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Treating Vitiligo

In the first edition of PAW’s new Newsmakers Q&A series, dermatologist Nada Elbuluk ’04 explains a skin condition where antibodies attack the cells that make pigment. Sign up to receive PAW’s Alumni in the News newsletter at paw.princeton.edu/email.

Crashing the Conservative Party

Princeton has been an incubator of right-wing talent over the past 60 years, yet students and alumni say conservative life on campus is endangered. By David Walter ’11

Sea Change

Eric Pedersen ’82 wants to revolutionize the seafood industry and forge a new way to farm fish out of his one-of-a-kind factory in Waterbury, Connecticut. By Wayne Coffey

On the cover: Photo by Sameer A. Khan h’21
Service Through a New LENS

In the first PAW page of my presidency, back in September 2013, I emphasized that an ethic of service was fundamental to Princeton’s mission. I called upon the University community to ask “how we can live up more fully to Princeton’s informal motto,” a motto that now reads, “Princeton in the nation’s service and the service of humanity.”

This fall we took a giant step in the right direction.

In late October, we announced the Learning and Education through Service (LENS) initiative, which offers every Princeton undergraduate the opportunity to do a paid summer service internship during their time at the University. That’s not something we’ve been able to do before, and it sets a new standard for higher education support of service-oriented learning.

LENS seeks to eliminate two obstacles that sometimes stand in the way of Princeton students seeking service internships. Sometimes they can’t find an internship. And sometimes they can’t find funding for their internship.

With the help of generous alumni and friends, Princeton had already established an array of internship programs that aim to solve these problems. The number and variety of programs, however, complicated the task of finding an internship that matched a student’s needs.

LENS will integrate and supplement Princeton’s existing summer internship programs to create “one-stop shopping” for rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors who seek to explore summer service internships. In so doing, it will make it easier for all students to find service opportunities that are both personally meaningful and responsive to the needs of the world.

In the words of Vice President for Campus Life W. Rochelle Calhoun, the initiative will “strengthen collaboration among departments and offices that support service and social impact internships during the summer, as well as provide greater transparency for students so they better understand the options available to them.”

LENS includes financial support to ensure that every qualifying internship is a paid internship. Not only will LENS provide additional funding to enable existing programs to expand their reach, it will also encourage students to secure their own internships and help them to identify University funding to support them. This means that more students will be able to spend their summers engaging in experiential learning opportunities focused on service and social impact.

The LENS acronym takes some alphabetic liberties (in particular, it grabs the “n” from the end of “education”) to spotlight an idea from the University’s strategic planning process. A committee of students, staff, faculty, and alumni urged Princeton to regard service as “an embedded and pervasive lens” on learning. Service experiences, said the committee, should deepen students’ understanding of the subjects they studied in Princeton’s classrooms.

Several faculty have incorporated this recommendation into their teaching, and some LENS opportunities will link to Princeton academic work. All of the internships, whether or not they connect directly to coursework, will reinforce the value of service and encourage students to give service a central place in their lives and careers.

Doing that doesn’t require someone to join the Peace Corps or Teach for America — though of course it’s great if they do! I often say to students that you can live a life of service in nearly any profession: It’s more a matter of how you do your job than what job you do.

George Shultz ’42, Maria Ressa ’86, Wendy Kopp ’89, and Mellody Hobson ’91 all exemplify, magnificently and distinctively, a tradition of service proudly shared by generations of Princeton alumni.

Yet, though service can take many forms, a commitment to it does not arise automatically or accidentally. It requires thoughtfulness, dedication, and care. And those habits of mind are more likely to flourish among our alumni if they take firm hold during a student’s time at Princeton.

For that reason, I hope that every Princeton student will find a way to make service a central part of their experience at this University. With resources from LENS, I am optimistic that they will.

This generation of students has a strong commitment to service. Some will use LENS to build on past projects, and others will explore new ones. Their interests encompass human rights, community history, medical research, animal welfare, education, and many, many other causes and topics. The LENS website collects stories at https://lens.princeton.edu/student-stories, where you can get a sense of our students’ passion and impact.

Thanks to gifts from alumni and friends and the creative work of administrative leaders, LENS will make possible many more stories like those. In its infancy, LENS will depend partly on Annual Giving, though our long-term goal is to raise a naming gift to provide continuing support for the program.

I’m grateful to the alumni, friends, staff, and faculty who have enabled us to take this new and substantial step toward that ideal, and I look forward to seeing how LENS enables and inspires our Tigers to do good in the world.
Between the deadline stress, the disagreements, and the laughs at The Daily Princetonian in the mid-1990s, there were times when staff members couldn’t help but stop and admire the work of one of their colleagues.

Before Grant Wahl ’96 was a world-famous soccer journalist, he was a Princeton student with a special talent. His colleagues could see it in how he did the work, and the readers could see it in his elegant writing and smart reporting.

“For a very small group of us who were in that room with [Grant] every afternoon and a lot of evenings in ’94, ’95, and ’96, it was a golden era,” said Justin Pope ’97, co-sports editor in 1996-97. “There was this energy and kind of cockiness, and it came from the top, and he was the person who sat on that tower. Grant created an environment that people wanted to be a part of and wanted to do ambitious work.”

Grant, 49, died Dec. 10 while covering a World Cup match in Qatar. After saying he felt ill for a few days, Grant collapsed in the press box and could not be saved by paramedics. His wife, Céline Gounder ’97, said an autopsy performed by the New York City Medical Examiner’s Office revealed the cause of death was an aortic aneurysm.

“The chest pressure he experienced shortly before his death may have represented the initial symptoms,” she wrote. “No amount of CPR or shocks would have saved him. His death was unrelated to COVID. His death was unrelated to vaccination status. There was nothing nefarious about his death.”

A reporter for Sports Illustrated from 1996 to 2021, Grant wrote about college basketball and LeBron James before devoting himself to soccer. His impact on the game in the U.S. has been immense. Many of the tributes from around the world have credited him with being a visionary. Prominent soccer figures, athletes, and politicians expressed their heartache and sent condolences to Céline and Grant’s family.

I got to know Grant through my wife, Malena (Salberg) Barzilai ’97, who worked with him at the Prince, and in my previous life as a sports journalist. I was thrilled when he wrote a profile of Leeds coach Jesse Marsch ’96 for the November issue of PAW. We talked about the World Cup and how he was looking forward to covering it and continuing to grow his Substack website, “Fútbol with Grant Wahl.”

His death has deeply hurt the Princeton community and reminded many not only of his immense skills as a journalist but also his kindness and warmth.

“He would walk you home to make sure you got back to your dorm room because he was that guy,” said Allison Slater Tate ’96, another colleague at the Prince who has remained close to Grant and Céline. “His smile was so big and welcoming. He was like my brother. And I loved him with my whole heart.”

Grant was also fiercely courageous. Whether it was running for president of FIFA in part to highlight corruption within...
continued from page 3

the world governing body of soccer or wearing a rainbow T-shirt to the U.S.-Wales match in Qatar on Nov. 21 to support LGBTQ rights, he did not shy away from a good fight.

“He had such a mature sense of journalism,” said Nate Ewell ’96, who was a co-sports editor in 1995-96 and worked with Grant on one of his most memorable, and courageous, stories at Princeton.

Writing in the Prince for the last time, Grant authored a thorough rebuke of future Hall of Fame men’s basketball coach Pete Carril shortly after his retirement. “Privately, in practice or in the locker room, what you haven’t seen is the daily hell promulgated by ‘Princeton’s professor of basketball,’ whose vicious assault on the characters of his ‘students’ would have gotten any real professor fired, on the spot,” Grant wrote.

Ewell said that several months before that story ran, “he and I met with the whole basketball team and heard their concerns. [Grant] was asking how we should approach this story? What was the right way? What was the ethical way?”

Said Pope: “He delivered the goods. He did the reporting. He talked to people. He wasn’t just [an] undergraduate firing off a story. It was the difference between activism and journalism.

“That piece inspired people to be more courageous and showed what student journalists can do. But at the end of the day, he was just a better reporter than everybody.”

Ewell, who is now vice president of communications for the NHL’s Vegas Golden Knights, said he learned from Grant how to be a better journalist — and that he shouldn’t be a journalist.

“I’m not joking at all when I say I wouldn’t be here if it wasn’t for him,” he said. “I wanted to be a sportswriter, but I looked at [Grant] and said, I can’t do this. I’m not Grant. None of us were.”

But like a great teammate, Grant made those around him better.

“He had this innate goodness,” Slater Tate said. “Not that he didn’t have an edge, but that edge is why he would wear a freaking rainbow shirt to a game in Qatar. He was like, ‘Screw it, I’m going to do the right thing,’ and we all admired and loved him for that.”

To pleasantly converse with rural Americans, one must avoid politics entirely, and frankly, that goes for plenty of urban Americans, too.

That is not a true solution to our divide, but it may be all we have to prop open a door to rediscover our common humanity.

Outside of politics, one finds warm, hardworking, gracious humans, but mention politics and they throw up a wall of defensiveness and conspiracy theories. Unable to justify their opinions, they claim to being treated condescendingly. They go with gut feelings, and talk radio and Fox resonate with those feelings, feeding their anger and hate. To pleasantly converse with rural Americans, one must avoid politics entirely, and frankly, that goes for plenty of urban Americans, too.

That is not a true solution to our divide, but it may be all we have to prop open a door to rediscover our common humanity.

Geoff Smith ’71
Carlsbad, Calif.

Regarding the story on Walter Kirn ’83:
I agree that the tone of Democratic Party leaders toward middle-class Americans who do not support them

Views of a Divided Country
Having ridden Harley-Davidson motorcycles more than 300,000 miles, crisscrossing two-lane rural America over the past 19 years, I enjoyed the article about Walter Kirn ’83’s road trip to understand the American political divide (“Lost in the Democracy,” November issue). Not a journalist, but an excellent bar mate and listener, I have spoken with hundreds of rural residents in bars, cafés, and gas stations. Not only can many not provide local directions, as Kirn describes, they have rarely, if ever, traveled outside a 50-mile radius of their birthplace.

Their view of events outside that radius has grown from disinterest to distrust, anger, and hate, fueled by talk radio and Fox political shows. Of interest to them are gas, food, crop, cattle, and tractor prices — and gun rights. Largely irrelevant are pandemics, Ukraine, and climate change.

We’d Like to Hear From You
Letters should not exceed 250 words and may be edited for length, accuracy, clarity, and civility. Due to space limitations, we are unable to publish all letters received in the print magazine. Letters, articles, photos, and comments submitted to PAW may be published in print, electronic, or other forms. The views expressed in Inbox do not represent the views of PAW or Princeton University.
An interesting question is whether the country as a whole is helped or hurt by this brain drain.

Steve Beckwith '64
New York, N.Y.

DIVEST PRINCETON

Having attended President Christopher Eisgruber ‘83’s State of the University program at Reunions last spring, at which he professed himself opposed to fossil-fuel divestment, I was unprepared for the trustees’ decision to divest, which I vigorously applaud (On the Campus, November issue). Hats off to Divest Princeton and its students, faculty, administration, and alumni supporters who these past years raised awareness with their advocacy, and to the Faculty Committee, which championed divestment despite the limited charge it was originally given.

It would have been interesting to be a fly on the wall during the trustees’ discussions leading to their decision. I have never understood why the board operates with such little transparency, especially with respect to major decisions like this one.

Robert L. Herbst ’69
Larchmont, N.Y.

A few reactionary alumni have criticized members of the broad and burgeoning divestment movement for failing to free ourselves from gas-guzzling cars and single-use plastic (Inbox, December issue and PAW Online). It’s true that the proliferation of fossil fuels touches nearly every aspect of modern life, just as slavery’s economic impact was once inescapable — even for white abolitionists in their starched white cotton shirts.

What’s also true, as I write this on a 70-degree day in late fall in Astoria, New York, is the severity of the worsening climate crisis and its underlying causes. In 1965, the American Petroleum Society told its members that carbon dioxide would produce “marked changes in climate” by the year 2000. The fossil fuel industry has known for more than half a century the havoc it would wreak on people’s lives.

In those 50-odd years, the industry has not only sought to hide its own culpability, but waged a relentless public relations campaign, full of spurious arguments against the growing number of concerned citizens it considers its enemies. Twenty years ago, for instance, when British Petroleum began heavily promoting the term “carbon footprint,” the company did so to shift blame from corporate malfeasance to individual lifestyle choices.

Note that BP is unfortunately and inexplicably missing from the list of companies from which Princeton has committed to dissociate. For alumni truly committed to the “service of all nations” — and for anyone worried about famine and drought, fires and hurricanes, rising temperatures and rising seas — we need to keep fighting.

Ben Beckley ’03
Astoria, N.Y.

I remember when I was at Princeton, walking past Nassau Hall there were often students marching and chanting “Divest!” to demand that the University divest from companies doing business in South Africa under the apartheid regime. Although I felt some sympathy for their cause, I thought they were too radical and idealistic. Now in retrospect I recognize they were on the right side of history, just as the students of Divest Princeton will be on the issue of fossil-fuel investments.

Entering Princeton at the time of the 1970s oil crisis (when oil reserves were wrongly forecast to run out in 20 years), I chose to study mechanical engineering because I wanted to work on solar energy. After graduation, much to my disappointment I was unable to find a job in that field. (Energy companies advertising their research and development on photovoltaics and solar thermal collectors were engaged in an early form of greenwashing.) So it’s taken around four decades, but climate change has finally led us to acknowledge the urgency of ending fossil-fuel extraction and use, and making the difficult but crucial transition to renewable energy.

Larry Moffett ’82
Brussels, Belgium

I am surprised that the climate activists behind Divest Princeton were pleased with the measures that the University
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I remember being completely enthralled by the class. Whether it was how it made me think, or the cool visuals and seeming ease of Professor Jones’ ability to draw electron orbitals of various shapes and colors, or just the zeal and energy that he brought to the class, I was highly motivated to learn.

Unfortunately, this excitement came crashing down after my first exam result was a 33 (yes, out of 100). I remember calling home and telling my parents that I would need to drop the class.

My parents urged me not to. After my second exam grade came back with a 66, I was pissed at my parents and myself for not dropping the class, and now it was too late. I went to Dr. Jones for extra help, and things started to click. The rest of that semester and the next were some of the most memorable and rewarding academic times of my life.

As a parent, spouse, and spinal surgeon, I am faced with problems that force me to think deeply and solve for unknowns. I have shared this story repeatedly with my children to emphasize the importance of learning over grades. I am truly grateful for “Orgo.” In life, we all get kicked in the teeth someday. It is how we react that makes the difference. Thank you, Dr. Jones.

Justin Tortolani ’92, M.D.
Towson, Md.

Editor’s note: A longer version of this letter appears online at bit.ly/tortolani.

I had some complex emotions reading the article in The New York Times about Dr. Maitland Jones as well as the follow-up in the Princeton Alumni Weekly.

In fall 1993, I took organic chemistry from Dr. Jones. As others have noted, this was a notorious weed-out course for premedical students. I knew it would be tough and I worked hard. Despite my effort, I failed the first midterm. I dropped the class. So did a lot of other students.

I was 19 and knew I wanted to be a doctor someday. It still felt like a fragile dream. The very real chance of failing organic chemistry was too much to risk.

Brandon Rogers ’06
Spring, Texas
I took organic chemistry again over the summer back at home at a local college. And here I am, 30 years later, a mid-career physician with an important legacy of service to patients, my community, and my students.

But many of my classmates never took organic chemistry again. I know they found success in many ways, but what about medicine? The field is not better off because bright young minds were discouraged by a professor like Dr. Jones.

I would challenge those of us serving on medical school admission committees to consider applications holistically; applicants are so much more than their organic chemistry grades. We should value not only academic achievement but also communication skills, empathy, integrity, leadership, enthusiasm, diversity, and distance traveled. We should not be delegating the future of medicine to undergraduate professors of organic chemistry.

Amy Hairston Crockett ’96, M.D.
Greenville, S.C.

Editor’s note: A longer version of this letter appears online at bit.ly/ahcrockett.

ANTI-IMMIGRATION VITRIOL

The article about Leah Boustan ’00’s book, Streets of Gold, was informative (Research, November issue). The facts she and her co-author reiterate have been long known and are beyond dispute. How many immigrants our country can absorb, whom to admit, and how to deal with an influx that vastly exceeds reasonable limits are fraught political issues, and neither party has been willing or able to solve them for 30 years. But the hate, vitriol, and fear mounted against immigrants are not “myths,” they are part of a campaign of out-and-out lying for partisan advantage, to drive citizens to vote against the incumbent administration.

Calling lies “myths” suggests that people are merely misinformed when something much worse is going on. If you think I’m exaggerating, study the commercials aired during the baseball playoffs from a PAC called “Citizens for Sanity,” which promote all the “myths” cited in PAW’s review and throw in drug dealers and child rapists to spice things up. We have allowed pernicious lies and hate to become “normal” political discourse. Some even say the events of Jan. 6, 2021, were “normal political discourse.” We have to find a way back from this precipice, if we are to survive as a nation.

Edward Groth ’66
San Francisco, Calif.

DISABILITY AWARENESS

National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) has been observed every October since 1988. For me, as an alum with hidden disabilities (specifically, autism spectrum disorder and ADHD), this raises the question: In all the years that I have been reading PAW, why have I never seen any reporting related to NDEAM? In fact, why have I not seen any stories on disability save last year’s profile on Naomi Hess ’22 (“Opening Doors,” March 2022)?

Adults with disabilities constitute 20 percent of the United States population. This includes Princeton alumni, many of whom have gone on to be successful as artists, entrepreneurs, engineers, academics, and public servants. Several alumni are parents to adult children with disabilities, and they have had to watch their children navigate the job market and all the obstacles (and, yes, triumphs) that come with this.

Disability employment is a relevant issue in the Princeton community. Your feature on Hess was inspiring, but what is the follow-up? Do you plan on profiling any other leaders in Princeton’s disability community on campus? And what is your plan when it comes to addressing alumni with disabilities and/or alumni who work with this population? Where are the podcast episodes or the Reunions panel discussions?

Reach out to us alumni and find out who we are and what disability issues we face in our lives. I am confident you will get an overwhelming response.

Preston Burger ’07
New York, N.Y.

Editor’s note: Alumni with disabilities who have stories to share are invited to contact PAW at paw@princeton.edu, (609) 258-4886, or paw.princeton.edu/contact.
Alumni Day

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alumni.princeton.edu/alumniday.
On the Campus

Baker Rink has been renovated and refreshed several times, but its historic surroundings remain unmistakable. This month, Princeton hockey’s venerable home celebrates its 100th anniversary. Read more on page 18.
Princeton will pilot two new programs for local community college students in the 2023-24 academic year, building on a 2020 pledge to expand the University’s teaching.

“If you want to reach adult learners, community colleges are a really good place to go,” said Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Cole Crittenden ’05.

The first pilot will bring up to 36 students from regional community colleges to Princeton this summer to spend six to eight weeks earning credit for two courses and learning more about the transfer process, according to Crittenden.

Crittenden said the students will be able to take advantage of Princeton resources, such as “financial aid officers who can give an excellent overview of the kinds of things students should be paying attention to when they’re thinking about transferring.” Staff from the Emma Bloomberg Center will lead the effort.

