Protect and Elect

Pennsylvania’s Secretary of State is on a mission to make sure that every vote counts.
the morning of June 2, Kathy Boockvar C’90 hoped for the best while preparing for the worst.

Since being appointed Pennsylvania’s Secretary of the Commonwealth on January 5, 2019, she’d been tasked with upgrading the state’s voting machines to models that produce voter-verifiable paper records and implementing Act 77—an election reform bill, signed into law by Governor Tom Wolf last October, that allows anyone in the state to vote by mail without needing an excuse.

So there was already a “huge sea change,” Boockvar notes, heading into the Pennsylvania primary on June 2—even before the COVID-19 pandemic swept through the country (causing the election to be rescheduled from April) followed by the civil unrest that enveloped major cities the weekend prior. “Any one of those changes would be challenging,” Boockvar says. “To have all four converge in one election was extremely challenging.

“But,” the state’s chief elections official adds, “it was incredibly and remarkably smooth and safe.”

Because of the pandemic, nearly 1.5 million Pennsylvanians voted by mail in the primary—more than the roughly 1.2 million who voted in person (and way more than the 84,000 who voted by mail in the primary four years earlier). “Once COVID-19 hit, we knew things were going to change,” Boockvar says, noting that the state department worked closely with counties to ensure a smooth transition, and blitzed radio and TV stations with a bilingual public relations campaign about voting by mail. “We did every layer of communications we could possibly do to make sure voters knew about this option. And boy, did it work.”

A former voting rights attorney and poll worker, Boockvar claims that there were fewer negative incidents reported than in any presidential primary that she could recall in at least a decade, which she calls “incredible.” And it’s giving her hope for the general election on November 3, in which the state is preparing for more than 3 million mail-in ballots and the possibility that votes may still need to be counted for days after Election Day. At that point, the eyes of the nation could very well fall on one of the decisive swing states from the last presidential contest—and on Boockvar.

It’s not a position she ever thought she’d be in, particularly when she first arrived at college in the fall of 1986 intent on following the family tradition of studying medicine. “Then I took chemistry the first semester and realized, ‘Nope, not for me!’” She did, however, lean on lineage in her decision to attend Penn. Her grandfather, the late Edward Saskin C’31, and mother, Virginia Saskin Boockvar CW’65, attended before her. Her twin brothers, Daniel Boockvar C’93 L’96 and John Boockvar C’93, followed her there, arriving on campus to find “a leader in the community,” says John, now a neurosurgeon featured on the Netflix documentary series Lenox Hill (see photo, next page). “It was inspiring. And she became a great role model for us.”

A legal studies class taught by Kenneth Shropshire, the David W. Hauck Professor Emeritus of Legal Studies and Business Ethics, sent Boockvar down the law path, and her experience at the University proved so formative that the native New Yorker decided to begin her career in Pennsylvania after graduating from law school at American University. She and her husband Jordan Yeager, whom she met at law school and is now a judge, opened their own firm in Bucks County—Boockvar & Yeager—which they ran for 11 years while raising a daughter. After representing, pro bono, a low-income community group that had its polling place moved, she applied for a job at the Advancement Project, a nonprofit organization run by Judith Browne Dianis W’87 [“Alumni Profiles,” Nov/Dec 2019] that focuses on racial justice issues.

She accepted a position as a voting rights attorney leading up to the 2008 primary and quickly discovered Pennsylvania’s voting inequities, seeing incredibly long lines and poor organization at polling places in communities of color. One of the biggest issues she worked to correct was urging her future employer, the Pennsylvania Department of State, to “put a much clearer directive to counties that every voter needed to be offered an emergency paper ballot” if a machine broke, rather than being told to “go home and come back later.”

After three years at the Advancement Project, she was recruited to run for Congress in 2012 as a Democrat in what some analysts had identified as a possible “red to blue” Pennsylvania district. Though she admits “it was not on my bucket list” and she lost to incumbent Michael Fitzpatrick, she still calls it a “life-changing” experience. “What I realized in that campaign,” she says, “was that I loved having a million balls in the air at one time.”

Her brother John believes she’d make a fine elected official if she ever runs again, in large part because she’s a “glass is half full” kind of per-
son who “doesn’t have that politicians’ personality.” Boockvar, though, hasn’t followed a traditional political path. Not long after her congressional run, she served as executive director of Lifecycle WomanCare, a women’s healthcare nonprofit that blended her interests in public health, law, and policy. After four years there, she accepted the “opportunity of a lifetime” to join Governor Wolf’s cabinet in Harrisburg, first as a senior advisor on election modernization and then the Secretary of the Commonwealth, where, in addition to her role promoting the integrity of the electoral process, she also oversees professional licensing, the state athletic commission, and more.

“When I talk to young people, my primary message is to never have blinders on, to never think life will be a straight path,” she says. “Because if you do, you’ll miss the things to the right and left that might lead to a more interesting career. I’m thankful for every experience that’s come my way—and if I had those blinders on, I would’ve missed half of them.”

For now, it’s hard for Boockvar to look beyond November 3. She plans to ensure that the 8.5 million registered voters in the state all receive applications for mail-in ballots, and has been pushing for the General Assembly to pass a law allowing counties to begin pre-canvassing ballots before Election Day (a lengthy process that involves extracting documents from two sets of envelopes—“basically everything except for counting,” she notes).

She’s aware that mail-in voting has become a hot-button issue, in large part due to rhetoric from President Donald Trump W’68, whose reelection campaign sued Pennsylvania over its mail-in drop-off sites for ballots. But Boockvar has been working with the National Association of Secretaries of State (of which she is the elections committee co-chair) and other federal agencies to “make sure voters know they can rely on county and state election offices to provide accurate information,” she says. “Don’t think what you see on Facebook or whatever is accurate.”

Indeed, despite “misinformation” floating around social media about the potential for fraud, voting absentee has “been an incredibly safe, secure process for decades,” she says, adding that a voter’s eligibility is checked before they get a ballot and again once the county receives it. “And none of that has changed. There’s just more people taking advantage of it.”

And just as she’s spent almost two years fortifying voting systems’ defenses, adding multiple layers of protection to secure voter registration databases, and creating other safeguards against election interference, Boockvar’s state department is prepared to conduct a November election as smooth as the one held five months earlier amidst unprecedented conditions.

“Yes, November 3rd is going to be insane,” she says. “But we have the framework for everything in place.” —DZ

Streaming Surgeons

Before Netflix released the documentary series Lenox Hill on June 10, John Boockvar C’93 GM’04 warned his wife and kids about the potential for cringeworthy scenes.

For a year-and-a-half, he and three other doctors—including his colleague in the neurosurgery department, David Langer C’85 M’90 GM’98—were mic’d up and followed around by cameras, allowing for an intimate look into the real-life drama at New York’s Lenox Hill Hospital.

“We dropped the f-bomb a bunch, my tag is sticking out the back of my lab coat every now and then, and my bald spot is apparent in every scene,” Boockvar says. “But this was worth doing because the world needed to see what life is like as a doctor, patient, nurse, nurse practitioner, PA, and what our healthcare system is like—the good, the bad, and the emotional.”

The nine-episode series, which has been critically well received, leans in on the emotional, not only in interactions with patients but in the “special relationship” that Langer and Boockvar have with each other as chair and vice chair of the hospital’s growing neurosurgery department. (Langer was recently profiled in the Gazette for saving a stranger’s life on a beach and later performing surgery on him [“Alumni Profiles,” Jan/Feb 2020], which was captured in an episode.)

The fact that half of the doctors featured in the documentary got their schooling at Penn was a happy coincidence, notes Boockvar, who wears a Penn lapel on his lab coat and recently started the Boockvar Saskin Family Lectureship at Penn Medicine. In the second episode, he even gave a shoutout to Steven Flihurt—Dean of the School of Arts & Sciences and Thomas S. Gates, Jr. Professor of Psychology, Pharmacology, and Neuroscience—for sparking his interest in neuroscience when he took Flihurt’s neuropsychopharmacology class as a freshman.

Boockvar says he hadn’t been in touch with Flihurt and “didn’t know he was dean” when Flihurt reached out to him after seeing the episode. “He was just so appreciative,” Boockvar says. “As a teacher, you probably don’t always realize the impact you make—particularly on someone who’s on a Netflix show 30 years later.” —DZ

Photo courtesy Netflix
How to Get Ready for 2030
The Hooters’ Show Goes On (Next Year)
A Virtual Fall Semester
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By Julia M. Klein

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The Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice—which seeks to apply what its executive director John F. Hollway C’92 LPS’18 calls a “systems approach to preventing errors in criminal justice”—has been around since 2013. In those seven years, it has made significant contributions to reform efforts by exposing, through its research, the negative impacts of cash bail, pretrial detention, and “stop and frisk” police practices, among others.

But as frequent contributor Julia Klein notes in this issue’s cover story, “Connecting the Data,” the center’s work has gained new urgency and relevance as the wave of protests initially sparked by George Floyd’s death at the hands of police in Minnesota in late May have expanded into a broad interrogation of systemic racism in the US far beyond the issue of police brutality. “We’re precisely placed for this moment in time,” Hollway told her.

Before founding the center, which is housed in the law school where he is an associate dean, Hollway had worked as a corporate lawyer, also involved in pro bono criminal cases; as an executive in pharma and tech companies; and as a participant in the Northern California Innocence Project. This varied set of experiences alerted him to the ways in which justice is not administered fairly and provided insight from disciplines outside the legal system into how to correct—ideally, to prevent—such miscarriages without recourse to the enormous expense and lost years of life and effort required in relitigating individual cases.

The center’s approach draws on the work of management guru W. Edwards Deming, who espoused “continuous quality improvement.” Another important function is to bring together Penn’s disparate expert voices on the subject of criminal justice reform, from Dorothy Roberts—an advocate of abolishing the police and prisons—to John M. MacDonald, who contends that reforms can be accomplished through changes in policies and practices without major social changes.

The recent protests have also helped inspire initiatives here on campus. In “Gazetteer,” associate editor Dave Zeitlin C’03 talks with University Chaplain Chaz Howard C’00, who has been appointed to the new position of vice president for social equity and community. Penn also announced that it will look at campus iconography, continuing a reckoning with the University’s past that began with the Penn & Slavery Project a few years ago; it has already been decided that the statue of George Washington will be removed from the Quad. And the role of scholarly publishing in bringing issues like defunding the police into the mainstream is part of what will motivate the new leadership team at the University of Pennsylvania Press.

**One important function is to bring together Penn’s disparate expert voices on the subject of criminal justice reform.**

Meanwhile of course, COVID-19 continues to cause devastating health and economic impacts, and Penn and other schools have been faced with making decisions in an uncertain landscape as the virus has spiked in many places in the US over the summer. In the end, those rising case counts dashed hopes that the University could bring students back to campus for the fall semester. We have the details in “Gazetteer.”

While he led last spring’s popular virtual class on the pandemic, Wharton's Mauro Guillén was also awaiting the publication of 2030: How Today’s Biggest Trends Will Collide and Reshape the Future of Everything. (With some minor caveats, he says the virus will accelerate them.) “The Future Is Coming—Fast!” describes the new world to come within the next decade and offers some “tips and tricks” Guillén recommends for making the best of it.

Some things endure, like the friendship between Rob Hyman C’72 and Eric Bazilian C’75. Also, their band, the Hooters, featured on the cover of the December 1989 issue of the Gazette and back in our pages now, in “Rocking Through the Decades with Rob and Eric” by Jonathan Takiff C’68, sometime Gazette contributor and long-time music journalist and supporter of the band (see his bio on page 41).

His original plan was to write about the band’s 20+20 tour celebrating 40 years of performing as the Hooters, scheduled to launch on Memorial Day. The coronavirus rendered that moot, so the piece is more of a career retrospective—but with a guardedly optimistic ending. The tour has been rescheduled for next summer, and Hyman told Jonathan, “We’re sure hoping we can get back on that horse again.”
Science and Solidarity
A powerful prescription for what ails us.
By Amy Gutmann

“The bitter truth was that AIDS did not just happen to America—it was allowed to happen ...”
—Randy Shilts, And the Band Played On: Politics, People, and the AIDS Epidemic

Though it describes a viral pandemic that erupted more than four decades ago, And the Band Played On speaks to us even today. This bestseller presents an eerily familiar assessment: faced with a lethal nationwide contagion, too many Americans, too many political leaders among them, willingly downplayed the crisis or just turned away.

Subsequent epidemics from H1N1 to Ebola have each spawned reports that add up to a grim litany of missteps. Stack one report atop the next and they may leave us wondering, if not despairing: Will pandemic missteps be ours to repeat forever? Or can the United States help sow the seeds of a better response not only to this COVID-19 crisis, but to future threats that touch us all?

The answer to this last question is yes, provided that enough Americans take both science and solidarity to heart. As Penn’s president, I am devoted to steering our University through these challenging times while protecting lives. I also bring to bear on this pandemic my scholarship and teaching in moral and political philosophy and bioethics. Our society’s approach to COVID-19 and similar threats is fractured, haphazard, and unjust, at a tragic and unnecessarily high cost in lives and livelihoods—a cost that falls harder upon the most vulnerable among us. We need a scientifically and ethically sound roadmap for navigating such public health crises now and into the future. My coauthor Jonathan Moreno (the David and Lyn Silfen University Professor) and I have proposed one such roadmap, which we call pandemic ethics. Paved by science and the ethics of mutual respect, its pathways lead us to affirm some enduring truths that pandemics lay bare.

Among them, that global health is local health. Contagions such as COVID-19 respect no borders or cultural differences. A virus afflicting a stranger’s family halfway around the world can (and increasingly does) wind up in our own neighborhood.

Another is that issues of health equity affect us all. COVID-19 exacts a disproportionate toll from Black, Hispanic, Native, and low-income Americans, who are being hospitalized and dying at a staggering two to five times the rate of their peers. Addressing this systemic injustice—born of longstanding health inequities—is essential to any effective societal response to the pandemic. The pandemic peels back other layers of systemic racism as well, both within and beyond the immediate health emergency. The largest mass movement for racial justice in generations comes amid the pandemic, sparked by the horrific killing of George Floyd—following that of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and many others.

Still another truth is that public health policy is only as successful as it is effective, safe, and trustworthy. Expertise—not political expediency—must guide our pandemic policies. Getting it right the first time is essential to maintaining public trust. In this sense, pandemic responses are like first impressions: you may not get a second chance to make a good one.

These three truths call for a renewed commitment to science and social solidarity. From developing safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines and treatments, to getting testing and contact tracing up to speed, to enacting preventive measures such as face masks and social distancing, we must broadly support good science, which goes hand in hand with good ethics.

Just as essential, every one of us needs to care about and invest in people we may never know. We depend on the World Health Organization for tracking global public health, but the WHO needs to become more nimble while also being more adequately funded. A renaissance in cooperative and robust US diplomacy—directed with laser-like strength at improving public health—would be a superb start.

We must redress injustices that render too many people so terribly vulnerable. The massive Black Lives Matter movement shows, among other things, that the seeds for such social solidarity still thrive in America. In a public health crisis, that sense of solidarity—a shared commitment to safeguarding the health and well-being of others everywhere—is one of the surest ways we can in turn protect our closest loved ones and friends.

While examining pandemic ethics with Jonathan, we both cannot help but notice that so many of the world’s greatest assets for fostering science and solidarity are already here in our backyard. Look no further than the world’s great research and teaching universities, Penn prime among them.

Solidarity is not a seasonal jacket one can squeeze into when a crisis hits,
then shrug off when danger passes. We must practice this virtue perennially and universally. This year-round, all-in-it-together ethos needs to be taught and cultivated. A broad, interdisciplinary Penn education is designed to do exactly that.

Penn fosters a diverse, inclusive academic community because it is both the right thing to do and the best way for students from different backgrounds to learn from one another and from their faculty how to think globally, plan empathetically, and engage civically. I have written in the past about how important it is to cultivate interpersonal relationships to achieve good results in governance: familiarity breeds attempt. We become more attuned to the needs of others when we ourselves live and learn in diverse communities and make the value of solidarity explicit.

Just like solidarity, science—and expertise across all disciplines—flourishes at Penn. No other institution today surpasses the global research university for long-term investments in expertise despite uncertain short-term dividends. Pre-COVID-19, who cared about coronaviruses in bats? After the pandemic struck, media worldwide wanted to talk to Penn professor and coronavirus expert Susan Weiss, who marveled, “I knew the same thing a year ago, but nobody cared. So from my life it’s been crazy.”

From pursuing basic research to developing the standard of care for coronavirus patients, there you will find Penn people. As I write this, for example, there is no approved medication for treating COVID-19. Penn Medicine has a Phase 3 study underway that seeks to change this by investigating the potential efficacy of the antiviral drug Remdesivir. In pursuit of improved testing, Penn Presidential Professor César de la Fuente just won the inaugural Nemirovsky Engineering and Medicine Opportunity prize (established by Penn alum Ofer Nemirovsky EE’79 W’79) for a proposed paper-based COVID diagnostic, imbedded in face masks, that would detect the virus on a person’s breath and offer test results in seconds.

On the pandemic and far beyond, faculty across all of Penn’s 12 eminent schools comprise an invaluable global storehouse of knowledge with a commitment to the common good. Though we know the contours of the challenges—and opportunities—our world faces right now, we cannot know the exact shape of what lies ahead. Penn’s enduring investment in broad and deep faculty expertise is the surest way to meet whatever may come.

Not often in life do we get to have the final word on a subject, and surely the definitive analysis of what went wrong—and what we got right—with COVID-19 will not be written for some years yet. By framing a pandemic ethics in the first six months of the most devastating pandemic in over a century, Jonathan and I occupy a space dissimilar to that of Shilts, who analyzed the national response to AIDS several years into that epidemic. But with many public health opportunities already missed, policies mangled, and lives lost with many more at risk, we do not have years to do this work. We bring our best ideas and expertise to bear now in the hopes that together we can help map a better path forward for all people.

That same ethos is what drives everything Penn has done and will continue doing far in the future. Since science coupled with solidarity is one powerful prescription for what ails us, so much of the medicine our world desperately needs can be found at Penn.

Portions of this column are adapted from a new afterword on pandemic ethics, featured in the forthcoming paperback edition of Amy Gutmann’s and Jonathan Moreno’s book, _Everybody Wants to Go to Heaven but Nobody Wants to Die: Bioethics and the Transformation of Health Care in America_, out this fall.
We're bringing Homecoming to you!
Mark your calendar for November 9-14, 2020 to experience a week of online programming, social media contests, and virtual campus tours. Hear from Penn faculty, alumni, and students on topics ranging from social justice, healthcare, arts and culture, and Penn Athletics. Visit www.alumni.upenn.edu/homecoming for the list of events, and family-friendly activities.

Penn Alumni is committed to antiracist education and action, we invite you to engage and learn through a variety of virtual events hosted across the University. For more information, please visit www.alumni.upenn.edu/socialjustice.

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Moving Tribute

I was moved by “Penn and the Pandemic” [Jul|Aug 2020], which covers the multidiscipline range of specialties and perspectives of the Penn community during the coronavirus crisis—from hospital administrators to infectious disease physicians and biologists, to nurses, transportation executives, restaurateurs, as well as education, public health, history, and other experts. It made me realize how much I was unaware of and missed during my three years at Penn, largely sequestered away in the law library. Your article is a tribute to what it means to be a great university and to the many Penn people who are making substantial contributions on an ongoing basis. They deserve grateful thanks from all of us.

Dave Keehn L’72, Leeds, MA

One Alumnus Left Out

The Gazette article about “how the University and alumni have responded to the current crisis” lets us pat ourselves on the back while ignoring the response of our most prominent alumnus. President Donald Trump W’68’s denialism and constant misinformation have almost surely made the pandemic much worse—and cost many lives.

I am a proud Penn Law graduate, and I too wish Trump would just go away, but we can’t ignore him. This article makes me think that maybe Trump’s method for dealing with Corona is something he learned at Penn: when you helped create a problem, your best bet is to just ignore it and pretend it doesn’t exist.

Francisco Martinez L’07, Los Angeles

As a psychoanalyst, I couldn’t help but contrast our 2020s New York City population with the 1940s British in terms of psychological responses to the respective horrors.

At Least the British Didn’t Have to “Social Distance” During the Blitz

Thank you for your article about Churchill [“Courage Through History,” Jul|Aug 2020]. And thank you to Erik Larson for his book.

I happened to start reading The Splendid and the Vile shortly before the pandemic. As a psychoanalyst, I couldn’t help but contrast our 2020s New York City population with the 1940s British in terms of psychological responses to the respective horrors. Notwithstanding the risks and frightening concerns of being blown to smithereens at any moment by air bombers, and of soon being invaded by the Nazis, British morale remained superior to ours. I believe that this was due to gratification of the two essential drives or needs that were first identified by Freud: Love and Hate.

During their ordeal, the British always enjoyed the benefits of affectionate engagement with their loved ones—as well as readily interacting in friendliness and even physical contact with strangers (as in the bomb shelters). In other words, “social distancing,” as required to reduce coronavirus contagion, represents a profound psychological deprivation.
The British all shared in their hatred of Hitler and the Nazis. Here in 2020, our aggression has been diverted into multiple opposing channels, amplifying our long-standing polarization. Thus we are deprived of the gratification of being united in expressing hatred towards a common enemy.

If not for those two considerations, I think that even Churchill might have become more vulnerable to polarization (as he was at other points in his career).

David Port C’60, New York

Illustration Undermined
Exemplar of Leadership

Having just completed The Splendid and the Vile, I was surprised and intrigued to see the book and its author featured in the Gazette, but profoundly disappointed by the illustration [showing Churchill lounging in the bath] accompanying the article.

The book presented a complex human being who transcended his foibles to provide the great leadership his people needed. It showed one need not be superhuman to be a great leader; in fact, Churchill’s humanity was essential to his leadership, as when he wept in public while inspecting bomb sites.

At a time when the world once again desperately needs great leadership, and many of us ardently yearn for it, the editor’s choice of image, which featured the man’s foibles while excising his leadership, undermined an exemplar whose story can give us hope that the leadership we need now is possible.

Kennard Wing G’89, Havertown, PA

Who’s a Good Therapy Dog Article?

I have spent a good part of my life writing and reading articles relating to dogs. Kathryn Levy Feldman’s dog therapy article [“Power of the Pup,” Jul|Aug 2020] is without question one of the best, most comprehensive articles I have ever read on this particular aspect of the human/dog connection. Thank you for your thoughtful listening, your considered questions, and your accurate portrayal of our experience.

Brava!

Laurie Leavy, parent, Merion Station, PA

Long Live Majoring in the DP

Congratulations to Eric Jacobs for his 40-year career at the Daily Pennsylvanian [May|Jun 2020].

I was a DP staffer before Eric arrived, so we never crossed paths. However, I’m impressed by how he has guided the DP through the daunting challenges that all newspapers face.

The article referred to “majoring in the DP,” and that has been true for many of us who devoted a significant portion of our undergraduate lives to the paper. Our educations occurred both inside and outside the classrooms.

After graduation, I worked as a journalist before earning an MBA and switching to the business side of newspapers. The papers were profitable and served their communities well, but once the internet arrived, ad revenue and readership started eroding, first slowly, then precipitously. Now some newspapers are folding and their communities lack local journalism.

I hope Eric’s successor can keep the DP operating as a vital University institution. Students should have the opportunity to experience grassroots journalism, and everyone benefits from having a newspaper—in print or digital—focused on the Penn community.

Andy Candor C’73, Fort Wayne, IN

Still Trying

It was interesting to recently read “I Quit,” by Rachel Friedman [“Alumni Voices,” May|Jun 2020], as on June 2, I lost yet another attempt for elective office.

Friedman rightly says, “There must be some middle ground between identity-rattling despondency and all-conquering optimism when it comes to failure, a space where we can accept setbacks without becoming victim to them—but also without needing to mythologize them as mere stops on the way to success.”

Most Penn alumni, let alone most people, will never get a profile in the Gazette for their great career accomplishments, just a brief He was a retired lawyer, at Penn he worked, for Hillel in the obituaries. I am proud as I approach 70 that I am still trying to serve the public interest, and wish Ms. Friedman a good life, whether or not her aborted viola career leads to a successful writing career.

Bill Marker C’72, Baltimore

No Awareness of Racism’s Effect on Economic Outcomes

I found the letters published in response to the May|Jun article “Inequality Economics” fascinating [“Letters,” Jul|Aug 2020].

Three of the letters were submitted by Wharton grads. And all three curiously expressed no awareness of the role systemic racism plays in economic outcomes.

It concerns me that in the past one might graduate Wharton and apparently not be exposed to the extensive evidence supporting the existence of this critical determinant of socioeconomic status.

Hopefully current Wharton students receive a more rounded educational experience and will be able to become better informed leaders in shaping America’s response to inequality.

David Berman C’73, Andover, MA

Another Approach to Attracting Talent

“Inequality Economics” is a very interesting article that seems to focus on marginal tax rates as the principal way to address this issue. Why not consider other approaches such as financial incentives to help students pursuing STEM majors? That old saying “as the tree is bent so grows the tree” may have more relevance here in attracting talent...
to certain societal beneficial endeavors than just tax rates and also may be easier to administer and adjust as required.

Frank Edwards EE’54 WG’56, Venice, FL

Lost in Translation

Thank you for the interesting story about Dotdash (“Dotdash Rising,” May|Jun 2020).

I saw one small item that I think is incorrect.

On page 52, paragraph 4, the text says, “(the dot was taken from aboutdot.com, and the dash in Morse code is the letter A).”

Long ago, I was in the Boy Scouts. At the time, one of the requirements for one of the early badges was to learn Morse Code. I did enough to satisfy the requirement. I memorized the easy codes, E, one dot; I, two dots; etc. Surprisingly, I still remember these, including the one, two, and three dashes; T, M, and O, respectively.

When I read the explanation for the name of the company, something didn’t seem right. I checked Google to see if my memory was correct. Yes. A single dash looks right. I checked Google to see if my memory was correct. Yes. A single dash seems right. I checked Google to see if my memory was correct. Yes. A single dash seems right. I checked Google to see if my memory was correct. Yes. A single dash seems right. I checked Google to see if my memory was correct. Yes. A single dash seems right. I checked Google to see if my memory was correct. Yes. A single dash seems right. I checked Google to see if my memory was correct. Yes. A single dash seems right. I checked Google to see if my memory was correct. Yes. A single dash seems right. I checked Google to see if my memory was correct. Yes.

The code for the letter A is dot dash. That lines up with the A, presumably from the former name, About.com.

Thanks again for an interesting story.

John J. Landers WG’63, Bethesda, MD

Government’s Role

Before COVID-19, hiring practices already bestowed on workers several part-time jobs, all of which were unencumbered with the shackles of assured continuity and benefits. These practices allowed employees to constantly fly high on adrenaline while running nonstop between several jobs or gigs, not having to waste much time on social or family life, but having the “freedom” to manage their own meager savings and health provisions with little knowledge of either.

Against this doleful background, Stu Mahlin’s provocative letter in praise of freedom (““Letters,” May|Jun 2020, responding to the Mar|Apr issue’s “Expert Opinion” essay, “Kronos Syndrome”) calls for a response. It starts by citing cautiously that the rising gigantism of corporations may have hurt today’s workers while providing efficiencies to consumers. Using this skepticism as a stepping-stone, he brings out as an obvious corollary the familiar right-wing trope that government concentration is also bad.

Since both gigantisms are mainly due to the same set of causes, namely the quest for efficiencies of scale through the Information Revolution, why is corporate growth good but matching governmental growth bad? Well, Mahlin’s letter claims that taxpayers are suffering.

He goes on to point to the civil servants as the villains who create taxpayer suffering! To blame the powerless underlings for the failings of their imposed superiors is simply wrong; yet it fits well into the right-wing bubble’s mythology.

The nation’s predicament has been heightened of late by the COVID-19 plague. In this terrible time, effort should be spent toward more clearly understanding the government’s role. It is there to realize the collective endeavors that private interests won’t or shouldn’t tackle. In this country, the Right claims to prefer small government, yet relishes the oversize military that only a massive governmental structure can support.

It is becoming clear that halting the virus, if not eradicating it entirely, is going to require a friendly collective effort among a coalition of well-run and resourceful governments, all of them relying on science rather than self-centered myths—and probably using well-supplied military assets already in place for peace corps activities.

William Aear GrW’83, Boulder, CO

Compelling Interview

“American Byzantine” [Mar|Apr 2020] was fascinating! I usually just skim the Gazette, but I read every word of this compelling interview. Thank you for this informative and inspirational piece.

Nina Soap Ditmar SW’86, Manahawkin, NJ

Rare Insight

I thoroughly enjoyed the articles featuring architect Andrew Gould in the Mar|Apr 2020 issue (“American Byzantine” and an accompanying book excerpt, “Onion Domes in the Old South”). It was a rare insight into a creative process that supports value-centered architecture; successfully capturing the essence of a religious belief in stunningly beautiful forms and spaces. The approach Gould uses came across as being closer to the reverential and creative continuation of a tradition, than the recasting of an “historical fantasy.”

Refreshing too, was Gould’s ability to scale back elements of the design to fit a client’s budget, whether it be a religious building or residence—yet without reducing the essence or function of the space. Such adroit flexibility seems worth noting. Beautiful architecture can lift the spirit, and surely contributes to making us better human beings.

Simon Herbert GPA’88, Tucson, AZ

In Good Company

I have no connection with the University of Pennsylvania, other than the fact that my brother, Charles Kerpelman G’56, was a graduate student in mathematics at Penn in the early 1950s. I have long thought that my alumni publication, the Johns Hopkins Magazine, was the best in the country—consistently well-written, interesting, and substantial. Recently while in a waiting room I picked up an issue of the Pennsylvania Gazette to while away the time until called for my appointment. The subjects of the feature articles (such as Nicholas Christakis, Charles Bernstein, Jean Chatzky) were as fascinating and singular as the writers of those articles (Julia Klein, Daniel Akst, Caren Lissner) were probing and clear. I now must admit that I consider the Pennsylvania Gazette as one of the best in the country (along with, still, Johns Hopkins Magazine).

Larry Kerpelman, Acton, MA
I eat oddly
It's an enchanted place
Wild hike
They don't hover
The invisible threshold
The once and future king
Perfect
False eyelashes and fake nails
Lucky to have quick reflexes
I think I am normal
No ammo
You're never too old to start
Home Stretch

“At the end of the day, I watch night fall.”

By Elinore Standard

It has taken the COVID quarantine to make me realize I can’t keep up. For a long time, well into my 80s, I thought I was doing OK.

I live alone and am used to isolating. My beloved family are nearby but they don’t hover. I don’t watch TV now that sports are gone. I binge on movies via Acorn and Netflix. I shop at Amazon. I listen to Spotify. I read junk. I eat oddly. I worry about falling and not getting up. I walk outdoors often but not every day. From my intown eyrie, I see weather roll in across the mountains and lake.

