



THE **MAGAZINE** OF WILLIAM PENN CHARTER SCHOOL

PennCharter

SPRING 2022

YOUNG STEWARDS

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SPRING 2022



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Jasper Gindlesparger plants New England aster in the new third grade pollinator garden that features plants native to the region and used by the Lenape people. **Page 20.**

(Photo: Ray Bailey OPC '09)

OPENING COMMENTS

From the Head of School



AT THE HEART OF THE EXPERIENCE of countless Penn Charter students and OPCs is the critical relationship between teachers and students. Generations of OPCs return to this old school and remember the faculty and coaches who taught and inspired but also instilled in them values both for success and for life. In this magazine, two extraordinary educators are featured for their excellent service and longevity at the school.

Randy Granger Hon. 1689 retires from Penn Charter at the end of this school year after 47 years of service. Randy, a member of the Visual Arts and Design Department, served for many years as the department chair and was responsible for multiple creative and historic preservation projects across campus. In this profile of Randy, you will read about many of his contributions to Penn Charter, as well as his philosophy on and approach to teaching and learning. I want to acknowledge, also, Randy's ability to serve *all* of Penn Charter's students. Of course, the art students flocked to Randy's classroom, but so did those on the outside, so did the athletes, and so did the self-proclaimed unartistic. Randy inspired all, and he has always been able to see the Inner Light in his students and provide the right educational touch to support their growth. Randy's art room and courses have served as a sanctuary for many.

Beth Glascott Hon. 1689 retires from Penn Charter at the end of this school year after 40 years of service. Beth taught, coached, was an administrator in both the Middle and Upper Schools, and rendered service to the entire school community as assistant and associate head of school. Beth's profile explores many of her contributions, including her master planning abilities and her support of coeducation and girls athletics. I also want to highlight how Beth championed the experiences of every child at Penn Charter. It is easy to work with the strongest scholars, artists or athletes. Of course, Beth did this well. But she also worked with the students who challenge us all as educators. While some teachers may shy away from such charges, Beth has welcomed the opportunity to help those students work to become their best selves. She helped them to develop a personal improvement plan. More importantly, she helped them to recognize their Inner Light and to share it with others.

At the heart of a Penn Charter education is the teacher-student relationship. This issue of Penn Charter magazine features many great stories of curriculum and current students; life as it has unfolded for OPCs; and educators—chief among them Randy Granger and Beth Glascott, who have taught students to live lives that make a difference.

Sincerely yours,

Darryl J. Ford Hon. 1689

Penn Charter

THE MAGAZINE OF WILLIAM PENN CHARTER SCHOOL

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CAMPUS CURRENTS



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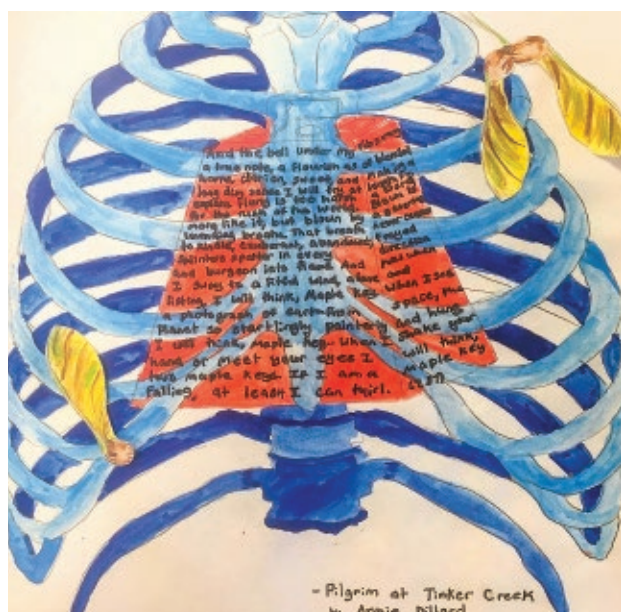
Represented by 18 Penn Charter seventh graders and under the leadership of first-year science teacher Susan Chan-Peter, our first-ever Middle School Future Cities team competed in a regional event in January.

Having worked through the fall, students collaborated on the city model, formal plans, essay and presentation to the judges. At the virtual event, students connected with other teams and gained ideas they'll use to improve and refine their city plans.

The waste-free city that the PC student team created included pioneering upgrades to waste management, energy conservation and transportation. The team earned two honors from the regional judges: Best Transportation System and Outstanding First-Year Team! [PC](#)

STUDENT ART, WRITING RECEIVE HONORS

Visual and creative writing work by five Upper School students received recognition from the Philadelphia Arts in Education Partnership, part of the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards of the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers. Submitted works are judged by an independent panel of professionals from the respective fields of visual arts and creative writing.



Sophomore Zady Hasse earned two honorable mentions for her painting, "Maple Key," and her drawing, "Bloom."



Kaela Savoy-Cooper, a senior, earned a Silver Key for her editorial cartoon, "The Mask."



Senior Oyinpreye Doubeni earned honorable mention for her untitled digital art series depicting the "inverse relationship between technology advancing and nature decaying."



Junior Charlotte Baker's painting, "Elegant Humor," won a Silver Key. "An Educated Prick" earned Honorable Mention.



Nicole Gilbert, a junior, received honorable mention for her dramatic script, *Anywhere We Haven't Been (Or Would Even Dream of Going)*. Gilbert was a 2021 National Silver Medalist for the dramatic script *Misconceptions*.



FIFTH GRADE STUDIES OCTAVIUS CATTO

After a deep discussion in social studies class about Octavius Catto, fifth grade gathered in the Graham to hear from sixth grade social studies teacher Jim Pilkington, who spoke about his college thesis on this educator, civil and voting rights advocate, and talented baseball player.

Pilkington talked about the process of writing his thesis using primary and secondary sources, and about his fascination with the Pythians, an all-Black baseball team in the mid-1800s for which Octavius Catto played. Students asked many questions and were able to make connections between Pilkington's research and their own, as well as the importance and legacy of this legendary figure in our city's history.

LEFT: Jim Pilkington will teach many of these fifth graders when they move up to Middle School.

DESIGNING PLAYGROUNDS

What do you want the playground for the new Lower School to look like? Third grade students spent part of the year answering this question by envisioning, designing and building models of playgrounds.

Students used recycled materials and things they could find in the School Store. Rock walls and ziplines were popular features, and some included canopies to offer shade.

"Conceptually, the students have a lot of ideas," explained Lower School science teacher Steven Wade. "The challenge becomes translating those ideas to 3-D models: How do you get something to stand up straight and support weight? Students learn about supports and the strongest shapes, as well as about simple machines as they design."

After rounds of journaling and an iterative design process with their project partners to tweak their model, the design teams shared their playground models among the class.

We look forward to learning which elements of these designs appear on the new playground! [PC](#)





The 2021-22 Junior Model UN team.

MODEL UN COMES TO MIDDLE SCHOOL

An increasingly interconnected world calls for leaders who can balance the complex and often conflicting interests of communities large and small. It's only fitting, then, that the art of diplomacy is alive and well in the Richard B. Fisher Middle School.

The 2020-21 school year saw the inauguration of PC's Junior Model UN program, open to students in grades six through eight and led by Middle School social studies teacher Jim Pilkington, Jr. Model UN provides students with opportunities to practice cultural competency and diplomacy, and supplements an existing Model UN program in PC's Upper School.

An expression of student interest in international relations led Pilkington to the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia, which organizes a five-month Jr. Model UN program in the Philadelphia region. That resource made it easy for Pilkington to get PC's

program up and running. "The World Affairs Council does a great job of coordinating everything," he said, giving Pilkington the freedom to focus less on logistics and more on guiding his students through the finer points of research and resolution writing.

Working in groups of two or three, Pilkington's students were assigned countries to represent at a multi-school conference of delegates in May, where they gathered to debate and finalize a master resolution. This year, each country's resolution was guided by one of two themes: creating sustainable cities and creating sustainable food systems. Those themes tie into curricular work happening in

PC's Middle School and build on skills and competencies students learn in social studies classes.

The "junior" version of Model UN provides students with foundational knowledge and prepares them for more advanced work in the future. This year, Pilkington has worked closely with Upper School social studies teachers Ed Marks and Catherine Murray to create stronger connections to the Upper School Model UN program.

"Our long-term vision is to create more continuity from Middle School to Upper School," Pilkington said, "because we're building on the same skill sets and the same interests." **PC**

27TH MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY OF SERVICE

On Jan. 17, the Penn Charter community observed its 27th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, a "hybrid" event that included virtual learning sessions, on-site service work and at-home projects in support of community partners.

The day began with a virtual convocation featuring a welcome from the Parent and Caregiver Community's Darryl Brooks and Rhowsad Hammond, poems and quotes from fifth grade students, and remarks from Head of School Darryl J. Ford.

Fifth graders then introduced keynote speakers Tamir Harper and Priya Ahmad OPC '18, young community leaders who spoke about their work in activism and social justice. Harper is cofounder of UrbEd Inc., a nonprofit that combines community organizing and policy to uplift and educate students and communities. Ahmad is senior senator for the Associated Students of Occidental College, diversity and equity coordinator for the Economic Student Association, and the equity and access intern for the Office of Admission.

"Education gives us the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of systems in our country and to recognize that there is always more work to be done," Ahmad said during her remarks. Following the convocation, families were invited to attend learning sessions led by students from all three academic divisions.

More than 170 families participated, with more than 80 volunteers visiting community partner sites like DePaul House, Historic Rittenhouse Town and Share Food Program. Others took on remote work from their homes, making 46 meals, 151 hygiene bags, 215 seed packs, 186 book bundles, 19 blankets, 61 clothing packs, and more than 200 cards and crafts. [PC](#)



LEADERSHIP CHANGE FOR PC

In March, Penn Charter's Board of Trustees announced that Head of School Darryl J. Ford Hon. 1689 has advised them that, after more than two decades of distinguished and dedicated service, the upcoming 2022-23 academic year will be his last at William Penn Charter School.



In a letter shared with the Penn Charter community in mid-March, trustees Jane Evans and Jeff Reinhold wrote, "On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we take this opportunity to express our admiration and gratitude to Darryl Ford, a remarkable educator, a remarkable person, and a visionary leader.

"Darryl has led Penn Charter through a period of growth and achievement that has advanced

our educational program and our profile as a leader in independent school education. As the oldest Quaker school in the world and one of the very oldest schools in the United States, Penn Charter has long been in the forefront of American elementary and secondary education. The Strategic Vision the school adopted in 2011 thrust PC into the national spotlight.

"That bold vision was designed to give students knowledge and also skills they need to thrive in a changing world, to live lives that make a difference.

"For our part," Evans and Reinhold concluded, "working with Darryl has been rewarding and extraordinarily satisfying. Calling him a friend is an honor."

Announcing his plans to step down in June 2023, Darryl Ford shared that he looks forward to a "third act" of his career.

"I have loved my work with our students and our work to make things happen for them. Serving them has been the singular privilege of my headship."

—Darryl J. Ford Hon. 1689

In a letter to the community he wrote, "While I won't miss making Covid decisions or predawn snow-day calls with colleagues, I will miss the amazing people who comprise our community. Chief among them are my excellent colleagues. The PC faculty and staff make everything happen for our students.

They are the people who not only teach and coach our students, but, more critically, care for and support them in ways that extend well beyond the classroom or athletics field. It has also been my privilege to work with an excellent administrative team, many of whom have become friends over almost three decades. In similar fashion, our Parent and Caregiver Community has been both supportive of all of our students and shown great care to me and my family during my tenure at Penn Charter. I will miss meeting with OPCs from around the country — many of whom are now my friends — learning from them, and representing to them how Penn Charter has evolved and will continue to evolve. In addition, I have worked with an exceptional Board of Trustees. A good board cares for the here and now while it works to secure the future of the institution. These strengths are evident in Penn Charter's board, and I thank our Trustees, and Will Carr, Anne Marble and Jeff Reinhold, three exceptional board chairs, and our wonderful Assistant Clerk Jane Evans, for their leadership, guidance and enduring friendships.

And finally, I am most proud of what we have accomplished for our students, striving to make Penn Charter the best place for them to grow and learn. Whether teaching them in the classroom, greeting them in the hallways, meeting them in my office, or witnessing their talent on the playing fields, in the gym, or on the stage, I have loved my work with our students and our work to make things happen for them. Serving them has been the singular privilege of my headship.” **pc**



Read the letter from the Board of Trustees commending Ford for his dedicated service to Penn Charter, and the letter from Head of School Darryl J. Ford Hon. 1689 that shares his appreciation and pride for the work of teachers and students during his tenure.
<https://www.penncharter.com/DarrylJFord>

The Search for a New Head of School

With this announcement, Penn Charter has embarked on a search for its eighth Head of School in modern times. To hire Darryl Ford's successor, the Penn Charter Board of Trustees has established a search committee of the board and hired Storbeck Search to collaborate on a national search for Penn Charter's next Head of School.

