



THE MAGAZINE OF WILLIAM PENN CHARTER SCHOOL

Penn Charter

SPRING 2021

A Time of Discovery



The **STRATEGIC VISION** for Penn Charter's future is organized around **SIX GOALS**, each with a set of strategies.

GOAL 1: QUAKERISM

GOAL 2: PROGRAM

Advance our educational program to provide students with the knowledge and skills they need to thrive in a complex and changing world.

GOAL 3: TEACHING

GOAL 4: TIME

GOAL 5: SPACE

GOAL 6: FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Educating Students to Live Lives that Make Difference

A Strategic Vision for the Future of William Penn Charter School

EXPLORING WORLD'S NEW LANGUAGE

The pandemic takes away. And it also gives.



Students in Penn Charter's sixth grade were given a unique opportunity this year to study and write computer coding in much the same way as sixth graders study Chinese, French, Latin and Spanish.

In a normal year, Middle School provides for an eight-week rotation through each of four world languages so that sixth graders experience each and can make a more informed decision about which language (or, in some cases, two languages) they wish to study in subsequent years. Earning a PC diploma requires completion through level three of the same language

in Upper School; all students study Spanish in kindergarten through fifth grade.

Wilson Felter, director of Middle School, said he and his team faced a dilemma this year because of the pandemic: The 70-student sixth grade was divided into five covid-safe pods, but Penn Charter has four concurrent world language classes. Coding provided the fifth class—a solution as well as an enhancement.

"Coding is a 21st century skill and we know we want to teach the fundamentals of coding to all students," Felter said. "This was the chance to begin."

Upper School Physics teacher Corey Kilbane (pictured above) developed the curriculum and taught the coding class. Because PC is a Google school, Kilbane has been able to build around CS First, a Google computer science curriculum. Students use drag-and-drop, block-based coding and add text, creating interactive stories, games and animations.

Computer science options in Lower and Upper School have expanded, and Felter and Kilbane are excited to find a permanent place in the Middle School curriculum for coding. "It is a great addition and it definitely won't disappear, it will just find another landing spot," Felter said.

[More about computer science curriculum on pages 4 and 22.](#)

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Our Campus Master Plan creates many novel views, including one that will allow those inside the Graham Athletics & Wellness Center to see across the front field and School House Lane to the Strawbridge Campus, in one direction, and to Maguire Field in the other, establishing a new sense of connection and wholeness across our full footprint in East Falls.

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ON THE COVER



Kindergarten teacher Monica Freely takes photos of her students in natural settings on campus and then uses them in the classroom to inspire student poetry writing and storytelling.

OPENING COMMENTS

From the Head of School



LIFE ON PENN CHARTER'S CAMPUS this third week in May has seemed to feel just about normal. For the first time in more than 14 months, almost all students were on campus for in-person learning. On some days, I resumed my pre-pandemic daily routine of walking through each academic building to view the incredible teaching of my colleagues and learning by our students.

With only three weeks to go before Commencement, the extraordinary efforts to get to this moment are evident everywhere. Seventeen tents—now without heaters and insulation flaps—remain on campus for outside classrooms, lunch and student gatherings, and even junior and senior proms. While there are more students in the hallways, classrooms remain de-densified and the teaching support team hired in September remains in place. Hand sanitizing, directional signage and rainy-day protocols are now second nature. Our incredible faculty and staff are weary from their nonstop work but beginning to feel the excitement known only to those who yearly experience the cycles of the academic calendar and the fulfillment of helping students over the finish line of June.

Most edifying to me has been the overwhelming appreciation expressed by our students as their school experiences have begun to open: Yellow and Blue cohort ninth graders meeting each other in person for the very first time. Athletes competing and winning in the first spring sports season since 2019. Lower School students joyful about recess expanding beyond small cohorts to include all the friends in their grade. And just being in school, in person, in a classroom with other students and teachers when so many students have not had that opportunity this past year. The anticipation of Color Day, a 129-year-old tradition that we missed last year, is stronger than ever.

Just as our students have expressed their appreciation for Penn Charter, I, of course, am thankful to them and their parents, to our faculty, staff and trustees, and to our alumni and friends for the herculean efforts that made this school year a possibility and a success, and brought us back to just a little bit of normal.

Sincerely yours,

Darryl J. Ford Hon. 1689
Head of School

Penn Charter

THE MAGAZINE OF WILLIAM PENN CHARTER SCHOOL

Darryl J. Ford Hon. 1689
Head of School

Elizabeth A. Glascott Hon. 1689
Assistant Head of School

Jeffrey A. Reinhold
Clerk of Trustees

John T. Rogers Hon. 1689
Chief Development Officer

Matthew Kessler OPC '99
Alumni Society President

MAGAZINE STAFF

Sharon Sexton
Editor

Rebecca Luzi
Associate Editor

Julia Judson-Rea
Assistant Editor

Michael Branscom
Feature Photography

Proof Design Studios
Design

William Penn Charter School
3000 West School House Lane
Philadelphia, PA 19144

215.844.3460

www.penncharter.com

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CAMPUS CURRENTS

The William A. Graham IV OPC '58 Athletics & Wellness Center is on schedule to open for the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year.

STUDENTS SHINE BEYOND THE RED DOORS

Maggie Turner



Maggie Turner earned four honorable mentions from the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards for two mixed media works and two paintings. A senior, Turner completed these works in AP Studio. Turner's painting *Cathedral Basilica* appears in the feature about PC's Virtual Art Show, beginning on page 10.

Amani Rivers



Amani Rivers, a junior, is a participant in the Acel Moore High School Journalism Workshop, a competitive program for students to hone their writing skills and dive into the world of journalism. Rivers' blog post for Acel Moore, picked up by the Philadelphia Inquirer and run as an opinion piece, was well received. Titled "Wake up. Eat. Zoom. Repeat: The Daily Struggle of Virtual High School," the post details the difficulties of virtual learning, including the toll on students' mental health.

Michael Hartman



Senior Michael Hartman's documentary *Potatoes, Famine & Irish Immigration* was accepted into the Bridge Film Festival, a competition for high school students organized by Brooklyn Friends School. Created for his film class with Eva Kay Noone, Hartman's film

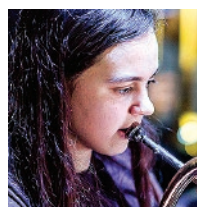
covers a historical topic, uses historical footage and employs the Ken Burns editing technique, as required by Noone's assignment. Hartman narrated his film with a script he researched and wrote himself.

Nicole Gilbert



Nicole Gilbert, a sophomore, earned a Gold Key in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards for her original dramatic script and is a 2021 National Silver Medalist. The work, *Misconceptions*, was selected based on its originality, technical skill and strength of voice. A competitive program, students' entries undergo blind reviews by national leaders in the visual and literary arts.

Madison Brooks



Junior Madison Brooks was selected to be a member of the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association District 12 Band. Madison was selected to represent Penn Charter on the trumpet after extensive hours of practice and preparation followed by an online audition. Madison joins **Nicholas Djerassi OPC '19**, **Jonathan Lewis OPC '17** and **Olivia Brody-Bizar OPC '17** as recent selections to this prestigious musical ensemble made up of students from public, private and parochial schools in southeastern Pennsylvania.

COURSE RECOGNIZED BY THE COLLEGE BOARD

William Penn Charter School has earned the College Board AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award for achieving high female representation in the AP Computer Science Principles course.



Computer Science Principles students test their app with Lower School students before delivering to the Garden State Discovery Museum in fall 2020.

With 50 percent or higher female representation taking the course, Penn Charter was one of 831 schools recognized in the category of AP Computer Science Principles, out of 20,000 institutions that offer the class. Michael Moulton, director of educational technology at PC, has taught the class since the 2016-17 school year, the first year the College Board AP offered the course.

“AP Computer Science Principles is among the ‘new school’ of AP. The College Board built the course from the ground up with equity and inclusion in mind,” said Moulton. He describes the course, and others of this new school, as project-based, interdisciplinary and imbued with higher rigor and relevance for learning and thriving in workplaces of the future. Moulton said the course is built to attract girls and students of color into a field where both have historically been underrepresented.

Studies have shown that students of color are 8-10 times more likely to major in computer science in college if they have taken an AP computer science course in high school. College Board research indicates that female students who take these courses in high school are more than five times as likely to major in computer science in college.

“Some are heading into computer science in college,” Moulton said of his students. In fact, two of the first PC women to take the course are college seniors majoring in, or otherwise deeply involved in, computer science at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, respectively. “But all are going into professions that will require them to be savvy about tech,” he added.

Penn Charter’s association with computer science goes back to the beginning—in fact, to before the beginning. J. Presper Eckert OPC ’37 helped design the ENIAC and the UNIVAC, two of the first electronic digital computers, in the 1940s and 1950s. **PC**



Read the Penn Charter Spring 2019 magazine story about these computer science courses at penncharter.com/newCSP



Top: Sydney Hammond, Eloise Oberfield, Adrian McLeaf.
Front: Benny Hsu, Eric Skelton.

FIFTH GRADE CONTRIBUTING POETS

Five students responded to a call for poems from bestselling author Kwame Alexander, partnering with him and others to contribute to “A Community Poem.”

The poem, to be written by Alexander and pulling from many contributions of poetry, including from what PC students submitted, will be part of an exhibition at the Southern Poverty Law Center’s Civil Rights Memorial when it reopens.

PC students submitted their original poetry – some created for the Fifth Grade Poetry Showcase and some new works – around the theme of human rights, honoring and recognizing the civil rights movement past and present.

Celebrating the 26th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service - Virtually

The 26th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service at Penn Charter was held virtually. Students, parents, OPCs and friends engaged in public purpose work from home and at a small number of organizations — an impressive collective effort.



Students decorated seed packs for delivery to nearby community gardens and family kitchen gardens through Food Moxie.

Families gathered online in the morning, beginning with a convocation offered by fifth grade. Students read poetry, quotes from King, and shared their hopes for the future. Said fifth grader Zara Sinu as part of her opening words in the convocation, “And we should not forget his legacy and make his dream ours to preserve...”

Fifth grade student Sydney Hammond introduced keynote speaker Stephanie Keene, program manager for Ethical Global Learning at Haverford College. A Philadelphia writer and educator, Keene spoke to students and families about the importance of community—and supporting one another—in the work of justice, education, equity and empathy. She lifted up the words and work of

Ella Baker and Bayard Rustin, who worked closely with King, but whose names we don’t hear as much in the discussions of the civil rights movement. Keene noted that there are names we may never know, but that everyone’s efforts are important. “We need each other,” Keene said. “We can support each other as we work together for freedom and justice.”

As part of the virtual day, students, teachers and community leaders offered learning sessions on food insecurity, educational equity, and the environment, among others, in keeping with the three main foci of PC’s Center for Public Purpose.

Working from home, and using materials the Service Council and fifth grade students collected and organized, Penn Charter families:

- created 47 clothing packs for Cradles to Crayons
- made 57 meals for Depaul House and the Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network
- sewed 98 face masks for Face to Face Germantown
- made and decorated 183 seed packs for family kitchen gardens for Food Moxie
- gathered 131 bundles of books for Treehouse Books
- made 27 handmade fleece blankets for Turning Points for Children
- assembled 114 Hygiene Kits for Whosoever Gospel Mission
- created a remarkable amount of beautiful cards and crafts for Atria, Cradles to Crayons and Ronald McDonald House.

Some families chose to participate in in-person, socially distanced service at SHARE, Depaul House and Historic RittenhouseTown. [PC](#)



View photos from the day at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/penncharter/albums>

VIRTUALLY A FIRST: DOWNTOWN RECEPTION HOUSE PARTY

In a “virtual” first, the 2021 Downtown Reception unfolded in people’s kitchens and family rooms, from Washington to Florida and 15 states in between.

Pivoting from the usual setting – any number of stylish venues in downtown Philadelphia – Penn Charter and the Alumni Society asked four OPCs to demonstrate their varied talents via Zoom. The result was a fun, casual “house party” for alumni, parents and teachers that blended produced segments with live chats and time for catching up with old friends and new.

Visit penncharter.com/downtown to enjoy trivia questions from Ella DiGiovanni OPC '13, an original song from Matt Gorman OPC '17, pro tips from chef Biff Gottehrer OPC '04, and dance moves by Vince Johnson OPC '04.



Rick Mellor OPC '69 was one of PC’s “celebrity” appearances, hosting an after-party chat room along with Val Erdmanis Hon. 1689 (top row, second from left), Darryl J. Ford Hon. 1689, Charlie Brown Hon. 1689, Beth Glascott Hon. 1689, Steve Bonnie OPC '66, Brian McCloskey OPC '82, John Dover, Liz Crockett Jones and Travis Larrabee.

A GREAT DAY FOR THE AGES

The sixth annual Great Day to Be a Quaker was a covid-safe interactive day of giving that broke all the records. Fueled by goodwill and PC spirit and two strategic challenges, **the day raised \$674,784 for Penn Charter.**





An anonymous group comprised of parents, OPCs and trustees challenged PC to reach 500 donors on the day.

Great Day 2021 attracted 601 donors and secured the \$200,000 participation challenge.

The Alumni Society again promised to match gifts from teachers and staff up to \$10,000. Generous giving from faculty and staff quickly met — and exceeded — the match, a testament to the devotion they feel to current students and the school they work for.

As a way to show gratitude for the dedication of current teachers and staff members, many donors made gifts in their honor. Fittingly, employees honored for how they “knock our socks off” received a pair of navy socks designed with white and yellow clock towers. The school is full of “sock-stars!”

A gift from an OPC '08 arrived with an expression of gratitude: “I thank all the teachers and coaches who taught me the skills to handle life’s many transitions!” Senior parents wrote, “Our son received a fantastic education at Penn Charter. He was able to grow as a student, but more importantly as a fine young man. The faculty creates a learning environment that allows for this dual growth. We are so very proud of him, and so very thankful for all of the teachers and staff at Penn Charter.”

