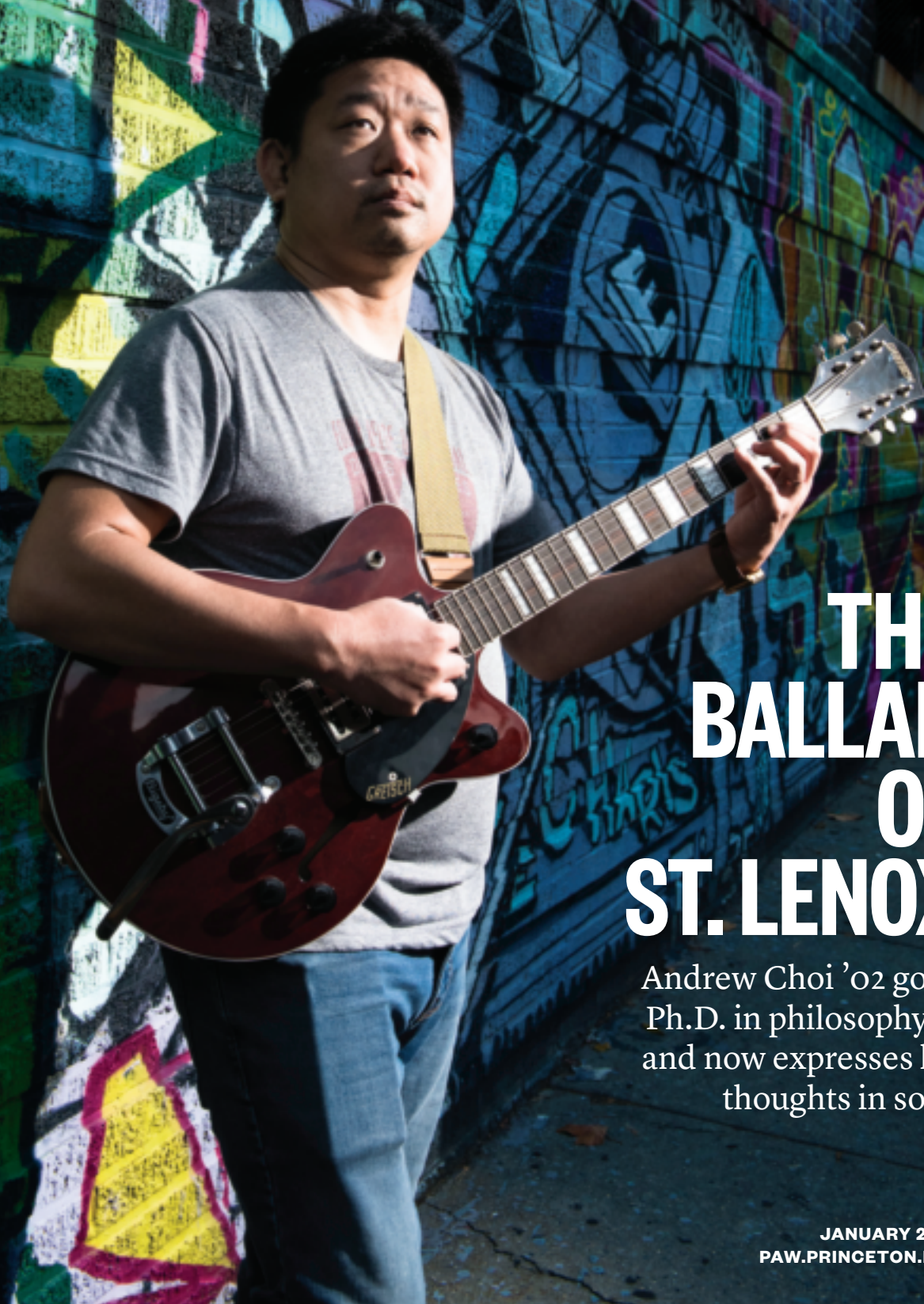


VICTORY  
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ALUMNI DAY, REUNIONS  
RETURN TO CAMPUS

NATALIE TUNG '18  
AND TRENTON SCHOLARS

# PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY



## THE BALLAD OF ST. LENOX

Andrew Choi '02 got a  
Ph.D. in philosophy —  
and now expresses his  
thoughts in song

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# PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY

An editorially independent  
magazine by alumni for alumni  
since 1900

# PAW

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Natalie Tung '18 (left, facing forward), HomeWorks co-founder and executive director, helps a student during study time.

## A New Take on Boarding School 22

Thanks to Natalie Tung '18, these Trenton public-school students come "home" each day to an environment seen in private schools.

By Kenneth Terrell '93

## The Philosopher Musician 28

Andrew Choi '02 has a Ph.D. in philosophy and a day job as a lawyer, but his greatest outlet for expression is his music.

By Zachary Pincus-Roth '02

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### Indigenous Futurism

Darcie Little Badger '10 spoke with PAW about weaving traditional Apache storytelling, strong family ties, and fantasy elements into her young-adult novels.

### Powerful Language

Dartmouth professor Joshua Bennett '16 learned his first lessons in poetry from hearing Sunday preachers.

### Jazz Age

Gregg Lange '70 recalls Princeton in the 1920s.

### Peace Prize

NPR London correspondent Frank Langfitt '86 watched



journalist Maria Ressa '86 receive the Nobel Peace Prize. Read his report.



## Persistence and Celebration

**M**y predecessor, Shirley Tilghman, once remarked to me that scientists had to be optimists because they needed to believe that experiments that failed yesterday would, with the right improvements, work today.

Her point applies far more broadly, I think. Persistence and optimism are fundamental to the mission of colleges and universities.

Our scholars and students must believe that archival investigations that discovered nothing yesterday will succeed today; that conceptual puzzles unsolved yesterday will yield their secrets today; and that paragraphs that flopped yesterday will soar today. And they must believe that months, years, and sometimes decades of study will ultimately produce something meaningful and perhaps fabulous despite the repeated skepticism of those who ask, "What on earth is the value of *that*?"

Persistence is hard. It benefits tremendously from the campus rituals and gatherings that nourish our spirits and inspire optimism even on days when success seems distant or elusive. The pandemic has been difficult not only because of the burdens it has imposed, but also because it has deprived us of many occasions that could fortify our ability to persist through those challenges.

I am accordingly grateful that the fall semester afforded us several rare and special opportunities to celebrate as a community.



President Eisgruber with Professor Syukuro "Suki" Manabe, winner of the 2021 Nobel Prize in physics.

FRANK WOJCIECHOWSKI

In October, the Nobel committees favored Princetonians with an astonishing five Nobel prizes. Suki Manabe, of the Program in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences and the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory, won the Nobel Prize in physics for curiosity-driven research that created the field of climate modeling in the 1960s. Another faculty member, David MacMillan of the Department of Chemistry, won for far more recent research on

catalysis—research that has rapidly generated practical applications for multiple industries.

An undergraduate alumna, Maria Ressa '86, who concentrated in English and earned a certificate in theater, became the second Princetonian to win the Nobel Peace Prize (Woodrow Wilson, Class of 1879, was the first, in 1919). Two graduate alumni, David Card '83 and Joshua Agrist '89, won the Nobel Prize in economics for their work on empirical methods and labor markets.

This combination was amazing not only for the sheer number of awards but also because they illustrate so many aspects of the University's mission, including our commitments to excellence in faculty research, undergraduate education, graduate education, environmental science, innovation, the liberal arts, service to the nation and humanity, and policy-relevant social science.

Nobel Prizes provide unique opportunities for celebration by entire academic departments and scholarly communities who rejoice at seeing the world take note of what they do.



SAMEER A. KHAN/FOTOBUDDY

Traditional bonfire celebration on Cannon Green, marking football victories over Harvard and Yale, November 21.

In late November, for example, I attended a dinner honoring the 90-year-old Dr. Manabe. Attendees included former students and scientific collaborators from throughout his life, current students and faculty, and leading officials from the United States Department of Commerce and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, the government sponsors of the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory.

One speaker described how, when he was a young researcher, one of his climate models failed miserably. He shared it with Suki, who said, in effect, "That's great work; we've learned something." Now, after all the moments when progress seemed slow, Suki's prize demonstrated that the hard work, the persistence, and the optimism had indeed mattered—and that the entire world knew it.

I sometimes think that Nobel Prize celebrations are for Princeton what national athletic championships are on some other college campuses. But, of course, extracurricular activities, including competitive athletics, also play an essential role in this University's educational mission.

So it was, that four days after delivering remarks at Dr. Manabe's banquet, I spoke again at a very different event when Princeton's Ivy League championship football team lit a bonfire on Cannon Green to mark its victories over Harvard and Yale. It felt like the entire campus was on hand for the festivities.

Winning championships, too, requires determined persistence through obstacles and challenges, especially for students who had to cope with cancelled seasons and remote classes. The bonfire provided an occasion for all our students to celebrate their return to campus and what they had achieved by pressing onward through the pandemic. "Let the lighting of this bonfire be the ultimate re-ignition of community," urged Undergraduate Student Government President Christian Potter '22.

That spirit of community matters. As I write these words, the world is just beginning to cope with the Omicron variant. I am heartened that Princeton confronts it strengthened not only with a battery of vaccines, PCR tests, and antivirals, but also with the animated energy of Tigers on campus and throughout the world.



# Inbox



## LESSONS OF PAST WARS

Thanks to E.B. Boyd '89 for her insightful piece, "Looking Back at a Forever War" (November issue). As one who participated in our Vietnam experience from the beginning to the end — first as a young company commander on the ground followed by various staff assignments, in-country as well as stateside — I can readily relate to the recounts of those whom Boyd profiles. It's "déjà vu all over again." Their thoughts and observations closely echo those of their counterparts of 50-plus years ago.

Despite all of the lessons learned from our failed Vietnam experience, we seemed to have been hell-bent to repeat the same mistakes. Noble intentions aside, there was the same lack of a clearly defined, practicable objective, no endgame, and our ignominious retreat from both conflicts was the result. The doers, those with boots on the ground and hands on the throttles, performed admirably, accomplishing each assigned tactical mission. Unfortunately, in my view, those successes were, in many cases, not integral parts of a defined national strategy. And we as a nation, despite having the best trained and

equipped military on the planet, may find it difficult to generate the national will, singleness of purpose, and international support to respond to the next threat to our national security.

Mark F. Bernstein '83's Q&A with Ambassador Ryan Crocker \*85 (published online, Oct. 1, 2021) is thought-provoking and does provide, in my opinion, a realistic perspective on how we could have avoided the Afghanistan debacle.

**Col. George Griggs '59, USMC, retired**  
**Kennebunk, Maine**

I was a journalist in Vietnam in 1969–70. The narratives that E.B. Boyd '89 recounts of veterans of our Afghan war are depressingly similar to those I heard from our forces 50 years ago, and yet the word "Vietnam" appears not once in her article. I wonder whether 40 years from now, as we are fighting a similar war in yet another poor country, "Afghanistan" will be remembered.

**Frank Upham '67**  
**New York, N.Y.**

Your November article, "Looking Back at a Forever War," stepped toward wisdom by looking through the eyes of real people who were really involved. But you mistook the start of the war. It was not after 9/11. It was 1979, the Soviet invasion.

My family started supporting the Afghans immediately in 1979. I am of Slovak ancestry, and the Soviet Union had crushed not just Slovakia but dozens of countries, killing millions of innocent people with impunity. They bestrode the

world then, with an unbroken winning record stretching through the 1970s.

Only in Afghanistan did the resistance hang on through a dark decade. Thanks largely to their Afghan failure, the Soviet Union fell — and the world immediately abandoned Afghanistan. Their national fault of too much reverence for the authority of foreigners (in this case Arabian) led them to the Taliban and terrorism by 2001. Then we went in, with

**Our response to Afghanistan must be not so much humanitarianism as gratitude. They toppled the Soviet Union, and we have never said "thank you."**

massive arrogance, and the Afghans, with too much reverence for the authority of Americans, let us establish an ill-fitted, centralized, and totally corrupt regime while ignoring their homegrown local leaders (our allies, whom we smeared as "warlords").

Now they are veering back into abandonment and starvation. Our response to Afghanistan must be not so much humanitarianism as gratitude. They toppled the Soviet Union, and we have never said "thank you."

**Lawrence J. Dickson \*71**  
**National City, Calif.**

## BROMBERT AND THE RITCHIE BOYS

Professor Victor Brombert ("A Ritchie Boy," November issue) was my thesis adviser, and it was a privilege and an honor to work with him. As the world's leading expert on Gustave Flaubert, he was perfect for guiding me through my work on *Madame Bovary*; but it is his gentle warmth, wisdom, and humor that I remember best. I am particularly struck by your comment about his lifelong ability to read beyond the words and the language to what lies beneath. Studying

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# PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY

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## Inbox

literature with Professor Brombert helped me develop those skills in my own work as a professor and author.

I only wish I had known of his background then, but I was cautious about revealing my Jewishness on campus in those days; through your article, I am still learning life lessons from Victor Brombert.

**Jane Elizabeth (Spivak) Hughes '77**  
**Centerville, Mass.**

In four years of wonderful undergraduate education, Victor Brombert was one of the most memorable and excellent professors I had — his lectures in our Lit 141 class for freshmen were erudite, eloquent, witty, and complex beyond compare and taught me what enormous pleasure critical analysis could give. I always regretted taking only that one class with him — I probably imagined every professor would be like him! — but how lovely to read that class was special for him as well. And perhaps he will smile to know that my friends and I, 29 years after graduation and more than 30 after taking his class, still quote him and try to (lovingly) mimic his incomparable way of connecting words and ideas.

It's fantastic that he's being celebrated, and I hope he continues to enjoy the well-deserved praise and gratitude from all his former students — even those who were callow freshmen in his Lit 141 lecture. To me he will always be the beau ideal of a humanities professor.

**Zanthe Taylor '93**  
**Brooklyn, N.Y.**

I very much enjoyed the article about Professor Victor Brombert and his experiences as a Ritchie Boy. In fact, I was inspired to read the book by Beverley Driver Eddy in which he features prominently. I was pleased to learn from the book that future Princeton president Robert F. Goheen '40 \*48 h'70 was also a Ritchie Boy. He served as an intelligence officer in the Pacific and completed his service as a lieutenant colonel. His service and courage were exemplary as well, and I hope PAW will do a follow-up article about him.

**Lawrence H. Phillips '70**  
**Charlottesville, Va.**

## COLLEGE RANKINGS

Bravo to President Eisgruber '83 for his fine essay, "The Rankings Mishegoss" (President's Page, November issue). It would have been so easy to simply bask in the glow of Princeton being No. 1 in the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings once again. But he bluntly recognizes that the survey, like so many other similar reports, is flawed.

The *U.S. News* methodology includes evaluation of the following weighted factors: retention of freshmen and students overall, 20 percent; faculty resources, 20 percent; student selectivity, 15 percent; financial resources, 10 percent; graduation rate performance, 7.5 percent; and alumni giving rate, 5 percent. Fair enough.

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**It would have been so easy to simply bask in the glow of Princeton being No. 1. ... But he bluntly recognizes that the survey, like so many other similar reports, is flawed.**

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But the most significant weight in the ranking formula goes to the opinions of those in a position to judge a school's undergraduate academic excellence (a whopping 22.5 percent). According to the magazine, the academic peer assessment survey allows top academics — presidents, provosts, and deans of admissions — to account for intangibles at peer institutions such as faculty dedication to teaching. Critics argue this last, heavily weighted factor is too subjective and severely skews the survey results.

Of course I'm proud of Princeton's No. 1 ranking in this highly regarded national survey. I'm sure all Princetonians join in applauding our alma mater for this magnificent recognition. But, frankly, I'm inclined to keep my #1 foam finger in retirement until Princeton breaks into the top 10 of *Playboy* magazine's annual survey of the top "party" schools in the nation. That just might be a long wait.

**Gerald D. Skoning '64**  
**Juno Beach, Fla.**



## CONNECTING WITH PRINT

I read with a mix of emotions about the decision to publish *The Daily Princetonian* on paper once a week, while continuing daily online publication (On the Campus, October issue).

Online reading now seems the default mode, not just for newspapers but for most printed material. Electronic print brings convenience, beyond being cheaper to produce. Paper, due to the finality of its finished version, requires human labor that e-copy does not. E-copies, further, allow for publication of a wider berth and distribution of stories since the physical constraints of a “page” do not matter online.

Yet, succumbing to the convenience of reading online has its costs: We lose not just the tactile connection to the paper, but also the privacy of reading without being tracked. And though paper newspapers and e-newspapers are both mediums that provide news, paper allows more time to think, consider, and reflect, in private, while e-versions bombard us with immediacy — get it *now*, respond *now*, have your interests and responses tracked, in the blink of an eye. Perhaps e-versions are more precisely up to date. But what, really, do we lose if we disconnect for an evening and discover new developments in the morning?

I imagine the decision to print even a weekly paper version of the *Prince* is a sort of principled stand to avoid a complete subsumption of “paper news” to the ether.

I am mailing this letter via snail mail, though it will be “late.”

**Citlali Bacmeister '84**  
**Baltimore, Md.**

## ROYCE FLIPPIN '56

In October, I attended the memorial celebration for the late Royce Flippin '56 at Cap and Gown (In Memoriam, September issue). As all his friends everywhere feel, this sad passing of a great Princetonian leaves us all lacking.

Over 45 years Royce was frequently in my life, showing his support, offering his advice. When I was a beleaguered student government president in 1975, then later amid a depressing mid-career miasma, then during an inspiring Princeton-connected ecobusiness start-

## MUSIC MAKERS



Several alumni of the Princeton Laptop Orchestra helped to identify the musicians in our November “From the Archives” photo. They are, front row, from left, Scott Smallwood '08, Alan Tormey '07, Anne Hege '14, Ge Wang '08, and Andrea Mazzariello '11; and back row, from left, Laurie Hollander '87, Scott Elmegreen '07, and Rebecca Fiebrink '11.

up, and then through my prostate cancer ordeal (as he had also experienced), Royce was always present for me.

What a suitable name! “Royce” ... a king amongst us. Busy as he was, caring always for so many, somehow he always made me feel like I was the most important person on his mind. Life is a team sport, he used to say. I am grateful that he chose me to be one of his life’s teammates.

Royce once told me the timeless motto of his childhood camp, which so epitomized his own life: “The other fellow first.” Late in life, when I once came to worship with him at his Holy Trinity Church in South River, New Jersey, I asked what he was now doing to keep himself busy. His characteristic response: “Meeting needs.”

If I ever get to heaven, Royce will be one of the first I’ll seek out. He’ll likely be right there at the Pearly Gate, with that twinkle in his eye, reaching out to make me feel special and help me settle in.

**Tom Pyle '76**  
**Princeton, N.J.**

## THE COLOR OF CLASSICS

The article on contemporary classics departments was fascinating (“The Color of Classics,” October issue). At

Princeton I majored in history but had what could be considered a “minor” in classics. As one who has taught Western Civ to college freshmen for almost 15 years and church history (ancient and medieval, Reformation and modern) at the theological level for more than 25 years, I found it interesting that one of the rebranding possibilities for the classics department is “ancient Mediterranean studies.”

Left out from the traditional Greco-Roman focus is not only potential African and Asian influences, but that other primary influence on European and early American institutions and culture: the Judeo-Christian biblical strand. That biblical influence can scarcely be a basis for “white supremacy” since Jesus himself and the writers of most of the New Testament (including the apostles Peter, John, Matthew, and Paul) and of the Old Testament were Middle Eastern Jews, and one of the main purveyors of this ancient civilization to the later world and the present, Augustine of Hippo, was born a fourth-century North African.

