Dear Friends,

We are at the start of an exciting new chapter for Penn! In October, we celebrated our new President Liz Magill’s inauguration. Her vision and expansive energy are already being felt across the University.

At her inauguration, President Magill asked, “What’s next? What does the world need from Penn?” She described how Benjamin Franklin’s kite and key experiment not only determined the nature of lightning but also led to the invention of the lightning rod to protect homes. Her point that learning drives not only academic discovery, but also real-life impact, resonated with me. Liz discussed the many challenges our world is facing today, and she reminded us that universities like ours have a unique role to play in facing these challenges. In her words, “knowledge solves problems. It is the single most powerful force for improving life and our understanding of it.”

This fall, we also welcomed Jim Husson as our new Vice President of Development and Alumni Relations. As a donor and in my role as Chair of the Trustee Development Committee, I am deeply aware that philanthropy has a critical role to play in driving this important work forward at Penn. Our donations support research, initiatives, facilities, and the people working toward this goal—whether through the arts and humanities, health care and the sciences, business, law, or social work. Our donations solve problems. The feature stories in this issue of our Inspiring Impact Magazine share the impact of just a few outstanding recent donations across Penn. Building on the strength of our University’s history and position today, they exemplify how philanthropy can help fuel our tomorrows in wide-ranging ways.

I hope you enjoy and draw inspiration from these stories, and if you are interested in reading more about philanthropic priorities at Penn, you can visit giving.upenn.edu. I also encourage you to listen to President Magill’s inaugural address if you have not already (pennpri.de/inauguration) —it is truly inspirational. Please also feel free to reach out to me directly. I’d be delighted to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Miao Bandeen, C’80, WC’85, PAR’16, PAR’22
Chair, Trustee Development Committee
bandeen@upenn.edu

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Throughout this issue, we’ve included QR codes that link to related videos and other digital content. Using your mobile phone or tablet, open the built-in camera app. Point the camera at the QR code, and tap the banner to watch the video.
After 50 years, a renaissance is happening at Penn Live Arts

Students passing out flyers on Locust Walk. Colorful chalk advertisements weathering the march of flip-flops and sneakers. Spontaneous breakdancing and a cappella performances on College Green. The arts have always contributed to Penn’s vibrant campus life. As the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts celebrates its 50th anniversary season, its rebranding as Penn Live Arts signals a revitalization of cultural immersion through the range of activities under its umbrella.

“There is a tremendous amount of activity on campus, and there has been a demand for greater emphasis on the arts at Penn for decades,” says Chris Gruits, Executive and Artistic Director of Penn Live Arts. “This is a perfect time to invest not only in facilities and infrastructure, but also academic integration, student career development, and public programming.”

“Setting the Stage

Key to the next act is a multiyear capital plan, including the first significant expansion to the Annenberg Center in its history. The centerpiece will be the Stuart Weitzman Theatre, a 3,000+-square-foot addition on the Annenberg Center Plaza. The Weitzman Theatre will provide space for the 70+ student clubs and organizations that have long lobbied for more performance and rehearsal venues. Gruits envisions the theatre “in constant use from the moment its doors open, serving students, faculty, Philadelphia-area residents, and Penn alumni, families, and friends.”

Additional elements of the capital plan include upgrading the Montgomery Theatre into a state-of-the-art film screening center and the creation of the Campus Gateway to the Arts—a welcoming nexus right off Locust Walk. In addition to the major capital projects, the theatre spaces will amplify visibility to audiences near and far thanks to investments in digital and livestreaming technology, made possible by generous donors.

More than
20% of Penn students are involved in performing arts.

70+
student performing arts groups

100+
events staged each year

The Stuart Weitzman Theatre’s indoor-outdoor spaces will provide flexibility for artists to stage innovative work. “I am thrilled on so many levels to be supporting this new project,” says Stuart Weitzman, W’63. “The performing arts have always been an essential element of the Penn experience. This new theatre will convey, in a very tangible way, to student and professional performers alike, that their craft is valued, supported, and nurtured by Penn.”
The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts was initially conceived in tandem with the Annenberg School for Communication. That academic connection between the arts and exploration of media and innovation remains central to Penn Live Arts’ identity. “Storytelling and performance have been vital to human understanding and connection for millennia,” explains Gruits. “The Annenberg Center was built under the philosophy that performance is one of the most powerful communication tools that people have.”

