries. Make multiple trips over time, or order in bulk online. Items delivered via forklift are sure to arouse suspicion.

2) **Avoid camouflage and flannel.**

Nobody is hunting you, and if you will be hunting, you can change later. Preppers favor durable brands like Carhartt, but consider Patagonia's more fashionable outerwear, which is well-made and long-lasting.

3) **Do not wear a utility belt.**

A heavy-duty belt with a Leatherman or other multi-tool, a sheathed buck knife, and bear spray may tip others off that you're a prepper. Most people now carry

a cell phone in a pocket, not a belt pouch. Zip ties are scary.

4) **Use appropriate language.**

There's a fine line between reasonable preparation and prepping. Instead of saying "We will be the only ones left standing after a mass-extinction event," say "I think we'll be OK for a few days in a storm." If someone asks, "Why are you dehydrating 50 pounds of beef?" say "Would you like some jerky?"

5) **Do not use potential trigger words.**

Words and phrases like *ham radio*, *iodine tablets*, *dosimeter*, and *gas masks* are sure to make nonpreppers suspicious. *N95 mask* may now be used in casual conversation.

6) **Never ever show off your prepper pantry, safe room, or bunker.**

Resist the urge to brag about all your hard work, the money you've spent, how safe you feel, or how long you can hold out when it hits the fan. Preppers tend to believe they are smarter than the average person, so staying silent may be challenging.

How to Drink Your Own Urine

While urine is mostly free of pathogens, drinking large quantities in a short period of time may lead to kidney failure. Take the following steps to make your pee safer to drink.

1) **Obtain a glass jar or other container.**

Urine contains dissolved minerals—salt, potassium, phosphorus—and chemicals (primarily urea and uric acid) that can make you sick: do not drink warm urine. Urinate into a container and set it aside.

2) **Wait several days.**

Leave the container at room temperature for three days if time allows. Over time, naturally occurring urease enzymes will

decompose the urea (the major constituent in urine, aside from water), forming ammonia and ammonium ion. This process will make the urine smell terrible but will make it easier to treat chemically.

3) **Add a handful of ash.**

Ash, as from a wood fire, adds alkali to the urine and will raise the pH (alkalinity). This process will convert most of the ammonium ion to ammonia. While ammonia is quite volatile, it's easy to remove. Allow the mixture to sit for several hours, then strain if possible.

4) **Boil the urine for a few minutes.**

This will cook off the ammonia (as well as any remaining pathogens) and make the urine safe to consume. Allow it to cool before enjoying.

Joshua Piven C'93 and David Borgenicht C'90 are the authors of *The Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook: Apocalypse*, from which this is adapted with the permission of Quirk Books.





Jameson Named Interim President

Penn's longest serving dean, who has led Penn Medicine for more than 12 years, took office in December. ▶

“Penn is fortunate to have the benefit of Dr. Jameson’s experience and leadership during this time of transition.”

J. Larry Jameson, executive vice president of the University of Pennsylvania for the Health System and dean of the Raymond and Ruth Perelman School of Medicine, was appointed as the University’s interim president in December, following the resignations of President Liz Magill and Scott L. Bok C’81 W’81 L’84, chair of the board of trustees.

“Penn is fortunate to have the benefit of Dr. Jameson’s experience and leadership during this time of transition,” said board of trustees interim chair Julie Beren Platt C’79 in a statement announcing the appointment.

She described Jameson as “a consummate University citizen” and “a collaborative, innovative, and visionary leader with extensive engagement with each of Penn’s 12 schools,” having served on or chaired committees reviewing the School of Arts and Sciences and on previous searches to select the provost, Wharton dean, and president. “Dr. Jameson has a deep appreciation for Penn’s values and world-class research, teaching, patient care, and service,” the statement continued.

“I am honored that the board of trustees has asked me to serve as Penn’s interim president,” Jameson said. “I accept this responsibility clear-eyed about the challenges facing our University” (For more, see “From College Hall,” in this issue.)

Jameson has a long professional history at Penn, having served since 2011 as dean of the medical school and executive vice president for the health system, and he is also a Penn parent. His tenure has been a time of “unprecedented scientific breakthroughs, FDA approved medications, and transformative platform technologies such as CAR T cell treatment, and mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccines,” Platt said.

In 2020, Jameson steered Penn Medicine through the COVID-19 pandemic. In a webinar with other health system leaders two months after it began, he vowed that “we will innovate our way out of this crisis. We will invent better tests. We will find new drugs. We will assist in the development of new vaccines. We will continue to support our local communities. We will learn lessons from this pandemic and use these lessons to cre-

ate a better future in education, the workplace, and in healthcare” [“Penn and the Pandemic,” Jul|Aug 2020].

In her statement, Platt also pointed to Jameson’s role in spearheading the construction of the \$1.6 billion Penn Medicine Pavilion [“Gazetteer,” Jan|Feb 2022], “a game-changing patient care facility that was the largest capital project in Penn’s history.”

During Penn’s most recent fundraising campaign, *The Power of Penn*, which concluded in 2021, Penn Medicine’s share of the \$5.4 billion raised overall was \$1.68 billion [“Gazetteer,” Nov|Dec 2021]. In fiscal year 2022, Penn Medicine’s annual operating revenue was \$11.1 billion, including nearly \$1.1 billion in total sponsored research, \$550 million in awards from the National Institutes of Health, and close to \$258 million in gifts.

Jameson has also led the development of Penn Medicine’s new strategic plan for 2023–2028, *Serving a Changing World*, which lays out five guiding “pillars” for the future: Lead with humanity in everything we do; make breathtaking discoveries and put them to work; simplify care delivery and place it within reach; develop people for great accomplishment; and uplift our community, our environment, and ourselves. Platt’s statement further noted that Jameson “has championed initiatives that promote excellence on all levels, including faculty recruitment, student success, scholarship and discovery, philanthropic giv-

ing, and a culture of inclusion and collaboration.”

The author of more than 350 scientific publications in books and leading journals including the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Nature Genetics*, *Science*, and the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, Jameson has conducted pioneering studies in the genetic basis of hormonal disorders. He’s led a variety of medical associations; won numerous awards, including from the American Thyroid Association, the Endocrine Society, and the American College of Surgeons; and is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences as well as the National Academy of Medicine.

Jameson earned his medical degree and a doctorate in biochemistry in 1981 from the University of North Carolina. After clinical training in internal medicine and endocrinology at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, he joined Harvard Medical School, eventually becoming an associate professor of medicine and chief of the thyroid unit at Massachusetts General Hospital. Before joining Penn Medicine, he was dean of the Feinberg School of Medicine and vice president of medical affairs at Northwestern University for four years.

Jonathan Epstein, executive vice dean and chief scientific officer of the School of Medicine and the health system’s senior vice president and chief scientific officer, was named as Jameson’s interim replacement at Penn Medicine. —JP

Mind Tease

A Penn researcher and longtime parent advocate challenges the belief in an “intact mind” hidden deep inside severely autistic individuals like her son.

AS a young woman Amy S.F. Lutz C’92 Gr’22 thought she “was going to write the Great American novel.” She majored in psychology and English at Penn, got an MFA elsewhere, and even published some short stories. But then her first child came along.

Jonah turned out to be severely autistic, and his enormous need for care not only changed her life but also shifted her literary focus. She noticed that cultural depictions of autism were nothing like the profound disability of her son, which had far-reaching ramifications for his parents and, eventually, four siblings. So she started writing about autism.

Her new focus brought her back to Penn, where she obtained a PhD in the history and sociology of science and wrote the dissertation that has now been published by Oxford University Press as a book, her third on autism, called *Chasing the Intact Mind*. The subtitle explains what she is getting at: *How the Severely Autistic and Intellectually Disabled Were Excluded from the Debates That Affect Them Most*.

Lutz is now a senior lecturer in Penn’s Department of History and Sociology of Science, where she teaches courses in bioethics and the

history of medicine. *Gazette* contributor Daniel Akst C’78 asked her about her evolution as a writer, scholar, and parent engaged with autism.

Your new book is called *Chasing the Intact Mind*. Who’s doing the chasing and what exactly is being pursued?

The “intact mind” is an assumption that’s very prevalent in autism discourse, specifically that there is a typical or superior intelligence deep inside people who present as being profoundly cognitively impaired. This view is based on the assumption that there’s no such thing as severe cognitive impairment. Rather, there are just people in the autism community whose minds are inaccessible for different reasons. And I approach this both as a historian of medicine with a focus on the history and ethics of autism and intellectual disability, and as a longtime parent advocate for my severely autistic son.

What’s his situation?

Jonah is 24, but he still lives with us. He has no abstract language. He can’t answer any kind of question that begins with *why* or *how*. He still sucks his thumb and loves *Sesame Street*. We’ve managed to get beyond his most challenging behaviors,

which were dangerous to him and others, and get him medically stabilized, but he is always going to require round-the-clock supervision. It’s taken me a long time, but I’ve come to peace with the fact that there’s no intact mind inside my son, and I’ve come to accept and love him the way he is.

You assert that the intact mind is a chimera. Is it primarily desperate parents clinging to this hope?

I don’t think there’s ever been a parent who hasn’t invested all their hope in the intact mind at some point, because I don’t think that there’s anything more important than the hope that our kids can grow up to live what philosophers would call the good life. We want our kids to grow up to be independent, we want them to have a meaningful career, maybe go to college, travel, have reciprocal romantic relationships, enjoy talking about politics or philosophy or theater, literature, whatever. And all of that is foreclosed for my son.

Your book shows that the intact mind is a trope in a genre of parental memoirs that began appearing in the 1960s.

I read about 80 of these autism parent memoirs. And it was just so striking that

from 1967 right to the present, the intact mind assumption is extremely strong throughout.

But it’s not just the parents.

A huge driver of this intact mind assumption now are the neurodiversity advocates. Neurodiversity is a branch of the disability rights movement that’s largely focused on people with autism. Sometimes they include ADHD or OCD, but the typical neurodiversity advocate is almost certainly a very, very mildly affected autistic adult. This intact mind narrative is perpetuated to control the services and supports that are available to people with autism—and by expansion, other types of intellectual and developmental disabilities. And because the neurodiversity movement is so invested in this idea that autism is an identity, not a disorder, I think people like my son, who are so obviously very disabled, pose enormous problems.

Does this account for the resurgence of “facilitated communication?”

It’s parents and activists both. Facilitated communication was roundly disproven in the mid 1990s. It’s basically a form of ventriloquism in which a non-disabled fa-



cilitator is controlling the words spelled out by a profoundly intellectually disabled person through a combination of physical support and subtle psychological cues. The closest example might be like a Ouija board, where that's also controlled by what's known as ideomotor effects: very small uncon-

scious movements that we're all subject to. It's been thoroughly discredited, yet it's back now. Nothing is more predicated on the intact mind than facilitated communication because the whole enterprise hinges on this idea that there is a normal or even genius-level intellect trapped inside.

When and how did this idea of the intact mind arise?

I trace it to the mid-20th century, when autism was considered not an intellectual disability, not a developmental disability like it is today, but a psychiatric disturbance closely related to childhood schizophrenia—and therefore subject to the

same types of psychiatric theorizing, which was heavily dominated by psychoanalysis. Psychoanalysts thought all psychiatric disturbance was caused by childhood trauma. And of course, who's responsible for childhood trauma? Typically, it's the parents. And so sometimes psychoanalysts argued that parents caused psychiatric disturbance by being too smothering.

“I’ve come to peace with the fact that there’s no intact mind inside my son, and I’ve come to accept and love him the way he is.”

But in autism, it becomes the opposite claim—that it was cold parenting, especially cold mothers or “refrigerator mothers” who cause autism. But if bad parenting is causing psychiatric disturbance in children who were born normal, there's always the hope that with proper treatment you can recover those children. And so that was kind of the consensus between the psychiatric profession and the parents, who bought into this because they wanted to cure their children.

Surely this point of view no longer prevails.

No. In the 1980s a biological or medical model of autism becomes ascendant. Psychoanalysis is out, and you have [people] saying

children are born with autism and it's not the fault of parents, but also that there's not much you can do to cure autism. You would think the parents would feel vindicated, but actually they don't really like this new version either—because it really forecloses the future for their kids.

And that's what you saw in the case of Jonah.

It was obvious that the autism that he had was not the autism that was being talked about in the media. We had Sheldon from *The Big Bang Theory*. We had *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. You had this quirky genius model of autism. On the news, they would showcase autistic kids shooting a basket in a basketball game or singing with Katy Perry or whatever. But this is not the autism in my house.

“I was accused of being ableist, of hating my son and violating his privacy.”

And so I started writing about life at the severe end of the spectrum, because I wanted to shine a light on our kind of autism and make sure that Jonah wasn't left out of the discourse. I was accused of being ableist, of hating my son and violating his privacy. As soon as my other kids got old enough to Google me, they wanted to know why does it say that Amy Tuz

hates autistic people? They saw that my entire life was wrapped up in autism care and advocacy. I decided that I really wanted a better understanding of how we got to this place where the autism community was so fraught.

So that's why I went back to school at Penn. It was a fabulous experience and then I just was incredibly lucky to be able to slide into an open faculty position at Penn, which allowed me to stay here because I love this department. And I love the students at Penn.

And you've done all this with four children in addition to Jonah.

I have an incredibly supportive husband who works at home and is very hands-on with Jonah. They do all the shopping together. My husband does all the cooking. That's quite different from the story that you hear coming out of severe autism families, where it's the mom doing everything at home while the dad is out working. Or the dad just bolts. That's a really common story because it's a very stressful circumstance.

You note that two of the earliest relevant parental memoirs aren't directly about autism but were by famous and widely revered women.

One was by the writer Pearl Buck, whose daughter Carol had phenylketonuria. The other was by the actress and singer Dale Evans, whose husband was the cowboy star Roy Rogers. Their daughter Robin had Down Syndrome

STUDENT MEDIA



For nearly 50 years, student journalists at the *Daily Pennsylvanian* have called a windowless office near 40th and Walnut Streets, affectionately known as the “Pink Palace,” home.

They'll soon be on the move.

In late October, the *DP* announced it had acquired a building at 3721 Chestnut Street, which it plans to transform into “not only an office space but a media hub for all Penn students.” Renovations are slated to be completed in mid-2025—the same year the student-run media organization will celebrate its 140th anniversary.

The *DP*'s new digs will cover 4,200 square feet across four floors and include designated spaces for meetings, workshops, and events; a modern newsroom; studios for photography, videography, podcasting, and livestreaming; and an innovation lab for emerging technologies like virtual reality and augmented reality.

The *DP, Inc.* Foundation Board, made up of alumni volunteers and students, was recently established to oversee the purchase of the new building and will continue to fundraise for its renovations. The total cost of the project, including the building acquisition, is estimated at \$3.7 million.

The *DP* had established a trust fund in the 1980s with the long-term goal of moving to a more suitable office. In a *DP* article about the relocation, foundation board chair Chuck Cohen C'89, a former managing editor of the newspaper, called “the future of the *Daily Pennsylvanian* bright.”

“Purchasing a new building allows the *DP* to be in control of its financial destiny for the first time in, really, its entire history,” Cohen said.

and died at the age of two. They were breakthrough books at a time when this sort of thing was hushed up as a source of shame, because the authors model really positive ways of speaking about their intellectually disabled children that don't involve intact minds. I just

wanted to show that treating these children with humanity and empathy and valuing them and loving them doesn't require assuming an intact mind. There are ways to write about their importance and their human value without doing that.

Rules of Engagement

An expert on the laws of armed conflict evaluates the principles of distinction and proportionality, self-defense, and human shields in relation to the Israel– Hamas war.

“The principles of the law of armed conflict are very ancient. They go back at least to medieval times, if not earlier.”

So said Claire Finkelstein at the start of a late-October Perry World House virtual conversation on the Israel– Hamas war. Finkelstein—the Algernon Biddle Professor of Law and Professor of Philosophy at Penn Carey Law and the founder and faculty director of the University’s Center for Ethics and the Rule of Law—spoke primarily about the principles of distinction and proportionality, as informed by generally accepted principles of international humanitarian law.

Under the principle of distinction, civilians are never to be targeted in war—but that “does not mean that civilians will not sometimes die in war ... as the unintended side effect of the pursuit of a legitimate military target,” she noted. Under the principle of proportionality, the collateral damage of civilian death must be in proportion to the legitimate military aims. “So, to take out a minor military target, or make a minor military advance, you cannot inflict massive civilian losses,” she said.

When Hamas killed roughly 1,200 Israeli civilians and took more than 200 hostages on October 7, it was a clear and barbaric war crime and, regardless of the untenable situation in Gaza, Finkelstein said she has been “profoundly disturbed to read the number of people writing about those attacks as legitimate resistance.”

“No intentional attacks on civilians in war can ever constitute a legitimate military action,” she declared. “We must be able to distinguish between collateral damage and intentional targeting of civilians.”

She also submitted that Israel’s ensuing military response is justified under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, which authorizes the “inherent right of individual or collective self-defense if an armed attack occurs” against a UN member. Sometimes, that might appear murky since “punishment is never a legitimate aim in armed conflict” and “in general self-defense is executed after an attack occurs and that may make it look like punishment,” Finkelstein said, adding that if a country “knew for certain that the enemy was never going to attack again, that the enemy was neutralized, there would be no justification” for striking back militarily. But “Israel has no reason to believe that Hamas has been neutralized and the danger that Hamas manifested on October 7 won’t reoccur,” she continued, “and so I think that it is fully within Israel’s rights of self-defense to engage in military action to protect itself from Hamas.”

Yet Israel’s ground invasion of Gaza has presented a challenging ethical and legal landscape, since it has resulted in significant civilian casualties given how densely populated the region is and that Hamas is known to use Palestinian civilians as “human shields.” Emphasizing that Israel’s tactics need to remain within the boundaries set by international law, Finkelstein spoke about the moral quandaries presented by combatants hiding behind their civilian population in an armed conflict. Here are those remarks. (The entire conversation, moderated by Perry World House interim director Michael Weisberg, the University’s Bess W. Heyman President’s Distinguished Professor and Chair of Philosophy, can be viewed on Perry World House’s YouTube channel.) —DZ

“Israel does not lose its right of self-defense when the enemy is using human shields—

which we know that Hamas does, Hezbollah does. Or under the circumstance in which they’re sending rockets from civilian infrastructure—from inside a school or inside a hospital—Israel does not lose its right to self-defense because Hamas chooses to send rockets from close proximity to its own civilians. That’s a very important point and it follows directly from general principles of self-defense that you know from everyday life; it’s not specific to war.

If you are attacked on the street and the only way you can defend yourself is to pick up a bottle and throw it at your assailant and the assailant is holding a child in their arms, you are entitled to throw that bottle to defend your life. It is extremely unfortunate that the assailant is holding a child, but that is *on the assailant*.

When the police respond to an attack, if the police engage in justifiable defensive lethal force in order to defend someone and they accidentally hit a bystander, the police are not guilty of murder under those circumstances. This is the way that collateral damage works, and this is the way that self-defense works.

So here’s the hard question: in circumstances in which one side is using human shields, does it matter how many civilians are stacked up as part of that shield? In other words, do proportionality calculations still take place when you are acting in self-defense? Are you obliged to assess how many civilians you’re going to harm as you’re fighting for your life? And the answer is yes—you are still obliged. But nobody knows exactly where the tipping point is. Is the calculation the same as ordinary collateral damage claims when there is not a human shield element? And I think the answer is probably no—because the cause of that civilian being in danger is not you, the one who is self-defending; it is the other side, who has put you in danger.

So, boiling that down to simpler terms: Hamas puts the civilians that it uses as human shields in danger and therefore, while you still are responsible for thinking about the *level* of civilian damage that you cause in exercising your right of self-defense, Israel doesn’t lose its right to self-defense.

UMC Unity

Penn's United Minorities Council brings back Unity Week festivities.



To mark its 45th anniversary, the United Minorities Council (UMC) hosted a Unity Week celebration from November 13 to 17.

Held annually before the pandemic, Unity Week is an opportunity to celebrate cultural differences and similarities—with events that include showcasing rice from all over the world; highlighting various student art, dance, and singing groups; and revisiting the history of the UMC, which is a coalition of Penn's minority student organizations.

UMC leaders hope to provide a safe, nonpolitical space where students can come together, be themselves, and learn about others.

Since the pandemic, UMC has been trying to restore annual events like Unity Week to foster intercultural dialogue and celebrate the diversity of roughly 30 student groups that belong to the umbrella organization.

“One thing that we’ve really been focused on is revitalizing what UMC’s core mission is,” said Oumy Diasse C’24, the UMC’s current chair. Diasse noted that the core mission is to “ensure that people have spaces where they can see people of similar cultures as them—but also see people with different cultures and see that at the core we have a lot of similarities.”

Valerie de Cruz, the director of the Greenfield Intercultural Center, where the UMC is headquartered, called the UMC a “structure that can bring students together across differences to celebrate their rich heritage and to share and learn from each other”—which in turn will “help to enrich the campus community.”

The UMC holds biweekly constituency meetings to discuss issues such as funding and programming. A series called “Minorities In,” which brings in Penn alumni to speak about their work, is one of the council’s initiatives.

Amidst tensions on campus, the UMC leaders hope to provide a safe, non-political space where students can come together, be themselves, and learn about others. One of the most popular events during Unity Week was a rice tasting in which students tried rice dishes from a panoply of Asian, Latin American, Caribbean, and African cuisines. More than 100 students attended, mingling to talk with peers instead of grabbing their food and leaving. “So many people use rice as a staple around

EDIBLE BOOKS

Literary Treats



In early December, the Kelly Writers House hosted its annual Edible Books competition, where students prepare food that takes a witty, culinary twist on beloved books, allowing them to show their appreciation for both books and food. The photo above references Haruki Murakami’s 2002 novel *Kafka on the Shore* with a dish cleverly named “Kafka on the S’more.” —Hannah Chang C’27

the world,” said UMC vice chair Fiona Wu EAS’25, adding that the chance to “come together and just eat the rice and maybe meet people that you’ve never met before” is what the event was all about.

Looking ahead to the spring semester, Diasse and Wu hope to ramp up UMC’s presence on campus and expand opportunities for alumni to support their programming.

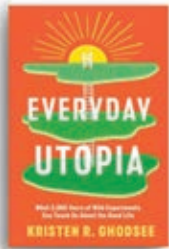
Kia Lor, the Greenfield Intercultural Center’s associate director who advises the UMC, believes the coalition “is in a really unique position right now to say, ‘How do we heal? How do we do it through cross-cultural dialogue? ... How do we do it through deep listening?’ I think that’s my hope for the United Minorities’ Council.”

—Hannah Chang C’27

Paradise Now

Utopia begins at home, according to an expert who looked at attempts over two millennia.

The road to an ideal community can start with the “sharing of the smallest things in our daily lives,” said Kristen R. Ghodsee—a professor and chair of Russian and East European



studies at Penn and author of *Everyday Utopia: What 2,000 Years of Wild Experiments Can Teach Us About the Good Life*—in a virtual presentation by the Penn Arts and Sciences Lightbulb Café and the Penn Global Discovery Series timed for Homecoming.

Ghodsee’s research has focused on “the lived experience of socialism and post-

socialism, the gendered effects of the economic transition from Communism to capitalism, and the ethnographic study of post-communist nostalgia in Central and Eastern Eu-

rope,” said moderator Julia Alekseyeva, assistant professor of English and Cinema and Media Studies at Penn.

Everyday Utopia offers what Alekseyeva called “a survey of two millennia of utopian approaches in different cultural contexts and across many diverse historical epochs. It takes us on a trip around the world to ex-

plore places that reimagine how we might live our daily lives, from Danish cohousing communities to matriarchal Colombian eco villages to Chinese microdistricts.”

While her previous work—she’s authored or coauthored 12 other books—has focused on “top-down kinds of experiments” in socialist or communist societies where laws and administrative decrees are “supposed to kind of trickle down and change the nature of everyday life,” Ghodsee said, “this was a project that wanted to reverse that and look at what people do in their everyday lives.”

When living under oppressive conditions, people don’t just give up. “They fight back, sometimes directly. And sometimes they fight back by running away, or by creating their own little communities outside of the framework,”

she said. “A lot of people talk about this concept of ‘prefigurative politics,’ which is when people decide to live in a certain way, they organize their lives as if the world they want to see built already exists.”

Rather than focus on governmental attempts to drive social change, “here I really wanted to look at how, sometimes, ordinary people on the ground make changes and decisions about the way they’re living their own lives and organizing their families and social relations that end up kind of trickling up and changing society in a bigger way.”

Ghodsee said she’s seen even more—and smaller-scale—examples of this phenomenon on her book tour, which has taken her around the US and to Germany, the UK, and Belgium. An excerpt of those remarks can be found below. —JP



The thing that has really inspired me is that people keep walking up to me after I give a talk and they say, ‘It’s already happening. We’re already doing it. You just can’t see it.’

I’ll give you a concrete example. There was a guy who came up to me after the talk in London and said, ‘You know, in London they have those rowhouses and then everybody has those little gardens in the back. And they’re kind of all fenced off from each other.’ So he and two of his university friends and their wives were getting close to retirement age and their kids were grown. So they decided to buy three row houses right next to each other and they tore down the fences between their gardens, and they’re basically treating those three houses like one big living complex. [To government and other authorities] it just looks like three individual families buying houses right next to each other. They don’t know what’s going on behind the scenes. ...

The thing that I missed, I think, when I was writing the book was that every community that I studied was a community that made an intentional decision to live a particular way. And they had a rationale for doing that.

What I’m learning now, is where people are saying, ‘Look what I’m doing in my life that’s different. I’m doing it, I’m already doing it.’ And that is so inspiring, because it made me realize that sometimes change happens because a group of people get together and make a decision about a particular way of living in the world. But sometimes change also happens be-

cause smaller subsets of those groups just decide: ‘This sucks. I’m tired of being alone in my house. I’m going to move in with a couple of other people and we’re going to cook meals four nights a week. ...

‘When I have kids’—I’ve heard a lot of people saying this—‘my best friend and her husband, we’re all going to buy a house together and raise our kids together like a family because it’s just easier that way, right? We’re going to share a car, and we’re going to share a wheelbarrow and lawnmower and drill and all those other things. It’ll make it cheaper. It’ll make it environmentally more sustainable. It will deal with isolation and loneliness. It will create a happier environment for our kids.’ And that’s just one step, right? That’s just two couples. But imagine if half of new parents decided to do that. ...

A lot of people would come up and say, ‘I wouldn’t call myself a utopian—like, I wouldn’t ever use that word—but listening to you talk about utopia makes me think that some of what I’m doing is a little utopian.’ And that is hopeful. That gives us kind of encouragement that we’re being recognized as taking charge and doing something—in the absence, of course, of these larger political changes that we can still hope for and work towards.

But we have to play the long game and the short game, and I think the short game starts at home. It starts with our friends. It starts with our families. It starts with our sharing of the smallest things in our daily lives, and it can make a difference really fast, in a really big way.



Tyler Perkins—flanked by teammates Clark Slajchert, left, and George Smith—gets ready to heave the ball in the air in the waning seconds of Penn's upset victory over Villanova in November.



Big 5 Fireworks

In a retooled men's hoops city series, a stunning upset win over Villanova preceded an agonizing buzzer-beater loss to La Salle.

Five minutes after Tyler Perkins hurled the basketball toward the Palestra's rafters to seal a 76-72 upset victory against Villanova—which is how long it took the freshman guard to extricate himself from the mob of students who stormed the court when the buzzer sounded—he confessed that he'd never heard of Philadelphia's Big 5 hoops rivalry as a high school prospect coming up in Virginia.

What he did know is that Penn's young and inexperi-

enced men's basketball team had more than a puncher's chance against a 'Nova squad that rolled into the Palestra on November 13 with a top-25 ranking and a roster stacked with seniors and graduate transfers.

When asked in the post-game press conference when he thought the upset would materialize, Perkins replied "when we started to scout" the opposition, drawing laughter from the media and an incredulous look from head coach Steve Donahue.

"I felt confident with our guys," said Perkins, who poured in 22 points to lead the Quakers. "And I feel like we matched up well with them. Coach had a great plan. So yeah, I knew."

A balanced effort proved decisive as all five Penn starters scored in double figures, with Ed Holland III and Cam Thrower rising to the occasion to share the offensive load with Perkins and the team's other focal points, leading scorer Clark Slajchert and big man Nick Spinoso.

But the keystone of Donahue's plan was on the defensive end, where the Quakers lined up in a radically stretched 2-3 zone to guard the perimeter. Villanova struggled to get the ball into the high-post weak spot, as Penn's top-of-the-key defenders worked hard to slip around ball screens and deny passes to ineffective flashers in the empty area behind them. And the Wildcats were ice cold from behind the arc, converting just nine of 33 attempts. Perhaps more surprisingly, given Penn's stretched defensive formation, the Quakers outrebounded Villanova—with five Penn guards grabbing at least five boards apiece.

Penn only shot 21 of 34 from the free throw line but Slajchert delivered two clutch

ones with 3.8 seconds left to ice the game after Villanova had cut the margin to two. After sinking the second foul shot, Penn's senior leader allowed himself a slow smile as he nodded in the direction of no one in particular. Then, once a long 'Nova inbounds pass was batted away, Penn students poured onto the Palestra floor and threw red and blue streamers into the air. "It was amazing," Slajchert said. "I've been thinking about that moment for a while."

"That's why you play college basketball. There's not a better venue in the country," Donahue said. "I always say the Palestra's a front porch of our university. There's a lot going on in this world, but this is a place we watch the Quakers and rejoice and come together. And I think these guys feel really good they provided the students with that."

Because of a new Big 5 format, Penn's upset of 'Nova was the only city series game played at the Palestra this season. The rest were held at other campus gyms and then the Wells Fargo Center—the South Philadelphia NBA arena that played host to a tripleheader on December 2. The move was designed to inject life into a once-proud city series tradition, with Drexel for the first time officially joining the mix and Philly fans getting treated to three games with one ticket.

The Quakers, by virtue of its win over 'Nova and loss to Saint Joseph's in pod play, was slotted into the third-place game in the middle of the day. Villanova faced Drexel for

fifth place before that and St. Joe's squared up against Temple in the nighttime title tilt. (In past years the Big 5 champion was determined by the team with the best record in round-robin play, which often led to shared titles that were determined at various times in the calendar. The new format was designed to unsnarl the process with a true championship game.)

Although the historic Palestra—which had long been home to storied city rivalry games since the Big 5's creation in 1955—was mostly cut out of the reimagined arrangement, Penn head coach Steve Donahue said he's been a "big proponent" of the change. "I've been watching as a fan since sixth grade in 1973, and I loved it, but the world's changed," Donahue said. "College athletics have changed. I thought it was important we made this kind of move. I think it's brought a really good spotlight on something that's really special to our city."