The following members of the Penn Charter Board of Trustees comprise the Head of School Search Committee.

Jeffrey A. Reinhold P '12, Clerk,
Board of Trustees; ex officio

Amy E. Gadsden P '23, '23, '27, Search Co-Clerk

Paul H. Hough OPC '77, Search Co-Clerk

Benjamin E. Robinson III OPC '82, Search Co-Clerk

Brigitte C. Addimando P '28, '29, '33

Christine B. Angelakis P '11, '13, '18

Jane F. Evans Hon. 1689, P '93, '95, '98, GP '24, '26,
Assistant Clerk, Board of Trustees

Mark D. Hecker OPC '99

Robert A. Rosania OPC '82, P '22, '23

Larry L. Turner P '19, '22

Edward Zubrow Hon. 1689



The committee members appear above: Top, from left: A. Gadsden, B. Robinson, P. Hough, J. Reinhold, C. Angelakis; Bottom: R. Rosania, J. Evans, M. Hecker, L. Turner, B. Addimando, E. Zubrow.

The search process will unfold over many months, from the March 2022 announcement by Head of School Darryl J. Ford through the arrival of a new head. Steps in the process:

- Solicit community input
- Identify candidates
- Interview semifinalists
- Interview finalists (on campus)
- New head of school joins PC, July 2023

To learn more about the search process and timeline, visit penncharter.com/HeadSearch.

“PC” Profiles

Deepak Rao OPC '97

BY MARK F. BERNSTEIN OPC '79

One of the drawbacks to running a medical research lab is that the director doesn't get to do much of the hands-on research.



“I do most everything except being at the bench,” laughed Deepak Rao OPC '97, a rheumatologist, immunologist and the principal investigator of the Rao Lab at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. “I don't get to do experiments anymore.”

But if Rao is no longer working with test tubes, he is still busy. He is also an assistant professor at Harvard Medical School and co-director of Brigham and Women's Hospital's Human

Immunology Center and its Single Cell Genomics Core.

It is his research lab, however, that occupies most of Rao's time. There he oversees a team of 14, which includes eight postdoctoral fellows, three graduate students, two technicians and a research coordinator. Rao sets the path that everyone else will follow.

“The cool thing about this kind of setup is that you set the research agenda,” he explained. “You get to decide what you think is interesting or important and then try it. You just need to convince funders that it's a compelling idea.”

Rao's research focuses primarily on autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis and lupus, which together afflict as many as three million Americans. His research is aimed in two principal directions. One is to help focus treatments. There are currently more than half a dozen drugs to treat autoimmune diseases, but doctors are unable to predict which will work on which patients. Instead, they must go by trial and error, starting with one drug and then moving to another if the first one proves ineffective. The process takes time, costs money and prolongs treatment.

“We're really interested in the idea that we should be able to identify activities of the immune system in a patient before we start a therapy, to predict whether the patient is going to respond,” Rao said.

Autoimmune diseases occur when the body's defense mechanism receives faulty signals and begins to attack its own cells rather than

those from an outside source, such as a virus. Rao's other principal research interest, then, is to identify what causes those faulty signals, which he hopes could lead to new treatments to block them and head off problems before they begin.

One change even since Rao was in medical school is that research has become much more computerized. “It's much more computational than it used to be,” he acknowledged. “That reflects the fact that we can generate at the lab, with pipettes and test tubes, much more data than we could before. Then it becomes a computational challenge to wade through the data and try to find patterns that are important. Now almost all our trainees are learning how to code.”

Funding for Rao's research comes from many sources, including the National Institutes of Health and other branches of the federal government, private groups such as the Rheumatology Research Foundation and the Lupus Research Alliance, and the pharmaceutical industry, which seeks information to help fine-tune some of its treatment drugs. Rao estimated that he spends about half his time running the lab, a quarter of his time writing grant proposals and devising new projects, and a quarter of his time seeing patients.

With such a diverse practice, Rao must do many different types of work, and he credits his teachers at Penn Charter for helping him develop a wide range of skills. Alice Davis Hon. 1689, for example, pushed him to understand the concepts of chemistry, while English teachers Joe Perrott Hon. 1689 and Fred Huntington taught him how to write in different styles, a talent Rao said he still finds useful when seeking grant funding or describing a new research project he would like to undertake. Outside the classroom, Rao said his long-distance running coaches, Harvey Rentschler Hon. 1689 and Jim Ballengee Hon. 1689, could be encouraging and flexible, while his track head coach, Steve Bonnie OPC '66, showed him how to build a diverse group of people into a disciplined, organized team.

After earning his BA at Harvard and both an MD and a PhD at Yale, Rao joined the staff at Brigham and Women's Hospital in 2010, and began building a disciplined, organized staff of his own when he opened the Rao Lab four years ago. [PC](#)

Cathryn Peirce OPC '12

BY MARK F. BERNSTEIN OPC '79

“Whenever I see a problem,” Cathryn Peirce OPC '12 said, “I like to roll up my sleeves and address it.”



That would be an understatement. Only 28 years old, Peirce has started several ventures to help marginalized groups build financial wealth, address the question of reparations for racial injustice, and educate students about sexual violence.

Since May 2021, Peirce has been cofounder and CEO of Carbon Zero Financial, which

has partnered with Visa to introduce a credit card that allows people to measure and offset the carbon output created by their transactions — their so-called “carbon footprint.” The premise is straightforward: a Carbon Zero credit card automatically invests the user’s reward points into carbon offsetting projects, in theory neutralizing the negative impact of that spending on the environment. Those offsetting activities currently include forest management projects in California, Vermont and Alaska; a wind power project in South Dakota; a solar energy farm in Tennessee; and a project to provide clean drinking water in Rwanda, among many others. Carbon Zero then helps cardholders reduce their carbon footprint by providing custom sustainability suggestions based on their spending.

The company’s motto is, “We’re making carbon-neutral living as simple as swiping your credit card.” Currently, more than 6,600 people have signed up for the Carbon Zero credit card, Peirce said.

Thinking even bigger, Peirce noted that many people have amassed more credit card bonus points than they will ever use (or sometimes even know they have). Carbon Zero soon hopes to broaden its mission by partnering with Visa to let holders of a broad range of Visa cards dedicate some of their existing stockpile of points to carbon offsets or dedicate a portion of their future spending to it. Cardholders might also be able to create their own offset portfolio by directing that their points go to projects owned, for example, by woman-owned or minority-owned businesses.

Though Carbon Zero occupies most of her time now, Peirce has done many other things since graduating from Penn summa cum laude in 2016, where she also organized workshops for the Penn Anti-Violence Education (PAVE) program and headed the campus chapter of V-Day International, which seeks to end violence against women. She spent a year as a Fulbright fellow in Côte d’Ivoire and worked as marketing director for the New York-based real estate technology firm, Compass.

Accountable, a nonprofit Peirce founded and is still building, endeavors to reduce the racial wealth gap by enabling white professionals to, as her website says, “not only acknowledge their white privilege but actually account for it through the reallocation of personal assets into black businesses, communities and mutual aid funds.” Share the Wealth, which she co-founded, organizes free virtual workshops to provide people in marginalized communities with basic financial and investment education.

All have a theme in common. “Money at its root is a mechanism by which we can express value,” Peirce said. “I’m really interested in how we can increase the moral value of money. How do we make it such that, with money, we bring dignity and integrity back to our experiences so you feel good about your consumerism because it reflects your values?”

It is perhaps not surprising that Peirce has a mantra about education, as well. It goes like this: A good education refines your mind. A great education refines your character. She thinks she got both at Penn Charter, which she entered in ninth grade, and which she credits with helping refine her values and motivating her to seek change.

“Penn Charter earnestly was trying to create individuals who applied learning to the betterment of themselves and their communities,” she said. A Quaker education helped her examine her actions and ask challenging questions such as, “Is this improving myself as an individual and my community? Is it purposeful? Is it aligned with my values?”

Staying still is hard for Peirce, who has solo backpacked through 27 countries on four continents, but due to Covid, her “office” has been her favorite velvet chair in the living room of her Brooklyn apartment. Even so, and despite the lockdown, Peirce has more than managed to fill the time.

“It has been quite the year,” she acknowledged, “but it’s so rewarding to look at what you’re doing, the models you’re building and the causes you’re addressing and see your values reflected back at you.” **PC**



RANDY GRANGER: HOLDING SPACE FOR CREATIVITY

by Rebecca Luzi

*“To see a hillside white with dogwood bloom is to know
a particular ecstasy of beauty, but to walk the gray
Winter woods and find the buds which will resurrect
that beauty in another May is to partake of continuity.”*

– HAL BORLAND

For as long as anyone can remember, Randy Granger Hon. 1689 has begun each class with a reading from *Twelve Moons of the Year*, a collection of 365 meditations on nature by journalist and naturalist Hal Borland. In

47 years of teaching art and design at Penn Charter, Granger has found beauty and continuity in this ritual.

“I read Hal Borland each day,” Granger said, “because I want to give my students a

chance to transition from the social chaos of changing classes so they can be more present and available for deeper learning in my class. Another reason is that we are so disconnected from nature in our lives today. Borland writes primarily about nature, so it gives the students an exposure to things in the natural world that they can recognize and experience in their own lives.”

BEGINNINGS

At the age of 10, Granger was apprenticed as a signwriter, a nearly-lost art of hand-painting signs. “Every little town had a good signwriter,” Granger said, and in the maritime community in which he grew up on the tip of Barnegat Bay, N.J., carving boat transoms and gold-leafing the names of the vessels offered him continual creative opportunities.

Aware from the age of 14 that he wanted to be an art teacher, Granger enrolled in art school on full scholarship, studying art education, and secured his first teaching position at the Philadelphia Parkway Program, an innovative and nationally recognized educational experiment that used the city as the school. There, Granger taught 16mm film production, which he would later teach at Penn Charter for 35 years.

His teaching career was interrupted in 1970, at the height of the Cold War, when Granger, a Navy submarine reservist, was activated to serve as a navigation and education officer on nuclear-missile submarines. Granger cites his experience being submerged for three months



Randy Granger Hon. 1689 became the first-ever National Board-Certified Teacher in 2000 and, in 2005, the first non-public school teacher inducted into the National Teachers Hall of Fame.

at a time, isolated from the outside world, as invaluable to his development as a teacher because, he said, “in a deep and authentic way I came to rely on other people, realizing that any of them could teach me new understandings or save my life at any given moment.”

In 1975, Granger was hired by Penn Charter Headmaster Wilbur Braxton to chair the Art Department as well as to fill another open job—coaching the ski team. “Use me where I am best suited,” Granger advised Braxton, “in theater arts or as advisor to the PC Art Society.” (He would do both, and the latter for 31 years.) Granger also shared his woodworking skills and joined the maintenance staff as school carpenter—“one of my proudest contributions to the school”—to augment his teaching salary and to keep the building and furniture, including the Meeting Room benches, in top repair.

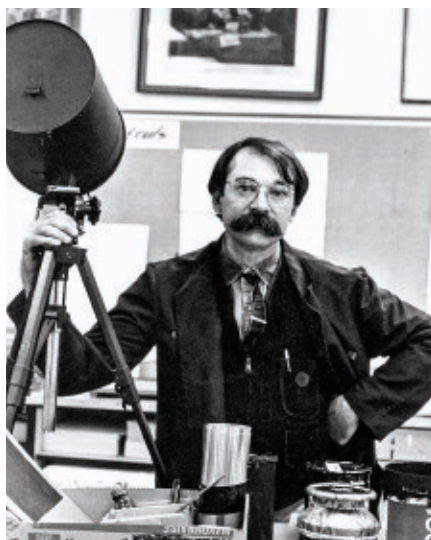
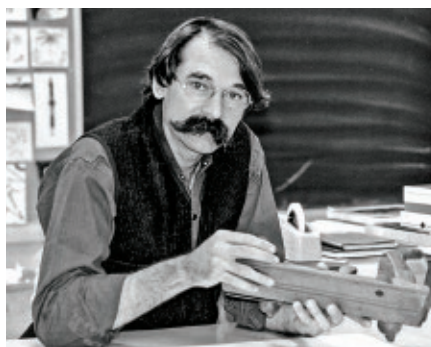
SEMI-COMPLICIT

That same year, a Penn Charter student was also negotiating his extracurriculars with school leadership. Brent Sherwood OPC ’76 bargained with Peter Reinke, director of Upper School, to be excused from the sports requirement. “I can either sit on the bench the whole season,” he told Reinke, “or you can let me be productive and do a thing I love, which is stage crew.”

Sherwood, now a space architect at Blue Origin, an aerospace manufacturer and sub-orbital spaceflight services company, remembers building the colonial-era interior for the comedy *She Stoops to Conquer* while Granger painted *trompe-l’œil* illusions to make pieces of the set appear 3-D. “Randy was sort of like a member of stage crew in that production,” Sherwood said. “He loved creativity, and he was interested in everybody’s story.”