Penn Live Arts aims to better integrate performing arts into curricular activities, such as artist-in-residence programs. The Brownstein Residency for Artistic Innovation, established in 2020 by Board member Andrew Brownstein, C’75, W’75, WG’76, PAR’12, PAR’14, and Elise Jaffe Brownstein, CW’76, PAR’12, PAR’14, links notable visiting artists to the Penn and Philadelphia communities, with a focus on interdisciplinary work and experiences for broad audiences.

For 2022-2023, Penn Live Arts welcomes the Obie Award-winning Negro Ensemble Company (NEC) for the Brownstein Residency. The NEC staged a one-act play festival in October and will premiere a new multidisciplinary theater work, co-produced by Penn Live Arts, in the spring. Additionally, the residency includes collaborative community activities through Penn’s Netter Center for Community Partnerships as well as classroom visits to interact directly with students. “The Annenberg Center has prominently promoted Black arts and artists over the years, including the Philadelphia debut of renowned playwright August Wilson,” says Herman Beavers, the Julie Beren Platt and Marc E. Platt President’s Distinguished Professor of English and Africana Studies at Penn Arts & Sciences.

Beavers co-teaches a class on Wilson with Professor Suzana Berger, Professor of English and Africana Studies at Penn Arts & Sciences. Some students may have visions of stardom. Others may hope to apply their talents behind the scenes in the arts and entertainment industries. No matter their career path, a career in the performing arts remains a key part of Gruits’s vision. “Cultural centers at Penn have a hybrid role, serving both the University and the community,” says Gruits. “It’s a really exciting role to play.”

Penn Live Arts has always prioritized bringing diverse artists to Philadelphia, and the 2022-2023 season is no exception. With performances ranging from Finnish folk music and circus arts to continuations of its celebrated jazz and dance programs spanning an array of cultures, Penn Live Arts offers something for everyone.

“We have a long-standing commitment to showcasing artists of color and international artists people don’t typically have a chance to see,” Gruits says. “Giving these artists a platform to share their experiences and their stories helps to generate mutual understanding, empathy, and greater cultural awareness.”

The impact of Penn Live Arts radiates beyond campus. Community engagement and expanding access to exciting new experiences through performing arts remains a key part of Gruits’s vision. “Our first artist-in-residence, Mark Morris, gave dance classes in hospitals as part of the therapy process for patients with Parkinson’s disease and other movement disorders,” says Gruits. “And recently, we brought a piece on environmental impact called Ten Thousand Birds to the Morris Arboretum, where birdsong could be incorporated into the performance. These types of shows provide a great opportunity to connect with audiences in different and dynamic ways.”

For example, the Student Discovery Series welcomes up to 10,000 Philadelphia schoolchildren each year with subsidized tickets and organized busing, and West Philly Welcome offers significantly discounted tickets to make programming more accessible for neighboring residents.

While these activities bring people to Penn, Penn Live Arts often brings performances to sites across the city. Expanding beyond campus stages can offer the kind of flexibility that inspires innovative artists.

“All the world’s a stage”

Enjoy student performers, and learn more about Penn Live Arts’ capital projects and academic integration in this short video.

Learn more about Penn Live Arts’ capital projects and academic integration in this short video.

Seize your moment and name a seat in one of the Annenberg Center’s theaters.

Learn more at pennlivearts.org/giving/seatforeveryone.php
At a time when issues of social justice—racial equity, health disparities, income and education inequality—are top of mind, Gianni Morsell, SPP’22, is helping to build a more equitable society. “Social justice is many things,” she says. “For me, it’s about influencing policy and making real change happen.” After graduating, Gianni began working for a nonprofit that advocates for forgiving student loan debt and improving student voter turnout.

