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PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY

JANUARY 2024

Making Change

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fight for diversity in the financial
and corporate worlds





Alumni Day

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Photo: Drew Kelly

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An editorially independent magazine by alumni for alumni since 1900

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Mellody Hobson '91 and John W. Rogers Jr. '80 in front of the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. Photograph by Stephen Voss



The Clean Energy Transformation Beneath Our Feet

Seven years into the largest building program in Princeton University's history, the main ribbon-cutting phase is underway.

Over the next three years, we'll be completing a major new facility every several months, including a new graduate housing complex (2024), a spectacular new art museum (2025), new fitness and health centers (2025), and an entirely new multi-building neighborhood for environmental science and engineering disciplines (2025). Hobson College will open in the spring of 2027, ushering in another smaller building wave to include a new institute for quantum science and engineering.

As transformative as these new developments will be, perhaps the most significant impact of Princeton's historic construction campaign is taking root hundreds of feet below the campus. That's where, in more than 1,200 bores, each the length of a skyscraper, Princeton is laying the groundwork, literally, for one of the largest "geo-exchange" systems ever built at a university.

The environmental benefits of this alternative heating and cooling system are simply staggering. Geo-exchange will help eliminate the University's reliance on fossil-fuel-powered heating and cooling. Along with energy conservation, on-campus solar power, and renewable power from the grid, it will enable the University to make good on our net-zero emissions target of 2046. The new system will also reduce campus water consumption by 20 percent. It requires minimal maintenance, produces no emissions, and pays for itself over time.

There's more good news. Unlike some engineering marvels, this one is easy to understand and explain. The system uses the rock below campus as what our facilities team calls a "thermal piggy bank," where heat drawn out of buildings in the summer by air conditioning systems can be stored for reuse in the winter. Basically, the rock is a battery for thermal energy storage.

With a loop of pipes and the bores across campus, we can move water from above ground through the earth ("geo") to change its temperature. The water inside the pipes absorbs or releases ("exchange") heat from the earth below ground. Heat pumps then provide water at just the right temperature for campus heating and cooling with very high efficiency.

You may wonder, if this abundant and clean energy source is so simple to access, why hasn't Princeton tapped it at scale until now, and why are we unusual in doing so? The answer is that the effort required for this campus-wide conversion is immense and inevitably disruptive.

It entails installing over 13 miles of new distribution pipes to convert more than 180 buildings from gas-powered steam heating to highly efficient electric heating and



The new CUB facility in the Meadows Neighborhood (shown here) and TIGER facility in the Stadium Neighborhood house machinery and water pipes for geo-exchange and circulation to campus buildings.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL PARAS

cooling that draws energy from the geo-exchange bores. It means dramatically expanding solar power on campus to help ensure that the electricity powering this new system comes entirely from renewable sources. It requires building large new utility buildings to house the heat pumps, water tanks, and other equipment necessary to deliver geo-exchange energy on a large scale. It will cost hundreds of millions of dollars over 30 years (though we'd spend almost as much maintaining or replacing our 150-year-old steam pipes and accompanying infrastructure).

In short, it's the sort of project that requires many years of planning and makes the most sense when done in conjunction with a commensurately large construction campaign, to minimize added disruption. Like so many other audacious bets for humanity at Princeton, it's made possible by our endowment and a board of trustees truly committed to sustainability and ultra-long-term thinking, befitting an institution approaching its 300th birthday.

That long-range perspective is especially manifest in the Meadows Neighborhood on the south side of Lake Carnegie. Nearly a century ago, the University trustees had the foresight to purchase land that Princeton might need in the distant future. We now have a geo-exchange infrastructure there that will undergird projects for the coming century.

By 2035, Princeton University will be almost entirely off steam, and our pioneering geo-exchange system will be running at full capacity. It will be clean and quiet and invisible. But I hope it is not *too* invisible.

If Princeton's efforts benefit only our campus and the immediate environment, it will not fulfill its potential to inspire others to take similar steps, as our energy plant director, the aptly named Ted Borer, has noted. "Princeton has the opportunity to lead by example," Borer said. "We can influence thousands, tens of thousands, even millions of others by our actions on this campus."¹

I hope all our alumni take pride in this initiative and spread the word to friends and colleagues.

¹ Valenti, Denise. "Going Deep: Princeton Lays the Foundation for a 'Net-Zero' Campus." Princeton University, November 9, 2021. <https://www.princeton.edu/news/2021/11/09/going-deep-princeton-lays-foundation-net-zero-campus>.

INBOX

YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE LATEST ISSUES

IN MEMORIAM: JANET MARTIN

Reading your obituary of Professor Janet Martin (In Memoriam, November issue) evoked a sad, sweet rush of memories from my last



MARTIN

two years at Princeton. I did not begin my Latin studies until my sophomore year, but thanks to *Magistra Martina*, the language of the eternal city conquered my interests.

In those days, it was possible to register for additional courses and then drop the ones you didn't want to keep. Since there were two sections of the Silver Age prose class, I attended both, with Professor Martin and with visiting professor Erich Segal. As engaging as were Professor Segal's commentaries on Messalina's sexual

antics and the training of naked Olympians, what I really needed was Professor Martin's rigorous textual analysis and grammatical explanations, which deepened not only my knowledge of the language but also an appreciation for the subtleties of a writer's stylistic effects.

In Medieval Latin, she introduced us to the poetry of Hildegard of Bingen, the first time I'd heard of a woman whose Latin poems survived from antiquity. Hildegard's *Spiritus sanctus vivificans vita* became part of my personal canon of Latin literature, which I was to share with my own students for the next 45 years.

I am forever grateful to Professor Martin for starting me on a course of study that was to sustain me spiritually as well as financially for the rest of my life. I'd like to imagine her now, serenely serenaded by angelic chants reverberating from the Gothic vaults in that great cathedral in the sky.

DENISE DENEZZO-ASFAR '76

Lawrenceville, N.J.

WAR IN GAZA

The authors of "Students Gather to Mourn After Violence in Israel, Gaza" (On the Campus, November issue) should be congratulated on finding a new way to describe a terrorist attack on peaceful women, children, and the elderly in Israel Oct. 7. To call it a "surprise attack" turns a barbarous act into a military action like Pearl Harbor or Operation Barbarossa.

Calling what Hamas committed by any other name than terrorism is absurd. But

then, this sort of journalism puts PAW in the mainstream of Orwellian speech that is found in our leading newspapers and magazines. Even the quote from President Christopher Eisgruber '83 does not mention the word "terrorism," although he did call it a terrorist attack in his full statement.

You can be sympathetic to Palestinians caught in the horrors of war without engaging in ludicrous denial about how that war started. Then again, you

might recall the fate of those who launch "surprise attacks" against determined opponents.

STANLEY GOLDFARB '65

Bryn Mawr, Pa.

Though the piece on campus reaction to the fighting in Israel/Palestine seeks to report without taking sides, the pro-Israeli-policy bias that pervades most U.S. reporting leaks through here, too. (I find the longer online version less problematic.)

The print article repeats real content from the pro-Israel rally and refers to people "murdered, kidnapped, or [who] are missing" after Hamas' attack and includes President Eisgruber's reference to Hamas' "cruel and inhumane attack." The only references to a Palestinian perspective were quoting 1.) a slogan widely misinterpreted as promoting driving out Jewish Israelis and 2.) Eisgruber's equivalence-invoking reference to "[t]he nightmare underway in Israel and Palestine." Hamas takes terrible actions; but is the Israeli government carrying out massive and indiscriminate bombing? No, Palestinians just happen to be enduring a nightmare.

Even at press time, it had to be clear that Israel was killing thousands of innocents in a campaign aimed at an entire people whom it has been oppressing, and periodically massacring, for decades. Its campus opponents could have been quoted pointing this out.

The subtlety of this kind of bias makes it all the more insidious.

MICHAEL P. GOLDSTEIN '69

Oakland, Calif.

Thank you for the article "War & Words" (December issue) discussing the effects of the Israeli/Hamas war here on campus. I was disappointed, however, to see that despite Dean Amaney Jamal pointing out that people do not understand the history, the article brought out that old chestnut of "a foreign conflict with ancient roots." The conflict does not have ancient roots.

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INBOX

It is very much the result of 20th century dynamics, including the end of the Ottoman Empire, British colonialism, the Holocaust, and Jewish nationalism in the form of Zionism. Zionism, like many nationalisms, reaches back to an earlier time — in this case Antiquity — to justify its claims and to promise a better future in the light of a disappointing present. No nationalist presentation of history should or can be taken at face value and, as an Ottoman historian, I can affirm that for many centuries the Middle East was a pretty quiet place. When there was major conflict, it was between Muslims and Christians.

MOLLY GREENE '93

PROFESSOR OF HISTORY
AND HELLENIC STUDIES

Princeton, N.J.



RIGOR AND THE REAL WORLD

I joined the Class of 1979 as an electrical engineering (EE) major. My interest was thus piqued by the November article “Higher Educating.”

It was a transitional time for EE, and the department name reflected this: electrical engineering *and* computer science. (Computer science has long since become a department in its own right.) We majors were expected to master programming languages largely on our own. While timesharing existed (IBM 3270 terminals), it was hard to get access, especially as an undergrad. My computer work was all done using punched-card input, green-bar-line-printer paper output, three tries per hour to run your program (“batch mode”), and the necessity of physical presence at the Computer Center.

Princeton is obviously not a trade or vocational school, but the retrospective fact is that my training in electrical engineering was too abstract and unmotivated — I was not prepared for

industry expectations. I almost couldn’t get my first job in the field! The on-campus job interviews were always positive — I “presented well” — but at the all-expenses-paid on-site interviews in Silicon Valley, I invariably washed out when tested on circuit theory. Yet I graduated *cum laude*.

For this reason, I applaud the new real-world focus of the introductory STEM courses described in the article. Most people have no idea what engineers do, and like civics, people should have at least *some* idea. It impacts them in countless ways.

I eventually found my way into a successful career using database technology, leveraging the training I *did* receive in how to think.

MARK FRAWLEY '79

New York, N.Y.

Princeton need not decrease the rigor of its classes — or change them at all — for students who are less prepared. Instead, Princeton can follow the lead of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and aim to admit a cohort of students who are fully prepared from day one. MIT accomplishes this through a mandatory standardized test requirement, which, in the words of their dean of admissions, “*significantly*” improves the school’s ability to predict academic success (MIT’s emphasis, not mine).

ERIC BERG '01

Milwaukee, Wis.

ART MUSEUM CONSTRUCTION

Recent letters critical of the art museum expansion (Inbox, November issue) did me good but can’t undo Princeton’s blunder. On a recent visit to campus, I stood between Dod and Brown, struck dumb by the monolith glowering over what had been open space. It’s profoundly disappointing that the University allowed this graceless intrusion. Reminding me of a monster truck, the new construction is “in your face”: aggressive, boastful, and consumptive.

Princeton’s old campus is sacred not only to alumni but also to countless others who have felt their spirits rise as they move through its generous spaces framed by handsome, well-

made buildings and beautiful trees and plants. Protecting the integrity of the old campus should always be a priority. There are plenty of modern looks in never-ending, new campus construction.

As a senior living in Brown, I loved looking down on the lawn, where there was almost always something going on — touch football, romancing, homework, sunbathing, snow angels, the hoagie man's call. This space under the sky brimmed with joy.

Princeton's old campus is steeped in beauty because visionary architects, landscape architects, and gardeners recognized that an inspiring place to learn needs open spaces with grass and trees as well as good buildings. The rhythmic relationship between them creates an experience much like a wonderful piece of music. The art museum expansion is utterly tone-deaf, and it breaks my heart.

ANNE ROGERS LESLIE '78
Wiscasset, Maine

DASHING FROM DILLON

November's Student Dispatch headline, "How Princeton Athletes Face the Challenges of Campus Dining," really caught my attention. Who is it that said, "The more things change, the more they stay the same"?

The article took me back 65-plus years to the identical problem I faced playing varsity basketball from 1955 through 1958. Freshmen and sophomores dined at "Commons" (Upper Cloister, Lower Cloister, Upper Eagle, Sub Eagle, Madison), while juniors and seniors dined at their respective eating clubs. Irrespective of where you went to eat, dining closed at 7 p.m.

Basketball practice started at 5 p.m. and lasted until Franklin C. "Cappy" Cappon decided to let us go. Often that was close to 7 p.m. Practice was in Dillon Gymnasium, a relatively short hike to the Commons. Such was not the case for the eating clubs, where not only dining closed at 7, but you were expected to show up "looking like a gentleman" in a coat and tie. This was simply impossible after basketball practice, and we came in the quickest-change outfit we could muster.

ONLINE Exclusives

CONTENT AVAILABLE ONLY AT PAW.PRINCETON.EDU



TIGERS OF THE WEEK Jonathan Cheng '05

Six months into his job as China bureau chief for *The Wall Street Journal*, Jonathan Cheng '05 found himself covering the outbreak of COVID. A history major at Princeton who also studied journalism and Chinese while writing for the University Press Club, Cheng later reported in South Korea and New York for the *Journal* before moving to Beijing. The bureau he oversees is the newspaper's largest one outside of the U.S. headquarters.

"I've known our whole lives that China would be the biggest story of our times," Cheng says.

In China, Cheng grapples with stories of a slowing economy and geopolitical tensions.

"China's economy has gotten incredibly wealthy over the last 40 years. More recently, there have been good quarters and positive surprises, but it's now more of a two-way story," Cheng says. "Things are deteriorating; things can go up and go down. The question is about how quickly it gets from double-digit percentage gains to 5, 4, or 3 percent, to what a mature economy would look like, and at what level."

Jake Porter '90

As a freshman in Air Force ROTC at Princeton, Jake Porter '90 was allowed to switch out of the engineering school if he would commit to working with the service's intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs). He agreed, and he's spent much of his career on ICBM bases in a range of jobs from working in missile silos to training young officers and overseeing maintenance of the missiles and launch control centers.

At Princeton, Porter says, he didn't focus on the responsibility he would be entrusted with. "But as you're going through your training and you learn what the weapons are capable of," he says, "it hits home a little. Each person has to deal with that in their own way. My line of thinking was, if I were ever called upon to participate in a launch, that would mean the world had gotten to a state where we were launching in response to an adversary's attack."



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Photo courtesy of Elaine Chan '73

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1746 SOCIETY PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Still, if we were late, the help at the club protested our tardiness and fellow club members gave us disapproving glances for our attire. As far as selecting the right diet to complement our activity, surely you are joking.

I just wanted to let you know that I appreciate the article, which triggered a series of memories about my undergraduate days and trying to marry varsity sports with dining timetables. As best I can recall, nothing came easy at Princeton in those days.

DAVE FULCOMER '58

Naples, Fla.

THE WONDER OF LEARNING

While I wholeheartedly agree with Preeti Chemiti '23 that mental health resources are a necessity (On the Campus, September issue), I fear that a good portion of current students' stress is related to the pressure of grades. One of my most striking moments at Princeton was about two weeks after starting in 1971 when I found that for just about everyone I knew, the whole high school push to earn the highest possible grades had sloughed off and been replaced by the wonder of learning and doing new and exciting things. We couldn't wait to share this excitement. And this was an era in which only about 30% of grades were A's. I fervently hope this defining Princeton experience has not been lost forever.

STEWART A. LEVIN '75

Aurora, Colo.

YOUR PERSPECTIVE

Let us know what you think

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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.

VENTURE FORWARD



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ON THE CAMPUS

NEWS, SPORTS, AND STUDENT LIFE



TEAM EFFORT

More than 160 student musicians from the Princeton University Orchestra and Glee Club collaborated on stage at Richardson Auditorium Dec. 1 and 2. The program included works by Mozart, Tailleferre, and Brahms.





ANOTHER PATH

Jill Stockwell *17 directs
Princeton's Prison
Teaching Initiative.

GRADUATE SCHOOL

Ph.D.s Branching Out

Alumni on staff say grad students should consider careers outside of tenure-track faculty roles

BY JULIE BONETTE

AS JILL STOCKWELL *17 STARTED her Ph.D. in comparative literature at Princeton, she was still debating her post-graduation plans: To be a professor, or not to be?

While she pondered that question and pursued her studies, Stockwell also volunteered to teach literature and composition with the Prison Teaching Initiative (PTI), a University program that provides education to incarcerated students, and over the course of her degree, Stockwell came to the realization that her work at PTI “needed to be more the focus of my career and not the ‘side thing’ that I was doing.”

Aside from a year-long break to pursue a Fulbright fellowship, Stockwell, who is now director of PTI, has been doing just that ever since.

“I don’t regret not becoming a faculty member, and I don’t regret getting a Ph.D.,” said Stockwell.

Stockwell is one of many Ph.D. holders

who are increasingly pursuing career paths outside of tenure-track faculty. According to *Nature*, “In 2021, more U.S. Ph.D. graduates were hired by private companies (43%) than by academic institutions (36%).”

Statistics from the Princeton graduate

school show that five years after their graduation, 33% of Ph.D. graduates from the 2014-15 to 2017-18 academic years (the most recent available data) have gone on to become tenure-track faculty. When looking at careers 10 years post-graduation, 43% of Ph.D. alumni who earned their degrees between the 2009-10 and 2012-13 academic years are now tenure-track faculty.

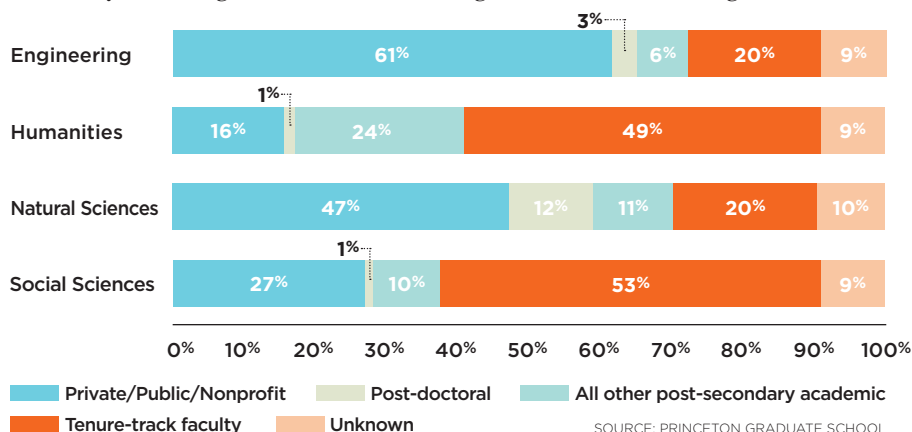
James Van Wyck, who holds a Ph.D. in English from Fordham University and is Princeton’s assistant dean for professional development at the graduate school, said during his Ph.D., tenure-track faculty positions were “something that you are trained to want as a graduate student, and so you believe you can’t pursue life of the mind beyond the tenure track.”

But that’s changing. In the 2022 book *Leaving the Grove: A Quit Lit Reader*, Van Wyck wrote that “all signs point to more blended careers for Ph.D.s, who will hold administrative as well as teaching positions, or move between higher education and other employers. Such careers feature not binaries or barriers, but interwoven communities and overlapping ecosystems ...”

Emma Ljung *12 used her Ph.D. in classical archaeology to create a blended career; for the past decade, she has been a lecturer with the Princeton Writing Program — “I don’t think that there’s a better job for me anywhere,” she said — and gets her “archaeology fix” during the summers as co-director of the Santa Susana Archaeological Project in Portugal.

