GOT BREAD?

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April 11, 2018  Volume 118, Number 10

**On Midlife**
Author Kieran Setiya ’02 discusses his new book, a philosophical guide to middle age.

**Read, Respond**
Tell us what you think: Share your comments on any story using PAW’s new online form.

**Renaissance Man**
Gregg Lange ’70 looks at the wide-ranging contributions of Wilder Penfield 1913.

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**Tigers of the Week**
Recent honorees include two service-minded physicians: pediatric neurosurgeon Manish Shah ’02, left, and community health leader Luis Javier Castro ’88.

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**His Daily Bread**
Brooklyn-bred Steven Laurence Kaplan ’63 — Paris’ expert on baguettes — visits a boulangerie and separates the wheat from the chaff.
*By Mark Bernstein ’83*

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**Clicking**
What happens in our brains when we’re truly communicating with one another? That’s what neuroscientist Uri Hasson wants to know.
*By Katherine Hobson ’94*
The Pre-Read Turns Six

Five years ago, as I began my presidency, I created the Princeton Pre-read, a program that selects a book and sends it to freshmen before they arrive on campus. The Pre-read’s author speaks to the incoming class at the Freshman Assembly during Orientation week. The book also forms the basis of my Opening Exercises remarks, and I lead Pre-read seminars in the residential colleges during the fall semester.

Alumni and students alike often write to me to nominate books, or to ask why I chose a particular selection. I accordingly thought that it might be useful to describe some of the criteria that inform my decisions about each year’s Pre-read.

First, because one of my primary goals is to introduce students to Princeton’s vibrant intellectual culture, I limit my choices to scholarly books like those found on Princeton syllabi. The norms and practices of a great research university are vastly different from what most students have encountered in high school. I want the Pre-read to provide an early experience with the challenges and stimulation that come from close reading and engaged discussion.

An equally important goal for the Pre-read is to encourage students to reflect on the values that should guide their Princeton educations and their lives after graduation. For that reason, I look for a book that raises ethical questions relevant to our students’ lives. For example, Kwame Anthony Appiah’s *The Honor Code* provided a platform to discuss how to live honorably, and Susan Wolf’s *Measuring in Life and Why It Matters* challenged students to examine their own purposes at Princeton and beyond.

As I pursue these objectives, I also keep in mind some pragmatic considerations. I prefer a book authored by someone willing and able to appear at the Freshman Assembly at the start of the year. Having the author on hand offers a preview of one of the special features of a Princeton education: students will have the chance to talk directly to world-class scholars who write books that define fields. It also enables us to model the kind of exchange that should take place in the classroom. Two Princeton faculty members join the author at the Freshman Assembly and comment on the book’s argument. Students see how professors simultaneously learn from and disagree with one another—a crucial example of what lies ahead.

Thruout not required, being a Princeton professor or alum is a modest plus—and five of the first six Pre-read authors fit that description. For example, in 2016, Danielle Allen ’93, now a professor at Harvard, returned to campus to discuss *Our Declaration: A Reading of the Declaration of Independence in Defense of Equality*. Danielle began by recalling what she felt in her own first week as a Princeton freshman—a story that enabled her to forge an immediate bond with the Class of 2020. If the Pre-read author is on our own faculty, students can continue the discussion during office hours or over lunch if they wish.

Because I lead Pre-read seminars, I try to keep the book close enough to my scholarly “strike zone” to credibly teach the material. I wandered furthest afield with Claude Steele’s *Whistling Vivaldi*, an investigation of stereotype threat that is grounded in social science rather than political theory. Fortunately, Provost and the Alexander Stewart 1886 Professor of Psychology and Public Affairs Deborah Prentice, who recommended the book, was nearby in Nassau Hall and could provide expert advice as I worked through Steele’s insights.

Finally, brevity and accessibility are virtues. For many students, the Pre-read will be the first scholarly book they have been asked to read in its entirety. What seems short to a graduating senior can seem lengthy to an incoming freshman. This fall, for example, one student surprised Professor of Politics Jan-Werner Müller by asking him why his book was so long—even though *What Is Populism?* was the shortest of all Pre-reads at 103 pages.

Next year’s Pre-read satisfies all of these criteria. *Speak Freely: Why Universities Must Defend Free Speech* by Keith Whittington, Princeton’s William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Politics, defends a robust conception of free speech grounded in the philosophy of John Stuart Mill. It provides a scholarly argument for free speech’s essential role in the truth-seeking mission of colleges and universities.

These days, free speech on college campuses is a hot-button issue. Because this topic is directly relevant to everyone on Princeton’s campus, we will distribute the book more broadly than in prior years, providing copies to all undergraduate and graduate students, to the faculty, and to interested staff. We will also work with campus partners to sponsor discussions about what free speech should mean at Princeton and other colleges.

Over the next year, I look forward to participating in spirited dialogue, vigorous debate, and civil disagreements about Keith’s book, thereby exemplifying the practices that he champions and that are the lifeblood of this University. I expect those conversations will carry forward what, after five years, might now count as a Princeton tradition—using a shared scholarly text to inspire campus conversations about topics that matter deeply to our community.
RECALLING HICKEL’S SPEECH

Re “The Hickel Heckle” (That Was Then, March 7): In 1970 I was a personal assistant to Secretary of Interior Walter Hickel. I had left the comfortable life of Philadelphia’s suburban Main Line to move my wife, four children, and three dogs to join the solicitor’s office at Interior, and in late 1969 I was asked by the secretary to move to his capacious office area to help in organization and management of his responsibilities. This was a fascinating job, especially for an Easterner in a huge Westerner Cabinet post.

The speech, which few could hear, was what the audience would have marveled at as a forceful and quite eloquent cry for environmental protection.

When the secretary was invited to speak at Princeton March 5, 1970, I was asked to prepare a draft of his remarks. I was aided by another Tiger a bit younger than I (whose name eludes me now). We wrote a graphic tribute to the environment, a strong cry for cleaner rivers and air. We flew up to Princeton that afternoon in a tiny plane, and “the rest is history.” We were greeted by a mob of screaming undergrads dressed in Indian headdress and with painted faces. The irony of this confrontation is that the speech, which few could hear, was what the audience would have marveled at as a forceful and quite eloquent cry for environmental protection. A sad day in Princeton history.

Alan G. Kirk II ’50
McLean, Va.

I attended the speech by Interior Secretary Hickel in 1970. It took place during the Alaskan oil boom, so the students (and I) were just as concerned about Hickel’s possible ties to the oil industry, begun when he was governor of Alaska, as they were about the Vietnam War. There were numerous shouts of “What about the oil, Wally?”

As John S. Weeren mentions in his article, Hickel was actually a proponent of responsible development of Alaskan and other U.S. resources, keeping in mind ecological and environmental impacts. I believe that is another reason that Nixon fired him, and why I think many of the student protests were unjustified.

Robert D. Bolgard ’57
Hartford, Conn.

MORE FINE ADVENTURES

It was a special delight to see “Adventures in Fine Hall” (feature, Jan. 10) fronted by the splendid photograph of Albert Einstein standing alongside my great-uncle, Luther Eisenhart. Hired to teach mathematics at Princeton in 1900, Luther was named by Woodrow Wilson 1879 as an original preceptor and later became chair of the math department and dean of the Graduate School. Princetonians since the mid-1920s have Luther to thank for the four-course plan, with its upperclass years’ independent study and accompanying senior thesis.

Luther’s hiring at Princeton marked the beginning of my family’s connection to the University. He persuaded his younger brother Martin Herbert Eisenhart 1905, my grandfather, to apply, and later his son Churchill ’34, before succeeding generations also gravitated to the orange and black.
Inbox

I have never found much humor in mathematics, though the Fine Hall article proves otherwise. But I can share one bit of Princeton math humor, at my own expense. My high school calculus teacher, Paul Furter ‘33, had studied with Luther at Princeton. Upon seeing an Eisenhart in his class, he was excited at the possibilities. Alas, at the end of the year his comment next to my less-than-stellar grade read something to the effect that “Doug has inherited all of his great-uncle’s charm but none of his mathematical ability.” The assessment was accurate. In my time at Princeton I felt very much at home in the English department.

Douglas M. Eisenhart ’72
Natick, Mass.

I just came across Elysé Graham ’07’s nifty article on the mathematicians’ high teas in Old Fine Hall. “A catalog of weirdness,” she described it. Little did she know. Add in magic, the occult, alchemy ...

I went to Princeton in 1949 to study physics with Albert Einstein. We didn’t know that the Institute for Advanced Study was in Princeton, N.J., but not at Princeton University. I did see Einstein, though, riding his bike on Nassau Street.

So there was, I a freshman physics major with little — as it turned out — aptitude for physics. I studied hard, painstakingly deciphering the classic texts evenings in Fine Hall Library. But I didn’t do better. I did worse. And I resented and envied those scientists and physicists-in-the-making, boisterous and cheery at their high tea, confidently exchanging six-dimensional bon mots and preparing to bring the world nuclear medicine, computation, and time travel.

One evening I approached the Fine Hall entry as three grad students — instructors in my precepts — were exiting, laughing, and gesticulating — instructors in my precepts — were exiting, laughing, and gesticulating. I wasn’t about to give ground; I clenched for geometric figures in the air. I wasn’t about to give ground; I clenched for — instructors in my precepts — were exiting, laughing, and gesticulating...
alumni of Princeton (cover story, Jan. 10). I am humbled and amazed that I was able to share the same walkways, dorms, and classrooms as these amazing people. With that being said, I wonder if this list would be better suited as most famous influential alumni.

Of course Jeff Bezos ’86 is incredibly powerful and influential in our world, and Robert Mueller ’66 may go down as the most famous prosecutor of all time. But how many alumni save lives as doctors or teach children how to read and write? In the end, most alumni have great callings and spend their days influencing the people and world around them. I would love to see an issue focusing on the non-famous influential alumni. I think a list like that could be very cool to see.

Sean McCafferty ’01
Belmar, N.J.

Not to detract in any way from the outstanding job Gen. Mark Milley ’80 is doing, but my sources say there have been 11 non-West Point chiefs of staff of the Army since the position was established in 1903 (Inbox, March 7). Those of us who served, in my case from 1951 to 1980, are especially proud to see a Princetonian as “chief.”

Broadus Bailey Jr. ’51
Falls Church, Va.

Editor’s note: Also writing on this point were Albert J. Beveridge III ’77; Stanley Kalemaris ’64; and Lewis Cooley Jr. ’68, whose uncle, George H. Decker, was the first non-West Point chief of staff of the Army.

PREPARING FOR WAR
Thank you for the photo and story about student enthusiasm for serving in World War I (That Was Then, Feb. 7). My grandfather Elias Wolf 1920 was one of those Princetonians swept up in war fever. Despite being descended from Germans (albeit German Jews), and despite being a very nonviolent, happy-go-lucky person, he became so fanatic about killing Germans that he convinced his reluctant parents to let him drop out of Princeton and sign up for war. As he told the story, it was a cautionary tale: If someone like him could get so swept...
Inbox

up in propaganda, anyone could. It’s a lesson I’ve carried with me my whole life. Fortunately for his descendants, the war ended just as he was about to be shipped out. He had no doubt that had he gone to war, his enthusiasm would have carried him first over the trench, and I wouldn’t be here.

Geoff Stephens ’84
Bozeman, Mont.

PRINCETON’S SCOTTISH ORIGINS

President Eisgruber ’83 refers in passing (President’s Page, Nov. 8) to his predecessor John Witherspoon, James Madison 1771 (Witherspoon’s prize pupil), and Nassau Hall.

I’m not sure that all Princetonians recognize that Witherspoon was a Scottish Presbyterian minister persuaded to leave his parish in Paisley, Scotland, to take up the presidency of the College of New Jersey in 1768. After the early deaths of the previous five presidents, it was Witherspoon alone who over the following 26 years transformed the struggling college into a major institution of American higher education. Even fewer of us, I suspect, realize that Nassau Hall itself was largely built with Scottish money.

In 1753–54, the Presbyterian Synod of New York, desperate for funds to establish its new college, dispatched Gilbert Tennant and Samuel Davies (the College’s fourth president) to the U.K. in search of financial help. In Scotland they found success.

On May 31, 1754, the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland resolved that “a general collection” should be made “at all the church-doors in Scotland” on behalf of the College of New Jersey. As a result, the very substantial sum of £3200 was raised, and that money largely paid for the building of Nassau Hall.

Some years ago at a reunion dinner in London, I raised the issue of the possible commemoration of Princeton’s Scottish heritage with President Tilghman. Since then the statue of Witherspoon has appeared on campus, but nothing else has happened. It would be appropriate to celebrate Princeton’s Scottish origins by establishing an annual Witherspoon lecture or seminar.
— with an element of Scottish focus, however general, in its form.

Andrew Hook ’60
Glasgow, United Kingdom

FROM THE ARCHIVES, CORRECTED

Re the March 7 From the Archives photo: The amazing Becky Wells in front (on the right) was Class of ’91, not ’88. I recall seeing that picture and similar ones in a Princeton track newsletter when I was running in high school up in Boston and considering Princeton my junior year — those were the girls who inspired me and made Princeton look like a great place to be. Becky was a wonderful 800-meter mentor when I started as a freshman on the track team — a very talented runner and great teammate!

Jennifer Lee Palmer ’94
Scituate, Mass.

FOR THE RECORD

In a sports story in the March 7 issue, the list of Princeton wrestling’s NCAA finalists omitted John Sefter ’78, an NCAA runner-up in 1978.

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Rick Woldenberg '81 recalls the time he was asked to serve on the Committee to Nominate Alumni Trustees (CTNAT), which is responsible for identifying, researching and selecting candidates for each year's alumni trustee ballots. "I was the lucky beneficiary of an amazing phone call," says Rick, who lives in Highland Park, Illinois. "I didn't know much about the committee, but I was very interested in its mission and serving the University in a different way. I accepted the position and am very grateful for the opportunity." Now in his third year, Rick serves as chair of CTNAT.

Rick chose Princeton as decisively as agreeing to serve on CTNAT. "I wanted to attend the toughest school with the smartest kids," he says. He was actively involved as a student, joining Model UN and serving as the managing editor of the Student Course Guide, which published student feedback about University courses. Rick was a member of the USG Advisory Committee on Undergraduate Residential Life, which formulated the student body response to Princeton's plan to convert to a residential college system. Rick strongly supported the conversion.

