

Up & Out

The Newsletter of PennGALA

<http://www.alumni.upenn.edu/penn gala>

Alumni Weekend 2007: join us in May!

CELEBRATE PENN PRIDE

ALUMNI WEEKEND
MAY 11-14, 2007

A PennGALA member’s film about a 9/11 hero will be a highlight of our events for Alumni Weekend, May 11 to 13 in Philadelphia. Join us for all of our activities—and much more—during three event-packed days.

Father Mychal Judge was a Franciscan friar and chaplain of the New York City Fire Department when he died in the

9/11 tragedy. Film director and PennGALA member Glenn A. Holsten C’84 has memorialized “Father Mike’s” courage and sacrifice in *Saint of 9/11*, a much-praised film narrated by Sir Ian McKellen. Join us for a screening of this portrait of a gay man, beloved priest, and recovering alcoholic who served heroically on that fateful day. Afterwards, we’ll have a brief reception with Glenn Holsten. It all happens at The Bridge: Cinema de Lux, 40th and Walnut Streets, from 4 to approximately 6:30 p.m. on Saturday the 12th.



Then we’ll make tracks to that much-loved Alumni Weekend tradition, the Taste of Penn, one of the best parties of the whole year. Catch up with friends, meet new ones, and enjoy an eclectic array of food and music. More than 300 alumni from our Diversity Alliance organizations typically come for this fantastic party. Our special venue will be newly renovated Claire M. Fagin Hall at the

Nursing School, and we’ll also welcome our newest Penn Alumni sister organization, the Association of Native Alumni. The Taste of Penn will run from 6 to 9 p.m. For more information on this event or on the Diversity Alliance, please see our website or contact Marla Brown in Alumni Relations, at (215) 898-6168 or marlabr@upenn.edu. Incidentally, we realize many members may not be familiar with the Nursing School campus, which is located behind the Medical School. You’ll find maps at the Alumni Weekend website and at our screening.

In the mood for more celebrating? After Taste of Penn, stop by Party on the Commons, an all-alumni event with still more lively music and plentiful food. It’s at Wynn Commons, the plaza between Houston and

College Halls. And PennGALA may also be reviving our fabled Young Alumni (and Everyone Else) after-party.

For more details on the huge number of events this Alumni Weekend, from seminars to class reunions to a town hall meeting with President Amy Gutmann, please visit the official Alumni Weekend website at www.alumni.upenn.edu/alumni-weekend2007. Or see the printed supplement in your March-April *Pennsylvania Gazette*.

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News Briefs:

It's electric

Now you can stay in "constant contact" with PennGALA and the LGBT Center at Penn. We've partnered to produce a regular (several times a year) electronic newsletter for PennGALA members and other interested members of the larger Penn community. Using a service called Constant Contact, we can now keep you informed of what's going on at Penn, alert you to alumni events in your region, and update you on the activities of other PennGALA members. The first issue was sent to our entire email list at the end of February, which means that it reached most—but not all—of our members. If you're not yet receiving the electronic newsletter and would like to join the list, please just email us at center@dolphin.upenn.edu and ask to add your email address to our records. You may also opt out of the list at any time. Look for more exciting developments soon as we refine and enhance our email communications and also move elections online. We also hope to switch *Up & Out* to electronic form at least once each year. So sending us your email address will also help us save mailing costs (and trees). We promise not to deluge you with email!

De Young joins Steering

Alice de Young GPU'99 joined PennGALA's Steering Committee on December 1, succeeding Leslie Caplan C/W'83. (For those unfamiliar with the "GPU" abbreviation, it means that Alice has a master's degree in governmental administration from the

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Alig moves on

PennGALA member Robert J. Alig C'84, WG'87, who has spent most of his career in administration at Penn, has accepted a new position with the College Board as Vice President for the Middle States region. In his most recent post as Penn's Assistant Vice President for Alumni Relations, Alig and his staff worked closely for six years with the PennGALA Steering Committee, supporting everything from our events on campus (including our way-fabulous 20th Anniversary gala dinner in 2005) to Steering Committee conference calls and the printing of this newsletter.

After earning his bachelor's degree in American history and an MBA from Wharton, Alig spent five years in real estate finance and development before returning to Penn in 1994 to work in MBA admissions and financial aid, where he was soon promoted to director. Then, after a year in technology consulting and venture capital, he returned to Penn again in 2001 to lead the Office of Alumni Relations.