For the second pilot, Princeton will recruit and hire two recent Ph.D.s and place them as visiting teaching and advising fellows at a local community college partner yet to be determined, according to Crittenden. The fellows will teach an accredited Princeton course hosted at the community college, and the effort will be led by staff in the McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning.

In addition, last year the Community College Faculty Program increased benefits for community college instructors who mentor Princeton graduate students, such as the ability to take one free Princeton course per semester, and Crittenden said the Prison Teaching Initiative at the Fort Dix federal facility is “getting back on its feet” after a hiatus; the program is going strong at state facilities. He also cited the related expansion of Princeton’s transfer program, which aims to increase the number of transfer students to 100 over the coming years. More than 90 percent of Princeton’s transfers come from community colleges.

The combined efforts should put nontraditional students “on a path that strengthens their outcomes, but also the ecosystem of higher education,” according to Crittenden.

The news came in December, just after the University published its second annual diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) report. The 48-page document (online at inclusive.princeton.edu) details the University’s efforts across and beyond campus to become more diverse, accessible, and accountable in matters related to race and ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, citizenship status, and more.

The University’s DEI work is “guided by a set of institutional action plans,” according to the annual report, and follows President Christopher Eisgruber ’83’s September 2020 call “to find additional ways to promote racial equity for members of the Princeton community and society as a whole, and to redouble the University’s past efforts to make Princeton a more diverse, inclusive, and equitable community.”

Vice Provost for Institutional Equity and Diversity Michele Minter said that this work is not a top-down effort, but rather stems from and engages the entire community.

“We’ve tried to share ownership and to encourage people to take responsibility in their own sphere of influence or in their own operations,” said Minter, who also invited the community to share feedback by visiting racialequity.princeton.edu/your-ideas-change. “It’s everybody’s work.”

According to the report’s data section, Princeton’s faculty and staff have become more racially diverse. In fall 2022, 21.4 percent of tenured and tenure-track faculty identified as Asian, Black, Hispanic/Latino/a/x, or Native American, compared to 17.4 percent in 2018. Senior staff identifying as Asian, Black, Hispanic/Latino/a/x, or Native American, rose from 19 percent in 2017-18 to 23 percent in 2021-22; nonsenior staff saw a similar 4-percentage-point increase in the same period.
Frederick Wherry ’04, who became the University’s inaugural vice dean for diversity and inclusion in July, said there’s a “sense of momentum” when it comes to hiring a diverse body of faculty. “Over time you really see steady progress, ... and so long as we’re moving in the right direction, it feels really good,” he said.

In January 2022, the University announced an increase in graduate student stipends by an average of about 25 percent — the largest ever one-year increase — which took effect in the fall. The University hopes this will ensure that it can continue to “attract and retain the very best students without regard to economic background.”

Graduate students were also invited to last spring’s inaugural Inclusive Academy (IA) Symposium, which was organized by the Graduate School to support all students in preparing for life after graduation. In addition, the Graduate School launched the accompanying Best of Access, Diversity, and Inclusion (BADI) Awards to honor those “who have made significant impacts in the Princeton graduate student community around diversity and inclusion.”

Other highlights from the report:

• The Effron Center for the Study of America, established in November 2021, is investing in faculty, visitors, and fellows in “emerging areas of American studies scholarship” including race and ethnicity studies.

• Native and Indigenous members of the community are enjoying a newly dedicated affinity space on campus, and the Princeton University Library started an Indigenous Studies Working Group to learn from scholars in the discipline and to curate related library resources.

• The Task Force on the Future of Alumni Affinity Programming is developing recommendations for “a set of guiding principles to inform work with alumni affinity groups.”

Eisgruber acknowledged that there is more to do in a message included in the report. “This University is — and will remain — a work in progress,” he wrote. “Commitments to diversity, inclusion, and excellence require constant vigilance and unceasing effort.” ◆ By J.B.

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

10 Projects Kick Off Princeton’s Partnerships with HBCUs

Less than six months after Princeton announced new partnerships with five historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), joint research projects spanning from cybersecurity to public health have begun.

In November, Princeton announced 10 research partnerships chosen for the first round of funding through the Princeton Alliance for Collaborative Research and Innovation (PACRI), a new initiative that “enable[s] research collaborations between Princeton faculty and their peers at HBCUs,” according to the University’s initial announcement in May.

The selected proposals encompass the natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, and engineering and “take up some of the most difficult challenges of our day,” according to Princeton’s November announcement.

“We were very pleased with the strength and number of proposals submitted for the first round of PACRI funding and look forward to the results that will come from these collaborative, creative projects,” said University spokesman Michael Hotchkiss.

Each project will be funded for two years, with a maximum of $250,000 per project.

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- **COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH**

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Each project will be funded for two years, with a maximum of $250,000 per project. Two projects were chosen in conjunction with each of the five HBCU partners: Spelman College, Howard University, Jackson State University, Prairie View A&M University, and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. The United Negro College Fund, which advocates for and funds scholarships for Black students, is also a PACRI partner.

From funding scholarships for HBCU students to the potentially groundbreaking impacts of the research itself, “it was a win-win,” said Tessa Lowniswe Desmond, an associate research scholar and lecturer at Princeton’s Effron Center for the Study of America and a co-principal investigator (PI) of one of the projects.

She’ll be working on “The Heirlooms Garden Project” with co-PIs Hanna Garth, an assistant professor of anthropology at Princeton; Kimberly Jackson, chair of chemistry and biochemistry, professor of biochemistry, and director of food studies at Spelman; and Whitney Barr, program and garden manager at Spelman and a trained landscape designer.

They are using the funds to train Princeton and Spelman students in oral storytelling techniques and then send them, over the next two summers, to select sites to collect 2,400 oral histories from those working to preserve Black and Indigenous seed-and foodways, such as farmers and gardeners, in the Southeastern United States and Appalachia.

“So much about food is hidden within stories and people’s memories,” said Barr, who noted that the project will provide open-source access to the interviews.

Garth said it’s important to collect the narratives because the knowledge is often not understood by people outside of the farming communities; the narratives can also provide insight on well-adapted seeds.

Spelman is an ideal partner, as the institution already has an eighth-of-an-acre on campus — centered around African diasporic plants — used to teach agroecological and regenerative practices that are part of Black culture. ◆ By J.B.
Students Outraged After University Clears Professor Who Said the N-Word

Students made their disapproval known after Princeton University said it is standing behind Joe Scanlan, a professor of visual arts who said the N-word in one of his classes.

The controversy started on Nov. 3 while Scanlan was teaching “Words as Objects.” Students had been assigned to read a series of poems by Jonah Mixon-Webster including “Black Existentialism No. 8: Ad Infinitum; or Ad Nauseam” — an example of concrete poetry, which is defined by the Poetry Foundation as emphasizing “nonlinguistic elements in its meaning, such as a typeface that creates a visual image of the topic.”

The poem is 24 pages consisting solely of the N-word, which in this case ends with “as.” The word itself appears in large print across the first two pages, and a series of “s’s” trail on for the remainder.

In a 2021 blog post, Mixon-Webster, who is Black, said “it is still a cultural priority to continue appraising the word while speculating on its implications for Black futurity.”

Scanlan, who is white, told PAW he said the word when asking his class how it functioned in the poem.

The fallout was immediate.

According to The Daily Princetonian, some students left, including Omar Farah ’23, who also reached out to administrators to file a complaint. Farah was told a few days later by Cheri Burgess, director for institutional equity and equal employment opportunity in the Office of the Provost, that an initial assessment “determined that, given the academic context in which the word was used, it does not implicate the Policy on Discrimination and/or Harassment,” according to the Prince.

In a statement, University spokesman Michael Hotchkiss said, “Princeton guarantees all faculty and students the ‘broadest possible latitude’ to speak freely inside and outside the classroom. Speech is only restricted under narrow exceptions that do not apply to this incident. Our rules recognize that these free speech protections apply to words and ideas that people may find ‘offensive, unwise, immoral, or wrong-headed,’ but these protections are essential for Princeton’s truth-seeking mission.”

David Smith ’24, a Black student in the class, compared Scanlan’s choice to use the N-word in class to former professor Joshua Katz calling the Black Justice League “a small local terrorist organization” in a 2020 online opinion column. Smith told PAW via email that he believes “Joe Scanlan intentionally and carefully planned his use of the word in order to raise another debate on free speech (akin to the Katz debacle) wherein he would emerge victorious.”

Smith said he believes that Scanlan knew the class “would be greatly distressed by his use of the word.”

Scanlan has since written a letter, published Nov. 16 by The Daily Princetonian, in which he said he is “extremely sorry that I overestimated my familiarity with my students and assumed that we could enter a discussion ... without making some ground rules, first and foremost, about whether we could use or even discuss the word at all. As I have heard loud and clear from my students, that was a grievously hurtful overestimation on my part.”

Princeton politics professor Keith Whittington, who wrote the 2018 Pre-read, Speak Freely: Why Universities Must Defend Free Speech, told PAW that “it’s critically important that you maintain a certain level of comfort and trust with the students so you can actually engage in the educational process more effectively, and using that language, I think, just winds up pushing some students away. And so, I think most of the time, you’re much better off if you don’t do it.”

Scanlan has continued to teach, but Simon Wu ’17, a Ph.D. candidate at Yale, was appointed course co-adviser.

The repercussions have continued. Twenty-one visual arts students signed a letter calling for a University investigation and critical engagement “with the events [that] took place and their impact on students. And we call on the Visual Arts department to reconcile with the space they have held for racism and disrespect.”

The Prince reported that several visual arts students hung posters advocating for Scanlan’s dismissal at a Nov. 15 open studio event.

The Prince’s editorial board also published a column that stated that “white people’s use of the N-word has irreversibly harmed Black people and communities throughout the course of American history, and continues to have that effect today. Although Scanlan says he did not intend to hurt anyone, that is the consequence of his language.” — By J.B.
CAMPUS ICONOGRAPHY

University Considers Removing Witherspoon Statue

The University’s Committee on Naming is reviewing a proposal to remove or replace a campus statue of John Witherspoon, an influential figure in the American Revolution who owned slaves during his time as Princeton’s president.

Last May, five members of the philosophy department — graduate students Brendan Kolb, Kathryn Rech, Giulia Weissmann, and Waner Zhang, and Professor Boris Kment ’06 — created a petition that said the statue, which has stood outside East Pyne Hall since 2001, “pays great honor ... to someone who participated actively in the enslavement of human beings, and used his scholarly gifts to defend the practice.” The petition, signed by 285 members of the campus community, proposed replacing the statue with a plaque that “details both the positive and negative aspects of Witherspoon’s legacy.”

Witherspoon, who emigrated from Scotland to serve as the College of New Jersey’s sixth president, from 1768 to 1794, was the only clergyman and college president to sign the Declaration of Independence. The 10-foot bronze sculpture, created with an identical twin at the University of the West of Scotland, stands on a plinth with three tablets that explain his legacies as a patriot, president, and preacher.

But Witherspoon also had a “complex relationship to slavery,” according to Princeton & Slavery Project research by Lesa Redmond ’17, who wrote her senior thesis about the Witherspoon family’s ties to slavery in the United States. While Witherspoon tutored three free Black students during his time at Princeton, he also purchased two enslaved people to farm his country estate and voted against abolishing slavery in New Jersey.

The naming committee’s review “will be informed by rigorous research, scholarly expertise within and beyond the University community, and input from the broad University community,” according to a University release. The committee began holding listening sessions with alumni, faculty, staff, and students in late November and found “diversity of opinion about the statue among every constituency,” according to history professor Angela Creager, the committee’s interim chair.

Princeton’s Board of Trustees will have the ultimate say in any changes to the statue’s placement or presentation. In April 2021, the trustees adopted “Principles to Govern Renaming and Changes to Campus Iconography” (available online at bit.ly/re-naming), which established “criteria to help guide specific decisions about renaming and changing campus iconography.” Those criteria include determining whether the namesake was “significantly out of step with the standards” of the namesake’s time and if the space in question plays “a substantial role in forming community at the University.”

Kolb, Rech, and Zhang, who responded to questions from PAW by email, wrote that while Witherspoon, in his time, “didn’t stand out among people in power for a commitment to defending racist norms or power structures,” the towering statue and its high-traffic location unduly exalt his legacy.

“[O]ur argument has both aesthetic and moral dimensions,” they wrote, “based on the broad principle that depictions of a certain grandeur are inappropriate for certain spaces when the subject depicted was actively engaged in racialized slavery — a practice that separated out the humanity that Princeton aims to serve.” ◆ By B.T.

Haskell ’60 Gift Supports Museum, New Art Education Center

A n education center at the new Princeton University Art Museum will be named for collector and philanthropist Preston H. Haskell III ’60 in recognition of his major gift to the Venture Forward campaign, the University announced Nov. 13. Haskell also will donate eight abstract paintings to the museum, including works by Willem de Kooning and Mark Rothko.

Haskell, the founder and chairman of a Florida-based engineering, architectural, and construction company, served two terms on Princeton’s Board of Trustees and 24 years on the museum’s advisory council. The University declined to provide the amount of Haskell’s gift.

The new museum, designed by architect David Adjaye, is under construction at the site of the previous museum and expected to open in 2024. In a University release, museum director James Steward credited Haskell with financial support and volunteer leadership that helped make the project a reality. Haskell’s gift of art, Steward added, “takes our collection of modern art to a new level.” ◆ By B.T.
CLASS CLOSE-UP

Looking to Pandemics Past to Plan the Future

W hen the COVID-19 pandemic began to rattle the globe, Professor Keith Wailoo, a historian of medicine, disease, and health care, felt as if we were “living inside our history books,” as one of his colleagues put it.

Media outlets and the public suddenly became very interested in finding out what pandemics of the past could teach us. Wailoo said he was peppered with questions like, “What are we going through right now? How does it compare to what’s happened in the past? And are there lessons from the past that we can apply to thinking about and navigating the uncertainties of COVID?”

Wailoo, who served as president of the American Association for the History of Medicine from 2020 to 2022, gave talks and interviews, including with PAW, but he also decided to “share some of that insight and wisdom from the field with students who were interested in the intersection of history and public policy.”

In the fall, 23 students took advantage by enrolling in “Making Post-Pandemic Worlds: Epidemic History and the Future,” a dual history and School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) class.

Through twice-a-week 50-minute lectures in Robertson Hall and precepts, the course identified throughlines from the Black Death to polio to AIDS, such as challenges to globalization and misinformation.

There are “really familiar themes in the history of pandemics,” according to Wailoo. “So, one goal of the class is just to have students be ... more informed about the recurring questions — like around trust and expertise, civil liberties, social inequality — that inevitably emerge after pandemics.”

“Through this class, I’ve seen that we’ve been repeating history.”
— Nannette Beckley ’23

After learning the basics, students were asked to think about solutions for the present and the future.

“How do you figure out wise policy with this historical backdrop, this historical knowledge, in mind?” Wailoo asked.

For the midterm, students wrote a five-to-seven-page paper focusing on a local or national issue in pandemic policy, such as masking mandates, and how the issue relates to historical antecedents. The final consisted of a longer paper with a more international scope.

Students also were required to write weekly responses to readings such as Charles Rosenberg’s book The Cholera Years: The United States in 1832, 1849, and 1866 and Fang Fang’s 2020 writings in Wuhan Diary: Dispatches from a Quarantined City.

“I found the readings incredible. That’s probably my favorite part about the course,” said SPIA major Nannette Beckley ’23.

Beckley, who plans to pursue a master’s in public health in epidemiology after she graduates, said she has always been interested in illness and disease, but the class has taught her more about the behavioral, social, and political aspects of pandemics.

“Through this class,” she said, “I’ve seen that we’ve been repeating history.”
— J.B.

IN SHORT

IMANI PERRY, a professor of African American studies, won the 2022 National Book Award for nonfiction for South to America: A Journey Below the Mason-Dixon to Understand the Soul of a Nation.

In their citation for the award, the judges wrote that South to America is “elegantly personal and archival, predictive and bold, sweet and soulful, and, most of all, true.”

Perry delivered an emotional acceptance speech at the Nov. 16 ceremony, saying that artists and intellectuals are obliged to bear witness and be truthful. “We may write in solitude, but we labor in solidarity,” she said. “Community is never easy but absolutely necessary. Let us meet the challenges of a broken world together, making intercessions with love unbound and heart without end.”

Princeton announced two changes in major administrative roles: Computer science professor JENNIFER REXFORD ’91 was appointed as the next provost, and chemical and biological engineering professor PABLO DEBENEDETTI will step down as dean for research after 10 years in the role.

Rexford, a former Pyne Prize winner who chairs the computer science department and has been on the faculty since 2005, will become provost March 13, taking over for Deborah Prentice, who is leaving Princeton to become vice-chancellor of the University of Cambridge. The provost leads Princeton’s budgeting process, oversees long-term planning, and serves as the chief academic officer.

Debenedetti has led Princeton’s research agenda and overseen growth in sponsored research and industry and foundation awards. He

Continues on page 17
F R A N T W E R T E

T O A C I T Y N E A R Y O U

Join fellow alumni and President Eisgruber for special Venture Forward gatherings around the world.

Venture Forward is a mission-driven engagement and fundraising campaign focused on Princeton’s strengths in the liberal arts, pushing the boundaries of knowledge across disciplines, and collaborating to champion inclusion, science, public policy, the humanities and technology.

Photos: Sameer A. Khan, © 2018 Fotobuddy (Iqbal and Robinson); Matt Cosby (Grousbeck); © Tony Powell (Brittain Bradley)
SPORTING SCENES

Athletics Meets Theater in Lewis Center’s Original Production Play

Audience members at the December premiere of Play would have been forgiven for thinking they’d accidentally walked into soccer practice rather than the Wallace Theater at the Lewis Center for the Arts. But that was exactly the point of the production: to bring what happens on and off the field, court, and pool to the stage.

As onlookers took their seats before the show began, a dozen or so students wearing matching blue and green sweatsuits stretched, passed and dribbled soccer balls, and casually chatted with one another on the stage, which was covered in artificial turf.

The 45 minutes that followed consisted of more than a dozen athletics-related scenes the students wrote themselves and staged with the help of Aaron Landsman, a lecturer in theater and director of Play, and Ogemdi Ude ’16, co-director and choreographer.

The cast and crew involved in the production included class members of “Theater Rehearsal and Performance” and volunteers. And while some students had absolutely no interest in athletics, others played on teams ranging from club to varsity, including water polo, cheerleading, and volleyball.

Using a process known as devised theater, or collaborative work made by an ensemble, the students first started to create what became Play by writing down their thoughts on athletics; they also interviewed student-athletes and read material including a monologue by Luke Aschenbrand ’22, a former Princeton football player.

“We just kind of threw everything at the wall and saw what stuck, and I feel like most of what the students brought to the table was used in some way,” said Ude, who also transformed warm-up exercises into choreographed portions of the performance.

“Every day, we would come in and we would create something that we weren’t expecting, so that felt very awesome and creative and spontaneous and unique,” said Grace Wang ’26, who became involved after auditioning at Try On Theater Days.

The end result was a series of arguably stand-alone yet connected pieces that touched on themes like the stigma of quitting, team spirit, and the desire for greatness.

