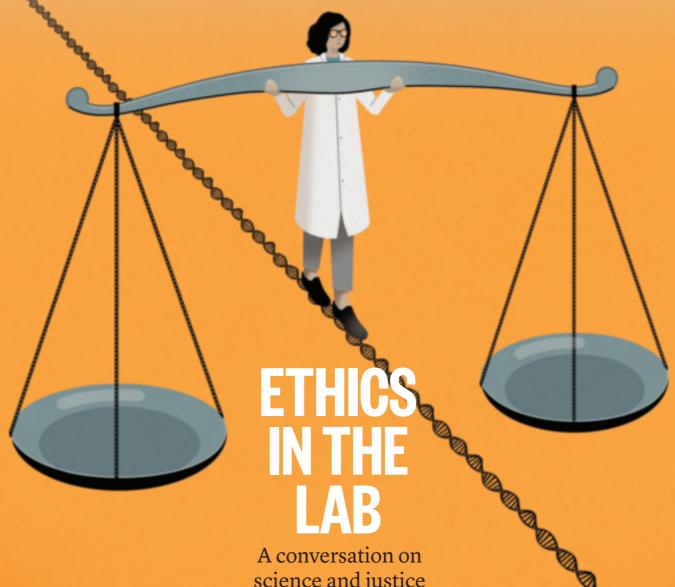
GROWS

GENDER GAP IN CLASS

**ECONOMICS NOBELS** 

## PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY



science and justice



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## PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY

An editorially independent magazine by alumni for alumni since 1900

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#### Science, Ethics, and Policy

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By Mark F. Bernstein '83

#### **Experiments in Economics**

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Two alumni of Princeton's Industrial Relations Section won the 2021 Nobel Prize in economics. Here's a report on the program that gave them their start.

By Louis Jacobson '92

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#### **An Adventurer**

On the latest PAWcast, Harvard professor emeritus Leo Damrosch \*68 discusses his new biography of Giacomo Casanova.



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Aboard the Endeavour, Bill Urschel '78 is shedding light on Alaska's rapidly changing environment.

#### Reunions Wrap-Up

Read PAW's coverage of 2022 Reunions at paw.princeton.edu.

#### Princeton's **Bicentennial**

Gregg Lange '70 recalls the University's celebration of 200 years in 1947.

#### Princeton Pre-Read 2022: Every Day the River Changes

hen I took office in 2013, I created the Princeton Pre-read. Each year, I select a book to introduce incoming undergraduates to the academic life of the University. We send copies to all of our new students and to many others on campus, and the author meets with our incoming class during orientation week.

I think of the Pre-read as an academic counterpart to the Pre-rade, the joy-filled parade that takes the entering class through FitzRandolph Gate after Opening Exercises.

In previous years, I have typically chosen Pre-reads written by faculty members or scholars whose work might appear on Princeton syllabi. This year, I took a different approach. I selected a book that exemplifies outstanding student work. The book is *Every Day the River Changes: Four Weeks Down the Magdalena*.

Its author, Jordan Salama, is a member of Princeton's Great Class of 2019, and the book grew out of his Princeton senior thesis. He becomes the first Pre-read author to have participated in the Pre-read as a student.

Jordan's book is a fresh approach to the old genre of travel writing. It describes his experiences on and around Colombia's Magdalena River, a trip that took him through areas recovering from a prolonged period of political violence and rarely visited by students or tourists.

The book invites us, as Jordan says, to join him in not only "a journey down a river" but also "an immersion into the lives

of the ordinary people who find themselves alongside it."

I like Every Day the River Changes for many reasons. Prominent among them is the deep empathy that informs Jordan's treatment of the people he meets and the country through which he travels.

Jordan could have told a different, more judgmental or disputatious story about Colombia and the Magdalena. Indeed, other storylines—about, for



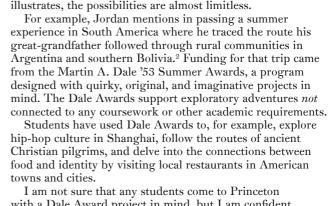
Jordan Salama '19 navigating Colombia's Magdalena River with wildlife biologists and community leaders

example, political strife, colonialism, crime, and inequality—emerge occasionally in his book but remain subordinate to more intimate and personal vignettes.

Jordan's humane and respectful perspective is rare, and greatly needed, in today's world, where public discourse too often bristles with anger, cynicism, or rage.

I also like Jordan's book because it will introduce entering students not only to the individuals, communities, and cultures that he encountered on his travels, but also to the kinds of opportunities that await them at Princeton. As Jordan reports his observations about Colombia, he describes how his book benefited from summer internships, coursework, extracurricular reading, and the encouragement that he received from mentors and friends.

With the world reopening in the wake of the pandemic, I want our incoming students to think imaginatively and



creatively about what they might do, on our campus and far

beyond it, during their Princeton careers. As Jordan's book

I am not sure that any students come to Princeton with a Dale Award project in mind, but I am confident that many of those who receive these awards find the experience transformative.

Finally, I like Jordan's book because his voyage of discovery can serve as an apt metaphor for the journey that our incoming students will soon begin at Princeton. I expect most alumni will agree with me, as they look back on their own path through Old Nassau, that new arrivals will at times find this campus no less mysterious, foreign, surprising, or magical than the Magdalena river basin.

Like the Magdalena, Princeton, too, changes every day—and, I might add, it changes with every student. All of us who attended this place have our own set of stories to tell about it, and I have no doubt that will be true for those about to arrive in 2022.

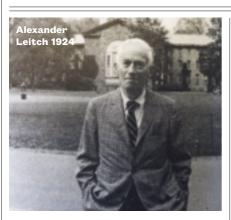
I look forward to discussing Every Day the River Changes with our incoming students as they begin to explore this marvelous University and all that it has to offer. I look forward to discussing it with alumni, too. I have been very pleased that, over the past decade, the alumni community has taken an interest in the Pre-read, and I anticipate that Jordan's story will inspire his fellow Tigers to reflect on the journeys, discoveries, and experiences that have shaped their own lives.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Every Day the River Changes 18.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>ld. at 14.

## Inbox



#### **LEITCH'S LABOR OF LOVE**

Your April article on The New Princeton Companion (On the Campus) brought back memories of the original edition and its incomparably genial editor, Alexander Leitch 1924. Fifty years ago, I worked on A Princeton Companion with Mr. Leitch, editing and researching articles and compiling the index. The job came with the benefit of a carrel in Firestone, an otherwise unattainable luxury for a freshman.

The original Companion was undeniably ready for updating after half a century, and Robert Durkee '69 has doubtless developed a formidable institutional memory during his many decades of loyal service at Princeton. Nonetheless, I maintain the (probably prejudiced) conviction that no one ever loved the University more than Alec Leitch. He treasured every blade of grass, every stone, every event on the campus, and took unalloyed delight in every anecdote and pride in every statistic about the school. He was an ideal chronicler of Princeton's

uniqueness, and I am sure that he would be pleased beyond words to see his pet project revitalized, expanded, and made newly relevant to the changing times.

After a year and a half, I left Princeton for greener (actually, bluer) pastures, and my work with Mr. Leitch came to an end. On the eve of my departure, he presented me with an orange-and-black striped stocking cap, along with the instruction to "wear it on the streets of New Haven, so that you don't forget where you came from." I haven't forgotten.

Phyllis Benjamin '76 Cambridge, Mass.

#### **GEO-EXCHANGE'S IMPACT**

PAW reported the new geo-exchange heating and cooling systems, intended to make Princeton net-zero by 2046, will cost "hundreds of millions of dollars" and save far more over time (On the Campus, April issue).

Of course, this is a good thing, and Princeton will serve "as a lighthouse institution that people pay attention to," as associate professor Forrest Meggers said in the story. True enough, in a small way, though Princeton is not the first; there are many towns, cities, and private institutions that are already moving in the same direction. And allow me to point out the disjuncture between these laudable efforts to shrink the University's carbon footprint, and its endowment holding \$1.7 billion in fossil-fuel investments (On the Campus, May issue). Princeton is still too late to be the first lighthouse on the block, since Harvard and many other institutions have already divested, while Princeton is dithering along, debating whether using a weasel-word like "dissociation" will satisfy. It doesn't.

If Princeton makes one small patch of New Jersey carbon neutral, that's obviously good, but (better late than never) publicly divesting from ExxonMobil might help lead the rest of the country to do likewise. Besides, 2046 is still over the horizon and may be too late anyway, whereas divestment could have an outsized impact now.

Why not triple Princeton's lighthouseness? Divesting nearly \$2 billion of fossilfuel investments and investing hundreds of millions in renewable energy add up to real institutional leadership. Come on, Princeton, do the lighthouse-institution thing — what are you afraid of?

Chris Brandt '65 New York, N.Y.

Did anyone else notice the irony of building an "extremely energy-efficient" geo-exchange system "underground [so] the land above can be used for ... a parking garage"?!

Lisa-Nicolle Grist \*92 Brooklyn, N.Y.

#### **COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

I hope Princetonians will do more than just use community colleges to hone skills for careers elsewhere (On the Campus, April issue). Community colleges are "America's best bridge to the middle class," as President Bill Clinton declared in a speech at Princeton, but they are more than that. Community colleges promote full situational awareness for human beings, above and beyond every possible routine and framework, for students who will never hear about it unless we tell them.

Teaching philosophy for 36 years in a community college let me share ideas Princeton gave me with more than 14,000 students of all ages, most of them first-generation college

#### **WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU**



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#### Inbox

students. It allowed me to publish a book and numerous professional papers, and to become a founding officer of the Community College Humanities Association (conceived at a Princeton Leadership Conference 40 years ago) and an officer of two statewide professional organizations. It gave me mentoring opportunities with outstanding young colleagues. Teaching in a community college allowed me to matter more than I ever dreamed possible. Princeton promised I would love it. She was right.

Jim Perry '57 Tampa, Fla.

#### **JESSE LYNCH WILLIAMS**

Regarding your recent article on Jesse Lynch Williams 1892 (Princeton Portrait, April issue): Many years ago, before they had an internet, I stumbled upon Williams' Princeton Stories at a bookstore up in somewhere or other, but probably in Connecticut. In those days they had this delightful thing called browsing in which you didn't know what you were looking for until you found it. You could spend hours not knowing and often not finding. Imagine the joy I felt several years later when I found The Adventures of a Freshman at a bookstore in somewhere or other else, possibly Massachusetts. It felt like magic. Like there was a purpose to the universe, an Intelligence guiding our lives.

But that's not why I'm writing. I want to add that Williams wrote a play called Why Marry? that won the Pulitzer Prize in 1918. And in 1922 he wrote a companion piece called Why Not? I'm not sure I ever found copies of those plays. Nowadays it would be child's play to locate them. The guy really was ahead of his time. Women's rights, sequels, so much more.

My bookstore companion Joe Harbeson '74 still has his copy of *The* Adventures of a Freshman, apparently a first edition. My copy, if I ever had one, has disappeared.

Jim Shankman '74 New York, N.Y.

Many thanks to Elyse Graham '07 for her excellent article about one of the founders of the Triangle Club, Jesse Lynch Williams 1892. I was the publications director for the Triangle Club in 1969-70 and was unaware of this outstanding Triangle alumnus.

I propose that the Triangle Club consider a tribute to the founders, Jesse Lynch Williams and Booth Tarkington 1893. It would be interesting to perform parts of Williams' play Why Marry?, which won the first Pulitzer Prize in drama in 1918. Tarkington never graduated from Princeton but went on to win two Pulitzer Prizes for fiction in 1919 and 1922. Princeton later awarded him two honorary degrees. Perhaps excerpts from his books Penrod, The Magnificent Ambersons, Alice Adams, or other literary works could be read or performed in his honor.

Andrew A. Hendricks '70 Lumberton, N.C.

#### **DISABILITY SERVICES**

I was heartened, though also a bit disappointed, by Jennifer Altmann's article ("Opening Doors," March issue). Hats off to the students and others mentioned in the article, and to the University for its response to their needs.

However, the piece devoted but a single sentence to disabilities other than mobility, some of which constitute major impediments to education as well as other activities.

Now retired, I spent the second half of my career — roughly, since laptop computers became available and  ${\it reasonably speedy-providing CART}$ (Communications Access Real Time, or open captioning) services to hearingimpaired students at Harvard and other local universities. (CART is done by a live court reporter with particular training in this particular subspecialty and requires very detailed preparation for each individual subject.)

There was one blind student on campus back in my day, a Dutch man who later became famous as an expert on mollusk shells. Princeton gave him \$1,000 to hire a reader, and that was it. So, progress has been made, but much remains to do.

My wife, Janis, and I came to Princeton in the late 1990s to set up a CART program for a student whom we had worked with at Harvard, but I have not heard since about services for the deaf at the University. I do know that our student has since published at least two books, and trust that she is doing well.

I would welcome hearing about services at Princeton for disabilities other than mobility-related.

Jonathan H. Young '69 Waltham, Mass.

#### A DEFENSE OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS

We, the undersigned Princeton women of '72, have been deeply shocked by the leaked Supreme Court draft authored by our classmate Justice Samuel Alito.

We are about to celebrate our 50th reunion — half a century since we graduated from Princeton. As a pioneering class of Princeton women, we find it bitter indeed to see the draft Supreme Court opinion reverse the strides we thought we were making, as part of one of the first classes of Princeton women, towards a world of equity and fairness for women of all races and social and economic positions.

We ask our classmates, and the community of Princeton, to protest the logic that ties us to a constitutional originalism which resists any movement toward justice but, rather, moves us backwards. As Jill Lepore so aptly put it in The New Yorker, "Women are indeed missing from the Constitution. That's a problem to remedy, not a precedent to honor."

Instead, we want to call attention to this urgent truth: We hang on a precipice, balanced between the draft opinion and the final Supreme Court ruling on Roe v. Wade. The right to manage one's own health and most intimate personal and family decisions without outside interference is at risk right now and should be preserved to ensure social justice for ourselves, for our classmates, and for the world Princeton purports to serve.

Submitted by Susan Squier '72 and signed by 29 women from the Class of 1972 and seven other alumnae

View the signatures at paw.princeton.edu.

#### **UNITY VS. UNANIMITY**

I was dismayed to read the glib suggestion by Anne-Marie Slaughter '80 to reframe E Pluribus Unum (Princetonians, December issue).

It is simplistic to view unity and diversity as two sides of a coin, or vin and yang. A deeper understanding of "From Many, One" (which is similar to FROM THE EDITOR

#### **How '40 Witnessed History**

It's hard to read the happy history of the Class of 1940 with the knowledge of the story's next chapter. The 508 students who graduated that spring celebrated as usual, with houseparties and athletics contests and a prom. Within five years, 32 would be dead, casualties of a war most classmates thought the United States would not enter. No other class paid such a high price.



With the recent death of Marshall Forrest, '40's last known living member, the class column in PAW will end. Marshall's memorial appears on page 51; a senior-class photo is on page 35.