**William S. Barker '56**  
**Columbia, Mo.**

*Editor’s note: The author is a former president of Covenant Theological Seminary in Creve Coeur, Missouri.*





# Alumni Day

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2022

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Courtesy: Rappler

## WOODROW WILSON AWARD

**Maria A. Ressa '86**

*CEO and President, Rappler Inc.*



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# On the Campus



On Nov. 21, Princeton celebrated the warmest and brightest of fall traditions — a bonfire on Cannon Green — thanks to the football team's wins over Harvard and Yale this season. The Tigers finished 9-1 and shared the Ivy League title with Dartmouth, joining three other league champions on campus. Read more in our fall sports recap on page 16.  
*Photograph by Ricardo Barros*





A view of the frozen Lake Carnegie in 1950–51 shows a range of winter activities.

# Skating on the Lake

## A once-common Princeton pastime declines, in line with warming trend

**I**ce once played a significant role in Princeton life.

A century ago, the town's average winter temperatures hovered just below 32 degrees Fahrenheit, and the Princeton Ice Co. — which operated a mile northwest of campus, on what is now Mountain Lakes Nature Preserve — harvested hundreds of tons of ice each winter for year-round deliveries. Students, children, and families skated through the winter on Lake Carnegie and held communal bonfires along its banks.

"It was all skating, and everybody skated," recalled one resident quoted in a 1985 Historical Society of Princeton newsletter article. One spring, two young miscreants surfed a thick slab of ice for two miles down Stony Brook, until an angry father intercepted them. "He had a switch cut and I got a pretty good tanning," one of the boys recalled, "but it was quite an adventure."

Yet Princeton's average winter temperatures have warmed by about 3 degrees Fahrenheit since then, and Lake Carnegie has not frozen deeply enough to meet the municipality's criteria for safe

skating since the winter of 2014–15. That January, geosciences professor Gabriel Vecchi got his first — and, to date, only — taste of Princeton ice.

"It seemed like the whole community was out there," recalled Vecchi, a skater and youth hockey coach. "There were people walking on the ice, playing pickup hockey games on the ice. Parents with children. Grandparents with grandchildren. For this brief moment, the lake became ... *of everybody*. It was just magical."

When the lake was unskateable the following winter, and the winter thereafter, Vecchi began to wonder: Was Lake Carnegie freezing as often as it used to?

In the summer of 2020, Grace Liu '23 — then an intern at the High Meadows Environmental Institute — tackled the question. Advised by Vecchi; Nadir Jeevanjee, a research scientist at NOAA's Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory; and Sirisha Kalidindi, a postdoctoral research associate in Vecchi's research group, Liu began piecing together the history of Lake Carnegie's ice.

No scientific record of the lake's ice

conditions existed, so Liu interviewed community members and searched the archives of local papers to determine which years Carnegie had and hadn't been safe to skate on. Some stories directly mentioned skating, but other references were more oblique. In March 1941, for example, *The Daily Princetonian* reported that "the thawing waters of Lake Carnegie" had revealed the body of German chemist Erhard Fernholz, whose disappearance the previous December had prompted the FBI to investigate a possible Nazi assassination.

Liu's resulting data showed that the probability of safe skating on Carnegie started to plummet in the middle of the last century.

"Within a matter of decades," said Liu, "the probability of safe ice skating on Lake Carnegie has decreased from almost 1 to 0.2."

In other words: While the lake was once safe for skating nearly every winter, it is now safe one out of five.

This change is partly attributable to stricter safety standards. In response to instances of skaters falling through the ice and drowning, the municipality has, over the past half-century, narrowed its definition of safe skating conditions, increasing the minimum required ice thickness from three, to four, to eventually five inches. Still, when Liu and her advisers compared their findings

to data on similar lakes around the world, they found that their results matched a rapid global decline in lake freezing.

"The reduction in lake freeze is related to the warming winters," explained Vecchi. "And the warming winters are related to the long-term warming of the planet, caused by increasing greenhouse gases."

Vecchi, who also studies hurricanes and other extreme weather events, is quick to point out that Princeton's disappearing ice ranks low on the global list of problems caused by anthropogenic climate change. Some residents welcome milder winters, and Princeton offers other places to skate: Baker Rink holds open hours, and in 2019, Palmer Square opened a small rink made of an artificial ice product called Glice.

But Vecchi said skating on the lake is a special experience.

**"It seemed like the whole community was out there. There were people walking on the ice, playing pickup hockey games on the ice. Parents with children. Grandparents with grandchildren. For this brief moment, the lake became ... of everybody. It was just magical."**

— Geosciences professor Gabriel Vecchi

"It's not the same," agreed Princeton local John Cook '63, who first skated on Lake Carnegie during World War II and went on to set the Princeton men's hockey team's career goals record, which stood until 2019. "If you want a nice cold winter with outdoor skating, you've probably got to move north."

Members of the past three graduating classes never skated on Lake Carnegie. Liu, a Florida resident, has never skated at all. Vecchi hopes she will get her chance in the coming weeks.

"I really hope Lake Carnegie freezes safely this winter," said Vecchi. "Selfishly, of course, but I also want Grace to be able to go on Lake Carnegie. It would mean something to me for Grace to get to go out on the lake."

◆ By Ben Weissenbach '20

 **SKATING STORIES:** Visit [paw.princeton.edu](http://paw.princeton.edu) to share your memories of winter on Lake Carnegie. A selection of stories may appear in a future issue.

#### INTERDISCIPLINARY HUB

## Center Expands American Studies

A major gift from Blair Effron '84 and Cheryl Effron has established the Effron Center for the Study of America, an expansion of the Program in American Studies that will serve as an interdisciplinary hub for race and ethnic studies.

"The center will provide a space for intellectual discussions to produce transformative research and teaching that is guided by principles of civil rights, freedom, social justice, and inclusion," said Aisha M. Beliso-De Jesús, director of the center (on leave) and a professor of American studies, in a University announcement. The gift was made through the University's Venture Forward campaign, which Blair Effron co-chairs. Officials declined to provide the amount of the gift.

Areas of study include certificate tracks in Asian American studies and Latino studies, as well as courses and initiatives in Native American and Indigenous Studies, African American studies, history, and more.

Sociology professor Patricia Fernández-Kelly, the center's acting director, told PAW that while the center is still in early stages, the first focus will be bringing in diverse faculty. Other plans for the future include creating new courses and curricula incorporating more diverse perspectives and histories, sponsoring independent research, and hosting events and notable speakers, she added.

Those who have worked on this effort are hopeful all Princeton students will take classes through the center and develop a better understanding of American studies, Fernández-Kelly said. "We need a more comprehensive understanding of American identity that does not exclude the voices that have traditionally been evicted from the conventional narrative," she said. ◆ By C.S.

#### RESPONDING TO A RISE IN COVID CASES

Following a December spike in COVID cases, the University shifted fall exams to remote formats "to allow undergraduates to leave campus at their earliest convenience."

On Dec. 13 and 14, University Health Services reported 52 new positive tests on campus, including 32 among undergraduates. The University had previously tightened guidelines for gatherings and increased testing to twice a week for undergraduates in response to an increase of cases in late November and early December. For the week ending Dec. 3, Princeton reported 84 new cases, including 47 among undergraduates, the highest total of the semester to that point. (In September and October, the campus averaged about 12 cases per week.)

The Davis International Center also advised international students to remain in the U.S. during winter break, warning of "an increased possibility that they will not be allowed to return to the U.S. for the spring semester" and noting that Princeton had no plans for hybrid instruction.

According to *The Daily Princetonian*, the travel advisory drew pushback from several international students who felt they were being asked to choose between seeing their families and staying on track to graduate, since visa or travel delays could force them to take a full-year leave. University spokesman Michael Hotchkiss told PAW that the University was providing international students with information and support so they could make informed decisions. The University also made continuous housing available to international students at no cost. ◆ By B.T.





Ryan Amos, a Ph.D. student in computer science, created “open forge” nights for budding blacksmiths.

STUDENT DISPATCH

## Forging Ahead: Grad Student Hopes To Make Blacksmithing an Enduring Club

By Richard Huang '23



About once every two weeks, in an alley between Bowen Hall and the North Garage that is typically used as a loading dock, a

group of Princeton students gathers around anvils and propane-fueled forges to craft spoons, ladles, metal punches, and other tools and trinkets. These “open forge” nights are hosted by Princeton’s Blacksmithing Club, founded in 2017 by Ryan Amos, now a sixth-year Ph.D. student in the computer science department.

Amos began blacksmithing as an undergraduate at Dartmouth College. His theater-shop class instructors hadn’t honored a promise to teach welding in the course, so he brought it up to them.

“They told me to pick a project, and I said I wanted to make a blacksmith’s

forge,” Amos said. “I rigged up the jankiest forge you could possibly imagine, from sheet metal from a charcoal grill. That’s how I got started.”

Since then, Amos has focused on toolmaking, creating equipment like ladles and tongs. Along with practice and YouTube videos, he learned a lot from attending the fall 2015 New England Blacksmiths’ Meet. “I met this drunk farrier who was showing off all his skills, and he offered me a job,” Amos said. “I thought about it, and then I realized going to grad school was a better idea.”

At Princeton, Amos studies online consumer protection. In one project, he’s collecting Yelp reviews and investigating the conditions under which reviews are recommended to users.

When he first came to Princeton, Amos said, the only blacksmithing event on campus was “Hammer Time,” an

annual program led by the Princeton Materials Research Society and the New Jersey Blacksmiths Association. For regular access to a forge, he organized informal gatherings to travel to the nearest available blacksmithing workshop, a 45-minute drive away. But students were interested in on-campus options as well.

Seeing the demand, Amos officially registered the club, secured a place to meet, and got some empty lab space to house equipment like propane tanks, hammers, and anvil stands. Professor Craig Arnold, director of the Princeton Institute for the Science and Technology of Materials, supported the club’s founding.

“Blacksmithing is an activity anyone can do,” Arnold wrote in an email to PAW. “There is something therapeutic in simply hammering a straight piece of steel into a curved hook or taking a square-shaped bar and twisting it into an imperfect spiral.”

With equipment limitations, meetings reach capacity at about five students. Over Amos’ time as club president, he estimates that he’s helped 150 students with blacksmithing projects.

“I think it’s nice to get your hands dirty and actually practice making something,” said Edvard Bruun, a blacksmithing club member and third-year Ph.D. student in civil engineering. “You feel really invigorated after you’ve gone through a process and you see the final result.”

Each project involves problem-solving and trial and error. “You’re going to burn so many things and ruin so many projects, but in my eyes that’s kind of the fun of it,” Amos said. “At the end of the day, this is something that people spend their entire lives mastering.”

In his last year at Princeton, Amos has been thinking about the future of the club, which canceled meetings for over a year during the pandemic before returning to its forges in the fall semester. The founder may be leaving, but Amos is confident that under the right student leadership, the club can thrive. “I think we’ve put together a nice infrastructure for people to use, and hopefully with some maintenance and care, it can last for a while,” he said. ♦

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## CLASS CLOSE-UP

## Crafting Stories for the Stage, Students Focus on Getting Laughs

As midterms approached in the fall, Jeremy Bernius '22 had his hands full with class assignments, including one for the most unusual course in his schedule, "The Art of Stand-Up." The assignment was to create a five-minute set to perform on the theme of the week: controversy. Bernius wrote a routine on suicide.

He chose dark humor based on positive feedback he'd received about his ability to make light of difficult topics; he drew inspiration from comedian Joan Rivers, who noted comedy helps people through hard times. Bernius focused on his struggles with mental health.

At the November performance, Bernius began with a trigger warning, before letting loose with graphic descriptions of extraneous discomforts that occur during suicide attempts. Laughs erupted from the cluster of a few dozen students packed into the small coffee-shop space. "Getting those jokes that landed, getting those laughs — that was an amazing, amazing experience," he said.

Bernius and eight other Princeton students honed their comedy crafts during the fall course taught by Maysoon Zayid, a comedian, actress, and disability advocate. Zayid joined the University as a Princeton Arts Fellow, a two-year residency with the opportunity to teach. "I

wanted the first class I taught at Princeton to be stand-up comedy because, of all my gigs, being a stand-up comedian is still by far my favorite," she said.

Zayid believes performing is the best way to learn, so from day one students were challenged to get on stage and tell jokes. Each week students came prepared with short sets exploring themes including politics, clean comedy, one-liners, and family. Zayid also assigned the study of comedians who are masters of the weekly themes, from Carol Burnett to Chris Rock.

The students performed their sets during the weekly three-hour class and provided critiques and feedback for their classmates.

Zayid said she hoped the students would leave the class with the potential to perform as comedians, even though she's "pretty sure they're going to become mathematicians, engineers, and doctors instead." For the final exam, students performed in a sold-out show at the Wallace Theater. The show was open to the public. Bernius closed with a revamped version of his suicide set.

Watching the students grow as they create has been one of Zayid's favorite parts of the experience. "The most important part of stand-up comedy is telling your story," she said. ♦ By C.S.

## IN SHORT

President Eisgruber '83 and Microsoft President Brad Smith '81 wrote a joint comment, published in late November, supporting a U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) proposal to strengthen the **DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS (DACA) PROGRAM**. The University and Microsoft were co-litigants in a Supreme Court case that preserved the program for undocumented immigrants who came to the U.S. as children.

Princeton plans to expand its **UNDERGRADUATE TRANSFER PROGRAM** by enrolling between 25 and 35 students per year, more than doubling the number of transfers on campus, according to a memo from Keith Shaw, director of transfer, veteran, and nontraditional student programs in the Office of the Dean of the College. Transfer admission was reinstated in 2018, and in the first four years of the program, transfer enrollment has ranged from nine to 14 students per year.

A virtual event Nov. 14 featuring professor emeritus Victor Brombert, hosted by Friends of the Library, was **"ZOOM-BOMBED"** with child pornography and anti-Semitic slurs, prompting a sudden end to the event. About 100 people were listening to a conversation between Brombert and author and editor Landon Jones '66 when the images and slurs filled the screen. (Brombert was featured on the cover of PAW's November issue.)

The number of virtual meetings, including alumni and class events, has increased dramatically during the COVID-19 pandemic. University spokesman Michael Hotchkiss said Princeton "has experienced a very small number of similar incidents" during that time, though he was not aware of any affecting alumni events. Alumni and others interested in hosting virtual events can find security and privacy tips at [bit.ly/zoom-guidance](https://bit.ly/zoom-guidance). ♦



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Photo: ThisIsEngineering, unsplash.com





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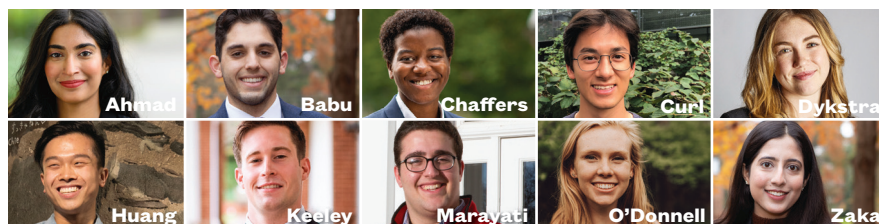
Application Deadline

April 15

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summer programs here



## On the Campus / News



## Students, Alumni Selected for Scholarships

**T**en Princetonians were awarded major scholarships in November and December. Joshua Babu '22, Emma O'Donnell '21, and Wafa Zaka '22 will study at the University of Oxford as Rhodes scholars; Naoum Fares Marayati '19 will study at Trinity College Dublin as a Mitchell scholar; Julia Chaffers '22 will study at two British universities as a Marshall scholar; and Amina Ahmad '22, Justin Curl '22, Katie Dykstra '22, Edric Huang '18, and Nicholas Keeley '16 will study at Beijing's Tsinghua University as Schwarzman scholars.

Babu, a molecular biology major from Scottsdale, Arizona, plans to study social

policy. He is president of the Princeton Footnotes, and his senior thesis will examine the health-care experiences of transgender youth.

O'Donnell, an ecology and evolutionary biology graduate, is from Pembroke, Bermuda. She plans to study sustainability. O'Donnell's research on coral reef fish species won her department's ecology thesis prize.

Zaka, a politics concentrator from Lahore, Pakistan, will study history and modern South Asia. She has served as president of the Pakistani Student Association and is writing a thesis about ungoverned spaces in Pakistan.

## IN MEMORIAM

**GILBERT HARMAN**, who made wide-ranging contributions to philosophy during more than five decades on the Princeton faculty, died Nov. 13 at age 83. Harman's work displayed a diversity of



interests, including epistemology, linguistics, cognitive science, and moral philosophy. He also was a valued teacher and enthusiastic adviser. In a University obituary, Professor Adam Elga '96 recalled a moment in his senior year when he asked Harman what it was like being a philosophy professor: "He replied with a twinkle in his eye: 'It is great — almost as great as being a philosophy student!'"

**ERIC F. WOOD**, a distinguished hydrologist in the civil and environmental engineering department, died Nov. 3. He was 74. Wood joined the



Princeton faculty in 1976 and four years later became director of the University's Water Resources Program. In a biography prepared in 2019, the year he became emeritus, colleagues described Wood's extensive research collaborations, including work with NASA to employ satellite remote sensing in gathering hydrology data. The American Geophysical Union honored Wood's contributions to his field with the Robert E. Horton Medal in 2017.

**RONALD E. SURTZ**, a professor of Spanish and Portuguese whose



research and writing explored pre-modern and early modern religious texts, died Nov. 14 at age 75. Surtz, who taught at Princeton from 1973 to 2016, was a master of languages and could "liberally impart aphorisms in Spanish, Italian, and French," according to a department biography — a skill that

Denise Applewhite, Princeton University/Office of Communications (Babu, Harman, Huang, Marayati, Surtz, Zaka); Amina Elgarni '22; Sameer A. Khan '21 (Ahmad, Chaffers); Alan Huo '22; Ella Morgan '24; Molly Shalchi; courtesy, University of Virginia Darden School of Business; courtesy Roundtable on Ethnic Relations

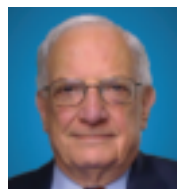
Marayati, who was born in Syria and immigrated to the U.S. as a teenager, plans to study global health. He graduated with an A.B. in psychology and is a medical student at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City.

Chaffers, an African American studies major from Wellesley, Massachusetts, plans to study politics and history at University College London and the University of Manchester. She is president of Whig-Clio and a *Daily Princetonian* columnist.

Princeton's Schwarzman scholars include three seniors. Curl and Dykstra are computer science concentrators, while Ahmad is majoring in the School of Public and International Affairs. Two alumni also received the scholarship: Huang, an anthropology graduate, works for the alumni-founded nonprofit Emma's Torch, and Keeley, an East Asian studies graduate and Army veteran, is studying business and data science at the University of Virginia. ♦

added levity to faculty meetings and advising sessions. In 2016, Surtz's students and colleagues published a book of essays in his honor, focusing on topics from medieval and Golden Age Spain.