Ph.D. Long-term Career Outcomes by Division

Data five years after graduation, for Princeton grads from 2014-15 through 2017-18:



Ljung said she “might not have actually had the luck of having to reflect [on] how do I want to feel at work every day” had the 2008 recession not hit five years into her Ph.D., which made the academic job market “fundamentally terrifying and scary.” Around the same time, Ljung realized she was more interested in working with smart and excited students than in teaching classical archaeology.

“In hindsight, it worked out very well for me because [the recession] had helped me find my place,” said Ljung.

Deborah Schlein ’19, who received her Ph.D. in Near Eastern studies and loves her job as a Near Eastern studies librarian at Princeton, said she thinks “the academy is still grappling with what it means for their students not to go the traditional route and become a professor, besides the fact that jobs are very scarce and the academy’s not doing a great job of figuring out how to handle that either.”

The tenure-track job market has shrunk, in part due to an increase in the number of Ph.D.s awarded; according to the National Center for Science and Engineering, 55,283 doctorates were awarded in the U.S. in 2020, which is almost 14,000 more than the Ph.D. degrees awarded in 2000, and 45,000 more than in 1960.

When he was in graduate school studying history, Alec Dun ’04 was focused on the tenure track; it wasn’t until he took on a position within the University’s residential colleges that he appreciated “that process of thinking about the wider picture of what the undergraduates are doing, [and] what the goals and the principles behind those goals were in undergraduate education.”

In his current role as associate dean of the college, Dun teaches a freshman seminar course, which he says “scratches the itch” to teach, but his work primarily focuses on aspects of the undergraduate academic experience.

Dun joined Stockwell, Van Wyck, Ljung, and Schlein in advising those thinking about a Ph.D. and those currently in graduate school to consider careers beyond the tenure-track.

“Fundamentally,” Dun said, “I think having your eyes open to other paths — that seems like the smart thing to do.” ■

CLASS CLOSE-UP

From the Political to the Practical, Navigating the Ethics of Tech



THOUGH PRINCETON OFFERS dozens of computer science courses every semester, Arvind Narayanan, a professor of computer science and director of the Center for Information Technology Policy, identified what he called a gap in the curriculum after noticing none of them covered computing ethics on a broad scale.

He set out to change that with his course Ethics of Computing, which was new to Princeton this fall.

According to Narayanan, 80% of the course is about applying ethical principles to specific systems, and the rest focuses on the principles themselves. For example, the first assignment tasked students with training a machine learning algorithm to maximize accuracy while minimizing discrimination.

“It’s not just writing lines of code,” said Jeremiah Giordani ’25, a computer science major and one of about 100 students in the class. “It’s thinking about how those lines of code impact the project that impacts the broader society.”

Narayanan said he wants students to think about political levers of change, while also providing a “very hands-on experience.”

Throughout the semester, students worked in small groups on problem sets on topics at the intersection of ethics and tech, ranging from discriminatory impacts of automated

decision-making to harmful effects of targeted social media content. There was no midterm; for the take-home final, students analyzed technical and moral aspects of a case study of their choosing.

Steven Kelts, a lecturer at the Center for Human Values and at the School of Public and International Affairs, led simulations of tech companies facing ethical dilemmas during a few of the precepts; for example, drones originally designed for traffic detection instead were used by Ukrainians as trackers of and weapons against Russian troops.

Giordani said the course has reshaped his perspective of tech and encouraged him “to think not just about what is this technology, how does it work, how do we implement it, but also, what are the consequences of that implementation [and] how does that impact various parts of our society? That’s something that I think will stick with me for a very long time.”

Narayanan hopes Princeton will eventually incorporate ethics into the majority of Princeton’s computer science courses; he thinks it’s a missed opportunity not to discuss ethical concepts alongside technical details. Until then, he’s working on including even more moral and political philosophy into the current course.

His primary goal is to help students build skills, because “it’s not enough to want to act ethically, you have to know how to do that.” ■ **By J.B.**



ESSAY

We're Calling on Princeton to Do More to Fight Antisemitism

BY JACOB KATZ '23 AND LEON SKORNICKI '06



AS PAW HAS COMPELLINGLY demonstrated in recent articles, Hamas' barbarous attacks on Israeli citizens hit close to home for many Princetonians. But the attacks' aftermath has reached us all. Skyrocketing antisemitism has reverberated around the globe and made its way through FitzRandolph Gate. Following two student-led pro-intifada rallies, concerned students reached out to alumni about unchecked antisemitism on campus.

Our recent open letter about antisemitism on campus has been signed by more than 1,800 alumni, students, faculty, and staff. The letter speaks for itself, and we do not purport to represent those who signed it. But the writing

process and feedback we received tell a story about the University we cherish and the values it must fight to revive.

Our earliest drafts were reviewed by more than a dozen exceedingly talented alumni who opined on the letter's blind spots. Their criticisms were often sharp, unforgiving, and perfectly placed. We had a "Princeton moment" — a sense that we were fortunate to be surrounded by brilliant minds who enthusiastically pursued social progress.

While collaborating on the letter, we learned that each of us had a personal connection to fighting antisemitism. Growing up as a Jew in Venezuela, Leon was accustomed to bomb threats, swastika graffiti, and violent crime plaguing his community. He named his first son after his grandfather — a survivor of the Nazi death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau. Jacob, also the grandson of Holocaust survivors, was an Israel Defense Forces soldier whose unit helped defend Israel from Hamas in 2018 and 2019. To us, antisemitic violence is not a nightmare that lies at the bottom of a slippery slope argument; it is a living,

breathing evil that must be decisively confronted.

As alumni, we want current students to guide campus discourse. But as Princeton occupies a prominent place in both our personal identities and our national conversation, we have reason to make our voices heard when something is awry. And when exasperated students turn to us and other alumni for help, something is awry.

They ask if it has always been like this: if students were always afraid to share their political views; if professors and mental health counselors were always this openly partisan; if protestors and counter-protestors always shouted from opposite lips of a canyon.

Many alumni have indicated a resounding answer: No. One writes, "I don't remember any of this back in my Princeton years of the early '70s." Another told us, "It is a sad devolution from the open environment Princeton used to be." A '90s graduate said she is "terribly disappointed in Princeton ... for the first time in over 30 years."

As proud advocates of free speech, it was paramount we thread the needle between condemning certain speech without advocating for its suppression. We are not in the business of turning down the temperature on campus; the Israel-Hamas war elicits a spectrum of emotions, and students' dialogue ought to accommodate them all.

But we strongly believe that there is room for leadership amid the back and forth. Leaders are meant to remind us of the principles that initially drew us together. Amongst those values, two feel particularly absent: respect for our interlocutors' opinions, and respect for our interlocutors, period. When our arguments are needlessly laden with tropes, slurs, and even cases of physical harassment, we have lost our way.

With the utmost respect and highest expectations for our beloved alma mater, we beseech University administration: Be a leading voice against antisemitism. President Eisgruber recently told us all to confront racism "wherever and whenever" it rears its head. According to more than 1,800 Princeton University community members, that time is now. **P**

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STUDENT DISPATCH

At 2D Co-op, Students Share Meals, and Food for Thought

BY ZHENG GUAN GS



WALK INTO TWO DICKINSON Street Co-op (2D) between 4:30 and 6:30 p.m., and you'll find a cook shift of four to six people minding some serious business. See the wide wok that occupies four burners? With that (and a spatula or two), someone will be stir-frying a medley of vegetables to feed the 20 to 40 members who'll later show up for dinner. Sitting on other stoves are skillets and pans of falafel and marinated tofu or a pot of lentil soup. Watch out as you pass the oven — a chef may be baking tempeh or roasting root vegetables in there. Amid all the action, and above the sounds of music and chopping, the student cooks will be having a laugh about their day in and outside 2D.

According to the University Archives, 2D started in 1977 because of student dissatisfaction with the campus dining

experience and cost, as well as rising vegetarianism and veganism. Today, 2D continues to provide an affordable, communal, and meatless option for upper-year undergraduates and a few lucky graduate students like me who happen to hear about it. For \$600 a semester, members can eat dinner every day and brunch on weekends. The cost is brought down by the fact that everyone works in the kitchen. Each member joins a weekly cook shift and has an additional “chore” — for example, baking bread and desserts.

An unexhaustive list of the food made here includes risotto, curry, tacos, and scallion pancakes, as well as granola, banana bread, babka, madeleines, and conchas. For produce, 2D purchases mostly seasonal vegetables (hello, squash!) and fruits from local suppliers. The co-op has introduced me to a new world of substitute ingredients: vegan butter and yogurt, tamari, tempeh, and so on. It also reconnects me with old acquaintances. One day, opening the condiment closet door, I found myself staring at three tall jars of Laoganma spicy chili crisp sauce. Its founder, nicknamed the “Chinese goddess” by overseas Chinese students, gazed solemnly back at me.

Having been conditioned to question

the efficacy of student organizations in the different countries on my academic trajectory, I'm impressed by 2D's functionality. Perhaps it's because 2D members are generally tolerant of one another. I learned this after forgetting to put baking powder in one of my biscotti doughs and yet still finding those “bricks” consumed within a few hours. Or perhaps it's the inclusive and communicative atmosphere. In less than one full semester, I've been persuaded to try out activities like garba (a Gujarati dance) and curling (the ice-based Olympic sport), and to attend a campus workers' protest. Now I'm serving as the captain of 2D's new dodgeball team — how I was convinced in this case is still beyond me.

Only six of the 47 current members are vegan. Those who know history can recognize how easy it is for minority rights to be eaten away — and anyone can be in the minority under the right (or wrong) circumstances. It's therefore on all of us to constantly remind ourselves of others' needs in order to coexist.

Such reminders take place in daily interactions and biweekly general assemblies. In one October session, a member challenged the ethics of 2D buying eggs, arguing that it would entice the non-vegan majority into consuming more, if only to avoid waste. Others demanded that eggs be purchased (from ethically certified suppliers) because people paying the membership fee deserve what they want to eat, barring meat.

“We should vote,” one suggested, to which another responded by questioning majoritarian decision-making when the stakes for everyone are not the same. Indeed, vegan members later voiced concern that at this rate, vegan dishes might become optional in 2D (right now, they're guaranteed at dinner). The 40-minute meeting was followed by animated discussions in a Discord channel dedicated to this “eggsistential crisis” (to quote a fellow member).

In 2D, I've experienced a politics of difference, a liberal amount of candid exchange, and a critical pinch of humor — a valuable but rare recipe worth celebrating. **P**

Parents of Sophia Jones '27 Mourn 'Glorious' and 'Bright' Daughter

BY JULIE BONETTE

THOUGH SOPHIA JONES '27 spent just three months as an undergraduate at Princeton before her unexpected death on campus on Nov. 29 at age 18, she made the most of it.

"She seemed to know, already, so many people," said her father, Benjamin Jones '95, who added that their family has received an "enormous number" of notes from Jones' classmates since her death, "which has been very meaningful to us."

Juliet Sorensen '95 said her daughter was "a brilliant and sensitive young woman. She was deeply kind. She cherished her friends and family. She had a sense of fun. She was funny. She was an outstanding student."

W. Rochelle Calhoun, vice president for campus life, sent an email to the campus community on Nov. 30 saying that Jones had "unexpectedly passed away" late the previous evening. Further details, such as the cause of death, were not released, and her parents declined to elaborate in an interview with PAW.

Jones and Sorensen credited their "glorious" and "bright" daughter for

energetically pursuing her passions, which included ballet, animals, and baking.

For her application to Princeton, Jones wrote about ballet, which she started practicing at the age of 2, to answer the question, "What brings you joy?"

"She said that she feels most joyful when she's leaping across the studio floor, and so she was thrilled when she was accepted into the Princeton University Ballet (PUB) and had the opportunity to perform with them," said Sorensen.

Jones performed in four pieces of *Symphony*, PUB's November show, which Sorensen attended with Jones'

**"She was deeply kind.
She cherished her
friends and family.
She had a sense of fun.
She was funny. She was
an outstanding student."**

— JULIET SORENSEN '95
Sophia's mother

grandmother, who "couldn't get over how good it was, the quality of the performance, given that all of these students are full-time students," said Sorensen. "They'd only been rehearsing for less than two months. It was exquisite."

Jones at one point considered a career in ballet, though she later hoped to become a pediatric specialist. She intended to major in molecular biology at Princeton.

Sorensen said Jones recently saved the life of their dog Archie by finding a mass on one of Archie's legs while hugging him when she was home in Chicago during the October break. It turned out to be a cancerous tumor, and Archie later successfully underwent surgery.

During the pandemic, Jones developed an interest in baking. "The first time she baked, I think she used sugar instead of flour," Benjamin Jones said with a laugh. "It didn't go well. But she kept going, and by Thanksgiving of that year, she had a little baking business ... and she made lots and lots of pies and cakes and very complicated things."

According to Jones, his daughter's chocolate eclairs "were pretty epic."

This Thanksgiving, Jones, her parents, and her younger siblings Hugh and Thea met in New York City, where Jones, with some help from her father, made what he called "beautiful and delicious" pies — one apple and one pumpkin — from scratch.

In addition to PUB, Jones tutored middle school students as a fellow with the University's Science Outreach program and was a member of Yeh College.

Sorensen and Jones credited the University for being "extremely supportive in every dimension."

According to a Dec. 6 post on the Princeton homepage, "the University has extended condolences to the family, and on Thursday, Nov. 30, hosted an opportunity for students to gather, reflect, and support one another."

Gifts in Jones' honor can be made to the Ruth Page Center for the Arts in Chicago, where she danced for many years, and PAWS Chicago, a nonprofit no-kill animal shelter that Sorensen said "meant a lot" to her daughter. ■



SOPHIA JONES '27, CENTER,
WITH HER SISTER THEA
AND BROTHER HUGH.

COURTESY JONES FAMILY



CHIOMA UGWONALI '24

PAWCAST

Discussing Mental Health

Three Princeton student leaders share their thoughts on campus culture, attitudes, and available resources

BY ELISABETH H. DAUGHERTY

CONCERNS HAVE GROWN over the past few years about student mental health on Princeton's campus. In a special episode of the PAWcast, we asked three students to discuss what they've seen while serving as leaders and mentors in this area: Isaac Lunar '24, Chioma Ugwonalí '24, and Issa Mudashiru '25. These excerpts have been edited and condensed; learn more about the students, listen to the podcast, and read the transcript at paw.princeton.edu/podcasts.

University Resources

Chioma: I think there is a gap in between the resources that the University offers, students' perception of available resources, and student mental health. Often I hear students share grievances or complain about the lack of mental health resources or not feeling connected to campus, not feeling heard or seen or appreciated by administrators outside of their capacities as a student. And it's really disheartening being in a lot of spaces with administrators and other

students who are heavily involved in mental health and trying to bolster those resources.

Isaac: When you consider the academic environment that students are in, the rigor, the pace of the semester, there's not really a lot of time or opportunity to be able to use these mental health resources. So if your mental health issues stem from maybe falling behind in courses or not doing well in a specific class, and you have to take the time in order to use the mental health resources that we currently have, a lot of students, I think, feel that it would only exacerbate the problem, since they would rather spend that time trying to catch up.

Change the Culture

Chioma: Taking care of your mental-emotional well-being is not seen as valued on this campus, and if I may venture to say, in our culture, in our society at large. And so there is this trade-off, should I work on this P-set, get this essay done, work on my R3, or

should I schedule that long-overdue counselor appointment or make time to go and hang out with my friends in New York this weekend just to take a pause, take a break? If they decide to do the latter, there is no professor, there is no career recruiter, job recruiter who is going to recognize that work outright, directly, and reward that work.

Issa: It's not really talked about enough that it's OK to get preliminary help, because you will end up going through things here. You will end up facing obstacles and challenges. It's OK to seek out a resource ahead of time, before it becomes a problem.

Isaac: I think the administration just gets it wrong ... this idea that they have to balance mental health with rigor, as if those two exist in opposition to each other. When you have a student population that has a better wellness, whose mental health is better, you're going to have a better-performing student population.

Take Control

Chioma: We have a personal responsibility to recognize what works and what doesn't for our own well-being. We have to take initiative to find these resources and to use them.

Isaac: I think students here just don't recognize how much, for one, goes into making sure you're mentally well, and two, how important that needs to be. I do a lot of mentoring specifically for underclassmen and for high-schoolers; it's just a theme I see time and time again. Some of the first messages that I always make sure to give incoming students are: Make sure you're eating, make sure you're sleeping, make sure you have a block of time where you're able to do whatever you want. That's what helps constitute good mental health.

Chioma: Students are by and large in survival mode: What is the least amount of sleep I can get so that I'm still functioning, I can still go to class, I can maybe grab a bagel or skip breakfast altogether?

Isaac: I ask them, how much sleep are you getting? They're like oh, I'm getting like four hours of sleep a night. That's ...

Issa: That's valorized.

Isaac: We treat it like a shared trauma, almost. We socialize over how little sleep or how infrequently we go to dinner, things like that.

Reaching a Breaking Point

Chioma: Students are in this mentality of health as a means of survival until we reach a breaking point where our body says, I need to rest, I need sustenance. And this breaking point might be when someone catches the flu or someone has a panic attack or someone sleeps throughout an entire day, all of which I have heard students mention just in this semester.

I'm part of the University Mental Health Task Force, and we have an outside third party who's evaluating the state of mental health and our resources on campus currently. And preliminary results have shown that, believe it or not, Princeton is actually doing much better than a lot of universities and colleges across the nation. So there are, I think, a plethora of resources that the University offers. Again, do students know about them? Do students use them? Do students have the time to use them? That is another issue.

Isaac: I'm about to call out a specific class. I love all the teachers in EEB [Ecology & Evolutionary Biology] 211. I appreciate all of you, but I had a lab report that was due over the



ISAAC LUNAR '24

Thanksgiving break. That's my break. I should be able to go home, be with my family, have my Thanksgiving meal, and instead I'm out here worrying about spider locomotion.

And that's just one example of just how pervasive academics can become in Princeton students' lives, just how integrated we make it into our lives. We plan everything around it. And in that sense, where is the room for mental health? Where's the room to access mental health resources?

Isaac: I actually had a paper due over break as well, the Friday after Thanksgiving. Talking with one of my preceptors, their decision to assign

something over break was in their eyes a way of relieving the week before break where you're at school and teachers tend to pile a ton of work on you before you leave for break. That was a way for them to give you more time and more space to focus on the project.

Origins of Pressure

Isaac: I think that's highly individualized. I mean, there are some general pressures just to do well, to make sure you can secure a good future for yourself. But then of course there's just other things that you have to consider. I mean, does your culture [have an] impact? Do you have a family back at home that you want to do well for? I know that's a common pressure for kids whose parents were immigrants. It's something that I feel. My parents were immigrants. They made efforts here in America once they came to make sure that I had a good life for myself, and now I have an opportunity here, I better use it well.

Chioma: I think we can get so caught up in this attitude that we forget — and I am definitely guilty of this too sometimes — we forget that we are loved. We do have an enormous, oftentimes strong, resilient, and consistent community, whether physically or just emotionally close to us, who is looking out for us. But I think when we're in this environment, it is so hard to remember that we are loved for who we are. **P**

ISSA MUDASHIRU '25



Princeton Seniors, Young Alum Awarded Major Scholarships

SEVERAL PRINCETON SENIORS and one young alumnus received prestigious scholarships this November and December. Sam Harshbarger '24 has been named a Rhodes scholar; Sam Bisno '24 was named a Mitchell scholar; and Genrietta Churbanova '24, Thomas Hughes '24, Oluwatise Okeremi '24, and Eric Stinehart '20 were named Schwarzman scholars.