From its first day on campus, the class noted changes taking place in town and abroad — and it seemed to approach everything with a self-deprecating sense of humor. There was much discussion of an article in a Sarah Lawrence publication describing the sons of "Old Nausea": "They have a distinctive way about them which

is often overdone as far as the short trousers, loud-checked coats and pipes are concerned," the article stated. "Good dancers, although some tend to be a bit violent in grape-vine steps and 'side-twinkles.' " [Note to self: Get video of side-twinkles.]

Edgar Palmer was redeveloping downtown: "The Old Nass was no more," the '40 history reports, "[b]ut it was the sumptuousness of the new Yankee Doodle Taproom which made us quickly forget ... ." Palmer's vision led to the Princeton we know today — but forced the relocation of most of the town's Black community in the process.

The class sometimes poked fun at its lackluster academic reputation, but time proved it wrong. In fact, 1940 produced one of Princeton's most important academic leaders: future Princeton president Robert Goheen, who would transform the University with coeducation and construction. Others also made lasting marks: pediatrician T. Berry Brazelton, who counseled countless parents through his books and syndicated columns; William Colby, former director of the CIA; and U.S. Sen. Claiborne Pell, whose legislation helped low-income students attend college. The Pell grants were named to honor him.

Sophomore year was known for its "varied accounts of the experiences of three Juniors who made a round-trip to Bermuda at the expense and chagrin of the Furness Line," the history states, but the junior-year report notes Hitler's invasion of Czechoslovakia. (Another invasion also drew attention: the attack of Martians in nearby Grover's Mill: "While eminent members of the psychology department found themselves hoisted by their own petards, frantic mamas swamped the local Western Union office and the weekending sons of Old Nassau finally found themselves provided with an excuse to violate the 12:40 deadline at Sarah Lawrence.")

As seniors, the students acknowledged the changes taking place around them: from a campaign for "radical changes in the Club system" at home to the presence of the German army near Paris.

"On the eve of possibly greater changes at home and abroad," their history says, "we can only hope that the next revolution will be less bumpy and that the Class may come back in 1960 to its 20th reunion in a less chaotic world."

— Marilyn H. Marks \*86 h'88

the national motto of Indonesia) would compare the two elements to childhood and adulthood, reflecting the historical transition from 13 Colonies to United States. We start from the obvious diversity of being unique human beings and distinct communities, then move toward the unity of agreeing on fundamental principles (innocent until proven guilty; one adult citizen, one vote; etc.).

I've lived and traveled in several

countries and found that the conflation of unity and unanimity is widespread even among highly educated people. Unanimity is often an expression of conformity, with or without pressure. Unity is an expression of transcending our subjective viewpoint, finding common ground that links all of us by virtue of our single human nature.

Martin Schell '74 Klaten, Central Java, Indonesia



## PRINCETON VARSITY CLUB

### **Congratulations to the Great Class of 2022**



WILLIAM WINSTON ROPER TROPHY Kevin O'Toole '22 • Soccer



C. OTTO VON KIENBUSCH AWARD Kyla Sears '22 • Lacrosse



ART LANE '34 AWARD
Ornella Ebongue '22 • Open Rowing



ART LANE '34 AWARD Elle Ruggiero '22 • Squash



CLASS OF 1916 CUP Jake Mayer '22 • Golf



CLASS OF '67 PVC CITIZEN-ATHLETE AWARD Sari Chang Guthrie '84 • Track & Field



MARVIN BRESSLER AWARD

Alec Dun \*04 • Associate Dean, Tennis Fellow





ADMISSIONS

## **Increasing Transfers**

#### Entering its fifth year, reinstated program pushes through growing pains to expand

hen politics major Kaller Roemer '23 first stepped into his "Insurgency and Counterinsurgency" class at Princeton this spring, he was prepared. Having spent four years as an infantryman in the United States Army, including a deployment to Iraq, he felt right at home contributing to class conversations.

But that isn't always the case for Roemer, one of 45 transfer students who have enrolled in the four years since the University reinstated the transfer program in 2018. He said that transfer students, more than half of whom are veterans, are "kind of the black sheep on campus. We're older, we have these experiences that most students don't have, and it kind of feels like you're left out a little bit."

Princeton is attempting to remedy that in the midst of an expansion: The University recently announced that it will gradually increase the number

of transfers on campus to about 100 over the coming years. Starting this fall, Princeton plans to enroll 25 to 35 transfers each year.

Some things will stay the same, like mandatory pre-orientation over the summer and a transfer-specific writing seminar, but other aspects are changing in response to a review of the program that was conducted during the 2020-21 academic year.

Starting this fall, transfer students, some of whom come to Princeton with spouses and/or children, will no longer be required to live in University housing. In addition, transfers will be able to receive credit for up to three additional courses beyond what was previously possible, allowing them to take a reduced course load for one or more semesters. The Emma Bloomberg Center for Access and Opportunity is also filling the new position of associate director for transfer programs.

These policies and resources are especially important since the transfer program has been designed as an access and inclusion initiative, according to Alex Bustin '08, director of transfer, military, and international admission. He said the program is "really an opportunity to increase our diversity of our student body, and also [to] increase the learning experience that the overall students get from more diverse perspectives with different life experiences."

While Princeton would not provide details on the transfer population, University spokesman Michael Hotchkiss said, "the large majority of enrolled transfer students have been some combination of first-generation college students, community college students, and/or active duty/veteran military. A very small number have been recruited athletes."

Roemer thinks the changes are all steps in the right direction, but more could be done, including additional financial assistance and hiring a veteran administrator and advocate. "I think that the school needs to acknowledge that we have different needs," he said.

Beianka Tomlinson '24, a chemistry major who transferred from Union County College in New Jersey, shares that mindset, "I feel like Princeton in general provides services, but not specifically for transfer students,"

Despite this, Tomlinson loves Princeton's transfer program — so much that even though she was admitted with sophomore standing,



she has since decided to spend four full years on campus.

According to Keith Shaw, who directs the transfer program, some others have made that decision, too.

"I think, over time, most of the students have come to see the advantages of the additional time to work with faculty, to gain expertise in their major, to be able to benefit from the alumni network, to secure internships, and pursue those sorts of opportunities," he said.

Last fall, Tomlinson decided to share what she's learned by serving as a mentor with the Transfer Mentor Program, which was conceived as a way to pair upperclass transfers with those who are new to campus. Transfer students also gather for occasional dinners and special events.

Lauren Maynard '24, a sociology major, appreciates the transfer community that has formed at Princeton. She was only on campus for a few weeks when her sister was killed in a car accident. Immediately, fellow transfers, whom Maynard then considered "technically strangers," stepped up to help.

"They became a community that lifts you up, and that was just like one of the most ... beautiful aspects," she said, adding that she didn't expect the group to be so close-knit. "Once you become a transfer, you're a part of the transfer community."

Meanwhile, Tomlinson, who is nearing the end of her second year at Princeton, doesn't spend as much time with the transfer community as she once did. She stays busy with her duties as vice president of Princeton Caribbean Connection and as an advising fellow working with low-income high schoolers through Matriculate, a national nonprofit. In the fall, she will also be a residential college adviser at Yeh College (see page 12).

"We're all in our own world," she said.
"We do come together and ... catch up,
and then we go back into the community
again to do what we do."

Shaw considers that a success: "If I do my job properly, the transfer students will successfully learn to navigate the University and find community and mentorship outside the program, and therefore don't need me anymore," he said. "If I rendered myself obsolete, I've done my job properly, right?" • By J.B.



**ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES** 

#### **Faculty Backs Plan For Minors, Majors**

In April, Princeton's faculty approved curriculum changes that will allow undergraduates to pursue academic minors starting in the fall of 2023. The University also will refer to students' primary disciplines as "majors" instead of "concentrations."

Over a transition period of several years, Princeton's 54 certificate programs will become minors, according to Dean of the College Jill Dolan. "The expectation is that certificates will all become minors by revising their requirements and submitting proposals ... for approval," she said. "Most certificates will make the transition easily."

The proposal's origins date back to 2015, when the Task Force on the Future of the Humanities suggested double majors, which Princeton does not allow due to the rigorous independent work required. After years of discussions, the Office of the Dean of the College settled on a minors proposal to "provide a meaningful, externally legible way" for students to pursue study in a secondary field or interdisciplinary studies.

Students will be permitted to earn two minors, though they may petition their residential college deans for approval to pursue three or more. The Faculty Committee on the Course of Study will set minimum requirements for a minor, typically consisting of about five to seven courses; independent work may be required.

The change in nomenclature for "majors" aimed to align Princeton with peer institutions, according to the proposal. • By J.B.

#### **Eisgruber to Stay at Least Five Years**

President Eisgruber '83's time in Nassau Hall will continue for at least



five more years, following an action by the Board of Trustees in early April.

"As the University and

world emerge from a period of unprecedented challenges, the board felt it was so important to give us all the reassurance and strength of Chris Eisgruber's continued leadership for a minimum five more years," Louise "Weezie" Sams '79, chair of the trustees, said in an announcement. Eisgruber has confirmed that he will continue as president for that period.

The news coincides with an ongoing engagement and fundraising campaign, Venture Forward, which launched in October 2021. The University has not released a fundraising target for the campaign; the last major capital campaign, Aspire, raised \$1.88 billion.

Eisgruber was selected as Princeton's 20th president in April 2013 following nine years as provost, and took office in July 2013. •



TRENTON PARTNERSHIPS

## **Building Bridges**

Princeton connects with schools, service groups to expand college access

hen arts enthusiast Lou Chen '19 was a Princeton freshman, he had the idea to create an orchestra composed of Trenton high schoolers and University student mentors. Chen wanted to work directly with Trenton school staff to supplement their curricula, so he turned to Jason Klugman, director of the Princeton University Preparatory Program (PUPP), who already was involved with Trenton youth, to ask for help.

Thanks in part to that connection, the Saturday Morning Arts program has grown into a community of more than 120 — half of whom are Princeton students. Every Saturday morning during the academic year, you can find them dancing, singing, acting, and playing instruments at the Lewis Center for the Arts. It's kept Chen, now program manager of Trenton Arts at Princeton (TAP), busy, though he's also thinking about how to strengthen and expand the program.

As TAP continues to evolve, so do the University's efforts to create and maintain ties with the Trenton community and to collaborate with other organizations.

In 2018, a consortium of higher-

education institutions, public schools, and youth-service organizations founded the Greater Trenton College Access Network (TCAN). Its mission is to strengthen college-access and workforce-development opportunities for high school students in the Trenton area.

TCAN co-chair Klugman, who also serves as the senior director of collegepreparation initiatives at Princeton's Emma Bloomberg Center for Access and Opportunity, helped organize the first TCAN meeting, but he said there was already an informal network that had collaborated for years. Now, representatives from roughly two dozen organizations — including the University, HomeWorks, and the Isles Youth Institute — meet monthly.

Michelle Thompkins, Klugman's TCAN co-chair and director of youth engagement at Millhill Child & Family Development, sees many benefits. Through TCAN connections, she has recruited youth for Millhill's programs, secured tutoring and college tours for students, and co-wrote a successful fivefigure STEM grant proposal.

But Thompkins also thinks there's room for growth and improvement.

She's particularly excited about potential opportunities with the year-old Emma Bloomberg Center, but also notes that "we see this as a network where everybody's got a seat around that King Arthur roundtable, and we all have an equal responsibility in that effort to make it a success."

Though TCAN serves students throughout the region, "Trenton is the community that has the most need," said Klugman. A 2020 TCAN report found that 283 of the 347 graduates who participated in TCAN hailed from Trenton Central High School (TCHS).

Duncan Harrison Jr., assistant director for regional affairs at Princeton and former councilman-at-large in Trenton, estimates there have been "hundreds of partnerships" between the University and Trenton. "I think there are a lot of success stories, and we want to continue to build upon those success stories through Princeton University and through the work that the different programs are doing," he said.

Trenton native Tieisha Tift is one such story. After joining PUPP as a ninth-grader, she became valedictorian of her class at TCHS, earned her bachelor's degree from Columbia University, and, in 2018, returned to Princeton as a staff member. Tift is now the assistant director for college preparation at the Emma Bloomberg Center, which houses PUPP.

"I didn't know [PUPP] would have such an impact on me," she said. "It shaped my future."

Tift works alongside fellow Trenton native and PUPP alum Anna Cabrera, who, in her role as assistant director for family engagement at the Emma Bloomberg Center, meets with families of high school students to provide guidance. She comes armed with tissues, as she often finds the families are overwhelmed with gratitude.

Cabrera empathizes. When she was a TCHS student, she said her mother "felt ashamed that she couldn't give me the answers or be more supportive. And now, being the mother of a 16-year-old, I know what that would feel like."

That memory motivates her. "I want to be the person that I needed when I was in high school." • By J.B.



**Q&A: RABBI JULIE ROTH** 

#### **Reflections on 17 Years of Chaplaincy**

fter 17 years as the University's Jewish chaplain and executive director of Princeton's Center for Jewish Life (CJL), Rabbi Julie Roth is departing for a position as a pulpit rabbi in Montclair, New Jersey. Roth spoke to PAW about the diverse Jewish community at Princeton, interfaith programs, and antisemitism on campus.

#### How has the CJL grown and changed during your tenure?

The number of opportunities to enter into Jewish community and learning at Princeton has exploded. We are one of the best-resourced Hillels in the world. with three rabbis on staff, a full-time associate director, and an Israel fellow.

And we have a very diverse Jewish community. There's a group for those who are Jewish and Latinx, one for those who are Jewish and Asian, an LGBTQI group. It's an ongoing, constructive effort to have Jews of diverse backgrounds all feel part of one community. Every Friday night, we have three Shabbat services — Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox in the same building. And then we all join together, usually about 150 students, for one Shabbat dinner.

#### One of your priorities has been forging connections between Jewish and non-Jewish students.

Non-Jewish students regularly come to all of our programs, including our many travel programs. I am most proud of my long-term interfaith programming with Imam Sohaib Sultan, may his memory be a blessing. We led a joint Muslim-Jewish dialogue trip to Spain looking at the shared history of Muslims and Jews in

the "Golden Age" when Spain was under Muslim rule. We also held a powerful conversation towards the end of Sohaib's life about death and dying in the Muslim and Jewish traditions. And we taught a class together on leadership through the models of Moses and Mohammed.

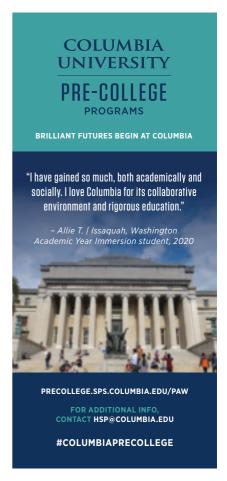
#### There were two very visible antisemitic incidents near campus last year, when students wearing yarmulkes were heckled from passing cars. How are you addressing antisemitism?

In recent years there has been an increase in antisemitism in the United States and on college campuses, including at Princeton. It's also been an opportunity for education and dialogue. I started holding workshops on antisemitism in January. We've had three so far, one for staff and administrators and two for students.

