

Past Event Highlights:

Members of the Advisory Board gathered at **Homecoming on November 9, 2019** for our annual class meeting – open to the entire class. A full list of Advisory Board members can be found on the Class of 1968 website: www.alumni.upenn.edu/1968.



The Class was represented at the **Scholarship Donor Reception on November 20, 2019** by Barbara Russo Bravo, CW'68, GED'69, PAR'00, Mia Argentieri, CW'68, GED'72, and Janet Oberlander Simons, CW'68, PAR'00, PAR'97. They enjoyed meeting our current scholars: (from left to right) May, ENG'21, Emily, C'22, and Samantha, C'23.



Penn68 classmates gathered for the **Engaging Minds event in New York City on December 14, 2019** at Cipriani at 42nd street. Marilyn Kramer Khan Weitzman, CW'68, G'69, was chair. To see all Penn Alumni event photos visit www.pennalumni.smugmug.com.



Stay Connected with 1968

Michael “Micky” Neiditch, C'68, Class Vice President for Communications

The former Penn1968.com site has been closed but we can relaunch it in advance of our 55th reunion if classmates have continued interest. We have preserved the content - just in case. 1968 still holds title to the domain name – and we are now actively looking for a classmate willing to help manage the site. If you can help, please contact Elsie at elsiehmiami@gmail.com.

Carol Shlifer Clapp Coonley continues to post on Facebook and she welcomes your posts. Please join our closed **Penn Class of 1968 Facebook Group**.

Current Class news can be easily found at the official Alumni Relations class page: www.alumni.upenn.edu/1968.

Newsletters will continue to be emailed frequently and our annual mailed newsletter will be distributed every January.

UPDATE YOUR MAILING ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER AND EMAIL by contacting our staff liaison, Lisbeth Willis (lisbethw@upenn.edu / 215.573.7061) or updating your profile on **QuakerNet, The Alumni Directory**, at www.myquakernet.com. This information will be updated in the Penn database. If you prefer not to be included in the Penn database and still want to receive Class e-newsletters, please send your current contact information to Elsie Sterling Howard at elsiehmiami@gmail.com.





University of Pennsylvania
3533 Locust Walk
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6226

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #2563
Philadelphia, PA

The logo for Penn 68, featuring a stylized "P" with red and white stripes, followed by "ENN68" in blue and red.

A background image of several Penn banners with the word "Pennsylvania" written in white on a red and blue background.

Join us for...

WINTER 2020

Penn to You: Miami

Navigating Global Affairs

Wednesday, February 12, 2020 | 6 PM | Pérez Art Museum

Hear how inspiring Penn faculty are exploring contemporary issues of immigration and international politics.

SPRING 2020

Penn to You: Silicon Valley

Social Equity Matters

Tuesday, March 3, 2020 | 6:30 PM | Computer History Museum

Hear how inspiring Penn faculty are addressing complex issues of social justice and equity. Looking for a Class of 1968 host.

Penn to You: Seattle

Driving Energy Solutions

Thursday, March 5, 2020 | 6:00 PM | Block 41

Hear how inspiring Penn faculty are leading the charge to find energy and sustainability solutions. Looking for a Class of 1968 host.

An Evening with President Amy Gutmann in Paris

Thursday, March 12, 2020 | 6:00 PM | Hôtel Ritz Paris

6:00 PM - Pre-Reception | 7:00 PM - Program | 7:50 PM - Post-Reception

www.alumni.upenn.edu/presidentgutmannparis

For more information on the Penn To You events and to register, visit:

www.alumni.upenn.edu/penntoyou

My very dear Classmates,

Happy New Year, my friends. It is my very great honor to have been nominated and elected as your president, following in the footsteps of our dear, iconic leader, Alex Conroy, who sadly passed away last year. We will miss our Alex forever. It was my privilege to work closely with Alex on our 50th Reunion, and to have worked with Alex and so many other class leaders since we were undergraduates. Alex was a terrific friend to me and to us all and he was a wonderful class president for over 50 years. My future tenure will obviously be much shorter—but I promise you that I will try to increase class pride and camaraderie, as Alex did, and to work collaboratively with class leaders and with every member of our class, 24/7.

Our class of 1968 and the University of Pennsylvania have been central to my volunteer and leadership efforts. While I have had a variety of leadership roles at Penn and in Miami, nothing matches the pride and pleasure of working with classmates for our class. Thank you for the opportunity to officially lead our class.