At the end of the day, I watch night fall. I am filled with gratitude for this “one wild and precious life.”

I worry about young people and their future. I think about forgiveness by the Central Park birdwatcher and the fury in our nation. I suspect my own complicity. I despair about lives upended and deaths untended. I see miles-long queues for food and think the virus has unmasked reality.

I am swamped in email and send most to Trash. Being in touch electronically is a mixed blessing. I read newspapers online and do the crossword. I look things up. I subscribe to a couple of periodicals and read them at the big dining table while I sit for dinners that take maybe 10 minutes. I Zoom to meetings but never say much. It’s impossible to be a smartass on Zoom. I see my image in the square and think, who are you? I text and use Twitter. I feel compelled to find new ways to be—so exhausting.

I vet files and take stuff to the shredder. I give away clothing and books. I’m down to seven pairs of shoes, not counting boots. In my closet is a pile of fancy pocketbooks from before, including a Kelly bag in its original orange box. Jewelry, also from a different life, is locked in the safe along with heirloom Georg Jensen place settings for 13, never used. My shotgun and a couple of pistols are also in there, no ammo. I have Michael’s gun-cleaning kit and a couple of his shirts I can’t part with.

The days flip by, and the months. Eighty-seven is gaining on me. I worry about how I will end: I fear the virus less; anxiety more. I should be making lists, saying where everything is, instructing from Beyond. I know this: it will take maybe two days for a crew to come in here and clear everything out. It will be clean, empty space all ready to be sold.

Elinore Standard CW’55 is the coeditor with Laura Furman of Bookworms: Great Writers and Readers Celebrate Reading.
It was near dusk on a May evening in 2012 when I climbed up the foot-worn cobblestone street that traces Avallon’s black granite spine. I passed through the town’s clock tower gate. I paused before Saint Lazarus church, founded in the ninth century when a monk brought the bones of Mary Magdalene’s brother here. Its engraved stone archway depicts the 12 labors of the agrarian year, symbols of balance and responsible living. May showed two lovers facing in a representation of the life-creating energies of late spring.

I pressed on to the top of the rising ridge on which the medieval town had been built—succeeding a Roman fort town, which had in turn been erected over a Celtic oppidum. On park benches, locals hashed over the day’s news. I stood, speechless: Avallon’s upper rampart wall gave way below to the expansive dark green canopy of the Morvan Forest. From the Celtic mar, black, and vand, mountain, the Morvan was a realm of jagged dark granite hills and a mixed forest of oak, beech, birch, and chestnut trees fed by streams and lakes. Wild animals, birds, fish, and all manner of undergrowth thrived there, protected from human development by its ruggedness.

Two women on a bench turned to say hello. I returned their greeting but cast my gaze quickly back to the forest. A soft mist began to slip across its treetops.

“It’s an enchanted place,” one woman said, “full of fairies, dotted with dolmens, et très sauvage.” A thrill ran through my spine.

I’d come here for this, to walk through layers of enchantment and legend, from Avallon through the Morvan to the neighboring hilltop town of Vézelay some 20 kilometers away.

The name Avallon, like Avalon in English, came from the proto-Celtic word, aballo, apple. This place was one of at least three contenders for the shrouded land of legend where the mortally wounded King Arthur was last seen slipping through the mists. The other two were Glastonbury—Avalon in mythic time—and the Ile d’Aval in northern Brittany.

According to the sixth-century Goth scribe Jordanes, a ruler of the Britons and Bretons known as Riothamus came to Roman aid around AD 470 to help against invading Saxons and Visigoths in Gaul. He brought 12,000 men across the channel and initially succeeded, but as he waited for Roman reinforcements around Bourges, the Visigoths attacked and gutted Riothamus’ army. Injured, he rallied and led survivors into Burgundy. Some think that Riothamus found sanctuary in Avallon. Romantic lore suggests he was last seen ascending the slope into Avallon and disappearing behind the mists, taking on an aura of timelessness like Arthur, the once and future king.

Then, in the Middle Ages, when Avallon was devoted to Lazarus, Vézelay was dedicated to his sister, Mary Magdalene. The village to this day houses her remains, a rib at least, in its hilltop basilica, also founded in the ninth century. According to French lore, soon after Jesus’s crucifixion and resurrection,
Mary Magdalene, along with her sister Martha and brother Lazarus, left the Holy Land and sailed to Provence to live out the rest of their days. Upon her death, she was buried in Saint-Maximin-la-Sainte-Baume, but then a monk—the same one who brought Lazarus’ bones to Avalon—smuggled her bones north to Burgundy and gave them to the new abbey in Vézelay. As with Avalon and Arthur, all this is contested; there are camps who believe that Mary Magdalene’s remains are still in Provence, and others in Turkey. The Gospels mention several women named Mary, and some identify Mary of Bethany as Lazarus’ sister, but none identify her as Mary Magdalene. Yet medieval Catholic commentary, combined with the popular extra-Biblical lore in France, gave rise to the belief that Mary Magdalene was one and the same as Lazarus’ sister. The relics turned these paired hilltop towns into pilgrimage destinations in their own right. They also became part of the wider network of pilgrimage paths on the Way of Saint James. Before all this, Vézelay had been a shrine devoted to Bacchus, surrounded by Roman vineyards and fruit orchards, especially of cherry and aballos.

Early the next morning I climbed past Avalon’s rampart walls down to the westbound trailhead of the Morvan Forest. I turned to look back but Avalon, like Riothamus, had disappeared behind the mists. I stepped in. Trees quickly closed around me. Sound shifted. I felt as if I could hear every leaf rustling in the wind, every insect scouting the flowers, but not a single human sound, though there was a road nearby. I walked along a narrow, coffee-colored dirt trail edged with ferns unfurling their springtime fiddleheads. Colorful wildflowers dipped their heads near a bubbling stream churned by leaping trout. Moss dripped from oak branches like shawls and carpeted stones like velvet. A red-breasted European robin belted out her territorial song. A hawk quietly took flight, rising up through a small opening in the trees.

At first, the trail markers were clear, but soon they became irregular and open to interpretation. I puzzled along creek-flooded paths. I arrived at rockface dead-ends and impassable thickets. I stepped around fox and deer scat. Once, I just caught the fluttering form of a beech marten—its cat-sized, weasel-bodied, taupe-toned form slipping quickly across tree roots and disappearing behind the ferns with a whip of its fox-like tail. I scrambled across a slippery log over a wide creek, up a steep muddy bank, and along a narrow ridge above menacing black stones far below.

Three hours later the trail spat me out onto a patchwork of yellow mustard fields alternating with green hills dotted with cream-colored cows who stopped their munching to stare. I went over hill and dale toward Vézelay, which appeared as a dot, then grew like a golden stone ship approaching on an ocean of wavy green hills, the two towers of its crowning Romanesque basilica evoking masts. I finally arrived at the hill’s base and climbed up through spring grasses, wildflowers, and grapevines.

Famished and parched, I landed at the base of the central village street that led straight up to the basilica at the hill’s pinnacle. In what felt like mythic timing, I arrived as the white robed brothers and sisters of the Monastic Fraternities of Jerusalem began their midday sung prayer. Chant ricocheted off the towering walls and striated black-and-white stone arches, all bathed in dappled sunlight. As in the forest, sound and light washed over me. I stood in the back pew as each harmonized wave plowed into me, first through my skin, then muscle, then organs and bones. They rattled and loosened anything I no longer needed and dropped them onto the floor where they dissolved. If Avalon cultivated mists, its sister hill obliterated them. The forest in between primed one for both sensations.

After the service, I took in the engraved capitals and arches, rich in folkloric and Biblical themes. I found the familiar labors of the year.

I then visited the crypt, a low arched gold stone cavern. At one end it held a reliquary containing a clear cylinder with what looked like a rib, Mary Magdalene’s rib, set within a gold stand flanked at each corner with angels, clergy, and kings. At the other end was an altar devoted to Jesus. I understood intuitively, reinforced by the wild hike, the carved stones, and the sung devotions above in the nave, that this place, the forest, Avalon, and their stories collectively were about balance and harmony in all things.

I lingered in Vézelay, enjoyed a celebratory glass of chardonnay made from the vines I’d climbed through, and then returned to Avalon. On the way, I met a man from a village nearby.

“What do you make of all these legends,” I had to ask, “of Arthur and Avalon, and the Magdalene and Vézelay?”

“There are a lot of places called Avalon—this and Avalon-that,” he replied. “The misty island could be any one of them.” He then flashed an impish smile. “But we do have lots of Celtic remains, magical forests and hills, plus good wine, so why not let Avalon be here?” We laughed.

“But,” he added, “why not let the other places have their fun with the legends too, including those places that also claim to have Mary Magdalene’s remains in Provence? There’s enough for everyone, and everyone needs these stories.”

He’d nailed it: Avalon wasn’t a single place out there; it was a destination within. But out there was also important. It seemed that the power of transformation embodied in the legends arrived at the threshold between the two, the inner worlds we carry and the wild outer ones we walk consciously into. And here, by walking into these ancient and mythic landscapes of northern Burgundy, and by letting them walk into me, I’d slipped across the invisible threshold and into Avalon.

Beebe Bahrami Gr’95 is the author of two memoirs on southwestern France, Café Oc and Café Neandertal.
I was working on a cultural history of physically strong women when I had the opportunity to travel to Iceland and participate in the Spartan Ultra World Championship. Most of the athletes there were racing for 24 hours, but having no training in either obstacle-course racing or ultramarathons, I signed up for the “sprint” course, a nearly seven-mile loop over unforgiving terrain that included carrying buckets of gravel long distances, sliding down sheets of ice, climbing ropes, hoisting giant sandbags, and much more that I’ve mostly blocked from memory.

Before the race, Spartan founder Joe De Sena explained that he had designed the course to be as difficult as logistics could reasonably support. When he was trying to identify the ideal location for the race, Iceland in December came to mind. “My team came back and said, ‘No, because there’s no light and it’s extremely cold,’” he told me. “And I said, ‘Perfect.’” His team was not mistaken. The conditions were harsh. But Iceland was also beautiful in the way that only stark landscapes can be. When I crossed the finish line, I had such an immense gratitude for my body and the fact that I have kept it strong. I wasn’t the best, by any means, but without any special training, I did it. My glutes and biceps and quads and abdominals and whatever muscles are in my forearms showed up for me.

Being strong makes life easier and more fun. Because fun is what I had out there, even if it didn’t exactly feel that way when my life flashed before my eyes as a fellow competitor slid uncontrollably down a sheet of ice, narrowly avoiding launching me off the mountain as I swiftly jumped out of the way. “You’re really lucky you have quick reflexes,” he told me, still dazed.

I am lucky to have quick reflexes—although I like to think there was a little skill involved, too—but I’m even more lucky that I grew up when I did, after a lot of hard work by female athletes helped make it possible for me to compete in a race of this kind.

Growing up, I played whatever sport I wanted, without much fear of being considered masculine, which might be why I was so surprised at the reaction when I announced that I planned to enter a bodybuilding contest. My fit fam was excited, wanting to know the details about my training plan and the color of my sparkly bikini. My actual family, on the other hand, was mostly in disbelief.

“Why are you hanging out with those disgusting women?” a relative asked after seeing a photo on social media of me supporting some of my bodybuilding teammates at a show.

Disgusting is a harsh word to describe anyone, and yet people who would nev-

**Flex Time**

Discovering the benefits of physical power.

By Haley Shapley
er refer to someone who is obese or alarmingly thin as disgusting have no problem hurling that label at women with above-average muscle definition.

When I visited home a few weeks before my show, the commentary shifted from the people I was keeping company with ... to me. “You look like a man!” another relative exclaimed. I thought it was meant to be a joke, but considering that I still had plenty of fat, at least by bodybuilding standards, objectively this just wasn’t true. But even if I had been leaner or more cut or as flat as a pancake, that wouldn’t have made me any “manlier.”

I was also amazed by how very worried everyone became about my romantic prospects. “But how will you date?,” people would exclaim. Others would say things like, “Wow, look at you! Guys must love your muscles!” or “Don’t get too strong. Men don’t find that attractive.” They’re opposite sentiments, but the common thread running through the commentary was how bodybuilding was affecting my relationship with men.

When I signed on for the competition, I struggled with these ideas while training for my show. In the end, I went onstage with five-inch heels, hair extensions, glittering jewelry, false eyelashes, and fake nails, and I smiled and strutted—or tried to, at least. It was so different from who I normally am, and I liked it for that reason. I felt like an actor taking on a role. I also disliked it for that reason. Was playing up an expression of traditionally defined femininity undermining the message I wanted to convey? Were my actions saying, “Hey, a little muscular definition is OK if you still look good in a swimsuit that’s small enough to fit into a sandwich-size Tupperware container”? For me, bodybuilding was a goal like many other things I’ve done in recent years, including running a marathon, summiting a 14,000-foot mountain, and riding a bike 206 miles. It was hard work, and I did it to prove that I could. I wanted both to be strong and to look strong. While I can’t pretend that the positive comments I received about my appearance while I was training didn’t please me on some level, what touched me the most was when my mom’s cousin, who’d been following my journey unbeknownst to me, showed up to cheer me on. I later found out she was inspired to get into the gym and work toward a pull-up.

My mom’s cousin may have found some inspiration in me, but I found a huge dose of inspiration on my way back from the Spartan Ultra World Championship, on a layover in Chicago. I struck up a conversation with a man sitting near me. “You should meet my wife,” he said. “She’s very strong.”

Fortunately, I got to do just that. Retired businesswoman Edie Edmundson recounted the story of how, at age 75, she stood in the store, staring down a 25-pound bucket of kitty litter. There was a problem: she couldn’t get it into her cart. “I asked a customer to take it down,” she said. “I thought, ‘This is ridiculous. I can’t depend on other people to do simple things for me’.”

Now 82, Edmundson was active growing up and had been the captain of the drill team. But no one back then lifted weights, not even the boys. She never really considered trying it until that wave of frustration came over her in the grocery store.

In a case of serendipitous timing, she won a one-month membership to a CrossFit gym around that same time. She remembers that she couldn’t complete a single sit-up or get off the floor without using a box to pull herself up. She started a program of lifting light weights, and within a couple of weeks, she felt her strength returning. She was able to do sit-ups, and getting off the floor was becoming easier. A year in, she’d lost fat, gained muscle, and felt she looked better in her clothes, although that was just a fringe benefit. “I was starting to feel more energy,” she told me. “I really liked being able to do the day-to-day things better, like pulling a suitcase through an airport and going up and down stairs.”

Once she could lift 25 pounds, she went for 35, and then for 50. On her 81st birthday, she deadlifted 121 pounds, a fact that lit up her face to share. “The body is meant to work, and when it doesn’t work, it gets really lazy,” she said. As much as Edmundson understands the gravitational pull to want to sit (how lovely it is to curl up with a good book), it’s worth it for her to keep moving. She takes no prescribed medication, her bloodwork levels are all perfectly normal, and she’s found a great community through getting stronger. And, of course, that bucket of cat litter is no longer a problem.

We all love to cheer for the US women’s soccer team and watch in awe as Simone Biles does gymnastics, but their level of athletic talent is on another plane. Here is a woman in her eighties proving that you don’t have to possess a superhuman-style capacity in order to benefit from pursuing strength-based goals—you just have to be willing to put in the effort. “I’ve had people who have said, ‘You’re my inspiration,’ and I’ve said, ‘Anybody can do this; it’s just a mindset of getting yourself to the gym,’” Edmundson says. “I don’t think I’m unusual; I think I’m normal. You’re never too old to start.”

Haley Shapley C’06 is the author of Strong Like Her: A Celebration of Rule Breakers, History Makers, and Unstoppable Athletes, from which this essay is adapted. Copyright © 2020 by Haley Shapley. Reprinted by permission of Gallery Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, Inc.
Back to (Virtual) School

After initially inviting students back to campus for a hybrid model of instruction, Penn reversed course with a fully remote fall semester.
Enoît Dubé, Penn’s chief wellness officer, used a colorful metaphor to describe what the past few months have been like being part of the University’s recovery planning group to determine plans for the fall 2020 semester. “It’s kind of like your car’s going 60 miles per hour,” he said, “and you’re trying to change the tire at the same time.”

Like every institution navigating the COVID-19 pandemic, Penn has been trying to make sure the wheels don’t fall off. And after a couple of detours and turns, the University in the end settled on what’s likely the safest route.

After initially inviting students back to campus to participate in a “hybrid model” of instruction, the University announced on August 11 “the deeply disappointing news that with only very limited exceptions for international students and those students dealing with significant housing or personal hardships, we will not be able to accommodate undergraduate students in University housing.”

The revision came after two previous announcements outlined more in-person options for the fall semester. In late June, the University unveiled its hybrid model of instruction in which large lectures would be conducted online while smaller classes would have an in-person option. As COVID cases surged, Penn updated its plans a month later, moving to almost all virtual instruction (with a few in-person exceptions, such as clinical simulations for nursing students and some research work for graduate and professional students) and requiring all undergraduates to be tested for COVID before and after arriving on campus, among other measures.

But “unfortunately, COVID-19 continues to spread at an alarming rate across the country, with approximately 2 million new cases reported just over the past month,” Penn President Amy Gutmann, Provost Wendell Pritchett Gr’97, Executive Vice President Craig Carnaroli W’85, and Perelman School of Medicine Dean J. Larry Jameson wrote in their August 11 message to the Penn community. “The progression of the disease is evident in many states from which Penn welcomes thousands of students. The sheer number of students who by Pennsylvania public health recommendation would now upon arrival—or based upon testing or high-risk exposure—need to go into a two-week quarantine is untenable.”

The University announced that tuition will be rolled back by 3.9 percent, freezing it at last year’s rate. The general fee will also be reduced by 10 percent, housing and dining fees will be credited or refunded, and significant increases to the financial aid budget have been made “to assist students and families in this difficult time.”

A key element in the plan to bring students back to campus safely, announced in the July 31 update, was a comprehensive testing program in which all students planning to be at Penn in the fall, whether living on or off campus, had to have a negative COVID-19 test within 14 days prior to arrival after receiving a testing kit at their home address from a private third-party testing lab with which the University contracted. Students then needed to be tested upon arrival on campus and were required to quarantine until receiving a negative result, with some others required to take an additional third test.

But less than two weeks later (and about two weeks before students would have started to move into their dorms), University officials said that “supply chain issues have more severely limited the availability and the turnaround time of COVID testing than medical experts foresaw. Since we last communicated, we learned that our planned pretesting program regimen would not be possible.”

Dubé said that the University had considered “rescinding or rolling back inviting students to come live on campus” earlier in the summer, keeping campus closed as it did when dorms were depopulated in mid-March for the remainder of the spring semester [“Gazetteer,” May-Jun 2020]. But after consulting with public health experts, they were encouraged by a college housing plan that was “a little more aggressive than other schools” by offering only private bedrooms. He also noted at the time that the plan could still change. “We’re continuously looking at the data,” Dubé said in an interview on August 4. “There is a precedent that if we feel the health and safety of our community is jeopardized we will take swift action.”

Changing course, as Penn did, wasn’t an easy decision. Dubé noted that he had heard passionate feedback from both sides throughout the summer, with some calling the initial decision of bringing in students from around the country irresponsible and unethical while others were grateful for the University creating a responsible pathway to reopening campus for students who wished to return.

A limited number of students may still get the opportunity to do their virtual learning from college housing, if they apply for an exception and are approved. It’s likely other students will live in off-campus houses or apartments in University City, though “it is important to note that with the limited exception of required in-person instruction [such as clinical experiences in nursing], there will be no physical on-campus activities in the fall semester,” the University notice stated. “For the safety of the students and the broader community, we are encouraging all other students not to return to Philadelphia.”

Students who do return to Philly will be offered free testing upon arrival and again seven days later at Houston
Hall and will need to be enrolled in the mobile symptom tracking program PennOpen Pass to gain access to labs and other buildings, though very few campus services will be open in person to undergraduates. They also still must adhere to the Student Campus Compact—which, among other things, requires students to collaborate with the University on testing, daily wellness checks with PennOpen Pass, and tracking contacts following a positive test; wear a facial covering outside their place of residence and practice social distancing; wash their hands frequently and use alcohol-based disinfectant wipes to clean surfaces with which they come into contact; be up-to-date on all vaccinations and get a flu shot; and refrain from organizing, hosting, or attending events, parties, or other social gatherings.

Expressing “an enormous sense of sadness” in being unable to offer a hybrid learning experience on campus this fall as originally planned, Penn’s top officials wrote, “We continue to hope that we will be able to welcome students back for the spring semester, and will do everything in our power to maximize that possibility.”

In the meantime, they added, “We will do all that we can to keep each class involved and connected virtually, so that they can continue to interact and share their Penn experience with classmates in a safe and productive way.” —DZ

Common Ground

Chaplain Chaz Howard has been tasked with running a new office on social equity and community.

Charles “Chaz” Howard C’00 was already wrestling with imposter syndrome when he first arrived on Penn’s campus in the fall of 1996. So he was shocked and crushed when his freshman advisor looked at him during their first meeting and said, “Another Black student from Baltimore—you’ll probably fail out too.”

“I like to think, at best, he was trying to use some reverse psychology to motivate me to run harder,” Howard says. “But that’s not what an 18-year-old who was already insecure about being here needed to hear.”

Howard quickly found a new advisor but still “took a series of L’s” as a freshman. His athletic career as a triple jumper on the Penn track team was short-lived. He lost a student government race and didn’t make an a cappella group. His high school sweetheart dumped him. “Being a freshman’s hard enough,” he says. “Being a first-year student facing social inequities makes it even harder.”

Trying to push aside his insecurities, Howard soon made it into several prominent groups (including the a cappella group The Inspiration, which he sang in for four years)—though in the course of becoming a campus leader, he overextended himself to the point that he drank too much and was briefly kicked out of school for bad grades. After giving up drinking and graduating Penn on time, he felt a calling to ministry. This led him back to his alma mater as the University chaplain, where for the past 12 years he’s been ministering hope and love to students also struggling to find their place on campus and in the world [“The Idea of Love,” May|Jun 2018].

Now, he has another important role. In late June, President Amy Gutmann and Provost Wendell Pritchett Gr’97 announced the appointment of Howard as Penn’s first-ever vice president for social equity and community, beginning August 1.

“Chaz has made it his life’s mission to bring together diverse groups of people,” Gutmann said in the announcement. “Where some see division, Chaz sees common ground; where some see despair, he sees hope; where some see hate, he sees love.”
Howard’s appointment came on the heels of the nationwide racial justice protests sparked by the police killings of George Floyd and other Black Americans. Howard had attended some of the demonstrations in Philadelphia, leaving each one encouraged by the “amazingly diverse” group of protesters he saw. “I was feeling very low. Very, very angry. Very sad,” he admits. “And then, I think, some of the activism and some of the changes from people on the streets really has brought me a lot of hope.”

It was around this time that Gutmann asked to speak to Howard, who did not expect to be offered the opportunity to lead a new office on diversity and inclusion. It was important to him that he stay on as chaplain—which he will, while passing off some day-to-day duties to senior associate chaplain Steve Kocher LPS’13—and thinking about managing such an expanded portfolio was daunting. But, he says, “I think my heart was quickly like, I love Penn—anything I can do to serve Penn, it’s a yes.”

In his new role, Howard will design and oversee the University’s recently announced Projects for Progress, a fund intended to encourage students, faculty, and staff to implement research-based pilot projects designed to advance Penn’s aim of becoming a more inclusive university and community. He will also work with other administrators to expand the five-year-old Campaign for Community, which offers funding and sponsorship for small-group events related to social issues.

“We’re a space of ideas,” Howard says. “If we put the right resources, encouragement and affirmation behind some of the ideas, we might be able to move the needle a little bit.”

Howard’s first order of business will be hiring three people to work under him and finding a physical space on campus, before building a website, launching an online magazine, and developing a University-wide speaker series. Over the course of the 2020–21 school year, he hopes to examine “the big issues on campus right now,” starting with public safety and policing. He also wants to “wrestle with hard questions from our past,” including how the “Black Bottom” neighborhood in West Philadelphia was razed in the 1960s to make way for the expansion of University City.

Howard has been thinking about difficult issues since his days as an undergraduate. During his freshman year, he remembers seeing a large Confederate flag hanging out of a window in the Quad. And there were bomb threats that forced him to evacuate W. E. B. Du Bois College House, where he lived for three years and says is a place that “still feels like home” when he visits. “It helped me discern what it meant to be a young Black man in America,” he says.

Howard has heard the claims throughout the years that a college house created for Black students is self-segregating, “but the reality is those Black students clearly leave
the building,” he says. “And white students certainly are allowed in the building. ... It's important to have affirming spaces on a campus if you feel like the rest of campus isn't particularly affirming.”

Howard does believe the campus has made big strides in becoming more affirming for Black students and other minorities in the 20 years since he graduated. He points to a more diverse upper leadership group, including Pritchett and others in the Provost’s office, the Penn Trustees, and some of the University deans, including Erika James, who began in July as Wharton's first Black and female dean. “She’s sharp, really smart, and thoughtful,” Howard says. “And she’s right on time.”

Among the other “real measurables” he’s seen on the road to a more just campus are the rise of cultural centers—including the Black cultural center Makuu, which celebrates 20 years on campus this year—and Africana Studies becoming a department. “Retention rates are significantly better for Black students,” Howard says, before adding that the number of Native students is “still amazingly low” and that “there’s still a whole lot of growth left.”

He’s ready to keep pushing for more growth, at a place he loves enough to want to always make better.

“I think Penn, like America, is trending in the right direction,” Howard says. “I’m hopeful. I really think things are changing.” – DZ

Collective Memory
A new Penn Archives project aims to document people’s pandemic experiences.

Shortly before the fall semester started in 1918, a deadly flu arrived in Philadelphia. The timing could not have been worse. World War I was still in full swing and, with many doctors and nurses working overseas, city hospital staff was reduced by an average of 25 percent.

Nurses in training at Penn were preparing to join them but, as the Class of 1919 Training School for Nurses yearbook describes, “Then came the epidemic of influenza, and our plans for service were brought to a standstill, for we had all we could manage at home.” Two members of the class, Grace Virginia Fitzgerald and Marie Luise O. Bormann, died from the virus on October 12 and 13, respectively, in 1918. “We dedicate this book to the memory of our classmates,” the Nurses’ Record reads.

Surprisingly, it is one of only a few references that the University has to a pandemic that killed more than 12,000 Philadelphians. “It seems that World War I was just the bigger issue,” says J.M. Duffin, acting University archivist, office manager, and senior archivist at the University Archives and Records Center. “It may have also been that [the pandemic] happened so quickly and was just so awful that people didn’t want to remember it.”

Overall, the 1918 influenza pandemic did not have the same institutional impact on the University that COVID-19 has had. On October 4, 1918, public schools and churches in Philadelphia were ordered to close, but the city’s Board of Health did not see a need to cancel classes at Penn. Although indoor club meetings were canceled, and large outdoor gatherings were postponed—including the start of the football season—University life returned to normal fairly quickly once the city quarantine was lifted on October 27.

After seeing that there was so little about the 1918 influenza pandemic, Duffin thought, “I know people will want to look at [the COVID-19 pandemic] 20 or 30 years from now, even five years from now. The best time to collect materials is when it’s very close to the events themselves, while the people are still around and it’s fresh in people’s minds.”

He continues, “That’s part of the reason why I felt really compelled to be proactive in this case.”

Shortly after campus was depopulated in mid-March,
Duffin and his colleagues created the Penn COVID-19 Community Archiving Project to document the experiences of the Penn community during the pandemic. According to the project’s website, the “goal is to collect as many diverse voices and experiences as possible so that future historians, students and scholars, doctors and scientists, public policy and health experts, University administrators, and others will be able to understand and learn how our community reacted to the COVID-19 pandemic and how we were able to respond and help support the broader world.”

The website allows electronic or hard copy submissions from anyone in the Penn community—students, faculty, staff, alumni, and others. “This is the first time we have a sort of streamlined donation process,” Duffin says. “Someone can go online and fill out the paperwork, upload the file, and boom, we have the item for our collection—as opposed to calling us up, having a discussion, arranging a time to mail the materials, and so forth.”

Duffin expects records will be donated in electronic or digital format more in the future, instead of paper or analog. Suggested materials that the project seeks include photographs, videos, journal entries, and artwork. So far, most contributions have come from students, and the second largest group of contributors is alumni.

“Someone submitted photos of graffiti they saw and commented on it,” Duffin says. There are also personal essays from alumni discussing homeschooling their children, students describing their experiences with online classes, and, of course, a face mask selfie. “Twenty years from now, someone will see that and think, ‘Oh yeah, that was the COVID-19 period,’” Duffin says. “Hopefully that will be the only time people are remembering wearing face masks.”

One of Duffin’s favorite submissions so far is from the Penn Band. “They basically submitted all of the planning materials for their videos, of how they put together these virtual concerts,” including email correspondence and schedules, he notes. “So we not only have the final product, but more importantly, we really like to capture how people’s normal operations changed—how did the band learn to do all of this stuff remotely? It’s all documented now.”

The website will be open to contributions for at least a year or more, and Duffin hopes more people in the Penn community will submit something that shows how their lives changed during this time—or how they’ve stayed the same.

“This is something that’s really important for the history of the University,” he says, “if not the country, and now the world.” —NP

To learn more about the Penn COVID-19 Community Archiving Project and make a submission, visit archives.upenn.edu/covid-19-project.

In late June, the University announced the appointments of Beth Winkelstein EAS’93 as deputy provost and Mamta Motwani Accapadi as vice provost for university life.

Winkelstein has served as the vice provost for education for the last five years, becoming “one of our most essential leaders of teaching, learning, and student life,” Provost Wendell Pritchett Gr’97 said in a release. “Her insight and energy enhance every part of our campus.”

In her new role, Winkelstein will work closely with Pritchett “to better integrate and expand our educational initiatives, especially by incorporating new technologies, new ways of teaching, and additional support for faculty and students that advance our core priorities of innovation, impact, and inclusion,” he said.

During her time at Penn, Winkelstein has helped enhance the Penn First Plus program, which provides support for first-generation and/or low-income students, as well as the Graduate Student Center and Family Center. She has also taught in the Engineering School’s bioengineering department since 2002, becoming one of the world’s leading innovators in research on new treatments for spine and other joint injuries. Appointed two years ago as the Eduardo D. Glandt Distinguished Professor, she continues to lead Penn’s Spine Pain Research Lab and serves as coeditor of the Journal of Biomechanical Engineering.

Accapadi arrived at Penn after seven years as vice president for student affairs at Rollins College in Florida, which followed stints at Oregon State University and the University of Texas at Austin. She replaced Valarie Swain-Cade McCoulum, who in February moved into a new position as Penn’s vice provost for student engagement after 25 years as the vice provost for university life.