Sixty percent of religious hate crimes in America target Jews, though Jews are 2 percent of the population. Half of Americans say they have never heard of antisemitism or they don't know what it means. There is a lack of knowledge out there, and for some, the sentiments are internalized unintentionally. In the workshops, we talk about Jewish identity. A lot of people don't realize that 15 percent of Jews are Jews of color. We talk about the classic historical tropes of antisemitism, such as associating Jews with power and greed. We talk about the difference between criticism of Israel that is not antisemitic and criticism of Israel that is. • Interview conducted and condensed by Jennifer Altmann



**READ MORE** in an expanded interview at paw.princeton.edu



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#### **IN SHORT**

The Board of Trustees APPROVED AN OPERATING BUDGET OF \$2.66 **BILLION** for the 2022-23 academic year, including \$217.4 million for undergraduate financial aid (a 6.6 percent increase), and a 12.7 percent increase in overall graduate financial support. The trustees also approved a 2.5 percent increase to tuition, room, and board, for a total fee package of \$76,040.

Princeton reported that the average grant for students receiving aid is projected to increase by 4 percent to approximately \$64,000 in the coming year, and that about 62 percent of all undergraduates currently receive aid. In January, the University announced a significant increase in its support for graduate students, raising fellowships and stipends by an average of 25 percent.

The School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) and the Liechtenstein



Institute on Self-**Determination (LISD)** are the founding co-sponsors of PRINCETON'S **AFGHANISTAN** POLICY LAB.

a collaboration of fellows from Afghanistan and the University's academic community that launched in April. Adela Raz, Afghanistan's former ambassador to the United States and the United Nations, will lead the group, which plans to produce "policy-relevant research" focusing on four main areas: humanitarian aid, civic space, women, and national healing and reconciliation.

**Princeton is PARTNERING WITH FIVE HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES** — Howard University, Jackson State University, Prairie View A&M University, Spelman College, and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore — and the United Negro College Fund to support faculty research collaborations. The Princeton **Alliance for Collaborative Research** and Innovation aims to fund multiple collaborative projects each year with each partnering institution, according to a May announcement. Teams of Princeton and HBCU

SEVENTH COLLEGE

#### Yeh College Naming Announced

ne of two nearly completed residential colleges will be named Yeh College, recognizing a major gift by James Yeh '87 and his wife, Jaimie Yeh, the University announced in May. President Eisgruber '83 said the gift "propels Princeton forward in its mission to offer a transformative educational experience to more students." The two colleges will enable the University to expand the undergraduate student body by about 10 percent.

Located south of Poe Field, Yeh College and its neighbor, New College West, will open their doors to students in August. "When the University announced that it would seek to expand the number of students who could be offered a Princeton education as part of the Venture Forward campaign, we were immediately excited to lend our support," said James Yeh, a member of the Board of Trustees and one of the three co-chairs of the campaign's executive steering committee. Yeh, a



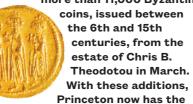
physics major at Princeton who later pursued a career in finance, recently retired as president and co-chief investment officer of Citadel.

In April, the University revealed that one of the dormitories in the college will be named Mannion Hall, in recognition of a major gift from Martin J. Mannion '81 and his wife, Tristin Mannion. Martin Mannion is the chairman of Summit Partners, a global growth equity firm based in Boston. Tristin Mannion is an adviser to the Martin J. & Tristin Mannion Charitable Trust.

The University did not disclose the amounts of the two gifts. • By B.T.

researchers were invited to submit proposals by June 30.

The Princeton University Library's **Numismatic Collection acquired** more than 11,000 Byzantine



LARGEST BYZANTINE COIN COLLECTION IN THE WORLD, according to an announcement on the library's website.

Jordan Salama '19's Every Day the River Changes: Four Weeks Down the Magdalena, a nonfiction book that began as his senior thesis in the Spanish and Portuguese department, will be the PRINCETON PRE-READ FOR THE CLASS OF 2026. Salama's book documents the time he spent in Colombia during the summer of 2018. In an introduction for the incoming freshmen, President Eisgruber '83 wrote, "I

hope that Jordan's story will inspire you to think imaginatively and creatively about what you might do with your time at Princeton."

In a confusing decision that seemed to satisfy no one, the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) **CONFIRMED PASSAGE OF AN** APRIL REFERENDUM calling for a University boycott of Caterpillar equipment because of its use by Israel to demolish Palestinian homes - but decided "not [to] make a statement on behalf of the student body in favor of or against the referendum."

The referendum received 52 percent of the votes counted. according to the USG. However, after the vote, opponents of the referendum filed an appeal, claiming they were misled in discussions of how abstentions would be counted and that the misunderstanding affected their strategy. President Eisgruber '83 said in an email to USG leaders that Princeton will not take any action and that "some issues are ill-suited to decision by referenda." •

Class of

I want future generations of Tigers to have even better opportunities than I had to learn and grow at Princeton.

I give because



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**MEN'S LACROSSE** 

## Happy Returns

## With players from five class years, Tigers earn first NCAA bid since 2012

he men's lacrosse team had its best season in a decade, finishing the regular season with a 9-4 record and earning the program's first bid to the NCAA Tournament since 2012. The Tigers beat Boston University in the first round and were slated to face Yale in the quarterfinals as PAW went to press.

The team fulfilled the promise it showed in 2020, when the Tigers started 5-0 and were ranked third nationally before the NCAA canceled the spring season because of COVID-19. That team's best player, attackman Michael Sowers '20, graduated, but almost all the players in the classes of 2021 and 2022 took a gap year in 2020-21, giving this year's team players from five classes.

Though the upperclassmen were off campus last year, groups of them spent time together in Park City, Utah, and Austin, Texas, and a group of freshmen lived together in Charleston, South Carolina, during the 2020 fall semester. "That, looking back on it, was a great positive," said head coach Matt Madalon, who noted that players both on and off campus were able to train even though there was no Ivy season last year.

Princeton was unranked at the start of this season but played well in a Feb. 26 loss at the University of Maryland, the nation's top squad, before beating

highly ranked Georgetown and Rutgers in March. Princeton opened its Ivy schedule with an epic 21-20 overtime win over Penn March 19 and finished 3-3 in the league, which was the strongest it has ever been, with six Ivy men's teams garnering NCAA bids.

Princeton was an offensive juggernaut, averaging 15.6 goals a game, the fifth-highest total in Division I. With the graduation of Sowers, Princeton's all-time leading scorer, offensive coordinator Jim Mitchell crafted "a selfless offense," Madalon said, in which no one player carried the ball most of the time or took the bulk of the team's shots. Instead, Madalon said, it was "a balanced attack, which makes it a challenge to cover us." With two of Princeton's top three scorers — Alex Slusher '23 and Coulter Mackesy '25 — returning next year, the Tigers may be eyeing more trips to the NCAA Tournament.

"This is a program that's hoisted trophies before," Madalon said. "For us to get back on the national stage is something I've always wanted for our guys." • By David Marcus '92

**READ MORE** in expanded story at paw.princeton.edu

#### **SPRING STARS**

Seven of Princeton's spring teams won league championships by mid-May, with three rowing teams still competing for titles.

WOMEN'S GOLF, led by individual champ Victoria Liu '25, edged secondplace Columbia by three strokes in the Ivy League Tournament, held in Ringoes, New Jersey.

**WOMEN'S LACROSSE** was a perfect 9-0 in lvy games, including the league tournament, and three seniors won major Ivy awards: Kyla Sears (attacker of the year), Marge Donovan (defender of the year), and Sam Fish (goaltender of the year).

#### **WOMEN'S LIGHTWEIGHT CREW,**

stroked by Sarah Fry '24, won the first-varsity eight at Eastern Sprints by nearly five seconds.

**SOFTBALL** won 17 of 21 lvy games, earning the regular-season title and home-field advantage in the league championship series against Harvard. Alexis Laudenslager '23 led all lvy pitchers with a 1.96 earnedrun average.

**WOMEN'S TENNIS** won its third straight lvy team title, posting a 6-1 record in league matches. Two Tigers — Daria Frayman '23 and Victoria Hu '25 - were among the 64 women selected for the NCAA singles tournament.

#### **MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD**

completed a triple crown — lvy titles in cross-country and indoor and outdoor track and field - with its victory at the Ivy Heptagonals in New Haven. The Tigers won 12 events in the meet.

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL upset Penn State in the semifinals and NJIT in the finals to win the Eastern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association tournament for the first time since 1998. Ben Harrington '24 was named tournament MVP. 0





**MECHANICAL & AEROSPACE ENGINEERING** 

## Speaking Up

#### Princeton study finds gender imbalance in engineering class participation

n the fall of 2018, Nikita Dutta \*21, then a Ph.D. candidate studying mechanical and aerospace engineering and materials science, was an assistant in instruction — an AI — in a class called "Structure and Properties of Materials." In addition to leading sessions, she began jotting down notes about who spoke in class and when.

"The more I started doing that, the more I started observing that we weren't engaging women nearly as much as we were engaging men," she says.

She planned to present her findings to the professor, Craig Arnold, and his research team, despite her worry that Arnold might be offended. He wasn't.

"I was like the opposite," says Arnold. "I was like, 'Oh my God, this is the most exciting thing we've had in group meeting in months."

In fall 2019 and spring 2020, until their study was cut short by COVID, Dutta and Arnold formally observed 10 different Princeton engineering courses — half taught by men and half by women — over 89 class periods. They found that of the 1,387 comments made by students, only 20.3 percent came from women, even though

45.5 percent of observed students were female.

"The data made concrete a lot of things that I think we intuitively know, but until you see it, you don't really stop and think [about] the extent of the problem or the extent of the impact," says Dutta, who is now a postdoctoral fellow at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. "It forces you to really think about it."

The pair wrote a paper, recently published by IEEE's Transactions on Education, to share their findings as well as to propose mechanisms to combat the imbalance.

Dutta and Arnold found that when a woman taught class, comments by female students increased to 47.3 percent. When a female student spoke in class, other women were more likely to speak in the following minutes. As a result, the researchers suggest diversifying class voices, such as inviting a female AI to speak at the beginning of class.

"I think that, generally speaking, having a diverse group of people asking questions and interacting in the classroom helps guarantee that this is a safe place for diverse opinion, a

diverse set of ideas," says Arnold. He now routinely incorporates techniques into his classroom to do just that, and he thinks it makes a big difference. This spring, he was appointed Princeton's vice dean of innovation and named a recipient of the Engineering Council's Excellence in Teaching Award.

Catherine Clune-Taylor, a professor of gender and sexuality studies, thinks the study is evidence of a bigger problem.

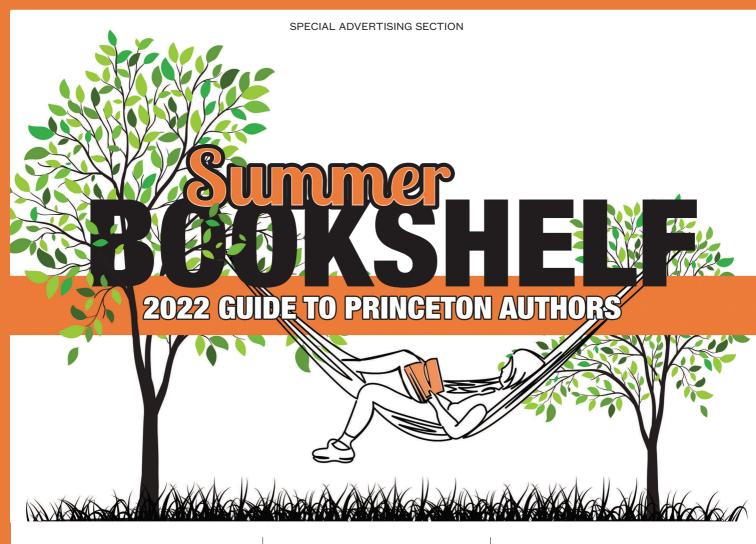
"We often don't think about how these are systemic issues, and that we need to be engaging at interventions at every level, all the way up," she says. "This is why we need to make everyone aware and cognizant of, and attentive to, those dynamics at every level."

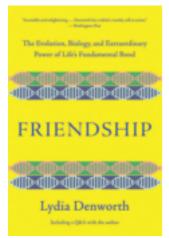
Clune-Taylor believes that everyone plays a role in enacting discriminatory norms, including, at times, the group that is being discriminated against. So, she says the idea to "just add more women and stir doesn't necessarily fix the problem. We really do need to have this critical analytic lens as well."

Dutta and Arnold hope this line of research continues. Arnold is sorting out logistics for follow-up studies. Their ideas include a study in which students can identify their own gender, as the original analysis relied on the researchers' observations.

"I very much think that [our study] would apply to other underrepresented groups, and that there would be compounding effects if you are from two marginalized groups or more," says Dutta. She adds that she'd like to observe environments outside of academia, such as the boardroom, to see if the problem persists. Previous studies have analyzed the impact of board gender diversity, but the Princeton researchers know of no studies that specifically examined board participation by gender.

Clune-Taylor agrees that the problem isn't confined to academia. She argues that systemic injustice plays a major role in these outcomes. "We need to be critically thinking about how these issues, these phenomena, show up or fail to show up, insofar as they can be made invisible by privilege, in every aspect of our lives and the world." • Ву Ј.В.



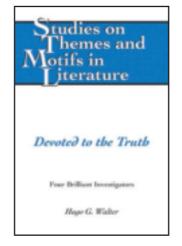


#### Friendship Lydia Denworth '88

Winner of a Nautilus Gold Medal Book Award

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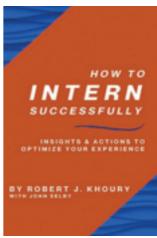


#### **Devoted to the Truth**

Hugo G. Walter '81

This book is a collection of great and insightful essays which discuss brilliant, exemplary, and inspirational investigators in literary masterpieces by Arthur Conan Doyle, Agatha Christie, and Dorothy Bowers.

(Peter Lang Publishing)



#### **How To Intern Successfully**

Robert J. Khoury '90 John Selby '68

Timely and useful guidance to assist students in thriving in an internship. Students discover how to optimize their career path beginning with a successful internship.

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#### "A fascinating book about a crucial moment in Jewish history"

— Jonathan Kirsch, Jewish Journal

#### When Christians Were Jews

The First Generation

PAULA FREDRIKSEN \*79

compelling account of Christianity's Jewish beginnings in Roman Jerusalem, from one of today's leading scholars of ancient religion.

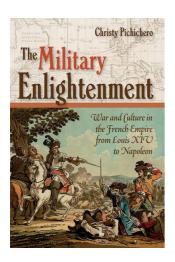
"Engaging, provocative, and admirably lucid, this account will force readers to reconsider their assumptions and rethink their views."

-Bart D. Ehrman, author of Jesus: Apocalyptic Prophet of the New Millennium FREDRIKSEN

How did a group of charismatic Jewish missionaries end up becoming the foundation of the gentile church? In this electrifying social and intellectual history, Paula Fredriksen answers this question by reconstructing the forty years of this community's lifetime. Moving from its hopeful beginnings with Jesus at Passover through to its fiery end in the war against Rome, Fredriksen presents a vivid portrait both of this temple-centered messianic movement, and of the bedrock convictions that animated and sustained it.

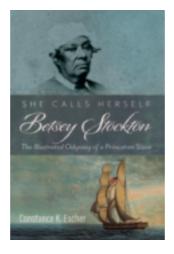
Paula Fredriksen \*79, Aurelio Professor of Scripture emerita at Boston University, is the Distinguished Visiting Professor of Comparative Religion at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. A fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, she has published widely on relations between pagans, Jews, and Christians in the Roman world.