The stage crew, too, was creative—and clever. “We found ways to make keys to everything,” Sherwood said. “We had access everywhere that we weren’t supposed to, including up in the attic. Up there along with old stage sets I found this bronze plaque. It weighed a ton.”

That 3-and-a-half foot tall solid bronze plaque featuring the school seal had been dedicated



A Man of Tools

TOP: An 18th century German jack plane for final smoothing of larger timbers or boards. Granger used it for hands-on teaching in both Historic Preservation and Architecture classes. c. late 1990s.

BOTTOM: Three-gallon pinhole camera (made from a Charles Chips can) on tripod c. 1991.

by the graduating class of 1909 and seemingly forgotten for some time.

Sherwood and his stage crew friends somehow brought that piece of history down from the attic and loaded it into a Volkswagen. At home in his basement, Sherwood cleaned it up and with a little brush repainted the black around the raised lettering. “And then we presented it back to the school,” he said. “It was our gift for tolerating all the things we weren’t supposed to be doing. Randy was semi-implicit in some of these things.”

This result of stage crew shenanigans, the restored school seal that declares “good instruction is better than riches,” has been proudly displayed at the foot of the Senior Stairs for decades.

Never mind that Sherwood wasn’t a student in one of Granger’s classes—the good instruction was clear. “One of the things I learned from Randy,” he said, “was that a teacher can also be a peer, the kind of peer that is a friend. Randy collaborated with us, and that was very different from the standard student-teacher relationship.

“He was one of the many influences at Penn Charter who reinforced the principle that we need to be curious about everything and we need to follow our passions, and there’s joy to be extracted even from simple things.”

DESIGN THINKING

Granger is a pioneer in the field of design-based thinking. A process for creative problem solving, design thinking has a human-centered approach to designing products or services.

“Randy did design thinking before anybody else was doing it,” said Sheila Ruen, who taught art at PC 2002-2016 and chaired the Art Department for the last 10 of those years. “He was so dynamic, and he let everybody know they were capable as creative problem solvers.”

Granger’s work at Penn Charter was transformative, Ruen said, because “in a lot of art programs, it’s about genius. You’re born with talent or you have genius. Randy was inherently interdisciplinary and really believed that everybody was capable of creative problem solving, and he offered systems for people to do that—and challenges. And he scaffolded everything.”

In 2001, Granger assigned a project to his Design Science students that would produce, in 2005, a U.S. patent for the Dignified Broad Footprint Beach Wheelchair. In collaboration with students from Widener Memorial School, a Philadelphia public school for children with disabilities, the assignment was to design a beach wheelchair that could navigate boardwalk and beach and allow the user to enter the water unaided “with the grace and dignity that should be offered everyone.” Students had to conceptualize how it would function, how it would fold, what materials would resist corrosion. The Penn Charter and Widener students would present the design

continued on next page



"Randy can teach anybody to draw," former colleague Sheila Ruen said. "The way he scaffolds it, moves from simple to complex; the way he moves people around the room; the objects he chooses for the still-life class. Everything he does is so incredibly artful." Pictured: Granger's 2022 Observational Drawing class.

weekly to a team of rehab engineers at the Alfred I. DuPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, Del., via video conferencing, high-tech for its time.

Granger believes his students are "capable of accomplishing every bit as much as adults and maybe even more," Ruen said. "He got that patent with the kids because he expressed his confidence and belief in their capacity to solve complex problems."

Ruen, science teacher Corey Kilbane, and Gummere librarian Doug Uhlmann were so inspired by Randy's design thinking and his embrace and integration of technology that they conceptualized a makerspace that could be used pre-K to 12 and applied for a professional development grant from the school. Penn Charter's first IdeaLab, with its 3-D printers and scanners, laser cutters, GoPro cameras, soldering stations, smart cutting machine, standing drill press and much more is now located in the lower level of the Middle School.

ELEVATING YOUNG ARTISTS

The trust that Granger places in his students goes both ways. Young people relate to his irreverence, his questioning of authority and the world, and his authenticity.

"When you are with Randy you know that he is seeking to understand and relate to you on a personal level," Ruen said. "He's committed to making the world a better place and he wants you to be a part of it, and he believes you can do that."

Wyatt Gallery OPC '93, a photographer currently living in Trinidad, found refuge in classes with Randy Granger, or *Grange*.

"High school was a challenging time for me," he said. "Granger's photography and art room became my safe place, my oasis within school, where I would go to eat lunch and work on my photography outside of class time. Grange was always supportive and so upbeat. Because I had to be by myself, or felt at times like I needed to

be by myself, photography let me explore and create while doing that."

Gallery absorbed all of Granger's technical teachings: focus, depth of field, the difference between lenses, the art of composition. But he learned more than that.

"He has a way of elevating you and moving you forward with praise and acknowledgment and using the good to build you up. I've watched him do that with other students. I was able to sit there and witness his amazing talent. The thing is it's genuine. He used to call us *hucksters*. But he's not a huckster. He's finding and extracting the beauty of what you're creating as a young artist."

For another young artist, Zion Weeks OPC '20, the habits of mind that Granger has spent the better part of his life teaching are life lessons.

"He stresses believing in yourself and coming back from your mistakes," Weeks said. "That's why he was such a good observational drawing teacher. He didn't correct you; he showed you the other way to look at it."

MYSTERIOUS FIGURE

"The first thing I knew about Penn Charter was Randy Granger, this mysterious figure who helped my dad fall in love with photography as a high schooler," said J.D. Dillard OPC '06, son of Bruce Dillard OPC '77. "While my dad never pursued his art professionally, through his career in the Navy he took a hell of a lot of pictures. And that all started with Randy."

Dillard did pursue his art professionally and is best known for directing the films *Sleight* and *Sweetheart*. His latest, *Devotion*, premieres in October 2022.

"Mr. Granger is probably the first person in my creative life to impress on me the importance of process," Dillard said. "It's really easy to look at creativity as fluid and boundless and an

"Randy did design thinking before anybody else was doing it. He was so dynamic, and he let everybody know they were capable as creative problem solvers."

— SHEILA RUEN



When J.D. Dillard's *Sleight* premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, Randy Granger, fresh from hip surgery, proudly made his way to Park City, Utah. Pictured: Granger with two former students: Bruce Dillard OPC '77 and son J.D. OPC '06.

unwieldy process. In sitting in his classes and getting to know him, I quickly became intrigued and sort of calmed by this notion that there can be a method to the madness. That has held with me to this day in such an intense way.

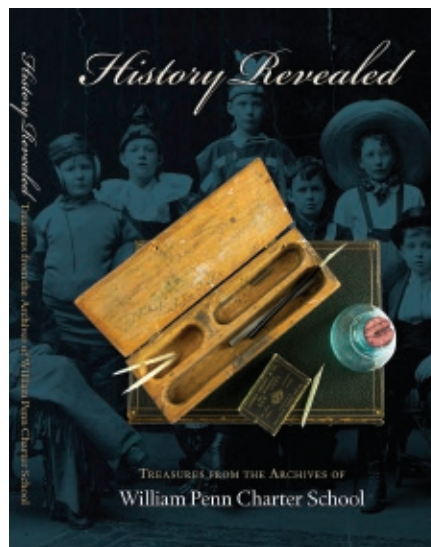
"In the very first movie that I made, *Sleight*," he said, "there's a moment where the character has to dig back into his life and seek counsel with an educator who was really impactful in his life, and it was kind of fun to name that character Mr. Granger, the teacher in our main character's life who held space for his creativity, understood his potential."

HISTORY PRESERVED AND REVEALED

Granger also fills the role of historic and architectural preservationist, conserving and preserving many of the school's artifacts. His love of preservation was born in the mid-1960s when he lived and worked in newly transforming Queen Village, and it was refined over the four decades he lived in a national landmark printing office in Montgomery County.

From 2014 to 2018 he embarked on Penn Charter's 325th anniversary book project, *History Revealed: Treasures from the Archives of William Penn Charter School*. A truly collaborative endeavor, the book celebrates the school through artifacts and memorabilia as raised up by faculty, staff and trustees, from a handwritten copy of the 1777 Students Gazette to the 1987-88 girls basketball sweatshirt that marked the first girls basketball team.

"What I set out to do," Granger said, "was to give voice to my colleagues by allowing them to decide what is historically significant to hold up and celebrate. That's a powerful opportunity that is reserved for few people in the world, and that's what our faculty and staff did in the book."



PC's 325th anniversary book, shepherded by Granger, was recognized by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education with three National Awards for Excellence in Publications.

THIS OLD SCHOOL

The back wall of the Meeting Room is beautifully lettered with the explanation of the Alumni Award of Merit: "To a graduate of the William Penn Charter School whose character and outstanding achievement have reflected lasting credit upon this old school."



The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission dedicated a historical marker to Penn Charter in 2015. Granger, shown with wife Irene McHenry and Head of School Darryl J. Ford Hon. 1689, spearheaded the application process to formally recognize the "oldest continuously operating Friends school in the world."

Each year Granger employs the signwriting skills he learned as a young apprentice to letter the name of the latest recipient of the award in gold leaf, an honored tradition. But in his career Granger has also challenged tradition, as that Meeting Room wall bears witness.

That language for generations of the all-boys Penn Charter had originally read "... upon his old school." For five years before the school would become fully coeducational, with its first class that included girls ready to graduate in 1992, Granger had raised his concerns. We need to think about this, he'd tell the business managers. The language ought not exclude the girls who would one day be graduates.

Eventually, on a spring day in 1992, with the cherry blossoms in bloom outside the Meeting Room windows, a determined Granger took his lettering quill and added a "t" to the wall: "upon his old school" became "upon this old school" weeks before the first coed class would become OPCs. **PC**



BETH GLASCOTT: A Lifelong Commitment to Students

by Ray Bailey OPC '09

When Beth Glascott arrived at Penn Charter in the fall of 1982, she knew that she was fond of the place. But it wasn't a four-decades-of-service kind of fondness—at least not immediately. And for all that she ended up accomplishing at PC, her intentions were, at that point, relatively humble.



"I thought I'd stay here for a few years and figure out what I wanted to do when I grew up," Glascott said from her office below the clock tower, just months shy of her spring 2022 retirement. Somewhere along the line Penn Charter must have grown on her.

Over the course of those 40 years Glascott forged an equally influential presence in PC's classrooms, playing fields and administrative offices, balancing her science teaching schedule with duties as Middle School assistant director, Upper School director, assistant head of school and, finally, associate head of school. She had a seat at the table for every strategic planning initiative and capital campaign to move through the school since the mid-'90s. She led two accreditations with the National Association for Independent Schools and a Quaker self-study with the Friends Council on Education—notoriously complicated processes of institutional self-reflection.

"It's no secret I get to do that work because I'm highly organized," said Glascott, who is also highly modest. Her deep familiarity with academics, athletics and administration across two school divisions left her well-positioned to synthesize the big and small picture of life at Penn Charter and to articulate a vision for its future. Her savvy with spreadsheets and schedules was a bonus, for sure, but certainly not the main reason Glascott was entrusted with this kind of higher-order institutional thinking.

“Beth has the rare ability to think strategically, see the big picture, but attend to every detail,” said Head of School Darryl J. Ford Hon. 1689. “This skill set enables her to move the organization forward from every level of decision making.”

And whether she was preparing her next Oceanography lesson or envisioning the next 50 years of PC education, it was all fundamentally the same work to Glascott. It was always rooted in students.

“The joy in that [big picture] work comes from thinking about possibilities for Penn Charter, and particularly for the kids at Penn Charter, and then working to make things happen,” she said.

A Curiosity for the World

The Glascotts were an active family. Beth’s parents—mom a geriatric nurse and dad a university athletics administrator—spent their summers working at Camp Tecumseh in New Hampshire. They passed on their love for sports and the outdoors to their children from a young age, and for eight weeks out of the year, Beth’s brother, Bob, joined his parents at Tecumseh, a boys camp, while Beth and her sister, Meg, went to Songadeewin, for girls, in Vermont.



Glascott’s passion for marine biology on display in 1989.

Those summers were formative for Glascott. “Being outside, the hiking, canoeing, the sports—that was really, really important to me,” she said. “I think it led to all three of us being athletic, but also just having this greater curiosity for the world.”



Beth Glascott Hon. 1689 in her early days at PC, pictured with Middle School students and teaching partner Susan Vengrove. “Because of her longevity at the school,” Head of School Darryl J. Ford said, “Beth is able to remember historical context and how it informs current practice.”

One of the ways that curiosity manifested was in an interest in biology. After graduating from Plymouth Whitemarsh High School, Glascott earned a bachelor of science from the University of Pennsylvania, then began master’s work at the University of Rhode Island, where she found the school of oceanography to be too stifling for her wide-ranging interests. “It wasn’t interdisciplinary enough,” she said. Glascott was wary, also, of the rigidity of academic science, with its relentless cycles of research and grant writing, so she pivoted, returning to Penn to pursue a master’s degree in secondary science education.