The day featured a full program of digital media and events, including a video tour of the new Graham Athletics & Wellness Center, virtual master classes with PC faculty and a video performance from the Upper School Symphonic Band. Revisit the fun and see the videos at penncharter.com/greatday.

There was also plenty of socially distanced on-campus fun, including the opportunity to “Chalk Around the Clock,” sidewalk chalking around the base of a six-foot tall replica of the top of the iconic clock tower. A chalked butterfly by Stella Singer OPC '19 adorned the “Color Day Wall,” where Upper School students left messages of thanks, and of excitement for their future.

Emma Rowan, director of the Annual Fund, said the “incredible generosity” to the Annual Fund sets PC students up for success year after year. Sharing memories and moments of joy across the entire community makes the Great Day tradition one of her favorites. “The outpouring of support, especially honoring our rock-star teachers and staff, is a testament to the devotion and appreciation of OPCs and current families for their experiences at Old Penn Charter.” **PC**



GREAT DAY 2021 BY THE NUMBERS

A COMMUNITY EFFORT

245+ OPC donors

225+ Parent donors

125+ Faculty and staff donors

\$674,784 for Penn Charter

What a great day! THANK YOU!

Jamie Wells OPC '92

BY MARK F. BERNSTEIN OPC '79



For most people, being named director of the Research Science Institute (RSI), considered a premier science and math summer program for high school students, would be a career capstone. For **Jamie Wells OPC '92**, it also completes a circle. Back in the summer of 1991, shortly before she started her senior year at PC, Wells participated in the program and recalls it as one of the most

fruitful summers she ever spent. She believes it is particularly important to help a new generation of students receive the same benefits.

"Given the pandemic and its reverberating impact, there is no more crucial a time to invest in STEM [science, technology, engineering and math] excellence than now to ensure we stand at the ready to be proactive, not reactive, in the future," Wells said when her appointment was announced earlier this year.

The RSI is collaboratively sponsored by the Center for Excellence in Education and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In a normal year, the high school students spend the summer on MIT's campus, attending lectures from Nobel laureates and working on research projects directly with mentors who are renowned in their field of interest. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the program was conducted virtually last year and will be again this summer, but Wells insisted that it will be just as strong—and just as needed.

"I'm a huge believer that our society loses a lot of innovation due to interdisciplinary knowledge gaps," Wells reasoned. "People love to talk about collaboration, but once you're in a field, you tend to stay there. What's great about the RSI summer program is that the students learn and grow best by being exposed to different schools of thought."

"Interdisciplinary" might be the perfect word to describe Wells' own career. She entered Penn Charter in fourth grade as part of the groundbreaking first class of girls to graduate. Even before that, though, she worked daily with her grandfather, who lived with her family and who Wells recalls could simultaneously solve calculus problems with one hand and paint with the other. He taught her the Pythagorean theorem when she was only 4.

With that kind of head start, Wells took advanced math classes throughout her time at PC. She headed the Math Club and spent weekends in math competitions around the area. Yet she also found time to debate, write for *The Mirror*, and captain both the lacrosse and tennis teams.

Wells attended Yale, sure that she would pursue her lifelong dream of being a neurosurgeon, and took all the required pre-med courses while majoring in American Studies with a concentration in media and film. Moving on to Thomas Jefferson University's Medical School, Wells was inducted into the medical honor society and elected its president while also serving as editorials editor of the school newspaper and editing a guide to passing board certification exams.

She began her residency in neurosurgery in New York, taking the next steps towards a career she had always anticipated, when 9/11 occurred. Wells's studies and life were interrupted, which led her to reassess her goals. "The reality wasn't what I had imagined in my childhood dream," she recalled. "Neurosurgery is fascinating to me, but there are so many things in life that I am passionate about. I had pursued my dream, achieved it and realized it wasn't what I wanted."

Instead, Wells switched her residency to pediatrics and, not surprisingly, excelled there, too. She is now a board-certified pediatrician. She spent nine years in private practice but, typically, with a Wells-ian extra edge: She made sure all her patients had her cell phone number, and she made house calls.

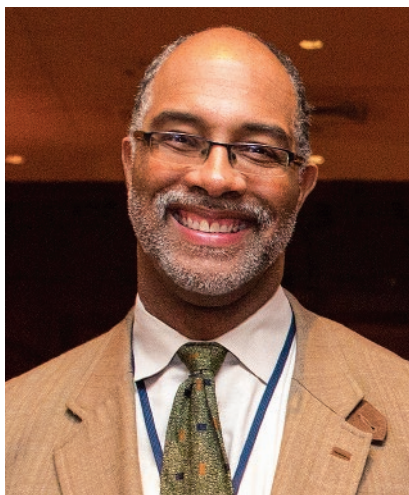
At the same time Wells was practicing medicine, she was also branching into communications. Her written work has appeared in professional journals, and she has both written for or been interviewed by news outlets ranging from CNN and the Washington Post to Al Jazeera. As if all this weren't more than enough to keep her busy, Wells serves on the leadership council of the Wistar Institute and is also an adjunct professor at Drexel University's School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems, where she helped introduce the nation's first degree program in pediatric engineering.

With her appointment at the RSI, Wells has indeed come full circle, but with additional insights gained from long experience. She believes her pediatric background will give her a unique developmental perspective on the high school students who attend. It's another challenge for someone who not only welcomes challenges but seeks them out.

"I'm always a believer in continued learning," Wells said, "exposing yourself to things you're afraid to do, and getting outside of your comfort zone." **PC**

Sterling Johnson OPC '78

BY MARK F. BERNSTEIN OPC '79



Since its founding in 1775, the Army Corps of Engineers has assisted some of the most significant building projects in American history—from the fortifications at Bunker Hill to the Washington Monument to the Panama Canal and the Bonneville Dam. The Corps' motto is *Essayons*, which is French for "Let Us Try."

That resonates with **Sterling Johnson OPC '78**, who has spent the last 31 years working for the Corps on projects close to home and around the world. Since 2002, Johnson has been a strategic planner, now in international interagency environmental support, which means that he specializes in environmental projects such as beach fill along the Jersey shore, helping to turn a freshwater marsh into a saltwater marsh, or dredging the Schuylkill River. Often Johnson and his team assist other governmental agencies on their projects, such as cleaning up environmental contamination on Staten Island for the National Park Service. Earlier this year, he was asked to help the Department of Health and Human Services build distribution facilities for Covid-19 vaccines as part of Operation Warp Speed. Also as a response to the pandemic, he was project manager for construction of alternate care facilities that the Corps built for Trenton, East Orange and New Bergen County in New Jersey.

Although Johnson is based in the Corps' Philadelphia district, which includes everything within the Delaware River watershed, he has worked on special assignments for the Corps in other parts of the United States and overseas. He spent time in Germany and Belgium, working on a project with NATO, and even went to Afghanistan in 2010 to help build roads and hospitals with the Afghan army.

One does not have to be a soldier to work for the Army Corps of Engineers, and indeed Johnson has never served in the military. He sees his job as providing technical know-how and is proud that his work is

strictly apolitical. "We try to let the science and the engineering guide us," Johnson explained. "As a project manager, I'm constantly telling my team that we are supposed to be an honest broker. Our job is to analyze the facts, come up with a conclusion, and then give it to the decision makers so they can decide what to do."

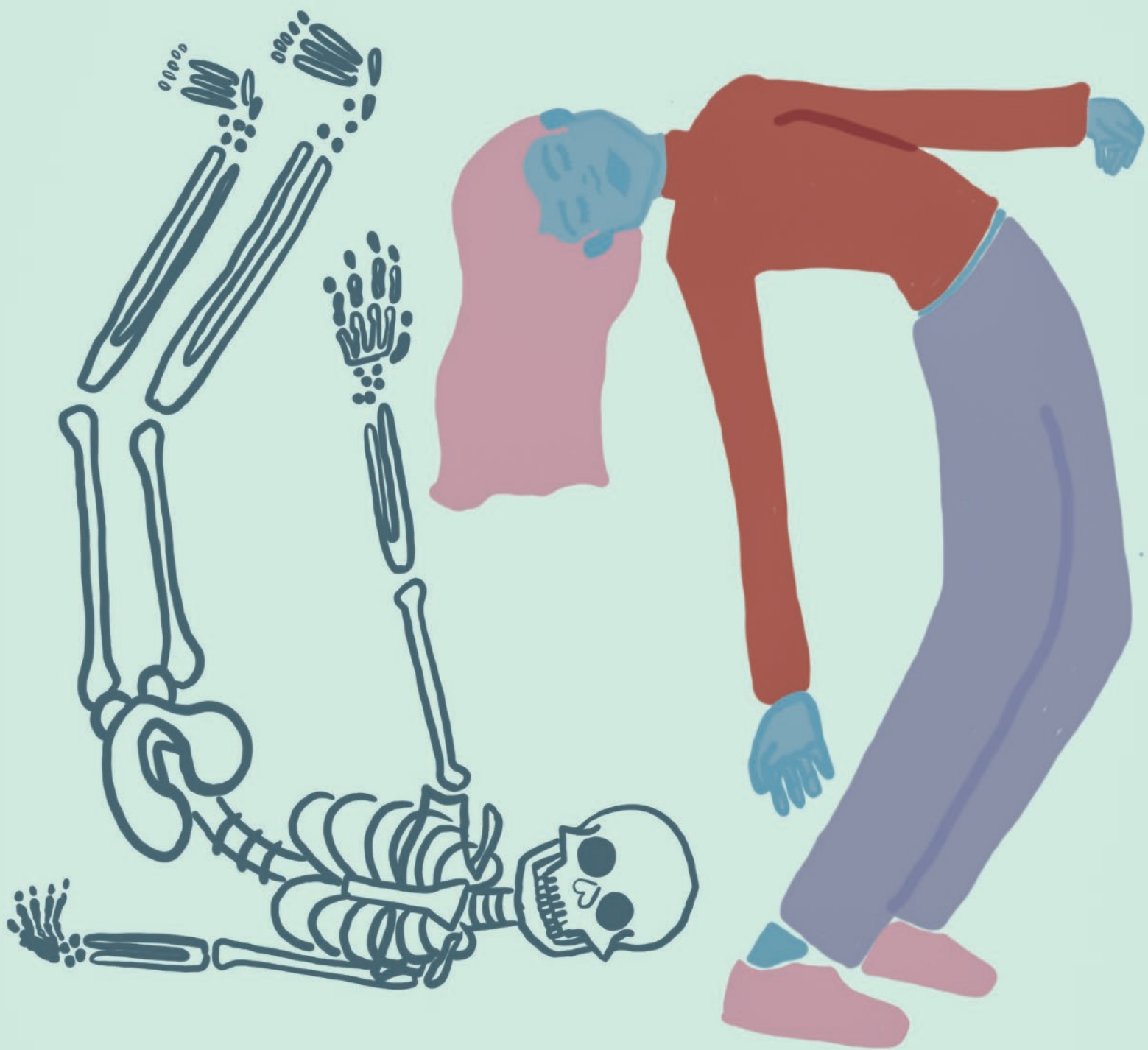
After graduating from the University of Pennsylvania with a bachelor's degree in material science and engineering, Johnson joked that he assumed he would go to work for NASA. But a cousin who worked for the Corps told him that they were looking for bright young engineers, and Johnson decided to apply. "I grew to like the position," Johnson said. "I had a boss who gave me interesting assignments and knew enough to leave me alone." Thirty years later, he is still there. In 2004, he earned a master's in administration from Central Michigan University.

Johnson has shown a similar long-term dedication to Penn Charter. Asked for some of his favorite memories, Johnson laughed. "Man, how much time do you have? Some of my best friends I met as a 15-year old at Penn Charter, and they're still my good friends."

His favorite teachers included science legends Thomas "Doc" Katman and Alice Davis, which is not surprising for a future engineer, but Johnson adds longtime English teacher John Schug, as well, who instilled a love of literature. Johnson was also four-sport athlete, who played football, basketball, baseball and ran track. He said he appreciated PC's emphasis on excellence in athletics as well as academics and the arts. "There are certain things you learn on the field of play that you can't learn in the classroom, such as resilience and teamwork," he explained. "You learn that hard work yields results."

Johnson is a longtime class agent and has served in numerous roles for the Alumni Society, as well. PC has changed in many ways since Johnson was a student back in the mid-'70s, and he said that he appreciates efforts to increase the school's diversity.

"It's a work in progress," Johnson reasoned. "But the first step toward resolving any issue is addressing it head-on. I think PC has always been very honest with itself. As the student body has grown, there are new types of diversity to consider in addition to race, such as diversity in sexuality, socioeconomic background and diversity of thought. But the school is heading in the right direction. I think PC is willing to do the hard work." **PC**





ALL-SCHOOL ART SHOW 2021

On May 3, the All-School Art Show made its virtual debut with a dazzling display of student work. The exhibit showcases a rich variety of visual art, from pre-K texture boards to first grade leaf studies, sixth grade collages to eighth grade identity portraits, and work from Upper School studio courses like Photography, Costume Design and Documentary Film, among others.

Enjoy a small sample of art from all three divisions in the pages that follow, and view the full exhibit, organized by grade and course, at penncharter.com/visualartshow.

