

THE MAGAZINE OF WILLIAM PENN CHARTER SCHOOL

# Penn Charter

FALL 2022

## PORTRAIT OF A PC LEARNER



Alice Rickards (right photo, front), an elementary education major at Elon University, led PC teachers on a “walking curriculum” – a walk outside of the classroom with a curricular focus and purpose. She shared her research findings based on interviews with an international group of educators and worked with PC teachers on ways to implement walking-curriculum lessons around campus. “As a group,” Alice Rickards said, “we did a color walk, and each chose a paint sample and went for a walk to find natural and unnatural things that matched our paint colors. This walk uses a place-based lens and allows students and teachers to find a connection to nature and the place we are in.”

The **STRATEGIC VISION** for Penn Charter is organized around **SIX GOALS**, each with a set of strategies.

**GOAL 1: QUAKERISM**

**GOAL 2: PROGRAM**

**GOAL 3: TEACHING**

**GOAL 4: TIME**

Reimagine the use of time.

**GOAL 5: SPACE**

**GOAL 6: FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY**

**Educating Students to Live Lives that Make a Difference**

## Restructuring Time Brings Dividends for Students

This year, in an effort to think outside the lines about time, one of the Strategic Vision’s six goals, Penn Charter has scheduled additional dedicated time for faculty and staff collaboration and professional development. In addition to the typical day-long professional development, during four scheduled delayed openings, employees report to campus at the regularly scheduled time but students arrive two hours later.

“These scheduled delayed openings provide dedicated time for faculty and staff collaboration and professional development that is integral to sustaining the standard of excellence of our educational program,” said Travis Larrabee, assistant head of school.

On these four days sprinkled throughout the school year, before students arrive and classes begin, teachers and staff gather for professional development on Quakerism and Quaker education, and diversity, equity and inclusion, as well as for the development of project-based learning curricula, integration of the new Portrait of a Penn Charter Learner (see page 7), and preparation for PC’s upcoming 10-year accreditation for the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools (PAIS), led by David Brightbill, assistant head of school. The self-study portion of the PAIS accreditation process allows the community time to take stock of the progress made in recent years and to consider opportunities for continued growth.

Collectively, this dedicated time for professional development ensures that the work of faculty and staff is mission-aligned and ultimately results in engaging and meaningful learning experiences for students.

“Penn Charter is a vibrant learning community for students and teachers alike,” Brightbill said. “When faculty have time to reflect on their practice, learn from peers and experts, and collaborate with colleagues, the educational experience for their students is ultimately enhanced.” PC

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Junior Alexandra Will uses CAD software and a 3-D printer to engineer an art tool for a child with quadriplegia. **Page 7.**

(Photo: Michael Branscom)

OPENING COMMENTS

# From the Head of School



**SO MANY YEARS AGO**, some time after our several-day strategic planning conference, I remember when Penn Charter’s vision statement — educating students to live lives that make a difference — crystalized.

A work group was gathered in Gummere Library, and it was one of those “a-ha” moments. The words were spoken. The room fell silent. Then, a collective exhale and a burst of excitement: That’s it! The vision of a Penn Charter education is to prepare students to live lives that make a difference.

Each day as I walk the hallways of Penn Charter, I witness teachers preparing students to be courageous learners, constructive communicators, change cultivators and compassionate friends. This education begins with the content of our curriculum in English, math, science and all of our vigorous classes.

This education is then extended to foster collaboration, innovation and excellence, and furthered by the Quaker testimonies of community, equality, peace, service, simplicity, social justice and stewardship. These testimonies become commitments for faculty, staff and students to make a difference locally, nationally and globally.

As I read the stories in this magazine, I witness the commitment of faculty to make a difference in students’ lives; students’ inquiry and learning; OPCs working to make a difference in the world; and the transformational generosity and effort of individuals who secured Penn Charter’s future with the success of the **How Far!** campaign.

Penn Charter makes a difference. Its students, parents and caregivers, faculty and staff, coaches, trustees and OPCs make a difference. Our community makes a difference. For this, I am eternally thankful.

Sincerely,

Darryl J. Ford Hon. 1689

## Penn Charter

THE MAGAZINE OF WILLIAM PENN CHARTER SCHOOL

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# CAMPUS CURRENTS



## HALLOWEEN PARADE

Ghosts and mummies marched alongside movie characters and pollinators (Lower School teachers never disappoint!) in the annual Halloween parade. Seniors walked with Lower School buddies as parents and students cheered along the route. This year, basketball legend Dr. J – Head of School Darryl J. Ford – joined the parade and possibly tipped his hand at his next career move. [PC](#)



# Penn Charter Embraces Role in Community of Independent and Quaker Schools

Penn Charter seeks to make a positive impact on education in independent and Friends schools well past the boundaries of its East Falls campus. For decades, the school has partnered with organizations and groups that support these schools to exchange resources, share insights and pursue outcomes that benefit students.

Penn Charter's long-time involvement with the **Association of Delaware Valley Independent Schools (ADVIS)**, which represents more than 130 independent schools in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland, recently led to recognition for PC Head of School Darryl J. Ford at the 2022 **National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) People of Color Conference (POCC)** held in San Antonio in December.

Ford, who has served on the ADVIS board, was honored at an evening reception as the longest-tenured person of color to lead an independent school in the association, and as part of his final year of service as the head of Penn Charter. Guest speakers included the president of ADVIS and heads of school from Episcopal Academy, Friends' Central, Trinity Episcopal and Wilmington Friends.

Penn Charter faculty and staff routinely participate in ADVIS professional development events, and in 2022-23 school leaders are taking part in an ADVIS cohort program. Many new employees attend



Darryl J. Ford is joined by retiring heads at the Quaker Heads of School event at PC in October. From left: Debbie Zlotowitz, Mary McDowell Friends School; Waman French, Friends School of Atlanta; and Ed Marshall, Greene Street Friends School. Brenda Esch, Friends School of Wilmington, delivered remarks via a pre-recorded video.



Darryl Ford was supported by colleagues and friends during a reception in recognition of his years of service at the 2022 People of Color Conference in San Antonio in December.

the Cheryl Irving Cultural Competency Institute, named in memory of a longtime PC faculty member and leader in regional diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives, including ADVIS's Multicultural Resource Center.

At the state and national level, Penn Charter faculty and staff have been involved with the **Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools (PAIS)** and **NAIS**, including through service on the PAIS accreditation board and as part of accreditation teams; presentations at PAIS and NAIS conferences; and as a resource for school leaders across the country who contact PC for insight, support and campus visit requests to learn more about PC programming and initiatives such as the school's Teaching & Learning Center.

PC has been an active and integral member of **Friends Council on Education (FCE)**, which provides programming and support for educators in Friends schools and for heads of Quaker schools as they lead and guide FCE's 76 member schools.

In October, Penn Charter once again partnered with FCE when more than 30 heads of school from multiple states gathered at PC to consider and discuss why a Quaker education matters to the world as part of a celebration of heads, like Ford, who are moving on to their next act. The event, held in the Graham Athletics & Wellness Center, included remarks from Ford and other longtime heads.

Penn Charter also partners with and supports FCE by providing the opportunity for recently hired staff to attend FCE's Educators New to Quakerism workshop; by supporting staff enrollment in FCE programs like Friends Council's Spirited Practice and Renewed Courage (SPARC), Friends Environmental Education Network (FEEN) and the FCE Leadership Institute; and throughout the years facilitating PC administrators' service on FCE's board and as panelists for FCE programs and events.

As a member of FCE, every 10 years PC engages in FCE's Quaker Self-Study and Member Review Process. These processes allow participating schools to pause, reflect meaningfully upon their Quaker underpinnings, celebrate the areas in which they are true to their mission, and uncover areas where schools could more fully embody their identity as Friends schools. **PC**

– Michael Petitti

# Penn Charter Meets the Needs of the Community Face to Face

For the last three years, students in Penn Charter’s Food Security Club have raised funds for Face to Face, a Germantown nonprofit human services organization. The partnership is an outgrowth of a relationship Penn Charter’s Center for Public Purpose established six years ago with Face to Face, which provides a range of supports to about 260 guests a month.

“We often say that we pull people in because of a warm meal,” said Becky Massa, Face to Face’s director of volunteer engagement. “Then guests learn about our other services, including a social services program, health center, legal center and an education equity program.”

The years-long relationship between PC and Face to Face has led to a number of initiatives across the school’s divisions in benefit of the organization.

“Our Middle School has partnered with Face to Face for days of service and our sixth grade Food Security Capstone project,” said Aly Goodner, director of PC’s Center for Public Purpose. “Our Lower School has supported Face to Face with the Math Bake-Off.”

To these initiatives, add another fundraiser that brought many students to their feet last fall.

Hosted by the Food Security Club, an inaugural 3v3 basketball tournament held in the Graham last fall pitted teams of Upper School students in friendly competition in support of Face to Face. Each player donated \$15 to participate, with all funds going to the organization. Students packed the balconies overlooking the basketball courts to cheer on their classmates.

“We wanted to bring the school together early in the year, to meet each other and build bonds,” said senior Trey Shinholster, who organized the tournament with classmates Jacob Kestenbaum and Isaiah Grimes. “As a member of the Food Security Club, I thought it would be a good opportunity to let people know about Face to Face.”



Members of Penn Charter’s Food Security Club

In all, \$375 was raised to support Face to Face’s general operating budget, which helps the nonprofit meet its most pressing needs at the moment. The winning team of seniors George Glomb, Nick Walters, Pat McDonough and Ryan Egan took home new PC sweatshirts.

“The experience with Penn Charter has been wonderful and a special partnership,” Massa said. “Students and faculty ask how they can meet and support Face to Face’s needs, and that understanding makes the collaboration guest-centered and truly unique!”

Students in the Food Security Club have also met with Massa to better understand the organization’s needs and volunteer at Face to Face on weekends to help make and serve meals to the community. Over the years of PC’s ongoing partnership, more than \$2,000 has been raised for Face to Face through the various initiatives.

“We wanted to support Face to Face because they are a local nonprofit that we have a long relationship with and we know they are doing really good work in Philadelphia,” Isaiah said. [PC](#)



## MIDDLE SCHOOL ENGLISH UNPACKS IDENTITY

After reading *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson, students in James Bolden’s eighth grade English class reflected on the ways in which Woodson explored her identity and her mother’s in the memoir. In a culminating project and as a way to connect to the theme of identity in the memoir, students made identity boxes, decorated and filled with artifacts of their lives, and shared those meaningful collections with their classmates. [PC](#)

# CROSS-GRADE CONNECTIONS FOSTER LEARNING AND GROWING

When students in different grades connect around a shared interest or study, they learn about themselves, each other and the world. “In a community where we steward one another, we learn how to be a friend to ourselves, each other and our wider community,” said Aly Goodner, director of the Center for Public Purpose. “That’s what these connections are all about.”



Food security is one of those interests shared throughout divisions: Second grade engages in project-based learning on food security, sixth grade explores it through a capstone project, and Upper School examines it through courses in the Religious Studies Department, the Food Security Club and Service Council. And when students share their queries, learning and working together on their common interest, “we lean into our Quaker values of community and stewardship, we build trust with one another, we build connection through a desire to understand the world and share experiences,” Goodner said.

Elsewhere in the schoolhouse, Lower School students connect across classrooms regularly with buddies from different grades for shared projects such as first and fourth grade’s work with Cradles to Crayons. Students in a 10th grade Quakerism class meet with kindergarten and third grade to explore questions of honoring the Light in ourselves, others and our community through read-alouds, conversations and joint projects with Whosoever Gospel Mission.

“When Upper School students have the opportunity to connect with Lower School students, it widens everyone’s opportunity for learning, deepens connections within our Penn Charter community and enriches our curriculum,” kindergarten teacher Monica Freely said. “Cross-divisional teaching generates new perspectives for me to consider, adding a new dimension to my lessons and projects.” **PC**







# PORTRAIT OF A PENN CHARTER LEARNER: Inspiring Students

by Rebecca Luzi

A student who engineered a 3-D printed tool that enables a child with quadriplegia to create art. Latin students who learn to challenge the Eurocentric bias of ancient civilizations. Second graders who collaborate with community partners to address food insecurity in Philadelphia.

## THESE ARE PENN CHARTER LEARNERS.

In August 2021, a committee of Penn Charter faculty and staff engaged in a year-long process to develop the Portrait of a Penn Charter Learner. The new portrait evolved from the Portrait of a Graduate, created in 2000, and reflects how much has changed in our school and in education over the last two decades. Across all academic disciplines, the Portrait articulates the skills, attitudes and competencies Penn Charter seeks to nurture in our students.

“The Portrait serves as an important touchstone as we move forward into the next era,” said Nora Landon, chair of the English Department, who clerked the committee. “It builds upon the excellence that we already have. It’s not a checklist or a punch list for a graduate. It’s an aspirational look at everything we can be — and who we want to be. It’s a living document that even our youngest learners can see themselves in.”

### Alexandra Will Independent Study

Alexandra Will, a junior, chose to engage in an Independent Study — the pursuit of an academic passion not regularly offered in the curriculum — to use technology to create something that would benefit a marginalized population.

She connected via Zoom with Caroline, a quadriplegic teenager who attends high school in Bucks County. Caroline loves to draw and paint. Alexandra, with the guidance of her project advisor, Corey Kilbane, redesigned the assistive device Caroline had been using — a rudimentary headband that relied on a wooden dowel and tape to fasten a paintbrush or pastels so that Caroline could draw by moving her head. But the tool wasn’t steady.



Alexandra Will (pictured with science teacher Corey Kilbane) has learned “the necessity of failure.” “When you bring ideas to table and they’re rejected,” she said, “you have to go back and not give up. There are a million little tasks along the way to make sure the final project is as helpful, as developed as it can be.”

Alexandra has used computer-aided design (CAD) software to engineer several 3-D printed iterations of a headband that would securely hold a cylindrical art tool. Function is key, but so is form.

“Comfort and personality and the way it makes you feel are a big part of any product you are designing for a population or an individual,” Alexandra said. “Caroline likes pink and purple, so we’re designing it like a crown so that she feels good when she’s wearing it.”

*continued on next page*

Alexandra sees both the opportunity and need for additional tools to support people with disabilities, such as a modified zipper that people with limited function in their hands could use.

Through this one independent study, Alexandra exemplifies each domain of the Portrait of a Learner, but the one she sees as perhaps the most important to her work is Constructive Communicator.

“One of the first things that Mr. Kilbane told me,” she said, “is that you have to understand the population you’re trying to reach. ...For this project, we really wanted open communication with the client, her loved ones, her mom, caretakers, occupational therapists. How does this work for Caroline, and how can we apply this to people with similar challenges?”

## Colby Reagan Seventh Grade Latin Class

Jim Fiorile teaches his seventh grade Latin students about ancient Carthage through a game played with 10-sided dice. One player represents Carthage, and the other Rome, which the class has already studied a lot. It’s not a game of skill or of chance. It’s a game where the society with the higher technology — naval technology, for instance — wins the game. And so, Carthage wins.

But the lesson is not just about Carthage, the sprawling, seafaring civilization that was located on the Mediterranean along the African coast and the Iberian Peninsula. It’s a lesson, Fiorile said, about the Eurocentric version of history most of us learn.



Riley O'Donnell and Colby Reagan learn about the technological advancements of ancient Carthage as they play the Romans Carthaginians Dice Challenge.

Carthage, at points in time, was larger and wealthier than Rome. And yet, Fiorile said, “most students haven’t really studied Carthage that much. The great civilizations of Africa are unstudied compared to Greece and Rome.” This game — and the classroom discussion it sparks — “is a chance to shine a light on an advanced civilization that is not as studied as other advanced civilizations of the ancient Mediterranean.”

Plus, Fiorile said, “the experiential nature of the lesson makes it more likely that the kids will internalize the takeaway, rather than just me standing in the front of the room and telling them.”

Colby Reagan and his Latin 7 classmates are Courageous Learners, engaged in questioning and critical thinking, as they begin to challenge implicit bias in the study of ancient cultures.

Until this Latin class, Colby said, “I had never heard of Carthage before. I always thought that Rome, Greece and Egypt were the most advanced civilizations in ancient times, but then we learned about Carthage and how they are much more advanced because they knew how to fight on land and water and could overpower their enemies by switching to water.

“When Carthage is introduced,” he said, “you might start to change your ideas.”

Fiorile is excited when his students begin to challenge power dynamics in society and confront privilege in the study of history. “We’ve got to name some of these truths,” he said. “It takes courage for some of our students to sit in the discomfort of facing the Eurocentric bias in the study of history.”

## Madeline Dudley Second Grade

When second grade teachers Meg Merlini, Joe Maguire and Sue Shelly began talking to their classes about their project-based learning study of food insecurity, they began with two guiding questions:

How am I learning about the power of change?

How can we as second grade students make a positive change in the world?

The second graders have kept these questions at the center as they have connected with community organizations as well as members of the Upper School Food Security Club to learn about hunger in Philadelphia.

PC’s longtime partner, Share Food Program, visited to kick off the project, sparking students’ curiosity and empathy, Merlini said. Throughout the year, students will meet with other community partners such as the Coalition Against Hunger and those who support community fridges in

*“We wanted to have something nimble, something that will inspire students. The message is, ‘We want you to be four things and to be them very differently.’ And that’s exciting, I think.”*

– Nora Landon, clerk of the Portrait Committee

Germantown and East Falls to deepen their understanding of the causes and effects of food insecurity.

“The kids decide how to engage with this issue — maybe gardening at Share, maybe stewarding the East Falls Community Fridge or facilitating a Lower School Run Against Hunger,” Merlini said. “They are designing the project; it’s not coming from [the second grade teachers]. When they are in the driver’s seat, it’s 100 percent engagement.”

Second grader Madeline Dudley is a Compassionate Friend who is particularly engaged in food security work. “One little person can make a giant difference!” she said. “I earned two badges in Girl Scouts, and my favorite one was for the food drive. I read that Philadelphia has more hunger issues than some of the rest of the United States, so I need to work extra hard.”

Maddie is also a Change Cultivator: an upstander, collaborator and problem-solver who sees the Light in others. She already has a long-term plan of being part of the Food Security Club when she’s in Upper School. “It makes me want to help even more to change the world,” she said. **PC**



Maddie Dudley, (pictured, right) appreciates visits from members of the Upper School Food Security Club, who share books on gardening and food pantries and make connections to the Quaker testimony of stewardship.

## PORTRAIT OF A PENN CHARTER LEARNER

### Courageous Learner



A Penn Charter learner is curious and prepared to take risks in their learning. By building intellectual skills including questioning, critical thinking, problem-solving, and academic tenacity, they take ownership of their education. The learner develops healthy social, emotional, and physical habits that allow them to navigate challenges and reach their goals.