Pritchett called Accapadi “a highly experienced national leader in student affairs, whose career has been devoted to goals of inclusion, community, and social justice. She has been a particular advocate for first-generation students, low-income students, and children of immigrants—reflecting her own background as a child of immigrants who went on to earn three degrees from the University of Texas at Austin.”

Pritchett added that at Penn, particularly during what will be a “highly unusual year for our students,” she will be tasked with “advancing student care and wellness, helping students navigate the student conduct process, leading conflict resolution, developing student-led multicultural initiatives, and creating diversity education programs and workshops.”
Preserving a Pioneer

Thanks to a newly digitized Penn Libraries research portal, singer and civil rights icon Marian Anderson “will be reintroduced to her city and the world.”

Easter Sunday 1939, Marian Anderson Hon’58 descended the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and walked right into history. But there’s a lot more to the story of the Black Philadelphia-born classical singer who so triumphantly delivered a concert that day in front of a crowd of 75,000, after being denied an opportunity to perform at a venue owned by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

And now, those interested in further exploring her groundbreaking five-decade career—from the minutiae of her daily life to her interactions with music luminaries and world leaders—can dig deeper than ever, thanks to the recent digitalization of thousands of items from her collection at the Penn Libraries’ Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts.

Available through the new Discovering Marian Anderson research portal, the effort was funded by a $110,000 grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources.

Anderson made her first gift of materials to Penn in 1977, at the encouragement of her nephew, conductor James De Preist W’58 ASC’61 Hon’76. Over the years, more donations followed and Penn now holds a vast quantity of ephemera and recordings. Up until now, researchers—including filmmakers working on the 2019 documentary Once in a Hundred Years: The Life and Legacy of Marian Anderson, and on an upcoming American Masters production on PBS—have had to sift through the piles of music manuscripts and concert programs, boxes of tapes, and reams of scrapbooks and notebooks in person.

The 2,500 or so digitized items represent about a tenth of the entire collection, but there’s plenty to dig into.

“Scholars can knit all of this together in interesting ways. For one thing, we’re hoping to create an interactive map of her performances. Or maybe someone will do content analysis to determine which songs she performed most.”

The general public thinks of Anderson (1897–1993) as an opera singer, but when she began her career, “opera wasn’t a viable option for Black singers,” says April James, reader services librarian at the Kislak Center. As she pages virtually through Anderson’s programs, she adds, “but she did sing operatic selections—I’m looking through one program from a 1935 concert in Russia and there are three Handel arias right there.”

An opera singer herself, as well as a specialist in women composers, James points out that Anderson was very receptive to submissions from contemporary female composers, such as Florence Price, who often rearranged traditional African American spirituals for the performer.

“In some of the scores, you can see Price’s notes to Anderson, asking her if something would work for her voice,” James says. “You see the composer tailoring the song to the singer.”

Recordings of these works turn up in the digital archive, of course, but so do taped interviews such as a series of conversations with New York Times critic Howard Taubman, conducted as preparation for My Lord, What a Morning, the Anderson autobiography he ghostwrote.

On

From a 1944 scrapbook, Marian Anderson sings during her famous performance at the Lincoln Memorial in 1939.
“There are several unexpurgated interviews that are interesting for the enormous insight they provide into her Green Book-like experiences on tour,” McKnight says. “Although she was regarded as a very important, iconic figure in the civil rights movement, she rarely spoke publicly about these issues. She was a very political woman.” Listening to the tapes, we hear the reporter gently press for more memories and more details. The singer at first demurs, distancing herself from the scene with repeated uses of the pronouns “one” and “we.” Gradually she opens up with several anecdotes, adding that she remains keenly aware that because of her status, she was often protected from the worst Jim Crow offenses. “Exceptions are made for one person and that one person knows that there are so many others who are just as good, just as fine a character, who are submitted because something about them hasn’t been shouted to the housetops.”

In a later interview—this time for the New York classical music station WQXR—she revisits another event that would define her career almost as much as the Lincoln Memorial performance: her debut at the Metropolitan Opera. Despite finding extraordinary success in Europe (where she’d sung the work of Finnish composer Jean Sibelius for him at his home and won the praise of Arturo Toscanini, who dubbed hers the “once in a hundred years” voice), she says her “greatest dream” remained to sing on the Met stage. It wasn’t until 1954 that she received an offer to do so. “My heart was beating so loudly that I didn’t know if I was going or coming,” she recalls of that moment. “I tried to answer as nonchalantly as the question had been put to me.”

The performance, in Verdi’s The Masked Ball, was her only operatic stage role and it came in 1955, relatively late in her career. But the distinction of breaking that particular color barrier was the beginning of a long succession of honors for the star, including singing at the presidential inaugurations of Eisenhower and Kennedy, an appointment as an alternate delegate to the UN General Assembly, and inclusion in the first group of artists to receive the Kennedy Center Honors, which debuted in 1978.

Anderson always preferred to “let her excellence be her activism,” James says. “That’s her true legacy. With so much of her collection now online, I hope she will be reintroduced to her city and the world.

“If she hadn’t paved the way, would it have even been achievable for Black opera stars like Leontyne Price, Kathleen Battle, and Jessye Norman to get to the Met stage? And would the spirituals have become part of the concert repertoire? All of this would have taken so much longer, and maybe not have happened at all.”

—JoAnn Greco

To explore the Discovering Marian Anderson portal, visit mariananderson.exhibits.library.upenn.edu.

EXIT INTERVIEW

Furda Says Farewell

After 12 year as Penn’s dean of admissions, Eric J. Furda C’87 will be stepping down in December. The University announced Furda’s decision in June. “Eric’s work at Penn has been exceptional,” said Penn President Amy Gutmann and Provost Wendell Pritchett Gr’97 in a statement. “Under his visionary and strategic leadership, the diversity and academic excellence of our classes have grown each year. Among his many achievements, Eric has been instrumental in supporting our priority of bringing more low-income, first-generation students to Penn,” they continued, noting that 20 percent of the incoming class qualifies for Pell Grants (which typically implies an annual family income of less than $60,000).

“I started during an economic collapse and am ending during a pandemic,” Furda told the Gazette in July, reflecting on the generation of undergraduates he helped to shepherd into Penn. “These young people I’ve been interacting with, that’s what’s shaped their lives: economic convulsion, awareness of global issues like environment and war. These are heavy issues, and they are still growing up and still hopefully having a sense of childhood, but this is a group with a big awareness of what’s going on in the world and how it will impact their future. And that has shaped their sense of what needs to be done, and what is just and right, and what difference they want to make—and that comes through in their applications.”

Furda, who plans to become a college counselor at the private school his children attend (William Penn Charter School), credited the principles of Gutmann’s Penn Compact as the driving force of his tenure. “Civic engagement is at the core of a Penn education, and the Franklin idea of education. And I think what Penn has to offer is the reason why applications go up in a lot of ways—it’s not just the race to apply to a lot of places, but what we have to offer in terms of values of civic engagement. That’s what really resonates.”

The University will form an advisory committee to guide the search for a successor. Asked about the challenges he or she can expect to face, Furda cited the rising cost of a college education, recent disruptions to practices around standardized testing, and shifting ideas about how learning relates to jobs and careers. “Admissions is a process with a toolbox that’s not precise,” he said. “People want predictability: given Input A and Input B, what is the result? But selective admissions doesn’t look like that, and is under scrutiny. The challenge is how you can explain what you’re trying to achieve in terms of assembling a community of learners. For practitioners of admissions—particularly amid disruptions to testing and K-12 education—the question is how you identify potential and promise, as a student and as a person, in people who are going to be in your community. It’s not just a matter of having a 4.2 GPA and a perfect score on the ACT. It’s figuring out how to identify young people who will bring vibrancy and inquisitiveness to your community.” —TP
Press Forward

New leadership—plus the pandemic and protests—are fueling change at the venerable Penn Press.

The year 2020 was always going to be a time of transition for the 130-year-old University of Pennsylvania Press. It was just last September that a new director—Mary Francis, who formerly held leadership roles at the University of Michigan and University of California presses—succeeded Eric Halpern, who'd held the job since 1995 ["Pressing On," March 1998]. Then, at the end of January, the appointment of a new editor in chief, Walter Biggins, was announced.

Biggins, who most recently was executive editor at the University of Georgia Press, arrived in Philadelphia two days before the coronavirus-prompted lockdown in March. He has yet to enter the press's distinctive mid-Victorian building at 3905 Spruce Street as an employee, though he did see it when he interviewed back in December. And except for the people he met then, he's been getting to know the editors and other staff from the confines of Zoom, BlueJeans, and Microsoft Teams.

But Francis and Biggins are forging ahead with their plans for the press amidst the changes wrought by the novel coronavirus within scholarly publishing—from upending traditional work routines to accelerating shifts toward delivering content digitally and amplifying calls for making more of it available at low or no cost, known as Open Access. They are also assessing prospects for industry changes coming out of the wave of protests sparked by the death of George Floyd and other Black victims of police violence that began in late May. That movement has highlighted the Penn Press's established strengths in publishing books related to the struggle for racial justice, which Biggins hopes to build upon.

“I’m the kind of person who is very attracted to dynamic environments, and I knew that just my arrival would create some dynamism,” Francis said of joining the press, where Halpern had left his stamp on every aspect of operations. Add in the impact of recent events, and “without me having obviously planned any of this, people will probably look back at my first year at Penn, and [say], ‘Oh wow, a lot of things changed.’”

As director, Francis is responsible for the overall management of the press, which includes a journals division as well as the books program and publishes about 140 volumes annually in the social sciences and humanities. She also serves as the main point of contact with the University administration.

Biggins leads the acquisitions department, overseeing the press’s slate of new books and crafting its overall creative vision. He’ll also continue to acquire books himself in fields including cultural studies, the intellectual and political history of the Americas, the Atlantic World, and postcolonial studies.

Getting used to that “bifurcated” framework has been challenging while working remotely, he said on a video call in mid-June. “Learning the social environment of the press—how people operate, and who does well with what—has been a learning curve that I wasn’t expecting, because obviously we didn’t have COVID-19 when all of this was being formulated. But we’re in it now.”

Francis described the editor in chief as playing an almost symbolic role in shaping a press’s intellectual identity. Biggins stood out as a...
candidate because of the way he “hit the highest-level mark” when it came to his ideas about that and about “what's important for scholarly publishing to be focusing on now,” she said.

As an editor, Biggins has mostly concentrated on “books about the Americas,” he said. At Georgia, he frequently found himself in competition with Penn Press editors for the same books, “so I knew Penn’s list very deeply in that regard.”

He also was attracted to the press’s “engagement with the rest of the world, with Europe, with ancient and early modern cultures,” as well as the opportunity to engage more broadly and deeply with Philadelphia as a subject—something he suggested the press hasn’t taken as much advantage of as it could.

According to Biggins, the pandemic has “amplified” scholarly publishing’s more or less perpetual state of crisis. Brick-and-mortar bookstores, online sites like Amazon, and scholarly and regional libraries are all taking fewer books. “So we're having to think creatively about ways to publish that are dynamic and still get into people's hands,” he said. All current and future press books will be available in electronic editions, and they’ve been working to convert as much as possible of the back list as well.

“But we're also just thinking about new modes of publishing,” he added. Making content available to as many readers as possible “often freely, is something that is really appealing to a lot of scholars—and really difficult for publishers to figure out how to pay for,” he said. “So we're thinking about those challenges on top of just the regular COVID-19 concerns.”

The flood of research on the coronavirus that has been disseminated ahead of peer review in online forums has highlighted larger questions over accessibility, Francis said. The pandemic “has put a lot of social pressure” on the existing system, in which major scholarly commercial publishers “get very large fees for their subscriptions,” she added. “It has given a platform and more of a megaphone for the people who are out there saying, ‘Why is this not costing less, why are people making so much money on this, when your taxes went to the National Science Foundation to pay for those grants?’” to do that research?

Francis, who was heavily involved in Open Access initiatives at Michigan’s and California’s presses, believes that scholarly publishers need to be involved in those discussions, though she admits that the Penn Press “has done no Open Access at all.” That could change in the future, though the question of how to cover necessary expenses remains critical to resolve. “I do think it’s important, but it’s not like a switch that you turn on or off.”

In addition to issues arising from the pandemic, Francis suggested that the ongoing “national dialogue” on “America’s original sin” could lead the publishing industry to “take a look in the mirror” in terms of its own economic, gender, and racial biases. Publishing is populated mostly by people who are white and relatively privileged economically, she said. “It’s a very hard industry to make it in if you come from a working-class background. It’s also very, very feminized at the entry level but largely male at the leadership level. So, this has been a real moment of self-reflection.”

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**Anti-Racism Reading List**

Penn Press provided this selection of books relevant to the current movement for racial and economic justice and against police brutality. All can be found at www.upenn.edu/pennpress.

**SET THE WORLD ON FIRE:**
Black Nationalist Women and the Global Struggle for Freedom by Keisha N. Blain
Highlights the Black nationalist women who fought for national and transnational Black liberation from the early to mid-20th century.

**REMAKING THE REPUBLIC:**
Black Politics and the Creation of American Citizenship by Christopher James Bonner
Examining newspapers, conventions, public protest meetings, and fugitive slave rescues, the author reveals a spirited debate among African Americans in the 19th century, the stakes of which could determine their place in US society and shape the terms of citizenship for all Americans.

**IN THE HEAT OF THE SUMMER:**
The New York Riots of 1964 and the War on Crime by Michael W. Flamm
In Central Harlem, the symbolic and historic heart of Black America, the violent unrest of July 1964—the first “long, hot summer” of the ’60s—highlighted a new dynamic in the nation’s racial politics.

**FORCE AND FREEDOM:**
Black Abolitionists and the Politics of Violence by Kellie Carter Jackson
In the first historical analysis exclusively focused on the tactical use of violence among antebellum Black activists, the author argues that abolitionist leaders created the conditions that necessitated the Civil War.

**POLICE POWER AND RACE RIOTS:**
Urban Unrest in Paris and New York by Cathy Lisa Schneider
As a woman replacing a longtime male leader, Francis considers herself a representative of positive change, which she has continued with hires like Biggins, who is Black, and others. “That’s been a real gift, even as it’s happened during a time of struggle,” she said.

Some of the press’s existing strengths speak directly to the current moment, Biggins said. Penn is best known for books in early American history and early modern studies, and also has “a very strong list” in human rights studies, but includes offerings in a wide variety of other disciplines as well—perhaps too many, he suggested.

“We have published in so many areas that it’s hard for someone coming to our press cold—looking at our catalog and looking at the website—to know ‘What is Penn’s identity, what is it that they consider themselves really good at?’”

He said he wants to strike the right balance between “expanding what people think of as the press but also in some ways contracting the actual things that we acquire.”

Francis pointed to alliances with the McNeil Center for Early American Studies and the Institute for Urban Research, which she hopes to grow, and other potential partners in areas such as human rights. “It’s a way of thinking about expanding, but it’s also about taking your strengths and making them more concentrated.”

Many of the social issues raised by this summer’s protests have been studied and debated in books published by Penn and others, Biggins noted. “A phrase like ‘Defund the Police,’ for instance, which has become very popular—in scholarly circles and within university presses this is not a new idea. These sorts of carceral studies and things like that have been present not only at this press but at a lot of presses that publish on humanities,” he said. “What’s been really galvanizing is to see how the work that’s been produced by university presses is becoming mainstream.”

This is something that the Penn Press has always been good at, he said, “and that I want us to highlight and to think about more and get out into the world more—so in terms of acquisitions and editorial vision, that will continue to be a big part of what we do,” Biggins said. “I think that’s true not just of this press but of any number of presses that do any kind of work on human rights, and what’s being produced by university presses is becoming mainstream.”

This moment in the national dialogue, she said, “is Black, and others. “That’s been a real gift, even as it’s happened during a time of struggle,” she said.

“Particularly in the books program that Walter is the leader of, we do have contributions to make—not just the books we’ll publish in the future … but also the stuff that we already have ready to go to help people get through this remarkable and challenging, but I think hopeful, moment in the national dialogue,” she said. —JP

Waiting Game

With Ivy League sports on hold, two new head coaches are trying to navigate an unusual situation.

Instead of leading practices or workouts, Meredith Schamun started a book club with her team. Casey Brown had her players come to a Zoom meeting with an item or souvenir that explained why they play the game.

What do you do when you’re hired to coach a team right as your new campus is being shut down by a global pandemic? How do you keep your players engaged when your first season as head coach is put on hold, as the Ivy League announced in July with the cancellation of all intercollegiate competition for the entire fall semester?

For Schamun and Brown—the new head coaches of the Penn women’s volleyball and women’s soccer team, respectively—it’s all about resilience and resourcefulness.

“We’ve laughed,” Schamun says. “And we’ve had more serious conversations about what we’re trying to do to get past the weirdness of not being able to be with our teams.”

“Waiting Game”

With the cancellation of all intercollegiate competition for the entire fall semester, two new head coaches are trying to navigate an unusual situation.
Brown, who finds herself missing little things that new staff members may have once taken for granted. “You know what I can’t wait to do?” she says. “Just take a proper tour [of campus], where you actually learn the ins and outs, just like a student would.”

Like Schamun, Brown was a collegiate star only about a decade ago, graduating Boston University as an All-American and getting drafted by the Boston Breakers of the old Women’s Professional Soccer (WPS) league in 2010. She quickly left playing to get into coaching, working her way from LIU Brooklyn back to her alma mater and then to Holy Cross, where she served as head coach for the last four seasons and was the 2019 Patriot League Coach of the Year.

Brown replaced Nicole Van Dyke, who left for the University of Washington in January after five seasons at the Quakers’ helm, highlighted by an Ivy League co-championship in 2018.

“I’m excited to not just continue what’s been good,” Brown says. “I’m a competitor. I’m hungry to win. I want to compete for Ivy League championships, I want to be in the NCAA tournament, and I want to push the threshold of what we can be nationally.”

Schamun might have a tougher road ahead of her. She’ll be the fourth coach in the team locker room.

During her first few months on the job, “I’m excited to come in and provide some continuity and stability,” she says. “I became a coach because I had great coaches in college that made me feel very loved and supported.”

“Whatever it’s going to look like, we want to be prepared for it. And we want to be the best at it.”

Tommy Lasorda, the legendary former manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers, will have his name stamped on Penn Baseball—literally.

In late July, Penn Athletics announced a gift of more than $2 million from Warren Lichtenstein C’87 to help fund upgrades at the home of the Quakers’ baseball program, which will be named Tommy Lasorda Field at Meiklejohn Stadium once the first phase of the renovation is complete.

Lasorda—a Baseball Hall of Famer from Norristown, Pennsylvania—won two World Series titles while managing the Dodgers and is very friendly with Lichtenstein, the founder and executive chairman of Steel Partners Holdings L.P., a global diversified holding company. In a statement, Lichtenstein said that “Tommy and the Lasorda family have meant so much and done so much for Norristown and the state of Pennsylvania that it is only fitting to name Penn’s baseball field after him.”

Through a portion of his gift, Lichtenstein will match dollar-for-dollar any contribution to the stadium project up to $2,050,000, creating the $4,100,000 necessary to complete Phase 1 of the renovations—which, according to athletic director Grace Calhoun, will “include artificial turf and enhance the student-athlete and fan experience in a number of ways to help us compete for Ivy League championships.” Among the other upgrades planned for Meiklejohn Stadium are renovated dugouts, a reorientation of the field, updated protective netting, and a permanent restroom facility.

Though he doesn’t have a true connection to Penn, Lasorda was signed by the Philadelphia Phillies in 1945, before reaching the big leagues as a pitcher with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1954. At 92, he’s currently the oldest living Baseball Hall of Famer and has been part of the Dodgers organization in some capacity for more than 70 years.

“I am honored to have a baseball field named after me in my home state of Pennsylvania and the University of Pennsylvania,” said Lasorda, who resides in Fullerton, California, with his wife of 70 years. “I am most thankful to my great friend, Warren Lichtenstein, and everyone at the University of Pennsylvania, for this unbelievable tribute and honor.”

Other upgrades—most notably the $2 million gift from Lichtenstein—will “include artificial turf and enhance the student-athlete and fan experience in a number of ways to help us compete for Ivy League championships.” Among the other upgrades planned for Meiklejohn Stadium are renovated dugouts, a reorientation of the field, updated protective netting, and a permanent restroom facility.

Through a portion of his gift, Lichtenstein will match dollar-for-dollar any contribution to the stadium project up to $2,050,000, creating the $4,100,000 necessary to complete Phase 1 of the renovations—which, according to athletic director Grace Calhoun, will “include artificial turf and enhance the student-athlete and fan experience in a number of ways to help us compete for Ivy League championships.” Among the other upgrades planned for Meiklejohn Stadium are renovated dugouts, a reorientation of the field, updated protective netting, and a permanent restroom facility.

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Like other fall-sport coaches, Brown and Schamun will try to treat this semester as an off-season—with a lot more Zoom meetings. The hope, then, is that their seasons will be moved to the spring—though that all depends on how the pandemic looks in the coming months. (From the Ivy League’s July announcement: “A decision on the remaining winter and spring sports competition calendar, and on whether fall sport competition would be feasible in the spring, will be determined at a later date.”)

“It’s nice to have something to look forward to and prepare for,” Schamun says. “The people navigating the most uncertainty are the seniors and freshmen, but we’re all taking it in stride. Not every day is great. But overall, I think they feel blessed for whatever we can do and however it looks.”

“I told Coach ‘P’ that I’m gonna get him some rings,” says Glover, now a senior quarterback. “I haven’t been able to get him any rings but I have one more opportunity. So I definitely plan on succeeding with that.”

It may be out of his control. With the Ivy League football season cancelled, Glover is hoping to get a chance to lead the Quakers to an Ivy championship in the spring. If sports are not resumed then (and the football season moved), he plans to graduate from Wharton in May and perhaps use the season of eligibility lost to COVID-19 at a different school. (The Ivy League does not allow graduate students to play intercollegiate sports, but some students may have the option to graduate later so they can play another season at Penn.) Glover’s college football career has already been an exercise in patience. A highly touted recruit out of Georgia who comes from a celebrity family (his mother is the famous fashion stylist Tameka Foster, who used to be married to the iconic musician Usher), Glover only appeared in one game as a freshman. Then, after starting all 10 games at QB as a sophomore in 2018 (during which time Usher attended—and Instagrammed—a game at Franklin Field), he mainly served as a backup last year as the Quakers finished fourth in the Ivies for the third straight campaign following back-to-back co-championships.

“It’s been three upsetting seasons for me in a row,” Glover says. “So for this last one, it’s all or nothing.”

Despite not knowing when he’ll get the opportunity to be a starting senior college quarterback, Glover worked out with teammates in both Atlanta and Los Angeles over the summer. And he returned to campus to live in an off-campus apartment in late July, eager for “a little human interaction” despite the social distancing rules in place.

Glover has also been a leading voice in conversations about diversity and inclusion within the athletic department and football team. Just like Penn basketball senior Jelani Williams (see “Seizing the Moment” on our website), Glover felt compelled to act during the protests for racial equality following the police killing of George Floyd, and has helped create a new group for Black student-athletes at Penn that he hopes will foster change—including more ways to “reach out and give back” to the local West Philly community.

“I think everyone on the team is on board and everyone wants to help,” says Glover, adding that he felt “proud” and “optimistic” while attending a couple of protests in California this summer. “Now it’s just time to actually take action and do it.” —DZ
Penn’s Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice is pioneering a systemic, data-driven approach to criminal justice reform. Its executive director, John Hollway, started with the idea that the law should function more like science—less argument, more truth seeking.

By Julia M. Klein

Even after graduating from law school, John F. Hollway C’92 LPS’18 recalls, “If they had said on the radio that they arrested someone, I would think, ‘Oh, they got the guy.’” Then he encountered the saga of John Thompson, a Black man convicted, in two separate cases, of carjacking and murder, and sent to Louisiana’s death row.

Two of Hollway’s former colleagues at the Philadelphia law firm of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius spent nearly two decades, pro bono, on the capital case, working all the legal angles. Years into the laborious appeals process, with hope for a reprieve dimming, they uncovered evidence suggesting that their client hadn’t simply been denied a fair trial. He was actually innocent of both crimes.

“That really grabbed me,” says Hollway, executive director of the Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice and associate dean at Penn’s Carey Law School. “It redefined my view of the criminal justice system. In 1988, 12 independent people had heard all the evidence and come to the conclusion that this guy was absolutely guilty. And then it turned out they hadn’t heard all the evidence, and 12 other people, when hear-
ing the evidence told in a different way, were absolutely certain he was innocent. It shook my foundations of what I thought the law should be doing.”

He began researching a book on the case in 2004. Soon afterward, he became vice president for business development at a South San Francisco biotech startup, Achaogen Inc., tackling the problem of bacterial resistance to antibiotics. “It was 10 PhDs and me, basically,” Hollway says, “and what was clear to me was that the way that scientists resolved disputes was very different from the way I had learned to resolve disputes as a lawyer.”

As he wrote Killing Time: An 18-Year-Odyssey from Death Row to Freedom (Skyhorse Publishing), Hollway kept thinking about how much happier Thompson’s fate might have been “if we’d had a collaborative process of truth-finding instead of an adversarial process.” While shopping the book (co-authored with Ronald M. Gauthier) to publishers, he got another jolt: “I kept getting told, ‘Oh yeah, this is a great story, but we get way too many of these—two or three a month.’”

In 2010, the year the book was published, Hollway joined the advisory board of the Northern California Innocence Project, devoted to overturning wrongful convictions. But maybe, he was starting to think, the best solution wasn’t litigating individual cases. That process was riddled with uncertainties, consumed years, and cost millions in lawyers’ fees (or, in pro bono cases, unbilled time). What if it was possible to step back and examine the whole system, to see how such devastating mistakes could have occurred in the first place? And, by diagnosing the problems, fix them?

Launched in 2013 with a $15 million gift from the Frank [W’77] and Denise [SAMP ’78] Quattrone Foundation and Hollway at its helm, the Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice is pioneering a systemic, data-driven approach to criminal justice reform. Its methods derive, in part, from W. Edwards Deming’s notion of a feedback loop of “continuous quality improvement.” Deming, an engineer and physicist turned management guru, introduced his techniques in Japan in the 1950s. They were adopted in the 1980s by the American automotive and aviation industries and, more recently, by the US health care sector.

Hollway likes to point out that the initials “QC,” for Quattrone Center, also stand for “quality control.” The center’s tagline, he says, is “a systems approach to preventing errors in criminal justice.” Quattrone melds policy and practice, using one to inform the other. The center’s research on issues such as cash bail, pretrial detention, and the controversial police practice of “stop and frisk” have fueled litigation, legislation, and administrative reforms nationwide.

“Data can be connective,” Hollway says, bridging professional and ideological divides and fostering consensus.

Former Philadelphia Police Commissioner Charles H. Ramsey, a Penn Law Distinguished Policy Fellow who co-taught the seminar “Policing in the 21st Century” with Hollway last spring, echoes that idea. Quattrone “can be a convener, they can bring a diverse group of people together to have real dialogue—not just shouting at each other,” he says.

Pamela R. Metzger, the inaugural director of the Deason Family Criminal Justice Reform Center at Southern Methodist University’s Dedman School of Law, sees Quattrone as a model. Hollway “established the first major criminal justice reform center that had both national ambition and national reach,” says Metzger. “And he did that by bringing people together around issues that they had in common. John went out and got people to the table.”

In recent months, the Minneapolis police killing of George Floyd, mass protests, and growing demands for a racial reckoning have transformed the social and cultural landscape. The movement has boosted Quattrone’s profile and demand for its services. Given its longstanding concerns with racial bias in criminal justice, “we’re precisely placed for this moment in time,” Hollway says.

As a result, the center has stepped up its activities, cosponsoring webinars on police reform and applying its expertise to an increasing number of projects nationally, in Philadelphia, and at Penn itself. At the request of President Amy Gutmann, Quattrone is conducting the University’s Public Safety Review and Outreach Initiative, designed to evaluate Penn’s success in creating “a physically and emotionally safe environment on campus and in the surrounding community,” while promoting “anti-racism, racial equality, and justice.”

The center’s approach hasn’t changed, Hollway says, even if his vocabulary has shifted to reflect a new sense of urgency. Introducing a July 8 webinar on structural impediments to police reform, Hollway talked about Penn Law’s commitment “to support all communities in their anti-racism advocacy.” The panel featured Ramsey, two other former city officials now affiliated with the law school, and a policy analyst for the Philadelphia Police Advisory Commission. Focusing on such nuts-and-bolts obstacles as Philadelphia’s
grievance arbitration process and the powerful Fraternal Order of Police union, it was a view from the trenches—in Ramsey’s case, from the streets.

An earlier, June 24 panel, “Beyond Reform: Re-envisioning the Role of Police,” showcased both more radical politics and loftier aims. Its participants were five like-minded “abolitionist” academics, all highly skeptical of policing and worried that incremental reforms—the sort of fixes that Quattrone has often recommended—could backfire by legitimizing or reinforcing the system.

“To be perfectly honest, my view is not the same as the way the Quattrone Center’s mission is framed,” says Dorothy E. Roberts, the George A. Weiss University Professor of Law and Sociology, the Raymond Pace and Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander Professor of Civil Rights, and professor of Africana Studies (“Dangerous Ideas,” Jul/Aug 2016). Roberts, a Quattrone affiliate, a Penn Integrates Knowledge Professor, and director of Penn’s Program on Race, Science, and Society, moderated and assembled the anti-policing panel. “It is so rare that our more radical viewpoint gets aired,” she says.

Roberts, who is among those advising Penn’s new public safety initiative, favors the abolition of not just police, but prisons, which she views as a manifestation of this country’s legacy of slavery, segregation, and racism. “I believe that the US criminal justice system is designed in a way that produces injustice. So the problem isn’t a malfunction that has to be corrected,” she says. “The problem is the system itself.”

Most of Quattrone’s interdisciplinary group of affiliated faculty and fellows—with degrees in medicine, nursing, law, economics, sociology, criminology, political science, and psychology—share a more reformist bent. The center’s hands-on involvement generally takes the form of after-the-fact probes of undesirable criminal justice outcomes, variously known as “sentinel event reviews,” “root cause analyses” or “just culture event reviews,” which Hollway leads. (“They’re all basically the same thing—it’s just branding,” he says.) He is also an expert on setting up “conviction integrity units” that reexamine questionable cases with an eye toward possible exoneration.

In Austin, Texas, Quattrone helped to investigate deficiencies at the Austin Police Department’s DNA lab, closed in 2016. The release of its report was pending as of late July. In Tucson, Arizona, it is reviewing two incidents in which Latinx individuals died in police custody. In 2015, the center worked with the Montgomery County District Attorney’s Office, in the Philadelphia suburbs, to analyze how a rape case involving a prominent political figure and a misread lab report went awry.