LOWER SCHOOL



Jonah Persico



Isabelle Pediford



Charlotte Holloway



First grade leaf study



Eliam White



Giulia Krueger



Orit Netter's Fourth Grade Mask Project

MIDDLE SCHOOL



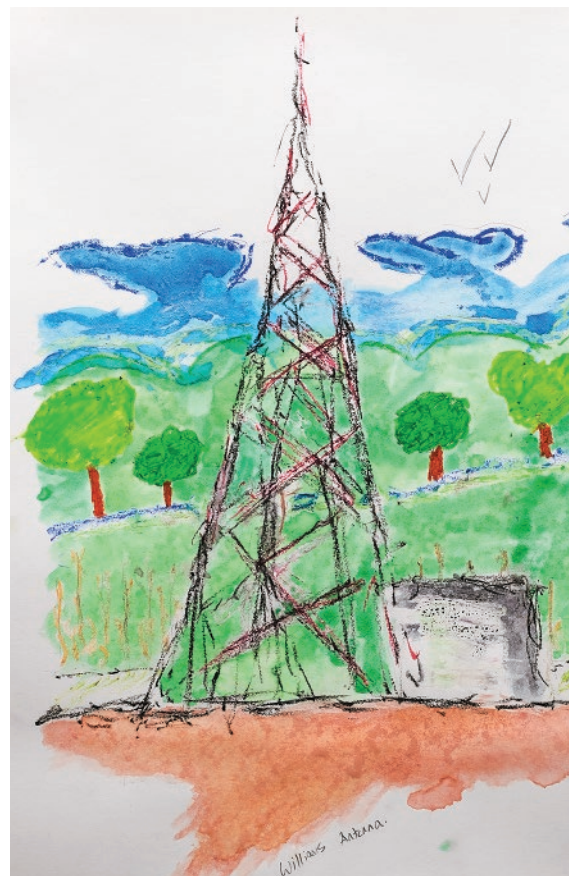
Alliric Willis



Riley Ostroff



Eloisa Tovar



Jack Sheward



Anna Larrabee



Andrea Blando



Alexa Cahill

UPPER SCHOOL



Liliana Gartanutti



Kaela Savoy-Cooper



Branden Widamen



Madaline Puma

Gabbi Polite



Maggie Turner





Shining Through on Camera

With live performances temporarily on pause during the covid-19 pandemic, this year's Upper School musical took on the form of a video revue comprised of a half-dozen songs and a few short scenes.

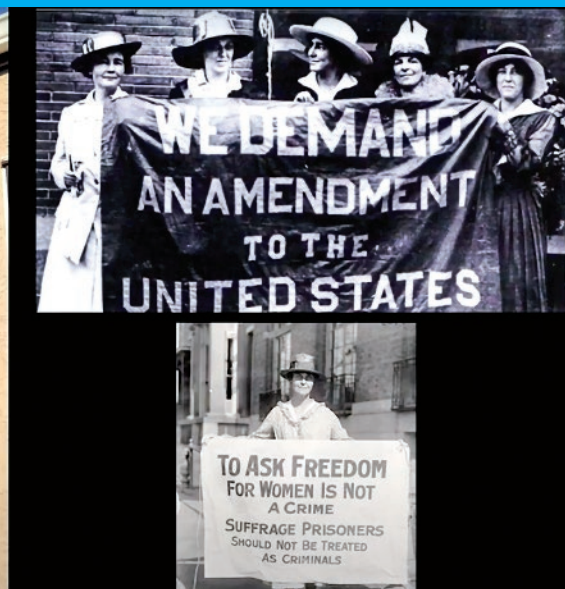
The show, which premiered on penncharter.com in May, featured a cast of 12 students who recorded much of their own video and audio from home. Theater teacher Michael Roche directed and edited the production with support from Upper School faculty members Ari Baker, Joe Fitzmartin and Liz Jones.

Roche's approach to developing the musical was all about "variety, variety, variety."

"You can't just give people the same thing for 25 minutes," he said, so selecting a wide range of musical styles was important, as was including sketches to break up the songs.

Song choices ran the gamut from contemporary musical theater favorites ("Opening Up" from 2015's *Waitress*), Broadway classics ("You're the One That I Want" from 1971's *Grease*) and Top-40 hits by the Jackson 5 and ABBA.





The musical marked the Upper School's second virtual production of this school year after a Zoom-based reenactment of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* premiered in October 2020. Working on the fall play taught Roche that putting together a video-based production can be "a very time-consuming process" that brings its own set of technical challenges and generally requires several rounds of back-and-forth between director and students as they finalize their performances. So when it came time to plan the musical, Roche got things started early, in February, to avoid last-minute scrambling.

To help make the process as straightforward as possible, Roche and students created storyboards for each video before setting off to record their parts individually. Instrumental backing tracks, created by the songs' arrangers and licensed for use, provided the musical foundation onto which students recorded their vocal performances. Then, in a second stage, students recorded their on-screen performances,

lip-syncing against the finished audio track. This two-step process allowed cast members to capture the highest quality audio and video.

Students collaborated with Roche to write the short scenes that are interspersed between songs, and many brought the video-making skills they honed while working on other virtual performances—like the student-run open mic series, Showcase—in recent months. And while this year's format was certainly a departure from the norm, Roche believes that, whether on stage or on screen, a show's success comes down to the very same thing: good performances.

"If there's a lot of heart and love behind it, it's going to shine through on camera," he said. "And we have a lot of that." **PC**

—Ray Bailey OPC '09



View the Upper School musical in its entirety at penncharter.com/virtualperformances.



ARTISTIC CONNECTIONS

Networking OPCs in the Arts

By Ray Bailey OPC '09

On Thursday, Feb. 25, alumni from around the country and across the decades tuned in for an evening of virtual networking based on a shared passion for the arts.

The event, coordinated by theater teacher Eva Kay Noone and Penn Charter's Alumni Office, sought to build professional connections among OPCs and explore possibilities for collaboration between alumni and current students. More than 35 graduates turned out for what Performing Arts Department Chair Brad Ford called a "win-win for the program and alums."

Head of School Darryl J. Ford Hon. 1689 welcomed the group and spoke of the importance of the arts to individuals and communities. "The arts are a harbinger of health in a community," Ford said. "The arts will heal us."

Attendees split into four virtual "rooms" based on areas of specialization: TV, film and writing; instrumental music; songwriting; and theater, dance and design. Conversations

covered OPCs' experiences at Penn Charter, their paths toward a career in the arts, current projects, and strategies that different industries and organizations have used to adapt to covid restrictions.

Members of the performing arts faculty co-facilitated breakout rooms along with an OPC working in each field. Artist and technical director James Bartolozzi OPC '11, symphony



violinist Michael Casimir OPC '09, dancer and choreographer Alex Crozier OPC '07, and singer-songwriter Emily Drinker OPC '08 all brought their professional expertise and personal reflections to the discussion groups.

Noone started contemplating the idea of an arts-based alumni event early in the 2020-21 school year, inspired by ongoing conversations within the Performing Arts Department about how to better engage OPCs. In her personal conversations with students and alumni, Noone had also begun identifying opportunities for connection and collaboration.

Earlier in the year, for instance, Noone was able to connect one of her current students, bound for Syracuse University's media and journalism school in the fall, to a young OPC who had passed through the same program. While speaking with a different graduate in search of collaborators for a multimedia project, Noone found herself suggesting OPCs she thought would be qualified for the work.

Those experiences confirmed that Noone and her colleagues were onto something. "This is where what I'm trying to do would come in handy," she remembered thinking at the time. "It didn't seem right that I should have all this information in my head and yet so many alumni don't even know these connections exist."

Noone brought her idea to Director of Alumni Relations Chris Rahill OPC '99, who thought it would coincide nicely with his office's rollout of a new social networking platform, Alumnifire, designed to foster the very kinds of connections Noone was also seeking to make. Ultimately, about a dozen attendees signed up for Alumnifire following the OPCs in the Arts event, "already enough to form some kind of affinity group" on the platform, Noone said. She hopes it will serve as another valuable channel for communication.

While February's event was primarily intended to gauge interest and serve as a starting point for future partnership, the evening's conversations also sparked new connections and relationships right off the bat, according to Noone, who reported that

***"The arts are
a harbinger
of health.
The arts will
heal us."***

- Darryl J. Ford Hon. 1689



several OPCs had exchanged contact info with plans to follow up. "Already, without too much work, the idea is paying dividends," she said.

Brad Ford, who co-facilitated the instrumental music room, called the event "a wonderful opportunity to share the universal language of art" at a time when performers are more isolated from one another than usual. The conversation in the instrumental music room had him laughing and smiling, he said, and also gave him a "deeper view into the lives of musicians ... outside the walls of Penn Charter."

Noone and her Performing Arts colleagues are already discussing how to keep the momentum going with in-person events. She also recognizes the value of virtual gatherings in bringing together a geographically diverse group of attendees, and she suspects there may be more events that follow this format in the future, too.

As for connecting OPCs with current students, Noone and Ford see potential in bringing more alumni into the Senior Comprehensive

Project as evaluators and advisors, and in creating opportunities for one-on-one mentorship and workshops.

"When it comes to creative work," Noone said, "it's all about making those connections. Just talking to the right person can be really helpful. And think about it—who would you feel more comfortable with, a complete stranger or someone who went to Penn Charter?" **PC**

JOIN ALUMNIFIRE!

Sign up as a student or alum.

Visit penncharter.alumnifire.com to unlock your OPC network, explore opportunities and engage with PC's global community.

QUESTIONS?

Contact MaryKate O'Brien OPC '12, assistant director of alumni relations, at mobrien@penncharter.com.



CODED LANGUAGE: LATIN APP COMES TO LIFE

By Julia Judson-Rea



Sydney Wood, a senior, is a lifer at PC.

Reading Vergil or Latin poetry and need help with the analysis? There's an app for that. And senior Sydney Wood created it.

The app is a Latin parser that imports small sections of a Latin text, splits it into parts, and then offers an analysis. Wood's parser isn't a translator like Google Translate. Rather, it is a tool for Latin students to help them better understand and analyze a text.

In Latin, "there are lots of different definitions for one word," Sydney explained. "Google Translate just chooses one and, grammatically, it's not always correct because there are so many options in Latin. My program gives you the grammar options. Mine is more work than Google Translate would be, but compiles resources for a person translating to have everything right there. It lets the student use their Latin skills; you still have to know what you know about Latin.

Google Translate just picks for you and is often wrong.”

In a four-year interdisciplinary independent study of Latin and Computer Science, Wood brought her Latin parser app from concept to completion. But her inspiration stretches back to Middle School, when she watched Girls Who Code YouTube videos and took some coding courses over the summers at Princeton and Villanova.

“Her app is an electronic text,” said Middle School Latin teacher Jim Fiorile, who helped Wood at the inception stage. “You used to need a big dictionary and an historical text to help you translate when reading a primary source. Now, with an electronic text, you have everything right at your fingertips. An app like this one wouldn’t work for a modern, spoken language because they are constantly changing. But for the classics, which are static, it’s perfect,” he said.

“Mr. Fiorile told me one day about a parser app he worked on in college,” Sydney said. “He showed it to me; it’s sort of like the 1.0, and my app is 2.0.”

Fiorile wasn’t surprised when Wood took the idea and ran with it. “HTML and Java are just grammar. You get the parts right, and it works, and Latin is grammar – hard grammar,” he said. “I knew it would be in her wheelhouse.”

“This project taught me a lot about time management and about perseverance and grit,” said Sydney, who added the independent study on top of an already demanding schedule, plus involvement as a senior page editor for the Class Record and a leader in several sports and clubs. “Sometimes I just really wanted a break from computer science.”

But persevere she did. Sydney worked on her app first for two years in Python (a coding language), then switched to JAVA, liking its approach to code better. Having finished the app last year, she has spent her senior year tweaking and fine-tuning it, and moving through the precision work of expanding the



In 2019 Sydney Wood took AP Computer Science Principles taught by Michael Moulton. The course was one of a few that supported her independent study to create the Latin parser.

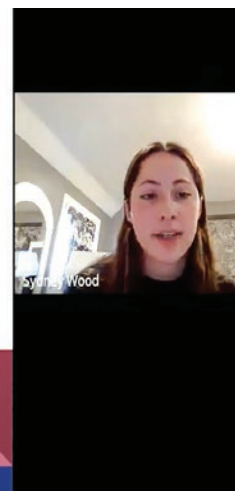
```
if(notEmpty){
    char[] chArr = tempString.toCharArray();
    chArr[0] = Character.toLowerCase(chArr[0]);
    tempString = new String(chArr);
    tempString2 += tempChar;
    mySentence.add(tempString);
    myDictionary.search(tempString);
    //add label tempString
    MyLabel label = new MyLabel(tempString2, myDictionary.search(tempString));
    label.setFont(new Font("Times", Font.PLAIN, 18));
    myPanel.add(label);
    //System.out.println(tempString + ": " + myDictionary.search(tempString));
    tempString = "";
    tempString2 = "";
    if(tempChar == '.'){
        System.out.println();
        add(myPanel);
    }
}
```

A sample of the JAVA code senior Sydney Wood wrote for her Latin parser app. Wood presented her independent study to faculty in early 2021.

app’s dictionary. Wood and her classmates used the app in Marianne Masters’ Latin 5 class to translate Catullus Poem 70. “At the end of the day, I just like doing it,” she said.

Headed for the University of Southern California, Wood plans to major in Human Biology over what might be considered the more obvious connection to coding and computer science: biomedical engineering.

“There are so many ways you can use computer science: data analysis, working with CDC on covid matters, or designing something like a medical device,” she considered. “I never would have guessed Latin and computer science vibe, but they do. In any area of study, coding can be beneficial. You can use it to your advantage in any area of study; I’m sure I’ll figure out ways.” **PC**





HOW FAR?
STRATEGIC VISION
GOAL 5

SPACE

Develop and repurpose space to serve the changing needs of the Penn Charter program and mission.




LETTING IN THE LIGHT

“Natural daylighting creates a beneficial environment for learning and fitness, community-building and well-being.”

Architects know that sweeping vistas and long sightlines not only inspire people, they can actually improve psychological well-being and health.

Our Campus Master Plan creates many novel views, including one that will allow those inside the Graham Athletics & Wellness Center to see across the front field and School House Lane to the Strawbridge Campus, in one direction, and to Maguire Field in the other, establishing a new sense of connection and wholeness across our full footprint in East Falls.

RENDERING: EwingCole



The building's light-filled entry is an orienting space, a place for students, OPCs and visitors to see and understand all that the center offers and how the building serves to unify the various aspects of our campus. It is about health and wellness, nutrition and engagement, recreation and competition—each part knit together by the rich history and accomplishments of generations of OPCs.