The cast and crew put on a show that only this exact set of actors and collaborators could have created and performed. With devised theater, “the process changes depending on who’s in the room,” according to Landsman.

Computer science major Zach Lopez ’23 said the group “got to write a lot of things, collaborate with each other, and we very much formed a team.”

After the final whistle blew, he said, the performers’ hope is that the audience “was able to be part of that experience of creating this piece with us.” ◆ By J.B.

By J.B.
Seven Seniors Honored
Students headed to U.K. and China as Rhodes, Marshall, Schwarzman scholars

Seven Princeton seniors received major scholarships in November and December. Marie-Rose Sheinerman has been named a Rhodes scholar; Abdelhamid (Hamid) Arbab was named a Marshall scholar; and Benjamin Bograd, Kate Gross-Whitaker, Kanishkh Kanodia, Michal Kozlowski, and Elisabeth Rülke were named Schwarzman scholars.

Sheinerman, a history major from New York City and former editor-in-chief of The Daily Princetonian, was one of just 32 students selected to pursue graduate studies at the University of Oxford. She will begin her M.Phil. in history in October, according to the University’s announcement.

Arbab, a School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) major from North Arlington, New Jersey, will pursue master’s degrees in Islamic studies (University of Birmingham) and criminology and criminal justice (University of Oxford), according to the University’s announcement. He has been president of Muslim Advocates for Social Justice and Individual Dignity and co-president of the Muslim Students’ Association at Princeton.

The Schwarzman scholars will start master’s degrees in global affairs at Tsinghua University in Beijing, China, in August.

Bograd, a politics major from Short Hills, New Jersey, is co-founder of the J-Asians Club and president of the Varsity Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, according to the University’s announcement.

Gross-Whitaker, a politics major from Piedmont, California, is former co-president and programming director of the Princeton U.S.-China Coalition.

Kanodia, a SPIA major from Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, India, is co-founder and former president of the South Asian Progressive Alliance and a former Class of 2023 senator. Kozlowski, a chemical and biological engineering major from Tarrytown, New York, was program director of the U.S.-China Coalition and serves as co-captain of the Army Ranger Challenge team.

Rülke, a physics major from London, serves as the diversity, equity, and inclusion chair of Cottage Club.

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IN SHORT

also created the role of vice dean for innovation and initiated funding programs that encourage faculty to take risks and follow their curiosity, according to a University release.

The University will distribute up to $2 million per year in support of applied energy research through THE ENERGY RESEARCH FUND, which was created to offset funds that Princeton will no longer receive because of its dissociation from fossil-fuel companies. Prior to its dissociation announcement, the University received funding for the Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment E-filliates Partnership from Exxon Mobil, which pledged $5 million over a five-year term beginning in 2015 and renewed its commitment in 2020.

KWAME ANTHONY APPIAH, an emeritus professor at Princeton and professor of philosophy and law at New York University, will deliver the Baccalaureate address during the Class of 2023’s Commencement weekend in May. Appiah, an author and philosopher whose work appears weekly in The Ethicist column of The New York Times Magazine, taught at Princeton for 12 years and wrote the University’s first Pre-read selection, The Honor Code: How Moral Revolution Happens.

IN MEMORIAM

ROBERT WILLIG, a professor of economics and public affairs who served in the U.S. Department of Justice, died Oct. 21, 2022. He was 75. Willig spent 38 years at the University, was faculty chair of the master’s in public affairs program for a decade, and taught popular courses on microeconomics and industrial organization. Using his expertise in antitrust regulation, he served as deputy assistant attorney general for economics in the justice department during a public service leave from 1989 to 1991. He also advised the Federal Trade Commission, the World Bank, and several national governments.
On the Campus / Sports

Hockey Heaven
Historic rink maintains a unique place in the game a century after its opening

Carla Morey, head coach of the women’s hockey team, often talks with recruits who’ve never seen the tiger-adorned wooden doors, stone walls, and exposed steel rafters of Baker Rink, the historic home of Princeton hockey.

“I describe it as the most beautiful rink in the country,” says Morey, who starred at Brown in the late 1990s and early 2000s. “When I was a player in college, Princeton was my favorite road trip.”

When its 2,100 seats are filled for games against the Tigers’ rivals or the program’s annual “Blackout Baker” night (when fans dress in black and students receive free T-shirts), it reminds Morey of junior hockey rinks in her native Canada, where whole towns come out to see their teams play.

The building may look like it belongs to an earlier era, but Baker’s appeal goes beyond mere nostalgia. With each Princeton goal, LED lights over the ice flash orange and the PA system blares the soul-thumping drum and trumpet intro of Blasterjaxx’s “Narco.” Fight songs played by pep bands in the east-end balcony echo through the building. On the lower level, just six rows of seats surround the playing surface, so no spectator is more than about 20 feet from the ice.

“The atmosphere is terrific,” says Ron Fogarty, head coach of the men’s team. “Every viewpoint is right on top of the action.”

As Princeton’s first and only on-campus hockey rink, Baker has been central to the sport — and generations of players — since its inaugural game in January 1923. This month, the men’s and women’s teams will celebrate its centennial with a pair of doubleheaders against Harvard and Dartmouth Jan. 6 and 7. Gen. Mark Milley ’80, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and a former Princeton defenseman, is slated to drop the ceremonial first puck for the Saturday night men’s game.

The rink’s namesake, Hobey Baker 1914, was Princeton’s first hockey star, earning a reputation as “the one you could not take your eyes off,” according to Tim Rappleye, author of the 2018 biography Hobey Baker: Upon Further Review. The speedy, blond-haired Baker was hard to miss, streaking down the ice on end-to-end rushes. But without a rink on campus, his Princeton teams played their home games in Manhattan.

After graduation and a celebrated amateur hockey career, Baker became a fighter pilot in Europe during World War I. He survived his wartime service but tragically died on a test flight in France in December 1918, six weeks after the armistice was signed.

In December 1921, Princeton alumni publicly raised the idea of building an ice rink in his honor in PAW and The Daily Princetonian. More than 1,500 of Baker’s friends and admirers supported the cause, Rappleye says, including scores of rivals from Harvard and Yale. Within 12 months, the structure was completed and the ice-making equipment installed.

The building opened with a game between the Princeton varsity and Baker’s former teammates from the St. Nicholas Hockey Club. Today, it is the country’s second-oldest college rink still in use, trailing only Northeastern’s Matthews Arena, formerly Boston Arena,
where Baker’s Tigers faced off against rival Harvard.

When a fire destroyed the University Gym in 1944, Baker’s ice gave way to floorboards and the rink served as a gym, auditorium, and even a temporary barracks-style dormitory. More recently, it has been home to student “skate nights,” sponsored by the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students. And twice a week, it hosts lunchtime hockey games for a group of faculty, staff, students, and community members, ranging in age from 20 to 70-plus.

Donning jerseys that read “Princeton Baker Noontime Hockey,” with the “Baker” fashioned into the shape of a biplane, they split into two squads (orange and black) and scrimmage for about an hour. “It’s where I learned to play,” Aubrey Huston ’44, a retired editor of The Princeton Packet who first skated at Baker in the late 1950s, told PAW after a noontime game in early December. “Some of us are just not smart enough to give up.”

Baker’s ice has played host to nearly two dozen future NHL and NWHL/PHF players from Princeton, including Jeff Halpern ’99, George Parros ’03, and Kelsey Koelezer ’17, along with visiting stars such as Hall-of-Fame players Ken Dryden (Cornell), Martin St. Louis (Vermont), Cammi Granato (Providence), and Angela Ruggiero (Harvard). Two Tigers from the women’s team won gold for Canada at the 2022 Olympics in Beijing, including one who is still playing for Princeton, Sarah Fillier ’24.

Clockwise from top left: Students in temporary housing at the “Baker Hotel,” 1946; workers transform Baker back into a hockey rink in 1947; skate night for students, January 2016; in 1959, PAW wrote about “a strange new animal,” the Zamboni; and Kelsey Koelezer ’17 of the 2016 Ivy League champion women’s team.

But not every team that captured the hearts of Tigers fans had a superstar player or a stellar record. Take, for example, the men’s team of 1970-71, which finished its season with one win and 22 losses.

Goalie E. M. Swift ’73, who later wrote about that season for Sports Illustrated — his first byline in a 32-year career at the magazine — says interest in the team grew as the losses piled up: “We were very much like the old Mets.”

On the eve of the season’s finale, students arranged a pep rally at Blair Arch, and the following night, 2,400 spectators, including President Bob Goheen ’40, showed up to see the Tigers face Dartmouth. Princeton lost, 4-3, but received a standing ovation afterward.

Mike Moore ’08 played in front of full-house crowds with happier results: He captained the men’s team that won eight of its last nine home games and captured the Ivy League and ECAC championships in 2007-08.

Many of Moore’s favorite Baker memories are not of game nights, though. His mind is drawn instead to moments of bonding, like the late-night, players-only practice he helped to plan before the start of his senior year.

“You’re there every day of the year, and Baker Rink is your home,” Moore says. “You’re there every day of the year, even before the season starts and after the season ends.”

Andrea Kilbourne-Hill ’02, who won a silver medal with the U.S. women’s team at the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics, says that visiting the rink is like returning to your childhood home. As an undergrad, she blew off steam during exams by playing pickup games. “Stepping on the ice from the tunnel is always a great feeling,” she says.

Last year, Kilbourne-Hill’s children had a chance to skate at Baker, playing with current students at a Reunions event. It made an impression: When she asked the kids to help name the family’s new goldendoodle puppy, they chose “Hobey.”

“Hobey.” ◆ By B.T.
With an 8-0 record, including five wins in the Ivy League, Princeton football had a promising start in its bid to win back-to-back league championships for the first time since 1964. But close losses in the season’s final two weeks dashed those aspirations.

At Yale Nov. 12, Princeton’s fourth-quarter comeback fell short in a 24-20 loss. Against Penn at home Nov. 19, the Quakers completed a fourth-and-goal touchdown pass with five seconds remaining to win 20-19. Yale secured the Ivy title with a 6-1 league record.

“Football is a game of inches, it’s a game of one play, it’s a game of seconds,” Tigers quarterback Blake Stenstrom ’24 said after the Penn game. “It’s a brutal part of this game. It definitely comes down to the margins.”

Princeton’s fall athletics season featured four league champions. Men’s cross country won the Ivy Heptagonals Oct. 28 and placed 30th at the NCAA Championships Nov. 19. Field hockey was 7-0 in Ivy play and bowed out of the NCAA Tournament in the first round with a 5-2 loss to Syracuse Nov. 11. Women’s volleyball won its last eight regular season matches and shared the Ivy title with Yale. And men’s water polo repeated as champion in the Northeast Water Polo Conference, winning a program-best 27 games and reaching the NCAA quarterfinals, where it lost to top-ranked USC Dec. 1.

By B.T. and Justin Feil

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Thank you to our Princeton community for your incredible support as part of this year’s record-setting Tiger Athletics Give Day on Nov. 29th. Every gift makes a direct impact on our 38 varsity programs and we are grateful for your commitment to Princeton Athletics.

Thank you Tigers for your incredible support and engagement as part of this year's record-setting Tiger Athletics Give Day (#TAGD).

Every gift makes a direct impact on our 38 varsity programs and we are grateful for your commitment to Princeton Athletics.

Visit tagd.princeton.edu for complete results from Tiger Athletics Give Day.
Social isolation has a cascade of behavioral and health effects on animals who are kept alone during their development — higher stress and even more mood disorders. But little was known about how social insects such as bees or ants — whose entire lives depend on their relationship to the colony — react to being raised solo.

“In social insect species, their whole life is centered around this need to be together,” says Sarah Kocher, assistant professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at Princeton’s Lewis-Sigler Institute for Integrative Genomics. “We wondered: What would social isolation look like in a species like that?”

That’s what led Kocher’s lab to study bumblebees when isolated. Kocher and two lab members — postdoc Yan Wang and Grace McKenzie-Smith ’22 — divided newly adult bees into three groups. One group was completely isolated for 10 days in small boxes, another group had access to just a small cohort of their sisters, and the third remained in the colony to grow up in the typical way, surrounded by hundreds of peers.

After their short period apart from the colony, all of the bees were returned to the group — and the researchers used sophisticated computer vision software, developed at Princeton, to analyze the bees’ body poses toward each other while they socialized with unknown bees in petri dishes. They also studied the gene expression and physical sizes of the bees’ brains.

What they found surprised them. The bees that were raised in isolation actually interacted more with partner bees, but they did so in unusual ways. Instead of standing head to head and rubbing antennae — passing chemical information back and forth to exchange messages — they were more likely to touch the other bee’s body in random ways, akin to a socially-awkward meeting.

In the bee brains, the researchers found a subset of genes that showed consistent differences in social isolation. When they took images of the deep brain of the different bees, they found the average brain volume between bumblebees from all three conditions were similar — but isolated bees showed the greatest variation in brain volumes.
“Bees reared in isolation had wildly variable brain development,” Kocher says. This work bucks the common finding among mammals such as mice and primates that isolation often leads to a higher level of aggression, Kocher says. That might be because the bees never learned how to be aggressive with partners. “In insects, it’s the opposite: Isolation increases the amount of time they spend with social partners later in life.” And in the brain, social interaction may provide a buffer for brain development to proceed normally. Their study was published in the journal Current Biology in May 2022.

Kocher would like to continue this work to pinpoint exactly when in life — and for how long — these social experiences occur and how they affect physiology and behavior later. Additionally, the group that was raised with just a handful of peers had outcomes similar to those in a colony. Only a little social lubrication seemed to serve the bees well, she says — raising questions about the lowest limit of social contact. “Are two bees or three bees sufficient for normal development? Do you have to see or touch the other bee?”

In humans, social isolation is directly associated with dementia later in life, as well as changes in health, immune system, and lifespan. All of that is unknown in bees, but could raise potential questions to ask in future research, says Kocher. The lab is also planning on collecting bees from around the world to carry out similar tests on different types of bees, probing at the evolutionary underpinnings of social behavior.

By Katharine Gammon ’03
UNTOLD HISTORIES

Ellis’ recent book, The Great Power of Small Nations: Indigenous Diplomacy in the Gulf South, examines Native nations in Louisiana, Mississippi, and eastern Texas during the 18th century. As she describes, these nations were “able to survive colonization, build really powerful polities and networks, and shape the development of the lower Mississippi Valley” throughout their early encounters with European settlers. Ellis argues that these nations relied on “incorporative political frameworks,” creating strong alliances with neighboring Native nations that allowed them to defend their territories collectively and evade forced removal and assimilation. Ellis mined archival records, Native oral histories, and archaeological evidence to create a rich portrait of these nations and their approach to diplomacy.

SIGNIFICANT OBJECTS

Ellis belongs to the research team of the Reclaiming Stories project, which is focused on the early history of the Miami and Peoria tribes. The team’s current work centers on an important collection of 18th-century painted hide robes held by the Musée du quai Branly in Paris. Native peoples adorned these robes with icons and designs signifying their cultural identity and religious beliefs, and often gave them to newcomers to their lands, including European settlers. In addition to recovering some of the knowledge embedded in these robes, Ellis hopes that the project will help revive interest in the craft, iconography, and storytelling tradition of hide robes among today’s Native youth.

RETHINKING BORDERS

Ellis also belongs to a group of scholars who are attempting to write “a new history of Indigenous borderlands in North America.” In the United States, she says, there is a tendency to view borders as natural, immutable, and exclusionary. To reframe this narrative, Ellis and her colleagues are investigating how Native peoples throughout history have understood borders, shaped by Native concepts of “migration, overlapping powers, and borders between humans, animals, and plant life.” The goal of this research is to complicate and broaden our understanding of borderlands in a historical context.

BEHIND THE RESEARCH: ELIZABETH ELLIS

Illuminating and Correcting Native American Histories

Assistant professor Elizabeth Ellis, the first specialist in Native American studies to join Princeton’s history department, describes her path to becoming a historian as “haphazard.” Growing up as a citizen of the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, she recalls, “I was familiar with one very specific narrative of Native American history” based on forced removal and assimilation. While attending college at Tulane University, she collaborated with members of the Pointe-au-Chien Tribe of Louisiana, who were applying for emergency support in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, as well as federal recognition as an independent nation. The experience was revelatory: “I did not realize that there were tons of Native peoples who remained in Louisiana and the Southeast,” evading removal for hundreds of years, says Ellis. Her awakened interest in this topic led her to pursue a Ph.D. in history at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

“By starting [my work] with contemporary communities, I was able to look really critically at these assumptions we’d been making about Native disappearance and erasure,” says Elizabeth Ellis. The goal of this research is to complicate and broaden our understanding of borderlands in a historical context. By J.W.
Crashing
the
Conservative
Party

BY DAVID WALTER '11

A PARABLE

IN MAY 2022, at a Reunions panel on “The Fight For Free Speech at Princeton and Beyond,” Princeton’s McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence, Robert “Robby” George, shared this parable:

“I arrived at Princeton way back in the Middle Ages, in the fall of 1985. And [back then], there were some faculty members who were known to relish the prospect of a certain kind of student coming in.

“They had a real reputation for it — they’d be rubbing their hands together [in anticipation] of a student coming in from the cornfields of Indiana: Eagle Scout. Grandpa was a World War II veteran. Saluted the flag. Patriotic spirit. Evangelical Christian. Traditional morality.

“And they couldn’t wait. Because they were going to get him here, and they were going to tell him about Darwin, and the historical criticism of the Bible, and so forth. Challenge him — challenge him!

“We don’t get that student anymore. These poor people, these faculty members who might like to [challenge him], they don’t get the opportunity. Because the kids come in pre-indoctrinated. So they’ll come in from Nightingale-Bamford, Andover, Exeter. Or from these famous public high schools.

“And they are just, you know, fully in line with — totally on board with — can give you chapter and verse as if it’s the catechism of — the whole ‘woke’ program: environmentalism, racial issues, sexual issues, and so forth.

“And they arrive.

“And this time, I’m the one.”
TWO STORIES

There are two stories that can be told about the conservative project at Princeton.
The first is that it has been wildly successful. Over the past 60 years — ever since the modern conservative movement rose from the ashes of Barry Goldwater’s 1964 presidential bid — Princeton has become a premier incubator for right-wing talent.

During this era, Old Nassau has minted generations of future conservative lawyers, judges, politicians, bureaucrats, and intellectuals. In June, when Supreme Court Associate Justice Samuel Alito ’72 wrote the majority opinion in the Dobbs v. Jackson abortion case, he set a new high-water mark for Princetonians’ contributions to the conservative cause.

This same period has also seen the rise of several lasting conservative institutions on campus. The Princeton Tory magazine, founded in 1984, is one example. The Anons The Mad ison Program in American Ideals and Institutions, which sits under Princeton’s politics department. Under the stewardship of Robby George, it has become a training ground for young legal minds, especially through its popular undergraduate fellowship program.

And after 30 years on campus, it’s fair to say that George, too, has become an institution unto himself.

“Robby cares a lot about undergrads. You know, he could be a teacher at any law school in the country, but he chooses to be at a university without a law school,” said Solveig Gold ’17, a postdoctorate researcher at the James Madison Program who also worked with George when she was an undergraduate.