Yale university press



#### **The Military Enlightenment Christy Pichichero '98**

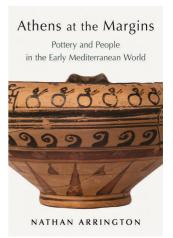
This book brings to light the little-known history and influence of enlightened French military practices during the first global wars. Discover how the Geneva Conventions. post-traumatic stress disorder, soldierly heroism, and social justice in the military found their antecedents in the 18th-century French armed forces.



#### **She Calls Herself Betsey Stockton** The Illustrated Odyssey of a Princeton Slave

#### **Constance Escher**

"Constance K. Escher has written a jewel of a book, a non-fiction scholarly biography, about an extraordinary American woman. The author has not just evoked a life, but has mediated on its larger meanings." Professor Sean Wilentz, Princeton University.



#### **Athens at the Margins** Nathan Arrington '02

Conventional narratives argue that goods and knowledge flowed from East to West through cosmopolitan elites. Rejecting this explanation, Athens at the Margins proposes a new narrative of the origins of style and investigates how material culture shaped the ways people thought of themselves.

#### **The Seventh Trumpet**

Joseph J. Dehner '70

As a global summit meets in Jerusalem, the Pope's right-hand-man, a female Episcopal priest, and a tech tycoon struggle to avoid nuclear apocalypse.

## The Seventh Trumpet



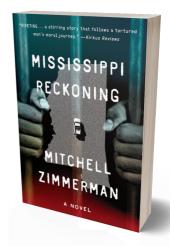
JOSEPH J. DEHNER

Revelation, history, and geopolitics are woven together in an imaginative tale of intrigue and peril. - Samuel Greengus, Emeritus Prof., Hebrew Union College

... has a forward propulsion that sweeps the reader into the drama. - S. Frederick Starr

The mystery to end all mysteries: is God about to end the world? -

Frederick J. McGavran



#### Mississippi Reckoning, a Novel Mitchell Zimmerman, M.A. '65

Anti-racism thriller:
A road trip to the past exposes
the roots of murder.
"Gripping and harrowing."
- Los Angeles Review of Books.
"Enthralling. Family saga, freedom
song and cry for justice."
- Freedom Rider Diane Nash.
"Illuminates our tortured racial past."
- Pulitzer-Prize author Eric Foner



#### If I Were A Tiger

#### Caroline Coleman '86

Tim Bone is afraid of everything:
the moon, an owl, even his
sneakers. He imagines how
wonderful life would be if only he
were a tiger. But he realizes there
are downsides: all his friends
would run away screaming!
When he remembers God can calm
his fears, Tim no longer needs
to become like them. The perfect
gift for all future tigers.
(Ages 2-7)



#### Let's Talk

#### Douglas M. Yeager '55

Latest in a series of three children's books in which Yeager focuses on the critical importance of communication between parents/ caregivers and the children in their lives. This book is available free of charge to pediatric clinics and hospitals, charitable organizations, community groups and others to provide to the young families they support and serve. It's also available in Spanish. Over 100,000 copies of the books have been distributed free of charge thus far. Contact Doug at 970-227-1582 or yeager.doug@gmail.com



#### Alpha Status

#### Nathan Ikon Crumpton '08

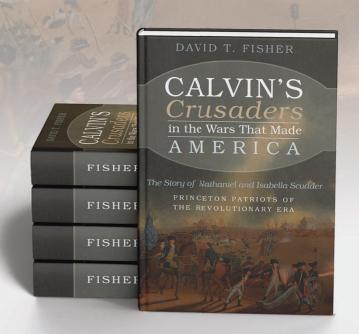
Twin brothers, both Princeton alums, engage in an intellectual tête-à-tête on the merits and drawbacks of modern capitalism. With inspiration from ENG231 — Dirty Words: Satire, Slander, & Society, this non-fiction novel includes as much licentiousness as financial & socioeconomic research. Available on Amazon.

## CALVIN'S CRUSADERS IN THE WARS THAT MADE AMERICA

BY DAVID T. FISHER '69

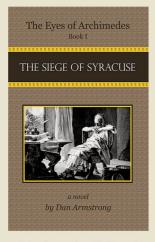
The book is a historical novel about the life and times of Nathaniel Scudder, Princeton Class of 1751, and his wife, Isabella Anderson Scudder. Scudder was the only person who served in the Continental Congress who died in action in the War of American Independence.

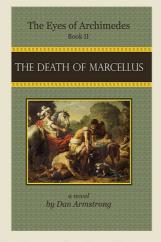
Although it is a fictionalized biographical novel, it follows the historical record very closely and analyzes in detail the quite disparate motives of the groups involved with particular emphasis on the graduates of Nassau Hall. It is a story of love, idealism and religious fervor confronting greed, avarice and corruption in America's first civil war. It dramatically illustrates the origins of many of the conflicts which continue to divide Americans to this day.

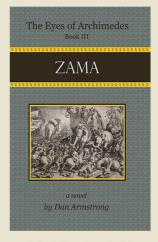


Two thousand years ago, the Carthaginian general Hannibal Barca brought his army and thirty-four elephants through the Alps intent on destroying Rome, initiating a sixteen-year war as important as any in ancient history. Timon Leonidas, a young Greek, tells the story of the war through the lens of his own life—a life of love, tragedy, and wondrous discovery...

## THE EYES OF ARCHIMEDES







*The Eyes of Archimedes Trilogy* has all the intrigue and action of "Game of Thrones," but the story is history and the characters are real people--then add that Armstrong's descriptions of anicent Rome read as though he lived there!

Published by Mud City Press

Available at Amazon.com paperback or kindle

#### The Rise of China, Inc.

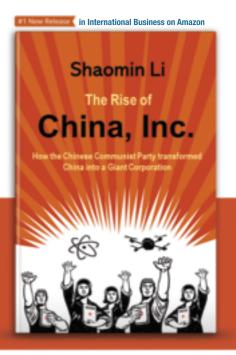
Shaomin Li \*88 Cambridge University Press

Leveraging its absolute power, low human rights advantage, and tolerance by other countries, the Chinese Communist Party has transformed China into a giant corporation. Living and working is not a right, but a privilege granted by the party. State-owned firms are business units or subsidiaries, private firms are joint ventures, and foreign firms are franchisees of the party. 'China, Inc.' enjoys the agility of a firm and the vast resources of a state.

Li argues that the Chinese Communist Party's rule presents an entirely new challenge to democracies since, unlike the Axis powers in World War II or the USSR in the Cold War, China is closely intertwined with them both economically and socially. Because China relies on these democracies for markets, they must unite to press for the changes they desire, even to the point of delinkage if China does not yield.

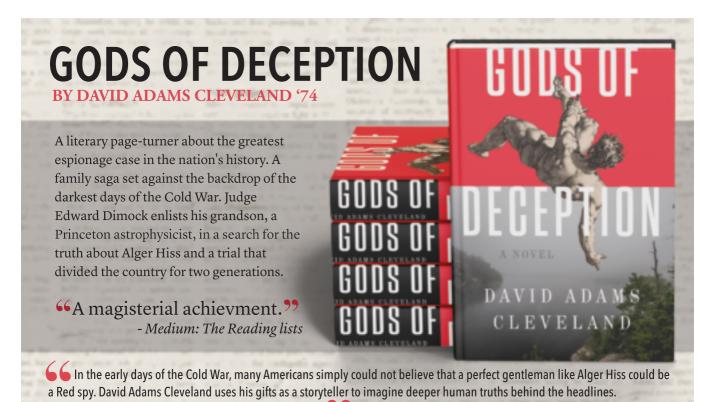
June Teufel Dreyer, Professor,

Department of Political Science, University of Miami

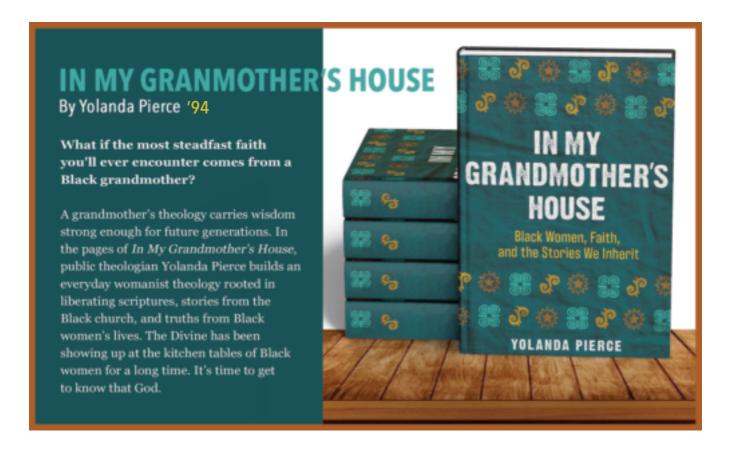


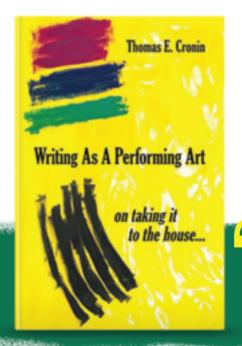
**Shaomin** Harvard Corruptic

**Shaomin Li** is Professor and Eminent Scholar at Old Dominion University. His research has appeared in *Harvard Business Review, The Economist*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. He is author of *Bribery and Corruption in Weak Institutional Environments* (Cambridge University Press, 2019).



Gods of Deception is a lushly vivid tale of a haunted time. 🤊 🤊 – Evan Thomas, author of The Very Best Men and Being Nixon





## Writing As A Performing Art on taking it to the house...

By Thomas E. Cronin

Former college president and bestselling author Tom Cronin, who lives in Colorado Springs, Colorado, is the author of a just published motivational guide for nonfiction writers. Inspired by Strunk and White's classic *The Elements of Style* and Zinsser's *On Writing Well*, Cronin's book has been hailed by newspaper editors as "incredibly valuable" and by college professors as "a gem," perfect for courses that place a premium on excellent writing.

It's a gem! And it might just take its place along Strunk and White as a classic. Hope so." – Jonathan Alter, MSNBC, former politics editor NEWSWEEK

"What a book! It is so, so well done. Witty, succinct, on target... when I read it, I feel as if I am on a treadmill going faster and faster; I can't get off." – Professor Stephen Wayne, Georgetown University

## SCIENCE, ETHICS, and **POLICY**

BY MARK F. BERNSTEIN '83

The word "bioethics" dates only to 1927, and the subject, as an academic discipline, is only about 50 years old, but the ethical questions that accompany scientific discovery are ancient. Modern advances in molecular biology, genomics, and medicine are dazzling vet often accompanied by deep ethical implications. We can now extend life, modify life, and in some cases even create life in wonderful yet potentially troubling ways. What science can do and what it *ought* to do are distinct concerns that have pricked the consciences of policymakers, philosophers, social scientists, and even artists and authors such as Mary Shelley and H.G. Wells.

Bioengineers and social scientists rarely discuss such questions collaboratively, but Princeton seems like a good place to do so. PAW invited four faculty members — scientists and humanists — to have such a conversation April 8. Their discussion, which was conducted on Zoom, was moderated by PAW's senior writer, Mark F. Bernstein '83.



**ELIZABETH MITCHELL** ARMSTRONG \*93 is an associate professor of sociology and public affairs with a joint appointment in the Office of Population Research. Her research focuses on the sociology of medicine, public health, and medical ethics, including obstetrical ethics. She is head of Butler College.



**CLIFFORD P. BRANGWYNNE** is the June K. Wu '92 Professor in Engineering and director of the Princeton Bioengineering Initiative. His research focuses on cellular and biomolecular engineering, with possible implications for the treatment of diseases such as ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) and Huntington's disease.



**CATHERINE CLUNE-TAYLOR** is an assistant professor in the Program in Gender and Sexuality Studies. A philosopher with an undergraduate medical sciences degree in immunology and microbiology, her research takes an interdisciplinary and intersectional feminist approach to the science, bioethics, and biopolitics of medically managing intersex conditions in children.



OLGA G. TROYANSKAYA, a professor in the computer science department and the Lewis Sigler Institute for Integrative Genomics, focuses on biomedical informatics and genomics. Her research combines machine learning and data science with laboratory research to understand the molecular basis of human disease and enable more precise diagnoses and treatments.



Mark F. Bernstein '83: There are many controversial topics in bioengineering. Are you working in any areas in which you think it would be useful to get input from people in the social sciences and humanities?

Olga Troyanskya: It's critical for us to consider ethical implications as part of how we think about bioengineering and also a different field that I work in, data-driven medicine. The field of data-driven precision medicine can revolutionize how effective treatments are, such as targeting them to groups of people sharing particular genetic alterations. However, input from ethicists is critical because if we do this wrong, that could also carry serious adverse effects on individuals and populations. An obvious one is the lack of treatment access for underrepresented communities.

One famous example of this is kidney transplantation. A quantitative metric used to calculate transplant eligibility aims to allocate kidney transplants to individuals who are in need of one due to failing kidneys. However, we now know that it can lead to an overestimation of kidney function of Black individuals, resulting in their exclusion from transplant eligibility lists.

To take another example, in bioengineering, we now have

to have functions shared by human organs and tissues. So, there's a whole spectrum of what is now possible.

Many people have a gut reaction that we don't want to do that. But it's important to recognize that there are very strong ethical arguments for that kind of research. For example, thinking about immunotherapies, where you take and modify immune cells and put them back into patients to specifically target cancers, and introduce them in the cells — that's engineering cells to have a function that they didn't have before. And I think nobody would disagree that this is a very good function because, of course, we're all at risk of cancer.

One of the things I want to emphasize is that in ethical discussions around bioengineering, we need to be thoughtful about it because one tends to think naively that this is about establishing breaks or boundaries. But I think many bioethicists would argue that in some cases we should be accelerating such research because there are moral arguments for treating diseases such as Alzheimer's, ALS, and pediatric cancers. Those pull at the heartstrings of all of us, and bioengineering has a place for addressing those needs.



**ARMSTRONG** 

Alzheimer's certainly affects large sectors of the population. Should we invest more research, energy, funding, and attention to that sort of disease versus certain genetic disorders that are heartbreaking but very rare? Where, as a society, do we want to devote our resources and attention? Who decides what science gets done and for whose benefit?

unprecedented ability to genetically edit cells and embryos. This technology could someday be used to cure medical problems, such as congenital heart defects, enabling people to have healthy babies, but it also could be used to edit certain genetic conditions out of the population. Is such "germline editing" ever ethically appropriate? How will it affect people's reproductive decisions and the diversity of our population? And at which point do you stop? We need to think about how to better tackle these extremely challenging ethical issues, and we need bioethicists and scientists together in these considerations.

**Clifford Brangwynne:** I think about the ethical implications of work that we do in cellular engineering. Part of my research is in using cells in what we might call forward engineering. We're getting in there and tinkering with the genetic machinery in some cases to understand how they work, but at other times because we want to change or fix the functioning of cells or augment their function in some way. Historically, there has been a gut reaction against modifying life in any way.

