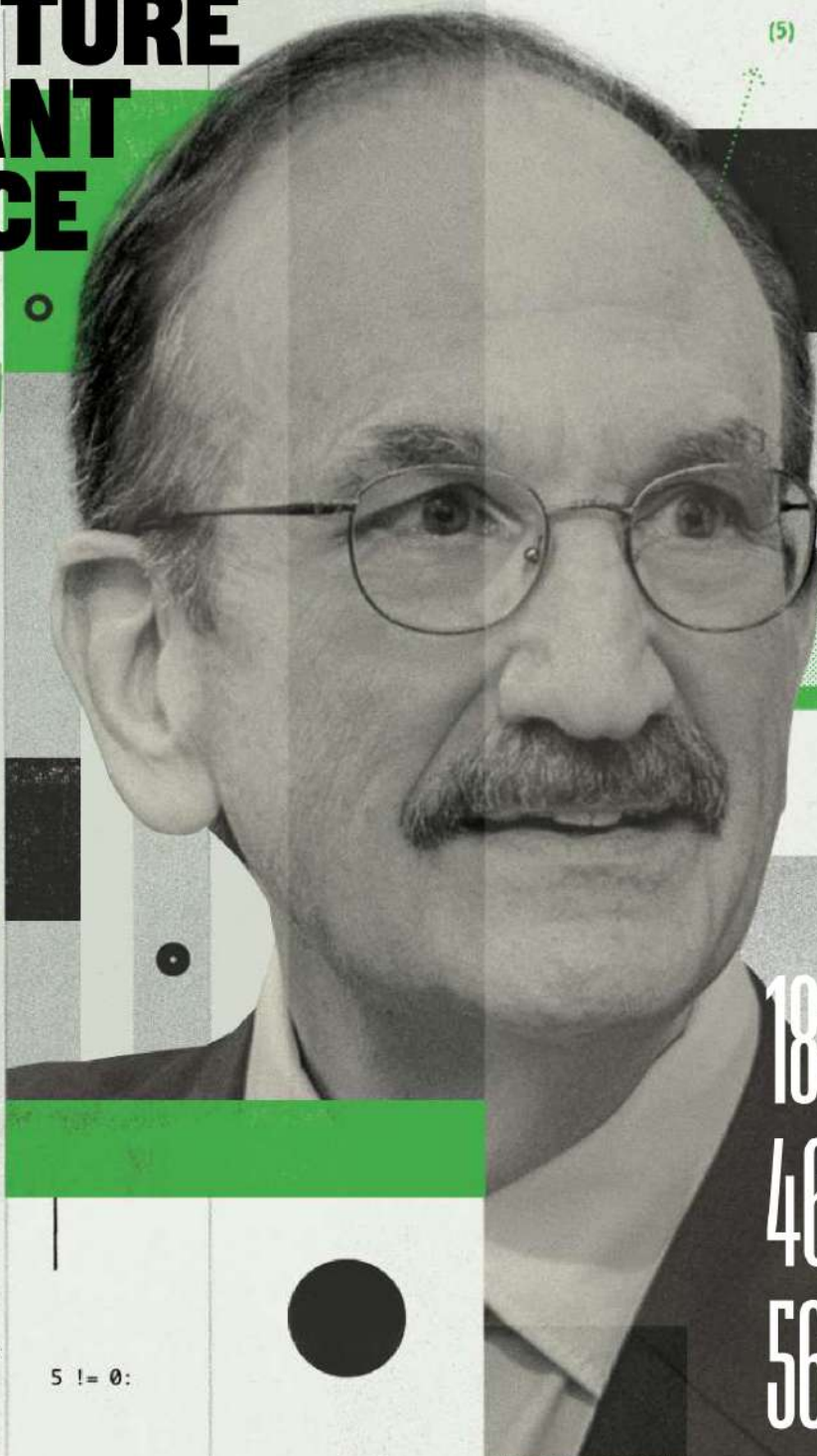


WHARTON

MAGAZINE

MEET DR. BRUCE I. JACOBS G79 GRW86, THE MAN BEHIND WHARTON'S FIRST NEW DEGREE IN 50 YEARS, AND THE FACULTY SHAPING THIS CUTTING-EDGE PROGRAM

THE FUTURE OF QUANT FINANCE



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NEWS
Five Decades of WEMBA

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IDEAS
Inside the Data Center Boom

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PEOPLE
Life Seemed Perfect. Parkinson's Had Other Ideas.

```
elements(n):  
result = []  
  
(result) < n:  
    0  
    5 != 0:  
  
return result
```



Mary Gross WG02 & family

to terrific people whom the Pinataros are eager to make their newest family members. Rob and Angela live in greater Atlanta and travel often to the NY/NJ/PA/MD area to visit family and to Chicago for board and other meetings with PE firms. If you're ever in the Atlanta area, look him up. Rob would love to buy you a round!

Curtiss Barnes sends his regards from Lexington, MA, where he lives with Julie G96. They have three daughters in various stages of launching into adulthood. Curtiss is the CEO of 1EdTech, a technical standards organization serving the edtech community globally with a portfolio of interoperability and practice standards that support lifelong learning.