Their wonder, inquiry, and exploration of academics, arts, athletics, and community engagement during their time at Penn Charter prepare them to thrive in a changing world.

### Compassionate Friend



A Penn Charter learner embraces the importance of identity and the role it plays in academic and lived experience. This individual recognizes that diversity is essential to a caring community shaped by Quaker values, and they act with kindness and empathy toward all. Learners examine and develop their own identities as part of their growth and development, and use reflective practice to better understand

others and their experiences. The learner understands that no identity is more or less important than any other.

### Constructive Communicator



A Penn Charter learner communicates effectively and responsively to seek, share, and gain knowledge, while actively listening to others. Additionally, the learner incorporates data and evidence to inform assertions and convey ideas. Constructive communication and silent reflection enable the learner to participate meaningfully in discourse, problem-solving, and positive change.

### Change Cultivator

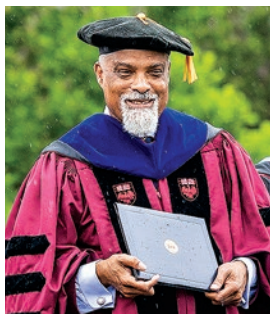


A Penn Charter learner discovers passions that inspire them to better the world while demonstrating personal, social and civic responsibility. While working toward peace and justice with humility, learners engage in their communities to shape and impact their world in positive and powerful ways. Penn Charter learners are upstanders, collaborators, and problem-solvers who see the Light in others while sharing their Light with the world.



# COMMENCEMENT 2022

The graduation of the Class of 2022 was a joyful celebration that combined both tradition and change. The 110 graduates processed across the traditional balcony behind the Meeting Room, but instead of gathering on the graduation patio, they once again adapted to Covid protocols and assembled on a stage on Maguire Field, facing an audience of proud family, teachers and friends. The event was live-streamed for those at home. Drawing upon lessons from the book *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse*, Head of School Darryl J. Ford said:



***“It is my hope, and I’m certain the hope of your teachers and families and friends, that you***

***leave this old school and enter the wild world and not be afraid, and that you listen less to your fears and more to your dreams.”***

– Head of School Darryl J. Ford



Speakers Henry Davis, Amani Rivers and Lauren Martz

Student speaker **Henry Davis** spoke to his class’s resilience in the face of hardship at school and in the wider world.

***“We have gone through some of the craziest, most unpredictable times and still managed to be one of the most impressive and successful classes here at Penn Charter.”***

Student speaker **Lauren Martz** remarked on the strength that the Class of 2022 has found in community.

***“It’s not just the individuals that make us special. It’s the collective impact we’ve made and the community we’ve built along the way that make us truly spectacular.”***

Student speaker **Amani Rivers** spoke of the inspiration she has found in watching her classmates develop over the years.

***“Watching so many of you break from limited imaginations and go above and beyond has motivated me immensely regarding my own hopes and dreams.”***



Lane Murray received the Alumni Society Senior Award in recognition of her scholarship, character, leadership and athletic ability from Alumni Society president Matt Kessler OPC '99.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2022!

An end-of-year survey showed that 93 percent of students in the Class of 2022 are attending one of their top-choice colleges. Forty-six percent were enrolled at a “most competitive college” according to Barron’s Profiles of American Colleges.



Charlotte Hodgson received the Phi Beta Kappa award for excellence in scholarship.

- Albright College
- American University (3)
- Arizona State University
- Boston College (2)
- Boston University
- Bryn Mawr College
- Bucknell University (2)
- Chestnut Hill College
- Coastal Carolina University
- Columbia University
- Cornell University
- Dartmouth College
- Drexel University (3)
- Duke University (3)
- Fordham University
- Franklin and Marshall College (4)
- George Washington University (2)
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- Goucher College
- Harvard University
- Haverford College (2)
- Hobart William Smith Colleges
- Indiana University - Bloomington
- James Madison University
- Lehigh University
- Loyola Marymount University
- Loyola University Maryland
- Lynn University
- Maryland Institute College of Art
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Millersville University
- Monmouth University
- North Carolina A & T State University
- Northeastern University
- Pennsylvania State University (6)
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (2)
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Rutgers University-Camden
- Savannah College of Art & Design
- Stanford University (2)
- Swarthmore College
- Syracuse University
- Temple University (2)
- Trinity College Dublin
- Tufts University (2)
- Tulane University (2)
- University of Alabama
- University of Arizona
- University of California-Davis
- University of Chicago
- University of Colorado
- University of Georgia
- University of Michigan (2)
- University of North Carolina
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Pennsylvania (5)
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Richmond
- University of Vermont (4)
- Ursinus College
- Villanova University (3)
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute (2)
- Wagner College
- Walnut Hill College
- Washington and Lee University
- West Chester University (5)
- College of William and Mary (2)
- Winthrop University
- College of Wooster
- York College of Pennsylvania
- Gap year (1)



Watch a recording of the ceremony at [PennCharter.com/commencement2022](https://www.penncharter.com/commencement2022), and view more photos at [Flickr.com/penncharter/sets](https://www.flickr.com/photos/penncharter/sets/).

# “PC Profiles

## Edward Doyle-Gillespie OPC '88

BY MARK F. BERNSTEIN OPC '79

Law enforcement is grueling work, and police officers handle the physical and emotional stresses in different ways. Edward Doyle-Gillespie OPC '88 writes poetry.



An 18-year veteran of the Baltimore Police Department, now with the rank of detective, Doyle-Gillespie has published four collections of poetry. His experiences on the street inform his creative work but don't define it. Doyle-Gillespie said he draws material from whatever he sees around him, extracting vivid detail from the situations and communities he has encountered.

Consider, for example, his poem, “First On the Scene,” which he says illustrates the strange intimacy between officer and stranger:

<i>It is late in the shift, and I am breathing you in. It has been six months since anyone has seen you,</i>	<i>smelled your ox tails and rice, heard the muttered oaths as you pace the third-floor hall in rubber flip flops.</i>
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His latest collection, *Gentrifying the Plague House*, published in 2021, ranges into more mystic territory. “The characters in Edward Doyle-Gillespie’s captivating new collection all partake of myth and the supernatural,” a reviewer wrote in the *London Grip Poetry Review*. “[T]he portraits of these bewitching figures are almost like the mug shots of ghosts and sirens.” The book’s final poem, “When It Was Sanctuary,” ends with this haunting imagery:

*Time will pass, I tell her and they will tear this house down.  
That is the part of the house that will cave  
in on itself when they knock the legs out  
from under this place  
and send the walls down to meet the earth.*

He is a full-time police officer and a part-time poet, Doyle-Gillespie said, but he likes both and believes they complement each other. He keeps a journal and makes time to write at night and on weekends. “The poetry comes in fits and starts,” he said.

Doyle-Gillespie has always been hard to pigeonhole, ever since his days at Penn Charter, where he played lacrosse, participated in Model UN, and

sang in Charter Singers. Faculty influences were equally diverse, naturally including English teachers such as Henry Bender, Joe Perrott and Christopher Teare, but also history teacher John Burkhart OPC '72 and music teacher Jack Pierpont.

Had things worked out differently, Doyle-Gillespie might have become a military officer. He majored in history at George Washington University and joined ROTC, but an injury forced him to rethink his career plans. After graduating, Doyle-Gillespie taught high school English, first in Toledo, Ohio and then in Baltimore City Public Schools.

Doyle-Gillespie might have followed that path but for another turn of events. He enrolled in a master of liberal arts program at Johns Hopkins University, starting classes on the fateful day of Sept. 11, 2001. The 9/11 attacks affected him deeply. “Okay, I’m going to get that master’s degree, I’m going to earn a black belt, and I’m going to go protect people from bad guys,” he recalled thinking. Doyle-Gillespie did all three and joined the Baltimore police force as a beat cop in 2005.

He was initially assigned to a special task force for the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor, a high crime area that runs through the heart of the city. Doyle-Gillespie says he saw a lot of violence and was once shot at on patrol. Though he had started writing poetry in college, attracted to the “economy of language,” he began to do so more seriously while working on the police force, finding it a way to relax, make sense of his experiences, and cultivate the creative side of his nature. His first collection of poetry, *Masala Tea and Oranges*, was published in 2010, followed by three others in the next decade.

For the last several years, Doyle-Gillespie has had a new, and in some ways even more challenging, assignment: teaching at the Baltimore City Police Academy. He instructs recruits in subjects including ethics, procedural justice, implicit bias, history, humanities and counterterrorism. To help broaden their perspective, Doyle-Gillespie has the fledgling police officers read philosophy and literature, including authors such as John Steinbeck, James Baldwin, Immanuel Kant, Fyodor Dostoyevsky and Plato. The works have a common theme of examining how people have regarded — and resisted — authority. It’s a subject that would seem very relevant to police work, though many recruits, Doyle-Gillespie said, “have gaps in their knowledge.” A better-rounded police officer, he believes, is a more effective one, as well. **PC**

# John Balbus OPC '78

BY MARK F. BERNSTEIN OPC '79

As acting director of a new federal office responsible for addressing health inequities in our response to climate change, John Balbus OPC '78 already has a lot on his plate.



Rising temperatures, severe floods, rampant wildfires and deadly hurricanes affect people the world over but especially those who already lack access to basic services and reliable healthcare. Balbus's job has been made even harder, though, because he has been operating with only a minimal staff and no congressional funding. He is making do without them.

President Biden created the Office of Climate Change and Health Equity (OCCHE) by executive order in 2021, and Balbus, a longtime advisor for public health at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, became the acting director. Last year he was supposed to have a \$3 million budget and a full-time staff of eight, but Congress has yet to appropriate any money. He has big plans but has been forced to improvise through volunteer staff and partnerships with other, better funded agencies.

"It's a huge mandate for an unfunded office," Balbus said, "but we've had great success and we have passionate people. There's a lot that you can do if you understand how the government works."

The OCCHE is the first agency of its kind at the national level to address climate change and health equity. Its mission is to protect vulnerable communities who disproportionately bear the brunt of pollution and climate-driven disasters. The need for action is growing; the World Health Organization estimates that climate change will contribute to 250,000 deaths from malnutrition, malaria, heat stress and other causes.

Even when fully funded, the OCCHE must rely, as its website says, on the "powers of convening, coordination, and collaboration." To pick just one example: Last summer Oregon suffered under a record heat wave which killed more than 115 people, many of them poor. To combat this, the Oregon Health Authority obtained a Medicaid waiver from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to purchase 3,000 portable air conditioners to be sent to the state's most vulnerable people. Balbus's office is now working with CMS and with other states to make this option better known and available throughout the country. "It's not the solution to heat and climate change," Balbus acknowledged, "but it's one immediate way that a climate change-related event that's killing people can be addressed with an equity lens."

Hurricanes, another manifestation of climate change, are also on the OCCHE's agenda. Balbus's office is looking to partner with the Urban Sustainability Directors' Network, a group of local government officials, to help incorporate health services into their "climate resilience hubs," community-designed and maintained structures that provide services in normal times but can help inform residents about weather emergencies and remain open during them to provide basic services such as shelter, clean water or power. As Balbus explained it, "Everybody will benefit if we can find a way to protect those people in greatest need of a safety net."

One other project Balbus points to is the Climate and Health Outlook, which is posted on the Health & Human Services website. The outlook takes seasonal forecasts from various government agencies for events such as droughts, heat waves and wildfires, and looks at their effects on health. "It is the nation's first seasonal forecast for health," Balbus said.

In the fall of 2021, just a few weeks after moving into his new job, Balbus traveled to Glasgow, Scotland as part of the American delegation to the United Nations Climate Change Conference, known as COP26. The United States joined 51 other countries in making a broad commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions from their healthcare systems and make them more climate resilient. "We hope that such policies — and additional actions to be identified — will inspire the sector to address the health threats associated with climate change in an equitable, inclusive manner," he wrote in a paper he co-authored for the *New England Journal of Medicine* afterward.

Balbus majored in biochemistry at Harvard, earned his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania, and a master's degree in public health from Johns Hopkins University. After teaching at George Washington University for seven years, he worked as chief health scientist at the Environmental Defense Fund before joining the National Institute of Environmental Health Science in 2009.

Before all that, though, Balbus was also a PC lifer, as were his older brothers, Steven OPC '71 and Peter OPC '75. He credits former Penn Charter chemistry teacher, Richard V. Pepino, for pointing him towards his future career path. "Rich was a huge influence on me," Balbus said. "As a high school teacher, he developed an innovative biochemistry class, which was a phenomenal and, for me, inspirational thing back then."

He also credits the spiritual lessons he learned as a student. "As a Quaker school, Penn Charter has an ethos of service and commitment to the rights of all people and to equity," he said. "Growing up in that environment had a big influence and set a foundation for other experiences I had later in life." **PC**

# KAREN WARREN COLEMAN

## PC'S NEXT HEAD OF SCHOOL

In October, William Penn Charter School's Board of Trustees announced that Karen Warren Coleman would be the next head of school — the eighth in the modern era and the first woman to lead Penn Charter.



Karen Coleman will succeed Head of School Darryl J. Ford Hon. 1689, who in March informed Trustees that this academic year would be his last as he looks forward to a “third act” of his career.

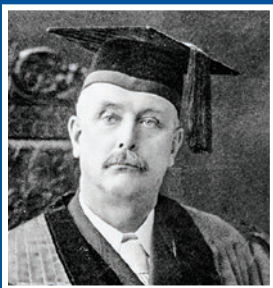
Coleman is a distinguished educator and education leader with 25 years of experience in elementary, secondary and higher education, and in both independent and public institutions.

“Karen has devoted her career to the care and growth of students,” Jeffrey Reinhold, clerk of Penn Charter Trustees, said of her selection. “Karen’s passion for students has been in evidence in all of her interactions with the Penn Charter community throughout this process. She is smart and serious, and she can talk on any topic. She also is warm, friendly and skilled at building relationships. I am thrilled that Karen will join the Penn Charter community.”

Coleman had a chance to get to know more of the PC community when Reinhold announced her appointment during a faculty and staff meeting. After attending that meeting, she talked with students, met with Darryl Ford, visited classrooms and recorded a video message for the community. Watch that message at [penncharter.com/coleman](http://penncharter.com/coleman).

In accepting the headship, Coleman wrote, “It is an honor to be offered the opportunity to join Penn Charter at this moment in the school’s storied

### Heads of School in the Modern Era



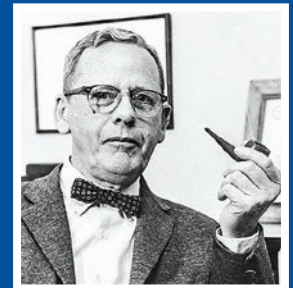
Richard Mott Jones 1874-1917



Richard Mott Gummere 1917-34



Richard Knowles 1935-41



John F. Gummere 1941-68



history, when Penn Charter has been transformed along every dimension under Darryl Ford’s leadership. In the coming years, I will embrace both leading and learning as I work with Penn Charter’s extraordinary faculty and staff to center students in everything we do. I am especially excited to engage directly with students, and to learn from parents and caregivers, and the incredible OPC community, about the special qualities that make Penn Charter such a powerful contributor to students’ lifelong journey. It will be enormously rewarding to learn about and immerse myself in Quaker values and practices as we support students in finding their purpose by drawing on the strength of Penn Charter’s Quaker identity.”

Most recently, Coleman was head of the Hockaday School, a college preparatory day and boarding school for girls in Dallas, Texas. Prior to that, she served as vice president for campus and student life at the University of Chicago and previously held leadership positions at three other universities, including associate dean of students at the University of California, Berkeley. Recognized for her expertise and published work, Coleman is frequently sought as a presenter and panelist.

At Hockaday, Coleman strengthened the school’s profile across every significant measure. She led Hockaday’s strategic planning process, which focused on curricular innovation, inclusion, the quality of the student experience, and financial sustainability. She also led a comprehensive research effort to identify the school’s market strength, vulnerabilities and strategic opportunities. During her tenure, Hockaday achieved key enrollment metrics — an increase in admissions applications and increased selectivity — and record fundraising for the annual fund. Under her leadership, Hockaday launched the Institute for Social Impact, a program focused on PK-12 hands-on learning that addresses real-world issues and includes coursework focused on community impact.

Coleman has a deep commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion and justice that is reflected in both her professional career and research. Under her leadership, Hockaday’s enrollment of students of color increased by

nearly a third, while diversity on the school’s board increased fourfold. As a doctoral student at the University of Pennsylvania, Coleman conducted her dissertation research on *Stories Seldom Told: Low Income, First-Generation African-American Male Students at Highly Selective Research Universities*. Her master’s thesis at the University of Vermont was titled *Education as the Means to Freedom: A Critical Analysis of Oppression*.

Coleman graduated cum laude from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst with a BA in psychology. She was born and raised in the Bronx, New York, and attended Stuyvesant High School in New York City. Karen and her husband, Andrew Coleman, are passionate travelers and love the outdoors. Andy, after a career as an attorney and an e-commerce executive, has worked for almost 10 years as a professional photographer, traveling the globe, camera in hand, in search of amazing wildlife and landscapes; his images and stories have been featured with National Geographic and in other books and media. They will relocate to Philadelphia along with their yellow Lab, Wrigley. [PC](#)

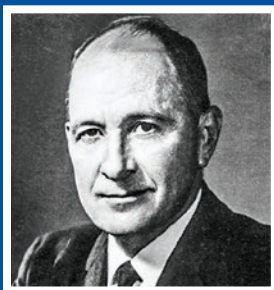


Coleman had a chance to get to know more of the community when she visited PC’s campus the day Trustees announced her hiring.

***“I am especially excited to engage directly with students, and to learn from parents and caregivers, and the incredible OPC community, about the special qualities that make Penn Charter such a powerful contributor to students’ lifelong journey.”***

– KAREN WARREN COLEMAN

## Heads of School in the Modern Era



Wilbert L. Braxton 1968-76



Earl J. Ball III 1976-2007



Darryl J. Ford 2007-2023



Karen Warren Coleman 2023



# JACK ROGERS: CLOSE TO THE SCHOOL

by Michael Petitti

A Penn Charter teacher, coach, father and chief development officer who has helped raise \$200 million for the school, Jack Rogers Hon. 1689 has built and sustained countless meaningful relationships during his 27 years at PC. He is set to retire in June, but his connections and contributions to the school will endure.



There was a time, into high school, when Jack Rogers would have struggled to read his own life story.

