Dear Classmates,

Our newly elected Class Officers, as many of you know are: Class President, Alex Conroy (pictured), Co-Executive Vice Presidents, Barbara Russo Bravo (pictured), Douglas L. Cox, Sidney P. Rodbell and Administrative Vice President, Maria D. 'Mia' Argentieri (pictured). To help us stay connected, Class President, Alex Conroy recently appointed Elsie Howard as Vice President and Chairwoman of Regional Development and Outreach and Michael 'Micky' Neiditch to the position of Vice President and Chairman of Communications. Additional leadership positions will be filled going forward.

To draw us closer together for the five years leading to our 50th reunion, a class newsletter will be published at least three times a year, or every four months. It will focus on information about PENN specifically relevant to the Class of '68 to help you stay connected to PENN.

Is There Someone at Home as Bright as You?

Though places in the undergraduates schools remain highly competitive, the Office of Admissions works hard to recruit the most intellectually gifted and well-rounded high school seniors to seek a place in Penn's freshman class. The university is especially delighted when the grandchildren and relatives of its alumni apply. The Admissions Office encourages the members of the Class of 1968 to talk to the younger members of their families about the benefits of a Penn undergraduate education. Turn directly to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions to obtain materials about Penn, arrange for a visit to campus, and schedule a conversation with an alumni representatives living in their communities. The Class that will be admitted this spring, and arrive on campus in the autumn, will comprise the Class of 2018. They will graduate from Penn on the same weekend that we celebrate our class' 50th anniversary!

Be a part of the recruitment of America's best students. Is there someone at home as bright as you? Become an Alumni Interviewer representing the Class of 1968! Interview Program Member Registration is available here: http://www.alumni.upenn.edu/interviews-memb
See below for important links for Admissions information. The best resource for recent Admissions statistics is the DP:

- Early Decision Admits: [http://www.thedp.com/article/2013/12/penn_early_decision_acceptance_numbers](http://www.thedp.com/article/2013/12/penn_early_decision_acceptance_numbers)
- Penn Admissions contact information: [http://www.admissions.upenn.edu/contact/](http://www.admissions.upenn.edu/contact/)
- Admissions First Friday Drop-In hours for legacy families: [http://www.admissions.upenn.edu/inside/firstfriday](http://www.admissions.upenn.edu/inside/firstfriday)

**Call for Photographs**

The Class of 1968 lived through four momentous years which we would like to recall at our 50th Reunion through an extensive exhibition of photographs that we took during those years of the campus and our friends, what we saw and experienced. Please begin now to send me the photographs that you took. Were you there when the barricades went up around the site of the future School of Fine Arts? Did you take photographs as we moved into the Quad our freshman year? Did you take photos the evening that Bill Bradley played his last basketball game at the Palestra?


In 1968 did you take photographs of Eugene McCarthy and Robert Kennedy when they visited the campus? So much took place during those years? Please share with the entire class the photographs that you took of friends, your first loves, couples that were close to you. Have you photos that you took of coaches, faculty members and deans? Did you have photos of a Rowbottom or the first year of Locust Walk? Did you capture with your camera great moments that you remember fondly.

Each photograph will be logged in and carefully stored. Many will enrich future issues of this newsletter. Kindly including captions to what you send in, carefully identifying the individuals and scenes depicted. The sole criteria is that the photographer is a member of our class.

This newsletter will succeed only if its readers invest a bit of themselves in the issues that follow this very modest first one. My hope is that many of us will want to contribution to a collection and eventual exhibition of the photographs we took between 1964 and 1968.
New Class of 1968 Website

We are excited to share the link to our new Class of 1968 website - Penn Alumni Relations selected a new vendor for all of our web tools and has significantly improved our class web site! Thanks to your feedback and our own continuing efforts, the class website will continue to evolve and improve.

Join The Class Facebook Page

Stay active on our Class Facebook Group: www.facebook.com/PennClassOf1968

We are posting class information, and reconnecting on this page.