The large windows planned as part of both the Athletics & Wellness Center and the new lower school also provide wellness-nurturing natural light and add views of grass and trees, which have been shown to support comfort, health and well-being.

Keith Fallon, executive vice president at EwingCole, leads the talented team of architects, engineers and planners collaborating to achieve Penn Charter's new Campus Master Plan. Fallon explained: "Natural daylighting creates a beneficial environment for learning and fitness, community-building and well-being. At the same time, the views from the building—into a portion of the natural landscape or across a vast playing field—ground the building in its environment. It seeks to make clear the treasure of the Wissahickon and Penn Charter's rich legacy within it." **PC**

More about the campus transformation and the *How Far?* capital campaign at campaign.penncharter.com.

ATHLETICS ACHIEVEMENTS

SPORTS DURING A PANDEMIC

After suffering the loss of last spring's season, Penn Charter and the Inter-Academic League collaborated to organize safe practices and competitions for as many athletes as possible for as many days as possible in the 2020-21 school year.

This has meant no sports for Middle School until May and for most Upper School JV athletes, and abbreviated seasons for varsity athletes. Winning the 134th PC/GA Day football game and Competition Cup was a highlight of a short fall season. The winter season and indoor sports proved more problematic: wrestling, perhaps the ultimate in contact sports, practiced but rarely competed; boys basketball got off to a strong start but lost two weeks of a February season to a covid-19 quarantine; indoor track practiced but did not compete. Students were thrilled to be outside again for spring sports, but covid-19 quarantines have interrupted the seasons of boys lacrosse, baseball and softball.

Watch for a spring wrap-up in the fall magazine.

WINTER SEASON HIGHLIGHTS



BASKETBALL

Girls Basketball Head Coach Joe Maguire said being able to play even just eight games "was tremendous. We were fortunate to spend time together, and that was very important to us all." Plus, the team had a successful season, going 7-1 versus Inter-Ac opponents. PC defeated Germantown Academy twice in the season for the first time in school history; celebrated their seniors on Senior Day versus Springside Chestnut Hill; won complete team victories versus Episcopal, Baldwin and Agnes Irwin, and had an epic, 19-0, fourth quarter comeback vs. Notre Dame to close out the season. The PC girls finished tied with the best record in the Inter-Ac. "The great thing about this season was the opportunity to see players in new roles and excel in them," Maguire said. "Thank you to seniors Kait Hnatkowsky, Kate Haughey, Jamie Kubach, Ava Coyle and Molly McMahon for their dedication to the basketball program for four years: They left it better than they found it!"



SQUASH

Director of Squash Damon Leedale-Brown said boys and girls squash players brought energy and passion from day one of practice and throughout their modified season. The highlight of the girls season was the competitive doubleheader win against Springside Chestnut Hill and an excellent 8-1 victory at Episcopal. The girls finished with a 3-2 record and third place finish in the Inter-Ac league games. The boys varsity team was led by senior captain Ryan Yeatman, who Leedale-Brown said has grown as a teammate over the past few years. The varsity squad this season was built around a group of 10th and 11th graders who all made significant progression in their abilities on the squash court over the past two years.

Highlights of the boys season came in the form of the first win against SCH for a number of years with a convincing 9-0 victory, and a hard fought and exceptionally close 6-3 loss to EA. The boys finished the season with a 2-3 win-loss record and third place finish in the Inter-Ac league games.

Amanda Cowhey and Hyun Su Price both finished the season with a 4-1 record, placing them right at the top of the Inter-Ac league for individual performances.

SWIMMING

Swimming and Diving Head

Coach Brian Hecker said, "The 2021 swim season was unlike any other the team has experienced. Although there was a smaller group of swimmers, and two practice cohorts, the teams came together and worked as hard as ever to achieve both individual and team goals." With a different format to the season, the PC team competed at Germantown Academy three separate times in order to have the opportunity to swim a few different events and record results.



Although the season did not end in the typical Eastern Interscholastic Swimming and Diving Championship Meet, the Easterns committee organized a virtual leaderboard and teams sent in results.

Girls Easterns Leaderboard Fastest 15: Lane Murray: 3rd 50 freestyle, 3rd 100 butterfly, 7th 100 freestyle, 5th 100 backstroke; Aisling Brady, Emily Albert, Merrill Gadsden and Lane Murray: 4th 400 freestyle relay.

Boys Easterns Leaderboard Fastest 15: Juan Tovar: 12th 500 freestyle; Seth Spector: 8th 200 IM, 11th 100 backstroke; Tyler Juskalian: 12th 50 free, 8th 100 butterfly, 9th 100 backstroke; Henry Langford: 4th 11 dives competition; Alex Zoldan: 11th 500 freestyle.

SENIOR AWARDS



Senior Aaron Maione won a Mini Max High School Award from the Maxwell Football Club on Jan. 14. He was one of 68 players from the commonwealth to be chosen for the award.

The Maxwell Football Club is dedicated to "recognizing talented players at the earliest stages of their careers." Players are nominated by their coaches based on excellence in the areas of athletics, academics and community service.

Maione helped the Quakers finish 1-1 during a brief 2020 season. His stellar performance in the 134th PC/GA Day football game in November included a 70-yard touchdown reception and a critical field goal block during the game-ending play; Maione was named MVP and awarded the game's Geis Trophy.



Senior Patrick Isztwan was named Philadelphia Golf Association's (GAP) Junior Sportsperson of the Year in their winter 2020 publication. Isztwan has played on Penn Charter's varsity golf team since his eighth grade year.

Isztwan saw a flurry of successes in GAP competition during the 2020 season, culminating in a win at the Christman Cup Tournament in July, where he shot 3-under-par at LuLu Country Club. In June, Isztwan won the First Flight division of the Junior Boys' Championship, and in July he teamed with his dad, Andy, to win the Younger division of the Father & Son Tournament.

William Penn Charter School Then & Now



1957

As kindergarteners, the Class of 1970 poses in peacoats, plaid and shearling jackets around the sundial in Chigwell Close.



2021

Sixty-four years later, the kindergarteners in the Class of 2023, now greater in number and in jackets a little brighter, pose in the same spot, but at a covid-safe distance

Class Notes



Penn Charter magazine wants to hear from you, and your classmates do, too! Submit your news and photos at penncharter.com/classnote. Digital photos should be 300 dpi JPEGs.

HON. 1689

Phillip Palkon, superintendent of grounds and transportation, celebrated his 35th year with PC.



Sandra B. Portnoy writes, "I continue to work at Penn Charter as registrar on a part-time basis and am an advisor to Club Shalom, the Jewish affinity group. I will retire at the end of the 2021-22 scheduling season, sometime in July 2021. I'm planning several trips once I retire: to Egypt and Petra in November 2021 and an archaeological trip to Israel in March 2022. I am in contact with my family, mostly by Zoom, but we've done a few outside excursions, such as the one shown, which was to Longwood Gardens."



Pictured, back: Josh Tessler (grandson), Keith Tessler (son-in-law), Andrea Portnoy (daughter-in-law), **David B. Portnoy OPC '97** (son); front: Bekah Tessler (granddaughter), Sabrina Portnoy (granddaughter), Marjorie Portnoy (daughter), Jacob Portnoy (grandson), **Sandra Portnoy**.

1939

Robert C. McAdoo celebrated his 100th birthday on Feb. 10, 2021.



Bob, with **John T. Rogers Hon. 1689** during a 2015 visit to PC campus.

1946



George H. Kurz published his memoir, *Something in Return: Memoirs of a Life in Medicine*. In his book, available on

Amazon, George recounts vignettes from his 37 years in ophthalmology. He attended the University of Pennsylvania for his undergraduate and MD degrees and his ophthalmology residency, and he practiced at Hunterdon Medical Center in New Jersey until his retirement. He served as a clinical associate professor of ophthalmology at New York University and clinical professor of ophthalmology at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. He now lives in a retirement community in Bucks County, Pa.



1948

John L. Finney writes, "We sold the business in 2019, and we all are very content it is gone. I officially retired when we sold but actually was not doing much during the last 15 years. Sarah and I still live in Gloucester, Va., and just poke along doing whatever. I have a bad back, but Sarah is six years younger and in good shape." Last winter they enjoyed time with family and friends in Florida.

Thomas S. Williams writes that he and Kiki still enjoy living at Riddle Village, a life-care retirement community in Media, Pa. "We moved here almost 15 years ago. How fast the years have gone by. We still have good health and continue to participate in all the activities: golf putting tournaments, shuffleboard (both inside and table), billiard tournaments and bridge. This past year has been challenging being quarantined for such a long period and unable to visit with family and friends. Our travel days are over and the farthest we travel is to Lebanon, Pa. Yes, I still drive!"

1949

Peter J. Meehan shares, "PC was a lifesaver to me, being bought up by a widowed mom. I was always unconsciously looking for a father figure, and PC had them. I started in the sixth grade. It was a shock, since my previous teachers were all ladies (nuns). I remember a lot about PC, and I recall I adjusted to the faster pace.

"My superhero was **John B. Kelly Jr. OPC '45**. I followed him around like a puppy. He could do anything sports-wise, but was driven by something else: world domination in rowing, which he nearly accomplished. I always

Class Notes

thought you could build a story about PC if you used a superman like Kelly as your main character. He wasn't a comic book character though; he was actually real."

1950

Whitman "Pete" Cross II writes, "Being on the right side of the grass has certainly taken some luck, but also making some of the right choices along the way helps. Having a series of goals lets us focus on our quality of life. Sorry for the preaching that we all hear daily, but it works! In spring of 2022, I hope to be visiting a few of you in the deep Southeast as (God willing!) I meander my way to the Senior National Pickleball Tournament in Ft. Lauderdale."

Alan S. Whelihan shares, "My dear wife, Joan, and I are in good health and will celebrate our 61st wedding anniversary on June 20, we hope with at least one of our four daughters and perhaps one or more grandchildren."

1952

Arthur U. Ayres Jr. writes, "Our lives are much improved with open dining options, some level of socialization and a return to pickleball. No tennis yet. My history includes Swarthmore College and then Johns Hopkins University. Went to work in the defense industry in Baltimore and then moved to Santa Barbara to join a startup created by General Motors that designs, manufactures and installs ocean systems for the U.S. Navy, the National Science Foundation and foreign governments. In 1982, I left GM to start a California corporation that we subsequently sold to Science Applications International Corporation. I retired in 2002 and went back as a consultant to be then rehired in 2019. Now on medical leave due to the pandemic. Maybe it's time to quit. Married to Ann Preston. Two girls, one in Sun Valley and the other in Santa Barbara. Life has been good."

Eugene M. Cheston Jr. feels that he hardly qualifies as an alumnus as a mere one-year senior class attendee at PC. "Early on, I joined the Army during the Korean War, but luckily ended up in Germany rather than Korea. After the service, I graduated from University of Pennsylvania and went straight to Wall Street, ending my career in 1989 as a managing director of Morgan Stanley. Elsie and I have been married for 56 years and have six offspring. We now live in Sun Valley, Idaho, and winter over in the San Francisco Bay area, where we have family."

George C. (Skip) Corson Jr. shares, "I attended Amherst with **Bruce W. McMullan** and **Michael P. Ritter**; graduated Penn Law in '59; and after 60+ years of practice (mostly in Montgomery County), I'm now mostly retired. I met Betsy Strayer in 1960, we married in 1962 and had four children, who are now living in Maine, California, Oregon and New Jersey. We have five grandchildren (the eldest of which is a mere 17 years old). Advanced breast cancer claimed Betsy in 2006. I'm still active at PC (we're no longer politically incorrect "Overseers," just Trustees), the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association, Jeanes Hospital (in Fox Chase), and the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (Quakers). I spend summers in New Hampshire, otherwise in Pigeontown (now known as Blue Bell, Pa.) with my life partner Penny Brodie and a Scottish terrier. Cheers to one and all!"

Clifford W. Donahower shares, "Good news from the Donahowers—I have been able to get the covid shots. In November 2021, Linnea and I will celebrate our 59th wedding anniversary. Still playing golf in a Tuesday league with son Tom. Best to all my classmates."

Frank F. Embick Jr. writes, "After PC, I attended Princeton, obtaining an AB in history, followed by sailing the Pacific Ocean in a destroyer courtesy of the U.S. Navy, then back to Wharton for an MBA. Exxon then sent me on assignments to Africa, where

I fled from the Mau Mau uprising in Nairobi, contracted malaria in Aden (now Yemen) and met my wife-to-be, Anna, in Lagos. We returned to the States for assignments in New York, New Jersey and Texas while growing the family with daughters Tricia and Karen and (eventually) grandsons Hudson and Asher. We've lived in Houston for 38 years. (We've moved seven times in those years, all in the same zip code.)"

Colson H. Hillier Jr. writes, "Pat and I have been fortunate to live on Amelia Island, a barrier island northeast of Jacksonville, Fla., where we can see the Atlantic Ocean every morning. Since we began some form of isolation last March, our longest excursion has been the 45-minute drive to the Jacksonville Costco store—no samples, I might add. Other than going out for necessities, we have eaten at several restaurants, sitting outside wherever possible. Recently we both received our second doses of the covid-19 vaccine. Now we are hopeful that later this year we will be able to visit our children and grandchildren who, other than two Zoom sessions, we haven't seen or been with since Thanksgiving 2019. Our prayers go out to the families of those classmates we lost this year."

Michael P. Ritter writes, "I had just returned to Philadelphia from a medical stay in Arizona and became friends with a neighborhood kid, **Bruce W. (Bugs) McMullan**. We maintained our friendship through days at PC, then as roommates at Amherst College freshman year. We stayed friends as we moved into our occupations in theater work in Baltimore and after Bugs went to Canada and I came to Washington, D.C. Many very pleasant memories! Margo and I are continuing down the covid shutdown trail. We got our two injections and maintain social distancing even though Margo still 'entertains' a regular group of friends ... but not ice skating anymore, nor am I playing funky old jazz anywhere, at least for a while. Let's hope something changes!"