In an unusual twist, Rick spent his junior year abroad at Imperial College in London, unprecedented at the time for chemical engineering majors. He credits Princeton for this life-changing opportunity. "Most institutions would have instinctively said 'no' because there was no program, and it had never been done before, but Princeton instead asked, 'how can we help?' That speaks to the character of Princeton." Rick points to his time spent in England as one reason his company, Learning Resources, an educational toy company based in Vernon Hills, Illinois, opened offices in the U.K. in 1994.

Giving back has always been important to Rick. He has been an active volunteer in the Schools Committee for many years and also serves as chair of his region. He has been a longtime volunteer for Annual Giving and currently serves on a special ad hoc committee of the Alumni Council Executive Committee assessing and developing recommendations for growing Princeton's volunteer leadership pipeline. Rick and his wife Nadine have three children, Stephen, Ben and Elana '15.

As chair of CTNAT, all would agree that Rick has served with distinction. With the Trustee election underway, Rick says he has great appreciation for the work that CTNAT does to prepare the slate of candidates. "It is an awesome responsibility that we take very seriously," he adds.
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In October of 1900, Princeton’s Board of Trustees adopted a Plan to ensure alumni representation on the University’s board. At that time, the board added five alumni trustees, one of whom was elected. The Board has amended the Plan for elected trustees several times over the course of the decades, designating Regional and At-Large ballots, adding two Graduate Alumni ballots, and creating the position of Young Alumni Trustee. Now 13 of the 40 trustees on Princeton’s board are alumni who have been elected to their positions. Four of these are Young Alumni Trustees, elected by the junior and senior classes and the two most recent graduated classes. The other nine have gone through a nomination and election process overseen by the volunteer committee known as the Committee to Nominate Alumni Trustees (CTNAT), a Special Committee of the Alumni Council.

Below are the two ballots for the 2018 Alumni Trustee Election. Polls will open on April 16 and will close on May 23. For more information visit: http://alumni.princeton.edu/volunteer/committees/ctnat/trustee/
Dear Fellow Alumni,

During Alumni Day each February, our Princeton alumni community gathers together to recognize Tigers who embody the University’s motto, “Princeton in the nation’s service and the service of humanity.” At Reunions, we honor our alumni who have performed extraordinary service to Princeton. It is indeed wonderful that we have these opportunities to recognize special Princetonians – and equally important that we recognize and celebrate the more than 15,000 graduate and undergraduate alumni who volunteer in some capacity for Princeton each and every year.

Our alumni community, united in Princeton’s service, makes an impact across the globe – whether creating regional programs that bring together Tigers of all stripes; building connections among alumni through shared community service projects; recognizing efforts to improve race relations through the Princeton Prize in Race Relations; mentoring students through the SIFP program, our affiliated groups and athletics friends groups; supporting the University’s highest priorities through outreach on behalf of Annual Giving; or spreading Tiger Cheer by organizing Reunions activities that bring our entire alumni family together back at the best old place of all!

The mission of Princeton’s Alumni Association is to engage as many alumni as possible in the ongoing life of the University and with each other. Our Tiger community is strengthened by a diversity of backgrounds, experiences and ideas, and we encourage all alumni to join us, United in Princeton’s Service.

Should you have an interest in exploring volunteer opportunities or sharing your Princeton volunteer story, I hope you will contact me at danielstigers@gmail.com.

Jennifer Daniels ’93 S92
President, Alumni Association of Princeton University

United in Princeton’s Service
On the Campus

The full resources of the Glee Club, a baroque orchestra, 15 timpani, improvised soprano saxophone, and vocal soloists were on stage in Richardson Auditorium March 3 for the U.S. premiere of British composer John Tavener’s Total Eclipse. Photograph by Ricardo Barros
Speaking Out on Guns

On a day of protests across the country, campus event draws more than 400

More than 400 students and community members gathered in front of Frist Campus Center March 14 to rally against gun violence and advocate for stronger gun laws on a day of nationwide school walkouts and protests. Protesters offered personal stories, chanted, held up signs, and registered voters.

“So many people came from all different aspects of campus,” said Diego Negron-Reichard ’18, co-founder of Princeton Advocates for Justice, which organized the event. “The campus is fired up.”

The event was held one month after the school shooting in Parkland, Fla., in which 17 people died. Students shared experiences of gun violence in their own communities, such as the shooting of a school official or a friend. One speaker emphasized that the impacts of gun violence disproportionately affect black Americans.

“The right to arms is not absolute,” Sarah Sakha ’18 said. “It does not trump the right to life.”

Organizers said they were pleased with the turnout. Ben Bollinger ’21, leader of the newly formed Princeton Against Gun Violence advocacy group, said in an email that it was “flooded with new sign-ups” after the rally.

Bollinger said the group planned to meet with other grass-roots organizations seeking gun-reform legislation and was scheduling an event to phone New Jersey legislators later in the month. “We’re firing on all cylinders, trying to get people involved,” he said.

The Gun Safety Club, a student organization that says it promotes firearms safety, interest in shooting events, and education about current gun issues, set up a table near the protest to offer an alternative viewpoint to those attending the rally. “It is up to us to represent in a civic manner a view that is underrepresented,” said Chance Fletcher ’18, a member of the club.

Many protesters approached the Gun Safety Club table to question the members or to present opposing views, club president Mikhael Smits ’18 said, but the atmosphere was respectful and cordial. Both Smits and Negron-Reichard said they felt supported by the University to express their views.

Yael Niv, associate professor of psychology and neuroscience, was one of several faculty members attending the rally. “As an Israeli, I think gun control (or lack thereof) in this country is one of the worst problems, and the one I am least in power to address with personal life choices,” Niv said in an email. “If guns become allowable on campus and in schools, I literally might have to leave the country to go back to sanity.”

The University issued a statement about admission applicants’ right to protest that said, in part: “Students who act on their conscience in peaceful, principled protest will receive full consideration in our admissions process.”

By Ellie Schwartz ’20

CALENDAR-REFORM PLAN TAKES SHAPE

A committee looking at changing the University’s ACADEMIC CALENDAR is recommending that Princeton begin the fall and spring semesters earlier, hold fall-term exams before the winter break in December, implement a two-week “wintersession” for non-credit activities in January, and shorten final-exam periods.

Under the proposed calendar, classes would start on the Tuesday after Labor Day or the Wednesday preceding the holiday. The spring semester would start and end one week earlier than it does under the current calendar, and Reunions and Commencement would also take place one week sooner.

Students and faculty were surveyed by the committee in January. The survey found support for the proposed changes from more than 70 percent of faculty members and undergraduates and more than 80 percent of graduate students who responded.

The committee submitted its plan to the faculty advisory committee on policy, which will decide whether to advance the proposal to the full faculty for a vote.

By A.W.
In an online comic strip satirizing campus life, the young scholars colloquially known as postdocs are portrayed as invisible ghosts, or as tiny cogs in the academic machine. Beneath a banner declaring “National Postdoc Appreciation Week,” a smaller banner reads, “Next week: Back to being underappreciated!”

“A postdoc is the most disenfranchised member of the community,” says Alessandro Giammei, an Italian studies postdoc who raves about his experience in Princeton’s prestigious Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts, but who has friends with unhappier stories. “Who really advocates for them? Not many people.”

As postdocs’ numbers continue to grow, both nationally and locally, Princeton is taking steps to improve the lives of these in-betweeners: recently minted Ph.D.s, neither faculty nor students, engaged in a short period of advanced, mentored training. In the past three years, the University has worked to expand postdocs’ opportunities for professional development, career placement, and community-building.

Postdocs — known formally as postdoctoral research associates or postdoctoral research fellows, depending on how their salaries are funded — perform crucial academic work, from designing scientific experiments to teaching cutting-edge humanities seminars. “They bring innovative, creative outlooks from really diverse areas,” says Lisa M. Scalice, the physics department’s senior department manager, who previously oversaw postdoc matters as assistant dean of the faculty. “They’re vital to our success as a research institution.”

Of Princeton’s current crop of 627 postdocs — up from 499 in 2007 — nearly 84 percent work in engineering or the natural sciences, and 57 percent are not U.S. citizens. Princeton postdocs’ terms are limited — usually to no more than three years in the humanities and social sciences and five years in engineering and the natural sciences — and although some teach part time, most focus on research. Their contributions are substantial, faculty say.

“In our field, we rely on these people who just do research, who aren’t weighed down by teaching and grant administration and other obligations,” says physics and astrophysics professor Jo Dunkley, who started her career as a Princeton postdoc. “I love the diversity of my job now, but I do look back fondly on the time when I could just write my computer code and explore the data.”

In the humanities and social sciences, postdocs may teach innovative undergraduate courses or contribute to larger projects. Recent postdocs have led undergraduates on archaeological digs, and Giammei taught a seminar on marginalized groups in Renaissance and 20th-century Italy. Postdocs helped power the Princeton & Slavery Project.

Funding postdocs is “a wonderful way to support emerging fields, new disciplines, intersections across disciplines,” says Kathleen Crown, executive director of Princeton’s Humanities Council.

While postdocs praise Princeton’s intellectual opportunities, they also voice concerns about their marginal status as short-term employees lacking the privileges of students or the salary levels of faculty. Molecular biology postdoc Sarah Port notes that, unlike students, postdocs cannot see doctors at the campus health center for routine medical care, and they can’t always afford University housing on salaries that can start at $47,500.
On the Campus

Professional experiences also vary widely. At their best, postdoctoral appointments help young scholars launch independent research careers. But at their worst — when postdocs work long hours on grant projects offering few opportunities for growth — they can be “dead-end, low-paying jobs,” says astrophysics professor David Spergel ’82, who wants the University to systematically track postdoc outcomes. “It can work very well if your mentor takes good care of you,” Spergel says. “It’s also subject to exploitation.”

Since 2006, the volunteer-run Princeton Postdoctoral Council has advocated for postdocs and tried to build community through social events like happy hours, art gallery tours, and monthly lunches where postdocs present their research. The University formally recognized the group in 2015, and this year, for the first time, budgeted $15,000 to fund professional development.

Council organizers like Port want Princeton to follow the lead of the dozens of universities that dedicate full-time staff to postdoc matters. But Dean of the Faculty Sanjeev Kulkarni says that isn’t the best approach. “There are various types of support that are needed that are better fulfilled with different expertise,” Kulkarni says, noting that the University recently hired a Career Services employee to work part time helping postdocs with job placement.

Indeed, postdocs agree that their greatest source of stress is the ever-present question of future career prospects. Although Princeton does not keep data on its former postdocs, anecdotal evidence suggests that many build successful academic careers. Two of the three winners of last year’s Nobel Prize in physics — Kip Thorne ’65 and Rainer Weiss — were former Princeton postdocs. But nationally, growth in the number of postdocs has far outpaced growth in the number of tenure-track faculty jobs, forcing young scholars into a high-stakes game of musical chairs.

Of course, being a postdoc can be good preparation for non-academic careers in fields such as pharmaceuticals, engineering, or data science. “We as a field need to embrace preparing people for things other than academia, and I think a postdoc does just fine at that,” says astrophysics professor Jenny Greene, a former Princeton postdoc.

Nevertheless, the uncertainty takes a toll. “A postdoc is a really stressful time,” Port says. “You don’t know at the start of your postdoc what you will do at the end of it.” ♦ By Deborah Yaffe

The University is investigating a DEMONSTRATION conducted March 8 by graduate students in East Pyne Hall as part of the International Women’s Strike, which coincided with International Women’s Day. “The disruption of classes is a serious violation of University policies,” President Eisgruber ’83 said in a letter to 36 professors who had written to him about the protest. If the action disrupted classes, he said, the deans of the faculty and of the Graduate School would begin “appropriate disciplinary proceedings.”

The professors, from at least 15 academic departments, said in their letter to Eisgruber that graduate students had “deliberately invaded and disrupted as many as eight classes.” They called for swift and decisive action to prevent “more and more bullying and intimidation in the future.”

The professors wrote that the demonstration took place “in the wake of Professor Lawrence Rosen’s decision to cancel a class after being subjected to what was or was close to an act of intimidation” (see PAW, March 27). Eisgruber, in his response, said “the two episodes are very different.” If Rosen had complained about his class being disrupted, the University would have investigated, Eisgruber said. But he said Rosen has maintained that “the proper response to the provocative speech in his classroom is ‘more speech,’ in the form of campus discussion, not University disciplinary action.”

President Eisgruber expressed “deep concerns” over proposed changes in FEDERAL IMMIGRATION RULES. “Attracting the best talent, regardless of national origin, is essential to maintaining America’s status as the global leader in scholarship and research,” he said in a March 8 letter to then-Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Secretary of Homeland Security Kristjen Nielsen.

Eisgruber said he was “particularly troubled” by proposed changes to the J-1 exchange visa and Optional Practical Training (OPT) programs, saying the result could discourage talented students, faculty, and researchers from coming to the United States or from remaining in the country. A University spokesman said there are 128 students and 417 postdocs, researchers, and faculty members at Princeton on the J-1 exchange visa and 287 student participants in Optional Practical Training.

Police SHOT AND KILLED a 56-year-old Lawrenceville, N.J., man March 20 in the Panera Bread restaurant on Nassau Street across from campus, several hours after he entered the restaurant with a gun. Customers and employees were able to escape the building without injury. The shooting ended a lengthy standoff in which negotiators tried to get the suspect to surrender, according to the state attorney general’s office, which was investigating. ♦
On the Campus

CLASS CLOSE-UP: PLAYING DEAD
Bringing the dead to life by studying celebrated corpses of stage and screen

Teacher: Fintan O’Toole, visiting lecturer in theater and the Lewis Center for the Arts. A former literary editor of The Irish Times, O’Toole is now assistant editor and a columnist for that paper. Last year, he won the European Press Prize and the Orwell Prize for his commentary on Brexit.

Focus: Students watch films and read plays in which corpses are present and consider questions such as: What happens when a body is on stage? Why do corpses star in so many movies, and how does their presence affect the plot and actions of living characters? What significance does the act of burying a body have in different cultures? How do dramas and films use corpses to explore fear, sex, greed, guilt, innocence, and grief? Why do some people deal with trauma by using humor?

On the syllabus: Plays such as Antigone by Sophocles, Breathing Corpses by Laura Wade, and The Playboy of the Western World by John Millington Synge; and films including The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada, Psycho, and Weekend at Bernie’s.

