



Name: Taylor Berkowitz

Years at Penn: 22 total
18 as a full-time employee

Years at FRES: 10

Job title (and brief description of job duties):

Senior Planner, Special Projects

Have you taken any classes, received a degree, or attended any lectures at Penn? If so, please describe...

Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies and Anthropology, with a concentration in Human Biology, and Minor in Urban Studies. Master of City and Regional Planning. I studied Japanese for a few years after my degrees, and took a couple GIS courses along the way.

Have any family members attended Penn (i.e. children, spouse)?

My husband also attended Penn for Undergrad and Grad School (that is how we met, although we didn't date until much later in life). My kids go to Penn Children's Center.... we like to joke that they already got into Penn....one can hope, right?

What is your proudest achievement, personal or while working at Penn?

I really enjoyed working on a recent project - pulling together the Transformation by Design Exhibit at the Center for Architecture + Design (currently on display in our lobby) with a great team of FRES colleagues. It allowed me to reflect on my time at Penn while learning more about some of our most significant construction projects within the last ten years.

What is your favorite building on campus?

I have to name two. 1: Fisher Fine Arts Library - For its obvious beauty, but I also have so many memories there. My first work-study job as a freshman was making slides in the basement of the Library. I also spent much of my undergrad and graduate time studying, doing research, and working on my graduate studio in the stacks and the apse.

2: Penn Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology - Most of my senior year was spent there, studying and working on my thesis. My senior year work-study job was at the Museum, cataloging several of the skeletal collections (including Morton's crania collection) and then making the information digital for the first time by building a database.

What is your favorite Penn tradition, event, or memory?

Commencement. When the alumni and graduating class are proceeding down Locust Walk in order to enter Franklin Field there is a feeling of nostalgia and excitement that is intoxicating. It is a powerful moment, whether you are part of the procession or a spectator.

Favorite place on campus to eat/drink? ...to shop? ...to sit quietly? ...to gather with friends/coworkers?

I honestly never get tired of the beauty of our campus, particularly in the Fall as you walk through Locust Walk. It was part of the allure that brought me here and continues to captivate me today. I enjoy the Class of 1977 plaza above the amphitheater just off of Locust Walk for a peaceful view of the action (behind what will soon be Robbins House). I really enjoy going out for noodle soup at ochatto and SangKee Noodle House. HelloWorld is one of my favorite shops for gifts – for me, family, and friends.

Who is your favorite hero (fictional or real life)?

Jane Goodall and Frederick Law Olmstead, Jr.

What are your favorite things to do in your free time, outside of work?

I enjoy trying new foods and experimenting with recipes (although having a toddler makes this a little difficult). Going out to a new restaurant in town is always fun. Taking our kids to a neighborhood park is the highlight of our weekend afternoons these days. We are lucky to have so many playgrounds and parks within walking distance of our house.
