In January 1748, Benjamin Franklin celebrated his 42nd birthday by admitting David Hall to partnership in his printing business and placing Hall in charge of all operations at the press. This arrangement enabled Franklin to withdraw from active printing work and to focus his full attention on public service. The timing was fortuitous because just two months earlier, one of Franklin’s brief, but powerful essays, a piece he titled Plain Truth, had instantly transformed him into one of Philadelphia’s leading public figures. In Plain Truth, Franklin first reviewed the recent history of armed raids by the French and Spanish on English shipping in the Delaware Bay and the refusal by the Quaker-dominated Pennsylvania Assembly to adopt any law directing the appropriation of public monies for the purpose of military defense. Franklin’s response to the political impasse was to advocate the creation of a volunteer militia, the officers and members of which would take appropriate steps to protect Philadelphia from similar attacks. He also authored a plan for a voluntary organization – the “Pennsylvania Association of 1747” – which was signed, within two or three weeks, by more than a thousand Philadelphians. Plain Truth, in Franklin’s own words, “had a sudden and surprizing Effect.” By January 1748, Franklin – though he had yet to hold any public office – was Philadelphia’s most visible and most popular public leader.

Freed from the day-to-day responsibilities of the printing press, Franklin was swept up first into provincial governance: in October 1748, he was elected a member of Philadelphia’s city council; in June 1749, he was appointed a Justice of the Peace for Philadelphia County; in May 1751, he was elected a member of the Pennsylvania Assembly; in August 1753, he was appointed joint deputy postmaster general for North America.

Franklin simultaneously introduced the series of civic and intellectual innovations for which he is famous. In May 1747, Franklin wrote to Peter Collinson, in London, the first of several long letters which described his ideas on electricity and the experiments he had undertaken to test his theories. Collinson shared copies of these letters with others in England, who were unanimous in thinking they were “ingenious.” In February 1750, Collinson decided to have the letters printed and placed them in the hands of a highly respected English intellectual, John Fothergill, to review and edit them as he deemed appropriate. Franklin had time to make some additions and corrections and also to send still another letter on the subject. Fothergill was so favorably impressed that he endorsed Franklin’s work by writing a preface to the collected essays. Printed in pamphlet format and released to the public in April 1751, the eighty-six-page publication was titled, Experiments and Observations on Electricity, made at Philadelphia in America, and it quickly circulated throughout the scientific communities of Great Britain and Europe. “Nothing,” it was later stated, “was ever written upon the subject of electricity which was more generally read, and admired in all parts of Europe than these letters.”

In August 1749, Franklin initiated what he called a “public affair,” the same one that we celebrate today. He did so by placing an unsigned letter at the top of the front page of his Philadelphia newspaper, the Pennsylvania Gazette. It masqueraded as a communication to the editors which signaled the writer’s intentions with regard to a major civic improvement, an institution of higher education. The author, of course, was Franklin himself.

To the Printers of the G A Z E T T E

In the settling of new countries, the first care of the planters must be to provide and secure the necessities of life; this engrosses their attention, and affords them little time to think of anything farther. We may therefore excuse our ancestors, that they established no Academy or college in this province, wherein their youth might receive a polite and learned education. Agriculture and mechanic arts, were of the most immediate importance; the culture of minds by the finer arts and sciences, was necessarily postponed to times of more wealth and leisure.

Since those times are come, and numbers of our inhabitants are both able and willing to give their sons a good education, if it might be had at home, free from the extraordinary expense and hazard in sending them abroad for that purpose; and since a proportion of men of learning is useful in every country, and those who of late years come to settle among us, are
chiefly foreigners, unacquainted with our language, laws and customs; it is thought, a proposal for establishing an Academy in this province, will not now be deemed unseasonable. Such a proposal the publick may therefore shortly expect.

