

Class of 1968 Legacy Garden Dedication

Remarks by Julie Platt, President of Penn Alumni

Good morning everyone, my name is Julie Platt and it is my pleasure to welcome you and congratulate you on your spectacular 50th reunion.

As President of Penn Alumni, I am deeply committed to serving my fellow alumni but also work to make sure our current students know that their Penn experience is a lifetime experience and many of the best parts of being a member of the Penn family actually occur after graduation.

I also work to make sure that our students know that alumni really care about them.

Like most parents try to do for their own children, alumni try to make sure the experience Penn students have today is even better than the one we had when we were students.

And today, I would like to recognize, on behalf of all Penn Alumni, that your Class of 1968 legacy garden has done and will do just that...

It has beautified a small piece of our student and alumni home, our campus, which for years will stand as a place where students, alumni and your class can congregate, learn and grow.

It has also made a statement to current students that alumni are here, on campus, physically and in spirit, each day.

Your class is now literally etched in the concrete footprint of our campus – a place which holds so many amazing memories for all of us – with many new ones yet to be created, here, in your beautiful new place.

And we have already started to get rave reviews about your project from some people who see it every day. A faculty member recently wrote in to the alumni office the following:

"I don't know who to thank for the class of 1968 garden, but today it looks very spring like, and students are out there working on the benches, making me very glad that we in the Jaffe building get to look out on to it. Please pass along our thanks to the right people.

Best wishes,

Karen Redrobe, Elliot and Roslyn Jaffe Professor and Chair, Department of History of Art

Still, I would like to point out that you all did not actually need a garden to guarantee your legacy and impact are forever remembered at Penn.

You have done that already... through your leadership, through your generosity, through your service, and through your relationships with one another and with Dear Old Penn.

For that and for many other acts of service to our beloved alma mater, I say a most heartfelt thank you to the Class of 1968.

Happy 50th!



Legacy Garden dedication remarks by Hoopes Wampler, EdD GrEd'13

Good morning everyone, my name is Hoopes Wampler and I am lucky enough to serve as Penn's Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations and it is my pleasure to be with you today on the grand occasion of your 50th reunion.

I want to applaud the great class of 1968 for taking the initiative to create such a beautiful space in the heart of our beautiful urban campus.

Class projects allow the University to dramatically enhance or improve physical spaces around campus which otherwise might be ignored or passed over.

You know, Audrey Hepburn once said, "To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow."

...and this, the Class of 1968 legacy garden, will now and forever symbolize the presence and impact your great class has had on the University – and your belief in tomorrow.

I think it is fitting that your class project is a living/growing/ever-evolving natural work of art that will change and offer the Penn community something different every season.

In the fall, the garden will greet the students as they return to campus and welcome them to take a few moments out of their busy schedules to sit, contemplate, talk, and appreciate all that is this great University.

In winter, the garden will shed many of its natural colors but will still allow two good friends or a professor and student a place to bundle up, sip on a steaming cup of coffee, and enjoy a good conversation.

In the spring, as we see it today, it signals the growth of our students as they approach Commencement and the return of our alumni who come to remember what is so special about Penn and to see how it has changed since their time here.

In the summer, the campus will become more quiet but your garden will bake in the summer heat and grow and change as it gets ready once again for the arrival of the students in the fall – proud to show them what it has become since they were last here.

Thank you, Class of 1968, for giving us this treasure.

As Cicero said, and I quote, "If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need."

Well, last I checked, Penn has a pretty fine library right over there.

We now have the garden to go with it.

Many, many thanks!