Harshbarger, a history major from Cranbury, New Jersey, was one of 32 U.S. students selected to pursue graduate studies at the University of Oxford. He will begin his M.Phil. in history in October, according to the University's announcement. At Princeton, he's a fellow of the Behrman Undergraduate Society, the Center for International Security

Studies, and the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions.

Bisno, a history major from Pittsburgh, will pursue a master's degree in history at Queen's University of Belfast, in Northern Ireland, according to an announcement from the Office of International Programs. He is currently editor-in-chief of the *Princeton Historical Review* and *The Nassau Weekly*.

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

Churbanova, an anthropology major from Little Rock, Arkansas, is a head writing center fellow, an officer with the Russian Language and Culture Club, and the financial stipend director for *The Daily Princetonian*, according to a

Mathey College profile.

Hughes, a computer science major from San Juan Capistrano, California, is president of Princeton's Petey Greene Program chapter and an assistant to disability advocate and recent Princeton arts fellow Maysoon Zayid, according to his LinkedIn profile and the Schwarzman announcement.

Okeremi, a School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) major from Houston and Nigeria, is a member of Princeton's track and field team, a residential college community adviser, and an organizer of regional entrepreneurship competitions, according to her LinkedIn profile.

Stinehart, also a SPIA major, was honored for his "investments in 16 startups at Hopelab Ventures [which] have injected over \$5 million into innovative mental health initiatives, improving the lives of 100,000+ adolescents from historically marginalized communities," according to Schwarzman. **■** By J.B.



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ROBERT W. STOLZ

IN MEMORIAM

Alfred L. Bush, a longtime curator at the University Library and devoted mentor to generations of Native American students, died Nov. 9 at age 90. Bush came to Princeton in 1958 as an editor of the Papers of Thomas Jefferson and transitioned to the library staff in 1962. In



the next four decades, he expanded the library's collections of Western Americana, historic maps and photographs, and Native American materials. He also recruited students from tribal communities. "Alfred singlehandedly found Native students and made sure they felt supported when they arrived in the very foreign environs of the Princeton campus," Yolandra Gomez Toya '88, co-leader of Native Alumni of Princeton, wrote in an email to PAW. "His support was transformative. We went home to become doctors, lawyers, politicians, educators, and artists, serving our home communities and the nation at large." Bush received the Alumni Council Award for Service in 2020. **■**

SUSAN FOU

IN SHORT



CHOUDHURY '06

U.S. District Judge **Nusrat J. Choudhury '06**, the first Muslim woman and first Bangladeshi American to serve as a federal judge, will deliver the Baccalaureate address to the Class of 2024 in May. Choudhury, who serves in the Eastern District of New York, previously worked at the American Civil Liberties Union for more than a decade. She received her master's in public affairs from the School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA).

Princeton has banned the use, storage, and charging of electric scooters,

hoverboards, and other **personal electric vehicles** (PEVs) on the core of campus effective Jan. 25, according to a University announcement. In August, the University banned PEVs on campus during peak hours, but a study showed that usage remained "nearly the same" in October 2023 compared to data collected in February 2023, according to the announcement. The new policy does not apply to those with mobility-related disabilities.

The U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and the Workforce announced in mid-November it has launched an investigation into **Seyed Hossein Mousavian**, who has been a Middle East security and nuclear policy specialist with the SPIA Program on Science and Global Security since 2016 and was formerly a high-ranking diplomat in Iran. Rep. Lisa McClain (R-Mich.) and Rep. Jim Banks (R-Ind.) spearheaded a letter sent to President Christopher Eisgruber '83 that included a list of questions about Mousavian and his ties to Iran.

In emails to PAW, Mousavian provided

detailed responses to the committee's letter and denied that he has acted on behalf of Iran while at Princeton, saying that his academic work has been devoted to "peace, security, stability, and opposing wars and warmongering." The University declined to comment.

Daren Hubbard joined Princeton as chief information officer and vice president for information technology in January, taking over from Jay Dominick, who retired in December 2023 after more than a decade in the role. Hubbard comes to the University from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Joyce Rechtschaffen '75, Princeton's assistant vice president for government affairs, is retiring in March 2024, according to the University, after 18 years in the Washington, D.C.-based role. Previously, she was a staff member in the U.S. Senate for more than two decades and a senior attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice. Julie Groeninger, Princeton's director of government affairs, will succeed Rechtschaffen. **By J.B.**

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COAST TO COAST
Madison St. Rose '26 drives to the basket against UCLA. Princeton's upset bid fell short in a 77-74 Bruins win.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Tested by the Best

With March in mind, Princeton schedules early challenges — and earns a spot in the top 25

BY JENN HATFIELD

P RINCETON WOMEN'S BASKETBALL gained national attention over Thanksgiving weekend when it split games against top-25 teams Oklahoma and Indiana. The 77-63 victory over Oklahoma gave the Tigers their fourth win over a ranked opponent in program history and vaulted them into the AP poll at No. 25.

But those games arguably weren't even the toughest on Princeton's nonconference schedule, which also featured a game at then-No. 3 UCLA. Overall, the Tigers had six games against Power Six teams before conference play. That tied for the most in the Ivy League this season and was the most for Princeton since head coach Carla Berube arrived in 2019.

"This is probably the most challenging schedule since I've been here," said

assistant coach Lauren Battista, who is in charge of scheduling. "But ... if we want to be great, we gotta keep raising the bar."

Every year, Berube uses the nonconference slate to prepare her team for the Ivy League, which she considers the most important part of the season. In the Ancient Eight, there is little margin for error — as Princeton saw last year in losing its first two conference games before winning the next 12 to capture its fifth straight regular-season title — and players face challenging road trips and back-to-back games.

Playing Power Six teams also helps preview what an NCAA Tournament matchup might look like. "We've felt that, these past two seasons in particular where we've had success in March, it's because we've played some of those top teams early on," Battista said. "That

exposed us to ... that level of athleticism and size and environment that you end up seeing when you get to March."

Berube also tries to schedule games near players' hometowns. This season, those have included the UCLA trip for guard Kaitlyn Chen '24 and a game at Middle Tennessee State (MTSU) for guard Amelia Osgood '25.

But Battista and the Tigers face a catch-22 with scheduling: As they've had success in the NCAA Tournament, including first-round wins over Kentucky in 2022 and North Carolina State in 2023, it's gotten harder to schedule the kinds of games that prepare them to succeed in March. Power-conference teams sometimes hesitate to play a mid-major that could beat them, and fellow mid-majors sometimes want a more winnable game.

"Teams are like, 'No thanks. Call me in a couple years,'" Berube said.

Battista added, "When you do find those opponents that are willing ... it's like hitting the jackpot."

Building the schedule, then, requires lots of "trial and error." Battista calls, texts, and emails coaches to find games, and there are also websites where coaches can post and look for a match. After finding a willing opponent, the next hurdle is determining a date. There's also the goal of minimizing missed class time for Princeton's players.

Battista's efforts have paid off: A young Princeton roster has learned from every challenge, starting with a 14-point comeback against MTSU on Nov. 12 and a near-upset of UCLA on Nov. 17.

"After we lost to UCLA by only three points, we knew that we were right with these teams and it didn't even matter about the rankings," guard Madison St. Rose '26 said.

Another takeaway for St. Rose was that the players could've focused on the scouting report "just a little bit more." They did that against Oklahoma, which gave them even more confidence that they belonged with the nation's best.

"This is what we've been saying," Berube said after that game, "is that just because we're mid-major doesn't mean we can't compete with your Power Fives

and your top 25s. ... It's a big win for the team and the program and I think for the Ivy League as well."

Princeton has relied heavily on returning starters Chen, St. Rose, and Ellie Mitchell '24 this season. Against Oklahoma, Chen and St. Rose combined for 44 points and Mitchell collected 18 rebounds. But Berube has also leaned on freshmen: Starting guard Skye Belker '27 was the difference against MTSU and in a double-overtime win over Seton Hall on Nov. 29, scoring 18 points in each game.

Seton Hall, Villanova, and Rutgers are all nearby power-conference teams that have historically been successful. Playing them helps reduce travel for the Tigers, who logged about 9,500 miles in nonconference play alone, while keeping their strength of schedule high.

After the Seton Hall win, Berube said she'd learned throughout the season that her players "are resilient, they're gritty,

and they're tough. And they love playing together; they love coming to work every day. ... And that we're in every game, no matter what."

With a nonconference schedule that is this challenging, Princeton also gets to

"We're kind of the underdog here and that's exciting. It's nothing to lose, play with a chip on your shoulder. ... I think, honestly, we play better."

— ELLIE MITCHELL '24
Forward



take on a role it often plays in the NCAA Tournament but almost never does in the Ivy League.

"We're kind of the underdog here and that's exciting," Mitchell said after the Indiana game. "It's nothing to lose, play with a chip on your shoulder. So ... we like these big games. ... I think, honestly, we play better."

Princeton wasn't the only Ivy League team to challenge itself in nonconference play: The Ivies played 25 games against Power Six teams, the most since at least 2014-15. "When you know your team has it, you know you need to test them in different ways,"

said former Princeton assistant and current Columbia head coach Megan Griffith.

Those early-season tests should make for an exciting, highly competitive conference season, and they will only help teams like Princeton in March. **P**



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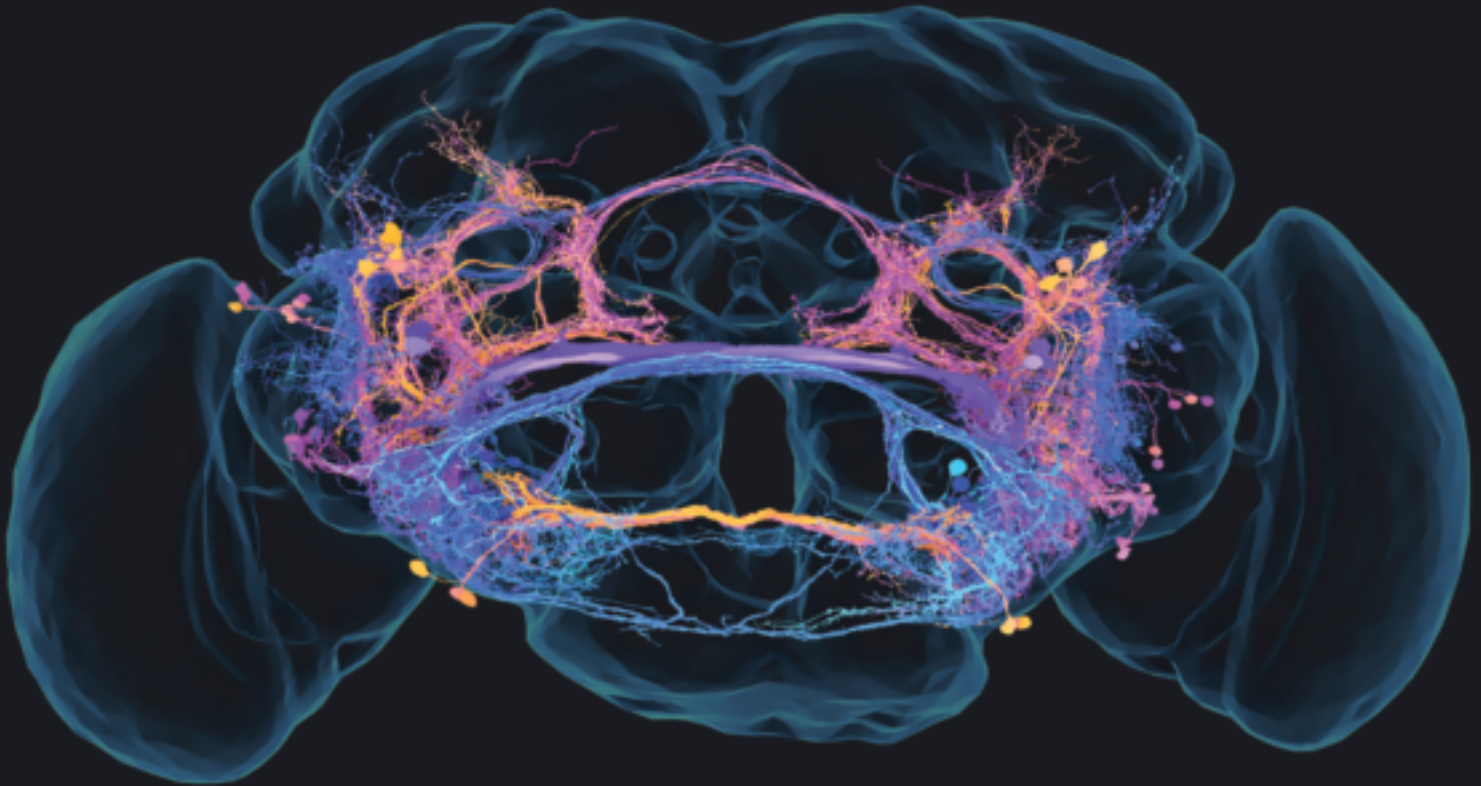
DO YOU REALLY KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON AT PRINCETON?

- Recently there were three events on campus, all supported by PFS, that on other campuses would have likely been heavily protested or even shut down.
- In PFS's first annual poll of Princeton students, 76% of Princeton students say it is ok to shout down a speaker on campus in some instances.
- Our alma mater has an anonymous bias reporting system for students which can lead to no contact orders over matters as simple as sharing different opinions - PFS has joined in filing an amicus brief urging the Supreme Court to prohibit such systems as they violate the First Amendment.
- Princeton will soon rule on a petition to remove the Witherspoon statue from campus.

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RESEARCH

ADVANCING THE FRONTIERS OF KNOWLEDGE



SWEET SERENADE

Mala Murthy and her research team have used neural imaging, optogenetics, motion capture, modeling, and artificial intelligence to study the brains of fruit flies while singing mating songs. “It might be a surprise to discover that the fruit flies buzzing around your banana can sing, but it’s more than music, it’s communication,” Murthy says. Only male fruit flies sing, and the females respond by either moving away or slowing down to allow the males to approach.

The team mapped out all the neurons and connections in a fruit fly brain, pictured here. Murthy, professor and director of the Princeton Neuroscience Institute, is hoping this research will lead to a better understanding of how the brain decides what behavior is appropriate and in which contexts. It was published in October in the research journal Nature.

CHRISTA BAKER / MURTHY LAB



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

How Princetonians Are Directing the Future of AI Technology

BY JOSEPHINE WOLFF '10

A **DECADE AGO**, Cynthia Rudin '04 was working with New York City power company Con Edison to help predict manhole events, such as fires or explosions, based on more than 100 years of data the company had collected. Rudin trained machine learning models using that historical data set but struggled to figure out why the models made the predictions they did. She switched to simpler models and found that not only were they every bit as accurate, but also she could actually begin to understand the predictions they were making and what they were based on.

“At that point I realized there was a real value in interpretability,” says Rudin, now a professor of computer science at Duke University, speaking of a characteristic of artificial intelligence (AI) systems that enables users to understand — or interpret — how and why the systems reach their decisions. “That’s why I started working in interpretable models, but it was really not very popular when I started working on it.”

But with a growing number of policymakers turning their attention to artificial intelligence and proposing new laws and regulations about when high-risk AI decision-making systems have to be explainable and transparent, Rudin’s work is now very relevant and in demand.

The release of ChatGPT in November 2022 spurred a wave of interest in generative AI, as many people who

had never had much direct interaction with natural language algorithms were impressed by how sophisticated the text ChatGPT generated could be. The success of ChatGPT motivated new policy discussions about the best ways to govern these technologies but also revived fears about whether these tools would replace people’s jobs, render education and writing assignments obsolete, and make our most crucial decisions, about everything from who should go to jail to who has a serious medical diagnosis, for us in ways we couldn’t even begin to understand or unpack.

At the forefront of the many people working in this field to create increasingly impressive, sophisticated,



“At that point I realized there was a real value in interpretability. That’s why I started working in interpretable models, but it was really not very popular when I started working on it.”

— **CYNTHIA RUDIN '04**
Professor of computer science
at Duke University

COURTESY CYNTHIA RUDIN '04; STUDIOVI/ISTOCK

understandable, and ethical AI systems and tools, are many Princetonians who, like Rudin, have carved out a niche in this industry to focus their efforts. Last year, when *Time* magazine released its list of the 100 most influential people in AI, six Princetonians were included: alumni Dario Amodei '11, Fei-Fei Li '99, Eric Schmidt '76, and Richard Socher '09, along with Princeton professor Arvind Narayanan (see On the Campus, page 11) and grad student Sayash Kapoor (see Research, December issue).

For Schmidt, the former CEO and chairman of Google, AI has been at the heart of his post-Google career. He now focuses largely on philanthropic ventures through the Schmidt Futures organization, as well as helps educate policymakers in Washington, D.C., about the promise and perils of AI through initiatives he chairs, including the Special Competitive Studies Project and the National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence.

Schmidt says he believes that AI will transform everything, mostly for the better. "Imagine that each and every one of us is twice as productive in what we do as adults. Better teachers, doctors, philosophers, entertainers, inventors, and even CEOs," he tells PAW by email. "The advent of an intelligence that sees patterns we don't see, and analyzes choices we can't do in our lifetimes, and generates new content and systems, is a profound shift in human history. The ability to rapidly advance in science, especially climate change, is a huge boon coming in the next few years."

One of the Princetonians looking to AI for sustainability purposes is Ha-Kyung Kwon '13, a senior research scientist at the Toyota Research Institute, who is using AI to design new polymers that can help build better batteries to fuel green tech. "The reason AI is particularly attractive for this is that when you're designing new polymers, the number of things you can vary is really vast," Kwon explains. "It's a needle-in-a-haystack problem and usually we're trying things based on what we know from what other people have already tried. Sometimes that's a



"The reason AI is particularly attractive for this is that when you're designing new polymers, the number of things you can vary is really vast."

— HA-KYUNG KWON '13
Senior research scientist at the
Toyota Research Institute

good approach, but a lot of times those approaches don't necessarily lead to breakthroughs, and breakthroughs are really what we need."

Other alums have chosen to apply AI to different problems, including James Evans '16, the co-founder of CommandBar. Together with co-founders Richard Freling '16 and Vinay Ayyala '16, Evans raised nearly \$24 million for CommandBar in 2023 for their platform that uses AI to help people navigate apps and software more easily.

"Instead of requiring users to figure out this maze of menus and buttons and toolkits when they use a new piece of software, we wanted to allow them to just describe what they're trying to do in words," Evans says. "We're all so good at using Google to find things, we thought, let's make a tool that when a user plops into a product for the first time you can just use whatever the words are you're used to for what you're trying to do. Like Clippy [Microsoft Word's virtual assistant, which was an animated paperclip], but less annoying and more accurate."

Some alums are also working directly to develop new AI systems. For instance, Amodei, the CEO and co-founder of Anthropic, is at the helm of one of the main competitors to OpenAI — for which he previously worked. Anthropic distinguishes itself in the AI ecosystem by touting a safer, more ethical, and more responsible approach to AI technologies, for instance, by offering developers a way to specify values for their AI systems.

Socher also founded and runs the AI company You.com, a chat-search assistant that combines elements of search engines with personal assistants to help people find information and answer questions. Socher is committed to making sure You.com provides its users with more privacy than other search engines, and to that end the service does not show personalized ads. Instead of selling ads, Socher's plan is to eventually monetize the service through subscription fees. Like Amodei, his vision for AI is linked to specific values such as privacy, not just making the most advanced technology possible.