I pledge to you that I will work diligently to bring classmates together – regionally, and on campus, focusing on events that have worthwhile content, and on opportunities for friendship and reconnections. If you need me, if you have a suggestion or an idea, I'm available 24/7 by email: elsiehmiami@gmail.com or by phone: 305-793-7762.

This coming winter our **classmates and 1968** will be part of several Penn to You events – Miami, Seattle, and Silicon Valley. Those events are previewed in this newsletter. Classmates are already at work planning creative class-focused events for Alumni Weekend – and we hope that, if you can...you will join us.

Thanks to Micky Neiditch, this, our first 2020 newsletter, has been mailed to you via US Postal service. We need your help to verify your mailing address and current email address. To update our database, contact our staff liaison Lisbeth Willis at lisbethw@upenn.edu / 215.573.7061 or update your profile on QuakerNet at www.myquakernet.com. If you prefer to have your newsletter emailed to you from me personally and not to include your information in the Penn database, please let me know at the email above and I'll forward.

A huge thank you to our classmates who have shared their memoirs in this newsletter. We hope that many more classmates will share their own recollections with us in the future. We loved the ATO stories in the August 2019 class email, and thank Larry Miller for organizing his brothers' to tell their stories. (Note that all of our class emails are archived on www.alumni.upenn.edu/1968). We hope other fraternities, sororities, singing groups, athletic teams, and academic societies – any friendship cohort—will do the same! 1968 also welcomes memorial tributes, as way too many of our beloved friends are no longer with us. **Our stories. Our Class. Our friendships.** Please help us, create more memories together. I treasure our time together and hope that you do too.

Thank you over and over for the honor you have given me. I am excited to continue to work with you. Please, join us to 'drink a highball – or a Perrier – or a beer – or a ginger ale – whatever your choice of libation, please, let's celebrate life and Penn and friendship together. Maroon 5 says it well, I think:

*Here's to the ones that we got
Cheers to the wish you were here, but you're not
'Cause the drinks bring back all the memories
Of everything we've been through
Toast to the ones here today
Toast to the ones that we lost on the way
'Cause the drinks bring back all the memories
And the memories bring back, memories bring back you*



Elsie Sterling Howard, CW'68, PAR'92
Class of 1968 President



Alumni Weekend | May 15 - 18, 2020

1968 will plan a class meeting, coupled with a speaker for Alumni Weekend. Karen Whitestone Carr, CW'68, PAR'00 and Betsy Scott Kleeblatt, CW'68, are working on creating class-specific social events to coincide with the weekend. Registration for Alumni Weekends begins **February 3rd.** www.alumni.upenn.edu/alumniweekend



Class of 1968 Memoirs: My Penn Life

By Carol Shlifer Clapp Coonley, CW'68, PAR'00



Carol with her Penn man,
Howard Coonley, C'66

My Penn life is my Penn relationships. They are inseparable. To wit: In my junior year at Penn I dated a "cool" guy from the class of '67. Because he and his roommate lived in a rather scuzzy apartment we spent our time in the virtually empty apartment of his fraternity brother who had graduated in '66

and was spending most of his time in NYC. His fraternity brother shared the apartment with his good friend and former prep school buddy, also class of '66, who was off in the Army reserve. Two years later the fraternity brother gave me my first post-college job working the back office for a music festival that came to be known as Woodstock. Forty-five years after graduation I met the buddy at our class reunion; Reader, I married him. But I am getting ahead of myself.

My life at Penn and beyond was defined by an intricate web of relationships that had their beginnings in our college classrooms and residences. I arrived at Penn as an inexperienced but independent, well-read girl of sixteen. By the time I left, the separate facets of my young life had coalesced to the point where everything of my life today was set in motion by my Penn experience. Some of the journey has been linear but most of it branches out in different directions only to circle back, weaving in and out and connecting by the common thread that is Penn.

On my first day at Penn I met a congenial boy in front of Hill Hall (not yet House) who asked me to a fraternity party. His fraternity house was across the street from the sorority house where I would later pledge. Sitting in the sorority house living room I met the brother of a sorority sister; he introduced me to philosophy (and law, but that's another story). One of my philosophy courses, taught by a talented graduate student, led to the study of religion which started me on the lifelong seeker's path. Another, political philosophy, was taught by the late brilliant, quixotic Benjamin Barber. (Yet another story.)