“Robby also, I think, loves Princeton as an institution. Though some of us are increasingly skeptical that his love for the institution is justified … Although I say that while, of course, still loving the University, too.”

Which brings us to our second story. This is, for what it’s worth, the story that is being told by many politically conservative alumni themselves: that conservative life at Princeton is embattled, endangered, and maybe even dying.

Late last year, I spent many hours talking to conservative writers, professors, think-tank executives, attorneys, television hosts, business owners, and government officials. Time and again, I ran into what I came to think of as “the moment.” This was when my interviewee would break away from their (usually fond) love for the institution and talk about the new threats to free speech on campus? Was it ever? Here is a tale of 16 election polls:

In 1952, as was its custom, The Daily Princetonian surveyed its readership about the upcoming presidential election. It found that 72% of undergraduates favored the Republican, Dwight D. Eisenhower. A mere 27% went for the Democrat, even though he was one of Princeton’s own: Adlai Stevenson 1922.

Four years later, Eisenhower won the Princeton vote once again, by a similar margin, against the same opponent. The next presidential election cycle, in 1960, offered a fresher matchup: Vice President Richard Nixon on the right, versus the young John F. Kennedy on the left. Still, the result was the same: nearly 70% of the undergraduates supported the Republican.

But then, in 1964, a reversal: Lyndon Johnson 66%, Barry Goldwater 27%. For the first time since on-campus polling began in 1916, a Democrat had won the campus vote.

And then, again, in 1968, it was: Humphrey 40%, Nixon 28%.

Around two-thirds of the way through the 20th century, it seems, the political makeup of Princeton’s student body began to veer leftward. At the same time, Princeton’s cultural reputation for being a staid, aristocratic, conservative place hasn’t changed nearly so much.

Had I heard ... about what they did to Joshua Katz? (This was the most frequently referenced incident in my interviews. Here’s some background: Katz was suspended in 2018 for having a relationship with a student in the mid-2000s, and then fired in 2022 because of new evidence about his conduct during the relationship, according to the University. His supporters, including George and Gold, Katz’s wife, say that Katz was dismissed for a different reason: because he called the Black Justice League a “small local terrorist organization” in a 2020 opinion column.)

“We are excluded, explicitly, and with malice,” Sev Onyshkevych ’83 wrote when I asked if he had time to talk for this project. “[F]or students, it is much more difficult to be an ‘out’ conservative than it was to be Jewish, Black, female, or gay in my day. So much for ‘diversity’ of viewpoints, nor tolerance, not inclusiveness.”

16 POLLS

Is Princeton no longer a politically conservative campus? Was it ever? Here is a tale of 16 election polls:

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From then on, the trend was clear:
Inspired by the fourth U.S. president, Robby George founded the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions in July 2000.
This divergence between politics and culture explains why the concept of the Princeton conservative remains so slippery. It’s why it might have been possible, for instance, for a politically liberal student in the 2010s to talk about the difficulties of coming up as a queer artist “at a conservative place like Princeton,” while, at the same time, their politically conservative classmate could lament their existence as a dwindling minority. Neither student would be wrong, exactly.

FOUR CONSERVATISM S

Princeton conservatism is, in reality, Princeton conservatisms — plural.

Princeton’s traditionalist reputation has never depended solely, or even mainly, on its ties to the conservative political movement — which is to say, on its reputation for political conservatism.

That’s because there are plenty of other conservatisms that make Princeton, Princeton: ways the school tends to resist change.

First, there’s the school’s academic conservatism. You’ll find this in Princeton’s ongoing commitment to pure research and the senior thesis; and in its fealty to the (ironically named) “classical liberal arts.”

There is also Princeton’s adoption of University of Chicago Free Speech Principles. In theory, these have kept Princeton on the outside of progressive philosophies that balance free speech guarantees against a desire to protect people against harmful or dangerous speech.

Next is Princeton’s aesthetic conservatism. This one is the easiest to picture. You’ll find it in the school’s commitment to preserving its Gothic campus core. And in the “WASP cosplay” cheerfully donned by students of all backgrounds at Lawnparties, or on plenty of other school days.

And then, there’s what might be understood as a kind of conservatism of the elite. This is the conservatism by which Princeton serves as a bastion of the old, still-dominant social order. Big Business ... Big Finance ... High Culture ... the Ivy League.

Yes, Princeton now has more racial diversity than it used to, as well as improved financial aid. But through it all, Princeton has remained unshakably committed to defending its existence as an elite, private university. That’s conservative!

THE FOUNDER

Yoram Hazony ’86 is the founder of The Princeton Tory.

In 1984, Hazony and a classmate, Julia Fulton ’88, took a trip to Manhattan to ask a group called the Institute for Educational Affairs (IEA) for a year’s worth of funding. Their goal was to start a conservative journal at Princeton.

The IEA was the brainchild of the neoconservative writer Irving Kristol, who saw college journalism as a battleground for America’s youth. With Hazony and Fulton, he made a wise investment. The Princeton Tory has since published a long line of conservative notables, including Texas Sen. Ted Cruz ’92, Wall Street Journal columnist Kimberly Strassel ’94, and Fox News host Pete Hegseth ’03, to name just a few.

Today, Hazony and Fulton are married and live in Jerusalem. Fulton, who now goes by Yael Hazony, works as a think-tank executive, while her husband writes books and organizes conferences on conservatism worldwide.

Yoram Hazony’s latest book, Conservatism: A Rediscovery, also happens to function partly as memoir about the early days of The Princeton Tory. Hazony explains, for instance, that the magazine’s name was inspired by George Will ’68’s 1982 book The Pursuit of Virtue and Other Tory Notions. And indeed virtue — or its absence — was a major preoccupation for Hazony in 1980s Princeton:

“There were no responsible adults anywhere. Here, 5,000 very young men and women had been shipped into dormitories together and given as much access to alcohol and drugs, sex, and party music as they could consume. And if they smashed the windows in their dorm rooms, broke empty beer bottles in the stairwells, or bashed in a streetlamp with their heads while they were drunk — all common occurrences — then nameless men in green uniforms would appear and repair the campus to its prior, Edenic beauty, with no questions asked.”

Continues on page 30
Thes...e days, however, the threads that once bound Princeton’s various conservatisms together have begun to fray. And even in Princeton conservatives’ own telling, this unraveling isn’t solely the fault of the “woke left.”

Consider how the populist wing of the Republican Party has gained in strength over the past decade — and how it has cast elite, globally minded institutions like Princeton as an enemy of their movement.

Academically, I remember these men and women as being terrifically well-prepared in precepts. Aesthetically, they stood out for their commitment to midcentury collegiate style. Think sweater vests, blazers, and bow ties — not always all at once, and not all the time, but certainly for special occasions.

And if that sounds a bit like a caricature, remember that sartorial self-parody is itself one of Princeton’s greatest traditions. (See also: Lawnparties, beer jackets, “the Ivy League Look.”) I have also checked these recollections against my generation’s archive of record, the Facebook album. And there they are: my conservative friends and acquaintances, those Princeton Tories, wearing natty suits, sipping dark spirits, and chomping on fat cigars.

By and large, Princeton’s conservatisms have tended to coexist peacefully, or even commingle. When I was on campus in the early 2010s, I was particularly taken by a well-dressed subset of Princeton’s right-wingers — young traditionalists who seemed to unite the school’s various conservative traditions in their very personhood and bearing.

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Unity

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Consider how the populist wing of the Republican Party has gained in strength over the past decade — and how it has cast elite, globally minded institutions like Princeton as an enemy of their movement.

Even some Princeton graduates have broken away to join the ranks of these anti-Ivy populists — although not all of them are ready to announce it. I interviewed one Anscombe Society alum who was happy to explain their long-standing opposition to contraception and gay marriage. But they asked to move off the record before discussing their more recent awakening: that Princeton as we know it should probably not exist, because America’s “meritocracy” had become rotten to the core.

Disunity

Other alumni were less shy in voicing their objections. Yoram Hazony ’86 is a political philosopher and Princeton skeptic. In the words of Israeli newspaper Haaretz, he has also become “the house intellectual of the world’s nationalistic circles,” including the Trump White House. Conservative leaders such as Peter Thiel, Ron DeSantis, and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban have all spoken at the “national conservatism” conferences that Hazony puts on around the world.

Hazony fears what places such as Princeton are doing to the structure of the U.S. “Before the 1960s, elite universities were schools that catered to the children of local wealthy groups. After, the purpose of Princeton has been to find the best, most energetic, most achievement-oriented, most talented young people from all over the country, and vacuum them up. It cuts them off from their local roots, and then they don’t go back.”

— YORAM HAZONY ’86

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Hazony recalls making a connection between this spectacle on campus and the Enlightenment philosophers he was reading in class. “Liberalism is such a preposterous doctrine because it was devised by men who knew little about [real life]. Hobbes, Locke, Spinoza, and Kant never had children ... . Enlightenment rationalism was the construction of men who had no real experience of family life, or what it takes to make it work.”

He concludes: “The freedom of unmarried, childless individuals — the freedom of the college campus — is not something that real-life families, communities, and nations can have.”

THE REBEL

If Yoram Hazony is The Tory’s father figure, Matt Schmitz ‘08 is one of its rebellious children.

In college, Schmitz wrote for, edited, and served as publisher of The Tory. From its pages, Schmitz probed what he saw as the hypocrisies and failures of Old Nassau’s dominant liberal order.

Today, Schmitz is a founding editor of the political journal Compact Magazine. Since its debut in 2022, Compact has published a heterodox slate of religious conservatives, anti-interventionist foreign policy wonks, and supporters of social-democratic economic programs. The notion that these traditions can (and should) reunite has led Schmitz to support Donald Trump’s 2024 presidential reelection bid.

Schmitz tells PAW he is “depressed” by what he sees as the Princeton administration’s indifference toward freedom of speech and due process. And in 2020, he wrote this critique of higher education more generally:

“America is undergoing a godless revival. A new creed — called ‘social justice,’ ‘wokeism,’ or ‘the successor ideology’ — resembling religion yet avowedly secular and anti-spiritual, is spreading across the country. Its seminaries are the nation’s elite universities, its missionaries work in prestigious newsrooms.”

When he’s not in high-prophetic mode, Schmitz is also a keen observer of the tribes to which he has belonged. These include Nebraskan churchgoers, Catholic intellectuals ... and Princeton Tories.

At Princeton, Schmitz says, “I was never much of a scotch-and-cigars guy, myself. But yeah, there was some of that, and I think it’s an interesting thing. You know, that notion that, like, young conservatives would drink scotch and smoke cigars together.

“Being kind of ‘young fougies’ [together] — that’s interesting. I guess it’s the well-established type. And it brings out the ironies of being a rebel for the sake of order. The provocateur, in favor of conformity.

“I mean, how does that really work? In what sense can you really be conservative, or be traditional, when you’re publicly in rebellion against the institution that embodies order and authority in American life?

“Nothing embodies order and authority in America like Harvard, Yale, and Princeton. These are the institutional continuations of ‘White Anglo Saxon Protestant’ rule in the country, right? Of, quite literally, clerical authority.

“So it’s very funny to kind of say, ‘Well, I really support order, I really support authority. I reject chaos. And that’s why I’m rebelling against Princeton University.’ ”

THE JUSTICE

Here’s a question I kept asking alumni: How much credit does Princeton University deserve for the success of its most prominent conservative graduates?

“You know, Sam Alito ’72 is a Princeton alumnus,” begins Jerry Raymond ’73. Raymond is a businessman, attorney, and member of the board of directors of The National Review. He is also a former schoolmate of Alito.

Raymond continues: “But I don’t think there’s a design to it. I’d like to think that if you gather together a group of above-average young people, some percentage of them are going to turn out to be conservative and libertarian, right?”

Raymond and Alito attended Princeton at a tumultuous time. Antiwar undergraduates burned their draft cards, firebombed ROTC headquarters, and boycotted the P-rade.

At the same time, some conservative students held rallies and teach-ins in support of U.S. military action in Vietnam. They did so, primarily, as part of a group called Undergraduates for a Stable America, or USA.

One of USA’s biggest successes was a referendum it sponsored on the future of the school’s ROTC program. Princeton’s faculty and trustees had been planning to kick ROTC completely off campus, but when the student body voted in favor of keeping the program, the administration reversed its decision.

“We were able to kind of act as a conscience when there were excesses that were antithetical to what a university should
be,” says Raymond, who served as chairman of USA during his time at school.

Alito, meanwhile, was friends with USA members — one was even his commander in ROTC. But he did not participate in any of its campaigns; in fact, he steered clear of all campus groups that might be read as political, let alone conservative.

But as PAW writer Mark F. Bernstein ’83 described in his 2006 profile of the Supreme Court justice, in many other ways, Alito’s time at Princeton hewed closely to the ideal of the traditional Ivy League gentleman.

“We didn’t drink much, by the standards of Prospect Street,” [recalls Alito’s college roommate, Ken Burns ’72], though in an affectation that might have earned him hoots of derision in down-to-earth Hamilton Township, Alito apparently had somewhat sophisticated (for an undergraduate) tastes in alcohol, shunning beer in favor of an occasional scotch, sherry, or whiskey sour. Musical tastes in their dorm room ran heavily toward classical. On weekends, Alito often would go home; friends say he regularly attended Mass. For relaxation, Burns says, “We talked with each other.”

However, Bernstein also detects a note of alienation in the Alito’s public comments about his alma mater.

“It was a time of turmoil at colleges and universities,” Alito told the Senate Judiciary Committee [in 2006]. ‘And I saw some very smart people and very privileged people behaving irresponsibly. And I couldn’t help making a contrast between some of the worst of what I saw on the campus, and the good sense and the decency of the people back in my own community.’”

**T H E  G O D F A T H E R**

As for the Undergraduates for a Stable America, by the mid-’70s the group had transitioned away from overt political activism to become a self-described educational organization. “I have not noticed any … overwhelming anti-conservative sentiment [at Princeton],” USA’s chairman told The Daily Princetonian in 1976. “It’s just that there’s kind of a vacuum of conservative thought.”

Which is to say that in the history of political conservatism at Princeton, there is before Robby George, and after.

George arrived at Princeton in 1985 to work as an instructor in the politics department. From almost the moment he stepped on campus, George was a magnet for conservative students. “In the old days, there were no other fully out of the closest, truly non-hyphenated conservatives around,” he explains. Today, he is something like the godfather of the school’s modern conservative identity.

On July 4, 2000, George founded the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions. It now boasts a $4 million annual budget, all raised by George from outside sources (although the University helps with the administrative side of its fundraising drives).

Since its founding, the Madison Program has remained scrupulously nonpartisan in its official messaging — and its undergraduate fellows represent many points along the political spectrum. But from the start, one of its main commitments has been to increase what George calls “viewpoint diversity.”

As George tells PAW, this has “enhanced the presence of conservative voices on campus.” During the school year, the Madison Program’s lectures, dinners, and research projects put students in close contact with conservative luminaries. All of this “makes a statement that it’s OK to be conservative,” George says. “The success of the program sends a message that being open in your dissent from progressive beliefs does not mean that you’re going to be a failure in your career in academia. It sends a message that you can be conservative — or at least more toward the center, relative to progressivism — and still flourish.”

George rose to high prominence in the early 2010s as the architect of the conservative legal case against gay marriage. (Alito cited George’s work on the subject in his dissent to United States v. Windsor, which legalized gay marriage nationwide.) These days, George has gained new attention through his Twitter presence, in which he offers criticisms of abortion, gay sex, and the use of gender-fluid pronouns.

As an educator, George’s thesis advisees have included Ramesh Ponnuru ’95, the editor-in-chief of The National Review, as well as Ted Cruz. He has also provided more informal advice and support to groups such as the Anscombe Society, Princeton Pro-Life, and the Princeton Open Campus Coalition (POCC), a nonpartisan group advocating for free speech.

“One problem is that university faculty have been taught to no longer see ourselves as having a major responsibility for campus life,” George says. “And I think that’s a shame. [Student life] is not something about which we should just say, ‘Oh, the administrators, the bureaucrats will take care of that,’ — so that we can just do our research, teach our classes, and go home.”

**T H E  A L U M N A**

Solveig Gold has known Robby George since childhood through her late grandfather, who counted him as a longtime friend. In college, she was part of a group of undergraduates who founded the POCC.
The coalition formed soon after Princeton’s Black Justice League occupied Nassau Hall in November 2015. One of the POCC’s first acts was an open letter to President Christopher Eisgruber ’83, which called for a return to “civil discussion” and warned against the dangers of “groupthink.” “Princeton needs more Peter Singers, more Cornel Wests, and more Robert Georges.”

“We denounce the notion that our basic interactions with each other should be defined by demographic traits,” the letter-writers continued. “We will not stop fighting for what we believe in.”

Some of the group’s initial meetings were held in conference rooms at the Witherspoon Institute — an off-campus, independent conservative think tank founded by George in 2003. “But this was a very student-led discussion. This was not any particular professor, you know, telling us what to do,” Gold says. “I mean, we were just motivated .... When I go into battle mode, I kind of just see red, and I do what I feel like I have to do. It’s not really an emotion. I just kind of locked in.”

Gold recently finished a Ph.D. in classics at Cambridge and now works as a postdoctoral research associate at the James Madison Program. She has been married to Joshua Katz, the former Princeton classics professor, since 2021.

Gold declined to comment on her husband’s firing. But she was frank about her feelings of disillusionment toward the University that once gave her its highest undergraduate award.

“I don’t see Princeton through rose-colored glasses anymore — or orange-colored glasses, I should say,” Gold says. “That’s a pity, because I really thought it was about as perfect as a university could be. I thought it the opposite of a hostile place to be a conservative thinker. On the contrary, I always felt supported and appreciated … For heaven’s sake, I won the Pyne Prize as an outspoken conservative.

“And I’m really, really sad to see that none of this is the case anymore for conservative-minded students — or for any kind of differently minded student.”

THE STUDENT

Abigail Anthony ’23 is the president of the Princeton chapter of the Federalist Society, chief copy editor of The Princeton Tory, and vice president emerita of the POCC. Additionally, she is a founder of the Princeton chapter of the Network of Enlightened Women and an undergraduate fellow of the James Madison Program.

Anthony is also an inactive member of the Princeton University Ballet. That’s how she put it in a fact-checking email when listing her extracurriculars: “Dancer, Princeton University Ballet (Currently Inactive).”

If you think there’s a story there, you’re right. And you can read Anthony’s full take on it in The National Review, where Anthony also interned last summer.

Briefly, however: During the 2020-21 school year, the University’s Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students (ODUS) hosted a series of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) workshops for leaders of undergraduate arts groups. The goal of this “EDI circuit” was to “center equity, diversity, inclusion, and anti-racism in Princeton’s arts community.”

Following the end of the program, several groups, including Princeton University Ballet, presented “anti-racism action plans” at an ODUS-sponsored EDI event. The Ballet’s plan began: “Ballet is rooted in white supremacy and perfectionism. We are all entering this space with a mindset that what we see as perfect is a white standard. Unlearning that will be difficult, but rewarding[.]”

Before Princeton, Anthony attended a performing arts boarding school in Philadelphia where she danced 40 hours a week while taking online classes at night. In her opinion, “The Princeton University Ballet is not a ballet club. It is a social justice activism group.”