**ALLEN H. KASSOF**, a sociology professor who supervised



Princeton's Critical Languages Program, which brought the first female undergraduates to campus in the 1960s, died Nov. 22

at age 90. Kassof told PAW in 2019 that the program, which offered instruction in Chinese, Russian, Arabic, and other languages, produced several successful scholars and specialists. According to a family obituary, he joked that his role also made him Princeton's "first dean of women." After leaving the University, Kassof was founding director of an organization that arranged scholar-exchange programs between the U.S. and the Soviet-bloc countries. ♦



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Quarterback Cole Smith '22 drags a Harvard player during the October game Princeton won in the fifth overtime.

FALL SPORTS

# Tigers Burn Bright

Four teams won Ivy League titles, with football earning a bonfire to cap the season

**A**fter 18 months of uncertainty, perhaps no team's success burned brighter than Princeton football's — literally, given the season-ending Big Three bonfire that splashed an orange glow across Nassau Hall. The Tigers, co-champions of the Ivy League, were masters of late-game dramatics, from a fourth-quarter comeback against Monmouth to a second-half surge against Yale to their wild 18-16 win in the fifth overtime against Harvard in late October, as part of a 9-1 season.

The time off during the pandemic "made me realize how much we truly missed it and missed each other and missed the relationships," said head coach Bob Surace '90. "To celebrate with everyone is just a really great feeling."

For the seniors, who played on one of the greatest teams in recent memory in 2018, this championship bookended

their time at the University with a second Ivy title. Surace recognized the unique experience of the team's upperclassmen, saying he believed he had a duty to pay off their hard work because "they sacrificed so much; there's a responsibility to make sure that experience goes well."

Meanwhile, men's soccer — led by Kevin O'Toole '22, who was named offensive player of the year for a second time, Ivy coach of the year Jim Barlow '91, and eight additional All-Ivy selections — captured the Ivy title, finishing a perfect 7-0-0 in the Ivy League. Possessing a flair for the dramatic all year long, the Tigers won on late-game goals in the 85th minute against Penn and in overtime against Yale to clinch the conference title, though their magic ran out in a 1-0 loss to St. John's in the opening round of the NCAA tournament.

Women's soccer also had a strong showing this fall, finishing 15-3-1 and coming up just short of an Ivy title of its own, losing 3-1 at Brown to deny Princeton its 11th championship. Headlined by seven All-Ivy choices and anchored by a defense with first-team All-Ivy defenders Lucy Rickerson '22 and Madison Curry '23, and first-team All-Ivy goalkeeper Grace Barbara '22, Princeton's balanced attack led the Tigers to the NCAA tournament, where, after being selected with an at-large bid, a gut-wrenching 3-2 double-overtime loss to No. 8 Texas Christian University sent them home in the second round.

Led by freshman Beth Yeager, field hockey came up one win shy of an Ivy League title, finishing second to Harvard. Yeager, second in the league in goals with 16 and first in points per game, was named both Ivy League rookie of the year and offensive player of the year. Supplemented by other offensive stars Sammy Popper '23 and Ali McCarthy '23, the Tigers' supercharged offense led the league in goals with 51, powering its 6-1 run through the Ivy League. In a matchup

Beverly Schaefer



Emma Davis '22 used her head when Princeton beat Loyola 2-1 in August.

of the Ivy League's best offense in Princeton and best defense in Harvard, which conceded only 10 goals all season long, the Tigers came razor close to earning their 27th banner. Princeton lost in a penalty shootout after 80 minutes of game time. Ultimately victory was not to be, though with the preponderance of underclassmen leading the team, the future looks bright.

Men's cross country, led by Olympian steeplechaser Edward Trippas '22, contributed a banner of its own to a championship-packed fall for the Tigers, winning its 22nd Ivy League title and finishing first in its NCAA regional, eventually coming in 23rd at the NCAA national championships. Trippas and senior Kevin Berry finished in the top three in the Ivy League championship, with both runners setting personal records. Women's cross country bowed out at the regionals, placing fourth, though rookie runner Fiona Max '24 qualified

for the individual championship, finishing among the top 100 runners in the nation.

Women's volleyball also had a strong season, finishing 16-6 and second to Brown in the Ivy League. Like field hockey, the team is dominated by underclassmen, who hope to lead the Tigers to the top of the conference in years to come.

In the pool, men's water polo came from three goals down to win its sixth NWPC championship, defeating St. Francis-Brooklyn 9-6 to add a conference championship to a dominant 23-7 regular season. The Tigers defeated Fordham in the first round of the NCAA tournament, setting a program record for wins in a season with 26, before ultimately losing in the second round against No. 1 UCLA on Dec. 2. It was the last game of a memorable fall for Princeton athletics, raising four banners into the rafters in a successful return from the COVID hiatus. ♦ *By Jack Hartman '24*

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Kristina Olson  
joined the  
faculty in 2020.

PSYCHOLOGY

# Understanding Transgender Youth

## Professor Kristina Olson leads a 20-year study of gender development

**W**hen psychology professor Kristina Olson started The TransYouth Project, a longitudinal study of transgender and gender-nonconforming youth, in 2013, she was on a shoestring budget. Then a faculty member at the University of Washington, she took red-eye flights and drove long distances to meet with the parents and children enrolled in the study. “I went to probably 40 states and met about 200 kids myself,” says Olson, who joined the Princeton faculty in September 2020.

Today, Olson is a national figure in the study of gender identity, and her work is funded by grants from the National

Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and Princeton. In 2018, she was awarded both the \$625,000 MacArthur Fellowship, known as the “genius grant,” and the National Science Foundation’s Alan T. Waterman Award, which provides an outstanding young scientist with a five-year, \$1 million research grant. Olson was the only psychologist, and the first woman in 14 years, to win that prize.

Olson launched the TransYouth study after observing a friend’s 5-year-old child, who was living as a boy and playing with a Polly Pocket doll when no one was looking. After getting to know the child and talking to the parents, who

were thinking about whether the child would socially transition to live as a girl — such a change is typically defined as adopting the clothing, hairstyle, name, and pronoun of another gender — Olson decided to search the academic literature for studies on the topic. “That’s when I found out there was basically no research about this,” Olson recalls. “I realized I was someone who could do that.”

The TransYouth Project now has 300 participants who are transgender. When initially enrolled in the study by their parents, their ages ranged from 3 to 12. (They had socially transitioned but had not undergone any medical interventions at the time they enrolled.) The 20-year project, which examines gender development and well-being, also studies the sibling closest in age to the transgender child, the parents, and cisgender youth matched by age and gender to the main subjects, for a total of 800 participants in more than 40 states and two Canadian provinces. Study participants meet with members of Olson’s team — now about a dozen postdocs, graduate students, and research staff members — every one to three years and complete annual surveys. The goal “is to get some sense of how children’s gender development grows and changes across their lives, and how their trajectories are similar or not with cisgender youth,” she says.

Olson has found that the mental health of the transgender children who have socially transitioned is similar to that of their cisgender peers. They are no more likely to be depressed and experience only slightly higher anxiety levels. They have good self-esteem. “It’s surprising because studies of transgender adults and teens usually find a big discrepancy” with cisgender adults and teens when it comes to mental health, she says. But “most transgender kids in the United States and the world don’t experience what the youth in our study do: high levels of support,” she points out. Transgender children, for example, are much more likely to be homeless and to face other problems.

Her study also has found that the children who have socially transitioned identify as strongly with their gender as children who identify with their

birth gender. The transgender children showed preferences for gender-stereotypical objects such as clothing and toys that are comparable to their non-transgender peers and that are “strong and consistent over time,” Olson says.

Her findings provide insight into transgender youths’ well-being that contradicts previous academic perspectives. “For a long time in the field of psychology, people thought if children thought they were the ‘other gender,’ that was a problem that needed to be fixed,” says Olson, who has published 15 papers so far analyzing the study’s data. “They believed that showing a transgender identity was a sign of an underlying mental health problem. The fact that we have a large number of children doing well who are being supported in their identity provides a counterweight to that belief.” In the past, many experts advised against children transitioning until they entered their teens, but today more recommend that parents support a child’s gender expression at earlier ages.

The president of the American Academy of Pediatrics cited Olson’s work in a 2016 letter encouraging physicians, especially pediatricians, to be supportive of transgender children. Referring to parents who offer “love and acceptance” to “children who just happened not to fit their ‘assigned’ or birth gender,” he wrote, “There appears to be no harm — and possible benefit — from such parent-supported early social transitions.”

Olson used some of the funds from the Waterman Award to create a summer internship program at the University of Washington for undergraduates from across the country. It focused on students from historically underrepresented groups or who would otherwise have a hard time getting the research experience critical for graduate school admission. She hopes to launch a similar program at Princeton.

Olson keeps in touch with many of the parents in the TransYouth Project. They send her photos and updates on their children’s lives. “These parents have told me their life stories, and some have cried in my arms,” she says. “Most parents are doing their best and trying to understand, because they want to support their child.”

♦ By Jennifer Altmann



Photo by Jon Roemer

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BEHIND THE RESEARCH: SHARIFFA CHELIMO ALI

## Exploring Race and Sexuality on the Stage

As a child visiting relatives in Kenya, theater lecturer Shariffa Chelimo Ali was mesmerized as she listened to village elders who gathered to tell stories about her tribe. Ali's family lived in Pretoria, South Africa, and would often visit her grandmother, who had stayed in the village of Nandi Hills, Kenya. The love of storytelling that had been planted by her elders blossomed as Ali studied theater at the University of Cape Town. A year later, in 2013, she directed her first professional theater performance in Manhattan, a solo piece with movement called *Still* that she rehearsed on rooftops and in empty gyms.

**"Theater audiences are not as diverse as they need to be, but streaming works during the pandemic has helped reach new audiences as far away as other continents," says Shariffa Chelimo Ali.**

Much of Ali's work — which has ranged from creating virtual-reality films to directing off-Broadway productions — has explored Black and African American identities. Growing up in "a race-obsessed country," Ali says, "has allowed me to constantly examine our shared human experiences."

◆ By Jennifer Altmann

## Ali's Work: A Sampling



### A TALE OF TEXTILES

A huge pile of secondhand clothing comes alive at night in *We Were Everywhere*, a music-theater work co-written and directed by Ali that was performed by Princeton students at the University's Wallace Theater in 2019. The discarded clothes are being sold in an East African marketplace and tell the stories of their origins — from a cotton plantation to a shopping mall. Students helped develop the material based on their own clothing and memories. Ali co-wrote the book and lyrics while she was Princeton's Berlind playwright-in-residence. The historical piece explores "our relationship to waste and recycling, to production, and consumption," she says.



### A TREE TRANSFORMS

*Atomu* is a virtual-reality short film that brings to life a Kenyan tribal myth: If you circle the mugumo tree seven times, a man may become a woman and a woman may become a man. Ali co-created the dance piece on self-discovery with childhood friend, photographer, and

product manager Yetunde Dada. "I made this to start a conversation with my community — and my grandmother in particular — about queerness and transgender rights," says Ali, who identifies as queer. There are many laws against LGBTQ rights in Kenya, she adds. The film was an official selection at the 2020 Sundance Festival and received an \$80,000 POV/PBS Spark Grant.

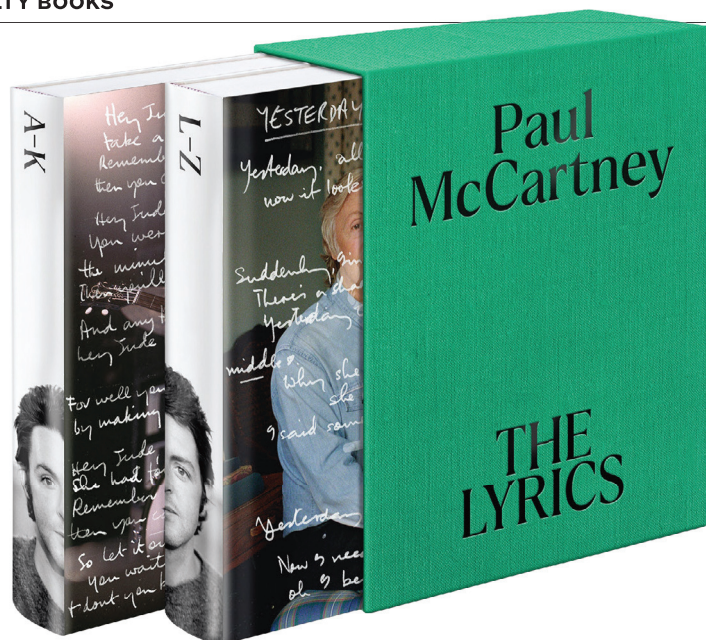


### ORPHAN BATTLE

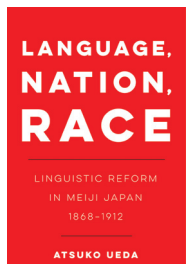
With the pandemic shifting theater online in 2020, Ali directed the streaming play *The Copper Children*, by Karen Zacarias, part of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival's American Revolutions program, which supports plays about historical moments of change. The play depicts the story of "orphan trains" that brought abandoned children from New York to Arizona mining towns in the early 20th century. A battle over who would adopt the children stirred a debate about race, law, and religion that ended up before the U.S. Supreme Court. This was the first time Ali's family and friends in South Africa had the opportunity to see her work. A friend sent her a video, Ali recalls, "of everyone gathered around my grandmother's TV, watching it." ◆ By J.A.

Illustrations: Agata Nowicka (left); Mikel Casal (right)

FACULTY BOOKS

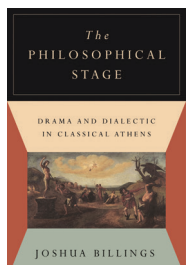


*The Lyrics: 1956 to the Present* (Liveright Publishing), by Paul McCartney and edited by **Paul Muldoon**, professor of creative writing, tracks McCartney's storied career — from his early days to the Beatles and beyond — through the lyrics of 154 songs and first-person narratives. It reveals the inspirations behind some of McCartney's most iconic songs and includes archived images that bring the pages to life.



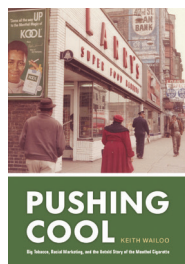
*Language, Nation, Race: Linguistic Reform in Meiji Japan, 1868-1912* (UC Press), by **Atsuko Ueda**, professor of modern Japanese literature, explores linguistic reforms in Japan that occurred

around the turn of the 20th century. At the time, Meiji leaders were seeking to rapidly educate a largely illiterate population as part of wider reforms to stave off the threat of Western colonialism.



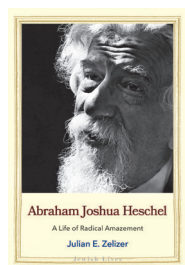
*The Philosophical Stage* (Princeton University Press), by **Joshua Billings**, professor of classics, introduces a new way to view Greek literature, placing drama at the heart of intellectual

history. Billings analyzes tragedy and comedy to better interpret the birth of Greek philosophy — resulting in a novel approach to classical Greek study and our understanding of the early modern world.



*Pushing Cool: Big Tobacco, Racial Marketing, and the Untold Story of the Menthol Cigarette* (University of Chicago Press), by **Keith Walloo**, professor of history

and public affairs, reveals how Black communities became primary targets for the sale of menthol cigarettes, forever changing purchasing patterns and threatening the lives of millions.



In the biography *Abraham Joshua Heschel: A Life of Radical Amazement* (Yale University Press), history professor **Julian Zelizer** traces the life of Heschel, a

Polish-born American rabbi known for his participation in America's civil-rights movement. Zelizer explores Heschel's leading role in uniting religious faith with progressive politics and social justice.

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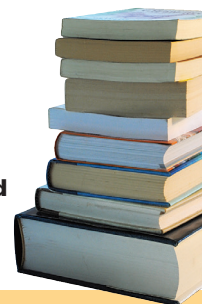
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# A NEW TAKE ON BOARDING SCHOOL

These Trenton students attend public school — and Princeton alumni are ensuring they get the support offered to private-school peers

BY **KENNETH TERRELL '93**

**I**T'S 3:45 P.M. IN EARLY OCTOBER, and teenage girls in baggy T-shirts, flowing braids, and COVID-19 face masks stream off the yellow school bus, their energy bubbling over even as they're uncertain of where to direct it. But these girls aren't shifting gears to go home, hang out with friends, or tackle the latest viral TikTok challenge, as many of their classmates in the Trenton public school district will do this evening.

Instead, the young women are disembarking on the campus of the Lawrenceville School, a leafy private boarding school on a sprawling campus full of red-brick buildings down the road from Princeton, as participants in HomeWorks — a free, academically rigorous after-school program for young women of color from lower-income backgrounds in Trenton, started by Natalie Tung '18. After dropping off their backpacks in their rooms in a gray stone dormitory reserved just for them, the girls will start the second half of their school day. For the next six hours, the “scholars,” as the program refers to its participants, will take part in a structured schedule of study time, dinner, presentations by guest speakers, and one-on-one tutoring — with a few hours for free time.





In November, the HomeWorks students took a field trip to Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton, New Jersey, where they studied art.



At 10 p.m., it's time for lights out. The girls — who during the day attend different public high schools in Trenton — will turn their cellphones over to their house mother for the night, then sleep in their Lawrenceville dorm. In the morning each school day, the bus will drop them off at their schools in Trenton, starting the process once more. On the weekends, they return home to their families.

The evening has an orderly rhythm, steadily moving from session to session, a direct contrast to the more leisurely movements of the Lawrenceville students, who move side-by-side with the HomeWorks scholars in the dining hall and across the campus but rarely interact with them.

"You have your normal schoolwork and school day and you're interacting socially with everybody at your school, then you come here to [HomeWorks'] programming and have a busy schedule," says Darae, a sunny 17-year-old with a corona of light brown, Afro curls that dip over her eyes. She has been with HomeWorks since it started three years ago; now she's a peer leader. "But [HomeWorks] also just feels like going home, you know? At least to me, it doesn't feel like just a boarding program. I'm going home to girls who I care about and girls who care about me. I'm going home to adults who care about me and vice versa. I'm going home to support where I need it, you know, academically and socially and emotionally — really all around."



Natalie Tung '18 founded HomeWorks as a summer pilot program while still a Princeton student.

**"WE KNOW THAT TRENTON IS INCREDIBLE AND HAS SO MUCH TO OFFER. THERE'S SO MUCH RICHNESS TO THIS CITY. WHY NOT STAY HERE AND HAVE OUR GIRLS WORK TOGETHER TO STAY IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS AND BUILD UP THEIR COMMUNITY?"**

**— NATALIE TUNG '18, HOMEWORKS CO-FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**E** DUCATORS AND education-reform experts commonly say that much of what can hinder the progress of students in urban public schools actually happens outside of the classroom. In lower-income households and communities, a disruption can trigger cascading events that result in a loss of learning opportunities for students. For example, family financial issues can lead to homelessness — occasional or long-term — that in turn causes truancies that prevent students from getting subsidized meals in school, a lack of nutrition that hinders physical and neurological development. Limited access to affordable health care can mean many ailments go untreated. And violence and abuse within neighborhoods can further scar students' social and emotional growth.

Some educators have proposed creating urban public boarding schools that could cater to these nonacademic needs, but according to one study by Harvard economist Roland Fryer, educating a student at such a school can cost three times as much as the usual per-pupil cost for traditional daytime education. Successful public boarding schools do exist, such as the network of SEED schools — co-founded by Rajiv Vinnakota '93 — in

Washington, D.C., Maryland, Miami, and soon in Los Angeles. Those schools, which also are independently operated charter schools, have succeeded in raising the financial donations and *pro bono* supports that are essential to providing both education and housing to young adults from lower-income backgrounds.