With the six teams all playing three Big 5 games (two in pod play that set up the Big 5 Classic tripleheader), there were fewer city contests this season than in past years. But the games delivered. Drexel scored an upset of its own over Villanova (which dropped all three of its Big 5 games this year, despite producing a couple of marquee early-season wins over non-Philly opponents). And St. Joe's brought home the inaugural Big 5 Classic championship over Temple in front of two large and energetic sets of student sections that, in true Big 5 tradition, were armed

SPORTS

Freshman Phenom



It was a difficult end to the season for the Penn football team, which dropped three of its final four games to fall out of Ivy League title contention. But the Quakers (6–4 overall, 3–4 Ivy) have plenty of reasons for optimism in the future—none bigger than running back Malachi Hosley, who enjoyed a dazzling freshman campaign.

The Georgia native rushed for 723 yards on 121 carries and tallied seven touchdowns to become the Quakers' first Ivy League Rookie of the Year award winner since receiver Miles Macik C'96 in 1993. Hosley's most memorable performance came during Homecoming when he powered the Quakers to a 23–8 victory over Cornell with 261 yards rushing and two touchdowns, one of which went for 96 yards—the longest offensive play in the program's rich history.

Among other accolades, Hosley was a finalist for the Jerry Rice Award, given to the most outstanding freshman in the FCS. He was also named first team All-Ivy, along with sophomore wide receiver Jared Richardson—who had a breakout season catching passes from junior Aidan Sayin, one of the league's most electric quarterbacks. On the other side of the ball, Joey Slackman became Penn's first Ivy League Defensive Player of the Year since 2015. —DJ

with rollouts and streamers. (The total attendance at the Wells Fargo Center topped 15,000 but it was never close to that full at any one time, with students being bussed in to watch their respective schools and other fans filtering in and out throughout the day.)

The most dramatic ending, though, went to the Quakers, who took La Salle to overtime and then, with the game tied in the final seconds, cel-

ebrated a go-ahead layup from Slajchert. But La Salle's Khalil Brantley responded by beating the buzzer with a heave from just inside half-court to shock the Penn faithful. When the ball banked in, the Explorers players danced on the court to celebrate their dramatic one-point win while Donahue slumped over the scorer's table in dismay. "For fans, that was probably a fun 45 minutes," the Penn

coach said afterwards. “For coaches, at least for one of us, it was more agonizing.”

The coach on the other side from Donahue was Mr. Big 5 himself—Fran Dunphy, who led the Penn and Temple programs before his current stint with La Salle, recently having surpassed 600 total wins across all three gigs. Dunphy understatedly called it an “interesting week,” because three days before beating Penn—and his old protégé in Donahue—La Salle dropped a three-overtime thriller to his other former school, Temple.

“There’s no city that does this other than us,” Dunphy said. “And so we should really be praiseful of our culture in Philly.” Dunphy added that while “for all of us old timers, there’s nothing like the Palestra,” the Wells Fargo Center brings a different kind of fan experience. What it might lack in loudness, intimacy, and nostalgia, it made up for with all the perks of an NBA arena (including luxury suites, plenty of parking, and wider concourses).

The building got loud too, even if it was never full.

“It was crazy,” said Slajchert, who matched a career high with 33 points, with Perkins adding 20 and Spinoso 17 points and eight rebounds. “The craziest thing was looking up in the nosebleeds and seeing people. I’ve never seen that before.”

“I’ve been in other cities, and I think this is the best college basketball city in America,” Donahue added. “I thought the atmosphere was great.” —*DZ Senior editor Trey Popp contributed to this report.*



Larger Than Life

Remembering a lovably eccentric member of the Penn track community.

A track and field coach who organized bodybuilding competitions on the side? The founder of the women’s hammer throw in America? A Philadelphian who at times lived in Canada, Australia, Hawaii, Russia, and Germany? The personal trainer to Madonna? The second biggest baby ever born in Italy at the time of his birth?

When Tony Tenisci trotted out one of his favorite stories, laughs Kelsey Hay C’16—one of the many track and field athletes he coached over a decorated 30-year career at Penn—sometimes you had to wonder how far he’d stretched the facts. “But ultimately, there was

probably a lot of truth to it,” Hay says. “He was like a modern-day renaissance man. He truly did dabble in everything.”

“Hearing his stories, it sounded like he definitely lived the exact life that he wanted to live,” adds Hay’s classmate and Olympian Sam Mattis W’16. “And at the same time, it seemed like he had too many stories for how many years he was alive.”

On October 28, Tenisci’s adventures came to an end. After a yearlong battle with cancer, he died at 74.

An All-American hammer thrower for Washington State in the early 1970s and a former Canadian national re-

cord holder in the hammer throw, Tenisci first began coaching Penn track and field throwers in 1986. He retired from the University 30 years later, serving the final few years as the head coach of the entire women’s team.

“More than anyone I know, he just valued relationships and friendships,” says Steve Dolan, director of Penn track and field. “In every interaction, he was the guy that brought the positivity and energy to that interaction.”

Although Tenisci remained close to Penn track after retiring, Mattis and Hay were part of the last class of athletes that he mentored in an official capacity. Shortly after Tenisci’s death, the two of them, along with other throwers from that era, joined together on a Zoom call to share stories of their indefatigable coach whom Mattis calls a “super unique guy” and “one of the most energetic people I ever met.”

On top of his energy and eccentricities, “I think he was one of the more open-minded coaches that I’ve ever had,” says Mattis, who won the 2015 NCAA championship in the discus throw under Tenisci’s guidance. “He wouldn’t be afraid to ask other coaches what they thought. And it was such a fun practice environment. He’d always have something funny to say, or sometimes bring candy or a random Penn shirt from the ’80s or ’90s.”

Hay, a three-time Ivy League champion in the javelin who went to the US Olympic Trials in 2016, enjoyed hearing stories about Tenisci during the

Although Tenisci was a world traveler, Penn and Philadelphia, one of his former athletes said, were “like his heart and soul.”

Zoom memorial and reminiscing about how their “larger than life” coach loved to ride around campus on his bicycle. “You would never know when he would pop up,” says Hay, who always thought of Tenisci as more than a coach. “He was our biggest supporter, our confidant, even our therapist at times,” she says. “But what it came down to is he was our friend, even after we graduated from the program.”

Hay was among the former Penn athletes who received mass WhatsApp texts from Tenisci, who loved to travel around the world, always flashing a peace sign in photos wherever he was. Another was Renata Coleman W’98 WG’05, who also previously coached at Penn and currently serves on the Penn track and field alumni board.

Spending so much time with Tenisci, Coleman heard a lot of what she calls *Tonyisms*—sayings that often veered between affectionate and bizarre. She recalls him telling athletes, when counseling them on their diets: “You’ve got to be really careful because otherwise the chickens will come to roost on your head.” And about his brief coaching stint at Cornell: “When I get to the pearly gates, I’m demanding they send me back because they owe me two years for the time I spent in the cold in Ithaca.” (“After he passed,” Coleman laughs, “I was half expecting to see him.”) And the most popular *Tonyism* of all: “It’s all about the love, baby.”

“He was a very dynamic individual,” Coleman says.

“I’ve not met someone with that level of passion and energy—and vulnerability as well. He wasn’t afraid to get emotional or cry. As tough as he was, he was not afraid to show that side. And I think that’s what helped him be successful as a women’s coach for that long.”

At no point was Tenisci more in his element than at the Mr. and Ms. Penn bodybuilding competition. Known as a specialist of weight training and conditioning, Tenisci began the campus-wide event in the mid-1990s as a fundraiser for the Penn track team. But “he really turned it into a premier show,” says Coleman, who won two of the early competitions and later became involved in the world of bodybuilding. Tenisci provided a diet and training plan for the competitors and helped choreograph their routines and poses, while getting sponsors, emceeing the event, and organizing other logistics. “That’s not something I think I would have done on any other track team, or at any school,” says Mattis, who also won it one year. “But it was a ton of fun.”

“Probably my favorite thing ever was Mr. and Mrs. Penn,” says Joe Klim, assistant director of Penn track and field who became one of Tenisci’s best friends. “It was really about people having a positive experience and feeling good about themselves.”

Klim also enjoyed watching Tenisci “in his glory” during the track program’s trips to England, where Tenisci formed close relationships



with colleagues from Oxford, Cambridge, and Birmingham. And when the English came across the pond to Philly for return trips in what’s become a regular transatlantic competition involving Penn, Cornell, and the British universities, “you better be on your game of drinking and eating and being merry,” Klim says, “with Tony being the ring-leader of the whole thing.”

That didn’t come as a surprise to Klim, who was mildly amazed that Tenisci was “just constantly traveling”—and even more amazed by the stories he heard from those travels. Over the years, Klim claims, Tenisci described meeting the Queen of England, being in a Donna Summer music video, dancing to disco at Studio 54, and at one point serving as a personal trainer to Madonna. “Tony wasn’t a braggart or anything like that,” Klim says. “Something would come up, we’d be playing disco music or something like that, and we would just get to talking and you’d be like *WHAT?*”

Despite all the different places he visited, “he lived and breathed Penn track,” Klim says. Philadelphia and Penn, Coleman adds, were “like his heart and soul.” The former Penn sprinter recalls that many times when the team bus returned to Philly from a road trip, Tenisci would light up, and say, “Look at that skyline, baby. These other places can’t compare. Now *this* is a city!”

Plans are in the works to honor Tenisci at the city and campus he called home. It will likely be a “multifaceted” tribute during the 2024 Penn Relays, Dolan says, that will include honoring him at Franklin Field and at the Mondschein Throwing Complex. Mattis is planning to attend the late-April meet to pay tribute to his former coach—a couple of months before he hopes to qualify for the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris.

Mattis, who recently won the discus at the 2023 USA Outdoor Track and Field Championships [“Sports,” Sep/Oct 2023], had hoped Tenisci could have joined him at his Olympic debut in 2021, but the pandemic intervened. This time around, “he was really looking forward to coming to Paris,” laments Mattis, “but I’m sure in his own way he’ll be there.”

“The last speech he gave to me at Penn,” Mattis adds, “he was like, ‘We’re gonna go all the way to the Olympics! It doesn’t matter how we get there, but we’re going there.’ And it ended up happening.”

—DZ

Chasing Justice

As a young federal civil rights prosecutor, Jared Fishman investigated the police killing of a Black New Orleans resident in the chaotic aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Now, after writing a book on what he calls “one of the most egregious cases of police misconduct in recent American history,” he’s tackling criminal justice reform on a broader scale.

By Dave Zeitlin

Think about the most heinous police killings in recent American history. What comes to mind?

Undoubtedly George Floyd pinned to the pavement, an officer’s knee on his neck. Maybe Philando Castile in his car, Breonna Taylor in her apartment, or Tamir Rice at a park. Eric Garner pleading “I can’t breathe” while locked in a chokehold on a New York City sidewalk has left an enduring mark, his final words becoming a rallying cry for the Black Lives Matter movement.

It’s less likely you thought—or even knew—about the killing of Henry Glover, a 31-year-old Black resident of New Orleans who was shot by a police officer in the chaotic aftermath of Hurricane

Katrina in 2005—and whose body was subsequently burned by another officer. That’s why Jared Fishman C’99, a former prosecutor for the US Department of Justice who investigated and tried the case, sought to bring it to light by coauthoring, with magazine writer Joseph Hooper, the book *Fire on the Levee: The Murder of Henry Glover and the Search for Justice after Hurricane Katrina* (Hanover Square Press, 2023).

“What surprised me at the time—to *this day*—is that one of the most egregious cases of police misconduct in recent American history is not on anyone’s radar,” says Fishman. While the story did generate local coverage in New Orleans and national attention during the trial,

“it did not spur the kind of outrage that we have seen after Michael Brown was killed, or Freddie Gray, or Walter Scott, or obviously George Floyd,” he continues. “It didn’t make sense to me. I knew this was an important story, I knew this was a gripping story. To me, it speaks a lot about humanity, our society, its ability to police itself, and what happens in the event of a societal breakdown.” On top of all that, Fishman adds, “it really helps explain just how broken the American criminal legal system is as a whole.”

Fishman was a junior attorney in the criminal section of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice in January 2009 when, more than three years after Katrina, a thin brown folder



appeared on his desk in Washington, DC. “The folder contained only two items,” he wrote in *Fire on the Levee*. “One was an autopsy report that briefly detailed what was left of the incinerated remains of a man named Henry Glover. The other was a recently published article from *The Nation*, which raised questions about Glover’s death.” Stuck to the front of the folder was a handwritten yellow Post-it note from one of the deputy chiefs in his department: “I don’t know if there is anything to this, but at least this should be interesting.”

Nowadays, since “cases are almost all generated by videos” (typically horrifying cell phone footage that goes viral), Fishman doesn’t think a file like that would land on anyone’s desk. Even *with* video evidence, it’s proven exceedingly difficult to charge and convict police officers, for reasons ranging from the legal doctrine of qualified immunity to a “blue wall of silence” among departments and police unions that protect their own. But for the next 19 months, Fishman teamed up with a rookie FBI agent named Ashley Johnson to try to find cracks in the protective and notoriously corrupt New Orleans Police Department (NOPD). “It was definitely intimidating,” Fishman says. As he and Johnson set up interviews with the officers they believed to be involved in the killing and ensuing coverup [see excerpt], he heard that police had tagged the pair with a nickname “the Black girl and the Jew.” It put Fishman on notice: “We were going up against very angry cops.”

The investigation was arduous, slow, and draining. Given that the Orleans Parish Coroner’s Office had not even ruled Glover’s death a homicide—and for years no one had investigated the mysterious circumstances surrounding it—Fishman and Johnson started with little to work with, apart from *The Nation* article written by investigative journalist A.C. Thompson. In that piece, Thompson drew from eyewitness accounts to paint a picture of Glover’s final hours: On September 2, 2005—about a

week after Katrina pummeled the region, leaving some stranded survivors to scavenge for food, water, and shelter—Glover was walking with his friend Bernard Calloway near a deserted strip mall in the New Orleans neighborhood of Algiers when a single shot rang out from a second-floor breezeway. Glover crumpled to the street, bleeding. Calloway sought the help of Glover’s brother, Edward King, who lived nearby. Both Calloway and Glover then flagged down a Good Samaritan named William Tanner, who loaded the three men into his Chevrolet Malibu and drove off in search of help. Believing that the nearest hospital was too far away, Tanner decided to drive to Paul B. Habans Elementary School, which had been commandeered by members of the NOPD’s Special Operations Division in the wake of Katrina. But instead of receiving help at the makeshift police base, the men were allegedly beaten and handcuffed by the officers, who took them for looters, while Glover remained in the car, where he was given no medical aid. “They ain’t much touched him,” Tanner later told Fishman. “That was the cruelest thing a person can do to a man, let him bleed to death in a car like that.” Calloway, King, and Tanner were eventually released, though the Chevy remained in police custody. Glover’s charred body was later found inside the burned shell of the car next to a Mississippi River levee.

As Fishman got to know Tanner and members of Glover’s family, his resolve stiffened. Glover hadn’t been the only civilian shot by police in that time period; reports later surfaced that cops had been authorized to shoot looters. His hunt for justice was intensified by several desires: to help the Glover family find some semblance of peace in the wake of so much trauma; to destroy the NOPD’s blanket attempt to justify post-Katrina misconduct by characterizing the period as “not normal times”; and to hold officers accountable and bring about lasting change at the departmental level.

Not least of all, Fishman’s quest to find justice for Henry Glover was fueled by another unjust and tragic killing, a decade earlier and 7,000 miles away.

Between his junior and senior years at Penn, Fishman looked ahead to summer internships, blasting out his resume “to investment banking firms and consulting firms and tech firms because that’s what everyone else did.” But when his friend and classmate Leslie Adelson Lewin C’99 suggested he join her as a counselor at Seeds of Peace Camp in Maine (which brings together young people from conflict zones across the Middle East), he quickly switched gears. “I was like, ‘Yeah, I’d much rather be doing that.’”

Growing up in a middle-class Jewish community in Atlanta, Fishman had been interested in war and conflict from an early age. His grandparents escaped Austria in the late 1930s before the Nazis exterminated much of their community, fleeing to the US where their son, Fishman’s father, managed to build a successful accounting practice. Learning about the Holocaust shaped Fishman’s worldview, and he strove to honor the Jewish concept of *Tikkun olam*, which refers to repairing the world.

Yet in reality, he wrote, “my world was very small, the homogenous bubble of prosperous suburban Jews I spent my days with, from school to after-school sports to summer camp.” It wasn’t until arriving at Penn that he tried to see things beyond his Jewish lens, majoring in Middle Eastern Studies and taking courses on Islam and politics in the Middle East. “I didn’t know any Arabs before I went to Penn, and I certainly wasn’t well versed in the perspective of Palestinians and how they thought about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,” he says. With the prompting of his college advisor Roger Allen, Emeritus Professor of Arabic Languages and Literatures, Fishman went to Morocco the summer after his sophomore year to study at the Arabic Language Institute in Fez. Traveling indepen-

dently and depending on the kindness of others, he had “probably the most profound, life-changing experience at that stage of my life,” he says.

At least until the following summer. At Seeds of Peace Camp, “that was the first time I lived with Palestinians,” Fishman says. “That was the first time I lived with Jordanians. I lived with Israelis. I lived with kids from Qatar, Tunisia, and Cyprus.” His role as a counselor, in many ways, was just like it would be at any summer camp. “What do you do when there’s this conflict between teenagers being teenagers, totally independent of the politics of the region?” he says. So in addition to fostering challenging conversations on peacebuilding between Jews and Arabs, Fishman often found himself navigating situations like “Who gets to shower next?” and “What are you going to do if a kid’s shoes are really stinky?”

Lewin, who’s remained close with Fishman since their time together at Penn and Seeds of Peace, recalls her friend “helping to bridge the balance” between complicated talks and moments of levity. And she still has a vivid memory of Fishman playing his guitar in front of the camp assembly. “I feel like Jared screams camp counselor,” she says. “He brings a sense of joy and passion and humor, but underneath it there’s also a real sense of purpose and a real commitment to wanting to do good work.”

For Fishman, it was a hopeful time and “so moving to be able to see these kids who are coming from war zones, who had very real traumas in their own experiences, being able to work together to come up with solutions to the problems that were facing their communities.” But the hope didn’t last long. After graduating from Penn, Fishman moved to Jerusalem to help launch the Seeds of Peace Center for Coexistence, where he designed year-round conflict resolution programming for youth leaders. On the one-year anniversary of his arrival in the region, the Second Intifada broke out as peace talks between Palestinian and Is-

“No one had ever been held accountable for Asel’s death. I hoped to do better for Henry’s family.”

raeli leaders broke down. Whereas Fishman had once taken Israeli kids into Palestinian refugee camps and Palestinian kids into Israeli schools—“The power of humanity at its best,” he recalls wistfully—“violence quickly took over life and we could no longer transport people across borders,” he says. “It transformed society overnight, in ways that have only gotten worse.” (Fishman’s words seem even more prescient in light of Hamas’s October 7 assault on Israel and the ensuing war in Gaza. When contacted in the immediate aftermath of the attack, Fishman wrote: “It is hard to remember that there was once a time when peace was a real possibility—I remember that time—but it was so easily destroyed. It continues to be devastating how civilians continue to experience the trauma of war.”)

On October 2, 2000, a few days after the start of the Palestinian uprising, Fishman was working in Jerusalem when a gut-churning phone call came in. A gregarious and beloved Seeds of Peace camper named Asel Asleh had been shot. Fishman couldn’t believe it. Asel, an Arab citizen of Israel, “was the kid who could move others along,” Fishman remembers. “He was such a leader. His presence was overwhelming. And he stood for all of the things we cared about.” Asel had been wearing a Seeds of Peace T-shirt while at a protest near his village of Arraba—seemingly off to the side and out of harm’s way, according to Fishman, who provided this account in his book: “Suddenly, two groups of officers charged towards the crowd, which dispersed in

panic. Multiple officers chased Asel into an olive grove. Several times, he slipped and fell while being chased by the police. One officer caught up to Asel, hit him in the back of the head with the butt of a gun, and then shot him in the back of the neck at close range. A police checkpoint prevented his ambulance from reaching the hospital in time. He died en route.”

Asel was one of 13 Arab citizens of Israel killed during protests in Arab villages that month, and a commission was later established by the Israeli government to investigate the police response to the rioting. Although the commission concluded that excessive force was used, no officers were ever prosecuted. “I think about what Asel’s family never got,” says Fishman, who called the killing “the death of hope.”

Seven months into the fighting, Fishman returned to the US to enter law school at George Washington University. During law school, he spent two summers in Bosnia running a reconciliation program following the Bosnian War. After that he tried to help restore justice in postwar Kosovo and Rwanda while working for the US Department of State. He always kept the Asleh family in his mind, “any time I had to go interact with a family who lost their loved ones to police violence.” That would come to include Henry Glover’s family.

“Asel’s and Henry’s deaths felt similar,” Fishman wrote. “Coincidentally, Asel had been killed on Henry’s birthday. When I got back from one of my first trips to New Orleans, I framed an old picture of Asel and hung it in my office at the Justice Department as a reminder. No one had ever been held accountable for Asel’s death. I hoped to do better for Henry’s family.”

Walking down the center aisle of a large cherrywood New Orleans courtroom in 2010, Fishman felt a rush of emotions.

After a 19-month investigation into Henry Glover’s killing, a grand jury had

returned an indictment that brought 11 charges against five officers. The charges could be divided into three different sections, as Fishman wrote: “the shooting at the mall; the beating at Habans and the burning at the levee; and the false reporting that followed.” A rookie officer named David Warren, who admitted to firing a shot at Glover, faced the most serious charges, thanks in part to a damning firsthand account provided by his partner Linda Howard, who attested that Glover was unarmed and running away when Warren fired his personal assault rifle at him, from an elevated position and without any justifiable reason to feel threatened. “During the twelve subsequent years that I investigated police misconduct, I never met another police officer who was so forthcoming with incriminating evidence against a fellow police officer,” Fishman wrote.

But Fishman still knew how challenging it would be to land a conviction since police shootings of civilians remain notoriously difficult to prosecute. And as much pressure as he felt during the investigation, it was even amplified during the arraignment and trial in a packed courtroom, with “a lot of people pulling for me and a lot of people rooting against me.” (By then, the FBI and DOJ had provided Fishman and Johnson with more resources and support from other attorneys, though Fishman was surprised, given his inexperience at the time, that he remained the lead prosecutor in what had become a high-profile case.)

“My first thought was that this was like attending a tense wedding where the bride’s and groom’s families hated each other,” he wrote. “The second, more disturbing feeling was that I was stepping back fifty or a hundred years into the Jim Crow South, strictly segregated by custom and law.” As it is in many police shootings, race had been a factor throughout the investigation and trial, since all the implicated officers were white and all the victims Black. Though there wasn’t sufficient evidence to charge

Warren with a federal hate crime, Fishman wrote that he “was certain the perception of race influenced the speed with which Warren used deadly force.”

In the end, after an intense weeks-long trial that Fishman richly details in his book, the federal jury found Warren guilty of a civil rights violation, resulting in death, as well as use of a firearm during a crime of manslaughter. Greg McRae, a veteran NOPD officer who admitted to driving away with the car and burning it with Glover’s body inside, was convicted on two counts of civil rights violations and obstruction of justice. Travis McCabe was also found guilty of obstructing justice and perjury. The other two officers on trial, Dwayne Scheuermann and Robert Italiano, were acquitted for their alleged roles in the burning of the car and participating in the coverup, respectively.

Though he was reassured by the smiles he saw from Glover’s family after the verdicts were read, the jury’s decisions felt like an incomplete victory for Fishman. It would soon become even more frustrating. Warren, who had been sentenced to nearly 26 years in prison, was granted a new trial after appealing to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals (which “has historically gone out of its way to protect police officers,” Fishman wrote) that he suffered prejudice by being tried alongside the officers accused of burning Glover’s body in a separate incident. And in the December 2013 retrial, another jury found Warren not guilty following a long deliberation. Fishman recalls seeing half of the 12 jurors in tears when the verdict was read. Glover’s sister, Patrice, had to be carried out of the courtroom, shrieking in agony. “I just felt numb,” Fishman wrote.

Yet Fishman had always felt ambivalent about prison sentences, calling it “perverse that the prize for a hard-fought victory in court is another human winding up in a cage.” So he was pleasantly surprised that McRae, whose 17-year sentence was reduced by more than five years, agreed to speak with him not long after being released from jail. “I had never

spoken to anyone I had sent to prison before,” says Fishman, who recounted their talks, held between May and November 2022, in his book’s epilogue.

McRae—whose main defense for incinerating Glover’s body rested on his claim to have been mentally unhinged by rescue operations during which he saw bodies floating in flood waters and dogs feeding on human remains—was emotional in those conversations. He insisted he had no idea Glover had been shot by another officer and he called Warren “a coward ... [who] should never have been a police officer,” according to Fishman. He also referred to his departmental reputation for cleaning up messes and said a captain had told him to “get rid” of Glover’s body. Though McRae said none of his colleagues knew the specifics of his disposal plan beforehand, they did know the car was burned after the fact. “It has always been hard for me to look at McRae and *not* see a guy thrown under the bus by the entire police department,” Fishman wrote.

Those conversations solidified Fishman’s view that police misconduct almost always goes deeper than one “bad apple,” and that sending a few police officers to prison is akin to putting a little Band-Aid on a gaping wound. “Way too often when we talk about our criminal justice system, we tend to think of good guys and bad guys,” he says. “One of the things I really wanted to emphasize in the book is that it’s not just individual decisions; people are always operating within a context and within a system. And that system contributes in major ways to the outcomes that we get in our communities. And so often, after a lot of the police misconduct cases I would do over the course of my career, when we got a conviction, everyone washed their hands and said, ‘We got the bad apple. This is not who we are.’ But when you actually start to break down individual cases, it’s not just about bad apples—it’s about cultures of silence that enable bad conduct to stay; it’s about training; it’s

Fishman, center, speaks with Charleston solicitor Scarlett Wilson, right, during a 2022 Justice Innovation Lab workshop on ways to create a more equitable justice system.

about a denigration of the communities that we are supposed to be protecting.”

Not long ago, Fishman realized prosecuting bad cops wasn't enough. He had a new project in mind.

Four years after a jury acquitted David Warren, Fishman led the DOJ team that prosecuted Michael Slager, a local police officer in North Charleston, South Carolina who gunned down Walter Scott in 2015. Scott, a 50-year-old Black man, had been pulled over because of a malfunctioning taillight. A passerby took video of an unarmed Scott running away from the traffic stop and being shot in the back by the white officer—“the clearest evidence I had ever seen of a bad shooting,” wrote Fishman. Slager pleaded guilty to a federal civil rights violation and was sentenced to 20 years in prison, which Fishman called “a result as good as any we could have hoped for.”

And yet, standing on the courtroom steps in 2017, “after winning what was arguably the biggest victory of my career,” Fishman felt empty inside. “*I get that this is rare,*” he remembers thinking. “*But now what?*” He was more interested in figuring out why Slager pulled over Scott in the first place and how his death—and the deaths of so many other Black people at the hands of police—could have been prevented. Winning cases, while important, wasn't enough to spur real, lasting change.

Following the Scott verdict Fishman spoke regularly with Scarlett Wilson, the Charleston solicitor who prosecuted Slager for the state, about ways to make Charleston's criminal justice system more equitable. She had been collecting data about who was being arrested, charged, and incarcerated to potentially identify racial disparities. Intrigued, Fishman pivoted in that direction. In 2020 he left the DOJ to launch the Justice Innovation Lab (JIL), a non-profit initiative that designs data-driven tools to create a fairer and more effective justice system. Per JIL's mission statement,



Winning cases, while important, wasn't enough to spur real, lasting change.

“our goal is to reduce harmful outcomes, including over-incarceration and unjust racial and economic disparities. Our team of data scientists, human-centered design experts, prosecutors, policymakers, and community advocates support local leaders in identifying unfair practices and developing effective alternative solutions.” (Fishman's longtime friend Leslie Lewin is an operations advisor.)

JIL's advisors are scattered around the country—“being an organization that was founded during the pandemic, we never had an office building,” Fishman says—and focus on helping specific local jurisdictions. “We often think about the Amer-

ican criminal justice system as if it were just a singular thing, but that's the wrong way to think about it,” Fishman says. “In reality, we have about 2,300 justice systems in America, most of which function at the county and city level, almost all of which function virtually independently in terms of how they make decisions.” And most of them, Fishman posits, “want to do better and simply don't have the tools or the necessary support to do it.”

So where does Justice Innovation Lab come in? Here's one example: In Charleston, JIL helped the city determine that 25 percent of their cases were being dismissed for insufficient evidence—“a huge amount of wasted resources,” Fishman says—and that it was taking more than 200 days for that failed process to play out. During that extended period, a person who had been arrested might be incarcerated, lose a job, and pay some sort of bond, “usually on the backs of the poorest people in the community, all on a case that prosecutors don't think should be there.” Fishman says JIL helped the city

create a new screening process to determine a case's merit on "the night of the arrest or as close to it as possible" through a data-driven pilot program managed by a part-time attorney. The city has since expanded the screening process and is "actually changing how they communicate this with the police," adds Fishman, who notes that officers who make "bad arrests" are often young and inexperienced. "So now they get notified why the case is insufficient." On a broader scale, Fishman hopes that will lead to positive feedback loops and fewer bottlenecks in the justice system, since bottlenecks "almost always result in injustice."

Here's another example: In Saint Paul, Minnesota, JIL did a project on pretextual traffic stops (in which officers pull someone over for a minor offense before searching for evidence of an unrelated crime). These stops have unfairly targeted minority motorists, critics claim, and lead to about 10 percent of police killings each year. "And the research showed there that you can stop doing this very ineffective and discriminatory practice without negatively impacting public safety," Fishman says.

Meanwhile, the organization is working in Memphis, Tennessee, to help decision-makers identify cases that can be safely removed from the criminal justice system and transferred to the public health system, which he believes would be better able to address underlying mental health problems.

In speaking with police officers, Fishman says many of them admit they're ill-equipped to deal with America's mental health crisis, or drug abuse, or poverty. "Most of them wake up every morning and their goal is to serve their communities," he says. "They want to live in safe communities, and they want to live in fair communities. And yet they operate in a system that routinely leads to bad outcomes"—and one in which they've traditionally been judged by metrics such as how many arrests or traffic stops they make.

The murder of George Floyd, which occurred shortly after JIL's founding, "in-

fused a new energy and new funding opportunities" for the organization, Fishman says. But he's seen a backslide since then. Police killings reached a record high in 2022. "There are definitely days where it feels overwhelming because I would like to fix the whole problem," Fishman says. "But the exciting thing is that each county has the ability to innovate, and so we can transform our criminal justice system one county at a time."