“I would not entirely disregard anti-racism,” Anthony says. But, she adds: “If you can’t escape politics within a ballet club, if you can’t simply perform as a butterfly in Carnival of the Animals without being indoctrinated with anti-racism initiatives, then there’s no space on campus without progressivism. It’s totally absurd!”

(Princeton University Ballet declined to comment for this story.)

“I don’t necessarily like Princeton, but I am glad I went here. I think that, of the elite schools in the United States, it is one of the most sympathetic and welcoming to conservative views. With all that said, it hasn’t been particularly enjoyable. Peers I have never met have taken to social media to call me transphobic, racist, fatphobic, an enemy of queer people.

“There can be extreme loneliness [at times], even though we do have a relatively thriving conservative community. We have issue-based organizations like Princeton Pro-Life and Anscombe, and then we have broader conservative organizations like The Tory, and Clio, and the Federalist Society. And so it is easy to find a conservative community on campus. But associating yourself with that community will subject you to criticism, and even hostility, from your other, more liberal peers.”
Three of Abigail Anthony’s eight semesters as a college student have taken place during pandemic years in which Princeton students took most of their classes on the internet and were forbidden from large social gatherings.

This digital interregnum may explain the current discontent of the Princeton conservative, says politics department professor Keith Whittington, who studies free speech and academic freedom in higher education.

COVID-19 moved Princeton’s campus culture even more online than it already had been. This meant that, for a time, the school’s political debates were almost wholly mediated through impersonal, outrage-amplifying internet discourse.

“I can easily imagine pandemic-era technological shifts having really significant consequences for what peoples’ experiences are like as a student; how it can heighten the sense of conflict and potential ostracism and abuse that might occur,” Whittington says.

Whittington also notes that at Princeton — as at other college campuses — there have been prominent calls to rethink the impact that unfettered free speech has on racial minorities. As one Black Justice League activist put it in 2015: “It is not ‘fundamental’ to any academic setting to have ‘debates’ that make its students of color feel threatened.”

As an advocate for institutional neutrality in higher education, Whittington has tangled publicly with Eisgruber over the University’s official communications about the Katz case. But in an interview, Whittington is cautious about making definitive claims about how Princeton has changed for conservative students and faculty. He notes that perceived patterns of ostracization on campus are often hard to prove concretely or statistically.

“Just because you’re a minority on campus doesn’t, in and of itself, mean anything in terms of the [social] consequences you face for belonging to that minority group,” he says. “Presumably, there’s a small minority of students on campus from Arkansas. And yet, I can’t imagine there’s actually any kind of hostility directed towards them just because they’re from Arkansas.”

But conservatives occupy a different place at Princeton than Arkansans do, he ventures: “I think right now, we’re in a pretty heated and polarized political environment more generally. And so, I do think as a consequence, political divisions are going to be one of those areas where there might be more tension, and more unpleasant behavior directed toward that small subset of students, especially if there’s a severe political imbalance among the student population. If our larger political environment was less heated, political affiliation might not matter very much.”

Is this the last call for the Princeton conservative?

Their lives are not all strife and woe. But they occupy an increasingly strange and unsettled place within their native realm.

This is a world that, from the outside, may still look plenty conservative — but perhaps isn’t so, at least not in the ways that Tories think it ought to be.

True, they retain a high degree of influence in national politics, especially considering how their numbers have dwindled in academia and other elite cultural spheres.

But for all their successes, and the successes of their movement — including, most recently, the overturn of Roe v. Wade — the Princeton conservative feels embattled as never before.

Today, they are apt to speak in pessimistic — or even apocalyptic — tones about the future of the place they once loved. They speak of feeling outmaneuvered by a new kind of foe: a class of censorious liberals, the “wokists,” who have found a way to cloak authoritarian impulses in the language of social progress.

Of course, all of the above could also describe today’s Republican Party as a whole. Which suggests some measure of hope for the future of the conservative project at Princeton. If Princeton has, indeed, become less of a safe haven for conservative thought, and more of a combat zone for ideological warfare, perhaps that now makes Princeton an even better launching pad for tomorrow’s right-wing leaders?

It’s hardly a demerit, in today’s Republican Party, to have a track record of fighting against an icon of elite academia like Princeton. To have come of age, in other words, as a “rebel for the sake of order.”

David Walter ’11 is a journalist based in New York City.
One hundred fifty miles northeast of Nassau Street and 25 miles from the nearest body of salt water, Eric Pedersen ’82 is talking about fish. His fish. He is standing alongside a 27,000-gallon tank that is home to 20,000 of what he believes are the freshest, highest quality European sea bass — aka branzino — in the world.

Ninety-nine percent of the branzino in the U.S. comes from the Mediterranean Sea. Pedersen’s come from a formerly abandoned factory on a street called Avenue of Industry in Waterbury, Connecticut, where he nurtures them from the time they arrive as 0.2-gram hatchlings, the size of a small paperclip. After about a year, when the fish are about 550 grams — a little over a pound — they are taken to market.

When Pedersen gets going on the subject of his nascent company, Ideal Fish, he does it with the fervor of an evangelical preacher. Andy Russell ’82, his chief operating officer and friend from their years at rival eating clubs at Princeton, is not much different. All Pedersen and Russell want to do is revolutionize an industry that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N. estimates to be worth $151 billion globally, prove that a land-based, sustainable fishery can be commercially viable — and forge a sea change in how Americans eat.

“We’ve never had great seafood in this country,” Pedersen says. “If you go to Europe, you see fish that are colorful and fresh. In the U.S., unless you go to a really good market, the fish are kind of gray and tired and dry. We hear a lot of Americans complain, ‘I love to eat fish as long as it doesn’t taste like fish.’ Well, the reason it tastes like fish is because it’s on the back end of its shelf life. If you get a fresh piece of fish, it doesn’t taste fishy at all. It tastes good.”

Pedersen and Russell are, to use the colloquial term, fish farmers, part of a rapidly expanding industry known as aquaculture, which, broadly defined, is the use of science to cultivate a healthy aquatic environment to support the growth of fish and marine life. Pedersen acknowledges that the industry has “a checkered past,” mostly owing to massive image problems and a sketchy track record of profitability.

If you go back to its early stages more than 30 years ago, aquaculture was widely known for its environmental recklessness, largely because some companies would descend on coastal areas, clear-cutting as needed, growing their fish and leaving behind a profoundly damaged ecosystem before moving on to a new location. Aquaculture operations would also routinely send greenhouse-gas-spewing vessels out to sea to make massive hauls of perfectly nutritious fish, only to grind them up to use as feed for their fish-farming operations. Even now, critics of aquaculture assail what they say is the excessive use of growth hormones and antibiotics in sea-cage farms in the wild.

When Pedersen began to think about starting his company, he knew the puzzle to solve was finding a way to make money while still being environmentally friendly. Ideal Fish is part of a small subset of the aquaculture world, operating what is known as a recirculating aquaculture system (RAS) — a closed-loop setup that allows for water to be filtered and reused.

RAS plants are basically oversized, high-tech aquariums and they are not cheap; when commercially scaled to raise 1,000 metric tons of fish per year (a metric ton is 2,200 pounds), such installations can cost up to $25 million just for design and setup, Pedersen says. George Nardi is the VP of aquaculture service at Innovasea, a firm that designs aquaculture systems and has
Eric Pedersen ’82 wants to revolutionize the seafood industry and forge a new way to farm fish out of his one-of-a-kind factory in Waterbury, Connecticut.

By Wayne Coffey
Photographs by Navid Baraty

www.princeton.edu

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worked closely with Pedersen, estimates that there are only 10 to 12 land-based RAS operations in the country, though many more are under development, both in the U.S. and abroad.

“The [RAS] industry is here to stay,” Nardi says. “The question is whether [the systems] will perform as designed and will the operating teams be able to manage those farms to profitability in a way that encourages replication. We know we can do it. Now we need to prove it can be a profitable business. Eric has been a really quick study, and I’ve been terribly impressed with his passion and his persistence, but there is not a lot of precedent for what these guys are doing.”

Pedersen believes that he and Russell have established a smart, efficient template that will enable Ideal Fish to flourish where other RAS ventures have floundered. Between 70 percent and 85 percent of seafood consumed in the U.S. is imported, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) fisheries report. Pedersen and Russell say that RAS technology will lower that percentage dramatically.

“What you are seeing now will eventually become the predominant method of growing fish in this country — in self-contained indoor facilities where the water and all the conditions can be optimized to create a healthier, less stressful environment for the fish,” Pedersen says. “They will grow better here in this building than they will in the wild. We are super excited. We think we’re in the right place, at the right time.”

It’s hard to say what is more improbable: that Pedersen, an architectural history major (his senior thesis was on how ancient Greek architecture reflected the evolution of political systems), has become a preeminent fish farmer; or that he is growing a species native to the Mediterranean Sea in a 63,000-square-foot former button factory in an old, struggling manufacturing town long known as the Brass City — a nod to Waterbury’s status as a leading producer of brass goods dating to the early 19th century.

Pedersen’s path to his place as Ideal’s founder and CEO is not as random as it might seem. Growing up in Baltimore, he enjoyed fishing in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and envisioned a career as an oceanographer; in a section about his future in his high school yearbook, he wrote two words: The Ocean. Pedersen’s interests eventually pivoted, and after getting his Princeton degree and an MBA from Wharton, he headed for Wall Street, where he spent 15 years primarily as an investment banker specializing in water filtration companies. He became convinced that, from both an environmental and commercial perspective, water filtration technology would become hugely important in ensuring an adequate supply of safe, uncontaminated water for humans and marine life alike.

Pedersen left the world of finance and took a couple
of executive positions in water-filtration businesses, becoming fascinated with aquaculture and RAS along the way. Eager to ramp up his understanding of RAS, he set up two 400-gallon tanks in his basement, stocked them with branzino hatchlings, and effectively became a do-it-yourself fish farmer, an endeavor that was much more a carefully calculated experiment than a hobby. He paid close attention to what food he gave his fish and how they responded to it. He monitored their growth and overall health, tinkering relentlessly with the system. He was so obsessive about it that when he and his wife and their two kids went away on vacation, Pedersen would hire a fish nanny.

“That basement RAS was very formative in my decision to pursue the [full-scale] enterprise,” Pedersen says.

Soon Pedersen was venturing into deeper waters. He secured $10 million in funding from Pentair, a water-filtration firm that would design his RAS installation, and after he discovered a promising location at the shuttered button factory in Waterbury, found an enthusiastic supporter in the city’s mayor, Neil O’Leary. An avid fisherman who admittedly knew nothing about aquaculture, O’Leary was impressed by Pedersen’s vision and helped him get the necessary approvals from various city agencies.

“He’s a personable guy and he’s easy to work with,” O’Leary says. “After [we did] our due diligence, the city was really happy to welcome them here, and we continue to feel that way. They’ve created some jobs and created a business that’s really unique. I like the idea of having Ideal Fish in Waterbury, Connecticut. It seems to fit well with the name of the city.”

Pedersen signed a lease for the Avenue of Industry space in December 2015, with Ideal Fish breaking ground in October 2016. Pedersen opted to grow branzino, an increasingly popular fish (though still well behind salmon and shrimp, the seafood products with the largest market share in the U.S.), notably in higher-end restaurants in the Northeast. He began bringing in branzino hatchlings in the late spring of 2017, and as the business started to take off, he brought in Russell as COO in 2020 — just as the pandemic arrived and promptly sank Ideal Fish’s business by 70 percent. A mechanical engineer who had done consulting work for Pedersen for several years, Russell previously was a senior executive at Procter & Gamble and Pepsi, specializing in overseeing cost-efficient operations.

He and Pedersen had remained in touch through the 40-plus years since they bonded as sort of eating-club adversaries, Russell joining Cottage Club and Pedersen joining Tiger Inn. The clubs delighted in pulling pranks against one another. Pedersen recalls a late-night raid by a band of Tigers who dressed up in Viking regalia, complete with horned helmets, and stormed Cottage. It was around that time that a treasured tiger sculpture in Cottage Club disappeared, never to be found. Pedersen claims to have no knowledge of the matter. “To this day, Andy still believes he will find it somewhere in my house,” Pedersen says.

**GO FISH**

Andy Russell ’82, left, and Pedersen first became friends at Princeton.

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with the remaining 2 percent going into the City of Waterbury’s sewage-treatment plant. All the solid waste products from the process — feces, uneaten food, mortalities, and fish trimmings — are composted and turned into fertilizer that Ideal sells to land farmers. “It’s a great circular model; the byproducts of our fish production become the nutrients for another food production system,” Pedersen says. Moreover, because Ideal fish don’t have to expend much energy to get their food (it’s right there in the tank), their feed-conversion ratio — an important metric for environmental impact — is only 1.4, meaning that Ideal uses only 1.4 pounds of feed to grow a pound of fish. Fish in the wild, having to stalk their prey, can have a feed-conversion ratio of up to 10 pounds of feed per pound of fish.

“That’s one of the biggest areas of improvement in the aquaculture [sector],” says Jessica Gephart, a professor of environmental science at American University who specializes in the study of global seafood systems. An efficient and sustainable facility is one thing, but Pedersen knows that counts for little if his fish doesn’t taste good. By monitoring the water’s salinity, temperature, and oxygenation levels, Ideal seeks not only to replicate the environment a species of fish lives in in the wild, but to make it cleaner and healthier. If it’s possible to pamper a fish, Pedersen does it. His first hire was a marine biologist whose title is chief animal health officer. He gives his branzino top-of-the-line certified sustainable feed from an aquaculture mill in Pennsylvania.

(Ideal Fish has earned Best Aquaculture Practices designation from the Global Aquaculture Alliance, an industry group, every year it has been in business, and has been certified for its environmental sustainability by the B Corp., a nonprofit that rates companies globally for doing planetary good.)

The water in the tanks changes two to three times an hour, and waste products are filtered out. The whole plant is a biobore facility with safeguards to protect the fish from pathogens and bacteria, including mandatory masks, gloves, and germicidal shoe baths every employee must step in before entering sensitive areas. When the baby branzino arrive, they are put in separate quarantine tanks to protect them in their early weeks and months. The facility looks as clean as the kitchen in a five-star restaurant, and with its powder-blue walls adorned with metal fish fabrications, is almost serene in its vibe.

“Our fish have a spa-like existence,” Pedersen says. “They just have one bad day.”


— LINDA CORNISH, PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER OF SEAFOOD NUTRITION PARTNERSHIP

PART FROM THE INSTALLATION COST of water-filtration technology, Pedersen says the biggest obstacle to profitability for RAS companies has been the use of a distributor, taking away a sizable slice of the profit margin. “People were content to grow a nice little fish and let everyone else take it to market and make all the money,” Pedersen says. Almost from the start, Ideal has done its own distribution, the sales team finding markets — for the most part restaurants in the New York-Boston corridor and select upscale stores — and then delivering to those markets.

Though he declines to divulge specific revenue figures, Pedersen says business has been robust since the pandemic began to recede. By early 2023 Ideal Fish aims to be producing 100 metric tons of branzino per year. Pedersen and Russell are eyeing another Waterbury location that is 300,000 square feet — more than five times the size of their present facility — to push their tonnage far higher. To grow their product line (and bottom line), they have partnered with a handful of sister RAS businesses around the country, enabling them to sell salmon, shrimp, barramundi, and trout under the Ideal Fish label. Ultimately, their goal is to establish a network of their own production facilities around the country.

“It makes sense both for freshness and from an environmental standpoint to locate production in the markets we serve,” Russell says. Ideal’s core marketing pitch is that in an era when farm to table has become food industry gospel, doesn’t it make sense to offer consumers fish that comes tank to table — fish that you can trace to the source? Every Ideal branzino has a gill tag with a QR code, linking to the company website and providing its entire history, from the day it arrived in Waterbury.

“Literally, the fish we harvest today will be on a plate in a restaurant tomorrow or the day after,” Russell says.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) dietary guidelines recommend that Americans eat two 4-ounce servings of seafood per week (or 26 pounds per year), but 90 percent don’t meet that standard. The NOAA Fisheries report said that Americans consumed 19 pounds of seafood per capita annually in 2020. A similar report from the European Commission said the per capita, continent-wide seafood consumption was nearly 53 pounds. U.S. seafood consumption has remained basically level for 35 years.

“Consumption habits are very hard to change,” says Cornish, of the Seafood Nutrition Partnership. “If you didn’t grow up eating seafood, you are not going to add seafood to your diet that readily.”

An abundance of data suggests the U.S. would be a healthier country if more people followed the USDA guidelines. Pedersen can recite most of it without looking. Studies have shown that babies of mothers who eat seafood during pregnancy have an average IQ gain of 7.7 points compared with babies of mothers who do not eat seafood. For adults, fatty acids and omega 3s found in fish have been linked to improved immune-system and cognitive function and a reduced risk of heart disease, and people who eat seafood regularly are up to 20 percent less likely to suffer from depression — a fact borne
out by dozens of studies over 20 years.

Benefits of eating seafood notwithstanding, Americans, on the whole, remain reluctant fish eaters. Are Pedersen and Russell swimming against the tide in a country in which many people think the two major food groups are hamburgers and hot dogs?

“The pandemic showed us that overreliance on foreign supply, from plywood to fish, is a direction we have to be moving away from,” Russell says. “I think that has begun to resonate with more and more people, not only because of the environmental side of things, but also the fact Americans should be making things for Americans.”

Pedersen adds, “What’s changed in the last 10 to 15 years is a strong consumer preference now for locally grown, sustainable seafood over what is imported into the country. When you compare a fish that’s grown in the Mediterranean to ours, that fish is a week older than ours, and just doesn’t have the mild flavor that ours has. We are winning these contests, hands down.”

Steve Costanzo, owner and chef of Olio, an acclaimed restaurant in Stamford, Connecticut, has been buying fish from Ideal almost from the time it opened.

“I use their branzino a lot, and it’s awesome,” Costanzo says. “Some people are against farm-raised fish, [but] it’s really ignorance as much as anything. It’s a very good, very clean-tasting fish. I’ve been nothing but happy with their product.”

Pedersen says he chose the company’s name because it reflects the ideals it has been built on. Yes, his mission is to grow great-tasting fish and get a somewhat reluctant American market to try it, but he says the process is no less important. He wants to grow his branzino sustainably, locally, responsibly — without growth hormones or antibiotics — in the cleanest environment possible. He wants people to trust where it comes from. A long way from Nassau Street and farther still from the Chesapeake Bay and the oceans he dreamed about as a kid, Pedersen’s aquatic orbit is now limited to 27,000-gallon tanks, and he is fine with that.

WAYNE COFFEY is a freelance journalist and author of more than 30 books. He lives in Sleepy Hollow, New York, and likes tuna on the grill.
At Princeton, we’re making audacious bets on students and connecting talent with opportunity.

With Trenton Arts at Princeton, Lou Chen ’19 has built a bridge between communities that allows high school students to thrive through access to the arts.

