

PENN68 NOT DONE YET!

Dear Classmates,

2024. Bye-bye 2023. Enough is enough.

Now we have a whole year ahead of us... and it can be - might be - optimistically, it will be a good year. Because We Are NOT DONE YET!

I hope you will join us for our monthly ZOOMs. Our ZOOMs continue to be an opportunity for so many of us to share an hour or so together. I/we owe thanks to every one of our presenters, but none deserve more thanks than our classmate Hans Binnendijk who has joined us to share his thoughtful updates on the Ukraine war for almost two years. We are very, very, grateful to Hans. Art Muir will join us on February 16th to share the story of his Antarctic adventures. I have booked ZOOM speakers through April, but there is an entire year of ZOOMs to plan, and I will welcome suggestions for the following months. Just email me: elsiehmiami@gmail.com. And, of course, you can see the schedule in this newsletter. (And I apologize to you for all typos. They are totally my fault. Sorry.)

I will do my best to keep you updated as Penn transitions to a new presidential search. If you want daily updates, I suggest reading the DP. Several of you have told me that you haven't read the DP in over 50 years until this fall, and while the DP reportage is sometimes unusual, there are factual updates - especially about sports! <https://www.thedp.com/> or you can check <https://www.upenn.edu/> And, of course, you can call or email me any time... about anything!

More and more often we hear the University called 'UPenn'. I know that change is the result of the email term...but what do you think? Are we now stuck with UPenn? I'll share your thoughts in upcoming newsletters...

After the hectic fall at Penn, I thought this would be a good time to share some Penn history. For attribution, I didn't write most of what follows—it's copied from the Penn websites. [Read HERE >>](#)

Love always,

Elsie

‘Little Poncho’ Dogwood
Cornus kousa
In memory of
Doug Cox, W’68, WG’73

The Class of 1968 is proud to honor our classmate, Doug Cox, with this plaque scheduled to be affixed to our newest tree – “Little Poncho”- in our Legacy Garden, in recognition of Doug’s class leadership and fundraising skill for almost **60** years. Thanks to Diane Holsenbeck and Penn’s lead landscaper, Bob Lungren, to Dennis Disbrow, Lisbeth Willis, and Charles Marsh, for steadfastly supporting this effort. The cash prize from the David N. Tyre Award for Excellence in Communications that the Class of 1968 received last November was used to pay for the plaque and its installation – as a fitting tribute to an extraordinary class leader. The plaque will be attached to the *Cornus kousa* “Little Poncho” dogwood tree and we will include a photo of the plaque then.

Ramanan Raghavendran named chair of Penn Board of Trustees



January 4, 2024

The University of Pennsylvania announced that Ramanan Raghavendran will become Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania effective immediately. Raghavendran succeeds Scott L. Bok, who served as Chair since July 2021, before stepping down in December 2023. Julie Beren Platt, who has been serving as Interim Chair, will return to her role as Vice Chair.

Raghavendran, a Penn alumnus, is the managing partner and co-founder of Amasia, a global venture capital firm focused on climate and sustainability.

READ MORE: [Ramanan Raghavendran named chair of Penn Board of Trustees | Penn Today \(upenn.edu\)](#)

Listen to a podcast done by Ramanan a few years ago: [HERE](#).

J. Larry Jameson: Interim President of the University of Pennsylvania

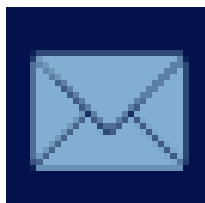


December 12, 2023

J. Larry Jameson, MD, PhD, has agreed to serve as interim president of the University of Pennsylvania, effective immediately. Dr. Jameson has served as executive vice president of the University of Pennsylvania for the Health System and dean of the Raymond and Ruth Perelman School of Medicine, which together comprise Penn Medicine, since 2011. **Jonathan A. Epstein, MD**, executive vice dean and chief scientific officer of the Perelman School of Medicine and senior vice president and chief scientific officer of the University of Pennsylvania Health System, will step in as interim executive vice president for the Health System and dean of the Perelman School of Medicine.

