


PARTNERS & PROGRESS

Spring/Summer 2016



The Stephen A. Levin Building:
A Hub for the Neural and
Behavioral Sciences

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COVER PHOTO: LISA GODFREY



Samuel Khan and David Dooper

Remembering David Silfen, C'66

It is hard for me to find the words to say what David Silfen meant to Penn—to express how a volunteer as engaged, committed, and dedicated as David becomes part of the fiber and the fabric of the School and the University.

I worked with David for more than 20 years, and it was obvious how much the University and Penn Arts and Sciences meant to him. He was a College alumnus and parent, a donor, and an Arts and Sciences overseer. In 2009 he became the chair of the School's Board of Overseers. He credited his education for his success and saw the liberal arts as the foundation for life.

David also served as a University trustee, and he headed the Trustee's Development Committee during Penn's Making History campaign. He would focus all his skills and talents on a project, and he always pushed us to be a little bit better, challenging all of Penn to be the best it could be. David was our partner through thick and thin, from the recession in 2008 to the ultimate success of the campaign.

His classmate and fellow overseer Bill Constantine summed David up as "a true class act: thoughtful, intelligent, empathetic, a listener, elegant, and courtly." I couldn't agree more! For me, David was a mentor, role model, advocate, co-conspirator, and friend. Relationships like this are one of the best fringe benefits of my work. I feel privileged to have shared that time with David and proud of all we accomplished together.

And now I am delighted to be working with Andrea Mitchell as the new chair of the Penn Arts and Sciences Board of Overseers. As this new partnership begins, I am reminded of what I have learned from David and so many others: our alumni can be counted on to know what to do, how to do it, and to get it done. I feel certain that together we will build on David's wonderful legacy.

Yours in partnership,
Jean-Marie Kneelely
Vice Dean for Advancement

HONORING A LEADER WHO WAS FIRST A FRIEND

Well before **Beau Biden, C'91**, went on to an acclaimed career in public service, the history major from Delaware touched the lives of hundreds at Penn. To those who knew him as an undergraduate, it was his sharp intellect, compassionate heart, and remarkable knack for connecting with people—more than his recognizable name—that distinguished him.

In January, less than a year after Biden's death from brain cancer, friends, fraternity brothers, and family gathered to celebrate Beau's life and to launch the Joseph R. "Beau" Biden III Memorial Scholarship. Created by the brothers of the Tau Chapter of Psi Upsilon, where Biden was a much-loved and well-respected member, the scholarship marks Biden's prodigious accomplishments as well as his highest aspirations.

The scholarship, which will provide financial support to an undergraduate in the College of Arts and Sciences who is otherwise unable to meet the cost of a Penn education, will be awarded to a student with demonstrated commitment to serving others through civic engagement and leadership in public service.

"So many Castle brothers know firsthand the integrity, leadership, and profound capacity for kindness that defined Beau," said fraternity brother and friend **Christopher Carrera, C'88**. "He leaves an enormous legacy; ensuring that it continues

to inspire passionate young people who follow in his footsteps is a great honor for every one of us."

To learn more about the scholarship and Beau's legacy, and to contribute, please visit: <http://bit.ly/BidenScholarship>.
(*Elizabeth Pokempner*)



Courtesy of the Biden family

Beau Biden, C'91



Penn President Amy Gutmann and Penn Arts and Sciences Dean Steven Fluharty cut ribbon at the dedication ceremony

Lisa Godfrey

THE STEPHEN A. LEVIN BUILDING A HUB FOR THE NEURAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Penn Arts and Sciences officially opened the Stephen A. Levin Building with a dedication ceremony on April 14. The six-story, \$68.6 million, 78,000-square-foot building integrates psychology, biology, and behavioral sciences under one roof with research laboratories, teaching facilities, and space for students to collaborate and study.

“The completion of the Stephen A. Levin Building positions Penn to become a leader in the interdisciplinarity of brain and human behavior research,” said Penn President Amy Gutmann. “This magnificent building will bring together eminent Penn researchers in biology and psychology with state-of-the-art laboratories and facilities. It will enable our faculty and students to make a substantial contribution to what we know about the brain. We are so grateful to alumnus Stephen Levin for his generous philanthropy that will help us realize our vision to both advance basic discovery and the application of those discoveries to improve society.”

The Stephen A. Levin building was made possible by a \$15 million gift by **Stephen A. Levin**, a member of the College of

Arts and Sciences Class of 1967, who made the gift in honor of his upcoming 50th reunion. Levin has supported Penn Arts and Sciences for decades, including establishing the Levin Family Dean’s Forum and endowing the Stephen A. Levin Deanship of the College of Arts and Sciences.