The lines become blurred as we get into bioengineering. There is a concept of synthetic biology, where you can actually make things that are alive. But even the definition of what is living is difficult. For example, a virus is not really alive, although it is made from biological material. But if you think about building something from scratch in the lab, from inert molecules, ultimately one can imagine making things that start

Bernstein: Betsy and Catherine, do you have thoughts about these issues?

Elizabeth Armstrong \*93: I have a ton. (Group laughter.) First of all, almost none of this is new. These fundamental questions how to define life and how much of a role we should play in who gets born and who lives — we've been wrestling with them for at least a century, if not longer.

Another thing that occurred to me is this question of societal priorities and who decides. Scientific agendas are often set by individual scientists. There's some role for society in, say, the kinds of funding priorities that NIH lays out, but only at the margins. Cliff, you mentioned Alzheimer's as a research priority. Alzheimer's certainly affects large sectors of the population. Should we invest more research, energy, funding, and attention to that sort of disease versus certain genetic disorders that are heartbreaking but very rare? Where, as a society, do we want to devote our resources and attention? Who decides what science gets done and for whose benefit?

Then, when we get down to the clinical applications, Olga raised the case of the kidney transplants and the way the algorithm led us far from what we might think of as an optimal allocation of this resource. That raises even further questions about how we allocate treatments once we have them. We spend a lot of time thinking about how to allocate rare resources such as a kidney, but we need to think about



Most laboratory values are biased toward white males. But changing that is not as simple as, for example, including a Black population or a Hispanic population, then redoing the lab values. The diversity within the Black population is very large.

who's deciding what science gets done. And then, how are we deciding who benefits from these new technologies; who gets access to the treatments?

Catherine Clune-Taylor: The feminist philosopher of science in me is always a little bit suspicious of the kind of "natural versus unnatural" or "biological versus synthetic" binaries because we know that the lines we draw to create those binaries aren't that simple.

I do think, as Betsy says, all of this is tied up in values. And it's not just that we need to be thoughtful about them. We need to be very clear and specific about what our values are. We need to check that our work aligns with our values, and not only at the project choice, or even at the conclusion phase. It's not enough to say, well, we've come up with this technology; how is it going to be used? We need to keep our values in mind at every stage, from this issue of prioritization to the kind of tools we're using. Olga brought up the issue about kidney transplants. We know that issues with kidney function are disproportionately experienced by people of color. But our algorithms for who should receive a transplant skew toward white populations.

For a very long time, this kind of seemingly neutral algorithm has been systematically discriminating against patients of color, somehing that we now do not want or do not expect it to do. However, this discrimination embedded within the algorithm was not coincidental, or some unintended effect.



Think about the **COVID-19 vaccine.** That represents a huge success of bioengineering, and yet only 60 percent of the world is fully vaccinated. So.

**CLUNE-TAYLOR** 

when we talk about health, I think we need to be very clear about whose health are we talking about and whether we have a way of ensuring that our concerns about equity are being met.

The history of medicine is the history of scientific racism, and many of the metrics that we use in medicine, for things like lung volume and lung capacity, skew toward white populations. Part of the concern about algorithms is that they are often presented as being unbiased or neutral tools, and it can be hard to tease out how values are hidden within them. One of the primary concerns I have about bioengineering is in the suggestion that it aims at improving equity — or at improving outcomes in an equitable way — because that isn't necessarily the case and won't necessarily be the outcome, unless we're very intentional about it.

So, for example, we can think about research on trying to get more precise methods for treating diabetes. But it's not clear to me that those tools, once we have them, would help the people who need help the most. We're putting a lot of money into this kind of medical research, where I would argue that the thing that might actually improve diabetics' lives is a cap on insulin prices. Technological advances often are disproportionately accessed by people with privileges. Those diabetics unable to access such advances would still be left to deal with soaring insulin prices.

Think about the COVID-19 vaccine. That represents a huge success of bioengineering, and yet only 60 percent of the world is fully vaccinated. So, when we talk about health, I think we need to be very clear about whose health are we talking about and whether we have a way of ensuring that our concerns about equity are being met.

Troyanskaya: Maybe I am being optimistic, but I think that most of the technologies that are going to be developed in bioengineering are going to be broadly applicable across society. Now, whether they actually get distributed equitably is a totally different question.

#### Bernstein: Do these ethical concerns inform what you research or how you conduct your research?

Troyanskaya: Kidney disease is a major focus of my work, but it's fascinating how little attention kidney disease gets. Diabetes and chronic kidney disease are among the largest expenses for our public health-care system. They're not rare conditions. Catherine, I completely agree with you that the biggest impact on equity for diabetes care would be just to cap the price of insulin. And honestly, the biggest impact on overall population health in the United States would probably be if we could make people not smoke and eat healthier.

We absolutely must push on those, but I think we also should think about how we can develop the high impact medicines of tomorrow in a way that takes equity into account. For example, most laboratory values are biased toward white males. But changing that is not as simple as, for example,



BRANGWYNNE

It's important for the folks on the ethicspolicy-historyphilosophy side to know something about the science in the same way that

it's important for the scientists and engineers to be thinking about the ethical, philosophical, and societal implications.

including a Black population or a Hispanic population, then redoing the lab values. The diversity within the Black population is very large.

Brangwynne: All advances in technology have unexpected social consequences, whether it's the steam engine or nuclear energy or computers. So, any time technology advances, there are things that we want to keep an eye on. And the pace of technological change in all areas is accelerating so rapidly that we can't take reactive positions, because it's sort of too late at that point. We're at this sort of inflection point in bioengineering. Over the coming several years we're going to see huge changes and new technologies where we can really build cells from scratch. We will soon be able to augment even human biology. We've got to understand that and think about it as it's being developed, not just wait for it to happen, and say, "Oh wait, I don't know how to handle this."

#### Bernstein: Are such conversations taking place at Princeton and, if not, is there a way to facilitate them?

**Armstrong:** To be blunt, no, they really don't occur. We could point to all the structural impediments that impede these interdisciplinary discussions from taking place. Catherine identifies herself as a bioethicist, but for so long in the United States, bioethics has been dominated by clinical medicine. The people who specialize in bioethics in the United States are trained to intervene at the individual level in very specific clinical dilemmas. Should this person get this organ or not? Should we prolong this person's life? Those decisions do have broader social implications, but we need people who have training to think about these issues in a broader societal perspective.

In many cases, we lack the tools to think about these things at something other than the individual level. In the example Olga gave about the algorithm that was leaving certain vulnerable patients off the target transplant list, we're still caught up in the question of which patient is getting the organ transplant rather than asking why we have so many people with kidney disease in the first place.

Clune-Taylor: We don't have a good way to train people who can look at the big picture, who have the required tools for this kind of larger-scale social, political, and ethical analysis.

They end up kind of being weird people like me, who jump around disciplines. However, we're very into disciplinary boundaries as academics, and policing boundaries plays a large role in constituting academic authority, allowing for a kind of hierarchy or prioritization of the disciplines themselves.

I would say one other thing, and this is the Canadian in me coming out, but it is clear to me that we can't think about bioengineering in relation to health outside of issues of labor and capital. The American health-care system runs on a kind of business model, so I am very pessimistic, for example, that new bioengineered treatments for kidney disease or diabetes would actually reach the most vulnerable people. In part, bioengineers, or their algorithms, might deprioritize poor people because they're less healthy, without thinking about the way that poorer health is itself socially constituted as an issue of privilege. Sure, it would be great if everyone ate better, but some people just can't afford that.

I am giving a talk at Dartmouth about racialized, targeted interventions against COVID. Many people have suggested that vaccine hesitancy in some BIPOC communities was because of the continuing legacy of the Tuskegee syphilis study, which ran from 1932 to 1972, so they have good reasons to be suspicious. In fact, if you talk to these folks, their vaccine concerns weren't about Tuskegee; they were because they had had a racist incident with their own doctor. Many of the BIPOC folks I've talked to were suspicious of a health-care system that now tells them that this thing, this COVID vaccine, is free because it's good for them, and because without it, they might die. Insulin is also good for them, and without it they will definitely die, but the health-care system doesn't care that they can't afford it.

**Brangwynne:** I think historically we've thought that science should be separate from society, when we know that is not true and can't be true. But that doesn't mean we necessarily train scientists to think about that.

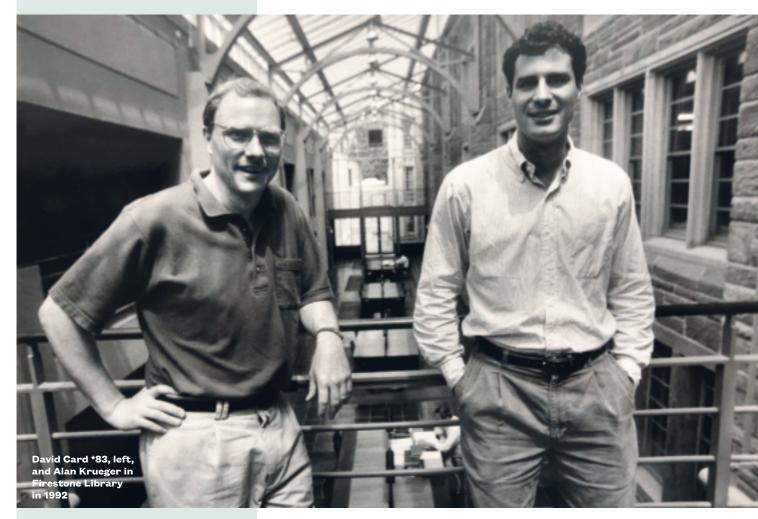
Concerning these sorts of interdisciplinary conversations on our campus, I think Betsy told the hard truth, which is they're not really happening. Or they're not happening nearly as often as they need to happen. And those are conversations that the Princeton Bioengineering Initiative hopes to ignite on campus.

Catherine described herself as weird because she knows something about the science and also about these philosophical and ethical issues. That does seem to be rare, but it's important for the folks on the ethics-policy-history-philosophy side to know something about the science in the same way that it's important for the scientists and engineers to be thinking about the ethical, philosophical, and societal implications. And I think by and large, even at liberal arts universities that value these broader discussions, the scientific education and training do not emphasize that.

We can do a much better job with those conversations. I hope that is one of the things that's ignited from this discussion. And, just as a plug, I'll say that the Princeton Bioengineering Initiative is starting a new distinguished lectureship on ethics in bioengineering this fall. We hope to use that in part to grow this conversation and engage the broader University in these critical questions.

Bernstein: Thank you all very much for participating. •





Why a pioneering approach by Princeton researchers was honored with a Nobel

# **Experiments**in Economics

BY LOUIS JACOBSON '92

hirty years ago, a group of Princeton economists kicked off the day as they often did, gathering for coffee around a counter before classes and meetings began. The newspaper that day had an article about an impending hike in New Jersey's minimum wage, and the economists' talk turned to what that change would mean. Conventional economic theory predicted that an increase in the minimum wage would lead employers to cut jobs, but was that true? Soon a research idea had formed — one that would help carry the economics profession toward a new way of conducting empirical research, and eventually lead to a Nobel Prize.

Taking part in the discussion that day were David Card \*83, then a professor at Princeton and now at Berkeley, and Alan Krueger, who had joined the Princeton faculty about five years before. A study of the minimum wage resonated personally with Card, whose parents were dairy farmers in

Canada and who himself had held minimum-wage jobs as a youth. Krueger, meanwhile, subscribed to *The New England Journal of Medicine*; he sometimes noted how the journal laid out each paper's research design and lamented that in economics, it was more difficult to run real-world

experiments. But with the minimum-wage hike, the economists saw an opportunity.

Card and Krueger evaluated the impact of the law by surveying 410 fast-food restaurants in New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania, where the minimum wage did not change. They compared changes in employment. And they found "no indication that the rise in the minimum wage reduced employment."

The study, which stood out for its simplicity, was among Princeton's most notable "natural experiments" in economics, and it had a huge impact on the profession. In October, three practitioners of natural experiments — Card, Joshua Angrist \*89, and Guido Imbens — were named Nobel laureates in economics; the Nobel Committee said they showed how this approach can answer central questions in economics. Many observers believe Krueger, who died in 2019 at 58, would have shared the prize had he lived.

"I'm not sure where the profession would be now without Card and Angrist, but the American Economics Association publishes an entire journal, AEJ: Applied Economics, that is filled almost exclusively with the sort of empirical work that they pioneered," says Michael R. Ransom \*83, an economist at Brigham Young University. Perhaps even more important, their work and work by other Princeton economists have attracted widespread attention outside economic journals and fueled policy changes at both the local and national levels.

HE LATEST NOBEL PRIZES for economics were forged in an out-of-theway nook in Firestone Library, an enclave that was home to a tight-knit group of Princeton economists known as the Industrial Relations Section. Collectively, members of the section have moved smoothly between the worlds of academia and government, providing guidance on what policies should be implemented to improve outcomes for the economy and for

The IR Section "really transformed the way we think of empirical evidence," says Lawrence Katz, a Harvard University economist who worked closely with both Card and Krueger. It made the study of economics "much more transparent and clear, which made it more policy-relevant and more rigorous," Katz says.

The section was created in 1922 with financial support from John D. Rockefeller Jr. Labor unions had grown stronger during World War I, but when the war ended, the labor-management relationship grew tumultuous, and unions quickly lost ground. During the Great Depression, Princeton's young IR Section saw itself as serving both company executives and union leaders (though companies used its work far more frequently than unions, PAW reported), disseminating reports on such subjects as "labor capitalism," pensions, the five-day work week, and "age limitations" of workers. Later, under such figures as Albert Rees and future University president William G. Bowen \*58, the section began to experiment with new approaches, most notably rigorous data techniques.

Card recalls that the hothouse atmosphere of the IR Section in Firestone, physically separated from the rest of the economics department — enabled innovative approaches to flourish. Graduate students worked side by side with senior faculty — an unusual arrangement at the time, says Card. (Card even met his wife at the section's home in Firestone: Cynthia Gessele \*89 had a part-time job typing for the economists. Her secret to getting the

job? "Not many people could type math notations," he says.)

The section's physical setup was so important that when it moved to the Louis A. Simpson International Building in 2017, officials included a long counter with a coffee maker where faculty and students could bat around ideas. In a tour of the space, economics and public affairs professor David S. Lee \*99 points out the setting, noting that it continues to host offhanded "counter talk" among the members.

"Almost any topic was fair game — thoughts about a question one of us was attempting to address, an issue in a paper, just

'blue-skying it' as we thought about the latest news, or what we were going to have for dinner," says economist Cecilia Rouse, the former dean of Princeton's School of Public and International Affairs, who is on leave

> from Princeton to chair the White House Council of Economic Advisers (she spoke to PAW in her personal capacity). "Those unstructured moments often led to new ideas, and the section had the resources to allow us to pursue many of them." Sometimes so much time would pass in discussion that IR Section members would get stuck in the

Orley Ashenfelter \*70 library when Firestone locked its doors for the night. "It was an intimate setting," recalls Lee. "The offices of faculty and students were right next to each other,

with a common area, like a dorm. As a student, many of the things I learned came from just hanging out around the coffee machine and listening to David,

Alan, and Orley talk."

