

SPRING 2017

## May 13 Luncheon Speaker “Helps Save a Continent’s Food Supply”



*Ian Bennett, WG'67*

At 1:15 p.m. on Saturday, May 13 in Huntsman Hall, WGES will welcome the 1967 and 1972 Classes for induction at our traditional Reunion Luncheon. After a brief welcome from Dean Geoff Garrett, there will be memorable music from a professional jazz trio.

After an excellent meal with choice of wine, a three-part program will be introduced to the gathering of new and existing members, family and friends. First, new members will be welcomed and given WGES lapel pins. Then the initial Crandall Challenge Citation presentation will take place, with remarks from those receiving Citations.

### One of Our Own

Our home-grown speaker will wind up the event.

Ian Bennett, WG'67, and former steering committee member, is President of Harvest Protection Network. This company's steel buildings protect harvested crops from rain and pest intrusion in sub-Saharan Africa. The buildings pay for themselves with revenues from the sale of crops previously lost to spoilage. Estimates indicate that up to 37% of this area's food acreage is lost between production and consumption.

In addition to a great “value-added” career choice, this business has led Ian into work with the U.S. Export-Import Bank, the Rockefeller Foundations and governments in Senegal and Nigeria, among others. Along with the lowdown on running this unusual international business, we may get some insight into his other career activities.

### A Truly Varied Career

As a U.S. Navy officer fresh out of college, he was assigned to board unidentified cargo ships off the Vietnam coast in search of contraband. He has also written a novel, “Friends & Family,” titled “A story of violence in the City of Brotherly Love.” It looks like we're in for an interesting afternoon.

This reunion luncheon is a yearly society highlight. It offers a perfect occasion to renew old friendships and begin new ones.

Visit [wharton.upenn.edu/reunion](http://wharton.upenn.edu/reunion) to reserve your place at an event that helps make clear why Penn and Wharton mean so much to all of us at every age!



*Charles Decker, WG'65*

## Inaugural Crandall Citations to Two Worthy Members – Plus a Bright Future!

Charles Decker, WG'65, and Mike Wallace, WG'64, will be presented with the initial Crandall Challenge Citations for their exemplary post-career work at our reunion luncheon on May 13. Graduating within a year of each other, and involved in work that takes place well beyond U.S. borders, both their endeavors focus on care, education, and employment opportunities for those who need it most.



*Mike Wallace, WG'64*

### From Paris to Laos

After a long career in accounting, automotive repair franchising and management consulting, Mike Wallace first visited Laos in 2008. He found the citizens wonderful and willing, but living in one of Asia's poorest countries. Without a sea coast for tourism or petroleum for export, their need was real and urgent. In 2009, Mike created a non-profit association, registered in Paris, where he lived for 30-plus years.

Since 2010, he has lived in Laos 10 months a year, running AEDECOL, which helps educate children and encourages would-be entrepreneurs to develop small businesses.

# Regional WGES Events Galore!

Many Society activities are taking place beyond Philadelphia this year. Here's a past-present-future look at some of the major ones, with more to come. If you have an idea for an



*In February, Barbara Teaford, WG'76, opened her Naples, Florida home to three dozen members and friends for cocktails and conversation*

event in your own area, share it with us. We'd love to help you make it happen!

## Naples, Florida – Cocktails & Conversation

On February 13, Barbara Teaford, WG'76, and Naomi Breman, WG'73, co-sponsored a lively gathering at Mrs. Teaford's home. Nearly three dozen attendees enjoyed each other's company and Prof. George Day's views on "Marketing 2020: Looking Back to Better See the Future."

## San Francisco Jazz Club – Medicine's "Personal" Best

On Tuesday, April 18 at 6:00 P.M., four notable MDs and PhDs from the Penn Health System, will discuss a more individualized approach to your own particular medical needs and treatment. This will be followed by a reception and discussion. Steering Committee Member Cliff Leventhal, WG'56, is our point man for this event.

## Hartford CT - "Penn Today" Reception

On Monday, May 1 at The Hartford Club, Penn's Alumni Relations and Development Managers will speak about the Penn Compact 2020 and discuss all the latest happenings at the University. There will also be time for questions and answers and a reception. Ed Lyons, WG'64, and Paul Schurr, WG'62, are coordinating the event for the Society.

