ISIS: A PRIMER

By Professor Bernard Haykel
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Join the Club
Gregg Lange ’70 scans the blooming garden of club sports, from kendo to ultimate Frisbee.

On the cover: Photograph by Peter Murphy
Embracing diversity has been an essential element of Princeton's mission and trajectory at least since President Robert Goheen '40-'48 took office more than a half-century ago. He and his successors, myself included, have believed deeply that the Princeton community benefits from the richness of experiences and perspectives provided by students, faculty, staff, and alumni from all backgrounds.

As the University has become more diverse, it has sought to create support structures that will enable all students to find a home and to thrive at Princeton. Over the course of this academic year, questions about the breadth and impact of this support have been magnified as our campus and our country have grappled with intense issues related to race, equality, and justice.

In response to concerns about our campus climate, the Executive Committee of the Council of the Princeton University Community (CPUC) created a Special Task Force on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, whose 51 members included undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff. For several months, the task force solicited feedback from the campus community in exploring options to improve University policies, practices, and programming.

The task force in May delivered to the CPUC Executive Committee an excellent set of recommendations in several areas, including academics, training, public programming, institutional responses to discrimination and harassment, and student life resources. These can be viewed on the CPUC website (www.princeton.edu/vpsec/cpuc). I am grateful to the task force members for their serious deliberation about issues that are important to the well-being of our campus community, and I look forward to working with Provost David S. Lee '99, who chairs the CPUC Executive Committee, to implement recommendations endorsed by the committee.

One key theme that emerged from the task force's work recognizes the value of providing a variety of resources tailored to the distinctive needs of different groups on our campus. For example, the Carl A. Fields Center for Equality and Cultural Understanding—which was known as the Third World Center from 1971 to 2002—historically focused on serving as a support base for students from underrepresented backgrounds. In recent years, the center's mission has broadened and it now serves as a locus for discussions and activities focused on multiculturalism. While the center and its director, Tennille Haynes, have done outstanding work, the task force learned that the Fields Center's impact as a source of support for students of color has diminished as it has taken on the challenge of trying to serve all students.

The task force recommendations include reassessing the Fields Center's mission and providing staffing and financial resources to help it meet the needs of students of color. This recommendation reflects the reality that, while it is undoubtedly important to support and promote multiculturalism more broadly, we must understand that different groups have different needs that require distinctive responses.

In his seminal work on social change in America, *Bowling Alone*, Harvard University political scientist Robert Putnam distinguishes two kinds of social groups: those that "bond" (affinity groups based on particular identities and backgrounds) and those that "bridge" (networks with a broader focus and members from various backgrounds). Putnam argues that both have their place in society: "Bonding social capital constitutes a kind of sociological superglue, whereas bridging social capital provides a sociological WD-40. . . . [U]nder many circumstances both bridging and bonding social capital can have powerfully positive social effects."

Putnam's observations help to illustrate why Princeton cannot be content either to take a purely multicultural approach to student life or to subdivide all of our student support efforts by racial and ethnic groupings. We must embrace both approaches and find the right balance. We want students of all backgrounds to interact with, understand, and appreciate each other—to bridge their differences and to form a strong community as fellow Princetonians. At the same time, we must ensure that students from all backgrounds have appropriate resources to help them bond and succeed as they deal with the distinctive challenges that affect them most.

Princeton is clearly far more inclusive than it once was. But we can improve. The tragic events that have gripped our country this past year and their impact on the Princeton community are powerful reminders of this University's unceasing obligation to identify and eliminate the effects of pernicious stereotypes, to make our campus more genuinely inclusive, and to aid the cause of justice and equality in our nation and the world.
Inbox

RESURRECTING POLO
Kudos to David Walter ’11 for his fine polo piece (cover story, April 22). His admixture of a century of obscure Ivy League polo facts, woven into Princeton’s recent and surprising (to me) readoption of the sport, is adept, informing, and entertaining.
Bryan Jones ’53
El Granada, Calif.

When I was a freshman, I heard that a polo team was being organized. So I went to the meeting and was asked, “How many ponies do you have?” That ended my career in polo.
Braxton Mitchell ’50
Towson, Md.

Congratulations to PAW for your excellent article, “Polo Returns to Princeton.” I thought that it might be worth highlighting the glorious 1924 Princeton polo team, which won both the Eastern and the National Intercollegiate Polo championships and is described in Horace A. Laffaye’s Polo in the United States: A History. The team, which was national-runner-up the previous year, consisted of Princeton seniors and was coached by Capt. J.W. Andrews. Facing the heavily favored University of Arizona, Princeton handily swept the first two games, locking up the National Intercollegiate Trophy.

Left to right in the team photo above are David Holbrook, Charles Newbold, William H. Jackson (captain), and Thomas Bancroft. Full disclosure: William H. Jackson, who died in 1971, had two sons at Princeton, William H. Jackson ’54 and me.
Richard Jackson ’62
Wellington, Fla.

As a horsewoman in my childhood and teens, I greatly enjoyed participating or watching (as in the case of polo) many “horse-based” sports, so I was delighted to learn that Princeton had “resurrected” polo. I hope this time around it thrives and keeps on going!
Virginia H. Bennett ’71
Honolulu, Hawaii

SHAPING THE FACULTY
Re “Forging Faculty Diversity” (On the Campus, April 22): I am mystified. Is promoting diversity a process that is expected to make Princeton a better university, or is it a goal in itself?
Dean of the Faculty Deborah Prentice states: “Those of us who are trying to promote diversity on this campus are doing so because we believe it will make us better [italics added].” At best, this is a hypothesis, and before jumping on the bandwagon of this belief system, shouldn’t it be tested? Does it produce better scholars and better scholarship? Exactly who stereotypes Princeton as a “privileged white male place”? Are there applicable metrics? Perhaps Princeton should focus on the quality of the faculty, with academic and teaching excellence as the real goal. Now is not the right time to reinstate an odious quota system, regardless of how well intentioned.
Paul G. Rochmis ’60
Fairfax, Va.

It is crucially important to further diversify Princeton University’s faculty, administration, and student body;
not just for appearance or political correctness, but to reap the real educational benefits other ethnic groups bring to the table. To the extent the school is viewed as a bastion of white male privilege, it will limit its relevance and contributions to the world.

**William Davis Morris III ’83**
**College Park, Md.**

I read with interest Dean Prentice’s call for dispelling the “stereotype of Princeton as a privileged white male place.” Is this the best objective for our most prestigious of all universities? How about working to dispel our stereotype as a bastion of ultra-liberal thinking? Or is diversity limited to worrying about skin color and ethnicity, and nary a concern about the extinction of conservative thought in the lecture halls of McCosh?

**Lawrence Cheetham ’67**
**Bedford, N.H.**

In an issue filled with wonderful juxtapositions, the article worrying about the Princeton stereotype, combined with a resurgence of the polo team, was just great. With a $21 billion tax-free endowment, the highest endowment per student in the world, and a polo team, what exactly is the strategy for losing the stereotype of privilege?

**Terry Vance ’77**
**Sharon, Conn.**

**CREATING THE UNIVERSE**

The article by Mark Alpert ’82, “How It All Began” (feature, April 22), is a good read but points to some fundamental mistakes. The subject is the Suborbital Polarimeter for Inflation, Dust and the Epoch of Reionization, or SPIDER, and the Epoch of Reionization, or SPIDER, and Mr. Alpert states that “SPIDER’s results may shed light on one of the biggest questions in all of science: What created our universe 13.8 billion years ago?”

First of all, the question is not what, but who? As the theologian R.C. Sproul has pointed out, a being with the quality of aseity, or eternal self-existence, is a logical necessity. The first law of logic is that you can’t get something from nothing. Self-creation is a logical contradiction because the thing created would have had to exist before it existed. Self-existence is not.

Secondly, Mr. Alpert and the Princeton scientists he refers to should get hold of a book of essays titled *In Six Days: Why Fifty Scientists Choose to Believe in Creation* (John F. Ashton, ed.). In particular, I recommend the one by John R. Baumgardner “70, who has an M.S. in electrical engineering from Princeton and an M.S. and Ph.D in geophysics and space physics from UCLA.

**Hugh McPheeers ’64**
**St. Louis, Mo.**

**COLLAPSE OF AN OLD ORDER**

The April 1 PAW issue tripped an emotional toggle switch. Recollections from sophomore year tumbled off the conveyor belt from my cargo hold of memories of campus protests and a nationwide student strike in the spring of 1970. A blurb about an upcoming student referendum on bicker seemed trivial in contrast to the seriousness of the feature “A War’s Legacy” and references in the editor’s letter and Class Notes to alumni casualties and protesters along Nassau Street during the Vietnam War era. Still, the passing mention of bicker reminded me of something from that time.

Classes, exam schedules, and social activities were thrown into confusion. An emergency meeting was convened at a Prospect Avenue club where I had successfully bickered. In deadly earnest, a soul-searching discussion ensued on how best we should respond to the strike. A debate arose about canceling Houseparties. One proposal was seriously advanced that the planned formal could dispense with black ties and tuxes in solidarity with the strikers. It was at that point that I remembered the Selective Service card in my wallet and the real possibility of being drafted in a misbegotten conflict in which 1.5 million Vietnamese and 58,000 Americans eventually perished.

I never set foot in that club again — not out of disrespect for its members, but because life on the Street suddenly seemed irrelevant. An old order was collapsing around us. And there were far more important matters to face as I came of age in that season long ago.

**Thomas F. Schiavoni ’72**
**Boston, Mass.**
TOPICS IN PAW

The April 22 issue of the Alumni Weekly deserves recognition for the range of topics it includes. There are tributes to the continuing role of the University’s past on campus, as well as the kind of innovations that may cause the blood of traditionalists among alumni to boil. An issue that includes a tribute to efforts to promote chess in any form will appeal to those of us who spent many hours on the game that could have been given to more academic pursuits.

There is also the latest in the exchange of letters on the topic of the boycott, divestment, and sanctions proposals with regard to Israel, and the Weekly has provided space for both sides of the topic in the letters column and elsewhere. Amid this heated exchange, the interview with Lital Levy on the subject of her recent book on Hebrew and Arabic in Israel/Palestine was both refreshing and illuminating. One of the features of conflicts between cultures in the Middle East has to do with language, so being reminded of the legacy of Eliezer Ben-Yehuda may give some basis for hope that understanding words will help in understanding people.

Thomas Drucker ’75
Whitewater, Wis.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Re the April 22 From the Archives photo: I’m pretty confident that the woman in glasses facing the camera at the table to the right immediately behind the foreground table is Judy Gerber ’80. Many of us spent a lot of time in the student center, and I have fond memories of studying and talking (but mostly talking) at those tables!

Brian D. Bowden ’78
Amherst, Mass.

Editor’s note: Also writing to identify Judy Gerber were Don Storm ’80 and Chris Kraus ’80.

FROM THE EDITOR

Haykel on ISIS, Unfiltered

Agreeing to write an essay for PAW about the Islamic State, or ISIS, Professor Bernard Haykel stressed that he is a scholar without an agenda. He calls things the way he sees them, he said — even if people aren’t happy hearing it.

That was not surprising. A few days earlier, an article about ISIS by Graeme Wood had appeared in The Atlantic, quoting Haykel extensively. Haykel often is cited as the world’s leading expert on ISIS thought. For two decades, he has been studying Salafism, which argues Islam has grown decadent and calls for a return to the old ways of the faith, based on original teachings and texts. Wood’s article suggested that ISIS was “very Islamic,” despite the insistence of others — including President Barack Obama — that ISIS represents “violent extremism,” not Islam.

A wave of criticism followed publication of Wood’s article. “When people think of extremism as some kind of organic expression of Islam, the belligerence of radical Muslims starts to seem like an autonomous, intrinsically motivated force — something whose momentum doesn’t derive from mundane socioeconomic and geopolitical factors. It’s something that you can stop, if at all, only with physical counter-force. In other words: by killing lots of people,” wrote Robert Wright ’79 in a New Yorker article headlined: “The Clash of Civilizations That Isn’t.”

In an interview with Jack Jenkins of the ThinkProgress website, Haykel provided nuance to Wood’s article. Asked whether Islamic texts lead directly to groups like ISIS, Haykel said they did not. He also said that he considered people who have criticized ISIS “to be fully within the Islamic tradition, and in no way ‘less Muslim' than ISIS.” Islamic law, he said, has “a multiplicity of views and opinions.”