A Pioneer Advance from Penn Scientists

From time to time we will share with you exciting new information from PENN NEWS.

A multi-disciplinary team from the University of Pennsylvania has published in Nature Methods a first-of-its-kind way to isolate RNA from live cells in their natural tissue microenvironment without damaging nearby cells. This allows the researchers to analyze how cell-to-cell chemical connections influence individual cell function and overall protein production.

Tissues are complex structures composed of various cell types. The identity and function of individual cells within each tissue type — heart, skin, brain, for example — are closely linked by which genes are transcribed into RNA and, ultimately, proteins. To study gene expression in single cells in their natural tissue setting, researchers must be able to look at a cell’s inner workings, much as an ecologist does when studying how an individual species interacts with its habitat.

Even cells of seemingly the same type are not identical at the molecular level. Most knowledge about variability in gene expression has been from studies using heterogeneous groups of cells grown in culture. Researchers doubt the ability to extrapolate “real biology” from these unnatural conditions. Given the ability to target a single cell inside intact tissue, tools for counting and characterizing RNA provide a unique opportunity to assess how mammalian cells really work. Such tools can also provide insight into how that function may go awry in various diseases and eventually help in testing new drugs.

James Eberwine, professor of pharmacology in Penn’s Perelman School of Medicine and co-director of the Penn Genome Frontiers Institute, along with Ivan Dmochowski, associate professor of chemistry in Penn’s School of Arts and Sciences, led this study. Other Penn co-authors include Jai-Yoon Sul, assistant professor of pharmacology; M. Sean Grady, chair of Neurosurgery and PGFI co-director Junhyong Kim, a professor of biology.
“Our data showed that the tissue microenvironment shapes the RNA landscape of individual cells,” Eberwine said.

The new technique is called TIVA, short for transcriptome in vivo analysis. The team used this method to physically isolate the RNA of a single cell within living tissue in mouse and human cells, including human tissue obtained from brain surgeries within minutes after the neurosurgery was completed, by “tagging” or capturing the RNA with a custom-built molecule.

The TIVA tag is a Swiss Army Knife-type of molecule, designed to contain the multiple chemical tools it needs to accomplish its task of capturing messenger RNA, or mRNA, from a cell without getting any from its neighbors.

To read complete article click here.

Call for Class Notes

We want to hear from you! In future e-newsletters we will include a section for class notes. Please send your stories, updates, announcements, and Penn photos to Michael Neiditch (upennclassof1968@gmail.com) or staff liaison Lisbeth Willis (lisbhw@upenn.edu) with the subject: Class of 1968 notes. Please be sure to include the full names, schools, and class years of those mentioned in the submitted text. Submissions will only be published in our electronic class newsletter, but if you would also like to submit it to the Penn Gazette’s Alumni Notes, please copy gazette@ben.dev.upenn.edu.

Stay Connected Through Penn Alumni Regional Clubs

We invite you to stay connected with Penn Alumni where you live through one of Penn Alumni’s Regional Clubs. There are over 100 alumni associations around the world, so chances are, there is a group close to where you live.

These groups gather to celebrate Ben’s Birthday in January, watch Penn basketball and football games together on TV, listen to a Penn professor speak, tour a museum or participate in a community service project. In the bigger cities, alumni clubs help promote University-sponsored events like the recent “Time to Shine,” campaign celebration tour. You can participate by attending events, subscribing to their email lists, or volunteering to assist with an event or to join the board. All of our alumni clubs are completely volunteer run, so they would welcome your assistance.

- Click here for a listing of our domestic clubs.
- Click here for a listing of our international clubs.
2014 Mask and Wig Schedule

The Mask and Wig Club presents, its 126th annual production: “Wishful Sinking”
The performances listed below will be held at The Mask & Wig Club at 310 S Quince St, Philadelphia, PA 19107
Click here for tickets and more information.