Over the next two months, Franklin drafted the text of a plan for an educational institution, consulted with other prominent Philadelphians, re-drafted and perfected the plan, and then, in October 1749, he published and distributed widely a persuasive plea for the establishment of an “Academy, in which [the Youth of this Province] might receive the Accomplishments of a regular Education.” Franklin’s brief essay on education, which he titled, Proposals Relating to the Education of Youth in Pensilvania, has endured to our present time as one of the most influential of his writings. In it, he famously summarized both the means and the ends of higher education,

As to their Studies, it would be well if they could be taught every Thing that is useful, and every Thing that is ornamental; But Art is long, and their Time is short. It is therefore propos’d that they learn those Things that are likely to be most useful and most ornamental. Regard being had to the several Professions for which they are intended. …

The response to Franklin’s Proposals was immediate and enormously supportive. In November 1749, the Trustees convened and adopted the “Constitutions of the Publick Academy in the City of Philadelphia.” In February 1750, they purchased land and a large, but unfinished building located on the west side of Fourth Street, between Market and Arch Streets and they authorized the conversion and finishing of the structure for educational purposes. In January 1751, the Academy enrolled its first students and taught its first classes. In July 1753, Thomas and Richard Penn, the Proprietors of the Province of Pennsylvania, granted the Academy a corporate charter. In June 1755, the Proprietors amended the charter to empower the Trustees to confer degrees and the corporate name of the institution changed to the “Trustees of the College, Academy and Charitable School of Philadelphia in the Province of Pennsylvania.” In May 1757, the College of Philadelphia, as it came to be commonly known, graduated its first class and conferred its first degrees.

Just as soon as the Academy opened in January 1751, Franklin was on to his next civic improvement. Later that same month, Franklin and Dr. Thomas Bond petitioned the Pennsylvania Assembly to incorporate the founders of the Pennsylvania Hospital and to match their contributions with public funds; by May of that year this proposal had become law; in July 1751, the Pennsylvania Hospital was organized; and in February 1752, the Hospital admitted its first patients.

Then, in July 1751, Franklin began still another project. In that month, he called on Philadelphia’s volunteer fire companies to send representatives to a general meeting for the consideration of a plan for the “Insurance of Houses;” in September of that year, the plan was approved; in February 1752, the books of the “Philadelphia Contributionship for the Insurance of Houses from Loss by Fire” were opened for subscription; in April of that year, the new fire insurance company was organized; and in June 1752, the Contributionship issued its first policies.

Franklin’s model of inspirational public citizenship did not end with any one of these several accomplishments. He simply moved on to the next “public affair.” Between January 1748 and April 1757, when he left Philadelphia to represent the Pennsylvania legislature before the British crown and Parliament, Franklin was a virtual – and continuous – engine of civic involvement and improvement.

250 YEARS AGO
The Commencement of 1762

In December 1761, the Trustees of the College, Academy, and Charitable School of Philadelphia in the Province of Pennsylvania – as Penn was then formally constituted – resolved to undertake Penn’s first capital campaign. In previous years the Trustees had relied on the proceeds from public lotteries to bridge the gap between revenues and disbursements, but there were many critics of the morality of lotteries and in June 1759, the Pennsylvania Assembly had gone so far as to adopt a law “for the more effective suppressing and preventing of Lotteries …” The law was challenged by the French artist Pierre Eugène du Simitière is the only contemporary view of the first campus of the University of Pennsylvania. The building on the left – begun in 1740, but not completed until 1750 – was known as College Hall. It housed Penn’s upper schools, the Academy and the College of Philadelphia. The Commencement of 1762 was held in College Hall. The building on the right, built in 1763-64, functioned both as the Charitable School of Philadelphia and as a dormitory for College students. The Academy and Charitable Schools, aimed at younger students, opened in 1751; the College was chartered in 1755; Penn, in the colonial period, consisted of all three schools and the Trustees governed the entire institution.

COURTESY OF THE LIBRARY COMPANY OF PHILADELPHIA’S PIERRE EUGÈNE DU SIMITIÈRE COLLECTION (965.F.33), LOCATED AT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA.
in the Draught of a Commission or Power authorizing Dr. Smith in their Names to request Donations for the Academy together with an Address to the Proprietaries of the Province to countenance, advise, and assist Dr. Smith in making the said Collection & a Letter to Proprietor Thomas Penn praying Liberty to sell his Share of the Perkasie Manor which were all read, amended, and approved …

Minutes of the Trustees
Tuesday, 15 December 1761
Volume One, at page 151

Provost Smith departed Philadelphia, bound for London, in January 1762. He would successfully raise the unprecedented total of £7,000 pounds on behalf of the College, Academy and Charitable School, but the campaign would take two and a half years and the Provost would not return to Philadelphia until June 1764. In the intervening years Rev. Dr. Francis Alison, the Vice Provost, assumed the Provost’s administrative duties and Rev. John Ewing (who would eventually succeed Smith as Penn’s Provost) assumed Smith’s teaching duties. This was the state of affairs at Penn in the spring of 1762.

