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# PRINCETON

## ALUMNI WEEKLY



## THE COLOR OF CLASSICS

Reckoning anew  
with the ancients

OCTOBER 2021  
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# PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY

An editorially independent  
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since 1900

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Many scholars say the study of the ancients needs to be revived by moving beyond the borders of ancient Greece and Rome — and by bringing in a more diverse group of classicists.  
*By Deborah Yaffe*

## Ghosts of Princeton 30

As we venture out in orange and black this month, PAW takes a look at the beings haunting campus and town, from Aaron Burr Jr. 1772 to Old Mr. Seeger.  
*By Elyse Graham '07*

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### Power of Home

On the latest PAWcast, Gigi Georges '96 talks about telling rural Maine's story through the eyes of five teenage girls in her new book, *Downeast*.



### Restoring Robeson

Kevin Wilkes '83 is restoring the former home of actor, singer, and social-justice activist Paul Robeson.

### Constitution Day

What amendment would you make to the Constitution? PAW asked experts for their thoughts. Send yours to [paw@princeton.edu](mailto:paw@princeton.edu).

### Return from War

Gregg Lange '70 discusses Princeton after World War II.



# Opening Exercises 2021: “Millimeters”

*I was delighted that we were once again able to hold Opening Exercises in-person in the Chapel. At the event, I shared with students lessons that I learned from a personal challenge that I have recently confronted. Here is what I told the Class of 2025. — C.L.E.*

**I**t is so good to see you. It's so good to be together. I have missed these moments of collective joy and excitement over the past year.

There is a lot of excitement during orientation. Of course, the college experience is not all, or even mostly, about celebrations or parades. It is first and foremost about learning, growth, and as Jennifer Morton says in her book<sup>1</sup>, transformation.

I hope you will have many happy experiences along the way, but I know there will also be moments of challenge and difficulty as you travel the path that lies ahead. As you begin that journey today, I would like to share with you a challenge that I have confronted recently, and describe four lessons that I draw from it and that might be relevant to your time at Princeton.

Five years ago, I had a magnetic resonance imaging scan, an MRI for short. The problem that justified the test turned out to be very minor, but the MRI revealed an unrelated issue called an acoustic neuroma.

An acoustic neuroma is a small growth, sort of like the moles that many of us have on our skin. It is, however, in a very tight place, on a nerve deep inside the ear. It is a kind of benign, non-cancerous brain tumor.

When acoustic neuromas grow, they can cause loss of hearing, balance, or the ability to control facial muscles.

I have experienced some hearing loss. I might also have lost a bit of my balance, but I've always been a little clumsy, so it's hard to be certain. I have to be really careful,

for example, when I climb the steep, narrow stairs that lead to this lectern.

Fortunately, acoustic neuromas usually grow very slowly, by millimeters per year. Sometimes they stop growing. Those

of us who have a small one can wait to see if it grows, or attack it with radiation, or have it surgically removed.

So once or twice a year for the past five years, I have lain inside an MRI tube while the magnets clatter around me, taking pictures of my brain. So far, I have been lucky. My neuroma has not grown.

So why am I telling you this? I said earlier that I draw four lessons



DENISE APPLEWHITE

**Welcoming the Class of 2025 at Opening Exercises.**

from my experience that may be relevant to your own path through Princeton.

The first lesson has to do with how we talk about difficult things. I'll always be grateful to the doctor who first told me about my neuroma. He said that I needed to come back to the hospital because his colleagues had discovered “a benign growth that had probably been there for a very long time.”

He could also have said, with equal scientific accuracy, that I had a potentially fatal brain tumor. I am really glad he did not say that. The news was hard enough to process even

when framed more gently.

The quality of your Princeton education will depend on your willingness and ability to participate in conversations about sensitive and difficult ideas. You might not need to discuss anybody's life-altering medical diagnosis, but you will certainly need to talk about profoundly important and emotionally charged topics such as race, sexuality, and justice.

I hope that you will embrace those discussions, both inside the classroom and outside of it. And as you do, I hope you will remember that it matters not only what we say, but how we say it.

1. Jennifer Morton, *Moving Up Without Losing Your Way: The Ethical Costs of Upward Mobility* (Princeton University Press, 2021).



DENISE APPLEWHITE

**Members of the Class of 2025 attend Opening Exercises wearing t-shirts representing their residential colleges.**



We can best learn from one another if we speak to each other openly, respectfully, and compassionately even when we disagree vigorously or when we convey unwelcome ideas. Of course, none of us will get this right all the time. We should hope that others will forgive our mistakes, and we need to be ready to forgive theirs.

The second lesson is about the value of science, institutions, and objectivity. To cope with my acoustic neuroma, I need to believe a lot of amazing things.

I need to believe that noisy magnets can safely take an accurate picture of a growth deep inside my head. I must believe the doctors know without testing it that the tumor is benign, not cancerous, so that we can leave it there. And if it starts to grow, I will need to believe that my doctors can zap it with pinpoint radiation that neutralizes the neuroma without hurting me.

When I lie inside that MRI tube, I think about how lucky I am to live in an age of such scientific miracles. I also consider how fortunate I am to be able to understand a bit of the science and to trust the doctors and institutions who produce it and care for me.

I hope that your Princeton education will increase both your scientific literacy and your capacity to sustain and improve our civic institutions. Those institutions desperately need our attention.

Science, for example, has given us safe and effective vaccines that protect against the COVID-19 virus, but people in this country are dying needlessly because they trust neither the science nor their government. The ability to benefit from scientific understanding and participate in civic institutions is a gift. We should cultivate that gift and share it with others.

The third lesson is about the hidden challenges in our lives. Until I wrote this speech, I had only told ten people about my neuroma.

I kept it secret because I worried about what other people would think if they knew that I had a brain tumor. Perhaps you have had a similar experience, wondering what others might think if they discovered something about you.

Very few people have acoustic neuromas, but everyone has vulnerabilities, pain, and struggles that they conceal from the world. That is true no matter how impressive, authoritative, or composed someone may appear.

When you are dealing with your own challenges — and there will be challenges during your time here! — it can be helpful to remember that you are not alone. Others on this campus have shared similar struggles, and we want to support you.

Conversely, as you interact with people around you — including not only other students but also faculty, staff, and yes, even administrators — I hope you will keep in mind that they may be dealing with troubles that you cannot see or that they are not ready or able to share. That condition is part of what makes us human, and one of many reasons why we need to treat each other humanely.

That brings me to the fourth lesson, which is about humility. I am keenly aware that however much I have accomplished, and however hard I work, I could be laid low by a tiny lesion that I can neither see nor control. Its silent growth could render me unable to stand in front of you or smile as I greet you.

I wish I could tell you that these insights into my own weakness, and the blessings of the good luck and medical



DENISE APPLEWHITE

**First-year students attend Opening Exercises in Princeton University Chapel.**

miracles I have experienced, have enabled me to savor every moment of life, or to achieve some profound sympathy for everyone I meet.

I am not that good. I still become frustrated, irritated, petty, and depressed, just like everyone else.

In reflective moments, though, my diagnosis reminds me that what we do in life, including our ability to reach a special place like this University, depends not only on talent and effort, but also on the care of others and sheer luck. It depends on luck so tenuous that the difference between good and bad may come down to a few unseen millimeters.

I also find myself with new reason to appreciate human resilience and striving. We are all, all of us fragile and flawed, yet we can reach for the stars and do tremendous good. That astonishing combination of weakness and courage is part of what defines the human condition.

We share it. We share it without regard to race, national origin, religion, sexual identity, or political belief. We share it across all the wedges that too often divide us.

The same combination of frailty and aspiration animates the mission of this University. Princeton is a community and an institution where flawed and resilient human beings support one another to learn, grow, cope with our limitations, and pursue the transcendent through scholarship, service, and the arts.

That shared, cooperative quest to achieve our highest aspirations is why we bring you together from around the world to address challenges measured in microns, millimeters, leagues, or light years.

I am happy, indeed I'm downright overjoyed and exhilarated, that you join that quest today. So, to Princeton's Great Class of 2025, to the Great Class of 2024 that will join us outside for the Pre-rade, and to every undergraduate, graduate student, and staff and faculty member returning to campus this year, I say:

Welcome to Princeton!



# Inbox



## HUMMING ALONG

The June 2021 cover story (“A Cicada Reunion”) reminds me of my childhood in the suburbs of Shanghai, where catching cicadas with a nest of sticky wheat gluten from way up in the trees was a major summer activity for boys. There never seemed to be enough of them for us kids, although they did appear every year. There were two types, black and green. The black ones were larger and spoke the universal cicada language of “shh-shh-shh,” while the green ones were smaller and sounded like “dying of heat” (*re-si-la*) in Chinese.

I now know that those coming to Princeton Reunions (in appropriate colors) once every 17 years are called “periodical cicadas,” while those I remember belong to the category of the “annual cicadas.” The article answered some and raised more interesting questions about them. Had I come to Princeton during a “cicada reunion” year I might have chosen a different major — in cicadas.

**Teddy Zhou '83**

**Somerset, N.J.**

One of the nice things about living close to campus is that we can hop on over on

a whim. On May 22, our whims were the P-rade and cicadas. My wife (Liz Coco '87) and I have been on campus at P-rade time each of the last two years. This time, we saw most of the ragtag P-rade while sitting on the steps of Whig Hall. We did our best to encourage the “crowd” with some locomotives. When it was time for the Class of '87 to march, we joined in.

We are guessing that next year's experience will be a little different.

**Michael Coco '87**

**Warrington, Pa.**

## DIVESTMENT DECISIONS

Regarding the University's dissociation from some sectors of the fossil-fuel industry (On the Campus, July/August issue): In the middle 1970s, the CPUC, of which I was a member, considered a proposal to terminate investment of Princeton's endowment in certain companies (e.g., gold miners) conducting business in racist countries (e.g., South Africa). Debate ensued on how to evaluate companies against each other. For example, should tobacco companies be divested? Are food companies evil in adding unnecessary sugar to foods?

The then-dean of the college, Neil Rudenstine '56, cautioned that expensive outside legal counsel would be required for Princeton to pursue such judgmental investing. My recollection is that President Bill Bowen '58 decided not to take the proposal to the trustees.

Although I spent much of my career in the petroleum business, I want the world to move away from fossil fuels due to pollution and lack of sustainability.

Princeton, however, should not engage in, or be distracted by, picking “good” and “bad” companies in managing its income. It remains the fiscal duty of the managers of the endowment to invest as well as possible in legal enterprises. Individuals are free to make choices about investing, possibly forgoing a higher return. Managers of other people's money should not.

**Leslie Hajdo '77**

**The Woodlands, Texas**

## ROBERT HOLLANDER '55

Bob Hollander '55 (In Memoriam, June issue) was a powerfully lucid teacher, a glorious man who brought the whole of his passionate sophistication to bear on mentorship and on translating Dante's *Comedia*. I was a student in R.P. Blackmur's seminar on Dante, Montaigne, and Pascal in the fall of 1962 when Bob joined that intellectual adventure. He was a new instructor.

We became friends who, afterward, revisited those amazing seminars with wine or scotch. He regaled me with stories of his enormous good luck meeting his brilliant, beautiful wife, Jean, walking across the Campidoglio in Rome; expressing his zeal (not unlike mine) for Miles Davis and Cannonball Adderley; and celebrating the endless intrigue of Dante's universe. I doubt Princeton ever had such a profoundly learned professor so deeply engaged with the whole of campus life and the well-being of its students. Bob Hollander was one for the ages. His impact — luminous, unique, and affable — may never be equaled.

**Jim Merod '64**

**Aliso Viejo, Calif.**

## WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU

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## CLASSICS REQUIREMENTS

It was with disappointment that I read Josh Billings, director of undergraduate studies and professor of classics, announce intermediate proficiency in Greek or Latin has been eliminated for classics majors



## Inbox

(On the Campus, May issue). Professor Billings explains, "... we think having those students [without a proficiency in Greek or Latin] in the department will make it a more vibrant intellectual community."

Undoubtedly, the humanities have faced increasing challenges over the years attracting students; and the rigors of even intermediate proficiency in Latin or Greek are well known to anyone who has attempted it. However, for the classics department to abandon the foundation of its discipline is like an engineering department abandoning mathematics and physics — two notoriously rigorous areas of study — in hopes of creating a "more vibrant intellectual community."

A truly vibrant and intellectually honest community must always demand rigor and integrity in its self-examination, which in this case would require acknowledging, however heartbreaking it might be, that the classics department is no longer able to attract the intellectual horsepower it once did and that it is dumbing down its curriculum in keeping with the current tastes of undergraduates. Evading a clear statement of this difficult reality is a departure from the values of integrity and honesty that are the bedrock of any intellectual endeavor and is a disservice to the community of scholars who dedicate their lives to the pursuit of truth.

**J. David Garmon '79**  
*San Diego, Calif.*

The recent discussion about dropping requirements for Latin and Greek in the classics department brought this memory of mine to mind.

In the spring of 1969, at the end of my sophomore year, I had to choose a major. Knowing I was going into medicine, I wanted to get the broadest possible humanistic education I could before entering medical school. I therefore decided to major in classics.

I went to talk to the head of the department, Professor Frank Bourne '36 \*41. As an older Southern gentleman, Professor Bourne was graciousness itself. After inviting me to sit down he asked me what he could do for me. I told him that I wanted to enter the classics department for my undergraduate major.

He perked right up with interest and then said to me, "That's wonderful, Henry. Now just how much Latin and Greek preparation have you had?"

I blushed and stammered out that, having gone to public school, I had not studied any Latin or Greek but was hoping to do so as a student in his department. Professor Bourne didn't miss a beat. He smiled broadly at me and replied, "Well, that's fine, Henry. We will be delighted to take you into the department — as long as you can acquire the equivalent of two to three years of both Latin and Greek over the summer."

I majored in philosophy instead and never looked back.

**Henry M. Lerner '71**  
*Newton, Mass.*

*Editor's note: Read more about classics in our feature article on page 24.*

### CONTROVERSIAL IDEAS

Thank you, PAW, for writing about the *Journal of Controversial Ideas* (On the Campus, July/August issue). I am happy that a group of Princeton professors are advocating for dialectic argument that Peter Abelard and Saint Anselm practiced in the Middle Ages. These two philosophers helped motivate establishment of the first Western university, in Paris.

Our culture has been overrun with adhesive narratives of social maladies originating from specious causes. Nowhere in my reading of history has a culture that thought like this survived. We have to stop totalitarian thinking from exiling the Galileos of this world.

**Mark Ramsay '76**  
*Marriottsville, Md.*

### ESSENTIAL WORKERS

The homophones "higher" and "hire" in the July/August issue ("What's Next for Higher Ed?" and "Hire the Tiger") underscore the similar sound but discordant direction Princeton has taken during COVID. When the higher-ed article on COVID and universities quoted President Eisgruber '83 claiming it is a "moral responsibility" to now return to in-person teaching, and in the next article on hiring Tigers I learned that during COVID Princeton

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An editorially independent magazine by  
alumni for alumni since 1900

October 2021 Volume 122, Number 2

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*Princeton Alumni Weekly* (I.S.S.N. 0149-9270) is an editorially independent, nonprofit magazine supported by a University subsidy and paid advertising. Its purpose is to report with impartiality news of the alumni, the administration, the faculty, and the student body of Princeton University. The views expressed in the *Princeton Alumni Weekly* do not necessarily represent official positions of the University. The magazine is published monthly with a combined July/August issue, plus a supplemental Reunions Guide in May.

*Princeton Alumni Weekly*, 194 Nassau Street, Suite 38, Princeton, NJ 08542. Tel 609-258-4885; fax 609-258-2247; email paw@princeton.edu; website paw.princeton.edu.

Printed by Fry Communications Inc., Mechanicsburg, Pa. Annual subscription: \$22 (\$26 outside the U.S.), single issue: \$2. Copyright © 2021 the Trustees of Princeton University. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. Periodicals postage paid at Princeton, N.J., and at additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send Form 3579 (address changes) to PAW Address Changes, 194 Nassau Street, Suite 38, Princeton, NJ 08542.

## Inbox

undergrads were able to successfully secure investment banking, consulting, and tech jobs, I started to wonder where exactly Princeton's moral compass is pointing these days.

While Princeton was following CDC guidelines and public-health emergency declarations when they taught classes remotely and conducted career fairs and job interviews via Zoom technology, the term "moral responsibility" seems a bit elevated and out of sync with the COVID experience of many other parts of society. We have always expected firefighters, policemen and policewomen, and paramedics to immediately respond

to 911 calls in the face of danger and uncertain circumstances. At the onset of the COVID pandemic we all expected doctors, nurses, and other health-care workers to continue caring for sick patients even in the face of inadequate protective equipment and no COVID vaccine. What would happen to our society if firefighters only responded to alarms when the smoke cleared? Or if the most talented and smartest college graduates sought "essential-worker" professions instead of lucrative remote jobs?

**Mike Giftos '92**

**Charlotte, N.C.**

## EVERY 17 YEARS

# Poem for Cicada

**BY CAROL OBERTUBBESING '73**

*Written for Brood X during their 2021 emergence and as they prepared to go underground for 17 years*

[1970 — Princeton, New Jersey]

Cicada, you came to me in the sunshine of my youth

The year the world trembled and flared

The year I too emerged and fell deeply in love

The year when a "doctored" Dylan immortalized you in song.

[1987 — Princeton, New Jersey]

Cicada, you returned in my prime

Career growing, the world opening, love maturing

Yet still staggering, seeking

Trying to learn where I belong.

[2004 — Princeton, New Jersey]

Cicada, you came in the heat of June

Back where I first encountered you — and love

Your orange and black wings mirroring my Tiger colors

In a paradise where we seek to learn right from wrong.

[2021 — Princeton, New Jersey — Virtual]

Cicada, you come now when all the world has changed

Uncertainty consumes me, but love leads me

We are weak

But your song is so strong.

[2038 — Somewhere]

Cicada, how do I find my way up here?

Where will I be in 17 years?

You have lived, mated, and left the next generation

Why do you sleep so long?

[Every day — Everywhere]

Cicada, before you disappear again

Teach us your patience, your passion, your pushing upward

How you go underground and then burst forth

Showing us again the power of your song.



# ALUMNI UNITE TO SUPPORT FREE SPEECH AT PRINCETON

We are **Princetonians for Free Speech** (PFS). We were created by Princeton alumni last year as a non-partisan, non-profit organization to promote free speech and academic freedom at Princeton. We encourage all alumni – as well as other members of the Princeton family – to join with us in this important cause.

**Why PFS?** We created PFS because we believe the principles of free speech and academic freedom are fundamental to the very concept of a university and to the future of Princeton. Today both principles are under attack at universities across the country, including Princeton.

Today's students are tomorrow's leaders. Yet recent events and polls show that many students, and even faculty, do not understand the importance of free speech and academic freedom. In fact, they often oppose these principles.

**What does PFS do?** Through our website, we provide in-depth information on the issues of free speech and academic freedom. We regularly post articles and original content on developments at Princeton, as well as articles on developments at universities elsewhere.

Most importantly, PFS has rallied, and will continue to rally, support for students and faculty who are attacked or harassed for expressing their views. PFS is also a vehicle for Princetonians to contact the university about developments on campus that they believe impede free speech and academic freedom.

**What can you do?** Join hundreds of your fellow alumni who have already come together to fight for free speech and academic freedom at Princeton!

Go to [princetoniansforfreespeech.com](http://princetoniansforfreespeech.com) and while there, subscribe to our regular email alerts. Join us today!



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# YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

## Meet the New Alumni Council Officers

**THE ALUMNI COUNCIL** welcomed new leadership on July 1 with Mary Newburn '97 succeeding Rich Holland '96 as chair of the Alumni Council and president of the Alumni Association. Joining Newburn are Monica Moore Thompson '89, vice chair and vice president of the Alumni Association; Juan E. Goytia '00, treasurer; and Adam E. Lichtenstein '95 \*10, assistant treasurer.