It was during her final semester in that program, in the spring of 1982, that Glascott got a call from PC Head of School Earl J. Ball Hon. 1689, who was working his connections at Penn to try and fill a last-minute vacancy in Middle School science. “The program at Penn was strong, and Beth was highly recommended,” Ball remembered. “She offered a wonderful combination of teaching and coaching.”

Over the course of two days of interviews, then-Director of Middle School Stephen Watters and future Science Department chair Alice Davis left strong impressions on the fledgling educator. Glascott could envision a home for herself—however temporary—at 3000 West School House Lane. “I appreciated the rich intellectual experiences that the kids were getting, the fact that they did athletics, they did arts,” she remembered.

Glascott was won over by that earlier, all-boys version of Penn Charter, even as she anticipated the shift to full coeducation that had been recently approved by PC’s board. “I knew the girls were coming, and if the school hadn’t gone coed, I don’t know that I would have stayed as long as I did,” she said.

It would be another 10 years before the first modern coed class would process across the commencement patio in 1992. During that transitional period, Glascott and a small contingent of women faculty would provide critical support for PC’s girls as they charted new territory within the 300-year-old institution.

“She was a force,” Rachel Dyer OPC ’92 remembered. Glascott offered encouragement and understanding, made herself available without being overprotective; she lobbied for adequate practice space and locker rooms for girls. “We knew we could always go to her office and she would hear us and fight for us,” Dyer said.

A competitive swimmer in high school, Glascott took up a coaching position in PC’s aquatics program as it was reconstituting as a coed, cross-divisional squad of 6-12th graders. She also lent her talents to the nascent girls lacrosse and field hockey teams—though with significantly less confidence, by her own admission.

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BETH GLASCOTT: A LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO STUDENTS

In 2011 a group of alumni created the Women's Legacy Fund to support the continued development of girls sports at PC through clinics, events and mentorship opportunities. The fund was dedicated to four teacher-coaches who were influential during those early years of girls athletics: Glascott, Liz Flemming Hon. 1689, Cheryl Irving Hon. 1689 and Debbie White.

"There were other women faculty who came and went, but none who were as invested and who stayed as long and gave their heart to the program like they did," said Dyer, who served on the Legacy Fund's executive committee. "Those four really stood out to us."

Debbie White came to Penn Charter as head of girls athletics in 1989 and first got to know Glascott through her work on the pool deck. Even back then, White could sense that her colleague was poised to shape the school in ways that went beyond the scope of a swim coach and science teacher—whether Glascott knew it or not.

"She did it all," White said. "You could tell that she was ready to lead."

Modeling Community

The year was 1991. Penn Charter's first modern coed class was nearing its graduation, and Aly Goodner OPC '96 sat in Beth Glascott's seventh grade advisory group, earnestly scrawling away in a notebook.

Topics of identity and human sexuality figured prominently in the Middle School advisory curriculum, and during this particular lesson the seventh graders were writing poems about a time when they felt vulnerable. Goodner never expected that the assignment itself would lead to a moment of vulnerability, but that's just what happened when her friend, a boy, plucked the notebook out from under her and started reading Goodner's poem-in-progress out loud.

Glascott saw the scene unfolding—with Goodner becoming visibly upset—and quickly stepped in to head off further harm. The intervention didn't stop with discipline, though, and after addressing the prankster directly, Glascott opened up a conversation with the rest of the class. "She made it abundantly clear that our own personal

identities are never to be used for someone else's entertainment," Goodner said.

In the wake of the incident, Glascott led the two classmates through a process of reconciliation. Her support, and her ability to turn an unkind joke into a teaching opportunity, have stuck with Goodner to this day. Goodner and the prankster are still friends to this day, too; she doesn't know if that would have been possible without Glascott.

"We were able to move forward because of that process," Goodner said. "Beth made a space for us to repair things privately but also bring it back as a class. Throughout the whole process she kept checking in with me." Goodner, now director of PC's Center for Public Purpose and co-clerk of the Gender Equity, Sexuality & Consent Task Force, finds that Glascott brings the same sensitivity and wisdom to her administrative leadership. "In the work that I do with her as a colleague it's really exciting," she said. "We're thinking collectively about who we want to be as a community and how we can ensure our faculty members are modeling that."



Glascott briefly coached Middle School girls lacrosse along with PC's first head of girls athletics, Jane Diamond (pictured, right).

Bioethics

In the early 2000s, Glascott partnered with colleague Tom Rickards to develop a course called Bioethics, channeling her passion for interdisciplinary science into a popular Upper School elective that introduces students to the moral dimensions of biology and health care.

Rickards, a religion teacher and PC's coordinator of environmental stewardship and sustainability, taught Bioethics with Glascott through her final semester in early 2022, bringing the pair into the kind of close, long-term collaboration that's relatively rare among Upper School faculty. Reflecting on Glascott's approach to students, Rickards invokes a model of ethics formulated by psychologist Carol Gilligan—a mainstay of the Bioethics syllabus—that distinguishes between a "justice perspective" and a "care perspective."

A justice perspective on ethics is formal and prescriptive: *What are the rules and how do we hold people accountable?* A care perspective emphasizes human psychology and relationships: *What does this person need and how can I help satisfy those needs?*

Both have their place, according to Rickards, and Glascott was an expert at harmonizing the two. "Beth always knew which perspective to use when," he said. "She was able to hold kids accountable and make sure they were doing their best work"—the justice perspective—"but she always knew when they needed extra support, too."

In the classroom and administrative offices alike, Glascott's vision was consistently student-centered. Rickards remembers how, as director of Upper School, she stood firm in her support for a policy limiting homework over academic breaks, despite pushback from a handful of faculty. "It was something really basic like, 'Give students one night of homework over break,'" Rickards remembered. Glascott's rejoinder to reluctant teachers was uncomplicated and hard to argue with: "She said, 'Don't you want a break? Don't you want to be with your families? Why wouldn't we want that for our kids?'"

To Rickards, it was an example of Glascott engaging in "plain speech," the Quaker custom



Debbie White, Cheryl Irving Hon. 1689, Glascott and Liz Flemming Hon. 1689 were honored by the Women's Legacy Fund in 2011 for their role in shaping the girls athletics program at PC. Former Head of School Earl Ball calls Glascott "one of the major architects of coeducation at Penn Charter."

of direct, honest communication in alignment with one's sense of ethics. He admired and appreciated his colleague's ability to speak plainly, as a teaching partner and division head.

"It was always clear to me where she stood and why she was making the decisions that she did," Rickards said.

Grace

Until her final days at Penn Charter, Glascott was committed to fostering a more equitable and inclusive school community. She is especially proud of her stewardship of the Grace Fund, PC's full-access fund created to pay the cost of items and activities not covered by tuition or financial aid. Administering the Grace Fund gave Glascott an opportunity to build relationships with families in the course of addressing their specific needs—and another occasion to put Carol Gilligan's care perspective into practice.

And just as her parents passed on their love of summer camp in New England to Glascott and her siblings, Glascott shares her love of Penn Charter with her own children, Alex Macy OPC '00 and Louisa Macy Gulinson OPC '03, and her grandson, Jack Macy, Class of 2031.

Glascott remained passionate about connecting with students even as her teaching schedule lightened in her final years at PC. Amanda Ehrenhalt, Class of 2022, never had Glascott as a teacher or advisor, but the pair developed a mentorship of sorts, meeting

regularly to talk about Ehrenhalt's interests in environmental justice and her work on the Race & Equity Task Force.

"It was just one of those serendipitous kind of things," Glascott recalled. "I say hello to a lot of people—some kids respond and some don't—and Amanda responded."

It didn't take long for Ehrenhalt to realize that Glascott could be a model for the kind of work she was doing to improve school culture at Penn Charter. "Ms. Glascott knew how challenging coming into Penn Charter would be as a woman, and she still did it and she was so successful," Ehrenhalt said.

The senior characterized her relationship with Glascott as one of recognition and support, based on mutual respect and understanding. More than the specific content of their talks, Ehrenhalt remembers the deep sense of acknowledgment she was left with after those meetings: "I felt like a person. I didn't feel like a check-in," she said. "[Glascott is] doing all these jobs and all these things, but she's still taking the time to get to know you as a human being—*really* trying to get to know you."

The essence of Glascott's message, as Ehrenhalt understood it, was something like this: "I see what you're trying to accomplish at Penn Charter, I know what you must be going through as a girl, and I'm here to help you succeed."

It was a message many others heard before her, no doubt. Who knows what manner of success it has inspired. **PC**



A PROJECT BLOSSOMS

by Julia Judson-Rea

On the Strawbridge Campus, beside Somers Field and steps from the Wissahickon Valley Park, is a small but growing series of garden beds. The newest addition here is a pollinator garden. Designed, created and recently planted by third grade, its roots spread far beyond the 30-by-10-foot plot it currently occupies.

The pollinator garden project weaves together concepts of stewardship of the land, ecology, and Lenape history and culture. In assuming the role of caretakers of the earth, students use newfound knowledge of plant biology and the ways in which the Lenape used plants native to the region.

Lenape studies has been part of the third grade curriculum for many years. Jill Einbender and Teodora Nedialkova have expanded and deepened the unit in recent years so that it is now a yearlong focus, weaving through social studies, language arts and Quakerism, and integrated into each spring project that typically focuses on pressing environmental problems. Joel Eckel, an apiarist, joined the third grade teaching team in 2020-21 and brings to this project a deep knowledge of both bees and gardening.

The Lenape unit in third grade includes learning about Lenape history and culture before and after European arrival. “Third grade students learn about the original people of this land, the Lenni-Lenape, and their long history of living here in harmony with nature,” Nedialkova said. “We talk about William Penn’s thoughts on a relationship with the Lenape and how his ideals didn’t prevail. We review relocation and the cultural eradication, but also how some Lenape survived despite what happened. And we emphasize the Lenape relationship with the land and expose students to elements of Lenape culture.”



Stewards of the Land

“The Lenape take into consideration not just their own needs but the ecosystem’s needs, and the future, too,” Eckel said. “As our students seek to interact with nature like the Lenape do, they experience that through the pollinator garden. It benefits our campus and the bees here, and supports other pollinators.”

One of the goals of third grade’s Lenape studies is to understand the land we inhabit and its history. In studying the Lenape, Nedialkova said, “we honor history and continue the legacy of care in allyship with the historic occupiers, the Lenape.”

Third grade’s garden project, reviving part of campus with plant species native to the area to support the local ecosystem for important pollinators—bees, wasps, moths, butterflies, birds, flies and small mammals like bats—is directly related to that care.

“I really want students to understand that they can have an impact on their world,” Einbender said. “The pollinator decline is frightening—the more I learn with our students the more concerned I get—and it needs to be addressed now. The students are the next generation, and I want to give them the tools to make a difference.”



Work and Play

One of those tools is a working knowledge of the role of pollinators as well as the ecosystems they support.

On Family Visiting Day, a virtual glimpse into the classroom this year, students showed off their research on pollinators while performing a play based on facts they had researched. Using his paper bag puppet, Beckett Humble, Honeybee #1, eagerly recited his lines: “You know what I call that yellow powdery stuff? Food! Us honeybees love to eat pollen. I would



Ayla Mittica, Jasper Gindlesparger and Beckett Humble show off their bat, hummingbird and honeybee puppets—and narrator badge—in front of the third grade's drawings of seasonal observations at the garden aided by the book *Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt* by Kate Messner.

love to taste those yellow flowers over there, but I'm not strong enough and my tongue is too short."

Prior to researching, said Jasper Gindlesparger, the play's narrator, "I didn't know that honeybees have pollen baskets on their legs, and I didn't know that they can't see the color red."

"The combined Lenape and pollinator unit provides opportunities for students to build personal connections to the work—while the teachers support students in working together to achieve a common goal. This is at the heart of project-based learning," Director of Lower School Marcy Sosa said.

Ready to Make a Difference

Elsie Wilson, Livia Rodriguez-Cole and Araceli Sosa are playing in the shade before their turn comes to help in the garden. "The garden is important," Araceli explains, "because pollinators are dying out. Pesticides are hurting them!"

Livia, with power in her voice, cuts to the quick: "If we didn't have pollinators, we couldn't have trees, and then we wouldn't have us."

Nearby, Ayla Mittica is bringing soil across the field to the garden. "I know this is helping the pollinators, and I am happy doing it," she says. "I look forward to visiting the garden next year to see all the pollinators."

Third graders feel the sense of urgency, and in combining their research on ecology and Lenape history and culture with the action step of designing the pollinator garden, the students are the changemakers. Their knowledge and desire to make an impact are a powerful combination.