During my first week at Penn I met two beautiful young men in geology class. Both were from a culture different from my own, a culture I found intimidating. One of the boys unexpectedly asked me out. He took me to my first Japanese film; it was an unforgettable film experience that added greatly to my love of movies. More importantly, I learned that the differences in our cultural environments were shallow and superficial, that just below the surface we could connect in deeper ways. My understanding of that did not happen overnight but developed over a period of years as I looked back in time and considered that evening more than once. The other boy and I had a short, intense romance and then parted ways for the next thirty-five years...at which point he came back into my life and helped me transition out of my marriage and connect my spiritual seeking to that which I sought.

In my senior year I became friends with a Penn couple who introduced me (without agenda) to the man who would become my husband and father of my children. He had not gone to Penn, he lived in another state to which I would have had no reason to travel, our paths would never have crossed 'but for', the great causality test of tort law. Everything has been 'but for Penn...'

My favorite 'but for' is this: One Alumni Weekend I was privileged to spend in the company of Elsie Sterling Howard, CW'68. Elsie had moved to Miami Beach after college and we had lost touch until our 20th Penn reunion, after which we saw each other regularly. Elsie generously offered to share her hotel room with me. She was the General Alumni Society (now Penn Alumni) President and attended every event of the weekend, including every class reunion dinner and the Alumni Awards of Merit celebration. She took me to each one. My dormant connection to Penn blossomed anew. But it gets better. At the Alumni Awards dinner seated across from me was a man who reminded me of someone but I could not think who it could be. I looked at his name card; his last name was the same as mine. Most incredibly, it was spelled the same. It is an unusual spelling and I was told that we were the only family to spell it as we did. I approached the man after the dinner ended, introduced myself and said that we must be related because our names were spelled the same. He was skeptical but we played a little genealogy. It took two questions. My father and his grandfather had been brothers. Due to a quarrel that my mother and his grandfather had when my father died, I had been estranged from my father's family since I was a child of eight. This Penn dinner gave me back my family. Lee and I became friends. I went to Florida on business and made it a point to visit his father, my first cousin whom I had never met. As I drove up to his father's door and saw him standing outside waiting for me, I thought my own father had come back to life, the resemblance was that strong. It was a wonderful gift and 'but for' Penn, I would not have had it.

Lest you think that social relationships were the only Penn things that mattered to me, I call your attention to the academic experience that Penn offers to alumni, not just to local Philly denizens but to all the rest of us around the world through online engagement. My first foray was through a distance learning English class on poetry by email group. When English 88 was offered – again by email; no MOOCs yet – I was hooked. I have participated every year since at least 1995. Here is a link to an undergraduate English 88 class in 1995 that Al Filreis brought to the internet for alumni: https://media.sas.upenn.edu/app/public/watch.php?file_id=226108. Penn was one of the first universities to offer MOOCs and ModPo (Modern and Contemporary Poetry) was one of the initial offerings. But for Penn, I might have missed this wonderful enrichment to my life. Al's ModPo and Peter Struck's Odyssey are the best courses Coursera offers.

Had I not gone to Penn, I might still have become a librarian and a lawyer. I might still be doing many of the things I enjoy like knitting and rescuing dogs. I might have even found my spiritual home. But were it not for Penn and everything I just recounted, the combination of all of it, I would not be married to that buddy of the fraternity brother of the boy I was dating, that quintessential, fabulous Penn man, Howard Coonley, C'66, whom I met at our 45th reunion class picnic. My gratitude to Penn is boundless.



The Locker Room

By *Lonnie Schooler, C'68*



Locker rooms have their own distinctive smell. In my experience, after an athletic contest this smell will actually vary, depending upon whether the team has won or lost. The following anecdote describes how a winning locker room can take on a different smell in a most unexpected way.

First, some background.

In 1965, my first year at Penn, Princeton won the Ivy League basketball title, its first ever, led by its All-America forward, Bill Bradley.

Those of us who had the privilege of seeing him play remember well his dominating presence on the Court. As a rookie announcer at WXPN, I was assigned (with Lou Gerber, C'66) to cover Bill Bradley's last regular season game, played against the Quakers at Princeton. The Tigers prevailed in that contest. It was not hard to see all the national hoopla that was bestowed on Mr. Bradley. Indeed, when the Tigers came to the Palestra that year to take on the Quakers, Wilt Chamberlain and other members of the Philadelphia 76ers attended the game to watch him play.