Many commentators said they wished Haykel’s views had come through directly, unfiltered through a journalist. On page 20, they do. — Marilyn H. Marks ’86

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Forever PRINCETON
On the Campus

The 68-year-old Butler Tract apartments marked their final spring this year. The last graduate students are to move out of the 252 units this month, with demolition to follow.

Photograph by Ricardo Barros
Talking to Snowden

Q&A focuses on encryption, privacy rights; conference analyzes impact of disclosures

Citizens must assert their right to privacy in the face of vast government surveillance efforts, former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden told a large Princeton audience last month. Snowden, who gained temporary asylum in Russia in 2013, appeared via video link, his face projected onto a giant screen as he gazed into a webcam in Moscow.

Snowden arrived in Russia soon after leaking to journalists a trove of classified documents revealing that the American government was secretly collecting vast quantities of data on telephone and Internet use. He faces criminal espionage and theft charges that could send him to prison for decades.

More than 350 people packed the Friend Center auditorium and spilled into two nearby overflow rooms May 3 to hear Snowden, a bovish-looking 31-year-old in rimless glasses, interviewed by Pulitzer Prize-winner Barton Gellman ’82, a Woodrow Wilson School lecturer and one of the journalists who received Snowden’s leaks.

Audience members, many of them current or former Princeton students, asked Snowden about the NSA programs whose existence he revealed and sought his advice on how citizens could protect threatened freedoms.

“Defend your right to encryption and your right to privacy,” Snowden urged. “Rights aren’t really granted by governments. These are things that are inherent to human nature. If the government wants to intrude on your rights, you don’t have to justify why you need [those rights]. You make it incumbent on them to justify their intrusion into your rights.”

About 100 people stayed on for an afternoon conference, “Now That We Know: Technology, Law, Journalism, and Policy After Snowden,” listening as a dozen experts discussed the implications of the Snowden revelations. The day’s events were co-sponsored by the Center for Information Technology Policy, the Program in Law and Public Affairs, and the Wilson School.

Conference speakers agreed that Snowden’s disclosures, coupled with new legal pressures on journalists and their sources, have remapped the world of electronic privacy, pushing everyone from technology companies to newspaper reporters to adopt new methods of protecting data from government scrutiny.

The event took place the week before a federal appeals court in New York ruled that the NSA’s bulk collection of Americans’ phone records was illegal.

Gellman, the lead speaker on the conference’s journalism panel, said he spends more and more time covering his tracks — encrypting communications or leaving cell phones and GPS devices behind when he meets with sources.

“When you treat talking to a source as a kind of espionage, then you force reporters to try to learn how to behave more like spies,” he said.

And ongoing government efforts to dilute encryption protocols by requiring technology companies to build in “back-door” access to coded communications will ultimately weaken Internet security for Americans and empower repressive governments around the world, conference speakers said.

Snowden’s disclosures point up the need for computer scientists to involve themselves in influencing public policy on surveillance, said Jonathan Mayer ’09, a lawyer and computer science graduate student who is a fellow at Stanford University’s Center for International Security and Cooperation.

“Good surveillance law requires good technical understanding,” Mayer said. “I don’t think the problem is rule-breaking. I think the problem is that the rules themselves are deeply broken.”

Even the NSA has not argued strongly against a bill, pending in Congress in mid-May, that would tighten post-9/11 rules governing the bulk collection of data, conference speakers said, since little or no evidence indicates that this mountain of data has yielded any nuggets of useful information.

In his conversation with Gellman, Snowden said that mass surveillance of electronic communications compromises fundamental American values without making the country safer.

Compiling massive databases of so-called “metadata” about communications — such details as when and where a telephone call was made, or how long it lasted — gives security services access to information about millions of people who are not suspected of any crimes, he noted.

“That’s called pre-criminal investigation, and that’s never been a standard in any liberal democracy,” Snowden said. “They’re not wrong that it would give them an investigative advantage, but that’s not the way that liberal societies work.”

By Deborah Yaffe
Faculty Votes for AAS Major

The faculty voted in mid-May to create a major in African American studies and to grant academic departmental status to the Center for African American Studies (CAAS), which has existed only as a certificate program since its creation in 2006.

Faculty members said that African American studies is a well-established scholarly field, that every other Ivy school and most of Princeton’s peers offer a concentration in the field, and that student interest has been increasing.

The curriculum of the new major, according to the proposal approved by the faculty, will reflect “the complex interplay between political, economic, and cultural forces shaping our understanding of the historic achievements and struggles of African-descended people in the United States and their relation to others around the world.” A certificate program will continue to be offered.

CAAS has 14 faculty members and expects two new joint appointments in the coming academic year. The center has averaged more than 30 certificate students per year.

The University’s trustees were expected to approve the major and departmental status at the end of May. Departmental status will help in the recruiting of scholars and lay the groundwork for a graduate-degree program, faculty proponents said.

The faculty also voted to create undergraduate certificate programs in ethnographic studies, cognitive sciences, and the history and practice of diplomacy. ▶ By W.R.O.

Undergraduate Class of 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offered admission</th>
<th>Total applications</th>
<th>Yield</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1,909)</td>
<td>27,290</td>
<td>68.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Accepted offers | 1,310 |

As a percentage of the class:

- Members of all U.S. minority groups: 42.3%
- Admitted in December through early action: 39.2%
- Legacies: 12.6%

New graduate students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offered admission</th>
<th>Total applications</th>
<th>Yield</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1,249)</td>
<td>10,956</td>
<td>48.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Accepted offers | 605 |

Ph.D.

- Accepted offers: 463
- Yield: 45%

Master’s degree

- Accepted offers: 142
- Yield: 67%

International students

- Applicants: 5,947
- Admitted: 480
- Accepted: 266

Among international students, the largest numbers of applicants were from China, India, South Korea, Canada, and Taiwan

Women in science and engineering

- Applicants: 1,427
- Admitted: 233
- Accepted: 92

U.S. underrepresented minorities

- Applicants: 651
- Admitted: 110
- Accepted: 56

Key

- Applicants
- Admitted
- Accepted

Sources: Undergraduate Admission Office; Graduate School

Admissions Update

Incoming: 1,900-plus New Princetonians

The University reported in mid-May that 68.6 percent of students had accepted offers of admission for the Class of 2019. The final yield will not be reported until the fall; the yield for the Class of 2018 was 66.2 percent. Dean of Admission Janet Rapelye said 20 to 25 students were expected to be admitted from the waitlist by June 30.

At the Graduate School, offers and acceptances for underrepresented U.S. minorities and for women in science and engineering were the highest in recent years. The grad school’s total yield declined from 49.4 percent last year to 48.4 percent. Compared to last year, a higher percentage of Ph.D. candidates accepted offers of admission, but the yield declined for master’s-degree applicants.

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Thought For Food

‘Princeton Feast’: Tasty blend of cooking, culture

As they worked on their Dean’s Date papers and studied for final exams, the 133 students enrolled in “Literature, Food, and the American Racial Diet” were faced with a different test: cooking. On April 30, the course held a “Princeton Feast” at Frist Campus Center, an event that required students to develop recipes based on their research into the relationship between food and America’s racial dynamic — and then prepare the dishes. The course, taught by Professor Anne Cheng ’85, encouraged students to think about a wide variety of social, cultural, and historical issues. Brian Geiger ’16, a frequent PAW contributor, sampled his way through the dishes and their respective cultural lessons.

INTERNATIONAL PANCAKE PLATTER: KOREAN HOTTEOK
Aileen Huang ’17, Namkyu Oh ’16, Milena Phan ’15, and Audrey Potts ’17

**Ingredients:** wheat flour, rice flour, water, yeast, salt, vegetable oil, sugar, brown sugar, peanuts, cinnamon

Acknowledging the pancake’s international character, the team made four pancakes — Chinese, Korean, Canadian/American, and Polish. PAW’s favorite was the hotteok, or sweet pancake, an autumn/winter Korean street food served freshly fried inside a paper cup or folded cardboard. Namkyu Oh’s difficulty finding hotteok served the way he remembers them as a child (on-the-go and without utensils) helps to keep the food strongly tied to the memories of his home in Seoul.

CANDY SUSHI
Garrit Leicht ’15, Kristen McNierney ’16, and Cecilia Shang ’18

**Ingredients:** Rice Krispies Treats, Airhead candy, Swedish Fish, cherry Twizzlers, strawberry Poppers, gummy worms, apple gummy rings, chocolate caramel balls

This team used the assignment as a chance to comment on cultural appropriation. By creating sushi rolls made out of candy, they attempted to demonstrate the ways in which Americans familiarize foreign cuisines to make them more comfortable, something that may occur at the risk of corrupting the essence of this Japanese food.

STUDENT DISPATCH

Yik Yak: Safe Haven to Discuss Private Struggles, or Home for Hateful Speech?

*Brett Simpson ’16*

It’s a mantra to the current generation of college students: *Think before you post.* In an age of Facebook and Twitter, profile pictures and statuses, we’ve learned to be aware of the consequences of our public commentary. But what happens when our words are separated from our names?

Yik Yak, a social-media app that allows users to post anonymously, does just that. This year, Yik Yak became commonplace at Princeton. Anyone with the app can post “yaks” of up to 200 characters as often as they want. A user receives a feed of those posting within a 1.5-mile radius. Users can “upvote” (approve) and “downvote” (disapprove) posts. A recent popular yak remarked upon the warm weather: “This is what winter would have been like if I went to Stanford.” Another read, “Sometimes I eat green beans in the dining hall only because I know it will make my mom happy.”

But not all posts are so innocuous: Some are offensive, and that has led to controversy on a number of college campuses. At Princeton, a debate over the conflict of free speech versus what was termed hate speech — sparked by performances of the student group Urban Congo and the selection of rapper Big Sean as the Lawnparties main act — was intensified by comments posted on Yik Yak.
On the Campus

BLUEBERRY PIE
Mathilda Lloyd ’15, Po Wah Moon ’15, Janet Schirm ’15, Gabriela Villamor ’16, and Matthew Weber ’16
Ingredients: Flour, sugar, vegetable shortening, butter or margarine, vanilla extract, blueberries
This team took inspiration from professor emerita Toni Morrison’s novel *The Bluest Eye*, in which the protagonist believes that blue eyes represent beauty. To explore definitions of traditional beauty, the group baked two blueberry pies — one baked to perfection, the other featuring a surface that was a mess of blueberries — to see which pie students preferred. The results were somewhat reassuring: The traditionally baked blueberry pie was only a slight favorite.

SPAM MUSUBI
David Exume ’18, April Liang ’15, and Jessica McLemore ’15
Ingredients: Spam, nori (roasted seaweed), rice, soy sauce, sugar
Musubi comes from the Japanese verb *musubu*, which means “to tie.” While musubi functions as a term for any food tied or wrapped in nori, it also evokes the way in which Spam ties together the Japanese-Hawaiian and American food heritages against the backdrop of World War II. Due to its substantial shelf life, Spam was a popular ration for soldiers. In Hawaii, a surplus of Spam rations led to the food finding its way into local kitchens, where Japanese-Americans turned it into an affordable wartime dish.

“...” said Zenaida Enchill ’16, who said most students on campus use the app. “This is marginally funny until there are real issues that come up — issues that are then filtered through the same lens of callousness and disregard.” Enchill said she alternates between deleting the app and downloading it again: “Maybe it’s fear of missing out?” she said.

Hannah Priddy ’17 said she has seen “hurtful and hateful” posts since she downloaded the app in the fall, recalling a reference to the openweight women’s rowing team as “fat weights.”

A positive side of Yik Yak, Annelies Paine ’16 said, is providing a safe space for students to voice the issues they are facing. “It’s nice to read about other students who are struggling with grades or are stressed at Princeton,” she said. “It lets you know that people are in the same boat as you, whether they would admit that publicly or not.”

But Dashaya Foreman ’16 said she deleted the app after attending a Women’s Center talk on “Race and Digital Feminism” that showed how Yik Yak creates an “empathy gap.” An anonymous app allows people to “say really offensive things — whether it be racist, sexist, or classist — and never see the effect of their words,” she said.

In an opinion column in *The Daily Princetonian*, Avaneesh Narla ’17 wrote that Yik Yak “is great for crude jokes and complaints, but we shouldn’t use it as a forum for arguments/dialogue or consider it as indicative of campus mentality.”