He can look to the city where it all began for him for some bit of solace. After the Katrina-era federal prosecutions, "New Orleans began remaking its police department in a way that no previous police scandals had ever managed to inspire and that, pre-Katrina, few people would have ever thought possible," Fishman wrote. At least 25 officers were fired or resigned under investigation, and "for the past decade a team of federal court-appointed monitors have worked with the department to reassess every aspect of the job, from training and hiring protocols to 'use of force' procedures, evaluating the department's progress along the way." Far fewer civil rights cases are now being brought against the NOPD. And the city recently created an innovative peer intervention program called EPIC (Ethical Policing is Courageous) to help officers police each other and not look the other way when they see misconduct.

"We must chase justice," Fishman wrote in his book's final chapter. "It is an active pursuit. It can be slippery and hard to nail down. It can be exhausting. Chasing justice comes with the understanding that, far more often than we'd like, it will get away from us.

"Our current criminal legal system is the result of choices made by many individuals over a long period of time. Some of these structures and practices were deliberately built to oppress others; sometimes, the harms are merely unintended consequences. People created these problems; people can fix them."

EXCERPT

US AND THEM

When federal prosecutors and investigators take on corrupt local cops, one stakeout a time.

In late May, I found myself bleary-eyed in Ashley's car, parked under old-growth oak trees. We sat outside of David Warren's house in Algiers on a bucolic suburban street, a departure from the more neglected neighborhoods where Ashley and I spent much of our time. It was 6:00 a.m., and I was mindlessly sipping bad hotel coffee to stay focused. Neither one of us had gotten enough sleep. Ashley had been up since 4:00 a.m., executing a search warrant in another case. I couldn't sleep in anticipation of my first opportunity to come face-to-face with the man who killed Henry Glover.

Our hope was that we would catch Warren leaving for work—he had recently left the New Orleans Police Department to work for an electrical utility company—or at least, we could catch him at home after the kids had left for school. We figured that approaching him alone, by surprise, might improve our chances that he would speak to us.

We hunkered down for a stakeout. I was excited, even though Ashley's supervisor Kelly had warned me that stakeouts generally involve a lot of sitting around waiting for something interesting to happen that rarely does. This early in the morning, the only thing going on was the chirping of a mockingbird.

By this point in the investigation, Ashley and I had spent a lot of time in the car talking through the case. The thing we discussed most was the mystifying link between the shooting of Glover and the incineration of his body.

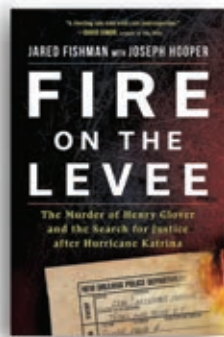
We had run into one roadblock after another trying to unravel the burning. Three months into the investigation, we didn't know much



more than what *The Nation* had reported in December 2008. Our one significant advance, thanks to the date stamp on the photos taken by the Customs and Border Protection officer, was establishing that the burning had occurred on the same day of the shooting.

Our only real suspect was an unnamed Special Operations Division (SOD) officer who drove away in Tanner's Chevy. And we had no evidence suggesting that whoever did that also torched it, save for Tanner's claim about road flares, about which Ashley and I remained skeptical.

It made sense that SOD would want to move the body *some-where*. Five days after Katrina, as the death toll mounted around the city, the city morgue was overwhelmed. A thousand-plus bodies remained littered across the city. The city simply lacked resources to collect the dead. It was not uncommon to drive down the street and see bodies left where they fell,



Sitting in front of Warren's house, it struck me for the first time how close he lived to the levee where Glover's body was burned.

covered by sheets, cardboard, or corrugated metal. In one morbid photo taken by a visiting federal agent, a Black man lay stretched out by the side of the road, wrapped up in a brown paisley rug, his stockinged feet poking outward. The only acknowledgment of his humanity was a homemade cardboard sign that read, *This man died here*.

Understandable, then, why SOD officers didn't want a dead body in a car decomposing in ninety-plus-degree temperatures in front of the building they called home. But it was hard to fathom why they would burn the body, destroying the physical evidence of a fatal shooting that would fall to NOPD to investigate, particularly if

they had no knowledge that the man had been shot by another cop. Even if they were aware of that, why would SOD cross the line into flagrant criminality to protect an officer they didn't know?

Ashley and I, stuck in the car, played out classic "means, motive, and opportunity" scenarios. Sitting in front of Warren's house, it struck me for the first time how close he lived to the levee where Glover's body was burned—just over a mile away.

It was conceivable that somebody at the Fourth District had told Warren that the body of the man he had shot that morning had been moved from Habans to the levee. He could have found the car before darkness fell and destroyed the evidence of his crime. The time window was tight, but possible. Of all the people in the case, Warren certainly had the most motive to burn Glover's body. As far as "means," burning a car didn't seem too hard to pull off, especially for a guy who, we would later learn, had a couple of engineering degrees.

It was all speculation, of course, but with little evidence and lots of time, we had seemingly endless possibilities to sort through. But by the second hour of the stakeout, we were ready to talk about something else.

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In the Balance

Four alumni authors consider, then dismantle, the myths that govern how we choose our careers and that keep us stuck in unhealthy patterns from childhood to retirement.

By JoAnn Greco

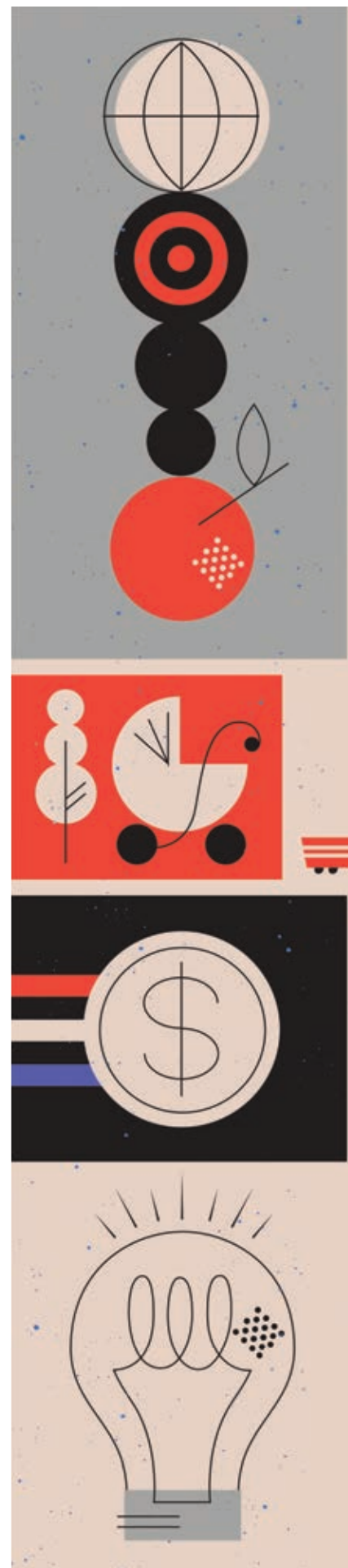
Every year around this time, we take a look back in an effort to make sense of what's ahead. We consider shedding and acquiring, ditching and adding. If I left my partner, my city, my job, would I be better off? Maybe if I got a hobby, new friends, more money, I'd be happier? We're seeking balance, with the scales continually tipping back and forth between work (our careers, our jobs, our incomes) and life (everything else).

This quest is a perennial one, but lately we've entered an era of mass resignations, "quiet quitting," and small-shop unionizing that's brought renewed interest in what we want and expect from earning a living. "COVID was a wake-up call because people lost their work[place], and often their jobs," says Simone Stolzoff C'13. "At the same time, they experienced a less work-centric existence where they could spend fewer hours

commuting and more with their kids. They began thinking not just about what they got from their jobs but what they gave to them."

Even before the pandemic, Stolzoff was one of those people, periodically questioning why he was so caught up with the idea of a "dream job"—a search that took him from studying poetry at Penn to marketing in Silicon Valley, then on to staff gigs at *The Atlantic* and the global design firm Ideo. In 2023, he released his first book, *The Good Enough Job: Reclaiming Life from Work*. "I'd spent years trying to find my vocational soul mate," he says, "and I learned that there are risks in looking for work to be your only source of meaning. For one thing, if you lose your job, you can find yourself asking 'what's left?'"

Stolzoff's book is one of a handful by Penn alumni that aim to bust the myths that guide our attempts to hold onto—or let go—our identities, choices, and expectations.





Myths like: only losers quit, artists are bound to be unhappy, our jobs define us, and retirement is the beginning of the end. Turning to psychological research, case studies, and their own experiences, they bracingly exhort us to break free of the mental shackles that stymie us in living our best lives.

One overarching theme: we should feel free to deviate from the scripts and reinvent ourselves.

In *Quit: The Power of Knowing When to Walk Away*, Annie Duke Gr'92, one of the winningest women to ever play professional poker, makes a case for tossing in the cards as a smart strategy not a desperate last resort. Rachel Friedman C'03 G'07, once an aspiring violist and now a freelance journalist, turns her recurring bouts of coulda-shoulda into *And Then We Grew Up*. Marci Alboher C'88 who, like the others, has shifted and morphed professions through the years helps others make such transitions in *The Encore Career Handbook: How to Make a Living and a Difference in the Second Half of Life*. "For the 10,000 Americans who turn 65 every day, it's become clear that the Golden Years model has broken down," she says. "Yes, they want to rest and travel and be with their grandchildren. But they also want to stay in the game and stay relevant, and many of them need to make more money."

The tropes they explore actually begin in childhood. "I was primed for a career in music since I was a self-motivated eight-year-old," says Friedman. "But as I moved along the path to professionalization, I became more and more unhappy. I had a lot of anxiety about performing, I became attuned to all the ways my technique was falling short, and I hit the limit as a musician in college when I was no longer a big fish in a small pond."

The option to jump or be pushed off such a treadmill "is a total gift," says Duke. "It allows us to step back and ask, 'If I were to start this thing today, knowing what I do now, would I?'" In the middle of living life we become myopic, she

observes in *Quit's* concluding chapter. A goal, she writes, "becomes a fixed object ... the thing we're trying to achieve, instead of all the values expressed and balanced when we originally set the goal."

So, as we move into the new year, she and the others suggest we skip the determined objectives and the weighty expectations. Instead of focusing on the road maps we've convinced ourselves we need to follow in order to succeed, let's all look harder at where it is we want to end up.

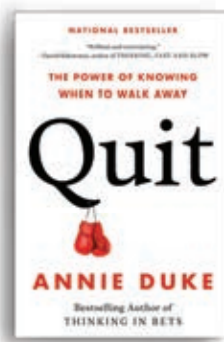
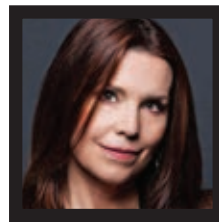
Playing Your Cards, Right

In other words, we have to play the long game. "A poker player will play thousands and thousands of hands over their lifetime," Duke writes in *Quit*. "In the grand scheme of things whether or not they lose one single hand matters very little. What matters is that they're maximizing their expected value over all those days and all those hands. That's what they mean by one long game."

According to Duke, this eye-on-the-prize attitude helps expert players overcome psychic obstacles. "I noticed pretty quickly when I began playing that there's this obsession among elite players about when's the right time to quit and how to avoid getting emotional about it," she says. Quitting always engenders a sense of what might have been, she adds, then offers some recommendations to help determine when the time is right. They include establishing if-then "kill criteria" (*If I don't get a tenure-track position in four years then I'll leave academia*) and tempering your goals with "unless" conditions (*I'm going to stay in my job unless I have to take work home more than once a week*). Like any good poker player, she also encourages us to embrace both the presence of luck and the absence of control in our lives.

Duke has always made the best of the hands she's been dealt. She grew up on the campus of New Hampshire's tony St. Paul's School, where her father Richard Lederer, a wordsmithing public intellectual and author of some renown, taught linguistics. Attending the school themselves, she and her siblings were steeped in the rigors of college prep and primed for the Ivies. Gambling was also in the air:

"There's this obsession among elite players about when's the right time to quit and how to avoid getting emotional about it."



Duke's older brother Howard Lederer had been playing poker since high school, and by the time he was 23 he had earned a seat at the final table of the World Series of Poker. Joining him at some of these tournaments, Duke began trying her hand at low-stakes games.

She hit a crossroads while working toward her doctorate at Penn. After becoming severely ill with gastroparesis, she made her first decision to quit. In taking a leave from graduate school, though, she also relinquished the National Science Foundation fellowship she had earned. She needed money and Howard suggested she turn pro, offering to front her a couple grand. She grabbed the chance. "Sometimes being forced to quit gets you to see options that have been right under your nose all along in a new light," she writes.

Now she consults to major corporations on aspects of decision-making and risk-taking, tutoring on how to remove emotion from the equation and making hay from the intersection between her

two fields of expertise. “Most of the cognitive biases that you study in the behavioral sciences you see in a very explicit way at the poker table,” she says. “Things like the sunk cost fallacy where players think ‘I can’t fold now because I have too much money in the pot.’”

The book covers that and other cognitive biases that can keep us from tossing in the towel, such as self-identity (*I’m not a quitter!*), the endowment effect (*I can’t throw in the cards; this is such an awesome hand!*), loss aversion, and status quo bias. Duke takes the established science around decision-making—citing pioneers in the field like Richard Thaler and Daniel Kahneman, and referencing research from today’s thought leaders, including Penn professors Katy Milkman, a behavioral economist who specializes in choice [“Choice and Change,” Jul/Aug 2021], and Angela Duckworth Gr’06 [“Character’s Content,” May/June 2012], a psychologist best known for her research on the power of grit—and brings it to life through case studies often drawn from her own consulting work.

In a passage on the notion of expected value, she tells the tale of a stressed-out emergency room physician torn between her love of doctoring and the additional administrative burdens she had gradually assumed. Offered a way out via a job opportunity at an insurance company, the physician calls Duke for advice.

After listening to her story, I asked her a simple question: “Imagine it’s a year from now and you stayed in the job that you’re currently at—what’s the probability you’re going to be unhappy at the end of that year?”

She said, “I know I’m going to be unhappy, one hundred percent.”

I followed up by asking, “If it’s a year from now and you switch to this new job you’re considering, what’s the probability you’re going to be unhappy?”

She said, “Well, I’m not sure.”

“Is it one hundred percent?”

She said, “Definitely not.”

Leading the physician to declare that switching jobs “has to be better.”

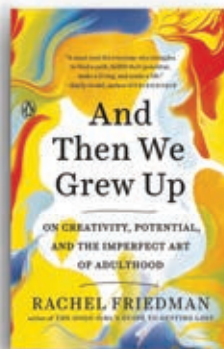
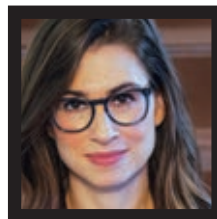
“All that I had done was to reframe her quitting decision as an expected-value problem,” Duke concludes. “She realized taking the new job had the higher expected value.”

For Duke, knowing when to quit is the single most important decision-making skill we can learn. “The option to quit is the solution to the problem,” she says. “We have to make decisions all the time where we don’t have all of the information, where we may later learn something, where circumstances can change. It’s true of relationships, jobs, investments. The option to quit is an excellent way to deal with that uncertainty.”

Defining Potential

The particular uncertainties of the artist—of just how talented you are, of having your work judged, of winning gigs and, always, of paying the bills—lies at the crux of Friedman’s *And Then We Grew Up*, though much of what she uncovers works for other careers and aspects of life. As she tells it, those plagues led her to abandon her own idea of becoming a professional musician. After beginning a writing career and selling her first book, it seemed as if she’d found a new way to live artistically while still making a buck. It turns out that she had merely exchanged one fantasy for another.

In *Grew Up*, we meet her shortly after the high of that early writing success has subsided and the dark thoughts have returned. “The way I felt about writing had over time become infected with anxiety and self-doubt,” she writes. “Once again ... I was flailing around in the middle of the pack.” Things come to a head at the movies one day, when she spots one of her old campmates from Interlochen, the artsy Michigan summer camp, smiling from the screen.



Friedman decides to track down some of her buddies from camp to see if anyone else had “made it.” The book is filled with their stories, yes, but as she writes, it’s also “my story of being a former musician who never fully made peace with quitting and a current writer unsure of what her future holds.” Learning of the compromises and vicissitudes faced by her peers was “tremendously helpful to me,” she says. “Some still had that sense of ‘what if;’ but most had reached a state of acceptance—they were where they were supposed to be.”

She structures the book with eight profiles that serve as lived retorts to the common wisdom that dominates our perception of the artistic life. Take Jenna, a former violin prodigy who teaches mu-

“When we’re told success is as simple as gritty perseverance, it’s a short walk to believe that failure must be all your own fault.”

sic at a Chicago high school. “If I hadn’t known her as a kid, this would have struck me as perfectly lovely,” Friedman writes of her thoughts as she watches Jenna at work. “But I’d witnessed her abundant early talent and, caught up as I was in conflicted feelings about my own potential, I couldn’t help but feel like she kind of, well, *owed* her talent an attempt to be the absolute best on the biggest possible stage.” She goes on to admit: “It seemed to me that people who strove for that kind of greatness weren’t well-rounded spouses and parents and high school orchestra conductors ... I believed that *real* artists are art monsters. They choose art above all else.”

Or consider the very non-tortured Adam, who once dreamed of making films and writing plays but had found moderate success in Hollywood writing sitcoms pitched to teenage girls. “Look, I’m really ambitious,” he tells Friedman. “But I want to be a person first, and an artist second ... Whether I’m talented or not is really not up for me to decide,” he continues. “I hope I am. But mostly I believe in doing the work.” Friedman finds his Zen-like practicality enviable. Apparently, she writes self-mockingly, “I had signed some grandiose, meritocratic, imaginary contract with the universe regarding my potential. As long as I put in the hours ... I would achieve whatever goal I set for myself.”

Time for another look at grit, the author suggests. “When we’re told success is as simple as gritty perseverance,” she writes, “it’s a short walk to believe that failure must be all your own fault.” She enumerates her own myriad opportunities, not just the camp, but the lessons, the youth orchestras, the supportive parents and mentors (including at one point the principal violist of the Boston Symphony Orchestra): “Yet I still didn’t make it.” The simplistic distillations of Duckworth’s ideas on stick-to-itiveness don’t take into consideration factors such as luck, observes Friedman, echoing Duke and quoting from a 2017 interview with the poker player that appeared in the science magazine *Nautilus*.

Still, Friedman doesn’t mean for the campers’ stories to sound like cautionary tales. “I’ve had readers tell me that they gave the book to their high school daughter and I’m, like, *ooof*,” she says. “I think we all have to go on our journey—and there’s something beautiful about trying.” As she’s “come to peace with the notion of not being so special,” she says, “what matters most to me is finding time to work on the stuff that brings me joy. That’s what my definition of success is now.” She’s returned to two other instruments that she had played as a kid, the guitar and piano. She’s volunteering as

an end-of-life doula, to support people in hospice as they prepare mentally and emotionally for death. She continues to write essays and is working on a novel.

And, she’s got a day job as managing editor for a couple of academic journals. “That’s something that’s been a really big help dealing with the financial instability of freelance writing,” she says.

Building a Self

In *The Good Enough Job*, Simone Stolzoff shares his own realization that while some people (and not just artists) are fortunate to love, really love, their work, it’s perfectly alright to treat your job chiefly as a way to earn cash. In fact, he adds, it can be preferable, leaving a lot more time and energy for the personal pursuits that often get short shrift from committed careerists. “We ask kids practically from the minute they can talk what they want to be when they grow up, we treat CEOs like celebrities, we plaster those ‘do what you love’ signs on the wall—and I definitely drank the Kool-Aid,” Stolzoff says. “I thought the stakes were so damn high. It wasn’t in my makeup to see any other way of self-expression other than for it to be the same vehicle that gave me my paycheck.”

The all-in, perk-filled culture of the stereotypical Silicon Valley start-up has only further fostered that mindset, he believes. “But today’s young workers have been through too many rounds of layoffs and they’re much more cynical,” Stolzoff says. “They understand that there’s no mythical work/life balance where, once you achieve it, you float in a lotus pose. It’s this wobble, this constant struggle.” That doesn’t mean he’s written a “slacker manifesto,” he adds. “I think the hours we spend at work are important and that while you’re there you should look for

“If your identity is entirely tied to one aspect of who you are, one snag, even if it’s out of your control, can shatter your self-esteem.”



some aspect of meaning and adequate compensation. But when the workday is done, go home.”

The book takes its title from British psychoanalyst and pediatrician Donald Winnicott’s concept of “good enough parenting,” which exhorts parents not to lose themselves in child-rearing and encourages them to teach kids to self-soothe. Much of the thrust of Stolzoff’s book, though, looks to “self-complexity,” a term

coined by Patricia Linville, a professor at Duke University’s Fuqua School of Business. “When we invest in different sides of ourselves, we’re better at dealing with setbacks,” Stolzoff writes of her findings. “If your identity is entirely tied to one aspect of who you are—whether it be your job, your net worth or your ‘success’ as a parent—one snag, even if it’s out of your control, can shatter your self-esteem.”

Like Friedman, Stolzoff divides *The Good Enough Job* into chapters that delve deeper into the careers of his interviewees, “workists” who metaphorically used their jobs as a source of or substitute for religion, love, actualization, friendship, and status. “I found parts of myself in all of them,” he says. “A lot of people make career decisions based on market value and then wonder if that’s all there is, others veer toward the thing they love and find themselves always worrying about paying the rent.”

In the book, he recounts a time when he was torn between two attractive job offers. “I judged myself for caring, for ascribing so much significance to the

decision. But ... it wasn't just about my job; it was also about my identity. It was about how I'd answer the question 'What do you do,' which I took to mean 'Who the hell are you?'" He ultimately chose the higher-paying job and came to regret it. "I was insufferable ... I was a crummy friend ... and a crummy worker," he writes. But when he loosened his grip on work, returned to his hobbies and friends and focused on the positive aspects of his days at the office, he says, he "saw my job as good enough."

One of Stolzoff's most compelling stories is that of Fobazi, who like many a 15-year-old book-lover decided her dream job was to be a librarian. It was a big case of what she would later term "vocational awe" in a paper she wrote for a library science journal. As the piece gradually gained wider attention, the response made it clear that the affliction—which she defined as a belief that certain workplaces or professions are callings rather than jobs, and thus beyond critique when they demand long hours and offer lower salaries—plagues people like artists, chefs, ER personnel, journalists, teachers, and zookeepers.

Fobazi began speaking on the subject all over the country, became an activist for the field, and is now studying to become a professor of library science. "I no longer have a dream job," she tells Stolzoff. "I'm going in with eyes wide open."

Leaving a Legacy

Buried dreams don't have to stay dead forever, though, suggests Alboher. And *The Encore Career Handbook* is packed with ways to resurrect them, especially if your career is over or winding down. Whereas the other three books seek to embolden us to shake things up, to shed outdated identities and burdensome myths, this book is about *adding*.

At the time she wrote the book 10 years ago, Alboher was a vice president of Encore.org, a nonprofit dedicated to "helping people pursue second acts for the greater good." She still works for the

organization, though it's now called CoGenerate and has shifted its focus to bridging the gap between generations so they can combine talents for "mutual benefit and collective action."

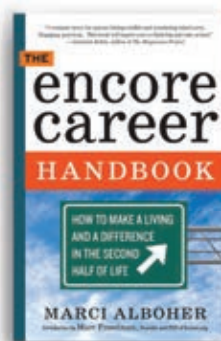
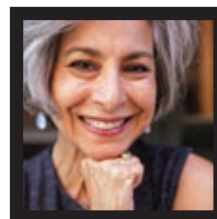
People who are just starting out in their careers and those who are easing out of them have "interesting psychographic parallels," Alboher says. "They're each seeking to clarify their identities." Whether a kid is graduating and entering the job market, or his mom is the one going to college to study for a new kind of work, "they should be looking at each other's LinkedIn contacts," she jokes.

Alboher terms herself a late bloomer. "I became a lawyer to please my parents. They were so proud that I went to an Ivy League school and became really wrapped up in me getting a professional degree," she says. "I didn't have a good sense of what I wanted to do and fell into this mindset of finding a job and financially taking care of myself." She ended up in law school but had trouble finding the right job fit and left the field for good after eight years. Like Friedman and Stolzoff, she turned to freelance journalism. A specialization in work and career trends led to a column, *Shifting Careers*, in the *New York Times* and eventually to *Encore*, where she accepted a full-time position so she "could shape the future of work, and not just write about it."

Her first project was to write the handbook. It too looks at the huge chunk that work occupies in our psyche and encourages readers to disengage and examine that role more closely to figure out if you need a change. Chapters—filled with a mix of quizzes, short profiles, FAQs, resource boxes, and reportage—address honest self-assessment, comfort with uncertainty, money needs, networking, self-presentation, skill-building, and en-

trepreneurship. Although the exercises are applicable for all older adults trying to figure out what to do with themselves for a second or third act, the emphasis is on finding a way to make an impact. "For many it may finally be time to play the flute or open an artisanal bakery," Alboher writes. "[But] there is also a compelling urge at midlife to make a mark in a way that leaves things a little better for future generations."

This feeling kicks in both for people who have never thought of themselves as do-gooders as well as those who



People who are just starting their careers and those easing out of them are "each seeking to clarify their identities."

have worked their whole lives in the helping professions or for nonprofits. "Some have this sense instinctually, but others feel they want to be more intentional," Alboher says. "It comes from developmental psychology and what Erik Erikson called 'generativity,' which he contrasted with stagnation. People who find it tend to feel more life satisfaction."

When you fluidly change and blend layers of career identities, Alboher says, "everything you've done is useful. You're building a foundation and bringing old skills into new jobs." In the wedding cake of life, whether you think of its components—what you do for money, for creativity, for passion, and for community—as ingredients to be combined, separated, or judiciously sprinkled throughout, is entirely up to you.

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

RISK AND REWARD

Rajiv Shah heads the Rockefeller Foundation and has worked for the Gates Foundation and in government on critical issues in public health and international development. In his new book, *Big Bets*, he shows how embracing smart criticism—from Bill Gates, for one—and never settling for merely incremental change can pay off.

By Julia M. Klein

It was his first one-on-one meeting with Bill Gates, and Rajiv J. Shah M'02 GrW'05 was nervous and excited about presenting his innovative idea for financing global child immunization to his formidable boss.

A high school debate champion, schooled at Penn in both medicine and health economics, Shah figured he was ready.

Gates, the billionaire cofounder of Microsoft, had transitioned to philanthropy with the establishment, in 1999, of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. But his new mission had not softened his famously blunt style.

Gates had scrawled all over a memo that Shah had prepared. “This is the stupidest thing I’ve ever heard,” Gates said during their meeting. (“Actually, there

was a little more colorful language than that,” Shah told an audience at Penn’s Perry World House in October.)

After an hour of heated conversation, Shah wasn’t discouraged. Instead, he reports in *Big Bets: How Large-Scale Change Really Happens* (Simon Element), he emerged from the meeting “feeling strangely empowered.” Gates’s trenchant objections, Shah realized, had offered a “road map” for refining the proposal. “What I needed to do,” Shah writes, “was to worry less about Bill’s tone and focus on using his list [of concerns] as a path to yes.”

Shah’s seemingly unflagging optimism may well be his greatest superpower. In *Big Bets*, published in October, he counsels readers to adopt the same practical view of smart criticism. “No might be the

first word on your way to yes,” he writes. “Disappointment is a natural reaction, but it’s essential to learn to listen for feedback that you can use to keep going.”

Over the years, Shah’s friends and colleagues say he has followed his own advice. “He was a constant reminder about ambition,” says Alice Albright, who, as chief financial and investment officer for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, was an important ally.

“I was always shooting for the sun and the moon and the stars also,” says Albright, now CEO of the Millennium Challenge Corporation, which provides grants to developing countries. “We energized each other about ‘Don’t take no for an answer, and keep pressing and keep pushing and don’t give up.’ We egged each other on in a good way.”



The “social impact bond” Shah was proposing to Gates involved using conditional, long-term commitments by national governments to bolster vaccine manufacturing and finance bulk buying. It took from about mid-2003 to November 2006 to make the unconventional idea a reality. But by offering money to pharmaceutical companies “securely and all at once,” Albright says, the bond issue contributed to worldwide herd immunity against vaccine-preventable diseases—a major step in global public health.

Starting with about \$4 billion, “we were able to succeed in restructuring the global vaccine manufacturing space,” Shah said at Perry World House. Less than two decades later, “980 million [more] kids were immunized, 16 million child lives were saved. We took some real risks to do some innovative things that made it possible.”

Financing child immunization is only one of the world-shaking tasks the 50-year-old Shah, president of the powerful Rockefeller Foundation since 2017, has taken on. In a career dedicated primarily to public service, he has been propelled by a fierce sense of mission, along with verbal agility, a winningly humble manner, a devotion to data, and a refusal to acquiesce in merely incremental change. Shah bemoans what he calls the “aspiration trap,” which he describes in an interview as “settling for the status quo or being willing to tinker around the margins and suggest that that’s all we can do—whether it’s in reference to the Middle East or child poverty.”

About a week after being sworn in as administrator of the US Agency for International Development (USAID), Shah was tasked by President Barack Obama with supervising the US response to Haiti’s devastating January 2010 earthquake. It was “a birth-by-fire beginning at the agency,” says Margie Sullivan, who later became his chief of staff and chief operating officer. Shah went on to tackle world hunger, the electrical power needs of developing

countries, and the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, among other issues.

After leaving the federal government in 2015, Shah cofounded a private equity firm, Latitude Capital, to help bring power to Asia and Africa, a cause that remains a passion. At Rockefeller, working with partners in both government and industry, he put the foundation’s money and clout behind the rollout of rapid testing during the pandemic. He is currently spearheading a range of programs to combat climate change, poverty, disease, and other challenges.

“Raj operates at a very high speed, a very intense pace. He naturally thinks out of the box,” says Sullivan. From the start, she says, “he was extremely good externally,” including on Capitol Hill and in media interviews. As a more experienced political hand, she says, her role was to help him turn his policy agenda into action. At federal agencies, she adds, “nothing gets done in a very linear fashion. There’s just a challenge to effectuating change.” Over time, she says, “I think Raj got good at it.”

Nishant Roy, a longtime friend who worked closely with Shah at the US Department of Agriculture and USAID, admires his powers of persuasion.

“He truly could move the room to do these big, hairy, aggressive goals. He’s really got this unique ability to bring people together,” says Roy, now chief communications and impact officer at Chobani, the yogurt company. “He’s not one of those people that does it by pulling at the emotional strings. He does it by just really getting you smart about what is going on in the world, and [saying], ‘Here’s how you can play a role in influencing it.’”