Princeton went on to place third in the subsequent NCAA Tournament. (They won third place as the result of their victory over Wichita State in the "consolation game," played between the two semifinalists who did not reach the finals; Bill Bradley scored 58 points in that game!). UCLA was the ultimate champion, defeating Michigan (with Cazzie Russell and Bill Buntin) in the Final, but even so, Bill Bradley was named the most outstanding player in the tournament, and he scored the most points of any player.

So it was that when the 1965-1966 basketball campaign rolled around, Ivy League basketball had earned some well-deserved recognition. The Quakers had built up a lot of momentum during the prior 1964-1965 season, finishing third in the conference just behind Princeton and Cornell. Expectations were high for this veteran group in the 1965-1966 season, led by three-time All-Ivy co-captains Stan Pawlak (a 6'2" power forward (!)) and Jeff Neuman, the team's point guard. Other team members included 6'10" Tommy Mallison, 6'8" Frank Burgess, 6'8" John Hellings, and 6' Guard Tom Northrup.

Under the tutelage of Coach Jack McCloskey, the team stormed through the season and, for the first time in Ivy League history, finished in first place with a conference record of 12-2, capped by a dramatic home victory over Princeton in the last game of the year, 56-48, on March 1.

As part of the WXPN announcing team at that game, along with my colleague, Mark Rosen, C'68, I went into the Quaker locker room just as the game ended to interview the players.

I did not realize it at the time, but we were broadcasting the first live feed from a Palestra locker room in WXPN history. I was adorned with my headset and my microphone, and Mark, the redoubtable engineer, carried the wiring and gadgets that enabled us, for the first time, to offer our audience this live feed from the locker room itself.

As I indicated above, locker rooms are a special place. A sanctuary.

Usually, they are occupied only by the team, the coach and the team managers.

On March 1, 1966, however, the locker room was mobbed. The players were all euphoric at the thought of advancing to the Tournament for the first time.

I distinctly remember the feeling of euphoria in the air, and the "smell" of victory. I also remember interviewing the usually shy and unemotional Stan Pawlak, who was near tears with the realization that his team had won the championship after three years of hard work, finally out from under the long shadow of Bill Bradley. His teammate and fellow All-Ivy compatriot, Jeff Neuman, was likewise giddy with excitement.

Hopes were high for Penn's sojourn through the NCAA tournament, particularly since (for the only time in 13 years) the UCLA Bruins did not loom as a contender (Lew Alcindor was a freshman that year and, therefore, ineligible to participate on the varsity team).

Then came the unthinkable. The interjection of collegiate politics into the mix.

The smell of victory soon dissipated as a result.

The controversy arose over the so-called "1.6 Rule." This rule had been devised by the NCAA as an eligibility benchmark for varsity athletes. Thus, all colleges having teams competing in NCAA sanctioned athletic tournaments had to ensure that any student competing on their team had to achieve a grade point average of at least 1.6 (out of 4.0) to be eligible to play. This Rule was adopted against a backdrop of no prior regulation of scholastic achievement or requirements of any kind for college athletes, and was an effort to address a long-standing problem to ensure that all of its members' players met at least this minimum standard of academic performance.

The Rule seemed relatively straightforward and benign.

Into this atmosphere of "reasonable regulation" pounced Ivy League leadership. As ably described in a Sports Illustrated opinion piece in its March 21, 1966, issue, penned by the erstwhile (and nationally known) writer, Dan Jenkins, the Ivy League (led prominently by Princeton President Robert Goheen) believed that individual academic institutions had the inalienable right to police themselves, free from any outside oversight. President Goheen therefore successfully led a campaign to enlist all of the Ivy Presidents (including Penn's own Gaylord P. Harnwell) to express unanimously the League's unwillingness to recognize the NCAA's authority in this matter.

The NCAA predictably did not respond kindly to the Ivy League "protest." It responded that any conference member not recognizing and enforcing the 1.6 Rule would result in its teams being deemed ineligible to compete in any NCAA sanctioned tournament event.

The League did not back down. The NCAA did not back down.

