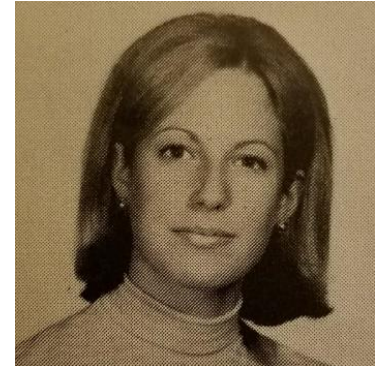


A Lifetime of PENN Connections

By Gail Petty Riepe, CW'68

I have been fortunate that my Penn experience did not end with my four undergraduate years, but continued on for the next 50 years. During that time I came to appreciate much more about Penn, and meet so many wonderful and impressive members of the Penn community. Although I loved those four carefree years, I have enjoyed even more being involved at Penn since then, giving back to help today's students, and being able to watch our 60's Penn become one of the finest universities in the world.



I was a part of the PENN tradition before I arrived on campus as a Freshman in the Fall of 1964. My father was in the Class 1936 and was an active and loyal alumnus. We attended many events on campus and hosted many Penn gatherings at our home in Princeton. I learned very early about the Penn-Princeton rivalry, which continues to this day. Over the years, we have attended many Football and Basketball games, with friends and family, enhanced by the enthusiasm of my PENN husband, Jim, who was Football Captain in 1964!



The four undergraduate years went by so very quickly, but I knew that I was getting an excellent education. Classes were thought-provoking, and the professors were helpful, albeit a little intimidating. Tri-Delt Sorority was a small and friendly island in the big ocean of campus life. I made lifelong friends and met Jim when he was getting his MBA; we married shortly after my graduation and will be celebrate our 50th anniversary

next year. So many milestones...

We are proud parents of Christa (Colby College '94) and Jamie (W'98, WG 2002). It is our hope that one or more of our three granddaughters will consider PENN (and be admitted!) and carry on the family tradition that also includes my Uncle Paul Nelms (C'37), my late brother Andy Petty (WG'68) and my niece, Dr. Carson Petty Maynard, currently an Endocrinology Fellow at Penn Medicine.

Over the years, Jim and I have made our PENN journey together. Our ongoing involvement has enriched our lives in countless ways. We have had more opportunities than most to watch the development of a great university from the "inside". The Penn of today is certainly a lot different than the Penn we knew in the 60's. It was a privilege to be part of the transitions in Administration, the Deans, the faculty, and also the campus itself. I am proud of the role that Jim played in these transitions as a member of the Board of Trustees for many years and Chairman for ten years.

We live on a farm in Maryland, which has allowed me to continue my love of animals among our horses, dogs, cats, and chickens. This interest has been enhanced by my serving on the PennVet Overseers Board. I have enjoyed and learned something at every meeting, presentation and event I have attended. Now, I am involved in the Campaign for PENN2023 as a representative of PennVet.

Together Jim and I have had a chance to meet people who contribute to our changing world – social and political activists, world leaders, celebrities, academics, rock stars...and especially the leaders at Penn who have brought our University to its current stature. We have also been fortunate to be in a position to give back to Penn with a focus on providing scholarship opportunities for undergraduate students. Over the years we have enjoyed meeting most of these incredibly smart and talented students.

Perhaps Riepe College House in the Little Quad has been our source of greatest pride. We love visiting the venerable, and basically unchanged, Quad and meeting the amazing students and resident faculty. College Houses were not part of my undergraduate experience, but today they play a vital role in the campus lives of undergrads, especially the freshmen.

In our spare time, we enjoy our farm, skiing in Utah, friends in Florida, being with our children and grandchildren, and opportunities to travel. PENN has enriched our lives immeasurably and in so many ways. PENN Pride is alive and well in the Riepe Family, a tradition we hope continues into the next generation.

