



Dear Classmates,

I share my heartfelt hope with you all that 2024 brings us all greater peace, more love, kindness, and a calmer world. That's surely the best gift we can ask for this holiday season.

Don Morrison reminds us in this newsletter of the anniversary of the assassination of John Kennedy - 60 years ago on November 22, prompting this note to you.

I remember every moment of that awful day. Math class. Mrs. Huzzard. The announcement over the loudspeaker. Driving home, crying and then sitting in front of the television for days. I bet you remember too. Like my daughter, JFK was only 46 when he died.

I believed in the promise of John Kennedy, in his youth, intellect, charisma, and apparent vitality. I wanted with all my heart to fulfill the request he had made – that I should behave with integrity, to find what I could ‘do’ for America and for the world. He inspired me. I’m guessing the same was true for many of us.

Innocent? Naïve? Nope. Hopeful!

From my favorite Eagles song, the Last Resort: “... There is no more new frontier ... we have got to make it here.” And “We can leave it all behind and sail to Lahaina”...well, there’s no more Lahaina...but we press on.

It’s a very tough world right now and scary. I could cry every day. But I won’t lose hope and I bet you won’t either. Living in Maui, where lunatic conspiracy theories abound on the coconut wireless, I’m reminded daily of the communal strength of the aloha spirit, of malama—caring for others – and of kuleana – our responsibility for one another. The iconic Banyan Tree was thought lost to the world because of social media posts and misinformation. But the Banyan Tree lives. Truly lives. Truth matters.

I’m sure that, like me, you have often remembered how you felt when John Kennedy was elected, and how you felt when he died. And I feel sure you also think back on the many moments in a lifetime during which you needed to find the strength to grow and learn and be productive – to find the same optimism, passion, enthusiasm and I had as seniors in high school. So, yes, it’s hard in the world right now. One again I think we see that we need to dig

deep, reposition, speak, act honorably and carry on. We Are Not Done Yet. Lots to still do, my friends. We can choose to stay positive and resilient and kind. I think we will not be done, ever.

I hope you will have a healthy and joyous holiday season with loved ones and that 2024 brings us all peace and honorable leadership. Let's hope.

Call me or email me anytime. Or, better yet, come visit!

Love

Elsie

Penn's Board of Trustees has appointed J. Larry Jameson — executive vice president of the University of Pennsylvania for the Health System and dean of the Perelman School of Medicine — to serve as the University's interim president following the resignation of Penn President Liz Magill on Saturday, December 9, 2023.

Jameson, the University's longest-serving dean, was approved as interim President during a virtual meeting of the Executive Committee of the University Board of Trustees on Tuesday, December 12. His appointment began immediately and he will serve until a permanent president is appointed.

Julie Platt is currently serving at temporary Board Chairperson until a new Board Chairperson is elected, following the resignation of Scott Bok on Saturday, December 9, 2023.



J. Larry Jameson, MD, PhD

Robert G. Dunlop Professor of Medicine
Executive Vice President, University of
Pennsylvania for the Health System Dean
of the Perelman School of Medicine

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UPCOMING 1968 MONTHLY ZOOM CALLS



Class of 1968 Friendship Hour featuring a Penn Museum update on Heritage West: West Philadelphia Community Archaeology Project

January, 26 2024 at 5 PM EST

Meg Kassebaum and The University Museum will provide an [update](#) on the Heritage West Project and the archeological dig at “Black Bottom” in West Philadelphia that is underway. The semester-long excavation at the Community Education Center began in early September. And the crew includes eleven community members and ten Penn undergraduates, who have been working in four distinct excavation areas on the CEC’s property. In addition, the dig has had countless visits from people passing by to ask what we’re doing, share stories, and even join in the excavation.

MEGAN C. KASSABAUM, PH.D.

Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology
Weingarten Associate Curator for North America, Penn Museum

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Friday, February 16th, 2024 at 5 PM EST

Michael E. Mann, Presidential Distinguished Professor, Director, Penn Center for Science, Sustainability & the Media, Department of Earth & Environmental Science/Annenberg School for Communication. Professor Mann has contributed to the scientific understanding of historic climate change based on the temperature record of the past thousand years. He has

pioneered techniques to find patterns in past climate change and to isolate climate signals from noisy data.