Kevin A. Steele, the current Montgomery County District Attorney, says that the review identified “a lack of independent oversight” as “an underlying root cause” of the debacle. Thanks to Quattrone, the county commissioners funded a new position, a “deputy for professional standards” who reviews “hundreds of criminal investigations and case dispositions each year in an effort to minimize mistakes,” Steele says.

Quattrone also coordinates the ongoing Philadelphia Event Review Team, described in an April 2019 report as a “first-of-its-kind initiative in the United States, dedicated to a culture of learning from error.” The Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office, the Philadelphia Police Department, the First Judicial District Courts of Pennsylvania, and the Defender Association of Philadelphia are all participants. The team investigated the case of George Cortez, convicted of murder in 2012 on the basis of inaccurate eyewitness testimony; sentenced to life without parole; exonerated in 2016; and shot to death on the streets of North Philadelphia two months after his release. Among other recommendations, the report urged caution in charging defendants whenever eyewitness testimony remained uncorroborated.

In a June 23 webinar sponsored by the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE), Hollway said that “at this moment in time” the review process can help soothe anger and “improve the relationship between police departments and their communities.

“I don’t think anybody wakes up in the morning thinking, ‘Today’s the day that I’m going to be involved in an excessive use of force and lose my job and cost somebody his life,’” Hollway says. “The question we ask at the Quattrone Center then is, ‘If that’s the case, why do these tragedies keep happening? And what can we do to prevent the next tragedy?’ We all want to figure out how we’re going to move forward from here in a way that can begin to reunite and heal some of the wounds in our society.”

Paul Heaton, a University of Chicago-trained economist who is Quattrone’s academic director and a senior fellow, describes Hollway as “enormously capable at handling and adapting to new and unfamiliar situations.” He adds: “If there was some game where you’re just going to drop somewhere in the world and you have to survive and thrive and pick a teammate, John would be the guy.”

“He’s a little bit of a polymath or a Renaissance man,” SMU’s Metzger says of Hollway. “He’s clearly very skilled at developing partnerships, both financial and intellectual. He’s really good at institution building—which is, I have discovered, much harder to do than it appears.”

Hollway grew up mostly in Maryland, outside Annapolis. His father was a US Air Force officer, his mother a homemaker and, later, a nurse. His younger brother is a helicopter paramedic. At Penn, Hollway majored in diplomatic history and minored in East Asian studies, polishing his fluency in Japanese during a summer abroad. He attended George Washington University Law School, where he excelled at moot court competitions.
Back in Philadelphia, Hollway signed on as an associate with Morgan Lewis, where he met his wife, Jami McKeon, now the firm’s chair. (Morgan Lewis describes itself as “the largest law firm in the world led by a woman.”) But Hollway, though admiring of the firm’s pro bono commitments and challenged by some of his assignments, wasn’t sure he wanted a corporate law career. He cites the aphorism that working at a law firm resembles “a 10-year pie eating contest,” for which “the reward is more pie.”

He soon had other options. After two years, “I got hired away by a client who basically said, ‘You managed this litigation well for me, and I saw you think strategically. Why don’t you come be my chief of staff and you can help me build these hospital software products?’” The offer, from Shared Medical Systems, included stock and the chance to learn new skills. His title was general manager for wireless solutions.

Just before SMS was purchased by Siemens, in 2000, Hollway left to become vice president and chief privacy officer for Acurian Inc., which recruits patients for clinical trials. In 2004, he accompanied his wife to San Francisco, where she took charge of Morgan Lewis’s California operations. (The couple has two daughters and two sons, including Payton Hollway C’22.)

That’s when Hollway landed at Achaogen, whose name, he says, was meant to suggest “taking the chaos out of genetics.” Working with scientists was revelatory. “As a lawyer, you’re resolving disputes by controlling data, controlling the debate, and arguing,” Hollway says. By contrast, the scientists “would put all the data together on a table and ask each other questions about what the data meant, and then they would reach a consensus about what they agreed on and what they didn’t agree on. And then they would figure out how to answer the questions about what they didn’t agree on.” The process, he says, “was based on ‘What’s the truth?’ and not, ‘What can I prove?’”

In 2011, Hollway gave a talk at Penn Law about Killing Time, which had become a stirring tale of dedicated lawyers and a man both wrongfully incarcerated and redeemed by prison. As he recalls the event, “Al Russo, on the development team of the law school, grabbed me as I came off the podium, and said, ‘I have some interested alums who want to know why we don’t have an Innocence Project.’”

Hollway, who had just launched his own criminal justice reform consulting firm, told Russo that he had two answers to the question. The first was, “The Pennsylvania Innocence Project already exists, and Penn students already participate—it just happens to be housed at Temple. And you don’t need a second one.”

The other answer was really a sales pitch. “It costs millions of dollars to litigate these cases,” Hollway told Russo. “For the amount of money it would take to litigate one of these cases properly, you could create a center that would aggregate data and use data to advocate for policy reforms in ways that would bring people together. Because suing people is divisive. But data can be connective.”

That, says Hollway, “ended up being the germ of the idea—something that both the law school and the donors could get behind.”

Hollway and the Quattrones already knew one another from their involvement with the Northern California Innocence Project. A technology investment banker, Frank Quattrone had had his own unpleasant run-in with the criminal justice system several years earlier, fighting obstruction of justice charges against him that were eventually dropped. Hollway says his thoughts “resonated with the Quattrones’ vision of a center they could support.”

Hollway began with “all this expertise right there in the [law school] building.” Aided by Penn’s interdisciplinary culture and compact urban campus, he reached out to the medical and nursing schools and the University’s social science departments to assemble a roster of affiliated faculty.

Steven E. Raper L’12, vice chair for quality and risk management and associate professor of Surgery at the Perelman School of Medicine, played a key role in early discussions of how post-mortem analyses of medical errors might translate to a criminal justice setting.

Quattrone’s advisory board boasts the expected array of legal luminaries, but also, since 2017, Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter and reform advocate...
“Almost nobody disagrees with the idea that we should probably only punish people who have actually committed crimes, and that we should hold people who have committed crimes accountable.”

John Legend C’99. The Research Fellows Program attracts young talent, seeding its ideas nationally. Sandra G. Mayson, one of the inaugural Research Fellows in 2015-17, says her Quattrone stint has “shaped my career ever since,” exposing her to interdisciplinary criminal justice scholarship and helping her forge new academic relationships. (Based at the University of Georgia School of Law, she is returning to Penn Law for the 2020-21 academic year as a visiting assistant professor.)

Since 2016, Quattrone also has had an Exoneree Fellow Program. Its 2018 fellow, Keith Harward, was convicted of murder, robbery, burglary, and rape and served 33 years before being cleared in 2016 by DNA evidence. Saved by science, he participated in a discussion of what Hollway called “science that’s gone off the rails”—in Harward’s case, bite mark evidence. The panel was titled, “Once Bitten, Twice Shy.”

In its seven years of existence, Quattrone has spawned an impressive body of research. In a study of Harris County, Texas, Heaton and his collaborators, including Mayson, showed that cash bail and pretrial detention contributed to wrongful convictions by encouraging guilty pleas in less serious cases. These practices disproportionately disadvantaged African American defendants, they found, and cost taxpayers unnecessary money. With the county’s cooperation, Quattrone is now studying the impact of cash bail reforms instituted partly as a result of the study—a prime example of the Deming feedback loop in action.

Heaton’s research already has demonstrated that relatively modest institutional fixes—such as broadening defense teams to include social workers and other professionals, and using bail advocates—can reduce sentences without endangering public safety.

John M. MacDonald, professor of criminology and sociology, has been studying racial and ethnic inequities in the system for years. In 2018, with Ellen A. Donnelly, he published a paper, based on Delaware data, about the downstream consequences of cash bail and pretrial detention. After controlling for factors such as “severity of charges” and “criminal histories,” they found that bail and pretrial detention contributed to 30 to 47 percent of Black-white disparities in conviction and sentencing. Other MacDonald research has explored “stop, question, and frisk” practices in New York and the impacts of California sentencing reforms, which downgraded some lesser felonies to misdemeanors.

Like Heaton’s, MacDonald’s work challenges the notion that addressing systemic inequities in criminal justice requires implementing sweeping social change. Just altering criminal justice policies and practices can be effective, he argues, as well as far easier to accomplish. “We’re starting to see policies that can produce better equity with no effect on public safety,” he says.

Another Quattrone affiliate is Cary Coglianese, Edward B. Shils Professor of Law, professor of political science, and director of the Penn Program on Regulation. Coglianese, who helped launch the center, sees “tremendous opportunities for agreement, tremendous overlaps and consensus points, within our polarized society.” He has lately become intrigued by the ways in which artificial intelligence might counter human bias and other errors.

Regina Austin L’73, William A. Schnader Professor of Law and director of the Penn Program on Documentaries & the Law, has approached Quattrone’s mission from a different angle: students in her “Visual Legal Advocacy” class (“Legal Zoom In,” Nov|Dec 2016) compose short documentary videos that make the case for reforms, sometimes dovetailing with the center’s research. “Our approach tends not to be quantitative—we’re more into storytelling,” she says.

On occasion, the center, despite generally eschewing adversarial tactics, does play a role in litigation. Civil rights and criminal defense lawyer David Rudovsky, a Quattrone-affiliated senior fellow, has been involved for a decade in a legal challenge to Philadelphia’s “stop and frisk” practices on racial disparity and Fourth Amendment grounds. He says that statistical analysis by his Quattrone colleague David S. Abrams, professor of law, business economics and public policy, has been integral to the case. “We’ve learned a lot from the data,” Rudovsky says, including how rarely police stops resulted in the discovery of weapons.

Hollway piloted his “sentinel event review” concept in 2015 by examining the “Lex Street Massacre,” a 2000 mass murder in West Philadelphia in which 10 people were shot and seven killed. In that case, the wrong suspects
were held for 18 months before police, relying on a competing confession and ballistics evidence, finally identified four other men as the perpetrators.

“We did a review in which we tried to figure out why, in the most scrutinized case in Philadelphia history, we had arrested four incorrect guys and not learned about it for 18 months,” Hollway recalls. “It’s never just one thing. It’s not just the original arrest: it’s the prosecutors accepting it, the defense lawyers not being able to fix it even if they know about it, the judge, etc. The checks and balances that are supposed to catch that error also failed.”

The Lex Street case showed Hollway the importance of establishing trust. “Success was going to be based on creating an environment of psychological safety where people were going to be comfortable sharing the true stories of these traumatic events,” he says. Participants in these cases “have lived through something that they do not believe should happen on their watch.” Most, he says, were “hardworking, dedicated professionals, and they pride themselves on getting it right.” When they don’t, “that is a very difficult thing for them to process,” he says, especially in “an environment where it’s all about blame and zero tolerance for error.”

Winning their cooperation was a challenge. Meanwhile, he was parenting teenagers—another sort of challenge—and hearing stories from his wife about high rates of depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and suicide in the legal profession. These converging circumstances led Hollway someplace unexpected: Penn’s master’s degree program in applied positive psychology, known as MAPP (“Degrees of Happiness,” May|Jun 2010), which he completed in 2018.

The program’s “biggest takeaway,” Hollway says, “has been that the way you think about things affects not only the way you react to things, but the outcomes that you get.” Another insight was that “the desire to get better does not imply that you’re not already doing something well,” he says. “I apply that in my Quattrone Center work all the time.” (McKeon has applied Hollway’s positive psychology insights, too: she created two unconventional positions at Morgan Lewis—“chief engagement officer” and “director of well-being,” the latter filled by one of Hollway’s MAPP classmates.)

Hollway sees his work in pragmatic rather than ideological terms. “Criminal justice is really a place that has emerged as a nonpartisan area for reform, for the most part,” he says. “We have disagreements about what ought to be a crime, and we may have disagreements about what we do with someone who’s committed a crime. But almost nobody disagrees with the idea that we should probably only punish people who have actually committed crimes, and that we should hold people who have committed crimes accountable. So where the Quattrone Center starts is, ‘Let’s make sure we get the right person in the right way.’”

While Hollway specializes in deep dives on individual cases, he says that, as the academic director, Heaton has brought the center “this unbelievable ability to do large-scale data analytics projects” on the impacts of various practices. “That changes the conversation,” Hollway says, making it possible to ask: “Is this the result that you want, or should we think about doing it a different way?”

This approach helps to forge alliances, he says, with those on both the right and the left. Sure, Hollway says, he and Dorothy Roberts come at problems from different historical perspectives. “But we can both agree,” he says, “that we don’t want a cash bail system if it’s going to add to crime.”

Roberts seconds this sentiment, despite her conviction that the criminal justice system “uses law enforcement to maintain racial inequality”—that unfairness is not a bug in the system, but a feature.

“That doesn’t mean that we can’t collaborate,” she says, “because abolitionists don’t believe that abolition is going to occur tomorrow. We recognize that it’s an incremental process that is going to involve reform. The question is which reforms will move us toward abolition and which reforms will only reinforce the existing system.”

Since “the harms that are done by the criminal justice system that the Quattrone Center wants to eliminate are also harms that abolitionists want to eliminate,” Roberts says, working together can “reduce the suffering of people victimized by the system,” as well as help “move toward a complete transformation.” The ultimate goal of abolitionists remains a more socioeconomically just, less violent society, she says, “where prisons are inconceivable because we’ve dealt with the kinds of harms that people commit today in a radically different way.”

But can such ideological disagreements really be put aside? “You can’t have any kind of legal system without making moral or normative judgments,” Coglianese says, “and there will be disagreement about what those judgments should be, and what form they should take. You can’t get around that. All the more reason that you have to be sure that whatever system you do have is perceived as legitimate.”

The current outcry for racial justice only underlines the value of the Quattrone Center’s careful, incremental, social-science-based approach, Coglianese says. Major changes occur at the “confluence of policy ideas and political pressures,” he says. “So you can have all the protests you want, all the high ideas and the slogans, but then you need to have those ideas that you know work that you can put in place. That’s why the Quattrone Center is so vital.”

Julia M. Klein, a cultural reporter and critic in Philadelphia, writes frequently for the Gazette. Her stories on Eli Rosenbaum W’76 WG’77 and Eva Moskowitz C’86 won the American Society of Journalists and Authors’ award for Outstanding Profile in 2018 and 2019. Follow her on Twitter @JuliaMKlein.
The Future Is Coming —Fast!

In a new book, Wharton professor and “globalization guy” Mauro Guillén breaks down the key factors that will combine to radically transform the world over the next decade (and SARS-CoV-2 is only speeding things up).

By John Prendergast
According to Mauro Guillén, “the world as we know it is about to change, and it won’t be returning anytime soon, if ever.” He’s not talking about the novel coronavirus.

Those words come near the end of a new book that Guillén—an expert on emerging markets who serves as the Zandman Professor of International Management at the Wharton School—finished writing back in November. Published last month, *2030: How Today’s Biggest Trends Will Collide and Reshape the Future of Everything* (St. Martin’s Press) highlights how a confluence of demographic, economic, and technological developments are creating “a bewildering new reality driven by a new set of rules,” Guillén writes in the introduction. “Before we know it there will be more grandparents than grandchildren in most countries; collectively, middle-class markets in Asia will be larger than those in the United States and Europe combined; women will own more wealth than men; and we will find ourselves in the midst of more industrial robots than manufacturing workers, more computers than human brains, more sensors than human eyes, and more currencies than countries.”

Trained as a sociologist, Guillén jokes that “I am known in my little field of research as ‘Mr. Globalization Guy’—I’m the guy who studies globalization of business, big trends in the world, all of that.” He’s been writing and teaching about these issues for decades, but this outing is different, he says, pitched more toward a general audience seeking to understand the coming reality and gain insight into how to operate successfully within it. The book draws on sources ranging from academic journals to UN, WHO, and corporate reports to tech and business magazines like *Wired* and *Fast Company* to the History Channel (“Who Invented the Flush Toilet?”) and features plenty of vivid examples along with the data.

“The book was motivated by something I had been experiencing when I was making presentations about this topic, which is that people are increasingly feeling uneasy about what the world is going to look like five, 10 years down the road—because everybody realizes that things are changing very, very fast,” Guillén says.

While the book’s focus is on larger forces and longer-term developments, he’s pleased that it’s coming out now, a few months in advance of the 2020 presidential election. “We wanted to do it in the fall—because the book speaks to many of the debates for the election,” he says. Among them are “immigration, inequality, and the role of women in society, which is going to be a huge theme.”

It’s also coming out in the midst of the worst pandemic in a century. Guillén spent the locked-down half of Penn’s spring semester running a popular virtual class on the impacts of the coronavirus (“Gazetteer,” May|Jun 2020), so he thought a lot about the implications of the current crisis as *2030* moved toward publication. He’s convinced that it will—for the most part, anyway—reinforce rather than derail the trends he’s identified. “Most of the trends—from declining fertility, to intergenerational dynamics, to the use of technology—will accelerate due to the pandemic,” he writes in a brief postscript added over the summer.

Take technology adoption. “There’s no question that people who were reluctant about using technology for online shopping or for working, now they have no choice, so they’re learning,” Guillén says. Even people who “always would have preferred to go to the store” are changing out of necessity, further swelling the ranks of online shoppers. Similarly, organizations have long been wary of allowing employees to stray from the office. “Companies didn’t imagine that they could have so many remote workers,” he says. “But things are getting done remotely for at least those of us—about 32 percent of the American population—who can work from home.”

He predicts that the crisis will also speed the shift toward automation in both manufacturing and services. “The issue here is resiliency and business continuity,” in addition to the traditional allure of cost savings, he explains. “Companies have realized that during a pandemic they have to send their workers home and they have to stop doing business.” Unfortunately for affected workers, the incentives to invest in automation will go up as companies try to build resiliency into their systems. “You don’t have to send machines home because of a pandemic.” The resulting job losses will worsen economic inequality.

“I’m sticking to my guns,” he sums up. “My only regret is that instead of the title being *2030*, maybe it should be *2028*. I think that the future I’m describing will arrive earlier as a result.”

Guillén was born and raised in Spain, and he holds a bachelor’s degree and doctorate in political economy and business management from the Universidad de Oviedo. (He played basketball in college, and reports that his team won the championship in 1987, though adding that “I only played six minutes in the final game.”) He came to the United States for graduate school, ultimately earning master’s and PhD degrees in sociology from Yale. After that, “one thing led to the next. I decided to stay,” he says. After teaching for two years at the MIT Sloan School of Management, he came to Wharton in 1996. “I’ve been on campus longer than everyone else now, with the only possible exception of Benjamin Franklin,” he jokes.

“I am passionate about the world, its diversity, its energy, the different cultures, and the many things that we can accom-
plish together, or destroy if we fight,” Guillén says, of the focus of his research.

He traces the genesis of the new book back to the financial crisis of 2008. That’s when “I sensed that the world I had been born into was vanishing before my eyes,” he recalls. “So I started to assess demographic, economic, social, and technological trends to try to figure out where they were taking us. I had my ‘aha’ or ‘eureka’ moment in 2015, when I realized that the world we knew was coming to an end by 2030.”

Guillén begins the book by laying out the major demographic changes on the way. “I emphasize demographics because when it comes to thinking about pretty much every other topic—politics, the economy, businesses, industries—a lot of it depends on, who are the people? Who are the people who can be working, or who are the people who can be consumers?” he says.

Birth rates are declining all over the world, but the impact will be felt most keenly in places like Europe, Japan, and the United States, he says. Societies with aging populations and a need for workers have turned to immigration in the past, but that may be problematic given the level of antagonism towards immigrants in some quarters—which, unsurprisingly, Guillén considers “wrong and shortsighted.”

While there’s some indication that new immigrants may hold down wages for earlier ones and minorities, he writes, the weight of evidence is against claims that immigrants “steal” jobs from natives or who are the people who can be working, or who are the people who can be consumers?” he says.

One growing market will be for high-tech tools to help older people preserve their independence or supplement caregiving, things like exoskeletons to help movement, virtual reality to counter isolation, and software to manage finances and keep track of important documents. In Denmark, a robotic seal (chosen because it had fewer associations than dogs or cats) is used in 80 percent of state-owned nursing homes to comfort bedridden patients.

Middle-class aspirations will be less about keeping up with the “Joneses” than with the “Singhs and the Wangs” by the next decade, Guillén suggests. “There’s a battle of the middle classes in the world going on,” he says. “It’s a battle for jobs. It’s a battle for natural resources. It’s a battle for everything—because the European and American middle class are no longer alone.”

While US and European middle classes are still richest, they are stagnant, while about 1 billion people from emerging markets will be part of the middle class by 2030. The dominance of middle classes in China, India, and elsewhere will change the nature of many things in the economy and business—for one thing, consumer products will be designed and marketed with their preferences in mind—but also in politics, he says. “It has already. A lot of middle-class people feel as if they’ve fallen behind, and they’re voting both in Europe and the United States for populist leaders. These trends have been going on for a while but are “coming to a boiling point now.”

“Intersecting with all of that is gender,” he adds. Women’s changing goals and educational and career paths is the main factor driving the worldwide decline in birthrates, he writes. And while the book recognizes and offers examples of continuing discrimination and poverty, especially for women heading single parent households, overall women are doing much better—a trend that will advance further by 2030, Guillén says.

In the US, women earn the majority of college and graduate degrees, and are the biggest earner in 40 percent of households. “This [income] statistic must have enormous cultural implications for the future, but also saves consumer markets. That’s the other point that I made in the book.” By 2030, women’s share of wealth worldwide is estimated to be 55 percent, rising from 15 percent in 2000.

Guillén also looks at attitudes toward women leaders—changing, though too slowly—and delves into research on women’s and men’s spending habits and investment approaches, suggesting that had it been Lehman [Sisters the 2008 financial crisis might have been averted.

With regard to global warming, Guillén compares the desire to find a “silver bullet” to solve the climate crisis to the focus on a vaccine against COVID-19 when “therapeutic treatments will actually be available much sooner and will probably be more effective and help us much more,” he says. “My take on climate change is that it’s a problem in cit-
ies—and about cities,” he adds. “Unless we fix cities, we’re not going to be able to address climate change.” Cities take up one percent of land, but contain 55 percent of the population and produce 80 percent of carbon emissions, he says. Most are also located along coastlines, making them more vulnerable to rising sea levels. Water shortages are another looming environmental problem in urban areas in particular.

Part of the solution involves what Guillén calls “the mundanity of excellence— it's not a breakthrough that makes Olympic swimmers. They improve a hundred little things that in the end produce a good result,” he explains. With climate change, it will be the “mundanity of survival.” He points out that a third of food production is wasted. “And food and agriculture are the single biggest contributor to global warming.” One action cities could take is to promote vertical farming in multistory buildings to reduce food imports and avoid emissions from transportation. The added vegetation “would help absorb some of the emissions from cars and energy production facilities,” he writes.

New technologies and renewable sources of energy can help, “but behavioral change by itself can go a long way,” he says. “We could meet the goals the governments have set for carbon emission reductions, just through behavioral change.” Such changes could be produced by “nudging” people in the direction of environmentally beneficial activities, he suggests.

Noting that the average lifetime of a company listed on the S&P 500 has dropped from 60 years to 10, Guillén sees a “coming revolution in invention and innovation” comparable in technological terms to the Cambrian explosion, when approximately 541 million years ago “complex animal species appeared on land and marine ecosystems developed.”

He sketches the history of flush toilets, first invented in 1596 or so, and recent efforts to develop waterless toilets to serve the “1.5 billion people who own or share a cellphone and must relieve themselves in the open or go to a shared outhouse.” In much of Africa, where the use of mobile technology is near universal, for example, “there’s no sanitation. Or in India, for that matter,” Guillén says. In the US, we take sanitation for granted. “But once you have a city like Lagos [Nigeria, the largest city in Africa] with so many people there—most of whom have built their own house without getting a permit—how do you plan for sanitation? How do you actually build the sewer system? It’s a different kind of problem than putting cell phone towers five miles apart so that you can have cell phone service.”

From there, he touches on innovations including 3-D printing, the use of virtual reality in healthcare and for psychological treatment, artificial intelligence, and nanotechnologies. Robotics and automation will take on a broader range of tasks, he predicts, moving from manufacturing to legal services and even routine surgeries. On a future mission to Mars, 3-D printing could make it possible to create everything needed from local materials, and in the meantime could eliminate lots of well-paying blue-collar jobs back here on Earth, he writes. And nanotechnologies could upend the fashion industry and help save the environment by creating clothing able to change its properties. With real-time data collection, insurance companies could charge by individual behavior, rather than base fees on assumptions about risk groups.

“The constellation of technologies behind these potential advancements is called the ‘Internet of Things’—all of the interconnected sensors and other devices designed to run factories, mines, energy systems, transportation systems, retail facilities, vehicles, homes, offices, and even people,” Guillén writes. “By 2030, there will be about 200 billion devices and sensors connected to it.”

In a chapter called “Imagine No Possessions,” Guillén weighs the pros and cons of the so-called “sharing economy” exemplified by companies like Uber for transportation, Airbnb for housing, and TaskRabbit for any type of “gig work,” as well as many others, which have proven especially popular among millennials, with their aversion toward (or inability to make) major purchases. “In more ways than one, the sharing economy challenges fundamental assumptions and aspirations held for generations, even millennia,” Guillén writes. “What is the ‘American way of life,’ after all, if we remove the aspiration to own stuff?” And do such arrangements represent old forms of worker oppression in a new guise, as some commentators maintain, or a convenient source of supplemental income and/or a way “to avoid becoming a cubicle dweller like those depicted in the Dilbert comic strip?”

Guillén is skeptical that Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies will ever seriously challenge governments’ control over currency. “Governments are going to fight back,” he says. “They don’t want to lose their power to print money and their authority over that.” But if the underlying concept of the blockchain (“Blockchain Fever,” Jul|Aug 2018) is broadened to “include money as one among a thousand other things that it could do for us, then I think it has a very good chance of being widely used.”

As the book’s subtitle—How Today’s Biggest Trends Will Collide, etc.—suggests, the key to understanding the world coming by 2030 is how the different developments Guillén has outlined will bounce off each other and interact. To do that requires “lateral thinking,” he says, drawing on the work of Edward de Bono, author of Six Thinking Hats.

“The basic idea is that there’s something going on over here, and you think, ‘OK, that’s interesting.’ That’s something that you may want to pay attention to, but you don’t realize that it has repercussions on so many other things that are completely unforeseeable that you didn’t really anticipate,” Guillén says. “Each
little thing over here is reinforcing another over there. All of these things are feeding into this dynamic of change.”

In the book’s conclusion, he offers seven “lateral tips and tricks to survive 2030,” each flowing from the previous one. “I don’t think there is a magic formula for solving all of the problems in the world, or for individual people to adapt to all of this change—and that’s why I am in favor of a battery of recommendations as opposed to just, ‘This is the one thing that you have to do,’” he says.

Guillén’s first principle, “Lose sight of the shore,” is designed to counteract the way “fear of the unknown prevents people from seizing the opportunities embedded in the massive transformations to come in 2030 and beyond.” He draws on the 16th-century story of how Spanish Conquistador Hernán Cortés scuttled the ships that had brought his 200 men from Cuba to Veracruz to prevent any attempt to return before going on to conquer the Aztec Empire. The lesson is to “overcome fear by looking ahead,” he writes—for example, by recognizing that immigrants contribute to the economy rather than steal jobs, or working to ensure that “nobody is left behind” by the technological disruptions resulting from automation and cryptocurrencies.

Lego’s rebound from declining relevance to the “Apple of Toys” is the example in “Diversify with purpose.” After a detour into branded fashion, video games, and theme parks, the company “changed course, went ‘back to the brick,’ and reengaged with diversification, this time with purpose,” he writes. “Lego realized that the formula for sustainable success was to bridge the gap between generations,” by combining the appeal of creative building with popular culture, as with The Lego Movie.

Other tips include “To be successful, start small,” which references the actual Apple, Inc. and Steve Jobs’ insight that “the best way to deal with a rapidly shifting landscape is not to plan for every move in advance but rather to be on the alert for how to improve things along the way”; “Anticipate dead ends,” a call, with caveats, for keeping your options open that acts as a kind of counterweight to tip No. 1; and “Approach uncertainty with optimism,” which counsels against letting anxiety about the future lead to a focus on avoiding losses rather than winning. “The bottom line is that the more we refocus on the opportunity rather than the downside, the greater our chances of adapting successfully,” he writes. “Climate change, for example, feels like an intractable problem, but every problem presents an opportunity for action.”

Guillén’s final principle, “Take the current,” emphasizes the importance of good timing, as he offers a litany of products that came to market too soon. Had history worked out a little differently, he notes, we might be lauding WebVan grocery home delivery, IBM’s Simon smartphone, and Microsoft’s Tablet PC as iconic advances rather than Instacart et al. and the iPhone and iPad.

But a more broadly resonant bit of advice in the present moment may be tip No. 6, “Don’t be scared of scarcity.” In the face of potential “shortages of freshwater, clean air, and hospitable land” by 2030, “perhaps we can learn a lateral trick or two from older societies that had to overcome environmental crises of their own,” Guillén writes. “Consider the Rapa Nui, better known as Easter Island.”

In his 2005 bestseller Collapse, Jared Diamond presents the story as a cautionary tale, in which territorial groups competed to build ever larger versions of the isolated island’s famous statues, cleared forests to transport them and farmed too intensively, eventually leading to “starvation, a population crash, and a descent into cannibalism.” But Guillén cites research by other anthropologists that throw a different light on the story: there’s not much evidence that groups fought, it was mostly rats that destroyed the forest, and the islanders created carefully tended gardens to feed a growing population. They failed in the end, but not for lack of ingenuity or effort. “It is an example of collapse, there’s no question about that,” Guillén says. “Another way of looking at it is: ‘Oh my god, they survived on that tiny island for anywhere between 600 and 900 years, depending on when they arrived.’ And that’s also remarkable.”

The interesting question “is not why the collapse, but rather how come it lasted so long,” Guillén says. “And it was through cultural adaptation. They adapted. Through trial and error, they pursued other paths, they were innovative, they looked for different ways of getting organized.”

Those adaptations even included changing their religion. Few statues appear to have been built after 1500, and islanders developed an annual “ritual race for the first egg” to choose the ruling “birdman,” which Guillén calls “a rather peaceful and effective way of coping with a declining resource base.”

“For me that is the single most important thing,” he says.

The story illustrates “the lengths to which humans and human communities would go to adapt to a changing environment,” he adds. “And that I think is an optimistic message—about human resilience, and the human spirit. I don’t put it in that way in the book, but reflecting on the book in the context of this pandemic, that’s what I see. We are very good at adapting, both as individuals and as communities or groups.”
The pandemic has hit pause on 20+20—the planned 40th anniversary tour for their iconic 1980s band the Hooters—but Rob Hyman and Eric Bazilian insist the show will go on (20+20+1), while keeping musically busy in the meantime.