Class Notes

Joseph B. Van Sciver III shares, “Winter reminds me of the snowy hills of Lehigh University where I graduated in ’57 with three years engineering and two years business. After finishing my six-year service in the U.S. National Guard, I worked at our family-owned stores, became a case goods buyer, and for almost 26 years worked at J.B. Van Sciver Co., becoming CEO in 1970. When the family closed the business in 1984, I turned to investing and antique cars, becoming a board member of the Delaware Valley Car Club and restoring brass for antique cars, improving our collection. I have a 50-year membership award from the Antique Automobile Club of America for my years of club participation. Carol and I married in 1968 and had three children, and now have four grandchildren. Currently interested in land preservation, we donated our valley and stream in 2017 to the Chestnut Hill Conservancy (pictured).”



F. Bruce Waechter writes, “After PC, I attended Lehigh University, obtaining a degree in mechanical engineering. I worked most of my career at GE, mostly in the aerospace business in Philadelphia and Valley Forge. Volunteer activities usually centered around our church, where I was finance chair for over 30 years. Janet and I have been married for 64 years and live in a retirement community in Spring House, Pa. (10 miles from PC). Our family of three children, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren are scattered all over the country, with many on the West Coast. Zoom calls on Sunday evenings help.”

John H. Wagner III shares, “Carol and I are well and still in Florida. We must sound pretty boring but sometimes no news is good news. I play doubles every day, and Carol is starting to get me out to play golf. I played in high school and am surprisingly pretty good.”

Charles F. Wuestner Jr. writes, “After PC, I attended Lehigh University and obtained a degree in industrial engineering. I did a three-year tour in the U.S. Marine Corps, and then had 28 years with SKF making bearings. After retiring, I taught physics and chemistry at the high-school level for five years and retired again. We have three children and nine grandchildren and are living at Willow Valley Communities in Lancaster, Pa.”

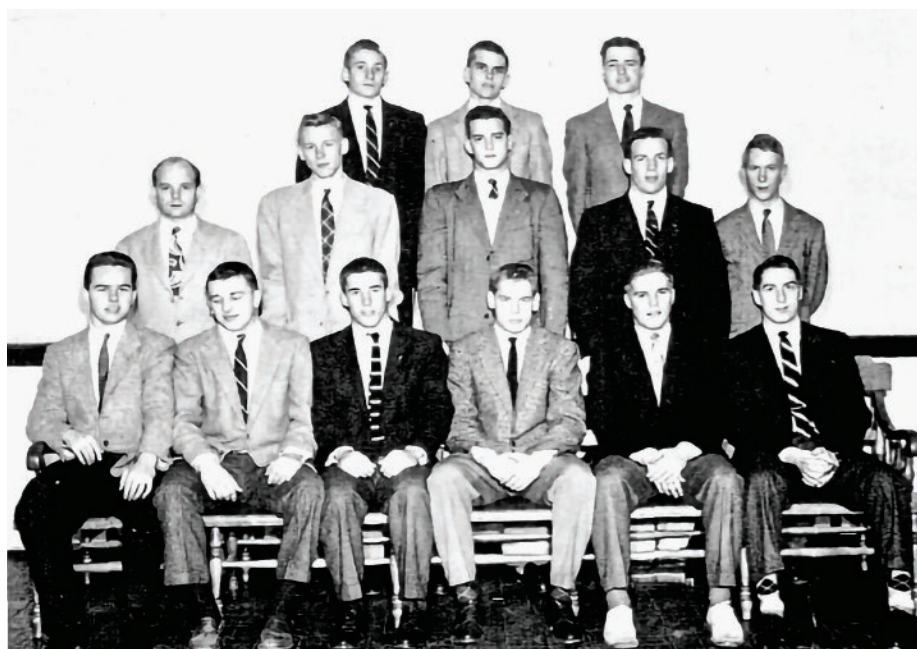
1955

Donald P. Gutekunst writes, “Hope all of you ’55ers are in the line to get the covid shot. I’ve had my second, and no problems other than a 24-hour achy arm. Git ’er done!”

John L. MacWilliams reports, “Like most, we’ve been holed up and have not been able to get vaccinated (we are in Florida but are Delaware residents). I did go to the PC/GA game in 2018 and was the oldest person there. I felt like a relic.

“I still work to keep myself active after 50 years in industry, from home offices in N.J., Delaware and, currently, Delray Beach, Fla. I author articles and reports for the electronics industry, worked with the government’s NIST Advanced Technology Program, have had dialogue with former President Trump and his chief trade representative, worked with MIT in a photonics consortium, and am a member of an FBI affiliate to protect America’s infrastructures. That’s a mouthful but it’s worthwhile work, much of it volunteer.

“I’m a long way from our days at PC when my most profound thoughts were being tackled by **Frederick Goodyear**, and about my next date. One final thought: The English classes and writing skills Col. Clifton Lisle taught me survive to this day and became one of my stronger points.”



Owen B. Tabor writes, “At this point, memory is a cherished faculty! PC life for me was the names, and so many have moved on. **Gerald C. Romig Jr., Earl W. Glazier Jr., Thomas M. Twitmyer, Albert E. Gorman Jr.,** and certainly others. And the remaining: **David H. Rosenbaum, Robert L. Gray III, William H. Pope Jr., William S. Colehower, Edward B. Fiske, Charles Clayton Jr.** I appreciate them all and the kindness and friendship which was experienced now so long ago. What a gift!”

Class Notes

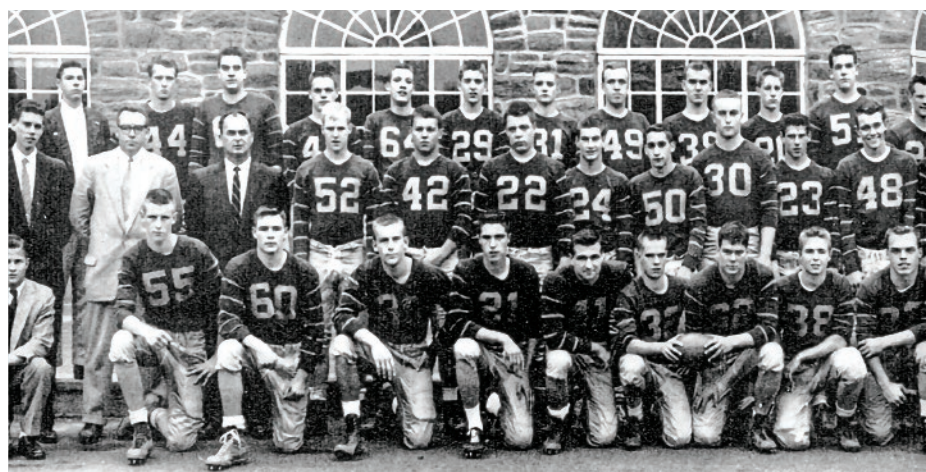
1957

Donald M. Kerr reports, “Alison and I have been enjoying a relatively warm winter in Denver until Feb. 13, when we woke to find minus 5 degrees. We’ve stayed close to home and have found Zoom to be a useful tool for keeping up with my three board activities, but it’s not a substitute for social interactions. Our daughter’s veterinary hospital has been doing well since people are paying more attention to their pets during the pandemic. I’ve had the opportunity to learn more about quantum information science while leading an advisory board for a small growing company in Boulder, Colo., called ColdQuanta, Inc.

“Our best news is that we have a new Cairn terrier puppy. She replaces the one we lost to cancer 15 months ago. We picked her up from a breeder in Utah in mid-January, and our house has not been the same since! I’m hoping that we can have a PC 65th reunion in 2022 to trade stories.”

1958

Edwin A. Weihenmayer III writes, “My brother was cleaning out some old scrapbooks from our grandmother and found a clipping of the All-Inter-Ac football team from 1957. That year the Quakers were a powerhouse in the Inter-Ac and the city, but only now am I reminded how good we were. The First All-Inter-Ac Team included seven guys from PC; the Second Team another four. We even had three more players who were honorable mentions. The team came into the PC/GA game undefeated and unscored-upon in league play. GA was also undefeated. PC triumphed 34-6.



“Many players went on to play on prominent college teams: **Merrick Barnes** at NC State, **Jamie Hoover** at Wisconsin, **Lee Jackson** at UNC, **George Linn** at Wisconsin, **Chappie Swenson** and myself at Princeton; plus **Ted Cushmore**, baseball at Colgate, and **Bill Graham**, wrestling at Bucknell. In an era when one-year postgrads often bolstered many private high school teams, these Quakers all attended PC for many years. The late long-time coach Ray Dooney, who led many teams to championships, called this ‘the best team I’ve ever coached.’”

1961

John A. Dwyer is a retired electrical engineer and lives in Willow Grove, Pa. He shares, “The covid year has meant spending more time with a 4-year-old grandchild (one of five) whose parents both work on the frontlines in health care. It has also led to my developing audio and video engineering, production and editing skills to assist my wife, who is pastor of a small church in Wyncote, Pa., to maintain contact with her congregation.”



David L. Geyer shares that he “escaped to Kiawah Island, S.C. to avoid the winter freeze, but otherwise stayed home to improve my turning skills, while producing live edge furniture such as this current project, a walnut tabletop set on a hollowed-out tree trunk. Looking forward to celebrating our 60th later this year.”



Class Notes

1962

C. Clifford Miller III published an autobiographical book, *Out the Wire*, about his military service in Vietnam. The e-book is available on Amazon.

F. Stone Roberts Sr. welcomed his third grandson, Leo, who lives in Topanga, Calif. Due to covid restrictions they have not been together yet. Stone got his second vaccine shot in February and was planning to head out shortly after.

1963

Richard J. Gilkeson shares, "When Hank Aaron passed recently, I was reminded of the day neighbor and lifelong friend **Robert E. Brickley** and I, hooked on collecting autographs by our PC mentor **Philip M. Maroney Hon. 1689**, found out that Leo Durocher was in our Wayne neighborhood, rumored to be visiting his girlfriend of the moment, Lida (stage name Larri) Thomas, who grew up two blocks from where I did. Bob and I were excited, to say the least.



The Thomas house had a backyard enclosed by a five-foot stone wall. We carefully walked to the wall and heard two people on the other side. It had to be Leo and Larri! Throwing caution to the wind, and buoyed by Bob's support, I jumped up on the wall and looked over. Awkwardly, I called out, 'Mr. Durocher, could we get your autograph?' Thankfully, the two were simply enjoying a beverage on the back porch. After they laughed and said it was okay, we jumped over and exchanged handshakes. The autograph accompanying his 1953 baseball card was our reward. Bob and I continue to be close friends despite living on opposite coasts."

Robert M. Jones Jr. reports that he and his wife, Bonnie, are doing well. "Our art business thrives as well. Past portrait commissions include a member of British Parliament, European nobility, a Knight of the Realm, university presidents and captains of industry. Recent portrait commissions included a Yale classmate and a relative of the King of Spain. A book on our art, titled *Art and Beauty*, is in publication. Find us at jonesartstudios.com."



Paul R. Kroekel writes, "My wife and I moved to Scottsdale, Ariz., in July 2018. We met here in the late 1970s but moved away for 40+ years. Now we're here to stay. I see **Charles Kurz II** when he comes to town, but his travels have been more infrequent during the past year. I've attached a picture of one of our sunsets in the hope of encouraging anyone traveling through the Phoenix/Scottsdale area to say hello and

possibly enjoy a sunset and a glass of wine with us. If you'd like to visit, let me know by emailing paulkroekel@gmail.com. Best regards to all!"



Robert H. Spigel and his wife, Sue, visited Nan and **Douglas S. Little** in Seattle en route to their Peace Corps reunion. Following three years in the Peace Corps in Swaziland, Bob earned civil engineering degrees from the University of Pennsylvania (MS) and Berkeley (PhD). In 1978, he and Sue moved to Christchurch, New Zealand, where Bob served on the faculty at the University of Canterbury and as a hydrodynamics scientist at Crown Research Institute. While at the university, Bob worked in Antarctica over two austral summers."



Pictured: Sue and Bob Spigel with Nan Little at the Ballard Locks in Seattle.

1964

Jeffrey D. Barr shares that "retirement in West Palm Beach is good. Notwithstanding covid issues, I've never been busier with golf, Pilates, range shooting and as president of my condo board. I'm trying to improve with at least one of those activities."

Class Notes

C. Stuart Hain writes, “I have retired after nearly 30 years serving Swarthmore College as the senior facilities and services officer. Judy and I have spent the last year in our off-the-grid house on a farm in Maine shared with us by **John Hyk OPC '66**. It is a working farm and the farm where Ollie Nuse did a good deal of art in a still-standing studio he built. I miss my good friend **William F. Lotz III**, our classmate. His children and grandchildren spend time on the farm with us, which is great fun. Best to all.”

1965

William K. Canfield reports “My son Taylor just won his fourth World Championship in sailing. He is the reigning Open Match Racing World Champion for the second time. His proud father is happily retired, living in Newport, R.I.”

Warren F. (Wiff) Miller Jr. reports that he is “working harder than ever in our family funeral home, Huff and Lakjer in Lansdale, Pa., as well as Lansdale Crematory.” Wiff moved from Philadelphia in 1977 to Hanover, Pa., where he also oversees several other family-owned funeral homes and a crematory in central Pa. His wife, Barbara, is also a funeral director. They are in the process of renovating their new condo in Rittenhouse Square while still maintaining their residences in Hanover and Lansdale.

1966

John W. Braxton writes, “I’m still teaching biology at Community College of Philadelphia, though I decided not to run for reelection as co-president of the union. It’s been a challenge to learn to teach online after so many years of enjoying teaching face to face. My two sons live not far away in Philadelphia. One runs a foundation that funds youth organizing, and the other is a chemistry teacher. The apples didn’t fall

far from the tree. I still enjoy running and logged 430 miles last year—but I won’t disclose how slow the pace is!