"Over the next two years, the Alumni Council seeks to foster an enduring sense of belonging among Princeton alumni, regardless of whether we are together in person or together on screen," Newburn said. "It is truly my good fortune to work alongside this incredibly talented team, whose depth of experience and passion for Princeton is inspiring!"

Photo by Fotobuddy



### Mary Newburn '97

As the new Alumni Council chair, Newburn, who served as vice chair for the last two years, is charged with building upon the advances made to meet unprecedented challenges. "One of the things that we all took away during the last 18 months was just how quickly and easily, thanks to technology, some of the barriers came down on event planning," she said. "I attended many virtual events, and the number of new faces I saw provided me with so much hope and inspiration. Alumni were able to see the variety of ways you could engage as well as the variety in programming, and that's something, moving forward, we hope to leverage."

Whether alumni activities remain virtual or resume as in-person events, Newburn is excited to promote what she half-jokingly calls "Tigetherness." "Regardless of your experience on campus, I hope that alumni will feel that we are one Princeton, that we all belong, and that we would love for all alumni to take part in some aspect of the alumni experience," she said.

A longtime Chicagoan, Newburn, her husband, Jade, and their two sons moved to northern Virginia in the middle of the pandemic. "One of the comforting things about relocating was having the Princeton community because I felt like it traveled with us," she said. "Princeton has the power to positively transform your friendships, your learning and your experience. Princeton is such a powerful engine for change in the world, which is why I love it, and that is why I continue to engage as much as I do."

Photo by Steve Freeman



### Monica Moore Thompson '89

Moore Thompson has served as an alumni ambassador for Princeton in the many ways she has connected to the University: as an alumna and spouse of an alumnus, as a University staff fundraiser, as an Annual Giving and Alumni Association volunteer, as a board member of the Association of Black Princeton Alumni, and as a parent to a member of the Class of 2020. She most recently chaired the Alumni Council's Committee to Nominate Alumni Trustees.

In her new role, Moore Thompson said she will focus on encouraging alumni to engage with the University.

"I can see how Princeton has evolved in terms of embracing alumni and recognizing alumni from different cohorts and constituencies — affinity groups, interests, passions, identities — not only from a class member affiliation," she said. "How we go about continuing to recognize people and connect with community is what I see as part of what I want to do."

"We're only students for four years, but we're alumni for the rest of our lives," she said. With the Alumni Association, Moore Thompson is glad to be part of that future.



Photo by Johnny De Los Santos



### Juan Goytia '00

Every Princetonian learns about the University's commitment to service, but for Goytia and others from the Class of 2000, that mission was imprinted profoundly as first-year students when Princeton marked its 250th anniversary in October 1996.

The celebration featured luminaries and a redefining of the University's unofficial motto. "Toni Morrison spoke and [former Princeton president] Harold Shapiro '64 came up with 'In the nation's service and in the service of all nations,'" Goytia said. "You could feel that spirit across campus: We're so blessed and fortunate to be at Princeton, yes, but what are we going to do with our Princeton educations to make things better, to create value in whatever profession we choose? This focus on service really stuck with me."

Goytia lives in San Juan with his wife, Priscila, and their nine-year-old daughter, Gabriela. He is a business development consultant and entrepreneur, but he also views himself as an ambassador for Puerto Rico. "Through all my years as an alum in Puerto Rico, I love being able to help Princeton alumni when they visit," Goytia said. "And I think what's so powerful about Princeton is that it's not a four-year commitment — it's a lifelong commitment."

Goytia is excited to serve on the Executive Council, and to "make Princeton alums feel more welcome, heard and respected."

Photo by Steve Freeman



### Adam Lichtenstein '95 \*10

For Lichtenstein, who's spent the last 26 years lending his time and energy to Princeton, accepting the position of Alumni Council assistant treasurer was an easy yes. "I had such a wonderful experience at Princeton," said Lichtenstein, who currently lives in New York City with his wife and eight-year-old twin girls. "I don't want to be too cute about it, but it's never been a hard decision to volunteer for Princeton."

The Alabama native majored in aerospace and mechanical engineering and pursued a certificate in the School of Public and International Affairs, but began his career in venture capital and currently works in quantitative finance.

For close to 10 years after graduation, he volunteered as an alumni interviewer before returning to earn his master's in finance — an entirely different experience from his undergraduate years. These dual experiences, coupled with stints as class treasurer and on the Alumni Council Class Affairs Committee, give him an interesting perspective. "I got to experience Princeton from both sides," he said. "I checked the box of being an undergrad and a graduate alum, and there aren't too many of us around."

Lichtenstein helps plan and oversee the operating budget and helps advise the committee leadership and officers. While many agree that COVID-19 has helped improve virtual communications, Lichtenstein said, "I can't wait to be back at Princeton."

**Read more about the Alumni Council leadership team and other volunteers by visiting [alumni.princeton.edu](https://alumni.princeton.edu).**

**There are many ways to stay connected to Princeton.**

To learn more, contact Alumni Engagement at 609.258.1900 or visit [alumni.princeton.edu/volunteer](https://alumni.princeton.edu/volunteer).



Members of the Class of 2025 participated in Princeton's Community Action program.

Photo courtesy of Pam Podger, Watershed Institute



Selfie time with Gary M. King '79, P-rade narrator, who helped welcome students to campus.

Photo: Fotobuddy



First-year students competed with their new residential college members in the Clash of the Colleges. | Photo: Fotobuddy



Members of Whitman College flashed "W" showing residential college pride.

Photo by Fotobuddy



Class of 2024 students led the Pre-rade, marching through FitzRandolph Gate.

Photo: Fotobuddy



## DEAR TIGERS,



They appeared at dusk, one by one, like fireflies on a summer night —

windows scattered across campus. Walking through Holder Hall from Maclean House, I marveled at how especially good it felt this year to hear the hum of students arriving for the fall semester.

As we welcome students back to campus, my colleagues and I also welcome the chance to partner with the new leadership of the Alumni Association: Mary Newburn '97, Monica Moore Thompson '89, Juan Goytia '00, and Adam Lichtenstein '95 \*10. With the deep experience and passion of these remarkable volunteers, we will work to deepen the ties of our growing alumni family, now 96,000 strong. At the time of this writing, Mary has just addressed the Class of 2025 during their move-in weekend, noting that "One of the least talked about but most incredible aspects of a Princeton education is the lifelong

alumni journey — a journey that includes opportunities for continued learning, camaraderie, service, loads of fun, and a LOT of orange and black."

This fall the University launches "Venture Forward," a campaign that unites our Tiger community through spirited engagement, volunteering, and philanthropic support for Princeton's highest priorities. Eager to take part? Attend a virtual event, interview a prospective student, up your AG pledge, or prove Mary right and show your Princeton colors during our inaugural "Orange & Black Day" to be held October 22, the University's Charter Day, which this year marks the University's 275th birthday. Keep an eye on our e-newsletter Tiger News and @princetonalumni social media channels for details about how you can participate in this new — and what promises to be enduring — tradition.

HIP, HIP...

Alexandra Day '02

Deputy Vice President for Alumni Engagement



Tune every heart and every voice... Three cheers for Old Nassau! | Photo: Fotobuddy



Faculty and returning students offered their best advice at a panel discussion for new graduate students.


Photo: Denise Applewhite, Office of Communications



"Santa" crowd-surfed at the Class of 2024 Step Sing. | Photo: Fotobuddy



# On the Campus



Henry Moore's *Oval with Points*, installed near Nassau Hall in 1971, received a restoration treatment during the summer. The work included stripping the sculpture down to its raw bronze and building a patina that closely reflects the sculptor's original intent. To view a video about the project, visit [artmuseum.princeton.edu](http://artmuseum.princeton.edu).  
*Photograph by Ricardo Barros*





# Stepping Into Princeton

## Classes of '25 and '24 walk together in Pre-rade, kicking off a new year

**M**embers of the freshman class — and this year, sophomores as well — marched through FitzRandolph Gate Aug. 29 for the traditional Pre-rade as upperclass students, employees, family, and alumni cheered them on. The buzz from the crowd on that hot summer day was reminiscent of pre-COVID days. Students laughed with one another, gathered for a barbecue across the lawns in their various colorful residential-college T-shirts, and locked arms on the steps of Whig and Clio halls for the traditional Step Sing.

“Princeton seems like a magical place so far,” said Le’Naya Wilkerson ’25, reflecting on the event-filled day. “Everyone seems super-friendly and supportive of one another, so I’m looking forward to the school year.”

Earlier in the afternoon, Opening Exercises commenced with remarks from President Eisgruber ’83. “It is so good to

see you and so good to be together,” he said. “I have missed these moments of collective joy and excitement over the past year.” The start of this academic year marks the first fully in-person semester for the classes of 2024 and 2025.

On a personal note, Eisgruber shared that five years ago he was diagnosed with an acoustic neuroma, a type of noncancerous brain tumor that can cause loss of hearing, balance, and control of facial muscles. He connected this challenging time to the challenges that students will likely face at Princeton, and offered lessons he has learned from dealing with his diagnosis.

“The quality of your Princeton education will depend on your willingness and ability to participate in conversations about sensitive and difficult ideas,” Eisgruber said. “You might not need to discuss anybody’s life-altering medical diagnosis, but you will certainly need to talk about profoundly important and

emotionally charged topics such as race, sexuality, and justice.”

Carrie Geisler ’25 found the ceremony to be inspiring. “It was just really a sense of hope after everything that has happened with COVID,” she said. It suggests “that it’s really a fresh start here, that things are going back to normal,” cementing the promise “for everything that the next four years hold.”

The pandemic continued to shape parts of campus life, with masks required in classrooms at the beginning of the year and a weekly COVID testing program in effect for students, faculty, and staff. Public-health concerns also affected small-group orientation programs, limiting experiences to daytrips and on-campus activities instead of the typical extended trips. The Class of 2025 participated in Outdoor Action, which included hikes and kayak trips to build trust and relationships; Community Action, which included service trips to shelters to connect with the local community; Dialogue and Difference in Action, where students discussed and explored their identities; and a fall-sport athlete orientation led by upperclass student-athletes.

Members of the Class of 2024 also





After receiving a virtual welcome last fall, members of the Class of '24 joined this year's Pre-rade as sophomores.

had an opportunity to make up many of the bonding experiences they missed. In addition to joining the Pre-rade, the class had its own Step Sing, an ice cream social, and a skate night at Baker Rink, among other activities through mid-September.

Students appreciated the experiences. "I actually liked staying on campus

during orientation because I was able to not only connect with my CA group, but also my roommates," said Maia Weintraub '25. "I also liked how we were finally able to get a feel for campus."

But group leaders noticed some drawbacks. "The new structure made it much more difficult to foster group dynamics," said Outdoor Action leader Alex Kim '24. "I would argue that the depth of these connections did not match those of a typical frosh trip."

Members of the Class of 2024 were simply excited to be back for a more typical semester. Julia Kashimura '24 lived on campus last spring, and she is relieved to have more Princeton experiences available to her this fall. "I'm on the golf team, so I'm excited to finally compete," she said. "Also, just to meet people, because we didn't get to do that last semester as much, and just see the insides of the buildings because we also didn't get to do that."

Princeton welcomed graduate students from 54 countries during orientation events on Aug. 25 and 26. Graduate students participated in a handful of events, including panel discussions, a celebratory meal, and welcome remarks from Eisgruber and Cole Crittenden '05, acting dean of the graduate school. ♦ *By C.S. with reporting by Hannah Kapoor '23*

## First Impressions

AT THE PRE-RADE, MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2025 SHARED THEIR INITIAL THOUGHTS ABOUT PRINCETON

### What are you most looking forward to doing on campus this semester?

"Honestly, just meeting people. It's been so incredible just



to meet everyone during orientation, especially international orientation, and yeah, Americans are very outgoing, so that's pretty good." — **Afzal Hussain '25, Dagenham, U.K.**

"I'm looking forward to the Lawnparties; I heard those are good. And also, extracurriculars. I'm thinking of Model UN, maybe *The Daily Princetonian*.



Also, my classes — they're really cool." — **Davina Thompson '25, Greensboro, North Carolina**

### What class are you most excited about?

"My freshman seminar. It's called 'Sizing up the Universe.'



It's about astronomy, and I think it's really great that it's going to be a small class, not a big lecture hall. I think it's great to have that opportunity for freshmen."

— **Luke Stockless '25, Malden, Massachusetts**

### What do you think of Princeton so far?

"The community is really great here. I definitely get that sense that everyone feels really close, and it's nice to be part of that community today."



— **Ellie Berman '25, Cambridge, Massachusetts**

## PRINCETON'S NEW STUDENTS: BY THE NUMBERS

### THE CLASS OF 2025

**Class size:** 1,345  
**Deferred enrollment from '23 and '24:** 212  
**Expected to return from leave:** 55  
**Applicants:** 37,601  
**Admitted:** 1,647 (4.4%)  
**Yield:** 67%

*Of those enrolled:*

**Receiving financial aid:** 62%  
**Women:** 51%; **Men:** 49%  
**U.S. minority students:** 48%  
**International students:** 13%  
**Children of alumni:** 15%  
**Eligible for Pell Grants:** 22%  
**From public schools:** 60%  
**First-generation college students:** 18%  
**Number of U.S. military veterans:** 3  
**B.S.E. students:** 26%

### TRANSFER ADMISSIONS

**Applicants:** 1,350  
**Admitted:** 18 (1.3%)  
**Enrolled:** 14  
**From community colleges:** 11  
**Military (reservists or veterans):** 8

### GRADUATE STUDENT ADMISSIONS

**Doctoral-degree students:** 436  
**Master's-degree students:** 239  
**Applicants:** 14,343  
**Admitted:** 1,268 (8.8%)  
**Yield:** 53%  
**Women:** 44%; **Men:** 56%  
**International students:** 39%  
**U.S. minority students:** 24%  
**Humanities and social sciences:** 44%  
**Sciences and engineering:** 56%

Sources: Office of Communications; Office of Admission; School of Engineering and Applied Science; Graduate School admission statistics

Q&A: JENNIFER M. MORTON '02

# Navigating College

## Author reflects on common obstacles for first-generation and low-income students

This year's Princeton Pre-read, Jennifer M. Morton '02's *Moving Up Without Losing Your Way: The Ethical Costs of Upward Mobility*, explores the challenges of college for first-generation and low-income students, or "strivers," as Morton calls them. She spoke to PAW about the messages she hopes students take away from the book and her advice for navigating in a new environment.

**What was your reaction to finding out *Moving Up Without Losing Your Way* was the Pre-read for the Class of 2025?**

I was shocked. Thinking about having been a first-year student at Princeton, and the fact that my book would land in the hands of students like me, it was very exciting and surprising. I was really glad that more students would get their hands on the book, and faculty and others at Princeton who are thinking hard about how to support and welcome first-generation and low-income students.

**What do you hope students who identify as "strivers" take away from reading the book?**

I hope that strivers are accepting of the fact that they often are put into difficult situations, where there's no choice that is completely reflective of who they are and what they stand for. I hope that this book helps them articulate the uncomfortable sense of being in this space, caught between these two worlds, but that there is also a lot of knowledge and power that comes from that understanding. I also hope it helps them to think about how they can make things better for future strivers, so they don't have to make these same difficult choices.

**What about students who are not strivers?**

First is an awareness that there are students on campus who have grown up with different experiences and for whom



Jennifer M. Morton '02

being at Princeton is not necessarily going to be as easy and wonderful as it is for them. The other thing is that there is something to be gained from being in environments in which you're challenged. There's growth that happens from putting yourself in social situations where you might be uncomfortable. If you're only moving through spaces in which you feel completely comfortable socially and culturally, you're probably missing out on something that you could learn from being in a space where that's not the case.

**What advice would you offer students who are trying to find the balance between being authentic and navigating code-switching, where individuals act differently to blend into different social contexts?**

When you're in this very intense social environment, it can become really hard to figure out whether something feels off or there's something about the social norm that is wrong. I think it's helpful for students to investigate the source of that discomfort and figure out what sorts of values are at stake. For me, I will not put up with people saying racist or sexist things, and I'm going to push back on that. There may be other situations where I decide to go along with what's happening. I think being reflective and aware is key. ♦ Interview conducted and condensed by C.S.

## COLLEGE RANKINGS

For the 11th consecutive year, Princeton was ranked **NO. 1 AMONG NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES** by *U.S. News & World Report*, which released its annual lists of the top American colleges and universities Sept. 13. Columbia, Harvard, and MIT tied for the No. 2 spot.

Responding to the widespread move to make standardized tests optional during the pandemic, *U.S. News* adjusted one part of its "student excellence" criteria: In recent years, institutions were penalized if fewer than 75 percent of incoming students submitted SAT or ACT scores; this year, the threshold was 50 percent. Princeton has not shared the percentage of freshmen who submitted scores; the Common App reported that nationwide, 43 percent of students provided test scores in 2020–21, down from 77 percent the year before.

*Forbes*, which did not publish rankings in 2020, revised its methodology to emphasize return on investment. "Schools placed well if their students graduated on time, secured high salaries and low debt, and went on to have successful careers," the magazine said in a press release. Princeton was ranked No. 3, behind the University of California, Berkeley; and Yale.

*The Princeton Review* paused its student surveys of on-campus experiences, since most students attended college remotely for all or part of the 2020–21 academic year. *Washington Monthly* continued rating schools based on social mobility, research, and promoting public service. Princeton dropped to No. 17 after appearing in the top 10 for three straight years. ♦ By B.T.





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Mrs. Elizabeth Young '02

Lifetime Members as of 9-1-21



Megan Ostrowski '20, right, with one of her students during a Princeton in Asia summer internship in Jishou, China, in 2018.

# Taking a Global Pause

International fellowship groups offer remote options, hope to return abroad

**W**hen reports of a novel coronavirus started coming out of China in early 2020, Princeton in Asia had 130 fellows and employees in 17 Asian countries, including a large number in China. Individual country programs were shut down throughout February before the entire program was shuttered in March.

"In terms of what was going on in our office, it was confusing, chaotic, challenging, unsure of what was going to happen next and how things were going to unfold," said M.B. Dillon '06, the executive director of Princeton in Asia (PiA), who was also a PiA fellow in Laos from 2010 to 2013. "But we were on it from a very early point. This was a fabulous example of people working together to keep our fellows safe and to help them navigate the situation."

While 20 PiA fellows decided to stay and support their host organizations during the lockdown, PiA helped to evacuate the rest of its fellows and staff,

and no one in the program ended up getting sick.

PiA was not alone in facing international COVID challenges. Both Princeton in Africa (PiAf) and Princeton in Latin America (PiLA) have continued to work with host organizations throughout the uncertainty of the last year and a half.

While fellows were given resources to evacuate their host countries and make their way home, all three programs had participants who opted to stay abroad. But a new cohort of fellows presented a new challenge: Could an international program function remotely?

"We only wanted to do this if it was something the organizations and the fellows thought would work," PiAf program director Stephanie Hooper Leroy said of the decision to offer remote programming. In the 2020–21 cohort, PiAf ended up having 16 remote fellows, PiA had eight, and PiLA had 10.

Trina Swanson '20 worked as a resource mobilization officer with the Baylor College of Medicine International

Pediatric AIDS Initiative in Eswatini, formerly known as Swaziland, from her home in Iowa. She said she was thankful for the opportunity, though it was difficult to connect with her colleagues abroad at first. She wished she could have been there in person.

"It was a little disappointing, but we did manage to find meaningful work to do, and we were able to adapt," Swanson said. "We made it work even though it wasn't ideal." She finally made it to Eswatini in September and is working with the same organization as a Fulbright researcher while she applies to medical schools.

Of course, not all fellowships could be done remotely. Some health and education organizations had work that could only be done in person, and other organizations lost their funding and couldn't take on fellows.

As a second year of remote fellowships begins (24 fellows in Africa, eight in Asia, and four in Latin America), all three organizations say they are aware of the uncertainty the pandemic presents yet remain hopeful that in-person programming can resume. While PiAf continues to monitor the pandemic, PiLA is not accepting new applicants this fall (the organization is only working with deferred finalists from previous years) and is hoping to have fellows back in the field by summer 2022. PiA is currently finalizing placements for a small group of in-person fellowships this winter, though these plans are subject to change.