Priya Vora, recruited by Shah to work at the Gates Foundation, collaborated with him on expanding the foundation’s focus beyond global health to areas such as agriculture and microfinance. Now CEO of the Digital Impact Alliance, Vora says she was struck by Shah’s “endless curiosity” and “strong data orientation.”

One trip took them to rural India and Bangladesh to learn about the impact of

providing small loans and other banking services to low-income populations, often women. “At one point,” Vora remembers, “he turned to me, and he asked, ‘How much money do you think it would cost to make sure that every woman in the world had access to these services?’ And we were sitting in a jeep, and we had pens and papers, and we started trying to cost it out.”

Shah’s book has a chapter, “Ask a Simple Question,” on that approach, for which he credits Bill Gates. *Big Bets* also details other aspects of Shah’s credo, including a willingness to pursue unconventional alliances, get personally involved, cede control, and experiment, pivot, and persist.

The book is candid, too, about some of his missteps. At USAID, for example, he tried fruitlessly to bring a major dam project, Inga 3, to the Democratic Republic of Congo, an effort that he describes as requiring “the near-perfect alignment of political, economic, and institutional forces.”

That never happened. While Shah came to have his doubts about the DRC leadership, as well as a potential partnership with China, he failed to anticipate the impact of US Senator Patrick Leahy’s opposition to hydropower. The Vermont Democrat’s environmental concerns ultimately scuttled the project. “As I worried about the DRC and China,” Shah writes in *Big Bets*, “I had missed the precariousness of the support at home.”

The chapter on the DRC dam is titled “Know Who You’re Betting On.” Sometimes, it’s clear, Shah’s optimism has led him to disregard warning signals that might have deterred others. Another lesson he drew from that experience: “Yes, failure is humiliating, but it’s the price of going big. You must be willing to fail.”

The book, which Shah has been busily promoting, is itself a philanthropic endeavor. Its proceeds will benefit the Rockefeller Foundation—specifically, the foundation’s establishment of a “Big Bets Community” to inspire future changemakers.

The audience for his ideas, according to Shah, ranges from global leaders to the idealistic young. This past fall he appeared

at 92NY (formerly the 92nd Street Y) with CNN's Fareed Zakaria, addressed the Council on Foreign Relations, and spoke on several college campuses. One of his stops was at the Harlem Village Academies, a public charter-school network in New York, where he says the students—many of them first- or second-generation immigrants—were eager for his advice.

“What I really wanted to do is give people who wanted to be changemakers in our world a toolkit,” Shah says. “And that toolkit starts with setting big, bold, audacious goals for social change, whether that’s fighting hunger, or fighting pandemics, or working to expand the reach of vaccination to save child lives. The point was to make that playbook as practical and actionable as possible.”

Big Bets, while it stops short of being a memoir, leavens its self-help dicta with anecdotes from Shah’s life and career. At the Perry World House event, moderator Katherina Rosqueta, founding executive director of Penn’s Center for High Impact Philanthropy, suggested that it doubles as a professional coming-of-age story.

“I don’t contest that,” Shah said later. “I wanted to make the point that you didn’t have to be a billionaire or a head of state to find a path where you could be a changemaker.”

He notes that he “grew up in a pretty normal household in suburban Detroit and, for many years, wanted to be involved in activities related to social change and social justice, but frankly didn’t know how. And I think there are a lot of people out there that are like that. So I thought articulating my own challenges, struggles and failures in trying to pivot into a career of social impact would maybe be confidence-building for readers.”

Born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, to immigrants from India, Shah was raised in the Detroit suburb of West Bloomfield and attended a magnet public school. His father was an engineer for the Ford Motor Company, his mother a teacher and director of her own Montessori school.

“What I really wanted to do is give people who wanted to be changemakers in our world a toolkit.”



“I grew up in a tight-knit Indian American community,” Shah recalls. His parents came to the United States in the late 1960s with educational scholarships, “so from the beginning there was a real commitment to education as a path forward, and high expectations.” Influenced by “a shared community aspiration that kids who could, should be doctors and engineers,” he remembers sketching auto designs in his school notebooks.

But other forces also were acting on the young Shah. “My family and I faced our share of America’s racism—the hateful glances, the slurs, and, when I was a kid, the occasional shoves and punches—that came with being a skinny brown kid growing up in predominantly white communities,” he writes in *Big Bets*.

When, in June 1990, the anti-apartheid activist (and later South African president and Nobel Peace Prize winner) Nelson Mandela spoke at Detroit’s Tiger Stadium, the 17-year-old Shah watched

the speech on television, mesmerized.

Just months before, Mandela had been released from prison after nearly three decades, and Shah was impressed by both his call for racial equality and his generosity towards his political opponents. “Mandela’s visit made me want to do something meaningful with my life,” Shah writes, even if he wasn’t yet sure what form that impulse would take.

At the University of Michigan, he says, “I actually spent two or three days in the School of Engineering, then transferred,” opting instead to combine a pre-med curriculum with an economics major. During a year abroad at the London School of Economics, he met his future wife, Shivam Mallick. (A Harvard Business School-trained educational administrator and consultant, she recently cofounded the company 1953 Tequila, named for the year that Mexican women gained the right to vote. The couple have three children and live in Washington, DC.)

Before starting medical school, Shah interned with a doctor named Hanumappa Sudarshan who was dedicated to eradicating leprosy in the Biligiri Rangana Hills region of India. By the time Shah arrived, leprosy had become rare, and the work mostly involved providing food to hungry patients and children. Beset by heat and mosquitos, Shah writes that he “missed modernity and its comforts.” He eventually recognized “that level of sacrifice and service was not something I could do with my life.” He also fretted that, in 1993, with 12 percent of the world’s population hungry, Sudarshan and his team, however heroic, were “treating only symptoms.” Shah wanted to do more.

At Penn, Shah enrolled in a joint MD/PhD program, focusing on health economics and policy. He would never practice medicine, as it turned out, nor would he complete his doctorate. Yet the Penn experience turned out to be foundational and rewarding. “I enjoyed the cadaver lab,” Shah says. “I loved being with patients, and I loved my colleagues, at both the medical school and the Wharton School. It was a really fun and engaging time, if a little hyperactive.”

Shah was busy outside the classroom. He volunteered for a group educating West Philadelphia students about the dangers of HIV/AIDS, joined the Progressive Policy Institute in Washington, and started a data-analytics company with a classmate. With Mallick, he founded Project IMPACT, for South Asian American students interested in politics and community service. He was coming to see politics as what he calls a “path to belonging.”

One important mentor was J. Sanford “Sandy” Schwartz M’74 GM’75 GM’77, the Leon Hess Professor of Medicine, Health Management, and Economics at the Perelman School of Medicine and the Wharton School [“Obituaries,” Jan|Feb 2022]. Schwartz, who died in 2021, was “a North Star” to Shah, encouraging him to take risks. Joanne Levy, now deputy director of the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics, and Sankey V. Wil-

liams, who headed the Division of Internal Medicine during Shah’s time at Penn, were also key influences.

Williams, an emeritus professor at both the Perelman School and Wharton, says that Shah was focused on goals beyond the practice of medicine. “‘Save the world’ was the uniform theme,” Williams recalls. “At that point, you don’t know how you’re going to save the world. You just know that someone’s got to do it, and you want to be the person to give it the best try.”

On the cusp of finishing his medical degree, Shah, who had previously worked for Philadelphia Mayor Ed Rendell C’65 Hon’00, applied to become a volunteer on the policy and research team of Vice President Al Gore’s presidential campaign, asking only for housing assistance. Twice the campaign turned him down. A third try, after the campaign lost staff by relocating from Washington to Nashville, was the charm.

“My first few months there were really tough,” he says. “I was staying in Al Gore’s friend’s mother’s pool house because that was the housing they provided. The first few months, my job was just not very glamorous. It was just driving people to the library, picking them up from the airport.” His greatest accomplishment may have been compiling a file on Gore’s role in regulating lawn darts. In the book, Shah calls that period “a humiliating slog.”

But campaigns move fast, he says, and “you get to quickly demonstrate what you’re capable of.” He soon became a paid health policy adviser and moved out of the pool house. Shah thought his next stop might be the White House, as a Gore aide. But a US Supreme Court decision, in December 2000, terminated a recount in Florida, and George W. Bush became president.

Shah returned to Penn to finish his medical degree and grad school. But the campaign experience ended up being lucky after all. A friend from those Nashville days landed a job at the nascent Gates Foundation, and pulled Shah in, too. It was a heady place to be, with ample funds to direct toward ambitious goals. At Gates,

Shah held multiple job titles over eight years, including director of agricultural development, director of strategic opportunities, deputy director of policy and finance, and chief economist.

In spring 2009, Shah was tapped to join the US Department of Agriculture as chief scientist and undersecretary for research, education, and economics. He prevailed on his old friend Nishant Roy, a US Air Force veteran working at Goldman Sachs, to join him as a special assistant. “What do I know about agriculture?” Roy protested, before succumbing.

Shah’s pitch, as Roy recalls, was: “If we can transform our food system, we can change livelihoods in this country.” Shah argued, too, that USDA should lead global food security efforts. He worked closely on hunger and development issues with then-Secretary of State Clinton, and, just months later, she was impressed enough to offer him the post at USAID.

Roy, by then Shah’s personal aide, describes pulling him out of a sensitive compartmented information facility, or SCIF, meeting to inform him that President Barack Obama was putting him in charge of the Haiti earthquake response. Obama would be telephoning shortly with the official ask. “I remember vividly that we couldn’t even get a cellphone signal because in the Ronald Reagan Building, it’s cinder blocks everywhere,” says Roy. “We had [the phone] propped up on a window” when the president called.

No sooner had Shah accepted the assignment than the phone went dead. “I remember Shah looking at me really pissed and [saying], ‘Did we just hang up on the president of the United States?’” Roy says. Seconds later, watching CNN, they saw President Obama announcing the appointment from the White House press room. Roy was on a plane to Haiti that night to start collecting data on the scope of the tragedy, which Shah would use to track the recovery’s progress.

Soon after the phone call, Shah showed up early to an Oval Office meeting about Haiti. Ushered in quietly, he overheard

then-Vice President Joe Biden Hon'13 ask the president: "Are we sure about putting this guy Raj Shah in charge of this? He's brand-new. He's like thirty-something."

Shah's reaction, again, seems not to have been discouragement. Instead, as he relates in the chapter "Open the Turnstiles," he determined to seek as much help as he could from across the federal bureaucracy. Sullivan says that "the intensity of the interagency coordination" was notable. Shah won't say now whether Biden ever apologized for his assessment—just that he has since provided "extraordinary support and mentorship."

Shah says he made a judgment error of his own during 2011 congressional testimony about a GOP budget-cutting proposal that would have decimated USAID. He estimated that the legislation would kill 70,000 children, a figure he says derived from "real quantitative analysis." But that bald assertion, while cheered by some Democrats, stirred political blowback—in particular from a group of Republicans otherwise inclined to support the agency's humanitarian mission.

In the chapter "Make It Personal," Shah describes how his subsequent "apology tour" led to genuine friendships and alliances with some GOP members. A Hindu among mostly Christians, he was invited to attend the US Senate's weekly prayer breakfast and, in 2014, to deliver the keynote address at the National Prayer Breakfast. The bipartisan friendships were good politics. A USAID program called Feed the Future, which invested in agriculture in developing countries, was codified in the Global Food Security Act of 2016 as a result, Shah says.

David Beckmann, then-president of Bread for the World, says he found Shah not just "brilliant and bold," but receptive to ideas from others. Urged to address the problem of malnutrition in Feed the Future, "Raj listened."

Sullivan lauds Shah's contributions to the Power Africa initiative, aimed at doubling access to power in Sub-Saharan Africa. At the time, "we had very little in

federal budget resources we could deploy," she says. "What Raj did, which I think is classic Raj, is he quickly figured out that if we were going to do something big, it was going to have to involve private-sector resources." That led to convening a meeting in Washington between African leaders and CEOs of global energy firms and hiring consultants to help accelerate deals. "It was a creative approach to policymaking," she says.

Shah admitted, during his Penn appearance, that USAID's efforts in Afghanistan, "our largest aid recipient throughout my tenure," were less successful. Though the United States helped eight million Afghan girls obtain schooling, "obviously the project of building a nation state in Afghanistan failed." He added: "You can't build a nation when its leaders aren't striving to build the same nation." Even so, he said he remained "hopeful" that the investment in gender equity would "pay off in the long run."

Shah postponed a planned departure from USAID to manage the 2014 Ebola crisis, once again relying on data, his medical background, and a penchant for experimentation. One innovation, involving the deployment of protectively clad burial teams, dramatically reduced disease transmission. Developed by the Liberians themselves, and backed by USAID funds, "it was a very local solution," Shah said at Penn.

Shah's subsequent private-sector work also was mission-driven. Latitude Capital invested in "low-cost reliable electrification," which Shah calls "the key to addressing poverty and opportunity around the world."

Because of his Ebola experience, Shah was asked, in 2015, to serve on a United Nations panel on pandemic preparedness. That same year he joined the Rockefeller board. In 2017 he was named president of the foundation, succeeding former Penn president Judith Rodin CW'66 Hon'04.

Launched in 1913 by John D. Rockefeller, the Standard Oil magnate, the foundation now has an endowment of approximately \$6 billion. It gave its first grant to

the American Red Cross and has since devoted itself to fostering global health and economic development and combating climate change. (A less savory part of its history, currently being reviewed by the foundation, was support for eugenics research in the 1920s and '30s.)

Shah's big bets terminology is now the language of Rockefeller's website. But the idea, he says, isn't new. The foundation, while styling its mission as "scientific philanthropy," always had grand aims. Its major accomplishments, he says, have included building the infrastructure for community-based public health in America and helping to foster a Green Revolution that increased crop yields and "moved a billion people off the brink of hunger in the '60s, '70s, and early '80s."

"The idea of big bets was really embedded in the narrative of this institution long before I arrived," Shah says. "I think I've helped shape our next big bet, which is investing in renewable energy technology as a vehicle for fighting climate change and as a platform for helping to reach a billion people who are trapped in energy poverty around the world." The foundation plans to spend \$1 billion over the next five years to stem climate change.

There is more to come—in 2024, Shah says, "a big bet around school feeding that seeks to reach the 700-plus million schoolkids around the world and ensure they have adequate nutrition" as well as healthier habits.

Shah's personal goals include becoming "a better judge of character and capacity" of both allies and adversaries. But even as the world plunges into unrelenting wars and political polarization roils countries and campuses, Shah retains his sunny outlook. "We have the tools and technologies and the human force of will to really make positive change happen at scale," he says. "It doesn't all happen right away, but often it's really at times of tragedy that we do extraordinary things. We should keep aspiring to do great things."

Julia M. Klein is a frequent *Gazette* contributor.

HOMECOMING 2023





A Decade of Band Slamming

At the 10th annual Blutt Band Slam, held on College Green shortly after the Homecoming football game ended, the band Wonderchild—which featured nine Penn undergraduates, including lead singer Zachary Arnold EAS'24 (seen on the mic below)—captured the \$500 student prize. Jonathan Iwry C'14, a freestyle rapper who goes by the stage name “J-Boy,” was the alumni winner, following previous wins as a student and an alum. And the Penn Glee Club Band brought home the grand prize of \$1,000. Healthcare investment executive Mitchell Blutt C'78 M'82 WG'87, whose support and vision has been a catalyst for the event, served as one of the four judges.



Merit Awards

Faculty Award of Merit

Camille Z. Charles PAR'23



During your 2018 remarks at the Penn College of Liberal and Professional Studies Commencement, you asked graduates to consider their legacies and how they would make a mark on the world.

Over the years, you have built a legacy-in-process that anyone would be proud of.

As a respected sociology professor and researcher, your perspective has changed the way we understand areas like inequality, identity, racial attitudes, segregation, and higher education. As the author of books including *Young, Gifted, and Diverse: Origins of the New Black Elite*, you have established yourself as a trusted expert whose work focuses on the intersection of higher education and the Black experience.

You are a shining example of turning research into real-world impact, adeptly applying your academic expertise to your role as the Faculty Co-Director of Penn First Plus, where you meaningfully enhance the academic experiences of Penn students from first-generation, modest-income backgrounds. In 2011, you were awarded the James Brister Society's Dr. Gloria Twine Chisum Award for Distinguished Faculty, for your exemplary leadership in promoting scholarship and inclusion.

Given the broad impact of your work, you have held several prestigious faculty positions across the University, including serving as the Walter H. and Leonore C. Annenberg Professor in the Social Sciences; as Professor of Sociology, Africana Studies, and Education; as Chair of the Department of Africana Studies; and as Director of the Center for Africana Studies Summer Institute for pre-freshmen since 2006.

Beyond teaching and mentoring students, you have also made essential contributions to informing and inspiring an untold number of lifelong learners—members of our Penn alumni community. A true champion for diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging, you have enlightened alumni on topics including diversity in technology, the second civil rights movement, the impact of the potential repeal of the Affordable Care Act, and other issues of critical importance to the Black community and so many other marginalized groups. For over 13 years, you have been a sought-after panelist at Red and Blue events like Penn Spectrum Weekend, the Penn Alumni Reading Club, Penn Spectrum on the Road, and the annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Symposium.

For years, you have been an incredible and inspiring partner to Alumni Relations. In fact, you have engaged alumni from every decade, including many who had not been involved with Penn since they graduated.

Fortunately for our alumni community, your future includes even more impactful Penn plans. You have signed on to serve as the faculty host for an eye-opening Penn Alumni trip to Alabama in 2024, where, with your guidance, participants will delve deeper into the history of the civil rights movement. Your ongoing involvement is helping generations of alumni find a deeper meaning with their Penn affiliation. You once said that “Penn has shaped and fostered my purpose, to define the legacy that I want to leave.” Having already made an indelible mark, you are setting an inspiring example. Indeed, your legacy grows more prolific with each passing semester.

In recognition of your passionate advocacy and academic prowess, and for your ongoing efforts to build a better tomorrow while improving the lives of our diverse alumni communities, we are proud to present you with the Faculty Award of Merit for 2023.

Social Impact Award

Judith Browne Dianis W'87



Over a four-decade career—and counting—you have been fighting to improve the lives of others. As a civil rights lawyer, racial justice activist, and voting rights expert, you know, more than many, the sacrifices it takes to make an impact.

Your parents, Jacqueline and Harold, ignited your interest in social justice at a young age. You learned from your father about the indignity of serving in a racially segregated Army, and from your mother, what it meant to be a community activist; she took you to your first protest at age three.

At Penn, you thrived while studying marketing and economics at the Wharton School. When you saw or experienced injustices on campus, you took action and found community with like-minded students who were similarly passionate about civil rights and social justice. You rediscovered the power of protest as a student. You have credited Penn with helping you find your voice, and you have used it to fight for good. Your close friend, Sara M. Lomax C'87 said, “The seeds of Judith's brilliance were evident even when we were freshmen living a few doors apart on the seventh floor in High Rise East.”

After Penn, you went on to earn a JD from Columbia Law School. When you entered the legal profession, it fueled your ability to create

positive change. As a managing attorney for the NAACP and later as the Executive Director of the Advancement Project, you continued your life's mission to combat structural racism. You did this in many areas, including criminal justice, education, voting, policing, and immigration. Your victories in the courtroom have been many, but one that stands out is the restoration of voting rights for people with felony convictions in Florida.

In 2012, you addressed Congress about the school-to-prison pipeline, an issue you had been advocating against for years and about which you had authored several reports. You have used the legal system to represent displaced Hurricane Katrina victims in Louisiana, to stop politicians from engaging in voter suppression tactics in Ohio, and to ensure equitable allocation of voting machines in Virginia.

Having returned to Penn as a guest speaker on multiple occasions, your visibility and work speak for themselves. You told the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, “We're in the business of hope. My hope is that we're building the kind of country we want to see.” Penn has been incredibly fortunate to have you—such an intelligent, selfless, and passionate person—as an engaged alumna.

With gratitude and admiration for your pioneering efforts to advance civil rights and racial justice, the Office of Social Equity and Community and Penn Alumni are proud to present you with the inaugural Social Impact Award for 2023.

Creative Spirit Award

Katherine Sachs CW'69 PAR'95 PAR'06 PAR'10



You have graced the stage at this ceremony before, when you received the 2015 Alumni Award of Merit. Your friend and mentor, Leonard A. Lauer W'54, introduced you, saying, “She brought the arts to life at Penn.” Not only did you bring the arts to life—you have brought life to the arts, at Penn and throughout the Philadelphia region. In doing so, you have encouraged and enabled countless others to reap the benefits of enjoying, understanding, and creating art.

Growing up, your home was full of music and art. You developed an appreciation of the benefits of art and a passion for sharing its power with others. After graduating with a degree in art history from Penn—where you met your beloved husband Keith W'67—you embarked on a lengthy career at the Philadelphia Museum of Art (PMA). Beyond carving out a profession, retiring as Adjunct Curator, you made substantial contributions to its emittance. Before Keith's death, you and he do-

nated 97 works from your private collection of contemporary art to PMA in 2014, which named the Keith L. and Katherine Sachs Collection in your honor. As Co-Chair of PMA's *It Starts Here* Campaign, you helped steer a record-breaking, future-defining fundraising effort with over \$600 million raised.

You have said that art requires vision and determination. Fortunately, you have those qualities in spades. You recognized that Penn has world-class museums, presents outstanding performing artists, and has excellent programs in art history, music, and fine arts & design. You also recognized that collaboration among these departments was limited. There, you saw an opportunity to make an impact.

As Chair of the Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) Board of Advisors, you were a force of transformation. You and Keith established the Sachs Professorship in Contemporary Art at Penn Arts & Sciences and the Sachs Guest Curator Program at ICA, as well as a fund for contemporary art programming. The gift not only helped bridge ICA with Penn's academic mission; it raised the bar for the ICA Board's philanthropic culture. Your vision, leadership, and mentorship has resulted in a stronger, more vibrant institution today.

That is a strong legacy, but it is not the end. You joined the Board of Trustees in 2004, and your impact only multiplied from there. You were instrumental in founding Arts Leadership Day, which evolved into Homecoming Weekend Featuring Arts and Culture. You and Keith also established a visiting professorship at the Weitzman School of Design. Still, the best was yet to come.

In 2016, you and Keith established The Sachs Program for Arts Innovation. In recognizing this landmark gift, President Amy Gutmann Hon'22 remarked that you and Keith were "the undisputed patron saints of the arts at Penn." To date, the Sachs Program has funded over 250 projects, distributed approximately \$1.5 million in artistic and creative support, and supported renovations to the Annenberg Center's public spaces, including creating the Arts Lounge in the Feintuch Family Lobby. The Sachs Program and its Advisory Board have also been instrumental in modeling and encouraging collaboration, completely altering the landscape of the arts at Penn and addressing the key challenge you and Keith identified all those years ago. Today, you are a member of the Penn Live Arts Board of Advisors, as well as a Trustee Emerita and a Member Emerita of the ICA Board. For you, the value of art is not just about the objects themselves. It is about appreciating the role of artists in the larger community. Their work can challenge us, but it

also can bring us together. More than a patron of the arts, you are a friend to artists and to all who appreciate their work.

In accepting your Alumni Award of Merit, you said, "Art is the purest expression of our humanity." As true as that is, there is another equally important expression: gratitude. It is with immense gratitude and utmost admiration that we honor you today. For sparking the creative spirit within all of us, Penn Alumni is honored to present you with the Creative Spirit Award for 2023.

Young Alumni Award

Brett Andrew Perlmutter C'09



Early in your Penn career, you realized an important truth: Penn is not just for four years. Penn is for *life*. Fortunately for us, from your undergraduate days to the present, you have worked tirelessly to strengthen the ties that connect your classmates—and all alumni—to the University and to each other.

Your promise was evident early. You completed a double major in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics and Hispanic Studies. A leader on campus, you were elected President of your class in your sophomore year and have held the position ever since. You were also a Benjamin Franklin Scholar, a member of the Sphinx Senior Honor Society, and the recipient of the Spoon Award—the top honor given to a male student upon graduation.

You were instrumental in building *Penn Traditions*, a student philanthropy and engagement program that celebrates Penn's history and traditions, connects students and alumni, and promotes Penn pride. In your senior year, you collaborated with Alumni Relations to establish *The Final Toast*, a complement to *Hey Day*, where seniors rise to alumni status and toast to the rising seniors. The inaugural event was so successful that it became a beloved new tradition that continues to this day.

After graduating from Penn, you earned a MPhil from the University of Cambridge and began your career as a consultant at McKinsey & Company's New York office, where you advised leaders across North and South America, Europe, and Asia in strategy and corporate finance. You then went on to lead Google Cuba, where you worked to increase internet access and put technology in the hands of those who need it the most. In 2016, you were named to *Forbes'* 30 Under 30 List. Today, you are an Advisor to Schmidt Futures, which focuses on venture capital, project financing and credit facilities, and pre-IPO deals.

Penn has always remained a priority for you. Your commitment to the Class of 2009 remained strong as you stepped up to serve as Co-Chair of both your 5th and 10th reunions. Your 5th reunion, organized around the theme of #BY09, invited your classmates to "bring their own" friends, memories, and Red and Blue spirit to reunion. That reunion received well-deserved honors for its success and creativity. You proudly represented your class when it earned Penn Alumni's Tyre Award for Excellence in Class Communication in 2014.

Your work on your reunion and class gift made you a natural choice for The Penn Fund Executive Board, which you joined in 2021. You now serve on the Young Alumni Steering Committee, using your connections to encourage support of Penn. To demonstrate your deep commitment to undergraduate aid, you joined forces with a close friend from Penn to establish the William B. Heyer and Brett A. Perlmutter Scholarship.

That same year, you continued your volunteer journey by joining the Liberal and Professional Studies Employer Advisory Board, where you help to shape programming for nontraditional students. You have used your considerable tech experience to help the board understand how our curriculum can best prepare our students on a global level.

Your influence and reach extend far beyond your official roles. You are recognized as a leader not only within your own class but also among the class presidents, bringing a positive, infectious energy to everything you do. You are unstintingly generous with your time and good counsel, keeping up with classmates, staff, and faculty members, and networking with current students and fellow alumni alike.

Just 14 years after graduation, you have already distinguished yourself as an alumni leader. In everything you do, you embody the principle you took to heart as a young undergraduate: Penn is not just for four years. Penn is for *life*. With gratitude for your enduring dedication to your alma mater and your class, your advocacy for the traditions that link all Quakers, and your commitment to giving back to Penn, we are delighted to present you with the Young Alumni Award for 2023.

Young Alumni Award

Victor Anthony Scotti Jr. C'13



Your course through life has been defined by your commitment to blazing a trail. You have followed your own path—professional success, community engagement, artistic fulfillment—but what makes you truly special is how you ensure that

those who follow behind you can make use of the lessons you have learned. Through mentorship, through community, through philanthropy—you have paved the way for others to succeed in their careers and in their lives.

You graduated from the College in 2013 with a BA in sociology and minors in urban education and Africana studies. During your time as a student, you showed yourself to be adept at bringing people together. No matter where you were involved—the LGBT Center; Makuu, the Black Cultural Center; the Civic Scholars Program; Alpha Phi Alpha—you drew people in and helped make every community you were a part of more vibrant.

After graduating, you excelled in your career, working at tech companies like Google and Netflix, specializing in the intersection of technology; human resources; and diversity, equity, and inclusion. You led efforts at both companies to recruit and train diverse talent and to build a culture of inclusion. You also established Moving Mountains, LLC, which provides support, mentorship, and professional experience for young Black men, helping equip them for both their professional and personal lives. You are not afraid of making a change to follow your passions. After more than a decade in the corporate world, you embraced your artistic drive and enrolled in the Aveda Institute to pursue a career in cosmetology.

Your volunteer engagement with Penn also follows the ethic you have lived by. Through your work with the Alumni Interview Program and the Black Alumni Society, you offer your guidance and experience to prospective Penn students and the vast network of Penn graduates. When the University established Penn Leadership Q, an initiative to harness the energy and leadership potential of LGBTQ+ alumni, you were among the first leaders invited to join. More recently, you continued your dedication to enhancing the undergraduate mission of the College of Arts & Sciences and the experiences of its students by joining its External Advisory Board.

Your focus on the future is paired with a dedication to understanding the past. You remain a devoted member of Alpha Phi Alpha, the oldest collegiate historically African American fraternity. When the Penn chapter had its 100th anniversary, you organized an exhibition of the chapter's history in Sweeten Alumni House.

Your mission of lifting up those who come after you extends to your philanthropy as well. You are among the youngest alumni ever to endow a scholarship. The Scotti Legacy Scholarship Fund, which you established in honor of your 10th reunion, promotes student body diversity and supports students who would be

otherwise unable to meet the costs of a Penn education. Despite being only a decade removed from your own days as a student, a new generation of Penn undergraduates will be able to follow their passions because of your philanthropy.

For your talent for cultivating diverse, thriving communities, your commitment to ensuring that even more opportunities are available for each successive generation of Penn students, and your personal dedication as a mentor and a leader, we are honored to present you with the Young Alumni Award of Merit for 2023.

Alumni Award of Merit

Ali Shapiro Cudby C'91 WG'97



The most fitting word to describe your connection to Penn is *unwavering*. No matter where you go, your engagement with Penn—and your commitment to increasing the opportunities it offers—only grows. You have been active in the Penn Club of whatever city you live in. When you moved to Indianapolis, where the Penn Club had fallen dormant, you reawakened it. There is truly no stopping you from bringing Penn people together.

You earned your BA in philosophy from the College in 1991 and an MBA from the Wharton School in 1997. After beginning your career in marketing at places like the *New York Times*, the Animal Planet TV network, and the Golf Digest Magazine Group, you started your own firm to help small- and mid-size companies grow. Since 2014, you have been the CEO of Alignmint Growth Strategies, and your best-selling book, *Keep Your Customers*, was one of the top sales and marketing books of 2020.

For over two decades, you have been an important member of the Trustees' Council of Penn Women. Your leadership role on the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) subcommittee led to cultural changes to ensure everyone feels welcome and helped the organization take steps to be more reflective of the Penn community. When planning began for *Momentum: The Power of Penn Women*, you were an obvious choice to serve as one of the tri-chairs. It had been 20 years since the last women's conference, which you had attended when you were a young alumna. The COVID-19 pandemic was a challenge that no one anticipated, but you worked tirelessly to re-envision the conference in a virtual format. You, however, set up shop in Sweeten Alumni House, so that you could help with on-the-ground coordination and bring a bit of Penn's campus to everyone involved.

Owing much to your efforts, the conference was a tremendous success. More than 2,300 people registered for *Momentum 2021*, repre-

senting class years from 1955 to 2025, and participating from over 50 countries. It was a landmark event that brought together Penn women to share their experiences from across the years and from around the globe.