Inaugural Gordon lecture: "health through mentorships"

Health activist Chris Bartlett delivered the inaugural Mark D. Gordon Annual Lecture, *Promoting Gay Men's Health Through Mentorships*, October 16 at the LGBT Center. The lectureship was established with a gift from retired U.S. Environmental Protection Agency attorney Mark D. Gordon W'65, L'68, a generous LGBT Center supporter. Bartlett is lead consultant for the LGBT Community Assessment, a project gathering data about LGBT communities to make recommendations on community organizing, health, housing, and economic development. The Brown and Oxford alumnus also co-facilitates the Gay Men's Health Leadership Academy, a national meeting of leaders in the field of gay men's health and wellness.

Bartlett addressed approaches for building connections between generations of gay men to heal trauma while fostering trust and support. He introduced the audience to the innovative concept of "unspoken mentorships," in which individuals mentor one or more people with no formal agreement. Mentors "watch out" for their mentees and provide tips, resources, or personal connections from time to time. He noted that health concerns from smoking to drug use to unsafe sexual activi-



It was around the same time that AR began to work more actively to encourage and celebrate Penn's diversity. PennGALA joined four sister organizations to form the new Diversity Alliance, a process Alig helped lead. "I'm proud of what AR's staff and volunteers have accomplished," he said recently. "The Diversity Alliance volunteers challenged AR; we learned and made mistakes along the way... when the tents at Alumni Weekend fully reflect the diversity of what Penn has become, we can rest."

Alig's personal journey has paralleled his professional accomplishments. He came out two years ago and has since said he was inspired by "the incredible example of the courage of PennGALA alums who supported me" in doing so. Two years ago, he met his partner, cancer researcher Gwennael Danet-Desnoyers, PhD, who holds a research

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ties may lend themselves to intervention by mentors, who can broach such discussions with understanding and without judgment.

Bartlett dedicated his remarks to the late community activist, scholar, and writer Eric Rofes, who had chosen to act as Bartlett's own "secret" mentor—something Bartlett only found out later. Bartlett said that mentoring relationships may benefit both parties and described several individuals he has chosen to mentor, some younger and some older than himself and including men, women, and trans people.



Mark Gordon W'65, L'68 and Chris Bartlett

Homecoming '06: celebrating one of our own

The first glimpse of a long-awaited film on PennGALA's history and a celebration of one of our own leaders were highlights of Homecoming 2006. The weekend couldn't have had a more auspicious beginning: Past PennGALA Co-Chair Joan Lau EAS'92 received the prestigious Young Alumni Award of Merit on Friday October 27, in a sumptuous event at the University Museum. Penn Alumni honored Joan's tireless contributions at PennGALA and as an active participant in the Diversity Alliance. Joan's leadership heralded exciting growth in PennGALA's membership as well as its prominence in the Penn Alumni community. In this 72nd Alumni Award of Merit gala, Joan was justly honored for enthusiastically contributing her unique passion and intelligence toward the greater good of the Penn community.

On Saturday October 28, PennGALA hosted a brunch at the Carriage House to premiere a rough cut of the video documentary of our organization's history. We had quite an impressive turnout despite less than accommodating weather. The film is the final project of our 20th anniversary celebra-



Lau accepts as a proud Dean Eduardo Glandt looks on

tion. When it debuts in its final form next spring, it will also help kick off the LGBT Center's 25th anniversary. This moving documentary, prepared by director Gail Lloyd, chronicles a history of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender life at Penn, with interviews from alumni of the past 25 years. We hope to make it available soon on the PennGALA website.

That afternoon, also at the Carriage House, we hosted the 3rd Annual PennGALA Speed Mentoring program. Tom Hier WG'85 and Kim Mutcherson C'94 organized a great event at which alumni and students shared professional experiences dealing with coming out, being out, and adapting to life beyond college.

And later, at the University Museum, PennGALA joined the Association of Latino Alumni, Black Alumni Society, James Brister Society, and Asian Alumni Network as co-host for another Taste of Penn. The amazing music, food, and dancing were treats for the hundreds of attendees, and a great way for us to catch up with other alumni and celebrate our role at Penn.

Member briefs

The news arrived a little late, but we're happy to have it: member **Timothy Chiu EAS/W'89** and partner Lars Haaland have announced the birth of their daughter Lauren, on July 13, 2005. Timothy tells us "She's been doing great and seems to love having two dads!"

Dr. Celeste De Bease CGS'82, director of the Biofeedback Clinic and clinical assistant professor at Widener University, has been elected chair of the Biofeedback Certification Institute of America.