## Memphis TN – "Memphis in June"

Not the song, but an "in-process" event to bring together our members and friends in this part of the South at the beginning of the summer season. Arkansas and Mississippi are close by and southern Missouri and northwest

Alabama aren't far away. Memphis is the central, most logical spot for a WGES get together in this area.

No specific details yet, but you can probably count on good music, food and drink and a historic location. Bob Blumenthal, WG'64, is masterminding this one and invitations will be sent well in advance.

## Baltimore-Washington – Chesapeake Bay Crab Feast

This is another activity in the planning stage, with a late summer or early fall date in mind. Crabs and beer are a must. Good weather and a waterside location are hoped for, but the exact location is still under consideration.

We're looking for a place that will be accessible to both major markets without a long or difficult drive. Again, once we have that worked out, invitations will be on the way. If you have a favorite spot, contact us and we'll put John Majane, WG'56, in touch with you. He's our seafood man and shorebird.

## Moorestown NJ – Traditional Jazz Picnic II

On Saturday, June 3 from 2:00 to 5:30 P.M., DeWitt Peterson, WG'56, invites you to his backyard for great food and drink and some of the best jazz heard on either side of the Atlantic Ocean. This because the noted stride piano man, Neville Dickey – Surrey, England's pride – is the lead musician.



*If you've never heard "stride" piano, Neville Dickey – the pride of Surrey, England – has a major treat in store for you on June 3*

Also featured will be Jim Lawlor, percussionist, and Bob Rawlins on reeds. The convenient location is just across the Ben Franklin Bridge and only one mile from Exit 4 of the New Jersey Turnpike.

It's a *gratis* event with plenty of parking and the address is 310 Pleasant Valley Avenue. If you need directions, email Pete at [dpeterson53@comcast.net](mailto:dpeterson53@comcast.net). If you're coming, please email him so he can plan ahead.

## To Contact Us:

For comments, or any other WGES topic, call 1.215.573.1825, or email: [emeritussociety@wharton.upenn.edu](mailto:emeritussociety@wharton.upenn.edu).

For our website, visit [www.wharton.upenn.edu/alumni/emeritus-society/](http://www.wharton.upenn.edu/alumni/emeritus-society/)

We look forward to hearing from you.

# Crandall Citations

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Sponsoring students includes school fees, books, food, health-care, and even some sleeping accommodations for those coming to Vietnam from poor rural areas. AEDECOL is also involved in humanitarian and educational projects, organizes career fairs and finds sponsors to help their students perform well at the Lao-American College.

## Mad Ave to the Caribbean

As reported in last Spring's newsletter, Charlie Decker had a notable career in advertising and marketing with BBDO Advertising, Quaker Oats, and Warner Brothers. He started living in the Dominican Republic half-time in 2004 and noticed many indigent, often abandoned young children in the streets. First volunteering at an orphanage near his home, he eventually started a foundation to help care for them.

From that beginning, The Decker Foundation now brings support to more than 1,000 children in three orphanages and a children's activity center and mini school. They range in age from six months to 18 years and the results are encouraging. Four students are in medical school, two are studying law, two in civil engineering and one in the arts. Charlie's foundation is now developing a college scholarship program and starting job training opportunities.

## Not Small At All

You'll hear lots more about both of them at the reunion luncheon, but here's an important note about the Crandall Citation program itself. These two members' projects are relatively high-wattage. We want to be sure they don't shade the overall value of this program. Among U.S. corporations, Apple, GE, and General Motors may get most of the headlines, but the bulk of productivity in our country is generated by small businesses.

The same is true in public service and social projects. To insure members understand their own good works are vital, regardless of scope, we're doing two things. First, we're planning for a two-stage Citation presentation next year: one at the community or regional level, and one at the national or international level.

Second, all the Citation submissions this year will be placed in a special website section so other members can be inspired by their actions.

## You Could Be Next

Whatever you're working on now, or plan to be involved in down the road, take good notes. You may well be a prime candidate for a Crandall Challenge Citation in 2018!