"Orley" is Princeton professor Orley Ashenfelter \*70. Now 79, Ashenfelter has been a presence in the IR Section off and on since the 1960s, helping to lead its transition from focusing on old-fashioned company-

union mediation into cutting-edge econometrics. Ashenfelter was "one of the very first economists to

try to make estimates of economic effects more credible and defensible" by moving beyond theory and using quantifiable data, says Gary Burtless, an economist with the Brookings Institution.

James Heckman \*71 recalls that the first time he met Ashenfelter — when Ashenfelter was a graduate student and Heckman was considering working toward a Princeton graduate degree himself — they spent the whole night arguing, ending only after the sun was up.

Ashenfelter loves direct intellectual combat, says Heckman, a University of Chicago economist and a Nobel laureate. "I still think of it today," he says. "A lot of my thinking came from those interactions."

HE LATE 1960S AND 1970S were an exciting time for labor economists, as federal officials tried to deal with rising inflation and other economic tribulations by implementing innovative policies. Economists were needed to test the real-life effects of these policies — but few academic departments were well-prepared to do that. As late as the 1970s, academic industrial-relations departments "were strongly opposed to measurement, even of the simplest kinds," Heckman says. "The study of labor

individuals.

supply was the province of sociologists, they believed." Theories prevailed over quantitative studies. The younger economists coming to Princeton rejected this approach as outdated, however, and, led by Ashenfelter, they became active in launching a quantitative economics that turned hard data into models.

The gold standard for academic experiments is the "randomized controlled trial," in which researchers randomly assign test subjects into one of two groups - one group that receives the "intervention" they're trying to study, and a control group that does not. But in economics, a randomized controlled trial is not always feasible. "Natural experiments" were the next best thing, allowing researchers to mimic a random controlled trial using data that came from a fortunate accident of history.

One day, when Angrist was a graduate student, his professor, Ashenfelter, mentioned the long-term health effects of being drafted into the military. Epidemiologists "had done this very clever thing where they used the fact that draft lottery numbers were randomly assigned," Angrist recalled in an interview with the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond in 2020, "and they compared people who had high and low numbers to test the causal effects." Ashenfelter suggested that someone could use lottery data to study the earnings of men who had been drafted compared to those who had not. When the class ended, Angrist went to the library to get started on the project. It became his Princeton dissertation.

Today, natural experiments are standard in economics, says Lee — in fact, generations of scholars take this for granted. The impact of the early Princeton researchers has been multiplied through their students and their students' students. Card, for example, was one of Angrist's dissertation advisers and also advised other prominent Princeton economists. Economics professor and Nobel laureate Angus Deaton recalls introducing Card to an audience of perhaps 1,000 economists and asking how many had been one of his students. "There was a forest of arms," he says.

The studies by these economists deal with questions affecting the lives of ordinary Americans, like wages and education, and so frequently wind up in news reports and policy discussions, not just professional economics journals. For example, Card and Krueger's conclusion that raising the minimum wage did not harm employment echoed what had been found in several previous papers, but the simplicity of its findings helped attract widespread attention among policymakers and the general public. ("The paper is four numbers — before and after employment in New Jersey, and before and after employment in Pennsylvania," Ashenfelter notes.) As expected, that study attracted some criticism, says Janet Currie \*88, who now chairs Princeton's economics department, but "over time, more and more people accepted the finding." And while the paper did not lead Congress to raise the federal minimum wage, it helped convince states and localities to increase theirs.

Other natural experiments flowed from the IR Section. A 1991 paper by Angrist and Krueger explored how much of an economic return comes from spending additional time in school. To study this, Angrist and Krueger focused on the quarter of

the year in which someone was born. People born in the first quarter would start school when they were older, so they would reach the minimum age to legally drop out sooner than slightly younger peers. In other words, through the accident of birth, students born earlier in the year would be able to leave school earlier, with less education. The researchers concluded that extra schooling did, in fact, lead to extra earnings later. Yale economist Joseph Altonji \*81 says the work has been "a key part of the case for investment in education."

Card and Krueger, meanwhile, looked at affirmative-action policies in higher education, using data from California and Texas both before and after those states eliminated preferences in college applications. Minority-student acceptance rates at selective state universities fell, they concluded, but application rates did not, suggesting that highly qualified minority students were not dissuaded from applying to elite public schools

either because of reduced campus diversity or because of uncertainty about their admission prospects.

Princeton's IR researchers have long had ties to government. Heckman recalls that when he was a graduate student in the group, one of the professors mused about having advised President Herbert Hoover. The link grew tighter in the 1960s and 1970s. Scholars in the group undertook several efforts to study a proposal for a version of negative income tax — a guaranteed income — by President Richard Nixon. (Their findings were mixed.) In

Joshua Angrist \*89 time, the researchers would explore many other

public-policy questions, including the effectiveness of government-subsidized worker-training programs, whether expanding Medicaid reduced labor supply, and whether the 1980 Mariel boatlift, which brought Cuban migrants to Miami, affected wages in that city (the study found almost no effect on wages or unemployment rates).

One seemingly humdrum yet crucial development was the emergence under presidents Lyndon Johnson and Nixon of new streams of federal statistical data. Data collected from programs that were part of Johnson's War on Poverty greatly increased the granular material available to researchers who were interested in conducting natural experiments. And government officials welcomed academics to play a role. "There was an optimism that informed scientific research could actually help alleviate poverty or racial or gender wage differences," Card recalls. "It was an optimistic time, where you felt you could potentially have an impact on things that were relevant for people's lives." Some of the IR economists have served in the White House, including Rouse, who worked at the National Economic Council during the Clinton administration, served on the Council of Economic Advisers for President Barack Obama, and has been Biden's top economic adviser since the start of his presidency.

Not all economists have the stomach for working inside the government, however. Winning a Nobel Prize is one thing. But policymaking? "To get things changed is a huge process of advocacy and bending wills," says Card. "It's not something I feel I have much ability to do." .

Louis Jacobson '92 is a senior correspondent for PolitiFact, where he has written extensively about economics.

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## THE CONSEQUENCES **OF CYBERWARFARE**

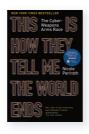
*Journalist traces her path to* becoming a government adviser

Award-winning cybersecurity reporter Nicole Perlroth '04 didn't start her journalism career writing about cybersecurity or even tech. She started with a tabloid exposé — on food.

In 2007, Perlroth was taking a nighttime journalism class at New York University taught by a New York Post columnist who suggested researching fancy New York City restaurants that had health violations. So Perlroth, who was working in marketing at the fashion company Coach during the day, began spending her evenings poring over records from the Department of Health until she found a restaurant in Chelsea that had a terrible report. She talked to the owner, who told her the inspector came in, got drunk at the bar, passed out, and then gave the restaurant an abysmal report to justify why he had spent several hours there — and it was all on video. That story became Perlroth's first byline, a freelance piece in the New York Post that ran under the headline "It's Inspector 'Snooze'-eau."

She filled her living room with nearly 100 copies, Perlroth recalls. "At that moment, I said, 'OK, I've never done anything with journalism, but this is interesting, this is intellectually stimulating, and it looks like you can actually change things."

Perlroth eventually found her niche writing about cybersecurity, something she did for a decade at The New York Times, which positioned her



for a new role as an unpaid adviser to the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). It's also the subject of her 2021

"At that moment, I said, 'OK, I've never done anything with journalism, but this is interesting, this is intellectually stimulating, and it looks like you can actually change things.' "

- Nicole Perlroth '04

bestselling book This Is How They Tell Me the World Ends: The Cyberweapons Arms Race, which won the Financial Times and McKinsey Business Book of the Year Award last year. The book traces the market for cyberweapons and vulnerabilities — flaws in code. Governments and independent hackers are constantly discovering these flaws and must decide what to do with them. Do they hoard the discoveries for their own future use, sell them to others, or disclose them so they can be patched?

Perlroth's reporting spans the globe, from Ukraine to Israel, and she is a central figure in the book, taking the reader along with her as she tries to uncover the shadowy, secretive figures who buy and sell code vulnerabilities and the tools used to exploit them.

While reporting on the latest cybersecurity news, Perlroth had grown concerned about governments stockpiling vulnerabilities — a story that wasn't getting through to many of her readers. "That became the impetus for the book," she says. "I need to write this as a nonfiction narrative where, unfortunately, I even have to be in this grabbing the reader by the hand."

In some ways, Perlroth is an unlikely figure to be a star cybersecurity reporter or one of the main characters in a book about cyberweapons. She had no technical background and only ended up covering tech firms because she wanted to return to the West Coast. She pitched her editors at Forbes magazine to relocate her from New York to the Bay Area to cover venture capital. Then, in 2010, Perlroth got a phone call from The New York Times inviting her to interview for a job as a cybersecurity

"I said, 'You've got to be kidding me," Perlroth recalls. She ultimately got the job because she could explain cybersecurity issues in an accessible, not-too-technical way for a nontechnical audience.

An early Times assignment that made a strong impression on Perlroth dealt with the hacking of the paper's servers by China in 2012. Perlroth embedded with the team from the security firm Mandiant that was investigating the breach and witnessed firsthand how

cyberespionage was like a 9-to-5 job for Chinese hackers. Originally, Perlroth and the investigators thought the hackers might be trying to find a way to turn off the paper's printing press or sabotage its operations, but they later concluded it was an espionage incident, aimed at discovering the sources for a series of stories about corruption and the Chinese Communist Party.

Perlroth published a long article detailing the breach in January 2013. It changed her outlook on what it meant to cover cybersecurity and the scope of the problem she was up against. "Nobody is talking about this," she says.

While her nontechnical background turned out to be an advantage, it also has its drawbacks, she readily admits. In particular, when writing her book, Perlroth worried constantly about how it would be received.

"I fact-checked this book to death, but I knew there were going to be some technical descriptors in there that were going to drive people crazy," Perlroth says. That happened, but these critics — a small number of people in the field — weren't the people she was trying to reach.

Writing the book also forced her to think through and suggest some possible solutions. The final chapters include sweeping proposals to reform how the United States government handles computer vulnerabilities and develops cyber capabilities.

As for Perlroth's new role, it was an idea she'd gotten from a fellow Princeton alum, Kiersten Todt '94, who is the chief of staff for CISA director Jen Easterly. She asked Perlroth if she might be interested in helping CISA ramp up its cybersecurity efforts.

At CISA, Perlroth is hoping to help establish a program for private-sector cybersecurity experts to spend some time in government and develop other pathways to recruit technical minds to work for the government. She's also starting to think about working with cybersecurity start-ups.

Perlroth ultimately decided to move on from journalism, as she believes she's done everything possible to draw awareness to the issue as a reporter. She adds, "I think I could have more impact behind the scenes." • By Josephine Wolff '10

**DAVID ABROMOWITZ '78** 

## **EXPANDING POLITICAL POSSIBILITIES**

New Power Project aims to empower disenfranchised communities

David Abromowitz '78, a Boston-area housing lawyer, had been involved for years in nonprofit civic groups. But when the 2020 murder of George Floyd prompted a national reckoning, Abromowitz decided that racial and economic justice needed to take center stage — and to be addressed by elected officials at the local level, especially individuals who are most directly affected.

"People who have grown up in lowincome communities and who have experienced poverty themselves find that many of the systems that are controlled at the local level are not working, from education and policing to housing and access to jobs," Abromowitz says. "Some of those people have ideas for fixing these broken systems but face enormous barriers to doing so."

When he took a closer look, Abromowitz concluded that no organization was focusing exclusively on preparing lowincome Americans to step up into elected leadership roles in their communities. So Abromowitz founded the New Power Project, which recruits and empowers what it calls "values-driven individuals who have grown up in marginalized or underserved communities."

Improving the lives of people who are disenfranchised, Abromowitz says, requires direct participation in politics and government at the local level. "The New Power Project is founded on the principle that those closest to the pain should be closest to the power," he says. "Over the last few years, it's been clear to me that many local political decisions have national implications."

Yet most of the politically active people Abromowitz knew were focused on influencing the federal government, and weren't paying attention to local politics and policymaking. So, he set



about changing minds.

The project launched last year when it joined with an existing organization called New Politics that was already offering training to young people coming out of the military and civilian service groups like AmeriCorps. Currently, the New Power Project is recruiting and training candidates, with a goal of supporting a dozen candidates in 2022 who want to run for local offices such as mayor, town council, and school board.

The participants will learn the basics of running for office, from how to woo voters to how to raise money.

Abromowitz, a native of the Jersey Shore who majored in public affairs at Princeton, says the project also seeks to break down biases against people who have only a high school equivalency diploma. "An unconventional job history or a working-class job is often considered a weakness in conventional screening [for political candidates]," he says. "We view that as an asset." \$\int By Louis Jacobson '92

READ MORE in an expanded version of this story at paw.princeton.edu

## **CLASS NOTES**

Online Class Notes are password protected. To access, alumni must use their TigerNet ID and password. Click here to log in: http://paw.princeton.edu/class-notes

## **MEMORIALS**

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

#### THE CLASS OF 1940

#### Marshall Forrest '40

Marshall, our last surviving member, died Jan. 12, 2022, in Medford, Ore. He was 103.

Born in Chicago, he came to us from the Lawrenceville School. He served in the Army Signal Corps in North Africa and Italy after Princeton.

Marshall earned a law degree at the University of Chicago Law School, graduating cum laude with election to the Order of the Coif in 1947. He then moved to Bellingham, Wash., where he practiced law for many years. Along the way he served in the state legislature, taught business law at several institutions, was a Superior Court judge of Whatcom County, and served on the State Court of Appeals.

After retirement he was on the Washington State Gambling Commission and received the Washington State Bar Association Outstanding Judge award in 1992. His avocational life included intellectual activities as well as bridge (life master), skiing, hiking, camping, and whitewater canoeing.

He is survived by his first wife, Ernestine; three children; and three grandchildren. His second wife, Katherine, predeceased him.

#### THE CLASS OF 1948



Joseph F. Cassin '48 Joe, a resident of Glenside, Pa., died July 28, 2021, at age 94. Joe came to Princeton from Seton Hall Prep. He majored in biology and was a member

of Terrace Club. Joe served in the Navy as an officer on the USS Leyte. He went on to work for Smith Kline & French Laboratories (now GlaxoSmithKline), where he became director of regulatory affairs. Described as "a man of letters and a lover of language and literature," he counted writing letters and reading among his favorite pastimes.

Joe was predeceased by his wife, Joan; and a daughter, Eileen Gallen. He is survived by his son, Thomas; daughters Mary Rude, Margaret Carpi, and Maureen Cassin; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren, with whom he

enjoyed spending considerable time. The Class of '48 sends its sympathies to them all.



Joseph O. Rand Jr. '48 Joseph died Aug. 5, 2021, at the Charles George Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Asheville, N.C. He had turned 95 about two

months prior.

A native of St. Louis, Joseph served in the Navy during World War II, including aboard a Navy cargo ship in the South Pacific. Following an injury that prematurely ended his service time, he enrolled at Princeton. He majored in economics and took his meals at Cottage Club.

After working for what is now International Shoe Co., Joseph was called to the ministry, earning degrees from Union Presbyterian Seminary, Princeton Theological Seminary, and McCormick Theological Seminary.