Growing up in North Philadelphia the fourth of six children, Penn Charter’s future chief development officer was a determined and resourceful student at his Catholic elementary school. His difficulties with phonics and auditory processing posed great challenges, so he strategized ways to memorize words, working them into his long-term memory.

“How do you decode a word you haven’t seen?” Rogers said. “You would be able to sound it out. But auditory processing issues made that difficult. It can mask a person’s potential — if you can’t read.”

His fifth grade teacher, Sister Sophie, sensed young Jack’s drive and resilience. While she wasn’t able to recognize him with an academic award that year, she created an award in his honor: the first-ever Perseverance Award.

“I think the fact that school did not come easily for me gave me the opportunity and motivation to continue to work hard,” Rogers said.

***“I don’t know of many people, or any people, who better embody the spirit of the school than Jack Rogers. He’s really exceptional in his core values.”***

– EARL J. BALL HON. 1689,  
Former Head of School

## Connecting People

During his 15 years leading Penn Charter's development efforts, Jack Rogers Hon. 1689, who is retiring in June, has harnessed both his persistence and his love of the school to help raise \$200 million to fund Penn Charter programs, scholarships, initiatives and facilities. Donations from generous OPCs, parents, faculty and staff, and friends have made financial aid possible for hundreds of students; helped bring to life Penn Charter's Center for Public Purpose and the Teaching & Learning Center, funded the school's first turf fields and the new baseball field; and led to the construction of the Kurtz Center for the Performing Arts and the Graham Athletics & Wellness Center.

In October 2022, two culminating events celebrated the school's **How Far?** Capital Campaign, led by Rogers. A 10-year endeavor, the campaign resulted in \$130 million raised from more than 4,000 donors and enabled construction of a new lower school.

Its tremendous success also made possible the dream of an Academic Village at Penn Charter — dynamic learning spaces that will foster inquiry, stoke curiosity and encourage collaboration — and increased the endowment for scholarships and operating support from \$60 million to more than \$100 million.

"My job here is to connect people with the school," Rogers said. "It isn't to raise money — that is the result — but my role is to bring people closer to the school. When I helped bring people closer to the school, it made them feel good, the school benefited, and that engagement is what led to the success we've had."

"Jack is always thinking about how to keep people involved in the school," said Ray Vickers OPC '61, a longtime supporter who established a scholarship 20 years ago in memory of Bob Levy OPC '48. Vickers first met Rogers in 2003 when Vickers flew into Philadelphia for the 50th anniversary of the Little Quakers football team, which Bob Levy began. Rogers picked him up from the airport.



Jack Rogers Hon. 1689, PC Clerk of Trustees Jeff Reinhold, Hal Commons OPC '58 and Bill McGuckin OPC '52, a foursome at the annual Bert Linton Golf Tournament.

"He is always emphasizing what the school is doing," Vickers said. "What issues it's facing, how it's confronting them. That really makes you feel like you're still part of the organization."

"Jack is never transactional," said Adam Koppel OPC '87, a former student of Rogers' who has donated to the school to support science facilities and curriculum in appreciation for his teachers from kindergarten to 12th grade. "I view Jack as wanting to build a community and holding people tight, and knowing that they would always have a home at Penn Charter."

Jules Rauch OPC '56 credits his relationship with Rogers for saving his life. Given four months to live in 2008 with stage 4 melanoma, he took to the phone. "My first inclination was to call Jack," Rauch said.

Rauch had known Rogers since the mid-'90s and was aware of the many relationships Rogers maintained. Penn Medicine's Abramson Cancer Center was one of a few

institutions in the country hosting a clinical trial for an experimental new drug that treated melanoma. Within days, Jules had an appointment at Abramson and subsequently qualified for the trial.

"That assistance of Jack Rogers has enabled me to live," said Rauch, who is now cancer-free.

"Jules needed to get into a cancer program, and I opened the door," Rogers said. "I didn't do anything else but open the door. To me, that's the job."

## That of God in Everyone

Rogers has long been driven to help others. When he was around 10, he delivered prescriptions from a pharmacy in his neighborhood to local patients. In high school, a priest encouraged him to spend time with kids with Down syndrome.

"I did it, and I can tell you the feeling I got was like no other feeling," Rogers said. "That was a defining moment for me."

*continued on next page*

***"Jack is the perfect development officer because he believes deeply in what he's asking. It's not just Penn Charter as bricks and mortar, it's Penn Charter as helping students, the Quaker tradition."***

— PUG WINOKUR OPC '61

A spiritual man, he was an altar boy through elementary and high school, and has been going to Mass regularly for most of his life. “What made Penn Charter such a great fit for me was I felt that at the core of everything we do here is seeing that of God in everyone else,” Rogers said.

After graduating from college, he wanted to use his own learning experiences to help students as a teacher. He got a job teaching sixth graders at the now-closed Our Lady of Mercy at Broad and Susquehanna. One of these students was Tony Hollinger OPC ’83.

“Jack made it fun to demonstrate knowledge, and I took to it,” Hollinger said. “We developed a great rapport.”

In the spring of 1977, Rogers learned about an opportunity at Penn Charter. A sixth grade teacher was needed the following year and the job would include coaching duties, which excited Rogers.

***“Jack is inclusive by nature. He roots for the underdog, amplifies people’s strengths and has an incredible sense of humor. Jack will always be a part of the fabric and legacy of our wonderful school.”***

– CATHERINE (MCGUCKIN) CANTLIN OPC ’92,  
A member of the first coed class to graduate from Penn Charter.



Jack’s three daughters graduated from Penn Charter. From left, Mary Lewis OPC ’00, wife Nancy Rogers, Kathleen O’Donovan OPC ’99 and Sarah Sepe OPC ’04.

Rogers had seen something special in Tony while at Our Lady of Mercy. A year into his teaching career at Penn Charter, Rogers called Tony’s home one day and informed his mother that he wanted to nominate her son for a scholarship to PC.

“Out of the blue,” said Hollinger, who was in seventh grade at Our Lady of Mercy at the time. “I certainly knew nothing about Penn Charter. Neither did my parents. None of us realized the impact of it.”

Hollinger would be awarded the first-ever Quaker Chemical Company Scholarship to attend PC.

“I attended Penn Charter only because of that scholarship Jack introduced to me,” Hollinger said.

Rogers was also Tony’s first formal football coach. During his junior year, Tony was laid up at home for six weeks due to injury

suffered while playing that required him to wear a half-body cast. Rogers drove his homework to him every night and brought it back to school the next morning.

“Jack just stepped in,” Hollinger said. “He was encouraging: “You can do it; you can handle your academics.””

Hollinger went on to become a speaker at Penn Charter Commencement and to play football for the United States Naval Academy. He subsequently graduated from Harvard Business School.

## **A Winding Path**

In 1983, his first year eligible for the honor, Rogers earned the John F. Gummere Distinguished Teacher Award, which recognizes outstanding scholarship, teaching and character, rapport with students and colleagues, and contributions to the intellectual life of Penn Charter.

“There are now mid-career adults who are devoted to Rogers because of what he did to help them when they were students,” said Earl Ball Hon. 1689, head of school at Penn Charter from 1976 to 2007, who first hired Rogers as a teacher in 1977.

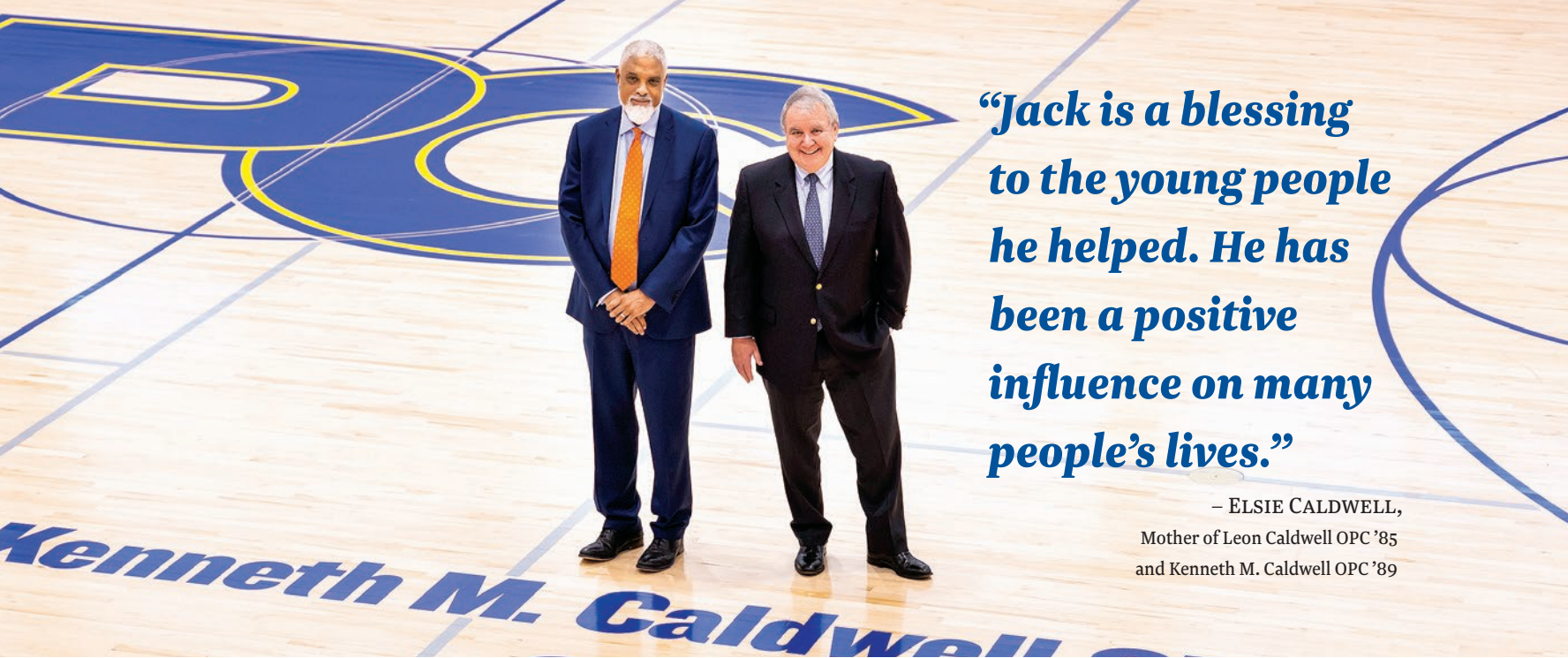
“I always felt it was my job as a teacher to set goals for our students that were beyond their grasp, but also to support them and help them to reach those goals,” Rogers said.

In pursuit of one of his own goals, in 1982 Rogers began studying at Temple Law School in the evenings and received his law degree in 1986.

In 1987, Rogers’ last year teaching at Penn Charter, the senior class dedicated the yearbook to him.

“We can’t thank him enough for staying close to us,” reads part of the dedication printed in the Class Record. “We would like to thank you again for all that you have done to help us get to where we are today.”

Rogers’ interest in the well-being and success of children has been a feature throughout his career. During his nearly nine years practicing law, he took on pro bono cases as



**“Jack is a blessing to the young people he helped. He has been a positive influence on many people’s lives.”**

– ELSIE CALDWELL,  
Mother of Leon Caldwell OPC '85  
and Kenneth M. Caldwell OPC '89

Jack and Darryl J. Ford, head of school, on a basketball court named in honor of Kenneth M. Caldwell OPC '89, in the Graham Athletics & Wellness Center. Penn Charter also has two new endowed scholarships in memory of Caldwell and Peter Ortale OPC '83, both of whom died on 9/11.



Jack as a Penn Charter teacher in 1987, the year the school yearbook was dedicated to him.

a child advocate in Family Court. In 1995, he returned to education when he became head of Woodlynde School, an independent school that serves students with learning differences. He served in this role for nine years.

After Woodlynde, he intended to return to practicing law, but Penn Charter again beckoned. Earl Ball asked Rogers if he would be interested in helping the school’s Development Office close out a fundraising campaign that was set to end in 2006. Even though his professional path had wound away from the school for 17 years, Penn Charter had remained close to his family’s heart. He and his wife, Nancy, had entrusted their three daughters to the school: Kathleen OPC '99, Mary OPC '00 and Sarah OPC '04.

“I know the value of the Penn Charter education,” Rogers said.

So, Rogers returned home.

## Making Opportunities Happen

“When I arrived here as the Middle School director in 1997, there were several former colleagues who everyone kept talking about,” said Darryl J. Ford, Penn Charter’s head of school since July 2007. “One was this exceptional teacher named Jack Rogers. I heard about him all the time.”

After the fundraising campaign closed, Rogers took on an interim role leading the Development Office in January 2007 as the search for a permanent replacement unfolded. That July, Rogers was hired as chief development officer, joining Ford on his own new journey at Penn Charter.

“There have been many people who have been committed to my success as head of school, but I can think of very few people who have been as committed as Jack Rogers,” Darryl said. “Jack’s work in the school stems from his belief that Penn Charter is something special and that Penn Charter changes lives.”

“I’ve gotten more out of Penn Charter than it’s given me,” Rogers said. “I thought we did

more than just teach kids here. I thought we really helped them grow into themselves. The commitment to diversity, the commitment to financial aid. As a development person, I was securing the gifts that would make those opportunities happen.”

Jack plans to carry on this philosophy after retiring from Penn Charter by volunteering as a Wilson Reading System tutor. The multisensory program supports students who need additional and intensive reading support. “It’s something I’ve always wanted to do,” said Rogers, now an avid reader.

Jack’s Corner, a library reading nook that will honor Rogers once the new Lower School is built, might become the place to find him. “My dream,” he said, “would be to come to Penn Charter and work with a student who is having trouble reading in second grade and can’t afford a tutor. Maybe I become his mentor. And then we go through the various stages and make him a fluent reader.”

Jack remains close to all whom he encounters. His former clients, OPCs and many friends of Penn Charter. And even Sister Sophie, whose recognition of him in fifth grade made all the difference. [PC](#)

Find additional reflections about Jack Rogers at [penncharter.com/JackRogers](http://penncharter.com/JackRogers)



# CELEBRATING How Far!

On Oct. 8, the Penn Charter community gathered to put an exclamation point on a visionary campaign.

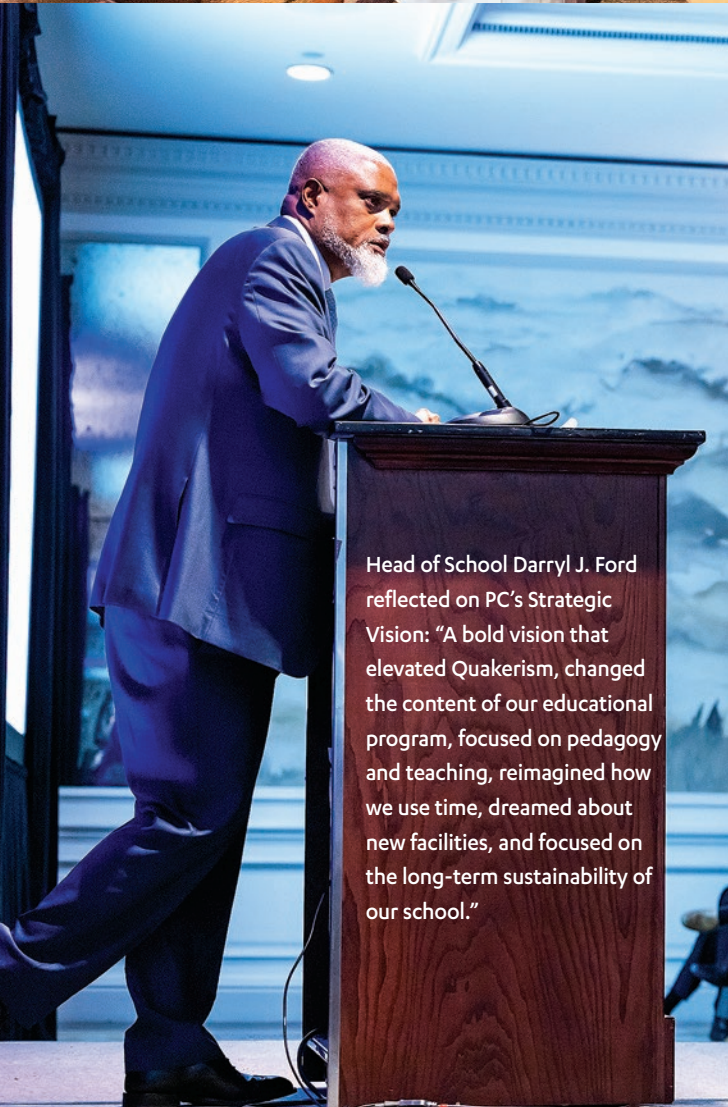
BY THE LIGHT OF OUR CHARTER

## How far can we see?

Grounded in Penn Charter's Strategic Vision, the comprehensive **How Far?** capital campaign has transformed our campus, extended our public purpose, and elevated teaching and learning to prepare our graduates for tomorrow.

The campaign's success was celebrated the weekend of Oct. 7 and 8 when the Penn Charter community came together to recognize a major milestone: over \$130 million raised — remarkable among independent schools of our size. And while fundraising continues for our new lower school, reaching the campaign goal sets us so near to breaking ground this winter on the culminating piece of our campus transformation.

The impact our donors have had on the student experience has also been extraordinary. The campaign has always been rooted in our Quaker principles and values — public purpose, financial aid, excellence in education, and community.



Head of School Darryl J. Ford reflected on PC's Strategic Vision: "A bold vision that elevated Quakerism, changed the content of our educational program, focused on pedagogy and teaching, reimagined how we use time, dreamed about new facilities, and focused on the long-term sustainability of our school."



Amy Gadsden, a Penn Charter parent and trustee, thanked Ford for his leadership. “Darryl has never wavered in his commitment to securing the future of PC while pushing change and growth in the here and now and always keeping our students at the center of decision making.”

On the evening of Oct. 7, a special celebration honored school leadership, including the Board of Trustees, led by Jeff Reinhold P ’12, who had the foresight to create a master plan; Campaign Co-Chairs Bill MacDonald OPC ’62, P ’05 and Christine Angelakis P ’11, ’13, ’18, whose steadfast leadership guided the Development Office; and Chief Development Officer Jack Rogers Hon. 1689 and Head of School Darryl Ford Hon. 1689, who forged authentic and meaningful relationships with committed and generous OPCs and parents.