“I am proud to support Penn Arts and Sciences’ strategic initiative to advance the neurosciences by naming the Stephen A. Levin Building,” Levin said. “It is my hope that the research and learning undertaken in this building will impact our world for generations to come.”

Located between the Leidy Labs at 3740 Hamilton Walk and the Carolyn Lynch Labs at 433 S. University Ave., the Stephen A. Levin Building constitutes the second and final phase of Penn Arts and Sciences’ life sciences expansion project, which began with construction of the Lynch Laboratories. The Stephen A. Levin Building is strategically located among the group of research buildings that includes the Richards Medical Research Laboratory and Goddard Laboratory, designed by Louis Kahn, and the historic Leidy Laboratory and Kaskey Park.



Lisa Bodfrey



Lisa Bodfrey

Top: Undergraduate students in biology lab at the Stephen A. Levin Building
Bottom: Tedor Family Auditorium

The building’s design reflects its function in the ornate aluminum sunscreen with cutouts on the south façade. The pattern of the sunscreen is designed to convey the branching and network structures found at all scales of biology and to resonate in psychological, linguistic, and cognitive models. The sunscreen also provides an element of sustainability, offering an expected minimal 50 percent reduction of solar heat gain during summer months.

“Deciphering the complex relationship between brain activity and the vastness of human intelligence and behavior is one of today’s most daunting and important scientific challenges,” said Penn Arts and Sciences Dean Steven J. Fluharty. “The Stephen A. Levin building completes a contiguous brain and psychology ‘zone’ at the southwest edge of campus. These facilities will be used to promote intellectual synergies and serve as a dedicated home for shared instrumentation and collaborative laboratory facilities.”

Alumni and friends who supported the building project include **Julie Breier Seaman, C’86**, and **Jeffrey R. Seaman, W’83, PAR’14, PAR’17, PAR’19**; **Fred J. and Robin Tedor, PAR’08, PAR’10, PAR’16, PAR’18**; the late **David M. Silfen, C’66**, and **Lyn G. Silfen, PAR’98, PAR’07**; **P. Roy Vagelos, C’50, HON’99**, and **Diana T. Vagelos, PAR’90**; **David C. Abrams, C’83**, and **Amy L. Abrams, PAR’12, PAR’15**; the **Otto Haas Charitable Trust**; **Michael J. Price, W’79**, and **Vikki L. Price**; **Martin Lipton, W’52**, and **Susan Lytle Lipton, PAR’06**.



Courtesy of Stephen A. Levin

Stephen A. Levin, C’67, PAR’92, PAR’14

Stephen A. Levin is former chairman of the board of the Quantum Foundation, one of the largest private charitable foundations in Palm Beach County. He serves on the board of trustees of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, Los Angeles, California, and was presented with its National Community Service Award in 1999. Levin is a former vice chairman of the Palm Beach County Anti-Defamation League and in 2004 was awarded the Haym Salomon Award, the highest honor offered by the Anti-Defamation League. Levin is also former vice president of the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County, a former member of the Board of Directors for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of Palm Beach County, and has served on the Vanderbilt University Law School Advisory Board. In addition, Levin was vice-chairman of the board of JFK Hospital, Atlantis and served as president of Temple Emanu-El, Palm Beach. Levin is a director of the Palm Beach Police Foundation and chairman of the board of directors of MorseLife, Inc., and of MorseLife Capital Campaign, a nationally recognized provider of health care, housing, and support services for seniors and their families in Palm Beach County. In 2011, Levin was honored by the Northwood University Board of Trustees with the Outstanding Business Leader award, and he currently serves as a member of the Outstanding Leader Association Executive Committee. In 2013 Northwood University awarded Levin with an honorary doctorate degree in law. He is married to Petra Levin, a noted Miami philanthropist, and has five children and five grandchildren.

SHARING THE BEST THINGS ABOUT PENN

Penn Couple Creates a Scholarship for Students from Atlanta

College graduate **Natasha Harvey Swann, C'92, WG'98**, loved everything about her Penn experience, so it seemed only natural for her to want to share that experience with others.

Natasha, along with her husband, **Christopher Swann, G'98, WG'98**, established the Harvey Swann Endowed Scholarship in 2015. Designated for students in the College, the scholarship has a preference for students from Atlanta, where the Swanns have lived since 1999.