Maya Wahrman ’16, who has never used Yik Yak, agreed: “An opinion worth being heard has someone willing to stand behind it.”

The University’s Resources Committee has rejected all elements of a proposal by the Princeton Sustainable Investment Initiative (PSII), a student group, to change investment policies in an effort to reduce the impact of Princeton’s endowment on climate change.

The chair of the Resources Committee, Professor Marc Fleurbaey, said that its decisions not to adopt the United Nations’ Principles for Responsible Investment and the Carbon Disclosure Project were based on the committee’s uncertainty that endorsing either initiative “would have a substantial impact on the University’s already clear and unambiguous commitment to environmental stewardship.”

The committee also rejected a proposal to report the carbon footprint of the endowment on the grounds that there is no standard for calculating it, and rejected the idea of creating a committee to develop environmentally based investment guidelines because investment policies are up to the University’s trustees alone.

As Fleurbaey announced the decision at a May 4 CPUC meeting, about 45 students rose in silent protest, holding signs opposing the University’s investment policies. “By rejecting this proposal, the University has attempted to shut down a dialogue about sustainable investment and how the endowment is managed, but the student body will not accept that,” said Leigh Anne Schriever ’16, a PSII leader.

*By A.W.*
On Tuesday night of the last week of classes, students packed the theater in Frist Campus Center for a concert that — unlike some other recent performances on campus — caused no outcry or social-media stir.

Instead, the audience clapped and sang along to a series of cheeky pop tunes, minimalistic hip-hop songs, and irreverent punk anthems composed by the 26 students enrolled in “How to Write a Song,” a course taught by creative writing professor (and rock musician) Paul Muldoon.

The showstopper? “Death by Mall,” written by Arjun Dube ’15, Sydney King ’17, and Charlie Baker ’17. “This song is about suburban shopping centers. You guys ready?” Dube called from behind the drums as the crowd yelled and Baker viciously strummed an acoustic guitar. As the title suggests, the song was a tongue-in-cheek tirade against consumer culture. “Where did I park? Where did I park?” the trio yelled in the chorus.

Each week, students in the course wrote music inspired by a different emotion — despair, revenge, gratitude — on topics ranging from teenage romance to social media to Middle East politics.

The emotion of the week for “Death by Mall” was disgust; the lyrics, Dube said, were a list of “all the things we found perplexing about suburban malls.” Disgust also inspired the group to adopt the style of punk rock “to remove the inherent beauty of our composition,” he said.

“Death by Mall,” along with “Get Naked,” “Cloud 9,” and “Make Music Not Money,” were among the more than 100 songs that Muldoon said were produced and performed in class.

During one session, students had the audience of another famous Paul: singer-songwriter Paul Simon, who stopped by during a March visit to campus.

Not only did Simon meet students one-on-one, but he listened to their work and offered direct criticism that sometimes stung. “We came in there with all this hubris and just got taken down,” Sherry Romanzi ’18 said. After she performed, he told her, “It sounds like an art song,” meaning poetry put to music. “And I don’t particularly like art songs,” he added.

Muldoon said Simon’s willingness to be harsh was actually a favor to the students. “He took them seriously,” he said. “That included his not pulling any punches.”

By Matthew Silberman ’17

Songwriting 101
Students craft tunes inspired by emotions; Paul Simon stops by to critique class

Performing “Death by Mall” during a concert by student songwriters are, from left, Sydney King ’17, Charlie Baker ’17, and Arjun Dube ’15 on drums.

Songwriting 101
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By Matthew Silberman ’17

LAWNPARTIES
Big Sean: Big Crowd

Trap horns — the siren blasts often heard in hip-hop music — blared over Prospect Avenue May 3 as about 1,000 students and their guests turned out to see Lawnparties headliner Big Sean. Despite a controversy over the rapper’s lyrics — including a student petition to cancel his act — there were no protests. About 50 students attended an alternative event at Campus Club, featuring live music and a barbecue, as Big Sean was on stage. During his performance, the rap artist urged the students to “surround yourself with positive people who will bring the best out of you.”

By Kevin Cheng ’17

SLIDE SHOW: Student fashions at Lawnparties at paw.princeton.edu

VIDEO: Watch a performance of “Death by Mall” at paw.princeton.edu

SLIDE SHOW: Student fashions at Lawnparties at paw.princeton.edu

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What attracted you to the position here? Were you recruited to make specific changes?
The position was created because the museum and the donor of the position wanted to have somebody who would be an advocate for teaching 19th- and early 20th-century art and also to advocate an approach that is built out of looking at objects. I’d become aware during my time at MoMA that the number of people who work in this area was diminishing all the time.

What will be your approach to teaching undergraduates?
I’m name-dropping here: Kant said that artists don’t copy other artists to learn what they do, but to learn imaginative freedom. This is the thing that not only the visual arts teach, but literature and the humanities generally teach. I think there are life lessons about imaginative freedom, about being willing to enter situations where you don’t know where you’re going, about certain kinds of risk-taking — not risk-taking in the sense of being entrepreneurial, but in terms of understanding that you choose to work whatever discipline, whether it’s in the arts or outside of them. What artists do can actually teach you about this. More broadly, it’s good for an educated community to have some knowledge of the arts, because the arts need patrons as well as practitioners. Maybe this is one way of getting them.

What does the next generation of curators need to learn?
Since many of them deal with contemporary things, they need to learn about the past as well. I had a good friend at MoMA who was interviewing someone for a curatorial position. He was surprised to learn that this person had never heard of Delacroix!
Graduate students voted 417–291 last month to support a call for the University to DIVEST from “corporations that maintain the infrastructure of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, facilitate Israel’s and Egypt’s collective punishment of Palestinian civilians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, or facilitate state repression against Palestinians by Israeli, Egyptian, and Palestinian Authority security forces.” About 28 percent of graduate students voted in the opinion poll, which was conducted by the Graduate Student Government. GSG officials said the poll does not represent the graduate student body as a whole, but was designed to “present the positions of some students on campus.” A referendum on a similar divestment question was defeated by undergraduates a month earlier.

The Daily Princetonian published a lengthy examination May 3 of four foundations created to allow CHARITABLE DONATIONS to the eating clubs. The story, by former Prince editor-in-chief Marcelo Rochabrun ’15, concluded that alumni donors since 2008 have received tax deductions for $20 million in donations, most of which supported non-educational projects and “none of which qualify as educational donations under IRS guidelines.” The story can be found online: http://bit.ly/1A0gwW7.

In a statement to PAW, Sandy Harrison ’74, chairman of the Princeton Prospect Foundation (PPF), the largest of the four foundations, said the Prince’s reporting was “non-objective and legally flawed” and failed to recognize the major role that the eating clubs play in the “overall educational and cultural fabric” of the University, “notwithstanding their social function.” He said that PPF “adheres at all times in good faith” to a 1998 agreement with the IRS as to which expenses can be considered educationally related and the extent to which PPF can support them.
The Canadian national team will play its opening match of the FIFA Women’s World Cup on June 6, but Diana Matheson ’08 will watch from the sidelines. The veteran midfielder, fully recovered from a serious left-knee injury suffered in October, had a setback in March when she fractured her right foot.

“This was definitely a tough blow,” she said of her most recent injury. “The ACL [anterior cruciate ligament] seemed like it was enough of a hurdle. I didn’t need another hurdle to jump over.”

Matheson injured her knee in an exhibition match against defending World Cup champion Japan. She worked hard throughout the winter, but she broke the fifth metatarsal in her foot while training and underwent surgery to have a screw inserted. Although she continues to live with the Canadian team at its training camp in Vancouver, riding an exercise bicycle and running on an underwater treadmill, she acknowledges that recovery from this injury could take at least 10 weeks, which would jeopardize her chances of playing in the tournament.

Matheson remains single-minded about competing in her fourth World Cup, this one in her native country. “Currently I have zero hobbies,” she told the women’s soccer website The Equalizer in April. “Mostly rehab and then maybe some Netflix while I’m icing.”

The World Cup could provide a fitting coda to one of the most illustrious athletic careers in Princeton history. Matheson deferred her admission in 2003 to play in her first World Cup at age 19. A four-time All-Ivy selection, 2007 Ivy League Player of the Year, and 2008 Von Kienbusch Award winner, she helped Canada win a gold medal at the 2011 Pan American Games and scored the only goal in Canada’s bronze medal-clinching victory at the 2012 Olympics. Matheson also has been a standout for the Washington Spirit, a pro team in the National Women’s Soccer League.

But injuries have been catching up — she suffered a stress fracture in her left foot in 2010 and tore her right knee the following year — and Matheson, now 31, recognizes that her time on the pitch may be running out. Canadian coach John Herdman is keeping her on the 23-player active roster for now. The team hopes she will return before the tournament final, which will be played July 5 at BC Place Stadium in Vancouver.

Matheson is optimistic about her team’s chances, with or without her. “Canada is going there to win,” she said with determination. “It’s our World Cup, and we want to put on a performance that will inspire the next generation of players.”

By M.F.B.
WOMEN’S WATER POLO

Goalie Shines Against Nation’s Best

Princeton goalie Ashleigh Johnson ’16 shattered the tournament record for saves at the NCAA Women’s Water Polo Championships in Stanford, Calif., May 8-10, stopping 50 shots in three games — 10 more than the previous best — while allowing 20 goals. The Tigers lost to Stanford and UC-Irvine and defeated Hawaii. Johnson’s 22 saves against UC-Irvine also broke the tournament record for saves in one game.

The Tigers earned a postseason berth by sweeping the CWPA Championships at DeNunzio Pool April 24-26. In the championship game, a 7-6 victory over Indiana, Ashley Hatcher ’15 scored four goals and Johnson saved 17 shots.

The NCAA bid was the third in Princeton’s history and the first in Johnson’s remarkable career. “It was so surreal,” she said after the Indiana game. “My heart started racing after the buzzer went off.”

SPORTS SHORTS

MEN’S TRACK AND FIELD

completed a rare “triple crown” May 10, winning the Ivy League’s outdoor, indoor, and cross country titles in the same year. The Outdoor Heptagonal Championships came down to the final event, a victory by Stephen Soerens ’15 in the decathlon that gave Princeton a 1.5-point edge over Cornell. WOMEN’S TRACK AND FIELD finished second at Heps, led by Megan Curham ’17, who finished first in the 5,000- and 10,000-meter runs.

Yale edged MEN’S LACROSSE, 11–10, in the Ivy League Tournament final May 3, capturing the league’s automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. The Tigers finished 9–6 overall and shared the Ivy’s regular-season championship with Brown and Cornell.

WOMEN’S TENNIS fell to South Carolina, 4–3, in the opening round of the NCAA Championships May 9. Lindsay Graff ’15, Alanna Wolff ’17, and Katrine Steffensen ’18 earned individual wins for the Tigers.

MEN’S TENNIS earned an at-large bid to the NCAA Championships — its first postseason appearance since 1998. The Tigers lost 4–1 to Minnesota in the opening round May 8.

WOMEN’S LACROSSE

Tigers Advance to NCAA Quarterfinals

Entering the NCAA Tournament, Princeton women’s lacrosse was rolling, winning four straight to finish the regular season and adding a commanding two-game sweep at the Ivy League Tournament. “We want to keep seeing what else we can do on the field,” head coach Chris Sailer said.

Sailer’s anticipation was rewarded in the first two rounds of the NCAA draw: The Tigers dismantled Fairfield, 18-8, in their opener and followed that with an 8-4 win over sixth-seed Stony Brook. Abby Finkelston ’18 scored four goals in the latter game, helping Princeton advance to the national quarterfinals for the first time since 2011. (Results from the May 16 quarterfinal game against Duke were not available for this issue.)

While the Tigers have their share of senior leaders — including Erin Slifer, the Ivy Midfielder of the Year, and U.S. national-team player Erin McMunn — the team also has leaned on a stellar sophomore class. Four Princeton sophomores were selected to the Ivy All-Tournament team.

Sailer said her team’s best qualities were on display in the Ivy final, when Princeton toppled defending-champion Penn for the second time in three weeks. “They believe in themselves and they trust each other,” she said. “They just have great chemistry on the field, and I think that really shows when they play.”