But beyond costs, some critics raise concerns that urban public boarding schools remove the highest-achieving students from their neighborhood schools, draining communities of potential future leaders inside and outside of the classrooms. At the same time, critics say, the students in boarding programs are left to infer that the very communities in which they grew up are barriers to their individual success.

Tung believes that HomeWorks, which she founded in 2017, could circumvent the problems of both price and brain drain. By letting the Trenton Public Schools handle the core part

of the students' education, HomeWorks saves money while focusing on providing individualized tutoring along with out-of-school academic and social supports, such as workshops on how to recognize the warning signs of abusive relationships and physical- and mental-wellness sessions.

"We're so excited about this model because not only is it replicating boarding schools without the bureaucracy, high fixed costs, and scalability issues of running an actual school, it's also reversing the narrative that our kids need to leave their marginalized communities in order to be successful," says Tung. "We know that Trenton is incredible and has so much to offer. There's so much richness to this city. Why not stay here and have our girls work together to stay in their neighborhoods and build up their community?"

Today, HomeWorks employs a core staff of eight people, including Vilma Jimenez '18, the development and program manager, and works with volunteers. (A board of trustees and an advisory group — both of which include Princeton alumni — help steer the organization.) Revenue in fiscal year 2021 was about \$273,000, up from about \$80,000 three years earlier.

"HomeWorks is a very worthy model to test and see whether or not we can make it work for a couple of reasons," says Vinnakota, who is now president of the Institute for Citizens & Scholars, in Princeton. "Number one is there isn't any one model that holds the answer to all situations or all communities or all students. Having the ability to try different models is really important to see what we can learn from it.

"The second [reason] is that the model that HomeWorks

is trying is, frankly, just cheaper," Vinnakota says. "Though you don't want to have all situations be driven by cost, [the affordability] certainly helps you when you try to calculate on a policy level what's the return on investment."

**T**UNG STARTED ON THE PATH that would lead her to create HomeWorks when she was still an undergraduate at Princeton. Her academic experiences before she entered college had shown her how large a role a school's learning environment can play in a student's academic growth. For example, as a child growing up in Hong Kong, she found the school she attended to be impersonal, which in turn limited her success in the classroom.

"It was very numbers-driven in everything. We were even called by our numbers," Tung says. "I was number 31. [The school] was all about testing. I think because of that, in terms of the culture of the school, I didn't have a lot of confidence growing up. I was also just failing a lot of my classes and a lot of the tests, and I ended up repeating third grade."

Her academic turnaround began at age 13, when her family moved to the United States and Tung enrolled at the Lawrenceville School. "Living in a dorm with 40 other women who were my age who were from all around the world, that environment was just unlike anything I'd ever experienced before," she says. "It made me more empathetic and more confident, more vulnerable. And it also made me realize that when women come together and when we lift each other up

Students in the program receive one-on-one tutoring from adult mentors like House Director Erica Hundley.





and when we're being nice to each other and cheering each other on, it changes everything."

A class at Princeton on social entrepreneurship further awakened Tung to new possibilities. Even before she took the class, she was enticed by the idea of one day creating a new boarding school experience, one that was fully accessible to students from lower-income backgrounds. She says the course helped her realize that she didn't need to wait until she reached middle age to pursue that goal.

Of course, operating a boarding school while still a college student wasn't a viable option, but Tung took her first steps toward her goal by becoming a student teacher in the Trenton school district through Princeton's Program in Teacher Preparation. While she relished her interactions with students, she observed firsthand the ways in which the school district

was unable to meet their needs fully. Widespread chronic absenteeism and low test scores on crucial math and English exams were common.

"It's not the kids' fault. It's not the parents' fault. It's not the teachers' fault," says Tung. "It's the system's fault that this is all happening. And it was really frustrating. It was really heartbreaking."

The summer before she graduated from Princeton, Tung started HomeWorks as a small summer pilot program; after she graduated, it became an after-school program. She chose to have the program enroll only girls because she wanted them to learn how powerful women can become when they support one another.

"For women, specifically Black and brown women, there's the intersection of being not only a person of color — and all of the challenges and systemic injustices that come with that — but also gender," she says. "Understanding what it means to be a girl in this world and not feel completely safe, we wanted to build a program that teaches them to be confident, where they don't feel they have to put each other down to be at the top."

HomeWorks recruits its scholars by starting with nominations from eighth-grade teachers and counselors at Trenton middle schools. "We specifically look for kids who are ready and willing to be all in," Tung says. After receiving a nomination, the students and their families go through an application process that includes several rounds of interviews, including a final peer-group interview with already-participating scholars. For the 2021–22 school year, HomeWorks received 30 applications and enrolled five new students, for a total of 11.

The screening process aims to identify young women who are willing to make the commitment HomeWorks requires, becoming a part of its community while forgoing some of the time they could share with family and friends from school. The scholars acknowledge that tradeoff but say the experience in the boarding program makes it worthwhile.

Darae has four siblings; her two older brothers and older sister no longer live at home, so it's her younger sister who

misses her most when Darae is with HomeWorks during the week. "She believes that what I'm doing here is really great," Darae says. "She tells me all the time how proud of me she is. Sometimes she acts like she doesn't really care I'm away from home, but I know they do get lonely [when I'm gone] because I'm the star of the house."

Fifteen-year-old Nkosazana is a sophomore in the HomeWorks program who aspires to study abroad, perhaps in Italy or South Korea, and become an anesthesiologist. Because she is an only child, the boarding program offered a new social opportunity. "I'm not very used to being around other girls that much, so at first, I wasn't too pleased with the idea of staying overnight with other girls," she says. "But once I got used to it, it was easier because I found girls that were just like me going through the same situation being at home by themselves. They

**HOMEWORKS "JUST FEELS LIKE GOING HOME, YOU KNOW? AT LEAST TO ME, IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE JUST A BOARDING PROGRAM. I'M GOING HOME TO GIRLS WHO I CARE ABOUT AND GIRLS WHO CARE ABOUT ME. I'M GOING HOME TO ADULTS WHO CARE ABOUT ME AND VICE VERSA."**

**– DARAE**

might not have been only children, but they have older siblings who leave."

The scholars must sometimes explain to their Trenton classmates why they can't socialize after school. The other students "ask a lot of questions," Darae says. "Typically, I tell them, you know, 'I'm going to a boarding program. I like it.' You know, that's the most important part. I tell them a little bit about what we do."

**T**HE COVID PANDEMIC, with its sudden move to online classes, presented special challenges for HomeWorks. The program began bringing its scholars to its site during the day, where they could attend their Trenton classes online.

"Virtual schooling [at home] was really tough for our kids. It was hard," says Tung. "Maybe they didn't have a computer to use, or they didn't have Wi-Fi .... Their parents were at work or the kids had distractions at home. We had meals here, and we provided a space where really all they had to do was just learn."

The pandemic also limited opportunities for field trips and cultural activities, but the program made the most of what it had. When President Joe Biden declared Juneteenth a federal holiday this year, the students participated in celebrations and demonstrations in Trenton. Last spring, they took part in a competition co-sponsored by the Reinvention Lab at Teach For America and the NinetyNine Products sneaker brand.



**HomeWorks participants, shown in a dorm at the Lawrenceville School, often speak about the friendship and support they receive from other students.**

Challenged to create a sneaker design that embodied the future of learning, the HomeWorks team focused on the idea of inclusivity, creating the “Diaspora” running shoe in shades of brown, beige, yellow, and tan to represent “the diversity of girls,” with black shoelaces to symbolize “being tied together for life.” “With each step, I remember the power that our melanin holds, creating legacies in our own communities,” Darae said during the video conference that was part of the shoe’s final pitch. The process helped the young women build skills in conceptualization, collaboration, and marketing.

Even before COVID, managing the daunting challenges of urban education was “much trickier than we anticipated,” says Kris Schulte ’83, who chairs the HomeWorks board and works full time as a teacher at the Lawrenceville School. “Part of the challenge is that the kids are really all over the place in where they are academically.”

To address these challenges, HomeWorks has dedicated more time this year to one-on-one tutoring and invested in an adaptive-learning math software program that provides

each girl with a personalized set of problems focused on the areas in which she is weaker. A simple schedule change — moving study hours to after dinner — has also helped. “We previously had those hours in the afternoon, and, frankly, it kept getting preempted by everything you can imagine, like bus delays,” says Schulte. “And the kids needed a break anyway. So now it’s this sort of sacred time after dinner — an hour and a half — and that change is having an effect.”

Tung attributes HomeWorks’ growth to buy-in from the Trenton community: the girls who enroll in the program, their parents and families, their schools. Those close to the program cite Tung’s leadership as the heart and soul of the organization.

“Natalie has dedicated her life — the life of someone who could do many, many powerful things on a grand scale — to focus on this need in this particularly beleaguered city,” says James Kerney II, a trustee of the James Kerney Foundation, which gave HomeWorks a \$50,000 grant that purchased its school bus. “She’s got a structure in place to do as much as she possibly can to guarantee that investments that go into the program are going to be used wisely. And that it’s going to serve the longevity of the program.”

Recently, HomeWorks purchased a house near Cadwalader Park in Trenton that is intended to serve as its headquarters and dormitories. It will need to raise an estimated \$1.5 million to pay for essential renovations, but when it’s ready, the new building will allow HomeWorks to expand

to its desired capacity: 10 scholars from each year of high school, for a total of 40. Eventually, Tung hopes to create chapters of HomeWorks across the country and perhaps even around the world.

It’s still a work in progress, but already HomeWorks has built a sense of community among its students, the young women say, instilling each with confidence that she can meet her goals in school and life. That’s a message Darae imparts to her housemates daily.

“I think here, we just want to teach every one of the girls, your voice should be the loudest, your voice should be heard,” she says. “And if they don’t want to hear you, make them. There’s strength in emotion. There’s strength in love. There’s strength in community. And I think that’s why this is the place where you come back and you feel strong. You feel loved, because we want you to have open arms for each and every one that goes here.” ♦

*Kenneth Terrell ’93, a former education editor for U.S. News & World Report, is a writer and editor for AARP.*



# The PHILOSOPHER MUSICIAN

By day, Andrew Choi '02 is a lawyer  
— but he's also St. Lenox, a rising star in indie music

BY ZACHARY PINCUS-ROTH '02

**A**NDREW CHOI '02 THOUGHT he'd screwed up his life. So he wrote a song about Richard Nixon. It was 2010, and he'd just spent seven years in grad school, earning low wages and racking up credit-card debt. He realized he didn't want to be a philosophy professor after all — and should probably go to law school instead. As he remembers thinking, "I'm going to end up getting a job at some small liberal arts college in the middle of nowhere, five hours away from the biggest city, and there will be no gay people and I will die alone and this was a colossal mistake."

He had just seen the movie *Frost/Nixon*, in which another man who'd screwed up his life is enduring his post-resignation retirement not in jail but in a California paradise. And that helped Choi think he might turn out OK, too.

In Choi's song, Nixon appears to him in a dream: *I asked him if he'd take it all back and was it hard being the president of a nation up in arms. / He said with a heavy sigh, "I got caught up in the moment."*

Choi, 42, does not sing about things that people usually sing about. His career does not look like the career singers usually have. But it did turn out OK.

His day job consists of litigation for the likes of construction firms and airlines. Meanwhile, under the name St. Lenox, he has released four albums of songs on religion, death, love, family, and the American experience, which have earned him spots on year-end "best" lists, a showcase at South by Southwest, and fans such as John Darnielle of the Mountain Goats, who has called him "a lyricist of the highest order."

Is there another attorney with a philosophy Ph.D. who has been profiled as a musician in *Rolling Stone*? Will there ever be?

He explains his unusual combination as the result of hard-won expertise and confidence in some realms, and necessity and failures in others. "I gotta eat," he says, "and I want to be a happy person."

**CHOI WAS A STAR VIOLINIST IN HIGH SCHOOL**, but when he arrived at Princeton, he pretty much stopped playing. "I was just really known as, like, the violin guy in Ames," he says, referring to the Iowa town where he went to high school. "So I want something else to do after that."

His parents had emigrated from South Korea — his father became an economics professor at Iowa State University, and his mother took care of him and his two brothers. After a childhood spent in various places around the Midwest, in a family where money was tight, Princeton was a culture shock. "There's just a lot of wealth at Princeton that I was definitely uncomfortable with," he says. He remembers going out to dinner and looking for the cheapest thing on the menu, while everyone else at the table was planning a trip to Cancun.

Of course, now he's an attorney, a New Yorker, which allows him to "humanize" the experience: "I'm more forgiving."

In his senior year, Choi suffered a mental breakdown. He felt like his mind was separating from his body. He was hyperventilating for several days. He didn't eat for almost a week.

He'd had episodes like this before, once at music camp. It was a visceral feeling of what death would feel like. And it was connected to his questioning of his religious upbringing. If the afterlife that Christianity promises doesn't exist, what does that nothingness feel like?

He checked himself into a hospital and requested to speak to a priest, who came to Choi's bedside and asked if he believed in God. Choi responded that he didn't know.

It was during this breakdown period that he called his deeply religious parents and told them he was gay. Because, he recalls, "I didn't think that things could feel any worse."

Death has frequently occupied his brain — at one point he didn't fly for nearly two decades. This was after his freshman year of high school, when he commuted every weekend from Iowa to a program at Juilliard, and he thought perhaps he had used up all of his flights that wouldn't crash.



Andrew Choi '02  
creates his music  
in his Brooklyn  
apartment.



His existential thoughts were partly what led him to philosophy. He wrote his senior thesis on Immanuel Kant and the golden rule, and his grad school application essay on Kant and sexual desire. His dissertation defended the Kantian view that it's always rational to act in accordance with your best judgment. Kant is known to many for his strict moral precepts—for example, lying is wrong—but it's the thinking behind them that Choi appreciated.

"He had created a system about how everything works. I think I felt some safety in that," he recalls. Kant still informs how he thinks about ethical issues, including racism. Often he feels discussions of racism focus on, say, the offense that's taken at a boss's racist comment, while Choi feels what's even more important is how that comment affects the agency of the worker who overhears it.

In 2008, late in grad school at Ohio State University, he started doing karaoke at bars in Columbus to reduce his anxiety over public speaking. Why not? When he warbled along to songs in the car, he thought he was pretty good.

He taught himself to sing by picking Erykah Badu's bouncy R&B hit "On and On" to work on his belting and vocal control, or Billie Holiday's slow, jazzy-bluesy "God Bless This Child" to work on vibrato and arpeggiation. He has logged more than 500 performances on a spreadsheet, where he rates how well he did from one to five stars.

Karaoke led to singing jazz standards at jam sessions; he eventually wanted to join a jazz band. Unlike most singers he was competing with, Choi was an expert in music theory and could write out the chord charts for the musicians—and he felt he could sing better than others who were getting more opportunities.

"I don't think a lot of musicians would have wanted to work with an Asian person doing jazz singing in Columbus," he says, adding: "It ends up being coded in certain ways like, 'Oh, you know, we're looking for a certain kind of look.'"

So he started to write his own songs, and played the accompaniment on a MiniDisc recorder or MP3 player at open-mic nights, often at the Columbus concert venue Andyman's Treehouse, which had a tree running through the middle.

One night he met Bela Koe, who lived in town and owns the small indie label Anyway Records. Koe and his family watched Choi perform "Bitter Pill," about the remnants of a past relationship: *Walk into the kitchen and you'll see a drawing of a man / With hearts for arms and legs stuck to the door of the refrigerator. / You had drawn the picture as a silly little gift for me ...*

"We were all literally in tears," Koe says. "It's such a powerful song."

Eventually, Choi did indeed decide to go to law school. Besides his concern about the prospect of small-town life, he needed to pay the bills while giving this music thing a shot. So he defended his dissertation, took the LSAT a few weeks later, and got into New York University. "In some ways I didn't want to become an attorney," he says, "because that's what my parents wanted me to do the whole time."

His fellow grad student, and roommate, Kimberly Palladino '02, recalls being surprised at the news, coming from the Ph.D. student who would hang out in white T-shirts, jeans, and flip-flops. She recalls thinking, "Andy, you're going to be a lawyer in New York, really? You know you're going to have to wear some other shoes."



**Choi writes and records in a small makeshift studio he set up in his apartment.**



**T**ODAY, CHOI LIVES with his husband, Elon, their dog Tummy, and their cats Dorothy and Lucy near the southeast corner of Brooklyn's Prospect Park, in a modern building above a combination Carvel and Cinnabon. His office doubles as a music room — there are two cameras he bought for his music videos, plus microphones, a keyboard, a guitar, and vinyl copies of his albums. One bookcase is full of Dungeons and Dragons and Star Wars role-playing games. On pages of a waiter's notebook — lined up along the wall on a track as in a restaurant kitchen — he keeps track of his *pro bono* immigration clients, children he's helping to apply for legal permanent-resident status. Behind the door is his violin, which he plays from time to time.

He's warm, accommodating, and self-deprecating, often erupting into laughter mid-sentence. "He was kind of beloved by everybody," says his grad school friend Steven Brown. Philosophers can be critical of each other's arguments, but "Andy was one of the people who went out of his way to tell people the things they were doing that were good and encouraging."

As a musician, he goes by the name St. Lenox, adapted from a sign referencing 148 Street — Lenox Terminal station, the last stop on a Manhattan subway line, where he'd occasionally end up during law school after falling asleep. He liked that the name combines something meaningful and spiritual with something mundane. And he worried that if journalists came across an indie musician with an Asian name, they'd delete it. While some Asian female singers have broken out, "Asian American male musicians are almost nonexistent in indie," he says. Choi

once scoured two music outlets over two months and saw that white artists made up 95 percent of the album reviews.

NPR gave Choi's first album, *Ten Songs About Memory and Hope*, a shout-out in early 2015, and raves have followed ever since. *Ten Songs of Worship and Praise for our Tumultuous Times*, which came out in June, was a co-release with the bigger Don Giovanni Records. "It wasn't a tough decision," says its founder and owner, Joe Steinhardt, who says the album has already recouped costs for the record label, which was planning to order a second pressing. Choi has made royalties, which is a feat these days. Still, after factoring in his costs, he typically operates at a loss.

Choi does what many would call talk-singing, a vocal style that the culture news site The Ringer recently declared was having a moment. "I just had too many words to say," he says. It also springs partly from the way he talks, and from hearing prayers in church. A critic for Stereogum called Choi's voice "one of the most striking instruments in music today."

A big influence is classical music — when he blocks out the chords of a new song, he's inspired by the four-part harmonies he studied while playing Bach, Handel, and Haydn. Many people tell him his voice sounds soulful. And, indeed, it was the music of the more emotional Romantic era, works by Brahms and Tchaikovsky, that he liked playing most on the violin. His teacher from Juilliard came to hear him sing at the Lower East

Side bar Pianos and said the vibrato in his voice sounded the same as the vibrato that had once come from his instrument.

CHOI DOES WHAT  
MANY WOULD  
CALL TALK-SINGING:  
"I JUST HAD TOO  
MANY WORDS  
TO SAY."

Before the pandemic, he would work on his songs while commuting to his law firm on the subway, listening to the instrumental portion of a

piece while fiddling with lyrics. He'd perform at an open-mic night to see how a song hits an audience, where they laugh.