Joseph's subsequent ministry of more than 40 years brought him to Paris, Mo.; Houston, Texas; Danville, Ky.; and then back to Princeton, where he became associate pastor. In 1990 he retired to Black Mountain,

Joseph is survived by his wife of 70 years, Elizabeth McMurray Rand; three children, Lanier Rand Blum, David McMurray Rand, and Susan Elizabeth Rand; nine granddaughters; and five great-grandchildren. A son, Peter McMurray Rand, predeceased him. The Class of 1948 extends its sympathies to the family of our delightful classmate.

#### THE CLASS OF 1950



William E. Gilbert '50 Bill died Oct. 26, 2021, in Hilton Head Island, S.C., where he moved in 2007 from his longtime home on Gibson Island in Maryland's Chesapeake Bay.

At Princeton he graduated with honors in basic engineering and belonged to Key and Seal. He earned an MBA at Penn's Wharton School and then served three years in the Navy, mostly as an engineering officer on the destroyer USS Hazelwood.

After a year with DuPont, he joined his father's Brass & Copper Supply Co. in Baltimore. With the company's sale in the late 1960s and concern over his son John's health, he moved his family to St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, where he lived for three years, and part time from 1995 to 2014.

In 1973 he joined Marriott Hotels, where he oversaw hotel and resort development. In 1984 he started Great Inns of America, a company that managed and developed historic inns. In retirement he volunteered with the International Executive Service Corps as an adviser on hotel management in Eastern Europe.

An adventurous spirit marked Bill's life. While in St. Croix he explored every Caribbean airstrip and flew his Grumman Widgeon up the Amazon. After "final" retirement, he and his wife traveled extensively in Europe, Africa, and the South Pacific.

Bill is survived by his wife of 65 years, Helen; children John, Katie, and Janet Lee; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

#### **THE CLASS OF 1953**



William T. Black Jr. '53 Bill was born in Mount Holly, N.J., and graduated from Trinity School in New York City before coming to Princeton. He was a member of Terrace Club

and majored in geology, writing his thesis on the "Miocene Sands of South Jersey."

He was drafted six months after graduation and spent most of the next two years in Germany, Discharged in Germany, he spent a year studying geology at the University of Vienna and then spent several years exploring for oil in Venezuela and Colombia.

Returning to the United States, Bill became involved in data processing and technology and eventually formed his own company to manufacture copper and fiber-optic computer

Bill died Feb. 19, 2022. He is survived by his wife, Susan; five children; 12 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.



**Dale Fremont Sprankle** '53 \*55 Dale grew up in Kingsport, Tenn., and came to Princeton from Redland High School. He majored in architecture and was a

member of Quadrangle Club. Dale continued at Princeton after graduation to earn an MFA from the School of Architecture. He then completed OCS in Newport, R.I., before spending three years in the Navy with the Civil Engineer Corps in northern California.

Having met his wife, Carolyn, in California, Dale settled there with an architectural firm in Palo Alto, which he and his partners later moved to San Francisco. When the firm opened a New York office, Dale came back temporarily to Princeton. A further expansion of the firm's interests took Dale to Australia and years of shuttling back and forth across the Pacific Ocean to be involved in the planning of various large commercial projects in that country.

Dale died Feb. 19, 2022, peacefully at home in Santa Cruz, Calif. His wife, Carolyn, died in October 2018; he is survived by two children and five grandchildren.

#### **THE CLASS OF 1954**



Briggs S. Cunningham III '54 Briggs died Sept. 28, 2021. He prepared at The Hill School, where he participated in wrestling, tennis, and publications. While at

Princeton he was an alternate cheerleader, a member of the Yacht Club, and an assistant manager of varsity basketball. He left Princeton after his sophomore year, served four years in the Navy, and graduated from Yale, where he majored in economics.

Briggs was an entrepreneur, benefactor, avid sports fan, 20-year race-car owner, and accomplished Angus breeder, among other things.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Elizabeth; children Marcia, Cecily, Briggs IV, Thomas, Paige, Brian, Robert, and Blair; grandchildren Lucie, Windsor, Riley, Mace, Olivia, Warren, and Exton; and his sister, Lynn Maddock.



#### Paul Donald Harris '54

Paul died Feb. 15, 2022. He prepared at Teaneck (N.J.) High School, where he was active in basketball, soccer, and student government.

At Princeton he majored in chemistry and undertook an experimental senior thesis on the preparation of a proposed drug. He joined Terrace Club; was active in the Chemistry Club, the Pre-Med Society, and the Outing Club; and participated in freshman soccer and IAA football, basketball, and baseball.

Paul earned a medical degree at Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1958 and pursued postgraduate training in cardiology at the University of Rochester, Harvard, and Columbia. He served as a cardiac surgeon at Columbia Presbyterian until 1971, when he founded the cardiac surgical practice at Roosevelt Hospital in Manhattan. In 1980 he joined Hackensack Medical Center, where he continued practice until 1962, when he began pursuit of his lifetime passion - baseball. This culminated in part ownership of the Norwich Navigators, a Yankee farm team where he enjoyed seeing the progression of some future stars of the New York Yankees. Paul enjoyed hiking, appreciated nature, and loved dogs.

Paul is survived by his wife, Sarah; and his

children, Paul Jr., Susan Daut, David, Vanessa, Caitlin Niv, and Courtney; stepchildren Kenneth Bromberg, Eric Bromberg, and Bruce Bromberg; 10 grandchildren; and six stepgrandchildren.



#### Spencer H. MacCallum '54

Spence died Dec. 17, 2020.

At Andover he participated in the glee club, cross-country, and student government. At Princeton he joined Prospect

Club and majored in art and archaeology. He left Princeton after his second year and then returned, graduating in 1955. His thesis on Northwest Coast Indian art was stimulated by his accidentally discovering a previously unrecognized collection of this work in the basement of Guyot Hall.

Spence's subsequent life and his writings about social organization and economics were greatly influenced by his grandfather Spencer Heath, a dissident philosopher of money and community organization. In this context, and continuing his interest in the Northwest Coast Indians, Spence earned a master's degree in social anthropology at the University of Washington in 1961, studying the life, culture, and stateless society of this community. His thesis was later published with the title The Art of Community. He then attended the University of Chicago in pursuit of a Ph.D. Illness prevented his completion of a proposed dissertation on the ethnography of a community.

In the mid-1970s, echoing his accidental discovery of the art of Northwest Coast Indians, he discovered and promoted the work of Juan Quezada, an unknown potter in Mata Ortiz, Mexico. This led to the development of a thriving pottery industry there, quite in harmony with Spence's emerging ideas and written works on social policy.

Spence is survived by his wife, Emalie.



#### Edward H. Zeller '54

Ted died Dec. 24, 2021.

At Manasquan (N.J.) High School Ted played basketball and edited the yearbook. At Princeton he majored in

psychology, joined Tiger Inn, was a football manager, and played basketball, IAA sports, and pool.

Following service in the Army, Ted joined Mutual of New York (MONY) and married Abigail Taylor in 1960. They had two daughters and a son. An avid volunteer fireman, Ted so enjoyed his avocation that he once left an infant daughter asleep alone in the front yard to answer the siren.

Ted transferred to MONY's Syracuse, N.Y., office in 1965 and lived in nearby Skaneateles. He loved the small community and living by its lake. He joined Connecticut National Bank in

1974, and the family moved to Newtown, Conn. He and Abby later divorced.

Ted began work as head of the human resources department at Danbury Hospital and later married Nancy Neal, who had three children. They traveled in Europe until her death in 1998. Ted married Betty Lou Brock, with two children, in 2001, and moved to Longmont, Colo. They, too, traveled the world and golfed in Longmont, Boulder, and Naples, Fla.

Ted enjoyed woodworking, doing The New York Times crossword puzzles in pen, and making sure every room had a flashlight.

Ted is survived by his wife, Betty Lou; his three children, Susan, Carol, and David; five stepchildren; five grandchildren; and brother Robert '49.

#### THE CLASS OF 1958



Earl V. Fogelberg '58 Earl died Jan. 24, 2022, in Santa Rosa, Calif. He was 85.

He came to Princeton from the Latin School of Chicago, where he was senior prefect

and captain of the basketball team.

At Princeton he was a member of the Undergraduate Council, Pre-Med Society, Keycept Program, and freshman crew. He majored in biology and was a member of Cap and Gown. He roomed with Duncan Smith, Bill Duncan, Mike Jones, Joel Weinstein, Mike Dennis, John MacFarlane '59, and others.

Earl graduated from the Columbia medical school, married Ann Bowey, moved to California and spent two years in the Air Force (where daughter Renee was born), and returned to Columbia to finish his residency (where son Erik was born).

Earl had a lifelong love of art and the outdoors, most thoroughly explained in our 50th-reunion yearbook.

Ann died in 1999, and later, Earl married Norma Spreeman. Together they built a family with the addition of Norma's daughter, Taylor, and continued to explore the world, fly fish, paint together, and enjoy life to its fullest.

Earl was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in September 2020. What became most important to him at this time was providing funding for cancer trials and treatment. Before his passing, Earl funded the endowment that bears his name.

He is survived by Norma, children Renee Flaherty and Erik, stepdaughter Taylor Bruner, and grandchildren Sam, Connor, Caitlin, Alison, and Jack. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.

#### Martin E. Lodge '58

Martin died Jan. 18, 2022, in New Paltz, N.Y. He was 85.

He came to Princeton from Orange High in Pepper Pike, Ohio, where he was a sports



manager. At Princeton he joined Elm Club, was a basketball manager in our freshman year, and was chairman of the student loan library of the Student Christian Association. He

majored in history. Martin roomed with Charlie Puttkammer and Bart Brown.

After graduation he earned a Ph.D. in history at Berkeley and then taught at SUNY New Paltz. He retired as professor emeritus.

Martin is survived by his daughter, Kirsten Lodge, a professor at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas. The class extends its deepest sympathy to her.

#### **THE CLASS OF 1960**



John F. Curley Jr. '60

"The nicest person you ever knew" and "Mr. Insider" for more than 25 years at Legg Mason, Jack died Jan. 1, 2022. Born, raised, and educated in

Massachusetts (Phillips Andover), Jack returned there to earn his MBA at Harvard Business School in 1962. At Princeton he concentrated in the Woodrow Wilson School, specialized in Latin American studies, joined Charter, and served as advertising manager for The Daily Princetonian.

After Harvard Jack served two years as a lieutenant in the Army and was happily stationed in Frankfurt, Germany, with his bride, Loretta. He joined Paine Webber Jackson & Curtis as a management trainee in 1964. Rising rapidly through the ranks, he became president of Paine Webber's brokerage arm in 1980.

Jack left Paine Webber in 1982 to join Baltimore securities firm Legg Mason, where he became instrumental in developing its highly regarded mutual-fund business. As vice chairman and chief administrative officer of Legg Mason, Jack acquired his moniker "Mr. Insider" and his reputation as a consummate manager and engaging leader. By his account, he "semi-retired" in 1998 and fully departed in 2008 after 36 years in the investment field.

He and Loretta traveled extensively in the United States and Europe in the succeeding years. She, their three sons, and five grandchildren survive him and have our sincere sympathy.

#### THE CLASS OF 1961



Ouentin P. Almstedt '61 Quentin, known to all as "Casey," died Nov. 15, 2020, in Weldon Springs, Md. He was born in Kirkwood, Mo., and came to us from Kirkwood

High School. At Princeton he roomed in North Reunion Hall but left either during or after freshman year and ultimately graduated from Concordia Teachers College in River Forest,

Ill., then earning a master's degree in math at Northwestern.

Following four years of teaching in Lutheran elementary and high schools, Casey entered Concordia Theological Seminary in Springfield, Ill. He then served Lutheran congregations in Lufkin, Texas; Liberty, Mo.; Burr Rudge, Ill.; and St. Joseph, Mo. He retired to St. Charles, Mo., in 1997, teaching and preaching until the death of his wife, LaVerne, after which he moved to the Lutheran Senior Services Care Center at Breeze Park. We never heard from Casey after his one year at Princeton, but wish

Preceded by his wife in death, he is survived by two sons and three grandchildren.

#### **THE CLASS OF 1962**



Thoburn A. Dadisman **Jr. '62** Tad, an internal medicine doctor throughout his career, died Jan. 5, 2022, in Columbia, Md.

He came to us from the

Brunswick School in Riverside, Conn. At Princeton he majored in biology and wrote his thesis on methods of preparing tissues for the electron microscope. Senior year he roomed with Gordon Kelly, Peter Brown, and John Ogden. He and they were all charter members of the Woodrow Wilson Society.

Tad earned a medical degree from Yale in 1966 and completed a residency at the University of Virginia School of Medicine. After a few years with the U.S. Public Health Service as an epidemic intelligence officer, he became one of the first staff physicians at the newly opened Howard County General Hospital in Columbia, Md. During his 31 years as a physician, 19 of which he spent on call at the hospital, he treated thousands of patients and mentored dozens of junior physicians. He was prized for his exceptional skills in listening and talking to patients and diagnosing their ailments. He retired in 2004.

Tad is survived by his wife, Patricia Faraone Dadisman; and son, T.A. Dadisman III. The class extends its condolences.

#### **THE CLASS OF 1965**



Mebenin Awipi '65 Meb came to us from Nigeria on a full scholarship sophomore year, played one year of soccer, and received a degree in

electrical engineering. He went

on to Columbia to earn a master's degree and Ph.D. in that field along with computer science.

Meb worked at Bell Labs in the 1970s, earned several patents, and did foundational work on modern fiber-optic phone communication. The next five years were spent as a lecturer at the University of Lagos and director of the Center for Special Projects

at Rivers State University of Science and Technology. He then settled in Nashville and taught at Tennessee State University for 22 years, retiring as a professor in 2006.

He is remembered fondly by his students as a person with high standards and a tireless advocate and driving force for his students. He was a founding member of the North American chapter of the Government College Ughelli Old Boys Association of Nigeria, serving as president and a lifelong member. He also served on the Metro Nashville school board for four years, continuing to support and advocate on behalf of his students.

Meb died Feb. 4, 2022. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Dr. Georgina Maina Awipi; children Tolomo, Embele, and Tari; one grandson; and a brother.

#### **THE CLASS OF 1966**



William B. Baine '66 Bill died Feb. 1, 2022, of complications of Parkinson's disease.

A native of Washington, D.C., Bill spent part of his

childhood in Italy. At St. Albans School he edited the literary magazine and yearbook and played in the orchestra. At Princeton he concentrated in the Program in East Asian Studies, joined Colonial Club, played in the orchestra and marching band, and belonged to the Pre-Med Society.

After Princeton he graduated from Vanderbilt Medical School, then entered the Epidemic Intelligence Service at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as an officer in the U.S. Public Health Service. He was on the faculty of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas for 11 years, then in the private practice of medicine and infectious disease in Dallas and Leesburg, Va. For 20 years he volunteered at the Loudoun County (Va.) Health Department.

With his wife of 52 years, Martha Scott Baine, Bill lived in Waterford, Va. He had a lifelong love of languages and was versed in Italian, Russian, and Chinese. His reunion book contributions reveal his gifts for poetry and parody.

The class extends its heartfelt condolences to Martha and son Britton.