SPORTS SHORTS

Erin McMunn ’15

MEN’S LACROSSE

completed a rare “triple crown” May 10, winning the Ivy League’s outdoor, indoor, and cross country titles in the same year. The Outdoor Heptagonal Championships came down to the final event, a victory by Stephen Soerens ’15 in the decathlon that gave Princeton a 1.5-point edge over Cornell. WOMEN’S TRACK AND FIELD finished second at Heps, led by Megan Curham ’17, who finished first in the 5,000- and 10,000-meter runs.

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Erin McMunn ’15

On the Campus / Sports
Life of the Mind

PSYCHOLOGY

Your Attention, Please

Distractions in our visual environment can impede our brains' ability to function

If a cluttered desk is a sign of a cluttered mind,” Albert Einstein once cracked, “of what, then, is an empty desk a sign?” The answer, according to psychology professor Sabine Kastner, may be clear thinking. In 20 years of research on attention, Kastner has found that, despite the protests of Einstein, Steve Jobs, and other messy creative thinkers, visual clutter competes with our brain's ability to pay attention and tires out our cognitive functions over time.

The journey to that conclusion started one day in 2008, when Kastner was crossing Washington Road on her way to Nassau Hall for a meeting. Realizing she was automatically scanning for cars before she crossed the street, she wondered how the brain so quickly differentiated cars from other things in the environment. When she researched the phenomenon, “it became apparent that this basic question had gone completely unanswered,” she says.

The problem for researchers was that they had difficulty replicating the chaos of our random world in the lab; they used simple, easily recognizable shapes in experiments to see how the brain reacted. Kastner exposed subjects to the full variation of a random environment by showing them a selection of street scenes and asking them to focus either on a person or a car, while a functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) machine measured their brain activity.

The scans showed clear patterns of activity in the frontal cortex, indicating that the neurons were activated based not on what subjects were seeing, but rather what they were looking for. “Whatever you look for dominates your brain signals so much that all of the scene context gets suppressed,” she says. Once you think “car,” your brain automatically blocks out everything else and hones in on that specific shape.

Kastner’s subsequent studies found that the brain may not be good at blocking clutter. When she asked subjects to focus on one object while introducing another object into their visual field, Kastner detected a fuzzy version of that second object in the brain scan. In any environment, she concluded, there is both a “push” toward desired objects and a “pull” from objects competing for attention. The more objects in the visual field, the harder the brain has to work to filter them out, causing it to tire over time and reducing its ability to function.

Such a mechanism may shed light on the brains of those with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). “The way it is typically framed is that a child with ADHD has a problem focusing,” says Kastner. “Perhaps the real problem is that the child is overwhelmed by the clutter that gets in the way.” That is why strategies that reduce sensory overload, such as breaking tasks into discrete steps, are helpful to children with ADHD. But such techniques can help anyone who has trouble concentrating, Kastner says. Just lowering the shades while working or taking a few minutes to tidy one’s workspace can lead to more productivity, she advises. To reconsider Einstein, a clean desk may not signify an empty mind — rather, a cluttered desk may make a mind too full. ◆ By Michael Blanding

Lowering the shades while working or tidying one’s workspace can lead to more productivity, says Professor Sabine Kastner.
A
tism is thought to arise from a combination of factors, some genetic and others the result of environmental issues such as the mother’s health during pregnancy, parental age, and exposure to pollutants. New research indicates that mouse pups born to mothers who had the flu during pregnancy show characteristics of autism and exhibit brain changes. So far, the work suggests that the link to autism likely is not the flu itself, but the response of the mother’s immune system.

Lisa Boulanger, an assistant professor of molecular biology and neuroscience, studies the role of immune proteins called major histocompatibility complex class I (MHCI). These molecules are found on most cells in our body, where they help our immune cells find and attack cells infected by microorganisms. Until 15 years ago, these molecules were not thought to be present in the brain, but they now are known to play an important role in normal brain development.

Boulanger’s work suggests a link between MHCI’s function in the brain and autism. Her laboratory has shown that one job of MHCI is to trim the number of synapses, the connections between neurons that allow them to communicate. Mice without MHCI have more synapses in brain regions involved in higher cognitive functions, learning, and memory — too many, in fact. A similar synapse overabundance also is seen in the brains of children with autism and in mice with autism-linked mutations. “More nerve connections might sound great, but actually, this causes a wide range of behavioral problems,” Boulanger says. A drug, she found, can reverse the synapse number problems in mice with either autism-linked mutations or those deficient in MHCI.

Healthy babies are born with many connections, but these gradually are reduced throughout childhood. This pruning is crucial to the brain developing, Boulanger says, and problems with pruning may only become apparent years later. Both human and mouse studies “suggest that at least for some individuals, certain features of autism may result from the brain’s inability to prune its network of connections,” she says.

Boulanger’s laboratory recently found mouse infections during pregnancy change MHCI levels in the developing pups’ brains that persist as the mice grow into adulthood. “These changes can affect synapse connections in the same way as some of the genetic mutations associated with autism,” explains Boulanger. Individuals with autism-linked genetic mutations may be more vulnerable to the effects of an infection on the maternal immune system.

More work is necessary to better understand whether and how immune molecules are modified in the developing human brain following a maternal infection, and if this can contribute to autism. Currently, it is not clear what makes some women more vulnerable to these infections. The hope, says Boulanger, is to find ways to identify the subset of families who may be most vulnerable so they can reduce the risk of having a child with autism. “For those individuals,” Boulanger says, “it might be worth it to take simple measures, like washing their hands more often and avoiding large public gatherings for a few months during pregnancy, to minimize their risk of catching colds or the flu.”

By Anna Azvolinsky ’09
FACULTY BOOK: BRIAN HERRERA

Playing Latino, on Stage and Screen

Theater professor Brian Herrera vividly recalls the first time he watched *West Side Story* as a sixth-grader on summer break at his grandmother’s home in New Mexico. He saw in Bernardo, the protective older brother of Maria, a role he could play: “I saw a charismatic, forceful, principal role that did not hide or elide being Latino, a role in which being Latino seemed an asset rather than a liability.”

In *Latin Numbers: Playing Latino in Twentieth Century U.S. Popular Performance*, Herrera examines the way Latino actors on the stage and screen have communicated ideas about race and ethnicity. He also explores the origins and legacies of some of the stock Latino characters that have been prevalent in popular culture: the Conga-line dancer of the 1930s, the gang member of the 1950s, and the gay lover of the 1990s AIDS era.

“The lady with the fruit on her head and the swashbuckling Latin lover go back 100 years,” says Herrera, who traces how Latino actors have adapted and revised these characters through the years. Singer and actress Carmen Miranda played off the image of a Latina clown in the 1950s; today, actress Sofia Vergara incorporates elements of the same character type on the TV sitcom *Modern Family*, he points out.

Herrera examines several periods during which Latinos seemed to explode in the national consciousness, such as when waves of Puerto Ricans arrived in New York City in the 1950s as *West Side Story* was soaring to fame. He has found that the media often portray Latinos as on the verge of breaking out as a significant cultural phenomenon but, Herrera notes, such moments often are short-lived.

Though Herrera long ago gave up his dream of becoming an actor for a life in academia, in 2010 he created an autobiographical, one-man show about gaining brief fame at 17, when he wrote a patriotic speech that won a national contest. Herrera has performed *I Was The Voice of Democracy* in more than a dozen cities in the United States and as far away as Beirut and Abu Dhabi. The stories he tells touch on his evolving understanding of what it means to be Latino. “It’s a subject,” Herrera says, “I’ve been researching my entire life.” ◆ By Jessica Lander ’10

LISTEN: Brian Herrera’s *I Was The Voice of Democracy* at paw.princeton.edu

WITH THE GLOBAL POPULATION RISING, Policymakers have targeted Africa’s vast wet savannas as a place to produce *STAPLE FOODS* at low cost to the environment. But a report in *Nature Climate Change* found that converting Africa’s savannas into farmland would come at a high environmental cost and, in some cases, fail to meet existing standards for renewable fuels. Princeton research scholars Lyndon Estes and Tim Searchinger were the lead authors of the report, published in March.
A leading scholar explains the beliefs and goals of the Islamic State

BY BERNARD HAYKEL
recent debate has raged in policy and academic circles about whether it is appropriate to use the adjective “Islamic” when referring to the Islamic State and other militant jihadist groups like al-Qaeda. This polemic is centered on President Barack Obama’s unwillingness to use the word “Islam” in any form when discussing these groups. He does not want to dignify them, or their claims, by an association with the religion of Islam and the great civilization it fostered. Instead, the term of art for jihadists in Washington is “violent extremists,” and the policy against groups like the Islamic State is called “countering violent extremism” or by its acronym, “CVE.” While this label is inelegant, the White House has made a legitimate policy determination on how to contend with the jihadist phenomenon. It does not wish to offend Muslims, and even hopes to galvanize them to join the policy of CVE. After all, the overwhelming majority of Muslims do not agree with the Islamic State’s ideology and view its ideologues and fighters as misguided and perverting both the message and image of the faith.

As a scholar of Islam, my role — unlike that of the policy-driven politician — is to study groups like the Islamic State, to trace their claims historically, and to explain their ideology and rise. To do so, it is important to see in what ways the Islamic State is tied to the history of Islamic theology and law, how it cites texts of revelation, and how it selectively appropriates and refashions the tradition of Islam for its political purposes. In addition, it is just as important to study the political, economic, and social context in which this jihadist group emerged. In other words, to ignore the Islamic background and context of the Islamic State’s ideology or the material factors that led to its rise is to fail in the scholarly enterprise and to fall short at providing the policymaker, the student, and the public with an adequate understanding of the global phenomenon of jihadism.

So who are the jihadists of the Islamic State, what do they believe in, how and why did they emerge, and what is it they want to achieve?

The Islamic State is a Jihadi-Salafi movement, which means that its members adhere to a strict literalist interpretation of the texts of the Quran and the sayings of the Prophet Muhammad. They also privilege armed struggle (jihad) as a means for implementing their austere, intolerant, and muscular vision of Islam. Salafis — not all of whom preach armed violence; only the Jihadi-Salafists do — have been a minority group, albeit an influential one, throughout the history of Islam. However, their ideology and worldview have come to the fore in modern times for a variety of reasons. Some of these have to do with the decline in stature of traditional institutions of religious authority, the spread of mass literacy, the emergence of an urban middle class, and the funding of religious education by Salafi-oriented petro-states like Saudi Arabia. Salafis principally target other Muslims for not following their version of Islam, and accuse their enemies of corrupting the faith with beliefs and practices that violate the doctrine of the oneness of God by associating other beings or things with Him. Muslims, Salafis argue, have become weak because they have deviated into error and lost the “true” message of the faith. Their grievance is about theological issues and the need for reform, but this quickly acquires a political and militant dimension with the jihadists who are frustrated with the inability to effect change through nonviolent means.

An important activist doctrine of the Jihadi-Salafists is to show loyalty toward fellow brethren in the faith and to exhibit enmity and hatred toward the unbelievers. One consequence of this is that Shia and Sufis — Muslims whose respective understanding of Islam differs significantly from that of the Salafis — tend to be vilified by Jihadi-Salafists, and often suffer violence.

In the realm of politics, the Jihadi-Salafists condemn in categorical terms the modern world order because its values and principles are not rooted in Islam, but rather in the infidel West. According to them, the modern world has stripped God of his sovereignty as the sole lawgiver and weakened Muslims by dividing them into territorial states in which citizenship — not faith — is the basis for identity and allegiance. To make matters worse, they say, the rulers of these Muslim-majority countries have been co-opted into this system and ultimately serve the interests of the dominant West, and thus have become “apostates” who must be toppled.

To understand the one must look at the

The ultimate goal of the Jihadi-Salafists is to make Muslims powerful, as they were before the relatively recent domination of the globe by the West. To do this, it is not sufficient to educate Muslims about the tenets of the faith; one must engage in acts of violence, both individual and collective, against the enemies. Only by terrorizing the enemy, including through the use of suicide bombing and mass slaughter, enslavement and beheadings, can victory be attained. Re-creating the unitary imperial state of the early Islamic period — the caliphate — is deemed important because it can guide and channel the energies of the community as well as serve as an ideal around which Muslims can rally. This is one reason why the Islamic State declared itself a caliphate immediately after a series of remarkable military victories in Iraq in the summer of 2014.