READ MORE: **[Penn Medicine's J. Larry Jameson named Penn's interim president | Penn Today \(upenn.edu\)](#)**

COMMUNICATION UPDATES



Updated emails needed: If this newsletter reached you, then we have your email. But lots of our classmates are not receiving class emails. Please check with friends to see if they are receiving their newsletters...and if they are not, please encourage them to share their current email address with the Class of 1968.

Email: **Chmars@upenn.edu**



Our Class of 1968 Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/pennclassof1968/>

It's easy to become a member of the 1968 Facebook page – just ask our Facebook administrator, Carol Shlifer Clapp, who will admit you. Our Facebook page is restricted – only classmates can post or read the 1968 Facebook page. You can make the request to join on the Class of 1968 Facebook page. We also share Penn news on Facebook—but we don't share anything political (and we mean nothing political!). We don't post requests for charitable contributions, though we do share updates about life events or personal recognitions/ honors received or travel experiences or holes in one. We take pride in one another. We don't sell products or self-promote, but we do share successes, birthdays, anniversaries and your adventures- especially Art Muir's adventures. Carol can also be reached at csclapp@gmail.com.

Our monthly newsletters include classmates' stories. We love to feature your personal stories, memories, tributes and recollections, your travels and adventures - and we can highlight your new ventures. If you have a story to share, please let Elsie know! elsiehmiami@gmail.com!

Class of 1968 Friendship Hours _____



Special Thanks

Thanks to our classmate Hans Binnendijk for sharing his thoughtful updates on the Ukraine war and Global Security during our Class of 1968 Friendship Hour.

Dr. Hans Binnendijk is a Distinguished Fellow at the Atlantic Council. Until recently he was also an Adjunct Political Scientist at the RAND Corporation and a Senior Fellow at the School of Advanced International Studies.

Until July 4, 2012, he was the Vice President for Research and Applied Learning at the National Defense University and Theodore Roosevelt Chair in National Security Policy. He served twice as Director of NDU's Institute for National Strategic Studies. From 2001 to 2009 he was the founding Director of NDU's Center for Technology and National Security Policy.

[READ MORE >>](#)



January 26, 2024 | 5:00 PM EST

Penn Museum update on Heritage West: West Philadelphia Community Archaeology Project

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. [READ MORE](#)

[REGISTER HERE »](#)

February 16, 2024 | 5:00 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.

Dr. Mann is the author of several books including his most recent work, *The New Climate War*, which shows how fossil fuel companies have waged a thirty-year campaign to deflect blame and responsibility and delay action on climate change and offers a battle plan for how we can rescue the planet.

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. More about Dr. Mann : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pxiZIsiLQg>

Art Muir will join us on February 16th to share the story of his Antarctic adventures.

[REGISTER HERE »](#)



March 29, 2024 | 5:00 PM ET

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

[REGISTER HERE »](#)



April, 2024: Dr Karen Reivich Date TBA

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. 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](#).

OUR NEVERENDING STORIES



Close to 400 classmates have shared updates with 1968 through their posts to the Class book. Our life stories have changed as our lives continue to evolve. And we are...yes...Not Done Yet.

If you haven't already added your story, it's not too late to do so. It will never be too late. You are also welcome to update your submission at any time: <https://upenn.brightcrowd.com/1968>.

1968 will also use this platform to share class news and reminders for the monthly ZOOM calls, and we will continue to update the In Memoriam section, sadly. If you need help, please reach out to Charles Marsh, our Alumni Relations liaison: chmars@upenn.edu

A classmate's story: Marilyn Roderick, MD

Aloha Classmates Who Are Not Done Yet!

I want to take some of you on a journey you have never taken before, even the most well-traveled of you!

Elsie says I'm to tell my story, which is way too long. So I'll tell my "Current Story" after a quick introduction.

After graduating with a BS in Nursing, I worked on one of the last Contagious Diseases Floors in Boston. Eventually became one of the first Nurse Epidemiologists, then a Hospital Epidemiologist (though not a MD); after 10 years, I missed Patient Care so attended Stanford Medical School for 5 years until I achieved my MD in 1983. I published a book, Infection Control in Critical Care during my first year of Medical School. I then took a hybrid residency Internal Medicine and OB-GYN, then did a bit of everything when practicing in remote areas in Hawaii.

[READ MORE »](#)