"Education is so important," says Natasha, who grew up in Connecticut. "I know I was incredibly fortunate to be able to attend Penn, and I'm glad to be able to help others who need assistance and to share the opportunity with people from my new city."

A linguistics major, Natasha appreciated being part of a small department within a large university. "I absolutely loved it," she explains. "I liked the fact that there were different undergraduate schools all together on one campus. Having that variety of classes and students—you meet all these people you wouldn't normally meet. It definitely encourages a wider view of the world."

Natasha took full advantage of Penn's urban location, too. "Philadelphia is a great city and every time I come back it seems even better—the restaurants, cultural offerings, and historic sites," she says. "I visited when I was eight years old and I actually remember thinking back then that I would like to live there. And Penn made it come true."

After living in Colorado for a time and then working for her parents' company in Connecticut, Natasha returned to Penn to earn an M.B.A in finance from the Wharton School, which she completed in 1998. The decision was a fortuitous one, since that's where she met Christopher, a Duke University graduate who was working on an M.B.A / M.A from the Lauder Joint-Degree in International Studies Program.

Natasha spent a year in New York working for Goldman Sachs, while Christopher's career has included stints at McKinsey and Company, GMT Capital, and SAC Capital Advisors. He started his own investment fund in 2014.

The couple has three children, aged 13, 11, and 7. Natasha serves on the Board of Trustees of their school, Pace Academy, where she was thrilled to find a small group of other parents who are also Penn alumni. Attending Penn programs in Atlanta, such as a recent "Our Penn" event, also helps her continue to feel connected. Natasha has maintained strong ties with the friends she made at Penn, whom she calls "the best thing" about her experience. Those friends are still a big part of her life.

The first recipient of the Harvey Swann Scholarship will be selected this fall, and Natasha and Christopher look forward to forging connections with the next generation of Penn students. They are confident that the first Swann scholar will love Penn every bit as much as they did. (*Jane Carroll*)



Christopher Swann, G'98, WG'98, and Natasha Harvey Swann, C'92, WG'98, with their children



James E. Schwartz, C'78, PAR'16

BRANCHING OUT History-Minded Alumnus Endows Fund for Jewish Studies Students

James E. (Jamie) Schwartz, C'78, PAR'16, had always been interested in his ancestry, but the advent of web-based genealogy tools turned casual curiosity into true passion. Using historical records sourced online as well as email and letter-writing outreach, he's created an extensive family tree that reaches back nine generations and contains the names of more than 2,000 individuals, a few born as early as 1750. It chronicles relationships, births, deaths, and meaningful milestones of generations long gone, painting a picture of lives and people about whom he might otherwise have never known. On the tree are family members killed in the Holocaust, a distant relative who fought for the Union Army and died in the Andersonville Confederate prison, and another whose Frank Lloyd Wright house in the Hollywood Hills, overlooking Sunset Boulevard, is now part of a museum.

When Schwartz, a longtime donor to the Penn Fund, began thinking about specifically supporting Penn Arts and Sciences, he found inspiration in these genealogical investigations—and the

excitement that comes from unearthing history or connecting to cultures and communities in different times and places. He worked with Penn's Talya Fishman, director of the Jewish Studies Program and associate professor in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, to craft an endowed fund for Jewish Studies graduate and undergraduate students.

"I was very happy at Penn, and my daughter was also," says Schwartz, whose daughter **Deborah (Debbie) Schwartz** graduated from the College this year. "The University has played a major role in my life so it was natural to give to Penn."

A member of the Manhattan-based firm Cyruli Shanks, Jamie credits the College with setting the course for his successful career as a commercial litigator. "I majored in American history and learned how to write well, think clearly, read critically, and research thoroughly. So now it's my turn to help current students. My goal for supporting Jewish Studies students is to make it easier for them to engage in original research by defraying the expenses of investigating sources."

Recent undergraduate Jewish Studies theses offer a sense of the range of research projects that the Louis Schwartz and Elaine Friedman Schwartz Memorial Research Award Endowed Fund might support. They include "Shmuel Alexandrov and the Making of a Modern Russian Jewish Philosophy," "Investigating Jewish Activism in Atlanta During the Civil Rights Movement," and "The Free Library Bible, Its Decoration, and Its History: A Case Study in 15th-Century Spanish Hebrew Bibles." Topics such as these often require studying materials and consulting with experts far from Penn. For current and future

students, the fund will cover expenses—including transportation and lodging—incurred in conducting this kind of research.