In the eighteenth century, it was customary for the Trustees and Faculty to conduct a public examination of all students who had completed the collegiate course and applied for the degree of Bachelor of Arts. The ‘Trustees’ minutes for April 1762 described in unusual detail the process of comprehensive examination for that year,

[Trustees] Present
Richard Peters, Thomas White
Alexander Stedman, William Allen
Thomas Cadwalader, Jacob Duchê

The Senior Students were examined by Dr. Alison & Mr. Peters in the Greek & Latin Languages; by Mr. Ewing and Mr. Williamson in Mathematicks; & by Mr. Peters & Dr. Alison in Logic, which took up the Forenoon.

P.M.

Present the same Trustees
Mr. Stedman & Mr. Ewing examined the Students in Natural Philosophy, & Dr. Alison & Mr. Peters in Moral Philosophy.

The Examination in all the Branches of Science was Strict & full, & the Students gave very clear and sensible Answers, much to the Satisfaction of the Trustees, & the Audience was pleased to express, at going away, very favorable Sentiments of the great Improvement made by the Students.

Minutes of the Trustees
Tuesday, 6 April 1762
Volume One, at pages 166-67

A few weeks later, the Trustees authorized public announcement of the upcoming Commencement of 1762,

Tuesday next, being the Eighteenth of May, is appointed for holding the Publick Commencement in the College of this City. The Doors of the Publick Hall will be opened Half an Hour past Eight in the Morning, and the Exercises begin precisely at Nine o’clock; and in the Afternoon at Half an Hour past Two. Besides the Orations and Disputes by the Candidates, a Piece of Music will be perform’d, which, it is hoped, will give great Entertainment to the Audience.

Pennsylvania Gazette
Thursday, 13 May 1762
at page three

Later in May, the Philadelphia newspapers printed the following report on the Commencement proceedings,

PH I L A D E L P H I A, May 27.

On Tuesday, the 18th inst., a public Commencement was held at the College in this City, in the Presence of a learned, polite, and very brilliant Assembly. Every Part of the public Hall was crowded with spectators. His Honor the G O V E R N O R, who is one of the Trustees of this Institution, was pleased to attend the whole Day. A great Number of the Clergy of different Denominations, together with many other Gentlemen of Learning, and the first Distinction, from the neighbouring Parts, were likewise present.

The following Gentlemen were admitted to Degrees at this Commencement, viz. Samuel Campbell, John Cooke, William

Henry Marchant, formerly a Student of this Institution, having pronounced an elegant, spirited English Oration upon the Study of the Law, was admitted to a Master’s Degree; Also the Rev. Mr. Morgan Edwards, the Rev. Mr. Joseph Mather, the Rev. Mr. John Simonton, and Mr. Isaac Smith, of Nassau College, now Student of Physic, to the Honorary Degree of Master of Arts; And Mr. Thomas Pollock, Tutor in the Academy, to the Honorary Degree of Bachelor of Arts.

Every Thing was conducted with the utmost Decency and Order. The Candidates acquitted themselves in every Part of their Exercises to the Satisfaction of all present, and have thereby derived considerable Honour to themselves and to the Institution.

Pennsylvania Gazette
Thursday, 27 May 1762
at page three

150 YEARS AGO
The Commencements of 1862

In the academic year 1861-62, the Trustees, faculty, and students of the University of Pennsylvania were deeply concerned with and ever mindful of the terrible civil war being waged by the North and the South. The Trustees were determined, however, to carry the work of the University forward without interruption. The College, which drew the great majority of its students from the Philadelphia area, enrolled 124 regular students that year, which was consistent with enrollments in recent years. The Department of Medicine – founded in 1765 and since the 1820s, generally recognized as a great national school – enrolled 309 regular students, a forty-one per cent decline from just two years earlier. The Department of Law – re-established in 1850 and chiefly attended by those who intended to practice law in Pennsylvania – enrolled 54 regular students, a twenty-four per cent decline from the previous two years. Despite the overall decline in enrollment, the Trustees followed the traditional academic calendar and the faculty taught the regular curriculum.