"What's been interesting to see is that, as things have started to open up back here in the U.S., there's a real hunger for in-person interaction," Dillon said. "Folks are really craving that and wanting to get back into the field, and we're trying to meet that responsibly and safely."

Annie Leister, the managing director of PiLA, has taken valuable lessons from the last two years. "I certainly can't say the remote fellowships have been perfect — the fellows and partners have both had some challenges," she said. "But I think we've all learned from those experiences, we've made some adaptations for the new remote fellowships starting this summer, and we're looking forward to just strengthening relationships with all our stakeholders moving forward." ♦ By Anna Mazarakis '16



## STUDENT DISPATCH

**Princetonian Drops Daily Print Issues, Shifting More Campus Coverage Online**

By Yu Jeong Lee '22



Nearly three semesters and a global pandemic ago, the *Daily Princetonian* newsroom at 48 University Place bustled with a nightly hustle before print deadlines. From 6 p.m. until well past midnight, staffers got together to prune each story, column by column, page by page, quilting together the next day's paper for delivery before breakfast.

Returning from over a year of remote reporting and publishing, the *Prince* announced it will retire its daily print papers and instead publish "digital daily, print weekly."

"This shift to digital publishing has been something we've been discussing for a while, and the pandemic's been like a catalyst," said Editor-in-Chief Emma Treadway '22. "After going virtual during the pandemic, we've really had the time and flexibility to embrace new possibilities and initiatives in the digital world, and I wanted us to think more about how we're engaging our readers and whether we're using the best medium to reach out to them."

Student publications around the country had been grappling with changing reader habits, falling readership, and struggling finances before the disruptions of COVID. *The Columbia Daily Spectator* and *The Cornell Daily Sun* ceased daily print in 2014 and 2016 respectively; *The Brown Daily Herald*, *The Dartmouth*, and *The Daily Pennsylvanian* recently announced they will continue the reduced print schedules they adopted during the pandemic. According to Louis Aaron '23, business manager of the *Prince*, financial considerations played a large role in

conversations about reducing print issues in the past but were not the primary factor in the most recent decision.

In the past year and a half, the *Prince* has covered the uncertainties of virtual learning, campus public-health guidelines, and grading policies. For Zack Shevin '22, one of four managing editors, the shift to digital publishing and weekly printing provides more flexibility and room for these important stories than the print paper previously allowed.

"In some sense, our level of what we would consider newsworthy rose — going from covering lectures to covering a global pandemic — and it's been helpful for the news team to be intentional and create content that people want to read," Shevin said, adding that the new schedule provides "space to breathe and really think about how we cover these important events."

Several new teams were created while the *Prince* was publishing remotely, including content strategy and digital design. "Before, the design team was just laying out the print issue, whereas now, design is involved not just at the end

but throughout the process of writing a story, even in the very beginning," said Harsimran Makkad '22, a managing editor and former head design editor.

The *Prince*, which has published daily since 1892, will continue to post new content daily, including news and sports, podcasts, videos, and puzzles. "We're not in any way abandoning print," said Omar Farah '23, the inaugural content strategist. "We're still really focused on our weekly physical product. But we understand that it's not just us that's changing, and we're adapting in general to the way that people interact with the news." ♦



The front page of the first weekly print issue of *The Daily Princetonian*

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## IN SHORT

Princeton was selected as one of five **NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION INNOVATION CORPS** (I-Corps) regional hubs, the University announced Aug. 25. Funded by a \$15 million grant, the I-Corps hub includes Princeton and five affiliate universities that aim to “accelerate the economic impact of federally funded research,” according to a press release. An interview with Rodney Priestley, Princeton’s vice dean for innovation and co-director of the hub, will appear in PAW’s November issue.

An investigation by outside counsel into the University’s **HANDLING OF HUMAN REMAINS** from the 1985 MOVE bombing in Philadelphia found that

remains were never stored at Princeton but were used twice in anthropology courses, in 2015 and 2019. President Eisgruber ’83 reiterated his April 2021 apology to the families affected by the bombing. The full investigation report is available at [bit.ly/ MOVE-report](https://bit.ly/MOVE-report).

Princeton philosopher and bioethicist **PETER SINGER** won the \$1 million 2021 Berggruen Prize for “advancing ideas



that shape the world,” including his writings on animal rights and “effective altruism.” Singer pledged to give away the entire prize. He wrote in an essay for Project Syndicate that

half of the money would go to The Life You Can Save, an anti-poverty charity he founded a decade ago. The remainder will be given to groups that combat factory farming and other organizations that fulfill Singer’s view of philanthropy.

At its Sept. 23 meeting, the municipality of Princeton’s planning board was scheduled to decide the fate of the University’s plan to move 91 Prospect Ave., **THE FORMER COURT CLUB**, to a site across the street and raze three homes owned by the University. The move would clear space for part of the proposed Environmental Studies and School of Engineering and Applied Science complex, to be located primarily on Ivy

Lane, behind the eating clubs. Opponents of the move, including alumni in the Princeton Prospect Foundation, have objected to altering the club row streetscape. Additional coverage will be posted at [paw.princeton.edu](https://paw.princeton.edu).



Princeton launched a new **GENDER + SEXUALITY RESOURCE CENTER** in Frist Campus Center with a mission “to recognize and redress historical and persistent gender and sexuality inequalities at Princeton and beyond.” Kristopher Oliveira, an assistant dean for diversity and inclusion, is the inaugural director. ♦

Courtesy Peter Singer

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From left, the Macks — Alleda '99, Anaiah, Jacob, Jabari, and John '00 — stand on the steps of Nassau Hall.

## SPORTS LEADERSHIP

# Star Sprinter Returns as Director of Athletics

**P**inceton's new Ford Family Director of Athletics brings a wealth of experience in running things — including track and field.

John Mack '00 was a psychology major and star sprinter at Princeton, scooping up major student-athlete awards — including the Roper Trophy, given annually to a male senior who achieves in sports, scholarship, and sportsmanship — and captaining the men's track and field team. Since then he has gathered leadership experience in college sports and built a legal career.

"This is truly a dream come true — 25 years in the making," Mack said in a video announcing his appointment. He was not available for an interview by press time.

President Eisgruber '83 called the new athletic director "superbly qualified for his new role" in a news release that cataloged Mack's career. After graduating, Mack worked with facilities and scheduling for Princeton athletics for four years and coached women's track and field. Then he worked

on championships for the Big Ten Conference, and later in marketing for athletics at Northwestern University.

He earned a law degree from Northwestern in 2014, and was most recently an associate commercial and class-action litigation attorney at Bush Seyferth PLLC, in Michigan. His *pro bono* work included appeals for death-row inmates, according to the firm's website.

He's also the ordained pastor of Greater New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in New Haven, Michigan, and has three young children with his wife, Dr. Alleda Mack '99.

As a Princeton runner, Mack won five indoor and five outdoor Heps titles. Twice he received his team's highest awards: the Babb Trophy in 1997 and the Bonthron Trophy in 2000.

Mack started Sept. 1, replacing Mollie Marcoux Samaan '91, who left to become commissioner of the Ladies Professional Golf Association. The University said it conducted a nationwide search. ♦ By E.H.D.

## THE BIG THREE

**1 TATUM GEE '22** scored twice in a two-minute span late in the second half — once on a pass from Heather MacNab '25 and later on a breakaway run from midfield — to lead women's soccer to a 3-1 comeback win at George Mason Sept. 2. The Tigers started the season 5-0-1, including a tie at No. 8 Georgetown and a win at No. 9 Rutgers — their first victory against a top-10 team since 2017.



**2 ANTONIO KNEZ '23** saved 22 shots in the men's water polo team's 12-5 win over George Washington Sept. 4, tying the Princeton record for saves in a game set by Ryan Melosini '19 in 2017. Knez, a native of Dubrovnik, Croatia, earned second-team All-Northeast Water Polo Conference honors as a freshman in 2019.



**3 SARAH FILLIER '24** scored three goals and assisted on three others to help Canada to a perfect 4-0 record and the gold medal in the IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship, held in Calgary Aug. 20-31. Claire Thompson '20 also played for the Canadian team, which defeated the United States 3-2 in the gold-medal game. Fillier and Thompson are Princeton's first women's hockey world champions since goalie Megan Van Beusekom '04 won gold with the U.S. in 2009.



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## On the Campus / Sports



Princeton's football team practices in the 2021 preseason.

### FOOTBALL PREVIEW

# Experience Counts

## Returning gap-year seniors give Tigers an edge

**J**eremiah Tyler '22 might be playing on an NFL field next year. Princeton's star outside linebacker might have even been in the NFL this season, had he not taken last year off because of the COVID-19 pandemic before returning this fall to the Tigers.

"I had to," said Tyler at a September press conference. "I felt like I was going to let these guys down if I didn't, and I felt that within my heart."

Tyler is one of 17 seniors who returned after taking a gap year off during the pandemic that canceled the 2020 Ivy League season. They join 10 other rising seniors to give Princeton a plethora of experience at the top of its roster. There are also 31 juniors on the team.

"There are more leaders," said Princeton head coach Bob Surace '90. "They are doing an amazing job of helping the young players who have never been on campus."

Princeton beat perennial Patriot League power Lehigh, 32-0, on Sept. 18, marking the Tigers' first game since Nov. 23, 2019. The team was set

to open its Ivy League schedule Oct. 2, hosting Columbia.

The Tigers have been tabbed Ivy favorites, thanks to their hefty experience. Tyler and senior running back Collin Eaddy '22, who also returned after a gap year, are household names among league observers, and Delan Stallworth '22 was All-Ivy at defensive back. But there's a big hole to fill after the graduation of 2019 quarterback Kevin Davidson '20; there are no quarterbacks on Princeton's roster who have started a college game.

The Tigers have gone 18-2 over the previous two seasons with a perfect 2018 campaign. They placed second in 2019 at 5-2 in the league, and last year's seniors returned in force for one more shot at an Ivy crown that would be Princeton's fourth in eight seasons.

"For us, we realize we won't get this opportunity again," Eaddy said. "These are the last 10 games in my college lifetime. It's all or nothing for us." ♦ By Justin Feil



**READ** a longer version of this preview at [paw.princeton.edu](http://paw.princeton.edu)





Photo by Todd Kaminski

'72

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*PRINCETON CHANGED THE  
TRAJECTORY OF MY LIFE IN  
COUNTLESS POSITIVE WAYS*

*I give because*

—DAVID HUNTER '72

'02

*Class of*

*I received an unbeatable  
education and want others to  
have the same opportunities*

*I give because*

—CAROLINE CHANG '02



Photo by Nick DeGiudice

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Elite schools “teach young people to hide their advantages from themselves and others.” — Professor Shamus Khan

SOCIOLOGY

## Examining Elites

Shamus Khan’s research unveils the effects of culture, gender, and advantage

**A**lmost 20 years ago, Professor Shamus Khan spent a year living at St. Paul’s School in New Hampshire to conduct a sociological study that he hoped would shed light on the dynamics of inequality. “To look at inequality, we almost exclusively write about the poor,” he says. “We almost never write about the other side of the relationship.”

Khan’s year as a teacher and squash coach marked his return to the campus where he spent three years as a student. With the approval of the school’s administration, he analyzed the boarding school through the lenses of race, class, and gender and published his findings in *Privilege: The Making of an Adolescent Elite at St. Paul’s School*, which was reissued this year by Princeton University Press. “The central argument of this book is that elite schools are not meritocracies,” he writes in a new preface. “Instead,

they teach young people to hide their advantages from themselves and others.” Today, he writes, most elites view their successes as the merited results of hard work and skill — not as the results of family advantage. He uses his own life story as an example: His parents invested everything they could in their children’s education and activities to develop the “social and cultural capacity” that would allow the children to succeed as professionals.

Khan has spent his academic career on elite campuses, spending 13 years at Columbia University, where he received its highest teaching honor, before joining the Princeton faculty in January.

The St. Paul’s book examines an uncomfortable dilemma: “American institutions have made progress, they are way more open than in the 1960s, yet at the same time there has been a massive rise in inequality,” Khan

tells PAW. “Opening up institutions, acknowledging racism and sexism, has not been enough.”

Another of his books, *Sexual Citizens: A Landmark Study of Sex, Power, and Assault on Campus*, addresses why sexual assault is so prevalent at colleges. It was co-authored by Jennifer Hirsch ’88, a professor of sociomedical sciences at Columbia. Based on interviews with undergraduates at Columbia and Barnard College, focus-group discussions, and direct observations of students’ lives, it looks at how physical spaces, peer groups, and power dynamics may create conditions that make sexual assault more likely. Older students, for example, usually get the best dorm rooms, such as single rooms.

“The consequence is that you may be funneling younger students to spaces controlled by older students, who have more experience with drinking and sex, creating a context that makes assaults more likely to happen,” Khan says. The book’s findings have led several institutions to change their approach to the issue, he says.

Khan’s interest in elite institutions also led him to study the archives of the New York Philharmonic, a project funded by the Mellon Foundation. At the turn of the 20th century, when more people from professional backgrounds — such as teachers and artists — began attending concerts, Khan and co-author Fabien Accominotti found that the wealthy changed their seats to be closer to each other, a phenomenon they call segregated inclusion. “You include people, but you do it in a way that protects your own advantages,” says Khan, who plays the violin and is himself a Philharmonic subscriber.

Much of his work, Khan says, reflects a dynamic articulated in 1835 by Alexis de Tocqueville, who described in *Democracy in America* how “the privileges of birth and fortune” provide many advantages, even when it appears that opportunities are equal to all. “The barrier,” wrote de Tocqueville, “has changed shape rather than place.”

“We think of inequality as moats and fences,” Khan says. “A lot of the moats and fences have been taken down, but some have just changed their shape.” ♦

By Jennifer Altmann





BEHIND THE RESEARCH: COLEEN MURPHY

## How Humans Can Live Longer, Better Lives

Coleen Murphy has been pondering the topic of healthy aging for over 20 years. She completed a Ph.D. in biochemistry at Stanford, but it wasn't until late in her graduate studies that she became intrigued by the question of aging. At the time, researchers had just started using DNA microarrays to analyze multiple genes simultaneously. Biologist Cynthia Kenyon caught Murphy's attention with her discovery that a single genetic mutation could double the lifespan of the roundworm *C. elegans*.

Murphy completed a postdoc position in Kenyon's lab and has been conducting research on *C. elegans* ever since. At Princeton, where she is a professor of molecular biology and genomics, Murphy uses *C. elegans* to study how aging affects learning, memory, and reproduction. She hopes that her research will uncover ways to prevent age-related physical and cognitive decline in humans. ♦ By Joanna Wendel '09

**"When I started at Princeton, I got interested in the idea of not just how long [an organism] could live, but how well. It's gratifying that now, 17 years later, we can see the fruits of that early work" in the lab, says Coleen Murphy.**

## Murphy's Research: A Sampling



### MEMORY GAMES

Murphy hopes to prevent memory loss while preserving the brain's ability to learn. With Amanda Kauffman '10, she performed experiments on *C. elegans* to test the worms' ability to absorb and remember. The worms were trained to associate a neutral odor with the presence of food, and then tested over time to see how long they retained the memory. Murphy found that worms with a genetic mutation that gives them a longer lifespan displayed superior long-term memory. More recently, she found that activating the protein CREB in the brains of older worms restores their ability to learn and form new memories. Murphy hopes a similar intervention could one day treat cognitive decline in aging adults.



### FRESH EGGS

In 2020, Murphy received funding from the Global Consortium for Reproductive Longevity and Equality to support the development of a diagnostic tool to assess a woman's rate of reproductive aging, which is caused by a decline in the quality of oocytes,

or egg cells. Murphy previously found parallels between the oocyte quality in *C. elegans* and in women. She is now analyzing blood samples from women of different ages to locate biomarkers that indicate how quickly their blood tissue is aging, which should indicate the rate of aging of their oocytes. Murphy hopes this will eventually allow women to regularly track their fertility and empower them in family planning.



### GROUP LEARNING

Murphy, Rachel Kaletsky, and Rebecca Moore '21 discovered that *C. elegans* can pass on learned behavior to its offspring. They found that worms that ingest the harmful bacteria PA14 learn to avoid it — but surprisingly, when these worms reproduce, their offspring also avoid the bacteria, even though they've never encountered it before. The learned behavior is passed on through four generations of worms. The team found that *C. elegans* identifies the bacteria as harmful by "reading" its small RNA, and passes this information to its progeny. Murphy is also investigating how retrotransposons — rogue bits of genetic material that can get inserted into an animal's genome, often with harmful results — can play a positive role in transferring learned information from one worm to another. ♦ By J.W.



# THE COLOR OF CLASSICS

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A discipline focused  
on the ancient world  
faces a contemporary  
racial reckoning

By DEBORAH YAFFE

THE STORY HAS THE CLARITY OF A FABLE: In the library of a New York homeless shelter, an immigrant boy finds a book that introduces him to the glories of ancient Greece and Rome. Years later, after navigating hardship and embracing opportunity, he grows up to teach classics at Princeton.

That story — told in *Undocumented: A Dominican Boy's Odyssey from a Homeless Shelter to the Ivy League*, the 2015 memoir of Princeton professor Dan-el Padilla Peralta '06 — might read as an inspiring testament to the transcendent power of the oldest great books.

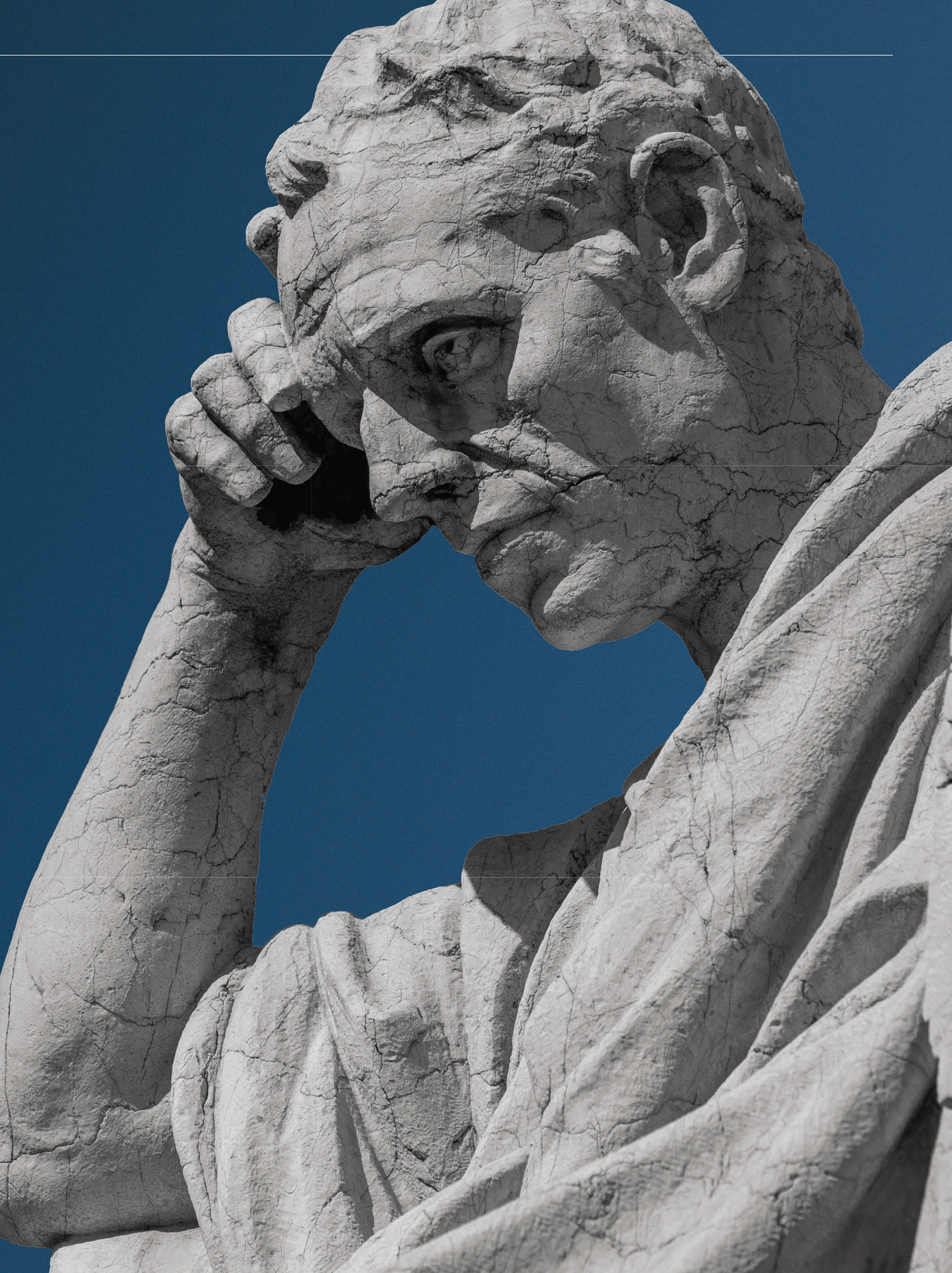
But in recent years, Padilla Peralta has articulated a bleaker moral to the tale: His discovery of classics, Padilla Peralta says, marked the start of an education in marginalizing his Black and Latinx identities.