Analyzing the dead: Students reflect on a play or movie each week and submit blog posts before class. Some potential class-discussion topics: Can the state prohibit people from burying the dead (as in Antigone); how are dead bodies portrayed differently in Hamlet vs. Macbeth; and how does the presence of a body throughout Weekend at Bernie’s bring a certain heaviness to an otherwise comedic film? Students will also act out scenes in some of the plays, with the opportunity to portray a corpse themselves.

Key takeaway: “Our lives are going in one direction — toward this moment [of death], which we all know is coming,” O’Toole said. “And we can’t live if we think about that; we have to ignore it most of the time. Art forces us to confront the things we don’t like to think about.” ◆ By A.W.
John “Newby” Parton ’18, a Woodrow Wilson School concentrator selected for the Scholars in the Nation’s Service Initiative, is a co-winner of the Pyne Prize this year along with Maggie Pecsok ’18 of Virginia Beach, Va. (see the March 21 issue of PAW). A native of McMinnville, Tenn., Parton talked with PAW about his journey from Appalachia to Princeton.

How was growing up in McMinnville? It’s small — about 13,000 people. Only about 12 percent of adults in my hometown have bachelor’s degrees, and I am very fortunate that my mom is among that 12 percent. I grew up mostly with my mom, who worked as a high school French teacher. She was also my Sunday School teacher, and my grandfather was a preacher at my church, so church was very important to our family. I have an older brother and two younger brothers.

In addition to working full time as a teacher, my mom would have one or two part-time jobs at a time. My mom and my dad were separated, and my dad made even less money than her — he’s a factory worker at Federal-Mogul Motorparts.

How do people in McMinnville perceive Princeton? And how do people at Princeton perceive your hometown? They don’t perceive Princeton — it’s not on their radar at all. When I told a lot of my friends that I was going to Princeton, they would ask me two questions: “Where’s that?” and “Did you not get into Vanderbilt?” Because Vanderbilt is seen as sort of the pinnacle of what you can achieve academically.

And I don’t think people here perceive McMinnville, either. When people think of Tennessee, they think of cities — the liberal islands in the sea of red that is Tennessee. There are very few students here who come from an area like that and who understand and can empathize with the people who are there.

Do your classmates want to understand the place where you grew up? I’m not so sure they do. People who have been particularly close to me have taken that initiative, but I think for the most part people believe that their beliefs are right — they believe they have the “right” worldview, and don’t want me to explain why President Trump is President Trump.

I think culturally, even though people in Tennessee are less accepting than people up here are of certain minority groups, they’re friendlier in general and more ready to talk to you or to help out a neighbor. It’s a really good culture, and I think that empathy is expressed in a different way than it is in the city.

What’s your take on how Appalachia is portrayed in the media? In some media, maybe there’s an outlook that Appalachia is a little bit backward, or that there’s some animosity toward the people there. And to that I would say that this is a very low-income area — I really consider Appalachia an underprivileged community, just like I would consider an inner city. Obviously the kinds of struggles and the exact forms of discrimination in those two places are wildly dissimilar. But there’s a lot to be said about a need to tackle rural poverty,
Popular music, Southerners, and progressive social commentary can mix, singers Patterson Hood and Michael Cooley of the band Drive-By Truckers told a Princeton audience March 7. The Southern rock band is known for the progressive messages of its songs, and Hood and Cooley discussed the apparent disconnect between their politics and their conservative hometown of Muscle Shoals, Ala., with Barnard College sociologist Jonathan Rieder. A small crowd braved a raging snowstorm and fallen trees that blocked paths around campus to see the performers in McCosh 50. Rieder talked about the band’s most recent album, American Band, which addressed racism and its legacy in the United States, among other topics. Hood and Cooley discussed the 150-year history of reluctant acceptance of growing racial equality in the South that informed the song “Surrender Under Protest” before playing the song to sustained and energetic applause.

By Ethan Sterenfeld ‘20

REJUVENATING THE DBAR

Students Brave Nor’easter to Hear Southern Band’s Singer-Songwriters

Patronage at the DBAR — also known as the Debasement Bar, located in the basement of the Graduate College — has seen a “declining trend” over the last 10 years, and the grad-student managers of the bar are out to change that.

“People are less inclined to go out now — [the DBAR] used to be the way for graduate students to interact with each other,” said Vicki Lee, a fourth-year Ph.D. student in the chemical and biological engineering department and the DBAR’s events coordinator. “You didn’t have Facebook or Instagram, and dating apps weren’t really a thing. If you wanted to meet other graduate students, the DBAR was where you could do that.”

At-home entertainment options such as Netflix and social media may lead some students to stay in on weekends, Lee said. Her plan is to offer a wider variety of events, including live music nights, wine and beer tastings, trivia contests, and karaoke to try to appeal to a larger audience.

DBAR managers are also hoping that a change in membership, approved by grad students in March, will encourage more students to frequent the bar. Under the new policy, which still needs to be approved by the University, all students living in graduate housing would be granted automatic membership at the DBAR — not just those who live in the Graduate College and the annexes.◆

By A.W.

Your senior thesis looks at the recusal of judges from cases in which they have potential conflicts of interest. How did you get interested in this?

Last year I took an investigative journalism course with Professor Joe Stephens, and he did this kind of work in the ’90s — checking judges’ financial-disclosure reports and looking for potential conflicts of interest. I thought this was important work.

A friend made a computer program that would compare the names of cases to the judges’ financial-disclosure reports and tell me when there was a match, so I was able to automate the process. For the journalism class I did three states: New York, California, and New Jersey. For my thesis I’m expanding it to the 1,000 or so judges who were serving in the U.S. between 2009 and 2012.

What did you find?

When I did the pilot project last year, I found that about a dozen out of about 140 judges had conflicts of interest where they were legally required to recuse themselves but didn’t. Including those, 25 had some conflict where their impartiality could reasonably have been questioned.

What are your career aspirations?

I want to go into a career in civil-rights law. I probably want to focus on the criminal-justice system in particular because I think it is deeply unjust in too many important ways. And if the cards fall in the right places, I would be open to accepting a judgeship if I were appointed to one.◆

Interview conducted and condensed by A.W.
It’s 9 p.m. on a Tuesday, and I’m at the DBar pretending to be a dairy cow. If this seems strange for an engineering Ph.D. student, I agree. It might also make me a better collaborator and conversationalist, but I’m getting ahead of myself.

It all started six weeks ago, when I sat down in Green Hall with a dozen other graduate students. The attraction: a beginner improv series led by the Graduate Improv Club. Sara Chuang, a fifth-year Ph.D. student in chemical and biological engineering, was our fearless leader, shepherding us from shy, awkward first-time comedians to a troupe that by the end was anything but shy, if still a little awkward at times.

We started slowly. The first workshop was about loosening up. We played word-association games, mirrored each other’s movements, and learned the cardinal rule of improv: Always say, “Yes, and …”

“Sometimes the other person has a picture or an idea for the scene,” explained Holden Lee, a fourth-year Ph.D. student in math. “How do I support that while still adding to it?”

Over the weeks, we added more complex games. Some emphasized physicality, like “Puppets,” where people performed with their limbs controlled by “puppeteers” behind them. Others were about letting imaginations run wild, like “Lunch Line,” where a normal rumor got crazy as it spread along a cafeteria line.

At the end of each session, we talked about what we wanted to improve — a challenge when we knew we’d never do those particular scenes again. As Levent Aygun, a fifth-year Ph.D. student in electrical engineering, recalled: “I do a scene, and for the next week I think about what I should’ve said instead.”

By now, you may be wondering the same thing my roommate was whenever I got home: “So … were you funny?” My answer is a hesitant, “I think so.”

The truth is we didn’t learn to be funny. We learned to be good scene partners, to say the first thing that came to mind, to convey context without being too direct. We also spent time honing our animal impressions, which probably did look funny to anyone who passed the room of grad students stomping around making elephant noises.

But in five weeks, the one thing we learned about how to be funny was to do nothing at all — because, according to Chuang, “You are all inherently funny!” And if there’s one thing I was most surprised by, it’s that she was right.

What made our scenes funny was individuality — any two people hearing the same line inevitably responded differently. In a game called “Movie Genres,” my prompt was “sidewalk,” and the style was “documentary.” I swooped in like the Discovery Channel, pretending to narrate a nature video of “a human child playing hopscotch.” I thought this was funny, but it didn’t get laughs until my partner whipped around and snapped, “Mom! I told you to stop filming me!”

In many ways, what’s funny about improv is that saying the first thing that comes to mind reveals how differently our minds work. This is particularly true with students whose academic passions span everything from Russian literature to photovoltaics. Embracing these differences can help us interact offstage as well.

“What actually got me hooked in the email was, ‘Are you tired of small talk?’” said Elizaveta Mankovskaia, a fourth-year Ph.D. student in Slavic languages and literatures. “Improv is creative and theatrical, but it’s also very applicable in regular life.”

So back to the DBar, at the performance that culminated our series. The audience loves my talking cow, and it’s bittersweet knowing I won’t use it again. But I’m proudest of how I’m blending with the once-strangers in my scene and responding to cues I’ve never heard before. That I will do again — in academic and personal life — and much like improv, it’ll be different every time.

What’s funny about improv is that saying the first thing that comes to mind reveals how differently our minds work.
Ready to Launch

Tiger hitters turn to physics in their search for more power, better results

It is 7:30 on a cold Friday night in early December, and the basement level of Jadwin Gym has been turned into a physics laboratory. In the poorly lit space, amid the ever-present hum of the building’s heating units, two undergrads are conducting projectile-motion experiments. Over and over again, they launch spheres into the fraying black netting that hangs from the ceiling, 40 feet above their heads. “I want the launch angle to be higher,” one says. “How can we do that while maintaining the same exit velocity?” the other responds. Down here in the depths of Jadwin, these scientists do not wear goggles or lab coats. Instead, they wield baseball bats.

This is the baseball training regimen of Max West ’19 and Chris Davis ’20, who have sought to improve their performance by changing their swings to better account for the physics of hitting. Over the past seven months, they have worked tirelessly to overhaul their swings, conducting training sessions that are half science experiment, half conventional batting practice. And the changes are working. Buoyed by their data-driven approach, West and Davis have become key offensive players for a Princeton team that is looking to claim its second Ivy League title in three years.

Davis, the Tigers’ primary leftfielder and leadoff hitter, first realized he had a problem when he was training in his native Connecticut alongside a major-league player in a facility that measured the speed at which the ball leaves the bat (exit velocity). The son of ESPN College GameDay host Rece Davis, the younger Davis had been around high-level sports his entire life. Working out next to a pro, he was anything but wide-eyed. Rather, he was confused. He noticed that his 96-mph exit velocity off a batting tee was just 2 mph slower than that of his major-league counterpart. “If I’m hitting the ball almost as hard as this guy,” Davis said, “then I should hit better.”

The changes paid off. In 2017, Davis posted a .323 batting average, 12 home runs, and 44 RBIs, earning first-team All-Ivy honors. This year, he is batting .321 with nine home runs and 40 RBIs, and has a .470 on-base percentage. Davis is also a key contributor on the basepaths, stealing 16 bases and scoring 29 runs. West, a catcher, has also impressed with his hitting, batting .278 with 10 doubles and 22 RBIs. He has been instrumental in the Tigers’ recent success, helping lead the team to a 37-18 record and a share of the Ivy League title.

The changes have not been easy. Both players had to make significant adjustments to their swings, and there were times when they struggled. But they persevered, and now they are reaping the rewards of their hard work. “It’s been a long process,” West said. “But it’s all worth it now.”
On the Campus / Sports

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wondered, “why is he in the big leagues and I’m struggling at the college level?”

West, who arrived on campus as an unheralded walk-on and is now the Tigers’ starting catcher, was similarly frustrated. A native of Singapore, he had forged a relentless work ethic during his time as a combat diver in his country’s navy. Even though he had never caught before coming to Princeton, West quickly transformed himself into an elite defensive catcher, throwing out 37 percent of attempted base stealers in his first two seasons. Offensive progress, however, did not come nearly as easily. “I had been working as hard as I could to hit the ball harder,” he said. “But I’d never really gotten the results I had hoped for in games, even though I felt my swing was fine.”

Enter the physics of hitting: “All of a sudden I stumbled upon this new world of analytical hitting, where I found out that exit velocity and launch angle were the two most important things to hitting success,” West said, referencing the slew of research that has come out in the past few years concerning batted-ball outcomes. According to leading baseball physicist Alan Nathan ’75, a professor emeritus at the University of Illinois, the ideal batted ball is not only hit hard, but also hit in the air at a launch angle between 10 and 20 degrees to maximize batting average and between 25 and 35 degrees to maximize the potential for a home run. (women’s and men’s), tallying six rebounds in Princeton's NCAA Tournament loss to Maryland March 16, and her team-high five assists included the crisp passes to a cutting Bella Alarie ’20 late in the second quarter that sparked the Ivy League-champion Tigers' most impressive stretch. Maryland would flip the momentum in the third quarter on its way to a 77–57 victory.

Two weeks earlier, Robinson recorded what is believed to be the first triple-double in Princeton basketball history (women's and men's), tallying 10 points, 15 rebounds, and 10 assists in a March 2 win over Brown. ✴ By B.T.
Websites constantly collect information about their visitors’ activity — which links they click, which items they purchase, how long they spend on a particular page. That process has become increasingly thorough thanks to the proliferation of “session-replay scripts,” a technology that captures, like a video, a user’s entire set of interactions with a website, to be “replayed” for analysis purposes. A team of University researchers analyzed data for the top 50,000 websites and found those running session-replay scripts sometimes fail to protect their users’ personal information, and in some cases, even their passwords. Many companies hire analytics firms to collect and analyze user data to recommend website-design improvements. The opportunity for these firms to access users’ private information and protected credentials is a concern not just to consumers but also to the analytics firms themselves, which would prefer not to have the sensitive data that could make them the targets of malicious cyberattacks.

Computer science graduate student Steven Englehardt, with postdoctoral research associate Günes Acar and computer science professor Arvind Narayanan, began writing in 2017 about their research on third-party firms running session-replay scripts on websites and the data those firms can access. Using Walgreens.com as a case study, they found that session-replay firms often inadvertently collect users’ personal information, including data about pharmaceutical prescriptions and medical conditions. In November, they described the first set of their findings in a post on Freedom to Tinker, a blog hosted by Princeton’s Center for Information Technology Policy.