Li, a computer science professor at Stanford, has taken a similar approach to her work with AI. In addition to her pioneering research on image recognition, she co-founded AI4ALL, a nonprofit that strives to increase diversity in the field of AI by launching outreach programs for students interested in the field. And like Schmidt, Li has spent time in Washington, D.C., lobbying policymakers to provide more computing resources for AI research and more support for research in areas like AI safety.

By Schmidt's estimation, the U.S. government has so far "done a pretty good job" of regulating AI "by not prematurely freaking out and regulating this new powerful technology." Policymakers in the United States are "working with the industry to understand the most important issues while not slowing it down," Schmidt says. But, he cautioned, "this is all going to happen very fast compared to governments, cultures, and normal industries." ■



BEHIND THE RESEARCH: KENNETH ROTH

Championing Universal Human Rights

BY JOANNA WENDEL '09

KENNETH ROTH SPENT NEARLY 30 YEARS as executive director of Human Rights Watch (HRW), a leading advocacy and research organization that defends human rights around the world. He developed an interest in human rights from an early age, he says, influenced by his father fleeing Nazi-controlled Frankfurt, Germany, at age 12.

As a young adult, Roth knew he wanted a career in public service, but the opportunities were scarce. He pursued volunteer work in human rights while working as a federal prosecutor in New York. At the time, HRW was a tiny organization, but when they offered him a job, he accepted eagerly. "My friends thought I was crazy ... but it was the best move I ever made," he says. Roth joined Princeton in the fall as the Charles and Marie Robertson Visiting Professor at the Princeton School for Public and International Affairs (SPIA).

Quick Facts

TITLE

Charles and Marie Robertson Visiting Professor

TIME AT PRINCETON

1 semester

RECENT CLASS

Strategies for Enforcing Human Rights

ROTH'S RESEARCH A SAMPLING



BOOK PROJECT

Roth's forthcoming book, *Righting Wrongs*, draws on his experience at HRW to demonstrate how human rights activism can achieve measurable progress. "There's a tendency to think of human rights activism as well-meaning but ineffectual," he says, a mindset he sets out to disprove with numerous examples of tangible victories. Governments use human rights violations as a tool to retain power and suppress dissent, but activism can overcome this — whether through shaming

an abusive government and undermining its legitimacy, or working with allies to prevent a government from obtaining something it wants, such as military aid. As Roth explains, "it's all about generating pressure on governments, and we have become very good at generating pressure and forcing them to move."



SHARING KNOWLEDGE

Although Roth stepped away from his former role to devote time to teaching, he remains busy with regular

media appearances and public speaking engagements. To date, he has published over 300 articles about human rights in a variety of publications. He is often invited to speak in response to current events, such as the ongoing Israel-Hamas war and debates about academic freedom. Some of Roth's views, including his critical stance toward Israel (under his leadership HRW accused Israel of apartheid), have attracted controversy, but at Princeton, where he's hosted public conversations about the Israel-Hamas war, he says he's been "impressed ... by the willingness to discuss, reasonably and civilly, a complicated issue."

JUSTICE FOR ALL

Last semester, Roth taught two courses at SPIA: one based on the content of his forthcoming book and a second on the topic of international criminal justice. According to Roth, "the norm until ... the 1990s was that if



you were ruthless enough, you could get away with atrocities [and] with impunity because you would just crush any attempt domestically to hold you to account." Since then, a growing effort has emerged to establish international options, such as the International Criminal Court, that can hold government officials accountable even if they evade prosecution in their own countries. Roth and his students explored the successes and shortcomings of the current international criminal justice framework and considered how it might be improved. **P**

ILLUSTRATIONS: AGATA NOWICKA (TOP); MIKEL CASAL (BOTTOM)

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LEFT: Renée Cox, *Young Yo Mama* (detail), 1980, printed 2023, from the series *Yo Mama*. Courtesy KODA, New York. © Renée Cox RIGHT: Khalilah Sabree, *When Things Fall Apart*, 2016–17. Collection of the artist © Khalilah Sabree



Facing Down



Mellody Hobson '91 and
John W. Rogers Jr. '80
are using their clout
to pressure corporate
America and help
minority groups
grow wealth

BY JENNIFER ALTMANN
PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEPHEN VOSS

Financial Inequity



RIEL COMMUNITY ACADEMY LOOKS like any public school, but walk through its halls during morning announcements and you will hear, just after the Pledge of Allegiance, a market report on the previous day's

performance of the Dow Jones and the Nasdaq. On a recent morning in an eighth grade classroom, a discussion with a visiting alumna about her career in marketing quickly veered to the topic of personal finance.

"Ask her which investment vehicles she has," a teacher told the class.

"401k!" several students yell. "High-yield savings account!" another yelled.

The school was founded in 1996 in a unique partnership with Ariel Investments, a company started by John W. Rogers Jr. '80. The school's mission is to incorporate financial literacy into the curriculum from prekindergarten through eighth grade. Located on Chicago's South Side, Ariel Academy has a student body that is 99% Black; most students are eligible for subsidized lunch.

In kindergarten, students discuss the financial implications of going to a movie and buying popcorn compared to watching a movie at home and making popcorn. Second graders create figures out of pipe cleaners to sell, but not before analyzing what they can earn against the cost of materials and labor. Beginning in sixth grade, students decide which stocks to buy in a real portfolio started with \$20,000 from funds that Ariel originally contributed.

The school is just one example of several ambitious initiatives created by Rogers and his co-CEO, Mellody Hobson '91, to address the dramatic gulf between people of color and white people when it comes to financial prosperity and the world of investing.

"The facts are brutal," Hobson says. Between 1992 and 2016, Black college graduates saw their net worth decline by 10%, while the net worth of white college grads rose by 96%, according to a study by the St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank. Adds Rogers, "Black Americans relative to white Americans today are worse off than their grandparents were."

Having less wealth translates into less participation in financial vehicles that grow wealth. People of color have less saved for retirement and are less likely to have money in the stock market.

As two of the most prominent Black people in finance — a field still dominated by white men — Hobson and Rogers are using their clout to open the door for other minority groups. And they are pushing corporate America — from the inside — to make concrete progress in diversity and inclusion.

Their childhoods laid the foundation for their involvement in the financial world. Rogers' father started buying him stocks when he was 12. Three years after graduating from Princeton, he

founded Ariel Investments, the first Black-owned mutual fund company in the United States, even though a friend cautioned him that white people might not trust a Black investment adviser with their money. He credits Princeton basketball coach Pete Carril, for whom he played, with instilling in him many of the values that have guided his company and his life.

Hobson was raised by a single mother who struggled to pay the bills. The family would heat water for baths on a hot plate when the gas was turned off. Hobson's upbringing created an intense need to understand money. As the head of Chicago's schools committee, Rogers encouraged Hobson to choose Princeton and later hired her as a summer intern. She returned to Ariel after graduation, became its president at age 31, and was made co-CEO in 2019.

In 2020, Hobson and her family's foundation made the lead gift to establish a new residential college at Princeton, currently being built on the site of what was formerly known as Wilson College. When Hobson College opens in 2027, it will be the University's first residential college named for a Black woman. She hopes that when students of color see her name, they will think, "I belong here."

As they strive to provide greater access to the financial world for people of color, Rogers and Hobson run the oldest and largest Black-owned investment firm in the country, which manages \$14.8 billion in assets.

ROGERS HELPED RECRUIT A 17-YEAR-OLD HOBSON to come to Princeton — they are both native Chicagoans — but she almost didn't choose the school. After she announced at an event for new admits that she was planning to go to Harvard, Richard Missner '65 called her every day to change her mind and then invited her to breakfast with Bill Bradley '65, who sealed the deal. (Bradley walked her down the aisle at her 2013 wedding to George Lucas, the creator of *Star Wars*.)

Hobson is one of many Black students who Rogers has helped recruit to Princeton and then hired to work at Ariel, which celebrated its 40th anniversary last year. There are currently five alumni among its more than 120 employees, and the board of directors includes Anthony Romero '87, who is executive director and CEO of the ACLU.

Especially in the beginning of her career, Hobson was often underestimated or ignored as a Black woman. "So many times when I sat in rooms, people wouldn't make eye contact with me. They only talked to the white colleagues I was sitting next to, and I was more senior than them," Hobson says. "I have used that to my advantage."

The firm's philosophy is, in a word, contrarian. Ariel likes to buy "value stocks," or what Rogers calls "unloved stocks" — ones it believes are undervalued by the U.S. market — and hold on to them, typically for five years, while the average mutual



fund's holding period is much shorter. The company's tagline is "Active Patience."

"We're searching for something inefficiently priced because it's just too small to be followed by the big brokerage firms and big money-management firms," Rogers says. "I'm always looking for stocks that are down the most. I'm never going to buy the ones going up the most." Ariel's flagship fund — Ariel Fund — has earned a 10.5% average annual return since 1986. Rogers is the chief stock picker at Ariel; Hobson is in charge of everything else.

To decide what to buy, Rogers likes to read newspapers, reports, and books in their physical format, not on a screen. He does not use a computer or email. "I want to be able to read and think during the day and not have someone else control my

"I'm always looking for
stocks that are down the most.
I'm never going to buy the ones
going up the most."

— JOHN W. ROGERS JR. '80

TEAM TIGERS

Members of the Ariel Investments team gather for a 40th anniversary celebration, including Mellody Hobson '91, John W. Rogers Jr. '80, Stephen Mills '81, a board member, and Arielle Patrick '12, the chief communications officer.

agenda," he says. "Reading emails all day is constantly taking you away from your concentration." (He did concede to texting after pleas from his daughter.)

Ariel's investing philosophy comes from Rogers' days on the Princeton basketball team: "Coach Carril taught us if you took your time, eventually the great opportunity would show up," he has said. There are tortoise figurines throughout Ariel's 29th-floor offices in downtown Chicago in tribute to its motto: "Slow and steady wins the race."

Devotion to Princeton is also in evidence at Ariel's offices, where the official colors are orange and black and meetings take place in the Pete Carril conference room, which is filled with Princeton memorabilia. Hanging next to each other on the wall are two Woodrow Wilson Awards — Princeton's highest honor, presented each year to an alum whose career embodies a commitment to national service. Rogers, who was recognized in 2008, was the first Black person to receive the prize. Hobson, the 2019 recipient, was the second.

ROGERS AND HOBSON HAVE LONG PUSHED FOR other people from minority groups to have a seat at the table — and they have done it from inside corporate America. Both have served on the boards of directors of some of the nation's largest and most prominent companies, Rogers at McDonald's, Nike, and *The New York Times*, and Hobson at JPMorgan Chase, Estée Lauder, and DreamWorks Animation SKG. In 2020, when Hobson was named chair of the board of directors at Starbucks, she became only the second Black woman to ever serve as board chair of an S&P 500 company.

What's critical for people of color who make it to the boardroom is to speak up, Hobson says: "One of the reasons I am in that room is they were looking for diversity. They wanted a Black woman, so I'm going to make sure I represent the perspectives and ideas that might be unique to me and that will help the company be better."

Bradley suggested her for the Starbucks board and served alongside her. "Mellody is going to tell you what she thinks," he says. "She has a remarkable candor that she does not shy away from using. She's willing to have the courage of her convictions."

Hobson presses on diversity with CEOs, asking, "Can you be a superstar at this company and fail on diversity goals? Can you

"They wanted a Black woman, so I'm going to make sure I represent the perspectives and ideas that might be unique to me and that will help the company be better."

— MELLODY HOBSON '91

get your full bonus?' If you can, it's not important," she explained on a 2020 podcast. "In business, you get what you incent."

More than 55 companies in Ariel's portfolio have added people of color to their boards of directors following Ariel's involvement, according to Ariel.

But just having diversity on a corporate board is not enough, Rogers says. "So often we get into these leadership roles both in executive ranks and in boardrooms, and then we get quiet," Rogers told an interviewer in 2012. "And we get shy, and we don't ask the tough questions, and the white CEO says, 'Well, I've got my Black board member or my Black executive, and they're not complaining. Things must be great.'"

To address that, Ariel created the annual Black Corporate Directors Conference in 2002. Each year, more than 200 Black, Latino, and Latina members of corporate boards attend with the goal of "learning from each other the importance of speaking up," Rogers says. That includes pressing the companies for which they are board members to track diversity — not just among the companies' employees, but also among the vendors they hire.

Rogers pushes companies to address another issue: Some hit their diversity goals by hiring minority vendors in fields such as janitorial services and construction, but when it comes to hiring lawyers, accountants, and investment bankers, they usually fall back on hiring white people, he says.

"John will challenge the inertia of a system when it comes to diversity and ask what might be difficult questions," says Aaron Diaz Bianco '06, who was a summer intern at Ariel and worked there as a research analyst for several years before starting his own investment firm. When Rogers sits on a corporate board, according to Bianco, Rogers asks, "What percentage are you spending with diverse firms? What type of spending? Is it just janitorial services?"

Corporate spending with minority-owned vendors is shockingly low for the majority of large companies: just 5%, according to Ariel. Large companies complain that they can't find enough diverse firms to do business with. Part of that difficulty stems from the fact that there are only five Black-owned businesses in the United States with more than \$1 billion in revenue, while most are categorized as small businesses, according to Ariel.



MEET AND PETE

Ariel Investments' headquarters in Chicago include a conference room named for Pete Carril and featuring Princeton memorabilia.

COURTESY ARIEL INVESTMENTS

JOHN W. ROGERS JR. '80

A Gift of Stocks at Age 12

FOR HIS 12TH BIRTHDAY, JOHN W. ROGERS JR. '80's father bought him blue-chip stocks instead of toys. More stocks followed at Christmastime and subsequent birthdays. The gifts — along with the dividend checks his father let him keep — ignited a love of investing.

Rogers was the only child of John Rogers Sr., who flew combat missions in World War II with the Tuskegee airmen, the military's first squadron of Black pilots. He met Rogers' mother, Jewel Lafontant, on the first day of law school at the University of Chicago in 1943. She was the first Black woman to graduate from the law school, and later the first woman and first Black person to serve as U.S. deputy solicitor general. Rogers Sr. was a judge in Chicago's juvenile court system. Their son liked to do jigsaw puzzles and read quarterly reports of the companies for which he owned stocks.

At Princeton, Rogers' basketball teammates teased him because, recalls Stephen Mills '81, "He was the only player who had a stockbroker." At the beginning of his sophomore year, his prospects of making the varsity team were slim. "I had already told

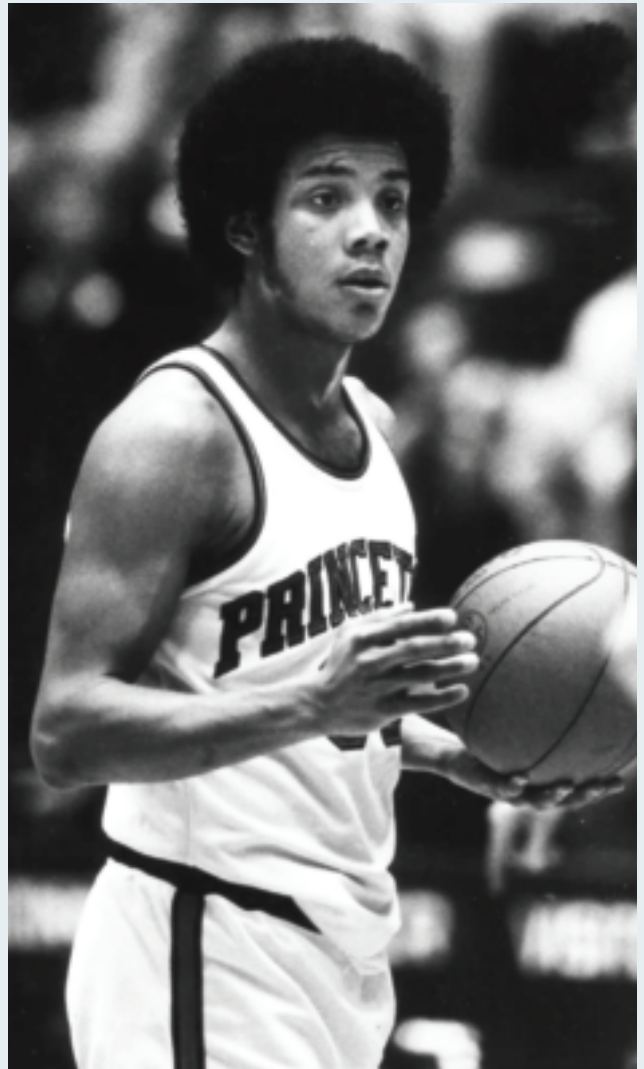
"HE WAS THE ONLY
PLAYER WHO HAD A
STOCKBROKER."

— STEPHEN MILLS '81

my parents I was leaving. I was going to come home and play for the University of Chicago," Rogers recalls. Instead, legendary coach Pete Carril gave him "the last uniform" for the team. "John was not a star, but he was scrappy," Mills says. "He never took a day off." By senior year, he was the team's captain.

Just three years after graduating, at the age of 24, Rogers founded the first Black-owned money management firm in the country, Ariel Investments. He based much of the company's philosophy on lessons learned from Carril, "by far the best teacher I've ever had," Rogers says. Carril was known for coaching "the Princeton offense" in which players keep passing the ball, wearing down the defense as they work to find the best available shot. The strategy usually resulted in low-scoring games. A top player "might only score 14 points in a game at Princeton because of the style of play," Mills says. Personal glory was sacrificed for the sake of a team victory.

Inspired by Carril's approach, Rogers embraced an investment strategy marked by patience — Ariel holds stocks far longer than most firms. And he learned to value "thinking



RARE AIR

Rogers rose to be team captain at Princeton, but arguably his greatest basketball feat happened two decades later.

about your teammates first," which led to his many initiatives to mentor young people and people of color. (The conference room named for Carril at Ariel's offices is where President Barack Obama's transition team began assembling the government after his 2008 election.)

Rogers experienced a once-in-a-lifetime moment of glory on the basketball court in 2003 at a camp run by retired NBA superstar Michael Jordan, who every year challenged attendees to play him in a game of one-on-one, up to three points. Rogers stepped up and scored two points against Jordan, who quickly evened the score to 2-2. And then, miraculously, Rogers made a left-handed layup to win the game. It is thought to be the first time someone at the camp defeated Jordan. *By J.A.*

MELLODY HOBSON '91

Lessons From a Financially Precarious Childhood

MELLODY HOBSON '91 GREW UP IN A HOUSEHOLD where there was often not enough money to pay the rent or make the car payment. She watched as her mother, a single parent to six children, bought Easter dresses for her daughters instead of paying the electric bill. “The consequences of that for me were quite devastating,” she recalls. “She thought she was doing the right thing, and to this day I believe her intent was right. She just didn’t have all the tools to make those decisions.” Understanding money “became something that gnawed at me. I wanted to have a different life.”

But Hobson’s mother, Dorothy Ashley, also showed her young daughter all the bills and had her calculate the tip when they ate at a restaurant. She went with her mother to paint and clean the rental units around Chicago that her mother owned and when she visited the bank to apply for a loan. (As a Black woman, her mother was often denied those loans.)

Hobson is grateful for those lessons. It bred her independence and ambition. In fifth grade, she found an orthodontist and went by herself to the appointment. When he told her that braces would cost \$2,500, she said her family didn’t have that much money. He offered her a payment plan of \$50 a month, which she brought home to her mother, who agreed to make the payments.