Gianni is the first graduate of Penn’s Social Justice Scholars Program. The program was created by the School of Social Policy & Practice (SP2) to lift the financial burden of graduate student education through full-tuition funding for scholars. Preference is given to those graduating from historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions. “When I arrived after attending Morgan State University, I was embarking on this new experience with my cohort, and we formed a community right away,” says Gianni. She was joined in the first cohort by Paloma Brand, SPP’23, and Skye Horbook, SPP’23.

Now in its second year, the program welcomed four scholars in 2022, offering a full-tuition scholarship, mentorship from powerful allies, and a welcoming community. The scholars are positioned to become change agents in higher education at a time when access to elite institutions is being reimagined.

In July, the Social Justice Scholars Program received a $7.5 million infusion of support to bolster its offerings and expand the number of scholarships. The University offered a $5 million match to encourage additional giving, and an anonymous donor gave $2.5 million to the program.

A DOLLAR-FOR-DOLLAR OPPORTUNITY UP TO THE REMAINING $2.5 MILLION MATCHING FUNDS IS ONGOING. TO LEARN MORE, CONTACT KRISTEN DE PAOR AT KWD@UPENN.EDU.


PHOTOGRAPHY: Eric Sucar
The potential of these young, motivated scholars is impossible to ignore. Sparsh is passionate about reducing global socio-economic inequality and is enrolled in the Nonprofit Leadership program. “I worked in the government of India with people who were engaged in the act of begging,” he says. “After working on a policy for the comprehensive rehabilitation of the poorest of the poor, it’s hard not to see the stark inequity.”

Having grown up in New Jersey, Joelle Eliza Lingat isn’t far from home. Yet, she already feels a world away. “The inspiration and desire for change at SP2 is palpable,” she says.

“The opportunity to help students who are building a more equitable society is incredibly exciting,” says Allison Weiss-Brady, C’93, the program’s first donor and Chair of SP2’s Development Committee. Gifts from other SP2 Board members, including Calvin Bland, W’72, and Evan Roth, C’92, W’92, have directly impacted the program’s expansion. “As a Black man who grew up in the 1950s and 60s, I was denied access and opportunities simply because of my race,” says Bland. “The development of advocates and warriors against social and economic oppression is critical to creating a more equal society.” Roth met the inaugural cohort of scholars and was impressed with the diversity of their interests and the caliber of their talent, noting, “It was clear that these students would make amazing contributions to SP2 and the community at large.”

Vivian Gonda Zelter, C’85, who served on SP2’s Board, stepped up early to support the program. “It’s a credit to Penn and SP2 that they could launch it in the midst of the pandemic,” she says. Penn alumni John Meyerhoff, M’75, and Lenel Srochi-Meyerhoff, CW’71, GCP’73, were inspired to support the program after reading about its launch. “The SP2 Social Justice Scholars Program represents a wonderful opportunity for John and me to support our values that were honed at Penn. We believe the scholars will help create a more just and equitable society,” Srochi-Meyerhoff shares.

From the first graduate to the current cohort and beyond, this is only the start for the Social Justice Scholars and social innovation at SP2. “With more funding, we can dream big,” says Ezell.

The Social Justice Scholars are enrolled in one of SP2’s master’s programs: Master of Social Work, M.S in Social Policy, or M.S in Nonprofit Leadership. “Social justice is a buzzword, but SP2 has been at the forefront of this work for many years,” says Adiza Ezell, SP2’s Director of Recruitment and Admissions. “This program is intentional and reflects our commitment to racial justice, anti-colonialism, and abolitionist work.”

Members of the second cohort are Josh Arinze, SPP’23, Joelle Eliza Lingat, SPP’24, Mayowa Fageyinbo, SPP’24, and Sparsh Maheshwari, SPP’23. Beyond their standard course work, the Social Justice Scholars attend bespoke seminars, receive conference funding, and have access to the very decision-makers they hope to one day become.

Josh is enthusiastic about housing equity. “I have an interest in the worsening housing crisis in the United States,” he says. “I’d like to advocate for unhoused youth and for their access to education, housing, and employment.”