"Some of our students undertake research into topics that are best investigated through the study of circumstances or materials outside Philadelphia, or the U.S.—in the Middle East, North Africa, Europe—anywhere where Jewish culture has had a presence," says Fishman. "This fund will enable graduate and undergraduate students to immerse themselves more fully in their research projects by facilitating travel, face-to-face conversations, and sustained study of primary sources. Faculty members are thrilled when students have fires in their bellies about a topic and are self-motivated. Engaged inquiry of this sort is what students will remember long after they have graduated from Penn. Jamie's gift will help to finance these intensive explorations, and we are grateful for his generosity."

Coming full circle, Schwartz was able to tie his own family tree to the gift. When his mother died last year, he invited people to contribute to the fund in her memory. "My mother shared my interest in exploring what the lives of her ancestors were like—but throughout her long life never had the tools to access the information—and my father spoke about the lives of his parents and grandparents. So, in many ways, this gift honors my family as well," he reflects.

Debbie; Schwartz's wife, Susan; and his other children, Jessica and Andrew, are in full support. Says Schwartz, "I've been fortunate to connect to my history, and I want others to have similar opportunities to access the world in a way that is fulfilling to them and meaningful to their scholarship." (*Sacha Adorno*)

ENGAGING ALUMNI

The Penn Arts and Sciences Professional Women's Alliance Connects Alumnae with Students

Penn Arts and Sciences Professional Women's Alliance (PWA) partnered with the student Women in Leadership Series for two events on campus featuring the variety of career paths possible with a liberal arts education.

PWA speakers were (clockwise from top) **Hayley Boesky, C'88, PAR'20**, Vice Chairman of Global Markets at Bank of America Merrill Lynch (studied astronomy and math); **Elaine Marks, C'91**, Principal at LomarHR (studied psychology); and **Jamie Easton, C'00**, Managing Director, Head of Investor Relations at Evercore Partners (studied economics).



Lisa Godfrey



Lisa Godfrey



Lisa Godfrey

Are you in a senior leadership position and interested in participating in programs that provide advice and mentorship to current College students and young alumnae?

Visit the Penn Arts and Sciences Professional Women's Alliance website to learn more at www.alumni.upenn.edu/saspwa.

College Alumni Mentoring Series: Mentoring Lunch with Sharie Brown, C'79, G'79

Lisa Godfrey



Sharie Brown, C'79, G'79, a partner in white collar and government investigations at Troutman Sanders, met with students over lunch as part of the College Alumni Mentoring Series. As a former federal prosecutor, a compliance and ethics officer, and a leader of white collar and compliance practices at major law firms, Brown provided valuable advice to students interested pursuing careers in law, social justice, and public health.

Lessons in Leadership: Allison Winn Scotch C'95

Erinn Carey



Allison Winn Scotch, C'95, right, spoke to students as part of the Robert A. Fox Lessons in Leadership program, encouraging them to take risks without the fear of failure. As a student in the honors history department and writer at the *Daily Pennsylvanian*, Scotch honed her research and writing skills and continued to pursue her passion for writing after graduation. Years later, she's a best-selling author of six books, two of which have been optioned for film. Students received advance copies of her new novel, *In Twenty Years*, which is set on Penn's campus.

Cocktails & Conversation with Penn Arts and Sciences Volunteer Leaders

Melanie Enzlg



Melanie Enzlg



This annual event gives young alumni an opportunity to connect with some of the most involved volunteer leaders at Penn Arts and Sciences and to learn about the many ways to get involved at Penn. **Jamie Handwerker, C'83, PAR'19**, who serves on the Penn Arts and Sciences Board of Overseers and chairs the Professional Women's Alliance, spoke about her volunteer path at Penn and gave alumni advice on how to create their own path.

1st photo, from left: **Caitlin Vieth, C'12**; **Brad Prutkin, C'95**; **Miriam Williams, C'04, WG'15**; **Michael Tedori, C'08, WG'15**
2nd photo, from left: **Jonathan Tretler, C'93, WG'97**; **Thomas Estabrook, C'10**; Penn Arts and Sciences Overseer **Jamie Handwerker, C'83, PAR'19**; and **Jing Jin, C'09**

IGNITING A COMMITMENT TO LIFELONG DISCOVERY

Annual Giving Donor Invests in Liberal Arts

Lisa Thompson, C'87, came to Penn with a strong interest in math and an ardent desire to learn about almost everything else. At Penn Arts and Sciences, she found the perfect place to do it all. A math major whose transcript includes a diverse mix of liberal arts classes, she describes her undergraduate years in the School as expansive and exhilarating.