“Classics was a cheat code for mastering whiteness,” he writes in his contribution to a forthcoming scholarly book on race in antiquity. “Mastery of this cheat code would entail ... internalization of the sense that my own personhood, and the histories that pulsed through it, had to be subordinated to a body of knowledge that radiated Western authority.”

Padilla Peralta's public interrogation of his personal history comes at a charged moment for his discipline, as classicists undertake a parallel interrogation of their field's problematic past and flawed present. A specialist in Roman history and religion, Padilla Peralta has become a leading voice in this struggle over how classics — historically a proudly elitist discipline built on a Eurocentric conception of intellectual inheritance — can remake itself for a changed world.

Especially among younger classicists, there is “a real energy and a real desire to transform the field into something that is avowedly anti-racist and anti-white supremacist,” says Christopher Waldo, an assistant professor of classics at the University of Washington-Seattle and co-chair of the Asian and Asian-American Classical Caucus. “This is a really interesting moment in the history of classics as a discipline, where those questions are being asked.”







Such questioning is nothing new in the academy: Scholars in such fields as history, English, anthropology, and religious studies have spent decades reorienting their research agendas and reimagining their curricula in light of contemporary understandings of race, class, and gender, a process sometimes called “decolonization.”

More than 30 years ago, classics seemed on the brink of a similar reckoning, when Martin Bernal of Cornell, a historian of modern China who had migrated to ancient studies, began publishing his three-volume *Black Athena*. Bernal argued that Greek civilization had African and Asiatic roots, and he analyzed the role that white supremacist ideology had played in the development of the discipline of classics in the 18th and 19th centuries. But when classicists debunked Bernal’s factual claims about the ancient past, they also tossed out his critique of the discipline’s history.

That was a mistake, some scholars now say. Bernal “may be wrong about Socrates, but he’s not wrong about the way in which the discipline was embedded in this discourse on white supremacy,” says Jackie Murray, associate professor of classics and Africana studies at the University of Kentucky at Lexington. “He was not wrong about that.”

**C**LASSICS: ENSHRINED IN THE VERY NAME of the field is an unquestioned assumption that its subject matter — the civilizations of ancient Greece and Rome — represents the best of human culture. But that claim, and its implicit downgrading of ancient civilizations rooted in China, India, Africa, and the Middle East, grew out of a specific historical moment, says Princeton historian Anthony Grafton, who specializes in the cultural history of the Renaissance. “From the late 18th century on, as classics began to form as a discipline, one of the things classicists began to believe was that Greece and Rome were the preeminent cultures of the ancient world,” Grafton says. “In the 16th or 17th century, there were lots of people who didn’t believe that.”

Along with the presumption of Greco-Roman superiority came a story about these civilizations’ uniquely foundational role in the development of European culture — a European culture itself conceived of as superior to the cultures of other regions, especially regions colonized by European powers. Across the British empire, men who had learned Latin and Greek in the schoolroom instituted classical curricula as part of a supposedly “civilizing” mission aimed at remaking indigenous people in the image of their colonizers.

“My parents were born on colonial Jamaican rule,” Jermaine Bryant, a doctoral student in classics at Princeton, tweeted earlier this year, “and every time I talk to my family about what I do, they say ‘Oh yeah, the Brits put their boots on our necks



Princeton history professor Anthony Grafton notes that classics’ focus on Greek and Roman cultures began in the 18th century, as the discipline was forming.

and taught us Latin while saying our culture was garbage.’ ”

Crucially, the ancient cultures studied by classicists, as well as the European culture those ancients were said to have founded, were understood to be white. Classics, along with Egyptology, “developed as the teaching arm of the ideology of white supremacy,” says Shelley P. Haley, a professor of classics and Africana studies at Hamilton College, who is the first Black scholar to serve as president of the Society for Classical Studies. “We need to examine the context in which classical studies grew up, and that’s what we need to dismantle.”

The racial suppositions implicit in the original conception of the discipline represented a historical distortion, scholars say. Classical historians today agree that the ancients had no concept of “whiteness” in our modern sense: Although ancient societies were hierarchically organized and sometimes oppressive, those hierarchies were not based on skin color. In the Renaissance, “scholars were perfectly aware that ancient Rome was an ethnically varied city and that people of African and Jewish and Arabian descent became Romans,” Grafton says. “In the 19th century, there was a great effort not to recognize that.”

Accordingly, despite the historical truths about the ancient world, genocidal racists and slaveholders across the centuries — from 16th-century Spanish conquistadors to Southern Confederates to Nazi leaders — found authority for their twisted racial theories in such classical writers as Aristotle, who famously argued for the existence of “natural slaves.”

Contemporary right-wing extremists and conspiracy theorists similarly root their identity in an imagined lily-white classical past. In 2016, the white supremacist Identity Evropa movement began blanketing college campuses with recruitment posters bearing a picture of the second-century Roman statue known as the Apollo Belvedere. Some of the rioters who stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 came costumed as ancient Greek and



Roman warriors. And Marjorie Taylor Greene, the conspiracist Republican congresswoman from Georgia, wears a facemask emblazoned with “Molon Labe,” an ancient Greek phrase roughly translated as “come and take them,” which has become a slogan of the gun-rights movement.

“An interest in classics is this quick signifier of a certain kind of identity politics — white male identity politics — and a signifier for a set of values,” says Donna Zuckerberg <sup>14</sup>, an independent scholar who authored a 2018 book about the alt-right’s embrace of classics.

Indeed, contemporary white supremacists aren’t entirely misreading classical texts, says Curtis Dozier, an assistant professor of Greek and Roman studies at Vassar College who directs Pharos, a website devoted to documenting and debunking hate groups’ appropriations of the classical past.

The ancients held slaves, deprived women of civil and political rights, limited the citizenship of immigrants, and glorified the violent imposition of cultural values on conquered peoples. White supremacists “didn’t really need to misrepresent antiquity to support their politics,” Dozier says. “They found in the ancient world a way of organizing society that was very congenial.”

While contemporary scholars may reject the alt-right’s embrace of classicism, presuppositions about the classical lineage of a superior Western culture still subtly permeate the discipline’s self-definition, some classicists say. “Great Books” courses start with Homer and Plato; beleaguered classics departments justify their continued existence by calling their field the foundation of Western civilization. “The whole field has been so myopic. It has been focused on Europe,” says Haley, the Society of Classical Studies president. “We can talk about India, we can talk about Syria, we can talk about China, we can talk about Numidia, Nubia, Ethiopia, Egypt — but we don’t.”

Today, those questioning the discipline tend to put scare quotes around the term “Western civilization,” arguing that the concept obscures the complex lineages of European culture and the ways that classical texts also influenced, and were influenced by, non-European societies. Ultimately, these scholars say, relying on a simplistic narrative of foundationalism carries an implicit message about whom classical texts belonged to in the past, and who should study them now — a message that Waldo, the University of Washington scholar, summarizes as, “We are Western civilization, and you people over here — even if your forefathers were also reading Aristotle and Galen in the ninth century — you aren’t.”

Over the decades, however, scholarship has changed, many classicists say. The horrors of World War II inspired serious

study of Greco-Roman slavery. In the 1970s, an influx of female scholars brought new attention to the lives of women in the ancient world. More recently, classicists have studied immigration to ancient Athens and undertaken more so-called “reception studies” examining how classical texts have been used — for example, by the Britons who colonized India.

To some, these changes suggest that the current critique is overblown, a response to contemporary racial concerns rather than to anything happening now in the discipline itself. Although much criticism of the field’s history is valid, “they’re points that have been made for decades, and, for the most part, dealt with for decades,” says a U.K.-based scholar who requested anonymity to avoid online vitriol. “No serious classicist thinks that you should draw a line around the Greeks and Romans.”

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Classical historians  
today agree that the  
ancients had no concept  
of “whiteness” in our  
modern sense:  
Although ancient  
societies were  
hierarchically organized  
and sometimes  
oppressive, those  
hierarchies were not  
based on skin color.

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But the wider world’s understanding of classics hasn’t caught up to the reality in contemporary academia, and like so many aspects of American life, the debate over classics has become angry and politically polarized. Last winter, when *The New York Times Magazine* profiled Padilla Peralta and explored his critique of the discipline, conservative pundits reacted with outrage (“The moronic social-justice war on classics threatens our civilization,” the *New York Post* headlined one column), and Padilla Peralta received such alarming death threats that the University removed his email address from the classics department’s website.

“A lot of us are saying, ‘Look, all our scholarship since the 1970s has been moving in this direction of trying to reflect more accurately what’s

happening in the ancient world. Why don’t our departments and our hiring and the classes we teach reflect this?’” says Rebecca Futo Kennedy, an associate professor of classical studies, environmental studies, and women and gender studies at Denison University. “But when you put that out into the public, and you say, ‘This is who we actually are; this is who we’ve been for decades,’ all those people who have this vision of classics as supportive of elite, white, Christian Western civilization see that as an assault on the Euro-American identity of whiteness.”

**A**LTHOUGH SOME SCHOLARS believe that the discipline’s problematic history gives today’s classicists a unique anti-racist responsibility, not everyone agrees. “Academic subjects do not exist outside the *culture* in which they’re studied,” Mary Beard, the Cambridge University scholar who is perhaps the best-known living classicist, told *The New York Times Magazine* last spring. “So of course classics have a toxic history. Nuclear physics has

a toxic history. Anthropology has a toxic history. It's extremely important to look at it and face up to it, but classics wasn't responsible for fascism."

But such formulations oversimplify the nature of the challenge facing the field today, say Padilla Peralta and others: Just because contemporary classicists no longer cite Aristotle to justify slavery doesn't mean they have fully embraced the contributions of scholars of color. Accurate data on the profession's demographics are hard to come by, but classicists agree that their ranks are overwhelmingly white. In the past few years, two successive online message boards where classicists shared information about the difficult academic job market shut down after anonymous commenters repeatedly attacked fellow scholars, especially women and people of color. And when Padilla Peralta examined the articles published in three leading classics journals between 1997 and 2017, he found that more than 90 percent were by white authors.

That kind of imbalance hurts the field, he says. "The identities you inhabit have a very powerful effect on the kinds of questions you ask, or choose to ask, about the materials you study," Padilla Peralta says. "The most richly imagined fabrics of the past are those that involve the greatest number of people from as many different view- and vantage points as possible, and anything short of that is intellectually impoverished."

Historically, the discipline of classics has prided itself on its exclusivity: Classicists, masters of two complex dead languages and an array of difficult texts, often saw themselves as the most brilliant minds teaching the toughest material to the best students. But today many classicists view that reputation for exclusivity as a burden — even a threat to the field's continued survival.

Although classics once lay at the heart of the Western university curriculum, it is now a small field, even among the embattled disciplines of the humanities. A 2017 survey of four-year institutions, conducted by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, found an estimated 269 classical studies departments nationwide, with an average of seven faculty members and eight graduating majors apiece. By contrast, the same survey found an estimated 1,062 English departments, with an average of 23 faculty members and 31 majors, and 921 history departments, with an average of 17 faculty members and 26 majors.

Princeton's classics department, with 19 faculty members, is far larger than the national average but graduates about the same number of undergraduate majors — eight in 2021. Two years ago, in an effort to diversify the ranks of its graduate program, the department began offering a predoctoral year of funding to promising students who need extra time to prepare for advanced study. Four students have been admitted under the program, Princeton classics professor Joshua Billings says, and other universities have followed Princeton's lead and set up similar programs.

But a more recent initiative has been far more controversial. Last spring, the classics department announced that, in an effort to attract a larger and more diverse cadre of students, it would no longer require undergraduate concentrators to study Latin or Greek. Although the department is still offering

the same number of language classes, the move drew fire, with online critics arguing that eliminating the requirement represented either a retreat from rigor or a patronizing suggestion that students of color couldn't master difficult languages.

In fact, says Billings, the department's director of undergraduate studies, the change is a way of ensuring that talented students won't be discouraged from studying classics because they lack high school preparation in ancient languages. A 2017 study of foreign-language education, sponsored by the U.S. Defense Department, found that about 210,000 high school students were enrolled in Latin courses nationwide, compared with 7.3 million studying Spanish and 1.2 million taking French. Although the study did not parse its data by school sector, classicists say it is common knowledge that private schools are far likelier than public ones to offer Latin and Greek. For students who arrived at Princeton without a background in either language, the mandatory four semesters of language study, on top of the concentration's other requirements, were "really a barrier to our recruitment of students," Billings says.

But if eliminating language requirements is a controversial approach to modernizing the discipline, alternative reform strategies — sometimes promoted with rousing rhetoric about "burning down" classics to build it back better — also have their critics.

Perhaps the least radical suggestion amounts to rebranding: Replace the elitist label "classics" with a more neutral designation, such as "ancient Greco-Roman studies" or, ideally, "ancient Mediterranean studies," to reflect a more inclusive approach to the subject matter.

Padilla Peralta embraces this proposal — to a point. "I am for renaming because I think it's a good idea to be more honest in advertising," he says. But renaming "is usually understood as a way of heading off more comprehensive, and potentially much more intrusive, readjustments to the scope of departmental practice," he says. "It is for me important not to let that stand as lip service to transformation."

More radical is the suggestion that existing interdisciplinary classics departments should be eliminated entirely, with their faculty members redistributed to more specialized departments — literature, history, philosophy, archaeology. "There are many things worth studying that the Greeks and Romans have produced," says Walter Scheidel, a professor of classics and history at Stanford. "It's just not obvious that it should be configured the way it was set up 200 years ago, as a separate field that has its own very exclusionary requirements."

Such suggestions alarm classicists at institutions with less money and prestige, where a confluence of forces — from administrative cost-cutting to student demand for vocational preparation — is already squeezing humanities disciplines. Earlier this year, Howard University announced plans to disband its venerable classics department, the only one among the nation's historically Black colleges and universities.

"It can be grating for people at smaller universities to hear all this language of dismantling, because that's exactly what the higher-ups want to do. They'd love to dismantle us. They



**Classics professor  
Dan-el Padilla Peralta '06  
believes his field must  
be transformed to make  
it more inclusive in its  
content and practitioners.**



just want an excuse,” says James Kierstead, a senior lecturer in classics at New Zealand’s Victoria University of Wellington. “You can have that burn-it-down-build-it-up conversation at Princeton, but the burn-it-down conversation at Victoria University of Wellington just looks like smoldering ashes, and then they do more engineering.”

Other classicists want a different approach, a way of placing one of the oldest university disciplines at the center of contemporary conversations about the socially constructed nature of racial categories. A reconceptualized classics could give students a way of examining “how structures of inequality and oppression in the modern world have come into existence, and how they feed themselves, and simultaneously how long they’ve existed and yet how arbitrary they are,” says Dozier, of Vassar.

“The tendency to dominate other groups is something

that is one of the human dilemmas,” says Murray, of the University of Kentucky. “The reason why I was interested in studying the classics was because it’s another world, where other people have different solutions. The point is to look at the past as another window onto the human condition, instead of looking at the past as a place to justify current economic and political and ideological points of view.”

For Padilla Peralta, even that reconceptualization may not be enough to rescue classics from its entrenchment in systems of privilege — the socioeconomic privilege that enabled so many classicists to study ancient languages in the first place, and the Eurocentric intellectual privilege that adjudicates which kinds of inquiries count as legitimate modes of academic study, and which do not.

“How are you going to keep this knowledge practice alive in ways that are more inclusive, that are more dynamically open?” Padilla Peralta asks. “What would you have to do? What kinds of redistribution would have to take place?”

Padilla Peralta’s engagement with such issues stretches beyond the bounds of his discipline: In the summer of 2020, he co-authored an

open letter to Princeton’s administration calling for wholesale changes — to curriculum, hiring, training, and recruitment — aimed at making the University “for the first time in its history, an anti-racist institution.” The debate over classics, he suggests, implies another, deeper question: What role should extraordinarily wealthy universities like Princeton play in a radically unequal world?

“The fact that I had to latch onto this Greek and Roman business in order to get out of the ’hood — this is not something to be happy about,” Padilla Peralta says. “What it speaks to is the inherent precarity of the lives of those folks for whom these kinds of opportunities are never, ever going to materialize.” ♦

*Deborah Yaffe is a freelance writer based in Princeton Junction, New Jersey.*

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# GHOSTS OF PRINCETON

Some things are even scarier  
than your thesis

BY ELYSE GRAHAM '07

**P** RINCETON IS A GOOD SETTING FOR A GHOST STORY. After dark, the Gothic towers seem to scowl from their shadowy lancets. Dorm windows glow with eerie blue light: an LED phosphorescence as grim students of unhallowed arts huddle over their laptops. Laughter may chitter from any direction; groups of mysterious figures may pull students from their rooms in the dead of night to initiate them into dark orders like the Princeton Society of Physics Students.

This correspondent has seen — while stepping, in response to an eerie impulse, from Witherspoon Hall at 3 in the morning — silver fog hanging upon the air in thick ropes and coils, like foam battered out of the limit between this world and another, and a vaguely humanoid shape moving within it. (And then the shape resolved itself into a student, who turned to look at the silver coils around him and said, “What is this, freaking Narnia?”)

Over the years, University students and staff have reported encounters with a multitude of wraiths, phantoms, and specters. Our purpose here is to describe the ghosts who have appeared on the record on campus and in town — the traitor, the Hessian, the star athlete, the old banker, and others — so that readers may enjoy a thrilling tale in a chilling month. From ghoulies and ghosties and long-legged beasts and things that go bump in the night, deliver us!

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**DID ANYONE DOUBT THAT AARON BURR JR. 1772** would be one of the ghosts of campus? The former vice president is buried in Princeton Cemetery alongside his father, Aaron Burr Sr., who also happens to be a campus ghost. Reports from thrill-seekers through the years, noted in *Daily Princetonian* stories and tourism books like *Haunted New Jersey*, claim that these famous Princetonians continue to wander among the living.

Burr Sr., who was the University’s second president, keeps mostly to the site of his old office, “haunting Nassau Hall and checking up on the progress of his beloved college,” *Haunted New Jersey* says. Apparently nobody sees him these days, though perhaps an administrator, working in Nassau Hall after hours, has felt a sudden gust of inspiration to word an email with the furious composure that makes an administrative missive truly frightening: as calm and chilly as the grave.

His son, by contrast, is restless. People have claimed to meet Aaron Burr Jr. on campus, in the local graveyard, and as far afield as New York City. (Even the dead need to leave Princeton for the city once in a while.)

He has become a *genius loci*, a figure who represents a sense of place. In 1892, a student wrote in the *Nassau Literary Review* that, while tramping along McCosh Walk “during the moony time of evening,” he ran into the ghost of Aaron Burr, who explained that the mood of the campus had summoned him from other realms: “What is your proper abode?” the student asked. “Are you, when at home, in the realms of the blessed, or are you er — er —?” “Yes; I am the latter. I am always in Princeton for a while before examinations and during them. You know what this is during that period.” We didn’t need otherworldly confirmation of it, but yes, exam period is hell.