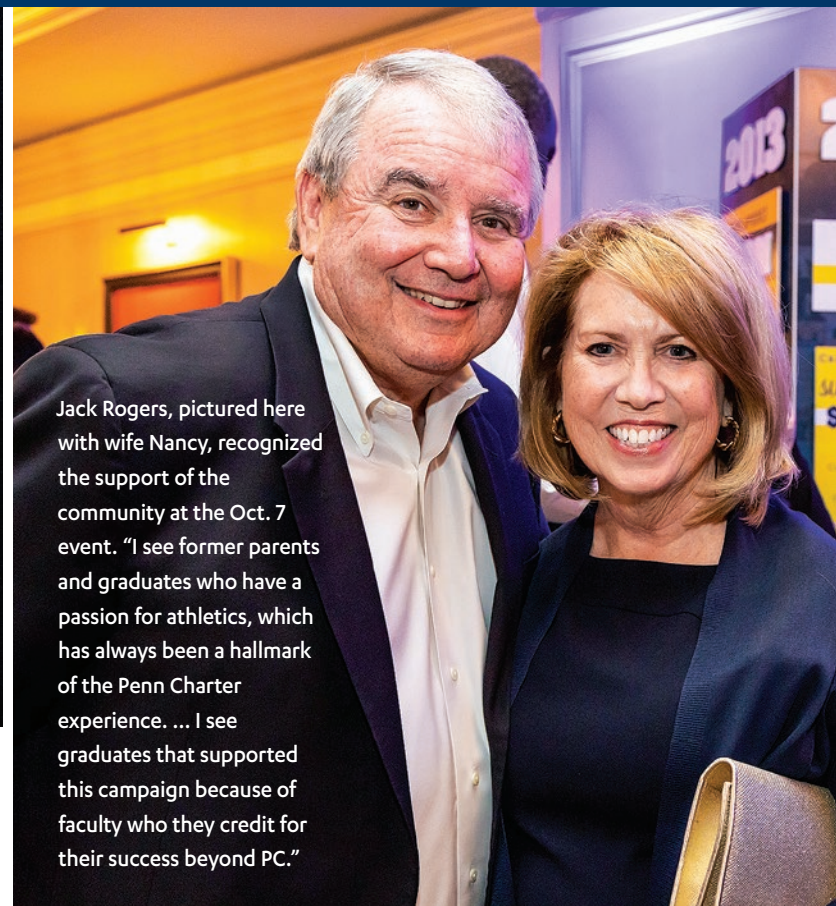
The following evening, in the Grand Ballroom of the Westin Philadelphia, all members of the Penn Charter community were invited to celebrate “How Far!” with music, dancing and appreciation for the generosity that has made the campaign a success.

At the event, guests smiled for the camera in the 360 photo booth and danced the night away to a live band. They also had the opportunity to stroll through the **How Far!** timeline and reflect on the campaign’s impact, from the Center for Public Purpose to the Idea Lab and Teaching & Learning Center to the more than 40 endowed scholarship and faculty funds.

“This is a campaign that will define Penn Charter’s history,” said Assistant Director of Development Nicole Martz P ’22, ’24. “One thing we learned is that when our community comes together, we can do anything.” **PC**



“Penn Charter changed my life,” said Anthony McDevitt OPC ’03 at an event for leadership donors on Oct. 7. “The essence of this statement is what makes our school so special.”



Jack Rogers, pictured here with wife Nancy, recognized the support of the community at the Oct. 7 event. “I see former parents and graduates who have a passion for athletics, which has always been a hallmark of the Penn Charter experience. ... I see graduates that supported this campaign because of faculty who they credit for their success beyond PC.”



“With the completion of the Lower School, the Academic Village will come to life, said Christine Angelakis, who co-chairs the **How Far?** capital campaign along with Bill MacDonald OPC ’62. “This allows every student, teacher ... and friend to connect and interact by sharing spaces and crossing paths in an exciting, nurturing and safe environment.”

If you would like to learn more about supporting Penn Charter’s future, contact the Development Office at 215-844-3460 or [nmartz@penncharter.com](mailto:nmartz@penncharter.com). Visit [penncharter.com/celebrate](http://penncharter.com/celebrate) to relive the celebration.



# Indigenous Studies at Penn Charter: A Living Present and Complex Past

At Penn Charter, few things inspire change faster than students articulating a pressing need. When a group of teachers developed a VITAL summer grant project examining how Penn Charter tells the stories of indigenous peoples, two current students decided to spend two weeks of their summer in collaborative work: reading, traveling, discussing and creating curriculum to support indigenous studies at Penn Charter.

“I’ve been interested in indigenous history for the past couple of years as I’ve begun to see more information about indigenous people on social media and in the news,” senior Georgia O’Gallagher

explained. “I’ve especially been interested in environmentalism and how indigenous activists are frequently the ones at the forefront of the fight against the climate crisis.

“This year in American Studies I had an in-depth education about indigenous history in school, and I wanted others at Penn Charter to have the opportunity to learn what I learned and, hopefully, even more.”

Georgia’s summer work included “auditioning” two possible books for the Upper School English curriculum: a speculative novel imagining a continent that had never been colonized, and a memoir chronicling missing and murdered indigenous women. She also examined the entire division’s current course offerings to see where indigenous studies might naturally fit.

Maisie Optenberg, a sophomore, worked with Middle School teacher Jim Fiorile to examine how the seventh-grade trip might work more organically to support connections with local Lenape groups. In her conversations with Adam Waterbear Depaul of the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania and her subsequent visit to the Penn Museum, Maisie learned that Lenape communities had been forced by the U.S. government to relocate to Oklahoma, Wisconsin and Ontario. Current members of the Lenape diaspora cite a desire to reconnect with the Lenapehoking, or homeland, from which they were forcibly removed — and with student interest inspiring decision-making, Penn Charter has a unique ability to support these connections.



The VITAL team at Bartram Gardens, where a recent excavation was conducted to discover artifacts of Native residency, and where John Bartram attempted to gather botanical knowledge from the Lenape.



In November, Maisie created an advisory lesson to introduce the entire Upper School student body to Pennsylvania's Carlisle Indian Industrial School, one of many institutions that severed cultural ties between children and their tribes, initiating decades of generational trauma. Carlisle served as a model for other North American schools that would continue to operate into the 1960s with the support of state and federal governments. With Maisie's advisory lesson as a springboard, teachers could then create connections or add to the conversation in classroom contexts.

Penn Charter teachers are not new to indigenous studies. The third grade team — Jill Einbender, Joel Eckel and VITAL participant Teodora Nedialkova — have centered Lenape folkways and culture for over 20 years. VITAL participant Monica Freely, along with the entire kindergarten team, has been sharing Lenape stories and growing Kingessing beans, a Native crop from which kindergarteners are now saving seeds to regrow in the spring of 2023. The VITAL cohort worked alongside Adam Depaul to create meaningful and respectful pedagogical design, beginning with centering indigenous people to tell their own stories.

In Penn Charter's current curriculum, students entering at different points in the pre-K through 12 span are sometimes left curious about essential concepts, vocabulary and history; the curricular "lily pads" of third grade, seventh grade, Quakerism, and elective Upper School courses bypass portions of the student body. One of the goals of the VITAL cohort, supported by the Center for Public Purpose, is to empower faculty as they expand indigenous literacy, including the Lenape people's complex relationship with the Penn family.

And again, students have been at the forefront of this work: In 2020, then-eighth graders Arielle Willis and Sarah Price, with the support of teacher Shelby Tucker, researched and delivered a nuanced historical text on the history of the Lenape, including the Penn family's land dealings: "In the end, counter to Quaker beliefs, they took more land than what was originally agreed upon in the treaty."



VITAL participants, along with Adam Waterbear Depaul, wrestled with the problematic narratives around Teedyuscung Statue in Wissahickon Valley Park: The stoic figure is intended to represent the Lenape but is actually wearing Plains tribal dress.

Their work, and the later additions of Amani Rivers and Chandler Turner (both OPC 2022), formalized the school's current land acknowledgment practices.

At the core of indigenous studies work is justice, equity and inclusion. Just as the school has examined William Penn's identity as a slaveholder, the community is also exploring the larger effect of displacement of Native peoples due to European "settlement." Some Penn Charter faculty and families have shared their own stories of contemporary Native life. But in the absence of a large number of indigenous community members, the institutional tendency is often to "disappear" Native peoples and stories, beyond intermittent historical and cultural units. The VITAL group's work lifts up cross-disciplinary, collaborative, project-based learning, in alignment with the dynamic Portrait of a Penn Charter Learner. With students at the forefront of these conversations, Penn Charter is well poised to lift up Native peoples and stories not as "past," "elsewhere" or "gone," but as both present and deeply connected with our own stories. **PC**

— Lisa Turner

## Indigeneity VITAL Grant Participants

**Georgia O'Gallagher, Maisie Optenberg**  
Upper School Students

**Doug Uhlmann**  
Libraries

**Monica Freely, Teodora Nedialkova**  
Lower School

**Jim Fiorile**  
Middle School

**Lisa Turner, Michael LoStracco**  
Upper School

**Alyson Goodner**  
Center for Public Purpose

**Ruth Aichenbaum**  
Teaching & Learning Center

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/5n6cyaj9> for more on the Indigeneity VITAL project.



STRATEGIC VISION  
**GOAL 2**

PROGRAM



# EARL *the* VAMPIRE





The cast and crew of *Earl the Vampire* sank their teeth into the timely play about Hampton, a vampire tired of being invisible, as he embarks on a media tour and awareness campaign to establish vampires as a recognized minority group. The show, a comedic farce, contains a strong element of social justice in its allegory of marginalized groups seeking rights and acceptance in modern American society.

Ari Baker, fresh off her directorial turn in the Upper School musical *Footloose* last spring, directed *Earl the Vampire*, supported by performing arts faculty and students on the production team. “We had more student designers on the show than ever before,” Baker said, supporting program design, lighting and sound. “The entire stage crew was student-run and student-led. They built, with Michael Roche, a blank set and decorated it themselves, including fun ‘Easter eggs’ to make it look like a home.”

For Baker, what stood out – in addition to the bright yellow walls of the vampires’ living room – was that there was no line between cast, crew and designers. “They were all hanging out together as one family,” she said. “There was a level of community in this show that I haven’t seen in a long time. I already miss rehearsals with them.” [PC](#)

 See more photos at [flickr.com/photos/penncharter/albums](https://www.flickr.com/photos/penncharter/albums).

Photography by Ray Bailey OPC '09





# Strength and Conditioning Program **SETS A HIGH BAR**

by Ed Morrone OPC '04

Even on a weekday morning in mid-August — while the majority of students and teachers are still clinging to summer vacations — there is plenty of activity coming from inside the Blaine Center, Penn Charter’s fitness room located within the Graham Athletics & Wellness Center. Many of the student-athletes on hand are football players preparing for the upcoming season, but others trickle in and out.

John Estok, Penn Charter’s head strength and conditioning coach, is in his 10th year as the architect of this constantly-evolving program. Estok moves quickly around the Blaine, instructing and encouraging student-athletes along their workouts. After they depart, chances are Estok will remain, striving for ways to improve the program he has built over the last decade.

“When I was coming up in college athletics, I knew that my role at the end of the day was to serve and help students,” Estok said from his office on the second floor of the Graham. “Every day I wake up I know I can come here and impact students who will become people who live lives that make a difference.”

The fact that he’s here at all still slightly surprises Estok, who expected his future to lie in college athletics, going back to his undergraduate days at the University of Pittsburgh, where he was able to work with all of the athletic programs on campus. Those early days also included stops at the University of Maryland and Villanova.

Working with collegiate athletes was great, but Estok felt limited in the overall scope of his impact. By this time in their development, college players were already advanced and specialized enough in their training to know exactly what they needed and wanted to do.

“I realized that athletic performance wasn’t the only thing I was looking for when it came to strength and conditioning,” he said. “There’s the physical wellness perspective, but also the ability to teach soft skills and be a resource mentor and check in with these students. I’m big on the growth of personal development outside of lifting weights, running and conditioning.”

Between 310 and 325 student athletes engage in the strength and conditioning program each season. “That’s a lot of time working with these kids and being able to impact them in different ways,” Estok said.

Estok has bounced around campus since January 2013, when he first came on board, training athletes in older, smaller weight rooms in Dooney Field

House or the original Blaine Center in the old GAC. Now that the centrally located Graham Athletics & Wellness Center is open, Estok's program has grown exponentially.

In 2021, he was joined by Mallory Benard, a full-time associate head strength and conditioning coach, and in September PC hired Michael Paesani, another assistant strength and conditioning coach. The school also employs three athletic trainers, yet another resource in educating students on the importance of wellness, conditioning, nutrition and the often-overlooked area of recovery.

"Having a second and third coach allows us to open up different hours, to have more weekend and morning availability," Estok said. "If we need to take three teams into the Blaine Center, this allows us to be more flexible in how to manipulate schedules, take teams in there or get out to practices. We can be a true resource for coaches."



Mal Benard, associate head strength and conditioning coach, worked at the University of Central Florida, Penn State, the University of Maine and others prior to joining PC. A longtime softball player, Benard was an assistant varsity softball coach for the Quakers last spring.

The growth of Estok's team has added more eyes and experience, which allows the strength and conditioning staff to provide more specialized and individualized care to student athletes in the Blaine or at practices, as well as to move forward with technological initiatives. A prime example is the reimplementing of Catapult technology, which is used to monitor the performance of athletes and teams at all levels and gives Estok's team better insight into managing player training loads, recovery and performance throughout the seasons. It's easy to monitor athletes inside the Blaine, but Catapult allows Estok and his team to review performance data from practices, too, so they can keep track of more athletes simultaneously.

Benard, like Estok, worked in college athletics before arriving at PC. She, too, discovered that her impact could be more profound at the high school level, whether it was as a coach or a physical education teacher.

"My first year at PC gave me so many opportunities to grow in different areas," Benard said. "It has been a great experience in finding ways to connect strength and conditioning to our PE and wellness curriculum. It will allow us to be more present during practices and games, which



Michael Paesani (right) joined PC this fall, allowing more options for workouts to open. Estok, head strength and conditioning coach, is also the chair of the Physical Education department.

opens up more opportunities to expand our program from a speed, agility and conditioning standpoint."

While working in college athletics, Benard noticed how physically unprepared incoming freshmen were. "High school strength and conditioning is so important for this age group," she said. "It truly gives them an upper hand not just throughout their high school career but also if they decide to go play in college."

Almost all PC students play at least one sport, but only about 25 percent go on to play in college, meaning, Estok said, that his program is not only for "elite athletes" on campus. "There are varying abilities and commitment levels, sure. Our job is to figure out what it is that each one of these students needs. What kind of coaching? What kind of push? We are not just thinking about them becoming college athletes but well-rounded human beings when they go off into the world."

Estok's program is setting a high bar on what strength and conditioning can look like at this level. "What we have here is one of the best facilities on the East Coast — on par with college and professional facilities," he said. "We have the staffing that makes our jobs easier and allows us to dive in and do things that other schools can't."

"The great work being done by the strength and conditioning team is the foundation for our current and future athletic success at Penn Charter," said Michael Brooks, PC's director of athletics. "The knowledge and expertise they possess is not only setting up our students for this success during their time at PC, but it is also accelerating them to inevitable future success at the collegiate level. With the experience of our team, coupled with our incredible resources of facilities and technology, we are in a position to provide a trendsetting program to all of our students."

Estok wants faculty, staff and alumni to get involved too, and there's something for everybody inside the Graham, whether it's yoga classes, Peloton bikes or the 10-lane rock climbing wall. "I'm always thinking about the next step, how can we do better?" he said. "To be honest, if we got to a point where we weren't evolving or growing, then it wouldn't be fun anymore." PC

# 136TH PC/GA DAY



Penn Charter athletes left it all on the fields, courts, courses and pool to end the 136th PC/GA Day in a tie with Germantown Academy, 5-5. In case of a tie, the school that won the previous PC/GA Day retains the Competition Cup, so the trophy stays with PC.

In addition to the lively competitions and the support of many fans in the stands, the day also marked the final PC/GA Day for Darryl J. Ford as head of school. Ford will leave PC and move on to “a third act” of his career at the end of the school year. Accompanied by his wife, Gail Sullivan, MD, and their son Jameson OPC '20, Ford was honored by GA's Head of School Rich Schellhas at halftime of the football game. Schellhas gifted him a framed artistic rendering of the Competition Cup bordered by blueprints of both PC's and GA's famed bell towers.

 View more photos at [flickr.com/penncharter/sets](https://www.flickr.com/penncharter/sets).



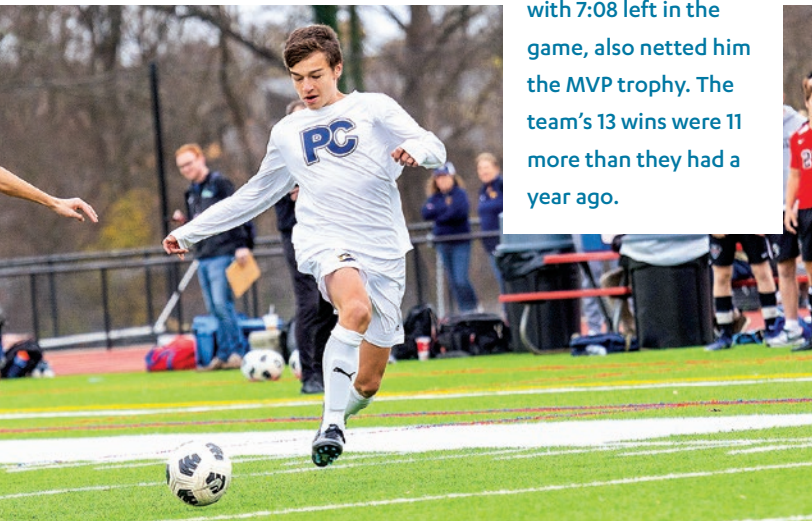
**FOOTBALL**

After a long day of thrilling competition, it was only fitting that PC/GA's final event would come down to the final minute. With just 40 seconds remaining, the Quakers scored to bring a tie score within reach, but PC's extra point attempt was blocked. In the end, the Patriots won 28-27. PC still leads the football series with 87 wins, 38 losses, and 11 ties since 1887.



**BOYS SOCCER**

Senior Owen Black scored the game's only goal, securing the team's first PC/GA Day win since his freshman year. His tally, scored with 7:08 left in the game, also netted him the MVP trophy. The team's 13 wins were 11 more than they had a year ago.



**GIRLS SOCCER**

After entering the second half with a 1-0 lead, PC faced two GA goals within the first 10 minutes to be down 2-1. The Quakers climbed back to take a 3-2 lead on goals from sophomore Jul Toomey and junior Olivia Linus before ultimately falling 4-3.



**GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY**

Sophomore Alli DeLisi took first in girls cross country, and the MVP Award, with a time of 19:27, more than two minutes ahead of the pack. The team won the day, 22-36, to finish the season second in both the Inter-Ac and PAISAA championship, a finish that also included a win in the Paul Short Invitational for the first time in school history. Alli DeLisi also took first at PAISAA, and Coach Candace Lee was named PAISAA Coach of the Year.

# 136TH PC/GA DAY



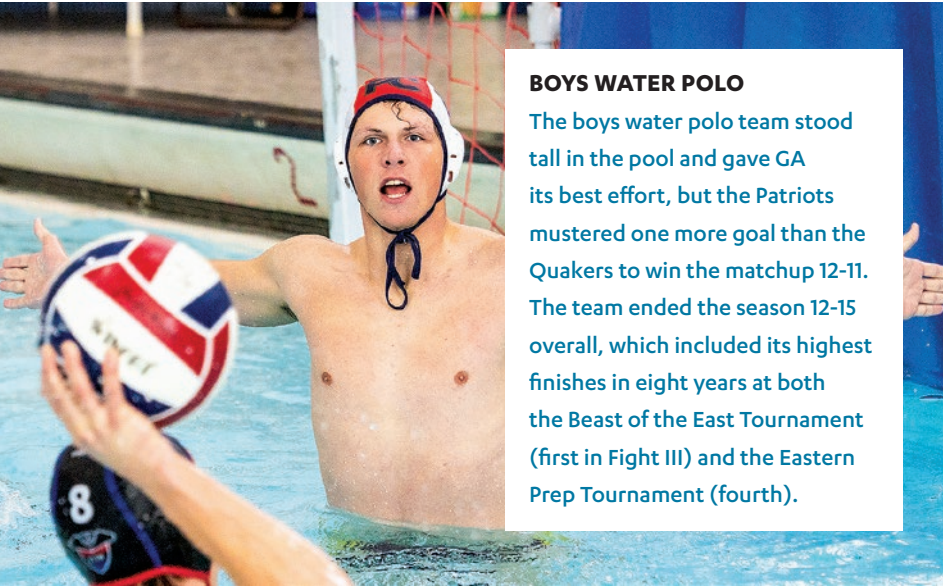
## BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

Sophomore Nate Johnson earned MVP honors after placing first overall with a time of 17:58. The team won 21-34 and closed out the year second in the Inter-Ac and third in PAISAA.



## GIRLS WATER POLO

Merrill Gadsden's four goals and two assists earned her MVP honors and helped propel the girls water polo team to a 12-2 win. The team completed their season at 14-4, a record that included two five-game winning streaks and a win in Easterns, where Lindsay Gadsden was named tournament MVP.



## BOYS WATER POLO

The boys water polo team stood tall in the pool and gave GA its best effort, but the Patriots mustered one more goal than the Quakers to win the matchup 12-11. The team ended the season 12-15 overall, which included its highest finishes in eight years at both the Beast of the East Tournament (first in Fight III) and the Eastern Prep Tournament (fourth).

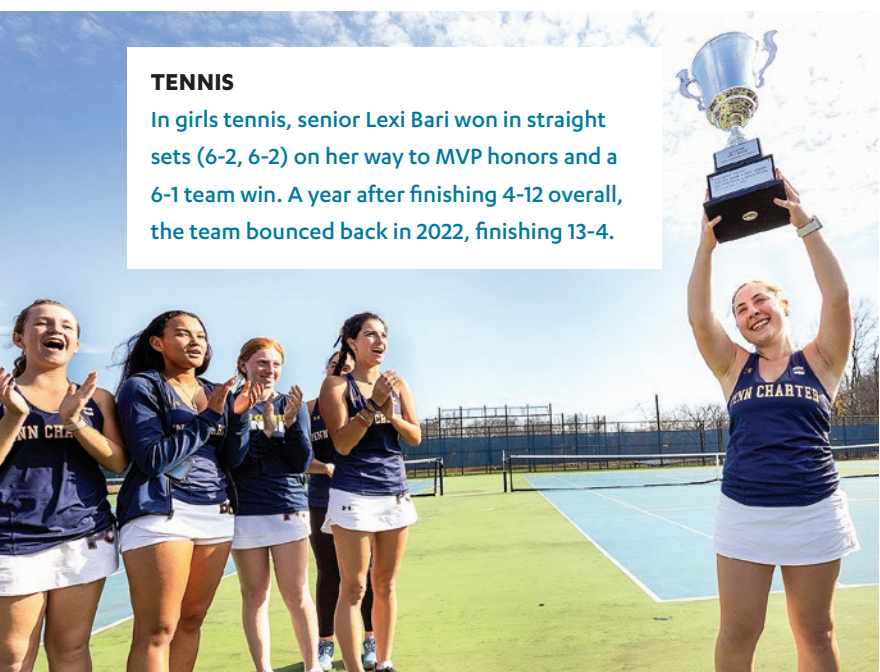


## FIELD HOCKEY

Field hockey lost a tough one, 3-2, in a game that was tied 1-1 at halftime. GA pulled ahead 3-1 in the fourth, but the Quakers showed their resilience to pull within one goal late in the game.

## TENNIS

In girls tennis, senior Lexi Bari won in straight sets (6-2, 6-2) on her way to MVP honors and a 6-1 team win. A year after finishing 4-12 overall, the team bounced back in 2022, finishing 13-4.



## GOLF

Earlier in the month, on Nov. 2, the golf team teed off the festivities at Bluestone Country Club in Blue Bell. While it was a beautiful day on the greens, and the team gave it their all, they fell to GA, 1-7.





# Athletics Achievements

Each year, about 25 percent of Penn Charter students are recruited to continue their athletic careers at a collection of exceptional colleges and universities.



During the spring of the 2021-22 school year, coaches, families and PC athletics staff gathered to recognize these 16 dedicated and committed Class of 2022 student athletes. They are:

**Sitting (L-R):** Emily Albert (Franklin & Marshall College, swimming), Seth Spector (Bucknell University, swimming), Lane Murray (Dartmouth College, swimming), David Rosania (Franklin & Marshall College, football), Madison Brooks (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, softball), Kelsey Maley (College of Wooster, soccer), Julia Dolce (Tufts University, track and field).

**Standing:** Matt Callahan (Ursinus College, lacrosse), Lucianna Boggi (Chestnut Hill College, softball), Kayla Bass (Bryn Mawr College, swimming), Olivia Montini (Swarthmore College, cross country and track & field), Jason Stearn (Rutgers University — Camden, soccer), Oliver Leedale-Brown (Wagner College, lacrosse), Kayla Bradby (Lynn University, soccer), Lauren Anderson (Haverford College, soccer).

**Not pictured:** Cassidy Scott (Goucher College, soccer).



Similarly, in November 2022, family, friends and coaches gathered to celebrate student athletes' accomplishments in the classroom and the pool, courts and their respective sports. In the Graham, some students signed national letters of intent while others formalized their commitment to play their sport in college.

**Standing:** Bella Toomey (Fairleigh Dickinson University, basketball), Kayla Joyce (Davidson University, lacrosse), Alex Glomb (University of Pennsylvania, lacrosse), Bea Buckley (Drexel University, lacrosse), Gracie Shoup (Ohio State University, lacrosse), George Glomb (Villanova University, lacrosse), Ashlee Bucksar (Liberty University, field hockey), Aleah Snead (St. Joseph's University, basketball), Mark Butler (Lafayette College, basketball)

**Sitting:** Sydney DelBello (Johns Hopkins University, field hockey), Dani Shipon (Washington University in St. Louis, track), Ella Bretschneider (University of Connecticut, crew), Lindsay Gadsden (Williams College, crew), Merrill Gadsden (Columbia University, crew), Owen Black (University of Delaware, lacrosse), Nick Walter (Air Force, lacrosse), Ramsey Killinger (Naval Academy, squash), Alex Zoldan (Virginia Tech, swimming), James Glomb (University of Pennsylvania, crew).



## Get into the SportsZone

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Visit [penncharter.com/sportszone](http://penncharter.com/sportszone) for new reporting about twice a week.

Don't miss the weekly posts, game summaries, Inter-Ac and PAISAA excitement, and season recaps from Penn Charter athletics! Keep up with all the sports action with SportsZone, written by Ed Morrone OPC '04.

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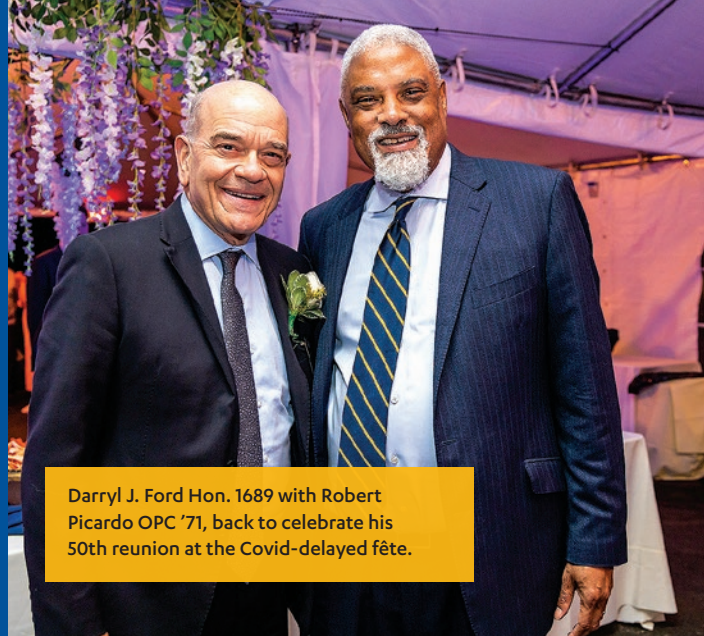
# OPC WEEKEND 2022

The 129th OPC Weekend was a long-awaited celebration. After the Covid pandemic led to the cancellation of the event in 2020 and then, in 2021, to honoring PC's award winners virtually in order to protect the community, the opportunity to be together at Old Penn Charter was too good to miss.

The Meeting Room benches were filled with friends there to celebrate each other and Penn Charter. The weekend included dedications in the Graham, the OPCs of Color Networking Brunch and individual reunions for classes ending in 2s and 7s.

President of the Alumni Society Matt Kessler OPC '99 spoke to the crowd gathered in the Meeting Room, announcing the renaming of the Alumni Award to honor the life and legacy of David P. Montgomery OPC '64. Kessler honored Montgomery's accomplishments.

"David Montgomery believed the virtue of service was in the act of doing it, and each day David could be found serving others," Kessler said. "Time and again, when Penn Charter came calling, David always answered, 'Yes.' His impact on our school over the past 25 years is truly immeasurable."



Darryl J. Ford Hon. 1689 with Robert Picardo OPC '71, back to celebrate his 50th reunion at the Covid-delayed fête.



Class of 1972 dedicated the George Hauptfuhrer OPC '44 scoreboard in the Graham. Pictured: Tim Knetter, Scott Sinclair, Larry Gubb, Ted Smith, Bruce Balderston, Jim Barker, Barnes Hauptfuhrer, Jon Lamm, David Gilkeson, John Burkhart.



John Lemonick OPC '79, Mark Bernstein OPC '79, David Gilkeson OPC '72 and John Burkhart OPC '72 joined the celebration in the alumni tent.



Etienne Dumas, OPC '13, Frances Bernstein OPC '12, Bianca Santini-Dumas OPC '10 and Jordan Studevan OPC '09 caught up on Friday night.

## DAVID P. MONTGOMERY OPC '64 Alumni Award of Merit

### CHARLIE KAESSHAEFER OPC '71

*The Alumni Award of Merit is given “to a graduate of the William Penn Charter School whose character and outstanding achievement have reflected lasting credit upon this old school.”*



Charlie Kaesshaefer OPC '71 with Debbie Kaesshaefer Hon. 1689.

Charlie Kaesshaefer OPC '71 credits his arrival at Penn Charter to his father, who chose the school over Valley Forge Military Academy because he believed “the Quakers will straighten him out.” And by Charlie’s own admission, his behavior in elementary school “did need straightening out,” though he sometimes offered his sister quarters not to tell. “By junior high school it was clear that I needed a change in educational approaches,” he said. “So, it was off to Penn Charter.”

In his speech accepting the David P. Montgomery OPC '64 Alumni Award of Merit, Kaesshaefer recalled his Penn Charter teachers and experiences, beginning with summer school prior to ninth grade, where he told Mr. Schug he'd been reading Hardy Boys over the summer. “Schuggie looked mortified and gave me the cut signal and after class spoke to me and said, ‘Mr. Kaesshaefer, you can't say you read Hardy Boys. You're at Penn Charter now. We'll find other books for you to read.’

“But by 11th grade things began to change. I made honors that year and in my senior year as well. I felt more comfortable with my classmates and the teachers, and they worked with me and gave me extra support.”



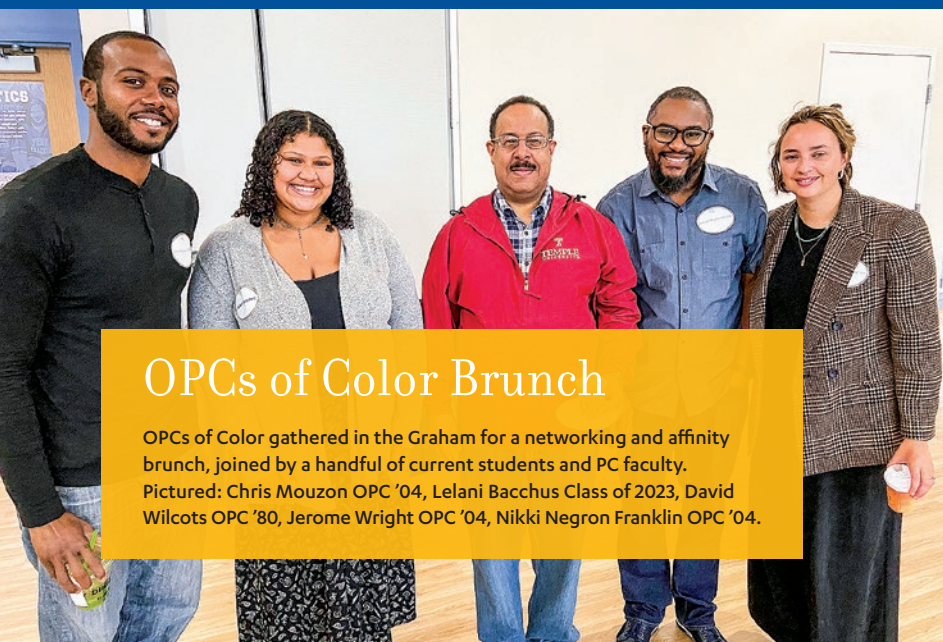
Charlie Kaesshaefer OPC '71 may believe he needed “straightening out,” but he arrived at Penn Charter with character in spades. He dedicated his life to PC and made a lasting mark with the work he did and the family that joined him at the school, Debbie Kaesshaefer Hon. 1689 and his three children, Laura OPC '04, Megan OPC '04 (not pictured) and Scott OPC '08, with wife Erin.

John Schug, as well as Whit Carpenter, Joe Perrott, Bert Linton, Ralph West, Peter Nagafuchi and Mme. Anita Riviere all supported and encouraged Kaesshaefer through high school with extra help, patience, regular check-ins and gentle ribbing.

“But it was Joe Perrott who planted the seed that would lead me to teach. He pulled me aside one day and said he had noticed I was spending some time in the Lower School. ‘You know, he said, Lee Jackson is starting a summer camp, and I think you should talk to him about working there. If you like it, you might want to think about being a teacher.’”

As so many know because they've worked with him at Penn Charter Summer Camps, taught with him in Lower School, or been taught by him, Kaesshaefer took the summer camp job recommended by Perrott.

“Working at camp inspired me to help in the Lower School for my senior project,” Kaesshaefer said, “which led to pursuing elementary education at Penn State. The 40+ years of teaching, coaching and camp directing that followed have been joyful and magical.” PC



## OPCs of Color Brunch

OPCs of Color gathered in the Graham for a networking and affinity brunch, joined by a handful of current students and PC faculty. Pictured: Chris Mouzon OPC '04, Lelani Bacchus Class of 2023, David Wilcots OPC '80, Jerome Wright OPC '04, Nikki Negron Franklin OPC '04.



Vs up for Villanova! Norman Williams OPC '15, Bianca Santini-Dumas OPC '10, Noah Brooks OPC '22, Oscar Dumas III P '10, '13, Darryl J. Ford Hon. 1689, Etienne Dumas OPC '13.

## Honorary 1689

*“Given to a member of the Penn Charter community who has shown extraordinary commitment to the school by demonstrating pride and excellence in the performance of their duties and by consistently providing encouragement and support to the student body.”*

### LIZ FLEMMING

Liz Flemming is a teacher, coach, advisor and trailblazer so iconic that she had a TV character (on ABC’s *The Goldbergs* and *Schooled*) based on her work at Penn Charter.

“Like her signature assignment, *My Life as a Sine Curve*, Liz’s career has oscillated — moved up and down and from side to side like a sine curve and permeated almost every aspect of Penn Charter,” said Darryl J. Ford Hon. 1689 as he conferred her Honorary 1689 diploma.



Anne Flemming OPC '20 handed her mother, Liz Flemming, the Honorary 1689 diploma at the Friday ceremony on OPC Weekend.

The “real Liz Flemming” is skillfully adept at helping math students find success through the Math Center as well as successfully teaching the strongest math students.

Flemming, a particular champion of girls athletics, has coached basketball and track throughout her career. “For all of her work in and commitment to athletics, the Women’s Legacy Fund honored Liz and her companion teacher-coaches Debbie White, Beth Glascott and Cheryl Irving (all Hon. 1689) for the seminal role they played in starting and promoting girls athletics at Penn Charter,” Ford said.

“While accomplishing all of the above and more, Liz’s apex of her *Life as a Sine Curve* was the birth of her daughter, Anne Flemming,” Ford remarked. “With the conferring of the Honorary 1689 Diploma to Liz Flemming, she and her daughter Anne OPC '20 now both will share the distinction of being alumnae of this old school.”

### DAVID WRIGHT

It’s hard to capture in words the vibrancy David Wright has brought to Penn Charter each day since 1986, but Bill Quinn Hon. 1689, former director of facilities, was up to the task to honor his former colleague, a recognizable campus figure whether he’s driving a golf cart, setting up for events, shoveling snow or pitching in where needed. Having ridden his bike to campus from Roxborough through any kind of weather, “Dave is always there, willing to help, with a smile,” Quinn said.