Naturalists and Designers

On a video call with plant and garden design experts Steve Jones and Paige Menton, students ask insightful questions about the native plants the pair introduce as options for the garden.



TOP: Paige Menton, a master permaculture designer, is the owner of Journeywork, which reinvigorates lawns and gardens of schools and Quaker meetinghouses for native biodiversity. Steve Jones is a native plant expert for Wissahickon Restoration Volunteers and runs the plant nursery at the LandHealth Institute, which supplied the plants for the third grade pollinator garden.

BOTTOM: "Deep observation is part of our work," Nedialkova said. "The way to really know a plant is to observe it," to look closely at the leaf patterns and veins, at the flowers, at what is around it. In their naturalist notebooks, students like Lamont Brown Jr., shown, draw the plants and take notes. The focus feels a bit like meditation, a feature of Nedialkova's classroom throughout the year. "We're doing meditation by sketching. The combination of deep observation and meditation is building the students' reverence for people and species," she said—elements key to being good stewards of the land.

Students ask for more details about which pollinators prefer specific plants (for pollen or nectar, or to host egg and larval stages), and ask questions about sun versus shade and expected plant heights as they prepare for the garden design process.

continued on next page

A PROJECT BLOSSOMS

In keeping with the methods of student inquiry and exploration that the third grade teachers espouse, Menton and Jones frequently encourage students to observe plants in the garden closely to answer their own questions. And close observation is a key element of this project.

Students find spots around the gardens and settle in with their field notebooks. They look carefully—at types of grass, for insects, and at what grows near the garden.

And the students—quick with correct answers to an impromptu quiz on garden design day—really know their plants. “What plants have yellow flowers?” Einbender quizzes them.

“Golden ragwort!” one student answers.

“Anise-scented goldenrod,” proudly relays another.

“And which is the tallest of the plants?”

“Shadbush!”

When meeting with Menton and Jones to learn about native plants that will benefit the garden, student questions often focus on how the Lenape used the plant. “We don’t always have a lot of information about how specific groups of people used specific plants,” Steve cautions. “You can ask the Lenape living here or one of the recognized tribes,” he suggests, something students may have the opportunity to do.

But for some plants, there is a clear record of use by the Native Americans. Joe Pye weed, named for a Monhegan healer in New England, was used as medicine to treat typhus and fevers.

And the large pollinator-magnet shadbush—it attracts over 100 pollinators—is a plant that offers a direct connection to the Lenape. The blossoms emerge when the shad would return to the rivers to spawn—shad, like salmon, live in the ocean but travel upstream to where they were hatched—and the Lenape named the plant accordingly.



Dean Rendell pores over his garden design, carefully placing plants using a design key he created. Dean’s design has the high plants in the back so they don’t shade out the shorter ones, arranged in a slope and then arranged for color.



Pierce Barsanti and Rafi Halpern revel in the cool soil they spread to prepare the garden for planting.

Later, colonists named the plant juneberry and serviceberry, the first for when the edible berries arrived, and the second for its early spring blossoms, in accordance with when the ground would be thawed enough to hold burial services.

Back at the garden, students answer questions about the project. The Lenape “would take things from the earth and then give something back to it,” explains third grader Rafi Halpern. “We are taking some of the grass out [to build the garden] but we are giving great soil back.”

Indeed, Joel Eckel and groups of students remove grass clump by clump to prepare the garden bed as classmates haul buckets of dark, rich soil that others spread out along the newly created beds. As he revels in putting his hands in the cool soil, Pierce Barsanti says, “Seeing the work that we have done is so satisfying. Each time we’re here, the progress is so nice to see.”

Planting Day

The big day—planting day—finally arrives. It is Arbor Day, the last Friday in April. Menton and Jones highlight the common design themes from the students’ efforts, such as keeping like plants together, putting short plants in front of tall plants so they get enough sun, and using the shadbush to provide shade to plants that need it.

Buckets of plants are moved around the garden in one last design session, and then—the moment they’ve all been waiting for—students dig in and put the native plants into the ground.

Just before the shadbush goes in—the last and perhaps most important plant in the space—third grade gathers for a moment of silence. Later the class would read *When the Shadbush Blooms* by Carla Messinger, Turtle Clan Lenape.

“Now that you know about these plants,” Menton says, “what does it look like in your yard?” What plants could attract pollinators to it?

“What more could you do with your seeds of knowledge?” **PC**

"This building's design shows us the future of lower school education. It's filled with spaces that spur project-based learning and collaboration, while never losing sight of the timeless value of wonder and curiosity."

Marcy Sosa
Director of Lower School

"The new lower school is so much more than the final piece of our master plan. It is truly the keystone. Everything that came before led us to this moment."

Darryl J. Ford Hon. 1689
Head of School

SO NEAR
SO CLEAR



CREATING THE OPTIMAL ENVIRONMENT for our youngest learners, the final goal of Penn Charter's campus transformation, is nearer than ever with the release of the architects' latest renderings of the future lower school.

With exciting, light-infused spaces expressly designed to spark innovative teaching and engaged learning, the lower school will become a place of even greater inspiration, where students are bound to explore, discover, and take their initial steps on the way to living lives that make a difference.

The location of the lower school, replacing Dooney Field House, is tremendously important because it completes our Academic Village, a cornerstone of our Strategic Vision and subsequent master plan.

Along with the Graham Athletics & Wellness Center, Maguire Field and the new baseball complex, the new lower school reflects the generous partnership of OPCs and families who have ensured the **How Far?** campaign will meet and surpass its \$125 million goal this year.

TRANSFORMATION IS HERE

1 NEXT-GENERATION CLASSROOMS will harness technology and always put students at the center of every learning space—empowering them to lead, whenever possible, in their own education.

2 A WONDER-FILLED LIBRARY will elevate the concept of a physical knowledge center, while sparking an early love of self-guided exploration and discovery.

3 A WELCOMING ENTRY AND DROP-OFF will deepen our sense of connectiveness and community, especially at the start and end of every day.



Building our future together

AN EXCEPTIONAL CAMPAIGN MOTIVATES every member of our community to aspire to do more for the greater good. *By the Light of Our Charter* **HOW FAR?** Can We See is such an endeavor.

We are grateful for the generosity of so many donors who have energized this transformative chapter in Penn Charter's history—one that opened with the crafting of our Strategic Vision, plus the reimagining of campus it inspired, and now draws to a close as we finalize plans for the future lower school.

BUT OUR WORK IS NOT YET DONE.

We have come so far and are so near to achieving our goals, including the creation of an Academic Village uniting our three divisions. As we approach construction of the lower school, philanthropy must again play a key role between now and the end of 2022:



- All new gifts, including pledges, planned gifts and bequests, will allow us to negotiate the best lending terms for the capital outlay required to build the lower school.
- Gifts we receive this year will allow us the flexibility to finance the new lower school in the most fiscally responsible manner.

Many named giving opportunities are still available within the lower school. Several gifts already have named spaces in honor of and in memory of renowned faculty members and cherished friends—a wonderful and fitting reflection of our Penn Charter community.

TO JOIN YOUR FELLOW OPCs AND PARENTS in making a gift to the lower school today, please contact:

► Senior Development Officer **Chris Rahill OPC '99, P '34:**
crahill@penncharter.com | 215.844.3460 x134

"We are a new family [at PC], and the strong sense of community makes us feel like we have always been here."

— New Parents



"Penn Charter fostered my love of learning through incredible teachers, invaluable experiences and a shared desire for greatness."

— OPC '02



"I don't recall having Great Day when I was at Penn Charter. It's such a special day that seems to come at just the right time of year to experience the community, the natural environment and all that PC provides. And as a result, I am also reminded of the opportunity we have to continue to preserve this opportunity for generations to come."

— OPC '89 and Current Parent

"Though our daughter graduated from PC, we want to continue to give to the school that gave her (and all of us) so much. Thank you, PC, for shaping the life of our lifer!"

— Parent of OPC '21

COMMUNITY GATHERS JOYFULLY ON A GREAT DAY

Great Day to Be a Quaker was awash in joy, sunshine and in-person gatherings.

On March 15, Penn Charter welcomed senior parents to a breakfast, the Parent and Caregiver Community for coffee and conversation with members of the Board of Trustees, and OPCs to a reception in the evening. Smaller gatherings of OPCs and former faculty met off campus. The appreciation station outside the Graham was a popular place for everyone to leave messages about what they cherish most about Penn Charter. Students — gleefully enjoying the warm day, cotton candy, popcorn, music and photo booth — lent levity and spirit to the annual interactive day of giving in support of the Annual Fund.

Participation by faculty and staff, by OPCs and parents reached all-time highs this year, and everyone made their best gift to Penn Charter. Thank you, PC!

Revisit the excitement at penncharter.com/greatday.

\$707,190

raised for Penn Charter

Record-Breaking Numbers

713 DONORS

273 OPCs

gave for Great Day

270 PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

gave for Great Day

100% PARTICIPATION

by Middle School faculty and staff

76% TOTAL PARTICIPATION

by PC faculty and staff

100 GIFTS

in honor of teachers



Footloose





Based on the 1984 movie starring Kevin Bacon, the show was a hit with PC audiences, who filled the Ball Theater to covid-restricted capacity during two days of performances. Fifty students took part, with faculty and staff filling key support roles in the chorus, pit band, stage crew and costume shop.

Performing Arts faculty member and Kurtz Center manager Ari Baker sat in the director's chair for the first time in her three-year tenure at PC. "Every student who participated in *Footloose* brought the very best things about the Penn Charter community to each rehearsal, crew build and performance," she said.

Though masked due to a late-winter virus surge, student performers showed no lack of enthusiasm as they crooned, kicked and K-stepped their way through the popular drama. An imposing set, built by Upper School stage crew and teachers Michael Roche and Anne Coleman, evoked the show's primary settings of school, church and burger shop. Students from Eva Kay Noone's Costume Design class helped create outfits to correspond with each of those locales. A pit band conducted by Upper School Band Director Brad Ford and featuring students, teachers and Anastasia Lewis OPC '20 accompanied the action from onstage. PC's new choral director, Tony Yoo, served as musical director and played piano. [PC](#)



See more photos at [flickr.com/photos/penncharter/albums](https://www.flickr.com/photos/penncharter/albums).

ALL-SCHOOL ART SHOW 2022

The All-School Art Show returned in May for its second year as a virtual exhibit, showcasing work from PC students across a variety of media—photography, drawing, collage, costume, clay and documentary film, among others.

Enjoy this small selection of student work, and view the full exhibit at penncharter.com/visualartshow.

LOWER SCHOOL



Aava Dadmarz-Parang



Lamont Brown Jr.



Emerson Walsh



Cora Sangobowale

MIDDLE SCHOOL



Keagan Seth

UPPER SCHOOL



Colleen McLafferty



Georgia O'Gallagher



Zachary Curtin

Athletics Achievements

WINTER SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

GIRLS BASKETBALL



Girls basketball opened the season with the first-ever varsity game (and win!) in the Graham Athletics & Wellness Center and closed the season with an Inter-Ac Championship title, its first since 1998. The girls earned their way to the PAISAA Championship game, held at LaSalle University, where they lost a heartbreaker 51-50. The team had a stellar season, finishing with a 20-4 record, including an 11-1 record in league play, sweeping Notre Dame and splitting home and away with rival GA. Juniors **Bella Toomey** and **Aleah Snead** and freshman **Kaylinn Bethea** were named First Team All Inter-Ac. Coach Joe Maguire, who earned his 100th PC win in that first game in the Graham, highlighted the contributions of the whole team, including repeated clutch plays by **Kayla Bradby** and **Maddie Shoup** throughout the season. The seniors, **Amani Rivers**, Bradby and Shoup, leave PC with 75 wins.

BOYS BASKETBALL



Boys varsity basketball were co-champions of the Inter-Ac this year. The team went 19-5 overall and 8-2 in the league. The Quakers split the season series with Malvern, each squad winning on its home court. This was the first boys championship since 2004. The team demonstrated a remarkable turnaround under coach John Owens; just two years ago the Quakers managed only one league victory.

Junior **Mark Butler**, who had a 30-point outburst in the championship-clinching win over SCH Academy, was named the Inter-Ac's Most Valuable Player and earned First Team All Inter-Ac honors. His teammates **Isaiah Grimes** and **Trey Shinholster** were named Second Team All Inter-Ac. The future is bright for boys basketball as the team was made up entirely of underclassmen.



INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

The girls indoor track team had an exceptional season. The culminating event of the season was in New York, at the New Balance Indoor Nationals. PC's 4x800 relay team, comprised of seniors **Olivia Montini** and **Julia Dolce**, junior **Dani Shipon** and freshman **Alli DeLisi**, came in seventh overall after racing to a PA#1 time. The distance medley relay team of DeLisi, Dolce, **Amanda Ehrenhalt** and Shipon took sixth place and another PA#1. The 4x400 meter relay team of seniors Ehrenhalt, Dolce, Shipon and DeLisi came in sixth and earned All-American honors for a second time. Individually at Nationals, DeLisi finished eighth in the 800 meter, setting a PC indoor record. In the penultimate event of the season, the PTFCA Indoor State Championship Meet, DeLisi earned second in the mile and third in the 800 meter. The distance medley relay took second place in the championship meet, and the 4x800 relay of Montini, **Elena Coupas**, Dolce and Shipon came in second. These runners were named to the PTFCA All-State Team, representing all Pennsylvania schools, including public, private and independent.