A few times he's asked a guitarist to help record his songs, but otherwise it's just Choi in his apartment, with his instruments, his voice, and the computer. He likes the freedom of solitude. He doesn't need to leave home. He doesn't need to coordinate schedules. He can do as many takes as he wants. He doesn't have to depend on studio musicians who might not be giving it their all. To appease his husband, who teaches fourth grade, he tries not to sing past 10 p.m.

Virtually every song is autobiographical; his second album, *Ten Hymns From My American Gothic*, feels especially so, exploring his relationships with America, Korea, and his parents. "People from Other Cultures" tells of his mother's experiences during the Korean War, and how they made her a strong person in the way that he feels he isn't. *You know when she was just a young one / she saw the U.N. soldiers firing back on battlecruisers in the distance? / It makes you feel a little stupid talking back to her.*

The album was a 70th-birthday gift for his father. "I think it was a way of talking with him in a way that wasn't talking with him," Choi says, laughing. "Just: 'Here you go!'"

"I don't agree with my parents on a lot of what they think," Choi adds, "but we maintain a good relationship."

The fourth album, from last year, deals with religion head



on. Choi grew up going to Lutheran and Methodist churches but drifted away as he entered adulthood. “It takes a little while to realize that like, oh, wait, they don’t like the gays,” he says. He’s a questioning person — but his interest in the questions also helped lead him to philosophy.

Choi wanted listeners to think about religion’s impact on their lives. But he wanted to avoid the trope of “the bitter ex-religious person who’s very snarky and just like, ‘Oh, those religious people, they’re such hypocrites!’” “The Great Blue Heron (Song of Solomon),” for instance, is his way of presenting how a gay relationship can be part of a religious conception of the world: *I remember hiking in the Black Hills / with my maps and your sense of direction / walking about amongst God’s creation / just like Adam and Eve in the garden.*

On that trip to the Black Hills area in South Dakota, Choi and his husband visited an underground research facility used for experiments involving neutrinos and dark matter. He’d heard about it from Palladino, who’s now an associate professor of physics at Oxford University, and who loves the song that the visit prompted, “Superkamiokande.” “He got a really accurate view of how I think scientists find this beauty in the natural world that is somehow holy,” she says — the way science feels like a higher calling.

“I think it’s important to maintain some groundedness, just knowing what people are going through to have a working life.”

There are other ways one career informs the other.

*Thurgood Marshall, don’t you let me down, ’cause I want to be inspired and mystified by the law*, Choi sings, in a song that’s about the Supreme Court justice but also “about people going through law school depressed,” he says.

“I’LL TELL YOU  
SOME STORIES  
AND THEN WE CAN  
THINK ABOUT IT ...  
AND IF THAT MOVES  
YOU IN A POSITION  
WHERE YOU’RE LESS  
STUCK ON THIS ONE  
CONVICTION OVER  
HERE, THEN I THINK  
THAT’S PROBABLY A  
GOOD THING.”

And “Arthur is at a Shiva” stemmed from a party Choi attended as a summer associate, where a lawyer had just returned from participating in the Jewish mourning ritual: *Hey Arthur don’t look away! / No need to hang your head in disarray / You know that it’s just a change, yeah / I’ve heard*



Choi says that much like how the spires of cathedrals point upwards to inspire, he was moved by how neutrino detectors are searching for objects billions of light years away.

As he sings: *I know that you will find what you were looking for, up in the heavens above us.*

**C**HOI HAS BEEN WORKING on his fifth album, which will likely contain 10 songs about labor, including “Lust for Life,” a song about socialism, inspired partly by his time as a low-paid Ph.D. student.

There are impediments to becoming more popular. He’s been courted by other record labels, but they wanted him to tour — and for a lawyer, it can be hard to get time off. But even if he had enough money and paid off his law school debt, he wouldn’t quit the firm. He has found fulfillment in his *pro bono* clients and unexpected intellectual stimulation. He enjoys reading judges’ opinions and trying to figure out whether his argument will be consistent with their thinking — it’s similar to what he did as a philosopher. Plus, he says,

*that it’s just a change.* The song moves on to characters who seem strikingly at peace with death.

Choi released a video for the song that shows him not singing or playing his keyboard, but in the kitchen making bread (see [bit.ly/st-lenox-paw](https://bit.ly/st-lenox-paw)). A subtitle states, “I took up baking as a survivalist skill given the impending anarchist free-for-all that was sure to overtake the nation in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.” Choi chews contentedly.


The subtitles later display the recipe for Choi’s “Great Fractal Challah,” which combines the traditional Jewish loaf with an Asian milk bread, reflecting his own multicultural household. At the end, he muses about having children one day.

Music, religion, death, humor, and family, braided together. “I’ll tell you some stories and then we can think about it,” he says of his songs. “And if that moves you in a position where you’re less stuck on this one conviction over here, then I think that’s probably a good thing.” ♦

*Zachary Pincus-Roth ’02 is a features editor in the Style section at The Washington Post.*



# PRINCETONIANS

A full-page photograph of Adam Dressner '02 in his studio. He is a man with short brown hair, wearing a blue baseball cap, a blue and white striped button-down shirt, and a white apron splattered with paint. He is holding a paintbrush in his right hand and a palette with white, blue, and red paint in his left. Behind him are several large paintings on easels. One painting on the left shows an elderly woman in a colorful, patterned garment. Another painting in the center shows two men in blue shirts and caps. A third painting on the right shows a stylized figure in a yellow and orange background. The studio has a wooden floor and various art supplies scattered around.

**SELF EXPRESSION:** Adam Dressner '02 started teaching himself to paint after he graduated from law school and felt driven to do something creative. He had been writing fiction but fell into the trap of “editing and re-editing, forever.” Painting was different. “I couldn’t undo it. I could visually see my progress, which was very satisfying,” he says. He spent part of the pandemic lockdown living in upstate New York with his father and stepmother, exploring new styles, including a series of triptych portraits, and is now back in New York City. Since he quit his law-firm job in 2018, painting has been his main focus. “I treat it like a 9-to-5,” he says. “I wake up, have breakfast, and paint, five to six days a week.” ♦

Robin Resch '03





**Rahsaan Harris '95**  
became CEO of Citizens  
Committee for New  
York City during the  
pandemic.

**RAHSAAN HARRIS '95**

## FOCUSING ON COMMUNITY

*Former Peace Corps volunteer is helping small NYC businesses, one neighborhood at a time*

Since he was a kid growing up in Piscataway, New Jersey, Rahsaan Harris '95 has understood the power of community engagement. His mother, a public-school teacher and the owner of a daycare center that ran an after-school tutoring program, “helped educate half my town,” Harris says. His father was a longtime public administrator, educator, and social-justice advocate.

“I was taught around my kitchen table that community matters,” Harris says.

That mindset proved particularly helpful when Harris was named CEO of Citizens Committee for New York City, a nonprofit founded in 1975 that aims to improve the city’s neighborhoods by providing small grants and services to local businesses and organizations. He started his new job March 16, 2020, just days after New York went into lockdown.

“Starting in the middle of crisis was scary,” Harris says. “But it was also humbling because it was a real opportunity to make a difference.

The need was so real. We weren’t intellectualizing it: We saw it on our doorsteps.”

Despite his background, Harris did not follow a straight path to philanthropic work. Originally, he thought he would become a doctor, and he majored in ecology and evolutionary biology at Princeton. But a stint with the Peace Corps changed his mind. “Being able to fix situations in people’s lives from the spiritual and social standpoint is really what drew me in,” he says.

Shifting gears, Harris earned a master’s degree in nonprofit management from New York University and a Ph.D. in urban and public policy from The New School. (Harris also holds a master’s degree in high school science education from Columbia’s Teachers College.)

He says his science training has allowed him to bring data and analytics to his work. “Coming up with hypotheses, testing them, and then being able to articulate what you’ve learned, as well as

understanding the shortcomings of your methodology and certain blind spots that you might’ve had ... are all things that I keep in mind,” he says.

Early in the pandemic, as businesses, schools, and restaurants closed, so did critical support services like halfway houses and drug-addiction centers, leaving vulnerable residents scrambling for necessities.

People “needed access to financial assistance, food assistance; they needed mental-health and physical-health resources; they needed support for the elderly,” he says.

The organization pivoted to providing these essentials in areas hardest hit by the pandemic. It also launched CitizensNYC: LIVE, a series of conversations on Facebook and LinkedIn with local elected officials and community stakeholders that offered information on where to be vaccinated and how to vote using the city’s new ranked-choice ballots.

Citizens Committee gave away approximately \$2.3 million through two small-grant programs in fiscal years 2020 and 2021. The first program provided up to \$5,000 each to neighborhood leaders for improving their neighborhoods; the second program awarded up to \$10,000 to neighborhood businesses to help them stay afloat and navigate through the pandemic. For example, it helped local barbershops and restaurants pay bills, reconfigure their service models to adhere to new COVID safety protocols, and improve their marketing efforts. Citizens Committee also facilitated introductions to local legislators, key institutions, and large organizations that could offer help and advice. The grants have targeted businesses owned by people of color, women, and immigrants, as they had a harder time accessing the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans offered by the federal government.

Harris says the past 18 months have put his childhood ideals into action.

“It’s not necessarily glamorous, but I think history is made by folks that decide to persist even in the midst of adversity,” he says. “We have an opportunity to decide what the history books are going to say about [us] in this moment. It just matters that I put one foot in front of the other.” ♦ *By Agatha Bordonaro '04*

SAM GRAVITTE '17

# BACK ON STAGE, WHERE HE BELONGS

*Broadway actor finally gets his big opening night*

*Wicked*, the beloved musical that tells the origin story of the Wicked Witch of the West from *The Wizard of Oz*, opened on Broadway in 2003, but went dark for 18 months during the COVID pandemic, along with the rest of New York's theater district. Now, *Wicked* is back, and the cast includes Sam Gravitte '17 playing Fiyero, the witch's leading man.

Gravitte's run began Feb. 25, 2020, just before COVID began to wreak havoc in New York City. "There were conversations and whispers and media coverage of coronavirus and what it was going to mean and was it real," Gravitte remembers. "I had done two and a half weeks of my contract before the world exploded." On March 12, Broadway turned off the lights.

The hiatus was supposed to last a month. "The longest Broadway had shut down in modern times had been two days after 9/11," Gravitte says. "Then a month turned into three months and then eventually turned into a year, and then it turned into more than that. It was a kind of gradual descent into the expanse of time that it became."

With the unexpected downtime, Gravitte leaned into reflection. "I think there was no other option over the course of the pandemic than to go inwards. The other option was catatonia and there was plenty of that, plenty of lying on the couch. But I think ultimately it was a really fertile time for me in terms of my relationship to myself and my creativity," he says. "I exited that chapter of my life with a much more intentional sense of what I want and how I want it."

With parents in the industry — his mom is Tony-winning actress Debbie Gravitte and dad is actor Beau Gravitte — Gravitte always knew he wanted to enter the family business. But he also



Sam Gravitte '17 stars as Fiyero in *Wicked* on Broadway.

says that his childhood, along with that of his siblings, was spent pursuing his many interests. "My parents were deliberate about encouraging life in its fullness outside of performing," he says. Gravitte took up lacrosse in eighth grade; in high school he was recruited to join Princeton's team, and he played throughout college.

While at Princeton he also poured himself into theater, and his senior thesis was a production of the musical *Once*.

After graduation, Gravitte moved to New York to pursue theater professionally, and six months later he was in the national tour of *Wicked* as an understudy for Fiyero. After a year on tour, he made his Broadway debut, also understudying for Fiyero. A few more

**"People have said it many times, but theater has survived many plagues. There's just no version of this world without theater."**

— Sam Gravitte '17

months, and a few other shows later, Gravitte was offered the role full time. "*Wicked* is the show that's kind of reared me in many ways," he says. "I'm really grateful to it."

Throughout the pandemic closure, Gravitte kept the faith that Broadway and the show would return. "People have said it many times, but theater has survived many plagues," he says. "There's just no version of this world without theater." Word finally came that the show was reopening, and the cast reunited to rehearse. "We all got back in the building and sang through the show ... — 'surreal' is such a buzzword these days, but it really was," he says. "Just to hear that kind of music again coming out of live humans surrounding you was a really special experience."

*Wicked* reopened Sept. 14, and Gravitte's parents were there, seeing him play Fiyero on Broadway for the first time. "Reopening was like playing Madison Square Garden just in terms of the energy, the wall of noise, and love," he says. "That's something I'll hold on to forever." ♦ By Elena Sheppard '09



THE JOURNEY HERE

# DIGITAL COMMERCE, ETHICALLY



## Nuala O'Connor '89 Counsels on Privacy

Nuala O'Connor '89 was recently reminded of her childhood professional goals when her parents found her fourth-grade yearbook while cleaning out the attic. Back then, she said, she wanted to be an international lawyer (spelled 'lawyer' in her fourth-grade writing) — "I had no idea what that meant," she says. "That must have been something I dreamed up from watching television or reading books." Today, O'Connor is the senior vice president and chief counsel of digital citizenship at Walmart.

- **O'Connor studied English at Princeton** because of the "phenomenal faculty." Writing and communication have continued to be essential skills throughout her career: "The more senior I get at a company, the more I realize that how you communicate is almost as important as what you're communicating."
- **Her first real pivot point** came when she left private practice in 2000 to work for DoubleClick, an internet advertising company. At that time, the internet was relatively new. She says hers was one of the first privacy-law jobs at any company, and she realized that her company's ethical responsibility included educating users on what data would be collected and how it would be used. "It was a hot area of evolving law then and still is."
- **O'Connor switched to government work** when she moved to Washington, D.C., for personal reasons. "It's OK to make career choices that are wrapped up in taking care of yourself and your family," she says. At the newly formed Department of Homeland Security, O'Connor felt "called" to use her privacy expertise, especially since her own family left Northern Ireland when she was a child to escape terrorism there. Her work at DHS carried back over to the private sector when she moved to General Electric and then Amazon: At each organization, she set up a new framework and way of thinking about the company's responsibility for data and personal information.
- **At Walmart**, "the ethical use of data and the responsible use of information" is the mission that guides O'Connor's team. She says the increasingly digital company puts an emphasis on civic duty and meeting customers and employees with respect.
- **Lesson learned:** "Always be willing to try something new and different and take risks." ♦ *By Anna Mazarakis '16*

## Alumni Day and Reunions Set to Return to Campus

The University is planning to hold both Alumni Day and Reunions in person in 2022 for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

Alumni Day will be held Saturday, Feb. 19, with lectures in Richardson Auditorium, lunch at Jadwin Gym, and the Service of Remembrance at the Chapel. Princeton will present the Woodrow Wilson Award to Maria Ressa '86, who co-founded the Philippines-based Rappler news organization and was awarded the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts to protect freedom of expression. The award is the highest given by the University to undergraduate alumni. The University will present the Madison Medal, the top award for graduate alumni, to Julia Wolfe '12, a renowned composer who received a MacArthur Fellowship in 2016.

Admission will be free, and participants will have to preregister and attest to being fully vaccinated. Participants will also have to follow all campus, state, and national public-health advisories that are in place at the time. (For updates, information, and registration, go to [bit.ly/alumni-day-2022](https://bit.ly/alumni-day-2022).)

The University is also planning to invite alumni back for in-person Reunions May 19-22, 2022, after virtual events in 2020 and 2021. As with Alumni Day, visitors will have to preregister, attest to full vaccination and follow all active public-health advisories. Organizers are expecting higher attendance than usual as classes that weren't able to have in-person major reunions in the last two years return as satellite classes. To that end, the University is "planning an expansion of the 25th and 50th headquarter sites to accommodate more satellite alumni, as well as additional staff, public safety officers, meal tents, and restrooms," said Alexandra Day '02, deputy vice president for alumni engagement, in an email to PAW.

More information about Reunions will be available in PAW as plans develop. ♦  
*By K.H.*

# 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 1940



### Henry Green Morgan

**'40 \*47** Hank died June 1, 2021, at Our Lady of Peace in Charlottesville, Va.

The son of Minot Morgan 1896 and brother of Minot Morgan Jr. '35 and Edward Morgan '38, he was born in Detroit, grew up in New York City and Greenwich, Conn., and came to us from Hotchkiss School. At Princeton he majored in music, sang in the choir, and took his meals at Terrace. He roomed senior year with W.W. McLean and G.A. Haas.

Entering the Navy in 1940, Hank served in several Pacific battles as a navigator on two ships, retiring as a lieutenant commander. He returned to Princeton to earn an MFA in 1947, after which he taught at the University of Virginia and Vassar.

While his career in music was promising, he then followed his father's footsteps by earning a master of divinity degree at Princeton Theological Seminary and serving churches in Maryland and Virginia. In 1966 he returned to teaching in the Arlington (Va.) County schools, whence he retired.

His first wife, Mary, predeceased him. Hank is survived by his wife, Sue; three children; two stepchildren; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



### Jacob Martin Myers Jr.

**'40** Martin, also known as "Boots" or "JM," died July 20, 2021.

The brother of Walter Myers 1925 and John Myers '27, he was born in Mercersburg, Pa., and came to us from Mercersburg Academy. He majored in chemistry, graduated Phi Beta Kappa, and was a member of the Memorial Fund and the Photography Club.

After Princeton, Martin earned a medical degree in psychiatry at Johns Hopkins, followed by service in the Army Medical Corps. In 1951 he joined the Institute of the Pennsylvania Hospital and became medical director/psychiatrist in chief. He retired as professor emeritus of

psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in 1985. He was a pioneer in proving the value of lithium as a treatment for bipolar disorders and was a leader of a long list of professional organizations.

Martin was predeceased by his wife of 63 years, Marjorie, and is survived by daughters Carol and Susan and two grandchildren.



## THE CLASS OF 1950

### Keith W. Jones '50

The class has learned that Keith, an atomic physicist who was noted for his passion for discovery and his sharp wit, died July 28, 2017.

Coming from Oak Park (Ill.) High School, he played in the Band and orchestra and belonged to Cloister. After graduating with high honors in physics, he earned a master's degree and a Ph.D. in nuclear physics at the University of Wisconsin.

Following academic stints at the University of North Carolina, Columbia, and Ohio State, in 1963 Keith joined the physics department of Brookhaven National Laboratory, where he had spent the summers of 1949 and 1950. In 1984 he transferred to environmental and climate science. During his career he published more than 300 papers in peer-reviewed scientific literature and authored or co-authored more than 40 book chapters. Late in his career he became involved with implementing projects to support science education in Long Island schools, lecturing on topics related to environmental science.

When Keith retired in 2012, he was granted emeritus status and praised for his significant contributions to atomic physics.

He greatly enjoyed hiking in France, opera, and photography.

Keith is survived by his wife of 63 years, Julie; daughters Caitlin, Margaret, and Megan; and five grandchildren.

## THE CLASS OF 1951

### Albert James Geiger Jr. '51

Al graduated from McCallie School in Chattanooga and as a premed at Princeton, he majored in psychology. He was a member



of Campus Club, roomed with Boynton Emerson and Mickey Traylor, and was active in several campus organizations. After earning a medical degree from Emory University School of Medicine, he joined the Navy and served on an aircraft carrier in the Pacific for two years. He returned to Atlanta for his residency before establishing a private practice in diagnostic radiology in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Al was active in an exceptional number of professional, civic, and charitable organizations. Upon his retirement in 1993 he taught ethics at St. Petersburg Junior College. He was president of the local Rotary, Suncoasters, and Florida Orchestra; chair of the local Boy Scouts council and Suncoast Medical Clinic; and a board member of countless organizations. He was also an active member of the United Methodist Church and a charter trustee of the Canterbury School.