At 17, she met John W. Rogers Jr. ’80 at a Princeton recruiting event in Chicago. He brought her to Ariel as a summer intern. She interviewed with Wall Street firms as her Princeton graduation approached but decided to return to Ariel and has worked there ever since. (Hobson has been told she is the only member of the Class of 1991 who had the same work phone number since graduation.) Rogers “gave me such unfettered access to him,” she says, and she soaked up every lesson. She is proud that they have worked together for more

In 2021, Hobson came up with a way to tackle that problem by helping to create Ariel Alternatives, a private equity firm that seeks to invest in middle-market companies of scale that are Black- and Latino-owned. It also invests in companies that are not currently minority-owned, aiming to transform them into certified minority business enterprises. Ariel Alternatives provides the capital and connections for the companies to become suppliers to Fortune 500 companies. Ariel Alternatives’ first fund is called Project Black.



GRADUATION DAY

Hobson, shown with her mother, Dorothy Ashley, at her graduation, went straight to work at Ariel Investments.

than 30 years: “John and I have a special thing. People don’t stick like that.”

Her other partnership is with George Lucas, the creator of *Star Wars*, whom she married in 2013. The couple give to many nonprofits through the Hobson/Lucas Family Foundation, which donated a total of \$54 million in 2021, according to tax records. In 2019, the pair were awarded the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy for their contributions to organizations involved in education, the arts, and culture, all aimed at countering socioeconomic disadvantage. The couple have signed the Giving Pledge, promising to give the majority of their wealth away.

Hobson is still known for her work ethic. When asked why she starts her day at 4:30 a.m., she offers a correction: “Technically it’s 4.” She adds, “I don’t work now for anything. I don’t work for recognition. I don’t work for money. I work for the satisfaction of helping grow our business and support the people of Ariel, and helping deliver for our clients, and hopefully doing my part to help make society better. All of which sounds so highfalutin, but it’s actually what I feel.” *By J.A.*

Hobson decided to swing for the fences: She established a minimum investment of \$100 million for Project Black. “Everyone thought I was a little crazy,” she says, but she was looking for “corporate balance-sheet money,” a number that would require board approval. “If it was a significant number, we had the mind share we needed from the company for the duration. I never want it to be thought of, two or three CFOs later, as some kind of a charity effort.”

COURTESY MELLODY HOBSON '91

“Some were taken aback by the ask,” recalls Charles Corpening ’87, the senior managing director of Ariel Alternatives. He says the effort addresses another stubborn problem: Executives tend to feel most comfortable doing business with people who look like them. He cites a 2021 study of the film and TV industry by McKinsey that found that if a film had only non-Black producers, there was less than a 1% chance that a Black writer would be hired, while having at least one Black producer gave the film a 73% chance of bringing on a Black writer. When Ariel Alternatives invests in a company and establishes minority ownership, it means “there is a much higher probability that future management hires and job growth will go to communities of color,” Corpening says.

Hobson got results: Project Black closed its funding round in 2023 with major companies such as Walmart and Merck as investors, and JPMorgan Chase as a co-investor. The fund raised \$1.45 billion.

ANOTHER GOAL HOBSON AND ROGERS FEEL passionately about is getting more people of color in the financial services field, a lucrative, fast-growing industry in which people of color are underrepresented.

To that end, they spend a lot of time personally mentoring young people. When Ryan Jenkins ’24 was a summer intern at Ariel in 2022, she was invited to accompany Hobson on a two-day trip to watch the Denver Broncos announce that Hobson had become the first Black woman with an equity stake in an NFL team. “I sat with Melody on every plane ride. She explained everything to me,” Jenkins says. Last summer, she was an intern at Princo, which manages Princeton’s endowment.

Interns regularly attend Ariel board meetings. “I’m on three corporate boards, and this is the only one where interns attend board meetings,” says Stephen Mills ’81, who sits on Ariel’s Mutual Fund Board of Trustees and is a former president of the New York Knicks. “It’s not window dressing for Ariel.”

Those they mentor carry the lessons they learn far beyond Ariel. Jason Tyler ’93 grew up in Chicago and was recruited to go to Princeton by Rogers. As a summer intern at Ariel, he accompanied Rogers to board meetings for the National Urban League, a civil rights organization. “He was the youngest person on the board but was also willing to take a 17-year-old, to show me the importance of giving back,” Tyler says.

He also took note of Rogers’ meticulous preparation. “Watching John read so much made me a better student when I went back to Princeton,” Tyler says. “Sophomore year, I promised myself that I was going to be the one that was the most prepared going into class.”

Tyler returned to Ariel and spent eight years there, serving as a senior vice president. Today, he is chief financial officer of Northern Trust Corp., a Chicago-based financial services company that manages \$1.4 trillion in assets. He continues to

emulate Rogers by bringing young people to board meetings.

Nicholas Antoine ’12 served as Rogers’ chief of staff at Ariel and met his current business partner in Ariel’s hallways. In 2015, the pair launched Red Arts Capital, a supply-chain-focused private equity firm, with financial support from Rogers. Red Arts Capital is a rarity: a private equity firm entirely owned and led by Black investors. The firm promotes career development for people of color at its yearly Supply Chain Executive Conference, which 150 people attended in 2023.

Rogers also draws young people of color into the financial services industry with an internship program he funds at the University of Chicago. More than 130 students have worked at nonprofit endowment and foundations’ investment offices through the Rogers Internship Program in Finance.

HOBSON AND ROGERS ARE ALSO FOCUSED ON promoting financial literacy and access to investing in the Black community. Ariel addressed that issue early on by instituting a low minimum to open an account. “We wanted people to be able to invest \$50 a month,” Hobson says. At the time, many mutual-fund companies had minimums of \$5,000 or \$10,000, she says. “We thought those barriers were particularly problematic for people of color.”

They have discovered that educating Ariel Community Academy students about investing has a secondary benefit: reaching their parents. “Most of the time, adults — no matter who — don’t want to admit what they don’t know about money. There’s a lot of shame around that,” Hobson says. “One of the on-ramps to investing that we see is teaching kids, because we indirectly teach their parents.”

When students graduate from Ariel Community Academy and head to high school, the stocks purchased with the original \$20,000 that their grade received are sold. The first \$20,000 goes to the new first grade class, so the system is self-sustaining, and the rest is split among the graduates. Students have the option to invest their share in a college savings account, to which Ariel contributes an additional \$500, or take the amount in cash.

Ariel employees often spend time at the school. When Bianco was a research analyst at Ariel, he visited a third grade class to teach the youngsters about the difference between a stock and a bond, with Rogers sitting in the classroom beside him. “I’m from a poor neighborhood myself, so I was one of those kids growing up,” says Bianco, who is Mexican American and the first member of his family to go to college.

He has seen how Ariel Academy helps students envision a bright future. “I asked them, ‘What do you want to be when you grow up?’” Bianco recalls. “Everyone had their hands up. One wanted to be a hedge fund manager and another wanted to be an accountant.” ■

JENNIFER ALTMANN *is a freelance writer.*

SPOILER

Cornel West *80 is the latest Princetonian
to launch a presidential bid, but could his candidacy
go sour for the country?

ALERT!

BY MARK F. BERNSTEIN '83

ILLUSTRATION BY JUSTIN METZ



NOV 05 2024

FOR MORE THAN A GENERATION AFTER World War II, Democratic presidential candidates kicked off their general election campaigns with a Labor Day rally in Detroit's Cadillac Square, firing up the union workers who were the backbone of the party's coalition.

According to exit polls, President Joe Biden won only 57% of union members in 2020, far behind his showing with Black, Latino, and college-educated voters. Hoping to shore that up, the man who calls himself "Union Joe" effectively kicked off his 2024 reelection campaign early, making an unprecedented appearance on a picket line in the Detroit suburb of Belleville, Michigan, Sept. 25, showing support for the United Auto Workers. Wearing a UAW baseball cap, Biden spoke through a bullhorn, telling strikers, "Stick with it. You deserve the significant raise you need and other benefits."

A day later, Princeton Professor Emeritus Cornel West *80 also walked a UAW picket line in Wayne, Michigan. Clad in his signature black suit and tie, with a scarf around his neck despite the warm September weather, West, who is now running as an independent, damned Biden along with the automakers saying, "Symbolic gestures are empty if you don't follow through."

West is a footnote to this particular story, as he may be in this year's presidential election. But he might not be. Four years ago, Biden carried Michigan by more than 150,000 votes, his best margin in the industrial swing states. Still, concerns about his age, persistent inflation, and his support for Israel have hurt him, especially among younger voters and Arab Americans, of which Michigan has a large number.

Polls this far out should be taken with shovelfuls of salt, political analysts warn, but those that have included third-party candidates show no candidate winning a majority. Many also have former President Donald Trump ahead, with West taking anywhere from 1% to 5%, far behind another independent candidate, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who is mostly between 7% and 15%. West does not currently have a lot of support, but in the swing states, even a little could be enough to make a difference.

West is trying to articulate a different view for the country, but as in Michigan, he is also targeting states and voting blocs that are critical to Biden's reelection. That could have the effect of putting Trump back in the White House, a prospect many believe could be disastrous to American democracy. West, who campaigned against Trump four years ago, now says he will

"It's obviously not a serious campaign in that he's not going to be president. But it is serious in that it could deny Biden the presidency and give it to Trump."

— JOSH MARSHALL '91
Founder of Talking Points Memo

take that risk, criticizing Biden as another tool of the military-industrial complex.

"Is World War III better than Civil War II?" West asked rhetorically in *Time* magazine recently. Those, he suggests, are the country's only alternatives for the next four years.

No third-party candidate has ever been elected president; none has won even a single electoral vote in more than half a century. A few, such as Robert LaFollette in 1924 and Ross Perot in 1992, have shifted the public debate. Others have been spoilers. Most are simply ignored. At their best, American third parties flash for a moment to bring neglected issues into the public debate. Historian Richard Hofstadter famously compared them to bees, saying "Once they have stung, they die."

Will West, like his hero Muhammad Ali, sting like a bee? Or just buzz like a housefly? A lot rides on the answer.

IT IS USUALLY NOT HARD TO GET WEST, a prolific lecturer and author, to go on the record. But neither he nor his campaign responded to numerous interview requests from PAW. Some of his former colleagues in the Department of African American Studies also begged off. Even his close friend Professor Robert P. George, a noted West-whisperer, declined to comment for this story, although he did say in a June interview with the Catholic website *Our Sunday Visitor*, "Brother Cornel's decision ... is not motivated in the slightest degree by personal ambition or the desire for attention or applause. It is not about him. It is all about the things he believes in."

So far, West's presidential campaign has been erratic. On June 5, he announced that he was seeking the People's Party nomination, switched to the Green Party nine days later, then decided in early October that he would run as an independent, saying that he did not want to be hampered by party rules and platforms. His campaign manager has already resigned, replaced by four co-managers, and when West does travel, he reportedly does so without a fixed itinerary. West touts his improvisational style saying, "It's jazz all the way down, brother."

Like a good jazz concert, however, the campaign's merch game is on point. Visit the CornelWest2024.com website and there are several broad policy



positions and a bare-bones schedule, but also lots of hats, hoodies, T-shirts, posters, magnets, and yard signs for sale. What is his main objective here?

"It's obviously not a serious campaign in that he's not going to be president," says Josh Marshall '91, founder of the political website Talking Points Memo. "But it is serious in that it could deny Biden the presidency and give it to Trump." Fearing such an outcome, West's former allies Sen. Bernie Sanders and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez have called on him to stay out. West has rejected their advice, calling them "window dressing" and adding that the Democratic Party "is beyond redemption at this point when it comes to seriously speaking to the needs of poor and working people."

West, who served on the Princeton faculty for 16 years and is currently on leave from Union Theological Seminary, has followed a political path similar to many on the far left. He advised Sen. Bill Bradley '65's campaign in 2000 and was a surrogate for Barack Obama in 2008

before publicly denouncing him as a centrist sellout. In 2016, he was a key adviser to the Sanders campaign. Four years ago, despite calling Biden a "neoliberal disaster," he urged voters to support him in order to stop Trump's reelection.

West's current platform is broad and ambitious, calling for, among many other things, abolishing poverty and homelessness, nationalizing oil companies, providing both racial and climate reparations, ending mass incarceration, ending "global patriarchy," and "dismantl[ing] the U.S. empire." Like Trump, he blames the West for provoking Russia's invasion of Ukraine. "Without NATO," West argues, "the world would be a safer place."

According to the Federal Election Commission, West raised

nearly \$322,000 in the third quarter of 2023. By comparison, the Biden-Harris campaign raised more than \$71 million and Trump raised \$45.5 million. In 2016, Green Party nominee Jill Stein raised about \$3.7 million to earn just 1.07% of the vote, which gives an idea of the mountain

GO WEST

*Cornel West addresses
pro-Palestinian demonstrators
in Los Angeles as part of
his unpredictable
presidential campaign.*



West must climb. Though he has forsworn PAC money in favor of small donors, his biggest single donor so far has been billionaire real estate developer Harlan Crow, a longtime GOP megadonor and benefactor of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, who gave \$3,300. West initially defended the contribution, noting that he and Crow are longtime friends, but later said he returned the money.

PRINCETON, WHICH HAS PRODUCED TWO MAJOR-PARTY presidential nominees (Woodrow Wilson 1879 and Adlai Stevenson 1922) since the dawn of the party system, has turned out three other candidates who have run on third-party tickets. They offer competing views of the paths West's campaign might broadly take.

John C. Breckinridge *1839 has a rather tenuous claim to being an alumnus; he attended Princeton's then-small graduate program but did not earn a degree. In 1856, at age 36, he was elected as James Buchanan's vice president, the youngest vice president in U.S. history. Four years later, the Democratic Party, like the rest of the country, broke apart, and Breckinridge headed a splinter ticket of Southern Democrats against Republican Abraham Lincoln.

The election degenerated into a regional contest: Lincoln

fought Stephen A. Douglas in the North, while Breckinridge and a fourth candidate, John Bell, battled in the South. Although Breckinridge himself opposed secession, most of his supporters did not. Douglas declared, "There is not a disunionist in America who is not a Breckinridge man."

Breckinridge, of course, lost to Lincoln, finishing third with 18.1% of the popular vote, but second in the Electoral College, where he carried nine states in the deep South plus Maryland and Delaware. Elected to the U.S. Senate at the same time he was running for president, Breckinridge resigned to join the Southern army. He became Confederate secretary of war in the final weeks of the war, fled the country after Appomattox, and did not return to the United States until President Andrew Johnson declared a general amnesty in 1868.

Norman Thomas 1905 offers a happier counterpoint. The son and grandson of ministers, Thomas planned to join the clergy after Princeton, but time spent working in the New York City tenements converted him to socialism and politics instead. He headed the Socialist party ticket in six consecutive presidential elections from 1928 through 1948, running before that for numerous offices in New York state, everything from alderman to U.S. Senate. He never won once.

Thomas' best showing came during the depths of the Depression, in 1932, when he won nearly 885,000 votes (2.23%)

Ralph Nader '55 on corporate leaders, then and now: 'Heading toward disaster'

RALPH NADER '55 HAS DEVOTED a 60-year career to criticizing corporate rapacity and misgovernance. It is a surprise, then, to see him say something nice (selectively) about top management. In his new book, *The Rebellious CEO, 12 Leaders Who Got It Right* (Melville House), Nader holds up some positive examples he wishes more would emulate.

The book might be described as a *Profiles in Courage* for the C-suite. Nader thinks about that analogy for a moment. "But it's not great courage," he quibbles. "They're not Nathan Hale." They simply did what everyone ought to do, but doesn't.

Let's not be churlish, though. Nader has encountered admirable characters at the top of the corporate ladder. He leads off with a fellow alum, the late John Bogle '51, founder of the Vanguard



NADER ON NADIR

Ralph Nader '55 says he is proud of changes he's helped to enact but sees problems now with corporations gaining more power. 'Here we go again,' he says.

Group, one of the first index funds. Vanguard pioneered low-cost and low-fee investing, making it available to people of modest means. As Bogle put it, Vanguard tried to "give our small citizen/investors a fair shake."

As if that weren't enough, Bogle devoted his last book, *Enough: True Measures of Money, Business, and Life*, to reminding people that there are higher values than grasping for every dollar on the table. He denounced "not only our worship of

wealth and the growing corruption of our professional ethics but ultimately the subversion of our character and values."

Bogle, Nader says, "was a really great man."

Others who make the list include Anita Roddick, former CEO of The Body Shop, who insisted that employees work on a civic mission of their own choice on company time. ("If you ever wanted to see a full-fledged human being," Roddick was the one, Nader says.) Also,



THE LINCOLN LOSER

John C. Breckinridge "1839 received 73 electoral votes in 1860, losing to Abraham Lincoln, who had 180 electoral votes.

health care for seniors, old age pensions, and civil rights protections, Roosevelt and subsequent Democratic presidents eventually enacted into law. As FDR once tweaked him, "You know, Norman, I think I'm a better politician than you are."

running against Franklin Roosevelt. With capitalism seemingly on the verge of collapse, writes Arthur Schlesinger Jr., "many intellectuals ... felt that the only intelligent vote was one for Thomas." Thomas, who feared that Roosevelt was too cautious, urged his followers to vote their hopes rather than their fears. "Don't vote for what you won't want and get it." That might serve as the third-party motto.

Few third-party bees ever stung like Thomas, much of whose platform, including unemployment insurance,

Regarded by admirers as a prophet, an "American Isaiah," Thomas continued to advocate for progressive causes long after he quit electoral politics. "I am not the champion of lost causes," he once said, "but the champion of causes not yet won." During the early 1950s, he lectured at Princeton and was escorted back to his hotel by a student, Ralph Nader '55, who asked Thomas what he regarded as his greatest success.

"My greatest success," Thomas replied, "was having the Democrats steal a lot of my agenda."

Nader still tells that story with affection. Like Thomas, he has run several forgettable third-party races (such as winning 0.56% of the vote against Obama in 2008), but as the Green Party nominee in 2000, Nader may well have cost Al Gore the presidency. Many Democrats still have not forgiven him for it.

Nader ran in 2000 on essentially the same platform that had made him famous as a consumer advocate: attacks on corporate greed and militarism and on expanding the social safety net. He received 2.9 million votes nationwide (2.74% of the total) but critically, 97,421 votes in Florida, which Gore lost by just 537 votes.

Perhaps not surprisingly, Nader declines to accept responsibility for making George W. Bush president, noting that if Gore had managed to carry his own home state of Tennessee or Bill Clinton's Arkansas, he would have won anyway. "The

B. Rapoport, founder of the American Income Life Insurance Co., which not only was one of the few companies to sell insurance to labor unions but was itself unionized, at Rapoport's insistence.

As Nader observes, these CEOs tended to be founders, which gave them more control over the company's direction and culture. More important, "they put workers, consumers, and the environment up front. They had a moral compass." Sadly, from Nader's perspective, they were exceptions rather than the rule. Asked if he could have expanded his list beyond a dozen, Nader answers, "Put it this way, it wouldn't have been easy to go much beyond that."

Having said some positive things about the culture of big business, Nader is not optimistic about the state of the country. Income inequality is up, regulatory enforcement is down, and corporations are even more dangerous because their power is linked to new technologies.

"When you connect big corporations with AI and with nanotech and biotech, with no legal or ethical framework, you're heading toward disaster," he warns.