The problem, says Englehardt, “is that websites aren’t following the terms of service put in place by the third-party session-recording services.” For instance, FullStory, which provides Walgreens with its session-replay service, requires that Walgreens strip users’ health and medical data from the records before sending the data. But the websites that rely on these services are not always willing or able to redact personal information effectively.

That means firms like FullStory end up handling sensitive data that they do not need or want. “FullStory is very explicit that they do not share or sell that data, but it’s possible some other third-party firms allow this data to be used in other ways,” Englehardt says.

Adam Tanner *88, a journalist and fellow at Harvard’s Institute for Quantitative Social Science, says that session-replay script processes that leak personal data to third parties are a “clear example of how government rules protecting consumers often lag far behind invasive technology.” He continues: “We should know who is gathering our data and whether they are selling or sharing it with others. Most importantly, we should have a say in what happens to sensitive information about ourselves and our lives.”

After generating news about their findings on session-replay scripts on Walgreens.com, the team followed up in February with findings about how session-replay firms sometimes collect passwords inadvertently, particularly through the “show password” option on some website logins. Unwittingly sharing user credentials with these third parties...
The problem “is that websites aren’t following the terms of service put in place by the third-party session-recording services.”

— Steven Englehardt GS

presents additional security concerns since it potentially could enable those firms — as well as anyone who hacks into their databases or purchases their data — to access protected user accounts. Many data-analysis companies explicitly exclude login credentials from the data they collect, but the researchers found that analytics provider Mixpanel still accidentally collected user passwords under certain conditions. Following the researchers’ post, Mixpanel announced it had adjusted its techniques to better avoid collecting passwords, but the research team said that Mixpanel and other firms continued to collect credentials in some cases. “There is no foolproof way for these third-party scripts to prevent password collection, given their intended functionality,” the researchers concluded in their post.

The researchers focused on seven of the most popular companies that provide session-replay scripts and identified their services on 482 of the top 50,000 websites. But Englehardt stresses that this number may underestimate how many popular websites actually use session replays, since most websites don’t record every user session but instead capture a sample of every 10th or 100th user’s interactions.

For users concerned about having their every online move recorded, Englehardt and Acar recommend installing a privacy extension, such as uBlock or EasyPrivacy, both of which have drawn from their research. ◆ By Josephine Wolff ’10

MUSIC

Jazz, with a South Indian Twist

Growing up in Boulder, Colo., Rudresh Mahanthappa decided to try jazz after talking to his older brother. “He played the clarinet in the orchestra, and he told me the guys in the jazz band looked like they were having more fun,” Mahanthappa recalls.

The fun hasn’t stopped for Mahanthappa, an accomplished saxophonist and composer who performs worldwide and has recorded more than a dozen albums. He was named Alto Saxophonist of the Year by DownBeat magazine in six of the last seven years. In 2016, he became Princeton’s director of jazz.

Mahanthappa's music is influenced by South Indian classical music, a reflection of his experience as a second-generation Indian American. As an undergraduate he received a gag gift, a CD called Saxophone Indian Style. That album, as well as a trip to India he took while attending the Berklee College of Music, inspired his first record, Yatra, which means “spiritual journey.” “I was trying not to imitate what I heard, but to take the essence of it and craft that onto a jazz scenario,” he says.

Exploring the music of his ancestry was “something that I felt like I had to discover on my own terms,” Mahanthappa told NPR’s Terry Gross in 2009. “There was no template for an Indian American jazz musician at that time. ... I came into the music at the same time I was coming into understanding that I do have a hybrid background — that I don't feel entirely Indian, that I don't feel entirely American.”

He explored his bicultural identity on the 2004 album Mother Tongue, which includes Indian Americans responding, melodically, in seven languages of India to the oft-posed questions “Do you speak Indian?” and “Do you speak Hindu?” On his most recent album, Agrima, Mahanthappa performed with his trio, the Indo-Pak Coalition, playing “with the puckish, cheeky tone of Charlie Parker, negotiating unusual Indian scales and modes with a bebop swagger,” according to The Guardian newspaper.

At Princeton, Mahanthappa can often be found playing along with students while they rehearse for one of the University’s jazz ensembles. “I’m not just a talking head — I’m there with a saxophone in my hand,” he says. “It bridges that gap between education and the real world.” He is teaching a new class, “Advanced Improvisation,” and has brought back a course in jazz history.

He also has beefed up visits by professional jazz musicians, inviting them for several days for extended contact with students. Guests this academic year include octogenarian Archie Shepp, a legendary saxophonist; and newcomer Gerald Clayton, a pianist and composer. Visiting artists, says Mahanthappa, allow students “to see jazz as alive and active, and think about the power of this music.” ◆ By Jennifer Altmann
How well are refugees integrated into the countries to which they flee? The question is particularly urgent today, with 65 million refugees worldwide, the highest number since World War II.

Professor of anthropology John Borneman has studied Syria since 1999. When more than a million Syrians began fleeing to Germany in 2015, he started talking to them — on social media and in person — about how they were adapting to their new environment. His research examines how everyday encounters between Germans and refugees produce, or fail to produce, a sense of belonging.

Which Syrians went to Germany? Seventy-five percent of the migrants were men, most of them young. If you have the resources, you finance an illegal trip of a young male. You don’t risk everybody in the family. Between 2013 and the end of November 2017, more than 15,000 people in flight lost their lives crossing the Mediterranean. Families are less likely to allow young women to undergo the risk of drowning, or of being permanently stuck alone in a refugee camp in Italy or Greece.

Once in Europe, refugees register themselves and thus qualify for minimal benefits. The right to employment is not automatic, although many find illegal work. Those who make it to Europe have done so frequently with the support of family savings. Thus they are often overwhelmed by the guilt of having survived and being unable to repay this debt. The pressure from family to repay is subtle, psychological, and varies, but many save from their benefits or from work to send money back.

What about German society makes it hard for refugees to break in? There was a welcoming culture initially in Germany, but it was immediately counterbalanced by xenophobic reactions after the New Year’s Eve sexual assaults in Cologne. Hundreds of German women claimed assault by roughly 1,000 foreign men, mostly of Arab origin. The event had a huge effect on shifting public mood.

Friendship circles are perhaps tighter and hence less open in Germany than they are in many other countries. Many Syrians entered universities this past fall, but they have a difficult time finding German friends. I sense there is a lack of curiosity in the younger generation. Most of the people who initially spent time with refugees were retired, and most refugees would of course like to meet people their own age.

You recently described a party attended by two refugees as an example of how Germans’ good intentions can fall short.

The party was for a woman in her 60s who had been volunteering to teach a group of refugees. Two of them came to the party, and there was an old milk can where guests could donate money for them.

It was very well-meaning. But the language barrier is so difficult. Then the main dish was served — a whole roasted pig, which doesn’t make it comfortable for these two Muslim refugees, who don’t eat pork. We were served plentiful wine and beer. Most Muslims, including these two men, don’t drink. Even though this is a welcoming and warm group of Germans who are in a position to help, they started to indicate hesitancy about the possibility of social incorporation. They had tried to engage with the refugees, but eventually they gave up.

Are many other countries seeing similar issues with refugees? We are in a mood worldwide that is skeptical of outsiders, and this is preyed on by political parties, which are less stable right now. Politicians feel less secure and bound to party platforms, and populist, anti-immigrant appeals resonate across partisan lines.

Extraordinary refugee waves have marked our history, and in most cases eventually resettlement schemes were found. But today our moral and political systems are under attack internally; thus it is convenient to portray them as overwhelmed by external forces, like refugees and migrants.

“We are in a mood worldwide that is skeptical of outsiders ...”

— John Borneman, professor of anthropology

Interview conducted and condensed by Jennifer Altmann
Steven Kaplan ’63, shown here at Franck Debiou’s boulangerie in Sceaux, a suburb of Paris, puts his heart — and his nose — into the job.
His Daily Bread

Steven Laurence Kaplan ’63 knows the secrets of le pain

BY MARK F. BERNSTEIN ’83
an does not live by bread alone. On second thought, strike that. Steven Laurence Kaplan ’63 just might. Kaplan is an expert on French bread, a subject about which he has written nine books. A professor emeritus at Cornell University specializing in French social history, he lives in Paris but has appeared everywhere from New York magazine to Conan O’Brien’s late-night TV show. To call bread his passion would be an understatement. Kaplan speaks of the lowly boule the way oenophiles speak of a Château Lafite Rothschild, as a lover speaks of his beloved.

I aspire to feel what he feels, so we agreed to meet early one morning last fall at one of his favorite boulangeries, named for its owner, Dominique Saibron, in the 14th arrondissement, just across from the Alesia Metro stop. If Parisian bakers can be celebrities, Saibron surely qualifies; in various competitions, he has been honored as baker of the third-best baguette and fourth-best croissant in the city, and he has opened locations in Tokyo and Osaka.

In the predawn darkness, Saibron’s shop is warm and inviting, the shelves piled high, the smells intoxicating. Kaplan arrives in a hurry, on his way to a local TV station to promote his latest book, published in French, in which he analyzes the political economy of bread during the reign of Louis XV. Still, he always has time for a quick tasting lesson, based on his own six-point rubric. Kaplan selects a simple baguette, perhaps the most representative of all French breads (10 billion are sold annually in France alone). And to dispel any doubts that he is serious about his work, he reaches into his coat pocket and produces an 8-inch bread knife, folded over like a switchblade. He has had more than one confiscated by airport security.

Bread is both universal and elemental, the product of earth (wheat), air (fermentation and kneading), water, and fire. “Dough is a living substance,” Kaplan explains, his accent betraying his Brooklyn roots. “Every day the baker creates life, and when you create life, it’s recalcitrant, it doesn’t always follow the same rules.” Time, temperature, humidity, even the baker’s mood will produce something that is slightly different.

A loaf baked at 6 a.m. won’t taste exactly the same as one baked at noon.

Spend even a little time with Kaplan and illusions are shattered — such as that bread is best fresh out of the oven. “You do not want to eat warm bread,” he warns. “When you go into a restaurant and they give you warm bread, it’s because it’s awful or it’s stale. Heating bread doesn’t make it better, it simply makes it impossible for you to verify if it’s any good at all.”

With that admonition, Kaplan picks up the baguette in front of us, which fortunately has cooled to room temperature. On his first grading point — appearance — he gives high marks. There are the traditional six scars across the top, curled ends indicating that it was made by hand. “This is elegant, seductive, appetizing. It makes me want to go further,” he says, turning the baguette over in his hands. “I am seduced by this bread based on its appearance.”

So am I. Kaplan’s enthusiasm for the baguette is contagious. Its crust is the color of autumn leaves. But a frown crosses his face.

He spots a telltale white line along the sides, thin as a pencil mark, where the crust did not fully brown. When the assistant baker comes over to greet him, Kaplan shakes his head. To a bread connoisseur it means that the loaves were laid close together on the baking pan, so they touched in the oven. The French term for this is baiser — the loaves were “kissing” — but Kaplan characterizes their relations using a coarser Anglo-Saxon word. The baker acknowledges this deficiency with a Gallic shrug.

Also, Kaplan says as he turns back to me, this baguette doesn’t sound right. Hear that? When he whacks it on the table, it doesn’t produce the right thump. It’s another mark of hurry and commodification, a sign that too many loaves were crammed into the oven to boost production and then weren’t baked long enough, perhaps only 19 minutes instead of the necessary 21. From such frayed threads, he contends, the entire fabric of national gastronomy can unravel.

Now I can’t un-see that white line, which looks almost like the underbelly of a fish, but Kaplan has moved on to his second grading point: the crumb, which refers to the entire interior of the loaf. He makes a cut and inspects the baguette like a surgeon. The crumb does not adhere well to the crust because the crust is insufficiently caramelized — he’s clearly not going to let this go — but the crumb itself is “lovely,” the right pearl-gray color. Swiss cheese-like gaps made by escaping air bubbles, called alvéolages, are present in a mix of shapes and sizes. “These holes have a savage pattern that makes no sense at all,” he pronounces. “This is just what I want to see.”

Next, aroma. Kaplan takes a slice and buries his nose in it, almost rubs it across his face. There are more than 200 volatile molecules in bread, he explains; chemically, it is more complex than wine or cheese. Kaplan picks up notes of hazelnut, dried apricot, and a little bit of pepper. Across the table I’m getting undertones of … I don’t know, wheat?

Enchanting as it seems, the aroma is not exceptional. “It’s not catastrophic,” he pronounces, “but it’s not the mesmerizing, enchanting aroma I expect.” Though I have not yet had breakfast, I am beginning to wonder if I should try a croissant instead.

Kaplan’s fourth grading point is what he calls mâche —

“This is elegant, seductive, appetizing. It makes me want to go further,” Kaplan says, turning the baguette over in his hands. “I am seduced by this bread …”
not taste but “mouth feel.” Kaplan pops a piece and chews it, searching for the right words to describe the sensory experience of having a chunk of bread in his mouth. He frowns again. “It’s a bit recalcitrant,” he concludes, “and that’s because I don’t have enough crust to lubricate the combination of crumb and crust. But it’s agreeable enough.”

And then, for the same reason wine tasters don’t swallow the wines they sample, Kaplan nonchalantly — oh my God, I can’t believe he’s doing this — spits the half-masticated chunk into a bag.

What makes someone become an expert on bread? Perhaps like Proust’s madeleines, it is the aroma that pulls Kaplan back into memory.

He began his career studying Southern history under Eric Goldman at Princeton and C. Vann Woodward at Yale, where he earned his doctorate. Growing up, bread was just something to put around tuna fish or peanut butter. On his first morning in Paris as a Fulbright scholar in 1962, he had an epiphany.

Seeking lunch, Kaplan walked into Lionel Poilâne’s boulangerie near the Church of Saint-Sulpice and was overwhelmed. More than half a century later, he recalls that he ordered a bâtard, a torpedo-shaped loaf. “I can still feel it and taste it,” he says — still hear it, too, recalling its “melodic, crusty sound.” He carried the bâtard, a chunk of goat cheese, and a small bottle of wine to enjoy in the Luxembourg Gardens, but never got to the cheese. The bread was “so formidably defamiliarizing that I said to myself, ‘What is this?’”

For the remainder of his time in France, Kaplan kept a bread journal and visited five or six boulangeries a week, driven, he says, “by a hedonistic and cultural lust.” Returning to Yale, he informed Woodward that he was switching to French history. Though he was only beginning to appreciate it, the study of bread was his entrance to a range of other subjects: agriculture, technology, economics, religion, sociology, politics, even neuroscience. In his 1996 book, The Bakers of Paris and the Bread Question, 1700–1775, he traced the many roles bread, and the want of it, played in contributing to the French Revolution. He became a pioneer in the emerging field of culinary scholarship.