“One of the highlights for me,” continued Quinn, “and probably many in this room, is to watch Dave direct traffic in the back parking lot in the morning or afternoon. He keeps the flow of traffic moving safely as he entertains students and parents as they enter or leave the campus — some of the time in costume at Halloween or a Santa hat at Christmas time. Dave always brings a fun-loving attitude to his job no matter the occasion.

“Stay at Penn Charter for as long as you can,” said Quinn, “because I believe it is your happy place.”



Many family members of David Wright Hon. 1689 gathered to celebrate the honor and his joyful dedication to Penn Charter.

## John F. Gummere Distinguished Teacher Award

### DEBBIE WHITE

On Friday at the Alumni Awards ceremony, Darryl J. Ford Hon. 1689 recognized Debbie White's commitment to students with the John F. Gummere Distinguished Teacher Award. On Saturday, more alumni gathered to celebrate her commitment to athletics, particularly girls athletics, with the naming of the Debbie White Girls Locker Room in the Graham.

“Debbie came to Penn Charter in 1988, and in her 34 years of service, she has positively affected students throughout the entire school,” Ford said. “Having served as the second athletic director of girls athletics, from 1989 to 2006, Debbie played a seminal role in building a program of excellence for female student athletes.”

Last year White received the Michael F. Mayock Distinguished Teacher-Coach Award, which is given to an individual who possesses — and imparts to their student-athletes — the highest level of integrity, professionalism and concern for the whole education of the student-athlete.

“Perhaps, the greatest accolades Debbie has received over the years come from her student athletes themselves,” said Ford, who then read a letter sent to White in 1999 by then-seniors Jennifer Albright, Katherine Park, Stephanie Straup, Latrisha Chattin, Lizzie Roller, Meghan Walters, Kate Ginty, Sarah Shacklett and Maggy White.

An excerpt reads:

*As a coach, you drive us further and have taught us never to back down from a challenge. ... While there is no doubt in the ability you have to both play and coach the game of lacrosse, we also realize that what you are teaching us are valuable skills for the rest of our lives. ... Listening to your speeches, playing on your field, and striving to meet the standards you set has shaped who we are already. ... Our admiration and gratitude towards you will never dwindle.*

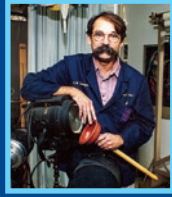


Alumni gathered to celebrate Debbie White following a gift from the Alumni Society to dedicate and name the girls locker room in the new Graham Athletics & Wellness Center in her honor.

## HOW HAS THE ANNUAL FUND STRENGTHENED PC OVER TIME?



**1960s**  
Books for Bert Linton's classes



**1970s**  
Materials for Randy Granger's art classes



**1980s**  
Costumes and scripts for production of Dracula



**1990s**  
Newsprint for *The Mirror*



**2000s**  
DJs and decorations for Prom



**2022**  
Equipment for seven championship teams.

1950 • 1960s • 1970s • 1980s • 1990s • 2000s • 2022

Since 1689, countless people have carried on the tradition of care for Penn Charter. Annual Fund gifts light the way for continued excellence in teaching and learning.

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William Penn Charter School

# Then & Now



## 1938


Middle School students boarded a double-decker bus to visit Fels Planetarium at the Franklin Institute in downtown Philadelphia. The museum had moved into its current home on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway just four years earlier, in 1934.



## 2022

Eighth grade students traveled to Washington, D.C. for two days, experiencing the Capitol, the Smithsonian museums, dinner at the Kennedy Center, a night tour of the monuments, and Meeting for Worship at Sidwell Friends School.

# Class Notes

 Penn Charter magazine wants to hear from you, and your classmates do, too! Submit your news and photos at [penncharter.com/classnote](http://penncharter.com/classnote). Digital photos should be 300 dpi JPEGs.

## Hon. 1689

**Randy W. Granger** reports that he received “a most-special gift in August at the Tannery Pond Center in the Adirondacks by exhibiting my recent watercolor work, side-by-side with eight of my extraordinary former Summit High School art students. Each of those gifted individuals went on to achieve, sustain and retire from impactful, professional careers in art and design. I first taught and learned from them in 1972. Several I have not seen for nearly 50 years; most I have not seen for over 30 years. So I was especially touched and totally surprised the night of the exhibition opening reception when I learned that the show was created, dedicated and titled in my honor, ‘The Arc of Art Education: 50 Years Later.’”



Pictured: **Randy Granger** and **Irene McHenry** (left) led the public workshop “Wearable Sculpture for the Head” in North Creek, N.Y., a day before the gallery exhibition opened.

**Dana Toedtman** is continuing to support children, teachers and families. “I am currently enjoying the work of the board of trustees at St. James Middle School in Philadelphia and the board of directors of the National Association of Episcopal Schools. It is gratifying to keep using what I gleaned from years at Penn Charter.”

## 1934

**Julian Alexander Jr.** has been enjoying regular video chats on his iPad with his grandson in Japan and was recently able to be a part of his grandson's wedding via Zoom.

## 1950

**Whitman P. Cross II** continues his 25-year run as a personal trainer, now at a daytime facility for folks 50 and up in Charlottesville, Va. “May you all continue to think positively and keep planning for your long future!”

## 1952

**Arthur U. Ayres Jr.** writes, “My wife, Ann, and I enjoyed a recent visit from our daughter, Susan, and her partner, Charlie, who live in Sun Valley, Idaho. Jennifer, our younger daughter, is local and has just found a charming cottage to rent in the foothills above Santa Barbara. Ann is involved with a charitable group called the Women’s Fund of Santa Barbara, serves as the resident council zone representative for our retirement community, and is also responsible for displaying resident art on the dining room wall. (I get to hammer the nails.) I am the facilitator for a science discussion group that meets monthly, and Ann and I both play pickleball three times a week.”

**Eugene M. Cheston Jr.** reports that “after 25 years of residency in Sun Valley, Idaho, my wife Elsie’s health issues forced us to leave. We’ve consolidated to the Bay Area of San Francisco. Our six children

are spread all over the U.S., but one, with family, lives in our community. We are so senior at this point that we have experienced a full flip of leadership roles: the children are the leaders and are way more knowledgeable about the 2022 world than we are. We have had 58 years of a glorious marriage, which makes our memory lane rich—way beyond Croesus.”

**George (Skip) C. Corson Jr.** and Penny Brodie enjoyed their annual pilgrimage to Camden, Maine, and New Hampshire in August. Each year Penny returns, with Skip, to her high school reunion. They stayed at a lake near Camden for a week and, afterwards, journeyed to New Hampshire, near Moultonborough, to Skip’s family’s vacation home on Lake Winnepesaukee. On Sept. 9, the Class of ’52 welcomed Skip to the age of 87, the latest in the current class to reach that milestone. Skip continues his service to Penn Charter as a trustee emeritus, and in September his activity included many days of supporting the selection process for a new head of school.

**Frank F. Embick Jr.** writes, “Anna and I managed to gather our daughters Tricia and Karen and grandsons Hudson and Asher at a Galveston Beach Resort for a few days of R&R. Anna and I watch Hudson via livestream playing freshman football for his high school in Austin every Thursday afternoon—unremarkable, except that his high school has three freshman teams, all with full schedules, and all streaming. Only in Texas! Finally, I’d like to shout out to the parents of our class who had the wisdom and foresight to enroll us in PC. God rest their souls, and God bless each and every class member, living or departed.”

## Class Notes

## CLASS OF 1952 70TH REUNION



The Class of 1952 enjoyed a 70th reunion lunch at the home of Head of School Darryl J. Ford Hon. 1689 and Gail Sullivan Ford. Attending were Carol and **John H. Wagner III**, who made the long trip from Florida, **William (Wally) A. Loeb**, who has visited PC several times since graduation but never for a class reunion, **George (Skip) C. Corson Jr.** and Penny Brodie, Jean and **David M. Jordan**, Carol and **William J. McGuckin**, Joan and **Frederick J. Yannessa**, Carol and **Joseph B. Van Sciver III**, Ellen Crompton, Molly Simon and **F. Bruce Waechter**. After lunch, they connected with three additional classmates through Zoom: class clerk **Colson H. Hillier Jr.** in Florida, **Frank F. Embick Jr.** in Texas and **George L. Deming** in Wyoming.

**Colson H. Hillier Jr.** reports, “Pat and I are continuing to love our island paradise of 22 years on Amelia Island, Fla. We volunteer with many local nonprofits, Pat enjoys her weekly Canasta games and I play Petanque once or twice a week, and we’ve begun traveling again to see our sons and grandchildren in New Jersey and Rhode Island. Our youngest New Jersey grandson is a freshman at Tufts and aspires to play football, and his older brother is beginning his junior year at the University of Richmond with a semester in Prague. We did take a recent 10-day cruise, mostly on the Baltic Sea from Copenhagen to Stockholm, which we thoroughly enjoyed but which tested our senior bodies!”

**William J. McGuckin** and his wife, Carol, enjoyed their annual summer vacation in Rangeley, Maine, and at various times welcomed family, including children and grandchildren. Their grandson Conor has caught the Maine “bug” and is attending Bates College in Lewiston, Maine, this fall.

**Michael P. Ritter** reports that he is “not really doing music any more. Almost all the gigs shut down over Covid; a few have begun again, but they require long drives, which I don’t do any more. My wife, Margo, just came back from vacation in Massachusetts. I stayed home. Yes, she still plays ping pong! After 56 years, we are still in the house in Takoma Park, Md. We enjoy occasional visits from our relatives.”

**Bruce Waechter** writes, “A highlight of the past six months was our class reunion in May. It’s hard to believe, but I have been almost eight years in a continuing care community called Spring House Estates. It was a good move for Janet (deceased since July 2021) and me. Health issues have eliminated my air travel, but visits from our (distant) three children and local grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and weekly family Zoom meetings help fill the gap. Hobbies include bugging PC classmates for news, making photo books and driving—Amish Country, the Poconos, hopefully Lehigh football games and the shore (after the summer crowds leave), or anywhere within three hours. I have fully adapted to the nonstop activities at our community.”

## 1953

**Richard L. Geyer** has been living happily in Las Vegas since 1995 with his wife, Abby. “I’m in amazing physical shape for 86 and have many fond memories of PC.”

**Donald S. Luria** reports that, despite health setbacks, he still does a mile on the treadmill daily. “After running two successful restaurants for 23 years, I’m retired, but my wife of 35 years, Donna Nordin, still travels and teaches French and southwestern cuisine. I’ve been very fortunate having four great children and four wonderful grandchildren. (I lost one to cancer just after her 18th birthday.) My oldest daughter is retired, and my other three children have successful careers here in Tucson, Ariz. Two of my granddaughters have doctorates. And I now have two great-grandchildren. When I look back at my life and accomplishments, I’m most proud of my support for the arts in Arizona. I’ve served as a board member of 28 arts and cultural organizations and have won several awards for my support of the arts. One of PC’s most important lessons is the importance of community service, and I



hope students continue to improve the lives of others through the arts and culture of their chosen communities.”

**Edward W. Veit Jr.** has been inducted into the Maryland Soccer Hall of Fame.

## 1954

**James A. Lehman Jr.** shared, “The Lehman family got together for their reunion in August with events in Conshohocken and at the Phillies game. Over 100 showed up. It was great fun!”

## 1955

**Owen B. Tabor** continues to be “forever grateful for my years at Penn Charter, the lessons learned and the experiences gained. We continue to divide time between Memphis and Charlottesville with trips to see grandchildren, some playing college sports, some out of school and with new jobs. With the help of my grandson, I have some piano music on Spotify. My grandson Sherman Tabor, who writes and records his own music, is now on Spotify as well. I will always remain grateful for my PC classmates and our wonderful years together!”

## 1956

**John D. Corbit III** writes, “I was professor of psychology at Brown University until 2010-11 and am now retired. Narragansett, R.I., and Stuart, Fla., are my favorite living spots in the USA. Not by any means the only spots. Just two spots that I found to have virtue. Thanks to PC for the excellent education that led me to Swarthmore College, then the University of Pennsylvania and a full professorship at Brown for three decades. Now I am 84+ years old, beyond university activities and accidentally stranded in Canada.”



Pictured: **Peter S. Stern, Allan Dash, John E. Sjostrom, Robert G. Schad, William N. Tanner III** and **Donald M. Kerr**

**Ronald E. Prevost** retired in 1988 from a career as an industrial engineer. “Ellie, my wife of 55 years, and I spend winters in Safety Harbor, Fla., and summers in Norway, Maine. We both recently retired from our time as NASCAR and National Hot Rod Association officials. We have two sons and two grandsons. Life is good!”

## 1958

**Lawrence S. Dietz** shared that, while in a rehab facility, he met missionary and Presbyterian minister Jim Milley, who started Bridges “to form communities in underserved areas to help people manifest the goodness and godliness in their hearts and souls. I was an editor and writer who had sporadically gone to synagogue since graduating high school. Our spiritual paths intersected because I believe all religions attempt to inspire us to be our best selves. Jim said Bridges could use a writer/editor to help with its message, and I agreed to work for him part-time. An op-ed we worked on was published by the Baltimore Sun, and the

internal communications within Bridges are now far better. I'm thinking that 80 (and then some) can be the new 40.”

## 1960

**John Churchman Jr.** writes that, after giving up all hope of having grandchildren, he now has three: ages 4, 10 months and 3 months (pictured). He and his wife celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this year.



## Class Notes

### 1961

**Richard E. Bater** still lives in Fayetteville, Pa. “I’m getting older but keeping up with my reading, watching good TV, exercising and doing work on my lathe.”

**Richard A. Redeker** had a lovely summer spending time with his granddaughter Kaitlyn and great-granddaughter Addison (pictured).



### 1962

**George F. Bauer III** lives in Ocean City, N.J., where he enjoys substitute teaching, skiing, traveling, “working” in real estate and being a dad.



**Arthur (Artie) Egendorf** goes by the pen name Artie Vippera, Hindi for “loving wisdom.” His book *Harmonize All of You with All: The Leap Ahead in Self-Development* is the culmination of a 50-year search, after the Vietnam War, to contribute to a culture of peace. “I was the author of a Congressional study in 1981 that put PTSD on the map, and in 1985 published the Christopher Award-winning *Healing from the War*, which first linked trauma healing

## CLASS OF 1962 60TH REUNION



with transformational processes. Then, in my 60s, I discovered a fusion of meditation, yoga, energy healing, breath and body work, and prayer. It is now a book distilled into 135 pages on Amazon. Finally, I’m able to honor the lineage of William Penn that I was educated into.”

**Frederick R. Glazier Jr.** shares, “Sue and I are enjoying our retirement in Beesleys Point near Ocean City, N.J. We sold our farm in Souderton, where I grew up. Industrial development finally won out and all the buildings are gone. Fortunately, the 1850 post-and-beam barn was dismantled and will be reassembled at another location. We enjoyed our 60th reunion and see Michael B. Petosa, George C. Neslie Jr., Karen Underkoffler, and Sandy Crittenden often. I keep busy with some boating and fishing and still play with my Mustangs. Life is good!”

### 1963

**Richard M. Dearnley** writes, “We had a grandson visit our house at the shore with a few friends after his high school graduation. I could not help thinking of the pre- and post-graduation fun I had in Longport, Margate, Stone Harbor, and

Avalon (including meeting my future wife on a road trip with Paul R. Kroekel at Charles Kurz’s uncle’s house). These boys appeared far ‘tamer’ than we were, at least from what I could see. I still owe William T. Fox’s parents big-time for the TLC they understandingly provided in my hour of need. Ah, the good old days! Also, Charlie Kurz and I finished in fourth and third place in our 70-99 age group for the Longport Mile on July 4.”

**Thomas B. M. Porter III** reports, “Linda and I moved to the Reno/Tahoe area in 2019 after 20 years of retirement in Hawaii. We are closer to our 14 grandchildren and three great grandkids. We continue to travel, golf, ski and participate in general debauchery. Ah, *la dolce vita!* Looking forward to seeing my classmates at the 60th in May 2023.”



## Class Notes

## 1964

**Jonathan D. Stanley** writes, “My wife, Dorothy Atchley, and I have lived for five years in Allyn, Wash., on the Kitsap Peninsula. Our older son, Thomas, lives in Fairfax, Va., with wife Huaqun Li and their two daughters, Alice (3) and Winnie (1). Our younger son, Peter, lives near us in Tacoma. Married to Liz Kaster, they have one son, Miles (6). With descendants on both coasts, it’s difficult to get everybody together, but we did just that last July in Keene Valley, N.Y. It was a special time for all. I remain in good health and was able to climb several (fairly obscure) mountains in Wyoming recently. In recent years, when Covid did not intervene, I’ve played my violin with other amateurs, in a local community orchestra and with two friends as a piano trio. I feel fortunate in many ways, not least in having been educated at Penn Charter.”

## 1965

**Harry E. Nothacker Jr.** writes, “Our son Brian was married in September. He has a home in Lafayette Hill and is a user experience manager at Vanguard. His wife is from Albania and is a product innovation manager for Cigna. I recently competed in a biathlon in Rehoboth, Del. (pictured, left). I’ve been in the race every year since it started in 1982. It consists of a half-mile ocean swim and a 3.1 mile run.”



## 1966

**J. Gregory Luckman** gave a presentation at the 2022 Ancestral Health Symposium held at UCLA in August, on child mortality and longevity in a high Alpine valley. “It was the first public introduction to a project that I have been involved with since 2012.”

**Randal J. McDowell**, who is still working in his legal practice (estate work and taxes), hosted classmates for lunch at the Huntingdon Valley Country Club in June. Attending: **Richard W. Holmes Jr., E. Joseph Matuskowitz** (via Zoom), **Donald A. Noveau, James Q. Stevens, Robert W. Ulmer, Allen F. Steere, C. Albert Wheeler** and **Stephen A. Bonnie**, PC’s director of stewardship and special projects (along with a lengthy history of teaching, coaching, admissions and quipping).

**Richard W. Holmes** is semiretired from 30+ years in marketing and business development for the architecture/engineering/construction industry. He spends an inordinate amount of time in the gym, cycling, (recently) prepping and selling two Center City rental properties, and rejuvenating his guitar-playing abilities (put in abeyance when Bob Dylan went electric). And reading everything he should have read in high school and college.

**E. Joseph Matuskowitz** retired from his veterinary medicine practice in the Pittsburgh area last October. He and wife, Mary, spend much of their time visiting their four children and seven (soon to be eight) grandchildren. He fills the rest of his time shooting sporting clays, canoeing and kayaking.

**Donald A. Noveau**, retired from the hotel design industry, lives in Maryland, where he volunteers with Habitat for Humanity, the Smithsonian and the new National Museum of the American Latino. If that’s not enough, Don’s working part-time designing kitchens at Home Depot to get him out of the house.