The smell of victory therefore quickly evaporated from the Penn locker room, and the well-deserved and hard-earned euphoria effected by that victory was soon supplanted by the stench of bureaucracy run amok. The champion Quakers were barred from competing in the NCAA basketball tournament. They thus achieved a second distinction that day, becoming the first team to be penalized by the 1.6 Rule.

One attends college in the hopes of getting an education. I got one that day.

Thoughts on our 50th Penn Reunion

By Marilyn Turetz Kanas, CW'68 and Michael Kanas, W'68, WG'70



Penn has a special place in our hearts. It is hard to believe that more than 50 years have gone by. We are a big Penn family, and always enjoy the opportunity to visit the campus (especially since we have lived in the West for more than half of those years) and take a few pictures by Ben Franklin or the big LOVE sculpture. Our Penn family includes Marilyn's uncle, our son, 2 nieces, a nephew and a cousin.

Our Penn education has enabled us to have successful professional careers and provide a wonderful lifestyle in retirement. Although retired, both of us are involved in community activities. Mike as President of an 800+ home HOA, and Marilyn as a Board member for St. George Art Around the Corner. We enjoy playing golf and visiting the many Utah State and National Parks that are nearby.

We met on a blind date (introduced by classmate Merle Chernofsky Born, CW'68) at Penn in 1966 and were married in 1969. We have stayed in touch with Merle over the years and enjoyed seeing her at the reunion. We also enjoyed seeing Marilyn's roommate, Leslie Robinson, CW'68, and Michael's roommate, Bob Tuteur, W'68. The reunion enabled Marilyn to connect with high school classmate Pat Sullivan, C'68, although he was unable to attend the reunion.

While living on the West Coast we were not able to visit the Penn campus too often. We stayed connected with Penn functions in Silicon Valley and Wharton West programs. We have found several Penn alums in our local community, including classmate Roger Lorberbaum, C'68, D'72. We did not know Roger when we were at Penn. Michael was wearing a Penn shirt in the gym and Roger approached him!

We were thrilled to attend the 50th reunion. It was very well done, and thoroughly enjoyable.

Introducing Penn First Plus



Talented students come to Penn from every part of the country and corner of the world. Some are from neighborhoods where going to college is not a given, or from families that can't afford to pay tuition and expenses. Penn's unflinching commitment to access is tearing down barriers with the largest grant-based financial aid program in the country. The

Office of Penn First Plus provides resources for first-generation, and/or low-income students. The Penn First Plus office is housed in the ground floor of College Hall, its first physical space on campus.

While accepting the brightest students and making sure they can afford to attend is an achievement, Penn does not stop there. Penn is committed to supporting all students' success—and ensuring that the full college experience is available to every member of the student body on our welcoming campus. That vision is at the heart of **Penn First Plus**.

Marc Lo has been named as the first director. He has a broad range of experience across residential life, student assessment, and LGBTQ student services, in a career that spans more than 10 years at Brown University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and New York University. He was a first-generation, low-income undergraduate student at Northeastern University who went on to earn his Ph.D. in higher and post-secondary education and his M.A. in higher education administration from NYU.

For more information about Penn First Plus visit:

www.alumni.upenn.edu/pennfirstplusalumni

Netter Center Update

At the 2019 Homecoming meeting 1968 welcomed Netter Center Leadership, founder Dr. Ira Harkavy, C'70, GR'79 and Assistant Director, Rita Hodges, C'05, GED'15, GRD'21. Dr. Harkavy noted that one of the Netter Center goals is to prove that social change can be made.

The mission of the Netter Center:

www.nettercenter.upenn.edu/about-center/our-mission

Opportunities for Alumni Engagement through the Netter Center:

www.nettercenter.upenn.edu/penn-alumni

The Netter Center's Annual Report:

www.nettercenter.upenn.edu/sites/default/files/2017_Netter_Center_Annual_Report.pdf



Penn Alumni Travel

Penn Alumni Travel offers a wide variety of tours to destinations around the world. Our trips provide a rich travel experience thanks to their educational character, unique access to special lectures with Penn faculty, and the camaraderie of like-minded intellectually curious travelers. We invite our alumni and the entire Penn family to join us as we celebrate the University's traditions and values through our alumni travel program. Visit www.alumni.upenn.edu/travel for the 2020 Travel Schedule and start planning your trip!

