

PENN68 NOT DONE YET!

Dear Classmates,

Welcome to Spring. How's the temperature where you are? Because, last month Professor Michael Mann shared his extensive scientific knowledge of the history and future of climate change. Then we journeyed to (the still frozen) Antarctica with our intrepid classmate, Art Muir. If you did not see this not-to-be-missed Zoom the recording link is below. Hans Binnendijk yielded his time to Art in February, but Hans will return in March to share his thoughts on Ukraine, the war in the Middle East and global tensions. We need you, Hans! In March we will learn more about the library system today and in the future, and we will enjoy a special bonus—a video look back at Penn from 1967-68. Then, in April, we will be off to Africa with our esteemed media studies and filmmaker friend, Professor Peter Decherney to learn more about his recent award-winning documentary “Dreaming of Jerusalem”, his newly released book and his Africa experiences. It felt like karma...that we could go Back to Africa in May with our classmate Dr. Harrison Bloom and his wife, Dr. Pat Bloom, to learn more about their humanitarian project: The Kisoro Elders. In June we are thrilled to welcome former Annenberg Dean, Professor Michael X. Delli Carpini. His research explores the role of the citizen in democratic politics, with particular emphasis on the impact of mass media and information and communication technologies on public opinion, public deliberation, political knowledge, and political participation.

Thank you to those of you who join us for the Zooms. And if you have not tuned in, this spring is the perfect time to do so. Please join us, I think you will be pleased and return for more!

Please share your suggestions for speakers with me and please, share your memories too. Thanks to Diane Holsenbeck for her fabulous research on the legacy of Penn graduate, architect Julian Abele and the history of Irvine Auditorium. Thanks to Don Morrison for his always provocative columns and to Conni Bille for her delightful memoir. Keep those cards and letters coming, my friends.

And so, to friendship. We share something special as members of the class of 1968. We have enduring friendships, built on both longevity and connectivity. Our relationships go deep. Yes, we established many of these wonderful connections as undergraduates, but over the years new friendships have developed, and those launched prior to 1968 – well, they are even stronger. Some of our classmates have been married to one another for over 50 years. Some classmates have newer emotional attachments and partnerships. Many of us have built fresh and valuable relationships. We may differ in opinion, but we share our thoughts respectfully. What is true for us, I believe, is that, while we were lucky to have shared a pivotal time in our lives and in history, because we continue to be curious, open-minded, interested, and active, our shared enthusiasm for life builds camaraderie.

Though some may be unhappy with Penn's current policies, actions or responses, what I think truly matters most right now is our allegiance to our class, and our friendships. 1968 - we are so Not Done Yet...right?

Reach out to me any time.

Elsie

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CLASSMATES STORIES



An Architect's Legacy From Diane McClure Holsenbeck

Why did we not know the name of the architect as we did know the names Frank Furness and Louis Kahn?

Clues:

- The architect was A native Philadelphian with a French name born in 1881.
- He earned his B.A. in Architecture from Penn in 1902 and died 15 years prior to our graduation.
- He was president of the student architecture society.
- One of his brothers was an engineer. Another brother was at the top of his medical school class and paid for Julian's tuition for his architecture degree. Yet another brother was a colleague of Sam Yellin.

Final question: How do I know the name of the architect of Irvine Auditorium?

I was always curious as an undergraduate about who designed Irvine but it was not until preparing for our 55th Reunion that I happened to spot brief mention in a university publication of Trumbauer being the architect and his being African American.

That prompted me to call classmate Audrey Moody with whom I had been working on Heritage West. She conducted an investigation and learned from a photograph of Trumbauer that he was white. Further research by us led to learning about JULIAN FRANCIS ABELE who was hired by Horace Trumbauer in 1906 after Abele returned from Paris with a diploma from L'Ecole des Beaux Arts and also after moving his sister, Elizabeth Abele Cook, with her family back to Philadelphia from Spokane, Washington where he had designed a home for them.

We all should know that in 1902 Julian Francis Abele was the first African American to be awarded a B.A. degree from the School of Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania.

Click [here](#) to read more about Architect Julian Abele.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE >](#)

Julian Abele contributed to the design of more than 400 buildings, including:

Use the arrows to see the photos.

Ladies and gentlemen, please rise for our national anthem...

From Don Morrison

Not the one inspired by the 1812 British attack on Fort McHenry, set to the tune of an English drinking song and featuring a high note, around "the rockets' red glare," that many vocalists strain to hit.

No, I'm talking about the musical masterpiece that should be America's theme song. The one that sums up our identity and our greatness without a single word of lyrics: George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue," first performed 100 years ago this week.