Though Kaplan could hardly have anticipated it, the man and the moment met in another way. French baguettes, at least named as such, originated shortly after World War I, the product of better ovens and the wider availability of white flour. But World War II destroyed much French agriculture and left the country unable to afford culinary luxuries. When the postwar economy improved, the national diet diversified and globalized. People ate more meat, while bakers cut corners on a less discerning public, using cheaper flour and commercial yeast. Their products may have been beautiful to look at, but they were “insipid” to eat. Bread, that staple of French cuisine and culture, seemed doomed to a Pepperidge Farm-like uniformity.

Somewhat like craft brewing, artisanal baking made a comeback in the 1970s and ’80s. Saibron, Poilâne, and other bakers led the resurgence, forsaking the use of additives, reintroducing sourdough fermentation, and encouraging the use of better flour. Kaplan, who had already befriended many of these retro artisans, celebrated their efforts in his 2006 book, Good Bread Is Back, and gave them intellectual underpinning.

Kaplan makes a point to baker Marc Morel at Franck Debieu’s boulangerie.
and historical context. In recognition, the French government has twice made him a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor.

In short, French baking was saved, but victory is never permanent. The health-conscious French eat less bread than they used to, and the number of boulangeries has shrunk from 54,000 in the 1950s to about 30,000 today. A few years ago, the bakers’ lobby tried to reverse this trend by launching an advertising campaign with the slogan, “Coucou, tu as pris le pain?” (“Hey there, did you pick up the bread?”) But beyond a small tier of artisans, commercialization and globalization roll on. “The old crap is still out there,” Kaplan cautions.

If Kaplan’s passion for French bread has not diminished, the same cannot be said for his consumption. On a typical day, he might eat only a quarter of a baguette, but not because he is shunning carbs. No, the reason is more spiritual. “I have found,” he says, “that the more I have learned to discern and savor what goes into my nose and mouth, the more quickly I become sated with dense pleasure relatively rapidly.”

His desire to write about bread has not produced an equal desire to make it. Although he sometimes bakes at home — and nearly missed his son’s birth because he was hanging out with master baker Pierre Poilâne (Lionel’s father) — Kaplan is humbled by how hard it is to do well.

“I’d like you to know,” he confides, “that I am a mediocre baker.”

On this particular morning, unfortunately, so is Dominique Saibron.

Returning to the baguette before us, Kaplan moves to the last item on his rubric, the one a novice might think matters most: taste — or as the French put it, saveur: He cuts a fresh slice, chews, and ponders. “There’s a kind of lusty taste to it, fairly intense,” he concludes. “It’s pleasant, but somewhat monolithic rather than multiple. A little note of citrus toward the end that is agreeable.”

When he was ranking the city’s top boulangeries, Kaplan graded on a 20-point scale, which mimics the grading scale in French secondary schools. Only about 10 boulangeries in Paris (out of perhaps 1,200) earned a grade of 16 or higher, which Kaplan analogizes to three Michelin stars. Twelve points was his cutoff, the equivalent of a single star. He gives this baguette a grade of 12.5.

“It makes the cut,” he concludes, “but it is not the sharply distinct bread that I want to associate with.”

With that, Kaplan grabs an organic country loaf to take home and heads for his TV interview, leaving me to devour the rest of our baguette, insufficiently caramelized crust or not. The sun has come up, the streets of Paris are alive, and the boulangerie is filling with commuters seeking a bit of breakfast.

The bread connoisseur is philosophical about our experience. This is not Panera. Exceptional baguettes can’t be churned out on an assembly line. Bakers create life, remember, and as with any artist, even with God himself, sometimes that creation is flawed.

If he ran into his old friend Saibron, Kaplan insists, he’d say, “Dominique, this was not your best day.”

Mark F. Bernstein ’83 is PAW’s senior writer.
You know how you sometimes have a truly great conversation — when there’s a mutual understanding and the discussion just flows? Uri Hasson, a Princeton professor of psychology and neuroscience, is studying the mechanics behind conversations like that. Specifically, he researches what’s happening when ideas are effectively transferred between brains during verbal communication. “You know when you click with someone,” says Hasson: It’s sort of like dancing with a partner; neither person is doing exactly what the other is, but the moves are complementary.

Hasson’s research, which uses the tools of modern neuroscience in experiments that mimic real life, points to the idea that communication is really “a single act performed by two brains.” A speaker’s brain waves generate a sound wave — speech — that in turn influences the brain responses in the listener and brings them into alignment with her own. Hasson calls the outcome of this process brain coupling, and the stronger the coupling — the more aligned the speaker-to-listener brain patterns — the better the mutual understanding. (Dancing, clicking, and coupling aside, he’s referring to all effective communication, not necessarily the romantic kind.)

Hasson is digging into the big questions of how we exchange ideas, thoughts, and memories with others — and, at a more fundamental level, how the mind works. His tools include functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), which tracks how activity in different brain regions changes in response to stimuli, spoken stories, and a collection of movies and TV episodes.

That library includes two fast-paced BBC television series, Sherlock and Merlin. In one study published last year, Hasson and his colleagues had participants lie in an fMRI scanner while watching part of an episode of one of the two shows, which were chosen because they were engaging and had twisting plots likely to be easily remembered. Later, one person was recorded recounting the episode while being scanned again, this time in the dark. Then, people who hadn’t seen the shows listened to that recording. These participants were scanned as they mentally constructed the show from what they heard.

On the face of it, watching a video clip, recalling it later, and imagining it from someone else’s description are very different cognitive processes. But Hasson found that the brain patterns across those processes were similar in certain higher-order areas. That trend was scene-specific, so that (spoiler alert!) when Sherlock gets into a cab driven by the man he has realized is responsible for several murders disguised as suicides, there were shared patterns of brain activation in study participants regardless of whether they were watching, remembering, or imagining that scene.

The experiment also revealed something about memory. The more similar the patterns in the brain of the person who originally viewed the episode and the person who mentally constructed it when listening to the description, the better the transfer of memories from the speaker to the listener, as measured by a separate comprehension test. The findings suggest that the same areas used to recall and reconstruct a memory are involved in the construction of someone else’s memory in our imagination. “Perhaps the key function of
Uris Hasson is digging into the big questions of how we exchange ideas, thoughts, and memories with others — and, at a more fundamental level, how the mind works.
memory is not to represent the past, but to be used as a tool to share our knowledge with others and predict the future,” Hasson says. He expects the results would be even more pronounced in real-time or face-to-face conversations.

Hasson’s goal is to get as close as possible to multidimensional, real-life experiences, within the limits of available technology and scientific rigor. His work is rooted in the idea that the world is complicated. It’s messy. It delivers to us a constant stream of information and experiences that we process, consciously and not, as we move through our days. “He wants to work with things that are as rich as real life right now,” says Kenneth Norman, professor and psychology department chair at Princeton and a collaborator of Hasson’s.

That’s different from traditional neuroscience research, which has tried to distill that richness to very simple experiments — say, studying perception by scanning a study subject’s brain while she’s looking at objects in isolation on a gray background. Those simple experiments build to more complex ones. Hasson is starting from the other end of things, using more complex situations and stripping away some of the variables to make them simple enough to study. He hopes he and the other researchers will meet in the middle to produce a more complete picture of what’s going on in our brains.

Hasson grew up in Israel. He started off interested in philosophy and studied it at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. But he wasn’t satisfied with how that discipline wrestled with the question of how the mind works: “It was always talking about possible worlds, but I wanted to find out what’s going on in the real world.” So he turned to the more empirical world of cognitive science as an undergrad and master’s candidate, then earned his Ph.D. in neurobiology at the Weizmann Institute of Science. That was more his speed. “Neuroscience inspires me to understand how the brain performs all the amazing, daily-life things it does, from perceiving to remembering to talking and thinking,” he says.

Hasson’s approach was different from the start. While at the Weizmann Institute, he set out to investigate how similarly different human brains operate. Usually that kind of study is done by performing one of those controlled experiments with very simple stimuli and then using the results to map and compare the brain regions that are involved. Hasson and his colleagues wanted to explore the question under more natural conditions, so they turned to an exponentially more complex stimulus: a Clint Eastwood film. The researchers had study subjects watch a 30-minute clip of the spaghetti western The Good, the Bad and the Ugly while undergoing fMRI scanning.

“To my surprise, people had very similar responses,” Hasson says of the results, which were published in Science in 2004. You might expect to see that in the perceptual areas of the brain involved with processing sights and sounds, since people don’t typically vary in how their eyes and ears are wired, he explains. But it was a surprise to also see similar activity patterns in certain higher-order areas representing thoughts and ideas, he says.

Hasson compares the alignment of different people’s brain patterns when exposed to the same stimulus to what happens when metronomes ticking at different intervals are coupled together as they’re placed on a platform atop two cylinders. The cylinders allow the vibrations to travel across the platform and interact until the metronomes are synchronized. Brains can also “tick together” when exposed to a shared external stimulus, he says. (In contrast to their common responses to the film, there was very little correlation in brain patterns when study participants were scanned while they lay passively in the dark for 10 minutes, eyes closed.) That’s not to say that we are exactly the same in every regard; in other parts of the cortex, people’s responses to the movie varied, pointing to the influence of previous experiences on the meaning of a new one. (Maybe someone disliked Eastwood’s character’s actions due to her political beliefs, for example, while another approved of them.)

Films and TV shows, which provide viewers complex, lifelike stimuli but under circumstances fit for a brain-imaging lab, are great tools for the kind of work Hasson does. That’s especially lucky for Hasson because he really loves movies. As a child growing up in Jerusalem, he lived near an art cinema that showed four different films a day. As a professor, he taught a fall freshman seminar about how neuroscience is represented in science-fiction films, and in 2014 he took part, along with other neuroscientists and filmmakers, in an event put on by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences — the group that awards the Oscars — on the science of cinematic perception.

Hasson talked at the event about his own research on “neurocinematics,” a term he coined to refer to the study of how movies affect brain activity. When filmmakers use
certain cinematic devices to control our attention — think of a tight close-up of a gun — viewers’ brain patterns are more similar than they are with a more ambiguous and open-ended cinematic style like you’d see in a French New Wave film. In studies, Hasson found The Good, The Bad and the Ugly prompted aligned neural responses across many brain areas — up to about 45 percent of the cortical surface — compared to more than 65 percent for an episode of the classic TV series Alfred Hitchcock Presents, 18 percent for an episode of Larry David’s comedy series Curb Your Enthusiasm, and less than 5 percent for an unedited clip of a real-life crowd in a park. Hasson emphasizes, though, that while those clips differ in their effect on viewers’ brain patterns, that fact speaks to the director’s style — not the quality of the work. Hitchcock isn’t “better” than David, at least not as measured by neurocinematics.

Hasson’s work on communication has also taken off outside academe; his 2016 TED talk, “This is Your Brain on Communication,” has been viewed more than 1.9 million times. And no wonder — the idea of syncing brains as the mechanism for successful communication sparks all kinds of real-world questions. Why are some people master communicators or storytellers — are they better at coupling their brains with others? Why does miscommunication happen? Why do two people hear a speech and come away with very different interpretations?

There are some clues to that last one. Successful communication, or coupling, relies on shared common ground, experiences, and the beliefs people have already acquired from others. Hasson notes that if a Londoner hears “hackney carriage,” he thinks of the city’s iconic black cabs; an American may have no clue when he hears the same phrase. That principle extends beyond vocabulary to ideas and concepts. “When you think of freedom, do you think of the Second Amendment and guns or social justice and equality?” Hasson asks. Your answer will vary depending on your previous exposure to those words and the interpretations that previously have been transmitted to you.

Hasson found a way to study this phenomenon in the lab. Two groups of study participants listened to an adapted, abridged version of a short story by J.D. Salinger, “Pretty Mouth and Green My Eyes,” in which a husband, having failed to find his wife at a party, calls his friend, asking if he’s seen her. But before the study subjects heard the story, the researchers read a different sentence to each group: One group was told that the wife was having an affair with the friend, and the other heard that there was no affair and the husband was just jealous. The higher-order brain responses of the participants in the “affair” group were very similar to each other. So were those in the “no affair” group. But the two groups’ responses were different from each other. In other words, the brain’s responses to the same set of facts tend to be similar among people with the same pre-existing views or context, and distinct between groups.

That rings true in an era when many of us spend our time interacting only with people in our own red- or blue-state belief systems. And the experiment suggests that people on different sides of this country’s increasingly wide political and cultural divides really are interpreting the same events differently, even at a neural level. Under those circumstances, consensus is often elusive.

Hasson is not optimistic about how this will play out, with our chosen TV networks and social-media streams tailored to our existing beliefs and forming echo chambers that push us farther and farther apart. “You aren’t exposed to what you don’t want to see,” he says. “We’re losing common ground, and I’m not sure we can go back. The wall is very big.”

(He’s interested in studying how external forces, like those politically aligned media, shape our brains and intensify our differences, but hasn’t yet published on the subject.) Perhaps more unfortunately, his research has no magic bullet for how to reverse the trend. “We’re mapping the process,” he says. “We can’t change it.” The key lies elsewhere, in changing the social forces that change the brain — for example, perhaps regulating and changing the way people consume news and facts on social-media platforms, he says.

Driving that change is not his purview, he says. But you can bet he’ll be around to study what happens, for better or for worse, in all its messy, human glory.

Katherine Hobson ’94 is a freelance health and science writer based in Brooklyn, N.Y.

WATCH Uri Hasson’s TED talk “This Is Your Brain on Communication” at paw.princeton.edu.
REUNIONS 2018

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NOW THEY'RE COOKING: Biologists Margarita *09 and Andrew Womack *11 met at Princeton, thanks to a postdoc-turned-Cupid. She had spent childhood weekends at her father's restaurant in Colombia and appreciated Andrew's science-minded approach to food, wherein Thanksgiving "involves Excel spreadsheets." Three sons and two D.C. careers later, the Womacks took an entrepreneurial turn. Al Sur Latin Kitchen and Catering is a member of Washington's Union Kitchen accelerator program. The product? Empanadas, just like she'd made growing up.