Inevitably, Princetonians built Burr Jr., the most famous campus ghost, into their rites of passage. In 1940, the *Princetonian* documented an old University tradition, a nighttime trip to his grave: “The first rainy night of the fall term, a group of sophomores would herd a bunch of first-classmen down Witherspoon Street to see Aaron Burr arise from the goodly company of great Americans which surrounds him and flit about the graveyard.”

Probably the freshmen were visited that night only by a bad cough, but the sophomores, standing out of the rain to watch their unhappy underlings, no doubt had a great time.

When he visits the city, the shade of Aaron Burr Jr. reportedly frequents One if by Land, Two if by Sea, a restaurant in the West Village that used to be his stables. He no doubt spends his time at one of the restaurant’s tables working on a script for Broadway about himself and the Haitian Revolution, a musical to rival his rival’s famous musical.

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**NOT EVERY FAMOUS PRINCETONIAN** waits to shake off the chains of mortal existence before returning to campus as a ghost. Over the decades, students have reported, from time to time, seeing the ghost of Bill Bradley ’65, the senator and basketball star, in Dillon Gymnasium. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, the *Princetonian* published an annual “Princeton Dictionary” that referenced Bradley’s ghost each year under the definition of “Dillon”: “Old-timers ... claim the ghost of Bill Bradley still haunts the hardwood after dark.” This apparition is all the more impressive given that Bradley is still very much alive.

Ricardo Barros





**Professor Andrew Moravcsik and former SPIA dean Anne-Marie Slaughter '80 live in the Victorian house said to be shared with the ghost of "Old Mr. Seeger." He's been a quiet housemate, except for some occasional tapping.**

A ghost is a metaphor until it's not. According to the *Prince*, after Bradley graduated, Gary Walters '67, a player on the University's basketball team who later became Princeton's athletic director, remarked that "Princeton would be the only six-man basketball team in the league: five players and a ghost." Bradley's old teammates looked to pass to a player who wasn't there; when a great play came together, fans told each other, "Now they are playing Bradley-ball!" and saw among the hustling bodies on the court the departed player's spirit.

By now, however, Bradley's ghost has long since transformed from an immediate memory of greatness into something richer and stranger: a sudden visitation of unfamiliar greatness, a sensation without muscle memory to explain it,

an extra chill on a chilly court or an extra squeak of sneakers on polished wood. Did you, O young Princetonian, really make that sweeping hook shot in the lunchtime pickup game, or did you have a spectral assist? Bradley was not available to comment, but we hope he will not find this fate unwelcome. How many of us know in advance where we will spend the afterlife? Is there a better place to spend it than Princeton?

#### THEN AGAIN, THE CAMPUS WAS NOT

always a place of pastoral tranquility, as Princeton's ghosts remind us. Consider the Hessian, who in life was one of the German mercenary soldiers who fought with the British against Washington's forces at the Battle of Princeton. He died young, as those who have seen him attest: He looks like a boy in a man's uniform, a slight figure in a huge burlap coat. Though he died a stranger to the people of Princeton, the town's inhabitants have passed down a story about his death: Following Washington's surprise attack across the Delaware on Christmas Day, the Hessian fled with his contingent from Trenton to Princeton, where — after a days-long fight which, in the words of one witness, left "the college and church [in] heaps of ruins" — he finally died while seeking shelter in a house on Edgehill Street, a site that he has haunted ever since.

In 1939, the Rev. Arthur Kinsolving tried to exorcize the ghost using an old Church of England prayer book, but the ritual had no effect. The homeowners decided they didn't mind. Margery Cuyler, who inhabited the house together with her husband, the Princeton trustee Lewis B. Cuyler, called the Hessian "an amiable ghost — he appears

each Christmas Eve at midnight, smiles, and quietly goes up the chimney."

As the Hessian's example suggests, members of the University cannot protect themselves against the supernatural simply by living off-campus. For almost a century, graduate students keeping quarters in an old Victorian mansion on Prospect Avenue were shaken awake at night by an eerie tapping. They were hearing the fret saw of Old Mr. Seeger, the mansion's resident ghost, the newspaper *Town Topics* cheerfully explained in 1975. Seeger, a banker who once lived in the mansion and did carpentry to relax, apparently is using the afterlife to catch up on his hobbies. He also manifested occasionally to spook his housemates, the newspaper said:

"It's after midnight when he appears, a tall, gaunt shadow against the wall of the hallway. He doesn't stay long, and if you look again, he has probably vanished."

Seeger's story is actually quite sad. His wife died in childbirth during the Civil War, and he left her room untouched, with visitors forbidden to enter it, for the rest of his life. He supposedly built the house himself, which is a tribute to his carpentry skills; but after his wife died, he plunged into depression and neglected the home's upkeep. Locals gossiped that he had let the house go so much that it looked

like a haunted house, says Andrew Moravcsik, a Princeton politics professor who, together with professor emerita Anne-Marie Slaughter '80, CEO of the New America think tank and former dean of the School of Public and International Affairs, lives in the Seeger house today.

Elizabeth Menzies, who worked as a photographer for the University for almost 50 years, grew up in the Seeger house and recalled hearing stories about "the ghost of Old Mr. Seeger," though she never saw him. Roy Welch, a music professor who lived in the house after Menzies, told dramatic tales about his own encounters with the ghost: how he would see a tall shadow in the doorway as he worked in his study late at night; how he heard phantom footsteps on the stairs. The tap-tap-tap of the fret saw has only bothered graduate students who once rented the third floor.

One story had it that Seeger never took his wife's body out of her room, which happens to be the room where strange noises bothered the renters. Perhaps that is why he never allowed visitors to enter; and perhaps, as Moravcsik recalls hearing from a person he can't remember, the ghost who haunts the third floor is actually *Mrs.* Seeger. Does the haunted house on Prospect Avenue hold two ghosts rather than one? Was that tapping noise really a wretched soul trying to tap out a message from some hiding place where she hasn't yet been found?

Moravcsik says his family has never seen or heard any ghosts. "You sometimes hear the tapping of four-footed beasts running in the attic above the third floor, you sometimes hear rattling, but other than that, nothing."

Have they ever looked up and seen a gaunt shadow in the doorway?

"I have *often* seen a gaunt shadow in the doorway: my husband,"

Slaughter says.


"I am 6-foot-5," Moravcsik says, "and gaunt."

No word on whether the house's extra occupants have ever pitched in on the rent. Given the horrors of graduate school — long nights in lonely laboratories; the creation of monstrous progeny in the form of one's thesis; ancient sins of the department still demanding resolution after all those involved have left, like a beating heart under the floorboards — an undead roommate is probably nothing special to complain about. ♦

*Stony Brook University professor Elyse Graham '07 is the author of You Talkin' to Me?: The Unruly History of New York English.*



# PRINCETONIANS



**RESTORING HISTORY:** Amanda Ramcharan '11 uses her Ph.D. in agricultural and biological engineering to improve farming through technology. With her husband, Mitchell Goist, she's also restoring an 1870 home in St. Louis. The 7,000-square-foot Feuerbacher Mansion was built by an early beer baron who used the Mississippi River's fresh water and the naturally cool caves nearby to brew German-style lager. The couple is preserving history and, by restoring an old building rather than replacing it entirely, reducing the environmental impact of construction, Ramcharan says: "What better gift to the planet and future generations?" ♦

**READ MORE** at [paw.princeton.edu](http://paw.princeton.edu)





Cato Laurencin '80

CATO LAURENCIN '80

## HONORING A PIONEER

*A regenerative engineering innovator has ambitions for the future*

Cato Laurencin '80 is accustomed to breaking barriers.

The engineer-physician-scientist is the founder of the field of regenerative engineering, which focuses on the regeneration of complex tissues and organ systems. He has been a pioneer in engineering bone, ligament, and cartilage regeneration and repair, and is known for innovations like the Laurencin-Cooper ligament, which is able to regenerate the ACL — the anterior cruciate ligament — in the knee.

These accomplishments and others led the NAACP, in July, to award Laurencin the prestigious Spingarn Medal, the highest honor the organization bestows upon a living African American.

"I felt very honored and also very, very blessed," Laurencin says. "I've known of the Spingarn Medal since growing up as a child in Philadelphia,

and I know the significance of it."

Previous honorees include Martin Luther King Jr., Maya Angelou, Jackie Robinson, and Oprah Winfrey. The award has been given to only four other scientists in its 107-year history, and Laurencin is the first engineer to be honored.

"It really does recognize my work in comparison across many, many different fields," he says. "One of the reasons why the award is there is for the person to be a role model for others in terms of whatever

**"I hope that I can continue my work being a role model for people who are engineers, scientists, clinicians — especially young people who are aspiring to work in these areas."**

— Cato Laurencin '80

field that they're in, and I hope that I can continue my work being a role model for people who are engineers, scientists, clinicians — especially young people who are aspiring to work in these areas."

Laurencin says he decided to apply to Princeton's engineering school after attending a dinner the school hosted in Philadelphia, and he subsequently decided to study chemical engineering. He went on to receive his M.D. from Harvard and his Ph.D. from MIT.

He is currently the Van Dusen Distinguished Endowed Professor at the University of Connecticut, and the CEO of the university's Connecticut Convergence Institute for Translation in Regenerative Engineering.

Laurencin is no stranger to an awards-ceremony stage. Earlier this year, he became the first surgeon to be elected to all four national academies: the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, Medicine, and Inventors. He has received the highest awards from the National Academies of Medicine and Engineering, as well as the Philip Hauge Abelson Prize (given by the American Association for the Advancement of Science), the Hoover Medal (awarded by a board representing five U.S. engineering organizations) and the National Medal of Technology and Innovation, which was awarded by President Barack Obama. He was also named one of the 100 Engineers of the Modern Era by the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

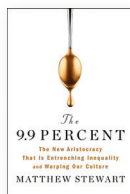
Laurencin says he feels good about his mark on the world. "When you start a new field and declare a new field, you have a lot of people looking left and right and saying, 'Really?'" he says. "It's exciting to see it happen, but it's also exciting to see the young people who are now entering the field and studying the areas and embracing the technologies that we're talking about."

He's not resting on his laurels anytime soon, though. His team's goal is to regenerate an entire limb by 2030, and he teased "some exciting work and exciting results" in limb regeneration that will be reported in the next year. His autobiography, *Success is What You Leave Behind*, will be published by Elsevier's Academic Press in November. ♦ By Anna Mazarakis '16



READING ROOM: MATTHEW STEWART '85

# CALLING OUT THE 9.9 PERCENT



An Oxford-trained philosopher and historian and a former management consultant, Matthew Stewart '85 argues that when it comes to addressing

inequality, we shouldn't just focus on the top 1 — or 0.1 — percent. He takes aim in his latest book at the upper reaches of the middle class, with its fixations on pricey real estate, fitness regimens, overscheduled children, elite education, and virtue signaling. In *The 9.9 Percent: The New Aristocracy That Is Entrenching Inequality and Warping Our Culture* (Simon & Schuster), Stewart suggests that economic injustice has corrupted American politics and civic life and imperiled democracy. He urges the privileged to shed their illusions and advocate for a more equal society. Stewart discussed his ideas in a recent Zoom interview.

## What inspired the book?

Two fundamental sources: I was looking at the philosophical origins of the struggle over slavery, and I began to see the issue as driven much more by economic conflict than I think is widely understood. I saw economic conflict leading to class stratification and dynamics that just seemed so resonant with now. The other factor was the experience of being a member of the upper-middle-class meritocracy with kids, and the kind of madness that that involves.

## What's your basic argument?

Rising inequality has corrupted some of the essential ideals of America's middle class. It has taken what I think is a sensible, good, and, in some ways, revolutionary project to build a society that's fair, open, transparent, where everyone's judged on merit, and turned it into something that's more like its opposite.

## Why focus on the 9.9 percent?

A lot of us are sliding in and out of a middle group that is much more complicit than we're willing to



Matthew Stewart '85

## "Rising inequality has corrupted some of the essential ideals of America's middle class."

acknowledge. We talk about Jeff Bezos ['86] and Elon Musk all day long. But there is this group below that, which even if it isn't increasing its relative share [of the economic pie], it's holding on. That makes it very distinct from the bottom 90 percent that is falling behind.

## How do you distinguish between meritocracy and what you call "the merit myth?"

Meritocracy means that we allocate power in our society through open, transparent, and rational standards. The merit myth is, in essence, that everybody in our society gets what they deserve according to their individual merit, and our economic product is nothing but the sum of a bunch of individual merits. And that is wrong, it's false, and it's dangerous.

## You see rising inequality at the root of most, if not all, of our social ills.

I appreciate the world is complex. But I get frustrated with some of the

commentary on this issue, because there's a tendency to personalize our conflicts, to say, "The real problem is that the upper-middle class have become a bunch of latte sippers, and they no longer feel comfortable in the presence of the hicks from the backwoods. And if we would just sit down and learn to talk, everything would resolve itself." And I find that infuriating, because rising economic inequality is the story here, and all [the talk] about blue and red, and latte sipping, beer swilling, and so on — those are mostly after-effects.

## What might impel the 9.9 percent to renounce their privileges?

Look around: You can see that American society has produced a certain amount of wealth and well-being, but it's got some really big problems. We had a coup attempt this year. We've had a significant amount of conflict. We've had an inability to deal as effectively as we should have with a pandemic. You will not be able to live in a world that can deal with those issues unless you address this fundamental issue of economic inequality.

The second incentive is, do the math about your kids: Their chances of achieving meritocratic success are not good, and they're going down all the time — and that's a direct function of rising economic inequality. You can spend your prime adult years racing to yoga-for-tots classes and Japanese language tutoring in order to game the odds ever so slightly in your child's favor. Or you can try to work for a fairer society where there are other ways of having a happy life.

## Has your research made you rethink anything about your own life?

Mainly, it's made me go easier on the kids. I keep reminding them — and myself — that there are other forms of life out there. Maybe you don't have to be a credential-hoarding professional to be happy. I like to think that this project has made me (and the kids) think more frequently about the fundamentals, like the purpose of an education and the basis of a good society. ♦ Interview conducted and condensed by Julia M. Klein

Q&A: JENNIFER SENIOR '91

# RECENT HISTORY

*Twenty years after 9/11, a writer digs into the aftermath of one alum's death*

In August, *The Atlantic* published a story by Jennifer Senior '91 that chronicles what happened in the years after the death of Robert McIlvaine '97, one of 14 alumni killed in the 9/11 attacks. Bobby, as his family called him, roomed with Senior's brother, Ken Senior '97, at Princeton and, after college, in New York. In the two decades since he died, Senior watched as his mother, Helen; father, Bob Sr.; and brother, Jeff, dealt with their grief in very different ways. Soon after the tragedy, a conflict cropped up between Bobby's family and his girlfriend Jen — to whom he intended to propose marriage — over Bobby's latest diary. Helen wanted to at least see it, as a last glimpse of her son's thoughts; Jen, feeling bereft, refused. And so, for years, they didn't speak. Senior's story focuses on the fate of that diary and of the people who loved Bobby. Senior spoke with PAW about the story.

## How long have you been planning this story?

I had many conversations with Helen about that diary for years afterwards. She had talked about it at length with me, my mother, and my father. I thought — there's got to be another side to this story. It has to be more complicated. I had met [Jen], and she's really sweet. In April, I woke up at 2 in the morning and realized I had a plot [for a story]. I thought, "Wait, wait — this has to open with the diary. And if I'm really, really lucky it will *end* with the diary." I was influenced by the podcast "Heavyweight," which goes back into people's unresolved conflicts. I thought that this piece would be a written version of that show, if all goes perfectly.

## Did you set out to get the diary from the beginning?

I wrote to [Jen] early on. I didn't say I wanted to see the diary right off — I didn't



Jennifer Senior '91

know if she had it. I didn't know if she'd want to talk to me. I simply wanted to hear what was running through her head. I thought the McIlvaines might want to know. She wrote me a warm, gracious note back. I told her the McIlvaines have some papers and materials and that I might want to make this story a piece of literary resurrection. And she said, "I've got some of those papers."



Princeton's 9/11 Memorial Garden honors alumni who died in the attacks.

## You'd known the McIlvaines for decades. Was it hard to be objective about their perspective?

I never thought in any conscious way that because Jen walked off with the diary she must be evil. It struck me as immature and a little clueless; how could she not understand that a mother would be desperate for that kind of stuff? But the second I thought about trying to get the diary back, I realized there was no way she didn't have a set of perfectly rational, coherent reasons.

## What was it like being part of the story?

I didn't know I'd be part of the story! I'm an old-school journalist who gets out of the way. If I ever make an appearance in a story, it's two-thirds of the way down, in one paragraph, and then I get out. This was weird. It felt a little unseemly, but it seemed organic. The family wasn't going to ask [Jen] for the diary directly. I was an outsider from *The Atlantic*. It wasn't as painful for me to read it.

## Bob Sr. has fringe views about what really happened on 9/11, but you write about him with such empathy.

It helps to really love someone you're writing about. It would have been weird to have written about him in any other way. It wasn't that hard, and it was an interesting journalism lesson: If you're not writing about someone in power or



someone who did something awful — like a serial killer — why not treat them as someone you really care about?

**You posted on Twitter a recent photo of Bobby's brother, Jeff, and Jen, saying it was the first time they'd seen each other in 20 years. How did that happen?**

I took the picture. We went on *Good Morning America*, and I told the producers I didn't want [Jeff and Jen] meeting the day of [the appearance]. Too Maury Povich. I took them out the night before for dinner. It went beautifully. There was never any tension between those two. They had a real, almost sibling-like bond, and they resumed it almost immediately. They were delighted to see each other and felt that they had been there for each other in a hellish time. I loved watching them.

**When I read the story, I thought that the process of participating in it might have helped the family and Jen deal with what happened. Do you think that's true?**

Knowing the contents of that diary really helped Helen. [When he died], Bobby was still her young son. He was on his own, making good money, dressing in a suit, but he was still living with my brother, which still looked a little like college. Then you look at the diary and you realize he was already thinking about making his own family — he would get his own apartment, move in with Jen, have kids. [Through the diary], Helen got to live a minor version of what it would have looked like. What was hard was that researching and doing the story itself, all the interviews, stirred up so much stuff for her. It was hard for Helen to think for so long and so deeply about this time. We talked for hours on tape, and she had to go through old boxes of photos. That made both of us feel bad and good. But Helen and Jen were very generous with each other. They were genuinely contrite. It was nice to think that a piece of unresolved conflict was clarified. ♦ *Interview conducted and condensed by Katherine Hobson '94*

# EXCERPT

# What Bobby McIlvaine Left Behind

*This excerpt was published in the September issue of The Atlantic.*

On my brother's first day of college, he was assigned to a seven-person suite, and because he arrived last, Bobby became his roommate. My brother often thinks about what a small miracle that was: If he'd arrived just 30 minutes earlier, the suite would have been an isomer of itself, with the kids all shuffled in an entirely different configuration. But thanks to a happy accident of timing, my brother got to spend his nights chattering away with this singular kid, an old soul with a snappity-popping mind.

Eight years later, almost to the day, a different accident of timing would take Bobby's life. He and my brother were still roommates, but this time in a two-bedroom apartment in Manhattan, trying to navigate young adulthood.

Back when Bobby was still alive, I would occasionally see the McIlvaines. They struck me as maybe the nicest people on the planet. Helen taught reading to kids who needed extra help with it, mainly in a trailer in the parking lot of a Catholic high school. Bob Sr. was a teacher who specialized in working with troubled adolescents; for a decade, he'd also owned a bar. Jeff, Bobby's younger brother, was just a kid in those days, but he was always unreasonably good-natured when he turned up.

And Bobby: My God. The boy was incandescent. When he smiled it looked for all the world like he'd swallowed the moon.

Then, on the morning of September 11, 2001, Bobby headed off to a conference at Windows on the World, a restaurant in a building to which he

seldom had reason to go, for a media-relations job at Merrill Lynch he'd had only since July. My brother waited and waited. Bobby never came home. From that point forward, I watched as everyone in the blast radius of this horrible event tried to make sense of it, tried to cope.