ABOVE: The Social Justice Scholars have different interests, but they are united in their passion to make the world a more equitable place. Pictured l-r: Gianni Morsell, Josh Arinze, and Joelle Eliza Lingat.

LEFT: Gianni Morsell, the first graduate of the Social Justice Scholars Program, works for a nonprofit focused on student loan forgiveness and voter turnout.
An A+ Partnership

A new gift from the Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Family Foundation creates a pioneering center for educational leadership at Penn GSE

In the 21st century, all educators—from elementary school teachers to college professors—are called to do more than teach. They are on the front lines of confronting issues of poverty, trauma, public health, and so much more. The COVID-19 pandemic is just one recent example of a situation that demanded shifts in the fundamental tenets of education. In 2020, the profession changed for every level of teacher. Bustling elementary school classrooms became crowded Zoom screens, high school teachers abandoned their blackboards for PowerPoint presentations, college instructors recorded lectures from empty auditoriums, and businesses rushed to move training programs online. Teachers weren’t just teaching—they were monitoring the health of their students, making sure their lessons were accessible regardless of a student’s means, and providing a support system for students under tremendous stress.

Recent years have shown that education demands leaders who are able to respond to rapidly changing circumstances and navigate the societal challenges that their students face. A new $16.25 million gift from the Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Family Foundation to Penn’s Graduate School of Education is helping ensure that future leaders are prepared for the challenges ahead of them in a society that needs their innovative talents.

This gift, which represents the largest infusion of support in Penn GSE’s history, will create new opportunities for leaders to shape the future of education by sharing their experience and expertise. The next great ideas may come from elementary school classrooms, corporate learning departments, or anywhere else in education.

Watch a video about the storied McGraw Prize in Education, which is housed at Penn GSE. https://pennpri.de/mcgraw
The Center represents the vibrant growth of a productive partnership between GSE and the McGraw family. In addition to the physical space for the Center, the Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Family Foundation’s support will create the McGraw Leadership in Education Speaker Series and new programming for students across GSE’s leadership programs.

The McGraw family is also committed to deepening the relationship between the Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize and Penn, which is why $6.25 million of their new commitment will go toward extending GSE’s partnership with the Prize. The McGraw Prize in Education, which has been located at Penn GSE for the last three years, was created in 1988 by McGraw Hill to honor its Chairman and CEO, Harold W. McGraw, Jr. It is widely considered the equivalent of a Nobel Prize for education, and it recognizes people who are propelling the ever-changing field of education forward—people like Alberto Carvalho, the superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District; Wendy Kopp, the founder of Teach for America; David Levin, the co-founder of the Knowledge Is Power Program (KIPP); and Anant Agarwal, the CEO and co-founder of edX.

As president of McGraw Hill, one of the largest publishers of textbooks in the country, the late Harold W. McGraw, Jr., was deeply invested in the value of education. His life’s work was built on it—the textbook itself was a huge step in the history of education. He firmly believed that the people creating the next big advances in the field should be celebrated.

McGraw believed educators should be recognized for their impact in the classroom and beyond. His father, James H. McGraw, was a schoolteacher in upstate New York before he founded McGraw Hill in 1888. It is one of the largest educational publishers in the world.

“The McGraw Center for Educational Leadership will bring together the expertise of Penn GSE faculty with the innovative spirit of McGraw Prize winners to create a space where the future leaders of education can reimagine how best to support learning around the globe,” says Pam Grossman, Dean of the Graduate School of Education.

From textbooks to online learning to technologies that practitioners search for solutions to today’s most urgent problems, and impactful philanthropy is giving them the tools they need to explore new frontiers in science and health care.

At Penn, researchers make breakthroughs that change the world. The mRNA technology that led to the COVID-19 vaccines was developed in Penn research labs, and CAR-T immunotherapy has sparked a revolution in how we fight cancer and other diseases. Every day, brilliant Penn scientists and researchers search for solutions to today’s most urgent problems, and impactful philanthropy is giving them the tools they need to explore new frontiers in science and health care.