On the boys side, 2022 was a development year. Freshman runners **TJ Zwall** and **Nate Johnson** had outstanding seasons. Both qualified for Nike Indoor Nationals in the freshman mile run. Senior **David Rosania** repeatedly placed in the shot put event during the season. Newcomer **Cliff Harling**, a junior, hurled the shot more than 40 feet, showing great promise for the future.



ATHLETICS ACHIEVEMENTS

WRESTLING

Penn Charter wrestling had a strong year. The team came away with an 18-4 record, going 4-1 in the Inter-Ac and finishing second behind Malvern Prep. For the first time in 20 years, Penn Charter qualified 10 wrestlers at Nationals. Eighth grader **Cassidy McCusker** became the first girl to win a varsity wrestling match for PC. She earned a third-place finish at the Girls National Prep School Tournament. McCusker completed her season by finishing second at the PA Girls Junior State Tournament, a first for a PC wrestler. **Greyson Catlow-Sidler, James Glomb, Tyler Mangan** and **Hugh Maley** were named Second Team All Inter-Ac.



SWIMMING & DIVING

Penn Charter aquatics had a strong showing at Easterns this year after a 4-2 season record for the girls and 1-4 for the boys. Four individual swimmers and four relay teams raced in the "A" finals of their events. Though a gold medal proved elusive, 14 swimmers raced to top-five times in Penn Charter history, including **Alex Zoldan** with the fastest all-time 500 freestyle at PC. All Inter-Ac honors were awarded to **Abby Steinbrook, Ava Coombs, Eva McIver-Jenkins, Lane Murray, Juan Tovar, Tyler Juskalian** and Zoldan. Two freestyle relay squads are under consideration for All-American nods; in the 200m, Steinbrook, Coombs, **Aisling Brady** and Murray. In the 400m, McIver-Jenkins, Steinbrook, Coombs and Murray.



GIRLS & BOYS SQUASH

Seven boys and seven girls competed against top teams at High School Squash Nationals. Playing in Division II, the girls finished fifth of 16 teams, and the boys finished sixth of 16. When taking into account the other divisions, the girls finished 21st in the country of 80 teams and the boys 22nd of 96 teams. **Sam** and **Alex Jaffe** (both named First Team All Inter-Ac) and **Savannah Abernethy** each won all four of their matches.



"The boys matches were all exciting, with every match coming down to the last player on court," Director of Squash Damon Leedale-Brown reported. "Nationals was a special and emotional time, with four senior boys playing their last high school matches for Penn Charter." **Hyun Su Price** was named First Team All Inter-Ac, and **Ramsay Killinger** and **Jack Stanley** were named Second Team All Inter-Ac. The boys finished 8-6 for the season, the girls 6-7.



OPCs in Athletics

Michael (Neeko) Hnatkowsky OPC '17 was selected to the 2021 American Football Coaches Association Division III Coaches' All-America second team this season. While at Muhlenberg College, Hnatkowsky has set conference and school records for touchdown passes, passing touchdowns, passing and offensive yards in a season, among others. He was the Offensive Player of the Year in both Region 2 and the Centennial Conference. As a Penn Charter Quaker, he still holds the record for all-time leading passer in Inter-Ac league history.

Also playing football at Muhlenberg, cornerback **John Washington OPC '18** was named All-Centennial Conference first team and the Region 2 second team.



Photo credit: Muhlenberg Athletics

Michael (Neeko) Hnatkowsky OPC '17

John Washington OPC '18

Ryan Holmes OPC '20, who plays for Community College of Philadelphia, was named the Eastern Pennsylvania Athletic Conference Player of the Year in Men's Basketball and the Men's First Team All-Conference. For CCP, Holmes averaged 14 points and five rebounds a game. While at PC, Holmes was a 1,000-point scorer, finishing with 1,515 total points, placing him third all-time in points scored in Penn Charter history.

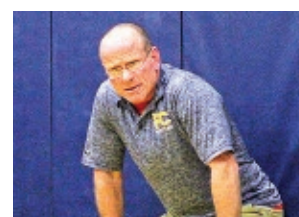


Photo credit: CCP

Sarah (Sally) Foley OPC '20 was named Duke University student-athlete of the week for the third time in 2022 following her exceptional performance at the NCAA Championship Meet. Foley earned first-team All-America in the 200 individual medley (sixth place, 1:54.38) and honorable-mention All-America in the 200 breaststroke (ninth place, 2:05.78). In both races Foley also broke her own school records.



Photo credit: Duke Athletics



Pete Shaifer OPC '82 earned the 2022 Head Coach of the Year award from the Pennsylvania Independent Wrestling Tournament. Shaifer last earned the award in 2019.



Photo credit: The Indianapolis Colts

Matt Ryan OPC '03 will be the new quarterback for the Indianapolis Colts after 14 seasons with the Atlanta Falcons. As a Falcon, Ryan had 222 career starts, 59,735 passing yards (the most by a quarterback in those seasons) and 367 touchdowns. He was the 2016 MVP and Offensive Player of the Year and 2008 NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year after being drafted in the first round and starting all regular-season games.

ATHLETICS ACHIEVEMENTS



Photo credit: Howard Magazine

Madison Freeland OPC '18, a middle-distance swimmer at Howard University, was selected to the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Commissioner's All-Academic Team in 2021 and appeared on the cover of the winter 2022 Howard magazine.

Reece Whitley OPC '18 was named the Men's Swimming and Diving Scholar-Athlete of the Year by the PAC-12 conference. A senior at the University of California, Berkeley, Whitley is a 14-time All-American and serves on the PAC-12 Black Student-Athlete Alliance to promote, engage and empower Cal's Black athletes to support one another and expand their positive influence. In March 2022, the Cal Bears men's swimming team captured its seventh NCAA championship.



Photo credit: Courtesy Reece Whitley



Photo credit: Cincinnati Athletics

Colin Hitschler OPC '05 enters his first season as the co-defensive coordinator at the University of Cincinnati. He will also coach safeties for the third straight season in 2022.



Photo credit: Mark Jordan_City of Basketball Love

Carl Arrigale OPC '84, the head boys basketball coach at Neumann-Goretti Catholic High School in Philadelphia, won the PIAA state title, his ninth state championship since 2010. Neumann-Goretti also won the Catholic League and the Class 4A city title. At PC, Arrigale was Inter-Ac MVP for basketball in his senior year.

SportsZone Reboot

SportsZone, your source of news and highlights for Upper School varsity teams, returns! Visit penncharter.com/sportszone for new reporting about twice a week.

But don't risk missing one: **SUBSCRIBE TODAY.** Look for  on the SportsZone webpage.





Coach Speedy Morris was honored by Head of School Darryl J. Ford and by members of his 1983 and '84 PC basketball teams.

THE LASTING IMPACT OF WILLIAM “SPEEDY” MORRIS

by Ed Morrone OPC '04

photography by Zamani Feelings

PC alumnus Ed Morrone's article "Penn Charter Honors Local Legend Who Made Huge Impact in Short Time" about William "Speedy" Morris's legacy at PC and the OPC lives he touched was first published by Philadelphia Sports Digest in December 2021.

The article below, in its entirety, appears courtesy of philadelphiasportsdigest.com.

PHILADELPHIA — In the William Penn Charter School community, the concept of legacy is a constant companion. With every step through the school's hallowed halls, with each glance around its ancient corners, the history is so loud that if you listen closely enough, you can almost hear the faint whispers of those who paved the way from preceding centuries.

It can be easy to get lost in the enormity of it all, especially as the years turn to decades. After all, when you've been around since the seventeenth century, there are countless stories to tell and not enough time or words to give them all their proper shake.

Luckily enough, legacy lives forever, especially in this place, and no matter how much you accomplish at other stops in your

life, Penn Charter's 332-year-old memory never, ever forgets.

Which brings us to William "Speedy" Morris, the legendary Philadelphia high school and college basketball coach who won more than 1,000 career games at four storied institutions over a career that spanned more than 50 years. Ask one hundred people to tell you something about

continued on next page

THE LASTING IMPACT OF WILLIAM “SPEEDY” MORRIS

Speedy, and you’re likely to get that many different answers; however, many would likely include anecdotes from Saint Joseph’s Prep, Roman Catholic or La Salle University, the three schools where Morris spent the majority of his illustrious career.

Wedge into the early chapters of the Morris basketball story are two seasons as the head boys’ basketball at Penn Charter from 1982-84. Prior to that, he had already coached for more than a decade at Roman — his first year as a head coach began in 1968 — and after he left the Quakers he spent another 35 years at La Salle (1984-86 coaching the women’s team; 1986-2001 coaching the men’s program) and Saint Joe’s Prep (2001-20).

On the surface, Speedy’s Penn Charter years appear as a blink-and-you’ll-miss-them blip to outsiders. But to some inside Penn Charter’s brand new, sparkling Graham Center Athletics & Wellness Center this past Friday night, the lasting impact of the early-to-mid-1980s still feels like yesterday.

Many members of those two Morris teams — the second of which won an Inter-Ac championship in 1984 — banded together

to establish the first annual Speedy Morris Invitational Tournament, and the man himself was on hand to see it. Between the boys’ and girls’ basketball games, the school honored Morris in a ceremony at mid-court, thanking him for his service at the school and gifting him with a commemorative plaque. Additionally, two coaching chairs emblazoned with the words William Speedy Morris will sit at the front of each bench.

“In just two years as head coach, Speedy Morris made an incredible contribution to the lives of our students,” Penn Charter Head of School Darryl J. Ford told the assembled crowd. “For our students here, sometimes it can be easy to forget the people whose shoulders we stand on, but Speedy cared about his students on and off the court. He is a Philadelphia basketball legend, but more importantly, a wonderful person who affected the lives of so many. Whether that was on the basketball court or helping someone get into college or out of a troubled situation, that is Mr. Morris’ legacy.”

“At Penn Charter, we talk about educating students who live lives that make a

difference, and Speedy Morris has lived a life that has made a difference.”

Morris, who turns 80 in April, retired from coaching at the end of the 2019-20 season. Before the ceremony, he sat courtside surrounded by family that included his wife, Mimi; his son, Keith; and several grandchildren. When his moment came, Morris walked to center court standing alongside Keith as Ford and former players Andy Vye OPC ’83 and Joe McGarvey OPC ’84 shared stories of Speedy’s brief time at Penn Charter that has left an enduring legacy spanning almost 40 years for those who lived it.

“I want to thank Dr. Ford and everyone who made this moment possible,” Morris said in a brief address to the crowd. “And thank you to the players who played for me. Those were two great years, and even though I moved on (to La Salle), I would’ve liked to have stayed here longer. I’ll never forget these guys, and this is a great place that I love a lot. This is great, amazing, fantastic... thank you very much.”

Vye and McGarvey helped get the process of staging the Speedy Morris Invitational rolling about two months ago. To listen to them tell it, the 41 games Morris won at Penn Charter represent more than just a footnote in his coaching career, simply due to the fact that he helped turn a team with very average talent into champions in just two seasons.

Of all the impressive coaching jobs Morris did over the years, his time at Penn Charter has to rank near the top, simply because of the kinds of athletes he had at his disposal.

“What people forget is that when he came to Penn Charter, he was already a legend,” recalled Vye, a professional basketball agent. “We were wondering why he was coming to coach us, and he was probably thinking the same thing himself, because we didn’t have a whole lot of talent. It was an instant culture change. We went from playing basketball to working.”



Morris with wife Mimi and Head of School Darryl J. Ford holding the plaque dedicated in Speedy’s honor.

Morris put in the time with his teams, taking them across the street to what was then Philadelphia Textile College to work out with another local coaching legend's — Herb Magee — teams. Morris would also have his Penn Charter teams hit the camp and clinic circuit from Philadelphia to Saratoga, N.Y., in the summertime, with the whole point being to show his players the extra work required to succeed in life.

On the court, Morris was always “tough, but fair,” according to McGarvey. Practices were grueling and almost always three hours, double the length of what the players were accustomed to. If you missed an easy layup, then it became an automatic reflex to hit the ground for some push-ups. This wasn't punishment, but rather a lesson on attention to detail, showing the players that a lot of little things add up to what become championship campaigns.

It wasn't just the basketball court where players like Vye and McGarvey benefitted from Morris' tutelage, either. Far from it. In separate conversations, each man told different variations of the same story that tells you everything you need to know about how Morris cares more about the person than he does the basketball player that inhabits that person.