Another thing that worries Nader is social media, which preys on children, monetizing their personal data, exposing them to junk food and violence,

undermining parental authority, and separating them from their communities. He calls social media companies "electronic child abductors."

Still, steer Nader onto less charged subjects and he is inquisitive and engaging — chatty, even. He remains devoted to Princeton, fondly recalling professors, such as Marver Bernstein, who influenced him as an undergraduate. He is especially proud of his class's philanthropic work, asking to put in a plug for the Princeton Alumni Corps, formerly Project 55.

Nader, who turns 90 in February, does not seem to be slowing down. ("I'm knocking wood as you say that," he remarks.) He has two more books coming out in 2024, one a collection of his columns and the other, co-authored with consumer advocate Mark Green, about expanding civic engagement by parents, workers, and consumers.

Best known as a consumer, financial, and environmental watchdog as well as a political candidate, Nader still writes at his website, Nader.org. But he is also a little bit of yesterday's news. Rather than hector the public, he wants to engage it, but reporters, educators, and legislators no longer return his calls the way they used to. "You can't have an intellectual

relationship with a faculty that doesn't return calls," he complains. "You can't exercise your First Amendment right to petition the government for redress of grievances if they don't respond."

Not that Nader is always an easy man to reach. "I'm old fashioned," he boasts. "I don't have a cell phone. I don't have an email address. I don't have a credit card. I'm a free human being." Although Nader writes some of the tweets that run on his X account, someone else posts them and he never visits the site.

Asked to assess whether his long career was a success, Nader turns philosophical.

"We're pleased with all the lives saved," he begins. "There's less lead in people's blood now, less water pollution in some rivers, less traumatic death in the workplace, a lot of consumer protections." He quotes his father, a Lebanese immigrant, who used to say that he was pleased by how far the country had come, but displeased about how much still was left to do.

"That is how I look at our efforts over the years," Nader says. "They are now under tremendous assault. Corporations are much more powerful. Corporate crime enforcement is almost nonexistent, especially against executives. So, here we go again." *By M.F.B.*

Democratic Party doesn't 'own' any votes. The Republicans don't 'own' any votes," he says now in an interview with PAW. "They have to earn them."

Nader, who has spoken with West and encourages his campaign, believes the best way for Biden to win West's voters is to co-opt his platform. "What [Democrats] should do is concentrate on a people's agenda for workers, consumers, and communities, [and] expose the Republicans for who they are," he says. He vehemently rejects the notion that he or any other third-party candidate deserves to be called a spoiler.

"The voters who wanted to vote for the Liberty Party in 1840 against slavery, would you have called them spoilers?" he asks. "How about the voters who wanted to vote for the Equal Rights Party in 1872, would you have called them spoilers? I call it political bigotry."

MARSHALL BELIEVES THAT THIRD-PARTY CANDIDATES such as West and RFK Jr. are central to Trump's hopes of returning to the White House. "Trump can't win 50% of the vote. What he needs are one or two third-party candidates to pull the Democratic share into the mid-40s, and then he can win."

By running as an independent, West may have freed himself from party platforms, but only at the expense of a lot of other headaches. He will need to collect millions of signatures to get on the ballot — West says he hopes to qualify in 35 states — and will have to fight legal challenges the Democrats will launch to keep him off.

David Byler '14, a former political columnist for *The Washington Post* and now chief of research at Noble Predictive Insights, counsels putting things in perspective. For one thing, polls this far from Election Day tend to overstate the appeal of third-party candidates. While the public clearly is unhappy with the choice of Biden or Trump, many may tell a pollster now that they will vote for West but do something different come November.

Strategic voting is also likely, Byler suggests. In other words, West may do better in states such as California or Oklahoma where the winner is not in doubt, than in Michigan and other swing states where voters will recognize the cost of a protest vote.

Still another possibility, which Nader also touts, is that third-

"The voters who wanted to vote for the Liberty Party in 1850 against slavery, would you have called them spoilers? How about the voters who wanted to vote for the Equal Rights Party in 1872, would you have called them spoilers? I call it political bigotry."

— RALPH NADER '55



BREAKING THE NORM

Norman Thomas 1905, front, ran as the Socialist Party nominee in six consecutive presidential elections.

party candidates like himself and West don't pull votes from either of the two major parties, but instead draw people who otherwise would not have voted at all. Exit polls in Michigan in 2016, for example, suggested that only a quarter of Jill Stein's voters would have supported Hillary Clinton. Most would just have stayed home.

West also makes this point, insisting that he is not trying to be a spoiler, but trying to entice non-voters into the electoral process while articulating a different vision for the country. "So, if there is some taking from both parties, it's going to be very, very small," he told *The Guardian* in October.

To be fair, West acknowledges that Biden and Trump are not identical, that Biden's tax-and-spending policies, climate change program, support for reproductive rights, and judicial nominees would be closer to his own views. "At least Biden does believe in the transfer of power during election time," he added to *Time*.

Still, to West it is not enough. "The alternative to fascism can never be just a mediocre, milquetoast caretaker Democratic administration that's just postponing fascism," he said in a recent interview. "If we can't create an alternative vision ... and in the end, a movement, then fascism is coming to our place sooner or later."

That phrase, "sooner or later," carries a lot of weight in West's assessment. Democrats, and many Republicans, argue that postponing fascism until later is much preferable to getting it sooner. Unless the country, and West, are careful, they fear it may come very soon indeed. **■**

MARK F. BERNSTEIN '83 is PAW's senior writer.

ALAMY

PRINCETONIANS

ALUMNI STORIES AND PERSPECTIVES



COURTESY GABRIELLE COLE '13

FEARLESS FLIER

The American military does not publish such statistics, but it's a good bet that Gabrielle Cole '13 is the first Princeton philosophy-majoring, Under 23 World Rowing Championships-winning, Black Hawk-flying Black woman in the U.S. Armed Forces. She earned her Army aviation wings in March 2022 after a grueling 15-month training camp that entailed psychological conditioning, survivalist skill-building, and an array of flying tests fit for a high-budget action film. Her fearlessness in the face of new challenges has elevated her career to new heights. "Flying helicopters wasn't on my radar growing up," says Cole, noting the number of women in aviation is small, but she hopes stories like hers will open new horizons.



READ MORE about Cole's journey and find other **TIGERS OF THE WEEK** at paw.princeton.edu.



GORDON MERRICK '39

The Unlikely Gay Novelist

BY JOSEPH M. ORTIZ *03

WHEN GORDON MERRICK '39 arrived at Princeton in the fall of 1935, he had little intention of becoming a novelist. His passion was for the stage, and he immediately threw himself into the University's theater scene. With his good looks and dulcet voice, he was a natural acting talent, and before long he was the star of Theatre Intime, by then a breeding ground for Broadway actors. Buoyed by his campus fame, Merrick left Princeton after his junior year to pursue a Broadway career, eventually landing a coveted role in *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. Merrick's future, though, was not as an actor, but as one of the most important — and most controversial — gay novelists of the 20th century.

The story of Merrick's literary career is a circuitous and unexpected one. After a few years on Broadway, Merrick dabbled in journalism before being recruited by the Office of Strategic Services (OSS, the precursor of the CIA) during World War II.

The OSS valued his acting ability (and his fluent French) and assigned him to a counter-espionage mission in the south of France. The experience became the basis of Merrick's first novel, *The Strumpet Wind*, which was published in 1947. The novel garnered positive reviews — except from *The New York Times*, which criticized Merrick for being a “scrupulous moralist who tries hard to see both sides” of the war.

“You deserve much credit for what you have done for the gay community. You have made me realize that somewhere there is hope of finding someone special to share my life and love with.”

— ANONYMOUS FAN

in a letter to Gordon Merrick '39

ADORED AUTHOR

Gordon Merrick '39 at the Triton Hotel in Sri Lanka in 1984.

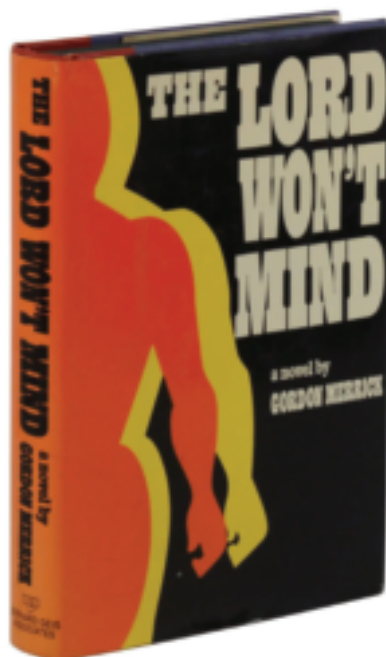
While *Strumpet* established Merrick as a respectable postwar novelist, it was another semi-autobiographical novel, written two decades later, that made a true literary splash. In 1970, Merrick's fifth novel, *The Lord Won't Mind*, hit the bookstore shelves. Unlike his previous novels, which had minor gay characters, this one was centered on a gay man: Charlie, a Princeton-educated actor who falls in love with another man. Rather than being coded or hidden, the novel's gay subject matter was boldly highlighted — “the first homosexual novel with a happy ending,” according to the advertisements. Surprisingly, *Lord* was an immediate bestseller. It stayed on *The New York Times* top 10 list for an impressive 16 weeks, and the paperback edition that followed was even more popular. Afterward, Merrick wrote eight more gay novels, all published in paperback and distributed to a mass readership. When he died in Sri Lanka in 1988, he was unquestionably the world's most commercially successful writer of gay fiction.

I personally discovered Merrick's novels as a gay teenager in New Mexico in the 1980s, when one day I stumbled upon *Lord* at the local Waldenbooks. (This was a common scenario for Merrick's readers, thanks to his publisher's shrewd distribution strategy.) However, it was not until years later — as a graduate student at Princeton — that I learned about Merrick himself. Princeton's Special Collections Department contains the Gordon Merrick Papers, a large archive of manuscripts, letters, and photographs that were donated to the University by Merrick's surviving partner, Charles Hulse, after his death. I began researching the archive as a distraction from my dissertation on Shakespeare, but the wealth of materials — and the peculiarity of Merrick's life — turned this distraction into an obsession. Eventually, my research became the

basis of a complete biography, *Gordon Merrick and the Great Gay American Novel*, which was published by Lexington Books in 2022.

Among the archive's many treasures is its collection of fan mail sent to Merrick in the 1970s and '80s. Although Merrick was routinely ignored by literary critics (including gay critics) who deemed his work too idealistic or sexually explicit, he had a large and diverse readership who devoured his novels. These included gay men of all ages and backgrounds, as well as a few straight women. Taken together they offer a rare glimpse into the lived experiences of gay men in the period, particularly those who lived outside the meccas of New York and San Francisco. "You deserve much credit for what you have done for the gay community," wrote a 21-year-old reader in Dorchester, Massachusetts. "You have made me realize that somewhere there is hope of finding someone special to share my life and love with."

The archive also reveals a previously unknown aspect of Merrick's novels — the fact that all of them contain autobiographical episodes. Both before and after *Lord*, Merrick routinely drew from his life experiences, including his time at Princeton. For example, in *One for the Gods* (the sequel to *Lord*), he re-creates Princeton's undergraduate theatrical scene in the 1930s, suggesting that it was a relatively safe space for gay students. Other scenes derive from Merrick's Broadway career. In these episodes Merrick often depicts the darker side of New York's theatrical world, which had its share of struggling actors and predatory directors. Merrick included here veiled (and sometimes not so veiled) portraits of many Broadway luminaries, such as Moss Hart, Clifton Webb, Cole Porter, and Noël Coward.



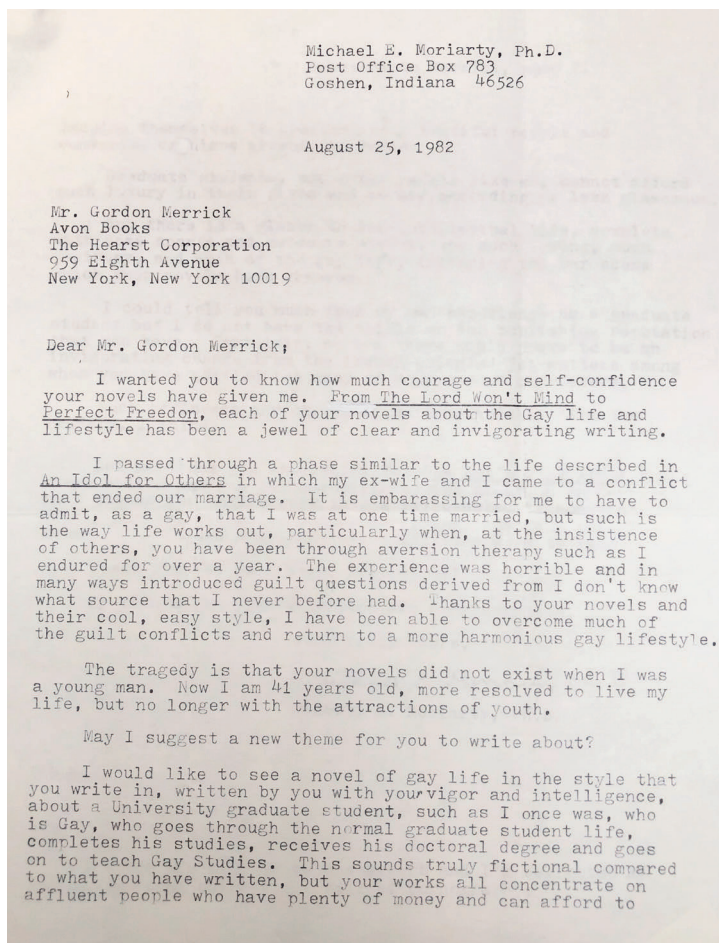
Some of the most fascinating autobiographical moments in Merrick's novels are those based on his work as an OSS agent. The experience profoundly changed Merrick's outlook on life, in part because it showed him other ways

of living in the world as a gay man. In France, Merrick found that he did not have to guard his sexuality the same way he did in America — including from his OSS commanders, who knew he was gay but apparently did not care. "I don't know why they didn't get rid of me on

the spot," Merrick said in an interview decades afterward. "I guess they figured that if I was going to be that relaxed about it, then it couldn't be a very serious problem."

Ideally, the story of Merrick's life will prompt other historians and literary critics to explore those aspects of LGBTQ+ history that have not been fully documented or have been hidden from view — like gay men who were allowed to serve in World War II. In his review of *Gordon Merrick and the Great Gay American Novel*, the writer Andrew Holleran states that the history of Merrick "ends up being a fascinating history of arguments over just how gay people were to be portrayed" in the decades following Stonewall. As recent debates over LGBTQ+ films and plays have shown, such arguments are far from being settled. ■

JOSEPH M. ORTIZ *03 is department chair and professor of English at the University of Texas-El Paso.



LEADING BY EXAMPLE

A fan letter to Merrick, left, and his first big book, The Lord Won't Mind.



PHIL CHANG '15

The Data Behind the Plays

BY KELLEY FREUND

WHILE LEBRON JAMES AND Anthony Davis played a big role in the Los Angeles Lakers reaching the NBA's conference championships last season, Phil Chang '15 can also take some of the credit — although you won't find him on the court.

Since 2017, Chang has been in the background, using his Princeton engineering degree to transform the team through data. As director of basketball analytics and research, a role he's held since June 2021, he provides information to the front office and coaching staff that helps inform their decisions, from which players to put into the game to roster construction and player health initiatives.

But as a kid growing up in a suburb of Los Angeles, Chang never thought about combining his love of basketball and his aptitude for math. An opportunity as a student studying operations research and financial engineering at Princeton changed all that. When Chang first heard about the annual Sloan Sports Analytics Conference at MIT, which gathers industry professionals and students to discuss the increasing role of analytics in the global sports industry, he thought it was a great intersection of his interests. And best of all, the University was willing to fund his trips to the conference all four years.

"Part of what makes Princeton so great is they provide the resources for students to pursue their passions," Chang says.

"It's an invaluable experience to go to a conference pertaining to something you're interested in and meet with luminaries and peers. This conference was my first exposure to the field, and even now as a professional, it's a nonmiss event. I've attended almost every year."

But while Chang found the field of sports analytics interesting, he didn't consider it as a career. Today every major sports team has multiple staffers working on the analytics side, but Chang says that when he was a college student, it would've taken a lot of foresight to predict the field's potential.

"So like any good Princeton grad does, I took a job in finance," he says.

Chang worked as an analyst at

BlackRock for a year before a contact he had met at the Sloan Conference offered him a job with the NBA. Working with the strategy and analytics team, he focused on researching the structure of the game of basketball, including potential rule changes, officiating, and the timing of trade deadlines.

"It was a different way to view the sport I grew up watching and playing," Chang says. "Instead of rooting for a team, I was looking at how out-of-bounds calls affect win probability. Seeing the game from 10,000 feet was a great place to get started working in basketball and begin to understand what the business of the game is all about."

When his boss at the NBA went to

work for the Lakers in 2017, Chang followed, excited to learn even more about the sport through a new role in the basketball ecosystem. Today, Chang and his team serve as advisers to the Lakers' staff, providing information that helps improve the team. During the season, for example, they look at the degree to which their on-court team outperforms opponents.

"Are the shots or looks we are getting or giving up due to luck, or are they due to reliable strategy initiatives?" Chang says. "Specific stats may be misleading, and our decision-making takes place with a mosaic approach, looking at a variety of different statistics, including the tracking data provided by Second Spectrum and Hawkeye, which track coordinate data for the players and teams to provide a rich, complex dataset that [provides] insights about team performance."

The team also manages a suite of internal team metrics to advise on player health and progressions. And they examine broader trends and performance-based statistics for players across the league and other levels of competition as they consider roster construction.

"Nowadays, there are so many data-generating parts of a professional sports team, and I think it's hard for some people to put those numbers and trends into context," Chang says. "Our team is a custodian of all that data. *Our* job is to make sure our colleagues have support to do *their* job. We provide that solid reasoning and logic so that data is the backbone of the decisions being made."

Thanks to his gig, Chang has been able to witness some awe-inspiring basketball moments in person, like when James passed Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's career scoring record in February. And even though the pandemic impacted the 2019-20 season, having the opportunity to see the Lakers win the NBA title that year proved to Chang that the work he'd done was starting to pay off.

"I love that my job allows me to touch each level of the team," Chang says. "And it's just fun to work in sports in general, to participate in an organization and an industry that brings joy to people." ■

CLASS NOTES

Online Class Notes are password protected. To access, alumni must use their TigerNet ID and password. [Click here to log in: http://paw.princeton.edu/class-notes](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 1951

EDGAR HERBERT LAWTON JR. '51

Ed came to us from Hartsville, a small town in South Carolina where his family owned a successful vegetable oil processing company. He roomed with three Woodberry Forest School classmates, George Darden, Dail Longaker, and Zach Toms, who joined Cottage Club together. Ed was an economics major and a member of the Republican Club.



After graduating from Harvard Business School in 1953, he went on to Navy OCS and served for three years on various amphibians in the western Pacific. Returning to Hartsville, he became president and treasurer of Hartsville Oil Mill, serving until his retirement.

Throughout his life, Ed served as a board member or officer of several organizations, including Sonoco Products, NationsBank Carolinas, Coker University (where he was chairman of the foundation board for 59 years), president of the National Cottonseed Products Association, a founding director of the Byerly Foundation, and board chairman and life trustee of Oldfields School.

A skilled pilot, he was able to travel widely to pursue a great variety of interests such as classic cars and to spend time at his vacation home in Blowing Rock, N.C.