A $50 million gift from Stewart, W'62, and Judy Colton will endow the Colton Center for Autoimmunity at Penn Medicine, which was established last year with an initial $10 million gift from the Coltons. More than 23 million Americans suffer from autoimmune conditions such as lupus, multiple sclerosis, and rheumatoid arthritis. The Colton Center’s mission is to serve as a research hub that increases our understanding of autoimmune diseases, contributes to the Colton Consortium at NYU, Yale, and Tel Aviv University, and helps to develop new therapies for autoimmune disorders.

A $55 million gift from Mindy, C'92, and Jon Gray, C'92, W'92, will create the Basser Cancer Interception Institute at Penn Medicine. The Basser Center for BRCA is the first comprehensive center for the research, treatment, and prevention of BRCA-related cancers. The new institute is built around a revolutionary approach to cancer prevention: interception. Scientists and researchers will focus on developing methods to intercept abnormal cells and eliminate them before they become cancer. These bold new methods have broad impact and boundless potential to stop cancer before it takes hold—and it all starts at Penn.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW PHILANTHROPY FUELS BREAKTHROUGHS AT PENN MEDICINE, VISIT PENNMEDICINE.ORG/GIVING.
FEEDING THE WORLD and Doing It Sustainably

How can we balance the world’s growing need for food with the existential threat of climate change? Can we have productive farms and a healthy environment at the same time? The new Center for Stewardship Agriculture and Food Security at Penn’s School of Veterinary Medicine is looking for solutions.

The human population is expected to approach 10 billion by 2050, and malnutrition is widespread, particularly in the Global South. One of the best ways to address our urgent need for increased food production is with animal protein.

On the other hand, livestock agriculture contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, producing 10-12% of global emissions, largely due to fertilizer application, manure management, and direct release from cattle.

Agriculture and Food Security at Penn’s School of Veterinary Medicine is looking for solutions. We are facing two pressures that agriculture faces. One is to feed the world. Our Center will be one of the few that is focusing on both of these directives at the same time.

– Thomas Parsons
Director of the Center for Stewardship Agriculture and Food Security and Marie A. Moore Professor of Animal Welfare and Ethics in the Department of Clinical Studies at Penn Vet’s New Bolton Center

At Penn’s School of Veterinary Medicine (Penn Vet), the Center for Stewardship Agriculture and Food Security is looking on what Center Director Thomas Parsons calls a “generational challenge.”

Based at Penn Vet’s New Bolton Campus, the Center will draw on expertise within the School and from around the University to improve food animal productivity—all while striving for sustainability.

To achieve its mission, the Center will focus on five “clusters of excellence”: Animal Welfare, Regenerative Agriculture, Food Security, Climate Impact, and Human Health Interfaces. The five overlapping areas will advance research, training, and outreach to bring Penn Vet’s innovations to farmers wherever they are—in Pennsylvania, the United States, and beyond.

“Simply put, we have a climate crisis, and we have a food security crisis,” explains Andrew Hoffman, the Gilbert S. Kahn Dean of Penn Vet. “We will only succeed if we adapt and innovate to address both.”

Funding for the new Center for Stewardship Agriculture and Food Security is vital to the Center’s mission and impact.

For more information on how your gift can support the Center, contact Hyemi Sevening, Associate Dean of Institutional Advancement, Penn Vet, at (215) 898-1482 or sevening@upenn.edu.

ESG—short for Environmental, Social, and Governance—is all the buzz in the business and investment worlds. But what exactly is ESG? And what is Wharton doing in this emerging field? Witold (Vit) Henisz, the recently appointed Vice Dean and Faculty Director of the ESG Initiative at the Wharton School, answers your questions.

What is ESG? ESG refers to the environmental, social, and governance factors that are relevant for business decisions and financial calculations, particularly in the medium to long term. Too often, ESG factors are omitted from, or underweighted, in the spreadsheets, models, and frameworks that guide short-term decision-making.

This summer, Wharton unveiled the new ESG Initiative. Tell us more about this.