By Jonathan Takiff

Life was looking good—maybe too good—for Rob Hyman C’72 and Eric Bazilian C’75 when we first recon- nected back in February to refl ect on and toast their topsy-turvy careers in pop music: A marathon gig as songwriters, arrangers, band front men, and featured sidemen. And a verging-on-half-century-long friendship that began when they met in an electronic music class at Penn when Rob was a senior and Eric a freshman.

“If we’d been just one more year apart, we’d never have intersected, our lives would be drastically different,” mused Hyman.

The two are best known as the lead performers and composers for the Hooters, a richly melodic, one-of-a-kind pop-rock, reggae/ska and folk-fusing group that earned “Best New Band of 1985” honors from Rolling Stone. Their major label debut album from Columbia Records, Nervous Night—featuring the infectiously danceable, keyboard-vamped (Hyman) and guitars a-blazing (Bazilian) anthems “And We Danced” and “Day by Day,” and the heavy hitting, apocalyptic thumper “All You Zombies”—quickly amassed two million sales, just in the US.

By that time, these guys were already veterans of two prior bands that had sprung out of their Penn experience, Wax and Baby Grand, both of which had garnered record deals before coming to dis- appointing ends. And before breaking through with Nervous Night they’d spent five years performing around Philadelphia as the Hooters evolved from an islandy ska-punk brew (first heard on their indie album release Amore).

Those professional immersions schooled them early in the dark side of the music business—the pileup of advances and promotional expenses and unfulfilled promises that eventually cause most groups to call it quits. “Making music has always been its own reward for us,” said Hyman. “That’s what’s kept us going, through thick and thin.”

Making the thin years less lean, both have also written songs, first covered by other artists, that have become modern pop classics and are often licensed for films and TV shows—the musical equivalent of annuities, earning “enough to live on,” Hyman says. These signature songs have also opened the door to collaborations with the likes of Mick Jagger, Jon Bon Jovi, Ricky Martin, and the German rock band Scorpions.

For Hyman the annuity is “Time After Time,” a haunting ballad that was a hit first for Cyndi Lauper (who shares the writing credit and royalties), with Hyman singing backup. The song has since been covered by everyone from country legend...
Willie Nelson to jazz great Miles Davis and has maintained pop currency with 21st century takes by American R&B singers INOJ and Javier Colon, the punk band Quietdrive, Eurodance project Novaspace and British synthwave group Gunship.

Bazilian’s ticket to ride was (and remains) “One of Us,” introduced by Joan Osborne. A sly, spur-of-the-moment, one-take improvisation by the writer,—which is “how the best ones often happen,” he says—the song ponders the question What if God was one of us? Just a slob like one of us?”

But a musician can’t live on songwriting royalties alone. With a feeling of “let’s do this while we still can,” back in February the now 70-year-old Hyman and 67-year-old Bazilian were anticipating the launch of a major tour for the summer of 2020—billed as “20+20”—to mark their 40 years as the Hooters.

Hyman, who now also functions as the band’s manager with his wife Sally, had spent much of the last two years organizing the tour, which was to have started on Memorial Day weekend in their still most welcoming hometown, on a big bill at the Mann Center with fellow Philly-rooted duo Daryl Hall and John Oates. After that Hyman, Bazilian, and Hooters bandmates David Uosikkinen, John Lilley, Fran Smith Jr., and Tommy Williams, and their mostly Europe-based road crew of 14 were set to jump on the first of many “planes, trains, buses, and automobiles” for 35 rock-hall and festival dates abroad, before returning home for more gigs into the fall.

The tour was to feature an especially strong focus on festival and large club shows in Northern Europe—Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, and Norway—where the band is most popular these days. Ironically, European listeners first picked up on the Hooters “just when our American album sales were drooping and our label was losing interest,” Hyman noted.

The more provocative themes and mix of Celtic folk, Cajun, and sing-along pub ballad flavors that emerged in their second and third Columbia albums, One Way Home (1987) and Zig-Zag (1989), in songs like the jaunty TV preachers’ mocking “Satellite,” lovestruck “Karla with a K,” the ominous “Johnny B,” and their dub-beat remake of “500 Miles,” have won the group a huge and disparate following overseas.

Even heavy metal fans “go crazy when we bring out an accordion and mandolin and our namesake Hooter,” a harmonica/keyboard hybrid, aka Melodica, said Bazilian. When I suggested that those sounds could strike a rootsy, familial chord for the Euros, he agreed but added, “It’s also because we rock them—hard.”

Many of the scheduled summer 2020 shows were already sold out in frosty February, Hyman marveled then. “We’re headlining a mix of 1,000 to 1,500 [person] capacity venues and some of the biggest festivals—major events that go on for three or four days.”

“All US band that’s bigger overseas is a rare phenomenon but not unheard of,” says veteran record producer Rick Chertoff C’72, a roommate of Hyman’s at Penn whose life and career in the music world is tightly intertwined with Hyman and Bazilian. “Historically, it’s been significant but less commercially successful musicians, in rock, jazz, and blues who’ve earned ‘most respected abroad’ status,” he adds, name-checking edgy originals such as 1950s rocker Eddie Cochran, who died at 21 in a UK car crash; cool jazz vocalist and trumpeter Chet Baker; “Godmother of rock and roll” Sister Rosetta Tharpe; and blues icon Muddy Waters.

Chertoff and Hyman met as freshmen in biology lab, where they were dissecting frogs. They decided that going back to the dorms to listen to albums would be more productive. Chertoff would become the drummer in two college years bands with Hyman, first the bluesy Buckwheat, which was strictly a fraternity party thing, and then the jamming, prog-rock Wax, which also included David Kagan C’71 on vocals and guitarist Rick Levy C’71.

The latter band endeavor lured them away from classes to record an album in New York City for a fledgling label run by Bob Crewe, already famous as cowriter and producer of hit songs for the Four Seasons, among others. But that adventure abruptly ended for our guys when the label went bust, shut its doors, and ate their tapes. A long-lost, cutlive Wax studio session made a belated album debut as Melted in 2010, issued by LightYear Entertainment, a label run by a Penn friend who had been a big fan of Baby Grand and publicist for the band, Arnie Holland C’71 L’74 (“When Wax Was Hot,” Sep/Oct 2010).

When Chertoff went to work after graduation at Arista Records, he signed and produced Baby Grand. With Hyman, Kagan, and Bazilian at the core, Baby Grand aspired to be the next Steely Dan, even utilizing one of the same studio musicians employed by the jazz-pop group’s founders Donald Fagen and Walter Becker. Baby Grand released a pair of albums in 1977–78 that “didn’t have a hit single between them,” Bazilian said (though “Alligator Drive” and “Never Enough”—later covered by new wave singer-songwriter Patty Smyth—had po-
potential in this listener’s opinion), before going bankrupt and disbanding.

After moving to Columbia Records, Chertoff shepherded Hyman and Bazilian’s three Hooters albums for the label. He wasn’t involved in their 1993 album for MCA, Out of Body, or their most mature, life-affirming set—2007’s Time Stand Still, self-produced by Rob and Eric on their own label—but in 1998 he did collaborate with Hyman on an interesting side project, the album Largo.

Chertoff also had a hand in Hyman and Bazilian’s respective “annuities.” In 1983, before their first Hooters set was recorded for the same label group, he showcased their talents on Cyndi Lauper’s 16 million-selling breakthrough album She’s So Unusual, which featured “Time After Time.” Rob and Eric, who arranged and played on the whole set (also famous for their reggae-cized “Girls Just Want to Have Fun”), were effectively “the band before I had a band,” Lauper would declare. Then in 1995, Chertoff called on the Hyman/Bazilian team to work the same magic for bluesy singer Joan Osborne. They shaped the studio band sound, arranged and collaborated as songwriters on nine of 12 tracks of her three million-seller Relish, including radio hits “St. Teresa,” “Right Hand Man,” “Pensacola,” and the gangbusters “One of Us.” That song and the album were nominated for multiple Grammys in 1996.

No surprise, a month after our initial conversations for this story, hell froze over for the Hooters and the world. Sparked by the rapid spread of COVID-19, their grand tour was threatened then decimated. First the big Philly show was optimistically pushed to early September (and later postponed again). Then, like falling dominoes, all 35 concert dates booked for June, July, and August fell by the wayside.

When the Deutschland bureaucracy officially cancelled Oktoberfest, the guys knew their Euro summer was kaput. But, turning lemons to lemonade (a favored pursuit in the often upbeat Hooters musical world), they delivered the news to fans with a posted video performance (at hootersmusic.com) of the heartening song “Silver Lining,” a relative newbie from 2010 that counsels Take the burden from your back/Somewhere there’s a sun that’s shining/In your deepest shade of black/May you find a silver lining.

As things stood as of July, all but a few of the European shows have been rescheduled for 2021, Hyman says. And as a longtime music journalist friend (me) pointed out, that means the Hooters could still legitimately call next year’s delayed outing their “40th anniversary party,” since an anniversary celebration is traditionally marked at the end of a calendar year of togetherness, not the beginning. (And if you go west around the world in 81 days, you’ve crossed the International Date Line, so it’s really only 80 for a few hours, right, Mr. Verne?)

“...but we took a ‘one-year break’ that turned into eight.”

Easing the pain of this summer’s tour postponement, and helping to explain their long-lived partnership, Hyman and Bazilian cheerfully allow that they’ve never put all their eggs in one basket. Or let their dreams outrun reality. Or spent too much time in each other’s face.
“We like each other, but we don’t spend every waking hour together,” says Bazilian. “We’ve never broken up, but we took a ‘one-year break’ that turned into eight (from 1995 to 2003), as we pursued side projects and raised our families.” Rob and Sally Hyman have two grown sons, Matt, 28, and Nicky, 26, NYU and Pratt grads, respectively. Eric and Sarah Bazilian have three children, all Penn grads or grads-to-be: Emma C’10, who is 32, Simon C’18, 23, and Maia, 19, a sophomore this year, are the fourth generation of Bazilians to attend the University.

With six-and-a-half albums worth of Hooters material to perform in concert, the gents say they’ve given up the chase for another hit single. “We already have a big brood of beautiful musical children to attend to. Now it’s time to let them give us grandkids,” Bazilian jokes. But they’re still striving to fine-tune their material with fresh twists and sonic quotes, Hyman adds, with tweaks that keep the band and the audience in the moment and nod to their musical influences, from Jamaican singer-songwriter and producer Prince Buster to the Beatles to British folk-rockers Fairport Convention.

The band has had its share of “personnel issues” through the years. “What group hasn’t?” Hyman ponders. “We’ve had the maturity to work through them,” he adds. “Four-sixths of today’s band are the same guys that were on the Nervous Night album.”

“We’ve been together so long we’re friends again,” parries Bazilian.

When we met, pre-lockdown, in February, it was at Hyman’s well-appointed Elm Street Studios in suburban Conshohocken, Pennsylvania. He and Bazilian were mixing and finessing a 2018 video concert shot at the massive Rock of Ages festival in Seebrohn, Germany, that they had planned to offer as a souvenir item for the summer showgoers. “Putting this thing out is not a money maker, but the fans expect you to have new merch,” Hyman explained. With the tour put off, they’ve been contemplating other ways to physically share or stream the nearly two-hour show for a charity project—a popular pursuit in this season of struggle.

I whimsically suggested they stage some sort of safe-distancing Drive-in Movie Event—real or virtual—to reference the look and plotline of their first hit MTV music video for “And We Danced.” That video was shot 35 years ago at the nearby Exton Drive-in, just a few days after the Hooters had opened the US portion of the landmark Live Aid concert in Philadelphia on July 13, 1985. (They haven’t pursued it, but other musicians, including Garth Brooks, Brad Paisley, and Los Lobos, would also get the drive-in concert idea this summer, then actually find locations to pull it off. The Exton is long gone.)

Soon after our first studio conversation, I enjoyed a very long-distance follow-up FaceTime chat with Bazilian, who was by then back (and locked-in) at his home-away-from-home in Stockholm, Sweden, a flat he’s taken for three years with his Swedish-born wife and the sometime presence of their three offspring.

Besides cementing bonds with Sarah’s family, the Stockholm spot has allowed the hyperactive Bazilian to plug into the Euro rock scene, working with the likes of Gotthard (“the biggest hard rock band in Switzerland”) on their recent single “Bad News” and collaborating in Slovenia with production partner Martin Stibernik on an album with Eurovision song contest finalist Manu. Another international effort is “What Shall Become of the Baby?” a really terrific album project that pairs Bazilian with Mats Wester of the seminal Swedish folk-rock band Nordman.

In the US, Bazilian has been collaborating with and promoting another female pop talent—Alexis Cunningham, strong on voice, tunes, and attitude—with her group/album project as Alexandra and the Medicine. “After seven years of woodshedding, we’re finally ready to launch,” he says.

Because Bazilian can play every band part himself, he’s also been keeping busy in the pandemic, writing and recording in a basement home studio “almost every day,” he says. A most playful and chameleon-like creator, he’s been known to sometimes get wrapped up in “nutty concepts like a series of iconic covers sung with a Philly accent—think ‘Saddest Faction’ and ‘Bridge Over Trouble Water,’” he says, “recorded under the pseudonym Biff Hoagie and the Passyunk Ramblers.”

Is there even a speck of commercial potential here, or just lots of laughs? It doesn’t matter; he’s only trying to please himself. “I’ve never done anything that wasn’t for my own satisfaction that satisfied somebody else,” he says. “I’ve tried pandering and it failed miserably. I’m only good at doing me.”

With just a little streaming-service searching, it’s possible to find two well-wrought solo albums by Bazilian, The Optimist (2000) and A Very Dull Boy (2002). Finally nearing completion in forced isolation is a long overdue follow-up tentatively titled “Songs in the Key of B”—even though “not all really are,” he snorts.

According to Hyman, every time Bazilian returns to Philly he’s “lugging a new instrument.” His latest acquisition is an oud, a lute-like, pear-shaped (and paired strings) instrument long favored in the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia. It’s now sparking him to compose in complex Balkan time signatures. “I get a few pointers here and there, but basically I’ve been self-taught on everything,” from mandolin to saxophone to harmonica, Bazilian says. That’s been true “since I turned 12, when I realized I could figure tunes out better than my guitar teacher.”

Hyman used to be busy running his elaborate recording studio complex. The business hasn’t been helped by COVID-19, nor by contemporary artists (like Billie Eilish) who record multi-Grammy Award-winning music in their bedrooms and then brag about it.

He’s also a major collector and restorer of classic electric keyboards, including...
several examples of the heavy vibes, heavyweight Hammond church organs co-opted by Philly jazz legends like Jimmy Smith, Richard “Groove” Holmes, and Shirley Scott, and by British classical rockers like Procol Harum (think “A Whiter Shade of Pale”). Hyman’s warehouse also holds “way too many” (he groans) examples of the dinky, early electric pianos and synth keyboards that likewise scored British Invasion albums—Hyman and Bazilian’s coming-of-age-inspirations, along with the ska and reggae originals Rob discovered on vacations in Jamaica. Hyman has been putting some of those instruments to work writing and recording a series of classically toned pieces “that will hopefully see the light of day soon.”

Hyman has also recently reconnected at a socially safe distance with Cyndi Lauper. “She invited me to join her in an online fundraising Zoom event with about 100 people. We’ve also done some online writing. Hopefully more will come from that.”

And he’s hoping his pal Rick Chertoff can rekindle interest, after the theater world’s restart, in a stage adaptation of their 1998 album Largo. It’s an ambitious trek through Americana-flavored music and situations inspired by and borrowing themes from Czech composer Antonín Dvořák’s two-year visit to America and resulting folkloric symphony From the New World.

“Rob and I felt Largo was some of our best work ever,” says Chertoff in a separate chat from his home in upstate New York, “though the album stumbled out of the gate even with an all-star cast” that included the Chieftains, Cyndi Lauper, Taj Mahal, Joan Osborne, and the Band’s Garth Hudson and Levon Helm. “We’ve gotten development interest from Oskar Eustis, the Public Theater chief who shepherded Hamilton, and done some workshops. The stage adaptation is in the able hands of Eric Overmyer, a writer best known for shows like St. Elsewhere, The Wire, and Treme.”

Meanwhile, covers of Hyman and Bazilian’s signature songs keep popping up in films and TV shows, offering new interpretations—and helping to pay the rent. Halsey performed “Time After Time” with a haunting, minimalist piano arrangement to score the touching “In Memoriam” segment at the last Emmy Awards TV show. Soon thereafter, in the dramedy Where’d You Go, Bernadette, the song reemerged as a meaningful on-screen singing duet by the characters played by Cate Blanchett and Emma Nelson. I heard it anew this summer, the Lauper/Hyman version, scoring the Hulu romantic comedy Palm Springs.

Earlier this year, Bazilian’s “One of Us” set the mood for an episode of the heady HBO series High Maintenance, “Backlash.” The bemused evocation is sung on screen by different spiritual characters in both the opening and closing scenes and is now embraced by the composer as “my second favorite use of the song,” Bazilian says. Still first in his heart is Dr. Evil’s performance—and brash lie, “I wrote that,” afterward—in Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me.

Bazilian also pulled out and played a “One of Us” cover for me that had “recently come to my attention, sent by the singer’s manager;” he said. “Kind of sounds like the Prince version [on his 1996 triple album Emancipation], but you should hear it because it’s also got a significant Penn connection.” It was a performance by the student vocal group Counterparts, and the recording “took them to the finals—and honors—in the 1998 national championship of collegiate a cappella at Carnegie Hall,” Bazilian noted. The lead singer was a Penn senior named John Stephens, better known these days as contemporary pop/R&B star John Legend C’99.

I also was directed to seek out a 2018 episode of The Goldbergs, the TV sitcom based on creator Adam Goldberg’s real-life experiences growing up in Cheltenham, Pennsylvania, in the 1980s. “We’d been trying to get them to use stuff on the show since it began,” Bazilian explained. “For the fifth season they finally said, ‘We want you to perform ‘And We Danced’ on the show.’ We said, ‘Have you seen us lately?’ They said, ‘We can make it work.’ So we all flew to LA. They took us to the production side. They had outfits, they had wigs for us”—the Hooters had big hair for a couple years in the 1980s—“and there were no close-ups. The episode is called, no surprise ‘The Hooters.’” (Exercise fanatics, Hyman and Bazilian do look just as lanky now as they did way back when.)

At our initial meetup, the two were also buzzing and sharing tales from their recent run as a performing duo in Night of the Proms, a multi-artist “Classics Meet Pops” arena extravaganza with symphony orchestra, band, and chorus accompaniment that sold out 17 arena shows in Luxembourg and Germany at the tail end of 2019. Alan Parsons and a Euro-touring edition of Earth, Wind and Fire shared the pop-side duties with Hyman and Bazilian.

“So different than what we’re used to, touring with the Hooters,” Hyman said. “You do four or five songs a night, hardly break a sweat. We even had time off to do some songwriting, which we haven’t had a chance to do for a really long time.

“And yet, that experience still made us miss the bone-aching, sweat drenching work that is touring with our band of brothers,” he confessed with a laugh. “The Hooters’ travel regimen is a killer. But the time on stage, striving to connect and make each night of music the best we’ve ever had, is our favorite thing in the world. We’re sure hoping we can get back on that horse again, next summer.”

Jonathan Takiff C’68 has long celebrated Rob Hyman and Eric Bazilian’s talents as an entertainment reporter/critic for the Philadelphia Daily News and Philadelphia Inquirer (1971–2018). He also spun their early platters as a weekend DJ on WMMR (1971–80). Daughter Hilary Takiff Weiss GFA’03 is the blurred play-
Calendar

Penn Museum
penn.museum/collections
Open with social distancing measures in place. Advanced registration encouraged. Collections are viewable online. Visit the website for virtual clubs, classes, and lectures for families and adults.

Penn Libraries
www.library.upenn.edu/
collections/online-exhibits
Jews in Modern Islamic Contexts In Sight: Seeing the People of the Holy Land
A Raging Wit: The Life and Legacy of Jonathan Swift
Ormandy in China: The Historic 1973 Tour
Marian Anderson: A Life in Song plus dozens more online
Kelly Writers House
writing.upenn.edu/wh/
Temporarily closed, but visit the website for links to virtual events, archived programs, PoemTalk podcasts, and the PennSound poetry collection.

Annenberg Center
annenbergcenter.org
Live Wax with Christian McBride (online) Tuesdays at 7pm through Oct. 13
Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo (online) Alternate Fridays at noon through Nov. 6
Arthur Ross Gallery
arthurrossgallery.org
Covid-19 Citizen Challenge (online)
ICA
icaphila.org
Planned reopening Sep. 25
Milford Graves: A Mind-Body Deal Sep 25 through Jan 24, 2021
Slought
slought.org
Rx/Museum (online)
Art & Reflection in Medicine
World Café Live
worldcafelive.com
Schedule in flux; see website for up-to-date information.

Civic Pride

Arthur Drooker trains his lens on that most hallowed and maligned symbol of American government: city hall.

“Like many people, I took city halls for granted,” writes Arthur Drooker C’76 in the introduction of a new photography book dedicated to them. “I ignored them because of the essential services they provide and the bureaucracies they represent.”

In *City Hall* (Schiffer Publishing, 2020), Drooker trains his lens on the bricks and mortar (and stained glass and statuary) that embody the fundamental unit of US democracy: local self-government. The project began as a straightforward architectural appreciation, in a similar vein as Drooker’s *American Ruins* (“Ghost Landscapes,” Jan/Feb 2008) and *Lost Worlds* (“Arts,” Jan/Feb 2012). “But it morphed into something more relevant,” says the California-based photographer, who enriches this volume with insights from mayors, historians, and city administrators he encountered on his journey. “Local government is where change happens now. Everything from immigration, to minimum wage, to healthcare, to marriage equality—all these issues have gained traction first on the local level. It’s been sort of an organized uprising, in a way, to make people at the federal level pay attention and act. So city halls are where change is really happening now.”

Drooker spoke with Gazette senior editor Trey Popp in June.

You begin this book by saying that you ignored city halls because of the “essential services” they provide. You would have written those words in 2019, but the phrase “essential services” has a new resonance now.

It does. What’s going on now, with the pandemic and also politically, has put a spotlight on local government. We really are all finding out who are essential workers, what are essential services—and we’re putting more value and support behind local leaders who are really addressing this pandemic, and the political divisions and strife that we’re all experiencing. It’s really putting an emphasis on
9/11 days we’re living in, I found that kind of shocking, in a way. Even more shocking was Chicago City Hall, where you can also just walk right in.

Another expression would be San Francisco’s city hall, which is this absolutely stunning, gorgeous, breathtaking Beaux-Arts structure. The mayor at the time [from 1912 to 1931], James Rolph, explicitly wanted that city hall to be “a palace for the people.” And that building was finished around 1915, during the City Beautiful movement. The thought process behind that movement was that if you create places and structures that have a sense of uplift, it will affect how the citizenry behaves and takes on civic responsibilities. And I defy anybody to go into San Francisco City Hall, stand in the rotunda, and gaze up at the dome, and not feel a sense of pride—even if they’re not from San Francisco.

Los Angeles City Hall has wonderful quotes all around it that express the idea that this is the people’s house and everyone’s welcome. In Palm Springs City Hall, engraved above the city council chamber are the words “The people are the city” from Shakespeare’s play Coriolanus. Each city hall in its own way expresses the fact

local government. There was a Pew Research poll conducted a few years ago that found that the overwhelming majority of adults polled had a more positive view of their local government than of the federal government. And if they took that poll now, it would be a lot more!

You also write about city halls as embodying the civic ideal of “the people’s house.” Were there particular city halls that made you feel that way the most?

Each in their own way expressed this idea of the people’s house. Tom Barrett, the mayor of Milwaukee, was the first mayor I met on this project who used that term. And Milwaukee City Hall was one of the few city halls where you don’t have to go through security to enter—you can just walk right in. In these post-
that, if not directly than at least symbolically, this is a place for the people.

Philadelphia City Hall is pretty spectacular, too. That building took 30 years to build. It was a heroic effort—a lot of workers died in the making of that building, which is something a lot of Philadelphians aren’t aware of. It’s the largest municipal building in the country. There’s something like 14.5 acres of office space in that building. It’s a monument to big city government. And the statue of Billy Penn on top, [Alexander Milne] Calder considered that statue his best work. Thirty-seven feet tall—and the detailing! The statue is around 550 feet up in the air, and from street level you can basically make out the silhouette and that’s about it. But the ruffles in his shirt, the buckles on his shoes, the break in the pants… As one of my interviewees said, it just goes to show the care and the detail that went into the making of this building. And that kind of thing is repeated in other city halls as well.

Every building is a font of stories. Do you have a favorite one from this project?

If there’s one city hall that I keep coming back to as my emotional touchstone, it’s Saint Paul City Hall in Minnesota. It was built during the Depression. The city was going to build a new city hall anyway, but when the Depression hit, they had a choice of whether to go with a very modest building, or—with the unexpected windfall the city had because of the bonds they invested in, which did not get hit in the financial collapse but in fact gained in value—they also had the choice to say, Let’s go big. And to their credit, they went big. And going big in 1932 was going big with the style of the day, which was Art Deco. The building that resulted looks like it could be one of the shorter buildings in Rockefeller Center. Inside, the Art Deco styling, from the light fixtures to the staircase railings to the finishes on the walls, is just stunning.

And the other wonderful thing about this story is that a thousand local workers—craftspeople, artists, carpenters, all local—were hired to create this building. And as a result, that building kept 1,000 families going during the Great Depression. The carpenters who crafted the furniture and the beautiful wall paneling throughout the building made a gift to the mayor for giving them decent-paying jobs: they created a cabinet made from all 24 types of wood that they used to make the building, with an inlaid image on one door that showed the new city hall, and on the other door showed the old city hall it was replacing. To this day that cabinet is still in the mayor’s office.

Briefly Noted

THAT’S NOT A THING by Jacqueline Berkell Friedland C’99 L’00 (SparkPress, 2020, $16.95.) Years after Meredith’s engagement to Wesley ended disastrously, he reappears when Meredith is about to marry Aaron. When she learns Wesley has been diagnosed with ALS, Meredith is left with a mix of confusing emotions to untangle in this complex love triangle.

BUILDING FOR EVERYONE: Expand Your Market with Design Practices from Google’s Product Inclusion Team by Annie Jean-Baptiste C’10 (John Wiley & Sons, 2020, $29.00.) As head of product inclusion at Google, Jean-Baptiste provides step-by-step processes for inclusive product design that make consumers feel seen, heard, and considered—all while increasing a company’s profitability. Drawing upon examples from Google, she provides guidance on how to plan for inclusion from the point of product ideation all the way through marketing.

BREAKAWAY AMERICAS: The Unmanifest Future of the Jacksonian United States by Tommy Richards C’04 Ged’06 (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2020, $49.95.) This reinterpretation of a key moment in US political history examines six attempts to establish sovereign states outside the borders of the early American republic: “patriots” who attempted to overthrow British rule in Canada; post-removal Cherokees in Indian Territory; Mormons in Illinois and the Salt Lake Valley; Anglo-American overland immigrants in both Mexican California and Oregon; and Anglo-Americans in Texas.

Clique Bait
Jessica Goodman’s YA debut explores “young girls doing dark things.”

There’s a photo on Jessica Goodman C’12’s Instagram: a thick stack of white papers squeezed together by a large binder clip. It’s the galley of a new young adult novel, They Wish They Were Us. Goodman’s novel. It’s been a long time coming. She started it nine years ago, during the fall of her junior year at Penn. In 2010 the creative writing major, who planned to work in magazines, decided to try some courses outside of her nonfiction bubble. Melissa Jensen C’89 Gr’93’s class, “Writing for T(w)eens,” landed at the top of her list. “It’s definitely one of those classes that people were like, wait, what are you taking? That’s a real class here?” Goodman recalls. “It was just so specific and wonderful. I’d always loved YA fiction as a reader, so I wanted to see if I could do it.”

As a semester-long project, Jensen’s students wrote several chapters of their own YA novels. When Goodman turned in her 50-page story about Jill Newman, a high school senior entangled in a Skulls-esque secret society, Jensen returned it with an encouraging note: “I can’t wait to see this published one day.” As of August 4, 2020, it was.

Goodman’s YA thriller garnered advance buzz from Entertainment Weekly, Marie Claire, and Cosmopolitan (where she is an op-ed editor). “[T]he talk of the town for months,” EW wrote, adding that the book’s acquisition “came about in a heated, competitive auction.” And though it went through significant changes since first receiving the workshop treatment from Penn writing students inside Fisher-Bennett Hall, Goodman’s debut novel was both born and nurtured on campus.

“Nothing specific,” she says.)

On top of her classes, Goodman credits her growth as a writer at Penn to 34th Street Magazine—the Daily Pennsylvanian’s weekly arts and culture publication. She started off as a copy editor there her freshman year, and by her senior year had become Street’s editor-in-chief. “I learned the most about what I wanted to do career-wise from working there, and I loved the team aspect of putting a magazine together,” she says.

By the time she had graduated and finished a master’s degree in magazine journalism at Columbia, Goodman wasn’t thinking much about the YA novel she’d tinkered with her junior year at Penn. She began working in entertainment journalism, and in 2015 she became an editor for articles about music and books at Entertainment Weekly’s website. “It was a hard, energizing job,” she says. Still, “after a while, I realized I wanted another creative outlet to play with.” She also had a new understanding of the book publishing world through editing EW’s insider-type stories about book deals and trends. So after four years, she went back to those 50 pages from Jensen’s class.

She spent the next three years writing and editing and rewriting them into a full book. In early 2018, she landed an agent. By that fall, she had a deal with

Goodman says her “spirit age” has always been 16.

“The novel centers on Newman’s time as newbie and then senior member of the Players—a secret society that demands often-humiliating, often-dangerous tasks of freshmen aspiring to join. These “pops” range from tame (washing seniors’ cars while singing ’80s songs), to servile (carrying “little fanny packs filled with Player essentials: Juuls, mints, tampons, pencils, mini Snickers, condoms, Advil” to dole out at older members’ request), to extreme (we won’t spoil those).

It’s hard not to wonder if Goodman, a former vice president of Sigma Delta Tau sorority, drew any inspiration from the Greek scene at Penn. (“Nothing specific,” she says.)

They Wish They Were Us follows narrator Jill Newman through her years as a scholarship student at an affluent Long Island prep school, blending her fish-out-of-water discomfort with secret society mischief and a murder mystery plot around the violent death of Newman’s best friend, Shaila.