Early on, the McIlvaines spoke to a therapist who warned them that each member of their family would grieve differently. Imagine that you're all at the top of a mountain, she told them, but you all have broken bones, so you can't help each other. You each have to

find your own way down.

It was a helpful metaphor, one that may have saved the McIlvaines' marriage. But when I mentioned it to Roxane Cohen Silver, a psychology

professor at UC Irvine who's spent a lifetime studying the effects of sudden, traumatic loss, she immediately spotted a problem with it: "That suggests everyone will make it down," she told me. "Some people never get down the mountain at all."

This is one of the many things you learn about mourning when examining it at close range: It's idiosyncratic, anarchic, polychrome. A lot of the theories you read about grief are great, beautiful even, but they have a way of erasing individual experiences. Every mourner has a very different story to tell.

*By Jennifer Senior '91*

*This article was originally published on the website TheAtlantic.com and is republished here with The Atlantic's permission. To read the entire article, go to [bit.ly/atlantic-Bobby-McIlvaine](http://bit.ly/atlantic-Bobby-McIlvaine)*

# CLASS NOTES

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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](http://paw.princeton.edu/class-notes)

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# MEMORIALS

**PAW posts a list of recent alumni deaths at [paw.princeton.edu](http://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 1945



### Charles C. Allen Jr. '45

Charlie graduated from St. Louis Country Day School.

At Princeton he rowed crew, worked on *The Daily Princetonian*, and was a member of Colonial Club. During the war he was a forward observer in the field artillery, 33rd Army Division, in Luzon and Japan. He saw combat in the Philippines and held the rank of captain. He graduated *magna cum laude* from Princeton, earned a law degree from Washington University and joined the St. Louis firm of Lewis & Rice, where he became managing partner.

He was president of the St. Louis Higher Education Center, a trustee of Princeton, president of the board of St. Louis Country Day School, director of St. Luke's Hospital and Seabury Western Seminary, treasurer of the Episcopal Archdiocese of Missouri, president of the board of Grace Hill House, senior warden on the vestry of the Church of St. Michael and St. George, and director of the Mallinckrodt Foundation, Planned Parenthood of St. Louis, and The Charless Home.

Charlie died Dec. 20, 2019, in his sleep. He was predeceased by his sister, Mary Jane Weissenberger. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Cynthia; his son, Charles; three grandchildren; three step-grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter. Relatives who have graduated from Princeton are Thad T. Hutcheson Jr. '63, Houghton B. Hutcheson '68, Erich G. Weissenberger Jr. '68, and Jeanne E.W. Wolschina '93.



### Robert H. Caldwell '45

Bob graduated from McCallie School, receiving the Grayson Medal for best all-around student and the Stephens Medal for best athlete.

At Princeton he played varsity tennis, was in the Right Wing and 21 clubs, was class secretary and a member of Cap and Gown, and graduated *cum laude* from the School of Public and International Affairs. During the war he

was battery executive (1st lieutenant) in the field artillery, 3rd Army, serving in Würzburg, Germany.

For 27 years Bob was executive vice president of Modern Maid, a producer of built-in gas and electric ranges. He later was president and board chairman of Professional Golf Co. in Chattanooga, maker of First Flight and Arnold Palmer golf clubs, as well as a stockbroker and investment manager.

He was chairman of Chattanooga United Way's Alexis De Tocqueville Society, founding chairman of Chattanooga's United Way Leadership Club, and a recipient of the De Tocqueville Society's "National Member de Extraordinaire" Fleur-de-Lis Award. He was a member of the Young Presidents and the World Presidents organizations.

Bob died Sept. 21, 2020. He was predeceased by his wife, Sherry; his son, Bobby '72; son-in-law Jay; and his grandson, Mack. He is survived by daughters Betsy Dalglish, Chris Zimmerman, and Sherry West; and grandchildren William, Caldwell, Elizabeth, Russell, Betsy, and Mary.

## THE CLASS OF 1947



### Stanley Abensur '47

Stanley was born March 19, 1926, in Tangier, Morocco. In 1940, he moved to New York with his parents and two brothers. After attending the

Peddie School, he was accepted to Yale, MIT, and Princeton, ultimately deciding to attend Princeton.

Stanley studied liberal arts and electrical engineering. He spent his evenings working at WPRU and looking at the night sky, utilizing a key to the observatory provided by one of his professors.

Stanley graduated in three years through the University's wartime accelerated program in June 1946, though he always maintained his affiliation with the Class of 1947. Following graduation he returned to Morocco to work in the family business, the Pariente Bank of Tangier.

In June 1951 Stanley married Jeanne Taourel

in Paris. They were married for 68 years and had three children, Edith, Philip, and Aline, and three granddaughters, Déborah, Raphaëlle, and Ariane, who were Philip's daughters.

In 1956 Stanley moved the Pariente Bank from Tangier to Geneva, and the Abensur family settled in Switzerland. He retired in 1991.

Stanley was an active member of the Alumni Association. He attended class meetings and participated in Alumni College travel programs to South Africa, Australia, Peru, and the UK.

Stanley died Nov. 7, 2019, in Geneva. He had a long and fulfilling life and will be missed considerably by his family.

## THE CLASS OF 1949

### Joseph P. Barbieri '49

Joe died March 26, 2021, just 20 days after his 98th birthday.

Joe joined the Class of 1949 after three years in the Army Air Corps; he was a bombardier who was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. He left Princeton and eventually graduated from the University of Miami, having played football for both institutions. He held a variety of jobs, including a stint with the New York Police Department, before starting his career in advertising sales. He worked for Hearst Magazines and then for Curtis Publishing Co. He joined *Stagebill*, the Chicago-based publisher of theater and arts programs, and retired as its president when it was sold to *Playbill*, a larger New York publisher of similar programs.

In retirement, Joe and his wife, Maria, traveled extensively, especially to their home in Brazil. He loved golf and fishing, and despite his later years in Chicago he was a lifelong fan of the New York Yankees.

Joe will be remembered fondly by his extended family and his many friends. He was predeceased by his wife, Maria Luiza de Sa; and is survived by son Joseph P. Barbieri Jr.; two sisters; and four nieces and nephews.

## THE CLASS OF 1951



### Robert Judson Camp II '51

A native of Florida — born in Tampa, Bob was educated at Porter Military Academy, Woodberry Forest, Princeton, and the University of Virginia Medical School.

At Princeton he was a chemistry major and chair of the Chemistry Club. He joined Dial Lodge, roomed with Gerry Andlinger, Marc Seldin, Charlie Wulfin, and Dick Wythes, and worked some summers as an orderly in a morgue. After medical school Bob served as an Air Force flight surgeon, then went back to the University of Virginia for a residency in otolaryngology before returning to the Miami



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area to begin a 27-year career as an ear, nose, and throat specialist.

In addition to a private practice in Coral Gables, he was on the staff of several hospitals, including ENT chief at Miami Variety Children's Hospital and clinical professor at Jackson Memorial. Bob was a member of countless medical and *pro bono* organizations, and his many hobbies included sports cars, boating, skin diving, and Miami's professional football and baseball teams. He and his wife, Sylvia, moved to Jupiter, Fla., upon retirement.

Bob died May 21, 2021, leaving his wife, twin daughters, and a son.



**Raymond Hooper Close**

'51 \*64 Raised in Beirut, where his father was dean of American University and where he became totally fluent in Arabic, Ray graduated

from Deerfield and majored in history at Princeton to prepare as a member of the fourth generation of his family to serve in the Middle East as missionaries, teachers, diplomats, and businessmen.

At Princeton Ray was a member of Cap and Gown, played on our national co-champion lacrosse team, and roomed with Dave Van Dusen, John Schoeffler, and Len Drorbaugh. Upon graduation he married his college sweetheart, Martha Weir, and joined the secretive operations division of the CIA. Masquerading as a Foreign Service officer, he served for 26 years in Lebanon, Egypt, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia. When stationed in Jeddah, Ray was the agency's top Middle Eastern officer. His career adventures prompted the former head of operations to describe Ray as a "legend in the CIA."

Upon leaving the CIA, Ray was a consultant to corporations and governments working from Jeddah, Virginia, and his final home in Princeton, where he also spent much time rooting for the University's football, basketball, and lacrosse teams and advising faculty and students.

Ray died Nov. 1, 2019, in Princeton, leaving two sons as survivors.



**Walter Bernhard**

**Kissinger '51** Walter died May 3, 2020, in San Rafael, Calif., after a long career as a successful businessman, an enlightened and generous

philanthropist, and an outspoken advocate of corporate responsibility.

Emigrating with his family from Germany in 1938, Walter graduated from New York's George Washington High School and served in the Army for four years before joining the Class of 1951. He was active in Whig-Clio and a member of Terrace Club, and majored in the

SPIA. He earned an MBA at Harvard Business School before embarking on a business career that took him to the Allen Group, a Long Island-based conglomerate, which he served as CEO for 18 years. A longtime director of the Long Island United Way, upon retirement as CEO he devoted himself to regional economic development, promoting ethical business practices, and supporting a number of *pro bono* organizations and good causes.

He enjoyed adventurous recreations such as scuba diving, riding motorcycles, piloting gliders, and breeding and riding Arabian horses.

Predeceased by his wife, Genie, in 2014, Walter is survived by three sons, William Kissinger '82, Thomas Kissinger '84, and John Kissinger '89, daughter Dana Kissinger-Matray; and his brother, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.



**Tician N. Papachristou '51**

Tician was born Jan. 24, 1928, in Athens to Nicholas and Charlotte Krause Papachristou. A graduate of the Athens Gymnasium, he lived in Greece

during the German occupation and the civil wars. Determined to go to college in the U.S., he arrived in 1947. At Princeton he majored in architecture, roomed with Bob Bloom and Herb Strauss, and was active in Prospect Club, Theatre Intime, and German Club. He graduated *summa cum laude* with election to Phi Beta Kappa.

Tician and Judith Reisher were married in 1951. Two years later he earned an MFA in architecture from Princeton. He practiced architecture in Colorado and then in New York, where he became one of four partners of Marcel Breuer.

Tician designed buildings in the U.S., Colombia, Bahrain, Syria, China, and Greece. He became a U.S. citizen and was one of the founders and the first national president of Architects for Social Responsibility.

Tician died June 18, 2018, in Sheffield, Mass. At the time of his death he was survived by his wife, Judith; their sons Alexander '79 and Nicholas; and seven grandchildren.

**THE CLASS OF 1952**



**John L. Gray '52**

John graduated from Deerfield. At Princeton he majored in electrical engineering and joined Dial. A radio ham, he was in the Institute of Radio

Engineers and roomed with Allen West and Don Jelliffe.

He did active duty in the Army Signal Corps and for a time served in KMAG, the Korean Military Advisory Group for the 102nd Signal Battalion. Having worked in a student program at Westinghouse before the Army, he returned to the company's communications division. He

left Westinghouse to join CGS (later TRAK) in Stamford, Conn., as manager of the magnetic component department. His next move was to start a marine electronics company called Au-Tenna Systems Co. (self-tuning marine antennas). Finally he turned part time to managing a family cattle and real-estate business until retiring.

Living in New Canaan, John served as a volunteer at the United Way, the YMCA, the Board of Tax Review, Safety Communications, and capital projects for the town. He and his wife, Nan, later moved to Harbor Springs, Mich., to join their daughter Ann. John died there Sept. 15, 2019. He is survived by Nan, Ann, son Christian, and daughter Sharon. To them the class offers good wishes and thanks to John for his Army service for our country.



**Peter Van Dyke Gulick '52**

Pete joined us from Western Reserve Academy to major in history and join Cannon. He played football and wrestled, was editor of *Tiger Triumph*,

and joined the Cleveland Club and the Pre-Law Society. His roommates were Don Edwards and George Gillespie.

He went on to Stanford Law, then at the University of Washington finished his law degree in 1956. Pete practiced law at Foster, Pepper & Riviera, became a partner, then turned to establish his own practice from 1979 until retiring.

Away from the office, Pete was busy in volunteer work with the Boy Scouts, the Lake Heights Community Club (as president), the Queen City Yacht Club, and the International Power Boat Association. He practiced law *pro bono* for people in need.

Pete died April 24, 2021, leaving his former wife, Kathryn, and their children, Chris, Sarah, and Scott. To them the class offers its condolences.



**James Ben Laughlin '52**

Jim's father, Ledlie, was a member of the Class of 1912. Jim graduated from Deerfield in 1946. He spent the following year, before joining us, by

studying at Spartan University of Aeronautics in Tulsa, becoming an aircraft mechanic and flight instructor. After joining Charter and deciding to major in English, he left to join the Army and worked at an ordnance depot in Tokyo. Upon discharge from the military he returned to complete his studies and graduate with the class.

In 1954 Jim joined the Gallup Poll as director of field personnel, then became Princeton's assistant dean of students until 1969. He next became a real-estate broker in Princeton, retiring in 1983. He was an



enthusiastic full-time volunteer at Princeton's Blairstown Center for inner-city children. He and his wife, Julia, were delighted longtime owners of a place in Hope Town, Abaco, Bahamas, and he served as a commodore of the Hope Town Sailing Club.

Jim died Feb. 28, 2021, leaving Julia and their children, Ophelia '81 and James, to whom the class sends its best with appreciation of Jim's service to Princeton and to our country.



#### Thomas B. Leary '52

Tom came to us from Newark Academy to study economics and join Colonial Club. He was on the class memorial insurance committee, worked at the *Prince*, and joined the Catholic Club. His roommates were Mike Hogan and Sam Van Culin.

He went on to Naval OCS at Newport and to serve at the Naval Air Station in San Diego. He was deployed to the Western Pacific on the USS *Essex*, then the USS *Philippine Sea*. He was released from service in time to enter Harvard Law School in 1955. He graduated with high honors and commenced a career in the law that lasted 50 years, including stints at White & Case in New York and Hogan Lovells in Washington, D.C., and work as assistant general counsel for General Motors, and in 1999 he was appointed to a Republican position on the FTC.

Tom died May 21, 2021. He is survived by his wife, Stephanie; and their children, Thomas, David, and Alison. To them the class sends good wishes and appreciation of Tom's fine service to our nation



#### Ronald H. Wideman '52

Ron graduated from The Hill School. At Princeton he studied psychology, joined the Republican Club, and ate at Charter. He roomed with Bob Bolton. Ron had a career in wealth management at UBS, Kidder, Peabody & Co., and Paine Webber, where he was a senior vice president/investments.

When off duty he traveled widely with his late wife, Joan, playing golf and fishing. At home he doted on his favorite dogs.

Ron died Sept. 21, 2020, at his home in Ponte Vedra, Fla. He is survived by sons Ronald Jr. and Bruce. To them the class sends good wishes and appreciation of their father's naval service for our country.

#### THE CLASS OF 1953

##### Joseph Wilcox Jenkins Cooper '53

Jay was born in Baltimore, Md., and attended the Gilman School before coming to Princeton. He majored in history and wrote his thesis on Chiang Kai-shek. He was a member of Cap and Gown and sang in the Varsity Glee Club.



After graduation Jay served two years as a lieutenant in the Army and then became a member of the inaugural MBA class at the University of Virginia. He worked for almost 50 years as a sell-side research analyst at various firms and finally in his own firm, Cooper Wolpert & Margoshes. He lived for some time in Germany and took a particular interest in German language and culture.

After retiring in 2012, Jay chose to remain close to financial markets by consulting for several solar-energy startups, helping them to identify new investors and making use of his German expertise on their behalf.

In February 1966, Jay married Dorothea Louise "Misty" Phelps, who died in 1996. He married Eleanor Downey in 1998.

Jay died June 16, 2021. He is survived by Eleanor, his stepson Jim Martinez, his four children, and 10 grandchildren.



#### Samuel Lee Rochester '53

Sam died Dec. 23, 2019, in Crown Point, Ind., after a brief illness.

Sam was born in Stanford, Ky., and graduated from Stanford High School. At Princeton he majored in history and wrote his thesis on William Jennings Bryan. He was a member of Prospect Club and the Princeton Evangelical Fellowship. He obtained a master's degree in theology from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Va., and then served as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Bryson City, North Carolina. He later served churches in Campbellsville, Kentucky; and University City, Missouri.

In the early 1960s Sam marched with Martin Luther King Jr. in the civil-rights movement. In 1973 he earned a master's degree in special education from the University of Pittsburgh, then taught at the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf until he retired and moved to Fort Myers, Fla.

Sam is survived by his wife of 65 years, Patricia; three children; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.



#### William Harold Scragg '53

Bill died March 5, 2021, in El Paso, Texas, after a long career in medicine both in the military and in civilian life.

Bill grew up in Paterson, N.J., and came to Princeton after graduating from Eastside High School. He joined Cannon Club and majored in biology, writing his thesis on "The Effect of Ultra-Violet Radiation on General Metabolism of E-Coli."

After graduation Bill went to New York Medical College and then interned at the Valley

Forge Army Hospital in Pennsylvania. He did his residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Walter Reed General Hospital in Washington, D.C., and continued his career in the Army, serving as assistant chief or chief of OB/GYN units in such duty stations as Honolulu and Munich, Germany. He received the Legion of Merit in 1976 and retired from the Army that year to help open the new Texas Tech University medical school campus in El Paso.

At Texas Tech University, Bill served as interim regional dean, assistant dean, associate department chairman, clinical director and residency director for OB/GYN, and medical director for family planning. He was appointed professor emeritus by the Texas Tech Board of Regents to honor his 40-year contributions to the medical school, and retired in August 2013.

Bill is survived by his wife of 66 years, Anne; their three children (including daughter Dana Scragg Frank '80); seven grandchildren (including grandson Emilio Campos '12); and five great-grandchildren.

#### THE CLASS OF 1954



#### Gordon L. Mills '54

Gordon — Gordie as he was known to us — died March 10, 2021, in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, where in his last decades he became known

as Larry.

Gordon prepared at Millbrook School. At Princeton he majored in economics, joined Charter Club, sang in the Glee Club, and graduated *cum laude*. Gordon said he chose "Wall Street rather than becoming a minister." He earned an MBA at Harvard and married Margaret Devereux Aydelotte, a concert pianist, in 1958.

Gordon worked in banking and investments with White Weld & Co., Mutual Life Insurance Co., Continental Group, Texaco, and Manchester Capital Management. He served on the boards of several charitable organizations in New York City and as an elder in the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church and the First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich, Conn.

Gordon and Margaret, who divorced in 1992, had two children, Julia and Thomas, and seven grandchildren.

Gordon moved to Mexico in 2000. Known as Larry and in partnership with his wife, Alicia Mayo, a spiritual leader, he fulfilled his stated mission in life: "to help others balance their inner and outer lives and help them develop their psychic and intuitive abilities." He graduated from the Guild for Spiritual Guidance, serving as a minister and counselor of the Church of Tzaddi and as a transpersonal technician. He continued to enjoy singing, playing the piano, and entertaining as a magician.

He is survived by Alicia, his children, and his grandchildren.


**Lyle Blair Torrey Jr. '54**

Blair died July 21, 2020.

He came to us from the Hotchkiss School, majored in English, served as treasurer of Ivy Club, played on the varsity football, hockey (captain), and baseball teams, and served as a Chapel deacon. He then served in the Marines for two years.

In 1956 he returned to Hotchkiss as an English teacher, coach, and mentor to generations of students who looked upon him as a preserver of the environment and champion of the individual. While teaching, he earned a master's degree in English from Middlebury College's Bread Loaf School in 1969. He married Ellen Rainbolt in 1961. He retired in 1997 and they moved to Charleston, S.C. He loved the low country and enjoyed golfing, fishing, kayaking, bird watching, and photographing wildlife.

While at Hotchkiss, he bought a farm in Maine, and he continued to spend part of each of the next 40 years improving, replanting, building trails, and restocking streams. It is a tribute to Blair that the farm is in the National Trust and will never be developed. Ellen died in 2012. He married Eugenia Martin in 2014.