Al died Aug. 17, 2021, in St. Petersburg. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Laura Marvine; a son; and two daughters.



### David Borton Koth '51

David was born March 7, 1930, in Elizabeth, N.J., to Herbert B. Koth 1922 and Emeline Bernard Koth.

A graduate of Pingry, at Princeton he majored in psychology, belonged to Prospect Club, and was a member of the Band, serving as president senior year. He roomed with Harned Isele and Ben Van Tuyl.

David served with the Marines after graduation. He earned two master's degrees, the first a teaching degree from Wesleyan University in 1965 and the second from the New Brunswick Theological Seminary in 1990, graduating *summa cum laude*.

A lifelong Presbyterian, he went to New Brunswick for an organized study of religion but never chose to be ordained. He taught mathematics and horsemanship to teenagers at Groton, Bush, and Thacher, the last as assistant headmaster. He also taught at Vail-Deane, Buckingham Friends, and Wardlaw-Hartridge. A bachelor, for years he was free to travel abroad every summer, often with Elderhostel.

David's last years were spent in Virginia Beach at Westminster Canterbury, a continuing-care community on Chesapeake Bay, where he died Aug. 23, 2021, at age 91, survived by his brother, Richard, and his family.

## THE CLASS OF 1952

### Edward C. Gillette III '52

Bud graduated from Western High School in Washington, D.C., and served with the 82nd Airborne (Army) before joining our class until 1950 when he again enlisted in the Army, finishing OCS in 1951 as an artillery second



**POST A REMEMBRANCE** with a memorial at [paw.princeton.edu](http://paw.princeton.edu)

lieutenant. At Princeton he was a member of Charter and the Engineering Society and ran cross country and track.

He began his officer duty in Korea and Vietnam, winning decorations and medals too numerous to mention, as he said in *The Book of Our History*. He was a master parachutist and pilot, serving as aide to the chief officer at West Point. In 1974 he retired and moved to Chile, where he established an import-export company. In 1980 he moved to Florida and took up real-estate management and brokerage.

Bud died May 4, 2021. He is survived by his wife, Marta; and their children, Edward IV, Marta, John, Christopher, and Bruce. To them the class sends its best wishes with extreme respect for their father's military service to our country.



### John B. Lowry '52

John graduated from Mercersburg. He majored in SPIA and was president of Tower Club. He joined WPRU and Westminster Fellowship, the Western Pennsylvania Club, the Press Club, and the Interclub Committee. He roomed with Bob Bennett, Vic Bihl, and Stew Pursel.

John served in Korea as a second lieutenant in the Army artillery for two years, then went to Harvard Law School, graduating in 1957. He joined the San Francisco law firm of McCutchen, Doyle, Brown, and Enersen in 1958; he became a partner of the firm and focused on tax law, retiring in 2000. He was a long-time member of the Calvary Presbyterian Church.

John died June 20, 2021. He is survived by his wife, Sally; and their five sons, John Jr., Andrew, Stephen, Peter, and William. To them the class sends its good wishes, with thanks for John's service to our country.

### John L. Sprague '52

John came to us from Middlesex, majored in chemistry, and ate at Colonial. He played tennis and squash, and was in the Glee Club, Chemistry Club, the Flying Club, and NROTC. His roommates were Bill Baillargeon, Kirk Parrish, and John Winton.

John served four years in the Navy and then earned a Ph.D. in chemistry at Stanford. His career was spent at the Sprague Electric Co., founded by his father, Robert. John rose to become CEO of the firm. Its building is now the site of Mass MoCA, the largest contemporary art museum in the country. His particular interest outside the office and lab was the Confrérie des Chevaliers du Tastevin, of which he was for many years the CEO. He wrote a history of that organization. He was a figure of importance on the boards of several companies and a leader of charities in his hometown of Williamstown, Mass.

John died July 5, 2021. He is survived by his wife, Jid, and their children, John Jr., William,

Catherine, and David. To them the class sends its best, with respect for John's exemplary life and service to our country.

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### THE CLASS OF 1953



**James Bedford Downing Jr. '53** Jim, of Hobe Sound, Fla., died May 21, 2021, at his home while singing the hymn "Amazing Grace" with his chaplain.

Jim was born Jan. 18, 1931, in Charlottesville, Va., and graduated from the Calvert and Gilman schools in Baltimore before coming to Princeton. He majored in history and wrote his thesis on "The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development." He was a member of Cap and Gown.

Jim was an accomplished sportsman who grew up riding and fox hunting and was passionate about bird hunting at his farm in Trappe, Md. He was an avid sailor later in life, often racing his Camper Nicholson boat, *Brea*, in the Frostbite Series in Annapolis and sailing throughout the Bay, down to Florida and around the Caribbean.

Jim had a career in investment banking in Baltimore and New York and later was an entrepreneur and real-estate developer in Florida.

He is survived by six children, 13 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

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### THE CLASS OF 1954



**Isaac H. Clothier IV '54** Quartie died peacefully Aug. 16, 2021.

At St. Paul's School in Concord, N.H., he participated in football, crew,

and student government. At Princeton, he majored in Oriental languages and literatures, joined Colonial Club, and was active in *The Princeton Tiger*.

He married Barbara Massey in June 1955, their courtship having begun in 1951 during a chaperoned summer tour of Italy.

Quartie earned a law degree at the University of Pennsylvania in 1957, was admitted to the bar, and began a successful 40-year practice at Dechert Price & Rhoads in estates and trusts (or, as he once put it, "pre-mortems and post-mortems"). Great-grandson of the founder of Philadelphia's Strawbridge & Clothier department store, he served on its board for almost 20 years.

Shortly after Quartie's retirement, upon the tragic death of their recently divorced daughter Melinda, he and Barbara took her three children into their home and raised them to adulthood. Throughout, Quartie was engaged in numerous community activities and deeply involved in the life of his church.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Barbara Massey Clothier; his son, Isaac H.

Clothier V; his daughter Rebecca Clothier Case; eight grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. He was predeceased by his daughter Melinda Clothier Biddle and his two brothers.



**Stephen R. Gushin '54** Steve died July 14, 2021, of cardiac arrest.

He came to us from Linden (N.J.) High School, where he was active in dramatics and

publications. An English major, his thesis was on "The Depression Novel in America." He was president of Cloister Club, technical director of Theatre Intime, active in Triangle Club, and on the 1953 *Bric-a-Brac* staff.

After earning a medical degree at New York University Medical School, he interned at the Veterans Administration and then served in the U.S. Indian Health Service for two years, providing care for the Navajo and Hopi in Winslow, Ariz. His marriage to Jessica Rakin in 1956 ended in divorce. After a residency at New York University-Bellevue Psychiatry, he practiced psychiatry for 50 years, both privately and at NYU and at Bellevue, where he developed its first psychiatric walk-in clinic. He developed and directed a day hospital named ADEPT providing extended outpatient psychiatric care.

Steve was an early environmentalist, bird watcher, gardener, and accomplished baker. He loved history and biographies, dogs (mainly Labs), and baseball (Mets only).

He is survived by his wife of nearly 49 years, Janet; three daughters, Olivia (from his first marriage), Rebecca, and Alexandra; and grandchildren Annabelle and Charles.



**James N. Rees '54** Jim died July 7, 2021.

He came to Princeton from Phillips Exeter Academy.

At Princeton he majored in psychology and participated

in the Psychology Club. His senior thesis, "The Psychology of Psychology and the Methodology of Science," received recognition in the *Alumni Weekly* as "one of the best in the last 25 years." After graduation he was commissioned in the Navy and served as a counterintelligence officer from 1955 to 1958.

Jim married Marilyn Laurie in 1958 and worked in Boston for the New England Telephone and Telegraph Co. In 1962 Jim, Marilyn, and their children relocated to Durham, N.C., where he earned a Ph.D. in psychology at Duke University. He went on to teach experimental and cognitive psychology at Winthrop College in Rock Hill, S.C., for 20 years. One of his contributions to the Winthrop community was to bring transcendental meditation to the campus. He retired in 1992.



Jim was an avid runner and rode his bicycle to the Winthrop campus daily. Biking and camping were frequent family activities. He enjoyed reading, walking, going out for coffee, automobile restoration, and spending time on Swan's Island in Maine.

Jim was predeceased by his daughter Alison Rees Wensil. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn; daughters Mary Rees-Nutter and Sarah Rees; grandchildren Larry Wensil, and Moriah and Rebekah Nutter; great-grandchildren Sophia and Liam Wensil; and brother Christopher.



**Stephen Van R. Ulman '54**

Steve, son of Morrison Ulman 1922, died July 23, 2021.

At The Hill School he was active in publications, debating, and sports management.

At Princeton he majored in history and the American civilization program. He joined Colonial Club, wrote for *The Daily Princetonian*, and sailed with the Yacht Club — a lifelong enthusiasm.

Steve served as a first lieutenant in the Army from 1954 to 1956, and then earned a law degree at Harvard Law School.

He practiced law on Long Island, N.Y., for almost 50 years, first as associate, member, and managing attorney at Sprague, Dwyer, Aspland & Tobin in Mineola, N.Y., for 30 years. Then he joined Payne, Wood and Littlejohn in Glen Cove and Melville, N.Y., as partner and of counsel for 10 years. He retired in 2002 after three years of counsel with Humes & Wagner in Locust Valley, N.Y.

Characterized as “a true gentleman of the old school,” he served his community in numerous ways, was the consummate family man, and enjoyed both competitive and casual sailing, walking his dog, raking leaves, and shoveling snow with his children. He often joked that “those with two l's in their name were the rich and famous.”

Steve is survived by his wife, Martha; son Stephen '89; daughter Cornelia; grandchildren Valerie, Abigail, Nathan, and Hannah '24, and sister Katharine. A brother, Cornelius '60, predeceased him.



**John S. Whaley Jr. '54**

John died June 28, 2021.

At the Loomis School in Windsor, Conn., he received the Batchelder Prize and was president of the Student Council. At Princeton he majored in English,

writing his senior thesis on “Civil War Novelists,” and joined Ivy Club. His special interests included hunting and fishing.

John served as a first lieutenant in the Marines from 1954 to 1958. In 1969, after travel in the Far East and Europe and a short

time in sales with Scott Paper, he worked in the commercial and industrial mortgage department of the W.C. Pinkard Co. and launched a successful career in waterfront development. After building the first condominiums in Ocean City, Md., with his friend Daniel Trimper VI, he went on to build many oceanfront townhouses and oceanfront buildings. Among these were Beachwalk, Beach Place North, Thirteen on the Beach, Beachloft, and Beachmark. He built the first “high rise” in Ocean City, High Point South, then High Point North and Pyramid. In West Ocean City he developed the subdivision he named Captain's Hill. He also built the original Salisbury School in Salisbury, Md.

John was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Berlin, Md., and an active sport fisherman on his boat the *Curlew*.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Gail Jarvis Whaley; son John Staton Whaley III; and grandchildren Staton Alexander Whaley and Kendall Suzanne Whaley.

**THE CLASS OF 1955**



**Walter R. Barry Jr. '55**

Walt died Sept. 16, 2021, surrounded by family at home in Wayzata, Minn. Walt lived a robust life, divided in his later years between homes in

Wayzata, said by some to be the nicest town in Minnesota, and the golfing haven of Pebble Beach, Calif.

Walt was born April 24, 1933, in Minneapolis. He attended the Blake School and Gilmour Academy in Gates Mills, Ohio, where he was active in football, hockey, track, and publications. At Princeton he joined Ivy Club, majored in English, won a letter in freshman crew, and played IAA dorm hockey and club football, hockey, and baseball. Senior year he roomed with Joe Bacheller, Don Brigham, Jim Hurlock, and John Maloney. After Princeton he served two years in the Army and retired as a captain in the Reserves.

He followed in his father's footsteps at General Mills, starting in sales on the West Coast, where he met and married his wife, Jane. Retiring as executive vice president after 28 years, he started with friends a second career of buying, operating, and sometimes reselling small Minnesota companies.

Walt is survived by his wife of 57 years, Jane; sons Walter III '89, Stewart '95, and Randall; and nine grandchildren.

**Frank T. Crews Jr. '55**

Frank, a most agreeable classmate with long records of civic involvement and of running so extensive that he could have circled the Earth on foot, died Sept. 12, 2021, in Santa Fe, N.M., of a heart condition.



Frank was born June 2, 1933, in Amarillo, Texas, and attended Amarillo High School. At Princeton he joined Cap and Gown, majored in history, and participated in IAA touch

football, softball, and track and field. His senior-year roommates were Dick Heckard and Chuck Ege. One of his favorite Princeton memories was seeing Albert Einstein walking down Nassau Street, eating an ice cream cone and chatting with students.

After Princeton Frank served as a captain in the Marines until 1960. He then earned a law degree and worked with several law firms before retiring to his adobe dream home in Taos, N.M.

He was an inveterate joiner and leader of groups devoted to well-being. In the class 50th-reunion yearbook he listed eight such groups, and there were many more after that.

Frank reached his two main running goals in life: the Boston Marathon, which he ran in 1985, and enough marathon racing (20 events) and training miles to run the circumference of the Earth (24,901 miles).

Survivors include Barbara, his wife of 43 years and former mayor of Galveston, Texas; son Christopher; daughters Candace and Catherine; three granddaughters; and brother Paul.



**Gary B. Nash '55 \*64**

Gary, a noted historian, died July 29, 2021, at his home in Los Angeles. His widely published approach to American history affected the way it is taught and

drove to distraction Rush Limbaugh and his listeners. Gary rejected the view that history is mostly the work of singular “great men”; instead, it is movements of many people. For his accomplishments he was given the annual Class of 1955 Award in 2008.

Gary was born July 27, 1933, in Philadelphia and attended Lower Merion High School in Ardmore, Pa. At Princeton he majored in history, joined Quadrangle Club, and played varsity squash. He was also noted for frequent visits to the Annex and an ability to stack a pyramid of empty beer cans to the ceiling of his dorm room. Gary's nickname was Crash Nash.

After earning a Ph.D. and teaching history at Princeton, he moved to UCLA and became a leader of what became known as New Left history. One of his significant books was a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize and focused on how Native Americans, working-class whites, and free and enslaved Black people were engines of change for the American Revolution.

Gary is survived by his wife, Cindy Shelton; son David; daughters Brooke Nash, Robin Johnson, and Jennifer Nash Durante; nine grandchildren; and brother Ralph '53.

**THE CLASS OF 1956**

**Adalbert K. Dietz '56**

Adie passed away Aug. 5, 2021, after a brief illness.

He came to Princeton from St. Louis Country Day School, and majored in psychology.

He was a member of Cloister Inn, and his senior-year roommate was Sandy McNally. Adie was in the Army ROTC, and following graduation was stationed near Nuremberg, Germany. Upon completion of military duty he joined the Olin Corp., with whom he traveled extensively on international business. He was past president of the St. Louis Princeton Club and served on the National Alumni Council.

Adie was a former vestryman at the Church of St. Michael & St. George, and a docent at Bellefontaine Cemetery and at the Danforth Plant Science Center, where he was a member of the Friends Committee. He was proud of his German heritage and was a founding officer of the German American Heritage Society. He authored a book, *Snippets of St. Louis*, about significant local attractions.

Adie and his wife, Jody, loved all Princeton reunions, and he co-chaired mini-reunions with Bob Rodgers in Crystal Lake, Mich., and with Derick Driemeyer in St. Louis.

Adie is survived by his wife of 46 years, Jody; two children; two stepchildren; his godchild, Elisabeth Rodgers '86 (daughter of Sue and Bob Rodgers '56); 10 grandchildren; and one great-grandson.


**Owen J. Roberts '56**

Owen died Feb. 7, 2021. He graduated from West High School in Madison, Wis., where he was president of the student senate and state tennis champion, in addition to playing basketball.

At Princeton he was a member of Ivy Club, graduated *cum laude*, and majored in engineering. He was named to Tau Beta Pi, the engineering equivalent of Phi Beta Kappa. As a graduate, he was presented with the Class of 1956 Distinguished Classmate Award, one of only 35 selected to date.

Owen had a long-term relationship with Princeton, serving on the advisory council of the economics department and later as a member of the advisory board of the Griswold Center for Economic Policy Studies.

In 1961 Owen founded Capital Formation Counselors, dedicated to his belief in helping large family-owned businesses as the foundation for the strength of our country. He was on the boards of the Mennen Co. and GOPAC. He was also a trustee of the Poynter Institute for Media Studies.

Words cannot fully describe the impact and accomplishments of this remarkable leader.

Owen is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Susan, a true partner in his life and work.

**THE CLASS OF 1957**

**Henry Whitwell Wales '57**

"What did I do with my life?" Whit asked rhetorically in his essay in our 50th-reunion book. He cleverly provided us no answer.

Whit came to Princeton, where his father was in the Class of 1925, from Exeter. He worked on the Campus Fund, was assistant varsity football manager (he played football at Exeter), majored in economics, joined Cottage Club, and began lifelong friendships — especially with Ronde Bacquié, Henry Bose, Don Street, and George White.

He had three sons (Whit, Robert, and Sidney) by a first marriage, divorced, and married the smart and accomplished Roxana. They had a daughter, Allison Wales Mausling '97. He loved that Allison became a Princetonian. Roxana and Whit were together 52 years. "I made enough money to feel secure," Whit said. "Rich and famous, maybe not. Satisfied? You bet. ... And thank you, Princeton. I did learn something."

A classmate remarked to Roxana, "He amazed me with his courage. ... He was a wonderful, thoughtful person — brave, fun, and loyal." By courage, the classmate meant Whit's decision 12 years ago to undergo a heart transplant. Whit helped raise money for Princeton on the West Coast, enjoyed season tickets to the Giants, and fly-fished all over including, once, in the Amazon.

Whit died Aug. 10, 2021, after an emergency surgery.


**George White '57**

George's life was full. A St. Louis native, he came to Princeton from The Lawrenceville School. He majored in psychology, joined

Cottage Club, and was a trustee and treasurer of the Classmate Fund. His senior-year roommates were Henry Bose, Bill Dohrmann, Charlie Greathouse, Ned Massengill, Don Streett, and Dick Weil. George graduated from Army OCS and Airborne and Ranger schools. Over four years, he became commander of an airborne rifle company.

After, he was in institutional security sales in New York for 10 years, then joined his father in starting a nuclear-fuel brokering, trading, and consulting company. The work entailed travel to wherever in the world nuclear fuel was mined and used. George's leisure passion was sport parachuting, later with senior groups participating in some world records. He retired from this only eight years ago with, he said, 1,957 jumps, 34 hours of which were in free fall. George and his wife supported the Carmel (Calif.) Public Library and the Carmel Valley Memorial Foundation.

George and Jo met in 1951 before either could drive; they married in 1960. They had a daughter, Lindsay '87, a son, Walker, and seven grandchildren, some of whom attended Princeton. George died peacefully Aug. 25, 2021.

**THE CLASS OF 1958**

**Martin D. Ballantine '58**

Marty died Aug. 14, 2021, in Charlottesville, Va. He was 84.

He came to Princeton from Pomfret School, where he played hockey and baseball and served on the school newspaper.

At Princeton he majored in economics and joined Tower Club. He roomed with Charlie Chapin, Tom Burchfield, and Scott Batton. Marty withdrew in 1957 to pursue a career in banking. But he returned and graduated in 1960, then spent two years in the Army and married Anne "Scottie" MacGregor.