The ideology described above is on display in numerous online treatises and books written by the ideologues of Jihadi-Salafism. There are learned tomes and sermons by scholars such as Turki al-Binali, a 30-year-old prodigy from Bahrain who defends and elaborates the Islamic State’s teachings with rhetorical eloquence and flair. But this ideology has become more effective and potent, especially at recruitment, because it is associated with what I label the culture of jihad. Unlike backers of al-Qaida, the Islamic State’s supporters are masterful at producing technically sophisticated videos that are then skillfully distributed through social-media applications such as Twitter, YouTube, and Facebook. And these are not
just gory beheading clips — they include a cappella chants, poetic odes, and scenes of battles interspersed with images of medieval knights on horses, clashing swords, and violent video-game scenes. Particular favorites are clips from the movie *Kingdom of Heaven* as well as the video game “Assassin’s Creed: Revelations.” Joining the jihad has become cool and implies that one can live a reality that mirrors the virtuous past, which is a contemporary projection of the first centuries of Islam, a period of righteousness, heroism, and justice. This sentiment is evoked by the so-called female poet of the Islamic State, Ahlam al-Nasr, two of whose lines in praise of the caliphate are:

*Islam has become a fortress again; Lofty, firm and great
The banner of God’s Oneness is raised anew; it does not bend or deviate*

Thinking of the Islamic State in purely ideological terms offers only a partial explanation of the jihadist phenomenon in Iraq and Syria. To understand its emergence and appeal, one must look at the brutal political, economic, and social realities of the modern Arab world. Perhaps the most important factor in this regard is the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003. This assault on — and reconfiguration of — Iraq effectively disenfranchised the once-dominant Sunnis and imposed a political system in which the majority Shia Arab population became the new masters of the country. Under the leadership of Nouri al-Maliki, the Shia prime minister from 2006 until 2014, the Iraqi state pursued a sectarian agenda that marginalized and persecuted the Sunnis.

In response, the Sunnis became radicalized and turned to the ideology of Jihadi-Salafism, with its virulent anti-Shia stance, as the path for resisting the new political order. The Sunni transformation toward militant Islamism was gradual and was aided by the Arab Spring uprisings of 2011 that quickly sowed violence and chaos in neighboring Syria. The Syrian Sunni — some 70 percent of the country’s population — also had been politically marginalized, and since 2011 were being brutalized by the Damascus government, which is identified as Shia. (The ruling Asad family, and most of its military and intelligence forces, belongs to a Shia sect called the Alawis or Nusayris.) The Islamic State represents the coming together of significant elements from the two Sunni communities of Iraq and Syria, with the immediate aim of toppling the regimes in Damascus and Baghdad and eventually in Riyadh, too.

Several other factors contribute to the appeal of the Islamic State and help draw recruits to its ranks from across the Arab world, the source of most of its soldiers. Virtually every Arab country is ruled by a corrupt regime that is unaccountable and practices coercion to obtain consent from the governed. And in all Arab countries the population is very young, often with 60 percent under the age of 30 — this is referred to as the youth bulge. Unemployment rates are high, and merit and competence rarely are rewarded. Obtaining work and advancement often is due to being connected to the right patronage network. The state tends to be the dominant employer and economic actor in society, and an inability to obtain a job in the public sector dooms one to a precarious existence. Without employment, finding a marriage partner becomes very difficult, which delays the possibility of starting a family.

These economic impediments to development, both personal and societal, adversely affect Arab populations that are now highly informed and networked through access to the Internet, social-media technologies, and satellite television. Arabs know and see for themselves that other people, in China or Europe for example, have it much better. For many people, this knowledge generates expectations but also considerable personal frustration — even hopelessness — that they might ever improve their lot in life under the existing political systems. The Islamic State offers a utopian alternative, and its propaganda trumpets a social order that is just and moral in which corruption is severely dealt with. A number of videos, for example, display Islamic State soldiers and officials being crucified for crimes they have committed.

The phenomenon of the Islamic State is multifaceted, and its appeal is not straightforward. Its distinctive interpretation of Islam — the ideology of Jihadi-Salafism — cannot on its own explain its rise and relatively success, but neither can the dire political and economic realities of the Arab world. It is only by adopting multiple perspectives combining the ideological and the material that one can begin to understand how and why the Islamic State has risen and what its trajectory might be.

Its goals lie beyond Iraq and Syria, inasmuch as its ideologues boastfully claim that world conquest and the establishment of Islamic rule everywhere is their ultimate aim.

The Islamic State will certainly not endure, and we are now beginning to see it suffer military defeat at the hands of a coalition that includes the United States, Iraq, and Iran, among other nations. As it begins to lose battles and territory, its sheen will quickly fade. What will remain are the factors that have allowed militant politics to flourish in the first place, namely an ideology of religious power and domination, as well as political, social, and economic realities that provide a wellspring of recruits and supporters who feel deeply disenfranchised and increasingly marginal to the flow of history. Only by addressing seriously these underlying causes and grievances will the phenomenon of jihadism be effectively dealt with. No amount of “countering violent extremism” through the U.S. government’s messaging against the propaganda of the Islamic State will help make this violent feature of global politics become a thing of the past.

Bernard Haykel is a Princeton professor of Near Eastern studies and director of the Institute for Transregional Study of the Contemporary Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia.
Thank you for coming to this gathering. I hope this gathering will give us a chance to reflect on problems that confront us, on differences that divide us, and on values that we share. I have myself come mainly to listen, to learn, and to reflect, so I am going to try to be brief in these welcoming remarks. I do, however, want to say some things about the occasion that brings us together.

As all of you know, this has been a difficult week for our campus. Eruptions of hostile and thoughtless comments on Yik Yak have left many of our black students, and our LGBTQ students, feeling anguished, angry, and unwelcomed on this campus. These hateful comments have no place at Princeton. The anonymous cowards who post these messages debase all of us with their ignorance and their contempt.

Of course, because they are anonymous, we cannot know who they are, or how numerous they are. For those of us in the majority culture, it is tempting to dismiss these cowards as few in number, or unimportant. “Not really us,” in other words.

But that overlooks a larger challenge, a challenge that those of us in the majority culture need to own and address. The taunts and insults of the last week have been hurtful not only because of what they have said, but because of the other experiences that minority students have had on this campus. On our campus and in our society, members of minority groups too often find themselves hurt, excluded, or diminished by stereotypes, by ignorance, by thoughtlessness, and by hostility.

During the past week, I have talked to many people about the events that have disturbed this campus. I have been struck by many observations in the course of those conversations. I have been impressed, for example, by how much people on this campus love this University, and how much they want it to be a better and welcoming place. But I have also been startled by the tremendous gap in perspectives — how differently people see things.

Those of us in the majority culture often do not see the thoughtlessness or the insults borne by others. And we do not appreciate the feelings of exclusion that result.

We have a responsibility to change that. We
Freshman Solene Le Van plays a violin solo at the Chapel gathering.
have a responsibility to expand our perspectives and improve our campus climate, so that minority members of this community feel fully welcome and so that the anonymous cowards find no fertile ground here for their hatred or their ignorance.

I hope that today’s gathering can contribute to the change that we need, and I look forward to hearing from the speakers who follow.

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**ISAAC SERWANGA ’13, athletics administrator and founder of the Profound Ivy mentorship program**

I want to use this opportunity to offer my perspective as an alumnus. Though I was asked to prepare a speech, I instead wrote an action plan, something that I believe would be of greater value than my own personal rhetoric. The plan isn’t complicated, but I believe it can be an effective tool as we desperately look for ways to heal our campus and build our community.

As a young black male and varsity athlete here at Princeton, I often found myself believing that Princeton could do more for me and those who fit the same mold. The transition into the Orange Bubble wasn’t the smoothest for me, and I found that the black males who were teammates of mine felt the same way. From the football locker room to the track-and-field locker room to the basketball locker room, I found myself hearing the same complaints from the black male student-athlete population. I called it an “I wish” list: “I wish Princeton had this! I wish Princeton told me that!”

I would go back to my room in Spelman Hall and complain to roommates, and when they stopped listening I complained to myself. It wasn’t until my senior year when the light bulb went on, and I realized that I could be an agent of change.

I realized that for three years, I had been looking to everyone but myself to help make the community in which I belonged more suitable for me. There’s a great lesson to learn from this that applies to our current situation: We must realize that the onus does not fall on any one individual, but on each and every one of us equally. I hope today that we do not see these issues as any particular group’s, but rather as issues that face us as the Princeton community.

In my senior year, I came up with the idea of Profound Ivy, which would become Princeton University’s first mentorship program for black male student-athletes. It was established to provide these students with the resources, skills, and guidance necessary to achieve success both as current student-athletes and as future working professionals.

I worked side by side with our administration to develop the program, and the Profound Ivy group met for the first time in January, during my first year on the athletics-department staff. The ultimate goal was to enhance the Princeton experience for these young men, and in doing so strengthen the entire Princeton community. We cannot help move along the community if we do not first enhance ourselves.

Using a three-pillar approach to strengthen academic efficiency, career planning, and leadership development, Profound Ivy provides the necessary support and also demands the necessary commitment for the athletes to achieve profound success.

The following formula is one that I strictly followed as I asked myself the question, “How do I go about making a change?” I hope it can serve as a guideline that can be directly applied to our current situation and ultimately help us progress to achieve the results we wish to see.

First, constructive criticism. This is how any person or organization improves. Never resting on its laurels, an institution such as Princeton University should feel privileged to retain brave students, faculty, and staff who are willing to praise all that is right and concurrently state what is missing from or wrong with the status quo. Individuals and groups should feel comfortable bringing these issues to the forefront and having their voices heard openly and respectfully.

Next, positive engagement: While these criticisms may often create emotionally charged environments, I believe it is essential for students, in this case, to keep the engagement positive. This is not meant to pacify; rather, it is meant to keep the intent of the conversation clear. The intent of positive engagement is to do the groundwork to lead us to a clear result. Negative engagements undoubtedly will lead to defensive discussions, and the intended result often will get lost in the discussion. This leads us to our next and final pillar, mindful action.

At every step, it is essential for all involved to use empathy and take mindful action. The key here is “mindful”; that is to say, “If I take this action, how does it affect all those involved? How does this action enhance the entire community? If someone will be negatively impacted, who will it be — and why?” It is important to strongly consider asking these questions as we seek to create change to enhance our entire Princeton community.

Serwanga gave his remarks from notes; this has been re-created.
When President Eisgruber asked me if I would be willing to take part in today’s event I was hesitant, but I said “yes.”

I was hesitant, in part, because I wasn’t sure I was ready to speak. Frankly, I didn’t know what gave me the standing to speak. And while I appreciated the importance of the president’s call for this community to come together in a time of such division, I worried that today’s event could be perceived as patronizing, even dismissive, of the anger and emotion that has been churning in recent weeks.

I said “yes,” on the other hand, because for the last 22 years Princeton has been my intellectual home, and I care deeply about what happens on this campus. I also believe that everything that happens on this campus touches every one of us — that we are all involved in and affected by the events that take place, and that no one can turn away and say, “This doesn’t involve me.”

I also said “yes” because, while I told the president that I was still working through my feelings on these debates, there are some things that I feel are very clear. For example, I think there is an important difference between using humor as a form of satire — in which the purpose is to critique a particular point of view in order to effect social or political change — and drawing humor out of a cultural impersonation in order to entertain. Humor can be a powerful social weapon, and, as we have seen, it can also be a divisive and deeply humiliating gesture.

I also think it’s incumbent upon us to understand more clearly the histories of the cultural forms that we use. That’s what can make — indeed should make — the educational setting on a campus like this an ideal one for learning from and discussing such forms. The long history of minstrelsy in this country, to take one example, seems entirely relevant to at least one part of the discussion that’s taking place. There is much, I think, that informed historical knowledge about the work of culture can bring to our own understandings today.

What we also need — perhaps above all — is a more informed knowledge of each other. One reason I am drawn to the study of literature is that it can provide a powerful means of learning what it’s like to be someone else, to be caught up in someone else’s life, and to see the world, if only for a moment, through their eyes. That kind of empathy — thoughtful, rigorous empathy — strikes me as particularly important in this moment.

I said earlier that I agreed to speak in part because I consider Princeton my intellectual home. But I know that for those of you who live on campus, it is more than that. It is, while you are here, your actual home. I hope we can help make it one in which you all feel, every day, that you belong.