In addition, you have served on the Penn Libraries Board of Advisors since 2016, providing your leadership to ensure the Libraries remain an innovative hub of knowledge for our campus and beyond. Through your philanthropic commitment to the Libraries, you have helped keep its technology up to date and able to best serve the needs of its communities.

For you, Penn pride runs in the family. Your late father, Leonard A. Shapiro W'64, was a powerful example of engagement with the University. You could not have had a better role model; he was a Trustee of the University and served as the president of Penn Alumni when you were a young alumna yourself. He would surely be brimming with pride for all you have accomplished for Penn and the tradition that you proudly continue.

For your dedication to ensuring everyone feels welcome, for celebrating and advancing the women of Penn, for your leadership and support of the University's Libraries, and for your unmatched enthusiasm and advocacy for your alma mater—no matter where your life takes you, we are honored to present you with the Alumni Award of Merit for 2023.

Alumni Award of Merit

Richard David Feintuch W'74 PAR'05 PAR'08



For you, the show must go on—especially if that show is at Penn.

Your ties to the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts go back more than half a century, to 1971, when you attended a performance of a Broadway-bound show with your classmate and fellow theater-lover, Merry Henig W'74. That first date would not be your last—you and Merry would marry and become a Red and Blue Family, with two sons, Jason W'05 and Jonathan W'08, following you to Penn.

That was not the only important relationship that began that night: It was also the start of your 50-year commitment to the performing arts at Penn.

At Wharton, you majored in accounting and were elected to Beta Gamma Sigma, the business honor society, and Beta Alpha Psi, the accounting honor society, where you served as President. After graduating, you went to New York University Law School, where you served as Executive Editor of the Law Review. From there, it was on to a distinguished legal career. You joined the New York City law firm of Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz as an associate,

eventually rising to partner. You became a leader, not just within the firm, but in the national practice of bankruptcy, restructuring, and financing, working on some of the most significant legal transactions of the era. You remained at the firm until your 2004 retirement.

Despite your busy schedule, you always made time for Penn. You were an alumni leader from the beginning, serving time and again as a reunion volunteer and class gift chair. You and Merry supported Penn's goals of inclusion and access by funding the Feintuch Family Endowed Scholarship. You also served as an alumni interviewer, a leader in the University's *Making History* Campaign, and a member of the Penn Press Board.

But there was one area above all that benefited from your generosity and good counsel: the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts. You enthusiastically accepted an invitation to join the Center's Board in 2005. As a lifelong patron of the arts, you recognized the Center as a vital resource for both Penn and for Philadelphia, part of the University's contribution to the culture of the city, and a place where students not only experienced world class artists, but also developed their own creative voices through acting, directing, and learning all aspects of theatre management and production.

You have said that you wanted to be part of a university board where you could make an impact. Happily for Penn, you have done just that. Your impact at the Annenberg Center has been both immediate and lasting. As an Advisor, you raised the bar for both leadership and philanthropy. With an eye to the future, you recruited new members who would take the Board—and the Center—to a new level of success. And you enthusiastically supported the Center when it rebranded as Penn Live Arts (PLA) in time for its 50th anniversary celebration.

Your philanthropic support kept pace with your dedicated service. In 2005, you made the largest individual gift to the Center to date. You supported Ben's Tix, which makes discounted tickets available to Penn students. You also lent valued support to the Center's innovative theater programming and added to your scholarship. Your generous contributions encouraged others to step up, paving the way for new leadership gifts that put Penn Live Arts in the strong position it occupies today.

As the Center's 50th anniversary approached, you and Merry chose to mark this milestone with a gift supporting renovations at the place where it all started: the Annenberg Center's lobby. In the spring of 2021, Penn Live Arts dedicated the Feintuch Family Lobby in much-deserved recognition of your generosity and longtime service.

Class and Club Awards

Alumni Club Award of Merit | PennNYC

As a club known for its hustle, you offered a robust slate of programming that contributed to an exciting year in the city that doesn't sleep. ... Your board, led by Club President Laura Loewenthal C'88, was a top-notch University partner. You were committed and organized, and with more than 27,000 to serve, you were also proactive about creating inclusive programming for everyone. ... Your monthly PennNYC Entrepreneurs Give & Take was a popular way for the Red and Blue community in NYC to build relationships virtually. For in-person interactions, your members came out in force for events like Penn Forward with President Liz Magill, the Penn Spectrum Mixer, Engaging Minds, PennGALA+ LGBTQ Intercollegiate Ivy, and Ben Talks NYC. ... Succession planning was a priority this year after long-time leader Jason Shapiro WG'09, stepped into the President Emeritus role. During this time of transition, you didn't miss a beat in showing what your club is capable of. That is a testament to the strong leadership of your board, including Vice President Jesse Tandler ENG'03 W'03, Treasurer Sarah Dong ENG'06 W'06 GEN'11 WG'11, and Secretary Ramzi Ghannam ENG'12, among others. ... You grew your social audience this year, with your Facebook page reaching more than 3,000 followers and LinkedIn clocking in at over 700—two goals of many achieved in your social media and marketing plan. ... PennNYC is a shining example of exceptional alumni leadership. We appreciate your hustle, grit, and networking nature.

Innovation Award | Penn Club of Seattle

Engagement Award | Penn & Wharton Club of Panama

Community Service Award | Penn Club of Hong Kong

Class Award of Merit | Class of 1993

Just a week after your 25th reunion, you began forming the committee for your 30th. Your motto was simple: the more volunteers the better! Eventually, your committee included more than 200 classmates who worked together to plan a memorable weekend. ... You came up with a catchy slogan, "Talk Thirty to Me," which you used, together with the Quaker mascot, to generate excitement and promote attendance. A parody music video, "You Down with '93," featured your classmate, Eddie Matz W'93, dressed in denim overalls and a custom gold 1993 necklace, who brought back memories of college in the '90s. ... You also created a play on Flat Stanley—Flat Quaker. Enthusiastic classmates posted photos of themselves with the Quaker all over the world—from Amsterdam to Dubai and from the World Series to the Super Bowl. ... Your reunion attracted 660 attendees, representing 31 states and 26 countries. You not only broke the 30th reunion record—you smashed it! Your class has received the coveted Penn Alumni Presidents Cup for Outstanding Reunion Attendance in recognition of its winning efforts. ... The Class of 1993 led all classes during the reunion cycle for total giving across the University, raising more than \$25 million. For your class gift, you generously supported two meaningful priorities: building on a Netter Center internship first funded during your 25th reunion cycle, and creating an endowed Arts & Entertainment Summer Scholarship, for the benefit of Penn students exploring careers in this field. ... For five years, your class did everything, everywhere, all at once to ensure a smashing 30th reunion.

David N. Tyre Award for Excellence in Class Communications | Class of 1968

Your inclusive and collaborative planning process and your deeply personal communication strategy served as an inspiring model for other classes and resulted in a 55th Reunion weekend that was unique, welcoming, and most of all, fun. ... You did not waste a moment harnessing the momentum from your 50th Reunion to plan for your 55th. Under the capable and inspiring leadership of Elsie Sterling Howard CW'68, more than 70 classmates enthusiastically joined your planning efforts. ... You solicited personal testimonials, shared nostalgic *Daily Pennsylvanian* articles from your time at the University, and invited classmates to answer a Question of the Month. Your Class Friendship Hours were a hallmark of your success. ... Your 1968 Digital Reunion Book was a commemorative masterpiece that included memories and photos from 360 alumni—and counting. Touchingly, you researched deceased classmates and honored them with a special section in the book. You also created an impressive documentary-style film, *Not Done Yet*, which celebrated the accomplishments, perseverance, and ingenuity of your class. ... Your class set an attendance record for a 55th Reunion with 160 classmates attending, while raising nearly \$900,000 for your class gift. ... As part of your reunion giving, you also dedicated a Class of 1968 Memorial Bench and a newly planted tree in the Legacy Garden. In doing so, you honored the memory of longtime class gift chair, Doug Cox W'68 WG'73, who, sadly, was added to the list of your classmates lost. ... Though it is true that tomorrow is unknown, we know one thing for sure: the Class of 1968 is Not Done Yet!

Thanks to you, the show at the Annenberg Center—and at performance venues across campus—can and will go on. Best of all, you have truly set the stage for an even brighter future for this place you love so well. With gratitude for your enduring commitment to your alma mater and your class, your unflinching commitment to the performing arts on campus, and your role in raising the bar in leadership and philanthropy at Penn Live Arts, we are delighted to present you with the Penn Alumni Award of Merit for 2023.

Alumni Award of Merit
Stanley H. Greene C'78



Your career on the men's basketball team was full of incredible moments—culminating in an epic run to the NCAA Tournament's Sweet 16 in your senior year. Throughout that time, a familiar cheer would echo across the Palestra: "Go, Stan Greene!" You were the ideal sixth man: a spark who could make things happen and a quintessential team player.

After graduating from the College with a BA in urban studies, you brought that same spark to your career in business. You rose through the ranks to become a vice president at Verizon, then again embraced your trademark sixth man role—stepping into leadership positions at struggling companies and sharing your talent and energy with them.

You turned around multiple media companies and even a turf manufacturer. You then brought your skills to state government, serving as director of Pennsylvania's Bureau of Unclaimed Property and then as deputy state treasurer. For more than a decade, you have been the President and CEO of PowerThinking Corp., providing resilience training to clients including major corporations like Aflac and Comcast.

As you have excelled in your career, you have continued to support Penn basketball. In your nearly decade of service on the Basketball Sports Board, including almost five years as co-chair of the Basketball Alumni Relations Committee, you have helped connect current players and alumni throughout the generations, fostering a continuing spirit of Penn pride on the court and beyond.

Most recently, you joined the Athletics Board of the James Brister Society, which helps the University engage alumni of diverse backgrounds as leaders, especially in supporting student athletes, and promoting anti-racism. As a season ticket holder, your cheers for each new team of Penn basketball players echo throughout the Palestra, just as the

cheers for you did when you were a player. You are well known to everyone involved with Penn basketball. Your strong presence, cheers of support, and willingness to connect with people have made you such an effective leader who stands out in the crowd.

Of course, your enthusiasm for Penn does not stop at the court. For more than a decade, you have served as president of the Class of 1978, as well as the reunion chair; you are also a member of the Alumni Class Leadership Council. You have given generously of your time and have provided equally generous philanthropic support throughout the years for both the basketball program and your class gift.

For your steadfast commitment to Penn athletes past, present, and future; your outstanding leadership in your class and the entire Penn alumni community; and your dedication to using your many talents to further advance the University's mission, we are honored to present you with the Alumni Award of Merit for 2023.

Alumni Award of Merit

Ann Nolan Reese CW'74 PAR'06 PAR'12



A strong community means people who are there for one another—bound by a sense that together, we can accomplish any goal and overcome any obstacle. This describes you to the core. Your tenure as Penn Alumni President was marked by historic triumphs and unprecedented challenges. Even when we had to be separate, you were there to keep us together.

As a student in the early 1970s, you were here as Penn ramped up its commitment to diversity. These formative years foreshadowed your priorities as an alumni leader. After graduating and earning an MBA, you went on to a successful 25-year career as a finance executive. When you stepped away from finance, you stepped up for vulnerable children by founding the Center for Adoption Policy, which aims to remove legal and policy barriers.

You have frequently said, "It's never too late to get involved with Penn." You proved this after attending your 25th reunion. It may have been a silver anniversary for you, but for Penn, and Penn people, it was pure gold.

Being there for people has been a hallmark of your volunteer history. At every step, you have dedicated yourself to bringing alumni closer to each other and to Penn. As a member of the Trustees' Council of Penn Women (TCPW), you helped launch the TCPW career-networking program. Your people-first approach made you a natural fit on the Board of Advisors at the School of Social Policy & Prac-

tice, whose mission is to elevate the fortunes of those who are disenfranchised, marginalized, and in need of a powerful advocate. Powerful, indeed, was your advocacy, as was your philanthropy across Penn, running the gamut from student aid and program funds to faculty and research support.

Your outstanding leadership earned your election to the Board of Trustees in 2012, including a term as Vice Chair. As with all you do, your energy was unbounded, as you devoted your counsel and commitment to a multitude of committees. Yet, you always found a way to do more, reach more people, make our future even brighter. This was your charge when you took on the role of President of Penn Alumni in 2018.

Your goals were informed by your social justice work at SP2; your commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging; and your experience as a first-generation student. You worked tirelessly to engage diverse alumni groups, foster anti-racist education, and promote broader representation in alumni leadership roles. Your involvement with the James Brister Society and your role in the founding of Penn Leadership Q: The LGBTQ+ Pipeline are especially notable.

It was an exciting time, with the announcement of a fundraising and engagement campaign, *The Power of Penn*. Then, the emergence of COVID-19 changed everything. Undaunted, you took the challenge in stride, with an eye on what the future would look like when we could be together again. You encouraged Alumni Relations to produce engaging online content for alumni, parents, and friends living in lockdown. Not only did you embrace it; you also showed up at countless virtual events, from faculty lectures to networking conversations. These efforts created vital pathways for connection and reconnection, with many regional alumni clubs reporting increased attendance when virtual options became a necessity.

It is often said that Penn's greatest power is its people. You are a testament to that belief. Through you, we remained united even in distance, and diverse amid our solidarity. You have spent your life standing up for others, and today, we stand up in appreciation and admiration for the impact you have made on so many of us.

For always being there, in person or in spirit—with equal parts pride, panache, and personal conviction—and for helping your alma mater weather the tides of both fortune and adversity with fortitude and optimism, Penn Alumni is delighted to present you with the 2023 Alumni Award of Merit.



Calendar

Annenberg Center

pennlivearts.org

BODYTRAFFIC Jan. 19–20**Bartok's Monster** Jan. 21**Sur-Sudha** Jan. 27**Cirque Mechanics** Jan. 28**JACK Quartet** Feb. 2**Cécile McLorin Salvant** Feb. 3**Estonian Philharmonic****Chamber Choir** Feb. 8**Ballets Jazz Montréal** Feb. 9–10**Negro Ensemble Company** Feb. 15–18**Bliss Consciousness** Feb. 18**Fima Chupakhin** Feb. 29**Mariana Sadovska** Mar. 1

Above: Mikel Elam, *Seven Acts of Humility, 2023*, (mixed media on canvas). From the exhibit *Bliss Consciousness*, paintings by Philadelphia artist Mikel Elam. The Sachs Program for Arts Innovation and Past Present Projects, Annenberg Center Lobby. Through Feb. 18, 2024.

Arthur Ross Gallery

arthurrossgallery.org

open Tues.–Sun.

Goya: Prints from the Arthur Ross Collection Through Jan. 7**Barbara Earl Thomas:****The Illuminated Body**

Feb. 17–May 21

ICA

icaphila.org

Dominique White and**Alberta Whittle: Sargasso Sea****Tomashi Jackson:****Across the Universe**

Both Feb. 10–Jun 2

Kelly Writers House

writing.upenn.edu/wh

Cosmic Writers**2nd Anniversary Showcase** Jan. 18**Suppose An Eyes:****New Poems for the New Year** Jan. 23**Mind of Winter (fireside readings)**

Jan. 25

Eugene Ostashevsky (reading and conversation) Feb. 1**Lorene Cary's Ladysitting: Monologue, Dialogue, and Discussion** Feb. 5**Amy Paeth and Robert Casper** Feb. 7**Storyseek: Conversation and Demo** Feb. 8**Gemini Wahhaj (reading and conversation)** Feb. 22**Jamaica Kincaid (reading)** Feb. 26**Jamaica Kincaid (conversation)** Feb. 27**Joseph Earl Thomas (reading)** Feb. 28**Morris Arboretum and Gardens**

morrisarboretum.org

open daily

Penn Libraries

library.upenn.edu

Penn in the Field:**Student Fieldwork Photography**

Through Aug. 31

Penn Museum

penn.museum

Ancient Food & Flavor:**Special Exhibition** (ongoing)**Human Impact on the Landscape of****Ancient South India** Jan. 10**Arctic Defenders (film)** Jan. 14**Lunar New Year** Jan. 27**Archaeology's Role in Protecting****African American Burial Spaces** Feb. 7**Pili Ka Mo'o: Standing Above the****Clouds (film)** Feb. 11**World Café Live**

worldcafelive.com

Breakwater Jan. 6**The Smithereens with Robin Wilson**

Jan. 19

Glenn Bryan & Friends Jan. 21**Rosanne Cash** Jan. 26**The Record Company** Jan. 30**Sarah Jarosz** Feb. 2**Jaime Wyatt** Feb. 8**Bailen** Feb. 10**Jess Williamson** Feb. 22**This Is the Kit** Feb. 23**Balaklava Blues** Feb. 25**Madi Diaz** Feb. 28**Red Baraat** Feb. 29

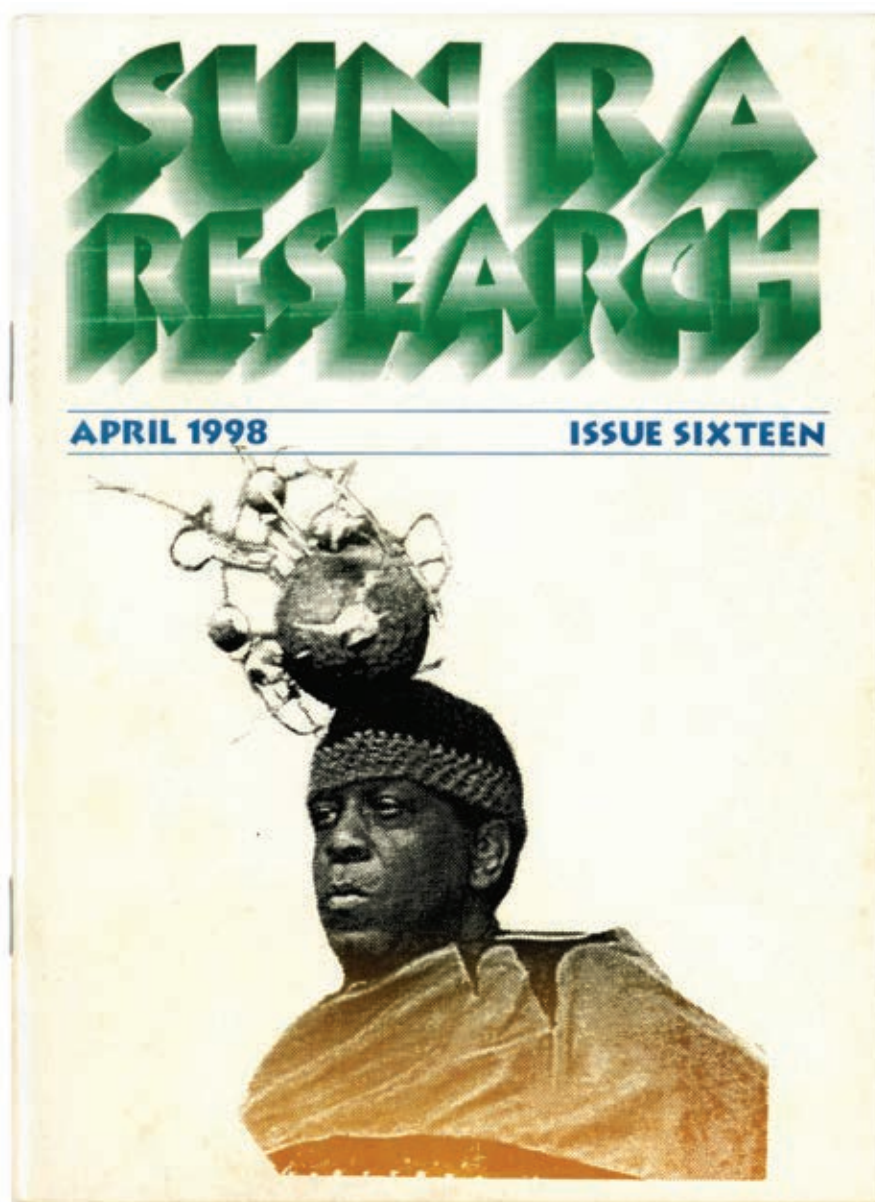
Secrets of the Sun

Penn Libraries acquires two collections illuminating the inimitable Sun Ra.

Penn never invited Sun Ra to perform on campus, and jazz historian John Szwed takes the blame. Szwed directed the University's Center for Urban Ethnography and chaired the Department of Folklore and Folklife during the 1970s—when the otherworldly jazz composer ran his legendarily idiosyncratic Arkestra out of a rowhouse in the Germantown neighborhood of Philadelphia. Cloaked in iridescent capes and robes, the musicians were known for veering from big-band swing to avant-garde electronic experimentation in mesmerizing performances where saxophone colossuses vied for attention with body builders, fire-eaters, shadow puppets, and contortionists.

Their leader Sun Ra, a pianist whose Afrofuturist mysticism rivaled his instrumental arrangements in terms of shape-shifting originality, became a Philadelphia fixture. He read poetry on WXPB during the station's student-run heyday and played plenty of college concerts. "Sun Ra had gigs at Haverford, Princeton, Temple, Swarthmore," Szwed noted during an October virtual public talk hosted by the Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books, and Manuscripts. "But not Penn," he continued, "and I'll make myself guilty of this, because I was here and didn't invite them."

But 30 years after Sun Ra's 1993 departure from the earthly plane, Szwed carried out what might be called an act of academic penance: the author of the 1998 biography *Space Is the Place: The Lives and Times of Sun Ra* gave his research archive from that project to Penn Librar-



ies. It ranges from sheet music and audio cassettes of radio programs (including those from WXPB); to a run of 50 issues of the *Sun Ra Quarterly* and *Sun Ra Research* magazine containing poetry and band interviews; to a collection of letters from people who were close to the Birmingham, Alabama, native, who abandoned his christened name Herman Poole Blount in favor of a handle honoring the Ancient Egyptian sun god.

During the Kislak Center talk, Szwed reminisced about encountering records

for sale at an Arkestra concert in Swarthmore in the late 1960s. Puzzled by their packaging—"they all had white covers with no names"—he asked an Arkestra member for an explanation. "And he said, 'Well, this one is outer space music. And this one is cocktail music.'" Szwed bought one of each, took them home, and was baffled to find them exactly as advertised.

"One was using synthesizers and radical electronic devices," he recalled, "and the other was 'Tea for Two' and tinkling pia-



“This one is outer space music,” an Arkestra member explained. “And this one is cocktail music.”

nos. And I thought, *What is this? What’s going on here?* So Sun Ra was a mystery?”

Szwed, who joined the Yale faculty in 1982, spent the rest of the century, on and off, trying to solve it. “The surprise,” he said, “was to find out that he was a serious reader and serious scholar—and was keeping books of concordances of translations, multiple translations of the Bible, all kinds of things—but also spiritual works on other cultures.”

Reflecting on the composer and bandleader’s insistent focus on philosophical matters and cultural criticism, Szwed characterized Sun Ra as a bearer of messages “disguised as jazz.”

“He put out a series of books that all had the same title, and usually the same picture,” the biographer said, “but the material inside was never the same. And



the only way you could possibly know is just to collect the books and read them.”

The Penn Libraries tentatively plans to mount a public exhibit on Sun Ra and Afrofuturism in August 2026. It will draw from Szwed’s archive as well as a second recent acquisition, from Boo-Hooray gallery in New York, that focuses on original album art, photography, posters, and other visually compelling artifacts tracing the history and influence of the

Arkestra (which continues to play to this day, under the direction of the 99-year-old alto saxophonist Marshall Allen).

“There’s a kind of artist who is on the fringes, who’s so far out that they’re not well known, and they will never be well known,” Szwed said about Sun Ra (and others like him). “But they affect other people. They’re known among the known, and not to the rest of the people. So these eccentrics are rather important people.”

Important enough, it turns out, that somebody thought to lure him to campus—or its underground fringe, at any rate—back in the day. Specifically, to Geno’s Empty Foxhole, in the basement of the parish hall of St. Mary’s Church in Hamilton Village.

“He did appear there a number of times,” said Szwed, singling out a performance where the bandleader used industrial-strength fans to fill the room with a mighty wind.

“Everyone [in the audience] was being blown back,” Szwed recounted, “and then Sun Ra turned around and his cape went over his face. So he rips the cape open so his face would come through—and somebody, stoned in the back, said: ‘My God! He ripped a hole in space!’” —TP

Duty of Care

Lorene Cary's *Ladysitting* plumbs a granddaughter's final act of love.

By Julia M. Klein

You might say that death has been stalking Lorene Cary C'78 G'78—a novelist, memoirist, playwright, and senior lecturer in Penn's Department of English. Cary's husband, an Episcopal priest, died of a brain bleed in January 2021. Seven months later, Cary was diagnosed with breast cancer, then treated successfully with surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy. In January 2023, her mother died.

Death, in various guises, is now a character in Cary's new play, a dramatic distillation of her 2019 memoir *Ladysitting: My Year with Nana at the End of Her Century*. Directed by Zuhairah McGill, it premieres at Philadelphia's Arden Theatre Company from January 18 to February 25.

The memoir and play both deal with the emotional and physical challenges Cary faced in caring for her 100-year-old paternal grandmother, as well as Nana's own struggle with mortality. "I needed to make visible the spiritual, emotional task that Nana had, which was that she was going to die," Cary says. Imagining Death as a metaphorical or supernatural presence was not a huge leap for Cary. Her husband, Bob, reminded her weeks before his passing that experiencing the "paranormal" always made her writing come alive.

The Arden also commissioned and, in early 2020, premiered Cary's first play, *My General Tubman*, a fantasia featuring a time-traveling version of the abolitionist icon Harriet Tubman ["Her General Tubman," Mar|Apr 2020]. It elicited respectful reviews and, according to the Arden's producing artistic



director, Terrence J. Nolen, an "incredibly positive" audience response.

It was then that Nolen suggested that Cary adapt her memoir, which he had read and admired. (Cary had already penned a short opera libretto, *The Gospel According to Nana*.) Nolen says he was attracted to Cary's multigenerational tale of a Black family, as well as the beauty of her prose and the relevance of the caregiving issue.

The titular lady of Cary's new play

clings desperately to life. Fiercely independent but increasingly frail, she has reluctantly agreed to relocate from her South Jersey home to the rectory where her granddaughter, the "Lorene" character, lives. With help from one of her daughters, Zoë, and her husband, as well as unseen aides, Lorene faces the mounting burdens of caregiving.

Ladysitting is about what Cary calls the "M&M years," for mortality and morbid-

ity. And not just Nana's. "I can live fully, I can find joy, I can do my kundalini yoga and stay as strong as possible, but I cannot pretend that that's not where I'm going," the author says. "There's a cliff, and I'm going to go over it."

The play touches on the limits of love and obligation, and how hard it can be to disentangle the two. And it illuminates the idiosyncratic personality at the story's center, who ran a real-estate business until she reached the century mark and also provided a loving, safe haven for Cary during her childhood.

On Cary's right forearm a splashy green tattoo declares: "Love is Strong as Death," a quotation from the biblical "Song of Solomon." She had the design, by Philadelphia-born graffiti artist Distort, inked to reward herself for finishing the memoir—and to commemorate her "body and soul" acceptance of that sentiment.

Cary burst onto the literary scene with the 1991 memoir *Black Ice*, about her adjustment to an elite New England prep school. She has since written three novels (*The Price of a Child*, *Pride*, and *If Sons, Then Heirs*) and a history volume for younger readers (*Free! Great Escapes from Slavery on the Underground Railroad*). She is working on another opera, *Jubilee*, commissioned by the Portland Opera, with the composer Damien Geter.

The first version of *Ladysitting* that Cary showed Nolen, in the summer of 2021, had two acts and 16 characters. "It was ridiculous," she says. "I was making the book into a play, as opposed to finding a play in the story."

As Cary tells it, Nolen suggested that staging such an ambitious work would be financially infeasible in the immediate aftermath of the pandemic. Nolen, however, remembers his primary concern as artistic: "I wanted to spend more time with Nana and Lorene. All of the characters were interesting but were taking up the time I wanted with the main characters."

"When you bring something down, you often do concentrate it," Cary says. The

play (as of late October) had tightened to a runtime of 90 minutes without intermission, with just five characters: Nana, Lorene, Bob, Zoë, and Death. "The thesis has to do with love and integrity," Cary says. The character that is her stand-in questions her love for Nana, and wonders whether only duty remains.

"The [dramatic] arc," says Cary, "is the two of them getting pushed and pushed to their emotional limits," despite the support of family and other caregivers, sufficient means, and Nana's lack of chronic physical illness or dementia. Her age-related needs were challenge enough. "We were all pushed to the edge of our capacity to work, to care, and to provide," Cary says. The question *Ladysitting* asks is: "When you get to the end, what do you do?"

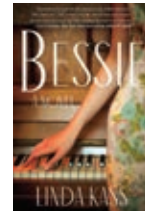
Cary has found the playwriting process, still relatively new to her, different from other forms of writing. "I like books because you do it all by yourself. I don't want anybody in my process," she says. By contrast, "one of the reasons for all the [script] drafts is that I am inviting people"—including Nolen, director McGill, and Arden associate artistic director Jonathan Silver—"into that process. They say, 'This didn't work for me.' I'm trying to understand that and revise."

"My whole adult life," Cary says, she has aimed "to tell Black stories that do not require slipping into the gutter ball of minstrelsy or of trauma porn that America wants." Over the years, she says, many editors have been more interested in stories involving Black people fighting amongst themselves or "just crumpling and falling apart under the pressure of American oppression."

Her literary goal is to reclaim other kinds of stories and characters. "These old, complicated Black lives matter," Cary has written about Nana and *Ladysitting*. She adds: "I want them precious, I want them shining, I want them in our hearts."

Julia M. Klein is a frequent *Gazette* contributor.

Briefly Noted

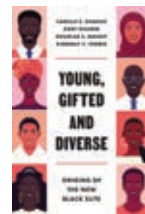


BESSIE by Linda Kass
PT'75 (She Writes Press, 2023, \$17.95.) In her third historical novel, Kass reimagines the early life of Bess Myerson who, in 1945 at age 21, became the first—and to date only—Jewish "Miss America." Kass offers a tender fictional portrait of a bold young woman living at a precarious moment in history.



ARTISTS, WRITERS, AND DIPLOMATS' WIVES: Impressions of Women Travelers in Imperial Russia by Evelyn M. Cherpak
G'65 (Rowman & Littlefield, 2023, \$40.00.)

This book recounts the experiences of 16 European and North American women who both lived and traveled in Russia during the 19th and 20th centuries. Their observations of Russian political, social, and cultural life led them to write letters and books about what they saw and how they responded to it.