PennGALA mourns the passing of **Arnold Berliner W'48**, who died of pancreatic cancer in Miami last year. He was 78. Berliner founded or co-founded numerous political and community organizations in his adopted home, including the Miami Area Neighborhood Gay Organization (MANGO) and a lesbian and gay group at Miami Beach's American Legion post. He is survived by

his partner, Steve Grundstein, and a sister in New York.

Up & Out wants to hear your news. Please be in touch.

Alig (from page 2)

faculty appointment at Penn's Medical School; they live in Philadelphia.

Alig will remain active in Penn alumni affairs and is excited about his new position. Although the College Board is best known for its SAT and AP tests, his primary focus will be on programs to improve access to higher education for middle and high school students, providing resources that will help them to prepare for college and give them the tools to be successful. "Penn's loss is the College Board's gain," said PennGALA co-chair Bill Burdick W'84, G'86, Alig's classmate. "We will miss Bob's leadership, but we wish him well."

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University's Fels Institute of Government—the first Steering Committee member to hold that degree.) A director of information systems for the City of Philadelphia, she provides project management and strategic planning to several key city agencies. She and her partner, attorney Stephenie Yeung, live in Philadelphia. De Young will also serve as PennGALA's treasurer this year. Also reconfirmed to Steering Committee seats this fall (when five individuals ran for five open seats) were: Bill Burdick W'84, G'86; Darren Rosenblum C'91, L'95; Ira Hillman C'92; and Joan Lau EAS'92. Burdick and Rosenblum were reelected as co-chairs for 2007, and Robert E. Shepard C'83, G'83 again rounds out the slate of officers as secretary.

A new sibling

PennGALA has officially welcomed the newest member of the Diversity Alliance, the Association of Native Alumni. Chaired by Ann Dapice Nu'74, G'80, the organization "promotes the interests and welfare of Native American alumni, strengthens and deepens friendships, encourages active recruitment and retention of Native faculty and students and furthers Penn's commitment to the advancement of Native American higher education." In a welcome letter sent to ANA's leadership in December, PennGALA co-chairs Bill Burdick and Darren Rosenblum noted that "the sharing of experiences and backgrounds has been a source of learning and great joy to PennGALA's members."

Join Us for an Upcoming Event

Philadelphia

May 11-13

Alumni Weekend on campus (see p. 1). Major events on Saturday the 13th include a screening of "Saint of 9/11" at The Bridge and The Taste of Penn at the Nursing School. You may also visit www.alumni.upenn.edu/alumni-weekend2007 or see the March-April *Gazette* for more details.



PennGALA

Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Alumni Association

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

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The appearance of individuals' names or images in this publication is not meant to indicate their sexual orientation.

University of Pennsylvania

Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Alumni Association

Founded in 1984 as an informal organization for lesbian, gay and bisexual alumni of the University of Pennsylvania, PennGALA became an official part of the University's Alumni Society in 1999. Throughout its history, PennGALA has supported the family of LGBT alumni and promoted their interests at Penn. We encourage LGBT alumni to seek leadership roles at Penn, and we have a special interest in supporting current students. PennGALA also plans an extensive roster of social, educational, and cultural events. On campus, PennGALA works closely with the University's Alumni Relations office and the LGBT Center, which provide support to the organization.

Join, Update, Share!

PennGALA needs you to help it grow and wants to keep you informed about upcoming events in your area. If you're not on our mailing list or have new information to share, please fill in this form and return it to us. Or, use it to let us know about a member who may not be on our list yet (we will contact the member to make sure s/he wants to be included). **Your PennGALA membership status will not be shared with any party outside PennGALA, PennAlumni, or Penn's Office of Alumni Relations. All PennGALA mailings are sent in envelopes showing only a return street address.** Please print, and provide the most complete information you can, including your email address (we don't send "spam"). You may also email your information to center@dolphin.upenn.edu.

Please check one: Add my information Update my information Tell my friend about PennGALA

Name _____ Penn School & Degree Year _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip/Postal Code _____

E-mail Address _____ Telephone _____

I'd like to help PennGALA with (check as many as you wish):

Event planning in my area Mentoring Other (describe): _____

If you have any questions, concerns, news or ideas to share, please tell us! _____

We welcome contributions of any size to help defray costs of this newsletter and other PennGALA activities. Please make checks payable to the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania, note "PennGALA" in the memo field, and send them to us at the address above. Thanks!