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“IT’S a miracle anyone gets out of high school alive,” the book begins. “Everything is a risk or a well-placed trap. If you’re not done in by your own heart, so trampled and swollen, you might fall victim to a totally clichéd but equally tragic demise—a drunk-driving accident, a red light missed while texting, too many of the wrong kinds of pills. But that’s not how Shaila Arnold went.”

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When it comes to Facebook notice, a collegiate a cappella group with roughly 1,000 followers will take whatever praise comes its way. So when Barry Manilow gave the Pennchants a shoutout in mid-May for its video rendition of “Copacabana,” the group counted it as a win. It’s part of a streak. When Penn students were sent home in mid-March, the all-male vocal group was about halfway through preparations for its annual spring show. Rather than letting the rehearsals go to waste, they decided to record the performance remotely—with scattered members (and a few alums) linking up from West Philadelphia to Australia. The result, a seven-part video series called “Social Distance-SING,” doubled as a fundraising effort for the hunger relief organization Philabundance. With tunes ranging from Wham!’s “Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go,” to Dua Lipa’s “Don’t Start Now,” to the group’s first original song—sophomore Bauti Gallino’s “Intertwined”—the Pennchants has helped to raise $27,000 so far. Check it out at tinyurl.com/pennchants.

Razorbill—a Penguin Young Readers imprint. Another nine months of intensive edits followed.

“It’s been a long journey,” she says. Still, she stuck by this particular story. “I was just so in love with the characters and the setting and the idea of creating a secret society in high school,” she says. “I knew I wanted to tell a prep school story. It just took me a really long time to figure out what exactly that story was and how best to tell it.”

*They Wish They Were Us* drills deeply into the teenage experience, capturing the passion of an early love, the all-consuming urge to fit in, and the suffocating pressure to land a spot at one’s Ivy League school of choice. At heart, it’s a book about clinging to the veneer of perfection while trying hard to ignore the messiness of real life.

Though she finished the book more than a decade removed from her own high school experience, Goodman says her “spirit age” has always been 16. “I just feel so in touch with that teenage version of myself,” she says.

“I think there’s no other time in a woman’s life when you’re so raw and open and searching for something,” she says, noting that until very recently, teen girls were too often written off as flighty or overly emotional or love-obsessed.

“Now there are so many more books and TV shows and movies that explore the inner workings of young women’s brains in ways that feel respectful and reverent,” Goodman adds. “I wanted to capture that as well. I wanted to explore how fragile our brains are at that age. How intensely we feel when we’re young. I never felt as deeply as I did in those tender ages. That’s always what drew me to writing about that time period.”

Goodman’s day job also keeps her embedded in stories about women’s lives and experiences. She became a senior editor at *Cosmopolitan* in 2017 and moved over to op-ed editor last fall. Some of the essays she’s overseen have included “I’m Risking My Life to Save Your Grandparents, but I Could Get Deported Any Day,” “The Dangers of Being Asian American Right Now,” and “The Coronavirus Doesn’t Have a Race Problem—America’s Systems Do.” That last one, written by activist Brittany Packnett Cunningham, received an enthusiastic tweet from Hillary Clinton.

“I think anybody who has misconceptions about what [today’s *Cosmo*] is probably isn’t paying attention,” Goodman says. The stories about acne breakouts and sex toys are still there. But as that small sampling of essays illustrates, “we do some of the best, most cutting-edge journalism in terms of what comes out of magazines these days,” she says.

Still, “I can’t tell you how many times somebody has talked down to me because of coming from a women’s magazine,” she adds. “I think it’s so unfortunate that that stigma still exists.”

As COVID-19 continued to spread across the country in mid-summer, Goodman—who lives in Brooklyn—was still juggling full-time magazine work with her own fiction writing in the early mornings and on weekends, just as she’s been doing for the past five years.

*They Wish They Were Us* landed her a two-book deal with Razorbill, and she’s already finished writing its follow-up—another standalone YA thriller, slated for release next summer. She can’t say much about that one yet, other than that it’s “also about young girls doing dark things.”

—Molly Petrilla C’06
Protect and Elect
Pennsylvania’s Secretary of State is on a mission to make sure that every vote counts.
On the morning of June 2, Kathy Boockvar C’90 hoped for the best while preparing for the worst.

Since being appointed Pennsylvania’s Secretary of the Commonwealth on January 5, 2019, she’d been tasked with upgrading the state’s voting machines to models that produce voter-verifiable paper records and implementing Act 77—an election reform bill, signed into law by Governor Tom Wolf last October, that allows anyone in the state to vote by mail without needing an excuse.

So there was already a “huge sea change,” Boockvar notes, heading into the Pennsylvania primary on June 2—even before the COVID-19 pandemic swept through the country (causing the election to be rescheduled from April) followed by the civil unrest that enveloped major cities the weekend prior. “Any one of those changes would be challenging,” Boockvar says. “To have all four converge in one election was extremely challenging.

“But,” the state’s chief elections official adds, “it was incredibly and remarkably smooth and safe.”

Because of the pandemic, nearly 1.5 million Pennsylvanians voted by mail in the primary—more than the roughly 1.2 million who voted in person (and way more than the 84,000 who voted by mail in the primary four years earlier). “Once COVID-19 hit, we knew things were going to change,” Boockvar says, noting that the state department worked closely with counties to ensure a smooth transition, and blitzed radio and TV stations with a bilingual public relations campaign about voting by mail. “We did every layer of communications we could possibly do to make sure voters knew about this option. And boy, did it work.”

A former voting rights attorney and poll worker, Boockvar claims that there were fewer negative incidents reported than in any presidential primary that she could recall in at least a decade, which she calls “incredible.” And it’s giving her hope for the general election on November 3, in which the state is preparing for more than 3 million mail-in ballots and the possibility that votes may still need to be counted for days after Election Day. At that point, the eyes of the nation could very well fall on one of the decisive swing states from the last presidential contest—and on Boockvar.

It’s not a position she ever thought she’d be in, particularly when she first arrived at college in the fall of 1986 intent on following the family tradition of studying medicine. “Then I took chemistry the first semester and realized, ‘Nope, not for me!’” She did, however, lean on lineage in her decision to attend Penn. Her grandfather, the late Edward Saksin C’31, and mother, Virginia Saksin Boockvar CW’65, attended before her. Her twin brothers, Daniel Boockvar C’93 L’96 and John Boockvar C’93, followed her there, arriving on campus to find “a leader in the community,” says John, now a neurosurgeon featured on the Netflix documentary series Lenox Hill (see photo, next page). “It was inspiring. And she became a great role model for us.”

A legal studies class taught by Kenneth Shropshire, the David W. Hauck Professor Emeritus of Legal Studies and Business Ethics, sent Boockvar down the law path, and her experience at the University proved so formative that the native New Yorker decided to begin her career in Pennsylvania after graduating from law school at American University. She and her husband Jordan Yeager, whom she met at law school and is now a judge, opened their own firm in Bucks County—Boockvar & Yeager—which they ran for 11 years while raising a daughter. After representing, pro bono, a low-income community group that had its polling place moved, she applied for a job at the Advancement Project, a nonprofit organization run by Judith Browne Dianis W’87 (“Alumni Profiles,” Nov|Dec 2019) that focuses on racial justice issues.

She accepted a position as a voting rights attorney leading up to the 2008 primary and quickly discovered Pennsylvania’s voting inequities, seeing incredibly long lines and poor organization at polling places in communities of color. One of the biggest issues she worked to correct was urging her future employer, the Pennsylvania Department of State, to “put a much clearer directive to counties that every voter needed to be offered an emergency paper ballot” if a machine broke, rather than being told to “go home and come back later.”

After three years at the Advancement Project, she was recruited to run for Congress in 2012 as a Democrat in what some analysts had identified as a possible “red to blue” Pennsylvania district. Though she admits “it was not on my bucket list” and she lost to incumbent Michael Fitzpatrick, she still calls it a “life-changing” experience. “What I realized in that campaign,” she says, “was that I loved having a million balls in the air at one time.”

Her brother John believes she’d make a fine elected official if she ever runs again, in large part because she’s a “glass is half full” kind of per-
son who “doesn’t have that politicians’ personality.” Boockvar, though, hasn’t followed a traditional political path. Not long after her congressional run, she served as executive director of Lifecycle WomanCare, a women’s healthcare nonprofit that blended her interests in public health, law, and policy. After four years there, she accepted the “opportunity of a lifetime” to join Governor Wolf’s cabinet in Harrisburg, first as a senior advisor on election modernization and then the Secretary of the Commonwealth, where, in addition to her role promoting the integrity of the electoral process, she also oversees professional licensing, the state athletic commission, and more.

“When I talk to young people, my primary message is to never have blinders on, to never think life will be a straight path,” she says. “Because if you do, you’ll miss the things to the right and left that might lead to a more interesting career. I’m thankful for every experience that’s come my way—and if I had those blinders on, I would’ve missed half of them.”

For now, it’s hard for Boockvar to look beyond November 3. She plans to ensure that the 8.5 million registered voters in the state all receive applications for mail-in ballots, and has been pushing for the General Assembly to pass a law allowing counties to begin pre-canvassing ballots before Election Day (a lengthy process that involves extracting documents from two sets of envelopes—“basically everything except for counting,” she notes).

She’s aware that mail-in voting has become a hot-button issue, in large part due to rhetoric from President Donald Trump W’68, whose reelection campaign sued Pennsylvania over its mail-in drop-off sites for ballots. But Boockvar has been working with the National Association of Secretaries of State (of which she is the elections committee co-chair) and other federal agencies to “make sure voters know they can rely on county and state election offices to provide accurate information,” she says. “Don’t think what you see on Twitter or whatever is accurate.”

Indeed, despite “misinformation” floating around social media about the potential for fraud, voting absentee has “been an incredibly safe, secure process for decades,” she says, adding that a voter’s eligibility is checked before they get a ballot and again once the county receives it. “And none of that has changed. There’s just more people taking advantage of it.”

And just as she’s spent almost two years fortifying voting systems’ defenses, adding multiple layers of protection to secure voter registration databases, and creating other safeguards against election interference, Boockvar’s state department is prepared to conduct a November election as smooth as the one held five months earlier amidst unprecedented conditions.

“Yes, November 3rd is going to be insane,” she says. “But we have the framework for everything in place.” —DZ

Before Netflix released the documentary series Lenox Hill on June 10, John Boockvar C’93 GM’04 warned his wife and kids about the potential for cringeworthy scenes.

For a year-and-a-half, he and three other doctors—including his colleague in the neurosurgery department, David Langer C’85 M’90 GM’98—were mic’d up and followed around by cameras, allowing for an intimate look into the real-life drama at New York’s Lenox Hill Hospital.

“We dropped the f-bomb a bunch, my tag is sticking out the back of my lab coat every now and then, and my bald spot is apparent in every scene,” Boockvar says. “But this was worth doing because the world needed to see what life is like as a doctor, patient, nurse, nurse practitioner, PA, and what our healthcare system is like—the good, the bad, and the emotional.”

The nine-episode series, which has been critically well received, leans in on the emotional, not only in interactions with patients but in the “special relationship” that Langer and Boockvar have with each other as chair and vice chair of the hospital’s growing neurosurgery department. (“Langer was recently profiled in the Gazette for saving a stranger’s life on a beach and later performing surgery on him [*Alumni Profiles,* Jan/ Feb 2020], which was captured in an episode.)

The fact that half of the doctors featured in the documentary got their schooling at Penn was a happy coincidence, notes Boockvar, who wears a Penn lapel on his lab coat and recently started the Boockvar Saskin Family Lectureship at Penn Medicine. In the second episode, he even gave a shoutout to Steven Flihurty—Dean of the School of Arts & Sciences and Thomas S. Gates, Jr. Professor of Psychology, Pharmacology, and Neuroscience—for sparking his interest in neuroscience when he took Flihurty’s neuropsychopharmacology class as a freshman.

Boockvar says he hadn’t been in touch with Flihurty and “didn’t know he was dean” when Flihurty reached out to him after seeing the episode. “He was just so appreciative,” Boockvar says. “As a teacher, you probably don’t always realize the impact you make—particularly on someone who’s on a Netflix show 30 years later.” —DZ
Staying Active
These multigenerational mental health advocates are shifting the discourse and shedding stigmas.

For Alison Malmon C’03 and Steve Lerman W’69, mental health advocacy is rooted in family.

Malmon founded Active Minds—a nonprofit organization supporting mental health awareness and education for students—as a Penn junior in 2001, following the suicide of her older brother, Brian (“Alumni Profiles,” Mar/April 2009). Lerman has since become its board of directors chair because of his daughter, Emily Lerman Taylor C’04, who discovered Active Minds during a harrowing time in her life, in which she once wrote, “the simplest things made no sense ... [and] conversations became puzzles I couldn’t quite solve.”

While recovering from an acute debilitative depressive episode in 2008, Emily began volunteering at Active Minds’ Washington, DC, office near the Lerman family home in Potomac, Maryland. “If I hadn’t connected with Active Minds, and gained access to a world that embraced and understood mental illness,” Emily Lerman was struck by Malmon’s calm, authoritative demeanor and her knowledge of the subject matter when she addressed a crowd of more than 600 people. “Her whole manner, her mastery of the mental health arena—I could tell right away she was an exceptional person,” he says. “I just said to myself, ‘This is somebody I could be proud to get behind.’”

Lerman joined the board’s executive committee in 2012 and has served as chairman since 2014. Since then, he’s helped the organization raise enough money to triple its budget, which has led to Active Minds growing from 350 chapters to having a presence at more than 1,000 high schools and colleges—with a big increase in programming. The powerful Send Silence Packing exhibits, with backpacks representing students who died by suicide, began in 2011 with 28 stops and was scheduled for 53 stops during the 2019–2020 school year, prior to the COVID-19 outbreak. They’ve also introduced new programs, including the Healthy Campus Award and Transform Your Campus Advocacy program, both of which celebrate schools that are exemplary in how they address student mental health and well-being. Since 2015, these programs have been implemented on 142 college campuses.

Programs like these “get the issue out in the open,” Lerman says, “and empower students to get the help they need and motivate colleges to provide that help in a comprehensive and effective manner.”

When it comes to growing the organization, Lerman—an attorney who serves on several other boards—largely stays out of Malmon’s way on day-to-day decisions. But the pair of Penn alums have a deep, mutual respect for each other—which stems from similar work ethics. “We’re both no-nonsense, point A to point B people,” Lerman says. “We don’t like to analyze things to death. “We went to school 34 years apart,” he adds, “but it doesn’t
feel that way. It feels like she's a colleague on my level."

Indeed, there is a significant age difference not only between the 73-year-old Lerman and Malmon, who recently turned 39, but between the entire board and executive staff. That's by design.

"From the beginning my goal was to mobilize and empower young adults to be change agents in mental health," Malmon says. "I saw a generational shift in how much my friends and Brian's friends responded to these issues versus how my parents' friends did."

Malmon adds that Lerman is "opening up conversations" with his Baby Boomer peers. "In my parents' generation, mental health was completely swept under the rug," Lerman notes. "Therapy was almost nonexistent for us as kids. It was a taboo subject. What I notice being involved with Active Minds is that it's brought about attitudinal changes. I have never been to a conference where at least one kid did not say to me, 'If it wasn't for Active Minds, I wouldn't be here on this planet.'"

Lerman's commitment to Active Minds, and to the cause of mental health advocacy, also illustrates the valuable role family members play in supporting loved ones who live with mental illness. "I have two kids who suffer from depression and anxiety," he says. "And I don't know what would have happened if they were in a situation where they didn't have parental support. That gives me appreciation for the kids I meet along the way who may not have that support."

Malmon likens the support that the Lerman family—not just Steve and Emily, but mom Charla and siblings Stephanie C'02, Jeremy C'07, and Zack—shows Active Minds to families who become involved in the LGBTQ movement after their child comes out.

"There are a number of young adults who are part of Active Minds but don't, or can't, tell their family because the stigma in their family is so pervasive," Malmon says. "Our connection with Steve and his family's incredible generosity towards Active Minds ... is pretty unique and admirable."

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to wreak havoc on schools and routines, many young people have been forced to contend with mental health struggles in an environment where they might not have been open about it before. Malmon notes that several students have asked about how to have a mental health conversation with their parents for the first time.

"There are a lot of people who did not grow up learning about mental health or emotions or resilience," she says. "To force a conversation on a generation that might not be as familiar is very difficult. But when someone in their life—a peer like Steve, a child, a grandchild—talks openly about their struggles and experiences, I see people opening up a little bit more. Maybe they don't understand right away, but a change happens."

—Holly Leber Simmons

**Free Bird**

A first-time filmmaker brought her unique experiences as a biracial Jew to the screen.

Sprawled on the floor of a wood-paneled room, foam headphones pressing against both ears, Birdie is trying to memorize her Torah portion.

It's a familiar pose to anyone who's ever been a bat mitzvahed tween, but preparing to warble out Hebrew before an audience is only part of what's occupying Birdie these days. There's also her hair, which she has turned stick-straight in a painful, scalp-scorching process. Her mom, who is white, reacts with surprise when she sees it.

Then it's off to a truck stop diner where Birdie's dad, who is Black, arrives for parent-daughter bonding time. When she refuses a soda at lunch because her mom doesn't allow them, her dad says almost sternly, "With me, we drink soda," before gulping from his own glass.

The push-and-pull between Birdie's divorced parents and
her biracial identity exemplify Broken Bird, a short film written and directed by Rachel Harrison Gordon EAS’12. To Harrison Gordon’s shock, the film was selected for more than a dozen 2020 festivals, including the Berlin International Film Festival, South by Southwest, Aspen ShortsFest and the San Francisco International Film Festival. It’s also her first film—ever.

Every moment of Broken Bird is deep-rooted inside Harrison Gordon, not just because she made it, but also because it’s her actual life, revisited on screen—with a few tweaks here and there.

Harrison Gordon’s white Jewish mom and Black dad divorced when she was four years old. She grew up with her mom in North Jersey, where “most of the spaces I was in were predominantly white,” she says. It often felt like no one, including her own parents, could fully understand her experience as a biracial Jew. At her synagogue, she was asked to argue which was worse: slavery or the Holocaust. Later, as a Black woman in STEM, “I persevered through misogyny and racism,” she says. Because of such experiences, “I was ashamed of my intersectionality and made myself smaller, more invisible, to fit in.”

Time with her dad was sparse, and often he’d spend as long traveling to their meetups as he spent with his daughter once he got there. They’d usually hit the mall or a music store, buy a CD, then drive around in his car listening to it. “It would be really short, but I’d think about those minutes for days and weeks and months after,” she says. “Now I realize that the amalgamation of all those moments really did build something substantial. It made it so I didn’t give up on him.”

Harrison Gordon made Broken Bird for her first film assignment at NYU, where she is completing a dual MBA/MFA program meant for aspiring film producers. She initially worried about sharing the first draft of her 10-page script with her class. Was a slice-of-life story pulled from her own experience important enough? Interesting enough? It turned out her classmates thought so.

So did Spike Lee, the legendary film director who teaches a course at NYU. Harrison Gordon signed up for his office hours and Lee read an early script of Broken Bird, challenging her to think about how her life might have been different if both her parents were Black. “He made me appreciate the uniqueness of my setup—that it was special and that I should lean into portraying that,” she says.

Lee also introduced her to the young actor Indigo Hubbard-Salk, who became Birdie in the film. For Birdie’s dad, Harrison Gordon landed Chad L. Coleman, who starred in both The Wire and The Walking Dead.

Shooting lasted five days in New Jersey, including some scenes in her actual childhood home and the synagogue where she herself was bat mitzvahed. Harrison Gordon loved the filmmaking process, though it was nothing she’d ever imagined herself doing. As a mechanical engineering major at Penn, she didn’t take any film classes. The closest she got to the arts was a basic acting class and volunteer work with CityStep Penn, a dance-theater program for local elementary schools.

She moved through several tech-centered jobs after graduation, including a run as the manager of mobile analytics for the New York Times. In 2014, she became a Presidential Innovation Fellow in the US Department of Veterans Affairs. Still, “I felt like there was something missing,” she says. “I kept getting so close to having a real impact, but then not being in the right role.”

So she “quit everything” and, while on a backpacking trip in New Zealand, decided to apply to graduate schools. Learning techniques on the fly from YouTube tutorials, she made a short documentary film for her application to NYU. It focused on her in-laws, Ruben Gur and Raquel Gur M’80 GM’84, both of whom work in neuropsychiatry at Penn. (Harrison Gordon met their son, Alon Gordon C’12, at a Mask and Wig performance her junior year at Penn. “I guess when he was doing a kickline in a skirt, that’s when I fell in love,” she jokes of her husband.)

When she first got into NYU, she figured she’d learn the skills required to perhaps create a production company. “I did not see myself as [an artist] until I got to make this movie,” she says.

Since Broken Bird made its world debut at the Berlin Film Festival in February, she’s been approached about other projects, including possible directing gigs for kid-focused programs. “I’ve had a couple of really cool meetings with studios and production companies that have acquired material they think I’d be a good fit for,” she says. “I think part of the desire to work with me is because of my experience in this intersectional world, which I think is a budding topic right now.”

Harrison Gordon is also eager to turn Broken Bird into a feature-length film. She still has plenty of story left to tell, and plans to begin pitching it as Hollywood opens back up.

“Obviously I would love to be on set with people right now laughing and figuring out how to tell a story and getting the lights right,” she says of the pandemic halting filmmaking just as she was getting started. “But I have been grateful for the time to write things that I wouldn’t allow my mind to spend time thinking about when I was in school.”

Meanwhile, as the film festival acceptances continue rolling in—Florida, Atlanta, Philadelphia, Annapolis, Palm Springs—she says she’s most moved by the parents and other biracial kids who’ve reached out after watching Broken Bird.

“That’s what really fills my heart,” she says. “They’re just grateful to see images of themselves on-screen, and I can definitely relate.”

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“My father, Joe Silverman C’52, has been complaining that he never sees my name in the alumni magazine, so in the interest of family harmony, I’m writing about what I’m up to.”

—Lisa Silverman Meyers C’90 WG’97

1952

Joe Silverman C’52 sees Lisa Silverman Meyers C’90 WG’97.

1953

Douglass Mann C’53 writes, “I am pleased to report that my recently written novel, A Most Welcome Change, is available on Amazon, in paperback and on Kindle. It is meant to be an amusing and suspenseful tale focusing on an inscrutable work of modern art, a story featuring a dramatic auction, a third-world uprising, and a marketplace of fraudulent transactions. There is even a bloody murder. But below its painterly surface, I have attempted a serious polemic that deals harshly with a world gone off its societal axis. A recent Kirkus review has stated that its ‘prose is self-assured and inventive;’ that it is ‘a deliciously eclectic drama that sharply satirizes pretention and venality in the professional art world’ and is ‘as entertaining as it is thought-provoking.’ I can only hope that those who read it will agree.”

1954

Susan B. Peterson CW’64 writes, “My Chesapeake Bay Retriever, Ch. Mermaid Summer Sunny, finished her AKC conformation championship points with me as owner-handler in July 2019, at the Jupiter-Tequesta Dog Club show in West Palm Beach, Florida. The judge was Wayne Burton from New South Wales, Australia. Six weeks after attending our wonderful Class of 1964 50th Reunion in 2014, I flew back to Philadelphia to meet Wayland Chesapeake’s Kim Cramer at the airport. Kim drove up from Bridgeton, New Jersey, to bring me my eight-week-old puppy, Sunny. We flew back to Fort Lauderdale that same afternoon. Dog shows were a new sport for me, and I wanted to see if I could show her to a championship myself. We did it. Yay! Now we are hunkered down at our Mermaid Urban Mangofarm in Fort Lauderdale, swimming in the ocean as often as we can. Sunny swims on weekends at a dog beach. In 1963, as captain of Penn women’s swim team, I won the women’s national collegiate 200 individual medley NAIA championship. Women athletes were excluded from NCAA events at that time.”

1966

Cengiz Yetken GA’66 writes, “I’ve published a book with YEM Publishing in Istanbul, written in Turkish, about my three years in Philadelphia, from 1965 to 1968, as a student in Professor Louis Kahn’s graduate architecture class, working in Kahn’s office, and teaching in the School of Architecture.”

1967

Tommy Arnold WG’67 and Earl Wright WG’67 announce the recent merger of their two private wealth management firms: AMG National Trust, headquartered in Denver, and Boys, Arnold and Company, headquartered in Asheville, North Carolina. Earl is chairman and cofounder of AMG, and Tommy is former chairman and one of the original two partners of Boys, Arnold. Tommy writes, “The merger brought together two classmats and intramural basketball teammates 53 years after our graduation. Headquarters for the private wealth management and trust banking organization will be in Denver, with other offices in Boulder, Colorado; Cheyenne, Wyoming; Chicago; Morristown, New Jersey; Virginia Beach, Vir-
ginia; and the Boys, Arnold offices in Asheville and Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. The combined firm oversees almost $6 billion of assets for individuals, families, and organizations, both taxable and not-for-profit. Both firms began over 40 years ago—AMG in 1975 and Boys, Arnold in 1977.

1968

Joseph Cohen W’68 WG’70 has been named to the board of directors of Madison Square Garden Sports and Madison Square Garden Network. He writes, “This marks the return to my professional roots at MSG, where I began my career 50 years ago.” The sports business executive was profiled in our Jan/Feb 2017 issue (“Suiting Up”).

Jeffrey Goodman C’68, former Fulbright Scholar and Mirrieles-Stegner Fellow in Writing at Stanford, has published his 10th chapbook of poetry, Old School (Pinecone Press). He writes, “I’m looking for a first-rate agent to represent my novels. The first chapters are available on my website, JeffreyAGoodman.com.”

1969

Jeffrey David Jubelirer W’69 has published a new book of poems, titled A Sensitive Person.

1970


1971

George Edward W’71 writes, “I am one of four independent authors published this July in an anthology titled The Blue Bottles Writing Studio. One of the pieces calls to mind my freshman year at 106 Ashhurst.”

1972

John Ascenzi C’72 writes, “I retired in December, after 21 years at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. I worked as a medical and science writer covering biomedical research. During the 1980s, I traveled to schools in a five-state area presenting science programs for the Franklin Institute. I am currently staying at home with my wife and son in Philadelphia during the COVID-19 pandemic.” John invites alumni contact at antares1972@verizon.net.

Hon. Kathryn Streeter Lewis CW’72 was honored at a portrait unveiling ceremony where her judicial portrait was presented to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia on February 13. Judge Lewis has served as a judge of the Court of Common Pleas for 23 years. In addition, she writes, “My memoir, When the Unlikely Are Chosen, was published in December 2019, and is available on Amazon and Barnes and Noble. It exposes a time when many hurdles were placed in the paths of marginalized and economically disadvantaged children—especially girls who aspired beyond entrenched boundaries. Remnants of that time still remain. It also underscores the importance of fatherhood, family, and the vision required within the village to raise a child, not just to become a lawyer, but to prepare for a productive, rewarding life. An excerpt from When the Unlikely Are Chosen was included in Memoirs Class of 1972, published in honor of the Class of 1972’s 45th Reunion in May 2017.”

Chester Mayer Rothman WG’72 writes, “I’d like to share three events with the Penn community: the birth of my first grandchild, a beautiful girl, Auden Grace Rothman, to son Phillip and his wife Riley; the three-year anniversary of Jasper St. Funding LLC, a partnership formed in 2018 that is already one of the more active investors in tax liens in New York and New Jersey; and the forthcoming expansion of Jasper St.’s footprint with the opening of an office in Charleston, South Carolina, planned for early 2021.”

Deb Willig CW’72, managing partner of Willig, Williams & Davidson, has been named among this year’s Top 10 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers. She is the only female attorney to make the Top 10 in 2020.

1974

Hon. Frederica Massiah-Jackson L’74 see Dr. Allener M. Baker-Rogers GEd’89.

1975

Fred Bowen C’75 writes, “I am delighted to announce my 25th sports book for young readers ages 8–12, Gridiron: Stories From 100 Years of the National Football League, has been published by Margaret K. McElderry Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster. The book chronicles the incredible growth of the NFL from its beginnings in an automobile showroom in Canton, Ohio, to the success of the modern Super Bowl. Award-winning illustrator James Ransome provides more than 70 illustrations to help tell the tale. In addition to a 30-year career as an attorney for the federal government, I’ve developed a second career as a children’s author. I’ve also written a weekly sports column for kids in the Washington Post since April 2000. You can contact me and learn more about my writing at www.fredbowen.com.”

1976

Steve Elkinton GLA’76 has written a new book, The National Trails System: An Illustrated History. He writes, “During my 36-year career with the National Park Service, I worked on the National Trails System for 25 years and watched it double in
size. In my retirement I compiled this history to illustrate how citizen action, inter-agency collaboration, and smart political timing built our 54,000-mile system of national scenic and historic trails. My book can be ordered through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Books-A-Million.

Janice Klein C’76, executive director of the Museum Association of Arizona, is the 2020 recipient of the Dudley-Wilkinson Award of Distinction from the American Alliance of Museums. This award is given to a museum professional who has demonstrated commitment to the highest standards of excellence in the registration profession.

David W. Webber C’76 writes, “After almost 40 years as a public interest lawyer in Philadelphia, I was recently able to return to my collegiate roots in music history (I transferred to Penn as an undergraduate majoring in music in 1973 with the idea that I’d become a musicologist—didn’t quite work out that way). My book, The Music of Friends: 75 Years of the Chamber Music Conference and Composers’ Forum of the East, was released in August. Here’s a bit from our publication announcement: ‘The Music of Friends is a comprehensive history of the [Chamber Music Conference], from its earliest years to the present day. In over 300 pages, richly illustrated with more than 80 photographs, it encompasses the full experience. It will be of interest not only to conference devotees, but also to everyone who cares about the tradition of amateur chamber music from its origins in Europe through its growth in the United States.’”

1979

Dr. David Bolger D’79 writes, “I retired two years ago and honestly, I’m just grateful that I have to go through six pages of obituaries before I find my graduation year.”

Joyce Zonana G’79 Gr’85 won the third-annual $5,000 Global Humanities Translation Prize from Northwestern University’s Global Humanities Initiative for her translation from the Provençal (Occitan) of Jousè d’Arbaud’s La Bèstio dòu Vacarés (The Beast of Vaccarès). Northwestern University Press will publish The Beast, and Other Tales in September. Joyce lives in Brooklyn and is professor emerita of English at Borough of Manhattan Community College, part of the City University of New York.

1980

Bob Di Giovanni W’80 has coauthored and published his third novel, Generation Blank, available on Amazon. He writes, “Generation Blank is Book 3 of the Svensson-World Chronicles, a series that untangles the mystery underlying a global genetic-engineering catastrophe, chronicles its social and political consequences, and confronts the moral dilemma presented by the search for a cure.”

Kevin Gallagher C’80 GEd’89 see Ann McCarthy Gallagher W’82 WG’87.