YOUNG, GIFTED AND DIVERSE: Origins of the New Black Elite by Camille Zubrinsky Charles (faculty), Rory Kramer G'07 Gr'12, Kimberly C. Torres Gr'06

(faculty), and Douglas S. Massey (Princeton University Press, 2022, \$39.95.) Drawing upon interviews and focus groups comprised of over a thousand Black students, this study highlights the diversity among the new generation entering the Black professional class.



OUR ANCIENT FAITH: Lincoln, Democracy, and the American Experiment by Allen C. Guelzo
G'79 Gr'86 (Knopf, 2024, \$30.00.) One of America's foremost experts

on Abraham Lincoln shares an intimate study of the former president's powerful vision of democracy, which guided him through the Civil War and is still relevant today.

Visit thepenngazette.com for more *Briefly Noted*.



Forces of Nature

Nature Sacred has been bringing green spaces to urban areas for 25 years to improve peoples' well-being. The mission will expand to honor the late founder's legacy. ▶

Editor's note: Tom Stoner spoke with the Gazette for this piece about a month before his death on October 19. A tribute can be found at naturesacred.org/tomstoner and his obituary at the back of this issue.

Growing up in rural Iowa, Tom Stoner C'56 always felt close to nature—a deep connection he longed to renew whenever he was unable to spend time outdoors.

Satisfying his need for green spaces led to an epiphany for Stoner and his wife, Kitty. While in London on one of Stoner's business trips in the mid-1990s, the couple arrived at their hotel, tired from their overnight flight and hoping to find a quiet place to wait for their room to be ready. "So I walked up to the front desk and asked, 'Is there some place where we could get outside?'" Stoner said.

The concierge directed them to a small park across the street, the historic Mount Street Gardens, an urban oasis of trees and pathways dotted with benches—with an unobtrusive entrance few people might notice unless they were looking for it. As the Stoners took in the park, they saw the benches had plaques inscribed with peoples' names and notes of appreciation for the space. Stoner later discovered that Londoners had visited the park looking for peaceful moments of respite during the Blitz in World War II as German bombs fell on the city.

Perhaps similar sanctuary, Stoner thought, could be cultivated for city dwellers in the United States who had little access to nature.

After that trip to London, the Stoners launched a nonprofit organization in 1996 to create green areas they call "Sacred Places" in urban locales, particularly in spots where people experience significant stress, such as prisons, hospitals, schools, and underserved neighborhoods. Research shows that people with regular opportunities to enjoy nature, even just a small pocket of greenery, tend to be less depressed, stressed, and anxious.

The TKF Foundation, renamed Nature Sacred in 2020, has overseen the creation of more than 100 "Sacred Places" around the country. Pascal Mittermaier C'89 joined the board of Nature Sacred in 2019 and became its chair in October 2022. Mittermaier is committed to expanding Nature Sacred's work spreading the restorative power of nature.

The Stoners first met Mittermaier when he was the global managing director for cities at the Nature Conservancy, an international environmental nonprofit group. Mittermaier's two decades in life sciences and healthcare made him a good fit to help the couple promote the link between exposure to nature and well-being. "When you green up a neighborhood, good stuff happens," Mittermaier said. "People go outside more and they're more interested in growing their own food and preserving the nature that's there. There are no downsides to it."

Thanks to a gift from the Stoners, the University be-

came the site of an early Sacred Space: the Stoner Courtyard at the Penn Museum. Once a parking lot, the public courtyard built in 1998 now features a marble fountain, paths, and lawn flanked by a variety of large trees and shrubs—offering students, staff, and museum visitors a green place to sit and reflect.

Mittermaier is committed to expanding Nature Sacred's work spreading the restorative power of nature.

Other Sacred Places include the Butterfly Garden and Overlook in Joplin, Missouri, designed to aid community resilience and support recovery in the wake of the 2011 tornado that devastated the town. The Maryland Correctional Institution in Jessup, Maryland, has a meditative garden with a mini arboretum of saplings tended by inmates. The Green Road Project at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, brings the healing power of nature to injured veterans and their families.

In launching the organization, Stoner drew on his experiences as a successful entrepreneur and a nature lover. Among other ventures, he cofounded Stoner Broadcasting, a national radio company that CBS acquired in 1998, and American Tower, which became the

world's largest network of cell phone towers; served as the founding director of the Conflict Resolution Clinic associated with George Mason University; and was chairman of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in Annapolis, Maryland (where he lived).

His work with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation spurred a realization that became central to Nature Sacred's mission. The real threat to the ecosystem is humans' increasing disconnection with nature; research indicates roughly 80 percent of the US population lives in urban areas. Every Sacred Place, whether it's a small community garden or an expansive park, adheres to several principles to achieve the greatest impact. It must be open and accessible to all; designed to encourage peace and mindful reflection; located within the community it serves; and directed by that community. Community engagement, input, and consensus is vital to the development of a Sacred Space. "That's the number one challenge—make sure you're listening to the communities," Stoner said.

All Sacred Places have a "Firesoul," the Stoners' term for the lead caretaker of each space. (The TKF Foundation stands for Tom+Kitty+Firesouls.) Firesouls lead the way in maintaining the Sacred Place, coordinating events held in the space and understanding community concerns and needs. Stoner recalled one Firesoul who had a very particular vision for the small Sacred Place proposed in his

Alumni

west Baltimore neighborhood, where he had lived for 40 years. The Kirby Lane Park would be a gathering place for residents, with a serenity garden, a playground—and an area devoted to playing horseshoes, which was much of the neighborhood’s favorite pastime. “If you tried to take [the horseshoe pit] out of there today there would be a revolution,” Stoner said.

Individuals who visit Sacred Places are encouraged to write down their feelings inside yellow journals at each site. Adults and children have left messages that range from the profound—“In a world dominated by the rigid scientific mechanical cause and effect model, this place reminds us that we and the world have a soul”—to simpler expressions of appreciation—“It’s beautiful outside (stop and look).”

Nature Sacred compiled the most memorable entries in a book called *BenchTalk: Wisdoms Inspired in Nature*. A paperback version of the book was released in October, with all proceeds funding Nature Sacred’s work.

Mittermaier, a native of Germany who lives in Boston with his wife Su-Yin Mittermaier C’90, is focused on several goals for the future. With CEO Alden Stoner, the Stoners’ daughter, Mittermaier plans to double the number of Sacred Places across the US in the next three years and scale the organization accordingly. “We are riding a tidal wave of interest and demand,” he said. “There is so much interest that it’s really up to us to figure out how to

harness that.” Much of the demand, he added, stems from the raised awareness of nature, health, and social justice issues that occurred during the pandemic.

Nature Sacred will continue working with researchers, including Eugenia “Gina” South Gr’12—associate professor of emergency medicine at the Perelman School of Medicine and the recently named inaugural director of the Penn Medicine Center for Health Justice—to study the impact of green spaces on individuals and communities [“Gazetteer,” Nov/Dec 2020].

Mittermaier will also lead fundraising efforts to make Nature Sacred self-sustaining. The organization has obtained grants and local government support, but the Stoners’ personal philanthropy funded much of its projects in the past.

More than anything, Mittermaier wants to preserve and honor the legacy of Stoner, who he’ll “miss dearly as a friend and mentor,” he said. “His passing makes all of us at Nature Sacred more determined than ever to continue his legacy.”

Before Stoner died in October, he had already stepped back from running Nature Sacred, calling it “amazing” to watch others take the lead. He also noted that while he thoroughly enjoyed his 35-year career in business, he loved building Nature Sacred even more. “I learned about the human condition, about human beings, and that has been really enlightening,” Stoner said. “So it has been pure joy for me to do it.”

—Samantha Drake CGS’06

Karida L. Brown G’11



Bringing Back *The Brownies' Book*

A revival of W. E. B. Du Bois’s pioneering children’s magazine is sending out a “bat signal of resounding Black love.”

Karida L. Brown G’11 was combing through a W. E. B. Du Bois archive, deep into research for her upcoming book, when she unearthed a surprise: for nearly two years, the distinguished scholar had put out a magazine for kids.

Brown paged through letters that Du Bois had sent to potential contributors in the early 1920s. “He would tell them, ‘I’m asking for a piece of your best original work so that I can put it in *The Brownies’ Book* and Black children will

know that they are thought about and loved,’” she says.

A hundred years later, Brown found herself and her husband, fine artist Charly Palmer, making the same request of prominent Black creatives and scholars. Brown had told Parker about her archival discovery back when they were newly dating, and the idea to resurrect *The Brownies’ Book* became a refrain between them. “We used to always say *somebody needs to do this*,” Brown says, “and over time that evolved to *we need to do this*.”

The first chapter of *The New Brownies' Book* opens with a poem from five-year-old Zoe Jones, entitled "Kisses Make Things Better (But Sometimes They Don't)," along with artwork from coauthor Charly Palmer.

The New Brownies' Book: A Love Letter to Black Families came out in October and by early November had already received a *Publishers Weekly* starred review, become an Amazon Editors' Pick, and landed a slot on one of Oprah's holiday gift lists.

In a departure from Du Bois's original magazine format, Brown and Parker's *Brownies'* is a 208-page coffee-table book. It kicks off with a poem by five-year-old Zoe Jones. "Kisses make bad dreams better," she begins, "but they don't make hard things feel soft."

From there, the anthology is filled with photos, plays, essays, comics, songs, games, poems, and paintings. Many pieces are warm and light-hearted, others more serious, and Brown contributed 21 mini-biographies of notable Black women, accompanied by illustrations from Palmer. Along with contemporary creatives, there's a collection of writings from Langston Hughes—his first published works, all of which appeared in the original *Brownies' Book*—including this short-but-sweet selection:

*The little house is sugar
Its roof with snow is piled,
And from its tiny window,
Peeps a maple-sugar child.*

"This was supposed to be like a bat signal of resounding Black love," Brown says of the anthology. "Black people, including Black children, are still underrepresented or negatively represented via stereotypes in the mainstream media. We need as many pos-

itive and broad representations of the fullness and heterogeneity of Black people as possible. Du Bois knew that then and we know that now."

Aside from requesting that contributors send an original work, "we gave them no rules," says Palmer. The couple was shocked that almost everyone they asked agreed to participate—and surprised again by many of their submissions.

When Marcus Anthony Hunter—a sociology professor at UCLA who is credited with coining #BlackLivesMatter (about a year before the hashtag went viral in response to the acquittal of Trayvon Martin's killer)—signed on as a contributor, Brown says she expected "some kind of history lesson for kids." Instead, a free-verse poem titled "The Children of the Sun" hit her inbox, and "I was just on the floor" in shock, she says.

Another scholar sent in a playful story about a third

grader discovering he's lactose intolerant. (After the child's sister suggests he has a tapeworm: "I also kept thinking...[i]f he was in there, could I talk him into coming out? Couldn't he go find his own food instead of eating mine?!")

Brown says she and Palmer enjoyed opening each submission and discovering these new sides to people they'd already admired. The couple embraced the genre-jumping spirit, with a poem from Brown and two pieces of prose by Palmer.

"I've never tried my hand at poetry before," Brown admits, but diving into the unknown hasn't stopped her before. In fact, it's how she wound up at Penn and, ultimately, as a sociologist curating this book.

Brown majored in risk management and insurance at Temple University and was working as an underwriter on Wall Street during the global financial crisis in Sep-

tember 2008. "It was just an awful, confusing, jarring time," she says, "and I didn't want to be a part of it. I quit my career because of that."

A friend suggested Penn, and she enrolled in the Master of Public Administration program at Fels, also taking Wharton and School of Arts & Sciences courses while at the University. "It was at Penn that I decided that I wanted to pursue a PhD, go into academia, and be the professor that I wish young Karida had had when I was in college," she says.

After her "hyper-focused" undergraduate experience, "I knew that in pursuing a PhD, I wanted to find the broadest discipline possible," she says. "With sociology, you can do anything. Nothing is outside the bounds of my field, which I think is beautiful and exciting. It keeps me interested every day in what I do."

After receiving her doctorate from Brown University in 2016,



she taught at UCLA and now Emory University. When the Obama Presidency Oral History Project launched at Columbia University in 2019, Brown joined its advisory board, helping to oversee the 400-interviewee endeavor, and even conducting the project's first interview. In 2020, she became the Los Angeles Lakers' inaugural director of racial equity and action, spending two years helping the NBA franchise develop a six-point racial equity action plan.

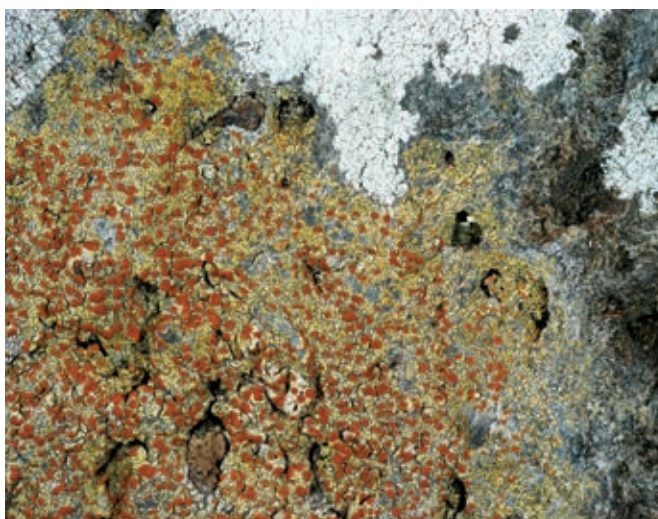
She's published two books of scholarship so far: *Gone Home: Race and Roots through Appalachia* (2018) and *The Sociology of W.E.B. Du Bois* (2020). "I've been researching and writing on Du Bois's scholarship for almost a decade now," notes Brown, who was fascinated to learn about the sociologist's brief teaching and research stint at Penn in 1896. "I just feel so connected to him, and I can't explain how or why that happened. He is a part of me. His spirit lives with me."

Discovering Du Bois's original *Brownies' Book* only deepened Brown's interest and admiration. "I saw a different side of Du Bois," she says. "I saw this commitment to children and how beautiful and sweet that was." Necessary, too. Du Bois's idea for a wide-ranging publication that would entertain and inspire young Black children "was so important then," adds Brown, "and it's still so important now."

—Molly Petrilla C'06

Miniature Universes

One of the world's leading lichen experts unravels the mysteries of a complex life form (and gives them wacky names).



Top, a new species of the foliose lichen genus *Arctoparmelia* was recently found in Yukon, Canada. Bottom, the *Colaplaca flavovirescens* (Wulfen) Dalla Torre & Sarnth is a common yellow-orange lichen that grows on rocks and can be spotted on old concrete in parks around Philadelphia.

Warty Warts. Powdered Ruffles. Lipstick Powderhorn.

All are species of lichen found in Philadelphia's Fairmount Park and named by James Lendemer C'06, the curator of botany at the New York State Museum and an adjunct assistant professor at the City University of New York.

One of the world's leading experts on this 500-million-year-old life form, the Philadelphia native has discovered more than 150 new species as part of his mission to explore their diversity and raise awareness for their protection.

"He's a leader in the field, a dynamo with a laser focus," says lichenologist Troy McMullin, the head of botany at the Canadian Museum of Nature.

Lendemer has trekked from the Yukon tundra to Tasmania's forests to North Carolina swamps to hunt lichens and study how air pollution has decimated their numbers—especially in much of the eastern US, where by the late 20th century lichens had virtually disappeared from many of the landscapes they once blanketed.

"Lichens are miniature universes. They are better thought of as tiny ecosystems rather than strict symbioses," writes Lendemer, 39, in his book *Urban Lichens: A Field Guide for Northeastern North America*.

Neither plant or animal, they are not one organism but two—

Lendemer identified the below specimen of *Cladonia arbuscula* (Wallr.) Flot, which he calls “one of the cushion-forming reindeer lichens that get their name because they serve as important forage in the winter diets of caribou.”

an “intensive cooperation” between a fungus, an algae, and sometimes a cyanobacterium as well. Lichens were among the first living things to gain a foothold on land. Although they survive in extreme desert and mountaintop environments and even exposure in outer space, they respond far less well to human activity and are sensitive to acid rain and sulfur dioxide in leaded gas.

Two hundred years ago Philadelphians would have seen not just smatterings of lichen but a wide array blanketing tree bark, splattered on rocks, painting bricks, and adorning shrubs. Smog wiped out as many as 90 percent of species in the city. Today half of those may have returned but in a modest way, according to Lendemer. Despite this environmental onslaught, only one species of the 5,500 in the US and Canada has been declared extinct. Only two are listed as threatened or endangered by the US government.

“I’m hopeful from the standpoint that things have begun to recover, but I also recognize that their scale of recovery is so long, that is never going to happen in the span of any of our lifetimes,” says Lendemer, who recently served as the associate curator at the New York Botanical Garden where he oversaw its collection of 350,000 lichen specimens, the largest in the western hemisphere.

Lendemer’s love affair with his clingy subject matter began when he was a teen. The Philadelphia native volunteered at the Academy of Natural Sciences, and its botany curator had him organize the



institution’s lichen specimens. He majored in biology at Penn, where Hermann Pfefferkorn, professor emeritus of geology, and Ann Rhoads, the former senior botanist at the Morris Arboretum, supported his growing interest.

Such was Lendemer’s passion that while an undergrad at age 19 in 2004 he started the academic journal *Opuscula*

Philolichenum to explore all things lichen related.

“Once I started looking for them in the outdoors, it was like, ‘Oh, these are clearly amazing.’ They were so bizarre and unlike everything else, it was hard to not want to know more about them,” he says. “Everything about them requires you to think about life in a different way.

“They defy so many basic concepts and ways we think about biology and nature. At the same time, they weave together a lot of themes we think of in society and culture. Lichens form this whole that looks nothing like their constituent parts, and the parts can’t survive on their own so far as we know. They live together and form this complex, interdependent relationship. It’s like how one person can’t build a building, but a group of people can.”

Lendemer sometimes fields queries from gardeners worried that lichens can kill plants. “People tend to see them more when they look at trees and shrubs that are sick and dying, because maybe they weren’t looking so closely before,” he says. But in reality, lichens help trees thrive. They absorb moisture like sponges from the air and funnel it towards

Alumni

trees' roots to help them stay moist. Lichens also allow seeds to germinate, provide food for a host of animals including caribou, and offer nesting material for birds.

These rootless wonders also benefit people. Usnic acid, a natural antibacterial compound found in lichens, is used in natural toothpaste and deodorant, and lichens produce antimicrobial and antifungal chemicals found nowhere else in the natural world. Research into creating biosynthetic versions of lichen has been stymied because they resist growing in labs. The group of lichen species *Lecanora esculenta* may have even been the manna from heaven that fed Moses and the Israelites in the Sinai after their exodus from Egypt.

Ten years ago, Lendemer coled the largest lichen survey in US history. The National Science Foundation-funded undertaking enabled him and other researchers to collect 17,000 specimens from 214 sites around the country.

After realizing that scientists had rarely looked for lichen in marshy coastal areas, he soon found himself calf-deep in muddy water in North Carolina's Bull Neck Swamp. "These areas were amazingly diverse, but they're imperiled," says Lendemer. "The need for conservation became so clear during that project, because all of those few remaining coastal places are imminently being lost to sea level rise, saltwater intrusion, and habitat destruction."

His favorite hunting grounds are in Great Smoky Mountains National Park,

where he's visited annually for the past 15 years and often spots hundreds of species a day. A hot spot for lichens, the Smokies' moist terrain was never glaciated and has a central area of undisturbed old-growth forest. "He's discovered a niche where he can make a huge number of contributions on many different levels," says Paul Super, the National Parks Service research coordinator for the Smokies. "It's a great place for someone with his energy."

Lendemer hits the trails in running shoes carrying a five-pound rock hammer, rock and wood chisels, clip-pers, paper bags for sample storage, and a hand lens. These routes are perfect places for him to spot hitherto undescribed species.

He immortalizes them with arresting names like Unrequited Love, Mexican Sunshine, Four-Spore and Seven Xanthones Ago, I Could Play Tennis Wearing That, Paul's Super Lichen!, and one he officially dubbed *Japewiella dollypartoniama* after the country music star who grew up nearby.

Lendemer claims not to have a favorite lichen. "You can't focus on one lichen, because everywhere you go there's something delightful. It's like seeing old friends.

"I love seeing several specific populations over and over again that have been growing on rocks I've been looking at for years. There's something nice about walking by, recognizing they're still there, and seeing how they've changed, if at all."

—George Spencer

RON GOLD C'83 W'83



Ron Gold C'83 W'83 ran his first marathon in 2011—a beautiful 26.2-mile journey along the Jersey Shore, from Cape May to Sea Isle City. "I had hoped to do more marathons," he says, "but I never had the chance."

Later that year Gold was struck by an SUV while riding his bicycle, leaving him paralyzed from the waist down. He's since tried to make the most of his life in a wheelchair, pursuing other athletic endeavors such as rowing and launching the caregiving company LeanOnWe ["Ron Gold's Second Act," Sep/Oct 2017].

But a marathon felt like a faraway dream from his past life, and he didn't initially love the idea of competing in races in a handcycle (a three-wheeled cycle propelled by arms rather than legs, often used as an alternative to a bicycle for people with disabilities). "That's how I got injured—cycling," he says. "I think the scars were still pretty raw." Besides, handcycles are expensive and cumbersome for a paraplegic. "I can't carry it, I can't store it myself, and I can't get it out on my own," he says. "I need a lot of support in order to do it."

The support would come from an organization called Achilles International, whose mission is to help people with disabilities compete in endurance events. Referred to the organization's New Jersey chapter by a friend, Gold began riding handcycles in a park—"not on the street, which was certainly something I was apprehensive about"—and enjoyed it. "I was pretty good at it too," he says. "And they made it easy for me."

Soon he set his sights on races, entering a 10K near where he lived in New Jersey last spring and the Hartford Marathon in October. That set the stage for the famed New York City Marathon, in which Gold competed on November 5 along with more than 50,000 others—a special experience that was "head and shoulders above anything I could have imagined."

On a beautiful race day, Gold woke up at 3:30 a.m. to get to Staten Island for the start of the race, which began with the professional wheelchair division and then the handcyclists, followed by the elite women and elite men runners. Because of the staggered start times, Gold completed the course just a few minutes before the winning runners crossed the finish line—and could feel the anticipation building from the crowd as he rode through all five boroughs of New York City and finished in Central Park with a time of 2 hours, 42 minutes.

Gold was pleased to have shaved 14 minutes off his Hartford Marathon time but disappointed he didn't finish in 2:30 to qualify for the Boston Marathon, a race he'd love to do in the future. "Now I have something to work toward," he says. "I'm confident I can do it."

Most importantly, Gold raised more than \$36,000 for the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation, which supports research toward a cure for paralysis. Gold's donation page can be found at give.reeve.org/fundraiser/4840610. —DZ

“I have time to enjoy my collection of vintage electric guitars, regularly playing rock ‘n roll with my friends, and doing some oil painting.”

— Bob Stein W’71

1958

Maryann Gay Rozzell PT’58, a retired physical therapist, has coauthored a new book, *Daughters of Dunn House 1953: Stories of Fisk Early Entrants*. As an adolescent, Maryann and six friends participated in a Ford Foundation-sponsored “experimental program that offered Black teenagers the opportunity to skip their final two years of high school and complete their general course studies in college,” explains *Kirkus Reviews*. She and the others, now octogenarians, compiled their stories of careers, further studies, travels, and families during the Jim Crow era and civil rights movement. *Kirkus Reveiws* calls the book “an important document of Black history and celebration of higher education.”

1960

Fred DeAntonis C’60 writes, “Once again I was one of the volunteers at the Exponential Music Festival, which is an annual three-day event, organized by WXPN, the best noncommercial music station in the US. The event took place at Wiggins Riverfront Park in Camden, New Jersey.”

Herbert “Bert” Lazerow C’60 writes that he is still teaching law full time at the University of San Diego. He shares that “2023 was an exceptionally productive year.” In addition to publishing an article on recovering Holocaust art, two of his books were released in June, *Mastering International Sales Law* and *International Business Negotiations in a Nutshell*, written with Ralph Folsom.

1961

Charlie Schlesinger W’61 shares that he and his partner Joan met with **Steve Silver W’61**, **Leon Shoag W’61**, and Leon’s wife Barbara for a weekend at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida in 2019. He writes, “Then, in 2023, we met on Long Island, New York, for a great weekend celebrating ‘two of our birthdays,’ telling ourselves we ‘haven’t changed a bit.’ Ha! Thanks, Penn, for a fabulous education and lifelong friends!”

1965

Steven Irace C’65 G’66 see **Carl Irace C’97**.

Paul Zantinger C’65 WG’67 shares that he had a “spontaneous reunion” with **Dr. Robert Blasburg W’76** and **Fred Slone C’71 L’74** at Robert’s ophthalmology office in Sandy Springs, Georgia, on November 7, 2022. Paul, who just had attended the Wharton alumni reunion two days earlier, writes that he “told Fred about construction of the new [data science] building named after past president Amy Gutmann Hon’22 ... [and] told Dr. Robert about the two new Wharton Buildings at 37th and Spruce and 40th and Sansom. Dr. Robert talked about playing golf with his Wharton friends and his trip to Yosemite National Park. Fred talked about the successful 2022 season of Penn football and basketball.”

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1969

Benjamin Franklin Cooling Gr’69 has retired from federal civil service after 58

We Want to Hear from You

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Please include your school and year, along with your address and a daytime telephone number. We include email addresses only when requested or obviously implied.

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

years of research, writing, and teaching, as well as two years in private education. His last position was as professor of national security studies at the National Defense University in Washington, DC. Author or editor of nearly two dozen published studies or books, his most recent publication, *Arming of America Over the Centuries: War, Business, and Building a National Security State* (2022, University of Tennessee Press), reflects a half-century of studying the military-industrial complex and defense industrial base.

Joseph H. Cooper W’69 L’72 has published another picture book, this time a work of nonfiction. *How’d They Do That? Grandparents Answer Questions about the Wright Brothers and Amelia Earhart* delivers history via relatable grandparent-grandchild conversations while also providing chronicling endnotes for adult readers. The book’s dedication reads, in part, “For historical societies and libraries whose special collections and archives preserve historic writings and images, and for STEM educators.”

1970

Frank Best L’70 has authored a new book, *Beholding the Invisible, Embracing the Infinite: Understanding God and Our Parent/Child Relationship*. A retired general counsel of Penn Mutual Life Insurance who has written many legal papers, Frank shares that this latest work grew from a personal Bible study project.

1971

Howard Brod Brownstein C’71 W’71, president of the Brownstein Corporation, serves as interim CEO and board chair of

Universal Services Associates, a designer and manufacturer of exhibits for museums all over the world. He writes, “I am also continuing with my work in turnaround and crisis management, M&A (including for healthy companies), litigation support, and expert testimony. I also continue to serve on public and private company boards, and for large nonprofits.”

Bob Stein W’71 writes, “I retired as a tax partner of Eisner Amper on June 30, from my 48-year career as a CPA. A lot of hard work, but also a lot of fun working with numerous wonderful clients and colleagues. My wife Nancy (we’re married 42 years) and I now enjoy homes in West Orange, New Jersey, and Boynton Beach, Florida, and spend time with our two daughters and their families here in New Jersey. I have time to enjoy my collection of vintage electric guitars, regularly playing rock ‘n roll with my friends, and doing some oil painting. I stay in touch with a number of my Tau Delta Phi fraternity brothers. I was also a founding board member (in 2002) of the Wharton Club of New Jersey, a very rewarding experience. We set in motion a club that continues to this day.”

1972

Kenneth J. Fishman W’72, who retired as a judge of the Massachusetts Superior Court after 17-plus years on the bench, has been appointed as the special master for Massachusetts Asbestos Litigation. He has also been appointed as a hearing officer for the Massachusetts Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission.

Juanita Stroud Martin GEd’72 writes, “After 32 years as a social worker for the El Paso County Department of Human Services in Colorado Springs, Colorado, I retired and penned my first book, *A Taste of Life: Prisms—Through a Glass Darkly*. The book is about my paternal family’s life in Colorado Springs, beginning in 1910. My grandparents had 11 children, who all exhibited above-average intelligence and who were tested psychologically by the city because of this “anomaly.” Even the youngest, Bobby Stroud, age four, had an IQ of 105. The Stroud legacy is one of persever-

ance in the use of one’s talents, with the goal of making the world a better place than one has found it. I am a US Navy veteran (1954–1958), the proud mother of seven children, and a retired professional jazz singer, teacher, and social worker. My second husband, Gregory Johnson, and I have produced a public access TV show, Black Beat Productions, in Colorado Springs for over 25 years.” Juanita shares this information in hopes that it will inspire “the younger generation to persevere in their endeavors.” More information about her family’s remarkable history can be found at stroudfamilycolorado.com.

Eileen Sullivan-Marx HUP’72 Nu’76 Gr’95 stepped down as dean of New York University’s Rory Meyers College of Nursing in July after 11 years. In that role, she served as chair of the NYU Deans Council and president of the American Academy of Nursing during the COVID-19 pandemic. In October, she received the President’s Award for exemplary leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic. While dean, she received awards from the United Hospital Fund, Village Cares, Irish America, the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, and Penn School of Nursing Outstanding Alumni for her work during Superstorm Sandy. Eileen currently serves as a professor at NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing, adjunct faculty at Howard University College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences, and professor emerita and clinician-educator at Penn Nursing. She holds board of director positions at VNS Health, United Hospital Fund, and the Arnold P. Gold Foundation. On the third Thursday of the month, she hosts the Sirius XM Nurse Practitioner Show on Doctor Radio, Channel 110.

John D. Woolsey FA’72 GFA’73, had two recent exhibitions of his artwork. *Distant Visions* was a show of 70-plus pieces of recent work at the University of Maine’s Zillman Art Museum, from September 15 through December 30. *Time and Transformation* was an accompanying exhibit of about 30 recent works at the Caldbeck Gallery in Rockland, Maine, from September 23 through November 4. Caldbeck has

represented John’s work in Maine since 2010. Visit JohnWoolseyArt.com to see his paintings, prints, and drawings.

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1974

Geoffrey Greif SW’74 has been named Distinguished University Professor at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. He is a professor in the university’s School of Social Work, where he has worked since 1984. His 16th book, *Group Work with Diverse Populations: A Handbook*, will be published by Oxford University Press in 2024.

Linda Rabben CGS’74 has published *Through a Glass Darkly: The Social History of Stained Glass in Baltimore*, the first illustrated book on the subject. It is her 11th nonfiction book and her first art book.

1975

Harry Eisenstein C’75 W’75 L’86 has been elected a shareholder at the multi-jurisdictional law firm of Carlton, Fields, P.A. Practicing out of the firm’s Washington, DC, office, Harry focuses his work on investment products issued by insurance companies.

1978

Peter Krajsa W’78, cochair and founder of the National Energy Improvement Fund, received the Epstein Lifetime Achievement Award from the Sustainable Energy Fund in July. The award “is presented to a deserving individual each year for a lifetime of work moving society towards a sustainable energy future.”