READ MORE about the Womacks at paw.princeton.edu/tiger-of-the-week.
Tao Leigh Goffe ’09, an assistant professor and faculty fellow at New York University, forged her academic path when, as an English major at Princeton, she wrote a junior paper on The Pagoda by Patricia Powell. The novel, about a Chinese shopkeeper in Jamaica during the 1890s, was the first book Goffe read that explored Jamaican-Chinese history — her history. “[It] put me on that quest... to figure out why the presence of the Chinese and of Afro-Chineseness is so obscured in the story of the Caribbean and the Americas,” says Goffe.

In 2016 that quest took her, along with her mother and sister, to a house in Hong Kong. Nervously, they knocked on the door, unsure how they would be received by the relatives inside, who had no idea they were coming.

This was the childhood home of Goffe’s maternal grandfather, Edwin Hugh, an Afro-Chinese man born in Jamaica. Edwin’s Chinese father, Hugh Yee Fatt, migrated to Jamaica in 1914, where he had several children with Afro-Jamaican women. He sent Edwin to China at age 6 to be educated and raised by his Chinese wife — a common practice among Chinese migrants in those days, when it was normal to have multiple partners. In adulthood, Edwin returned to Jamaica, married a local Afro-Chinese woman, and eventually migrated to the United States, where he died in 2003 at age 76.

Growing up in London, then New Jersey and New York, Goffe had always wondered about her grandfather’s childhood in Hong Kong. “We would hear him on the phone speaking in Cantonese,” said Goffe. “But whenever we asked about it, he never really said anything.”

The Hong Kong relatives — her mother’s first cousin and his son — were welcoming. And the Goffes were overcome when they saw photos they recognized of both Hugh Yee Fatt and Edwin.

In 2017, Goffe returned to China and tracked down Hugh Yee Fatt’s ancestral village — part of her research into her Chinese lineage. “It’s wonderful discovering roots that go thousands of years back,” she says. Goffe, whose father is black British, while her mother’s parents are both Afro-Jamaican Chinese, continues: “Being part of the black diaspora and the history of transatlantic slavery, there’s a more limited sense on [that] side of the family of where exactly we came from in Africa.”

That history, and the ways it brought Asian and African lives together, lies at the core of Goffe’s research. At NYU, Goffe studies what she calls “Afro-Asian intimacies in the Americas” through the lenses of literature, food, music, photography, and gambling. Those include Ian Fleming’s novel Dr. No (of James Bond fame); beauty-pageant photography (a disproportionate number of beauty queens in Jamaica have been fully ethnic Chinese or mixed-race black and Chinese); and the reggae-music industry (a number of label executives are Chinese-Jamaican).

The Caribbean has a long history of Chinese migration — one tied to
transatlantic slavery. Chinese and Indian workers were first brought to the British West Indies to replace slave labor on sugar plantations after Britain abolished slavery in 1834. From 1833 to 1884, a recorded 17,904 Chinese migrated to the British West Indies as indentured laborers. (Some 160,000 migrated to the Caribbean overall, including to Cuba.) Some remained after their contracts ended and over time became a merchant class. During the 1960s and ’70s, many left the island due to political unrest and a 1965 wave of anti-Chinese violence.

Goffe’s maternal grandmother migrated to the United States as a domestic worker after the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act abolished the existing national-origins quota system. Goffe’s paternal grandparents, both Afro-Jamaican, migrated to England in the 1950s. Goffe believes that being a product of these diasporic networks is what makes her — and other family members — so curious about the past. Her father, Leslie Gordon Goffe, is a journalist who wrote a book about his family history, and her mother and sister co-authored a book about a prominent relative who helped develop polio and measles vaccines. Now, Goffe is writing a book she calls an “alternative archive” of Afro-Asia.

After graduating from Princeton, Goffe completed a Ph.D. in American studies at Yale, then returned to Princeton for a fellowship in the newly formed African American studies department. At NYU she teaches popular classes like “The Darker Nations: Afro-Asian Literary Cultures” and “Chinatown: Havana, Kingston, New York.”

“It can often feel like, ‘Oh, this is so narrow and only about my heritage,’ and sometimes people will criticize [it] as ‘me-search,’” she says. “But when you think about it, it’s so global. When you think about Africa and Asia, and diaspora, and identity formation and who participates in the different cultures that come out of those histories and experiences — that’s a conversation we should all be having about the intimacy of globalization. It doesn’t have to exclude anyone. It’s really about inclusiveness.”

By Eveline Chao ’02
Efforts that began last summer to remove Civil War statues in Charlottesville, Va., have sparked similar efforts around the country. State Rep. Eric Johnson ’03 has asked the Texas State Preservation Board to remove a plaque outside his office in Austin honoring the “heroic deeds” of Confederate soldiers, and he plans to introduce a resolution to remove all Confederate iconography in the state capitol and its surrounding grounds. Johnson, whose district encompasses downtown Dallas, spoke with PAW about the issue.

What motivated your efforts?
There are at least a dozen Confederate statues and flags in and around the state capitol.

Specifically, there is a plaque right outside my office titled “Children of the Confederacy Creed.” It was put up in 1959, nearly a century after the Civil War, by a group called the Children of the Confederacy. The first paragraph says the plaque is meant to “love and honor the heroic deeds of those who enlisted in the Confederate Army and upheld its flag through four years of war.”

It’s the second paragraph of the plaque that really shows why it needs to go. It says we should pledge ourselves “to study and teach the truths of history,” specifically that “the war between the states was not a rebellion, nor was its underlying cause to sustain slavery.”

That is demonstrably untrue. The Texas ordinance of secession flat out says that they left over slavery. It’s a lie, and it needs to come down for that reason. I don’t think we’re trying to erase history; we’re trying to correct it.

You made your request last August. What has happened to it?
What has happened is this political season has happened. I met with Gov. [Greg] Abbott about this last fall and he agreed that the plaque contains historical inaccuracies, but he hasn’t said anything publicly since then. He is up for re-election, and this is not a topic that plays well with his base. But I’m not letting it go.

Does removing the statues put us on a slippery slope? Where does it end?
If you’re going to be enshrined in a public space, I think it’s reasonable to ask about your overall contribution to the body politic. Washington and Jefferson held slaves, but they also helped found the nation. On balance, their contributions were far greater than their sins.

But Confederate soldiers and leaders — fighting to destroy the Union was their contribution to history. We wouldn’t even know who those guys were if they hadn’t taken up arms against the United States to defend white supremacy and slavery. That is not a value that should be honored in a public space anywhere. ◆ Interview conducted and condensed by M.F.B.
Online Class Notes are password protected. To access, alumni must use their TigerNet ID and password. Click here to log in: http://paw.princeton.edu/class-notes
MEMORIALS

PAW posts a list of recent alumni deaths at paw.princeton.edu. Go to Reader Services on PAW's home page and click on the link “Recent Alumni Deaths.” The list is updated with each new issue.

THE CLASS OF 1942

Bourne Bean ’42

Bourne died Nov. 1, 2016.

Born in 1920, in Louisville, Ky., Bourne graduated from Princeton and married the love of his life, Byrd Chamesess. After serving in the Navy during World War II, he graduated from Harvard Law School and moved to St. Louis. He became an attorney with Armstrong Teasdale, where he worked until he was 72.

Bourne’s life was full of family, friends, great times, traveling, and always lots of fun. He was deeply involved in the community through his work on the boards of various nonprofits, including Fair St. Louis, the Zoo Museum District, Dance St. Louis, Forest Park Forever, and Edgewood Children’s Center.

He is survived by his wife, Byrd; children Christy and Tracy; and four grandchildren. He was predeceased by his daughter Courtney.

Richard P. Brown Jr. ’42

A man remembered as much for his acts of kindness as his stellar legal career and enduring support of the city of Philadelphia, Richard died May 29, 2017 — Memorial Day — at his home in Chestnut Hill. He was 96.

He graduated from Penn Charter in 1938 as valedictorian, and Princeton in 1942. He became a Naval officer in World War II, enduring brutal engagements in the Marianas, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa, and he received a Bronze Star in 1945.

After the war, he studied law at the University of Pennsylvania, was managing editor of the Law Review, and graduated in 1948. Richard joined Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, first as an associate, then as a partner, where he chaired the litigation section and oversaw the modern transformation of the firm as leader of its long-range planning subcommittee. He served as chair of the international law section of the American Bar Association and was a member of the bar of the Supreme Court.

Possessed of a courtly grace, diplomatic skill, and keen wish to understand others, Richard was an early adapter of every trend. When the U.S. opened to China in 1974, he led the region’s first trip to Communist China. When the iPhone came out, it not only lived in his breast pocket — he mastered all of its features, and even taught others how to use it. He was uniquely non-judgmental in his board work with Penn Charter, WHYY, the University of Pennsylvania, the International Visitors Center, the Foreign Policy Research Institute, Eisenhower Fellowships, the International House Center, and the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia, his advancement of talented thinkers, women, internationalists, and minorities in the public, private, board, and nonprofit sectors meant that he was forever a man of our time and a force for good in his city.

Ed is survived by two daughters and one son.

Joseph S. Grover ’42


An avid gardener, baker, and fisherman, he was first and foremost a teacher. Born in Newark, N.J., to Mae and W. Mortimer Grover, Joe graduated from Lawrenceville in 1938 and Princeton in 1942. In 1949 he earned a master’s degree from Columbia University. In the same year he married Eunice Powell (Smith ’43).

From 1942 to 1946 he served in the Pacific as an officer and combat engineer with the 592nd Battalion of the Army Corps of Engineers. He attained the rank of captain.

Joe Grover’s 43-year teaching career was spent primarily at Wooster School in Danbury, Conn., where he taught until 1989 and shared his love of English literature and his respect for grammar — commas, in particular. He also served as assistant headmaster, admissions officer, college-guidance counselor, and track coach. He was an inspiration to generations of students. After his retirement, the school renamed one of the classroom buildings “Grover Hall” with a plaque that read, “In Honor of Joseph S. Grover, he ennobled the teaching profession.” In 1958 Joe and his family spent a year in England while he was an exchange teacher at Gresham’s in Holt, Norfolk.

Upon retirement, Joe and his wife, Eunice, took up residence in Pennswood Village Continuing Care Retirement Community in Newtown. There they took advantage of all Pennswood had to offer, socially, culturally, and educationally.

Joe is survived by Eunice and children Doug ’73 and Liz.

Edward H. Coale ’42

Ed died peacefully Jan. 2, 2018, in Mamaroneck, N.Y. He was born Sept. 1, 1920, in Upper Montclair N.J., to Mary Carroll Hodge and Sidney Thompson Coale. He graduated from Montclair High School. He was devoted to Princeton, was class secretary for many years, and organized class reunions that he attended until he was unable to travel.

Ed entered the Navy shortly after college graduation and served in the South Pacific during World War II. Following the war he moved to New York City and began a distinguished career as a frozen-food executive. He started his own business, Readi-Bake International, in 1970 and soon thereafter moved his family to Grand Rapids, Mich., where they enjoyed the Great Lakes. In the late 1970s the family discovered Gasparilla Island in Florida, where they built a house that they wintered in and pursued their golf and tennis games.

Ed was deeply engaged in the communities in which he lived. He was an elder at the Reformed Church in Bronxville, served on the board of directors of Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids, and co-founded the Lemon Bay Golf Club in Englewood, Fla. He was also president of the American Frozen Food Institute.

Richard Scheuch ’42 ’52

Richard died Jan. 11, 2018. He was born in 1921 in New York City, the son of William Allen Scheuch and Marjorie Tuller Scheuch. Richard also earned a master’s degree and a Ph.D. from Princeton after World War II. During the war he served in the Navy. During the D-Day invasion he was on the submarine chaser SC-291 off Omaha Beach, providing convoy escort. He later commanded the vessel and also served on a destroyer.

While still at Princeton after the war, Richard met Fayette Van Alstyne Smith, and they were married in 1948.

For 39 years Richard taught at Trinity College, where he was the G. Fox Professor of Economics and the department chairman for many years. He was one of the earliest recipients of a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship.
and later served on the regional selection committee of the Woodrow Wilson Foundation. He also served on the boards of the Watkinson Library, the Hartford Symphony, and the Kingswood School. His specialty was labor economics, and he authored a college textbook titled *Labor in the American Economy.*

Richard is survived by a daughter, Evelyn Lord; and a son, W. Allen Scheuch ’76.

**Warren C. Wachs ’42 ’49**

Warren died Nov. 6, 2017, at his residence in San Francisco. He was 97.

He was born July 22, 1920, in Lexington, Ky., to Fred B. Wachs Sr. and Jeanne F. Wachs.

Warren graduated from the Lawrenceville School and Princeton. He served in World War II in the Pacific theater and afterward returned to Princeton to earn a master’s degree in architecture.

He practiced architecture in San Francisco, retiring in 1983 to follow his passion as an antiquarian. He was a collector of 18th-century English furniture and Asian ceramics, and was a great aficionado of Baroque music. He donated much of his collections to museums across the country.

The family is very grateful to the staff at the Sequoias Health Center for their excellent care, and to Liz Strand, who loyally assisted Warren for the last decade of his life. A memorial service was held Dec. 12, 2017, at the Calvary Presbyterian Church in San Francisco.

**THE CLASS OF 1948**

**Donald W. Drews ’48**

Don was born Sept. 23, 1923, and died Nov. 22, 2017, in Sunnyvale, Calif.

He and Aida Mae married in Windsor, Ontario, in June 1953. They were parents of four children: Barbara, Janet (who died in 2015), John, and Mary.

Don graduated from Princeton with high honors and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He worked in marine-engineering design and management in California for Westinghouse and for Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical. He was a devoted churchman, a leader as an elder in the reserves as a lieutenant during the Korean conflict. He had a nearly 40-year career with Western Electric and New England Bell Telephone, retiring in 1981.

**John F. Hadam ’48**

John died Dec. 15, 2017, at home in Moultonborough, N.H. He was 94.

He was born into a Polish immigrant family in Newark, N.J., and learned English after starting school. He was a Marine on combat duty in the Pacific during World War II, and was activated from the reserves as a lieutenant during the Korean conflict. He had a nearly 40-year career with Western Electric and New England Bell Telephone, retiring in 1981.

**Arthur Harvey Jensen ’48**

Harvey was born in 1926 and grew up in the Bay Ridge section of Brooklyn. He then lived in Smithtown, N.Y., and later in Holmdel and Bayville, N.J.

He attended Poly Prep, Princeton, and Pace University, and served in the Navy. His career was in mechanical engineering, specializing in plastics manufacture. He headed his own company on Long Island and was a consultant to other companies in that field.