Dean Erika James has identified impact in the ESG conversation as one of her top strategic priorities for the School and for her leadership. In response, we brought together four existing centers and labs that were already conducting frontier research and offering student programming: the Wharton Climate Center (formerly known as the Wharton Risk Management and Decision Processes Center); the Impact Investing Research Lab (formerly the Wharton Social Impact Initiative); the Political Risk and Identity Lab; and the Zicklin Center for Governance & Business Ethics. By bringing them together, we can better leverage, extend, and elevate their activity as part of a broader external conversation on ESG.

How do you see the ESG Initiative growing over time? What is your vision for the program?

Our vision is to influence the way investors, consultants, and executives value ESG factors in their investment and strategic decisions so that the medium- to long-term risks and opportunities associated with climate risk, pollution, work practices, human rights, and corporate political activity are better incorporated into short-term decision-making.

Many individuals, including Penn alumni and friends, are considering ESG issues in their own investing. What is the most important thing for them to know?

At the highest level, ESG investing is a simple proposition. Any investment analysis should incorporate the material ESG factors into its analysis. The challenge, however, is in implementation. How does one do this in a specific case where the data is spotty or inconsistent, the relationships are unclear, and many are offering self-serving arguments for why their approach will generate better returns or lower risks? That is the challenge on which we are delivering research, educating students and executives, and seeking to influence practice and policy.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ESG INITIATIVE, VISIT: ESG.WHARTON.UPENN.EDU

In this 7-minute video, Witold Henisz offers insights about investing in ESG, greenwashing, and how ESG initiatives can boost productivity: pennpri.de/wharton-esg
A new matching opportunity made possible by Scott, W'99, and Elena Shleifer will multiply support for Penn First Plus students

In January 2022, Scott, W’99, and Elena Shleifer made an $18 million gift to support Penn First Plus and name the Shleifer Family Penn First Plus Center—the dedicated home of the initiative in College Hall. Part of the Shleifers’ gift was used to create the Shleifer Family Challenge Fund to inspire others to join them in ensuring that all students have access to the vibrant and varied offerings at Penn. This new challenge fund amplifies the impact of donor gifts to enhanced student aid—a cornerstone of Penn First Plus.

Of Penn’s nearly 10,000 undergraduate students, approximately half receive need-based financial aid. Ten percent of students receive the University’s most generous and comprehensive financial aid packages, which provide funding for summer courses, internships, research experiences, service learning, study abroad programs, and more—opportunities that enable students to take advantage of all that Penn has to offer.

By matching gifts from other donors, the Shleifer Family Challenge Fund could ultimately generate $15 million in endowed support for Penn First Plus students, increasing the impact for students and providing a variety of enriching experiences in the process.

“Penn had a tremendous impact on my life, and not just in the classroom,” says Scott Shleifer. “Elena and I want Penn students to have every experience possible, regardless of their financial circumstances.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO SUPPORT ENHANCED STUDENT AID THROUGH PENN FIRST PLUS, VISIT: UNSP.UPENN.EDU/PENN-FIRST-PLUS.
Giving Highlights

William Shen, W’92, and Hong Jie Aileen Chang made a $500,000 gift to establish the Zheng Chong Da and Li Fang Penn Urology Residency Training Endowment Fund. This gift was made in memory of William’s uncle, Dr. Zheng, who was a distinguished urologist from Shanghai.

Catherine Leung, W’90, made a $40,000 gift to create the Stephen C. Cheung Fellowship in Surgical Oncology. This gift was made in memory of Stephen C. Cheung, WG’56, PAR’87, whose mentorship and support made it possible for Catherine to attend Wharton.

Sandy Beeber Samberg, Nu’94, GNu’95, and Joe Samberg, together with the Steven & Alexandra Cohen Foundation (Steven Cohen, W’78), gave $1 million to help create a psychedelics education initiative at Penn Nursing and Columbia University’s School of Social Work.

Benjamin Z. Lin, W’05, made a $1.5 million gift to create an endowed professorship at the Stuart Weitzman School of Design.