Robert L. Wallace ME’78 was honored as one of Maryland’s Most Admired CEOs for the year 2023 by *The Daily Record*. Robert is founder of Bithgroup Technologies, an information technology consulting firm.

Celebrate Your Reunion, May 17–19, 2024!

1979

Allen C. Guelzo G’79 Gr’86, senior research scholar at the Council of Humanities at Princeton University, has authored a new book that will be released in February. *Our*

Ancient Faith: Lincoln, Democracy, and the American Experiment is “an intimate study of Abraham Lincoln’s powerful vision of democracy,” according to the press materials. Allen’s biography of Robert E. Lee was featured in our Jul|Aug 2022 issue.

1980

Frederick C. Leiner C’80, a lawyer and historian, is the author of *Prisoners of the Bashaw: The Nineteen-Month Captivity of American Sailors in Tripoli, 1803–1805*, which was shortlisted for the Gilder Lehrman Military History Prize. The award recognizes “the best book on American military history in English distinguished by its scholarship, its contribution to the literature, and its appeal to the broadest possible general reading public.”

1981

Budd Mishkin C’81 writes in to say that, much to the chagrin of viewers and listeners everywhere, he’s had a long career in radio and television news and sports, covering playoff games, interviewing influentials, and doing ski reports from his bathroom [“Alumni Voices,” Mar|Apr 2021]. After 25 years at NY1, New York City’s 24-hour cable news channel, Budd now serves as a news anchor on 1010 WINS and WCBS Radio in New York, where he would like to remind listeners of his role as the elephant s_____ cleaner in the 1981 Mask and Wig tour de force *Ring Job*. (He has resisted the urge.) From time to time, you’ll find him on stage in New York City and beyond, hosting and interviewing a wide variety of interesting people, conversations that somehow always come back to the 1979 Penn Final Four team. Budd is also the creator and host of an interview podcast called *Before the Cheering Started with Budd Mishkin*, all about the journey to success and professional fulfillment. He asks ... rather, he *begs* that you please tell everyone you know in the Western Hemisphere about the podcast. Eastern, too. It’s available wherever you get your podcasts, a phrase that Budd sadly forgot to trademark. Finally, Budd has yet to realize his dream of becoming the 47th Beatle.

Events

CLEVELAND

Join the Penn Club of Cleveland for a night of culinary delight and entrepreneurial inspiration on January 25! We’re thrilled to invite you to an exclusive event hosted by the Central Kitchen Food Hub, the epicenter of craft food in Cleveland, where we will celebrate a decade of crafting extraordinary food and fostering culinary talent. Enjoy a whole lot of delicious food, hear from food entrepreneurs, and get a tour of the state-of-the-art Central Kitchen Food Hub facility. For more information, go to www.alumni.upenn.edu/clubs and navigate to the Penn Club of Cleveland, or email daralumniclub@dev.upenn.edu.

METRO NJ

The New Year will lead off with a host of events. There is something of interest for everyone. On January 16, we will be meeting at Veggie Heaven to enjoy a delicious meal and learn about the benefits of plant-based eating. Later in January, we will hold our annual Ben’s Birthday Bash! February will start off with our popular Dumpling Diplomacy. We always have fun while we learn to make dumplings and feed the homeless at the same time. And on February 27, we will once again get together to help prepare soup for the homeless and then enjoy a nutritious meal from Healthy Italia. In March, we will enjoy the Mask and Wig show, hold our ever-popular wine tasting dinner, and take a turn on the dance floor as we learn to ballroom dance. Visit www.pennclubmetronj.com to learn more and register for events. To obtain more information, please contact club President Dan Solomon L’97 at danielhsolomon@yahoo.com.

SAN DIEGO

The Penn Alumni Club of San Diego is proud to host its second-annual Dog-Friendly Ivy+Friends Happy Hour and Blanket/Pet Toy Drive to benefit the San Diego Humane Society on Thursday, February 1, from 6 to 9 p.m., at New English Brewing. Please bring clean new towels, blankets, and toys for donation to shelter animals. For more information, contact pennclubsd@gmail.com. Also, save the date for a Penn Engineering Garden Party on April 20. We will be hosted by Muniba and Faisal Khan C’98 EAS’98 and joined by Penn Engineering Dean Vijay Kumar! More details and registration are forthcoming.

John D. Woodward Jr. W’81, a Professor of the Practice of International Relations at Boston University since 2015, has authored *Spying: From the Fall of Jericho to the Fall of the Wall* (Waynesburg University Press). He writes, “*Spying* is a comprehensive study of the history of intelligence activities from ancient times to the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, with special attention to the American experience with espionage.” In his book, John, a former Central Intelligence Agency operations officer and US Department of Defense official, drew on the pioneering scholarship of his colleague, the late Boston University professor Arthur Hulnick, who also served as a CIA intelligence officer.

1982

Merle Ochrach C’82, a principal at the law firm Hamburg, Rubin, Mullin, Maxwell & Lupin, is listed in the 2024 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* under the category of Banking and Finance Law. Merle

has been practicing real estate, banking, and municipal law for more than 35 years.

Michael Swiskay C’82 has written a new play, *Orbiting Esmeralda*, which had its world premiere at the New York Theater Festival on November 27. From the play’s description, the story centers around “Esmeralda (Ezzie), a formidable art dealer from Prague, and her real-estate developer husband, Matt, [who] are entangled in a high-stakes art scheme.”

1983

José Almiñana GLA’83 has received the 2023 Wyck-Strickland Award from the Wyck Association, which manages a historic house, garden, and farm in Philadelphia’s Germantown neighborhood. According to the release, “The award honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the cultural life of Philadelphia through work that reflects a drive for progress and modernity and a sensitivity to the past.” José is a principal at An-

dropogon Associates, a landscape architecture firm based in Philadelphia.

1985

Urban Carmel W'85 was sworn in as mayor of Mill Valley, California, in October. He was the top vote-getter in the 2020 election to the Mill Valley City Council. He was previously chair of the Mill Valley's Planning Commission and president of the Mill Valley Library Foundation. He has been chair of Penn's North Bay, California, Alumni Ambassador Program since 2010.

Donna Gaffney GNu'85 GrN'86 has authored a new book with Nicole C. Foster, *Courageous Well-Being for Nurses: Strategies for Renewal*. The book provides nurses with the underlying science, practices, and strategies to enhance their well-being and protect their mental health.

Will Hyde C'85 writes, "After working for federal government contractors for 20 years, I finally escaped that rat race and now work for AARP in Washington, DC. The big news, however, is this: on September 30, I was ordained to the permanent diaconate of the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. It was the culmination of an amazing and humbling experience, complicated (and lengthened) by the ever-present pandemic. I look forward to continued learning and growing in service of the Church and community of Frederick, Maryland, where I have been assigned to the two-parish Pastorate of St. John the Evangelist (Frederick) and St. Joseph on Carrollton Manor (Buckeystown). My ever-patient wife Mary and I live in Lovettsville, Virginia, with our two dogs and a cat, and more than a few Red-and-Blue memories, as her alma mater, the University of Dayton, shares our school colors. Our daughters Caroline and Catherine recently moved to Frederick as both finish master's degrees in anthropology and education, respectively."

1986

Dov Hoch C'86 writes that he has stepped down as president of the Penn Club of Israel, which he led from 2006 to 2023. Dov also served on the Penn Alumni

Advisory Board and is the former cochair of Penn Alumni (AB) International Clubs. Dov writes, "The 700 Penn alumni living in Israel will continue to conduct thriving philanthropic, social, and cultural activities that support Israel and enhance its members. In addition, we are enlarging our ambit to include thousands of pro-Israel alumni around the world."

Debra J. Rosenthal C'86, an English professor at John Carroll University, is editor of a new collection of scholarly essays, *Cli-Fi and Class: Socioeconomic Justice in Contemporary American Climate Fiction*, with Jason de Lara Molesky. She also wrote an article for TheConversation.com about her climate change literature course, "This course uses 'climate fiction' to teach about the perils that a warming planet faces" (September 19, 2023).

1987

Lisa A. Freeman C'87 G'91 Gr'95 has been appointed dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at University of Illinois Chicago.

1988

Judy Lobel C'88 married Dr. Dane Blumenthal on July 30 at Beth Sholom Congregation in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania. Many Penn alumni were in attendance, including the following members of the Class of 1988: **Scott Bober EAS'88**, **Alissa Makower C'88**, **Dana Markow C'88**, **Lori Freudenberger Nelson C'88**, **Susan Witkoff Stein C'88**, and **Jeremy Steindecker C'88**. Judy works in marketing for NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital and Dane is a diagnostic radiologist. The couple resides in New York.

R. Scott Wright GFA'88 exhibited his recent works of climate change paintings at the Phillips Museum of Art at Franklin & Marshall College from September 5 through December 8. From the press release: "*Coming Storms* is a mini-survey of the artist's conversations with our rapidly changing world from Superstorm Sandy to the plight of climate change refugees, as he questions the kind of world we are going to leave our children." More information can be found on his website, rscottwrightstudio.com.

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1989

Lisa Niver C'89, travel writer and author of a new memoir, *Brave-ish: One Breakup, Six Continents, and Feeling Fearless After Fifty*, writes, "I am so grateful for the overwhelming support and love at my book-signing event at the Penn Bookstore on Nov. 10! A heartfelt thank you to the campus organizations, especially the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, whose enthusiasm and promotion made the evening truly special. My alumni friends and family filled the room, and the warm reception filled my heart! Signed copies are still available at the bookstore and I will be back to sign more! Thank you to the bookstore team of Christine, Lew, Bern, Dylan, Taryn, and Marcellus. Thank you also to all the Penn 1989'ers who joined us in October for our reunion kickoff in Los Angeles! See you on campus in May for the alumni parade at our 35th Reunion! Hurray-Hurray!" More information about Lisa's event, including video coverage from NBC 10 Philadelphia, can be found at www.we-saidgotravel.com/penn-bookstore. She can also be contacted at lisaniver.com/one-page.

1990

Dr. Douglas Thamm C'90 V'95, a professor of oncology at the Colorado State University Flint Animal Cancer Center, was awarded the Alan Kelly International Award category of the 2023 International Canine Health Awards from the Kennel Club for his work in researching canine cancer. The award, underwritten by the Vernon and Shirley Hill Foundation, is named in honor of former Penn Vet dean **Alan M. Kelly Gr'67**.

1991

Jennifer Epstein C'91 and **Stephanie Formica Connaughton WG'92** are core owners of Boston Unity Soccer Partners, which has been selected to lead the National Women's Soccer League's franchise expansion to Boston. Boston Unity Soccer Partners will unveil the new club's brand as it moves closer to playing in the 2026 season. Jen-

nifer is the founder of Juno Equity and a member of the board of trustees for Penn's Institute of Contemporary Art. Her family has also been co-owners and managing partners of the Boston Celtics since 2002. Stephanie is a marketing executive and founder of Firebug LLC, and her family is a part of an investor/founder group and board member of the Boston Celtics.

Lauren Krasnow W'91 writes, "After 25-plus years in the legal profession (big firm lawyer, search firm recruiter, consultant, and a stint as a stay-at-home-mom), I'm an executive coach/consultant/speaker to senior leaders and teams at the largest global law firms. I also write a national column called 'The Fully Human Lawyer' (FHL) for *The American Lawyer*, a leading industry publication. I started the FHL during the pandemic to share (anonymized) common true stories from coaching to help make the legal profession more 'fully human.' It's been well received, and I'm excited to recently have been named a top 2023 Global 100 Leader in Legal Strategy & Consulting by *Lawdragon*. I hold a leadership role in the International Coaching Federation, the world's largest organization of professional coaches (chapter board member and DEIB committee founding member). After years in New York City, I now live in West Hartford, Connecticut, with my husband, our two teenaged kiddos and our puppy Ozzie. I'd love to reconnect with classmates and hear how you're all doing! Feel free to reach out at lauren@laurenkrasnow.com or on LinkedIn."

1992

Stephanie Formica Connaughton WG'92 see **Jennifer Epstein C'91**.

1995

Dorian Mazurkevich C'95, currently serving at the US Embassy in Kyiv, Ukraine, has been awarded a Gold Medal for his work in supporting US commercial interests in Ukraine during Russia's war on Ukraine. The Gold Medal is the highest honor granted by the US Secretary of Commerce for distinguished performance.

1997

Carl Irace C'97 has been sworn in as village justice for the Village of Sag Harbor, New York. This part-time judicial position allows him to continue serving as a federal criminal defense attorney on the Criminal Justice Act Panel for the Eastern District of New York. Carl's family, including **Steven Irace C'65 G'66**, was present at the ceremony.

Dawn Landua McCormack C'97 Gr'08 has been appointed as dean of the Howard College of Arts and Sciences at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama.

Darlene D. Pedersen GNu'97, an advanced practice psychiatric nurse, has authored two new editions of her clinical titles for psychiatric professionals. *Psych-Notes: Clinical Pocket Guide* (sixth edition) and *Pocket Psych Drugs: Point-of-Care Clinical Guide* (second edition) are both published by FA Davis Company.

1998

Sarah Burgess Gregorian GE'd'98 has published her second novel. She says the young adult story, *Kelly's Folly*, is about "a high school diver with his eye on the Olympics," and it is published under her pen name, T. H. Forest. Sarah's debut novel, *Twinkies & Beefcake*, which she describes as "a coming-of-age story made for the 21st century," was released in October 2022, under the same pen name. Both books are available on Amazon, or a signed copy of either can be purchased directly from Sarah at a 50 percent discount for a limited time. Visit her website, fountainoffiction.com, or email her at thforest@holdorfpress.com.

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1999

Patrick Shilling C'99 has been promoted to Americas general counsel at UBS Group AG.

2000

Nia Tahani Wilkes C'00 and **Leroy Wilkes III C'09** have codesigned a limited-edition fine jewelry pendant, "Sweet Chairiot," which pays homage to freedom

Alumni in Business

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

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fighters, past and present. They write, “The design was inspired by the associations that were made between the Negro spiritual ‘Swing Low, Sweet Chariot’ by Black Choctaw freedman Wallace Willis, and the symbol that the folding chair has become since the ‘Battle of Alabama’ on August 5, 2023. [Also known as the ‘Montgomery Riverfront brawl,’ this was a large-scale altercation that began when a riverboat was unable to dock where a private pontoon was moored. Many alleged that the assailants were racially motivated in their attack.] ‘Sweet Chairiot’ is a symbol of resistance and remembrance for the Black lives—entire communities—lost to senseless racism from the Middle Passage to today. The final design (copyright pending) is a solid gold pendant featuring an eight-pointed ‘Freedom Star’ and a Victorian era-style ancestral hand holding the handle of the backrest.” Their nonprofit partner Alabama Arise will receive 10 percent of the sales, which will aid efforts to empower Alabamians, largely Black and brown, who are marginalized by poverty. Contact Nia and Leroy at TheGemCorps@gmail.com or visit www.gemcorps.com for more information.

2001

Jonathan Feinberg L’01, a Philadelphia-based civil rights attorney and partner at Kairys, Rudovsky, Messing, Feinberg & Lin, has been named president of the National Police Accountability Project (NPAP). The NPAP is “dedicated to holding law enforcement accountable,” by bringing lawsuits against police and correction officers for illegal behavior, seeking justice for victims of police violence, and fighting for an end to police brutality of all forms.

2002

Evelyn Gong C’02 is a judge-elect for Queens 6th Municipal Court District of the New York City Civil Court Queens County. As the first woman of color to preside in this seat, she assumes office on January 1. More information for her run for judge may be found at www.gongforjudge.com.

2003

Eloise M. K. Hirsch C’03, a real estate attorney at the law firm Polsinelli, has been elevated to shareholder. She works out of the firm’s Denver office.

Tamara Weiss Levine C’03 announces that she has joined Weinberger Divorce and Family Law Group as a partner in the firm’s Parsippany, New Jersey, office. She continues to reside in New Jersey with her husband and two daughters. Tamara welcomes alumni contact at tamara682@gmail.com.

2005

Martha Cooney C’05 has published an essay collection, *Walk Me Through Your Resume*. Hailed by national bestselling author R. Eric Thomas as “hilarious” and “delivering immense satisfaction and delight,” this collection of laugh-out-loud true stories follows Martha as she tries to make ends meet in the gig economy. Martha is a winner of The Moth GrandSLAM storytelling competition and reaches audiences regularly with her humor newsletter *YO. from Martha Cooney*. She has performed on Commonsense Radio Hour on WHYY and at the United Palace Theatre in New York City.

Gizelle Gopez C’05 and **Antonio David W’07** are thrilled to announce the birth of their daughter, Astrid Giulia David, born on August 21. The family resides in Atlanta, along with their two rescue pups, Tisha and Thomas.

2006

Rob Forman W’06 has been elected to the board of directors of the Writers Guild of America West.

2007

Antonio David W’07 see **Gizelle Gopez C’05**.

Daniel Sun EAS’07 and **Emily Chang EAS’07** now live in Cincinnati with their kids Kingston (six) and Chloe (two). Dan is the division director of neurotology at the University of Cincinnati and Emily works in the development of cancer diag-

nostics. Dan and Emily both majored in chemical and biomolecular engineering at Penn and met as next-door neighbors in Hill House.

2008

Lindsay Motlin EAS’08 and Adam Britanyak were married in Portland, Oregon, on August 20. Several Penn alumni were in attendance including her brother **Craig Motlin EAS’05 W’05**, and dear friends from Warwick 3, including best woman **Anna Raper C’08**, **Jay Olman EAS’08**, **Jonathan Hakim C’08**, **Sarah Abroms Kunin C’08**, **Dr. Alex Hirsch C’08 M’12**, **Suraj Patel EAS’08 W’08**, **Rebecca Labov C’09**, and **Lauren Ahearn W’08**. Celebrating from afar were **Jasminka Arnautovic Arguez W’08 C’08**, **Kimie Bunyasanand Marin C’08**, **Mark Pasha W’08**, **Nik Nirmel W’08**, and **Steve Raper L’12**.

Celebrate Your Reunion, May 17-19, 2024!

2009

Leroy Wilkes III C’09 see **Nia Tahani Wilkes C’00**.

2011

Matthew G. Frias C’11, a litigation senior associate at Lash Goldberg LLP, married Shanelle Gordon Frias, a mergers and acquisitions associate at Dechert LLP. Matthew and Shanelle share that they celebrated their wedding at Vizcaya Museum and Gardens in Miami. In attendance were several of Matt’s closest friends and fellow Penn Class of 2011 alumni: **Siddharth Chandrasekhar W’11 EAS’11**, **Sandeep Karipineni EAS’11**, **Dr. Avinash Maganty C’11 G’11**, **Dr. Prashanth Sompalli EAS’11**, **Roger Stronach C’11 L’15**, and **Dr. Molly Haloran Stronach C’11**.

2012

Dr. Barri Sarowitz V’12 see **Dr. Benjamin Donati V’17**.

2015

John A. McCabe LPS’15 shares this poem: “Sunlight turns in shade./ Sunflower see-

ing follows./ With magnetic eyes/ When the earth opens/ The darkest path now resolves./ New way, all who live./ Suspend life's judgements./ Eyes of scorn that jury gaze./ Sun over ice melting/ A mid place arroyo/ Us held aloft no descent./ Always at the dawn/ A fish jumps above./ And into rain leaps beyond/ Spring or fall, the same./ Thinnest bread accepts./ Lambs silence on Shepherd's field/ Our transformation/ Sharp frost ice forming/ Warm rain returns from the sun./ No shadows forming./ Fields shine or moon glow/ Clouds and light their circles move./ Pouring rain our love."

Jennifer Shulkin C'15 and **Ron Kerbs G'20 WG'20** have been named to the inaugural "itrek25" list of 25 itrek alumni driving positive change in their industries. itrek, an Israel experience company, brings graduate students from the US, Canada, and Europe to Israel for dynamic peer-led educational experiences. Jennifer is cofounder and CEO of Override Health and was recognized for "pioneering a new approach to chronic pain management." Ron is founder and CEO of Kidas Incorporated and was recognized for "protecting kids from online predators through voice analysis."

2016

John Laberee C'16 see **Sara Gabriela "Gabi" Rodriguez C'17**.

2017

Dr. Benjamin Donati V'17 shares that he is leading a group of veterinary specialists and emergency doctors who are opening an independently owned hospital in Silver Spring, Maryland. Along with Benjamin, an emergency room doctor, the team includes Drs. **Tierney Roche V'17**, **Kelly McKenna V'18**, and **Hanum Wensil-Strow V'18** as emergency room doctors; and Drs. **Barri Sarowitz V'12** and Dominick Valenzano (who completed a veterinary internship at Penn in 2016) as surgeons. Apex Vets can be found online at apex.vet.

Hilary Dubin C'17 and **Caroline Vasquez Huber C'17** are founders of a new company tackling the vaping crisis, born from their

personal struggles to stop using nicotine. Jones offers behavior support along with nicotine replacement therapy mints. More information is at quitwithjones.com.

Sara Gabriela "Gabi" Rodriguez C'17 and **John Laberee C'16** were married at the Hacienda Siesta Alegre Rio Grande, Puerto Rico, on August 25, with many Penn alumni in attendance. John and Gabi met at Penn. The wedding party included **Nora Laberee C'18**, **Christina Qiu C'17**, **Linda Valadez W'17**, **Claudia Aliff GFA'21**, **Pierre Villenave C'16**, **Daniel Sha EAS'16 W'16**, **Raul Mendez W'17**, **Richard Wess C'16 W'16**, and **Adrien Gaussen W'16**. Guests included **Ian Seltzer C'09**, and Ian's father **Jeffrey Seltzer W'78** and mother Annie Seltzer. Jeffrey was a college roommate of the groom's father, **Peter Laberee C'78 L'82**. Gabi is a copywriter and John works in technology. The couple lives in Brooklyn, New York.

2018

Dr. Kelly McKenna V'18 and **Dr. Hanum Wensil-Strow V'18** see **Dr. Benjamin Donati V'17**.

Celebrate Your Reunion, May 17-19, 2024!

2019

Ed Pietrzak GEd'19 and **Christie Heimbach GEd'19** were married in July in San Diego. The two met during their grad program in 2019 and started dating shortly after graduation.

2020

Ron Kerbs G'20 WG'20 see **Jennifer Shulkin C'15**.

2021

Dr. David Dunaway GM'21, a dermatologist and internist, has joined the Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, office of Dermatology Partners. He specializes in medical and surgical dermatology, emphasizing skin cancer prevention and treatment and complex medical dermatology.

Alexis Gibson Gr'21, a postdoctoral researcher at Oregon Health & Science Uni-

versity, is the recipient of a 2023 Howard Hughes Medical Institute Hanna Gray Fellowship. The \$1.5 million award "recognizes talented early career scientists in the biomedical sciences." Alexis's research focuses on the intestinal epithelium, a layer of cells lining the intestines that is critical for the immune system.

2022

Joel Fishman LPS'22 has published a new book, *We Once Were Giants*, under the name J. E. Fishman. He writes, "This novel was my (very unusual) Capstone project for my master of environmental studies degree, completed in 2022." According to the book's description, it is set in "a future world where environmental disaster, wars and disease have reduced humans to wisps of their former selves." In this dystopia, Drop Duncan embarks on a thrilling quest "to the end of the Earth, facing unimaginable dangers in scarred regions to which no New Yorker has traveled in generations."

Eligio David P. Soliman Jr. GrN'22 is a clinical associate professor of the doctor of nursing practice program at the University of San Diego. He writes, "This year, I also advanced within my clinical role at Kaiser Permanente in Southern California, within the inpatient endocrinology team, and joined the council for the Advanced Management for Inpatient Diabetes. I participated in research undertakings in developing prediction models for hypoglycemia and readmission."

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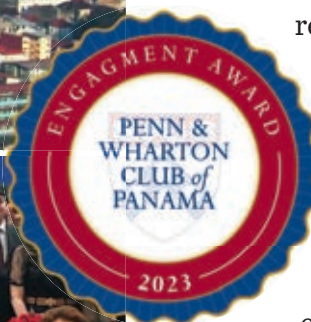


PennNYC

Alumni Club Award of Merit | PennNYC is honored to be the 2023 recipient of the Alumni Club Award of Merit recipient.

PennNYC was selected for their exceptional offering of consistent and diverse events, in content and format, during a transitional stage within the board and in the world at large. They held sixty events, with many of them being large in-person events with turnouts of 30+ people. They also successfully collaborated with other regional clubs on events and represented PennNYC on campus at both Homecoming and Alumni Weekend.

PennNYC caters to a large and diverse population and their annual calendar of events reflects their commitment to New York City area alumni.



Penn & Wharton Club of Panama

Engagement Award | The Penn & Wharton Club of Panama is the winner of the 2023 Engagement Award, which

recognizes a club that has increased engagement through a variety of events or with a single signature event. The club received this award for how they maintain engagement with their community using different communication tools, including monthly messages through WhatsApp, event postings on Instagram and email campaigns. With a robust and diverse array of annual offerings both in-person and virtual, the Penn and Wharton Club of Panama continues to increase both its first-time attendees and its returning friends.

Experience the impact of Penn in *your* community.

See our listing of Penn alumni clubs and get involved: www.alumni.upenn.edu/clubs

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.

Penn Club of Hong Kong

Community Service Award | Congratulations to the Penn Club of Hong Kong, the 2023 recipient of the Community Service Award. This award recognizes a club which is dedicated to making an impact on their local community through one or more events and provides volunteer opportunities to their club members. The club was selected for their outreach to a local senior living community. On three separate occasions members visited the community and played games and participated in arts and crafts projects with the residents. By visiting the same home, they got to know the residents and developed close relationships with them. Inviting families and kids to join these elderly home visits enriched the experience for the residents as they loved to see and hear kids talk about life and school.



Penn Club of Seattle

Innovation Award | The 2023 Innovation Award is presented to the Penn Club of Seattle. This award is given to a club that demonstrates creativity and innovation in engaging Penn alumni—and the Penn Club of Seattle was selected for the wide variety of their events, which included Bike, Boat and Beer, which captured several Pacific Northwest favorite activities: mountain biking, ferry rides and craft beer sampling.



1943

Dr. Harold F. Burton V'43, Abingdon, MD, a retired veterinarian; Aug. 31, at 102.

Dr. Morton E. Melman C'43 D'44, Boynton Beach, FL, a former associate clinical professor of restorative dentistry in Penn Dental Medicine; Aug. 6, at 100. He joined Penn in 1964 as an associate in dental restoration, becoming assistant professor in 1974. He eventually advanced to clinical associate professor in the same department before retiring from Penn in 1992. He served in the US Army during World War II. At Penn, he was a member of the choral society and the tennis team. One son is Dr. Barry E. Melman D'77, who is married to Leslie Poul Melman CW'74.

Charles W. Simon C'43, Los Angeles, July 1, 2022, at 99.

1944

Richard B. Anderson W'44, Philadelphia, a retired hospital CEO; April 10. He served in the US Navy.

1945

Aimee Polen Katz CW'45, Bala Cynwyd, PA, a teacher, social worker, and women's clothing designer; May 7, 2022.

1946

Manuel I. Plavin W'46, West Palm Beach, FL, retired president of the New England Furniture Company; Oct. 16. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Sigma Delta fraternity and the track team.

Carol Christman Spencer CW'46, Potomac, MD, a retired deputy chief of reference services at the National Library of Medicine; June 17. At Penn, she was a member of Chi Omega sorority, the choral society, and the orchestra.

1947

Amy Hickerson Dalton G'47, Richmond, VA, a retired professor at the University of Richmond; July 7.

Nettie Tate Graham Ed'47, Santa Barbara, CA, a retired nurse and former director of a nursing program at Allan Hancock College; Nov. 12, 2022, at 102. She served in the US Army during World War II.

Margaret Hartnett Mohyde DH'47, Stratford, CT, a retired dental hygienist and kindergarten teacher; Sept. 25.

Natalie Foss Stein G'47, Lenox, MA, a retired high school librarian; Aug. 16.

1948

Hon. Harold Berger EE'48 L'51, Philadelphia, a lawyer, engineer, and former judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia who served Penn in multiple capacities; Aug. 26. He served on Penn Engineering's board of advisors, as chair of the Friends of Biddle Law Library, and as a member of the executive board of Penn Carey Law's Center of Ethics and the Rule of Law. He established Penn Biddle Library's Berger Law collection in memory of his parents, and Penn Engineering's Harold Berger Distinguished Lecture and Award was named in his honor. In addition, he was the recipient of the inaugural Lifetime Commitment Award of Penn Law. Throughout his career, he participated in many complex litigation and class-action matters, including the Exxon Valdez oil spill and the Three Mile Island accident. He served in the US Army during World War II. His son is Jonathan D. Berger W'80.

Dr. Robert C. King D'48, New Scotland, NY, a retired dentist; Aug. 27. He served in the US Navy during the Korean War.

Leon Rosenberg WG'48, San Diego, a retired executive in the textiles industry who later worked as a private management consultant; Dec. 12, 2022. He served in the US Navy.

Margaret Huber Rowe Ed'48, Wycombe, PA, a retired second-grade teacher at a Quaker school; Oct. 14.

Sylvia Gordon Tashman CW'48, Drexel Hill, PA, a retired math and science teacher who previously worked as a microbiologist in a research laboratory at Albert Einstein Medical Center and CHOP; Oct. 20.

1949

Sandra Schaffer Alexander Ed'49, Audubon, PA, Sep. 24.

Edward S. Brinton W'49, Kennett Square, PA, a retired manufacturing man-

Notifications

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

ager at DuPont; Sept. 23. He served in the US Army during World War II. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Psi fraternity and the swimming team.

Dr. Leonard Brown C'49, San Diego, a retired dermatologist; June 8.

Lewis Walton Heiss Jr. ME'49, Fort Washington, PA, a retired medical engineer and former president of what is now PWI Engineering; June 16. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

Albert M. Lyles G'49, Charlotte, NC, a retired administrator at Virginia Commonwealth University and Winthrop University; June 11.

Jean Albertelli Mesropian Ed'49, Phoenix, a former kindergarten teacher; Sept. 16.

John H. Morris W'49, Dubuque, IA, a retired advertising executive; Sept. 25, 2020. He served in the US Army Air Corps during World War II.

Marie "Rink" Cissel Neuhauser CW'49, Cabin John, MD, June 11. At Penn, she was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

1950

Dr. Robert L. Grimm GEd'50, Conshohocken, PA, Jan. 23. His wife is Dr. Agnes M. Rash.

Norwin E. Katzen W'50, La Habra, CA, April 24.

Marvin C. Shrager W'50, Atlanta, a retired partner of a CPA firm in Scotch Plains, NJ; Jan. 14. He served in the US Navy during World War II. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Sigma Delta fraternity.