- Thursday February 13th – Theater Show
- Friday February 14th – Theater Show
- Saturday February 15th – Theater Show
- Friday February 21st – Theater Show
- Saturday February 22nd – Theater Show
- Friday February 28th – Theater Show
- Saturday March 1st – Dinner Show (limited availability)
- Friday March 21st – Theater Show
- Saturday March 22nd – Theater Show
- Friday March 28th – Theater Show
- Saturday March 29th – Dinner Show (limited availability)
- Thursday April 3rd – Theater Show
- Friday April 4th – Theater Show
Mask and Wig tour dates:

- Friday, March 7, 2014 - San Francisco
  Victoria Theater
  2961 16th St.
  San Francisco, CA 94103

- Saturday, March 8, 2014 - Los Angeles
  The Beverly Vista Elementary School
  200 S. Elm Dr.
  Beverly Hills, CA 90212

- Friday, March 14, 2014 - New York
  Fashion Institute of Technology (Haft Auditorium)
  227 W. 27th St.
  New York, NY 10001

- Saturday, March 15, 2014 - Boston
  Dexter Southfield School (The Clay Center Auditorium)
  20 Newton Street
  Brookline, MA 02445

Click [here](#) for dates and information for the Mask and Wig Tour.

**Upcoming University Events**

A great way to stay “current” on news at Penn is to visit the Penn Current website for the [latest news](#), and [events](#) on campus. You can also find out if Penn’s athletics team are playing near your hometown here: [Penn Athletics Schedule](#). AND, mark your calendars now for [Alumni Weekend 2014, May 16-19](#), and Homecoming 2014, October 31 – November 2.
The Class of 1968 Scholarship Fund was established in 1993 through gifts from Class members in honor of our twenty-fifth reunion, increased in 1997 in honor of our Class’s thirtieth reunion, and increased again in 2003 in honor of our thirty-fifth reunion. The purpose of the Fund is to provide renewable scholarships to freshmen with financial need. As a point of information, all undergraduate students at Penn who are eligible for financial aid receive grant based, loan-free aid packages. As of June 30, 2013, the Class’s Endowed Scholarship Fund had a market value of approximately $1.3 million with over $79,000 income available for distribution.

**The Class Scholarship Currently Supports Three Students**

**Robert Kim, ENG’15**, from Garnet, PA, who wants to attend medical school or graduate school. Kim feels the best advice that he received while at Penn has been to keep an open mind. “*Penn has one of the most elite programs and with it a fantastic community. Meeting new people, learning about yourself, and developing as a human being, I believe are some of the most essential parts of living. Once again, I want to thank you with all my heart for your scholarship and help, without it I know I would not be the person I am now, nor grow up to the person I will become.*”

**Marshall Pritt, EE’17, EN’17**, from Aliquippa, PA who is also a Varsity football player, right tackle – sends his thanks to the class. “*Penn is my dream school and I couldn’t afford it without your generous help. I appreciate the fact that this is an investment you’re making in my education and I want you to know that I will make the most out of it. Once again, my family and I couldn’t be more grateful.*”

**Kyu Lee, C’17**, from Cerritos, CA, Captain of Water Polo Varsity Team and Swim Team and wants to go to medical school and become a surgeon. He shared these thoughts: “*The opportunity that you have given to study at one of the most prestigious universities in the world is truly a gift! So I am forever thankful to the people who made this possible. Your generosity will change my life forever*”. 
Click here for a link to Scholarship website.

Above is a photo of our scholars, Marshall Pritt, Kyu Lee and Robert Kim with classmates Mia Argentieri, Barbara Bravo and Susan Croll at the Fall Scholarship Celebration.

This is our first issue of the Class of 1968 e-newsletter. Please let us know what you would like to hear about in future newsletters and for future class activities. We appreciate your comments on what you would like to read going forward and advice on how you would like to stay in touch with the Class news and Penn!

Thank you.

H. Michael ‘Micky’ Neiditch
Class of 1968 Vice President and Chairman of Communications