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Friday, March
29th 2024 at 5
PM EST

We will learn more about what Penn Libraries look like today – and what libraries will look and feel like in the future.

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April, 2024: Dr
Karen Reivich

Director of Resilience and Positive Psychology Training Programs and Director of Training Programs at the University of Pennsylvania Positive Psychology Center. She is the lead curriculum developer and instructor and trains and supervises all training instructors. She is an internationally recognized expert in the fields of resilience, depression prevention, and Positive Psychology. She has more than 30 years of experience developing and delivering resilience and Positive Psychology programs for educators and their students, U.S. Army soldiers, health care professionals, a professional sports organization, corporate audiences, and more. As lead instructor of the Penn Resilience Program, she has worked with more than 10,000 participants.

Dr. Reivich's scholarly work focuses on helping parents, educators, and leaders to promote resilience and well-being in adolescents and adults. For 20 years, she was a Co-Principal Investigator of several research studies of the Penn Resilience Programs funded by the National Institute of Mental Health and the U.S. Department of Education. Dr. Reivich has published extensively in academic journals and edited books in the areas of Positive Psychology and resilience. Her scholarly publications have appeared in academic journals including Psychological Science, Journal of Early Adolescence, School Psychology Quarterly, Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology, and Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology. She is a co-author of two books: [*The Optimistic Child*](#) and [*The Resilience Factor*](#).

CLASSMATE NEWS

Sharing an article From Don Morrison: [*The Mother of All Conspiracy Theories*](#)

How JFK's death, 60 years ago this week, made the world go nuts -- and stay that way.

If you were alive 60 years ago this Wednesday, you no doubt remember exactly what you were doing at 12:30 p.m. Central Time, 1:30 p.m. Eastern. That's the moment John F. Kennedy was shot and killed in Dallas, TX.

The event did not just imprint itself on the soul of a nation. It also inspired more books, movies and conspiracy theories than perhaps any assassination in history, from Julius Caesar's through Abraham Lincoln's and beyond. Yet this one has never really been resolved.

In a new book, Paul Landis, a Secret Service officer in Kennedy's motorcade, discloses that he inspected the presidential limousine that day and found the famous "third bullet" that ultimately killed JFK. Landis said he placed it on Kennedy's stretcher at Parkland Hospital.

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An Archeological Deep Dig from Conni Bille

Lucy Conger and I went to the University Museum member event tonight (November 1st). I had fun telling a current anthropology faculty member how I inadvertently wound up in a graduate seminar on Meso-American Archaeology at the Museum with the world-famous Michael Coe when I was a lowly clueless freshman. "THE Michael Coe?" he asked. Yep.

It was the scariest moment of my student life: I realized I had made a big mistake during the first class when (1) I noted how small the class was - several guys with beards wearing plaid flannel shirts and (2) Coe started talking about the "Lerma Point" as if I should know what the heck that was. My brain kept circling around as it seemed to be a place, or a time period

or an arrowhead. (It was all three.) Since the class met on Friday 3 to 5 PM on the last day of Drop and Add, I could not drop it and maintain a full credit roster, so I was stuck, as was another undergrad who had made the same mistake. The course catalog had neglected to mention that there were two required prerequisites - Intro to Archaeology and Spanish proficiency (to read source materials). I had neither.

Thank God for dear departed classmate Deborah Fahnestock who had spent a gap year living in Peru. She generously and patiently translated the Spanish source material for me. And Michael Coe took pity. He gave me a "C."

Class Note:

Great News! The Class of 1968 Reunion Book will remain open for classmates to continue adding content and for Class communications. Penn Alumni Relations & The Penn Fund has purchased a multi-year agreement with Brightcrowd which gives us this wonderful opportunity. If you have questions, please reach out to Charles Marsh: chmars@upenn.edu.

Special thanks to the Reunion Book Committee

Peter Marvin, Chair
Lucy Conger
Jeanne Dorward
Elsie Howard
Marilyn Kanas
Linda Kates
Bob Tuteur

GALA RECAP



presents its

David N. Tyre Award for Excellence in
Class Communications

to
Class of 1968

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