And first heard by a teenage me nearly that long ago, on a tinny car radio, while searching for a rock 'n' roll station. I almost ran off the road. What I heard changed my thinking about both music and America.

I didn't think much about either back then, but this rhapsody thing was different -- half jazz, half classical, all American. And bursting with energy, like our country.

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Tiny Tale – Stumbling into the Ivy League Or How I Didn't Go to that Football School

From Conni Bille

The so-called Tiger Moms and Dads of the 21st Century spend a lot of animal energy grooming cubs to claw their way into the Ivy League, because, of course, admission says as much about the Pride as about the cub. Technically, groups of tigers are called “streaks” or “ambushes” – but the leonine term “pride” is best for humans.

My parents were clueless about college admissions. My Mom had completed only two years of high school when she got a job that earned enough to support her widowed mother in 1933, so she dropped out even though she loved school dearly. My Dad, a policeman, didn't have any friends who'd gone to college. His higher education had come from Readers Digest. Though they were delighted by the parade of A's on my report cards, I was never nagged about my schoolwork. Indeed, I could have been a more diligent student. My class rank at high school graduation was in the top 10, not the top 2. Yet I won a full scholarship to the University of Pennsylvania. How did that happen?

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From Diane Holsenbeck

My father, a graduate of Penn's bicentennial class, encouraged me to apply to the University of Pennsylvania. He earned his MBA from Harvard and thereafter loved going to the PENN vs Harvard game because he could not lose.

He was thrilled that I married a man named Penn (named after his mother's maiden name).

Having raised our children in Bucks County Pennsylvania where every other license plate seemed to have a Nittany Lion, I felt compelled to clarify that I did not go to Penn State University but rather to the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Still some would say “that has the great football team. Wow!”

Yes, all the Ivies went by one-word nicknames but I am eternally grateful to Benjamin Franklin that he did not name our University after himself. Franklin? Indeed, I wish today's donors would follow his example.

Our alma mater was the first university to be designated a university. Yes, this is absolutely the truth. Many decades ago, an article in the New York Times stated that Harvard was the nation's first university. I wrote the Editor pointing out the error and I received a hand signed reply thanking me including assurance that they had changed their data to the correct fact.

I enjoy receiving official snail mail under the letterhead University of Pennsylvania and writing donations to the Trustees thereof.

“Dear Old Penn” has special meaning to me.
UPenn is obsolete for me.

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NATO At 75: Can Europe Defend Itself Without U.S. Support? **by Hans Binnendijk**

NATO will celebrate its 75th anniversary at the Washington Summit this summer. Most people retire before turning 75, but NATO can't. It is still indispensable.

The threats facing Europe are more dangerous now than at any time since the end of the Cold War. With American leadership, the transatlantic allies have responded to those varied threats — especially Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine — with unity and a recommitment to defense. But Europe is not yet capable of meeting these threats alone.

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CLASS OF 1968 FRIENDSHIP HOURS



Dr. Brian Vivier and Charlie Grafman

Friday, March 29 at 5 PM Eastern
Penn Libraries

Join 1968 to learn about **Penn's Libraries Today and In the Future** with added bonus of a special archival video presentation from 1967-1968.

The Library was a central meeting point for many of us in our undergraduate years—not always just for studying. Today, beyond warm, welcoming study (and sometimes social!) spaces, the Penn Libraries provides a network of information resources and knowledge services that are vital to teaching, research, and learning at Penn. This network includes 19 physical libraries, recognized for their collections, and a digital library known for innovation and richness of content.

Through exhibitions and lectures, and through the acquisition and preservation of literary and artistic artifacts, the Penn Libraries brings scholarship to life at the University and beyond.

Join [Dr. Brian Vivier](#), Director of the Libraries Center for Global Collections, and [Charlie Grafman](#), Associate Director of Development for Libraries Advancement, to hear about the Penn Libraries of today, and learn more about its priorities for the future.

Brian directs the Center for Global Collections at the Penn Libraries, leading the Center and its librarians in building wide-ranging and inclusive collections related to Africa, East Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and South Asia. He serves on the Penn Libraries Collection Development Council and represents global collections within the Libraries and across campus, aiming to bring the distinctive contributions of area studies librarians and collections into the full range of the university's work.

Trained in Chinese history, Brian is an adjunct associate professor of Chinese studies, teaching graduate seminars and serving on dissertation committees. His research focuses on the economic and social history of Middle Period China and on China's frontiers from the tenth to the thirteenth centuries. He has received fellowships for research in East Asia from the Social Science Research Council and the Fulbright Program.