In 1966 they relocated from New Jersey to Charlottesville, and he became a credit officer with a statewide bank that eventually merged into Bank of America. He reported in our 50th-reunion yearbook that he served on several committees at their local hospital, was a cubmaster, and church trustee. Marty also was a guest lecturer at the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia and earned an appointment to the faculty.

Marty is survived by Scottie and their three children, Robert, Martin, and Gabrielle. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.


**William Wallace McDowell Jr. '58**

Wally died June 18, 2021, in, Greenwich, Conn. He was 84.

He came to Princeton from the Hackley School and Workshop College in England, where he participated in football and student government. At Princeton Wally majored in history and played on the rugby team. He joined Cottage Club and lived in the Cottage Suite in 1903 Hall.

After graduation he served in the Army Reserve and was called up during the Berlin Crisis in 1960-61. Wally earned an MBA from the University of Virginia in 1963. In 1967 he married Anne Perkins, and they had three daughters.

After business school, Wally spent 20 years in a broad range of executive roles at the Philip Morris Companies. After leaving Philip Morris, he became chairman and CEO of a leveraged-acquisition firm called the Prospect Group with colleagues from Princeton. In 1994 he left that firm to become a private investor. Wally loved a wide range of sports, especially golf, fishing, shooting, and, in his younger years, tennis, squash, and skiing. He loved travel, his beloved Labrador retrievers, good wine, good music, his



Scottish heritage, and time with family and friends.

He is survived by his wife, three daughters, and four grandchildren. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.

### THE CLASS OF 1960

#### Peter B. Alford '60

Peter was born in London, Ontario, and educated at London Central Collegiate Institute there. Following his brother, W. Parker '54, to Princeton, Peter played freshman soccer and varsity hockey, majored in chemical engineering, and joined Cannon Club. He left in 1958 to marry his high school sweetheart, Joan, and completed his bachelor's degree in engineering at the University of Rochester in 1960 before entering the engineering profession. After a succession of smaller company mergers, he found himself at Diamond Shamrock Corp. in 1968 with responsibility for designing snowmaking systems for ski areas. He left to launch Peter Alford and Associates in 1971, specializing in snowboarding design.

In 1990 Peter partnered to create Alford International to develop snowmaking systems throughout Europe and as far off as Korea. Resuming independence in 1993, Alford Design Group continued in snowmaking and related projects. He became particularly renowned in that field; one of his affiliates called him "the Pete Dye of snowmaking design."

Always intimately involved in the business, Joan and Peter also raised Kelly '83 and her two brothers as keen competitive skiers. Peter and Joan finally settled in Denver, near enough to many of their favorite slopes. Extensive travels through Europe, generally involving skiing, also occupied their partial-retirement years.

Peter succumbed to complications of heart disease Aug. 27, 2021. Our sympathies go to Joan and all their family.



#### Dual A. Macintyre Jr. '60

Word has belatedly reached the class that Dual died Feb. 9, 2020, in Boston.

Born in Mineola, N.Y., Dual prepared for Princeton at St. Peters Preparatory in Peekskill, N.Y., where he participated in football, track, and school publications. At Princeton he played freshman football and joined the Yacht Club. Dual majored in chemistry and joined Elm Club. His preferred pursuits beyond chemistry and club life were sailing, skiing, and swimming.

Sadly, Dual did not contribute to our 10th, 25th, and 50th yearbooks and none of the usual other sources for information on his life after Princeton have yielded anything. He lived on Nantucket at the time of his death, leaving his wife, Anna; and a son and daughter and their families.



#### Thomas R. Smith Jr. '60

Raised in Albemarle, N.C., Tom attended Woodberry Forest School in Virginia on his way to Princeton. His interest in speaking led him to Whig-Clio and his major in politics. Tom joined Quadrangle, where he is remembered for his quiet but wicked sense of humor, bridge, and his annual conduct of the Kentucky Derby Calcutta Pool. He returned to the South to earn a law degree at the University of Virginia Law School in 1963.

Moving north again, Tom joined Brown & Wood (later merged with Sidley Austin) in New York and stayed for 45 years. He rose to managing partner at Brown & Wood and vice chairman of Sidley Austin after the 2001 merger. The firm was the largest employer in the North Tower of the World Trade Center on 9/11. His management after the attack was the greatest challenge of his career and earned the gratitude and appreciation of the that firm.

Tom was active in the many industry/government partnerships which developed regulatory practices for the securities industry, as well as in associations within the legal profession. In retirement he became a senior adviser to the SEC Division of Investment Management, where he served until 2011.

Tom sadly suffered with Parkinson's in his last years. He died Sept. 2, 2021, leaving his wife, Adrienne; their four children (including Ashley '94); and nine grandchildren, to all of whom we send our condolences.

### THE CLASS OF 1961



#### William Harlowe Miller Jr. '61

Known to many of us as "Grogan," Bill died Aug. 30, 2021, after a long bout with dementia.

Born in Mineola, N.Y., he came to us from Exeter. At Princeton he ate at Ivy, majored in history, was in the NROTC, and was a varsity letterman in hockey for three years.

He served in the Navy on the USS *Strong*, a destroyer, retiring as a lieutenant, after which he earned a law degree at Syracuse University College of Law. A trusts and estates attorney, he practiced with Humes, Botzow, Wagner & Miller in New York City and then with Davidson, Dawson & Clark in New York City and New Canaan, Conn. Early on he and his wife, Jeanie, settled in Wilson Point, Conn.

Always generous with his time, Bill leaves a legacy of volunteering as a hockey coach, trustee of Greens Farms Academy, and board member of numerous organizations. A committed sailor, he belonged to several yacht clubs in which he was deeply involved in junior sailing programs and participated in races all along the Northeast coast.

Bill is survived by his wife of 55 years, Jeanie; two sons; four grandchildren; a sister; and a brother.

### THE CLASS OF 1962



#### John N. Harman III '62

John died July 10, 2021, after an inspirational fight with lung cancer.

John came to us from Flintridge Preparatory School in California, where he was on the staff of the school yearbook, active in the science club, and president of the radio club. He followed his father from the Class of '33 to Princeton. A member of Key and Seal, John roomed with Steve Rieber and Steve Wanat.

Following graduation he earned a master's degree in chemical engineering at the University of California, Irvine. He then began a 46-year career at Beckman Instruments, earning 17 patents plus other awards. John also spent more than 30 years as an adjunct professor of chemistry at a Cal State Fullerton, Santa Ana College, and New College of California.

John and his wife, Jacalyn, whom he met while at Princeton, had three children: Michelle, John, IV, and James. Travel with the family became a favorite activity.

In addition to his wife and children, he is survived by his brother Paul, daughters-in-law Denise and Eva, and seven grandchildren. The class extends its sympathies to all.



#### Martin Lapidus '62

Marty died May 27, 2021, at his home near Brandon, Vt., after suffering for years with Alzheimer's disease. He came to Princeton from New Rochelle High School.

Marty's passion at Princeton was *The Daily Princetonian*, where — with his prodigious memory for all sports information — he became the sports editor senior year. For the 50th reunion he regaled the class with a yearbook article of stories written from interviews with all the captains of the major athletic teams in the class.

Marty began his career in New York as an executive with TIAA-CREF and then moved on to the American Association of University Professors and benefits consultant Towers Perrin. In 2000 he retired to Vermont, where he and his wife, Merry, had an antique business, both online and at physical locations. He enjoyed swimming in Fern Lake, hiking, biking, and spending time with friends.

He is survived by his wife of 49 years, best friend, and caregiver, Merry; daughter Heather Glassner '96 and her husband Billy; Ricky '98 and his wife Caroline '98; five grandchildren; and brother Sid '59 and his wife Ruth. The class offers condolences to Merry and his extended family.

### THE CLASS OF 1963

#### David W. Cain '63 '76

David, who achieved an international reputation as a Kierkegaard scholar, passed



away July 31, 2021.

After Brentwood (Mo.) High School he attended Northwestern for a year and then transferred to Princeton, joining the Special Program in Humanities. He acted in *Intime*, the *Savoyards*, and *McCarte*; and his thesis, an interpretive dramatization of *The Brothers Karamazov*, was performed with 60 cast members in the Chapel. After a year at King's College in London, David earned a master's degree at Yale, where he met and married Marlyne. He returned to Princeton for master's and doctoral degrees in systematic theology. During those summers he pastored at Congregational Old Brick Church in Clarendon, Vt.

He enjoyed a 44-year career of teaching Christian theology at Mary Washington University in Fredericksburg, Va., having published many articles at the intersection of religion and theology. He also was an ordained United Church of Christ minister. David's illustrated book, *An Evocation of Kierkegaard*, offered a contemporary view of the theologian's Denmark. He also edited volumes of the work of scholar Arthur C. McGill, his teacher at Princeton and later a professor at Harvard.

The class shares its sadness with Marlyne, daughters Sarah Naylor and Kristin Geary, and five grandchildren.



#### **Richard B. Malkin '63**

Rick died peacefully July 28, 2021, at home in Sarasota, Fla., after a lengthy battle with Lewy body dementia and other neurological disorders.

A generous, compassionate, and loving man, he was retired from a four-decade urology practice in Sarasota, where he was a friend of classmates Dreher, Mitchell, and Towers and their wives.

Raised in New York City's Stuyvesant Town, Rick majored in biology at Princeton, was president of the Bipartisan Society, and belonged to Dial Lodge. He went to New York University medical school, delivered the valedictory at graduation, and met nursing student Cindy Sharpe, to whom he was married for 51 years until her death in 2019.

After medical residency at Mass General and two years in the Air Force, they moved to Florida, where Rick practiced at Sarasota Memorial and Doctor's Hospital, was a director at SunTrust Bank, was active at the Child Development Center, and played golf and tennis. He avidly followed Princeton basketball. They spent summers in Lenox, Mass., and traveled the world, including a cherished trip yearly with the families of their sons, Robert '92 and Jonathan '95.

Rick is survived by Robert, Jonathan, six grandsons, and sister Nancy.

#### **Craig Scott Newhouse '63**

Craig died June 22, 2020, of mesothelioma at home in Highlands Ranch, Colo., surrounded



by family.

He came from Greenwich (Conn.) High School, where he was an outstanding student and swam on a team that won the state championship. His father was Walter Scott Newhouse '27. At Princeton he was a varsity swimmer, ate at Cannon, roomed with Peter Curry and David Hall, and majored in geology.

Following graduation Craig worked in uranium mining and then earned an MBA from Columbia in 1966. He married Elizabeth Ellis of Pueblo, Colo., that year, and they moved west, living seven years in Santa Fe, N.M., and then settling in San Antonio, where they raised their children, Betsy, Jennifer, and Scott. He developed commercial real estate and apartments around the country.

Craig and Liz traveled abroad extensively, were active in their Episcopal parish, Church of Reconciliation, and were founding members of an interfaith charity providing housing free of charge to people near death who either had no home or inadequate caregiving. They moved to Colorado to be near family in 2018 after the death of their son.

The class extends its sincere condolences to Liz, daughters Betsy and Jennifer, and brother Donald.

#### **James W. Otto '63**

Jim died June 19, 2021, at home in Troy, N.Y., of complications from myelodysplastic syndrome, a bone-marrow malfunction.

Having grown up in in Berea and Olmsted Falls, Ohio, near Cleveland, Jim spent two years at Phillips Exeter Academy, two more at Princeton, and then qualified for the Marine Aviation Cadet program. He served in combat in Vietnam as a helicopter pilot with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 261, known as the Raging Bulls, who were based in Da Nang and later on the USS *Valley Forge*.

Toward the end of active duty, he met coach Woody Hayes, who urged him to finish his studies in math and computer science at Ohio State. Jim then worked in Cleveland, where he met his future wife, Jane. In the 1970s they joined the Peace Corps and worked nearly four years in Nairobi, Kenya, where he was a computer programmer and systems analyst for national surveys at the Central Bureau of Statistics. That led to a career in survey data processing, providing technical support and training in statistics offices in 16 sub-Saharan African countries. After many years living and working overseas, including in England and France, and in the Washington metro area, Jim and Jane moved to upstate New York.

Jim loved being outdoors — cycling, hiking, rugby, running, soccer, tennis, and cross-country skiing. He was an avid reader of fiction and nonfiction, listened to all types of music,

liked to cook, and insisted on mowing lawns with a push mower. Blessed with an impish sense of humor, he relished spirited discussions with friends and family while sharing good beer or wine and tasty food. He loved prime numbers and plays on words.

Jim is survived by his wife of nearly 50 years, Jane; brother Bob; and sister Judy.



#### **W. Prescott Seckel '63**

Pres — family man, investment professional, and champion golfer — passed away June 8, 2021, at home in Palm Harbor, Fla. Charismatic, caring, and quick-witted, he had an easygoing and relaxed demeanor that belied his competitiveness as an athlete.

Golf in particular was a lifetime passion. He played until just weeks before his death, amiably coached family members, sat on the board of the Copperheads for the PGA tournament at Innisbrook, and was on the selection committee for *Golf Digest's* 100 Greatest.

After Peoria (Ill.) Central High School, Pres spent a year at Lawrenceville before Princeton, where he majored in politics, was golf captain, and joined Cottage Club. He was runner-up in the Eastern Intercollegiate Championship and twice an NCAA player. After graduation he became an officer in the Illinois Air National Guard, rising to captain.

Pres worked in financial services for several firms in Peoria, then moved to Palm Harbor in 1987 to open a new office for Kemper Securities in Clearwater and later did the same for Robert W. Baird in Palm Harbor. He retired in 2009.

The class shares its sadness with Sandy, his wife of 57 years; son Sean; daughter Sheryl Hunter; four grandchildren; and sister Sherry.

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#### **THE CLASS OF 1964**



#### **Jerome D. Yencharis '64**

Jerome died June 19, 2021, at his home in League City, Texas, where he lived for all 56 years of his life after graduating from the University with a degree in aeronautical engineering.

He came to Princeton from G.A.R. High School in Wilkes Barre, Pa. At Princeton he dined at Court Club and was a member of the Engineering Society and the Aquinas Foundation.

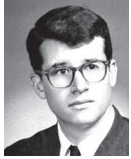
Jerome spent 45 years working at NASA's Johnson Space Center, starting with the Apollo program where, as a member of the Mission Planning and Analysis Division, he helped design the astronauts' trajectories to the moon. Later he oversaw development and operation of the computer-support systems for the space shuttle and space station programs. He wrote that he carried a lesson absorbed at Old Nassau throughout his career: "... something I learned from one of our engineering instructors, and it



exemplifies Princeton for me. That is, we learn by searching; to find the answer is fine, but the fun and fulfillment are in the searching.”

Jerome was a zealous fan of Houston’s pro sports teams and the loving father of Jerry Yencharis and Susan Postell. The class extends its profound condolences to them and the other members of Jerome’s family.

#### THE CLASS OF 1966



##### **John H. Hodge '66**

John died Aug. 3, 2021, at his home in Berwyn, Pa., after a long battle with vascular dementia and multiple myeloma.

John grew up in Bryn Mawr, Pa., and graduated from Episcopal Academy in nearby Newtown Square. At Princeton John majored in history and belonged to Charter Club. After graduation in 1967, he served in the Navy, including service as an officer aboard the USS *Franklin D. Roosevelt* during the Vietnam War.

Following his naval service, he moved to Philadelphia and began a career in the pet-supplies industry. In 1973 he married Mary Gindhart (Rider '72). In 1995, after 25 years in the pet-supplies business, he transitioned to real estate, where he and Mary worked together as a highly effective team. He retired in 2014.

John was active in his support of both Princeton and Episcopal Academy. He played squash and tennis at the Merion Cricket Club, enthusiastically supported Philadelphia’s professional sports teams, and enjoyed music and reading.

John is survived by his wife, Mary; sons John Cortland Hodge and Joseph Cabell Hodge; and granddaughters Sierra Isabelle Hodge and Amber Raven Hodge. The class extends its heartfelt condolences to them all.

#### THE CLASS OF 1967



##### **Laird G. Carlson '67**

Laird died Aug. 14, 2021, at Presbyterian/St. Luke’s Hospital in Denver of aggressive bone cancer.

Laird graduated from Haverford Township High School near Philadelphia.

At Princeton Laird majored in English, wrote his thesis on Thornton Wilder, and roomed at 124 Little Hall with Graham Marcott, John Waterman, and Dave Bryan. He was president of AIESEC, a member of the Flying Club, and an active Dial Lodge intramural sports participant. He was a student teacher at Trenton High School.

After graduation he began teaching at Blair Academy and later moved to Stowe School in Vermont, where he served as English department chairman for years. In mid-career he shifted to a new aspiration and joined a local

Vermont business as manager of a machine-company service department. He started an independent consultancy writing financial computer programs for businesses.

Retiring early, he began remodeling homes and building new ones. He continued that work after moving to southwest Colorado near Durango and Mesa Verde National Park, where he volunteered as Democratic county precinct captain, board member of a local radio station, ski instructor, and assisting his wife, Claudia, in her national organization assisting wrongfully convicted prison inmates. He and Claudia spent two months each summer with family on Peaks Island, Maine.

Laird is survived by Claudia, sister Joy Mills, and those of us fortunate to have known our independent and exemplary friend.



##### **Jay F. Higgins '67**

Jay died Aug. 6, 2021, in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

He came to Princeton from Andean High School in Gary, Ind., where he participated in the Dramatics Club, debating team, National Honor Society, and football, swimming, and track. At Princeton Jay majored in politics, writing his thesis for Professor H.H. Wilson on “The FBI and its Role in Civil Rights.” He roomed with Bill Koch and Pete Safir at 131 1901 Hall, and was a member of Cannon Club, a Commons captain, and in the Pre-Law Society, intending to go to law school.

Instead of law, Jay went to the University of Chicago business school, graduating in 1970 with his MBA. He joined Salomon Brothers, becoming managing partner in 1979, then a vice chairman and executive committee member before retiring in 1992. He was a founder-partner in a small investment firm, Bengal Partners, and later of another startup firm, Direxion Funds.

Jay’s successful Wall Street career permitted him, with several Wall Street friends, to purchase the Waterville House and Golf Links in County Kerry, Ireland, where he spent summers with his wife, Gail; children; and grandchildren often visiting. Friends and classmates were also hosted on occasion.

Jay is survived by Gail and children Maura, Kerry, Erin, and Conor.

#### THE CLASS OF 1971



##### **W. Lawrence Joachim '71**

Larry died April 22, 2021, of a ruptured aortic aneurysm.

He came to Princeton from Liberty High School in Bethlehem, Pa. At Princeton he graduated with high honors in philosophy, roomed with Dick Seebald and Richard Obermann senior year, and belonged to Cloister Inn. Larry was active in freshman cross

country and track, the Princeton Evangelical Fellowship, and the Conservative Club. He graduated from law school at the University of Michigan and earned an MBA from the University of Chicago.

He began his legal career with Reid & Priest and later established a solo law practice on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, where he resided with his family. Larry married Jean Cohen in 1985 and had two sons: David (born in 1987) and Stephen (born in 1991). An admitted “frustrated jock,” he enjoyed coaching soccer and basketball. He was also active in the Boy Scouts and the First Baptist Church, serving as deacon and trustee and singing in the choir. A loyal Princetonian, he helped plan our 10th and 15th reunions and served as class agent for Annual Giving leading up to our 20th.

The class extends its sympathies to Jean, David, Stephen, his five siblings, and the rest of Larry’s family and his friends.