It was, says Thompson, a wonderful time to explore what interested her academically. "I loved my math classes," she explains, but she thrived on the opportunity to follow the broad range of her interests.

Almost 30 years later, her academically varied undergraduate experience continues to fuel the way this New York-based global portfolio manager at an investment management firm headquartered in Los Angeles works every day, as well as the professional choices she has made.

"At Penn," says Thompson, "I learned to appreciate and to be comfortable exploring. I feel very strongly that I benefitted from that. My focus professionally has always been on finding something intellectually stimulating and fulfilling—and I've been very open to whatever that is."

That willingness to explore and to follow her passions ultimately led her to a successful career in finance. Along the way, she explored other interests, including a job at an architecture firm as well as a two-year evening program in culinary arts. Today, happily pursuing a career in equity management, she continues to thrive on pushing herself in new directions and cultivating new avenues to explore.

It's a perspective she conveys personally to current Penn students as a member of Penn Arts and Sciences' Professional Women's Alliance, the newly formed group that brings College alumnae who are distinguished leaders in their professional fields together to mentor female undergraduates and young alumnae. "There's no straight path," she tells the young women she works with as they think about their futures, just "passion and skill."

Thompson's generous and long-standing support of the Arts and Sciences Annual Fund is also furthering Penn Arts and Sciences' ability to ignite in all of its students a commitment to lifelong exploration and discovery. Providing unrestricted dollars that can be put to immediate use, the Annual Fund enables the School to develop and deliver an exceptional liberal arts education. For Thompson, it is the perfect way to empower a school where so many young adults seem, in her words, "on the verge of something great." (*Elizabeth Pokempner*)



Lisa Thompson, C'87

Ben Asen Photography

LOOKING HOMEWARD, EXPANDING HORIZONS

Alumna Creates Scholarship for Students from NE Pennsylvania

A \$1 million endowment gift from **Carol A. Kiryluk, CW'68**, of Key Biscayne, Florida, will establish a new scholarship fund for students from northeastern Pennsylvania to attend the University of Pennsylvania.

The scholarship fund—named in memory of Kiryluk's mother, Ann Mae Mankausky Kiryluk—will provide financial aid to academically qualified undergraduate students hailing from Wyoming County, Pennsylvania, or from the state's other northeastern counties, including Lackawanna, Luzerne, Susquehanna, Bradford, Sullivan, Wayne, Pike, Monroe, and Carbon.

Kiryluk, who graduated in 1968 from what was then known as the College for Women (now part of Penn's College of Arts and Sciences), grew up in Nicholson, a small town in northeastern Pennsylvania. She credits attending the University of Pennsylvania with broadening her horizons and providing the base for her career in the international arena. With this endowment, it is her intention to support students from her home region in realizing their future successes as a result of attending Penn without undue financial burdens.

Penn's commitment to all-grant financial aid and need-blind admission means that every Penn student is accepted without regard to a student's ability to pay the costs of attending. Named endowed scholarships, such as the one Kiryluk has established, contribute to the University's ability to honor this commitment.



Courtesy of Carol Kiryluk

Carol A. Kiryluk, CW'68

"Ms. Kiryluk's generosity is making it possible for promising young people from the state of Pennsylvania, who would otherwise not have the means, to receive not just an education—an incredible gift in and of itself—but an education at the University of Pennsylvania," said Steven J. Fluharty, Dean of Penn Arts and Sciences. "We are grateful to Ms. Kiryluk for her remarkable generosity and delighted we could help honor the memory of her mother, Ann Mae Mankausky Kiryluk, in such a meaningful way."

SUPPORT



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“PENN ARTS AND SCIENCES HELPED MAKE ME INTO A WELL-ROUNDED AND ENGAGED GLOBAL CITIZEN.”

– Danny Urgelles, C’11, W’11

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that will lead the world into the future.
Our fiscal year closes on June 30.

www.sas.upenn.edu/gifts/annual

Plan Your Legacy.

A gift in your will or trust can be an easy yet powerful way to make an impact on Penn Arts and Sciences. When you include the School in your estate plans, you not only create your Penn legacy, you strengthen the future of Penn Arts and Sciences and turn possibilities into realities for future generations of liberal arts students.

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- ✓ Assets remain in your control during your lifetime.
- ✓ Removes the value of your gift from your taxable estate.
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- ✓ Creates a lasting legacy.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CREATING YOUR LEGACY CONTACT:

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Have you already made a bequest to Penn Art and Sciences? Let us know so that we can thank you and welcome you into the Harrison Society.