The students in the College followed a four-year course leading to the degree of Bachelor of Arts or that of Bachelor of Science. The students in the College followed a four-year course leading to the degree of Bachelor of Arts. John Beard, Nathaniel Chapman, William Hamilton, Samuel Jones, John Porter, and Stephen Watts, to the Degree of Bachelor of Arts. John Beard, Nathaniel Chapman, William Edmiston, and William Paca, to the Degree of Master of Arts.

For these reasons, Penn celebrated two commencements in 1862, first that of the Department of Medicine and later, that of the College and Department of Law. The Philadelphia newspapers described both ceremonies in considerable detail,
Rev. Dr. Schaeffer opened the exercises with a prayer.

Rev. Daniel R. Goodwin, D.D., Provost of the University, then conferred the Degree of Doctor of Medicine upon the graduates. The list was read off by Dr. Rogers, the Dean.

The names of the successful students are as follows …

[Ninety-one names followed, accompanied by the state of their permanent residence.]

Many of the graduates were the recipients of flowers, sent by their friends, which were arranged very neatly upon the stage.

The valedictory address was delivered by Joseph Leidy, M.D., Professor of Anatomy.

After a benediction, at the close the audience retired.

Philadelphia Inquirer
Friday, 14 March 1862
at page eight

Three and one-half months later, Penn’s Trustees and faculty conducted – and the Philadelphia newspapers reported – the Commencement of 1862.

Annual Commencement of the University of Pennsylvania

Musical Fund Hall presented a brilliant appearance yesterday morning on the occasion of the Annual Commencement of the University of Pennsylvania. As usual, there was a large audience, the majority being ladies. Hassler’s band was in attendance and discoursed fine music, among which was some prepared by a member of the class. At ten o’clock the procession of graduates and professors formed at the College, Ninth street above Chestnut, and marched to the Hall. The services were opened with a prayer by the Provost, Rev. Dr. Goodwin, in which he besought a blessing on the occasion, and concluded with an appeal for a happy issue to the troubles of our country.

Mr. Charles C. Harrison then spoke the Greek Salutatory. The address was delivered with facility and appropriate gesture.

“Sunnyside” was the subject of the next speaker, Mr. George D. Budd. His remarks consisted of an eulogy upon the life and character of Washington Irving. Mr. Budd presented a graphic picture of the pioneer of American literature, and the close of his life at Sunnyside.

The next address was by Mr. Thomas F. Jones on “The Progress of Science in War.”

In the music which followed, the band struck up the Star Spangled Banner, when the whole audience rose, and remained standing during the rendition of the air.

Mr. Thomas Jones spoke on “The World’s Advancement,” contending that the progress of the world has been ever onward.

The subject of “Union” was discoursed upon by Mr. P. Frazer Jr.

Mr. George S. Chambers delivered an interesting address on “Radicalism.”

The degree of Bachelor of Arts was then conferred on the following members of the senior class:

[The names of twenty-five graduates then followed.]

Mr. Edward Starr had conferred on him the degree of Bachelor of Science.

The degree of Master of Arts was conferred on the following graduates of three years standing:

[The names of twenty-nine recipients of the semi-honorary degree of Master of Arts then followed.]

The following gentlemen had conferred on them the degree of Bachelor of Laws:

[The names of fifteen graduates then followed.]

After the conferring of degrees, Mr. Wm. Pepper Jr. delivered the valedictory address.

The Provost, Rev. Dr. Goodwin, announced the prizes awarded by the Faculty of Arts, during the past college year, for special attainments and exercises.

The benediction was then pronounced, and the affair closed.
After the exercises, at 8 P.M., the class adjourned to a handsome collation. After the usual toasts, the following impromptu, written after the exercises had closed, by a member of the graduating class, was sung in full chorus:

On brothers, we've met for the last time, and here
Our paths once conjoined must now ever diverge.
At the end of our course and our college career
Into stern, varied life must our destinies merge;
And whatever we do, to ourselves we'll prove true,
But a halo shed round our loved class – ‘62.

CHORUS – May our country remember us as of honor well due,
Our small band of brothers, the class – ‘62.