His wife, Beverly, died in 2007. Harvey died Nov. 24, 2017, in a health and rehabilitation center in Toms River, N.J. He is survived by daughters Linda and Nancy.

**Richard B. Neiley Jr. ’48**

Dick died Dec. 30, 2017, at home in Doylestown, Pa. He was 91.

He was born in Winchester, Mass. He came to us from the Lawrenceville School and entered Princeton in the summer of 1944. He was in the Navy V-12 program on campus for two years, majored in history, and was a member of Dial Lodge.

He and his wife, Patricia, and the family first lived in northern New Jersey and in Swarthmore, Pa., before settling in Doylestown. Dick served on the boards of the YMCA and of the local hospital, and founded a community health group called Bucks Alive. His business career was in property and casualty insurance. A notable achievement was his design of a home-insurance program especially for minority families in Philadelphia. Dick was an avid fisherman in the Elizabeth Islands on the New England coast and in Belize. He was a knowledgeable jazz fan and had a big record collection. He also researched the genealogy of the Neiley family back to Colonial times.

Dick and Patricia were married for 66 years. She survives him, as do their daughters, Ellen Neiley Ritter and Carol Neiley Baxter, and four grandchildren.

**THE CLASS OF 1949**

**Eugene J. McNulty ’49**

Gene died Nov. 14, 2017, after a long and distinguished career as an architect and urban planner, with special emphasis on historic preservation. The son of an architect, he came to Princeton and majored in architecture. At Princeton he rowed on the freshman crew, worked in Commons, belonged to the St. Paul Society, and took his meals at Elm Club.

Born Aug. 7, 1920, Gene was one of the oldest members of ’49. He enlisted in the Navy in December 1941, came out in November 1945, and matriculated with us on the GI Bill. After his graduation, he earned graduate degrees from Yale, Boston University, and Johns Hopkins. His practice was centered in Newport, R.I., but he also was actively involved in the preservation of historic homes there and in Annapolis. All through the years, he remained active in the Naval Reserve, with assignments including three trips to Antarctica.

Gene left no direct family survivors. His only sister, Margaret Turner, predeceased him, and his nearest relatives are four nieces and nephews and four great-nieces and great-nephews. To them, we offer our deepest sympathy.

**Jerome Pine ’49**

Jerry died Nov. 8, 2017, in Alhambra, Calif., his home for many years. A distinguished physicist, he had taught at Stanford and Caltech for more than 50 years.

Jerry came to Princeton from Brooklyn Tech in New York. He majored in physics and graduated with honors, belonged to Terrace Club, and rowed on the 150-pound crew. He earned a master’s degree and Ph.D. at Cornell and taught physics at Stanford for six years before joining the Caltech faculty. In addition to his teaching duties, Jerry did extensive research on particle physics and biophysics, the latter focusing on the study of brain cells. He was also passionate about science education, especially at the pre-college level.

Jerry’s research skills inspired many of his students and colleagues, who learned from him how to do hands-on, do-it-yourself experiments. His Caltech obituary stressed his teaching abilities both in the classroom and the lab.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Nancy; three children, Zachary, Linda Fortney, and Samuel; and six grandchildren. To them all, the class offers condolences, sympathy, and congratulations for a life well lived.

**THE CLASS OF 1953**

**Parker D. Thomson ’53**

When Parker died Nov. 3, 2017, the Miami Herald headline read, “Parker Thomson, defender of the First Amendment, dies at 85.” Parker and his law partner, Dan Paul, represented the *Miami Herald, The New York Times,* AT&T, and Bank of America and argued three cases before the Supreme Court. They obtained a ruling that a Florida law requiring newspapers to give equal time on their editorial pages to political
John died Nov. 25, 2017, while undergoing treatment for lung cancer. The family had expected him to survive. He just became weaker and weaker, Susan said.

John practiced law for 58 years, ranging from private practice to a large corporate practice to pro bono practice in his later years. He loved “untangling messes,” whether corporate or personal, Susan added. Some of his pro bono clients were “not exactly mentally stable, but most of them were jewels,” she said. He also enjoyed mentoring younger lawyers, and some of them went on to local and federal benches. In between, he ran a national fast-food chain and also a microfiche business. “Remember microfiche?” he asked once rhetorically.

“Most of all, he loved his five grandchildren,” Susan said. “Like many others,” he said, “not all have avoided the ravages of poor choices, but we love them.” In our 60th-reunion book, he lamented the “future of the hordes of young people worldwide with too little to do.”

“He was not a person to sit and do nothing,” Susan added. “He loved to be active.” He attributed his enjoyment of his life to his Princeton education, first for drawing him away from science eventually to law, and because of the diversity of what we were offered.

He and Susan enjoyed many regular and mini-reunions. She hopes to attend another to thank “everyone who had such an impact on his life.”

William F. Dohrman III ’57

Bill died Jan. 14, 2018, peacefully in his home in Stonington, Conn. He was 82.

Bill attended the Hotchkiss School from 1949 to 1952 and the Lawrenceville School from 1952 to 1953. At Princeton he majored in English literature and was a member of Ivy Club. He attended the advanced management program at Harvard Business School in 1973.

An avid sailor, Bill learned in northern Lake Michigan’s cold waters and later became a sailing master at Northport Point, in Northport, Mich. In 1968 he was one of the five-man crew of the Compass Rose, a 49-foot Dutch ketch making its maiden voyage from Africa to Antigua, a trip navigated by the stars. Bill kept a log of the trip, which combined his delight in both language and the sea, punctuated by his jaunty sketches and wry humor.

Bill began his career in advertising in Chicago. In 1968 he moved to the Boston area to work in research and development for the game and toy industry. In his years at Parker Brothers and Hasbro, Bill discovered and developed hundreds of games — among his legacy are the Nerf Ball and Boggle. His creative, gentle, and generous way made him beloved by all who worked with him.

Bill was a reader of history, philosophy, and literature, and reviewed many works as a contributing editor of The Readers Exchange. He quoted poetry by heart and knew every lyric of the standard American songbook. Among his most vivid qualities were his sense of humor and infectious laugh.

In 1989, Bill married Linda Ritchey Post, and they lived in Canton and Stonington, Conn. He was a member of the Misquamicut Club in Watch Hill, R.I.; the Stonington Harbor Yacht Club, and the Wadawanuck Club, also in Stonington. A good shot, he loved hunting ducks and upland game with his dog at heel.

In 2002, Bill survived an aortic aneurysm, which left him in a wheelchair. Despite this devastating blow, Bill always felt lucky to be alive and approached every day of these past 15 years with grace and gratitude. Aided by the love and care of Linda, Bill’s life was rich, and through friends, reading, travel, and a positive approach to the world marked by wonder, curiosity, and laughter, he made sure that his horizons were ever vast.

In addition to his wife of 28 years, he is survived by three children — William, Natalie ’87, and Ross — from his first marriage to Jane Bosworth Bingham; and 12 grandchildren.

George Fowlkes ’57

George died Jan. 3, 2018, after a long illness. He lived in New York City until 2015, when he moved to Hobe Sound, Fla. While at Princeton he majored in art and history, ate at Colonial, and was business manager of the Princeton Tiger. His senior-year roommates were Mike Erdman and Morris Kellett. He graduated from Harvard with an MBA in 1961 and later earned an honorary doctorate from Berkeley Divinity School at Yale.

He was employed by American Machine and Foundry. In 1969 he became commissioner of commerce in New York City. Following that, George became a real-estate developer specializing in work for churches.

With a lifelong and active devotion to the Episcopal Church, he was elected a warden of St. James many times. He was president of the Episcopal Mission Society, was awarded the Bishop’s Cross in 2001, and was president of the National Episcopal Church Foundation. On retirement he was awarded the Henry Knox Sherrill Medal. The Episcopal Church in all its manifestations was the great focus of his life. He labored for the Lord in many ways.

The class sends its condolences to his wife of 57 years, Jeannette; their three children; and six grandchildren. His care and goodness will be missed.

Herbert E. Wilgis Jr. ’57

Herbert died Feb. 2, 2018, in his sleep at his Wilmington, N.C., home. He was 82.

PRINCETONIANS / MEMORIALS

James E. Canniffe III ’57

Jim died Sept. 11, 2017, surrounded by his loving family at the Kaplan Hospice House in Danvers, Mass. He was a financial adviser, adjunct economics professor, and poet.

A lifelong resident of Marblehead, Mass., Jim attended Marblehead High School, where he was a member of the Drama Club. In 1953 he graduated with two prestigious academic awards — the Harvard Book and the Dartmouth Bowl. He went on to study English literature at Princeton, graduating in 1957. While at Princeton Jim joined Key and Seal, majored in the Woodrow Wilson School, and wrote his senior thesis on “U.S. Foreign Policy and the Schuman Plan.”

He is survived by his wife, Vann; their four children; nine grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

John Chambers ’57

“To all his Princeton friends and classmates, he loved his association with all of you and with Princeton,” writes Susan Chambers of her husband of 31 years and our classmate.
was a retired career diplomat who later became president of a Baltimore engineering and environmental testing firm.

At Princeton he ate at Ivy, majored in history, played lacrosse, and was on Orange Key. His senior-year roommates were R. Carroll, T. Casey, S. Emery, E. Faber, B. Verner, and C. Woodward.

He entered the U.S. Foreign Service in 1978, and during his nearly three-decade career held postings in Washington, Barcelona, Honduras, Budapest, Bonn, and Warsaw. During his tenure as deputy chief of mission in Budapest, he ensured the return of the Holy Crown of St. Stephen to Hungary, thus ending years of tension during the Cold War. While serving as charge d’affaires in Poland, he led the American Embassy in 1981 during the Polish government’s imposition of martial law.

He supported Lech Walesa and the Solidarity resistance movement.

Herbert retired in 1986 and returned to Baltimore. He became president of Penninnan & Browne, a Bare Hills engineering and environmental-testing firm. He retired in 2001.

Herbert moved to Wilmington in 2013. He enjoyed vacationing at a second home in Rehoboth Beach, Del., and presiding over family crab feasts. He was an avid reader of history and with Jane, his wife of nearly 59 years, he collected modern art and prints.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by three sons, Herbert ’83, Jeffrey, and Edward; and four grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1958
Bruce R. Carrick ’58


He came to us from The Hill School and was a history major at Princeton. Bruce left after his sophomore year, spent two years in the Army, and returned to Princeton to graduate in 1961. During his senior year he was president of Key and Seal.

A week before he graduated he began his lifelong career in book publishing. Shortly thereafter he married Ann Ewing, known to one and all as “Roo.”

Bruce worked for Western Printing, Scriber’s, Doubleday, MacMillan, and reference-book publisher H.W. Wilson. He was vice president for general publications and director of the company until his retirement in 1996.

In his later years, Bruce wrote a series of popular history books in collaboration with classmate Bart Marsh, a friend since they were 6. Bruce also edited our highly regarded 50th-reunion yearbook in 2008.

Bruce had a wide range of interests. He loved jazz of a certain era — Bix Beiderbecke and Sidney Bechet and his soprano sax — and old movies like Casablanca, The Scarlet Pimpernel, and Twelve O’Clock High.

Bruce was predeceased by Roo. He is survived by sons Charles ’86 and James; James’s wife, Andra; daughter Meredyth and her husband, Jim Sanderson; and grandchildren Virginia Sanderson and Findlay and Tobias Carrick. The class extends its sincere condolences to them all.

THE CLASS OF 1960
James G. Hirsh ’60

Jim died Aug. 28, 2017. He joined us from Germantown Friends Academy in Philadelphia. At Princeton he played freshman soccer and especially sailed, his passion then and for the rest of his life. Jim was in the Army ROTC as an undergraduate, which led him to nine postgraduate years in the Army Reserve and the rank of captain. He joined Tower and majored in English, then went on to the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

After several years as a trial lawyer, Jim went into the venture-capital and investment field, ultimately serving for 28 years in law for IDS Corp., a subsidiary of American Express. He earned an MBA from the University of Minnesota in 1980. As a loyal Princeton alumn, he served as president of the Alumni Association of the Northwest and renewed relationships with many classmates in recent years.

In addition to sailing, Jim became an avid distance hiker. After an initial walk with friends across England in 2000, he went on to hike through most of the countries of Western Europe and threw in a climb of Mount Kilimanjaro for good measure.

He is survived by his wife, Debra; three children; and a granddaughter.

THE CLASS OF 1961
William H. Kincade ’61

Bill died Oct. 9, 2017, peacefully in his sleep at a memory-care facility in Portland, Ore.

He grew up in Hudson, Ohio, and came to us from Western Reserve Academy. At Princeton he chose to bridge English and Italian as a major, was an editor of The Tiger and the Bric-a-Brac, and was in Theatre Intime and the Undergraduate Council. He took his meals at Tower Club.

Bill served in the Navy for seven years, emerging as a lieutenant commander. He earned a master’s degree and a Ph.D. at American University and embarked on a distinguished career as a scholar, teacher, and policy adviser. He retired to Oregon in 2006 after 17 years as a professor at AU. Earlier, he taught at Georgetown and had stints with the Carnegie Endowment, the Arms Control Association, the Congressional Joint Committee on Defense Production, and The Associated Press.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Susan; daughters Jennifer and Hadley and their families; three grandchildren; and his three brothers.

THE CLASS OF 1962
Peter S. Kennedy ’62

Peter died Nov. 7, 2017, in Vero Beach, Fla., after valiantly struggling for many years with the effects of multiple strokes.

Peter came to Princeton from the Lawrenceville School. While at Princeton he majored in biology and was a member of the Pre-Medical Society and Cloister Inn.

Peter studied medicine at Temple University, and after his degree and internship he served in the Army from 1967 to 1969, with a one-year tour of duty in Vietnam. In 1971 he began a private practice in general medicine in York, Pa., which he successfully maintained until he retired after suffering his first stroke in 1992.

Peter and his wife, Naomi, moved to Vero Beach, where despite the more favorable climate, he experienced difficulty in his recovery. Although he had rehearsed how to walk, by our 50th reunion he was wheelchair-bound, having suffered additional strokes in 2010 and 2011.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 33 years, Naomi; and their son, Ian. He is also survived by two daughters from a previous marriage, Alina Werner and Julie Kennedy; grandchildren Michael, Emily, and Olivia; and his brother, James Kennedy. The class offers its condolences to all.