1981

Dr. James K. Aikins C’81, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University, was awarded the Society of Gynecologic Oncology’s Humanitarian and Volunteerism Award. The award is given to an individual for their “exemplary local, national or international volunteer and outreach efforts in women’s cancer care research or training.” James is the founder and medical director of the nonprofit International Healthcare Volunteers. He writes, “The organization has provided medical/surgical care to over 14,500 women and their families and continued medical education for healthcare providers in low resource countries. You may read more about this organization at ihcv.org.”

Kem Hinton GAr’81 writes, “In late 2018, I was asked to design a permanent space in the Nashville Main Public Library to honor the 100th anniversary of passage of the 19th Amendment. Library officials had hoped to dedicate the room in May or June, but COVID-19 certainly disrupted those plans.” The opening date is still pending as of press time, but a virtual celebration was held in August. More information can be found at https://tinyurl.com/y8lolk4u.

Lynne Lieberman C’81 and A. Cassia Margolis GSFA’81 write, “William H. McCaulley C’81 passed away on April 23 [see “Obituaries”]. Bill’s tenure at the Rothenberg Law Firm persisted over 30 years. Through his puissance in interpersonal relations he ascended to International Director of Attorney Client Relations par excellence. His altruism led him to honor every request for assistance, whether it was a nationally registered charity or an undomiciled soul he encountered during a perambulation. Bill could have been accused of sesquipedalian loquaciousness; however, it was not through any sense of snobbery, but rather due to his being a true logophile. He had a veracious catholic (although only in the most lowercase sense) zeal for learning. Celebrated for his pacific and humble nature, delicious wit, continual self-improvement, and erudite manners, his passing leaves a Brodkindnagian void. At Penn, he was a staple at Hillel. Bill maintained intimate contact with us, and we miss him sorely, although we hope to sit and enjoy his mellifluous rambles as we shmooze at length with him again, at some (distant) future date, in the world to come, ‘neath the shelter of the shadow of his posters of the Rebbe and Justin Bieber.”

1977

Ken Victor C’77, of Quebec, Canada, writes, “The Montreal Review of Books said of my poetry collection, We Were Like Everyone Else, that it takes on ugly realities ‘with grace and intelligence.’ The Malahat Review said, ‘the book reads like a greatest hits album,’ and Today's Book of Poetry blog said ‘books of poetry this fine are as rare as hen’s teeth. ... We Were Like Everyone Else will be amongst the best poetry you read this year.’ It’s now available in the States.”

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1982

Robert Carley C’82, an artist based in Connecticut, writes, “My flags made of coffee cup lids, milk cartons, and other discarded material, which I created during the COVID-19 lockdown, were featured on ABC Eyewitness News Channel 7 in New York on Memorial Day, and also broadcast on CT News 12 and Fox 61 Hartford.” View the ABC News coverage at 7nytv/36SyXP8.
Ann McCarthy Gallagher W’82 WG’87 and Kevin Gallagher C’80 GEd’89 write, “We are pleased to report that our son Peter Gallagher was ordained as a Catholic priest in June. He celebrated his first mass on June 21. He will be serving in the Diocese of Camden, New Jersey, with his first assignment in Woodbury, New Jersey.”

Marcie Kislin Heskel W’82 and Mitchell Heskel C’82 write, “We are proud to share that our daughter, Marina Heskel C’14, has graduated from the Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia. She received the Arnold R. Weitz Memorial Prize in Hematology and is a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society. She has begun her residency in Internal Medicine at Yale New Haven Hospital.”

1983
Valerie Hansen G’83 Gr’87, a professor of history at Yale, has written The Year 1000: When Explorers Connected the World—and Globalization Began.

1984
Neil Kaplan W’84 writes, “I’ve just published my first book, Acquiring Polish Citizenship by Descent: What You Need to Know. In 2016, I founded PolandPassport.com, a global advocacy and consulting service firm for individuals wishing to prove their Polish heritage with the hope of securing Polish citizenship and the associated benefits of an EU passport. I launched this business after going through a 12-year odyssey to procure my own Polish citizenship. It’s been the most rewarding effort of my career, as I help families from all over the world obtain EU citizenship, which is both meaningful and practical. With all the global uncertainties recently, having a second passport and citizenship is becoming increasingly attractive. Anyone with an ancestor who lived in Poland after 1920 is potentially eligible.”

Dr. Bill Mezzanotte M’84 has been appointed to the board of directors at the University City Science Center in Philadelphia. Bill is executive vice president, head of research and development, and chief medical officer at CSL Behring, a biotech company that manufactures remedies for serious and rare diseases.

1985
Roger S. Kober C’85 has joined the law firm Carlton Fields as a shareholder in New York and Miami. He is a member of the firm’s Business Litigation Practice.

1986
Jacqueline Varoli Grace Nu’86 has been appointed chief development officer at Keep America Beautiful, a nonprofit community improvement organization that strives to end littering, improve recycling, and beautify America’s communities.

1987
Karin Donahue C’87 GEd’88 GrEd’96 has published a new book, Right from the Start—A Practical Guide for Helping Young Children with Autism, with coauthor Kate Crassons. Karin writes, “It focuses on how autistic children struggle with self-regulation, social skills, play skills, and sensory processing, and importantly, discusses helpful strategies to teach children these necessary skills. This book is ideal for new clinicians and teachers who seek practical, useful, empirically-based strategies to use with children on the autism spectrum. The strategies are also useful for parents and other helpers.”

Carl Law C’87 see Lisa Niver C’89.

1988
Amy F. Lipton W’88 was promoted to full professor of finance at Saint Joseph’s University.

1989
Dr. Allener M. Baker-Rogers GEd’89 and coauthor Fasaha M. Traylor recently published They Carried Us: The Social Impact of Philadelphia’s Black Women Leaders, a collection of 95 stories of historical and contemporary women. Allener writes, “A number of them were among the first black women to graduate from or teach at the University of Pennsylvania. They include Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander Ed’18 G’19 Gr’21 L’27 Hon’74, Ruth Wright Hayre Ed’30 G’31 Gr’49 Hon’89, Dr. Helen O. Dickens GM’45 Hon’82, Nellie Rathbone Bright CCT’23, and Hon. Frederick Massiah-Jackson L’74. De- lores F. Brisbon, former CEO of the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, is also profiled. They Carried Us is available on Amazon. For more information, visit our website at theycarriedus.org.”

Lisa Niver C’89 writes, “I want to thank everyone who has supported me on my crazy ride of a career journey! After Penn, I went to and then left UCSF medical school, got an MA in education and taught from pre-K to 8th grade, sailed the seven seas for seven years, and then chose to be a journalist. I am honored to be a five-time finalist for the Southern California Journalism Awards in print, digital, and broadcast TV categories, but most especially for being nominated as Online Journalist of the Year! I am grateful for all I learned in my liberal arts education that allowed me to know how to figure it out in each of my new endeavors. (You can read more on my website at https://bit.ly/3eF8kQ8.) In March, just before COVID closed the doors on all of my travels, I went alpine ski touring with Heather Fudala C’91 and Carl Law C’87. It was possibly one of the hardest things I have ever done, but we loved it and doing it together made it possible! Thank you to Penn for bringing me my lifelong best friends. (Watch a video clip of the trip on my website at https://bit.ly/2ZM60m9.)”

Ellen Peters EAS’89 W’89 writes, “After nine years at Ohio State University, including a nostalgia-filled sabbatical at UPenn, I recently moved to the University of Oregon to become the Philip H. Knight Chair and Director of the Center for Science Communication Research. And I’m so happy to announce my 2020 book published by Oxford University Press! Innumeracy in the Wild: Misunderstanding and Misusing Numbers ex-
amines numbers, psychology, communication, and their effects on making crucial decisions and living healthier and wealthier lives. Follow me on Twitter @ellenpetersjdsm.

1990
Lisa Silverman Meyers C’90 WG’97 writes, “My father, Joe Silverman C’52, has been complaining that he never sees my name in the alumni magazine, so in the interest of family harmony, I’m writing about what I’m up to. After a long and wonderful time at Viacom/Nickelodeon, where I ended up looking after Operations and Strategy for our $2 billion international Consumer Products and Location Based Entertainment businesses, I recently joined the Metropolitan Museum of Art as their first head of Global Licensing and Partnerships. I grew up going to the Met, which nurtured a love of different cultures and history, so it has been a particular honor to put my experience to work for this wonderful institution. I remain extremely busy with this work despite the pandemic, and I am greatly looking forward to the museum’s reopening at the end of the summer. I remain a lifelong New Yorker, living in Washington Heights with my husband Pete Meyers and daughters Esme and Willa.”

Michele Patrick C’90 has written a new book, Haunted Prague: Stories of Spirits, Sorcerers, and the Supernatural. From the press materials: “The book’s 39 supernatural tales provide a unique window on the very spirit of Prague, its history and people.” Michele also served as senior speechwriter for Penn President Amy Gutmann from 2010 to 2011.

1992
Hon. Robert R. Prisco C’92 was appointed as a New Jersey State Workers’ Compensation Judge on January 4, 2018. He currently sits in both the Plainfield Vicinage and the Trenton Vicinage.

1993
Helen Eaton C’93, CEO of Settlement Music School [“Arts,” Mar|Apr 2018], is the recipient of the 2020 Arts Education Award. The national award is given to people or organizations who “provide transformational leadership in arts education through strategic planning, strong programming, and the engagement of partners to achieve community goals.” Helen is the first person affiliated with a Philadelphia organization to receive this award.

Lisa Nass Grabelle C’93 L’96 and Kiera Reilly C’93 write, “The Class of 1993 is still continuing to Zoom and connect. While our weekly sessions have transitioned into monthly calls, we enjoy connecting with our classmates virtually around the world to check in and learn something from each other. We had fun during our June Zoom call, escaping together to discuss favorite travel memories. Thank you also to Jill Abramovitz C’93, Michael Sluchan C’93, and Mark Kaufman C’89, for sharing their experiences working in entertainment—writing, acting, and producing scripted series and live performances both before and during the pandemic. Connect with our class in our Facebook group—Penn Class of 1993—to make sure you receive notices about our future Zoom gatherings.”

1994
Mark Liechty Gr’94 has written a new book, Combined Action Marine in Vietnam. From the book’s press materials: “His memoir recounts his experiences fighting with the South Vietnamese, his readjustment to life after the war, and the circumstances that prompted him to join the Corps in the first place.”

Robert E. Sanchez WG’93 has been elected by United Way of Miami-Dade to serve as board chair for a two-year term. Robert is chairman and CEO of Ryder System, the truck rental and transport supply company where he has worked for more than 20 years.

1995
Robert Francis C’95 is CEO and president of Planned Companies, which provides janitors, maintenance workers, front desk concierges, and security staff for businesses and residences. Robert reports that, during the pandemic, Planned Companies funded $500,000 into a COVID-19 Immediate Response Program, which allows current employees to apply for grants of up to $300. The firm also donated masks to two New Jersey nursing homes. In addition, Planned Companies launched a COVID-19 Disinfecting Service Program at a time when many facilities were preparing for the reopening of public spaces; and developed a set of Commercial and Residential Reopening and Rapid Response Guidelines, and a Disinfecting Procedural Booklet.

Dorian Mazurkevich C’95 was recently appointed as US regional intellectual property attaché for Eurasia for the US Department of Commerce. He is based in the US Embassy in Kyiv, Ukraine.

2000
Dr. Mollie Gordon C’00 is coeditor of a newly released book, Human Trafficking: A Treatment Guide for Mental Health Professionals. Mollie is an associate professor of psychiatry at Baylor College of Medi-
has been a silver lining despite all the grief in the rapidly changing world environment of those recovering from COVID or just navigating down to the millimeter via Zoom coaching. I’m proud to have refined my eye for detail in nutrition in New York and Hong Kong clubs, “After 12 years of coaching Pilates, fitness, and nutrition in New York and Hong Kong clubs, I’m proud to have refined my eye for detail down to the millimeter via Zoom coaching. Supporting the health (and immune system!) of those recovering from COVID or just navigating the rapidly changing world environment has been a silver lining despite all the grief in the world. I invite alumni contact at KDomke@gmail.com. Cheers to fitness (and veggies) keeping us feeling sane and connected and strong during these very unique times.”

2002 Matthew Asada C’02 W’02 has been assigned as the deputy commissioner general of the US Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai. He writes, “Expo 2020, the next World’s Fair and first to take place in the Middle East, will now take place from October 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022. If you haven’t been to a World’s Fair (yes, we still do those!), this one will be worth a visit. For more info on the US Pavilion, visit www.usapavilion.org. We’re looking forward to having some great American speakers and performers during the six months, so please get in touch if interested.”

2003 Doug Calidas W’03 has been appointed legislative director for US Senator Amy Klobuchar. Previously, he was her deputy legislative director.

2004 Kimber Domke W’04 EAS’04 writes, “After 12 years of coaching Pilates, fitness, and nutrition in New York and Hong Kong clubs, I’m proud to have refined my eye for detail down to the millimeter via Zoom coaching. Supporting the health (and immune system!) of those recovering from COVID or just navigating the rapidly changing world environment has been a silver lining despite all the grief in the world. I invite alumni contact at KDomke@gmail.com. Cheers to fitness (and veggies) keeping us feeling sane and connected and strong during these very unique times.”

2007 Sathvik “Vik” Tandry W’07 see Abigail Seldin C’09 G’09.

2008 Jill Kahn Marshall C’08 has been promoted to partner at the law firm Reavis Page Jump LLP. Jill represents individuals and corporations in the areas of employment law, litigation and dispute resolution, and healthcare.

2009 Ethan Schrum Gr’09 writes, “Cornell University Press published my first book, The Instrumental University: Education in Service of the National Agenda after World War II, in June 2019. This book should be of interest to Gazette readers, as it has two chapters largely devoted to Penn’s importance among American universities in the 1950s and 1960s. The book was the subject of roundtable discussions at the History of Education Society and Society for US Intellectual History conferences in 2019 and has been reviewed in the New Republic. In other news, I was promoted to associate professor of history at Azusa Pacific University in California and served on the university’s strategic planning leadership team for 2019-20. I also received a fellowship from the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions at Princeton University to spend the 2020-21 academic year in residence there as a visiting research scholar.”

Abigail Seldin C’09 G’09, CEO of the Seldin/Haring-Smith Foundation, has teamed up with Sathvik “Vik” Tandry W’07, cofounder and CEO of FormSwift, to create a new tool to assist college students with their federal financial aid. Abigail writes, “SwiftStudent is a free digital tool that lives on Vik’s company’s platform. SwiftStudent allows students to customize letters to submit to their appropriate school officials requesting additional aid, providing all of the necessary information they’d be asked for.” Find out more at https://formsswift.com/swift-student.

2012 Robert J. Alexander GEd’12 has been named dean of Admissions, Financial Aid, and Enrollment Management at the University of Rochester.

2014 Marina Heskel C’14 see Marci Kislin Heskel W’82 and Mitchell Heskel C’82.

2017 Dr. John Michael Barraza Jr. GM’17, an interventional radiologist, has joined the medical team at Radiology Associates in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
1941
Martha Haspel Marsh Groton FA’41, Orange, CA, June 1, 2019, at 100. At Penn, she was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority and the field hockey team. She served in WAVES, the women’s branch of the US Naval Reserve, during World War II. Her sister is Mary Haspel Naye CW’42.

Edgar R. Weinrott W’41, Eugene, OR, Feb. 9.

1942
Beryl Kober HUP’42, Telford, PA, a retired surgical nurse; May 16, at 99. She served in the US Navy Nurse Corps Reserve.

1943
Martin A. Fischer W’43, Philadelphia, an entrepreneur who rehabbed vacant commercial properties into loft apartments in Old City; May 29. He was a veteran of World War II. His children are Jane C. Broderson CGS’80 and Edward A. Fischer WG’82.

Wilbur W. Hitchcock Ed’43 GEd’50 G51, Austin, TX, a retired US Foreign Service Consul General who held posts in Canada, Argentina, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Laos, Thailand, and South Korea; May 11. He served in the US Army Air Corps during the Korean War. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity.

1947
Dorothea Manning Liddell Ed’46, Long Beach, IN, a retired principal of an elementary and middle school; May 23. Previously, she worked at Penn as a reference librarian and administrator of the Newman Center.

Margaret Dutra Palecek HUP’46 Nu’60, Vineland, NJ, a retired nurse; April 15.

Dr. Ames W. Chapman G’47, Wilberforce, OH, a retired sociology professor at Central State University; May 2, at 100. He was an avid golfer who played well into his 90s, recording 22 holes in one. He served in the US Army during World War II, earning several medals for valor.

Leonard Feldman C’47 WG’49, Philadelphia, a retired CPA; April 28. He served in the US Army Medical Corps during World War II, earning a Meritorious Medal and Purple Heart. At Penn, he was a member of Beta Sigma Rho fraternity, the Daily Pennsylvanian, and Phi Beta Kappa. His daughter is Kathy L. Feldman C’81.

Ruth Shenkde Maley DH’47, Venetia, PA, a retired dental hygienist; May 1.

J. Howard Ornstein W’47, West Palm Beach, FL, former president of a men’s clothing store; April 19. He served as a bombardier in the US Air Force. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity.

Harvey Schoenfeld WG’47, Boca Raton, FL, a retired director of a hospital; June 5. He was a member of Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity and the Penn Band.

1948
Carroll Bacon Klahr CW’48, Savannah, GA, May 21. Her husband is C. Dean Klahr Jr. W’49.

Walter Allyn Rickett CCC’48 Gr’60, Medford, NJ, professor emeritus of Chinese and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies in Penn’s School of Arts and Sciences; April 18. After receiving his first degree from Penn, he was awarded a Fulbright Grant for study in China. From 1948 to 1950, he studied Classical Chinese language and history and was a part-time lecturer in English at National Tsing Hua University in Beijing. In July 1951, he and his first wife (the late Adele Austin Rickett G’48 Gr’67) were arrested by authorities of the new People’s Republic of China on charges of espionage and imprisoned there until 1955, when he returned home to continue his studies at Penn. He would later write a book about the experience called Prisoners of Liberation (1973), which he coauthored with Adele. In 1959, he joined the faculty at Penn as a lecturer in the department of Oriental studies (now the Center for East Asian Studies). He became an assistant and then full professor. During his time at Penn, he also held secondary appointments, first as a professional consultant for legal research in the law department, then as a research assistant and then academician in FAS Special Programs. He was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1969. He retired from Penn in 1987. He served in the US Navy and US Marines during World War II and used his Japanese language skills during the Battle of Iwo Jima. His son is Jonathan C. Rickett C’81.

Craig A. Schoeller ME’48 GME’51, Cheltenham, PA, retired manager of marketing services for a manufacturer of industrial drying and heat process equipment; July 23, 2018. He served in the US Army during World War II. At Penn, he was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity and the ROTC. His son is Mark Bryan Schoeller L’89.

Dr. Herman L. Shulman G’48 Gr’50, Houston, professor emeritus of chemical engineering at Clarkson University, where he also served as dean of engineering and executive vice president and provost; April 28.

Carl L. “Lee” Strodtman GME’48, Grand Rapids, MI, a longtime employee at Lear Incorporated, an aerospace electronics firm that went through several mergers; May 16, at 101. He served in the US Navy.

1949
Frances Jordan Banks Ed’49, Cape Elizabeth, ME, a retired chief administrator of a
skilled nursing facility; May 30, at 101. She served in the US Army during World War II.

**Dr. William L. Calderhead C'49 Gr'55**, Annapolis, MD, a retired professor of history and economics at the US Naval Academy, where he taught for over 30 years; April 26. He served in the US Army from 1943 to 1947. At Penn, he was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity and the track and wrestling teams. His wife is Margaret D. Calderhead CW'50.

**Paula Toland Calhoun CW'49**, Bryn Mawr, PA, a homemaker; June 12. At Penn, she was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority and the chorus.

**S. Robert Cohen W'49**, Chevy Chase, MD, a retired business executive who founded an office supplies business that trained and hired individuals with disabilities, as well as the Jewish Foundation for Group Homes, which also served those with developmental disabilities; May 17. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity.

**William B. Grant W'49**, Poinciana, FL, May 26. He served in the Korean War. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, the ROTC, and Sphinx Senior Society. One daughter is Lynn Grant Beck C'89.

**Dr. Frank Hoffman GM'49**, Eastham, MA, a retired ear, nose, and throat doctor who maintained a practice in Savannah, GA, for over 50 years; April 21.

**Bernard Loev Ch'49**, Haverford, PA, a former chemist for multiple pharmaceutical companies who later became executive vice president of an interior design and branding agency; May 10. He held more than 70 patents and was elected Man of the Year by the American Chemical Society in 1974. One son is Dr. Glen H. Loev C'77, and one brother is Dr. Marvin Loev C'55 M'59.

**Edward W. Madeira Jr. C'49 L'52**, Philadelphia, chairman emeritus of the law firm Pepper Hamilton; May 21. He coauthored a book that is scheduled to be published this year, titled *The Defender: The Battle to Protect the Rights of the Accused in Philadelphia*.

**Dr. Elmer L. Offenbacher G'49 Gr'51**, Jerusalem, Israel, professor emeritus of physics at Temple University; May 5, 2019.

**Erwin J. Rogers C'49 WG'52**, Moorestown, NJ, a retired traffic manager at RCA; June 5.

### 1950

**Lawrence A. Brown Jr. C'50**, St. Paul, MN, a retired manager at what is now GlaxoSmithKline; May 27. He served in the First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry during the Korean War. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Phi fraternity and the tennis and track teams.

**Dr. Ruth Panzer Gottlieb CW’50 M’54 GM’58**, Haverford, PA, a retired pediatrician and pediatric nephrologist; May 2. Her sons are Dr. Charles D. Gottlieb C’76 M’81 GM’84 GM’88 and Dr. Daniel J. Gottlieb M’84.

**Dr. L. Theodore Lawrence M’50**, Haverford, PA, retired chief of cardiology at Philadelphia Veterans Hospital who later served as a cardiology consultant; May 5, at 99. He served in the US Navy during World War II and was a medical officer in the Naval Reserves until 1968.

**Robert L. MacDonald W’50**, Newtown Square, PA, former deputy vice dean of Wharton Undergraduate Division and director of Wharton Evening School; Dec. 10, 2019. He began as director of placement in 1956, became director of Wharton Evening School in 1964, and deputy vice dean of Wharton Undergraduate in 1985. He also was a lecturer for Wharton courses in administration, behavioral science, organizational theory, and entrepreneurship from 1953 until his retirement in 1993. As a student at Penn, he was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity and the *Daily Pennsylvanian*. He is one of six in his family to attend Penn, and one daughter is Beth L. MacDonald GEd’83 GrEd’91.

**Alice Wilson McKinley CW’50**, Goffstown, NH, May 31. At Penn, she was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority.

**Seymour H. Miller C’50**, Mahwah, NJ, a former CEO and COO of several publicly traded companies who founded SYS Telephone after his retirement; April 12. One son is Mark D. Miller W’80, and one grandson is Michael E. Miller C’18.

**A. Jane Kirkman O’Brien Nu’50**, Southampton, PA, a retired school nurse; May 5. She served in the US Army during the Korean War.

**Robert J. Rainey W’50**, Elverson, PA, a retired sales and marketing executive; May 12. He served in the US Army during World War II. One son is Michael D. Rainey W’88.

**George D. Rowe Jr. Ed’50**, Wycombe, PA, cofounder of a Quaker school for children with learning differences; May 16. He served in the US Navy during World War II. At Penn, he was a member of the lacrosse team.

**Donald H. G. Segal W’50**, Bryn Mawr, PA, former financial analyst for H&R Block; April 23. At Penn, he was a member of Zeta Beta Tau fraternity and the sprint football team. His son is John E. Segal C’77.

**Gloria Rogach Van Gulick CW’50**, Newtown, PA, a retired biochemist; May 1. At Penn, she was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority.

**Richard E. Zellers W’50**, Germantown, MD, a retired account executive for Beaver Street Fisheries, a seafood products distributor; June 1. He served in the US Merchant Marines during World War II and in the US Army during the Korean War. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

### 1951

**Janet Gaden Shand Jones CW’51**, Worcester, MA, former executive director of a medical foundation; June 8. At Penn, she was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority, the chorus, and Penn Players.

**Robert B. McCullough W’51 L’56**, a retired lawyer; Erie, PA, June 3. He served in the US Navy and the US Army Reserves. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity and the sprint football team.

**Muriel Remaley Riddle Ed’51 GEd’52**, Bloomington, IL, a retired special needs teacher; June 7. She wrote the state of Utah’s first curriculum for students with special needs. At Penn, she was a member of Kappa Delta sorority.

**Charles L. Wagandt II G’51**, Baltimore, founder and president of Oella Company, which manages, develops, and rehabilitates historic mill properties in Baltimore; May 21. He served in the US Marines during World War II.

### 1952

**Sidney H. Berson W’52**, Niantic, CT, a retired president and CEO of Energy Unlimited Group; May 28. At Penn, he was a member of Zeta Beta Tau fraternity. He served in World War II and received a Purple Heart.

**Donald Brenner W’52**, Lancaster, PA, a retired manager at Scott Paper; May 20. He served in the US Army during the Korean War.
War. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

Grace Cretella HUP’52, Berwick, PA, a retired registered nurse; May 18.


Dr. Sidney H. Flaxman V’52, Conshohocken, PA, a retired veterinarian; April 27. He served in the US Navy during World War II. One son is Col. Eric G. Flaxman W’Ev’79.

Edna Morgan Hollimon SW’52, Philadelphia, May 9.

Joseph J. Jagodzinski CCC’52, Newtown Square, PA, June 1, 2018.

Donald C. Klinkhammer WG’52, West Chester, OH, a former bank executive, apartment company manager, and football coach; Jan. 31.

Sylvia Barton Little HUP’52 Nu’56, Dover, PA, a retired school nurse; April 20.

Paul V. Marcuson W’52, Farmington, CT, retired head of Viking Baking Company, who later became a pilot; June 3. He served in the US Army Air Corps. At Penn, he was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, the soccer team, and Friars.

John W. Rorer W’52, Havertown, PA, a retired publishing company executive; Dec. 10. He served as a captain in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity. His wife is Beverly Case Rorer Ed’52 GEd’57.

John W. Rorer Sr. W’52, Havertown, PA, a retired owner of the Joy Oil Company; Jan. 29. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity and captain of the lightweight rowing team.

Stanley A. Joy Jr. W’53, Manchester, NJ, retired owner of the Joy Oil Company; Jan. 29. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity and captain of the lightweight rowing team, which he helped win the famed Thames Challenge Cup at Henley-on-Thames, England, in 1951 and 1952.

Dr. Barry Lauton C’53, Livingston, NJ, a retired pediatrician who maintained a practice in Springfield, NJ, for over 40 years; April 22. He served as a US Army captain in Korea. At Penn, he was a member of the Glee Club and WXPN. One granddaughter is Stacy M. Fiszer C’22.

Richard “Dick” Raines W’53, New York, retired president of a fashion and textiles firm; April 5. At Penn, he was a member of Psi Epsilon Pi fraternity. He and his wife of nearly 60 years, Joan, died six weeks apart from COVID-19. His brother-in-law was Jeffrey R. Simpson C’55 (see Class of 1955).

Sigmund S. Rimm W’53, Margate City, NJ, retired commissioner of Margate City who held the position for 32 years; May 20. The Sigmund S. Rimm Recreational Complex is named in his honor.

Michael A. Shore W’53, Pepper Pike, OH, former partner at an accounting firm; May 22. At Penn, he was a member of Pi Lambda Phi fraternity.

Dr. Joseph D. Slick V’53, Collegeville, PA, retired head of Pennridge Veterinary Hospital, where he practiced for 57 years; April 26. He served in the US Army Air Forces during World War II.

Judith “Judy” Dickson Warren OT’53, Brunswick, ME, cofounder of the elder care company Neighbors Incorporated, the first company of its kind in Maine to provide neighborly assistance for seniors; May 3. At Penn, she played on the lacrosse team.

1954

Jeannine Earnshaw Adams CW’54, Dedham, MA, a dog breeder; May 16.

Renee Jacobs Brams Ed’54, Gaithersburg, MD, a retired medical office manager; March 30. Previously, she was an elementary school teacher. One son is Jonathan J. Brams W’78.

Dr. Reinald J. Chutter D’54, Virginia Beach, VA, a retired periododontist; April 24. He served in the US Navy, retiring as a captain.

Dr. James G. Dempsey C’54, Waverly Township, PA, a retired surgeon; May 8.

Norton A. Kent Ar’54 GCP’58, Gwynedd, PA, a retired city planner and longtime community volunteer; April 26. He was a volunteer at the Penn Museum.

Robert M. Kratky W’54, Nathrop, CO, April 12.

Dr. Murray Levine Gr’54, Buffalo, NY, professor emeritus of psychology at the University of Buffalo who helped launch the field of community psychology; May 4. At 88, he published a romance novel, New Beginnings. His sons are David I. Levine L’78 and Dr. Zachary H. Levine Gr’83.

Jane Rawley Merrill Nu’54, Syracuse, NY, a retired hospice nurse; April 28.

William I. Mushake Jr. C’54, Rice, TX, Sept. 24. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity, Friars, and the heavyweight rowing team.

1955

S. David Chauncey W’55, Lake Worth, FL, a retired attorney; April 26. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Sigma Delta fraternity and WXPN.

David Elwyn Davies WG’55, Hiram, ME, April 27.

David J. Kaufman L’55, Huntingdon Valley, PA, a retired lawyer; May 26. He served in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of the Law Review.

Dr. John R. Mann, Jr. D’55, Delray Beach, FL, a retired dentist; May 21. He served in the US Army Dental Corps during the Korean War.
Nina Chaiken Morgenstern CW’55, Bryn Mawr, PA, May 31. At Penn, she was a member of Delta Phi Epsilon sorority.

Helene D. Popper GD’55, Blue Bell, PA, a retired high school teacher; Jan. 30.

Jeffrey R. Simpson C’55, New York, former executive at Casi Designs Limited; March 25. At Penn, he was a member of Beta Sigma Phi fraternity. His brother-in-law was Richard Raines W’53 (see Class of 1953).

Rev. Phillip R. Troullos W’55, Destin, FL, a retired pastor; April 14. At Penn, he was president of Alpha Chi Rho fraternity.

1956

Dr. Norman N. Cohen M’56 GM’60, Jenkintown, PA, a retired gastroenterologist who was the first in Philadelphia to recognize the potential of fiberoptic endoscopy; April 16.

Dr. Daniel W. Fasnacht V’56, Hollidaysburg, PA, a retired veterinarian; May 26. He is the former mayor of Hyndman, PA. He served in the US Army during World War II and the Korean War.