FORWARD THE CONVERSATION:
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Venture Forward is a mission-driven engagement and fundraising campaign focused on Princeton’s strengths in the liberal arts, pushing the boundaries of knowledge across disciplines, and collaborating to champion inclusion, science, public policy, the humanities and technology.
HUSTLING HANDS: Although George Butts '08 studied comparative literature at Princeton, it took him some time to find his niche. He tried qualifying for the U.S. Open in golf before finding an acting job playing an American college student on a telenovela series called La Gata and guest-starring on El Capo 3 soon after. In 2016, his agent called with a potential new gig: hand modeling. Butts had found his calling. He’s gone on to model for major brands, including Chase Bank’s Sapphire credit card (alongside James Corden) and Patron Tequila, where he cut limes and sprinkled chunky salt. “I would love to say that I majored in hand modeling at Princeton, but they didn’t offer it,” says Butts.

READ MORE about Butts’ career at paw.princeton.edu
Jessica Lander ’10 was sitting in her classroom at Lowell High School in Massachusetts one day when a gangly student named Wilson asked to eat lunch with her. The teenager, who had recently moved from Puerto Rico, didn’t feel he had anywhere at the school where he really belonged. Soon, Wilson ate with her every day — then something remarkable happened. As Lander relates in the introduction to her new book, *Making Americans: Stories of Historic Struggles, New Ideas, and Inspiration in Immigrant Education* (Beacon Press), other students started joining the makeshift lunch club — hailing from such countries as Vietnam, Yemen, Iraq, and Liberia — until her classroom was a veritable United Nations cafeteria.

One day, she taught Wilson how to eat with chopsticks, and weeks later he brought in dozens of pairs for his classmates, and the room filled with the exuberant sounds of students excitedly teaching each other how to eat with them — a cross-cultural moment when suddenly joy and community had emerged from a multiplicity of disparate backgrounds. “It was such a beautiful moment,” says Lander, describing the genesis behind her ambitious book, published this past fall. “I teach refugee students from 30 countries, and they inspire me every day. I really wanted to understand how we can reimagine education and create schools to better support these immigrant-origin students.”

Nationwide, one out of every four students is of recent immigrant origin — meaning either they or their parents are from another country. And yet, too often, these students are asked to assimilate into a one-size-fits-all educational system that ends up obscuring or suppressing their potential. Lander crisscrossed the country to find examples of innovative programs and schools bringing out the best in these students. Among them is the Global Village Project, a school in Georgia that teaches refugee girls, some with limited formal schooling — but with a wealth of real-world knowledge and grit. “They are respecting and acknowledging those strengths, while also giving them the support they need academically to be able to thrive in schools in the U.S. and beyond,” Lander says.

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— Jessica Lander ’10
The exhibitions and programs at Art on Hulfish and Art@Bainbridge are made possible by Annette Merle-Smith; Princeton University; William S. Fisher, Class of 1979, and Sakurako Fisher; J. Bryan King, Class of 1993; Rachelle Belfer Malkin, Class of 1986, and Anthony E. Malkin; and other generous benefactors. *Samuel Fosso: Affirmative Acts* is organized by the Princeton University Art Museum in collaboration with The Walther Collection.

**Samuel Fosso: Affirmative Acts**
On view through January 29

**Colony / Dor Guez**
On view through February 12

**MUSEUM TRAVEL PROGRAM**
*An Unforgettable Week of Japanese Art, Architecture, and Gardens*
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October 7–15, 2023
Details and registration on our website
In North Carolina, a determined director of English learners helped implement a new approach to teaching literacy in 126 schools where students take apart complex sentences, rather than the simplified ones that English learners are often given. In Lawrence, Massachusetts, a program within the high school called ENLACE (Engaging Newcomers in Language and Content Education, pronounced en-LAH-say) reaches beyond school walls to actively cultivate relationships with parents and community members to support recent immigrant students, who are predominantly Hispanic. Connecting all of these programs, Lander found they all had the same ability to make students feel included. “At a deeper level, it comes down to how schools are helping ensure our students feel like they belong here, in all of their beautiful identities.”

At the same time, Lander weaves in surprising stories of past moments in American history when courageous individuals struggled to expand opportunities for previous generations of immigrants from countries such as Ireland and Germany. One standout is the tale of Robert Meyer, a small-town Nebraska schoolteacher who challenged bans on teaching foreign languages in school in the early 20th century — taking the fight all the way to the Supreme Court and establishing the right for students to be taught other languages in the United States. “There’s a lot to learn from these powerful and beautiful stories about people who are a part of making change happen,” she says.

Lander grew up in the Boston area, descended in part from Jewish refugees from Russia and Ukraine who came to America at the turn of the 20th century. Her fascination with education began in her freshman year of college with a Princeton-sponsored trip to Tanzania, where she encountered a school of thriving low-income students and wanted to better understand why it was successful and how it could be replicated. She majored in anthropology, writing her thesis on the school — and then just days after graduating, flew to Thailand to teach for a year at Chiang Mai University as part of the Princeton in Asia program.

She became passionate about connecting with students. “I remember sitting outside after my last class and being so sad I wouldn’t get to see my kids every day,” she says, “and realizing I couldn’t leave the classroom.” Lander shifted gears, becoming a full-time teacher, eventually ending up in Lowell, where she developed innovative methods to teach history and civics to her recent immigrant and refugee students. Each year, she leads the class in the creation of a cookbook of family recipes and stories of migration, and teaches students to write op-eds about issues they care about, collaborating with The Lowell Sun to publish them.

As she watched her own students thrive, Lander eventually became more curious about how other schools were teaching immigrant students. “Too often in education, teachers are very isolated,” she says. “We have too little time to learn from our peers.” She conceived of Making Americans as a way to both pursue her own curiosity about what her colleagues were developing, and share it with others.

“My hope is that by grounding the book in the intimate stories of people, readers will have empathy for these people and their stories, no matter where they are coming from, or how long their family has been in the country.”

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— Lander
TAYLOR PLOSSER DAVIS ’93

AGING IN PLACE
The architect is helping her clients transform their homes

Architecture has always been a part of Taylor Plosser Davis ’93’s life. Her father was an architect, so naturally she spent a lot of her childhood at his firm and on job sites learning. After graduating from Princeton and earning a master’s from the University of Virginia, she joined a firm in New York City as part of the urban design team that worked on expansions to the Manhattan School of Music in Morningside Heights. She transitioned to residential work in New Jersey due in part to the Sept. 11 attacks, before ultimately settling in Birmingham, Alabama. She eventually found her niche transforming homes to allow people to “age in place.”

Davis spoke to PAW about her architecture work and improvements everyone should consider for their homes.

What exactly does aging in place mean?
There’s a lot of really negative stereotypes around aging, and as someone who’s just entered her 50s, I get that. But we really want to help and talk about this in a positive way. We are helping people renovate their houses so that they continue their active lifestyle for as long as they want. Aging in place, by definition, is the ability to live in one’s home safely and independently as long as they want to.

Walk us through the process. What happens when a client approaches you?
They often come to us with what they want in mind, but we start by assessing their lifestyle and needs. We ask: What’s going on in your life right now? Are you retired? Do you travel a lot? Do you have family members in wheelchairs or who use walkers? We ask so we can incorporate that into the design. Some examples of renovations include increasing doorways to 36 inches wide and walkways that are wide enough to accommodate wheelchairs, and touch water faucets so adults and grandchildren can use the kitchen safely. We encourage people to think about these things now, because the last thing you’ll want to have to do is a renovation while recovering from a surgery.

What is the average cost?
It depends on exactly what you need. There are lower-cost, DIY-level improvements like installing LED light bulbs, which reduce energy costs and last a long time, which reduces falls since people are not getting up on ladders to change them. Other examples include changing door knobs, faucets with levers, and light switches from toggle to paddle. The next level, where you’d likely need an electrician or plumber, includes adding dimmers, moving outlets up on the wall, or adding a hand shower. Bigger-picture projects that would involve a general contractor include putting in a curbless shower or switching to an induction stove.

What is the most challenging part of working with families to transform their homes?
The number one thing is always budget. Also, getting everything that everybody needs — and that’s really become much more difficult the past two years due to the pandemic (due to supply-chain issues resulting in delays, shortages, and more). In general though, the biggest challenge is this negative association with aging. We don’t want to tell somebody what they need, that’s not our job. But we do want to continue to figure out a way to talk about it that’s not threatening or diminishing. We want them to feel like this conversation is about their thriving, and not about being 75 and needing grab bars.

What is the most interesting project you’ve worked on?
That’s really hard, I love them all. The one that keeps on giving is probably the first curbless shower we did. It was for a couple in their 70s that I’ve known for a long time. They called us because they have a daughter who has some cognitive issues, and they wanted to create a master suite. We ended up having some very fraught conversations about shifting the arrangement so the owners could move downstairs and their daughter could live upstairs. So, we redid a bathroom for the daughter, and one for the owners with a curbless shower and a big tub, added grab bars, and a washer and dryer so nobody had to go upstairs.

About a year after we finished the project, I got a sweet thank-you note from the owner, who said how much she enjoyed the bathtub, and how much it meant to her that we had worked with her so closely to get this project done, and how it positively impacted her life. I keep that letter in my drawer because it’s such an inspiration for the positive impact we have on people’s lives.

Interview conducted and condensed by C.S.
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 1943

Heyward M. Wharton ’43
Heyward died Aug. 3, 2022, surrounded by family and friends in Newtown Square, Pa. He was 101 years old.

Heyward came to Princeton from Episcopal Academy. He was president of the Student Council there, played football and basketball, and was captain of the track team. At Princeton, he earned two major “P” letters in track before leaving for basic training in the Naval Reserve, following his father who was a lieutenant commander in the Navy.

As his classmates were graduating, Heyward was already an aviation machinist mate. He was aboard the aircraft carrier USS Hornet until it sank during the Battle of the Santa Cruz Islands in late October 1942, part of the task force protecting the landings and troops on Guadalcanal Island.

Heyward returned to Princeton after the war and graduated in February 1948 (earning yet another major “P” letter in track). After graduation, he worked as a geologist for successive companies, doing uranium exploration, and as a consultant for the Atomic Energy Commission. He retired in 1988 after spending 22 years with the Missouri Geological Survey.

Heyward never married, but is survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews. To his family and to his friends at Dunwoodie Village in Newtown Square, where Heyward lived for the past 13 years, the class extends its deepest sympathy.

THE CLASS OF 1946

Percy Linwood Urban ’46

While studying toward his master’s and doctoral degrees at GTS, he served as assistant rector of St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in the Chelsea neighborhood of Manhattan and later as chaplain at Leake and Watts Foundation’s home for orphan boys in Yonkers, N.Y.

Lin began teaching at Swarthmore College in 1957 and served on numerous committees throughout his 32-year tenure. He was passionate about academia and loved teaching and interacting with his students. He helped found the Department of Religion and establish Partners in Ministry to support the continued spiritual nurturing of a Christian and interfaith ministry on the campus.

Lin was the author of two books: The Power of God and A Short History of Christian Thought. He retired in 1992 as the Charles and Harriett Cox McDowell Professor Emeritus of religion. Lin is survived by his wife of nearly 70 years, Nancy; their children Joan ’80, David ’80, and Ann; and four grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1949

Edgar Jadwin ’49
Ed died June 27, 2022, three months short of his 96th birthday.

Like many members of our class, Ed was drafted out of Hotchkiss in 1944, spent two years in the Army as a second lieutenant, and then matriculated at Princeton with the Class of 1949. Ed majored in economics, was a member of Charter Club, and was captain of the swimming team. After graduation, he spent 10 years with Cameron Machine Co. In 1961 he joined Krenenzt & Co., a major jewelry manufacturer; he retired in 1991 as executive vice president.

Ed’s connection with Princeton goes back for generations. Although he was not especially active in our class affairs, he was very much involved in the application, planning, and execution of the Ethel Stockwell Jadwin memorial bequest to Princeton, including scholarships, Jadwin Hall, and funding for the Jadwin Gymnasium, which was named after Leander S. Jadwin ’28, who died in a car crash in 1929.

Ed is survived by his wife, Lois Breckley; daughters Susan and Peggy; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. We admire and respect Ed’s strong connection with Princeton, and offer his family our condolences.

THE CLASS OF 1950

Thomas A. Ewing ’50
Tom died April 25, 2022, in Gilbert, Ariz.

Coming from Haverford, he studied at SPA; played freshman and JV football, baseball, and rugby; and belonged to Cap and Gown. He went on to Princeton Theological Seminary, where he was student body president, earned a master’s of divinity, and was ordained in the Presbyterian ministry.

After a New Rochelle pastorate, he returned to Haverford to teach, coach, and direct its summer school. In 1958, he married Sandy Spurdle. They left the Main Line in 1965 for Western parishes: first Greeley, Colo., and then Chandler, Ariz., from which he retired to Estes Park, Colo., in 1991.

Tom’s career, enhanced by a master’s degree in guidance and counseling from Penn, went beyond pastoring. He did short-term church leadership training in Mexico, East African countries, the Philippines, and Mongolia. He and Sandy taught English in China, and he led teaching teams there for eight summers.

His community involvement included Rotary Club presidencies, chairing ministerial fellowships, supporting school activities, and hospital chaplaincies. He enjoyed outdoors activities: gardening, skiing, canoeing, and hiking, to mention a few. In later years he and Sandy frequented campgrounds across America and traveled to more than 30 countries.

Tom is survived by Sandy, four sons, a daughter, 16 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and brother William ’61.

THE CLASS OF 1952

Robert Barr Flinn ’52
Bob graduated from Wilmington Friends School and followed his father Lewis 1918 to Princeton, where he majored in biology, joined Charter, and was in the Student Christian Association and the Pre-Med Society. He roomed with Dave Boyer, John Scully, and Cecil North.

In 1956, Bob earned a medical degree from Johns Hopkins and then interned at Yale, going on to residency at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital and a fellowship in nephrology there. He served in Germany in 1961 at the U.S. Air Force Hospital. From 1963 to 1980 he was head of the nephrology section of Wilmington Medical Center. In 1980, he was appointed chair of the Department of Medicine at Christiana Medical Systems and clinical professor at Jefferson Medical College.

Bob died Sept. 2, 2022. He is survived by...
PRINCETONIANS / MEMORIALS

Richardson White Jr. ’52

Peter grew up on a farm in Cohasset, Mass., and went to Groton School. He studied sociology at Princeton, and his hobbies were sculpturing and ornithology. He joined Quadrangle and roomed with Coit Johnson.

After Army service he earned a master’s degree in sociology at Harvard in 1954 and then a law degree at Harvard Law School in 1959. Peter’s career was in criminal-justice administration, holding positions of rank in the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, the Vera Institute of Justice, the University Research Corp., the Blackburnstone Association, the National Organization for Victim Assistance, and the Police Executive Research Forum.

With homes in Virginia and in Maine, he established the Rappahannock Farmers Association and successfully opposed the building of an airport on wetlands in Jonesboro, Maine.

Peter died Aug. 29, 2022. He is survived by his wife, Margaret; and their children, Lydia and Charles. To them the class sends its good wishes, with appreciation of Peter’s many accomplishments and military service.

THE CLASS OF 1954

Philip H. Jordan Jr. ’54

Phil died July 21, 2022. He prepared at the Lawrenceville School, returning as headmaster for a year after a distinguished career as an educator and college president.


Phil earned a master’s degree and a Ph.D. in history at Yale, his field being early American history. While dean of the faculty at Connecticut College, he was recognized as an “Outstanding Educator of America.” He served as president of Kenyon College from 1975 to 1995. During his tenure, Kenyon consolidated its identity as a coeducational institution, took steps to diversify its faculty and student body, and conducted its first comprehensive capital campaign.

Active in higher education organizations throughout his career, he was chair of the American Council on Education and led the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

In a Kenyon tribute, a colleague said of Phil, “He was energetic in everything he did, blessed with a good sense of humor and a rich, deep, and memorable laugh. He was also a great storyteller.”

Phil and Sheila, a poet, retired to Chebeague Island, Maine, where they became central figures in its cultural life. He is survived by Sheila; his sons, Philip and John; grandchildren Adrian, John, David, Caterina, Lucia, and Ana; and his Chebeague community of friends.

Denis Timlin Rice ’54

Denny died July 19, 2022. He prepared at Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire, where he competed on the debate and swim teams.

At Princeton, he majored in politics, joined Cannon Club, swam with the varsity team, and was a member of Whig-Clio. He won the Walter Hope Prize in extemporaneous speaking, and graduated Phi Beta Kappa.

At Michigan Law School, after two years of service in the Army, he was admitted to the Order of the Coif and became editor of the law review.

In 1959, he joined Pillsbury Madison & Sutro in San Francisco, co-founded the firm of Howard Rice Nemermovski, where he remained for more than 50 years. He was selected for inclusion in “Best Lawyers in America” in several areas of expertise for more than 30 years and spoke around the world on complex legal and other issues, including Bitcoin. In 2009, the California Bar Association Business Law Section honored him with its Lifetime Achievement Award.

Denny devoted time to the community, offering pro bono service, holding elective office, and serving on numerous official commissions, corporate boards, and nonprofits.

He remained anavid swimmer for decades after his college career and was known for his warmth, humor, and a mischievous smile.

Denny is survived by his wife, Pamela; his son, James; daughter Tracy; stepsons Josh and Shane; stepdaughter Gabriella; and his four grandchildren.

Richard F. Weeks ’54

Dick died July 11, 2022.

At Nott Terrace High School in Schenectady, N.Y., he was active in publications, dramatics, and band. He was curious, independent, ingenious, and relentlessly enthusiastic — “all sail and no anchor,” according to his high school yearbook. His myriad of interests included photography, sailing, astronomy, ham radio, classical music, and woodworking.

At Princeton, he majored in physics, joined Terrace Club, and was a photographer for The Daily Princetonian and Princeton Alumni Weekly.

Dick married Betty Gordon in August 1954, enrolled in the University of Rochester, and earned a Ph.D. in optics in 1959.

During a multifaceted career with several corporations large and small, he contributed to the Apollo space program, headed the team that designed the optics for the innovative Polaroid SX-70 folding single-lens reflex camera, contributed importantly to the design of the optics of the Chandra X-ray observatory — NASA’s mission for X-ray astronomy — and eventually ran a successful one-person consulting firm for 17 years.

Dick and Betty met in high school, had their first date on a sailboat, and were inseparable at sea and ashore. Throughout their career they sailed the coast of Maine in a series of boats until moving to Iowa to live near family in 2008.

Dick is survived by Betty, sons Dan and Geoff, daughter Liz, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1955

James Dougall Lynn ’55

Jim Lynn, much admired as a newspaper man and as a friend, died Aug. 10, 2022, on Long Island after a short hospital stay. The cause of death was heart failure due to COVID-19. Dora Potter, his partner for 30 years, said he had been in very good spirits and was able to walk on his own until the end.

A few months earlier, his two daughters, Nina Lynn and Nora Curry, came from Chicago to take their dad on a favorite outing to New York City to see The Music Man, which he had first seen years earlier with his father.

Jim was born June 14, 1934, in Houlton, Maine, and attended Mount Lebanon High School outside Pittsburgh. At Princeton, he majored in philosophy, joined Campus Club, and wrote the “On the Campus” column for PAW. His senior-year roommates were Joe Hochstein, Tom Lauer, F.X. Matt, Bob McCarty, Don McConnell, Warner Slack, and Blaine Young.