“I’ve attached a photo of the Braxton family, with me holding a photo of my parents, both of whom worked at PC. Mom was a dietician and Dad was a teacher and eventually headmaster.”



Donald A. Noveau shares “During covid, I continued working on a hotel renovation part-time, and have rededicated myself to becoming more fluent in Spanish, not that I’m fluent now. But I know enough to get myself into trouble on a construction site! Both daughters work in health care and are fully sick and tired of the pandemic. Luckily, they’ve both had two shots already. Barbara is still actively volunteering in Maryland politics and is greatly relieved at the presidential election results. Through Ancestry.com, I’m also tracking down a possible family relationship through my paternal grandfather’s line that could go back to Caleb Pusey (1650-1727). Reportedly, he was a friend and business partner of William Penn. The Caleb Pusey House (1683) near Chester, Pa., is on the Historic Register.”

Allen F. Steere, James Q. Stevens and Stephen A. Bonnie are spearheading an effort to raise \$100,000 or more to honor their classmate **Steven P. (Steffy) DiStefano III**. Steffy was a beloved classmate and friend to all and will be honored in some fashion in the new Athletics & Wellness Center. Thanks to all who have contributed. Additional contributions can be made through Steve Bonnie at sbonnie@penncharter.com.

1967

James H. Armour shares, “I am currently living in Villa Rica, Ga., and I am retired. I live with my wife and have four children, three by my previous marriage and one with my current spouse. I attended a college fraternity reunion in 2019 and met up with fellow OPC '67 grad **Reynolds K. Long**.”

1968

Robert H. Kellner writes, “I am one of the co-principals of American PetroLog LLC, a logistics provider for the petrochemical industry and transportation provider of propellants and fuels for the Department of Defense. Our company was recognized by Inc. magazine as one of the fastest growing privately held companies in the U.S., and near the top of the list of logistics companies within the broader category. Our ‘secret sauces’ are the dedicated women and men pouring out their best, living and making the American Dream a reality.”

1969

Ray S. Benson Jr. writes, “Just a big howdy from sunny Texas! Survived the blizzard of 2021. Now, can we survive the Texas legislature!”



Class Notes

Alexander Randall V retired as chairman of the communication department of the University of the Virgin Islands, closed down his daily “Good News” report on the local radio station, and sold his home on Water Island and moved to Princeton N.J. just in time for the 50th reunion. Randall is giving seminars at the local university and writing books for young readers, including the recently published *Dream Wizard: Escapes*.



Richard T. Steere writes, “During the past year of staying home for covid-19, our son, Christofer, a professional graphic designer, put together a new version of my wife Julia’s book of her father’s letters home from 1940 to 1946. It is titled *As Ever, Dwight*, which is how he signed most of his letters. Chris self-published the book on Amazon. My daughter, Stefanie, and I did the editing, and Julia and I did research and wrote descriptions of all the places Dwight was during that period.”



1970

Russell R. Dickhart shares, “Lora Jo and I had a great start to 2020, taking our annual post-retirement winter auto trip to the Houston area, with the goal to see our grandchildren, now 7 and 9. Our road trips are all about leisure, with several stops on our way to Houston and back. Driving back to Philly in early March, we decided to stay in Hilton Head for a few days to see friends and play some golf. Of course, those plans were cut short thanks to covid-19, a quick memorable trip back home! Son Chuck’s big summer wedding in Boston to his fiancée, Alison, was also a “no-go,” but a small ceremony with immediate family only—on the beach in Cape May and a reception outside on the harbor at our club—turned out great and we had a blast, including the changing winds and weather. (Pictured below.)

“The Class of 1970 had a great get-together last year: a fun and informative, safe outdoor luncheon at Sunnybrook Golf Club in November, hosted by **John T. Rogers Hon. 1689**, **Darryl J. Ford Hon. 1689**, **Stephen A. Bonnie OPC ’66** and **W. Bruce McFarland OPC ’71** joined ’70 classmates **Robert J. Bower Jr.**, **Robert C. Maiocco**, **Charles L. Mitchell** (and wife Yvonne and daughter Julia), **Michael J. Robinson**, **Eric P. Wagner**, **Michael J. Yaros** and me. It is always great to catch up, swap stories and memories, and notice how little all of us have changed since 1970!”



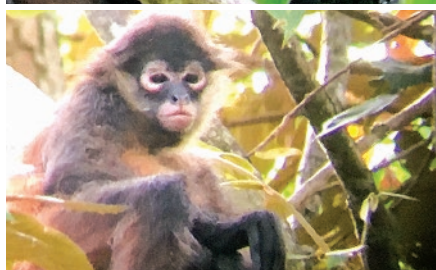
George J. Hauptfuhrer III shared that his granddaughter, Charlotte, (age 7) has been treated for a brain tumor over the last year. She has received care at Penn State Children’s Hospital in Hershey, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, and St. Jude Children’s Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., which does not charge families for health care and accommodations.

“Charlotte has been a brave girl throughout her treatment, and her mother, Barbara, has been by her side nearly 24/7. My daughter Barbara has a strong faith, and our family has hundreds of friends who are prayer warriors for Charlotte. Andy’s family has taken great care of Charlotte’s sister (now 5) and brother (3). My wife, Sally, has also been very supportive. I share this in gratitude for the medical personnel who have taken good care of Charlotte over the last eight months and for the support our family has experienced. I have a new (and better) perspective on life and what less fortunate families face when dealing with pediatric oncology. Family, faith and charitable giving have become even more important for me.”

Class Notes

R. Craig Lefebvre is enjoying his time with his wife, Doreen, their dogs and cats in Sedona, Ariz., a good place to ride out a pandemic. “My day is balanced with backyard evocative scenery, numerous hiking trails and the presence of the Milky Way every night, which has become my muse for nightscape photography (recent work is on my Flickr account). As lead change designer at RTI International, a global nonprofit research organization, I am involved in work against two of the nation’s epidemics. I lead communication campaigns and related activities for the largest research study to reduce opioid overdose deaths, the HEALing Communities Study. As senior advisor for the CDC Project Firstline training collaborative, we work with frontline health care workers to protect them, their facility and coworkers, their family and their community from coronavirus and other infections.”

Robert C. Maiocco writes, “In my retirement, I have decided to spend my winter months in warm weather climates exploring nature and having fun: golf, tennis, swimming. These photos are from Corcovado National Park on the Osa Peninsula in Costa Rica. This is a great country for its biological diversity, for sure, but also for gringos who just enjoy a tranquil, simple life. This winter it’s also great because the risk of covid is lessened due to fewer people, and everybody wears a mask.”



1971

David W. Doelp Jr. welcomed his third grandson, Benjamin David Righter, on Sept. 8, 2020.

Peter S. Given Jr. writes, “I’m eternally grateful for the jumpstart Penn Charter provided for a life full of creation and satisfaction. I went to Syracuse University, followed by SUNY-ESF, where I earned a PhD in biochemistry. Thanks to Reid Bush and Sam Tatnall for the inspiration to pursue science. I spent my career in the food and beverage industry, conducting research on new products, ingredient interactions, flavor and aroma, etc. You’ve probably enjoyed some of the products I worked on: Oreos, Pepsi, Tropicana, Green Mountain coffee. A lot of work, but mostly fun! I retired in July 2019 and have immersed into hobbies that were on hold for many years: woodworking, painting, model building, antique car restoration and keeping the house functioning. My wife, Janie, and I cross-country ski almost every day all winter (as we live in Stowe, Vt.) and I try to swim a couple times a week. Northern Vermont is awesome year-round, and our door is always open—post covid, that is. Pictured is a 1973 Opel GT I finished last summer, and Janie and I skiing at Von Trapps (yep, *The Sound of Music Von Trapps*).



R. Keith Helmetag shares, “As an antidote to the pandemic, **Robert H. Morrow III OPC ’69** (far left) joined ’71 alums (left to right) **T. Edward O’Neil**, **David H. Kinley III**, **R. Keith Helmetag** and **William D. Himmelreich** for competitive rounds of golf throughout 2020, with everyone a winner except a pickle ball instructor’s broken windshield, politicians’ character, etc.”



R. Davis Irvin Jr. shares, “In 2011 I left Downeast Maine, bought a 65-foot sailboat and pointed her bow toward a warmer horizon. I didn’t know how or why, but I thought that my fate lay somewhere in the Southern Hemisphere. The tales of this journey are many, some I would not want to appear in writing. I’ve been most fortunate to be “stuck” in New Zealand during the pandemic. I’ve been lucky to share the advantages of a covid-free country, the excitement of America’s Cup challenges and being in a fantastic place. Maybe next year I will return to my usual routine of winters in Fiji and summers in NZ.”



Class Notes

Daniel W. Reese is director of finances and board member emeritus of SlaveFree Today, a non-governmental organization that publishes the Journal of Modern Slavery. Dan has served as CFO and COO for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, raising over \$75 million in direct and in-kind donations while earning four national awards. He has led fundraising for the National Council for Adoption and was managing director of the Business Alliance for Vietnamese Education. Dan had a successful career in banking and in Connecticut state government, working for Connecticut governor Ella T. Grasso. He is married with six children and eight grandchildren.

Dan remembers his role in Penn Charter's decision to go coeducational. "Beginning in sixth grade, I met with everyone under the sun to do this: parents, alumni, administrators, etc. In those days I was one of those '60s rabble rousers, and part of the beauty of the school is they encouraged this sort of discussion."



Pictured: Dan (left) in the Oval Office with Gov. Ella Grasso and President Jimmy Carter.

1972

David R. Gilkeson is now the CEO of Westchase District in Houston, Tex., an organization that supports public safety, beautification and communication within the neighborhood. Current projects include the development of three new parks and a jogging trail. Gilkeson previously served as financial director at Westchase for 21 years, and he has lived in Houston for 43.

1973

Frederick H. Bartlett III and his daughter **Emily (Bartlett) Walker OPC '06** enjoyed the 2019 PC/GA Day on Penn Charter's campus.



Peter S. Crosby shares, "In 1994, I rode a bicycle from Beijing to Hong Kong, about 2,000 miles, for National Geographic TV and Christian Science Monitor Radio, calling it *Belly of the Dragon*. Now, 26 years later, I'm waiting in Hong Kong for my new visa to return and bike that same rural route to highlight the country's many positive changes and the commonalities of Chinese and American middle-class life. My China documentary story was recently profiled on Shanghai Media Group's DragonTV: vimeo.com/365922339

"This April, we hope to resume production of our four-part TV series and National Geographic film by starting the ride again from Beijing. Covid-19, the US-China trade war and China politics are a few of the hurdles, let alone this OPC '73 biking every day for 10 weeks, using my faded Chinese and rusty photography skills. If nothing else, it may be an entertaining, downright laughable, adventure—if we can make it happen. Let's hope this Chinese Year of the Ox will give us the power and perseverance we'll need."



Class Notes

Robert L. Dyer Jr. and **William B. Ashmead Jr. OPC '74** joined with friends this past September for a four-day rafting trip on the Colorado River in Utah. Robert shares, "Lots of laughs and many School House Lane tall tales exchanged. Ash and I had so much fun hiking the Grand Canyon in April. What a long strange trip it's been. Thanks, PC."



Bob Dyer OPC '73 (far left) and **Bill Ashmead OPC '74** (middle)

Edward E. Straub Jr. writes, "After 25 years in Washington, D.C., with Lockheed Martin's research initiatives, I moved to Miami Beach. There I dealt with some medical issues and served on the boards of several nonprofit organizations. Particularly proud of launching a 24/7, trilingual LGBTQ suicide hotline for Miami-Dade. Now living in Pompano Beach, Fla., playing some golf, boating a bit and helping the community. I'm thankful for the experiences and friendships I had at Penn Charter. They established a great foundation for a rewarding life."



Charles J. Webb III has picked up new hobbies of restoring old Jeep Wagoneers and skiing.



Bruce N. Wilson reports, "I continue to work in construction and to educate about the many benefits of green building and renewable energy. I am hopeful that the Biden administration will do a lot to promote both, as zero energy is the wave of the future. I find most builders unaware of what is possible. My wife of 40 years, Annie, and I are enjoying our second grandchild, Sloan, who is 17 months old. They live about 10 minutes away and we babysit once a week. I've attached a picture of me and Annie with 10-year-old Nick."



1974

David C. Hahn "I, like the Beatles, have been forced to retreat to the secure cloisters of the recording studio. I am sure the situation will change this year and I'll be able to be more accessible to my adoring fans! I am working on a collection of tracks to be included on a new CD (my fifth). One of them is 'Kaj ja znam,' already a hit on Croatian radio with the slangy chorus 'Kaj ja znam?' or 'How do I know?' The CD, called *SHE's FINALE*, will be available in June."

Class Notes

William H. Lesser III writes, “Life stays very busy here in Virginia. Kathy and I have six grandchildren who are still young enough to listen to us! The two oldest boys, Liam Lesser and Luke Davis, are acting silly in the attached photo as we celebrate our January birthdays together. I received a great Christmas card from past PC math teacher Don Campbell. Don has two children who both attended PC. His kind note reflected cherished PC memories of other teachers, Fred Huntington, Sam Tatnall and our beloved Reid Bush. Work at FEMA still keeps me very busy with flood hazard mitigation, which refuses to slow down. Blessings to all. Here is hoping for a great year in 2021!”



1976

James A. Hassett writes, “I am deeply grateful to be a lifer from Penn Charter, particularly as a member of my class. We are a group of individuals with various temperaments, talents and tastes, yet in any combination we are an unshakable team. Regardless of how many decades pass between conversations, we come together as one, picking up as if we spoke yesterday, which is not surprising as we accept each other as we are and we share a great sense of humor.

“During the pandemic we were able to share much laughter as we reunited as a class via email and Zoom; and thanks to the efforts of **Christopher V. Kendrick** and **Gary M. Garrettson** we were able to track down and Zoom with our eighth grade Earth Science teacher Ms. Georgia Valaoras in Greece! In 1971-72 she filled in for Mr. Cross, who was on sabbatical. We shared our appreciation and many belly laughs during our Zoom conversation. It turns out that year was as memorable and fortuitous for her as it was for us!”