— William Gleason

HUMOR CAN BE A POWERFUL SOCIAL WEAPON, AND, AS WE HAVE SEEN, IT CAN ALSO BE A DIVISIVE AND DEEPLY HUMILIATING GESTURE.

— William Gleason

I would like you to turn to someone near you — someone whom you do not know well. Look them in the eye and repeat the following paraphrased comments posted on anonymous social media: “African cultures have had no impact on the modern world.” Now turn to another person you do not know well. Look them in the eye and repeat: “You are a racist.”

I hope that wasn’t easy.

The response some viewers had to the Urban Congo performance does not represent a crisis. It is OK that people were upset. In any democracy, the struggle to balance the rights and duties of citizens, positive and negative liberties, is an ongoing process. We draw lines in the sand marking when someone’s freedom negatively impacts another. These boundaries are a product of history, culture, and changing societal values.

The people who were offended by the Urban Congo performance are people who believe that the performance crossed a line. My sense from these students is that they are tired of the idea that in America, generations of people, deemed educated, can have effectively no knowledge of Native American or African cultures and history.

I have spoken with one of the performers, and it is clear to me that he had no intention to offend. And yet, it also seems equally clear that he had not thought through how the performance would be interpreted by others. As one small example, two New Yorkers I spoke with thought Urban Congo was a reference to the ghetto — clearly not the intended message. And what Urban Congo did communicate was that only some people matter — an inherited belief that only some people’s histories

— Carolyn Rouse

IN ANY DEMOCRACY, THE STRUGGLE TO BALANCE THE RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF CITIZENS, POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE LIBERTIES, IS AN ONGOING PROCESS. WE DRAW LINES IN THE SAND MARKING WHEN SOMEONE’S FREEDOM NEGATIVELY IMPACTS ANOTHER.

— Carolyn Rouse
and identities matter. But ignorance, as one student noted, is no longer an excuse. While the students in Urban Congo had the right to their performance, they also had a responsibility to understand the implications of their choices.

The reason I asked you to look each other in the eye and state unsubstantiated opinions is because I want to remind us that negotiations over decency, negative and positive liberties, require showing up — being present with those impacted by the choices we make. Diversity is going to have uncomfortable moments that cause us to redraw the lines in the sand. Performers — good performers — often take risks, skirt the edges of taboos, and as a result get an audience to think, question, and grow. They help us to redraw those lines together, not as enemies. Good people disagree. We think, we question, and we grow. ◆

LINA SAUD ’15
As a student at Princeton, I can attest to a level of stereotyping and misunderstanding that you would not expect on a campus where we, the students, promise to be among the future leaders of America. And as I’m sure everyone here does, I worry because we Princeton students have not reached a point where the misunderstandings we entered with are dissipating by the time we leave.

I saw this in the eyes of my peers of color this week. And I’ve seen this myself on Thursday nights, walking through campus, when intoxicated peers of mine would hurl inflammatory words my way — about my “terrorizing” America and the like. And I’m certainly not alone in this.

The problem here isn’t that some of our peers may have deeply held stereotypes toward us — stereotyping is a natural human process that we’re all guilty of. The problem is that when a campus community chooses to take a route of tolerance — when we simply tolerate those who are different than us — we keep groups even more distant from us than before, allowing our internal stereotypes to continue perpetuating while we all are under an illusion that that is inclusion. It’s not. Like all illusions, there are going to be times when we realize what’s actually happening underneath the surface, and perhaps we saw this most recently in the Urban Congo performances.

What we need isn’t tolerance — what we need to do is get to know each other in a real way. I learned this lesson early on. The moment I walked out of my mother’s car for Princeton Preview, way back, I met a guy named Trevor. And he began to ask me about my headscarf and other questions about my faith. What’s incredible is that we both left that conversation with something. Trevor had gained a new sort of perspective on my faith, which is heavily stereotyped. And I came out of it with a process of self-reflection: In answering the hard and honest questions, I was learning more about myself. That’s the beauty of getting to know one another: We meet incredible people, we break down our stereotypes, and we understand ourselves in a whole new way.

To my younger peers on this campus — the juniors, the sophomores, the freshmen: Getting to know one another in a real way, understanding people who are different than us, and understanding ourselves in the process — that’s a treasure. And if you leave this place without it, you’ve been robbed. Do not tolerate one another at a distance. Get to know one another, and do not let yourself get robbed. ◆

Saud gave her remarks from notes; this has been re-created.

RUHA BENJAMIN, assistant professor of African American studies
The year is 2015, and we are failing.

We’re failing to look history squarely in the face. We’re pretending that something called “isolated incidents” actually exists. We’re opting to wake up each morning and swallow a colorblind hallucinogen, numbing ourselves to the racial reality. We’re putting off until tomorrow what should have been addressed yesterday.

We’re playing dumb about the fact that humor and entertainment always have been the handmaidens of racism and sexism. It’s not that we “don’t get the joke.” It’s the stubborn fact that racist and sexist jokes never just end at the punch line. Rather, they chuckle their way through the fine print of laws, norms, and geopolitics.

A racial House of Mirrors tries to convince us that “if only Walter Scott hadn’t run, he would be alive...
“Plasticity” is the technical word for this in neuroscience, referring to our brain’s ability to change throughout our lives and reorganize itself by forming new connections between cells. The most recent brain science indicates that our ongoing belief that our brains are hardwired actually has held up medical progress.

As it is with social progress, in relearning to use our arm or leg, we have to remap the circuits that were damaged in one part of the brain in another healthy part. To do that, the neurons need to be stimulated through repetitive activity, until we create new pathways. So that with time, it becomes possible to move what previously felt like dead muscle disconnected from the body.

So picture my dad for a moment, former college football player, being held up in the hallway of Cedars-Sinai Hospital by two much smaller physical therapists, day after day after day. As he described it to me:

“At the exact moment when I began to doubt that my foot was actually touching the ground simply because I couldn’t feel it, I stumbled. But I knew that the only way my brain would eventually remap all the signals required to walk again was if I accepted the fact that I already was ...”

“When babies are learning to walk,” he explained, “they usually don’t look down at their feet. They look up! At a loved one, at what it is they want. And so they wobble forward day by day until finally! Their brain is firmly mapped with all the connections needed to plant one foot firmly in front of the other.

“You see,” he said, “if I wanted to, I could probably walk slowly down the hall on my own if I were looking down at my feet, because there would be that visual reminder that my foot was actually planted there. But the only way my mind will fully reorganize and develop new synapses is if I don’t look down! Just like a baby ...”

As I watched him in action, I realized how much healing, any type of healing, requires that we move beyond what’s comfortable and what we already do well. One of the major obstacles for regaining mobility after a stroke is that people typically rely on their functioning limb, rather than exercising the paralyzed limb — what neuroscientists call a “pattern of non-use.”

So in my father’s case, the challenge was in forcing himself to reach for the cup with his left arm, taking much longer, perhaps spilling something in the process, until he was eventually able to pick it up with that once-paralyzed arm without as much effort.

All around us, we see evidence of social strokes — devastating inequities in education, health, and incarceration that continue to damage our body politic. We either can develop “patterns of non-use” — do what we’ve always done (including here at Princeton), remaining paralyzed and frustrated — or we can begin to remap the social connections and reorganize the collective circuits that we need to move forward together.

And, in the process, we can’t look down.
THERE WAS NO CEREMONY when Mahmoud Reza Banki ’05 was released from prison after his conviction was overturned, no good-luck handshake, and certainly no apology. Perhaps the release was considered reward enough. Instead, prison guards simply opened the gate, handed the ex-convict his belongings, and sent him out into the wide world.

Banki emerged from the Taft Federal Correctional Institution near Bakersfield, Calif., Nov. 2, 2011, after 665 days behind bars. Ten days earlier, a federal appeals court had vacated his conviction for violating the Iran trade embargo, though convictions on two lesser charges stood. So there he was, blinking in the warm California sun, a free man.

He wore gray shorts and a gray T-shirt, both of which he had purchased with money earned from his 11-cents-per-hour job cleaning prison bathrooms, and carried a plastic bag crammed with legal papers and a few books. The clothes he was wearing when he was arrested had been mailed to his lawyer across the country, but Banki was in no mood to shop for replacements. Friends had driven up to meet him, and he wanted to put Taft behind him as quickly as possible.

“Let’s get going before they change their minds,” he said, only half in jest.

They stopped at an In-N-Out Burger on the two-hour drive back to Los Angeles, but the food, so heavy and greasy compared to prison fare, made Banki feel sick. For most of the trip he stared out the window and said little, his mind still on his arrest and conviction and what he believes was the injustice of it all.

Why had he spent nearly 22 months behind bars — half of that in high or maximum security — for receiving family money that he dutifully had reported to the government? At every step in the proceedings, he had thought the charges would be dropped, that someone finally would see the indictment as a huge misunderstanding, or would recognize that Reza Banki — a Ph.D. chemical engineer and an American citizen — did not belong in prison.

“I kept thinking, this is crazy,” he recalls. “Why did it take so long?”

But getting out of prison is just the beginning. Getting back on your feet and moving on can take much longer. For Banki, nearly four years later, that journey still is not over.

The criminal case against Banki began at 6:30 a.m. Jan. 7, 2010, when a dozen armed federal agents pounded on the door of his Greenwich Village condo and arrested him, but the story begins long before that.

Banki was born in Iran three years before the 1979 revolution that brought the ayatollah to power. His family still lives there and owns three power companies and a pharmaceutical company. He attended college in the United States, starting at Purdue University and finishing at the University of California, Berkeley, with a double major in mathematics and chemical engineering. While still in college, Banki became a U.S. citizen. In 2005, he earned his doctorate at Princeton.

Back in Iran, his mother’s family began to transfer money out of the country following her divorce in the mid-2000s. (Banki says on his website that the family was “deeply concerned about protecting a portion of the family assets for Reza’s mother and her sons.”) Most of the details of those transfers are not in dispute, but the legal characterization given to them formed the crux of the government’s case that sent Banki to prison.

If one wanted to send money from, say, France to the United States, one could simply go to a bank and make a wire transfer. But there are no direct economic contacts between the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran, so private money transfers between the two countries usually are made using an informal network of money-changers known as hawala, which exists in much of the Middle East and South Asia.

Using this network, someone in Tehran who wants to send money to New York would find a hawala operator (a hawaladar) in Iran and give him a sum he wanted to transfer, plus a handling fee. The Iranian hawaladar would contact a hawaladar in the United States — perhaps operating out of a corner grocery or barber shop — who would arrange for one of his clients to deposit that amount into the intended recipient’s
For Mahmoud Reza Banki *05, release from prison was a victory but not a happy ending

By Mark F. Bernstein ’83

account in New York. Eventually, the American hawaladar would find a client who wished to transfer a similar amount of money to a recipient in Iran and the process would be repeated there, settling accounts between the two hawaladars. No money crosses international borders.

Using this system, Banki’s family transferred nearly $3.4 million to Banki in 56 installments between May 2006 and September 2009, in amounts ranging from $2,600 to $199,971. Those deposits came from numerous individuals, as well as from companies based in the Philippines, Kuwait, Sweden, Russia, and Latvia, all clients of the American hawaladar. Banki did not know these depositors, and he reported the money he received on his tax returns and in response to three subpoenas he received in 2008 from the U.S. Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), which oversees economic sanctions against Iran. He used much of the money to buy a $2.4 million condominium in New York and to pay off credit cards.

But hours after Banki’s arrest, the government indicted him on three counts of violating the economic sanctions against Iran and running an unlicensed money-transmitting business, later adding two counts of lying about the source of the funds. (Banki told investigators that they came from his uncle and cousin; the government contended that they came from his father.) Banki was fired from his job as a senior associate for the consulting firm McKinsey & Co. later that day.

Transfers from Iran to the United States were not at issue; the government’s charge was that Banki had created a hawala network to transfer money back to Iran, which could put money into the hands of those who might threaten U.S. security.

“Banki allegedly paid no heed to the dangers of breaking laws designed to protect our country’s citizens, moving and spending illicit millions,” U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara said in a press release about the indictment. “Today’s charges make clear that the Iran trade embargo will be strictly enforced.” Representing the prosecution was Assistant U.S. Attorney Anirudh Bansal ’90, who asserted in court that Banki operated as “an underground, unlicensed version of Western Union.”
I n that, the judge was right. At first glance, Banki’s story ends there, in victory. But because the two charges of making false statements stand, he remains a felon — a fact he must indicate on every employment, school, and housing application for the rest of his life.