**James Q. Stevens, Robert W. Ulmer, Allen F. Steere** and **Richard W. Holmes** all live in or around Philadelphia. Jim, Bob and Allen are all retired from careers in the insurance industry; Jim in ocean marine and aviation insurance; Bob, underwriting for property, general liability, automobile and workers comp; and Allen, in group benefits and executive compensation. Jim spends a good portion of his time now with volunteer work: eight mission trips to Haiti, weekly work at the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, and quarterly at Cast Your Cares in Kensington. On a similar note, Allen recently completed 12 years on the board of the Ivy Hill Foundation, which assists differently abled individuals improve their lives using equine therapy. He continues to volunteer, assisting the program with fundraising aimed at helping children, young adults, adults and seniors with disabilities ranging from autism and delayed learning to physical disease.

**C. Albert Wheeler**, traveling from his home in Montana, piggybacked the class’s mini-reunion with a tour of the Gettysburg battlefields the following day, organized by Bert’s West Point friends and other Gettysburg cognoscenti. Retired from Morgan Stanley, Bert spends time with local politics, cycling and traveling around the country visiting kids and grandkids.

## 1968

**Robert H. Kellner** writes, “After the June sale of our logistics company that focused only on the petro/chemical sectors, American PetroLog LLC (Lafayette, La.), to Kenan Advantage Group (Canton, Ohio), I refocused attention and passion to my strength club (Sisu Strength Club LLC). The sole emphasis is old school, non-machine as much as possible, carrying, lifting, pulling, hoisting, pushing. Old age is not synonymous with feebleness or ineptitude. This is the Strength Club’s

## Class Notes

'market differentiation.' No soft music, no beverage bar, only sweat, effort and desire for great outcomes. My story to all is that ever increasingly, we must take charge of our bodies and health. My Strength Club is the first step to owning our health."



**Edwin S. Skinner Jr.** and the entire Skinner and Marshall clan embarked on an annual vacation to upper Michigan. "We spent a week in Glen Arbor on the Crystal River there. Had a great time in kayaks and on paddle boards. We met with longtime friends in Leland, Mich., for a nice beachfront view of Lake Michigan. We all then traveled to Mackinac Island by ferry for a two-day stay without cars and only bicycles and horses for transportation! It was a great Fourth of July in Traverse City watching the Navy Blue Angels perform over Grand Traverse Bay. Arrived home just in time for a heat wave in Ohio." Pictured: Dylan Skinner, Nathan Marshall, Lauren Skinner and Ali Marshall.



## 1969

**Edmund T. Freeborn III** shares, "My wife and I are enjoying our retirement, regularly traveling to see our three sons and daughters-in-law and six grandchildren. Life in the Poconos is good; we volunteer at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and I also volunteer at Steamtown National Historic Site. I'm serving on the East Stroudsburg Council and as treasurer. We are both active in the Elks at the local and state level. We're keeping busy."

In April, **Thomas H. Lee II, James P. Harbison, Jonathan H. Sprogell OPC '70** and Tom's wife, Mary McTernan, played in the annual Bert Linton Golf Outing at Sunnybrook Golf Club in Plymouth Meeting, Pa. The group benefited from spiritual guidance and inspiration provided by **William B. Carr Jr.**



## 1970

**Peter T. Bryden** writes, "Retired in February unexpectedly due to a corporate reorganization but am thoroughly enjoying it. We've sold our house in Texas and have moved to Melbourne, Fla., into a 55+ community where everybody dances just as poorly as I do. Despite being covered in the minutia of moving and being buried in boxes, I had the opportunity, having missed last year's reunion, to fly in for this year's alumni weekend. Had the honor of joining the Class of 1952 on a tour of the new athletic center.

Prior to arrival, I had a quick lunch with fellow OPC '70 classmates **Eric P. Wagner** and **Michael J. Robinson** at Dalessandro's."

**Russell R. Dickhart** is pleased to welcome a new granddaughter to the family: Lilian Catherine Dickhart.

**Gary P. Venuto** lives in central Florida, still working as clinical director at FCC Coleman, the largest Federal correctional complex in the United States. "Two ex-wives and five kids later, I'm enjoying my little 10-acre slice of paradise, with my youngest daughter, 15 years old."

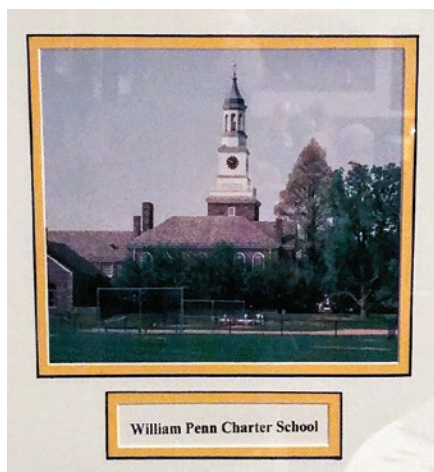
## 1971

**John B. Kitto Jr.** received the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Honorary Membership for lifetime achievement in the profession (first awarded in 1880; early recipients included Thomas Edison, Orville Wright and George Westinghouse). The award highlighted groundbreaking projects for waste-to-energy plants, including the Palm Beach Renewable Energy Center; engineering reference books, including *Steam: It's Generation and Use*; research on boiling heat transfer and two-phase flow; and leadership in the profession, including serving as an ASME senior vice president and member of the board of governors. "It has been a wonderful and exciting career as part of our great engineering enterprise, serving society to better people's lives. I was so happy that JoAnn, my wife, was able to join me at the ceremony in Philadelphia on July 12."



## 1972

**Lewis (Lee) H. Johnston** shares a mysterious PC connection: “The picture below of the PC bell tower is in a restaurant called Cranes Tavern on Hilton Head Island, where I live half the year. The original Cranes restaurant was in Germantown. This section of the restaurant is known locally as the Penn Charter corner. Another alum put the photo up, but I’m not sure who.” *Editor’s note: If you are the OPC who displayed the picture, let us know!*



**David D. Parrish Jr.** says, “I cannot believe it’s been 50 years since we graduated. I have fond memories of my time at Penn Charter. I live in beautiful San Francisco with my

wife, Angelina, and my daughter, Amanda. San Francisco has become more vibrant since the pandemic with new parks, museums, restaurants, and sports and theater venues. Please contact me at [fotaprints@gmail.com](mailto:fotaprints@gmail.com) if you’d like to get together in San Francisco. I’ve been the creative director for Fotaprints, a photographic digital design agency, for 25 years. I’m now venturing forward in a second creative career as a professional model and humorist. My plans are to return to college in the spring to obtain my master’s in fine arts.”

## CLASS OF 1972 50TH REUNION



Back row: **Michael T. A. Lawlor, Jonathan Lamm, Bruce K. Balderston, Stephen J. Hadley, Todd S. Vunderink, Edward W. Enoch, A. Howard Canfield II, Mark S. Aitken, Lawrence E. Gubb II, David R. Gilkeson, Barnes Hauptfuhrer, James M. Barker, Douglas H. Jones.** Front row: **Patrick J. Green, Robert K. Hirshland, George A. Buffum Jr., John W. Burkhart, Bruce E. Puckett, David B. Driscoll, Theodore B. Smith III, Scott Sinclair, Stefan Pulst, John M. Doelp, Jonathan D. Gomberg.**

## 1973

**Frederick H. Bartlett** (pictured, right) shares, “I was fortunate to be an assistant coach for the PC boys middle school lacrosse team last spring. It was an exciting, thoroughly enjoyable experience. Returning to the PC campus five days a week, interacting with the players, their families and PC personnel I knew—from either my days at PC or through my three children who graduated from PC—was very special and rewarding.” Head coach Christopher J. Rodgers OPC ’97 is pictured, left.



## Class Notes

**Peter S. Crosby** writes, “Rediscovering America’s heartland in my 20-foot live-in van for the last seven months has opened my eyes, warmed my heart, and filled two 10TB hard drives with photos and video. 10,000 miles, 89 campsites, three embarrassing dents, two new lithium batteries, and one hospital visit later. From Daytona Beach to Deadwood, S.D., to Promontory, Utah, I’ve met folks from different walks of life. I’ve sung ‘Amazing Grace’ with evangelicals; paddled dragon boats with teams in four cities; visited vibrant, historic and ghosted Chinatowns; and biked up Medicine Wheel Mountain, Wyo., at dawn. The openness and generosity of so many touched me profoundly. Most seem desperate for dialogue, kindness and deeper feelings of belonging. Makes me believe again in the United part of the USA.

Of all these adventures, one of the most satisfying, even spiritual, was returning to Penn Charter to share my China TV series and experiences with the bright and curious Upper Schoolers studying Mandarin. Filled me with gratitude for our parent’s sacrifices, inspiring teachers, and dear classmates who shared this privilege. I’ll definitely be back for our 50th reunion next May!”



## 1974

**Frederick W. Dohrmann III** has retired as head coach of the Widener University softball program. The winningest head coach in Widener softball history, Fred recently concluded his 42nd season on staff and 41st leading the softball program. Fred remains Widener’s physical education director and an adjunct instructor. He amassed a 697-566 record, with the most victories by one coach in one sport in school history and ranks 22nd all-time in NCAA Division III history. “My 42 years at Widener have flown by and have been amazing. Considering I was hired as the men’s soccer head coach in 1981 and fell into the position as the softball coach, it’s been a true adventure! We’ve been quite successful, but the relationships made with coaches and players will last a lifetime and far outweigh the wins and losses.” Fred also published a book, *Rookie: Surviving Your First Year of College Softball*. Find it on Amazon.



## 1975

**James C. Garvey III** welcomed his first grandchild, Noah James Elias, in March followed by the purchase of a new summer house on Nantucket Island, then retirement from Holy Family University in May. “Whew! Holding on to our Blue Bell, Pa., home for now. Hoping to see classmates and other OPCs on the island!”



**James S. Still** gathered with OPC friends **Geoffrey H. Shields**, **Nicholas A. Sommaripa OPC '76**, **Alan C. Good Jr. OPC '74**, **Craig N. Bower**, **Robert L. Nydick Jr.** and **Robert L. Doelp** at the Jersey Shore for their 11th annual golf outing. “The purpose of the gathering is general goodwill, but the impetus was the too-early passing of our good friend, **Paul J. Soulgas**, 12 years ago. We decided that life was too short to not gather as friends in his memory. Our annual weekend golf match is often Blues vs. Yellows, with the Blues (of course!) always victorious! Folks now come from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Massachusetts and Hawaii!”



## 1976

**Robert C. Aitken** had the opportunity to get together with a few teammates (football and lacrosse) who were in town for the Class of 1977 reunion.



Pictured: **Bill J. Wall Jr. OPC '77**, **A. Anthony Wall Jr. OPC '75**, **James R. Castle Jr. OPC '77**, **Matthew McArdle OPC '77**, **Joseph H. Happe OPC '77**, **Robert C. Aitken**, **Michael G. Roughton OPC '77**, **Christopher K. Holmes OPC '77**.

**William J. Minter** writes, “My son, Maroni Minter, brought his son, Ezekiel, to Vermont from Gabon, Africa, for the first time. Maroni came to the states when he was 15 years old, and now his son has arrived here at 8 years old. I’ve rearranged my hours at Apple Tree Learning Centers to be able to help Ezekiel transition to life in Vermont. He keeps asking when he can see snow. He speaks no English, only French, and his culture is very different. But he is an 8-year-old kid much like any other. Bouncing on the trampoline, examining the canoes and kayaks, exploring the garage and its attic, and trying to destroy the badminton birdie with every swing. He has an awesome teacher at our local primary school and comes home with a smile from ear to ear.”

**Brent Sherwood** writes, “Three years after I took the reins of the Advanced Development Programs business at Jeff Bezos’s Blue Origin, we have grown by more than 16x. By the end of this year, we will have over 1100 space experts, designing and building 29 flight systems and over 34 advanced technologies that will change the trajectory of human space flight, from Orbital Reef in low Earth orbit to our Blue Moon landers on the lunar surface. What was once a dream is rapidly becoming reality.”



## 1978

**Michael F. Iademarco** (pictured below, left) and **John Balbus** (right), classmates 45 years ago in Richard V. Pepino’s chemistry class, found themselves at adjacent desks again, as office directors in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health at the Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C. Iademarco, a rear admiral in the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps and assistant surgeon general, was recently selected as the deputy assistant secretary for science and medicine after a 23-year career at CDC. Balbus is the inaugural director of the new Office of Climate Change and Health Equity after over a dozen years as a senior advisor to the director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. Balbus was inducted into the National Academy of Medicine last fall for his work on the health implications of climate change. Together, the two are collaborating on environmental public health science and policy, and met up at—where else?—a Steely Dan concert. Next up, they’re angling to get a joint speaking engagement at Cabrini. If you live in or are visiting D.C., they’d love to hear from you.

*Editor's note: Read the PC Profile of John Balbus on p. 13.*



## Class Notes

**Nathaniel (Ned) E. Sher** was, for the second straight year, part of the winning Sealark crew in the J105 section of the Chicago-Mackinac Race. “The sailing race, held every July, is the longest fresh-water race in the world, which dates back to 1898. Weather is usually the greatest challenge, and this year proved particularly tough. Storms crossed the lake Saturday night with 40-knot wind gusts, and rain and hail pelting the racers most of the night. Sunday brought sunny skies and good breezes, followed by another rough night of high winds and high waves that soaked the crew. Sealark led for almost the entire race and finished approximately 18 minutes ahead of the second-place boat. This was a more comfortable finish than last year’s, when Sealark took the lead with less than five miles to go and won by 10 seconds!”



## 1980

**Louis Hockman**, a graduate of Dickinson College (1984), Boston University School of Law (1987) and Temple University's Fox School of Business (2001), has retired as a partner at Rawle & Henderson, LLP, the oldest law firm in the United States. He has received advanced mediation training at Cornell University and formed “ADRx Alternative Dispute Solutions” and is accepting invitations to serve as a mediator for tort, commercial and employment disputes.

**Jon C. Sarkisian, Chip Goodman, Ruben Amaro Jr. OPC '83, David M. Amaro, John B. Caras and Robert D. Amaro OPC '09** attended Jennifer and David Amaro's 60th birthday celebration on Sept. 11.



## 1981

**William H. Colehower** celebrated the graduation of his son, Jackson Colehower, from the United States Military Academy at West Point in May 2022. Grandfather **William S. Colehower OPC '55 (right)** was also present to celebrate with his family.



**Anthony R. Resch**, a former head boys lacrosse coach at Penn Charter and current guidance counselor and assistant lacrosse coach at La Salle College High School, was inducted into the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame in October 2022. He was part of the 2021 induction class, but had to wait a year for the official ceremony due to the pandemic.

## 1983

**Ruben Amaro Jr.** (holding plaque) and his brother **David Amaro OPC '80** (right) accepted an award on behalf of his father, **Ruben Amaro Sr.**, who was posthumously inducted into the Hispanic Heritage Baseball Museum Hall of Fame.



**Benjamin E. Long** looks forward to celebrating the graduation of his stepson, **Ryan Packel Class of 2023**, during his own 40th reunion year and seeing all of his classmates at the reunion.



Members of the 1981 PC baseball team, their PC coaches and friends attended the Phillies game on June 5, 2022, where **Mark S. Gubicza** was announcing for the Los Angeles Angels. **Edward A. Foley Sr., Vincent (Vince) P. DellaValle, Gregory A. Wagner OPC '82, Richard D. Mellor OPC '69, Robert J. McNally, Mark S. Gubicza, Michael A. Pascali, Christopher Rahill OPC '99, Brian W. McCloskey OPC '82, Carl Arrigale OPC '84, Edward Malandro III OPC '83, Mark Adzick OPC '07, Zack Zeglinski OPC '05,** and **Jason Krasno.**



## Class Notes

## 1985

**Peter W. Bowman** reports, “I received a U.S. patent for a product I invented called the Cooling Hat Insert under my company Chiller Body. It is a polygel rechargeable freezing pad that fits into most headwear and helps people deal with heat stress in the sports, workforce and recreational markets. The Cooling Hat Insert is sold in specialty retail shops as well as online.” Pictured: Peter Bowman with pro stock car racer Logan Misuraca.



The 13th annual OPC 1985 ‘reunion’ was held in Elkton, Md., in July. The class reports that good, clean, Quaker fun was had by all.



Front row: **Matthew M. Killinger, Michael E. Bennett, Gregory P. Wolfson, Joseph J. Gleason Jr., Brian McNally, Darryl Berlinger.** Back row: **Brian J. Duffy, Joseph F. Doherty Jr., Joshua Petersohn, Anthony Lewandowski.**

Not pictured: **Matthew G. Forney, Sean M. Fitzpatrick, Charles J. Dougherty, Peter W. Bowman, Thomas F. Burke Jr., Michael S. Blume, Michael S. Cohen, Robert L. Salkowitz.**

**Joshua (Josh) S. Petersohn** (second from left), head coach, and the 2022 USA Masters Ice Hockey team competed in the 21st Maccabiah Games in July 2022 in Jerusalem. Josh played for USA’s gold-medal-winning Maccabi Masters Ice Hockey team in 2013, and brought his long history of playing, coaching and hockey passion to the 2022 games.



## 1986

**Paul P. Rabinovitch** (pictured, left) and wife Laura Freundlich-Rabinovitch (Baldwin 1983), recently got together with David E. Krauss in Boca Raton, Fla.

CLASS OF 1987  
35TH REUNION

Pictured: **Theodore C. Brown, Glenn A. Weiner, Richard P. Park, Hunter B. Allen, Charles I. Schwartz, Scott F. Waterman, Matthew C. Wilson, Steven K. Peltier, Brendan J. Benzing, Richard G. Seeds Jr., Mark Schrager, Thomas Livezey, Robert W. Frieman, Drew M. Laden, Jonathan B. Bush, Orville (Russ) Walls III, Eric R. Bush, Scott P. Javage.**

## Class Notes

### 1987

**David B. Gleit** notes, “Celebrating 40 years since our first bus trip in the eighth grade with Mr. Goulding to Winterhaus in the wonderland that is Stowe, Vt., 12 members of the Class of ’87 hit the slopes in March. The snow was heavy but our hearts were light, reminiscing of army-surplus bunk beds, the blind white horse, skiing through the glades and Jav’s infamous ex-lax moment. New memories were made, of course, like losing Danny Van snow-shoeing with some new friends, Steve-O coming down his first and only run in a ski-patrol toboggan, and lots of good food and beverage. Thanks to Matty Ox for the ski team swag. Special shout out to Luteran for the great company on the long drive back to Philly. Next year in Utah!”