Brian currently serves as chair of the International Collections and Content Group at the Center for Research Libraries, and as a member of the Council on East Asian Libraries Executive Board, the Bibliography of Asian Studies Advisory Committee, and the Society for Chinese Studies Librarians Executive Board. He is book review editor for the Journal of Song-Yuan Studies.

Charlie's goal is to create new and lasting relationships with friends and supporters of the Penn Libraries, aligning their personal philanthropic interests with the Libraries' meaningful strategic priorities. Charlie works closely with key Libraries constituents from the Director's Circle, the Harrison Society, and select regions throughout the country.

Special archival 1967-1968 video presentation [One Day \(1967-68\)](#) ([youtube.com](#))

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Friday, April 19 at 5 PM Eastern
Peter Decherney

Peter will discuss his recent trips to Africa with a focus on the "Jewish African" movement and he'll also reflect on his recent documentary "Dreaming of Jerusalem" and his first book of photography that is forthcoming: *Endless Exodus: The Jewish Experience in Ethiopia*. 1968 will have an opportunity for a Q & A with Professor Decherney as well.

Learn more about Professor Decherney here: <https://decherney.org>

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Penn alumni have a bonus opportunity:

Join Peter, virtually, on
March 13 | 1:00 – 2:00 PM Eastern
2024 Oscars Debrief

Co-sponsored by Penn Alumni Lifelong Learning, PennNYC, and Pennertainment

Calling all Quaker film buffs and Oscar enthusiasts! Join Penn Professor of Cinema & Media Studies Peter Decherney and industry experts, Randi Michel, C'91 and Adam Segal for a 2024 Oscar debrief. They'll discuss the winners, losers, and controversies of the 96th Academy Awards along with providing a behind-the-scenes look at Oscar campaigns and answering your questions.

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Friday, May 17 at 5 PM Eastern
Drs. Pat & Harrison Bloom

Join 1968 for a voyage back to Africa with Drs. Pat and Harrison Bloom as they introduce an illustrated voyage to their adopted village and their humanitarian initiative “The Kisoro Elders Project”.

The ‘Kisoro Elders Project’ in villages of rural southwest Uganda: A model for geriatric care in developing countries. The Kisoro Elders Project aims to screen for and treat major health problems which are prevalent among older persons world-wide. The target problems, which significantly negatively impact quality of life, are visual impairment, hearing deficits, mobility and pain problems, depression and dementia. Interventions are delivered in rural villages by trained Village Health Workers, thereby overcoming significant usual barriers to care. To our knowledge, this program is unique in sub-Saharan Africa, and offers the potential to be a model to fulfil dual goals of better addressing health care needs of older people in Africa while grappling with a critical shortage of health care personnel. Kisoro District is a small district in the far southwest corner of Uganda, near borders with Rwanda to the south and the Congo (DRC) to the west. [READ MORE HERE](#)

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Friday, June 21 at 5 PM Eastern
Michael X. Delli Carpini

Join Michael X. Delli Carpini, Oscar H. Gandy Emeritus Professor of Communication & Democracy and former Dean of the Annenberg School for Communication

Michael X. Delli Carpini's research explores the role of the citizen in democratic politics, with particular emphasis on the impact of mass media and information and communication technologies on public opinion, public deliberation, political knowledge, and political participation.

Michael X. Delli Carpini is the Oscar H. Gandy Emeritus Professor of Communication & Democracy at the Annenberg School for Communication. He served as Walter H. Annenberg Dean of the school from 2003 until the end of 2018, and previously had a secondary appointment in the Department of Political Science. [Michael X. Delli Carpini, Ph.D. | Annenberg \(upenn.edu\)](#)

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COMMUNICATION UPDATES

Stay in touch on Join us on [Penn Class of 1968 Facebook](#)

Visit our Class of 1968 website for archived Zoom recordings and class emails under Class News: www.alumni.upenn.edu/1968

Our '68 Digital Reunion Yearbook is still active! Please take time to review the 428 pages, photos and our memorial section. To access the Yearbook click on [University of Pennsylvania - University of Pennsylvania Class of 1968 - Cover | BrightCrowd.](#) If you see anyone missing from the Yearbook please let them know to join and start their page! Contact Charles Marsh for any assistance: chmars@upenn.edu.



For the latest news and updates from campus:

- [University Announcements](#)
- [Penn Today](#)
- [The Pennsylvania Gazette](#)
- [The Daily Pennsylvanian](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS AT PENN



Registration is Now Open!

Join us for **Alumni Weekend May 17-20, 2024!** [Register](#) now to secure your spot and view the [full list of events](#). We can't wait to welcome you back to campus!

[REGISTER FOR ALUMNI WEEKEND! >>](#)



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