Ed died May 4, 2023, in Hartsville. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Nan; and four children.

CRAWFORD JOHN MACCALLUM '51

Described in his obituary as a physicist, astronomer, performer, translator, and all-around adventurer, Mac died at his home in the village of Tijeras, a suburb of Albuquerque, N.M., April 27, 2023, after deciding to forgo food and drink.



He came to Princeton from Lawrenceville in 1947. He majored in physics and was a member of Cannon Club and the Republican Club. New Mexico became his home after he studied physics and astronomy at Cornell. He took a job with Sandia National Laboratories in 1954, where he worked on national security

research projects for 30 years.

Mac had an active interest in the arts, including theater, poetry, music, and Spanish literature. He was a founding member and prime mover in several English-Spanish theatrical groups and was known for his love of the Spanish language for which he was often a translator and a mentor to others. A lover of adventure, he seemed to forever be traveling the world tracking gamma rays with high-altitude test balloons in Australia and diving off cliffs into pools in the Grand Canyon.

Mac is survived by five sons.

GEORGE D. NESBITT '51

George died at home on Dec. 26, 2022. He was 93.



He was born in Dehradun, India, where his father, Ralph Beryl Nesbitt 1914, taught in Presbyterian schools. They moved to Larchmont, N.Y., where George attended

Mamaroneck High School. At Princeton, he majored in English literature under Robert Frost biographer Lawrance Thompson.

George went on to study medicine at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. He initially considered a practice in pediatrics, but a brief stint in the Air Force redirected him to psychiatry. Moving his young family to the Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Md., area, he engaged in private practice for almost four decades, maintaining an affiliation with Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington, D.C.

George was an enthusiastic sailor and fisherman, passions that led him to own and operate a marina on the Chesapeake Bay. He reignited a family history of small-scale farming by establishing and managing a fruit farm in Calvert County, Md.

A voracious reader, George attached dozens of Post-it notes to favorite books, adding his own thoughts about what he read. He delighted in sharing these running commentaries with anyone who would listen. He sent long, sometimes rambling handwritten letters to those he loved. Payment for a landscaping invoice might be returned with a missive on topics ranging from family affairs to politics to the economy; others received Xeroxed articles

from *The New York Review of Books* and the Sunday papers. While he rarely spoke about his ancestry, George held family documents tracing the Nesbitts back to pre-Revolutionary times.

George is survived by his wife, Maureen; children Kathryn, Lois *88, and Ralph; and grandchildren Laura and Russell.

THE CLASS OF 1953

DAVID H. BROWN SR. '53

David died Feb. 9, 2023, in Yardley, Pa.

He was born in Manhattan and came to Princeton from Phillips Academy. He joined Cannon Club, majored in chemical engineering, wrestled for the University, and discovered classical art and music that inspired him throughout his life after Princeton.



David went to work for Tidewater Oil Co. at their plant in Bayonne, N.J. He entered the U.S. Army in 1955 and spent two years at Dugway, Utah, with the Chemical Corps. After leaving the Army, David earned an MBA and Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania and served as an OR engineer and analyst for Morgan Guaranty Trust Co. Eventually he started and led his own business, Princeton Energy Partners, until his retirement.

Continuing to support the performing arts, David was a founding member of the Princeton Festival in 2004, which continues today with the Princeton Symphony.

He also served as vice president of the class for several years and joyfully organized many reunions and class events. For the 70th-reunion letter, he wrote: "My Princeton experience has been a Great Light in my life, which I totally cherish."

David is survived by his wife of 56 years, Jeannette; their two children; two grandchildren; and by his daughter and granddaughter from a prior marriage. A grandson preceded him in death.

THE CLASS OF 1954

G. BOYCE BATEY '54

Boyce died July 21, 2023.

He prepared at John Marshall High School in Cleveland and was active in track, publications, and orchestra. He majored in English and the American Civilization Program, writing his senior thesis on "The Abnormal Psychological Element in Henry James" — an interest he pursued during most of the latter half of his life. He was a member of Court Club and was a letterman in cross country.

Following Princeton, he read in parapsychology in Duke University's noted parapsychology research program. He



married Nancy Aabye in 1958 and they had two sons, Adrian and Gregory.

Boyce worked for a time with *The Wall Street Journal* in New York and Chicago, and then with Aetna Life and Casualty in Chicago and Hartford, Conn. Then, harking back to his senior thesis and his studies at Duke, Boyce became the executive director of the Academy of Religion and Psychical Research, serving for 25 years. Its mission is “to discern, develop, and disseminate knowledge of how paranormal phenomena may relate to and enhance the development of the human spirit.”

In his retirement years, Boyce volunteered as a docent/historical interpreter at the Noah Webster House/West Hartford Historical Society, where he enjoyed “guiding people through the house where the Father of the American language was born.” Survivors are not known.

RODGER L. GAMBLIN '54 *65

Rodger died Aug. 7, 2023.

He prepared at St. Louis Country Day School, where he participated in football, soccer, and publications. Rodger majored in basic engineering, joined Key and Seal and Whig-Clio, and served on the Sophomore Council. He played freshman and JV soccer.



In 1955, he joined Princeton's Project Matterhorn, which was conducting research to develop controlled thermonuclear energy, and he eventually earned a Ph.D. in physics there. In 1959, he began a 17-year career with IBM to develop computer systems. In 1976, he became director of the research and development section of the Mead Corp., retiring as vice president in 1979. An entrepreneur and inventor, he then started two companies and was author or co-author of more than 40 patents.

Throughout his life, Rodger was an avid gardener and cook. In midlife, he married Kathleen Burch. They spent the next 40 years cooking together and traveling. He enjoyed spending time with their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He loved sharing with them his passion for knowing how the world works, and how to make things.

Alzheimer's disease struck, and Rodger steadily declined over his final 10 years, remaining at home until the end. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen; children Anne, Rodger, Lawrence, Sarah, and Amanda; stepchildren Julie, Jennifer, Mark, and Sharon; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

SHELDON I. GELLER '54

Shelly died Jan. 30, 2023.

He prepared at James Madison High



School in Brooklyn, N.Y., where he was active in tennis, student government, and orchestra.

A music major at Princeton, he was also interested in psychology, art, and philosophy. He joined Dial Lodge, was business manager of the *Nassau Lit*, and participated in varsity tennis and IAA baseball and basketball.

Shelly married Marcia Schwartz in 1955, divorcing in 1976. After service in the Army from 1956 to 1958, he embarked on a career in department store sales, marketing, and advertising — first with Bloomingdale's and then with Rooster Ties, Pace Shirtmakers, C.F. Hathaway, and eventually as an executive with the Dekkers store chain.

His principal avocation was golf. He boasted of scoring three holes-in-one and winning the senior club championship at Pelham Country Club at age 70, beating eligible entrants from age 50 up.

He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Linda Lucia; sons Mike and Dave from his first marriage; and son Matt from a second marriage.

THE CLASS OF 1955

BURT J. ABRAMS '55

Burt, attorney and retired partner with Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy in New



York City, died June 18, 2022.

He was born in Brooklyn Oct. 21, 1934. He attended Midwood High School in Brooklyn, where he participated in

student government, the math team, and publications. At Princeton, he majored in the School of Public and International Affairs and joined Campus Club. He was executive editor of *The Daily Princetonian* and participated in IAA basketball and touch football. He was also a Campus Fund solicitor and member of the Whig-Clio freshman debate panel. His senior-year roommates were Leonard Inker and Leonard Zegans.

After graduation, Burt attended Harvard Law School and worked at the U.S. Department of Justice before joining Milbank Tweed, where he was a tax lawyer. He and his wife, Fern, lived in northern New Jersey and also had a home in Naples, Fla. Burt's favored enjoyments were bridge and golf.

He is survived by his wife, Fern Broida Abrams; and two daughters, Alison Abrams and Jana Karam.

ANTHONY C.E. QUANTON '55

Tony, once described as the perfect diplomat with a natural bent for languages, exuberance, and zest for life, died July 31, 2023. He received seven diplomatic appointments from four presidents,



Republican and Democrat; served on every inhabited continent; was director general of the foreign service; served on the board of Princeton AlumniCorps; and received the Class of 1955 Award in 1994.

Tony was born April 4, 1934, in Seattle. At Andover, he was assistant track manager and active in debate and dramatics. At Princeton, he majored in history and the Special Program in the Humanities, joined Key and Seal, was a member of the cricket team, and played IAA club ping-pong. His senior-year roommate was Roger Lloyd.

After graduation and as a Marshall scholar, he met and married fellow Marshall scholar Susan Long, who survives him, as do their three children, Katherine '82, Eden, and Elizabeth '89; seven grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

During his 37-year diplomatic career, Tony served as assistant secretary for diplomatic security and director of the Office for Combating Terrorism. He also directed and performed in amateur theatrical productions ranging from *The Crucible* to *The Odd Couple*. Following the foreign service, he taught in the School of International Service at American University.

He was deeply committed to Christian unity and interfaith cooperation and wrote two books narrating his life and spiritual journey, *Eye on the World: A Life in International Service* and *Reflections of a Roaming Catholic*.

WILLIAM J. SALMAN '55

Bill, whose careers ranged from the shipping business to ranching and then to retail and online plant sales, died Aug. 12, 2023, at his home in Santa Fe, N.M.



Bill was born in Houston Dec. 19, 1933, and graduated from Las Vegas (N.M.)

High School. At Princeton, he majored in economics and joined Terrace Club. He engaged in IAA football, tennis, squash, and volleyball. His special interest was photography. His senior year roommates were Barry Savits and Ken Lewis.

After graduation he served two years in the Army, then joined the family shipping companies. When the companies were sold in 1973, he co-managed with his brother David Salman '58 a 32,000-acre cattle ranch in New Mexico. Much of the ranch was sold but 2,500 acres were retained and formed the basis of Santa Fe Greenhouses, a retail plant nursery in Santa Fe that sells plants and bulbs nationally.

Bill was a leader on the Houston Council on Human Relations with special interest in passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, fair housing, and police/community relations.

He was a board member and treasurer of the Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian in Santa Fe, and was a patron of the Princeton University Art Museum's photography collection. He was also a supporter of organizations that protect the environment and wild animals, and that foster humane treatment of domestic animals and water conservation.

Bill was predeceased by his wife of 63 years, Marjorie. He is survived by sons David and Michael, two grandsons, and one great-grandson.

THE CLASS OF 1956

WILLEM H. DANIELS '56

Willem died July 16, 2023, in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. He entered hospice after



suffering from several falls and subsequent surgeries.

Willem was an internationalist — a Dutch national born in Singapore and educated in Brazil,

England, Switzerland, and France before coming to Princeton to major in the Woodrow Wilson School. Willem joined Court Club and roomed with Richard White.

After Princeton, Willem lived in Manhattan for several years, working in publishing. He long treasured memories of listening to Thelonious Monk and Ornette Coleman at the Five Spot. He became a U.S. citizen and served in the Marine Corps in Italy and Lebanon.

Following a stint in Europe teaching himself sculpture and drawing, Willem returned to the United States and earned an MFA from the University of Colorado, and taught art in Boulder. Around 1975, he moved to Washington, D.C., and for 10 years was a translator for the State Department, later opening his own translation company. In 1995, Willem moved back to Amsterdam. He was a lover of literature, including English Romantic poetry, Spanish drama, and French novels.

He is survived by a sister and 10 nephews and nieces.

THOMAS S. LISTER '56

Tom died July 1, 2023, in California, where he had spent much of his life after Princeton



as a U.S. Navy officer, a Stanford MBA student, and Chevron executive with worldwide responsibilities for risk and insurance while traveling extensively.

Tom came to Princeton from Grosse Pointe, Mich., joined Campus Club, and played on as many club teams as possible while serving as president of the IAA. His intense Princeton involvement was repeated in his postretirement commitments in the Bay Area: president of the San Francisco chapter of Chevron retirees, president of Stanford Business School regional alumni, service on

the boards of the Bellevue Club Foundation, the Camron-Stanford House, the Piedmont City Park Commission, and, for 30 years, a police department volunteer. Not least, he was deeply committed to the Piedmont Community Church as a deacon, Sunday School teacher, and Bible study participant.

Tom is survived by his wife, Ann; their son Thomas and his wife Amanda; daughter Karen van Zee '87 and her husband Pieter '87; stepdaughter Susan Lewis Swift and her husband Joel; sister Cynthia Lister Krause; and six grandchildren. We all remember his friendly manner and infectious smile.

RICHARD J. TURI '56

Dick died Aug. 10, 2023, in Livingston, N.J., surrounded by his family.



Training in the family construction business to be an expert mason, Dick founded Champion Construction Co. and for 40 years provided area residents with masonry craftsmanship — including building his own home in Livingston.

Dick loved sports, including interclub teams for Terrace Club. In Livingston, he coached Little League baseball as well as served as league president and on numerous community committees including the Big L Club, the Memorial Day parade, and the Korean/Vietnam Memorial. Family and friends remember his talent as an artist, writer, storyteller, and master of practical jokes. Dick was not active in our class activities, but his family fondly remembers his stories of growing up in Newark and his adventures at Princeton.

Dick is survived by his wife of 61 years Lorraine; children Linda, Danton, and Karen Turi Korakis and her husband Tommy; and two grandchildren. All credit Dick with wonderful childhoods.

THE CLASS OF 1957

JOHN W. MILTON '57

John's enthusiasms seemed endless. Each enthusiasm was accompanied by a mix —



uniquely and recognizably his — of joy, earnestness, dedication, the acquisition of expertise, and wonder. Their variety itself was a wonder. They included guitar playing,

elective politics (county commissioner and Minnesota state senator), president of a small manufacturer, executive of some large businesses, farmer, nonprofit boards, cooking, travel guide to Spain, marriage (five times), and classical music. But most of all was writing, first identified as a talent by his fourth-grade teacher but not indulged until his family bread-winning responsibilities had abated when he was in his 60s. His major book was a fictional biography of the early 20th-century

Spanish pianist Enrique Granados. He wrote a biography of a Minnesota state political leader he admired, and two novels based on his political activities in the state.

John came to Princeton from St. Paul Academy in Minnesota. He was a Woodrow Wilson School major, a member of Quadrangle Club and Whig-Clio, and vice chairman of *The Daily Princetonian*. Lister Hill was his senior year roommate. John later initiated and organized the class Spanish mini-reunion. His father, for whom he was named, was in the Class of 1927.

John died July 3, 2023. He is survived by his wife of 23 years, Maureen Acosta; five children; two stepchildren; nine grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1959

ALAN D. MANZLER '59

Al died Aug. 22, 2022, in the city of his youth and professional life, Cincinnati.



Captaincy of Cincinnati's Withrow High School football team and selection as president of its honor society foreshadowed a varsity letter in football sophomore year at

Princeton, a major in biology, meals at Cap and Gown, and membership in the St. Paul's Society Cabinet.

A distinguished medical career began with Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons, a Chicago Presbyterian-St. Luke's internship — during which he met and married Judy — and a University of Michigan kidney fellowship residency. Al was an instructor in the University of Cincinnati's Department of Medicine, and director of nephrology at Cincinnati's Christ Hospital, where he started its dialysis and transplant program. Later, he joined a private practice, Nephrology Consultants Inc.

A strong family man, Al vacationed at Lake McConaughy in Ogallala, Neb., where Judy had grown up. He coached his children and grandchildren's sports while avidly pursuing tennis and golf. He served on the vestry and health and welfare programs of the Church of the Redeemer in Cincinnati. Travel to an international transplant meeting in Israel in 1974 spurred global jaunts from China to Europe.

The class extends its deepest sympathy to Judy; their children Michael, Anne, and Kate; and his seven grandchildren.

T. LESLIE SHEAR JR. '59 *66

Professor, archaeologist, and scholar, Bucky died Sept. 28, 2022, at Princeton Medical Center. Born in Athens to a Princeton archaeology professor, Bucky was an honors graduate of the Lawrenceville School. At Princeton, he majored in classics, graduated *summa cum laude*, served as president of the Princeton Savoyards, and



joined Terrace Club. After a classical fellowship in Athens, a Princeton Ph.D. in art and archaeology, and four years teaching at Bryn Mawr College, he began four distinguished decades on the Princeton faculty.

Bucky was field director of seminal excavations at the Athenian Agora for three decades, where his team uncovered the Royal Stoa, the site of Socrates' trial in 399 B.C., and the Painted Stoa where Zeno began to preach the foundational tenets of Stoic philosophy. He revolutionized archaeological excavation by instituting the Agora Volunteer Program, where for the first time, the work of excavation was done by student volunteers. Two books, *Kallias of Sphettos and the Revolt of Athens in 286 B.C.* (1978) and *Trophies of Victory: Public Building in Periklean Athens* (2016), complemented his work, the latter termed "indispensable for the study of Athenian architecture of the classical period." His warmth and kindness marked trustee service at the William Alexander Proctor Foundation and as president of the Princeton Junior School.

Predeceased in 2005 by his wife, Ione, whom he met while excavating at Eleusis in 1956, Bucky is survived by his daughters Julia and Alexandra, and grandchild, Briar.

THE CLASS OF 1960

CHARLES F. JOHNSON III '60

Charlie graduated from Choate Rosemary Hall, where he enjoyed band and orchestra



and the camera club. At Princeton, he majored in biology, joined the Pre-Med Society and the Marching Band, dined at Elm, and pursued his lifelong love of sailing with the Yacht Club. Charlie went on to Johns Hopkins Medical School, where he earned a medical degree in 1964. After a stint with the U.S. Public Health Service, he undertook residencies in plastic surgery at both the University of Chicago and University of Rochester medical schools.

Charlie started a private practice in plastic and reconstructive surgery in Pawtucket, R.I., where he soon earned recognition as a specialist in hand surgery. He was also a clinical associate and teacher at Brown University's medical school for many years. An early computer enthusiast, Charlie developed the program for a widely used handheld device for assessing hand function in reconstructive surgery. He continued to practice and advise until his death.

From a boyhood love of boating came enthusiasms largely water oriented: sailing, fishing, cruising, and scuba diving. He loved art, especially painting, and was an

enthusiastic watercolorist himself.

Charlie died June 1, 2023. He is survived by sons Charles and Robert '92, daughter Amanda '96, two granddaughters, and an extended family, to whom we send our condolences.

JAMES B. MITCHELL '60

Jim grew up in Richmond, Va., and attended St. Christopher's School, where he captained



the tennis team and was class valedictorian. Bringing his racquet skills to Princeton, he played freshman tennis, then moved on to JV squash. At Campus Club, Jim diversified into IAA sports. He was active in Whig-Clio and the Campus Fund Drive, but is especially remembered as director of the Student Birthday Cake Agency.

Earning a law degree at Yale in 1963, Jim then spent a year in business school deciding it didn't suit him. After an internship with the Federal Housing Administration (part of the Department of Housing and Urban Development), he began his long career there. He rose to become director of the Financial Management and Policy Division, retiring in 2014 after 49 years of service.

Jim and his wife, Nancy, enjoyed travel, art, music, and theater together. He was a lifelong tennis player, a voracious reader, an animal-rights activist, and a Formula One racing enthusiast. He died April 14, 2023. His son, John, predeceased him. Jim is survived by Nancy, daughter Sallie, and two granddaughters.

THE CLASS OF 1961

RICHARD MAHLON JONES '61

Mahlon died of natural causes July 4, 2023, at his home in Evanston, Ill.