Jeffery Harrah Stair Wood '66 Jeff died Jan. 14, 2022, ending his courageous two-decade battle with a neurological autoimmune disease.

Jeff grew up in Philadelphia and attended Episcopal Academy, where he was on the yearbook staff and a member of the debating society and glee club.

At Princeton Jeff majored in English, joined

Cap and Gown, and was a Keyceptor and Orange Key guide. He was lead guitar in the Hustlers, a rock band that performed up and down the East Coast, including playing backup to the Exciters at junior prom.

After graduation Jeff served in the Army, producing recruitment and propaganda films. Following discharge, he traveled widely in Europe by motorcycle, then spent six months in Paris, where he learned to cook.

After Paris Jeff settled in Manhattan, where he devoted himself to writing, including several plays produced off-Broadway. In 2005 The New York Times interviewed Jeff and his wife, Pamela Jenrette, for a column on life in a penthouse adjoining then-mayor Mike Bloomberg's townhouse. "He has not popped over for a cup of sugar," reported Pamela.

Though wheelchair-bound in his last years, Jeff maintained his cheerful disposition and zest for life.

The class extends heartfelt condolences to Jeff's beloved Pamela.

#### THE CLASS OF 1970



#### Ellis D. Avner '70

One of our outstanding practicing physicians and teachers, Ellis died following an onslaught of cancer Dec. 25, 2021.

Ellis came to us from Taylor Allderdice High School in Pittsburgh, where he was a state debate champion; he remained close to many of his classmates there throughout his life. As he vividly describes in our 50th-reunion yearbook, he encountered a strange new culture at Princeton (hardly unique among us) where he found his way through lightweight football, Hillel, and the great religion faculty, where Mal Diamond became his mentor. Ellis spent his junior year researching the Dead Sea Scrolls at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, where he also met Jane, his wife of 51 years.

After graduation he turned to medical school at Penn, then to physician-scientist positions in Pittsburgh, Seattle, Cleveland, and Milwaukee. He specialized in pediatric nephrology, an essentially new field in 1970, in which he practiced alongside and taught a generation of leaders in the discipline, who now head departments across the globe. He was, as well, a leading author and editor of multiple books and journals in his specialty, and his mountain of honors included a lifetime achievement award from the American Academy of Pediatrics. None of this seemed to impede his and his sons' gleeful fixation on the Steelers and the Pirates.

Along with Jane, their sons Benjamin and Jeremy, and Ellis' sister Marcia, we are deeply thankful for all his groundbreaking work and teaching, a continuing blessing to children everywhere. But we also miss our friend.

#### **GRADUATE ALUMNI**

#### Kurt R. Schmeller \*62

Kurt died Jan. 15, 2022, in Glen Cove, N.Y. Kurt was born June 28, 1937, in Johnson City, N.Y. He earned a bachelor's degree from Bates College in 1959 and a Ph.D. in history from Princeton in 1962.

Kurt was president of Queensborough Community College (QCC) for 32 years. His accomplishments during his tenure included the founding of the QCC Art Gallery, the QCC Holocaust Center, and the QCC Port of Entry program (first of its kind in the U.S.), designed to enhance the cultural orientation for Chinese scholars who wished to continue their undergraduate and graduate studies in the United States. To honor Kurt's contributions and accomplishments, QCC named the main campus library the Kurt R. Schmeller Library.

As a historian Kurt revised the text of the fifth edition of Hall and Davis' The Course of Europe Since Waterloo, a political history of the great European powers since 1815.

He was active in community affairs and served as a member and chairman of the City of Glen Cove school board.

Kurt is survived by his wife, Beata; children Rudolph '87, Sylvie, and Jesse; and grandchildren Nicholas '21, Claire '23, Elijah, and Ruth.

#### Walter D. Connor \*69

Walter died Jan. 27, 2022, in his sleep in Boston. Born in 1942 in Islip, N.Y., Walter earned a bachelor's degree from Holy Cross in 1963 and a Ph.D. from Princeton in 1969. He began his academic career as an assistant professor of sociology at the University of Michigan, and retired as a professor of political science, international relations, and sociology at Boston University. He was a Fellow of the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard.

Between academic posts Walter directed the program of Soviet and East European Studies at the Foreign Service Institute and won the State Department's Meritorious Honor Award.

Walter's books on Soviet and East European affairs include Socialism, Politics and Equality, Hierarchy and Change in Eastern Europe and the USSR (1979), and The Accidental Proletariat, Workers, Politics, and Crisis in Gorbachev's Russia (1991). He spent a great deal of time in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, including as an exchange fellow at Moscow State University.

Along with a lifetime of scholarship, Walter will be remembered as a fan of Formula One racing and for his love of British sports cars.

Walter is survived by his wife, Eileen; daughters Christine and Elizabeth; and two grandchildren.

#### Thomas M. York \*69

Tom died Jan. 16, 2022, of leukemia in State College, Pa.

Tom was born April 8, 1939, in Nesquehoning,

Pa. As a student in aeronautical engineering at Penn State, Tom earned a bachelor's degree in 1960 and a master's degree in 1961. He became an assistant professor at the U.S. Naval Academy. Under a Guggenheim Fellowship, he earned a Ph.D. in mechanical and aerospace engineering from Princeton in 1969.

Tom joined Penn State's aerospace engineering department, specializing in ionized gas (plasma) flows. He affiliated with the electrical engineering department's Ionosphere Research Laboratory. He established Penn State's Plasma Research Laboratory, which was supported by the U.S. Department of Energy, NASA, the Air Force, the Army, and NSF.

In 1987 Tom became chair of the aerospace engineering department at Ohio State University and served as chair of a science research administration review committee and chair of the University Senate.

From 1994 to 1998 he served as U.S. Department of Energy liaison to national laboratories, international programs, and federal science agencies. He was on President Bill Clinton's review committee on federal support of universities. Afterward Tom returned to Ohio State and retired in 2007.

Tom is survived by his wife, Mary; and siblings Cecilia and Charles.

#### James E. Maraniss \*75

Jim died Jan. 9, 2022, of a heart attack in Chesterfield, Mass.

Born March 22, 1945, in Ann Arbor, Mich., Jim graduated from Harvard in 1966 with a bachelor's degree in Spanish literature. He earned a Ph.D. in Romance languages and literatures from Princeton in 1975.

Jim worked for Wisconsin Gov. Patrick Lucey on Native American and migrant-worker issues before being hired by Amherst in 1972. He taught Spanish and European studies at Amherst until he retired in 2015.

With composer Lewis Spratlan, Jim wrote the libretto for an opera based on Pedro Calderón de la Barca's early 17th-century drama La Vida es sueño (Life Is a Dream). Jim took elaborate 17th-century Spanish and rendered it into modern English that preserved all the grandeur of Golden Age Spanish. Finished in 1978, the opera won a Pulitzer Prize in 2000, but was not fully staged until 2010 at the Santa Fe Opera. The piece won the 2016 Charles Ives Opera Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Jim is survived by his wife, Gigi Kaeser; his daughter, Lucia; his sons, Ben and Elliott; his stepson, Michael Kelly; and his siblings David and Jean.

Graduate memorials are prepared by the APGA. An undergraduate memorial appears for Dale Fremont Sprankle '53 \*55.

### **Classifieds**

#### **For Rent**

#### Europe

Paris, Tuileries Gardens: Beautifullyappointed, spacious, 1BR queen, 6th floor, elevator, concierge. karin.demorest@gmail.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

#### Ireland/Connemara, Co. Galway:

Luxurious thatched large cottage, 3 queen beds, amazing sea views, spacious, beautifully decorated, all modern conveniences. afarrellbrowne@gmail.com 215 738 4039

Ireland/Tipperary: On the shores of Lough Derg. 150-year-old Walled Garden Cottage, 2 queen beds, 2 bathrooms, charming interior, all modern conveniences, stunning garden. Located on private estate. afarrellbrowne@gmail.com 215 738 4039

Paris 7th: Fifth floor, quiet, studio sleeps 2 adults plus 1 child. Balcony. View Eiffel Tower. www.parisgrenelle.com, 207-752-0285

#### Mexico

#### San Miguel De Allende:

Colonial 3 bedroom home in historic downtown with classic courtyard, indoor/outdoor fireplaces, rooftop terrace with breathtaking views. malvinaproductions@gmail.com 202-257-8390. K'62

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## In a POW Camp, An Atheist Found God

By Elyse Graham '07

When Ernest Gordon lay ill in a prison camp in Thailand, his fellow patients in the camp's hospital—the Death House, they called it, since it "had long since given up any pretense of being a place to shelter the sick"—called the priest who gave last rites "the Angel of Death." Gordon was indifferent to priests, but death swarmed his thoughts like flies. "Death called to us from every direction," he later wrote. "It was in the air we breathed—it was the chief topic of our conversation."

Gordon's captors forced the men in his camp, prisoners of war during World War II, to build a rail track through the jungle and across the river Kwai — later the subject of a famous 1957 film, *The Bridge on the River Kwai*. The film got the story so wrong, Gordon felt, that he wrote a memoir to correct the record. His memoir also tells the story of how an atheist became a Presbyterian minister — and, in time, the dean of the Chapel at Princeton University.

An officer in a Scottish battalion, Gordon worked as a yacht skipper before his country called him to war in 1939. Three years later, he was digging and hammering with his fellow prisoners. The film depicts the prisoners as ambitious workers, keen to show

Gordon disliked the religiosity he'd seen growing up, which seemed to him to stress a wrathful God and a pious removal from the world. But this new habit of caring for one's brother, he thought, was worth exploring philosophically.

British greatness, "even in captivity," to the Japanese. "This was an entertaining story," Gordon wrote. "But ... in justice to these men — living and dead — who worked on that bridge, I must make it clear that we never did so willingly. We worked at bayonet point and under the bamboo lash, taking any risk to sabotage the operation whenever the opportunity arose."

Hunger and disease abounded. Fear,

hatred, and bitterness made the prisoners selfish: They stole from each other and lived a creed of *each man* for himself. Eventually, Gordon found himself in the Death House, immobile from dysentery and malaria. "Dying was easy," he wrote. "When our desires are thwarted and life becomes too much for us, it is easy to reject life and the pain it brings, easier to die than to live." But this is where his life began to turn.

First, a friend built him a little hut to get him away from the smells of the Death House. The doctors let him move there so he could die in peace. Then his friend brought a stranger, a gentle young man who was a gardener back home, to give the dying man "a bit of help until you get on your feet properly again." This surprised Gordon: Nobody volunteered to help the sick.

While the gardener tended to him, other prisoners also started to risk their resources and their lives in foolish acts of selflessness. A man died of starvation after giving all his food to his sick friend. When an equipment count came up one shovel short and a guard vowed to kill every man in a labor gang unless the thief came forward to be executed, a man said, coolly, "I did it." The guard executed him; a recount showed the shovel wasn't missing after all.

Brotherhood was infectious: The prisoners started to pool resources to help the sick. Then an Australian prisoner asked Gordon to lead a Bible discussion group, simply because he'd been to university. ("But I must say one word. The lads won't stand for any Sunday School stuff. What they want is the real 'dingo.'") Gordon disliked the religiosity he'd seen growing up, which seemed to him to stress a wrathful God and a pious removal from the world. But this new habit of caring for one's brother, he thought, was worth exploring philosophically. He accepted.

Years later, as a Presbyterian chaplain at the University, a position he took in 1954, he explained that what he learned was simple — misery loves company, yes, but equally true, though harder to live by, is that misery's company is love: "God was in our midst, suffering with us." ◆





Andreas Prindl and Deborah Robbins grew up together, spending long childhood summers in northern Michigan where their parents had adjacent cabins on the lake. Then their paths diverged, but they and their families always remained in touch. Today, they share an active life filled with friendships, culture, and travel.

ndy graduated from Princeton University in 1960, where he majored in German, French, and Italian, a choice that proved to be very useful during his long and illustrious career in international banking. Most of his professional life was spent overseas, first in Japan and then for many years in London. His passion for travel and books led him to write and publish five books focused on the literary heritage of places he knew and loved.

Deborah, too, enjoyed a happy professional career, earning a master's degree in library science and working as a librarian. Later, her love of music led to a rewarding career as a school music teacher. She has always been interested in biking and, as with almost everything she does, she took that to the next level by cycling across the entire North American continent from Boston to Vancouver.

#### **Princeton Reunions**

In 2015, Andy's multinational life included a trip to Princeton University for a major Reunion. He knew that he would find Deborah in town; she had lived there for years as part of the communities associated with the Center for Communications Research and the Princeton Junior School. They learned that their connection to each other was still strong.

"We discovered that we had the same passions and interests – travel, books, languages, music – and having both lost our spouses, we decided to combine our lives."

Their new life together needed a new home. They wanted to live in a well-located community, with a diverse group of active and intellectually engaged residents, with easy access to cultural events and fine dining... and with stress-free home ownership offered by a well-managed condominium. In 2019 they found that community at **Princeton Windrows**.

One of the attractions of Princeton Windrows that resonated with them was the impressive library which includes shelves of books by resident authors. Andy's books are now displayed there. Living with others who also love books offers him opportunities to serve as a presenter at the weekly "Wednesday at Windrows" lecture series.

He has been known to transform himself into Henry James, delivering monologues in character. He and Deborah also enjoy the movies, art exhibitions, and concerts that are a regular part of life at Windrows.

**Hitting the Right Notes** 

Deborah and Andy love music as much as they do books. They fill their beautiful apartment with the sounds of their daily harpsichord and recorder duets. They enjoy attending Princeton Symphony Orchestra concerts in the Windrows living room as well as live jazz evenings in the Pub.

But neither Deborah nor Andy would be content with a sedentary life, however rich it might be in cultural events. Both of them enjoy all the physical activities that Princeton Windrows offers: swimming (Andy teaches a water exercise class), exercising in the gym, tai chi and yoga, tennis, pickleball, and walking and biking along Lake Carnegie.

"Princeton Windrows has everything we could have wanted, with the added benefit of new friends who also like travel, books, music, outdoor activities, and a fine dinner – plus a glass or two of good wine."

Living among fellow Princeton University alumni and retired professors and staff, as well as an internationally diverse group of interesting neighbors, has made their experience truly special. As we emerge from the pandemic, these two kindred spirits will surely be jet-setting around the globe again. When it is time to head home, the beauty, security, and community of Princeton Windrows will be right here waiting.









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## Screen Time Photography and Video Art in the Internet Age On view through August 7

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM

### ART ON HULFISH

Screen Time was curated by Richard Rinehart, director of the Samek Art Museum, Bucknell University, and Phillip Prodger, executive director, Curatorial Exhibitions. The works in this exhibition have been generously loaned from The EKARD Collection. The exhibition is toured by Curatorial Exhibitions, Pasadena, California.

Cyrus Kabiru, *Macho Nne (Confusion)*, 2015. The EKARD Collection. © Cyrus Kabiru / Courtesy of SMAC Gallery and the artist

## Body Matters / Martha Friedman On view through July 10



Martha Friedman, *Bust 5, from Mummy Wheat*, 2021. Courtesy of the artist and Jessica Silverman, San Francisco. © Martha Friedman / photo: Kristine Eudey