Blair is survived by Eugenia; three children, Lyle III '78, Kimball '78, and Katherine '84; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by son Matthew.

**THE CLASS OF 1955**

**Raphael Hertz Levey '55**

Raphael, a pioneer in pediatric organ transplantation and in international health-care development, died March 23, 2021, at his home in Chevy Chase, Md. He was born Dec. 29, 1933, in Brockton, Mass., and attended Andover. At Princeton he joined Cloister Inn and majored in biology. His roommates were Jim Carter, Jim McCarthy, and Kendall Kane.

After Princeton he graduated from Harvard Medical School, where he became a longtime professor. He was a surgeon at Boston Children's Hospital, where he treated thousands of sick children, founded the hospital's organ-transplant program, and performed its first kidney transplants.

Raphael conducted trailblazing immunology research at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md., and the National Institute for Medical Research in London, where his partnership with Nobel laureate Sir Peter Medawar led to the discovery of a powerful class of immunosuppressive agents. These agents can prevent the body's rejection of a transplanted organ.

In the early 1990s he moved to Switzerland and pursued a new career in international medicine. He was known for a great sense of

humor, wide-ranging travels, and a life well-lived. He loved good food and would think nothing of driving three hours from his home in Zurich to France to visit a Michelin-starred restaurant.

Raphael is survived by his wife of 52 years, Rosemarie; sons Noam '93 and Tobias; and four grandchildren.


**Roland Morris '55**

Roly, a classmate with a wide range of accomplishments, interests, and friendships, died May 11, 2021, in Philadelphia.

He was born in Philadelphia Feb. 18, 1933, the son of Edward Morris, who was a member of the Class of 1928.

Said former Princeton roommate Ricardo Mestres, "Roly gave his all to anything he put his mind to." Added former roommate Todd Terry, "It was a sheer pleasure to know him. He was simply a wonderful, delightful friend."

At Princeton Roly majored in English, joined Ivy Club, and was on the staff of *The Daily Princetonian*. His roommates were Mestres, Terry, Peter Shea, and Nelson Doubleday.

After graduation Roly served in the Army, graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, and joined the Philadelphia law firm of Duane Morris, co-founded by Roly's grandfather, Roland Sletor Morris, a member of the Class of 1896.

At Duane Morris Roly was perennially listed among *The Best Lawyers in America* and in one consequential case represented Planned Parenthood *pro bono* in 1992 at the U.S. Supreme Court as the court restricted but upheld, 5-4, the abortion rights of *Roe v. Wade*.

Roly served as a director and board member of Planned Parenthood, Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Salvation Army, the Red Cross, the Legal Aid Society, and the United Way. He traveled widely and loved golf, tennis, hiking, sailing, and especially skiing, including heliskiing in the Alps.

Roly is survived by his wife of 66 years, Sally; son Roly Jr.; daughters Deirdre and Heather; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**THE CLASS OF 1956**

**Allen V. Robnett '56**

Allen died June 2, 2021, in Albuquerque, N.M., where he had lived for the past five years. He retired from a nearly 40-year career of teaching high school physics, aviation, astronomy, and math in Gallatin, Tenn. There he received the Alan Shepard Technology in Education Award and the Air Force Association National Aerospace Teacher of the Year Award, both in 2010.

Allen started his career as an electrical engineer at Sandia National Laboratories,

and was an early software developer and a farmer. His passions included flying his Cessna planes, soaring, and paragliding. He was a trombone player, a ballroom and folk dancer, and loved to sing with barbershop choruses and quartets.

Allen loved wordplay and was a punster to the very end. His leadership abilities found him as president of a mixed chorus, a vegan food group, and the Humanist Society of New Mexico two years before his death. He was curious, kind, and compassionate.

Allen is survived by four children, three stepchildren and their spouses, nine grandchildren, and his partner of the last five years, Charlene Baker.

**THE CLASS OF 1957**

**Douglas N. Beatty '57 \*60**

Doug came to Princeton from Homewood, Ala.

He studied aeronautical engineering, graduating with high honors and election to

Phi Beta Kappa and Tau Beta Pi. He was a member of Dial Lodge and Orange Key, and commandant of the Princeton Air Force ROTC. He roomed with Doug Kerin and Bob Hahn. Doug returned to Princeton for a master's degree in aeronautical engineering, for which he was elected to Sigma Xi. Doug's "aeros" were a constant in his life. All gatherings were "grand occasions," he said.

After Princeton Doug served his country for 58 years — six years in the Air Force, four in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and the rest in private-sector military-defense in both technical and senior management positions. He was an adjunct professor of management at American University.

Doug was a lay reader in the Episcopal Church and enjoyed building aircraft, tank, and ship models. A 32-inch model of the 1843 USS *Princeton*, a gunboat, was his major project.

A classmate remembers, "He was always cheerful." His family always came first. He was generous and unassuming.

Doug died Aug. 17, 2020, of congestive heart failure. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Patti, their two daughters; one son; and four grandchildren.

**THE CLASS OF 1958**

**Harold T. Couch '58**

Hal died Jan. 31, 2021, in West Palm Beach, Fla. He was 84.

He came to Princeton from South Pasadena High School in San Marino, Calif., where he played football, basketball, and tennis and was vice president of the Science Club.

At Princeton Hal was on the freshman tennis and track teams, but polio between freshman and sophomore years ended his tennis



career. He was on the Undergraduate Schools Committee, majored in chemical engineering, was a member of Cannon Club, and roomed with Robert Ringland.

After graduation he earned a Ph.D. in chemical engineering at Caltech. Working at Rocketdyne, he was involved in developing the rocket engines that sent the Apollo astronauts to the moon and back. He moved on to United Technologies and spent his career there.

Hal and his son Matthew patented a new thermal process for water purification.

Hal is survived by his wife, Christine; his children, Matthew and Katherine '96; and six grandchildren. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.

### THE CLASS OF 1960

#### John L. Hopkins Jr. '60

John came to us from Hotchkiss. At Princeton, where his father, John, was a member of the Class of 1921, "Hoppy," as we called him then, majored in politics, played varsity hockey all four years, dined at Ivy, and wrote his thesis on British and French colonialism in West Africa.

After learning Spanish at the University of Madrid, John set out for South America to make his fortune growing coffee. Reconsidering that, after two years, he repaired to Italy and, after a fortuitous year studying writing while working for an eminent English poet there, he found his calling. He began keeping a journal of his peripatetic life and travels, which became source material for his nonfiction and inspiration for his fiction.

His travels in Europe and Africa landed him in Morocco in 1970, teaching at the American School of Tangier and involved with the expatriate American writers of the beat generation: Bowles, Burroughs, Williams, Ginsberg, and numerous others. After further travels he settled again in Morocco, publishing his first stories and his first novel. He trekked the deserts of Algeria and Morocco, lived in Marrakesh for five years, and traveled through Central and South America once more. In 1973 he returned to Tangier, where he married Ellen Ann Ragsdale in 1977. They moved to England in 1979, ultimately settling in a National Trust House in Oxfordshire.

John died March 25, 2021, of Parkinson's disease. He is survived by Ellen, three sons, and their families.

### THE CLASS OF 1965



#### Frederick C. Gouldin '65

\*70 Fred died May 29, 2021, after a long illness in Ithaca, N.Y. His wife of 54 years, Fairfax, was at his side.

Fred attended St. Stephen's School in Alexandria, Va., where he was born on July 4, 1943. He was known forever after as a firecracker of a guy, with a Princeton Ph.D. in

engineering to add to his BSE. He was a defensive back on our undefeated football team and participated in wrestling and track, as well.

He spent his entire career as a professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering at Cornell. He won many awards and did important work in combustion, from rocket propulsion to waste incineration, and served in a variety of faculty positions, including associate dean and president of the association of professors emeriti at Cornell.

When Fred learned that his salary at Cornell came in 12 instead of nine paychecks, he took his 10th one and bought a sunfish, the first of four boats of ever-increasing size that he and his wife happily raced on Cayuga Lake for many years, with Fred also acting as commodore of the Ithaca Yacht Club.

A regular presence at Reunions, including our 50th, he treasured his Princeton connections. He will be missed, and we send our condolences to Fair for her loss, which we all share in.



#### Harry Strom Precourt '65

A financial consultant in New York City who helped nonprofits grow and prosper, Harry died May 31, 2021, in Manhattan after a long illness.

What distinguished Harry throughout his life was his astonishingly quick-response sense of humor, his compassion for people in need, and his love for — and loyalty to — the people closest to him.

At Princeton Harry majored in French and English, ate at Charter, played rugby, and was president of the French Club. Upon graduation he served three tours of duty as an intelligence officer in the Navy — two terms on the aircraft carrier USS *Coral Sea* in Vietnam and later at the Pentagon.

After years as an officer at both Manufacturers Hanover Trust and Continental Illinois National Bank, Harry became CFO of a South Bronx community-development group, sat on the board of a child-welfare organization, and was a mentor for SCORE/ New York.

His achievements also included rehabilitating the schooner *Bowdoin*, white-water rafting in the Grand Canyon, and trail-riding in Utah.

He is survived by his life partner of 38 years, Arline E. Vogel of Manhattan; and his brother Geoffrey and his wife, Kathryn Precourt of Newcastle, Maine. Condolences have been sent in memory of a man who stayed busy doing good.

#### MacKinnon Simpson '65

Mac passed away peacefully March 3, 2021, at his home in Honolulu, Hawaii. Raised on a

family farm in Pottersville, in rural northern New Jersey, he attended Newark Academy in nearby Livingston. His father was a rower, member of Cottage Club, and a member of a notable Princeton class — 1922 — with Adlai Stevenson and a national championship undefeated football team. Mac took his meals at Cannon and wrote and cartooned for *The Tiger*, majoring, as he said, in "beer and whimsy."

He settled in Honolulu, where his occupations ran the gamut from motorcycle sales to cable TV executive. Ultimately, he returned to writing and wrote his first book, *WhaleSong*, in 1986. He went on to write, design, and publish more than 25 large-format illustrated books. *WhaleSong* was the first real book written and designed on an Apple Macintosh computer, and was called by the head of Time-Life Books "the book which changed the face of American publishing."

Mac is survived by his daughter, Malia McCabe; son Alik Simpson; two grandsons; his companion, Lori; and countless friends. His laughter, jokes, humorous emails, and love for life will remain with us as part of the heart of the great Class of '65, of which he was a very proud member.



#### Michael E. Smith '65

A standout member of our class, Mike was one of a kind, no matter what. Skeptical, energetic, clear-minded, and goal-driven, his

accomplishments, among us and in his later life, are remarkable by any standard. Michael died of lung cancer May 31, 2021, in Madison, Wis., with his wife, Kate Kruse, by his side. They met when they were University of Wisconsin law professors.

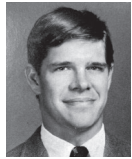
Born June 30, 1942, in Manhattan and raised in Darien, Conn., Michael attended The Hill School and, at Princeton, won a varsity P on our undefeated football team, was three-time class president, a Rhodes Scholar, and the Pyne Prize winner. But for Bradley, Iacavazzi, and a few other distinguished classmates, it could be said he left the cupboard bare, but that cupboard is, and always will be, replenished, as Michael did by what he represented and accomplished.

His signal achievement was to head the Vera Institute of Law and Justice in Manhattan, the premier not-for-profit institution in America for the rehabilitation of our criminal-justice system. He helped change that system by working at, then heading, Vera from 1974 to 1995, after Harvard Law and a stint at the law firm of Paul, Weiss.

He is survived by wife Katherine; son Graham and daughter Charlotte (both from a previous marriage); stepson Kinkaid Kruse-

Frink; stepdaughter Rose Livermore; and sister Catherine Sheridan Smith. He inspired admiration, along with deep respect, and will live in our hearts forever.

### THE CLASS OF 1968



#### **Gregory O'Keefe III '68**

Greg died May 14, 2021, of cancer at St. Elizabeth Medical Center, Utica, N.Y. He was born Dec. 13, 1946, in Boston.

He prepared at Andover, where he served as dormitory proctor and was active on the track team and the *Mirror*. At Princeton Greg majored in biology, was active in freshman and lightweight crew, and ate at Charter, where he served as secretary and house committee chairman.

After Princeton Greg attended Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and Dartmouth Medical School. While at Dartmouth Greg met and married his wife of 47 years, Nancy. He began his career with the National Health Service Corps, serving on Vinalhaven Island, Maine, as the island's only doctor for 20 years. In 1995 he moved his family to New York, where he served as director of public health for Herkimer County. At the time of his death, he was employed by TeamHealth and was a medical director for Cooperstown Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing.

Greg is survived by Nancy and their son, Matthew. To them, the class extends its profound sympathies.



#### **Michael J. Vernotico '68**

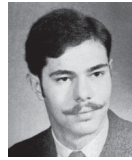
Mickey passed away March 20, 2021, in Summit, N.J., of a pulmonary embolism. He was 74.

He was born Aug. 2, 1946, in Newark, N.J. He attended Summit High School, where he was on the football and track teams. At Princeton he majored in basic engineering, was on the 150-pound football team and the freshman lacrosse team, and ate at Cannon. After Princeton he joined the Navy.

Mickey had an illustrious career in construction consulting and architecture, and more recently he owned and operated Landmark Realty in Summit. He was a sports enthusiast and loved coaching football, baseball, and basketball in Millburn, Summit, and New Providence. He was also involved in politics and served as both a committee member and mayor of Millburn-Short Hills and as councilman for the City of Summit.

Mickey is survived by his wife, Joanne; his son Ryan and his wife, Arely; his grandchildren, Dylan and Amy; and his mother, Eugenia Vernotico. To them, the class extends its profound sympathies.

### THE CLASS OF 1969



#### **Stephen D. Houck '69**

Distinguished attorney, co-founder of Princeton Internships in Civic Service (PICS) and board member from 1996 until his death, beloved

husband, father, and grandfather, Steve passed away April 12, 2021, after a courageous battle with leukemia.

Steve joined our class from Lewistown (Pa.) Granville High School, where he was senior class president. At Princeton he was a politics major, took part in CJL/Hillel, Trenton Tutorial, and Whig-Clio, and was a Keyceptor. Steve was a member of Cloister Inn and Wilson College and senior year lived with Jim Gregoire, Steve Thacker, David Slack, and Tom Martin '70 in 1937 Hall.

Following Harvard Law, Steve built a career as an expert on antitrust law and as a seasoned commercial litigator. He was a partner in Donovan, Leisure, Newton & Irvine, then served as chief of the antitrust bureau in the New York State attorney general's office. From 2005 to 2020 he was executive director of the State Center, which helps state attorneys general do a better job enforcing antitrust and consumer-protection laws.

Steve was noted for his kind and soft-spoken manner, and at the same time his incisive and intelligent comments. When he spoke, whether as an attorney or as a PICS board member, everyone appreciated his wisdom and listened with respect.

All of us in '69 extend our heartfelt sympathy to Steve's wife, Toni; his daughters, Rebecca and Abigail; his grandchildren, Caroline, Lucy, and Noah; his brother, Richard '71; and all his extended family.



#### **Thomas P. Weidner '69**

The Class of 1969 lost an accomplished and admired classmate, natural leader, and friend when Tom passed away May 31, 2021, of cardiomyopathy.

Tom graduated as valedictorian from Hightstown (N.J.) High School, where he was editor-in-chief of the school newspaper, president of his class and student council, and captain of the soccer, basketball, and baseball teams.

Known as "Tugboat" to his Princeton friends, Tom roomed with Murph McCarthy, Bison Brown, and John Hanks in 1901 Hall and ate at Cottage. He majored in economics and was a three-year letter-winner in soccer, captain of the team senior year, and the first winner of the Hackett Memorial Soccer Cup for his enthusiasm, discipline, and leadership. His dedication to the University and the class was evidenced by his reunion attendance record:

six reunions while in high school and as an undergraduate, and 49 of 50 after graduation.

Following Princeton Tom attended Wisconsin Law School and had a distinguished career as a litigator. Among many volunteer roles, Tom served several terms as mayor of Cranbury, N.J.; chaired the United Way of Mercer County; and was president of the Mercer County Bar Association and a Princeton Internships in Civic Service (PICS) board member for 13 years.

Tom's love of family, positive attitude, quiet sense of humor, and loyalty to his friends were hallmarks of his personality. We mourn Tom's passing and send our sincere condolences to his wife and son, Joan and Matt, and his entire family.

### THE CLASS OF 1974



#### **Peter D. Cleary '74**

Peter died Feb. 11, 2021, peacefully in his sleep.

He came to Princeton from California but was also raised in Canada, Switzerland, the Middle East, and New York. He majored in philosophy and originally joined Tiger Inn but migrated to Ivy.

In 1977 he earned a law degree from Harvard, where he met his wife, Katherine D'Arcy. He had a distinguished career specializing in cross-border energy, infrastructure, and finance with numerous firms in Washington, D.C., and the Middle East.

Peter became a partner at Coudert Brothers in Hong Kong in 1985 and started its Japan office in 1987. He also served as general counsel of the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency of the World Bank, and took time for a summer sabbatical in Florence, Italy.

He retired to New Mexico in 2018, where he enjoyed literature, skiing, riding his horse Pancho, and roping cattle. He was a self-taught expert in several art fields, including Japanese Zenga, Khmer sculpture, and Caucasian carpets. He came to his first reunion for our 45th at the urging of a roommate, Keith McKay, and had a wonderful experience.

Peter is survived by his wife, Katherine; three children, Alexandra, Thomas, and Elizabeth; and two brothers, Michael and Sean.

### THE CLASS OF 1976



#### **L. Charlene Cosman '76**

Charlene passed away peacefully May 20, 2021, in Northport, N.Y., five years after being diagnosed with multiple system atrophy.

At Princeton she sang in the Glee Club, majored in medieval studies, played field hockey, was active in the Chapel Fellowship, took meals at Dial Lodge, and was co-founder of the Katzenjammers. Charlene's perfect



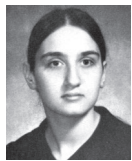
attendance for 42 years at Reunions included participation in the annual Dante reunion of Professor Robert Hollander '55's students. She and Hollander became lifelong friends; they often attended Mets games together.

After earning an MBA from Columbia, Charlene returned home to work at her family businesses, Oak Tree Farm Dairy and Dairy Barn Stores, becoming the chief financial officer. As a member of First Presbyterian Church of Northport, she served as an elder, sang in the Chancel Choir, directed the youth choir, and chaired the building renovation campaign. She served 40 years in the Long Island chapter of Youth for Christ.

Charlene had a beautiful soprano voice and was best known for vamping on "Sam, You Made the Pants Too Long" during Katzenjammer arch sings.

The class extends deepest sympathy to her siblings Kathleen Nitabach and Edgar Cosman, and her nieces and nephews.

### THE CLASS OF 1983



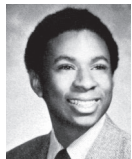
#### **Marian M. Demos '83**

Marian died Oct. 21, 2018.

Born April 14, 1964, Marian was one of the younger members of our class. From Hamburg, N.Y., She was one of 12 classics majors in the class. She lived at Princeton Inn College and was a member of Madison Society. Classmates remember her as "reserved, yet thoroughly engaged" and "observant with an understated sense of humor."

Marian earned a Ph.D. in classics at Harvard. In 1991 she joined the faculty at Florida International University, where she taught courses in Latin, Greek, and classical civilization and directed the program in ancient Mediterranean civilization.

FIU's memorial to her after 17 years of service noted, "Both her students and colleagues loved her. A former student remarked: 'She is the kindest person I have ever met. Truly, if anyone in this world has a heart of gold, it's her.'" The impact of her gentle spirit clearly lingers beyond her passing.



#### **Lawrence O. Graham '83**

Larry died Feb. 19, 2021, in his sleep at his home in Chappaqua, N.Y.

Larry came to Princeton from White Plains (N.Y.) High School. He majored in English, was a member of Tower, chair of the Upperclass Choice Committee, and an active member of the Third World Center and Whig-Clio. In 1988 he earned a law degree from Harvard Law School.