Blake Glenn continues to live in London, where he runs Curious Industry, a small but mighty consulting firm. In the past year, his firm has had engagements that include strategy for the world-leading HIV therapy, the brand positioning for a new form of instant coffee, and the AI strategy for a major global fintech.

Mary Gross and Brian celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary with a bucket-list family trip to the beautiful Galápagos Islands. In addition to the family trip, they made time during 2025 to revisit most of the locations where they've lived over the years, and their children, Elanor and Darren, stunned them with a trip home and a surprise party on their anniversary weekend.

↑ WG02 WEMBA
Rahul Sondhi
rahul@alumni.upenn.edu
Mary Gross
marygros@wharton.upenn.edu

04 Ryan Brennan, managing partner at Advantage Capital, was named Truman

State University's 2025 Alumnus of the Year for his exceptional career, leadership, and commitment to driving meaningful impact in communities across the country. Ryan plays a vital role in advancing Advantage Capital's mission to expand access to capital.

Aron Bohlig will be spending time in Puerto Rico, Buenos Aires, San Francisco, New York, and Las Vegas in the coming year and would be pleased to get together with any old classmates. He continues to run his software and services M&A firm, ComCap (comcapllc.com).

↑ WG04 WEMBA Philadelphia
Shari Wakiyama
shari.wakiyama.wg04@wharton.upenn.edu

12 The Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco appointed **Marla Bleavins** to its Los Angeles branch's board of directors in January.

18 Colleen O'Neill has been named Penn's vice president for finance and treasurer. Effective April 13, Colleen serves as the primary steward of Penn's financial assets, leads the University's central financial functions, and partners with Penn Medicine in the management of their finances. Since July 2023, Colleen served as Wharton's chief operating officer, overseeing financial operations, strategic financial planning, facilities and operations, capital projects, information technology, human resources, and Wharton Research Data Services. Colleen previously served in several leadership roles at Wharton, including executive director of Wharton Customer Analytics and director of the Wharton Global Consulting Practicum. She holds an MBA from Wharton's Executive MBA program as well as an MPA, an MS in education, and a BA in history, all from Penn.

25 Rosy Thachil, director of the cardiac intensive care unit at NYC Health + Hospitals' Elmhurst hospital, was recognized by *Modern Healthcare* in its prestigious 2026 "40 Under 40" list. Dr. Thachil is also an assistant professor of medicine (cardiology) at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

Executive Education

98 Robert Van Nostrand WAM98 was appointed to the board of directors of NewYorkBIO, a leading advocate for the life science community in New York.

15 Bob Knorr WAM15 writes: "After completing the AMP program, I was inspired by a former UPenn student of mine to start a venture outside my health-care background. What started off as a friendly academic challenge quickly became a passion to provide alumni from UPenn/Wharton and 150-plus other schools with a new option to showcase their school pride. Timeless Tartans recently launched the University of Georgia collection and continues to add new Italian-made fashion accessories whose unique tartan designs provide a platform for alumni to tell others about that special time and place in their lives."

18 Ashish Saxena WAM18 has been appointed chief growth officer of CoreStack, an AI-powered cloud governance and security platform, where he plays a central role in advancing the company's global growth strategy. Ashish is also the author of the new book *The Growth Mandate: Leadership in an Exponential World*.

21 Shailesh Paul WAM21 was appointed CEO of PayU Digital (Wibmo), a payment technology company serving clients in India, MEA, and APAC. Shailesh was previously global SMB head at Visa and has relocated from Singapore to Mumbai.

24 Ira Agarwal WAM24 reports: "Since completing the Wharton Advanced Management Program, I have expanded my leadership at the intersection of artificial intelligence, board governance, and social impact, shaping how responsible and scalable AI is governed and deployed across enterprises and ecosystems. Over the past year, I have been recognized with multiple

national and global honors, including the ET Leadership Excellence Awards and Tech and Innovation Awards, for advancing ethical AI, digital transformation, and inclusive entrepreneurship. My work and leadership have been featured across premier global platforms, including *Forbes*, *Time*, the *Times of India*, and the *Economic Times*.

"I have been deeply enriched by my association with the Wharton AI and Analytics Initiative, which continues to shape critical dialogue and thought leadership on the future of responsible artificial intelligence.

"In parallel, I advanced my creative and intellectual journey as an author with my debut novel, *Quantum Hearts of Kailasha*.

"I continue to engage deeply with the Wharton alumni and global executive community, championing purpose-driven leadership, ethical AI governance, and transformative impact. Wharton's emphasis on principled leadership, analytical rigor, and global responsibility remains a defining force in my work and worldview."

25 BoGauN Chen WMP25 writes: "As of January 1, I am serving as the deputy international officer of the Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI). Headquartered in Taiwan, ITRI is well known for incubating TSMC, which spun out in 1987. I look forward to promoting partnerships between the U.S. and Taiwan, focused on the commercialization of manufacturing technology in the age of AI and new global supply chain reshaping."



Ira Agarwal WAM24



Colleen O'Neill WG18