He was born in Evanston, the son of Richard Ward Jones and Miriam Dorothy Jones, and he came to us from Evanston Township High School. At Princeton, he majored in history, rowed lightweight crew, worked with *Bric-a-Brac* and the *Nassau Herald*, and took his meals at the Woodrow Wilson Society. He roomed with Contee Seely, Bill Rough, Dick Webster, Hal Lackey, Chuck Watson, Russ Tremaine, and Bill Buxton. He was especially close to Bill Buxton.

Following Princeton, Mahlon earned a master's degree in history at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and was an ABD in its Ph.D. program when he decided that "teaching and research were not for me." He then embarked on a career in selling rare books and musical scores, largely on the internet, and he was still at it when he died.

Never married, Mahlon is survived by his brother, Lawrence; sister Judith; one nephew, two nieces, and their children.

FREDERICK WILLIAM RAMSEY II '61

Ted died May 4, 2023.



Born in Cleveland, he came to us from University School in Shaker Heights. At Princeton, he majored in the Latin American division of the Program in European Civilization and took his meals at Court Club.

Married to Jean right after graduation, he spent four years as an intelligence officer in the Air Force, including a year in Vietnam. Ted spent his career in management positions in commercial banking, largely in credit policy and administration. He started with Cleveland Trust, which became Ameritrust; Key Corp; and ultimately National City, where he was director of credit for its investment management subsidiary for 10 years. After retirement, he and Jean continued to live in the 1870 farmhouse that they had bought some 40 years earlier.

Ted is survived by his wife of 61 years, Jean; and daughters Ann and Margaret and their families, which include five grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1962

THOMAS FISHER III '62

Tim died Aug. 8, 2023, of leukemia in Chestertown, Md.



Tim graduated from Hotchkiss School where he was active in Glee Club, student council, and varsity football, was the basketball manager, and was elected vice president of his class. Following his father, Thomas Fisher Jr. '37, to Princeton, Tim was active in the Keycept program, played 150-pound football, and was secretary-treasurer of Tiger Inn. His roommates were Warren Winslow, Joe Delafield, Bob Rendell, Rip Noble, Buzz Kelsey, and Bob Morris.

After graduation Tim served in the Navy from 1962 to 1966, then became director of maritime operations and logistics for Project Hope. He married Marilyn McClure and they had two children, James and Amanda.

Entering Villanova Law School, he graduated in 1976. During law school, he and Marilyn divorced. Also, at law school he met his second wife, Pamela Holmes. She brought three stepsons, William, Matthew, and Andrew, to the family. Following law school, he began practicing maritime casualty law.

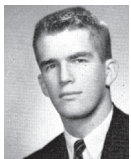
Sailing became a major pastime, beginning in the Chesapeake Bay and later in the Bahamas, the Atlantic, and the Mediterranean.

Tim is survived by Pam, a son, a daughter, and three stepsons. The class extends condolences to all.

EDWARD G. THURBER '62

Ed died July 9, 2023, in Fullerton, Calif.

After attending Lawrenceville School, he



entered Princeton following his father Gerrish Thurber '28 *29, and his grandfather, Samuel Wood Thurber 1890. Ed majored in aeronautical engineering, was a standout on the track team, and dined at Cannon. He held the University javelin record for 15 years (now third all-time) and captained the track team his senior year. His senior year he roomed at Lockhart Lair, where he formed lifelong friendships. The group regularly met up through the years to share memories and enjoy one another's company.

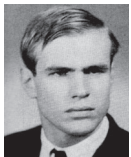
Earning a Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Southern California. Ed was a professor for 38 years at Biola University. He published several research papers and was a respected scholar and mentor.

Ed married Leona "Lee" Izmirian in 1966 and they had two children, Edward Gerrish Thurber and Stacy Thurber Whitelock '96. Lee died in 2002 and Ed married Barbara Ann Turner in 2005. Ed was blessed to be called Grandpa by 17 grandchildren. His legacy and memory will long remain and live on in those who loved him so much.

THE CLASS OF 1963

DAVID J. HALL '63

Dave, a child psychologist who switched careers to become a businessman, died July 7, 2023, at home in Hondo, N.M., with his wife Alice Seely and their daughter Layla Grimes.



Dave came to Princeton from New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell, N.M. He majored in philosophy and was a member of the Wilson Society, the Outing Club, the Student Christian Association, and the Rocky Mountain Club. His senior year roommates were Peter Curry and Craig Newhouse.

Dave earned a master's degree in philosophy from the University of Chicago, then taught fourth grade for a year at a public school on the city's west side. He then taught at Bruno Bettelheim's Sonia Shankman Orthogenic School, a residential facility at the university for severely disturbed children. He became principal of the school as well as therapist.

In his entry for our 50th-reunion yearbook, Dave recounts that he and his wife moved to Iowa, where they started an elementary school for "children with problems." His "marriage and teaching career evaporated," he wrote, and he returned to his hometown of Santa Fe, where he met and married Alice Seely, a painter and sculptor, whom he'd known since first grade.

Together they started a business. Alice designed and made jewelry, they started a jewelry factory, then added a gallery and gardens. Hondo Iris Farm includes iris

beds, an art gallery, and a botanical garden featuring rare plants of the Southwest and Chihuahuan Desert.

In addition to Alice and daughter Layla, Dave is survived by sons Christopher Dixon, daughters Beth and Tristan Seely, son Christopher Seely, and many grandchildren.

WILLIAM M. ROBINSON III '63

Bill died Sept. 11, 2023, in Pittsburgh after a fall at home. To the end, he celebrated life with his wife, Sharon Semenza, their son, Will Robinson, and his legion of devoted friends.



Over the course of his life — ranging from Shadyside

Academy to Andover to Princeton to Penn Law School to a long partnership at the Reed Smith law firm and to ongoing service as a fiduciary trustee — Bill never lived permanently more than a mile from his boyhood home in Pittsburgh.

At Princeton, Bill was coxswain on the lightweight crew and majored in history, writing his thesis on Fiorello La Guardia. He took his meals at Colonial Club and was well known for his ability to find success at the poker table and the racetrack, neither of which prevented him from graduating with honors. Senior year his self-described "gang" included MacKay, O'Day, Mikell, Carfagno, Wheeler, Veeder, Beardsley, Lippincott, Vanderpool, Gunther, Simmons, and Stevenson. Bill's sister Ann is married to classmate Jay Stevenson.

Bill was a highly regarded lawyer specializing in wills and trusts. He was valued for his long-term perspectives and his absolute lack of a personal agenda.

Bill was in his 50s when he married Sharon. Will came along shortly, and it was not many years before Will was beating his father on the golf course — to Bill's quiet amusement. The class extends its sympathy to Sharon and Will.

GEORGE M. WALKER '63

Mac, a retired investment manager and diehard Chicago Cubs fan, died Aug. 8, 2023, at his home in Northbrook, Ill.



A son of '34, Mac enrolled with the large contingent of classmates from New Trier High School, majored in economics, and was social chairman of Cannon. After Officer Candidate School, he went to a destroyer ported in San Diego. He worked as a broker/money manager in Chicago for 40 years, rising at 4:30 a.m. daily to absorb the news, stock market, and the deeds of the Cubs, Bears, Bulls, and Blackhawks.

His grandfather once owned a slice of the Cubs, and the entire family has been in allegiance since then. When the ballpark

rehabbed, Mac bought the chairs for his season tickets: Section 32, Row 10, Seats 1-4. In his Wisconsin basement he created a gallery of Cubs memorabilia and filmed a 24-minute tour. He and son Brad were in Cleveland for the seventh game of the 2016 World Series, which the Cubs won 8-7 in the 10th. On the drive home, Mac said, "My life is complete."

Mac was optimistic, cheerful, fun-loving, possessed of an infectious laugh; he loved family events, travel, world history, golf, fishing, and Broadway musicals. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Sara; children Julie, Brad, and Jill Sorensen; five grandchildren; brother Rob '61; and sister Carolyn Rohlen.

THE CLASS OF 1964

F. SCOTT ANDREWS '64

Scott, one of the most memorable personalities of the Class of '64, died July 26, 2023, in Anniston, Ala., after a brief illness.



Scott came to Princeton from Lawrenceville, where he was a strong student and a renowned prep school diver.

At Princeton, he majored in art history, took his meals at Ivy, and was a three-year letterman and varsity diver for the swim team. He took first place in diving at the ECAC meet senior year. Scott was a member of the 21 and Right-Wing clubs. With his ready wit and Alabama charm, he easily collected friends and roommates (Baum, Churchill, Fuller, R. Wright, Hermanson, Hess, H. Johnson, B. Richardson).

After graduation Scott served on active duty and in the Army Reserve, worked in Washington in the congressional office of his father, then for the International Salt Co. before returning to his hometown of Anniston. There he ran his family's company, Noble Signs, for more than 50 years.

Scott was renowned for his backflips, his sometimes tasteless but always hilarious jokes, and above all his love of family. He attracted friends with his openness, generosity, and sense of humor. His passing leaves a huge void for all of those who knew him. The class sends its sympathy and condolences to Scott's wife, Augusta;, his children Scotty, Lisa, and Joe; and his beloved grandchildren.

DAVID GOODMAN '64

David died April 6, 2023, at home.

He came to Princeton from Midwood High School in Brooklyn, N.Y. After spending the first half of freshman year at Princeton, he went on to earn a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Brooklyn College and a Ph.D. in molecular biology from the University of California, Berkeley. He then served for several years as an assistant professor of biochemistry at Rutgers.

While there, David earned a master's degree in library science, which led to positions in the libraries at Brooklyn College and then Princeton, where from 1978 to 2002 he served successively as librarian for chemistry and biology before appointment as research librarian and biological sciences bibliographer. His research interests included library user studies, the structure of scientific information, and electronic journal publishing. In 2002, he was appointed associate professor at the Palmer School of Library and Information Science at Long Island University while retaining a part-time position with Princeton's Library.

In retirement, David volunteered as a Wikipedia editor and administrator. He was an ardent advocate for a free and open internet as a road to empowerment and democracy.

David is survived by his wife, Esther; daughter Eve; son-in-law Jonathan; grandson Simon; and other family members, to whom the class offers its condolences.

GEORGE ARTHUR HOWELL '64

Nicknamed Speed because of his prowess on the tennis courts, George died July 19, 2023,



at home in Atlanta after a lengthy illness.

Born July 22, 1942, he graduated from the Westminster Schools in Atlanta, Princeton (*cum laude*), and Harvard Law School. He dined at Colonial Club and roomed with Paul Pressly. He played doubles with Herb Fitzgibbon on Princeton's nationally ranked tennis team.

After his schooling, he clerked for Elbert Tuttle, chief judge of the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals; practiced law with an Atlanta law firm; became a financial adviser with Robinson-Humphrey; and, in retirement, taught history in public schools. As a Southerner who counted William Tecumseh Sherman among his ancestors, Speed took special pleasure in standing tall for civil rights.

Princeton ran deep in his blood. His father was an alumnus, as were two brothers and three nieces. For 11 years he served as president of the Princeton Club of Georgia; and for 25 years he interviewed and recruited students at Westminster for Princeton.

Speed is survived by his wife of 30 years, Cindy; and his daughter, Austin Howell Waychoff. He was inordinately proud of coaching Austin in basketball at many levels.

DIARMUID R. MCGUIRE '64

Diarmuid graduated from North Hills High School in Pittsburgh as a debate champion and aspiring writer. At Princeton, he majored in history and dined at Campus.

Following two years as a teacher in Uganda for the Peace Corps, often riding his motorcycle through points of armed conflict, he went off to graduate school at Stanford

in communications. As a summer intern for *Newsweek*, he covered the 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago, wandering through the tumult until he was swept up and spent the night in jail with Jerry Rubin. Along with his studies, he led anti-Vietnam war activism, graduating in 1972.

After involvement in a few political campaigns and demonstrations, where he met his wife, Pam, he spent two decades in the San Francisco Bay Area, working as a marketing consultant and community affairs director.

In 1994, Diarmuid purchased the Green Springs Inn in Ashland, Ore. Believing in the power of community to elevate individuals and create common good, he used the Inn to bring people together — for community events, parties, food, and more — seeking to promote shared values to elevate children, preserve ecosystems, and rescue humanity.

His indomitable love for family, community, politics, and beavers remained passionate to the end. He died Feb. 5, 2023, to a weak heart and bad fall. To Pam and children Kerry, Meghan, Padraic, and Molly, and their families, the class offers its condolences.

GRADUATE ALUMNI

SHERMAN K. POULTNEY *62

Sherman died Feb. 9, 2023, in Pittsboro, N.C.

Born in Leominster, Mass., in 1937, he graduated from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in 1958 and earned a Ph.D. in physics from Princeton in 1962.

In 1964, Sherman joined the physics faculty at the University of Maryland. He led the electro-optics team responsible for the lunar laser ranging reflector placed on the moon during the Apollo 11 flight. The lunar ranging ground station achieved the first laser-range measurement to the moon, and the reflector remains in use by scientists worldwide.

In 1975, he became a senior scientist with Perkin-Elmer Corp. He assembled the first Fourier transform spectrometer, the first heterodyne spectrometer, and the first tunable diode laser spectrometer. When Hughes Danbury Optical Systems acquired Perkin-Elmer Optical Systems, Sherman became a system engineer for optical and spectrometric sensor systems and manager for a visible imager project for the Strategic Defense Initiative space program.

He also developed requirements and system architecture for plasma-shaping cluster tools at metrology stations with SFAM/IPEC; consulted for ASML/Silicon Valley Group on equipment to fabricate micro circuits on silicon wafers, and taught at Fairfield University.

Sherman is survived by wife JoAnn, son Christopher, stepson David Isaacs, and granddaughter Ruth.

MARY BARBER BRECKENRIDGE *76

One of the first women in a program for mature graduate students, Mary died May 5,

2022, in Newtown, Pa., at age 97.

Born in Omaha, Neb., March 4, 1925, she earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry in 1947 from Iowa State University and a master's degree in biochemistry from the University of Iowa in 1949.

After research positions at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Washington University, she earned a Ph.D. in sociology at Princeton in 1976, then completed a postdoctoral fellowship in biostatistics. Her mentors included John Tukey *39, whose methods of exploratory data analysis she applied in her book *Age, Time, and Fertility: Applications of Exploratory Data Analysis*. Mary joined the faculty at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (now part of Rutgers). She developed new degree programs, conducted studies of community-based health services, and pursued research in population sciences. She retired in 2000.

A Princeton YMCA Tribute to Women in Industry award commended her as "a role model and mentor for women and men in academia." She was active in the APGA.

Her husband Bruce, who survived her at the time of her death, died Feb. 19, 2023. Her survivors include three daughters, four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

BRANDON C. COLLINGS *99

Brandon died in Red Bank, N.J., May 15, 2023.

Born March 19, 1972, in Bethesda, Md., Brandon was raised in Gambier, Ohio. He graduated from Hamilton College with majors in physics and mathematics. At Princeton, he earned a Ph.D. in electrical engineering in 1999.

Brandon began his career in optical telecommunications as a member of the technical staff at Bell Labs in Holmdel, N.J. He also held positions at Ciena and Internet Photonics. He was the chief technology officer for optical communications at JDSU Corp. before becoming the chief technical officer at Lumentum, a manufacturer of optical and photonic components for optical networks and laser applications. Throughout his career Brandon worked on increasing the speed, capacity, and reliability of the networks that power the internet, and on advancing the three-dimension sensing necessary for innovations in the automobile industry.

He was a longstanding member of the judging panel for the Lightwave Innovation Reviews.

Brandon is survived by his wife, Teri; his children, Alaina, Jack, and Celia; his parents, Peter and Diane Collings; his brother, Scott; and several nieces and nephews.

Graduate memorials are prepared by the APGA.

*Undergraduate memorials appear for Rodger L. Gamblin '54 *65 and T. Leslie Shear Jr. '59 *66.*

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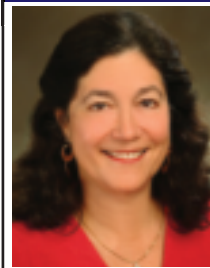
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EMMY NOETHER (1882-1935) AND ANNA PELL WHEELER (1883-1966)

Women Forged a Bond While Advancing Mathematics

BY ELYSE GRAHAM '07

EMMY NOETHER AND Anna Pell Wheeler knew each other for just a few years. But they were important years. Their story shows how universities can advance a field just by inviting people in.

When Noether was college-aged, women weren't allowed to enroll in German universities. She audited classes for years, until finally a new law let her enroll at the University of Erlangen. In 1907, she received a Ph.D. in mathematics *summa cum laude*. Afterward, the university, recognizing her rare talent, let her give lectures — though of course without pay.

Once, when a famous colleague was scheduled to give a lecture, the men debated whether Noether, as a woman, could attend. Finally, one of them said, "Gentlemen, this is an academic society, not a bathing club." That settled it: Noether *could* hear the lecture. From behind a screen.

In 1915, Noether moved to the University of Göttingen, then called "the world center of mathematics." There, she gave lectures on behalf of the mathematician David Hilbert. In 1922, her department successfully petitioned

the government to finally make her a professor. But in 1933, when the Nazi regime purged the academy of non-Aryans, Noether, who was Jewish, lost her hard-won position.

Anna Wheeler, meanwhile, grew up in Iowa. She piled up degrees from the University of South Dakota, the University of Iowa, Radcliffe College, and the University of Chicago, where she earned a Ph.D. She, too, faced sexism — she told an acquaintance, "I had hoped for a position in one of the good [public universities] ... but there is such an objection to women that they prefer a man even if he is inferior both in training and research" — but she ultimately succeeded, becoming

"I had hoped for a position in one of the good [public universities] ... but there is such an objection to women that they prefer a man even if he is inferior both in training and research."

— ANNA PELL WHEELER

a mathematics professor at Bryn Mawr College. She married a Princeton professor named Arthur Wheeler and moved to Princeton, where she was active in the mathematics community while still teaching at Bryn Mawr.

In the 1930s and 1940s, Princeton's mathematics community worked heroically to bring refugee scholars to the United States. Wheeler was part of these efforts, helping women scholars in particular to find places at Bryn Mawr. Thanks to her, Noether was able to come to the United States as a visiting professor at Bryn Mawr and a lecturer at the Institute for Advanced Study. To this day, Princeton is justly proud of its association with the very eminent Noether. In those years, Göttingen ceased to be the world center of mathematics — and Princeton took that title.

In Germany, Noether heard that "the people at Bryn Mawr were very sophisticated and everyone wore hats." So when Wheeler picked her up in Philadelphia, Noether was wearing a fancy hat — and feeling very ill at ease. When she saw that Wheeler, though smartly dressed, was hatless, she gleefully threw her hat away.

Back then, the official hobby of mathematicians was hiking. Wheeler owned a cottage in the Adirondacks, and she took students on nature walks and taught them bird calls. Soon, she and Noether, who became great friends, were both leading mathematical hikes in Princeton and Pennsylvania.

A student wrote to Wheeler, upon her retirement, about how a great professor moves her field forward by helping others to belong in it: "I remember the foot marks on the wall of the math seminar room. You had the habit of standing on one foot ... I remember your stopping the car at an intersection in the middle of nowhere while you tried to identify a bird call which only you had heard ... But most of all I remember my father's words after he met you on Commencement Day in 1930. The thought of his daughter aspiring to be a female mathematician was a bit horrifying to him. However, after he met you, he said, 'Such a woman I would like you to be.'" ■

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