Pictured on the Zoom with Georgia Valaoras, from top left: **Jeffrey T. Harbison**, **James A. Hassett**, **Stephen F. Doroff**, **Gary M. Garrettson**, **David L. Snyderwine Jr.**, **Maurice E. Weintraub**.

James E. Lemonick writes, “My wife, Leslie, and I have lived in Lancaster, Pa., since 2004 and still maintain our home there but in the last few years we have spent more and more of our time in Hilton Head, S.C., where we have a house very close to the beach and lots of great outdoor activities. I entered my 41st year as a financial advisor/wealth manager in 2021 and I feel incredibly lucky to have been able to work remotely since March of last year and not had anyone in my family get the virus. I’ve been living and working in Hilton Head since December with my four millennial kids coming, going and staying with us for lots of the time. With the beach, golf, tennis, pickleball and biking so close, retirement beckons!”

William N. Mebane IV shares, “I’ve semi-retired after 22 years as director of the Marine Biological Laboratory’s Sustainable Aquaculture Initiative (SAI) in Woods Hole, Mass. The SAI was devoted to transferring technology of farming fish using low resource methods into resource-challenged areas of the globe, primarily Haiti, East Africa and Cambodia. ‘Too many trips to hot climates with skinny cows and strange biting insects,’ as my wife of 25 years has said! We hope to sail our recently restored 1959 Concordia sailboat in New England waters and, if we get the nerve, maybe sail to Germany and ‘press’ **Gary M. Garrettson** into crewing with us. During covid, I’ve spent my time developing novel mobility devices for my parents and others at Foulkeways retirement community in Pa., a fine Quaker-based organization.

“OPC ’76 has had some super Zoom reunions thanks to **Jeffrey T. Harbison**. It’s been wonderful to catch up with so many cherished classmates.”

1977

Jeffrey L. Abrams writes, “Thankfully, so far our family has stayed safe and healthy. Our son, Ben, is at CUNY completing his master’s, and our daughters, Gillian (Savannah College of Art and Design, ’20)

Class Notes

and Martha (UMich, '20) are in Philadelphia getting ready for their next professional and academic steps. We spent much of 2020 bouncing back and forth between Philly and upstate N.Y., and made good use of Zoom, online spin classes and other WFH innovations. We hold all of you in the Light and send wishes of health, peace and safety."

James R. Malone Jr. became chair of the Tax Section of the Philadelphia Bar Association.

Michael W. Richards writes, "For the past 14 years I have been the music therapist at the Pilot School in Wilmington, Del. Pilot is a school for students with language-based learning differences. Music therapy accommodations are a change in environment that gives students equal access to learning. The children get to sing and dance as well as to play full drum sets, piano, guitar, African drums and bass. By learning to express themselves through music, they are learning to express thoughts and feelings that are beyond words."



1978

Theodore F. Decker Jr. reports, "Sue and I, now living in beautiful Buckingham, Pa., with our 15-year-old springer spaniel, Ginger, enjoyed a relaxing September/early October at our Ocean City, N.J., cottage, where we ran into **J. Peter Davis OPC '74**, **Andrew S. Klein OPC '74** and various other OPCs taking in the fresh salty air while 'strolling the boards.'"

"Last October, we found an off-the-grid seasonal 'camp' on the rocky shores of Downeast Maine, which we settled on in early December. We plan on installing a solar grid this spring and will be spending most of our time there April to October.

"We are proud 'Papi' and 'Gaga' to our two grandchildren, Whitney (5) and Brayden (2), thanks to our son **Theodore S. Decker OPC '06** and his wife, Lauren. They live in Jamison, Pa., where Ted is a senior sales manager with Comcast Business.

"Our other son, **Timothy G. Decker OPC '08**, graduated from Penn Law last spring and recently passed the Pennsylvania Bar exam. He had been interning at Kline & Specter for the past two years and is now living in Alexandria, Va., while clerking for a federal judge in Washington, D.C.

"Our daughter, **Kathryn S. Decker OPC '13**, recently bought a home in Horsham, Pa., and is a production coordinator for Harth Builders in Spring House. (Shout-out to our classmate, **David H. Neff**, who has done an incredible 'rebranding' of Harth!). Hope to see many of you in the near covid-free future!"

1979

J. Michael Chaple writes, "After almost 22 years at Dolby Laboratories, I will be retiring in June 2021. I am fortunate to be able to do this right now: my older son graduates this spring and already has a great job lined up, the younger one is at University of Washington with an end in sight, and my wife has promised to add me to her health care plan. I anticipate playing bad golf, cooking good food and traveling (once we have this virus under control). I will certainly mix in some volunteer work, too. Please give me a shout if you are in the San Francisco Bay Area; maybe I'll have some brisket, pork or salmon on the smoker!"

1980

Jonathan M. Breslow would like "to thank my classmates and the PC community for your condolences on my wife Donna's passing. She passed away April 9, 2020, after four years battling breast cancer. She was the bravest person I've ever known, enduring countless chemo treatments, radiation and surgeries. During her final days she wanted to leave a legacy of giving. I, with the help of my son Jordan, formed the Donna Breslow Foundation, working with local healthcare systems to help cancer patients who struggle with everyday bills to purchase wigs and other prostheses. Feel free to share this link with anyone who you feel may benefit from the assistance we offer: Donnabreslowfoundation.org. Even in the short time since our founding, we've seen the power of our impact and that helps us to preserve Donna's memory."

John B. Caras shares, "Last June I started a weekly national, faith-based racial reconciliation Zoom meeting called 'Can't Stop Here.' We have a diverse cross section of participants from a variety of industries, including sports, music, media and business. OPCs **Caesar D. Williams Jr.** and **David G. Zallie** have participated. Other OPCs are welcome to join us. If interested, contact johnbondcaras@comcast.net."



Adam A. Jacks has been fortunate enough to live in the South Island of New Zealand for the last 25 years and with any luck at all another 25!

Class Notes

1981

Franklin S. Horowitz writes, “The recent death of our beloved classmate **Michael H. Monheit** has me reflecting back to those Penn Charter school days. Anyone in the Class of 1981 would fondly remember Mike, and I was fortunate to maintain a close friendship with him for 40 years. He exuded the OPC teachings: ‘Good instruction is better than riches.’ He was a dedicated family man, a loyal friend, and an enthusiastic learner and searcher for all of his days. He conducted his business with the highest level of integrity. I was very fond of Mike, had great respect for him and will truly miss him. He came to my home when my son Jackson died a few years ago and had the capacity and humanity to always be available to hear my thoughts and feelings on that subject.

“On the subject of those old Penn Charter days (coming from someone who generally struggled with conventional academic learning), I thoroughly enjoyed the lessons and the classmates.”



1982

PC Trustee **Benjamin E. Robinson III** writes, “The new year brings a great opportunity. In 2021, I transitioned to be the first chief administrative officer for Taylor Global, a marketing strategy firm. I am responsible for oversight of critical operational and strategic functions, including performance management, process improvement, risk management,

compliance, corporate social responsibility, ethics, human resources, supply chain of agency strategic partners and vendors, as well as a leadership role in diversity, equity and inclusion.”



1985

Thomas F. Burke Jr. reports that “The Burke family of Morrisville, Pa., is doing well—still one day at a time! Christina, our oldest daughter, is still fighting on the frontlines as an ICU nurse at Christiana Hospital in Newark, Del. Sarah moved to South Carolina and is engaged to be married in November 2021. Time does fly by. Mary is a freshman at the University of Pittsburgh. Thomas is a junior at Pennsbury High School, the same school where I teach. I am in my 31st year of teaching mathematics. Barb is a Patient First nurse, and we will be celebrating 29 years of marriage in July. I hope that all of my classmates are doing well during these tough times. God bless all of you and your families.”

1986

David M. Jaspan remarks: “What a year. Our son **Luke D. Jaspan** became an OPC, Class of 2020. I have managed women's health care in a pandemic. I was able to reconnect with fellow OPC '86 **Jeffrey S. Brown** via the PC series OPConnect. Stay safe, mask up, maintain social distance, wash your hands and please get vaccinated; this will enable us to once again enjoy one another in person.”

1987

David B. Gleit writes, “Neither cold nor pandemic could keep old friends apart. Some Class of '87 members took a brisk, covid-friendly December walk at Valley Forge to the National Memorial Arch, including **R. Thomas Livezey** and his family; **Robert W. Frieman**, his kids **Cole S. Frieman OPC '19** and **Milla R. Frieman** Class of '21 and clerk of student council; **James J. Fitzgerald IV**. Among those not pictured are **Russell Fitzgerald** Class of '25; his brother **James Fitzgerald V** Class of 2022 (also a student council member); and Robert's wife, Monica Freeley of PC kindergarten fame, who thought it too cold for their new puppy, Billie. OMG!”



1988



Edward O. Gillespie writes, “It's been far too long. With 51 trips around the sun under my belt, I'm reaching back to my culture hearth. I hope everyone is well. I think of PC often and kick myself for being out of touch for so long. My reconnection is long overdue.” A Baltimore City police officer and a poet, Edward hosted an open discussion in February about his new book, *Gentrifying the Plague House*.



Class Notes

No Measure to My Respect

Sydney H. Coffin OPC '88



"Because I repeated 10th grade as a condition of my acceptance to Penn Charter, I turned 18 just before the end of 11th grade, and in addition to registering to vote I faced registration for draft into the U.S. military. While Americans have not been drafted into service since the Vietnam conflict, for me it was a challenging decision to consider: My father entered the Army at age 20, but I was educated entirely in Quaker schools and am a member of the oldest Quaker family in the United States.

"Female OPCs have yet to be faced with draft registration, and it's not been an easy decision for me to live with, in that every day I resist serving my country with any weapon other than my education, and perhaps my pen. I have been

fortunate not to have had enough danger in my life to necessitate any weaponry other than these two items, but I hope I have served my country well. I hope I continue to be privileged to never face sufficient threats upon my loved ones to see my decision change away from nonviolence, to defend my country or my loved ones, or anyone else for that matter.

"That said, I would like here to 'draw' upon my own weaponry to illustrate 'Taps' for those alumni and others who have not had such privilege. As I watched the recent inauguration, I considered memories of so many people I have known who have died defending my safety and the safety of the country, as have plenty of OPCs, and with deep respect and gratitude I want to honor all of them and offer my drawing of the anonymous trumpet player who so eloquently played those notes for us during the ceremony. May there be no more who have to take life to protect another's, and if that's unlikely, consider President Carter's Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech, in which he said, 'If war is a necessary evil, then let us remember that it remains evil, and that as soon as we enter into the role of those who commit acts of war, we become the evil we hoped to vanquish.'

"We could easily forget our education at Penn Charter, including the challenge of Quaker pacifism, and every day I am reminded of our collective need to sit in silence before we speak, to speak from our own heart before we act or sit by while others fight in our defense. To those warriors alone, I take off my hat and bow my head, with no limit to my sadness, and no measure to my respect.

Ben W. Jones shares, "My wife, Meredith, and I are enjoying year two living in West Mt. Airy, notwithstanding the global pandemic. Our girls, Maddie Class of 2028 and Bianca Class of 2030, are enjoying their second year at PC. We added a pandemic puppy, Sunny, to the mix as well this year."



David A. Kern writes, "Hello to my classmates. Please stay safe during the pandemic. After a long battle with viral-induced congestive heart failure, I'm now studying epidemiology at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. A shout-out to **David Shipon**, who correctly diagnosed me, finally, after many incorrect diagnoses. Shipon definitely saved my life. After several years of cutting edge drug therapies and cardiac rehab, and in an effort to try to repay my debt to Shipon forward, I began studying the long-term cardiac effects of covid-19, amongst other things, at Hopkins earlier this year.

"In addition to David, I also want to express my thanks to my fellow OPCs **Phillip S. Ragland** and **Jerry C. Rullo III**, for their friendship and support during the most difficult time of my life. Friends are hard to come by when you get sick; they are more valuable than riches."

1989

Brian M. Donaghy has been busier than ever in the era of covid, as chocolate has weathered the storm favorably, and one of the cool projects he has been working on for his company, Tomric Systems of Buffalo, N.Y., is a weekly Chocolatier Chat

Class Notes

on Instagram. He has gotten to talk to some great American chocolatiers every week since last April and will continue the live show Fridays at 2:00 p.m. on the Tomric Systems Instagram @tomricsystems.



1990

Gabriel B. Ledger notes, “I’ve been working on expanding Farm Clinic, which I started in 2013 to bring on-site health care to uninsured and underinsured farm workers. It’s a good change of pace from my day job in the emergency department in Corvallis, Ore. I’m married with two kids (preschool), two dogs (distance learning), a barn cat and a chainsaw that I’ve learned to use to take down damaged trees from our winter storms. Feels like a long way from home in West Philadelphia! Wishing everyone a healthy 2021, hopefully coming out of the pandemic safely.”



Gabriel, left, with another doctor and a patient at Farm Clinic.

Justin B. Wineburgh, as president and CEO of global media company Alkemy X, led his team to earn a 2020 Emmy nomination for the three-part documentary series *Sincerely, Patience* with the Philadelphia Eagles.

In addition, the company’s original series *Dragnificent!* is now streaming on Hulu and Discovery+ after a successful debut season on TLC and a win for Best Lifestyle Show at the American Reality Television Awards.

1991

Leo J. Wyszynski writes, “After 30 years, the class is doing well. It’s been heartwarming to hear of the initiatives that classmates have undertaken to support their communities and the world. **James S. Killinger’s** work to assist covid patients in New York City, **Daniel S. Donaghy’s** efforts to help stave off hunger, **Christopher R. Dilworth’s** career of diplomatic service, and **John Merritt’s** and **Paul J. Kane’s** work to help the underprivileged are just a few examples of the many wonderful efforts occurring across the Class of 1991 during this challenging year. While the conditions will prevent us from gathering in person this year for our reunion, hopefully next year we will be able to celebrate together!”