George J. Miller L’56, Bryn Mawr, PA, a lawyer, judge, and former chairman of the Pennsylvania Environmental Hearing Board; May 26. He served in the US Army Judge Advocate General’s Corps.

Judi Oser CW’56, Emeryville, CA, a retired attorney; Oct. 1, 2018.

Gary J. Riemer W’56, East Hanover, NJ, retired president and CEO of the Mooney-General Paper Company; April 30. At Penn, he was a member of Tau Epsilon Phi fraternity.

Dr. Courtland M. Schmidt M’56, Ann Arbor, MI, a retired surgeon and former chairman of surgery at the Ann Arbor VA Hospital; May 16.

1957

Deirdre Bartolotta Bair CW’57, New Haven, CT, former associate professor of English at Penn; April 17. After graduation, she worked as a freelance writer for Newsweek and the New Haven Register before receiving her master’s and PhD in comparative literature from Columbia University. She was hired by Penn in 1976 as an assistant professor in the English department and was promoted to associate professor in 1978. While at Penn, she wrote her first book, a biography of the elusive Samuel Beckett. Beckett: A Biography (1981) earned her an American Book Award, making her the first person from Penn to win the award. Her next project was a biography of Simone de Beauvoir. She won both a Guggenheim Fellowship and Rockefeller Award in 1985. She left Penn in 1988 to become a full-time researcher and writer, authoring biographies on Anaïs Nin (1995), Carl Jung (2003), Saul Steinberg (2012), and Al Capone (2016), among others. Her memoir, Parisian Lives: Samuel Beckett, Simone de Beauvoir, and Me, was featured in the Gazette (”Arts,” Jan/Feb 2020). Her daughter is Katney Bair C’83 and her son is Vonn S. Bair C’80.

Leon C. Greene Gr’57, Sarasota, FL, a retired executive at what is now GlaxoSmithKline; May 29. He served in the US Navy as a research scientist.

Beverly Korman Popowich OT’57, Philadelphia, a retired occupational therapist; April 25. At Penn, she was a member of Delta Pi fraternity. One daughter is Deborah A. Korus C’11 and Samuel P. Korus C’15.

Thomas D. Thiermann Ar’57, Upper Chichester, PA, Feb. 8. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Phi fraternity. One daughter is Heidi Thiermann Hole C’88.

Elias T. Thomas GME’57, South Burlington, VT, a retired engineer in General Electric’s weapons division; March 20. He served in the US military. Two daughters are Andrea Thomas Merrick C’76 and Paula Thomas Gotshalk C’78.

1958

May Huber Ball Nu’58, Gwynedd, PA, a former nurse and longtime community volunteer; April 22.

Nancy Hibbs Beasom OT’58, Punta Gorda, FL, a retired occupational therapist; May 26.

Mary Pat Gallagher Beebe CW’58, Bethlehem, PA, an English teacher at the college preparatory school Moravian Academy and Northampton Community College; June 8. At Penn, she was a member of Kappa Delta sorority.

James E. Conlin WG’58, Nashua, NH, a retired professor at Fitchburg State College and Rivier College; May 10. He served in the Korean War.

Howard T. Glassman L’58, Bryn Mawr, PA, a partner at Blank Rome, specializing in bankruptcy law; May 30. One daughter is Sharon M. Glassman C’84.

Robert E. Hansen W’58, Warren, VT, a president of a bank who also co-owned a bed and breakfast with his wife; May 27. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Kappa Sigma and Beta Gamma Sigma fraternities. He served in the US Army Reserves.

Holman W. Jenkins Gr’58, Media, PA, April 14. One grandson is Jonathan P. Kreamer C’07.

Barry A. Landy W’58, Wayne, NJ, April 25. At Penn, he was a member of Zeta Beta Tau fraternity and the sprint football team.

Diane Slavitz Raynes CW’58, Wynnewood, PA, May 5. Her sons are Michael Benjamin Raynes C’86 L’89 and Stephen Edward Raynes W’88. Her daughter is Nancy Raynes Dubow C’83, whose husband is Jay A. Dubow W’81 L’84.

Dr. Frederick R. Rude V’58, Lafayette Hill, PA, a retired veterinarian who maintained a practice in Philadelphia for over 50 years; April 23.

Dr. Russell J. Snyder V’58, Jacksonville, FL, a retired veterinarian; Oct. 1, 2019.

Lola Rubins Turner Ed’58, Wildwood Crest, NJ, a former elementary school teacher; May 21. At Penn, she was a member of Sigma Delta Tau sorority and the chorus. Her husband is Leon H. Turner W’53.

Friedrich J. WeinkopfGL’58, Kenilworth, IL, a retired attorney specializing in international trade with the firm Baker McKenzie; April 27. His wife is Dr. Ertem A. Weinkopf Gr’61, his son is John F. Weinkopf EN’84 W’84, and one daughter is Suzanne W. Huang C’91.

John R. Woolford Jr. WG’58, Bryn Mawr, PA, a retired packaging industry executive; March 21.

1959

Janet Kriebel Hesse Nu’59 GNu’67, Bradenton, FL, a retired nurse; June 3.

J. Carey Martien W’59, Towson, MD, a commercial real estate broker; May 24. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity, and the lacrosse and wrestling teams. One sister is Dr. Katherine Martien Sullivan M’82, who is married to Gregory W. Sullivan WG’80.
Eileen Haden Moser CW’59, Locust Dale, VA, a retired public school teacher; June 7. She served in the US Navy.

Dr. Kenith O. Nevard C’59, Clifton, NJ, a retired dentist who maintained a practice in Clifton for over 50 years; April 21. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity and the sprint football team. He served as a captain in the US Army.

Robert Grossman Oberman Ed’59, Piscataway, NJ, a retired elementary school teacher; March 31. Her husband is Joel R. Oberman EE’58 GEE’65, and one daughter is Cheryl Oberman W’83.

Dr. Arnold B. Porges D’59, Penn Valley, PA, a retired dentist and former professor at Penn’s School of Dental Medicine, from which he received the 2007 Alumni Award of Merit for his leadership in the dental profession; May 16. His son is Gregory I. Porges C’89, and one daughter is Jennifer Lee Porges L’91, whose husband is Joseph M. Manko C’87 L’93.

Alan J. Schultz ME’59, Warminster, PA, Feb. 29.

1960

Dr. Eugene C. Ged C’60, Naples, FL, a cardiologist; May 29. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

Nelson J. Gold W’60, Atlanta, a retired securities trader; Jan. 23. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Epsilon Pi fraternity. His brother is Edwin J. Gold W’63.

John M. Whalley GLA’60, Lancashire, England, a partner in a UK landscape architecture firm; June 11.

1961

Dr. James J. Canalicchio D’61, Maple Shade, NJ, a retired dentist and former instructor at Penn Dental; May 24. He served in the US Navy as a dentist and emergency surgeon.

Alan R. Emery C’61, Palm Springs, CA, a psychologist and former chair of the Stop AIDS Project; May 15, 2019. He served as a consultant to the CDC, WHO, and UN on AIDS/HIV issues. At Penn, he was a member of Theta Xi fraternity and the Glee Club.

Eva Konrad Hawkins Gr’61, Bronx, NY, a marine scientist and research associate in the biology department at Penn; April 18. She was a survivor of the Holocaust.

John J. McCann G’61 Gr’71, Philadelphia, a retired professor of French literature at La Salle University; May 7.

William S. Tyler W’61, Annapolis, MD, finance director for the City of Annapolis; April 25. He served in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity.

Eleanor Murray Washington Nu’61, Northridge, CA, a retired school nurse; May 17.

1962

Peter H. Alexander Ar’62, Santa Monica, CA, an artist known for his ethereal sculptures made out of resin; May 26. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Phi fraternity.

Carl Hultzen C’62, Concord, MA, a retired computer specialist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago; May 11.

John J. Kane W’62, Wyndmoor, PA, a community planner and developer for the Philadelphia office of Housing and Urban Development; May 11. He served in the US Navy for 27 years. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity and the ROTC.

Norman A. Pancost WG’62, Key Largo, FL, a retired executive at AT&T Bell Labs; March 25.

Murray H. Rome C’62, La Jolla, CA, a retired real estate executive and world traveler who visited more than 100 countries; May 5. At Penn, he was a member of Penn Players.


1963

Susan Subtle Dintenfass CW’63, Berkeley, CA, a journalist and columnist for the San Francisco Chronicle known for her curatorial work focusing on recycled and outsider art; May 11.

Kathleen Harris Fritchey CW’63, Pasadena, CA, a counselor at California State University; May 26. At Penn, she was a member of Chi Omega sorority and the Pennquinnettes, the synchronized swimming team.

Martin S. Goldman C’63, West Caldwell, NJ, a personal injury and criminal defense attorney who maintained a practice for over 50 years; May 21. At Penn, he was a member of Beta Sigma Rho fraternity and the baseball team.

Gerald Evans Manolović WG’63, Oyster Bay, NY, an investment executive on Wall Street; May 15.

Melvin N. Miller GME’63 Gr’67, Philadelphia, former CEO of Numar, a manufacturer of oil well evaluation devices that was later acquired by Halliburton; May 13. His wife is Eunice A. Miller SW’65.

Robert B. Miller WEv’63, Naples, FL, a retired insurance executive; April 28. He served in the US Marines.

Seth H. Seablom GA’63 GCP’63, Eastsound, WA, a retired architectural designer; June 13. He also wrote and illustrated children’s books. His wife is Victoria B. Seablom CGS’70.

1964

Dr. Eugene M. Beaupre GM’64, Bedford, NH, a retired physician and medical administrator; April 27.

William M. Dugle W’64 WG’93, Hilton Head Island, SC, retired global director of human resources for a company that manufactured catalytic converters; May 10. Later, he was an instructor of human resources courses at Georgia Southern University. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity, Penn Players, and Sphinx Senior Society. His wife is Joanne Mitchell Dugle HUP’63.

Dr. Francis Marion Fletcher WG’64 Gr’66, Statesboro, GA, professor emeritus of management at Louisiana State University; April 19.

Linda Pickthorne Fletcher Gr’64, Chattanooga, TN, former professor and business school dean at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga; April 20.

Dr. Michael D. McManus M’64, Traverse City, MI, a retired ophthalmologist; May 18. He later served as ethical coordinator for a hospital, helping patients navigate difficult treatment options and end-of-life decisions.

Thelma Shuster Weiss SW’64, Elkins Park, PA, a retired social worker; April 24, at 100. One daughter is Jennifer Jane Weiss C’76, whose husband is James L. Johnson W’75 and daughter is Sarah A. Johnson C’10.

Joseph F. White Jr. WG’64, Webster, MA, a former investment portfolio manager and later a director of an organization for the homeless; April 27, 2019.
1965

David S. Cohen W’65 WG’66, Stamford, CT, retired partner at an accounting firm; May 18. His daughters are Rachel Cohen Beaumont C’89 and Sarah Cohen Kass SW’93.

Katherine Di Mishler HUP’65, Irwin, PA, April 29.

C. Ralph Verno GEd’65, West Chester, PA, a former professor of mathematics at West Chester University; May 13. He served in the US Navy during World War II.

1966

Ellen Gevanthor Levine CW’66, San Diego, retired office manager at a surgical practice; June 5.

Dr. Donald G. Norris M’66, Audubon, PA, a retired pediatric hematologist/oncologist and former assistant professor of pediatrics at the Perelman School of Medicine; April 26. He was hired as a lecturer in the School of Medicine’s department of pediatrics at Penn in 1977. In six months, he was promoted to assistant professor of the same department, where he stayed until 1981, also working at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. He left Penn to launch a second career in peer review and quality improvement in the field of medicine. He served in the US Army as a general medical officer. His wife is Susan Costello Norris GNu’82, and one daughter is Dr. Robin Elizabeth Norris M’01 Gr’10. His former wife is Dr. Bonnie Hepburn M’66.

Richard A. Phelps WG’66, Tucson, AZ, a retired executive at an investment bank; May 24. He served in the US Air Force.

1967

Dr. Ronald A. Cameron D’67, Funchal, Madeira, Portugal, Nov. 1, 2019.

Norris E. Gelman L’67, Wynnew, PA, a leading criminal defense attorney who represented some of the Philadelphia region’s most infamous defendants; May 24. He was an expert in the state’s death penalty law, helping to win several reversals for clients on death row.

1968

Eric Berg W’68 GFA’74, Philadelphia, a sculptor whose pieces can be seen in universities, museums, zoos, parks, and galleries throughout the nation; April 20. Best known for his bronze animal sculptures located in Philadelphia, he created Philbert the pig at Reading Terminal Market, the grizzly bear and turtle family at Fitler Square, a panda for Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, and the enormous Drexel University dragon at 33rd and Market Streets.

Robert K. Giss WG’68, Sonoma, CA, April 1.

Dr. Jerome R. Guttermann GD’68, Sacramento, CA, a retired endodontist; April 30.

Jeraldine D. Kozloff L’68, Wyomissing, PA, a former teacher who later served as president of the Wyomissing Borough Council; May 6. Her husband is David M. Kozloff L’66.

Richard W. Stumbo Jr. WG’68, Reno, NV, retired chief financial officer for a mining company; May 21. He later taught entrepreneurial finance courses at the University of Nevada. He served in the US Army.

Carolyn Landis Charles Wenger G’68, Ephrata, PA, retired director of the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society and founder of the magazine Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage; April 27.

1969

Judith A. Bresler CW’69, New York, an art law attorney who was also a former lecturer at Penn Law; May 21. As a student at Penn, she was a member of WXPN. Her brother is Samuel J. Bresler C’70 GEd’72 WG’75 GEd’82, who is married to Linda B. Bresler CW’73 GEd’73.

Gerald P. Sanders G’69, Ramona, CA, a retired associate professor of biology at San Diego State University; April 14. He later became an EMT and chief of a volunteer fire department. He served in the US Navy.

Dr. John L. Thomas V’69, Petersburg, VA, owner and operator of a veterinary hospital; June 7.

1970

Alfred J. Bacon W’70, McQueeny, TX, April 29. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity and the lightweight rowing team.

Dr. Isaiah “Josh” Fidler Gr’70, Houston, former associate professor of pathology in Penn’s School of Dental Medicine and the School of Veterinary Medicine; May 8. He joined Penn in 1965 as an assistant instructor in veterinary clinical studies. From 1967 to 1970, he was a predoc trainee in medical pathology in the School of Medicine. He then served three years as an assistant professor of pathology in the School of Dental Medicine before being promoted to associate professor in 1973. In 1974, he took on a secondary appointment in the School of Medicine as an associate professor of pathology. From 1975 to 1984, he was an adjunct associate professor and then adjunct professor of pathology in both the Dental School and the Vet School. He retired in 2019 as director of MD Anderson’s Cancer Metastasis Research Center and Metastasis Research Laboratory at the University of Texas. His experience as a veterinary surgeon taught him that the lethality of cancer is mainly due to the ability of cancer cells to spread, or metastasize, to other organs, and so he devoted his career to the study of metastasis at a time when very few in the scientific community were focusing on this topic. He received numerous honors throughout his career, including the World Health Organization’s Gold Medal for Biological Sciences and the American Cancer Society’s Medal of Honor for Basic Research.

Mary Hoopingarner Hastings Nu’70, Decatur, GA, a retired nurse and teacher who worked on education reform; June 9. From 1967 to 1970, she was an obstetrics nurse at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

Rose H. Kerchmar Nu’70, Fort Lauderdale, FL, a retired nurse; May 14.

1971

Hon. Mark Rindner C’71 GEd’71, Anchorage, AK, a retired Alaska Supreme Court justice; June 12.

1972

Elwood A. Dance GEE’72, Port Saint Lucie, FL, a retired electrical engineer; April 22. He served in the US Army Signal Corps.

1973

Dr. William F. Foxx GM’73, Honey Brook, PA, retired cochief of a radiology de-
partment at a hospital; May 22. He served in the US Army during World War II, as well as the US Air Force Reserve.

Ellen M. McDevitt DH’73, Scituate, MA, a dental hygienist who specialized in surgical assisting; June 7.

Eugene Rawdin Gr’73, Glenside, PA, April 25.

Dr. Bruce H. Schneider D’73, Hudson, MA, a retired dentist; May 20.

Peter A. Shelton GE’73, Hainesport, NJ, a high school teacher; Sept. 2, 2018.

1974

Dr. George Farnbach V’74 Gr’77, Cherry Hill, NJ, a senior web developer at Independence Blue Cross in Philadelphia; April 26. He served in the US Army during the Vietnam War. One daughter is Ingrid M. Farnbach C’93.

Phillip J. Hinman WG’74, Milwaukee, WI, a retired financial executive at a technology provider for the financial services industry; Jan. 30. He served in the US Army as a bereavement officer and earned a National Defense Service Medal.

Phillip N. Liloia C’74, Haddonfield, NJ, an employee at the New Jersey Office of Legislative Services, where he specialized in tax legislation; April 28. He previously worked as a chef and in 1979 cofounded the Gold Standard Cafe in West Philadelphia. His wife is Adena J. Adler C’83.

1975


Dr. Thomas Devers GM’75, New Britain, CT, a gastroenterologist; June 16, 2019.

Jay L. Shelofsky V’75, El Granada, CA, a retired veterinarian; April 27.

1976

Dr. David H. Grossman M’76, Blue Bell, PA, former chief of the emergency department at a hospital; May 31.

Donald D. Haines Jr. W’76, Hopewell, NJ, a partner at Capital Techniques; May 14. At Penn, he was a member of the football and wrestling teams. His son is Donald D. Haines III C’03.

C. Cleverley Stone WE’76, Houston, a former food writer and host of a food talk radio program; May 28. Known as the “Diva of Dining,” she founded Houston Restaurant Weeks, which has raised $16.6 million for the Houston Food Bank since 2003.

1977

Dr. Shirley E. Dearborn M’77, Oklahoma City, a retired medical administrator and pediatrician; May 4.

1979


Charles M. Neul WG’79, Plymouth, MA, April 20.

Dr. Suzanne Tracey Zamerowski GNu’79, Newtown, PA, a retired professor of nursing at Villanova University and an expert in maternal–child health and genetics; May 14.

1980

Mark Edward Filipkowski C’80 G’86, Hackensack, NJ, a professor of physics at the University of Arkansas; April 25.

William F. Jones Jr. WG’80, Madison, NJ, an investment manager; April 11. His wife is Mary Ellen Hennessy-Jones WG’80.

Emily W. Brett Lukens FA’80 GFA’81, Philadelphia, an artist and teacher at Fleishner Art Memorial; May 16. She also taught printmaking at Penn after her graduation. Her husband is William W. Lukens GAr’62.

Sally O’Neill Nu’80, Seattle, a nurse; Feb. 24.

1981

Peter A. Marks WG’81, Princeton, NJ, former partner in a real estate development company who later became a consultant; Jan. 13, 2019.

William H. McCaulley C’81, Philadelphia, an attorney at Rothenberg Law Firm; April 23.

1982

Ingrid A. Stuart C’82, Chelmsford, MA, a computer software technical writer; May 23.

Martin F. Suto L’82, San Jose, CA, a teacher at several high schools and colleges; May 12.

1984

Stewart A. Turner WG’84, New York, a consultant; April 27.

1985

E. Christine Patton G’85, Mechanicsburg, PA, a retired IT support manager at the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts; May 23. She was also a substitute elementary school teacher.

Thomas P. Pinansky L’85, Seoul, Republic of Korea, an international business attorney; April 8.

1986

Pamella Jean Hall GLA’86, Philadelphia, director of landscaping for the Philadelphia Phillies; Dec. 7.

1987

Felipe Gorostiza G’87 GFA’97 Gr’97, West New York, NJ, a lecturer in urban studies in Penn’s School of Arts and Sciences; April 15. In 1991, while earning his PhD in city and regional planning at Penn, he began teaching in urban studies in the School of Arts and Sciences. He was hired in 1995 as a lecturer in the College of General Studies and lectured in urban studies and city planning at the Lauder Institute. Beginning in 2011, he also served as a grant writer for the Children’s Specialized Hospital Foundation in Mountainside, NJ. He was also professionally involved in the theater and artistic communities and served as development director for the South Jersey Performing Arts Center (2002–2004), literary manager for New Jersey Repertory Company (2005–2006), and a translator and voiceover narrator for HBO Sports (2005–2009). He was recently nominated for a Colorado Theater Guild Henry Award for Outstanding Actor in a Play.

1996

Colette Lamothe C’96, Rahway, NJ, a senior program officer at the Nicholson Foundation, a New Jersey public health service; April 4. She previously worked for 14 years at the New Jersey Department of Health. At Penn, she was a member of the Sphinx Senior Society.

Darrell L. McLaughlin G’96, Pittsburgh, a metallurgical engineer and project manager; May 28.
2006

Marc Lamparello G’06, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ, a pianist, writer, and former adjunct college professor; April 1.

2008

Thomas E. Sheehy LPS’08 LPS’11, Philadelphia, a rock-and-roll publicist and historian who was well known in the Philly music scene; April 26.

2013

Whitney Buckholz Gr’13, Boston, associate director of strategic policy at Ryan Health; June 5. One brother is Quentin A. Buckholz C’12.

Jan A. Egeman W’13, Woking, UK, a financial analyst; June 2020. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity. His father is Tomasz Egeman G’97 WG’97.

2018

Jacob E. Snipes EAS’18 GEng’19, Los Angeles, a software engineer for Sony; April 22.

Faculty & Staff

Marna Barrett, Philadelphia, former adjunct associate professor of psychology in the Perelman School of Medicine; May 14. She was hired as an assistant professor of psychology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (HUP) in 2001. In 2005, she also took on a psychiatry position in the Clinical Practices of the University of Pennsylvania (CPUP). She became an adjunct associate professor of psychiatry in the Perelman School of Medicine in 2013. After retiring, she started a private psychotherapy practice in Media, PA, in 2019.


Dr. James J. Canalicchio. See Class of 1961.

Julia Moore Converse, Philadelphia, founding director of Penn’s Architectural Archives and former assistant dean at what was then the Graduate School of Fine Arts; May 22. She worked for a year in the Penn Museum as a secretary in 1970, then went on to hold curatorial positions at the National Gallery of Art in Washington and the Fogg Art Museum in Cambridge, MA. In 1982, she returned to Penn as a coordinator at Meyerson Hall. In 1984, she became an archivist in Penn’s Architectural Archives. In 1989, she was appointed director of the Archives, and from 1992 until her retirement in early 2008, she also served as assistant dean for external relations for the Graduate School of Fine Arts, which was later renamed the School of Design in 2003. Under her leadership, the Archives grew to become one of the most important collections of architectural drawings, models, and records in the United States. She received the Dean’s Medal of Achievement in 2008. She is also among the Graduate School of Fine Arts (GSFA) staff and faculty at Penn whose hands are memorialized in the Kelly Family Gates at Addams Hall. Her husband is Richard W. Bartholomew C’63 GAr’65.

Dyer Alfred “Lindsay” Falek, Philadelphia, former lecturer and department of architecture associate chair in the Weitzman School of Design; May 18. The South African native and architect became a visiting critic for Penn’s Graduate School of Fine Arts in 1983 while still teaching at the University of Cape Town in South Africa. He moved to Philadelphia in 1986 to become a full-time lecturer at Penn, where he served as associate chair for the department of architecture from 1986 to 1995 and assistant dean for facilities planning from 1995 to 2003. He received Penn’s G. Holmes Perkins Award for Distinguished Teaching twice (2005 and 2013), and designed the silhouette of the Addams Family outside the Charles Addams Fine Arts Hall. He retired from full-time teaching at Penn in June 2018 but continued teaching part-time until this past March.

Dr. Isaiah “Josh” Fidler. See Class of 1970.

Dr. John D. Gearhart, Swarthmore, PA, the James W. Effron University Professor in the department of cell and developmental biology at the Perelman School of Medicine and the former director of the Institute for Regenerative Medicine (IRM); May 27. After teaching at the medical schools at the University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University, where he worked for almost 30 years and mentored recent Nobel Prize winner Gregg L. Semenza M’82 Gr’84 (“Journey to the Nobel,” Jan/Feb 2020), he was appointed as the eighth Penn Integrates Knowledge (PIK) University Professor in 2008. His appointment was jointly shared between the department of cell and developmental biology at the School of Medicine (where from 2009 to 2015 he also served as professor of obstetrics and gynecology) and the department of animal biology at the School of Veterinary Medicine. Over the course of his career—in which his groundbreaking research focused on the role of genes in regulating the formation of human tissues and embryos, especially in causing Down Syndrome and other congenital birth defects—he made more than 160 trips to Washington, DC, to advocate for federal funding for stem cell research.
research. He was instrumental in founding the International Society for Stem Cell Research (ISSCR), which now serves many thousands of stem cell scientists from around the world. One daughter is Sarah E. Gearhart C’10.


Mary Hoopingarner Hastings. See Class of 1970.


Dr. Howard Lesnick, Gwynedd, PA, the Jefferson B. Fordham Professor of Law Emeritus who was a part of Penn Law for 50 years; April 19. He joined the Penn Law faculty in 1960 as an assistant professor and became a full professor five years later. He helped establish Penn Law's original Center on Professionalism, which became a national model for similar programs around the country. He left Penn in 1986 to become the Robert L. MacDonald.


Robert L. MacDonald. See Class of 1950.

Dr. Donald G. Norris. See Class of 1966.

Dr. Arnold B. Porges. See Class of 1959.

Walter Allyn Rickett. See Class of 1948.

Barry Stupine, Rydal, PA, former associate dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine; May 6. He was assistant executive director of HUP from 1969 to 1971, then joined the Medical College of Pennsylvania as associate hospital administrator. In 1978, he returned to the University as director of the Veterinary Hospital. In 1987, he became associate dean for administration at the School of Veterinary Medicine, and in 1991 he was named Penn's interim vice president for human resources while continuing his Veterinary School roles. He also held the post of special assistant to the executive vice president from 1992 to 1994. In addition to his work at Penn, he was a consultant to Hebrew University in Jerusalem and the US Department of Health Institutional Review Board, which works to ensure that human subjects are protected in research. He also helped lead animal welfare groups, including the Philadelphia Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) and the Pennsylvania SPCA. His daughter is Erika A. Yablonovitz C’95 GEd’96, and his son is Dr. Jeffrey Stupine.

Richard L. Tannen, New York, professor emeritus of medicine at the Perelman School of Medicine; February 22. Before coming to Penn, he founded the department of nephrology at the University of Vermont and was also a chair of nephrology at several other schools. In 1995, he joined Penn as vice dean in facilities management as well as a professor at the School of Medicine in the division of renal-electrolyte and hypertension. In 1997, he became a senior vice dean. He authored several textbooks and served as president of the American Society of Nephrology. He was part of a group that was invited to the Vatican by Pope John Paul II to discuss the Church's support of organ donations. He retired from Penn in 2008. He served in the US Army during the Vietnam War.

Emma S. Weigley, Philadelphia, an adjunct associate professor emerita of nursing at Penn; April 18. She worked at Penn from 1980 until 1986 as a lecturer in nutrition, with stints as an adjunct associate and adjunct professor. She was part of the ad hoc committee that developed a joint Nursing–School of Arts and Sciences minor in nutrition. During her academic career, she published numerous articles in scholarly journals, and she also authored a well-regarded book-length biography of Sarah Tyson Rorer, who is often considered to be America's first dietician.

Oliver Eaton Williamson, Berkeley, CA, former Charles and William L. Day Professor of Economics, Law and Public Policy who won a Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences; May 21. He arrived at Wharton in 1965 as an associate professor and was promoted to professor three years later. He later chaired the economics department and served as director of Penn's Center for the Study of Organizational Innovation. He left Penn in 1983 to join the faculty at Yale and then the University of California, Berkeley, where his groundbreaking research on analyzing the structure or organizations won him a 2009 Nobel Prize, which he shared with Elinor Ostrom. One daughter is Tamara E. Williamson GEd’85, and one son is Oliver E. Williamson Jr. C’90.

Takashi Yonetani, New York, professor emeritus of biochemistry and biophysics at the Perelman School of Medicine who was on the standing faculty at Penn for 55 years; April 13. He came to Penn in 1958 as a predoctoral fellow and completed his postdoctoral work at the Karolinska Institutet in Sweden. In 1964, Penn recruited him to serve as an assistant professor of physical biochemistry. He remained at Penn for the rest of his career, becoming an associate and then full professor of physical biochemistry. He served a year as acting chair of the new department of biochemistry and biophysics when it was founded in 1975. His earliest work dealt with the enzymatic mechanism of alcohol dehydrogenase, and he went on to study heme enzymes, becoming the leading expert in isolation and purification of heme proteins. Although he was red/green color-blind and could not see the colors of the proteins that he worked with, he was able to visually assess the state of the protein during purification. He also specialized in various spectroscopic techniques and made numerous discoveries in the field of mechanism of redox proteins. His daughter is Ann Yonetani C’91 Nu’03.
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In one of his earliest cases as a young lawyer, Raymond Pace Alexander W1920 took on the retrial of Louise Thomas, a Black woman convicted of murdering a Black male police officer, successfully arguing that she had acted in self-defense. An all-white jury found her not guilty.

He went on to become one of the city’s leading civil rights lawyers, and later the first Black judge appointed to the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas.

Alexander graduated from Wharton 100 years ago this year, and he was the first Black student to do so. Subsequently, he received his law degree from Harvard University.

Born to formerly enslaved parents who came to Philadelphia from Virginia in 1880, Alexander was one of four children in a working-class family. He began working at age seven, unloading fish on the docks, selling newspapers, shining shoes, and eventually staffing the ticket booth at the Metropolitan Opera House. He excelled academically at Philadelphia’s Central High School and earned a four-year scholarship to Wharton, where he graduated in only three years.

As a student, he became increasingly aware of civil rights issues and recounted that his “sense of injustice towards Negroes other than myself spilled to the point of public protest,” according to his biographer, David A. Canton, in Raymond Pace Alexander: A New Negro Lawyer Fights for Civil Rights in Philadelphia (2010).

Although he qualified for the honor societies Phi Beta Kappa and Beta Gamma Sigma at Penn, he was not elected into either. Fifty years later, he corrected this, when he wrote to the chapter presidents, asking them to verify that he was qualified.

It was at Penn that he met his future wife, Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander Ed1918 G1919 Gr1921 L’27 Hon’74, the first Black woman to graduate from Penn Law. Together, they worked out of Alexander’s law firm, focusing on Black clients. He won a majority of his cases and his success garnered a substantial amount of publicity for the firm.

In 1951, he was elected to Philadelphia City Council, where he led efforts to desegregate Girard College, located in his North Philadelphia district. In 1959, he was appointed to the Court of Common Pleas. After his term expired in 1970, he continued in the role of senior judge until his death in 1974. –NP
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<th>ANNUITANT AGE</th>
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