After his release, Banki applied to 12 business schools, but despite an enviable résumé and high GMAT scores, only UCLA’s Anderson School of Management took a chance on him. Banki received his MBA last June and has applied for more than 200 jobs without success. The hurdles have become depressingly familiar: If he indicates in a background check that he has been convicted of a felony, firms won’t interview him; if he brings it up during an interview, the hiring process ends there.

With his advanced degrees, his luxury apartment, and his family history, Banki is not your typical ex-con — but his dilemma is not uncommon, says Scott Welfel ’06, a staff attorney at the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice. More than 70 million Americans have some sort of criminal record; Welfel says that reintegrating them into society is important if they are to become productive members. Understanding this, 15 states and more than 100 cities and counties have adopted so-called Fair Chance laws, which prohibit employers from asking about an applicant’s state criminal record until later in the hiring process. This does not help Banki, because his is a federal conviction.

Recently Banki has styled himself as an advocate for criminal-justice reform, setting forth his view of the facts of his case on his website, rezastory.com. In a TED talk, filmed last year at UCLA, Banki faults the U.S. criminal-justice system for giving too much discretion to overzealous prosecutors and too little attention to helping prisoners re-establish themselves after they have served their time. He fills his Twitter feed with tweets on mass incarceration and racial differences in sentencing along with those about his own experience; a couple of tweets picture him with former House speaker Newt Gingrich and former New York City police commissioner Bernard Kerik, who launched an organization on criminal-justice reform.

Banki remains in personal and professional limbo. Asked where he would like to be five years from now, he runs a hand through his black hair, which is beginning to show some wisps of gray and is pulled back in a short ponytail. “I’d like for this to be behind me, where I wouldn’t have to explain my story to every person I meet,” he says, staring hard at the table in front of him. “I’d like to have a stable professional career, something where I’m using my skill set, things that I’m trained in, where these two years don’t define me for the rest of my life.”

He also badly wants to clear his name, to persuade the world that he was wrongly prosecuted. “Have we become the unforgiving land of no second chances?” Banki asks.

This spring, frustrated by his long and fruitless job hunt, Banki spent several weeks looking for work in Europe. Though his relatives have urged him to leave, he insists that he wants to remain in the United States. He wants to get back on the path he was pulled away from more than five years ago.

“I am more American than I am anything else,” he says. “I’d love to stay ... I don’t want to believe that there isn’t a way.”

**With his advanced degrees, his luxury apartment, and his family history, Banki is not your typical ex-con — but his dilemma is not uncommon, says Scott Welfel ’06, a staff attorney at the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice.**

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Mark F. Bernstein ’83 is PAW’s senior writer.
When the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of the family-owned craft-store chain Hobby Lobby in its suit against the government last June, the decision was a high-profile victory for the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, a nonprofit law firm based in Washington, D.C. Among the lawyers who worked on the case for the Becket Fund were Hannah Smith ’95, Mark Rienzi ’97, and Adele Keim ’01. They argued that a privately held business should not be required by the new health-care law to provide contraception that violated the religious beliefs of its owners.

Smith, who clerked for Justice Samuel Alito ’72 before joining the Becket Fund, credits Princeton for teaching her to “celebrate the religious diversity on campus,” she says.

For Rienzi, what “lit the fire” was a case in which Illinois mandated that pharmacists fill prescriptions for emergency contraception, he says. Rienzi worked for six years on behalf of the pharmacists, who objected because of their religious beliefs and ultimately won the case. Since he joined the Becket Fund, “I’ve had the most fun of my career,” he says.

Hobby Lobby was an “all-hands-on-deck situation,” Keim says, because a government deadline would have levied fines on businesses that did not comply. Politics professor Robert George serves on the board of the Becket Fund and taught Smith and Keim. Hobby Lobby’s cause was embraced by Republicans but, Smith points out, “we represent people on both sides of the aisle and of all faiths.” In January, Becket Fund lawyers successfully argued that a Muslim prisoner in Arkansas should be allowed to grow a beard despite prison restrictions.

“Our outlook is very much ‘religious freedom is alive and well in America,’” says Smith, “and we’re here to make sure to keep it that way.” ♦ By Maurice Timothy Reidy ’97

HANNAH SMITH ’95, MARK RIENZI ’97, AND ADELE KEIM ’01

A STAND FOR RELIGIOUS RIGHTS

At the Becket Fund, three alumni help land a Supreme Court victory with the Hobby Lobby case

Blogger: JACK GRIFFIN ’72
A fanatic’s guide to the America’s Cup

Jack Griffin ’72’s blog keeps readers up to date on the international feuds and elite athletes that have come to define the world’s most famous yachting race, the America’s Cup.

On watching the Swedish team and 2013 champion Team USA: ¶ Boys will be boys, of course … The two teams had an informal brush on the first day they were both sailing. Some observers thought [Team USA’s] Oracle looked faster and more stable. ¶
On April 29, 1945, Alan Lukens ’46 and members of the U.S. Army’s 20th Armored Division were marching through southern Germany toward Munich when they came upon a terrible sight: the gates of the Dachau concentration camp. The prisoners inside, who had been secretly listening to BBC radio broadcasts, knew that the Americans were close by. As 21-year-old Lukens and fellow soldiers broke through the camp’s barbed-wire fence with their tanks (the 20th was one of several Army divisions to liberate the camp), hundreds of emaciated inmates ran to embrace them, some carrying a hand-sewn American flag they had hidden for the occasion.

Lukens, who now is 91, vividly remembers how moved he was by the joy with which the survivors greeted him. “They had experienced these unspeakable hardships, but grew close to each other through the struggle and hadn’t lost faith that they’d be rescued,” he recalls.

On May 3, Lukens returned to Dachau to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the camp’s liberation. At a ceremony featuring German Chancellor Angela Merkel and several dozen survivors, Lukens spoke on behalf of the liberators, reflecting on the Dachau Memorial’s motto, written in French, German, and Russian: “Never Again.” He told the audience that Dachau has gone “from a symbol of infamy to one of hope for the future.”

Lukens’ experience in World War II inspired him to pursue a career in the Foreign Service; he served as the U.S. ambassador to the Republic of Congo from 1984 to 1987. This year’s Dachau commemoration could be the last attended by Lukens and the camp’s survivors, who are in their 80s and 90s. But Lukens says he will return for as long as he can to keep memories of the horrors of Dachau — and the joy of liberation — alive. ♦ By Amelia Thomson-DeVeaux ’11
As a native Virginian, Michael Signer ’95 had grown tired of hearing about Thomas Jefferson. “Like a lot of Virginians, I felt beaten over the head by Jefferson all the time,” says Signer. He was more interested in James Madison 1771, who “seemed like the underdog to me,” he says.

The underdog was ripe for re-evaluation. Madison often has been portrayed as brilliant but lacking humor and warmth, but Signer’s research suggested otherwise: “Instead of being this automaton,” says Signer, “he was much more like lava underground, [full of] volcanic urges and drives.”

In his new biography, Becoming Madison: The Extraordinary Origins of the Least Likely Founding Father, Signer focuses on Madison’s early life, especially the period leading up to his showdown over ratifying the Constitution with fellow founding father Patrick Henry at Virginia’s constitutional convention of 1788. Though only 37 years old in that momentous year, Madison was a veteran of battles over states’ rights, religious freedom, and taxation. He was an unlikely combatant, standing just 5 feet 4 inches and weighing 100 pounds (our smallest president) and suffering mysterious debilitating fits that made public speaking an ordeal and often left him helpless for days at a time. Signer makes a convincing case that the fits were panic attacks.

How did Madison turn himself into a statesman? By preparing more thoroughly than anyone else, says Signer, and devising a way to control his panic attacks: “He learned to govern his own passions the same way he taught the nation to govern itself.”

The system Madison left us is a model of caution and balance, built around the goal of stopping any single group from becoming too powerful. Unlike Henry, his life’s adversary, who had no qualms about appealing to people’s baser passions, Madison was determined to win the debate using only reason and fact. “You want these powerful passions coursing through the body politic,” Signer says. “But you also need to be mastering them toward the common good.”

What he’s reading: Bloodlands, by Timothy Snyder. “This is a searing explanation of the staggering bloodshed in the World War II years that reveals not only the evil at work, but regimes’ brutal decisions about food and agriculture that led to the starvation and murder of millions. It’s not uplifting, but it is illuminating.”

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New Releases

Novelist Mohsin Hamid ’93 has called three countries on three continents home. In a new collection of essays, Discontent and Its Civilizations: Dispatches from Lahore, New York, and London, he writes about cultural and religious clashes, globalization, and the rhythms of family life.

Though her mother had been dead for 31 years, Alice Eve Cohen ’76 believed she saw her appear in the kitchen during a harrowing year when Cohen was struggling with her own medical issues, one daughter’s surgery, and another daughter’s finding her birth mother. Cohen plumbs the mother-daughter relationship in the memoir The Year My Mother Came Back.

In Get What’s Yours: The Secrets to Maxing Out Your Social Security, authors Laurence J. Kotlikoff, Philip Moeller ’68, and Paul Solman demonstrate that Americans are leaving billions of dollars in Social Security payments on the table — benefits they are eligible to take but unaware of. The book explains how to navigate the government’s arcane rules.

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Read More: A book by an alum or a faculty member is featured every Friday at paw.princeton.edu
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/_issues/2015/06/03/sections/class-notes/
MEMORIALS

PAW posts a list of recent alumni deaths at paw.princeton.edu. Go to “Web Exclusives” on PAW’s home page and click on the link “Recent Alumni Deaths.” The list is updated with each new issue.

THE CLASS OF 1935
John F. B. Mitchell ’35
Jack died at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston Nov. 8, 2014, following a short illness.

Born in Flushing, N.Y., he was home-schooled before Princeton. Jack majored in art and archaeology, lettered in fencing, and rowed lightweight crew. He ate at Colonial and was in ROTC. His senior-year roommates were Jack Black and David LeBreton.

Following Yale Law School, Jack served in the Army in World War II, achieving the rank of major. During the invasion of Europe he earned the Croix de Guerre with a Silver Star from Belgium. From 1951 to 1955, he was assistant general counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency, after which he practiced law from Princeton. Jack was later appointed to the National Intelligence Council and was an ardent yachtsman.

Jack’s first wife, Margo, died in 1999. He is survived by his wife, Martha; a nephew, Edward B. Mitchell ’76; and a cousin, Edward L. Williams & Mitchell.

THE CLASS OF 1936
William Scheide ’36
On Nov. 14, 2014, Bill died of natural causes at the age of 100 in his Princeton home.

At Princeton, he majored in history. After earning a master’s degree in music from Columbia, Bill founded the renowned Bach Aria Group. A deep interest in civil-rights issues soon led him to help finance the landmark school-desegregation case of Brown v. Board of Education.

Bill was a devoted Princeton alumnus, class leader, benefactor, and music supporter. Princeton awarded him an honorary doctorate of humanities in 1994 for his accomplishments and service. One of his premier philanthropic contributions to Princeton is the Scheide Library at Firestone, which includes the first four printed editions of the Bible and is one of the world’s most valuable rare-book collections. Bill also supported the Scheide Scholars program, an endowed professorship in music, the reconstruction of the Woolworth Center for Musical Studies, and the Scheide Caldwell House, among many other contributions. The Old Guard reunion events he and his wife, Judy, hosted at their home always will be warmly remembered.

In addition to Judy, Bill is survived by six children and stepchildren as well as many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The class sends deepest condolences to the Scheide family and its thanks for all his service to the class and University.

THE CLASS OF 1938
Albert G. Moore ’38

He prepared at the Hotchkiss School and graduated from Princeton with a bachelor’s degree in history.

For all four years, Al roomed with Edward H. Morgan, the last three at 42 North West. He rowed on the 150-pound crew and was a member of Whig-Clio, also serving as Clio’s vice president. He was a member of the German Club, ate at Terrace, and taught at the Westminster Sunday School.

After graduation, Al worked as a congressional staffer in Washington, where he met his wife, Anne. They married in 1948 and moved to Cleveland, where they raised their three children, Marti, Russell, and Cathy.