The center of Larry's legacy was his writing involving the nature of race, privilege, and discrimination in American society. In 1992

he took employment as a busboy at the Greenwich Country Club — the "only way that a black man like me" could gain admission — and wrote about the discrimination he experienced there in a widely discussed *New York* magazine cover story. Subsequently, Larry became a noted commentator on matters of race and privilege. His books include the *Our Kind of People: Inside America's Black Upper Class, The Senator and the Socialite, Proversity, and A Member of the Club*.

Larry also formed a corporate-diversity consulting group, ran for Congress, was chairman of the Horace Mann School's board of trustees, and was a partner at Cuddy & Feder. At the time of his death, he was adapting *Our Kind of People* into a television series.

Larry is survived by his wife, Pamela Thomas-Graham; two sons, Gordon and Harrison; a daughter, Lindsey; and brother Richard. The class extends its deepest condolences at the loss of this engaged, prominent, and caring class member.

### THE CLASS OF 1984

#### **Benjamin Jeffrey Dalton '84**

Jeff died May 28, 2021, at his home in Arlington, Texas.

He was born Nov. 11, 1961, in Fort Worth, Texas, and graduated from Arlington High School in 1980, where he was later honored as a Distinguished Alumnus.

At Princeton Jeff majored in psychology. He joined Cottage Club sophomore year but went independent as a junior and senior. JD played football as a freshman and sophomore, but his Princeton experience was defined by his beautiful singing voice and his four years as a Princeton Tigertone. He was a gifted singer and is an iconic member of the 'Tone family. Many of the idiosyncratic "rituals" that the current group still practices originated with JD.

Jeff enjoyed traveling, setting up Camp "La Mona Rosa" at the Kerrville Music Festival, saving and fostering lost dogs and cats, watching football, deep conversations, roaring fires, and taking care of "my Kathy."

Jeff was preceded in death by his wife and the love of his life, Kathy in 2020. He was Uncle Jeff to a plethora of children among family and friends, but he and Kathy had no children of their own. Survivors include his mother, Molly Dalton; sister Dinah and her husband, Chris Menge; seven nieces and nephews, and many great nieces and nephews. Jeff leaves behind a legacy of love, caring, and selfless generosity to those of us who were privileged to call him our friend.

### THE CLASS OF 1992

#### **William C. Gallaher '92**

Will died May 19, 2021, at home in Mansfield, Mass.

Will spoke passionately about his time at



Princeton, where he graduated *summa cum laude* in classics, earning membership in Phi Beta Kappa. His devotion to Greek and Latin literature continued in informal

university study groups. He played clarinet in the University Orchestra and many chamber ensembles and distinguished himself by stepping in as principal clarinet at the last minute on the orchestra's first tour, as well as serving as orchestra chairman.

After graduation Will entered the University administration, and he was proud of his work as associate director of the University Center for Human Values. He later earned a master's degree in technology management and pursued a career in prospect research for development at several colleges and the Joslin Diabetes Center, an affiliate institution of Harvard Medical School. Will enjoyed playing bass clarinet and hiking in the Adirondacks, and he was active in Boston-area gatherings with his classmates from Quadrangle Club.

Will is survived by his wife, Maryann; his parents, William R. Gallaher and Cynthia McGowan; and three siblings. He and Maryann met and married in Princeton and enjoyed more than 20 years together.

### THE CLASS OF 1996



#### **Jonathan P. Horner '96**

Jon died Dec. 15, 2019, after a brief and ferocious battle with cancer.

Jon prepared for Princeton at Exeter, where he was a prize-winning Greek and Latin scholar and varsity crew coxswain. A cherished friend to so many, his list of roommates across four Princeton suites would fill the allotted space here. Jon ate at Ivy, where he was a pool champion. He guided his boat of heavyweights to an NCAA title, quietly winning his own world championship in ergometry. Jon completed the Princeton-in-Asia program in Beijing, then graduated *cum laude* with a classics degree.

Jon earned a master's degree in East Asian studies at Harvard, where he met his brilliant and beautiful wife-to-be, Anna Kaufmann '97. He then pivoted to an 18-year career at Goldman Sachs, ascending to become a managing director in New York City, then becoming director of research at PointState Capital. Jon and Anna returned to Princeton to raise a son, Thomas; and a daughter, Caroline.

Jon was surrounded by friends and family during his brief illness, and he spent his final days reliving treasured memories with them. Jon is survived by his wife and children, his parents, and his brother. His Tiger friends are deeply grateful for the years they spent enjoying his wit, humor, and selfless companionship.

**GRADUATE ALUMNI**
**Steven Weinberg \*57**

A Nobel Laureate and Madison medalist, Steven died July 23, 2021, in Austin, Texas.

Born May 3, 1933, in New York, he earned a bachelor's degree from Cornell in 1954, spent a year in Copenhagen at what was then the Institute for Theoretical Physics, and obtained a Ph.D. in physics from Princeton in 1957.

Steven held faculty appointments at Berkeley, Harvard, and MIT, and spent the majority of his career at the University of Texas, Austin.

Acknowledged as one of the world's foremost theoretical physicists, Steven won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1979 for showing how to unify two of the principal forces of nature. He won lasting renown as a creator of an electroweak theory that unifies electromagnetism and the weak force that operates on the subatomic scale and is one of the four forces that govern the universe.

A cultured man fond of poetry and the theater, Steven gave attention to the philosophical and metaphysical aspects of the scientific quest, and speculated on the meaning of scientific discovery for human life and the human place in the universe.

Steven is survived by his wife of 67 years, Louise Goldwasser; and their daughter, Elizabeth.

**Michael Menaker \*60**

Michael died Feb. 14, 2021, in Charlottesville, Va.

Born May 19, 1934, in Vienna, Austria, Michael earned a bachelor's degree from Swarthmore in 1955 and a Ph.D. in biology from Princeton in 1960 before serving as a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University.

A giant in the field of circadian rhythms, Michael was widely considered one of the pioneers in the physiological analysis and identification of circadian pacemakers in the vertebrate nervous and endocrine systems. His groundbreaking discoveries included the first single-gene circadian mutation in mammals and the existence of widespread circadian oscillators in peripheral tissues in mammals. The National Science Foundation Center for Biological Timing was conceived and established under his watch.

Michael's academic career included faculty positions in the Department of Zoology at the University of Texas, Austin; at the University of Oregon, where he served as director of the Institute of Neuroscience; and as Commonwealth Professor of Biology at the University of Virginia from 1987 until his retirement in 2020.

He published some 200 peer-reviewed papers and earned numerous awards and recognitions.

Predeceased by his wife, Shirley, Michael is survived by his daughter, Ellen; son, Nicholas; three grandchildren; and his brother, Thomas.

**Donald Norman Winch \*60**

Donald died June 12, 2017, in Sussex, UK, at age 82.

Donald was born April 15, 1935, in London. He graduated from the London School of Economics in 1956 and earned a Ph.D. in economics at Princeton in 1960.

After teaching at the University of California, Berkeley from 1959 to 1960, he returned to the UK, first to a lectureship in economics at Edinburgh, and then in 1963 to the new University of Sussex. In 1969 he became professor of the history of economic thought, retiring in 2000.

In his first book, *Classical Political Economy and Colonies* (1965) Donald questioned the version of history embedded in orthodox accounts of the development of economics. Best known for his 1978 book *Adam Smith's Politics*, Donald asserted that Smith was not endorsing an unrestrained individualism, but was exploring the character of "commercial society" as part of a wider inquiry into the nature of law and government in modern states.

A fellow of the British Academy, as publications secretary of the Royal Economic Society he oversaw the collected works of major economists and established an online database of economists' archives.

Donald is survived by his wife, Doreen Lidster; and stepson Nicholas.

**Franklin Chandler Davidson \*69**

Chandler died April 10, 2021, of a massive brain inflammation in Houston.

He was born May 13, 1936, in Texas. After joining the Navy and working in the Louisiana and Texas oil fields, he earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin. Inspired by the sit-ins in North Carolina, Chandler led a group that held "stand-ins" protesting racial segregation at a local cinema.

In 1969 he earned a Ph.D. in sociology at Princeton. While at Princeton he helped organize the nation's first "teach-in" concerning the Vietnam War.

Chandler spent 37 years on the faculty of Rice University and held the Radoslav A. Tsanoff Chair of Public Affairs and Sociology. A fighter for justice and minority voting rights, as an expert witness Chandler testified in more than 40 trials on behalf of racial and ethnic minorities. His research on racially discriminatory election systems led to his being cited in seven U.S. Supreme Court decisions. In 2006 when the Senate Judiciary Committee held hearings on the renewal of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, he was the lead witness.

Chandler is survived by his wife of 34 years, Sharon Plummer; son Seth; and three grandchildren.

**Julia Maniates Reibetanz \*69**

Julia died May 4, 2021, in Toronto of pancreatic cancer at age 78.

At the age of 5, Julia began musical studies at the University of Toronto's Royal Conservatory of Music, and she earned her A.R.C.T. (solo

performer certificate) at 17. She earned an Honors B.A. in English language and literature at University College of the University of Toronto in 1966. One of the earliest women graduate students at Princeton, Julia earned a Ph.D. in English in 1969. Her dissertation topic was "A Reading of Eliot's *Four Quartets*." At Princeton she met her husband, John Reibetanz \*68.

In 1969 Julia joined the Department of English at the University of Toronto and became a much-loved poetry professor for generations of students. Her teaching and research interests included Romantic Poetry, Contemporary Canadian and American poetry, and fiction. She was also a dedicated administrator in the department. She retired as full professor and fellow emeritus of Trinity College in 2016.

Julia was an avid gardener at her family's small farm near Creemore, and subsequently at their cottage on Georgian Bay.

She is survived by her husband of 54 years, John; children Stephanie, Tim, and David; and five grandchildren.

**Heather Ann Peters \*76**

Heather died April 24, 2021, in Philadelphia of injuries she sustained in a bicycling accident. She was 74.

Raised in Roslyn, Long Island, Heather earned a bachelor's degree in Asian studies from Barnard, a master's degree in Chinese art and archaeology from Princeton, and a doctorate in anthropology with a specialization in China from Yale.

Anthropologist, global human-rights activist, and University of Pennsylvania professor from 1981 to 1991, at the time of her death Heather was visiting Philadelphia before returning to Bangkok, where she worked on projects in China, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Laos.

She served as a visiting professor at the American University of Paris and was affiliated with Southwest Minzu University and Southwest Jiaotong University, both in Chengdu, China.

Heather's career included consulting as well as research and development projects with UNESCO and other agencies. She focused on preserving the rights and culture of minorities, preventing human trafficking, HIV/AIDS, and other sensitive issues. She helped protect the right of ethnic minorities and Indigenous people to have control over what happens to them and preserve their culture from potentially destructive development.

Heather is survived by her husband, David Feingold; a brother; and other relatives.

*Graduate memorials are prepared by the AGPA. Undergraduate memorials appear for Raymond Close '51 \*64, Tician N. Papachristou '51 \*53, Douglas Beatty '57 \*60, and Frederick C. Gouldin '65 \*70.*



# Classifieds

## For Rent

### Europe

**Italy/Todi:** Luxurious 8BR, 7.5BA villa, amazing views, infinity pool, olives, lavender, grapes, vegetable garden, housekeeper included, cook available, A/C, Wi-Fi. Discount for Princetonians. Photos/prices/availability: [www.luxuryvillatodi.com](http://www.luxuryvillatodi.com), p'11.

**Paris, Tuileries Gardens:** Beautifully-appointed, spacious, 1BR queen, 6th floor, elevator, concierge. [karin.demorest@gmail.com](mailto:karin.demorest@gmail.com), w\*49.

**Provence:** Delightful stone farmhouse facing Roman theater, 5 bedrooms, pool, market town. [Frenchfarmhouse.com](http://Frenchfarmhouse.com)

**Paris, Marais:** 2BR 2B spacious, quiet apartment facing inner courtyard. Walk to Louvre, Notre Dame, Picasso Museum. Vibrant neighborhood on pedestrian street, full kitchen, w/d, AC. [kdanders12@gmail.com](mailto:kdanders12@gmail.com), k'58, k'62.

**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, Wi-Fi. 678-232-8444. [triff@mindspring.com](mailto:triff@mindspring.com)

### Worldwide

#### Timeshare Rentals By Owner:

Affordable, luxurious 1-6BR weekly timeshare rentals available at renowned resorts in the world's most popular destinations. [www.sellmytimesharenow.com/timeshare-rentals/](http://www.sellmytimesharenow.com/timeshare-rentals/)

### United States Northeast

**Stone Harbor, NJ:** Beachfront, 4BR, upscale. 570-430-3639, [stoneharborbeachhouses.com](mailto:stoneharborbeachhouses.com), [radams150@aol.com](mailto:radams150@aol.com)

**Stone Harbor, NJ:** [www.Bayberrybeachhouse.com](http://www.Bayberrybeachhouse.com), Great for families/reunions/weddings/covid getaways. p'18.

### 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. 610-937-0529. [janegriffith655@gmail.com](mailto:janegriffith655@gmail.com), s'67.

**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 [jmkolodzik@gmail.com](mailto:jmkolodzik@gmail.com), p'12 p'21.

### International

#### CHILE, Northern Patagonia

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## After a Hoax, He Studied Hysteria

By Elyse Graham '07

When the Martians landed, they landed, as one might expect, in the center of the world: Princeton, New Jersey. Actually, they landed a few miles outside of town — in Grovers Mill, by Princeton Junction — no doubt fearing the destructive power of 2,500 University students ready to seize on any distraction from their studies.

A Princeton professor was on hand to see the event and sound the alarm: Richard Pierson, of the University's observatory. On the fateful night, Professor Pierson was talking about astronomy with a reporter live on the radio when news of "a huge flaming object, believed to be a meteorite," prompted the pair to change plans and drive to Grovers Mill, staying in contact with their radio audience. There, they saw a crater with a huge metal cylinder at the center.

"I don't know what to think," said

Pierson. "The metal casing is definitely extraterrestrial — not found on this earth."

A moment later, shadowy beings emerged from the cylinder and started firing weapons, engulfing a nearby crowd of humans in flames.

Thus began the infamous radio broadcast *War of the Worlds*, which, for a few hours on Oct. 30, 1938, convinced at least a million Americans that Earth was under attack by Martians. Frightened listeners wept, prayed, jammed emergency phone lines, and ran from their homes, carrying towels to protect themselves from weaponized extraterrestrial gas. A man ran into the office of the Princeton University Press Club "with the news that he had seen the rocket and the invaders piling out of it, each armed with a death ray." Only later did listeners learn that the "invasion" was a radio play and that Professor Pierson was a fictional character.

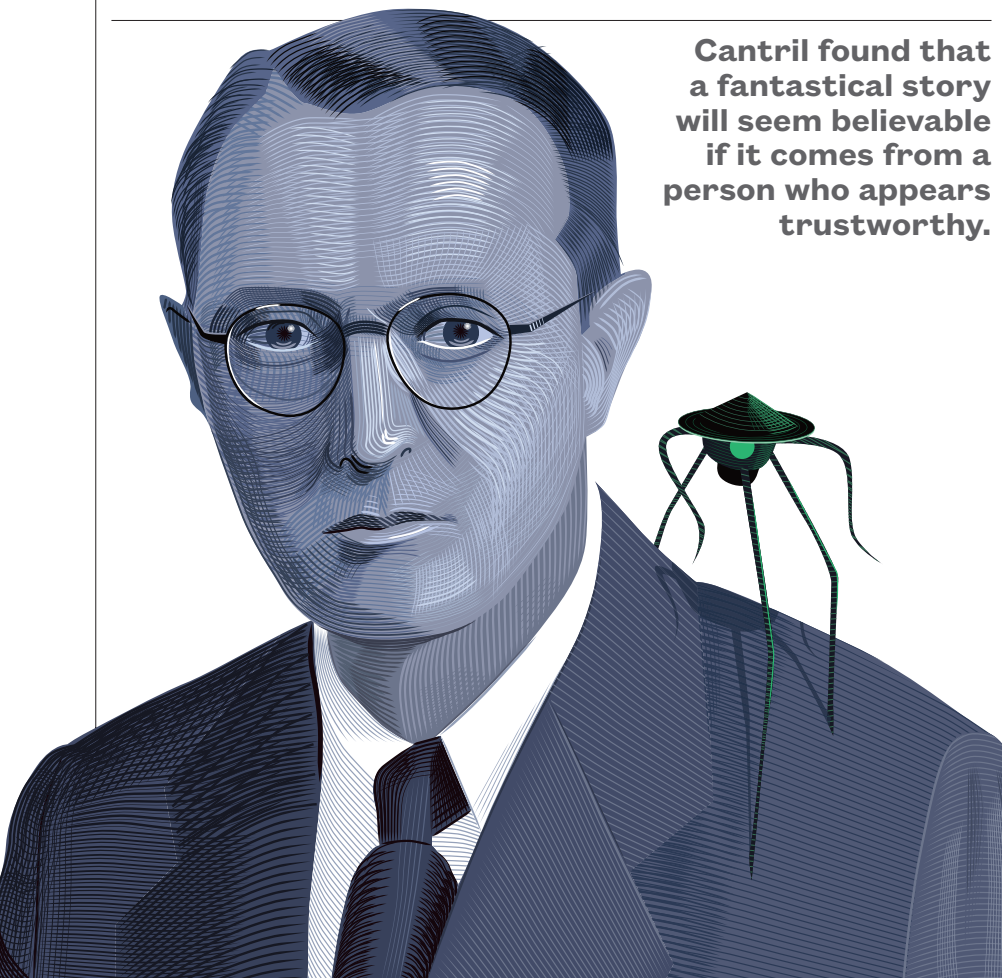
A real Princeton professor named Hadley Cantril, a psychologist who specialized in radio propaganda, found

himself ideally situated to analyze the inadvertent hoax. In 1940, he published a book, titled *The Invasion from Mars: A Study in the Psychology of Panic*, that is still pertinent in our age of misinformation. Cantril found that listeners were more likely to figure out the invasion was a fiction if they checked the information against sources that were not affected by the broadcast — for instance, if they turned the radio dial instead of calling friends or running outside to consult neighbors. Education was helpful — an 11-year-old girl stayed calm because she knew the work of H.G. Wells, whose 1898 novel, *War of the Worlds*, inspired the broadcast. Cantril found that a fantastical story will seem believable if it comes from a person who appears trustworthy. (One listener reported, "I believed the broadcast as soon as I heard the professor from Princeton and the officials in Washington.")

A shrewd, sociable son of Utah, Cantril ran the University's Office of Public Opinion Research and advised three presidents — Franklin D. Roosevelt, Dwight Eisenhower, and John F. Kennedy — on psychology and public affairs. In his book, he warned that feeling helpless can tip people from doubt into hysteria: "The coming of the Martians did not present a situation where the individual could preserve one value if he sacrificed another. It was not a matter of saving one's country by giving one's life or helping to usher in a new religion by self-denial, or risking a bullet to save the family silver. ... Nothing could be done to save any of them. Panic was inescapable."

Princeton students reveled in their close call with the otherworldly. After the broadcast, *The Daily Princetonian* published a doctored photograph that showed a huge Martian tearing apart Cleveland Tower. Students formed the League for Interplanetary Defense, which aimed, tongue-in-cheek, to prepare campus for a real invasion. The league distributed leaflets listing useful precautions ("Have all doors and windows meteor-proofed"), together with a warning: "What happened at Grovers Mill may happen in stark reality in the near future, the cry of 'wolf' may turn to fact! Death and destruction lurk in the heavens!" ♦

**Cantril found that a fantastical story will seem believable if it comes from a person who appears trustworthy.**





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Hugh Hayden (born 1983, Dallas, TX; active New York, NY). Foreground: *America* (detail), 2018. Princeton University Art Museum. Museum purchase, Kathleen Compton Sherrerd Fund for Acquisitions in American Art. Background: *To Be Titled 2* (detail), 2020. Princeton University Art Museum. Museum purchase, Fowler McCormick, Class of 1921, Fund, by exchange. © Hugh Hayden