1992

Aaron S. Kesselheim reports that he was elected to the National Academy of Medicine this year—considered one of the highest honors in the field of health and medicine. The agency noted “his national leadership in studying how prescription drugs and medical devices interact with regulatory practices and the law to affect patient health outcomes. Blending rigorous empirical and policy analysis, his research shapes our understanding of how to improve the safety, effectiveness and affordability of medical products.”

1993

Edward J. Yaeger Jr. writes, “I’m tempted to give fake and embarrassing updates about myself and my fellow OPCs with whom I’ve

been in contact during the pandemic, but I’ll refrain (this time). Instead, I’ll share that I’ve been fortunate to have lasting friendships with many amazing people from my time at Penn Charter veritable eons ago. **Lauren M. Rossman Rosenfield**, **Melissa L. Mahl**, **Carolyn H. Kogan Loughran**, **Jessica Bender OPC ’92** and I maintain a text thread (and occasional app-based Houseparties) that focus largely on pandemic support; while **Andrea B. Tonkon**, **Kirsten M. Henri**, **Pamela F. Villacorta OPC ’92** and I maintain an intermittent text thread that is often prompted by my potty-humored memes. We’ve also experimented with a Zoom meeting or two, which I pray haven’t been recorded. I check in with **Erica M. Blumfield**, **Jason V. Webb** and **Wyatt Gallery**. Erica is moving mountains in L.A., Jason’s twins adore me (no surprise there), and Wyatt is so international that he and I have to connect via WhatsApp. I also get to see and tease fellow OPCs via social media. **Atiba H. Wade OPC ’95** is an accomplished health and wellness coach (I will never seriously use the moniker ‘influencer’); **Alyson Goodner OPC ’96** remains a whirlwind of hair and infectious positivity; **Cydney E. Irving-Dasent** is stunningly gorgeous living proof that age is just a number; and **Theodore D. Fischer** serves up on Facebook my kind of snark: smart, snappy and unself-righteous. I’m purposefully omitting a few others because I want to see if they notice. Just kidding. Ish.”

1994

Andrew Duffy and his wife, **Megan (Gallagher) Duffy OPC ’93**, are proud to be parents of four future OPCs!



Class Notes

1998

Melissa C. Schuck reports, "This fall I began my 19th year teaching mathematics in Upper Moreland Township School District in Montgomery County, Pa., virtually, from my laundry room classroom!"



2001

Jennifer H. Diamond shares, "Rob and I welcomed our first child, Leia Francesca Diamond, via surrogate, in the beginning of the pandemic. She brings so much joy to our lives, and her smile and laughter is infectious. She has no idea that there is a pandemic going on, but we plan to tell her all about the stress we went through to bring her home when she is an unruly teenager. All attempts to teach her 'Penn Charter, Penn Charter, fighter harder, fight harder!' have proven unsuccessful so far ... but she can't talk yet! We'll get there!"



2003

Ian A. Saltzman writes, "Hello everyone, I have just graduated from Saint Joseph's University with a master of science in business intelligence and analytics. I will also be joining the analytics team at the King of Prussia-based company Quench Water this spring."



2004

Chelsey B. Donn (right) appeared alongside Christina Hendricks and Lauren Lapkus in the season four premiere of *Good Girls* on NBC.



Timothy G. Starr was recently promoted to executive director, global advisory sales at UBS Investment Bank. He currently lives in Manhattan with his wife, Hanna.

2005

Colin W. Hitschler and fellow coach Perry Eliano of the University of Cincinnati were named 2020 FootballScoop Defensive Backs Coaches of the Year.



2008

Eric Weiner reports, "My job is writing and editing at a car enthusiast publication, and I came across a cool custom-built BMW in an off-beat Facebook group. I contacted **Max S. Fischer OPC '91** through the group, and interviewed him as we discussed how he developed this unique car in his at-home workshop. At the end of the interview I asked where he was from, and he said Philadelphia.

"Weird, me too," I said. "Where did you grow up?"

"Abington, and near Conshohocken."

Very weird—again—because I grew up near Conshy. He asked me where I went to school.

"Over in East Falls," I said, not sure if he knew of Penn Charter.

Long silence.

"... Are you an OPC?" he asked, incredulous.

"My jaw about hit the floor. We caught up like old friends, having graduated 17 years apart but obviously shaped by a common experience. His day job is as a camera operator/cinematographer, and he shared that it was Mr. Granger who first exposed (pun moderately intended) him to photography and film. It was an unbelievable sensation. Me in Ann Arbor,

Class Notes

Mich., him in Richmond, Va., connecting over an international Facebook group and realizing we went to the same small private high school. Wild!”

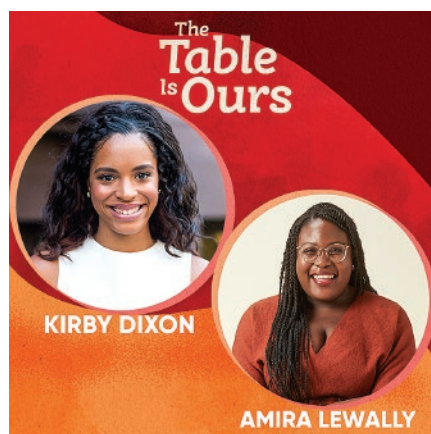
2009

Elizabeth L. Carpino writes, “Lots of exciting news for me recently. My fiancé and I recently left the city in September and bought a house which is really exciting (and a lot of work) for us. We also just adopted a puppy. Her name is Piper (pictured). I will also be finishing graduate school in June with my master’s in nursing, with a focus in quality, safety and risk management. As always, wishing a safe and happy 2021 to the Penn Charter community!”



Kirby Dixon, director of publicity at A&E Networks in New York, is cohost of the new A&E podcast *The Table Is Ours*. Two years ago, she and colleague Amira Lewally “got into a deep conversation about our place in the media landscape: Where we were, where we saw ourselves going, and what legacy we wanted to leave behind for the next generation of Black women making their way in the entertainment industry. That conversation led us to create and pitch an idea for a company podcast where we could discuss topics affecting our community and learn from some of our favorite Black icons and inspirations. Never have I advocated for myself and a vision in this way before. But I am so glad that we

did because now, with a lot of patience and hard work, it’s finally here!” Listen to *The Table Is Ours* on iTunes, Spotify, Stitcher and wherever you get your podcasts. The first episode is with New Orleans bounce diva Big Freedia. Other guests this season include Vanessa Williams, Karamo Brown and Kyla Pratt.



2010

Sara A. Rowland shares, “In 2020, I moved to Cardiff-by-the-Sea in San Diego with my fiancé, David Grotting, and our dog, Bonnie. We both still work for San Francisco-based companies, now remotely. We bought a little blue cottage and are planning our wedding for spring 2022.”

2011

Joya A. Ahmad writes, “Since April 2020, I’ve been the national logistics director of MedSupplyDrive, a covid-19 relief nonprofit. To date, we’ve donated over one million pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE) to hospitals, clinics, homeless shelters, indigenous reservation health centers, street medics and more. In November, I ran a 40-mile race in place of the cancelled NYC Marathon to raise funds for MedSupplyDrive and was featured by NBC and NY1. Several OPCs and PC teachers donated to the cause, and I am

deeply grateful for the community support and thankful to the PC cross-country team for teaching me how to run in the first place! Major thanks, as always, to **James M. Ballengee Hon. 1689**, whose wise words on service and distance running have consistently guided me.”



Kyle L. Bonus writes, “After a covid-related layoff from Lyft, where I worked on the bike and scooter team, my partner, Mike Girard, and I were quick to make the move from Boston to Portland, Maine, for a smaller-city feel closer to outdoor activities. Within three weeks of starting our lease, the landlord decided to sell the building, and guess who bought it! I am settling into landlord life, a new job working on energy-efficiency programs, and snowboarding as much as possible.”



Class Notes

Connor J. Harbison (pictured, left) launched 2bird Mask, a company that sells masks designed to prevent skin irritation. Connor and his co-founders started 2bird as a class project during their first semester in the Babson MBA program. They interviewed 300 potential customers to understand the pain points surrounding “maskne.” From there, Connor and his team developed five rounds of prototypes, iterating with each version until they had a product that customers loved. The company has donated masks to health care workers in the Boston area. Connor credits the community-focused nature of the business to the Quaker education he received at Penn Charter. For questions about 2bird Mask, feel free to reach out to harbison.connor@gmail.com or visit 2birdmask.com.



2012

Lela D. Garner writes, “In my role as sustainability coordinator at University of Virginia, we pushed out publicly accessible compost bins all across Grounds. Sending a special thanks to PC Green Club for fostering my commitment to environmental stewardship!”



Camille A. Meekins has launched Faerie, an online marketplace that serves as a one-stop shopping destination for tall women. As a tall woman and fashion lover, she realized the struggle in finding clothing that fits and created a solution that will create ease for other tall women, across the globe, when shopping. Faerie brings all of the best tall girl friendly brands from across the Internet into one place. Find Faerie online at faeriewomen.com and on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook @faeriewomen.

Giancarlo Regni shared that his strength and conditioning gym, G-Strength, just opened its second location in the Fishtown/Kensington area of Philadelphia.



2013

Mark P. Opaliski received his master's in aerospace engineering from the University of Washington.

2014

Clynis M. Braun accepted a position as community mobilization coordinator at Philadelphia Youth Basketball. She is now leading the organization's effort to build the Alan Horwitz ‘Sixth Man’ Center, located in the Nicetown neighborhood of North Philadelphia.

Kidder A. Erdman writes, “I have been lucky enough to continue my work booking tours for music clients remotely from my home in Los Angeles throughout the pandemic, and am very much looking forward to a time when we can all enjoy concerts together.”

2017

Joshua Patton shares, “I recently finished my new members’ training for WKDU, which is Drexel’s radio station. Starting March 2021, I’ll have a show on air. I’ll be prerecording my shows, since covid-19 restrictions prevent me from completing my in-person training, but have all the necessary resources to make the experience as close in feel to a live show as possible. The theme will be ‘delicate sounds’ that leave a disproportionately big impact, meaning I’ll be playing songs that hit harder than their instrumentation would suggest. I noticed that friends from Penn Charter were doing their own shows for their respective universities and became curious about the prospect of doing my own show. I’m a big music fan and am looking forward to the opportunity to share some of the most interesting songs I’ve encountered with others.”

2018



Reece P. Whitley, a junior on the men's swimming and diving team at the University of California, Berkeley, was named Scholar-Athlete of the Week in March. UC Berkeley's

Athletic Study Center staff nominate student athletes who exemplify the school's high academic standards and embrace personal growth, fellowship, public service, mentorship, internship, leadership and/or professional pursuits.

Class Notes

2020

Riley McDade writes, "I've been doing very well, starting my first year at Saint Joseph's University along with a few of my other 2020 OPCs (**Lizzie McLaughlin** and **Patrick Fehm**). The three of us are student-athletes here and are enjoying our freshman year, despite the crazy times we are in. Here is a photo of my new crew team. Go Hawks!"



Riley holds the "blade of the week" awarded to a standout rower.

DEATHS

1945



Herbert R. Williams Jr.,
on Dec. 16, 2020.

1947



Alan T. Willoughby Sr.,
on April 7, 2021.

1949



Mark L. Myers,
on Dec. 28, 2020.

1950



George J. Sudlow,
on Dec. 12, 2020.

1952



William H. Brehm,
on Feb. 10, 2021.

1954



John P. Larson,
on Dec. 10, 2020.

1955



Arthur J. Wise Jr.,
on Aug. 8, 2020.

1958



David H. Fiske,
on Dec. 15, 2020.

1972



Kabir S. Bundy,
on Jan. 20, 2021.

1974



Albert M. Greenfield III,
on Feb. 7, 2021.

1977



Douglas L. Greenfield,
on Dec. 2, 2020.

1980



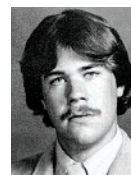
William S. Petersohn,
on Feb. 11, 2021.

1981



Michael H. Monheit,
on Jan. 21, 2021.

1985



Theodore Donahue,
on Oct. 26, 2020.

1999



Anita A. Idiculla,
on March 7, 2021.

Class Notes

MARRIAGES

1995

Megan Evans married Kim-An Hernandez, on Jan. 21, 2021. Meg writes, "When you spend a year stuck working from home due to covid and you actually still adore seeing your partner every single second of the day, it's time to put a ring on it! My wife, Kim-An, and my three children Maia (15), Ellie (13) and Tai (7) had a small but sweet ceremony in our backyard, Zooming in family to witness our vows and toast our union."



1998

Katherine C. Hayes married Peter Rinehart in Orlando, Fla., on Feb. 6, 2021.



2008

Alexandra L. Olsman married Zachary Isaac Frankel, on Dec. 27, 2020.

2009

Gary M. Saft married Zacharie Ellsworth, on Aug. 9, 2020. The small ceremony took place outside of Gary's home. Gary's father, Craig, was diagnosed with a grade IV glioblastoma earlier that year, and Gary made sure he would be in attendance at the ceremony. Craig sadly passed away two months later.



BIRTHS

2001

Leia Francesca, to Robert and **Jennifer H. Diamond**, on May 8, 2020.

2004

Hunter Nolan, to Sidney and **Christine L. Pennington**, on Oct. 3, 2020.



2011

Alvaro Vicente, to Andy and **Grace (McInerney) Perez-Benzo**, on Oct. 24, 2020.





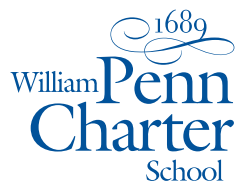
Penn Charter is strong, and together, we rise to meet every challenge.

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JUNE 12

Commencement

NOVEMBER 12

Athletic Honor Society

NOVEMBER 13

135th PC/GA Day

PC girls basketball finished tied with the best record in the Inter-Ac.
More about PC sports on page 26.