After Princeton, Jim worked for several newspapers, chiefly Newsday, where he retired as senior editorial board writer. He was active in Princeton Alumni Corps, formerly Princeton Project 55, writing and editing program materials.

Jim enjoyed good living, notably good wine, food, and company. Later in life Jim and Dora regularly joined with Herb and Nancy Kaufmann for New York City dinner and theater outings.

He is survived by Dora, his two daughters by an early marriage, and four grandchildren.

Thomas Edward White ’55

Tom, a lifetime New Yorker with a wide range of interests, died Aug. 1, 2022. He was born July 11, 1933, on Staten Island, attended Trinity School in New York City and Columbia Law School.

At Princeton, he joined Key and Seal Club and
William C. Horner ’56
Bill came to Princeton from Big Island
He majored in the School of Public and International Affairs. His senior-year roommate was Bob Calkins.
After two years in the Army and then law school, Tom started a legal career. At Pfizer, he practiced in international business for 14 years before retiring and opening a boutique law practice.
He earned a bachelor’s degree in art history at SUNY Purchase and studied for an MFA in art history at the New York City School of Fine Arts. He later served on the SUNY board of trustees.
On the Mamaroneck Town Council he was a leader in the construction of the domed Hommocks Park Ice Rink and Pool. He was a Greenwich Hospital volunteer for 14 years and served terms on the Greenwich Hospital Auxiliary as treasurer and president.
Tom was active at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Larchmont for 40 years and was awarded the Bishop’s Cross in 2005.
He is survived by his children, Charles, Nancy, Linda, Penelope, and Elizabeth; and nine grandchildren. His wife, Joan, died in 1991.

THE CLASS OF 1956

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THE CLASS OF 1956
William C. Horner ’56
Bill came to us from Swedesboro High School. At Princeton, he majored in sociology. At Quadrangle Club, he majored in pool and darts. His senior-year roommate was Dave Barclay. Other lifelong friends included Pierre Bennerup and Kirby Holmes.
After graduating cum laude, Bill taught English in France, then returned to teach in Pennsylvania and California. He met his wife, Marilyn, at a French-immersion program at Middlebury, then earned a law degree from the University of San Francisco. In 1968, Bill and Marilyn returned to South Jersey. He practiced law in Salem, eventually partnering with his son Bill as Horner & Horner, Attorneys at Law.
Bill and Marilyn continued as stewards of the family farm, hosting Princeton classmates and many international friends. Bill was a reader, a thinker, a lover of music and poetry, a great conversationalist, a loving husband, father, and grandfather, and a trusted legal counselor. He is survived by Marilyn; his children Bill, Jennifer, and Sara; his daughter-in-law Sarah; and six grandchildren.

EBERHARD FABER IV ’57 ’63
Eberhard Faber IV ’57 ’63
Bill died Sept. 9, 2021, of natural causes. Princeton introduced him to a world beyond his family’s 50-acre farm in Woolwich Township, N.J. Throughout his life, he remained active with and loyal to the Class of ’56.
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THE CLASS OF 1957
Wilton M. Booker ’57
Bill died Sept. 22, 2021, in Houston. He came to Princeton from Big Island

Gordon Leigh Smith ’58
Gordie died July 29, 2022, in Laramie, Wyo. He was 87.
He came to Princeton from Phillips Exeter Academy, where he participated in football, track, and lacrosse. In 1957, he was All-New England lacrosse, and his team won the championship. At Princeton, he majored in psychology, was a member of Ivy Club, led the freshman lacrosse team in scoring, and was on the varsity lacrosse team for three years. He was an All-American lacrosse player in 1958.
After graduation, he went to Michigan Law School, served in the Marines, and settled in Cleveland with his wife, Karen, and daughters Kristin and Gretchen. He worked as an estate and probate lawyer for several banks.
After his daughters went to college, Gordie and Karen expanded their commitment to volunteering. Gordie was a National Ski Patrol and a ski instructor. In 2016, he and Karen moved to Cheyenne, Wyo., to watch the younger grandchildren finish their high school careers. Karen died in October 2016, and Gordie went to live with Gretchen and her family in Pine Bluffs, Wyo. He found great joy and peace in their home as he lived out his final chapter in their presence and care.
Gordie is survived by his daughters, seven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.

THE CLASS OF 1959
Kenneth E. Albright ’59
Ken died July 10, 2022, in Thousand Oaks, Calif. Born in San Marino, Calif., Ken came to Princeton from Weehawken (N.J.) High School, where he was editor of the school newspaper, he participated in the Speakers’ Bureau, the United World Federalists, and the Liberal Religious Association. Majoring in sociology, he was a member of Court Club and the Psychology Club, which presaged his later graduate study and career choices.
Earning a master’s degree at the University of Michigan and a doctorate at Columbia, he became a psychology professor at Queens College of the City University of New York. He also was a clinical psychologist, a psychotherapist, and an author of two books about male sexuality.
He was married for 61 years to Eleanor T. Harvey, who also holds a Ph.D. and has published books about the Middle East. They enjoyed their apartment on Riverside Drive with views of the Hudson River and a vacation home in West Chesterfield, Mass.
Ed is survived by Eleanor; two sons, Christopher and Jeremy and their spouses; and four grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1958

Eberhard Faber IV ’57 ’63
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Bill came to us from Swedesboro High School. At Princeton, he majored in sociology. At Quadrangle Club, he majored in pool and darts. His senior-year roommate was Dave Barclay. Other lifelong friends included Pierre Bennerup and Kirby Holmes.
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January 2023 PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY 65
Richard A. Bigger Jr. ‘59

Randy, a prominent member of the North Carolina bar, died May 23, 2022. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Margaret Goldsborough Bigger; his daughter, Joy Sanderson; and four grandchildren.

Born in Charlotte, N.C., Randy attended Myers Park High School, where he played baseball and belonged to the National Honor Society. At Princeton, he majored in the Woodrow Wilson School, played freshman soccer, managed the crew, was a keytopt, and sang in the Chapel Choir and Glee Club. Following graduation and two years in the Navy aboard a destroyer rescuing Cubans fleeing the Castro regime, he entered the University of Virginia Law School.

Randy felt that the needs of charity far outstrapped the generosity of givers and that, as Princetonians, we have been blessed more than most, making our job to contribute bigger. He lived by these words, serving as Protestant co-chairman of the Charlotte chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews; as local chairman for Annual Giving; as moderator of the Mecklenburg (N.C.) Presbyterian Council; on the board of directors of the Charlotte Council on Alcoholism; as chairman of the N.C. Bar Association Section on Estate Planning and Fiduciary Law; as a fellow in the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel; as a Presbyterian deacon, elder, and Sunday school teacher; and as a trustee of Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary.

To his wife and family, the class extends its condolences.

Charles A. Bisselle ‘59

Tony died Nov. 30, 2021, in Adamstown, Md.

He came to us from St. Albans School in Washington, D.C., where he played soccer, ran cross-country, and belonged to the student vestry and the glee club. At Princeton, he majored in mechanical engineering, joined Quadrangle Club, and roomed with Plexico, A.N. Brown, Kreutzberg, Watts, and Weed. He was a member of the Engineering Council and president of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

After Princeton, Tony earned a master’s degree in nuclear engineering at the University of Florida, followed by two years in Vienna, Austria, working for the International Atomic Energy Agency, then back to the University of Florida for his Ph.D. He returned to St. Albans for three years, teaching courses in physics and math and coaching the track team. He then embarked on his professional career with the Mitre Corp., consulting on environmental and energy matters for federal agencies and becoming lead engineer.

Tony’s major avocations were traveling and construction. Working and on for two decades, he built his own house in McLean, Va., a three-bedroom, 5,000-square-foot dwelling complete with indoor pool, five-car garage, and bomb shelter. Indulging his other pastime, Tony traveled the globe, meeting his future wife, Shirley Sherman, on one of his many trips and together becoming ardent world travelers.

He is survived by Shirley, to whom we have sent condolences.

Alfred F. Cooke III ‘59

Alfred, known to all as “Bud,” died June 17, 2022, in Liberty, Mo. He was born in Pittsburgh Sept. 16, 1917, to Emily H. and Alfred F. Cooke Jr. He came to Princeton from the Salisbury School. He majored in basic engineering, was business manager for the Savoyards, and became an active member of Elm Club. In his senior year he roomed with Charlie Krick and Harry Begier. Following graduation, he pursued graduate study at the Wharton School.

Bud married Nann Hegmann in 1946. They settled in Madison, Conn., where they raised their three daughters, Kim, Kris, and Sara. They survive him, along with three granddaughters, and siblings Ron, Betsy Froyd, and Nancy Beltz. While Bud and Nann later divorced, they shared a friendship that lasted through the time of his death.

Richard M. Liss ‘59

Born in New York City, Dick prepared for Princeton at Lincoln High School in Jersey City, where he participated in a myriad of activities: student government, debating, honor society, band, orchestra, track, and fencing. He edited both the school newspaper and yearbook and was a delegate to New Jersey Boys State.

Bringing these multifarious talents to Princeton, he chose to play in the marching and concert bands and troupe with the Savoyards, while taking the helm of Wilson Lodge as its chairman. A biology major and pre-med student, he was elected to both Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi at the end of his junior year. He left Princeton to enter Bellevue College of Medicine at New York University, receiving his medical degree in internal medicine in 1962, and continuing to complete his residency in 1966. Dick then went on to a long career as an internist.

Survived by a son, Adam, and a daughter, Margo, he died June 4, 2022, in Plano, Texas.

THE CLASS OF 1960

Walter Paul Fethke Jr. ‘60

Raised in Clarkstown, N.Y., Walt graduated from high school there, as student government president of both Clarkstown High School and Rockland County. At Princeton, Walt enrolled in NROTC, played freshman soccer, majored in chemical engineering, joined Court Club, and played ICC basketball and softball for Court. He also won the junior class scholarship for chemical engineers and led the NROTC drill team.

During three years in the Navy, principally aboard the fleet tanker USS Allagash, he met Monique Uelez on leave in Marseilles and married her in Paris on his next leave.

On exiting the Navy in 1963, Walt went directly to Procter and Gamble in Cincinnati as a product development engineer. In 1970, he went to United Carbide Corp. in Tarrytown, N.Y., where he spent the balance of his career as senior staff engineer and safety director until retirement in 1993.

Walt and Monique moved north in 2003 to the historic Glens Falls and Fort Edward, N.Y., area, where he was active in church life and enjoyed gardening, fishing, and travel with Monique.
Walt died July 30, 2022, of complications of Alzheimer’s. Our sympathies to Monique, son Eric ’86, daughter Karen, and their families.

Walter W. Pyper Jr. ’60
A native of Council Bluffs, Iowa, Walt prepped at The Hill School. At Princeton, he majored in history and took his meals at Campus. On graduation he spent a year in the Princeton development office, then earned a law degree at Duke University Law School in 1964. He spent a year as a fellow with the New York City Bar Association and two years in corporate law before joining Federal Mogul Corp. as legal associate in its international division. Walt spent 13 years with Federal-Mogul in international legal, merger, and related work, traveling around the world to his great delight.

In 1976, Walt returned to his native Council Bluffs, where he became deeply involved in civic activities. He served as a city council member and as mayor in 1998. He was also active in several banking and corporate positions and extended his civic service to a number of state boards and commissions. A long-term bachelor, Walt married Kathleen in 1990. They met through a shared love of the arts, wine and food, and international travel, which they shared in 60 countries. They celebrated his 50th with Walt’s eight sitemates and spouses, happily resolving all the world’s problems.

Walt died May 31, 2022, of complications of a long struggle with cardio-arterial illness. He is survived by Kathleen, a sister, and two brothers.

THE CLASS OF 1962

Harold Hutson Carspecken Jr. ’62
Hut died July 29, 2022, in Atlanta.

He came to us from St. Louis Country Day School, where he was active in a musical comedy group, called the Troubadours, the glee club, and played on the tennis and basketball teams.

Following his father, Harold ’27, to Princeton, he was active in Orange Key as a Keycoter, the Outing Club, worked on the Campus Fund Drive and Class Memorial Fund, and played freshman and varsity tennis. He dined at Cottage Club and roomed with Robin Smith, Charles Swift, and Dick Williams.

After graduation, Hut entered Washington University Medical School, graduating in 1966. He then served in the Army as a doctor during the Vietnam War, heading up a burn unit. Following his military service, he moved to Atlanta to begin a distinguished career as a plastic and reconstructive surgeon. He held leadership positions in various organizations for that specialty.

In his spare time, Hut enjoyed tennis, skiing, windsurfing, and biking. Unfortunately, a mountain-biking accident ended his surgical career.

He enjoyed a 57-year marriage to Margaret, with whom he had two sons, Hutson III and Hugh. They survive him, along with four grandchildren. The class extends sympathy to all.

THE CLASS OF 1963

George F. Sensabaugh Jr. ’63
George, retired dean of students at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Public Health, died of acute leukemia Aug. 9, 2022, in hospice in Berkeley.

George came to Princeton from Palo Alto (Calif.) High School. He majored in philosophy and wrote his thesis on John Locke. “He majored in philosophy because it had the fewest requirements for graduation and he could explore many classes,” said his son, Jeff ’91. “His GPA was saved by the many biology and biochemistry classes he took.” George was social chairman of his eating club, Key and Seal. “He got John Lee Hooker to play Houseparties, which made him popular with his blues-loving friends and unpopular with all the people that wanted to dance with their dates,” Jeff said.

George married Linda Sallander (Stanford ’62) right after graduating from Princeton. He went to UC Berkeley to study forensic science in the criminology program, uniting his love of biology and true crime. He earned a doctorate in 1969, then did postdoctoral work at UC San Diego and the Imperial Cancer Research Fund (now part of the Crick Institute) in London.

In 1973, he returned to UC Berkeley as an assistant professor in the forensic science program.

George worked with crime labs around the world to set up standards for DNA use. He taught DNA fingerprinting at the FBI and did research at Scotland Yard. In the mid-1990s, he transitioned to Berkeley’s School of Public Health and was eventually made dean. He retired in 2012.

George is survived by his wife of 59 years, Linda; his son, Jeff; and daughter, Laura.

THE CLASS OF 1967

Robert A. Rosenbloom ’67
Bob died June 21, 2022, in Charleston, W.Va., of multiple organ failure after emergency medical treatment while traveling from St. Louis back to his home in New York City.

Bob graduated from Horton Watkins High School in Ladue, Mo., where he was editor of the school yearbook, a member of Quill and Scroll, and a National Honor Society member. At Princeton, Bob majored in the Woodrow Wilson School, wrote a thesis for Professor Halpern, belonged to Elm Club and Whig-Clio, and worked at the Trenton Tutorial Project. He roomed at 121 Gauss Hall with Tom Houston, Phil Reed, Larry Ely, and the late Warren Wilson.

After graduation, Bob joined the Peace Corps in Bolivia, working on community development. He came back to the U.S. and entered, then graduated from, Stanford with a Ph.D. in political science in 1976, where he met and married Lisa Henderson in 1977. The couple had a son, Philip, and a daughter, Kate.

Bob taught politics and urban studies at Mount Holyoke for nine years before switching careers to join New York’s Chemical Bank (JPMorganChase), where he retired in 2005.

He spent decades at the bank in community development investments, ending as the head of national and global community development philanthropy and community social investing. From 2005 to 2010 he ran his own philanthropy consulting practice. He wrote in our 50th-reunion yearbook that his lifelong work began from that two-year Peace Corps experience after graduation.

Bob served on the Interfaith Council for Action in Ossining, N.Y., was a board member and chairman of Accion New York, and a board member and chairman of the Ethical Society of Northern Westchester County, N.Y. Bob exemplified the idealism our education imparted in those transformative years of the 1960s.
PRINCETONIANS / MEMORIALS

and Emily Cox. The class extends its deepest sympathies to Bill’s extended family and friends.

Craig A. Stone ’68

Craig died Aug. 30, 2022, in Harrisburg, Pa., after a long battle with cancer.

Craig came to us from Central Dauphin High School in Harrisburg, where he was class president and captain of the football team. At Princeton, Stoney majored in politics and was active in varsity football and the rugby club. He ate at Cannon, lived in Walker Hall his senior year, and roomed with clubmates Pete Kashatus, Homer Ashby, Bob Hausleiter, and Jim Stewart.

Upon graduating, Craig was a member of the Army Reserve for six years while attending graduate school and earning a law degree from Dickinson School of Law in Pennsylvania. He spent his entire career as an attorney in the field of health care provider defense, earning numerous professional awards and recognition for his work. While continuing to remain involved in the law in retirement, he also spent time ocean kayaking, motorcycling, bicycling, and keeping fit. He traveled extensively with his wife to South America, the Caribbean, the British Isles, Canada, and New Zealand. He was active in his church and was affiliated with several charitable organizations.

Craig is survived by his wife, Kathy; children Suzanne, Thomas, and Sam; and granddaughter Elizabeth Marie. The class extends its deepest sympathies to his family, friends, and loved ones.

Gary Lee Williams ’68 ’84

Gary died March 23, 2022, in Fairfax, Va., of kidney failure.

He came to us from Lake Worth (Fla.) High School, where he was active on the newspaper staff and debate panel. At Princeton, Gary majored in English. He was active in the chess club and the Cooperative School Program. He ate at Terrace Club and lived in Little Hall his senior year with Peter Peff.

After graduating, Gary worked briefly for Pratt & Whitney and then entered military service as an Army artillery officer stationed in Fort Sill, Okla. Upon mustering out, he taught high school English for a few years before joining the U.S. Department of State in 1975, from which he retired in 1997. During his tenure, Gary served in many international posts, primarily in South America and Asia. In retirement, he continued to work on State Department projects until finally hanging it up in 2010.

Gary’s first wife predeceased him in 2005. He was forever grateful for the family he was granted, the life he had been given, and the work that he did. The class extends its deepest sympathies to his children, Amanda, Sara, and Andres; his extended family; and friends.

THE CLASS OF 1970

John F. Bentley ’70

One of our dyed-in-the-wool Canadian brethren, John died May 30, 2022, in Ottawa.

Growing up in Montreal, John came to us from his first American sojourn at Exeter. He played soccer and hockey there and with us, while eating at Terrace, living in Little, and majoring in history, where he wrote his thesis on the “Development of the American College into a University.”

Afterward, he returned to Canada and Queen’s University Law School. With his degree, he interned in the Department of Justice, then decided to take his expertise to the Department of Finance, where he spent the remainder of his career in public service. He traveled extensively with his many friends, always with the twinkle in his eye that we well remember.

John is survived by his sister, Janet, and his family. With them, we will always be grateful for a classmate who broadened our horizons while leaving us with a smile.

Charles H. Black III ’70

One of our most experienced medical experts and a serious candidate for best-traveled classmate, Chuck died May 1, 2022, in France of colon cancer.

He joined us from Suffield Academy in Connecticut. Chuck showed his scientific chops early, majoring in biology, while choralizing with the Nassoons and being a stalwart of the reportedly undefeated Charter Blades.