Morris, who grew up in Manayunk, resided in neighboring Roxborough as an adult. He owned a bar in the neighborhood, and each year, he would take a senior player under his wing. This process included 7 a.m. wake-up calls to work at the bar, performing menial tasks such as cleaning bathrooms or sweeping floors, done to teach Vye and McGarvey responsibility and accountability. After, he would take them a few blocks away to Kelly Park, where he would drill them on the concrete courts.

The fun came later. Whether it was taking his players to watch horses at the racetrack and teaching them how to bet an exacta, Chinatown for dinners or the Palestra to watch a basketball game after practice,

Morris went above and beyond a typical coach's responsibility. Morris even taught McGarvey how to drive and accompanied him to his driver's license test when McGarvey's father was busy working.

“He put me in his car, and whether it was a camp 10 miles away or all the way up in Saratoga, he had me drive and he lounged out in the backseat,” McGarvey recalled. “Even with something like driving, he was trying to give me the confidence and responsibility I needed.”

McGarvey went on to play college ball at Lehigh and lived in Germany for a period after he graduated. By then, Morris was coaching at La Salle, and sure enough, McGarvey would check his mail across the Atlantic and sometimes find a handwritten note from Morris accompanied by a package of La Salle basketball swag.

“I will always be grateful for him,” McGarvey said. “The camaraderie to this day is pretty neat, and I really can't say enough good things about him.”

Vye told a similar story about how when he had his very first job interview in the basketball industry, Morris called the company and told them that Vye was one of the hardest working players he ever coached. Vye got the job.

“This basketball community is so tight around Coach Morris,” Vye said. “He really gave me a boost, and I never had a coach who took that kind of interest in me. We believed we always had a chance, and that was because Speedy Morris was our coach. He set me off on a direction in my life that I am still in, having spent more than 30 years with a career in professional basketball.”

The 41 games Morris won at Penn Charter were the fewest at any of his stops, two less than the 43 he tallied while coaching the La Salle women's program from 1984-86. He won 347 at Roman from 1968-81, 238 as La Salle's men's coach (including four NCAA Tournament appearances and a 30-2 season in 1989-90 that still lives on in Philadelphia



Joe McGarvey OPC '84 with his PC basketball coach, William “Speedy” Morris.

basketball lore) and another 366 at the Prep the last two decades.

Despite a short stay at Penn Charter, Morris' successful legacy arguably created a butterfly effect over the ensuing decades that still remains active today.

It's why legacy matters so much at a place like Penn Charter, where luminaries such as Morris may move on to greater heights in other places but will never be forgotten for what they did here, no matter how brief or long ago.

“You hope that when you are done your service, whether as a teacher, a coach or a director, that students come back and say that you made a difference in their lives,” Ford said later in a private conversation after the ceremony had ended.

“That's what happened with Speedy and his players on and off the court. He changed their lives. He made a difference.

“We hope our current students can understand that legacy, and always look forward to make a difference in the lives of those who come after. That's what legacy means at Penn Charter: people who make a difference in the lives of students, and that's exactly what happened with Speedy Morris.” PC

William Penn Charter School Then & Now



c. Late 1980s

Lower School students began serving as tour guides during admissions open houses in the 1980s, or maybe even the late 1970s. Dedicated representatives, they took a training program, learned to rattle off statistics and prepared a short speech for prospective parents.



2022

Today's PC admissions ambassadors, which have included only Upper and Middle school students during Covid, give tours to prospective families, but also host new-student visits, serve on student-experience panels, write blog posts and create "day in the life" videos.

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.

1934

Julian Alexander Jr. enjoyed a visit with Nicole Martz, assistant director of development, at his home in Sarasota, Fla. Julian celebrated his 105th birthday on Jan. 2, 2022.



of the Sonoran Desert in Arizona and the Wind River Range in Wyoming. The Demings hosted two unofficial reunions — one on a ranch in Wickenburg, Ariz., and one near their home in Jackson, Wyo., near the Grand Tetons. They enjoyed traveling the world, and have two sons and four grandchildren.

John L. Graham, as an accomplished architect in the Maryland/Chesapeake region, participated in over 600 projects in his 37-year career.

Colson H. Hillier Jr. and wife Pat enjoyed catching up with their two boys and four grandchildren in the New England area last summer, and then enjoyed a Caribbean cruise over Christmas. They are looking forward to Colson's class reunion this spring.

David M. Jordan shares that he and his wife, Jean, have moved into a newly furnished apartment in the Quadrangle Senior Living residence in Haverford. They are getting used to the downsizing required and the dinners with "hundreds of co-diners."

William M. McFadden reports that he enjoyed more than 30 years in his ophthalmology practice and that he and his wife, Mary, retired in Florida in 1996. A hurricane caught them in 2016 and rendered them homeless for a stretch. After retirement, they enjoyed traveling the world, before Mary passed away on Feb. 23.

Joseph B. Van Sciver III and his wife, Carol, always look enthusiastically toward reunions and the coming of the spring and summer seasons. They have two nephews at Friends' Central middle and upper schools, and look forward to PC-Friends' Central sporting events.

F. Bruce Waechter is keeping busy, making personalized memory books for each of his nine grandchildren, reminding them of the memories shared with their grandmother Janet over the years.

1953

W. Robert Wilson Jr. shares, "Penn Charter magazine has been my contact with the school for over 60 years (I moved to California in 1960; my family left PA years later), but I'm interested in the changes. The contrasts are striking as I think back on School House Lane in the 1950s. The campus has exploded and may be unrecognizable to me except from a few angles. The students appear to have evolved, as have some policies. Coeducation escaped its prior Lower School home. The dress code has evolved; I recall being sent home for not wearing a necktie. Academic opportunities have opened up; I'm delighted to see the opportunities for performance and theater, the latter an area in which I've spent the last 30 years. I've been struck with sadness at the passing of classmates and friends. But I cherish being an OPC and am heartened by the vitality and progress the magazine has shown me over the years since graduation. Proud am I a son to be."

1952

Eugene M. Cheston Jr., his classmates say, always amuses with his wit and many aphorisms. While spending only his senior year at Penn Charter, he is forever thankful of the formative impact the school had on him. He is certain that "character is destiny" and that "we make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give." His closest friends, **William H. Hobson** and **Michael N. Wood** (both now deceased) came from PC.

George L. Deming sadly reports that his wife, Jane, passed away on March 1. Jane had a love for horses and won honors at the Devon Horse Show and enjoyed the trails

1959

Kenneth J. (Chip) Stuart Jr. notes, "What plays a large part in determining character is how you deal with failure. When young, it may be rejection by a person you had a crush on. In midlife, maybe a business that didn't work out. In old age, it's apt to be a health problem. Getting into bounce-back mode is a good way out but there is no bounce back from life's

Class Notes

finality. Twenty-five percent of my college class is gone. The positive is that 75 percent of us are still here. In dreams we can get in virtual touch with those who were most important to us and are no longer here. Be well. Be happy. And may 2022 be good to us all.”

1960

James M. Arrison III shared: “We gathered at PC for our belated 60th reunion on Oct. 12, 2021. Attending were **Richard P. Allman**, **James M. Arrison III**, **James R. Buckley**, **Charles G. Douglas III**, **Samuel H. Francis**, **George F. Ingersoll Jr.**, **Herbert N. Johnston Jr.**, **Charles F. Lom** and **Alan R. McFarland**. Our wonderful friend and Penn Charter’s chief development officer, **John T. Rogers Hon. 1689**, hosted us for lunch, a tour of the newly constructed Graham Athletics & Wellness Center, and the opportunity to discuss a wide range of matters with Head of School **Darryl J. Ford Hon. 1689**. The school has made a carefully thought-out decision to remain within the boundaries of the city of Philadelphia. Thus, much of the school facilities as we knew them more than three decades ago are being remodeled and expanded.”

1962

Artie Egendorf published a book, *Harmonize All of You With All: The Leap Ahead in Self-Development*. Find it on Amazon.

1963

Robert E. Brickley writes, “My last 10 years have been dedicated to life coaching, following decades building teams. I started a blog in 2016 titled *The Space Between the Notes* at mybrickleys.com. I have a book currently under construction titled *Connections*. Married 50 years; a few health challenges, but so far, 76 solid years! See y’all at our 60th!”

Charles Kurz II and Class of 1963 classmates attended the Orpheus concert on March 2 in Lincoln Hall at the Union League.



Pictured: **Richard J. Scarlett**, **Charles L. (Chuck) Burrall III** and **Charles Kurz II** enjoying the evening together.

1966

Allen F. Steere and classmates enjoyed lunch at Winnie’s in Manayunk. The group is planning a trip to the Smithsonian in late spring where **Donald A. Noveau** is a volunteer.



Pictured, from left: **Donald A. Noveau**, **Richard W. Holmes Jr.**, **Randal J. McDowell**, **Allen F. Steere**, **Robert W. Ulmer** and **James Q. Stevens**.



W. Tonner Hays, who lives in Oregon, phoned in to catch up with the 1966 crew during their lunch in Manayunk.

1968

Edwin S. Skinner Jr. shares, “In October we hosted half of our family in Washington, D.C., for a tour of everything outside, including the monuments and the Potomac. We had the same rental house as last year in the Capitol Hill area. The Skinners and our daughter Caryn’s family, the Marshalls, had a great time!”



Class Notes

Dale P. Van Wieren offers, “A major joy of retirement is traveling, which has been complicated at best for all of us the last couple of years. Leslie and I did, however, get to spend a couple of weeks last fall in two of our favorite states, Colorado and New Mexico. A highlight was going to Albuquerque to see classmate **Kenneth J. Young’s** Isotopes play — a game they won with a two-run homer with two out in the bottom of the ninth! I continue to work remotely with the National Brewery Museum in Potosi, Wis., and in October, Leslie and I traveled there from our home in Lansdale to set up an exhibit about early craft breweries. On our roundabout way there, we also got to visit the Field of Dreams in Iowa.”



1969

Robert C. Ulin reports, “I am still working as a faculty member at Rochester Institute of Technology and continuing with an active research, writing and teaching agenda. Working on a new edited book on cuisine, culture and power. Enjoying the challenges of raising our 9-year-old, Cali, with my wife, Suzanne.”

1970

Peter T. Bryden shares, “I have found in this last decade that life can be quite interesting. Instead of being an only child, I learned thanks to DNA testing that I am the oldest of six. My first book *Styra Planet of the Mlts* is available on Amazon and has been read more

abroad than here. My wife, Carolyn, and I have developed a global family and enjoy traveling to see them all. I have recently found myself unintentionally retired, so travel, new adventures and writing beckon. I do look forward to a return to PC in the near future to see the new campus buildings since I missed our 50th reunion.”

R. Craig Lefebvre was awarded first place in the 2021 American Experience category of the annual Smithsonian Magazine photo contest. His image, *Indigenous Swirling Colors*, features Kenneth Shirley of Indigenous Enterprise as he dances through the sun and shadows in Tlaquepaque, Sedona, Ariz. (pictured below). The contest received more than 47,000 photo submissions captured in 180 countries. An expert in applying marketing principles and techniques to tackle public health and social issues, Craig’s print images are in the permanent collection of the Cuban American Phototheque Foundation in Miami, Fla., and have been selected for national and international juried shows, including the Spectrum Art Fair during Art Basel Miami; LA Artcore Photographic Exhibit; International Fine Art of Photography Exhibition at the Plymouth Center for the Arts; Art League of Hilton Head Biennale; and regional exhibits at the Arts Council of Marin County, ArtCenter Manatee, and Sarasota and Sedona Arts Centers. Among other awards, his work has received seven nominations and an honorable mention in the International Color Awards.



1973

David E. Bossi shares, “Six years ago, my wife and I moved from our home in Barnegat Light, N.J., to live full time in Nantucket, Mass., where I manage the local community garden and we grow many of our own vegetables. Last September, after over 40 years of designing and coding computer software, I finally decided it was time to retire. Other than navigating the world of Medicare, the hardest part of retirement was giving up my company phone and having my friends recognize my personal number and answer the phone when I call!”

Peter S. Crosby reports, “Last summer I returned to China to bicycle from Beijing to Hong Kong again – after 27 years! – and to film a four-hour TV series comparing my 1994 experiences during that 3,000 km journey to modern-day life in the center of the People’s Republic. Roads, hotels, food choices, and high-speed trains were surely better, many quite stunning, in fact. Folks in rural areas were still warm and friendly, even once they knew I was an American; “People to people,” they’d say, “no problem.” And I was happy to find a few old friends from my first adventure 27 years ago. But my Chinese skills were still laughable, and my legs ached a lot more, and the strict covid-19 travel restrictions made for new plans every day. China Global TV Network has been airing “Cycling China with Peter Crosby” in PRC, streaming free at <https://bit.ly/3eOab7u>. National Geographic TV international version should air in May. Now I’m starting a TV project biking across the USA to acquaint myself with what feels like a foreign heartland here, explore 250 years of Chinese people in America, and cycle coast to coast with Chinese cyclists.”