Janet S. Klein, Ed’51, and Ellen L. Klein, C’77, G’77, gave $50,000 to create a new, endowed fund to provide financial support to archaeology and anthropology undergraduate and graduate students who are conducting research in the field. The gift was inspired by Ellen Klein’s personal experiences as a Penn student and was intended to encourage more Penn students to pursue studies in archaeology and anthropology.

Joshua Sanger, W’01, gave $50,000 to support varsity basketball and the Men’s Basketball Endowment Fund.

The Class of 1972 made a $150,000 gift to Penn Live Arts to establish an endowed fund that will support students seeking annual summer internships in the arts & entertainment industry.

Evan, W’09, and Samantha Feinberg made a generous gift to Penn’s Graduate School of Education to support the next generation of teachers and education leaders and to support the School’s annual fund. Evan has also given of his volunteer time by joining the School’s Board of Advisors.

Lennel Vocchi-Meyerhoff GW’71, GS’73, and John Meyerhoff, M’75, made a $50,000 gift to support the Social Justice Scholars Program at the School of Social Policy & Practice (SP2). This generous gift supports SP2’s inaugural Social Justice Scholar studying for a Master’s in Social Work.

Willow (Ryan T. Mahon), SW’01, SWP’02, made a $1,000 gift to create the SP2 LGBTQ Certificate Program Fund, with future support provided through beneficiary designations of retirement plans and life insurance to endow a fellowship at SP2 for Masters students pursuing LGBTQ+ studies.

Joann Seow, WG’83, PAR’20, PAR’24, made a generous gift to establish the George and Mollie Seow Ornamental Plant Endowment Fund, which supports the annual purchase of herbaceous and woody plants at the Morris Arboretum. The gift was made in memory of Seow’s parents and was also meant to mark her daughter’s graduation from Penn in 2020.

Benjamin Z. Lin, W’05, made a $1.5 million gift to create an endowed professorship at the Stuart Weitzman School of Design.
Kelly Writers House Advisory Board member Leslie Dezer Salmon, W’92, and Ricardo Salmon, W’93, made a $250,000 gift to endow and name the Salmon Junior Fellows Prize at the Kelly Writers House, one of its longest-running student prizes. Developed specifically to foster a postgraduate relationship with the Writers House community, the prize is awarded to a recent graduate who plans to complete a project culminating in a public event at the House.

A Team Effort

An impressive $12.6 million renovation effort, spurred by more than 200 donors, has created a new home for Penn Rowing. On Saturday, October 15, Penn Athletics welcomed more than 350 students, alumni, and friends to the official unveiling of the Burk-Bergman Boathouse, named for legendary coaches Joe Burk, W’34, HON’88, and Stan Bergman. The celebratory spirit continued the next day at the Navy Day Regatta, where the women’s team won two divisions, the men’s heavyweight team won one, and the men’s lightweight team finished second.

To see photos and read more about the Boathouse renovation, visit: giving.upenn.edu/making-waves

Concrete is a staple of construction almost everywhere in the world, but the production of this ubiquitous substance releases incredible amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. With the support of a new $2.4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, researchers at the Weitzman School of Design and Penn Engineering are working to develop a new use for this material—maximizing its ability to absorb carbon from the air. The ultimate goal is to turn buildings into carbon sinks, using these new materials to store more carbon than was released during the construction process.

Penn Global Celebrates Its 10th Anniversary

For 10 years, Penn Global has brought the world to Penn and Penn to the world. In that decade, Penn has deepened its global commitment, with over 6,000 international students enrolled each year, 2,500 students studying abroad for credit annually, and faculty working in over 170 countries and territories around the world. Penn Global is marking this milestone—and celebrating the University’s long-standing commitment to global engagement—with a series of events for students, partners, alumni, and scholars.

To learn more, visit: global.upenn.edu/10

A Building Blocks of Change

Concrete that absorbs carbon from the air could help mitigate the environmental impact of construction. (Credit: Polyhedral Structures Laboratory, Weitzman School of Design)