After two years in Boston, he and wife Anette made the bold move to her homeland Denmark, then to Sweden as they gathered medical degrees, sons, and clinical experience. He then moved into research, and eventually a leadership role at Novo Nordisk. There followed Vienna, Belgium, and eventually opting to move to France rather than return to Copenhagen, all the while accumulating family adventures and friends across the world, with whom he always stayed in touch. Chuck returned to patient medicine, his clinic ensconced in southern France, using the English, Danish, Swedish, German, and French wisdom from along the way.

Chuck is survived by his wife of 52 years, Anette, who opened the world to him those many years ago; sons Christoffer and Mathias, internationalists in the footsteps of their parents; his sisters Nancy, Lynn, and Anne, and all their families. What they describe as his “sense of curiosity and openness to new experiences” is not only a trait, but a worldview we all should recall and strive toward each day.

Stuart B. Gluck ’70


He came to us from Yonkers High School. He majored jointly in biology and psychology — foreshadowing his future — and wrote his thesis on “The Onset of Drug Addiction in Adolescents.” But while focusing on pre-med, when he sat down at a piano both he and it were transformed. As accompanist to the Glee Club and sometime tenor, his musicianship stood up to anyone in our highly talented class and continued through his life.

After earning a medical degree at Mount Sinai, Stu practiced ophthalmology, moved to California, and, in what he described as a midlife crisis, grew a beard and switched to child psychiatry, which he practiced in public agencies and privately for the last decades of his life. And so his studies came full circle, as he appreciated: His California license plate read PRNCTN.

Stu is survived by his son, Loren; his nephews Jeffrey ’81, Alan, and Benjamin; and their families. Along with all of us who experienced his therapeutic advice or the transcendent richness of his musical gifts, they will not only remember but strive to emulate him.

Lynn Tsugie Nagasako ’70

An outstanding lawyer and one of our — and Princeton’s — first undergraduate alumnas, Lynn died after a long fight with cancer Nov. 17, 2020, in Portland, Ore.

Entering with her Critical Languages Program compatriots in 1968, Lynn brought her joyous Hawaiian attitude, expertise in Japanese linguistics, and her indecipherable cutthroat bridge game to Campus Club as its first woman member. She then earned a law degree at Columbia and embarked on a legal career with Reid & Priest in New York (too crowded) and then Portland (just right, and cooler than Hawaii), where she permanently remained. She worked in corporate law for years, then followed her drive to public service by transitioning to the Oregon Department of Justice. Lynn also served as president of the Multnomah Bar Association and the Oregon Law Foundation. She retired after 18 years in the department as the senior assistant attorney general of Oregon, a tribute to her skills and her great respect among her peers.

When questioned after yet another bridge triumph about one of her late-in-life focuses — her spinning wheel — Lynn described it as a calming and peaceful purpose. We will dearly miss that spirit from our hoaloha.

THE CLASS OF 1972

John Lyman Shetterly ’72

John, a principled and focused classmate who found his life’s calling early and pursued it fully with devotion, died July 16, 2022, in Wilmington, N.C.

John was born Feb. 24, 1950, to Robert L. and Eleanor L. Shetterly. He graduated from
Fort Hunt High School in Alexandria, Va., and entered Princeton with the Class of 1972.

John withdrew to work for homeless street ministries in the Georgetown section of Washington, D.C. Following graduation in 1973, he began a 35-year commitment with two nonprofit organizations, Seed Ministries and New Hope Ministries, providing food, shelter, and dignity to the homeless population.

John loved adventure and the outdoors; whitewater paddling, raft guiding, and kayaking in West Virginia.

He is survived by his wife, Melissa; mother Dorothy; daughters Joy and her husband Eric Connolly; two daughters, Georgia Israel and Caroline Dyer; and five grandchildren. The class sends condolences to his family.

THE CLASS OF 1973

Brady S. Sadek '73


He grew up in California and attended Palos Verdes (Calif.) High School. At Princeton, Brady roomed with Bill Webster and Don Norton at Dod Hall. He was a member of Cannon Club, majored in Near Eastern studies, and played baseball as a second baseman.

After Princeton, Brady attended the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. While at Fletcher, Brady met his future wife, Charlotte. They married in October 2020.

Brady had a successful career in banking. He was a vice president at First National Bank and utilities investment banking at Mizuho Americas. He spent most of his career in Chicago, with stints in New York and Singapore.

The Class of 1973 offers its condolences to Brady’s wife, Charlotte, and children Chris, Suzanne, and Tyler.

THE CLASS OF 1974

Perry E. Israel ’74

Perry died Aug. 14, 2022, at the age of 70.

At Princeton, he majored in English and then earned a law degree from Boston College, where he graduated with honors in 1979 and was editor of the law review. He later earned an LL.M in taxation from Boston University.

Perry was a well-respected and popular bond lawyer whose practice had a particular focus on representing underserved communities, including Native American communities, low-income housing loans, and mortgage credit certificates.

He was the principal lawyer on hundreds of bond issues totaling tens of billions of dollars over his 30-year career. His many admirers in the bond community remember him as a man of high integrity and expertise.

Since 2007, he had his own practice in Sacramento, Calif. Previously he had been a partner at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, joining in 1984. He began his career with Palmer and Dodge in Boston. Perry authored several books on public finance and was active in the National Association of Bond Lawyers.

Perry is survived by his wife, Anne Israel-Connolly; two daughters, Georgia Israel and Caroline Dyer; and five grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1982

Anne O’Connor Hutchins ’82

Anne, whom we knew affectionately as Anno, died after a long illness.

Anne grew up in West Hartford, Conn. At Princeton, she majored in comparative literature and was a member of the Tigerlilies. She had a lovely voice, and many of us remember her as the soloist for “Only Yesterday” at Lilies’ arch sings.

She and Tony met when they were both teaching in San Antonio, Texas. They got married and moved to Vermont, where they raised their kids. Tony was a public defender, and Anne taught school and performed in singing groups.

Anne was smart, beautiful, warm, and a friend you could count on. She was a great hugger, and her smile would light up a room. She was really tall. She had a wicked sense of humor and was a lot of fun to be around.

Anno was beloved at Princeton, and we miss her terribly. May her memory be a blessing. She is survived by her husband, Tony Hutchins; their two children, Taylor and Blake.

THE CLASS OF 1986

Alex Strother Marshall ’86


After graduating with a degree in economics, Marshall started a career as a financial analyst exploring a wide range of industries, but often concentrating on the energy and building trades. He remained intensely curious about all aspects of capital allocation and worked for both investment firms and funds on both the buy and sell side. Along the way, he earned an MBA from the University of Texas and was named a Wall Street Journal all-star for his fundraising.

At Princeton, Marshall was a member of Cottage Club and the Sailing Team. After graduation, he developed an intense interest in golf, which reflected his devotion to precision and focus.

The class of 1986 extends our deepest sympathies to his wife, Anne Colberg Marshall; and their two children, Taylor and Blake.

THE CLASS OF 1994

Gregory Tolles Smalley ’94

Greg, a lifelong resident of New York City, died July 19, 2022.

He was born Aug. 2, 1972, to Patricia Tolles Smalley and David V. Smalley and raised in New York City and Larchmont, N.Y. He attended St. Bernard’s School and Trinity School in New York.

He studied theater at Princeton and enjoyed acting, directing, and writing. He was the author of several poems, essays, and a one-act play titled “Egg Cream,” which was produced in New York City. He was at work on a dystopian, baseball-themed novel at the time of his death. He spent many years living and working in Ecuador, as an administrative assistant at The Episcopal School, and part-time clerk in several bookstores.

Greg was a lifelong competitive sailor and spent summers racing and winters frostbiting out of Larchmont Yacht Club. He ran marathons, loved dogs, and was an active social fixture in his beloved West Village neighborhood.

Greg had a wry sense of humor, enjoyed vigorous debate, and was always welcoming, gracious, and of service to his family, friends, fellows, and strangers. He was a devoted son, brother, uncle, nephew, cousin, godfather, and friend.

Greg was predeceased by his mother. He is survived by his father, Dave; brother Brian and his wife Susan; and nephews William and Nathan. His family, friends, and everyone who knew him will miss him greatly.

THE CLASS OF 1995

Joseph Edward Drangula ’95

Ted died July 5, 2018, in Bridgehampton, N.Y.

Ted grew up in Middletown, N.J., and graduated from Middletown High School South. His father was a member in the Class of 1949. Originally a member of the Class of 1994 at Princeton, Ted earned a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering and operations research, and was a member of DEC before graduating with our class.

Ted was often known as the life of the party and will be remembered for his wonderful sense of humor, winning smile, loving nature, and laid-back attitude. He worked as a senior research analyst at Impala Asset Management, having become a charter financial analyst.

Ted met Christy Musumeci, the love of his life, in 2001. They married two years later, and had twins Antonia (Toni) and Tyler. Ted was a devoted husband and father and loved nothing more than spending time with his family and friends. He had
a passion for golf, tennis, and softball. His family members will always miss Ted and the joy he brought to the lives of everyone who knew him.

**Nnena P. Nkongho ‘95**

Nnena lived life in the active tense — she encouraged, mentored, collaborated, found, learned, taught, sang, tried, succeeded, failed, celebrated — loved — above all, Nnena went.

She went to study economics at Princeton, and then to earn her MBA at Columbia. She went to Wall Street as one of the first Black women in the industry. She explored the world fearlessly and went to live in Hong Kong, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, New York City, Nairobi, Lagos, and Cape Town. She left a stable investment banking career and went to start her own company — Otoni — to help African inventors and small-business owners grow their companies and pursue their dreams. Her willingness to go further to find the best in life was never limited to her professional life — she went to Bali and Thailand for yoga and surfing retreats and professional academies in Florida to take tennis lessons. She went to Egypt to see the pyramids and down to the river to row on cold mornings at Gorton. Most importantly, Nnena went out of her way to encourage other traditionally marginalized colleagues and friends fulfill their dreams. She encouraged everyone around her with the same two words: “Go ahead.” She could confidently tell us to go ahead because she went ahead. She set the bar high. And in the midst of a fruitful season of her life, Nnena has surprised us all by going ahead. She set the bar high. And in the midst of a fruitful season of her life, Nnena went out of her way to encourage other traditionally marginalized colleagues and friends fulfill their dreams. She encouraged everyone around her with the same two words: “Go ahead.”

She could confidently tell us to go ahead because she went ahead. She set the bar high. And in the midst of a fruitful season of her life, Nnena has surprised us all by going ahead. She set the bar high. And in the midst of a fruitful season of her life, Nnena went out of her way to encourage other traditionally marginalized colleagues and friends fulfill their dreams. She encouraged everyone around her with the same two words: “Go ahead.”

Nguseppe Nkongho died Dec. 26, 2021. She’s left a gaping hole in our hearts. She will be missed.

**GRADUATE ALUMNI**

**John A. Strother ’54**

John died in Princeton June 27, 2022, of cardiac arrest at age 94.

John was born Dec. 27, 1927, in Hartford, Conn. He served in the Army, then earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Trinity in 1950. He worked for two years at the Navy’s Underwater Sound Laboratory before studying for an MSE at Princeton, graduating in 1954.

At RCA’s Astro-Electronics Division, John was part of the team that designed, built, and tested Tiros 1, the first weather satellite to successfully orbit the Earth and transmit photographs of cloud cover to ground stations. During the launch of Tiros, John was on the mission-control team at NASA.

John spent five years with Electro-Mechanical Research Telemetry on the team that designed and built encoders for the Navy. Before retiring from Astro-Electronics in 1984, he worked on successive generations of the Tiros weather satellite and on highly classified aerospace projects for NASA. John received two patents for original product design.

His post-retirement interests included playing the cornet, trumpet, and piano; car racing; and designing a more efficient, less-polluting internal-combustion car engine.

Predeceased by his wife Terry, John is survived by his daughters Kate ’75, Jean, and Nancy; and four grandchildren.

**William R. Schearer ’63**

Bill died March 22, 2022, in Newville, Pa.

He was born July 19, 1935, in Kutztown, Pa. In 1957, Bill graduated from Ursinus College with a bachelor’s degree in chemistry. In 1963, he earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from Princeton, with research focused on determining the structure of an alkaloid.

Bill was on the chemistry faculty of Hartwick College from 1961 to 1966 before he became a senior chemist in drug development at Ciba Pharmaceutical Co. Bill returned to academia in 1968 when he joined the faculty of Dickinson College, where he remained until his retirement in 1992. His specialty was organic chemistry. Passionate about teaching, Bill taught at all levels from first-year to senior courses. He told students that if you couldn’t explain an idea and apply it, you didn’t know it. He developed an interest in nutritional chemistry, teaching a course on the subject and creating a computer program to analyze the nutritional value of foods.

In 2002, Bill earned a certificate in herbal medicine from the School of Natural Healing in Utah.

Bill is survived by his wife of 64 years, Abigall; and his daughters, Karin, Kendra, and Sandra.

**Nels L. Larson ’73**

Nels died of cancer July 2, 2022, in Silver Spring, Md.


Except for three years with Penn State’s Office of Physical Plant and Planning, Nels worked at National and Dulles airports on a variety of renovation and construction projects until retirement. The highlight of his career was acting as lead construction architect for the award-winning terminal at DCA designed by Cesar Pelli. From 2007 to 2013 Nels worked for the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority as the Dulles Airport architect.

In addition to Anne ’72, his wife of 50 years, Nels’ survivors include brothers Jeffry and Eric, and several nieces and nephews.

**Claude V. Swanson ’76**

Claude died of natural causes June 28, 2022, in Tucson, Ariz., at age 75.

Born Dec. 29, 1946, in Gretna, Va., Claude earned his undergraduate degree in physics at MIT and a Ph.D. in physics at Princeton in 1976. He continued his research as a postdoctoral fellow at Cornell.

Following a leadership position at Aeronautical Research Associates of Princeton, Claude founded a consulting company, Applied Physics Technology, that carried out studies in applied physics for commercial and government agencies.

Claude was passionate about understanding the phenomena that science could not explain. In graduate school he focused on unified field theory, which seeks to unite all the governing theories of force and matter in the universe into a single framework. He believed that the science of the paranormal was an essential missing piece of that framework and felt that his purpose was to learn and teach how humans are more than their physical bodies.

Claude’s investigations into the paranormal were published in his books *The Synchronized Universe, Life Force,* and *Science of the Soul.* Claude is survived by his children, Alexandra and William, and their mother Marian; his siblings, Mary Ellen, Patricia, and James; and his grandson, Oliver.

**Robert S. Luke ’80**

Bob died June 20, 2022, at the age of 68, while jogging on Vashon Island, Wash.

He was born Sept. 1, 1953, in Chatham, N.J. After graduating from Williams, Bob earned an MPA from the Woodrow Wilson School. He also attained a master of arts degree in national-security policy and strategic studies from the U.S. Naval War College.

Bob had a 32-year career as a senior foreign service officer in the State Department. An expert on China and Japan, he spent more than 20 years as an economic and political/military specialist in those countries. He was the consul general at the U.S. Consulate in Naha, Okinawa and served as the Minister Counselor for Economic Affairs at the U.S. Embassy Beijing and the Minister Counselor for Political Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. He held assignments with economic and energy agencies in Bonn and Paris.

Bob was a superb linguist, fluent in Chinese, Japanese, French, and German. He will be remembered as one of the first Westerners to lead a rock band in Taiwan and introduced that music to Taiwanese youth in the early 1980s.

Bob is survived by his wife, Ayumi; son Timothy; siblings Richard Luke and Anne Jarvis; and his niece, Sören.

Graduate memorials are prepared by the APGA.

Undergraduate memorials appear for Eberhard Faber IV ’57 ’65 and Gary Lee Williams ’68 ’84.
Classifieds

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January 2023 PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY 71
A Chronicler of the Revolution She Lived

By Elyse Graham ’07

When World War II sent women into factories and offices in numbers far higher than the United States had ever seen — and into shipyards, lumberyards, firehouses, mines, mills, and secret military installations — Helen Baker, a labor expert in the University’s economics department, was ideally situated to observe this shift. Baker herself lived in two worlds. As the only woman in her department’s faculty, and one of the only women in Princeton’s faculty, she knew what it was to be a woman in a place where nobody in power had ever expected her to go. (Eventually, she became the first woman at Princeton to hold the position of associate professor.) And she also lived large in the social world of women on campus — the world, which the faculty so often ignored, of faculty wives, librarians, human computers, and art historians who worked in the secular nunnery of the Index of Christian Art. She won bridge tournaments. She put on plays with the Women’s College Club. She stabbed and parried with the Needlework Guild. She didn’t leave one world to master another. She did both. In the process, she chronicled a revolution while also living it. 

Baker grew up in Everett, Pennsylvania, as one of five children. She graduated from Radcliffe College in 1921, then earned a master’s degree in administration from the Carnegie Institute of Technology, now Carnegie Mellon University. From there, she worked as a consultant for the Cooper Underwear Co. and for a department store, Kaufmann’s. In 1930, she started a new job as a research assistant and librarian in the Industrial Relations Section of the economics department; she would stay in the department for the rest of her career. (She lived in an apartment with her sister at 104 Mercer St., a few houses down from Albert Einstein.)

Over the next 25 years, Baker authored or co-authored more than 20 reports, which were often discussed in the national news media, on important employment and labor issues of the day. How can employers shore up employee morale during a depression? How many hours are most productive for a wartime economy’s work week? How can a wartime economy successfully transition to a peacetime economy?

When her work discussed the new labor force of women, it touched on matters that few of the men in her department would think to investigate. How many restrooms do women employees need? How do they feel walking home after dark, and what can be done to respond to their fears? How much are employers paying women in comparison with men who do the same work?

In 1942, Baker published a book, titled *Women in War Industries*, that advised employers on how best to work with the women who were pouring into their factories. Whereas Britain had instituted a compulsory registration, a legacy of the previous world war, so many women in the U.S. were volunteering for work that Baker suggested a registration system would be unnecessary: “The flood of women applicants has been almost embarrassing to the employment offices and war industries.”

During the Great Depression, both states and industries set policies “to discourage and limit the number of women in industry,” she noted. Many companies set the minimum hiring age for women at 18, the maximum age at 30, limited the possible work hours, and required women employees who married to resign. Now, states were scrambling to change the laws to keep their economies going. One of Baker’s distinctive contributions was to argue that helping women in the workplace would require policymakers to improve conditions for them outside of the workplace: “Probably the greatest need of planning will not be in the plant, but in the community.”

The University had to request a special action from its Board of Trustees to award Baker the status of associate professor, which it did in 1948. Soon afterward, she helped faculty wives put on the annual Princeton Community Flower Show. She understood that a campus doesn’t stop in the classroom, nor a workforce in the workplace. Perhaps she discussed such things with Dean Luther P. Eisenhart, the chairman of the math department — and one of the few men who belonged, like her, to the Needlework Guild.
This is Florence.
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Often when you think of venture capital investing, you think of endowments and pension funds investing in hard-to-access opportunities. Alumni Ventures is disrupting the venture capital industry by offering a path for accredited investors to own an actively managed, diversified venture portfolio that invests alongside well-known VC firms. This asset class has outperformed the S&P over many periods.1 With Nassau Street Ventures, the idea is simple—by investing together with other Princeton alumni, we all can do better.

Nassau Street Ventures is the Alumni Ventures VC fund for Princeton alumni and friends of the community. We are now actively raising Fund 6.

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