1951

Edward L. Balinsky W'51, Kennett Square, PA, a retired executive at Grumman Aerospace Corporation; June 26. He served in the US Navy during the Korean War. At Penn, he was among the first co-

hort of student broadcasters and on-air hosts at WXPB.

Dorrance Elder Dean CW'51, East Lansing, MI, Nov. 11, 2022. At Penn, she was a member of Alpha Omicron Pi sorority.

Dr. William F. Gebhart M'51, Santa Barbara, CA, a retired nephrologist and assistant medical director of a medical clinic; July 7, 2022.

Fred D. Oyler WG'51, Carlisle, PA, Aug. 18. He retired from DuPont chemical company. He served in the US Navy.

Rabbi Morton A. Wallack C'51, Encino, CA, a retired rabbi; July 22, 2022. One daughter is Claudia Wallack Samuels CW'74.

Joseph A. Zulfer WG'51, Flossmoor, IL, a retired partner at the accounting firm Ernst & Young; Oct. 14. He served in the US Navy during World War II.

1952

Alex J. Adler G'52, Bryn Mawr, PA, retired president of a medical communications agency; Oct. 3, 2022.

Dr. J. Thomas Davis C'52 D'55, Everett, PA, a retired dentist; Sept. 2. He served in the US Navy as a dentist. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity and the basketball team.

Lois Kirkpatrick Ely Ed'52 GEd'53, Selingsgrove, PA, a retired English and Spanish teacher; June 7.

Donald N. Leff W'52, South Orange, NJ, retired owner of Audrey's Farmhouse; April 12, 2022. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Epsilon Pi fraternity, Friars Senior Society, and the rowing team.

Dr. Gus J. Mazzola Jr. C'52, Longboat Key, FL, a retired physician; Sept. 24. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

Joseph B. Milgram Jr. WG'52, Cleveland, retired chairman of a paint manufacturer; Aug. 1, 2022, at 99. He served in the US Army during World War II. One son is John S. Milgram C'81.

Janet Brodsky Snyder Ed'52, Baltimore, Sept. 5. At Penn, she was a member of Penn Dance Group. One daughter is Debra Snyder Hirsh DH'80.

1953

Warren J. Adair C'53, West Chester, PA, a retired trial attorney; June 9. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, the *Daily Pennsylvanian*, Glee Club, the ROTC, and the football and rowing teams.

Edward J. Brauner EE'53 GEE'55, Beaverton, OR, a retired manager for an engineering company and longtime volunteer for Habitat for Humanity; July 14, 2022. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity and WXPB.

Martin Breslauer W'53, Del Mar, CA, former assistant property director for the City of San Diego; June 1. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of the baseball and rowing teams.

Dr. John C. Bucur GM'53, Falls Church, VA, a neurosurgeon; Aug. 17. He served in the US Army during World War II.

Herbert S. Cassel W'53 WG'54, Fayetteville, PA, a retired professor at Shippensburg University; June 26, 2022. He served in the US Army.

Jeanne Kornis Clark Nu'53, Old Lyme, CT, a former nurse; Aug. 23. At Penn, she was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority.

Nancy Davidson Craig Ed'53, Bensalem, PA, a retired kindergarten teacher; Dec. 28, 2021. At Penn, she was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

Robert G. Heine W'53, Palm Beach Gardens, FL, a retired banker; June 5. He served in the US Army during the Korean War. At Penn, he was a member of Kappa Nu fraternity.

Joan Wells Lathrap CW'53, Urbana, IL, a retired director of social services at the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District; May 24.

Dr. Edgar L. Loy V'53, Wayne, PA, a retired veterinarian and owner of his own practice; May 6, 2022. He served in the US Navy during World War II and later in the US Army Reserve.

Frances Dickson Campbell Shaw SW'53, Phoenixville, PA, a retired supervisor at a child welfare agency; Sept. 21. Her daughter is Mary E. Campbell G'84.

David R. Slocum Ar'53, Avon, CT, an architect; Sept. 23. He served in the US

Army. One granddaughter is Hayley R. Kearney Nu'17.

1954

Dr. E. Joseph Charny M'54 GM'58, Pittsburgh, a retired psychiatrist; Jan. 10. He survived the mass shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh on Oct. 27, 2018, and was featured in the HBO documentary *A Tree of Life*. He served in the US Army.

Neal D. Coberly Jr. W'54 G'65, Atherton, CA, a financial and management consultant for an international corporation; Oct. 8, 2022. He served in the US Air Force. At Penn, he was a member of ROTC.

Theodore Davis W'54, Boca Raton, FL, a retired executive of a packaging company; May 20. He served in the US Air Force during the Korean War. At Penn, he was a member of Pi Lambda Phi fraternity and the ROTC.

John A. Kosco W'54, Hutchinson Island, FL, a retired accountant for Educational Testing Service; Aug. 19. He served in the US Army and the US Army Reserve. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Upsilon fraternity and Mask & Wig.

Dr. William N. "Bill" Mebane III M'54, Gwynedd, PA, a former clinical associate professor in the department of family practice and community medicine in the Perelman School of Medicine; Oct. 1. He practiced for several decades as a pediatrician in Chestnut Hill. He taught at Penn as a clinical associate professor of family practice and community medicine from 1997 to 1999. In addition, he held a faculty position at Jefferson Medical College. He served in the US Army as a battalion surgeon.

William H. Odell W'54, East Bend, NC, retired owner of an actuary service; Sept. 1. At Penn, he was a member of Pi Lambda Phi fraternity, the Debate Council, WXPB, and the baseball team.

Nancy Vogt Spiegel CW'54, Gainesville, FL, owner of a real estate company; June 19.

1955

Dr. Walter M. Bortz II M'55, Portola Valley, CA, a former professor of medicine at Stanford University and a longevity and healthy aging expert; Aug. 5.

Hershey Groff Jr. W'55, Landisville, PA, a retired accountant; Aug. 31. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity and the baseball and sprint football teams.

E. Burton Kerr W'55, Briarcliff Manor, NY, a retired accountant; Feb. 20. At Penn, he was a member of Beta Sigma Rho fraternity.

Joseph Moro W'55, Atco, NJ, a retired human resources director; Aug. 28. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity and the soccer team.

Hartwell P. Morse Jr. W'55, Cazenovia, NY, a retired bank executive; Sept. 22. He served in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity.

Sonia Callahan Myers DH'55, Milesburg, PA, a school dental hygienist and former instructor at a vocational school; Sept. 18.

Anne M. "Nancy" Rigney CW'55, Media, PA, director of volunteers at a hospital; Aug. 16. At Penn, she was a member of Chi Omega sorority. One brother is John C. Rigney Jr. C'51.

Joseph W. Zahn Jr. W'55, Hackettstown, NJ, a real estate and insurance broker; Jan. 1. He served in the US Air Force. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

Joseph M. Zangerle G'55, Bloomington, IL, a retired executive at State Farm Insurance Company; Sept. 17. He served in the US Army.

1956

Herbert J. Betz ME'56, Morgantown, PA, May 26, 2021. He worked for a Bible translating agency as well as in his family's construction business. At Penn, he was a member of the rowing team. One sister is Elsie Betz Oerter Ed'49 GEd'50, and another sister was Esther Betz Bader Nu'64, who died Jan. 11, 2023 (see Class of 1964).

T. Vincent Corsini Jr. WG'56, East Sandwich, MA, retired founder of a construction company; Aug. 15.

Robert R. Lerman W'56, Middlebury, VT, a retired executive at a carpet company; Aug. 20. He served in the US Navy.

Ronald J. Mason C'56, Appleton, WI, a retired professor of archaeology at Lawrence University; Sept. 5. He served in the US Air Force during the Korean War.

Thomas H. "Tom" Stoner W'56, Annapolis, MD, cofounder of a radio broadcasting company and what would become the world's largest network of cell phone towers; Oct. 19. He also cofounded Nature Sacred, a nonprofit dedicated to connecting people with nature ["Profiles," this issue]. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, Mask & Wig, and Sphinx Senior Society. One grandchild is Kristin A. Kelly C'09.

Dr. Ralph G. Wieland Jr. M'56, Chatterland, OH, a retired physician and professor of medicine at Case Western Reserve University; May 28. He served in the US Air Force.

J. King Wright C'56, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL, a retired executive at Lehman Brothers; Aug. 19. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity, Friars Senior Society, and the rowing team.

1957

Edith D. Grossman CW'57 G'59, New York, a renowned translator of Latin American literature; Sept. 4. She has translated books by Gabriel García Márquez, Isabel Allende, Carlos Fuentes, and others into English.

Lt. Col. Thaddeus F. Jacoviak CE'57, Lavallete, NJ, a civil engineer for the State of New Jersey; Sept. 6. He served in the US Air Force for two decades, including during the Vietnam War. At Penn, he was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity.

Dr. Stuart A. Kleit D'57, Wellington, FL, a retired professor of medicine and associate dean emeritus at Indiana University; Sept. 20. He served in the US Navy.

Leonard I. Korman W'57, Fort Washington, PA, a philanthropist and former chairman and CEO of the Korman Corporation, a construction company; Aug. 16. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Epsilon Pi fraternity. One daughter is Alison Korman Feldman C'82, and his sister is Judith Korman Langsfeld CW'67.

Sheldon A. Nelson C'57, Kingston, PA, a garments and furniture salesman; Sept. 17. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Sigma Delta fraternity.

David P. Willis Jr. W'57, Downingtown, PA, retired president and CEO of a coatings manufacturer; Aug. 16. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

1958

Francis S. Carnes Jr. W'58, Easton, MD, a retired executive at an insurance agency; Sept. 12. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

Joseph A. Damico Jr. L'58, Media, PA, a lawyer and former solicitor for Middletown Township (PA); Sept. 7.

Ruth Crispin Helmetag Ed'58, Newtown Square, PA, a former curriculum supervisor for the American Institute for Certified Property & Casualty Underwriters; March 13.

Robert C. Hopkins WG'58, Cincinnati, a retired managing director for Levi Strauss; Feb. 18. He served in the US Air Force.

Rev. Reuel S. Kaighn Jr. C'58, Bluffton, SC, an Episcopal minister; Sept. 13. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity, Friars Senior Society, the ROTC, and the rowing team.

Dr. John A. Lambie M'58 GM'62, Grand Forks, ND, a retired physician; Sept. 19. He served in the Fargo (ND) Air National Guard during the Korean War.

Dr. Alson W. Sears Jr. C'58, Park City, UT, a retired veterinarian; June 3. At Penn, he was a member of Theta Xi fraternity.

Joan Barckley Trerotola MT'58, Needham, MA, a biochemist and perennial garden designer for a greenhouse in New Jersey; Sept. 10. Her husband is Nicholas F. Trerotola, Jr. W'58.

1959

Dr. Steven W. Babcock M'59, Madison, WI, a retired physician at a Veterans Affairs medical center; June 17. He served in the US military throughout his life, including in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard during the Korean War and the US Army Reserve during the Gulf War.

Leonard J. Cooper C'59 L'62, Laverock, PA, a lawyer; Sept. 27.

Dr. James M. Flickinger V'59, West Hartford, CT, a retired veterinarian; July 12. He served in the US Army Veterinary Corps.

Dr. J. Myron "Mike" Rosen GD'59, Boston, a retired dentist; Aug. 31.

Michael D. Zucker W'59, Sarasota, FL, an accountant; Sept. 19. He served in the US Army Reserve. At Penn, he was a member of Pi Lambda Phi fraternity.

1960

Arlene Johnson Flick CW'60, Newtown Square, PA, Sept. 1. She worked for the Zoological Society of Philadelphia. At Penn, she was a member of Chi Omega sorority and the choral society.

Susan Woodruff Kirkpatrick Ed'60, West Chester, PA, a retired high school math teacher; Jan. 19.

William H. Roberts GLA'60, Philadelphia, an architect and landscape designer; Aug. 19. He was also the former chair of the Department of Landscape Architecture at Penn. His wife is Jean M. Roberts Gr'85.

Dr. Marvin M. Rosenberg GD'60, North Palm Beach, FL, a retired periodontist; Feb. 3.

Bert L. Zuber C'60 ChE'61, Chicago, a professor emeritus of bioengineering at the University of Illinois at Chicago; June 20.

1961

Patricia T. Cruser G'61, Colorado Springs, CO, a retired professor of literature and film and associate dean for liberal arts at the University of the Arts; Nov. 14, 2022.

Robert A. Gilbert GAR'61, Hertford, NC, a retired architect; Aug. 30. He served in the US Army National Guard.

Louise A. Pascke Hopkins G'61, Hadley, MA, a retired administrator at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and owner of a yarn shop; Sept. 16.

1962

Jennie Lavin Drasin CW'62, Columbia, MD, March 20.

Patricia Gaskill Eckersley Nu'62, Mount Dora, FL, a former nurse; June 14.

Dr. McIver "Mac" W. Edwards Jr. M'62 GM'72, Kennett Square, PA, an anesthesiologist who also taught at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania; Jan. 13.

Dr. Robert D. Heckel GD'62, Warren, OH, a retired oral and maxillofacial surgeon who was also a clinical associate professor of maxillofacial surgery at Case Western Reserve University; Sept. 1. He served in the US Navy.

Robert S. Koffler GFA'62, Cheltenham, PA, an artist and a professor emeritus of art at the Art Institute of Philadelphia; March 15, 2022.

Michael C. Krug W'62, Cincinnati, a former human resources manager at Procter & Gamble; Sept. 4. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity, Friars Senior Society, the Glee Club, and Mask & Wig. One son is John C. Krug C'86.

Dr. Stanley Sigel V'62, Islamorada, FL, a retired veterinarian; Jan. 15. He served in the US Navy during the Korean War.

1963

B. Maralyn Richards Becker SW'63, Cherry Hill, NJ, a retired school social worker; Oct. 20. Two sons are Robert M. Becker C'95 GEd'96 and William I. Becker C'95.

Richard G. Colville Ar'63, Charlottesville, VA, Jan. 28. His wife is Linda Strekis Colville CW'64.

James H. Cook C'63, Southbury, CT, a retired underwriting executive at an insurance company; Sept. 4. At Penn, he was a member of Kappa Alpha Society fraternity and the ROTC. He served in the US Army.

Roland J. Greenwood Jr. ME'63, Granby, CT, a retired engineer for aerospace company Pratt and Whitney and a manager of a horse farm; Aug. 30. He served in the US Air Force.

Kenneth D. Gussion C'63, Humboldt, TN, Sept. 19. He worked in the furniture industry. At Penn, he was a member of Tau Epsilon Phi fraternity.

Joseph E. Illick Gr'63, San Francisco, a retired professor of American history at San Francisco State University; Feb. 23.

Yun Kim G'63, Verona, NJ, a retired professor of sociology and demography and

chair of the Asian studies program at Utah State University; March 8. He was also a provost at Far East University in Korea and a visiting professor at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

Lee W. Mistrik WEV'63 W'64, Media, PA, an accountant; Aug. 6, 2022. He served in the US Navy Reserve during the Vietnam War. At Penn, he was a member of the orchestra and Penn Band.

Mukunda Rao GrS'63, Tampa, a retired chief of social welfare for the United Nations; May 2.

Pearl P. Schrack G'63, Lansdale, PA, a retired high school English teacher and supervising instructor; Sept. 13.

Steven C. Shain C'63, Laguna Beach, CA, a retired marketing executive; Oct. 16, 2022. His wife is Lynne Flickstein Shain CW'64, and one daughter is Elizabeth Shain Forgash C'95.

Marylyn S. Ward CW'63 GEd'65 Gr'82, Bala Cynwyd, PA, a retired school psychologist; June 8. At Penn, she was a member of Chi Omega sorority and the tennis team.

Paul S. Wilson W'63 ASC'64, Philadelphia, a former instructor at Villanova University; May 27. At Penn, he was a member of Pi Lambda Phi fraternity and the fencing and soccer teams.

1964

Esther Betz Bader Nu'64, Warminster, PA, a church administrator; Jan. 11. At Penn, she was a member of Penn Singers. Her sister is Elsie Betz Oerter Ed'49 GEd'50, and one brother was Herbert J. Betz ME'56, who died May 26, 2021 (see Class of 1956).

Ronald G. Flegal CE'64, Ardmore, PA, a retired information technology executive at Merrill Lynch; Sept. 6. He served in the US Navy during the Vietnam War. At Penn, he was a member of Theta Xi fraternity.

Loring F. Hill W'64, Elkins Park, PA, retired professor and chairman of the photography and cinematography department at the Community College of Philadelphia; Aug. 28. At Penn, he was a member of the rowing team.

Lauren R. Madden WG'64, Springfield, IL, a retired printing executive; Sept. 13.

Tatjana "Tanya" Balabkins May Nu'64, Medford, NJ, a retired nurse anesthetist; Sept. 14.

1966

Dr. Harvey P. Yeager GM'66, Green Village, NJ, an otolaryngologist and an associate clinical professor of surgery at Rutgers University and an adjunct professor at Seton Hall University; Aug. 20. He served in the US Air Force.

1967

Rosalyn "Roz" Jones Watts GNu'67, Jenkintown, PA, an associate professor emerita in the nursing and biobehavioral health sciences departments of Penn's School of Nursing; Oct. 19. She joined Penn Nursing's faculty as an instructor in 1969, moving through the ranks to become an associate professor in the graduate division of nursing in 1982. She also held a secondary appointment in the department of nursing and biobehavioral health sciences. In 1984, she developed the Critical Care Clinical Nurse Specialist Program, which evolved over the next 10 years into the first Critical Care Nurse Practitioner program in the country. In 1997, she received the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching. She retired in 1999.

1968

Paul L. Hill Jr. GrE'68, Bedford, MA, a biomedical engineer; Aug. 20.

George Mifflin Dallas Peltz C'68, Hackensack, NJ, a real estate professional; Nov. 1. At Penn, he was a member of the Tau Chapter of Psi Upsilon fraternity.

Edward T. M. Tsoi GAR'68 GCP'68 GFA'68, Arlington, MA, a retired architect; Aug. 19.

1970

Regine Chaletsky Brown WEv'70 CGS'73, Sellersville, PA, a retired senior financial analyst for the state of New Jersey; Aug. 15. At Penn, she was a member of Chi Alpha Phi sorority.

Norman E. Lehrer EE'70, Ventnor City, NJ, a retired lawyer; Aug. 26. At Penn, he was a member of Tau Delta Phi fraternity.

1971

Helene Essrick Feldsher SW'71, Newtown, PA, Aug. 26. At Penn, she was a member of Phi Sigma Sigma sorority.

Roger E. Malman W'71, Charlotte, NC, a real estate developer; Aug. 25. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Epsilon Pi fraternity.

William T. Ondek C'71, Kilbuck Township, PA, owner of a real estate company; June 28.

Dr. Kenneth A. Reinhold D'71, Dune-din, FL, a dentist; Dec. 4, 2022.

1974

Lewis R. Achenbach Jr. SW'74, Pottsville, PA, former deputy secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health and owner and operator of two behavioral centers for adults; Aug. 21. He served in the US Army during the Vietnam War.

Peter J. Bernbaum L'74, Rye Brook, NY, a lawyer and professor at St. John's University School of Law; Aug. 24.

1975

Dr. Thomas J. Braciale Gr'75 M'75, Charlottesville, VA, a professor of pathology at the University of Virginia; May 19, 2023. One sister is Yael Braciale Shayne C'79, who is married to Mark S. Shayne W'79.

1976

Alain P. Toumayan C'76, South Bend, IN, a professor emeritus of French and Francophone studies at the University of Notre Dame; Oct. 5. His brothers are Paul P. Toumayan C'84 and Eric G. Toumayan C'74 GLA'76, who is married to Trini M. Rodriguez Fajardo GLA'83 GFA'84 GRP'85.

1985

Virginia Hart Rials GNu'85, Roanoke, VA, a nursing instructor at the University of Virginia; Aug. 23. Earlier in her career, she was a nurse in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

1989

Joel M. Shmukler L'89, Chesterbrook, PA, an attorney; Aug. 17.

1992

Vicki Wilkof Shinoda GEd'92, Malvern, PA, a therapist; Aug. 27.

1993

Cheryl Neisser-Frankson GNu'93 Gr'03 GNu'15, Warminster, PA, an advanced senior lecturer in Penn Nursing's department of biobehavioral and health science; Oct. 9. She served as a teaching assistant on Penn Nursing's faculty from 1991 to 2001. In 2004, she joined the faculty full time as a lecturer. She was promoted to advanced senior lecturer in 2017.

2004

Darcy E. Richie C'04, Birmingham, MI, a former managing director at Teach for America and founding principal of Leadership Prep Elementary School in Brownsville, Brooklyn; April 26, 2022. At Penn, she was a member of Sphinx Senior Society, chair of the United Minorities Council, and a recipient of the 2004 Student Award of Merit.

2026

Michael Gavin C'26, West Chester, PA, a sophomore in the School of Arts and Sciences; Oct. 14. At Penn, he was a member of the football team, and he was awarded the Coach Lake Award for demonstrating leadership and Penn pride.

Natalie Kim V'26, Bryn Mawr, PA, a first-year student at Penn's School of Veterinary Medicine; Oct. 24.

2028

Edgar Luzete Monteiro Gr'28, Brasilia, Brazil, a graduate student in the department of biology in the School of Arts and Sciences; Oct. 29. He conducted research in the Perelman School of Medicine's Institute for Regenerative Medicine, focusing on identifying pioneer transcription factors' domains responsible for chromatin interaction.

Faculty & Staff

Hon. Harold Berger. *See Class of 1948.*

David E. Boettiger, Davis, CA, professor emeritus of microbiology in the Perelman School of Medicine; Oct. 6. He joined Penn's microbiology faculty in 1974 and was promoted to full professor in 1986. As a researcher at Penn, he studied the molecular mechanisms of cell adhesion, which is critical for the integrity of tissues and organs and for the infection of cells by microbes and viruses. He retired in 2011.

Eugenio "Gene" Calabi Hon'14, Bryn Mawr, PA, the Thomas A. Scott Professor Emeritus of Mathematics in the School of Arts and Sciences; Sept. 25, at 100. He joined Penn's faculty as a professor of mathematics in 1964. Three years later, he was named the Thomas A. Scott Professor of Mathematics. He was a seminal researcher who made crucial contributions to differential geometry. He presented the incomplete Calabi conjecture in 1954, which was finally proven, to much fanfare, in the 1970s. In 1982, he introduced a geometric flow, now called the Calabi flow, as a proposal for finding Kähler metrics of constant scalar curvature. He also found the Laplacian comparison theorem in Riemannian geometry and, with Beno Eckmann, discovered the Calabi-Eckmann manifold. He retired in 1994. In 2008, Penn established a Calabi Assistant Professorship of Mathematics in his honor, which was first given to Joachim Krieger.

Dr. McIver "Mac" W. Edwards Jr. *See Class of 1962.*

Robert A. Kraft, Ambler, PA, the Berg Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies in the School of Arts and Sciences; Sept. 15. He joined Penn's faculty in 1963, as an assistant professor of religious thought, becoming full professor in 1976. A Guggenheim Fellow, he made important contributions to the study of history and literatures of Judaism in the Greco-Roman Period (particularly the Septuagint and Old Greek translations), Coptic texts, updating and expanding the "Lost Apocrypha of the Old Testament," and the computerization and digitization of ancient Jewish scriptures in Greek and papyri and

School Abbreviations					
Ar	Architecture	GEE	master's, Electrical Engineering	HUP	Nurse training (till 1978)
ASC	Annenberg	GEng	master's, Engineering and Applied Science	L	Law
C	College (bachelor's)	GEx	master's, Engineering Executive	LAR	Landscape Architecture
CCC	College Collateral Courses	GFA	master's, Fine Arts	LPS	Liberal and Professional Studies
CE	Civil Engineering	GGS	master's, College of General Studies	M	Medicine
CGS	College of General Studies (till 2008)	GL	master's, Law	ME	Mechanical Engineering
Ch	Chemistry	GLA	master's, Landscape Architecture	MT	Medical Technology
ChE	Chemical Engineering	GME	master's, Mechanical Engineering	MtE	Metallurgical Engineering
CW	College for Women (till 1975)	GM	Medicine, post-degree	Mu	Music
D	Dental Medicine	GMt	master's, Metallurgical Engineering	NEd	Certificate in Nursing
DH	Dental Hygiene	GNu	master's, Nursing	Nu	Nursing (bachelor's)
EAS	Engineering and Applied Science (bachelor's)	GPU	master's, Governmental Administration	OT	Occupational Therapy
Ed	Education	Gr	doctorate	PSW	Pennsylvania School of Social Work
EE	Electrical Engineering	GrC	doctorate, Civil Engineering	PT	Physical Therapy
FA	Fine Arts	GrE	doctorate, Electrical Engineering	SAMP	School of Allied Medical Professions
G	master's, Arts and Sciences	GrEd	doctorate, Education	SPP	Social Policy and Practice (master's)
GAr	master's, Architecture	GrL	doctorate, Law	SW	Social Work (master's) (till 2005)
GCE	master's, Civil Engineering	GrN	doctorate, Nursing	V	Veterinary Medicine
GCh	master's, Chemical Engineering	GRP	master's, Regional Planning	W	Wharton (bachelor's)
GCP	master's, City Planning	GrS	doctorate, Social Work	WAM	Wharton Advanced Management
GD	Dental, post-degree	GrW	doctorate, Wharton	WEF	Wharton Extension Finance
GEd	master's, Education	GV	Veterinary, post-degree	WEv	Wharton Evening School
		Hon	Honorary	WG	master's, Wharton
				WMP	Wharton Management Program

related documents. He was named the American Berg Professor of Religious Studies in 1992. He retired in 2003. His sons are Scott W. Kraft C'83, Randall J. Kraft WEv'91, and Todd A. Kraft CGS'93.

Dr. William N. "Bill" Mebane III. *See Class of 1954.*

Dr. Morton E. Melman C'43 D'44. *See Class of 1943.*

Paul W. Meyer, Philadelphia, the retired F. Otto Haas Executive Director of the Morris Arboretum and Gardens; Oct. 10. In 1976, he was recruited by the Morris Arboretum as curator and director of horticulture. In 1991, he was appointed director of Morris Arboretum. Under his direction, the arboretum built its botanical staff and its reputation for regional floristic studies. He traveled on 12 expeditions to China, Korea, Taiwan, Armenia, and the Republic of Georgia, and other places, where he collected plants to help increase the arboretum's genetic diversity, including plants that grow in stressful urban conditions. In 2022, he received the Veitch Memorial Medal, an international prize presented by the Royal Horticultural Society in Great Britain for an "outstanding contribution to the advancement and improvement of the science and practice of horticulture." He and his wife endowed two funds at the arboretum: the Paul Meyer and

Debra L. Rodgers Study-Travel Endowment and the Paul Meyer and Debra L. Rodgers Historic Preservation Endowment Fund. [See "Gazettee," Jul|Aug 2019.]

Cheryl Neisser-Frankson. *See Class of 1993.*

Virginia Hart Rials. *See Class of 1985.*

William H. Roberts. *See Class of 1960.*

James A. Spady, a vice dean of Penn's former School of Public and Urban Policy who most recently served as the director of the Fels Institute of Government; Oct. 21. After earning his PhD from Harvard in 1976, he came to Penn, where he served in a variety of dual faculty/administrative roles. He began as a popular professor of undergraduate courses on American government and politics. In 1979, his role became primarily administrative when President Martin Meyerson appointed him director of the Office of the President. He continued in that position to facilitate the transition to President Sheldon Hackney's administration. In 1982, he became director of the Fels Institute of Government and chairman of its graduate program in government administration, roles he held until 1997, when he retired.

Rosalyn "Roz" Jones Watts. *See Class of 1967.*

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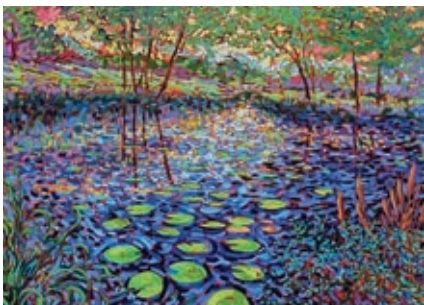


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From left to right, head coach Tom Schneider, sophomore forward Vince Curran, and assistant coach Gordon Austin celebrate Penn's shocking one-point win over nationally ranked Villanova in 1988.



Palestra Pandemonium

When Penn knocked off Villanova at the Palestra in November [“Sports,” this issue], it was especially surprising since ’Nova was nationally ranked and the Quakers hadn’t come into the season with high expectations.

Kind of like what happened 35 years earlier.

Penn’s 1988–89 men’s basketball team—Tom Schneider’s last as head coach, before Fran Dunphy began his wildly successful tenure—finished 13–13 overall and won only one of its four Big 5 games. But it was a big one.

Villanova was ranked 17th in the nation when it came to the Palestra for an early-season clash on December 6, 1988—only for Walt Frazier III C’89, Penn’s sole senior, to score 25 points to lift the Quakers to a 71–70 upset win.

Just as students began to rush the court in celebration, longtime *Gazette* contributor Tommy Leonardi C’89, then a senior at Penn, ran across the gym to capture the above photograph, which was splashed across the front page of the following day’s *Daily Pennsylvanian*.

“Photographing sports requires keen anticipation, with these moments of elation being especially rare and fleeting,” Leonardi said. “I knew that as soon as the buzzer sounded, I had to sprint across the court, directly at the Penn bench—while also composing and focusing correctly.”

In the photo, sophomore forward Vince Curran EAS’92 W’92—now Penn’s long-serving broadcaster for basketball games—is raising his arms in triumph, between Schneider and assistant coach Gordon Austin. When shown the

photo after a recent Palestra game, Curran said he “remembers it like it was yesterday,” joking that “I always say my one point that game made the difference.”

What actually made the biggest difference, Curran added, was the play of Jose Tavarez W’90, who scored off an offensive rebound to give Penn a late 67–65 lead, which the Quakers never relinquished. “Jose was kind of the hidden gem that day,” Curran said. “I saw him at a golf outing about a month ago and we were reminiscing about it. It was a highlight for him, and it was certainly a highlight for me.”

In the *DP* article on the win, titled “Palestra Pandemonium,” Tavarez said, “Coach Schneider gave the most inspiring pep talk I’ve ever heard, and we came out flying.” And Frazier, a first-team All-Ivy guard and the son of the Basketball Hall of Famer, called it “the greatest win of my career.” —DZ



This Year I Promise To:

- ✓ Exercise more
- ✓ Get organized
- ✓ Spend time with family and friends
- ✓ Update my will

The new year is traditionally a time when resolutions are made, providing an opportunity to set goals, expectations, and hopes for the year ahead. More importantly, it can be a time to make a commitment to implement the changes that you would like to see in the future.

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