Philadelphia Inquirer
Thursday, 3 July 1862
at page eight

50 YEARS AGO
Commencement of 1962

The spring of 1962 was a time of great optimism at the University of Pennsylvania. In March, the Trustees and University administration achieved a major, long-term goal when the construction of Van Pelt Library was completed and more than 1,000,000 books began to be transferred into the new facility. In June, the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania celebrated the opening of the new Ravdin Institute with a huge gala reception and dedication ceremony. In addition, the magnificent new building for Penn’s most recent intellectual innovation – the Annenberg School for Communication – was nearing completion and was scheduled to be dedicated in November.

In the first week of May, the Trustees of the University gathered for their annual stated meeting. At that meeting – and after more than two years of consultation and consensus building – the Trustees adopted the "Integrated Development Plan," an eighty-three-page statement of Penn’s educational mission and priorities, accompanied by the University’s long-term goals in physical plant expansion and the fundraising necessary to support it. It was a watershed moment in Penn’s twentieth-century history. The Integrated Development Plan essentially defined the work of the Trustees for the next eight years and much of our contemporary academic enterprise was the extraordinary result.

The academic year of 1961-62 was the first year in which Penn operated on its modern academic calendar. The start of the fall semester shifted back from the first of October to the week following the Labor Day holiday, which made it possible to close the fall semester just before the year-end holiday season. The start of the spring semester was likewise moved back, from the first of February to the early part of January, which thereby brought the semester to an end in the second week of May. In 1962, for the first time in more than a century, Penn held its annual commencement in May, a practice which has continued to the present day.

The Commencement of 1962 took place on Monday morning, 21 May, at the Municipal Auditorium (also known as Convention Hall), which stood on South Thirty-fourth Street, where the Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine stands today. The Academic Procession formed at 10 a.m. in the second floor Ballroom and at 10:30 a.m. it entered the main Auditorium. President Harnwell, the Trustees, other University officers, and those designated for the award of honorary degrees took the stage at the east end of the Auditorium, while the graduating students took their seats on the floor of the Auditorium. The audience occupied the elevated seats around the horseshoe-shaped perimeter of the Auditorium, both on the first floor and upstairs on the balconies.

The Commencement of 1962 was unusual in that it featured two Commencement speakers. The first, who had been announced several months in advance of the ceremony, was President John F. Kennedy’s Secretary of the Treasury, Clarence Douglas Dillon (1909 – 2003). The second, who had accepted an invitation to speak only a few weeks ahead of time, was Félix Houphouët-Boigny (ca. 1905 – 1993), President of the Republic of the Ivory Coast (or Côte d’Ivoire) in West Africa.

The dual Commencement speakers were very different. Dillon was a study in contrasts: his paternal grandparents were poor Jewish immigrants from Poland who settled in Texas and became very successful in several different businesses; his father attended Harvard College, changed the family name to Dillon, and became wealthy as the head of the New York investment banking firm of Dillon, Read; Douglas Dillon himself was an active Republican, who served in the Eisenhower presidential administration as Ambassador to France and later as Under Secretary of State; in April 1965, when Dillon left the U.S. Cabinet, he said, “I am a moderate Republican. I do not believe that there are great differences between that kind of Republicanism and the objectives” of the Kennedy and Johnson administrations.

Houphouët-Boigny, on the other hand, was known for a single revolutionary cause: African independence from European colonial rule. He was a well-educated, practicing physician and successful rural planter, who entered Ivory Coast politics in 1944 as the co-founder of a group which advocated for local control of agricultural production, a group known as the African Agricultural Syndicate. Within a year, he transformed that organization into the Democratic Party of the Ivory Coast and was elected a deputy to the French National Assembly. Despite his resistance to French colonial policies, he maintained open communication and cordial relations with the French government. In 1956 the French prime minister, Guy Mallet, appointed him a minister-delegate, the first African in with the French government. In 1956, when Dillon left the U.S. Cabinet, he said, “I am a moderate Republican. I do not believe that there are great differences between that kind of Republicanism and the objectives” of the Kennedy and Johnson administrations.

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TODAY
Penn in 2012

“Penn: A Pantheon of Teaching, Research & Public Service”

Almanac for 10 January 2012

Happy New Year and welcome back to Penn! As we embark on a new semester, I want to thank every member of the Penn community for continuing to distinguish this University as a place where individual passions fuel a collective purpose. Because of your commitment to collaboration, creativity,
and innovation, 2011 was a year filled with noteworthy achievements. I know 2012 will continue this trend.