### 1988

**Sydney H. Coffin** writes, “After 20 years in Philadelphia’s public schools, I went on sabbatical to study poetry in Paris through NYU, traveled Europe playing ‘uncle bodyguard’ to my 20-year-old niece, and returned in 2019 to live on a Bucks County farm, where I train Basenji dogs. I write to say how difficult and different educational efforts are since 2020, going virtual and bonding more with a machine and social media than actual people. And yet, returning to Penn Charter last spring as a volunteer, reviewing senior project presentations, I see how much remains similar to our school days. **David Bass** is

still there! And so is **Elizabeth A. Flemming Hon. 1689** and **Stephen A. Bonnie OPC ’66**, along with the clock tower, library and art room. There are new faces, buildings, green fields and speed bumps, but there remains the spirit of the space. PC students are still brilliant, curious and eager to commence the first step in a thousand-mile journey that our class began 35 years ago together.”



### 1989

**Jeremy A. Dubin** has recently been promoted to chief medical officer of Front Range Clinic, Colorado’s largest network of substance use disorder clinics. “We are doing exciting work within hospitals, counseling centers and jails, and with the state. We currently run four mobile units that provide addiction treatment to rural Colorado. Jeremy also had the chance to visit with **Peter Knight-Meyers OPC ’89** in Colorado this year. “It was great to meet his beautiful family. Between their summer visits to Crested Butte and our mutual avid Ween fandom, the Knight-Meyers and the Dubins will be seeing more of each other in Colorado in the future!”



### 1990

**Brian A. Simon** recently joined First Savings Bank as president of their mortgage business, leading over 600 people nationwide.

### 1991

**Albert Butler** writes, “I’m approaching my fifth year with Fidler Club as the director of membership diversity. It’s been great to help build something from the ground up, open it and see it thrive. Personally, I had a great time celebrating and reconnecting at the Athletic Honor Society event last year. It was an honor to be inducted with people like **Cydney Irving-Dasent OPC ’93**, **Rick Mellor OPC ’69** and **Michael James OPC ’95**, whom I respect and admire greatly, and the icing on the cake: being treated to the best PC/GA game ever! In September, I commemorated multiple 50th birthdays in Vegas with classmates **N. Bret DeBenedictis**, **Leslie Walker**, **Garret W. Jackson**, **Carlton A. Ruley** and **Harith Buie**.”



**Harith Buie, Carlton A. Ruley, Garrett W. Jackson, Albert Butler, Leslie Walker**

## Class Notes

## CLASS OF 1992 30TH REUNION



### 1992

**David M. Mandell** reports, “The company that I cofounded in 2014, Bardstown Bourbon Company, was acquired by Pritzker Private Capital earlier this year.”

### 1994

**Adam F. Goldberg** has spent the last two years with **Gabriela S. Rodriguez OPC '16** developing and writing the new Muppets series for Disney+. “Gabi even wrote episode 9 of *The Muppets Mayhem*, which will be released on Disney+ in the spring. I would like to thank my brilliant high school math teacher **Elizabeth A. Flemming Hon. 1689** for insisting that I hire Gabi! Gabi is a superstar writer who will one day have her own show and hopefully hire me.”



### 1998



**Lauren W. Conlon** is the director of emergency medicine residency program and was promoted to associate professor of emergency medicine at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. In 2022, she was awarded the inaugural Graduate Medical Education award for Outstanding Program, Director of Emergency Medicine.

### 1999



**Latrisha M. Chattin** and her family relocated last summer to Seattle, Wash., where Latrisha now works as the middle school director at the Northwest School.

### 2000



**Benjamin J. Brandow** writes that he hopes everyone is treasuring life, family, friends, and special and ordinary moments alike in these

increasingly uncertain times. After seven years in intellectual property law, followed by six years in corporate risk management and compliance in New York City, Ben joined a consulting firm in 2018 as a vendor and program manager for a division of the Governor’s Office of the State of New York. Ben recently became an FAA-licensed sUAS (small Unmanned Aircraft System) pilot and formed Perspective Aerography LLC, an aerial photography and videography business. See [aerialvideosbydrone.com](http://aerialvideosbydrone.com).

## CLASS OF 1997 25TH REUNION

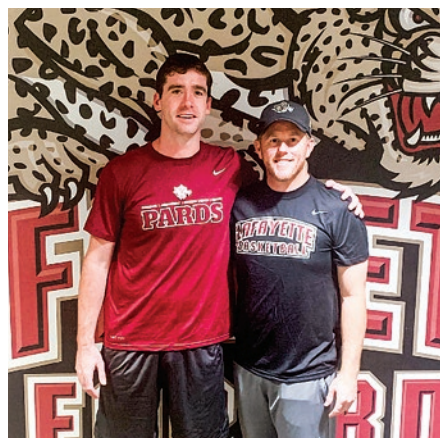


## Class Notes



### 2002

**Michael L. McGarvey** and **Sean F. O'Brien OPC '14** joined the ranks of the Lafayette men's basketball coaching staff as associate head coach and assistant coach, respectively.



**Caroline M. Seider** was promoted to commander in the United States Navy in September, in front of family, friends and a few OPCs in Virginia Beach, Va.



Her promotion was the culmination of 16 years of faithful service, with eight overseas deployments in support of multiple operations and contingencies around the world. Caroline is currently assigned as the director of strategic intelligence and special projects at U.S. Fleet Forces Command in Norfolk, Va.

### 2003

**Timothy M. Convey** is living in Oak Park, Ill., just outside of Chicago, with his wife, Jenny, and two boys, Rowan (3) and Leland (1). "We just bought our 'forever home' after living in a townhome in downtown Oak Park for six years. Life for me and Jenny revolves around the boys, who seem to have boundless energy and like to get into mischief, which sounds a lot like me in middle school at PC! I am in sales (no surprise there) and have had success in leading sales teams in education technology companies over the past 15 years."



**Chad A. Flores** is in-house counsel for Gopuff, managing all the company's litigation, including for its affiliated entities BevMo! and Liquor Barn. Chad and wife Steph live in the Fishtown section of Philadelphia with their dog, Benny, and son, Miles Cole.

### 2004

**Edward P. Morrone**, in addition to starting a new job last summer as a copywriter for Dapper Labs' NBA Top Shot NFT product, returned to Penn Charter last March in a part-time role writing SportsZone, PC's athletics blog. Ed continues his quest to cover all of Penn Charter's Upper School varsity teams during the 2022-23 school year, so stop by [penncharter.com/sportszone](http://penncharter.com/sportszone) to stay updated on all of the Quaker student athletes.

**Julia E. Soffa** was featured on the blog of Wizikey, a media monitoring and public relations company, where she talked about her career path and passion for data-driven communications.

### 2005

**Jacob R. Markovitz** is the 2022 president of the Greater Philadelphia Association of Realtors.



## Class Notes

**Jessica Balderston Gertz** (left) and **Laura Carey** got out to play 18 holes at Willow Oaks Country Club in Richmond, Va.



## 2006

**Kamal L. Marell** recently became the new executive director of a nonprofit organization called The Monkey & the Elephant, Philadelphia's first and only nonprofit coffee shop employing and supporting former foster youth.



**Jeffrey Torchon** moved to Tokyo, Japan, in July with his wife and two sons (pictured in Tokyo Disneyland). He is excited to return to teaching after spending three years in a PhD program, and even more excited to do so abroad. He plans to finish his dissertation while enjoying sushi, jazz concerts and trips across Asia.



**Emily Walker, Valerie S. Joell OPC '07** and **Christina M. Woody OPC '05** enjoyed a hiking trip in San Diego. They are travel friends for life, thanks to PC.



**Michael Weick** has been the inside linebacker coach at Princeton University since 2019 and helped lead the Tigers' defense and team

to the 2021 Ivy League Championship. In addition, Michael recruits scholar-athletes to Princeton mainly from the South and Southwest region of the country, while assisting in alumni fundraising.

## 2008

**Arthur Bartolozzi IV** notes: "I finished my orthopedic surgery residency at Stanford in June and moved up to Vancouver, BC, for spine

fellowship. After that, I have a position at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, to focus on spinal oncology. I hope none of you end up being my patients, but I've had an interesting, introspective and rewarding experience so far navigating medicine. Reach out if you are ever in the area."

## 2009

**James H. Grace** got engaged earlier this summer. "Raina and I live in Center City Philadelphia, and try to spend time down the shore in Ventnor as much as possible. Always great to see friends from the water polo and swim teams, lower school days, and all OPCs in between."

CLASS OF 2007  
15TH REUNION

## Class Notes

**Michael D. Massaro** shares, “The U.S. Coast Guard sent me to graduate school in the Army-Baylor Program for the next 24 months. I moved to San Antonio, Texas, in June, and am pursuing a dual MBA/MHA from Baylor University. Anticipating the arrival of baby Massaro #2 in February 2023.”

### 2011

**Henry L. Morgan** opened Homeroom, a modern neighborhood café with an emphasis on thoughtful and simple food, drink and design, to a warm reception in the heart of Gladwyne Village in March 2022.



### 2012

**Frances M. Bernstein** received her PhD in classics from Princeton University in May 2022 and has joined Riverdale Country School as a Latin and Greek teacher.



### 2015

**Abigail E. Evans** (pictured, right) and **Anna M. Wills OPC '13** graduated from Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law.



### 2017

**Adam G. Holland** worked as a CBS3 News intern in Philadelphia this summer. “It’s been a tremendous experience and opportunity that is leading right into my final semester of school at Delaware State University.”



**Jennie A. Reisman** started medical school at Drexel University College of Medicine and recently received her white coat. “I am so grateful that I finally get to accomplish my dream of becoming a physician!”



**Madeline E. Whitehead** moved into her new home on the West Coast for work, and **Emma Grugan** flew out to Seattle, Wash., to help her.



## Class Notes

## 2018

**Lilia J. Carpenter** graduated from Penn and started work as a research associate at BlueRock Therapeutics in New York City.



**Charlotte Murray** graduated cum laude from Bucknell University in May 2022, with a BA in economics. Professor advisors for the Bucknell Women in Economics Club (BWIE) also presented her with the first BWIE Senior Award. The award will be named in her honor and presented each year to a senior who fosters community among BWIE members. In July, Charlotte began working at Wilmington Trust in Wilmington, Del., as an asset management fixed income associate.



**Anurithi (Anu) Senthil** has spent the past year supporting our Hassman internship program by providing current Penn Charter students the additional advanced biology lessons they need to be successful in the lab. Anu, a former Hassman intern herself, recently graduated from Case Western and is currently interning in pediatric medicine in Cleveland before she heads off to medical school.

**Michael A. Siani**, an outfielder for the Cincinnati Reds, recorded the first hit of his Major League Baseball career on Sept. 27 with a single to left field against the Pittsburgh Pirates. Siani, selected in the fourth round of the 2018 MLB Draft, was promoted from the minor leagues on Sept. 21 and joined Cincinnati's active roster to make his MLB debut the next day. Siani played in nine games for the Reds down the stretch, recording four hits and scoring a run. Pictured: On a visit to PC, Mike found his photo on the wall of athletes in the lower level of the Graham.



**Reece P. Whitley** was named to the 2022 Academic All-America Division I men's at-large second team.

## 2019

**Cole S. Frieman** shares, "This summer I was full time in Québec and Montréal. I studied at the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi in a strict French immersion program, during which it was forbidden to speak English. For five weeks, I traveled the beautiful Saguenay region and spoke French. Returning to Montréal, I appreciate living in a bilingual city in a more profound way.

I prepared for the Toronto Undergraduate Jazz Festival in September with the group Driving S4DI3, developing our sound during Montréal gigs. Thanks to the PC community for voting for us during the final leg of the competition! The show went great. On the side, I had a stint at Fairmount Bagels and learned how to bake the famous 'Montréal style' bagels. Recently, I've been enjoying the start of my final year in jazz performance at Schulich and was excited to play at L'OFF Jazz Fest in Montréal in October as part of a sextet."



**Julia R. Lynch** (pictured, right) and **Elisabeth L. Ross** (left) met with retired PC Upper School biology teacher Nora Comiskey in Madrid, Spain, while on vacation.



# Class Notes

## DEATHS

### 1940



**Robert W. Dale Jr.,**  
on Aug. 22, 2022.



**David R. Matlack,**  
on April 19, 2022.

### 1942



**John Wagner,**  
on June 28, 2022.

### 1946



**William Balderston III,**  
on Oct. 23, 2022.

### 1947



**Dwight Jeffrey Hartzell,**  
on Oct. 13, 2022.

### 1951



**Robert E. Quittner,**  
on Jan. 5, 2022.

### 1952



**John (Jack) L. Graham,**  
on June 26, 2022.



**David A. Potter,**  
on June 27, 2020.



**Frederick J. Yanness,**  
on Sept. 10, 2022.

### 1953



**Kent M. Elliott,**  
on March 15, 2022.

### 1954



**Evan W. Michener III,**  
on Oct. 29, 2022.

### 1956



**James F. Tetzlaff,**  
on May 25, 2022.

### 1957



**Ronald E. Rossman,**  
on May 2, 2022.

### 1958



**Edwin A. Weihenmayer,**  
on June 2, 2022.

### 1961



**Harry (Tim) Rosenheim III,**  
on July 16, 2022.

### 1966



**William E. Dickson,**  
on July 4, 2022.

### 1969



**Richard J. Broberg,**  
on May 19, 2021.

### 1983



**Richard (Rick) M. Olivieri,**  
on June 12, 2022.

### 2002



**Thomas P. Farnese,**  
on Sept. 24, 2022.



## Class Notes

## MARRIAGES

## 1999

**Patrick T. Gallagher** to Theresa Battaglia on Sept. 17, 2022.

## 2003

**Chad A. Flores** married Stephanie Childers on Oct. 2, 2021.



Pictured, from left: **Lex G. Mercado**, **Ali W. Mabsoute**, **Ashley (Flores) Ritter OPC '07**, **Chad A. Flores**, **Joseph C. Flores Jr. OPC '01**, **David M. Pagnanelli Jr.**, **Craig Bryansmith OPC '01**, **Dain E. Lewis** and **Reid Bryansmith OPC '04**.

**Jessica A. Kolansky** married Daniel Stefano on May 21, 2022. Among those celebrating were **Luke M. Hoffman** (with fiancée Elizabeth Miller), **Joshua D. Rosenzweig** (with wife Rachel) and **Tiffany A. Weber** (with husband Henny). **Robert Kolansky OPC '06** was also there but was busy wrangling nephews off camera.



**Tiffany A. Weber**, Daniel Stefano, **Jessica A. Kolansky**, **Joshua D. Rosenzweig**, **Luke M. Hoffman**.

## 2006

**Katie A. Siegmann** married Erik Hugel on June 17, 2022.



## 2009

**Alexandra M. Glassman** married Tyler Zoidis on June 18, 2022.

Pictured: **Michael D. Carroll OPC '08**, **Rachel K. (Fischer) Carroll**, **Katherine F. (Krieger) Wolf**, **Marykate M. Hatfield**, **Alexandra M. (Glassman) Zoidis**, **David H. Hilton III OPC '08**, **Carolyn R. (Vahey) Brucato**, **Liza A. Garrison OPC '08**, **Alex Domenick OPC '08**, **Monica R. Butler**.



# Class Notes

## 2010

**James Lamb Jr.** married Steph Busichio on June 4, 2022. Pictured: **Nicholas L. Lamb OPC '12, Michael C. Foley, Daniil A. Mamalat, Michael X. Brown, Jacob P. Richards OPC '11, Gregory T. Laudadio, Jacob S. Hockman.**



## 2011

**Danielle (Dani) Bembry** married Brent C. Westbrook on July 30, 2022. Pictured: **Rafhia Foster, Gabrielle (Gabi) A. Bembry OPC '14, David J. Garnick OPC '19, Adam J. Garnick, Dani Bembry, Brent Westbrook, Rachael D. Garnick OPC '13, Elyse Wilkinson, Margaret Rollins, Jamal E. Willis OPC '13.**



## 2012

**Samantha R. Kapnek** married **Blair H. Bodek OPC '11** on May 14, 2022. The wedding party included six OPC bridesmaids (**Susannah R. Bonn, Julia H. Vahey OPC '13, Alex Kapnek OPC '08, Rachel M. Weiner, Gabrielle N. Canuso, Anna M. Kurtz**) and four groomsmen (**Mac J. Ferrick OPC '10, Joey S. Sankey OPC '11, Jacob S. Hockman OPC '10, Henry L. Morgan OPC '11**).



**Giancarlo Regni** married Rachel Karlins on June 25, 2022. Groomsmen included **Nicholas L. Lamb** and **Jared D. Massaro** (far left).



## BIRTHS

### 2001

Isabella Knight, to Brock and **Melissa K. Atkins**, on Aug. 14, 2022. Pictured with Parker, Class of 2036; Payton; and Jonas, Class of 2034.



### 2003

Miles Cole, to Steph and **Chad A. Flores**, on July 22, 2022.



### 2006

Misha Hugo, to **Milo Trauss** and Anna Roumiantseva, on April 11, 2022.



### 2008

Umar, to Darnell and **Alibra Johnson**, on Oct. 8, 2021.



### 2012

Tucker Joseph, to Brennan and **Jackson J. Tamasitis**, on July 19, 2022.





## NAVIGATING LIFE BEYOND THE RED DOORS

Penn Charter offers a new webpage designed to support young OPCs as they navigate life beyond the red doors and find their place within our alumni community.

### CONNECT

Harness the power of OPC connections!  
Join Alumnifire, an OPC-exclusive networking site.

### SHARE

Submit a class note to the magazine.  
Follow @penncharterOPC on social media.

### GIVE

Support current students with your Clock Tower Society gift:  
0-5 years from graduation: \$16.89  
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Find it all on [penncharter.com/youngOPC](https://penncharter.com/youngOPC) — a hub of information and opportunity.

The Penn Charter Alumni Society Invites OPCs, Parents, Caregivers and Friends

# 2023 DOWNTOWN RECEPTION

FEATURING

## BARNES HAUPTFUHRER OPC '72

Scholar-athlete, retired financial executive, community advocate, and author of *Teamball*

### JANUARY 26, 2023

6:30-9:30 p.m.

### DOWN TOWN CLUB BY CESCAPHE

600 Chestnut Street • Philadelphia

### RSVP by Friday, January 20, 2023



\$75 per person • \$50 for OPC '13 - '22

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# Save the Date

**JANUARY 26**  
Downtown Reception

**MAY 5-6**  
OPC Weekend

**MAY 26**  
Color Day

**JUNE 10**  
Commencement