Robert F. Van Duzer Jr. ’62


Bob came to us from Madison (N.J.) High School, where he was class valedictorian, graduating with the highest academic standing in the history of that school.

Freshman year he roomed with Josh Roth, Steve Huenber, and Bob Ludgin. He left Princeton in the middle of sophomore year, returned briefly as a member of the Class of ’64, and graduated from Florida State University in 1965. A lifelong learner, Bob ended his academic studies by earning a law degree from Widener University. Bob also was a CPA, a certified financial planner, and a certified valuation analyst. He was a member of the Burger King system for 40 years, both as an employee and franchisee.

Although Bob felt he received a good education at FSU, his heart was always with Princeton. He and his wife, Mary, often visited
Charles Hey-Maestre ’77

Charlie died Feb. 6, 2017, after a bravely fought battle with cancer.

Charlie was born in the Bronx, N.Y., and grew up in Puerto Rico. He was class president when he graduated from Agustin Stahl High School in Bayamón, Puerto Rico, and his leadership only grew upon his arrival at Princeton. With other pioneering minds such as other Latino students, and he served as a resident adviser as an upperclassman.

Princeton was also an integral part of his life for the betterment of others. As a law student, Michael co-founded the Public Interest Project, which continues to support students pursuing pro bono opportunities.

Michael died Nov. 20, 2017, at his home after a five-year battle with ALS. He has left scores of family and friends inspired by his intelligence, enthusiasm, generosity, humor, and courage.

After majoring in biochemistry at Princeton, Michael earned a master’s degree in biology from the University of Zurich and a law degree from Boston University. He spent his career in intellectual-property law, ultimately chairing the life-sciences group at Venable in Washington, D.C., and worked throughout his life.

Michael’s zeal for life and commitment to others carried into his response to his ALS diagnosis. In addition to a bucket list of travel and other adventures with family and friends, he reflected on life and mortality in a blog: http://innovationlifeandlove.org. And he used his own experiences with ALS to contribute to a better understanding of the causes of and responses to the disease. In 2015, Michael was named the ALS Association Rasmussen Advocate of the Year.

Michael is survived by his wife, Jill Dickey; children Natasha, Max ’16, and Julia; parents Richard and Rita; siblings Kathy Gollin Marshak and Jim Gollin ’80; and their spouses and children.

Michael kept his wit and generosity until the end, writing just before his death, “Remember me kindly but honestly when I am gone. It is OK. Really.”

THE CLASS OF 1978

Michael Gollin ’78

Michael died Nov. 20, 2017, at his home after a five-year battle with ALS. He has left scores of family and friends inspired by his intelligence, enthusiasm, generosity, humor, and courage.

After majoring in biochemistry at Princeton, Michael earned a master’s degree in biology from the University of Zurich and a law degree from Boston University. He spent his career in intellectual-property law, ultimately chairing the life-sciences group at Venable in Washington, D.C., and worked throughout his life.

Jeanie was also a faculty member of the Boston University School of Medicine. In 2013 she received the Educator of the Year Award for Excellence. Lorraine was also a faculty member of the Boston University School of Medicine. In 2013 she received the Educator of the Year Award in preclinical sciences as well as the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award. In 2015, she received Boston University School of Medicine’s highest teaching honor, the Robbins Award for Excellence.

Lorraine was devoted to her patients, most of whom came from challenging circumstances. She delighted in teaching young doctors, she loved to sing, and she adored...
and in 1955 earned a Ph.D. from Princeton in Field Service, and then enlisted in the Marines. He died Sept. 19, 2017, at age 93.

Robert W. Crawford *55

GRADUATE ALUMNI

He joined the U.S. Information Agency and was assigned to Tangier and Rabat, Morocco. Subsequently, he was with the Rockefeller Foundation, where he oversaw the awarding of grants throughout East Africa. He served a stint as vice president of the American University of Beirut in Lebanon. Then, he became the executive director of the Spring Hill Conference Center in Minneapolis, and was appointed to the National Endowment of the Arts.

Crawford began a new career consulting for nonprofit arts groups. He later retired to Santa Barbara, Calif., and taught and studied at the community college there. He also was a volunteer book reader for recordings for the visually impaired.

Crawford was predeceased by his wife of 67 years, Mary Louise. He is survived by five children; 11 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

James E. Clayton *56


Clayton graduated from the University of Illinois in 1953, and in 1956 earned an MPA from Princeton’s Woodrow Wilson School. The Post hired him that year.

In 1960, the Post sent Clayton to Harvard Law School for a six-month primer on constitutional law. He was honored for his Supreme Court coverage by the American Bar Association.

In 1964, he wrote The Making of Justice: The Supreme Court in Action. In a New York Times review, Columbia University law professor Louis Lusky wrote, “The book must be recognized as a new approach to the pinnacle of the journalist’s art.” Clayton received the George Polk Award for his successful editorial efforts against the nomination.

Clayton was predeceased in 2014 by his wife, Elise (a Harvard law graduate, a Virginia state legislator). He is survived by two sons, including Jonathan ’87; and four granddaughters, including Madeleine ’17.

William H. Marsh *57


Marsh graduated from Cornell in 1953, and, after two years in the Air Force, he earned an MPA in 1957 from Princeton’s Woodrow Wilson School. He joined the Foreign Service in 1960, and served with distinction for 36 years. Marsh was deployed to Vietnam and rose to head the U.S. Embassy’s provincial reporting unit, analyzing the full situation in the countryside.

After serving in Vietnam from 1965 to 1966, he was well prepared for the Vietnam desk at the State Department. From 1972 to 1974, he served with the U.S. delegation to the Vietnam peace talks in Paris. In the 1980s, Marsh’s focus shifted to the Middle East when he was assigned to Saudi Arabia. He negotiated the deployment of AWAC aircraft to monitor Soviet activity in Afghanistan.

Marsh capped his career as the U.S. permanent representative to the U.N. Agencies for Food and Agriculture in Rome. For this, he received a presidential award for overseeing airdropped food to starving refugees during the Kosovo war.

He was predeceased in 2011 by his wife, Ruth, whom he had married in 1962. He is survived by two sons and four grandchildren.

William R.B. Gillham Jr. *64


Gillham graduated from Washington University in St. Louis in 1953, and from Southern Methodist University’s Perkins School of Theology with a master’s degree in 1958. In 1960, he earned a master’s degree and then in 1964 a Ph.D. in religion from Princeton. In 1961, he was hired as a philosophy and religion professor by Albion College. His hiring doubled the size of both departments, and he held that appointment for many years.

He remained at Albion for 40 years and helped design key parts of the college’s evaluation and accrediting practices, including its unit-based grading system, student course evaluations, and formal faculty-tenure process. He also played a key role in establishing the basic ideas program and taught some of the first Honors Program and First-Year Experience seminars.

A self-described cultural conservationist, he was an ardent champion of the liberal-arts tradition based on the Western classical canon. His later sabbaticals focused on fine-arts research for his courses combining religious studies, philosophy, music, literature, and visual arts.

Gillham is survived by his wife, Natalie; their four children (all Albion alumni); and several grandchildren.

Graduate memorials are prepared by the APGA.

This issue contains undergraduate memorials for Richard Scheuch ’42 ’52 and Warren C. Wachs ’42 ’49.
For Rent

Europe

Rome: Bright, elegant apartment. Marvelous beamed ceilings. Antiques. Walk to Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain. 609-683-3813, gami@comcast.net

Paris, Left Bank: Elegant apartment off Seine in 6th. Short walk to Louvre, Notre Dame. 609-924-7520, gami@comcast.net

Paris, Marais: Elegant, 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment, vibrant Pompidou museum/ sidewalk café quarter on 13c pedestrian street, full kitchen, w/d, AC, cable. desai@verizon.net, 312-473-9472.

France, Paris-Marais: Exquisite, sunny, quiet one-bedroom apartment behind Place des Vosges. King-size bed, living/dining room, six chairs, full kitchen, washer, dryer, weekly maid service, WiFi, $1350 weekly. maxj@gwu.edu

Ile St-Louis: Elegant, spacious, top floor, skylighted apartment, gorgeous views overlooking the Seine, 2 bedrooms sleep 4, 2 baths, elevator, well-appointed, full kitchen, WiFi. 678-321-8444. triff@ mindspring.com


Paris, Tuileries Gardens: Beautifully-appointed, spacious, 1BR queen, 6th floor, elevator, concierge. karin.demorest@gmail.com, w’72.

Paris 16th: Live le charme discret de la bourgeoisie. Spacious one-bedroom apartment, 6th floor, elevator, metro Mirabeau. Perfect for sabbaticals. trips@frenchtraveler.com


England, Cotswolds: 3BR stone cottage, quiet country village near Broadway and Stratford-upon-Avon. Information: www.pottersfarmcottage.com, availability: pottersfarmcottage@msn.com

Rome, Italy: Breathtakingly beautiful art-filled apartment on via Gregoriana near Spanish steps. 2 bedrooms in a 17th century palazzo. Unsuitable for small children. Mariacelithyr@yahoo.com, 212-360-6321, k’78.

Provence: Delightful five-bedroom stone farmhouse, facing Roman theater. Pool, WiFi. 860-672-6608. www.Frenchfarmhouse.com

Côte d’Azur: 2BR apartment, spectacular view of Mediterranean: sites.williams.edu/slogan2, slogan2@williams.edu, s’73 p’11 p’15.


Near Bordeaux, cottage in historic village with outdoor market, restaurants, cozholidayrentals.com

Stunning Paris apartments with original period details in all the best locations! Bac/St. Germain, Rivoli, Luxembourg Gardens, Rive Gauche, Odeon, Upper Marais: high end renovations and amenities, 1-3BR, 1-2.5BA. 917-746-8056, contact@56Paris.com


North Africa

Stunning, luxurious Marrakech Villa, 3BR, 5BA, all modcons. Indoor outdoor pools, superb garden. Full-time staff including cook, additional services upon request. www.villashiraz.com, p’01.

Caribbean

Bahamas, Eleuthera. Beachfront villa, 4BR, 3BA, swim, snorkel, fish. www.heronhill.net


Mexico

Moon Palace Cancun, Mexico all-inclusive (including alcohol) 1BR, 1BA, jacuzzi, golf & spa resort $3,000/week, $450/day. Ken Duldulao ‘95, 973-668-9678, 813-393-7331, airesortvideos.com/moon-palace-golf-spa-resort/, www.moonpalacecancun.com/en-us

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United States Northeast

Wellfleet: 4BR beachfront cottage, spectacular views overlooking Cape Cod National Seashore, walk to town. 610-745-5873, warrenst@aol.com, ’84 s’86.

Northeast Kingdom of Vermont, Craftsbury: Charming Zen-spirited cottage for 2 on 30 acres. Stunning views! Relax, hike, bike. Scull and ski at nearby Craftsbury Outdoor Center. Outstanding local food/beverage culture. $150/night (2 night minimum), $390 cleaning fee. Dickinson.x.miller@ampf.com, ’75.


Stone Harbor, NJ: Beachfront, 4BR, upscale. 570-287-7912, VRBO.com #235754, radams150@aol.com

Nantucket Oceanfront: Charming, antique-furnished cottage on five acre oceanfront estate. Sleeps six comfortably. $4,600–$7,000 weekly, May-October. phoebe65@comcast.net for details/pictures. ’63.

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Nantucket, Dionis: 3BR, 2BA, decks, views, beach. rainbowsmoors.shutterfly.com, 530-574-7731. doctorpaula@comcast.net, '66, p'86.

Brooksville, ME: House and cottage: spectacular views of the Camden Hills from across the Penobscot Bay in Brooksville, access to Walker Pond for swimming and canoeing. Seasonal or monthly contact 505Herrick@gmail.com, k’83.

Chatham, Cape Cod: Stage Island jewel, 4BR, 4BA, unique location with spectacular 270° ocean views, dune walk to the beach. Available May–October. Contact susanne@wamsler.us for details and pictures, ’83.

NYC Summer Sublet: Charming Pre-War 3 BR Apartment. 24/hr doorman, ground floor, 2 full baths, living room, dining room, spacious kitchen, W/D. Available June 20–August 31; $7800 per month — 4-week minimum (includes housekeeping and utilities). sternberg@princeton.edu; 917-664-1502.

Maine: Acadia National Park; Bar Harbor/ Ellsworth area. Lakefront cottage, kayaks, canoe. $800/wk. 207-671-2726. Sandraquine@aol.com, p’86.

United States West
Big Sky Montana: Charming 4 BR log home on 20 acres beautifully furnished, spectacular views, Big Sky sunsets, skiing, hiking, fishing and golfing within 5 minutes. Close to Yellowstone National Park and Bozeman. Enjoyment all 4 seasons. 610-235-2186. janegriffith655@gmail.com, s’87.

Park City/Deer Valley, Utah: 3 BR ski-out condominium in Upper Deer Valley. Newly remodeled, hot tub, beautiful views, available all seasons. Reasonable rates. 937-825-4137 or pklodzik@aol.com, p’12.

Sun Valley, Idaho: Beautiful 4BR, 4BA home, great views! 5 minutes — Ketchum. bachman.keith@gmail.com, ’85.

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Advertising
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By precept and example — in the United States; in England, where he earned a degree from Cambridge; and in Liberia — Crummell championed the “vitality of the Negro” when most denied this race its full humanity. “The more I met Alexander Crummell,” Du Bois wrote, “the more I felt how much that world was losing which knew so little of him. In another age he might have sat among the elders of the land in purple-bordered toga; in another country mothers might have sung him to the cradles.”

At Princeton, where Du Bois was told that African Americans would find its “proximity to the South and the large number of Southern students here” disqualifying, Crummell came as close as anyone before emancipation to bridging the gulf that separated black and white. In 1862, on a campus denuded of Southern students, Crummell delivered a lecture on the “Civilization of Africa” that was described as follows by the editor of *The Nassau Literary Magazine*, writing in its April issue.

“Two years ago, a black man lecturing to the learned dignitaries of this place would have been the occasion of effigies and rows; now, anomalous as it is, it must be marked by the observant world as a step in our college history. ... The speaker, though of a sable hue, was prepossessing in his appearance, the arrangement of his discourse masterly, his style energetic and elegant, and his delivery remarkably graceful. So rich an intellectual treat is rarely served us, and had it not, to many, lost much from the force of prejudice, would have beggared the admiration of all.”

Thus did Crummell prefigure what Princeton at its best could be.

John Weeren is founding director of Princeton Writes and a former assistant University archivist.
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