



'A MAN OF CONSEQUENCE': Clinton is celebrated at his retirement gala at the Rubin Museum of Art in New York City.

MILESTONES

Honoring a Defining Leader

In the fall of 2015, a cover story in *Penn Law Journal*, the magazine of the University of Pennsylvania Law School, announced “The Close of the Clinton Era.”

As anyone around the school would know, they were, of course, talking about **Gary Clinton** '73, the dean of students, who was on the cusp of retirement after 25 years in the role and 40 years of work at the school. Elite law schools are not often known as sites of copious warmth and affection, but the *Journal* couldn't help but run “a valedictory valentine to a man of consequence.”

One alumnus recalled Clinton's advice, at a critical moment, “to never forget the reasons why I chose law and justice.” Another recalled his dogged pursuit of a space for private prayer for Muslim students. Yet another told of Clinton's counsel as he was constructing a new identity as an openly gay man—and how Clinton and his husband, **Don Millinger** '76, together a regular presence at law school events, became friends and role models for how to approach life as part of a married couple.

A community spirit is what Clinton brought to the school, many students and faculty say. Among the tools he brought to his job were a master's degree in divinity, as well as natural gifts of insight and empathy, according to his admirers. He oversaw a notable expansion in the numbers of student organizations, part of a concerted effort to encourage more face-to-face interaction among students in the digital age.

During his tenure, the school maintained, and even slightly improved, its place among the nation's top 10 law schools, according to several rankings. A welcoming environment, it turns out, is not only compatible with rigorous professional training, but also part of what defines it. As Clinton sees it, participation in a rich community life is an important part of a lawyer's education.

“For many students, this is where they begin the process of becoming professionals,” he told a school publication in 2010. “As opposed to simply taking classes and then going into the world, they learn how to build relationships with colleagues, how to engage in civil discourse even with those they diametrically oppose. At the end of the day, that's really what being a lawyer is about.” **R**

—KAREN MCCALLY '02 (PHD)

birthday celebration. They live in Connecticut, where Alina is a partner at the Hartford law firm Schulman and Associates.

2009 Emily Zbesko Zarefsky and her husband, Marc, welcomed a son, Evan, in February 2016. Evan joins his big sister, Ella.

2010 Shane and Allison McComb DePutron welcomed their first child, James, last July. They live in Rutherford, New Jersey. . . . **Tommy Kwon** writes that he and his wife, Songah, welcomed a son, Aiden, in February 2016.

Graduate

ARTS, SCIENCES & ENGINEERING

1966 Fredric Abramson (MS) sends an update about two projects he's working on. “The first involves bringing the science of genetics back into the mainstream,” he writes. “I'm developing a mobile application through my start-up, Digital Nutrition, that will score how closely the ingredients in a food or supplement match the person's DNA baseline. This work is based on a U.S. patent I received in 2011, titled “System and Method for Evaluating and Providing Nutrigenomic Data, Information and Advice.” Fredric writes that his second project is a collaboration with botanist James Duke, author of *The Green Pharmacy* (Macmillan). “Dr. Duke has compiled careful annotations of the medicinal properties of over 5,000 different plants. I am leading a team that will bring his work into broad public use. This includes a film about medicinal plants that features his Green Pharmacy Garden in Fulton, Maryland, and a mobile application that will let people get straightforward answers to health and wellness questions.”

1972 Barry Johnson (MS) writes that he's published a book, *Blackbody Radiation: A History of Thermal Radiation Computational Aids and Numerical Methods* (CRC Press). Barry is a senior research professor at Alabama A&M University.

1988 Eric Ball (MA), '88S (MBA) writes that he retired in 2015 from his position as senior vice president and treasurer at Oracle Corp. Eric (pictured on the right) cofounded a new venture capital firm in Silicon Valley with partners Dixon Doll (center) and Jack Crawford (left). Impact Venture Capital is focused on early stage information technology start-ups, particularly software and data analytics. Eric adds that his 2012 book, *Unlocking the Ivory Tower: How Management Research Can Transform Your Business* (coauthored with Joe LiPuma), has been translated into Japanese. He lives in Menlo Park, California, with his wife, Sheryl, and two sons, Spencer, 13, and Carter, 9.

Eastman School of Music

1958 Helen Bovbjerg Niedung '59 (MM) has retired as professor of voice at Florida Southwestern State College after 35 years. She'll maintain her private Studio of Voice in Cape Coral, Florida. She writes that her career in opera and operetta includes “more than 460 performances of 35 roles, in addition to numerous concert appearances in both the United States and Europe.” In 2014, she was winner of the first Florida State Music Teachers Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award.

1970 Geary Larrick (MM) writes that he has several reviews of recent



1988S Ball