#### THE CLASS OF 1972

##### **Edward R. Allen '72**

Woody — born Edward Rutledge Allen, Feb. 12, 1950 in New York City — died Aug. 24, 2021, at home in Portsmouth, N.H., with his family by his side.

Woody came to Princeton from the Trinity School, following his father, John R. Allen '41. He was already an accomplished musician and quickly formed a campus affiliation with other performers involved in Triangle.

Following graduation, the English major with a musical soul moved to Key West, Fla., in 1977, continuing his musical career with his band, the Survivors. There he married Chance Brooks Allen, and they raised three beautiful children.

Woody and family moved to Portsmouth in 1995. He is survived by his wife, Chance; their children, Zeph, Gracie, and Finn Allen; brother James; mother Pat; and many nieces, nephews, and in-laws, friends, and fans.

A musical gathering was held Sept. 16, 2021, at the York Harbor Inn in York, Maine. The family also looks forward to celebrating Woody’s memory among his Key West friends in the coming year. Forever may we keep “feelin’ good down in our neighborhood!” The class sends condolences to his family.

##### **Robert Meers '72**

Robert died June 26, 2021, following a stroke, in Lake Forest, Ill. He was a successful real-estate developer and longtime participant in class affairs. He was 70.

A native of Lake Forest, Robert attended Lake Forest Country Day School and the Hotchkiss School. At Princeton he majored in architecture and urban planning, beginning a lifelong fascination with architecture and design. He also lettered in hockey and was active in the Aquinas Institute.



He earned an MBA from the University of Chicago in 1978 while working for Urban Investments, a Chicago shopping-center developer.

This tenure launched his visionary real-estate development career, where he restored and revitalized classic, architecturally significant buildings in Chicago and surrounding suburbs. His renovation of Chicago's 1891 Monadnock Building through his firm, Broadacre Management Co., brought highest recognition from the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Robert was a lifetime trustee of the Chicago History Museum and former president of the Princeton Club of Chicago.

He was predeceased by his brother Albert Meers '70. He is survived by former spouses Anne Searle and Lisa M. Gregory '85; children Ethan Meers '03 and spouse Coleene '04, Robert Walker Meers, Holly Meers, and Marion Rice; six grandchildren; and brother Henry. Contributions may be made to Lake Forest Country Day School. The class sends condolences to his family.

#### Gary Lee Shapiro '72

Gary died Jan. 20, 2021, in Boca Raton, Fla. He had turned 70 Dec. 29, 2020.

He came to Princeton from University School in Cleveland, where he excelled academically and in football and wrestling. At Princeton he majored in economics and was active in pre-med and the departmental undergraduate advisory committee. He was a member of Tower Club and played rugby and intramural sports. His cadre of friends in Brown, 1901, and Campbell included Fritz Cammerzell, Dan Ferguson, Leigh Hoagland, and Phil Shinn. Senior year he roomed in the 102 Patton suite with Marty Franks, Dave Hunter, Larry Kurtz, and Ed Strauss. Many friends enjoyed field trips to Manhattan and Yankee Stadium with "the Sheik."

Gary earned a medical degree at Boston University, followed by a fellowship at Stanford. He then established a gastroenterology practice on Cape Cod and raised three children, son Brett '06 and daughters Leigh Williamson '03 (Brian) and Whitney Shapiro '12 (Jim Behot '11), who survive him. In 1998 he married Barryanne, with whom he retired to Florida in May 2020. She survives him, along with stepson Liam Dacey, sister Lora Guyuron (Bahman), and nieces, nephews, and other family in Massachusetts, Ohio, and Georgia. The class sends condolences to the family.

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#### THE CLASS OF 1990

##### Vincent Paul Sherman '90

Vince died July 1, 2021, at the age of 53.

He graduated from the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs. He was



a dedicated member of Dial Lodge (one of the "Last of the Lodgers").

After graduation Vince served as an Air Force intelligence officer. A proud veteran, he retired as a captain and his service included a deployment during Operation Desert Storm. Vince earned a law degree from New York University *cum laude* and joined Sullivan and Cromwell. Widely respected as a litigator, he served as senior counsel at the SEC's Division of Enforcement in New York and took on an increasing pro bono caseload in addition to his private practice.

In 2001 Vince married Elycia Sherman '95. They had two daughters, to whom Vince was a devoted and loving father: Paige '25 and Brooke. Sister Teri Gendron and her family, as well as his uncle, Monsignor Anthony F. Sherman, also survive Vince.

Vince's classmates, friends, and colleagues remember him as someone always willing to stand by you and help in any way he could. His wit and humor showed through in good times and bad. Donations in Vince's memory can be made to Sanctuary for Families: [sanctuaryforfamilies.org](http://sanctuaryforfamilies.org).

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#### THE CLASS OF 1995



##### Ivan K. Tatum '95

Ivan died Jan. 29, 2021, in his hometown of Dallas, Texas, of a blood clot in one of his lungs.

Before coming to Princeton, Ivan attended Skyline Career Development Center. He lived in Forbes College, was a member of Ivy Club, and majored in psychology. He also served as a New Visions tutor and was active in the Imhotep Minority Pre-Med Society, OBU, and the NAACP.

After graduation, Ivan spent much of his career in financial services and wealth management and earned an MBA from the Southern Methodist University Cox School of Business in 2010. In recent years, he volunteered with Methodism Breadbasket, offering his professional skills to put his passion for social and economic justice to work. He had begun refocusing his career on venture capital at the time of his death, partially inspired by having recently served as CFO at a Texas Black-owned agricultural consultancy.

Ivan is survived by his mother, Marian Washington Tatum; sister Jonetta Renée and her husband Bennie Johnson; brother John W. Tatum '87 and his wife Ursula; fiancée Stacy M. Rosenthal; and many other relatives and friends.

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#### GRADUATE ALUMNI

##### Ronald F. Probststein '52

Ronald died Sept. 19, 2021, in Brookline, Mass., at the age of 93.

Born in New York, Ronald spent his youth in Hell's Kitchen, learning statistics from horse

racing and fishing for nickels through subway grates. He graduated from Stuyvesant High School at age 15 before studying engineering at New York University night school and working days for mathematician Richard Courant. In 1952 he earned the first Ph.D. granted by Princeton's Department of Aeronautical Engineering.

After serving as a professor at Brown, Ronald joined MIT's mechanical engineering department in 1962, and served as the Ford Professor of Engineering until retirement in 1996. He played a principal role in many scientific and technical achievements in the post-World War II era, including early spacecraft design, ballistic missile reentry physics, the composition of comet tails, alternative energy sources, and toxic-waste remediation.

Ronald's books *Hypersonic Inviscid Flow* (with Wally Hayes), *Synthetic Fuels* (with Edwin Hicks) and *Physicochemical Hydrodynamics* remain reference works on these topics. He was elected to the National Academy of Science, the National Academy of Engineering, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and received a Guggenheim Fellowship.

He is survived by his son, Sid; daughter Laurie; and three grandchildren.

##### Vassos Soteriou '06

Vassos died Sept. 26, 2020, in Cyprus.

Vassos was born Jan. 23, 1976, in Limassol on the island of Cyprus and grew up in Larnaca. In 1998 he traveled to the United States to study as a Fulbright scholar at Rice University, earning a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering in 2001.

He earned a Ph.D. in electrical engineering and computer science from Princeton in 2006 with a dissertation titled, "Run-Time and Design-Time Techniques Toward Power-Efficient Interconnection Networks."

At Princeton Vassos was a member of the Gigascale Systems Research Center, where he collaborated with leading researchers in the field of low-power interconnected and integrated networks.

He worked for Micron Technology (PC memory) and Texas Instruments (digital signal processors) in the U.S., and for the IBM Research Center GmbH in Zurich, Switzerland (PC systems), and the imec research organization in the Netherlands and Belgium (infrastructure for Internet of Things).

In 2007 Vassos joined the faculty of the Cyprus University of Technology. He was one of the first members of the newly formed Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Informatics.

Vassos is survived by his wife, Drazena Zole Soteriou, and his newborn son, Alexander.

*Graduate memorials are prepared by the APGA.*

*Undergraduate memorials appear for Henry Green Morgan '40 '47, Gary B. Nash '55 '64, and David W. Cain '63 '76.*

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

**Paris:** 1870 apartment between Louvre Muséum and Ritz Hotel. Six night minimum for 2. [apower7@icloud.com](mailto:apower7@icloud.com), 831-521-7155, 310-614-1537, w\*49.

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

**Ile St-Louis:** Elegant, spacious, top floor, skylighted apartment, gorgeous views overlooking the Seine, 2 bedrooms sleep 4, 2 baths, elevator, well-appointed, full kitchen, WiFi. 678-232-8444. [triff@mindspring.com](mailto:triff@mindspring.com)

**Tuscany, Italy:** Val d'Orcia village house with sunny garden, sleeps 4, walk to restaurants, [www.cozyholidayrentals.com](http://www.cozyholidayrentals.com)

### Southern France (Alumni Discount)

— Saint-Cirq-Lapopie, voted 'most beautiful village' in France. Enchanting 5-bedroom home in stunning, lively, medieval, artists' village — outdoor restaurants, farmer's markets, vineyards, museums, bicycling, hiking, swimming. For reviews: [maisonsouthernfrance.com](http://maisonsouthernfrance.com) 617-877-7160. (See website for Covid information).

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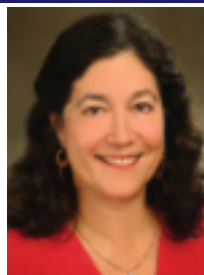
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## A Champion For Inner Space

By Harrison Blackman '17

“We spend treasures daily on fantastical sky rockets aimed feebly toward space,” wrote John Steinbeck in a 1961 issue of *LIFE* magazine. “Meanwhile we know practically nothing of far the greater part of our home planet covered by the sea.”

The famous author was embedded on an unconventional offshore drilling vessel, the *CUSS I*, part of an extraordinary attempt to drill through Earth’s crust. One of the principal minds behind the endeavor — dubbed “Project Mohole” — was Princeton geology professor Harry Hess \*32, a chain-smoking, swaggering personality known for thinking outside the box.

During World War II Hess commanded a Navy ship, the *USS Cape Johnson*, that used sonar to search for

Japanese submarines — readings that he used to map the ocean floor. This process inspired his later research on seafloor spreading that became foundational to plate-tectonics theory. While American

**While American aerospace engineers were looking to the stars in competition with Soviet scientists, Hess and other leading oceanographers were contemplating a race to “inner space.”**

aerospace engineers were looking to the stars in competition with Soviet scientists, Hess and other leading oceanographers were contemplating a race to “inner space.”

At a 1957 meeting of the American Miscellaneous Society, an eccentric committee of leading earth scientists who evaluated research proposals over “wine

breakfasts,” Hess and oceanographer Walter Munk proposed to drill through the Mohorovičić Discontinuity, the theoretical boundary between Earth’s crust and the mantle beneath, to acquire core samples of the mantle for study.

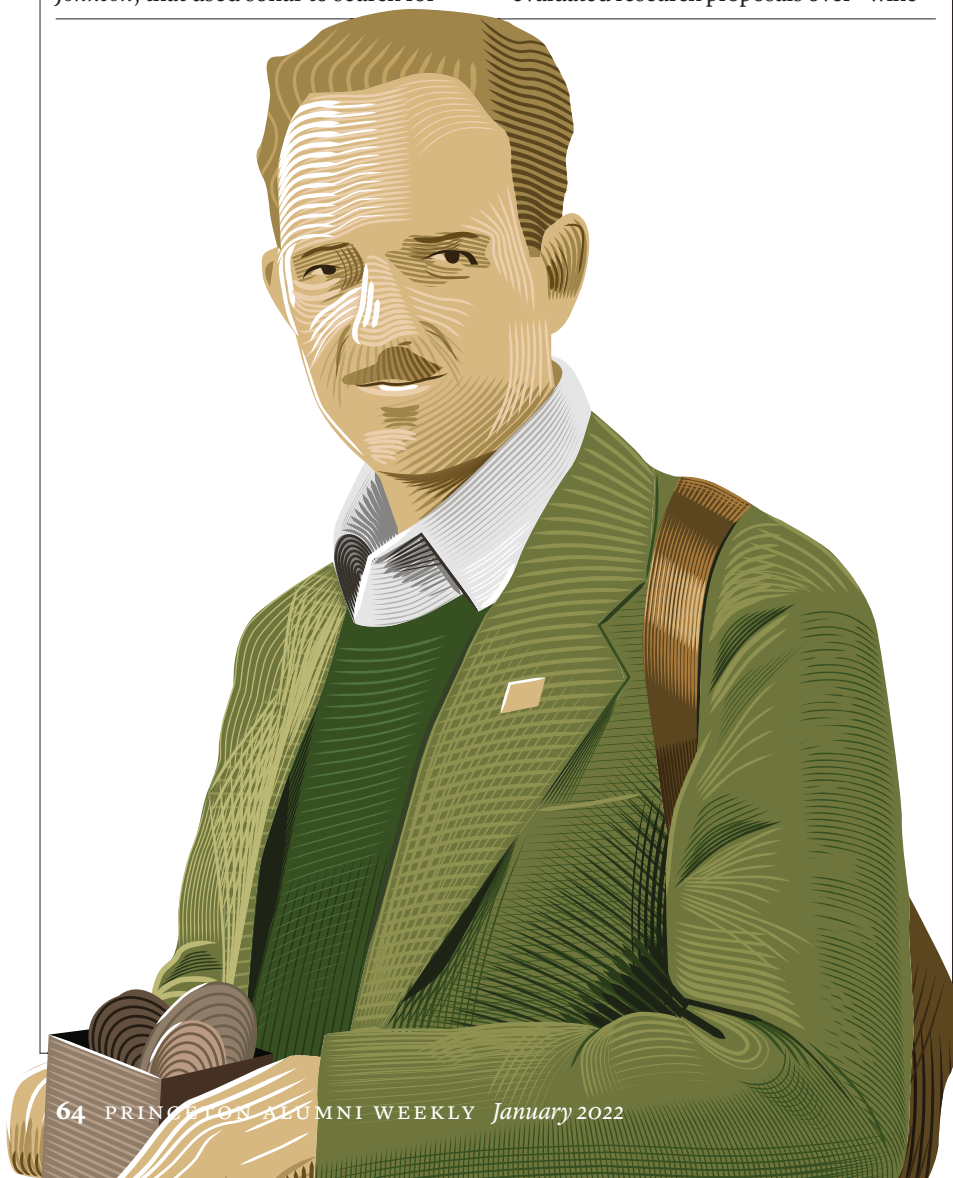
With Soviet scientists also pursuing a deep drilling project, the National Science Foundation provided a \$15,000 grant to begin Project Mohole. The Americans believed they had discovered a shortcut: Though the “Moho” lies 22 miles below the continental landmasses, underneath the ocean, the crust in some places is only 4 miles thick. Still, those 4 miles of rock lay 2.8 miles below the ocean surface. That made the project extremely challenging — perhaps more difficult than landing a man on the moon.

After *CUSS I* was launched to drill a few hundred meters beneath the oceanic crust, a leading engineering firm, Brown & Root, was hired to pursue the next phase, and budget estimates surged to about \$57 million. Discouraged by the rapidly escalating costs, Congress defunded the project in 1966.

While the Mohole was never completed, its attempt led to a series of related NSF ocean-drilling programs that have expanded geological knowledge of Earth’s history. And while the U.S. abandoned the quest, the Soviets kept digging. Their Kola Superdeep Borehole, near Norway, eventually extended 7.6 miles below the surface, the deepest man-made hole dug on Earth. Drilling ceased in 1992 because at that depth, the drill bits were melting under the hellish temperatures.

In a 1966 letter to a colleague, Hess wrote, “The demise of the Mohole Project leaves me unhappy but not so discouraged that I am unwilling to start over again. It is too important a scientific project to be relegated to the next decade.”

Though he was the champion of the race to inner space, Hess was also involved in the race to the moon. In future lunar missions, he hoped scientists would investigate questions such as whether the moon had once been volcanic and “washed by seas.” He died in 1969, on the day he chaired a National Academy of Sciences meeting celebrating the success of the first moon landing. ♦





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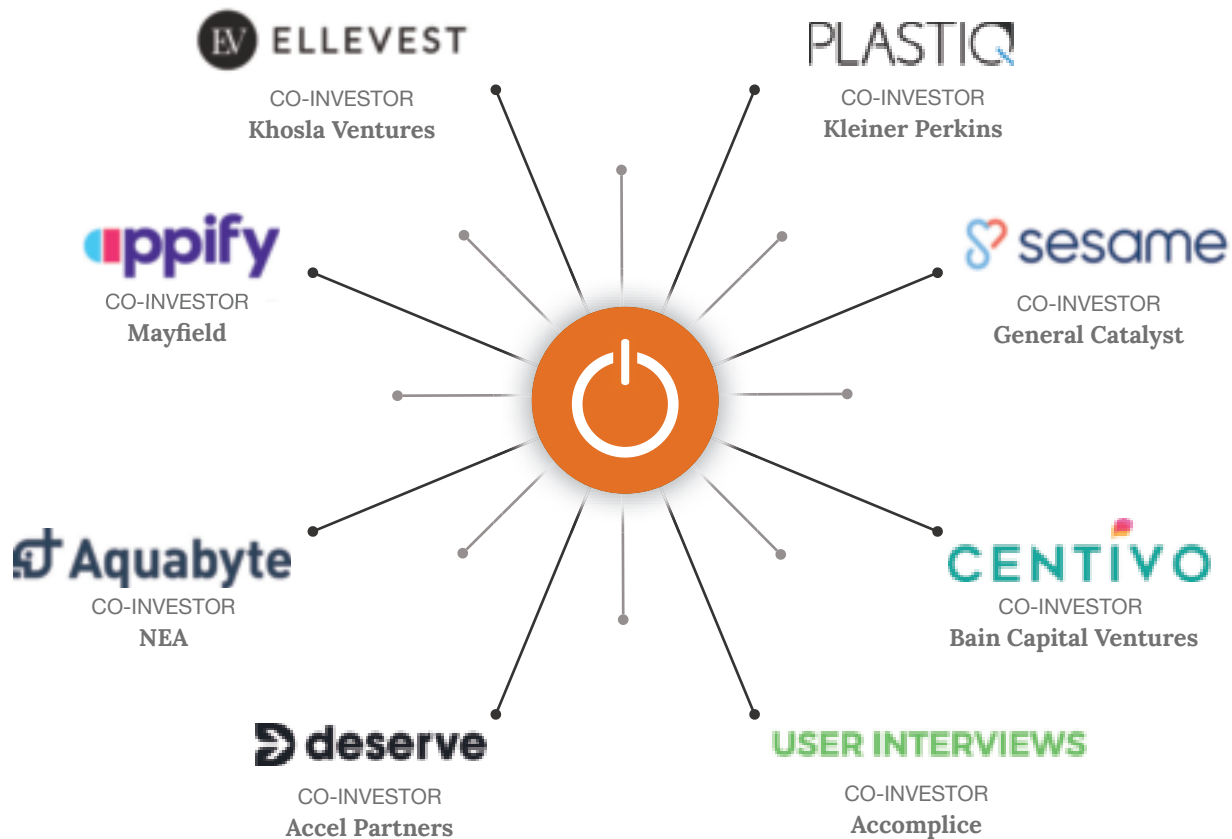
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