In December, we proudly announced that Penn Med received $16.3 million – one of the largest individual gifts made to medical research in the United States in 2011 – to establish the Neuroscience of Behavior Initiative. In October, President Barack Obama presented professor Ralph Brinster of Penn Vet with the National Medal of Science, the highest honor bestowed by the United States government on scientists and engineers. Dr. Brinster is the first veterinarian, and the eighth Penn faculty member, to receive this prestigious award.

The American Physical Society elected five Penn faculty to its 2011 APS Fellowship class. They are Mark Devlin, Alan “Charlie” Johnson, and Joshua Klein of the Department of Physics and Astronomy; Feng Gai of the Department of Chemistry; and Howard Hu of the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics.

Kudos go to Barbara Savage of the Department of History, who won the Gravemeyer Award in Religion for her extremely insightful book, *Spirits Walk Beside Us: The Politics of Black Religion*. And to James Corner, Chairman of the Department of Landscape Architecture, who was awarded the commission to design new public spaces for the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park South in London.

These, of course, are but a few of the many remarkable achievements made by Penn faculty last year. I am especially proud that in 2011 the entire Penn community put into motion a comprehensive plan that will catapult forward our commitment to creating a university community that reflects and respects the richness of the world it serves by introducing Penn’s Action Plan for Faculty Diversity and Excellence. As an important step, Provost Vince Price has appointed John L. Jackson, Jr., the Richard Perry University Professor of Communications and Anthropology, to be Senior Advisor to the Provost for Diversity. I look forward to working diligently with Vince, John, and all of you to make Penn a place of even greater creativity, innovation, and inclusion.

Outside our classrooms, studios, and laboratories, we saw a transformation of Penn’s campus in 2011. In September, we celebrated the opening of Penn Park, the centerpiece of our Penn Connects long-range development plan, which weaves together our campus, West Philadelphia and Center City. We also officially opened the Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine and named the Perelman School of Medicine, with great gratitude to Raymond and Ruth Perelman for their historic gift.

The opening of Penn Park marked the completion of the first phase of Penn Connects and this year we will launch Penn Connects 2.0, the second phase of the plan. This second phase will include the opening of Golkin Hall, the beautiful new wing at Penn Law, the completion of the Singh Center for Nanotechnology, and the renovation of our historic ARCH building. We will continue with our transformative plans to construct a new College House between 33rd and 34th on Chestnut Street, and we also will enter the design phase of the new Neural Behavioral Sciences building.

Next fall, we will add even more green space to campus with the opening of Shoemaker Green in front of the Palestra. Our second college green will be a welcoming, tree-lined public commons with walkways and an inviting sitting area. Overlooking Shoemaker Green will be the new Information Commons at Franklin Field, scheduled for completion this February. This new space will provide our students with a study area that offers unbeatable views of our bustling campus.

Finally, I know that you will join me in expressing gratitude to the many remarkable Penn alumni and friends who have been so avidly generous in their support that we reached our Making History campaign goal of $3.5 billion in 2011. In 2012, we will continue working toward all of our remaining priorities in the campaign, which include the funding of more endowed professorships (we’ve funded 100 so far in the campaign, but need more for our eminent faculty), student financial aid (which as you know is essential to making a Penn education affordable to outstanding students regardless of their financial circumstances), our high priority capital projects, and all the remaining School and Center priorities.

New Year’s is a time for reflection and resolution. I know that, as this exceptional community of dedicated scholars and teachers moves forward, we will continue to put Penn in the pantheon of teaching, research, and public service. Thank you for making this an academic home to which I am always happy to return. Have a great semester!

Amy Gutmann
President

Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor of Political Science

In 2012 the Penn Compact with its threefold theme – increasing access, integrating knowledge, and engaging locally and globally – leads the University of Pennsylvania into the future. It does so in partnership with the campus building plan, Penn Connects, and the $3.5 billion capital campaign, Making History. Working together these three initiatives promise to achieve President Gutmann’s objective for Penn: from excellence to eminence. Today, as the University community celebrates the Commencement of 2012, it is useful to reflect on the institution’s oldest traditions and to recognize that Penn is keeping faith with the best of its past.

Mark Frazier Lloyd
Director
University Archives and Records Center