Class Notes

1974

David C. Hahn shares, “I have just completed the score of a 30-minute, one-woman opera based on the speeches of three women from Virgil’s *The Aeneid*, titled *Women of the Aeneid and Their Wars*. The piece uses the original Latin language and is set for mezzo-soprano and 15 instruments. The next step involves recording the vocal part with a virtual ensemble in order to pursue performance possibilities.”



Kevin B. Hughes shares, “Things here on Long Island are fine. Our daughter is in her second year at Barnard, and we’re always taking the Long Island Rail Road into the city to visit her, as well as visiting my uncle who volunteers on the 2,500-ton square-rigged Wavertree sailing ship at South Street Seaport in lower Manhattan. My sister lent me a Brompton folding bicycle, and I take it on the LIRR as well as on the subways. Ellen rents the city bikes, and we ride bike trails all over Manhattan. My job at Brookhaven National Lab has me managing the pulsed power group, which supports high-voltage and high-speed pulsed systems that support particle accelerator operations on a suite of machines that end at the 2.5-mile circumference Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (pictured, right). Sometimes I get called in late at night, as we provide 24/7 coverage for accelerator-collider operations when the beam is on. If one of our power supplies hiccups, they call us in to fix it. Sometimes the problems can be quite challenging.”



1975

Stephen R. Mazda appeared in the Marquis Who’s Who Top Executives registry of accomplished individuals and innovators.

1978

David H. Neff writes, “I hope all my buddies are well. Kindly reach out to catch up at dn@neffknows.com.”

1982

George L. Justice will move to Oklahoma this summer as provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at the University of Tulsa, to begin July 1.



1983

David R. Hassman and his family have been providing top medical care in South Jersey for more than 50 years with their practice, Advocare Berlin Medical.

1985

Joshua S. Petersohn shares, “I was named head coach of Team USA Men’s Masters (40+) Ice Hockey for the July 2022 Maccabiah Games in Israel. We’ve held tryouts in Philadelphia and Boston and selected players from all over the country, including Chicago, Los Angeles and Phoenix. The team will hold training camps and exhibition games in different cities over the next few months. The first training camp was held in January in Fort Lauderdale at the Florida Panthers’ practice facility. The Maccabiah Games, which include many sports, occur every four years in Israel. I was a member of the gold medal-winning team in 2013. Alumni like **Hannah R. Fox OPC ’16** played basketball on the Women’s Junior (18 & Under) Division Team and is a candidate for this year Women’s (19-39) Open Division Team. Other alumni may want to try out.”

Class Notes

1988

Keith T. Morris reports, “I was proud to be present last December with my family as Penn Charter and the 1983 and 1984 boys basketball teams dedicated the William “Speedy” Morris head coaches chairs during the renamed Speedy Morris Invitational on the beautiful new Kenneth M. Caldwell OPC ’89 Court in the astonishing Graham Athletics & Wellness Center. It was quite an honor for my dad.” (Story on p. 31.)



Pictured: Morris's former basketball players celebrate him at the Speedy Morris Invitational.



Derek L. Riddick writes, “Hey OPCs ’88! Hope everyone is doing well. My gym, Strikezone Mixed Martial Arts, in Maple Shade, N.J., is back and stronger than ever! Stop in for a complimentary session if you ever want to kick it! We survived the covid onslaught and are looking forward to a record year. My wife, Romy, is heading up HR at Princeton, my son Austin is in his second year of Harvard Law, my son Chase is in his senior year in high school, and daughter Savanna is a sophomore. See you soon!”

1989



Justin A. Sheetz visited PC virtually in February from his home in San Francisco to lead a presentation for coding, math and business students and teachers about the career he has forged integrating coding with business. As the film *Moneyball* showed how statistics and data analysis can be used for baseball, Justin demonstrated how computer coding and data analysis can be used for financial investment. He also gave advice on educational paths and which computer languages to learn if students are interested in those careers.

1990

Michael A. Gomez and **Barry J. Markman** celebrated **Brant D. Imperatore's** 50th birthday, attending a little shindig in Washington, D.C.



1991

John E. (Jack) Ranieri shares, “My company, America One Mortgage, LLC, just recently made the transition from mortgage broker to a full mortgage lender. We are very excited about the future of the company!”

1994

David J. Sirota received his first Oscar nomination: Best Original Screenplay for *Don't Look Up*, starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Jennifer Lawrence and Meryl Streep.



Photo credit: Getty Images

Pictured: Emily and **David Sirota** on the red carpet at the 94th Annual Academy Awards.

Class Notes

1995

Jared A. Kesselheim was featured in Forbes magazine discussing the growth of digital health data.

1997

Christopher J. Albright left the Philadelphia Union after seven years to become the new general manager for FC Cincinnati.

1998

Andrew F. Evans presented to Michael Moulton's Quaker Principles and Practice class about his architectural work on Sidwell Friends' Meeting House made from a space that was a gymnasium. The class is visiting local Quaker meeting houses, thinking about how their form fits their spiritual function.



1999

Stephanie A. Saint Germain (pictured, center) visited PC to support the girls basketball team before they won the Inter-Ac title. Stephanie was a part of the 1998 girls basketball team, the last to win the championship before 2022!



2002

Rachel L. Prowler, senior manager of marketing at PepsiCo Beverages North America, helped create Pepsi Pop Star, an immersive entertainment experience, at Hersheypark.

2004

Susan Brennan notes, "Following a PC/GA Day victory, the exact crew you'd expect to go to Sue Brennan's house after school did just that, with all their kids in tow." Standing, from left: **Susan Brennan**, **Bertram Strackhouse '05**, **Katharine Hill '05**, **Amanda Zaid**, **Katelyn E. Hartman**, **Steven L. Sullivan '05** Sitting: Christian and **Ashley Natoli '05**, **Andrew J. Layne '05**, Cally Sullivan.



2005

Immaculata (Mackie) Ermocida shares, "In December 2021, I was sworn in as an attorney in the state of New Jersey after attending Temple Law while working for the federal government. I was also a commencement speaker for my class."

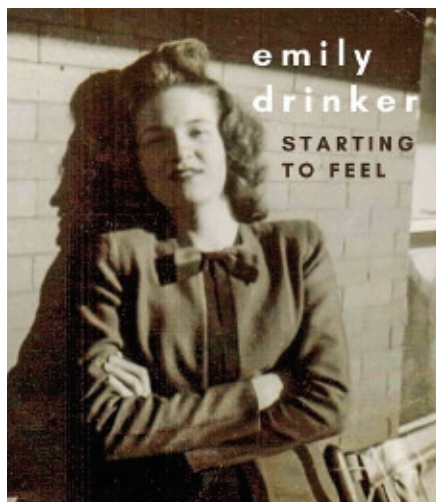


Class Notes

2008

Matthew Cahn's restaurant Middle Child Clubhouse in Fishtown is breaking through the Philly restaurant scene. Matt was happy to host the Class of 2007 reunion in May.

Emily Drinker released her album, *Starting to Feel*, on all digital streaming platforms on April 21, 2022.



Kelvin J. Johnson Jr., CEO and cofounder of Brevity Pitch, launched the AI-powered pitch-building platform in 2021 and is setting up for expansion in 2022.

2009

Justin Renfrow participated in the Polar Pop Madness to support Special Olympics Pennsylvania. While supporting the cause and "Freezin' for a Reason," he ran into fellow OPC, **Emily Drinker OPC '08**.



2011

Connor J. Harribson, through his startup, Atlas Urban Farms, is re-thinking modern farming by exploring hydroponics and vertical farming. "A really good way to think of it is an aquarium that grows plants," Connor told Babson Magazine; he is working on his MBA at Babson College. "The water is literally doing the work. It uses about 95 percent less water than traditional agriculture, and with these towers, you can have a much more dense system." Pictured below, Connor maintains an herb-filled hydroponic tower.



2013



Kevin P. Kelly set legal precedent in the United States District Court of Wyoming for cases involving confirmation of a foreign arbitration award. This was a case of

first impression that was granted to Kevin's client by the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission in Beijing. Kevin is currently working at Mazzola Lindstrom in New York, where he focuses on fine art law and international commercial litigation. Kevin's work covers art from classical paintings to NFTs and commercial litigation around the world.

2015

Carolyn Brady and **Heidi Zisselman OPC '13** both attended a Maine State Society Eggs & Issues Congressional Breakfast on Capitol Hill, where Carolyn was honored as the Maine Cherry Blossom Festival Princess, and Heidi was in attendance with the office of U.S. Senator Susan Collins of Maine, where Heidi currently works as the assigned Department of Defense fellow for the Navy.



2018

Alexis C. Joseph was awarded the 2022 Samuel DuBois Cook Undergraduate Award for her activism and leadership at Duke University.



Class Notes

Andrew T. Morris graduated from the Catholic University of America last May with a degree in finance and accounting. Andrew and the Catholic soccer team won the Landmark Conference Championship in 2021, where he was named All-Landmark Conference Defender. **Ryan Bradby OPC '20** was also on the team. Andrew recently accepted an offer to join Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS) as a client services associate in the private wealth management sector.



2020

Sarah E. (Sally) Foley placed sixth in the 200 IM at the NCAA Championship and earned First Team All-America Honors. She also broke her own record at Duke University.

DEATHS

1939



Donald G. Barnhouse Jr.,
on May 28, 2020.

1948



M. Wistar Wood Jr.,
on March 11, 2022.

1950



James A. Drake Jr.,
on Jan. 10, 2022.

1952



Charles F. Wuestner Jr.,
on Dec. 8, 2021.

1956



Robert R. Cryer,
on Aug. 23, 2020.

1960



George W. Hemphill,
on Dec. 11, 2021.

1961



Jeffrey B. Tripp,
on Jan. 30, 2022.

1962



John I. Jones Jr.,
on Jan. 12, 2022.

1964



Edward L. Corson II,
on Dec. 15, 2021.

1970



Russell E. Bruce,
on March 3, 2022.

1970



Stephen A. Conlon,
on Oct. 20, 2021.



Thomas A. Miller,
on Nov. 6, 2021.

1972



Jon C. (Scott) Ziegler,
on Dec. 3, 2021.

1973



Mac F. Given,
on Sept. 27, 2021.

1985



Earle J. (Jim) Jardine,
on March 30, 2022.

2019



Mia Bezar,
on Feb. 13, 2022.

MARRIAGES

2011

Margaret A. Hilton married Kevin McCormick on Dec. 11, 2021.



Rachel S. Pastore married Patrick McCullough on Oct. 23, 2021, on Jefferson University's East Falls campus. From left: **Dylan Smith**, Andrea Freed, **Timothy Bell**, **Samantha Rosen**, **Kendall Stokes**, **Rachel Pastore**, **Zachary Toll**, Patrick McCullough, **Patrick Maiden**, **Pablo Cerdera** and Daniel Simmons.



Class Notes

BIRTHS

1998

Quinn Scott, to Monique and **Michael B. McCrossen**, on Aug. 31, 2021.
(Pictured with big sisters Stella and Lorelei.)



2002

James Samuel, to **Chelsea K. Erdmanis Greenspon** and **Brian B. Greenspon**, on Jan. 18, 2022.



2003

Giuseppe, to Jeff and **Miki (Omori) Pozzuolo**, on Oct. 5, 2021.



2004

Lucas David to **Devon L. Erdmanis D'Alessio** and Livio D'Alessio, on March 23, 2022.



Penelope Regina, to Kirk and **Megan (Kaesshaefer) Jones**, on Feb. 9, 2022.



2006

Heidi Susan, to **Blair (Braun) Weber** and Frank Weber, on Dec. 3, 2021.



2011

Sofia Isabel, to Andy and **Grace M. Perez-Benzo**, on Dec. 4, 2021.



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– Lisa Slowik OPC '94



"As a new family to PC during Covid, we were so grateful that Xavier immediately felt at home and valued by his classmates and his teachers. Increasing our annual fund gift this year was one way to show our appreciation!"

– Sean Vereen and Beth Hagovsky P '28



"Supporting Penn Charter with our best gift is one way we demonstrate our gratitude to the place that is preparing our kids for life beyond its boundaries."

– Nadya and Lynn Popil P '32, '35



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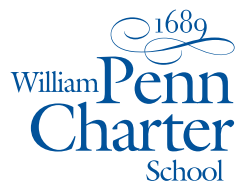
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and make your gift today!**

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"We chose to increase our giving this year to support the new Lower School. The capital campaign has done so much to transform the campus, and we are excited to help Penn Charter get closer to completing its goal."

– Drew and Susanna Brown P '29, '33



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Save *the* Date

SEPTEMBER 17
Run for Peace

NOVEMBER 12
PC/GA Day

JANUARY 26
Alumni Society Downtown Reception