After working for General Electric’s Viking Manufacturing and the Chamber of Commerce, Al retired in 1977 when the couple moved to Sarasota. He was active in civic affairs throughout his career, serving as a Pepper Pike (Ohio) councilman and chairman of the Longboat Key (Fla.) zoning board. He was also president of the Sarasota Princeton Club and was an Ivy League Club member.

THE CLASS OF 1939
Robert E. Livesey ’41
Robert died Feb. 7, 2015, at home with his family. He was 95.

Robert remained loyal to the orange and black for his entire life. He instilled the Princeton tradition in his sons, Rob ’69 and Colin ’96; and two granddaughters, Cecilia Freedman ’00 and Jessica Olin ’94. He was thrilled to participate in his and their many reunions through 2013.

From 1942 to 1944, Robert was stationed in England and Ireland, and as a technical representative attached to the Royal Air Force, he kept Wright Aeronautical planes flying through this period of World War II. After the war, Robert joined his father’s business, Cortina Learning International Inc., publisher of the first foreign-language distance-learning courses. He later expanded this business by purchasing Famous Schools, which offered courses in art, writing, and photography. Robert put his businesses, second only to family, at the center of his life.

His greatest gift was connecting with people, which was also his greatest joy. His network of friends and colleagues stretches across the generations and around the world.

Robert was the beloved husband of Magdalene; caring dad of six children; grandfather of six; and great-grandfather of three.

THE CLASS OF 1940
William E. Mussett ’40
Bill died May 29, 2014, in Jupiter, Fla., at age 95.

The son of a salesman, he was born in Texas and grew up in many places around the country. He prepared for Princeton at Shattuck Military Academy in Minnesota.

Bill served in the Army in World War II and landed at Omaha Beach during the D-Day invasion. After working in New York City in the radio business, he met his wife, Lorraine, in San Francisco, and they later settled in Illinois, where he ran a successful business selling home-repair products before retiring to Florida. In retirement, Bill played golf, and he and Lorraine traveled with friends.

Bill was predeceased by Lorraine. He is survived by his sons, William Jr. and Tom; his daughter, Michelle; six grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

THE CLASS OF 1941
Robert E. Livesey ’41
Robert died Feb. 7, 2015, at home with his family. He was 95.

Robert remained loyal to the orange and black for his entire life. He instilled the Princeton tradition in his sons, Rob ’69 and Colin ’96; and two granddaughters, Cecilia Freedman ’00 and Jessica Olin ’94. He was thrilled to participate in his and their many reunions through 2013.

From 1942 to 1944, Robert was stationed in England and Ireland, and as a technical representative attached to the Royal Air Force, he kept Wright Aeronautical planes flying through this period of World War II. After the war, Robert joined his father’s business, Cortina Learning International Inc., publisher of the first foreign-language distance-learning courses. He later expanded this business by purchasing Famous Schools, which offered courses in art, writing, and photography. Robert put his businesses, second only to family, at the center of his life.

His greatest gift was connecting with people, which was also his greatest joy. His network of friends and colleagues stretches across the generations and around the world.

Robert was the beloved husband of Magdalene; caring dad of six children; grandfather of six; and great-grandfather of three.
THE CLASS OF 1943

Everett Carll ’43

Ev died June 9, 2013, in Bridgeton, N.J., his hometown.

He prepared for Princeton at Bridgeton High School and Mercersburg Academy. Ev was with us for two and a half years before enlisting in the Army, where he spent time in the European-African-Middle Eastern theater.

His business career consisted of many years with the U.S. Postal Service, and after his retirement, 20 years with H&R Block. Ev was a member of the Berean Baptist Temple in Bridgeton and served there for many years as a deacon and teacher of adult Sunday-school classes. He was an avid stamp collector and loved to spend time reminiscing with his high school classmates. Ev especially enjoyed the time he spent with his family.

He is survived by two sons, J. Bruce and David R. Carll.

Frank Crawford ’43

Our classmate Frank died June 16, 2013, in Ocala, Fla.

Before launching his career in the banking business, “in the non-financial end,” as he put it, Frank served in the Navy aboard a minesweeper in both Europe and North Africa. His business career involved working for American Express and County Trust Co. (now the Bank of New York).

Frank came to us from White Plains (N.Y.) High School. At Princeton, he majored in history and was a member of the band. He was a member and officer of Elm Club.

His survivors include his longtime companion, Dorothy Beeks; his daughters, Barbara Ozi, Deborah Parente, Marion Magneroo, and Leslie Hutton; and eight grandchildren.

John Durell ’43

John died May 28, 2014, in Anaheim, Calif., after suffering from Alzheimer’s disease for a number of years. He was a longtime resident and civic leader of Visalia, Calif.

John came to us from Blair Academy, where he played baseball. He left Princeton at the end of sophomore year and worked for Western Electric Co. After the attack on Pearl Harbor he joined the Army Air Force, and when our class graduated, he was a private first class. He served in a bomber squadron in England commanded by Jimmy Stewart ’32.

John’s business career was in the retail trade, first with Montgomery Ward and then with J.C. Penney. Later, he and his wife, Dottie, owned and operated The Merry-Go-Round, a children’s clothing store. It was during this time that he devoted a vast amount of time to giving back to the community.

He is survived by his son, Robert ’75, and daughter, Barbara.

Kenneth E. Folsom ’43

Ken died Nov. 8, 2013. He spent his early years in Long Beach, Calif., and entered Princeton from Long Beach Junior College. At Princeton, he majored in history and was a member of Triangle Club. Ken also was a cheerleader senior year and a member of Charter Club.

He served in the Navy during World War II. After a period of working for KLM Airlines and in advertising, Ken returned to academia and earned his master’s degree and Ph.D. in Asian studies and Chinese history from UC, Berkeley. This led to a career as a professor at the University of Maryland, where he taught until his retirement in 1988. In the meantime, Ken traveled extensively to many countries, living in Taiwan twice.

He is survived by his wife, Gwen; and son, Kenneth.

Moulton Johnson ’43


He prepared for Princeton at Kent School, where he was editor of the Kent News and on the wrestling team.

Johnny graduated from Johns Hopkins Medical School, and then went to Cairo, Egypt, where he served in the Navy as a medical officer, working on developing a cure for cholera. Stateside, he interned at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, N.Y., and served an orthopedic residency, working during the polio epidemics of the 1940s and ’50s. He taught surgery at UCLA and was so involved in his work that he did not retire until age 80. Johnny took pride in his record for bringing desegregation to Santa Monica, beginning with his office staff, then the Santa Monica school board and apartment buildings that he owned.

His survivors include Ginny, his wife of 68 years; sons Phillip and Michael; and his daughter, Ginger. To them, the class sends sympathy.

THE CLASS OF 1944

Scott M. Mason ’44

Scott died Feb. 1, 2015.

Descending from a musical family, Scott played the trumpet at Exeter, where he was an accomplished athlete and equestrian. At Princeton, he majored in chemistry, took meals at Cloister, and was a member of Triangle Club. Scott roomed with John Larkin, Dave Harris, and Doug Donald.

After graduation, he worked for Firestone, where he helped invent self-healing aircraft materials. Scott enlisted shortly thereafter and served as a radio rifleman in the 104th Infantry, which saw action in the Ardennes. He also helped free survivors from the horrific Nordhausen concentration camp in 1945.

He married Mildred Davidson in 1948 and settled in Pound Ridge, N.Y. He worked for Warwick Chemical, then taught at the Williams School in New London, Conn. When the family moved to Rhode Island, Scott chaired the science department at Moses Brown, where he also coached tennis. He was a squash champion at the University Club in New York, loved to sail, and patented a kayak-trimaran sailboat.

He moved to Wakefield, R.L., in 1970 with his second wife, Virginia Perkins. Following her death, he spent many years with Eloise McConnell, who also predeceased him.

Scott is survived by two children, Pheobe and Caleb. He was predeceased by his son Alan.

THE CLASS OF 1946

Robert S. Allyn ’46

Maine’s Portland Press Herald wrote eloquently after Bob died Aug. 16, 2013, that “Bob enjoyed life for the simple stuff … any athletic event involving his grandchildren, tennis, ice cream at any time or playing bridge until any hour, greeting and making a friend of any dog, Ivy League football, singing, and trips to the dump to find wood for kindling to create gifts for friends and neighbors.”

Bob taught English and math at Choate School for 12 years, and was assistant headmaster for three years at Maine’s North Yarmouth Academy. He taught for three years at Yarmouth High School, and worked for 13 years at Maine Surgical Supply Co.

On Bob’s occasional trips to Tiger football games in Hanover, Cambridge, Providence, and New Haven, he wrote in our 50th-reunion yearbook that he mounted on his secondhand Dodge Colt “my custom-made roof carrier, boldly painted a cheerful orange and black.” How all ’46ers would love to have been greeted by it.

He was survived by his wife, Nancy; sons John ’80 and Robert (“Tad”); daughter Dorothy (“Dee”); and eight grandchildren. His daughter Amy predeceased him.

William H. Butler IV ’46

“The most exciting time of my life,” Bill reminisced in our 50th-reunion yearbook, “came during my tour of duty with the Eighth Air Force in England. Our flying fortress crew completed 35 missions over Germany, France, and Belgium. I was an engineer-gunner. On our last mission, we sustained heavy flak damage while over the
Ruhr Valley and had to bail out over Lincoln, England.”

In 1950, Bill joined the marketing division of Atlantic Richfield Co., where he “enjoyed 31 eventful years in sales, sales promotion, and sales training.” For more than a decade, he headed the firm’s sales-training center in Northeast Philadelphia.

In retirement, he devoted much time to volunteering as a familiar and frequent driver for the American Red Cross and Interfaith Caregivers, and expressed his devout religious faith through his membership in the Haddonfield, N.J., United Methodist Church.

Bill’s marriage ended in divorce after 23 years. When he died Nov. 28, 2013, he was survived by his sons, Richard William and Glenn Edward; his daughter, Corinne Baldyga; and three grandchildren. To them all, the Class of ’46 sends thankfulness for this well-filled, steady lifetime.

Thomas J. Byrne Jr. ’46

In an obituary following Tom’s death from a heart attack while jogging April 11, 2014, near his home in midtown Manhattan, the Vermont Standard said that our investment-banker classmate “loved to invest in young growth companies and took the greatest pleasure from watching people with a good idea put it to the test and succeed.” Over the years, the newspaper added, “he remained at heart an optimist who viewed the market as an impartial arbiter of what works. Notwithstanding a conservative crew cut and taciturn demeanor, he believed that everyone deserves a fair shake and some need a helping hand.”

Why a Vermont obituary for this lifetime New Yorker? Since the 1950s, Tom, his wife, Marilyn, and their two children had spent vacations and summers in East Barnard, where they had bought an old farm and had found friendship and support in that village community.

Tom was predeceased by his son, Thomas Byrne III. Survivors include Marilyn; their daughter, Corinne Baldyga; and three grandchildren. To them all, the Class of ’46 sends thankfulness for this well-filled, steady lifetime.

David Nalle ’46

For nine years as founding executive director of what then was known as the Alfred Friendly Press Fellowships program, David brought international journalists into newsrooms in the United States. Then, for almost another 10 years, he served as Washington editor of the Central Asia Monitor.

Earlier, starting in 1951 as a Foreign Service officer, David joined what was to become the U.S. Information Service. He worked first in Kabul and then in Tehran and Mashhad, Iran; in Damascus, Syria; Amman, Jordan; and Moscow. In Washington, he was assistant director of USIA programs in North Africa, the Near East, and South Asia. He retired there in 1980 as deputy associate director.

David’s wife of two years, Jane Oliver Nalle, died in 1952. When he died Aug. 2, 2013, he was survived by his wife of 53 years, Margaret Shumaker Nalle; their children, David and Susan; and two granddaughters. The class expresses strong pride in the accomplishments of this dedicated public servant.

THE CLASS OF 1947

Louis S. Dennig Jr. ’47

Louis died Nov. 2, 2014.

He graduated from St. Louis Country Day School in 1943 and matriculated at Princeton that summer. Shortly thereafter, he began his service of 28 months in the Navy and was discharged as a lieutenant junior grade. Louis then returned to Princeton and graduated in June 1948.

After graduation he went to work for Mercantile Trust Co. in St. Louis, where he became a loan officer in the bank’s commercial-lending department. Louis left his position as senior vice president at Mercantile Trust to join the Guaranty Trust Co. and became president of First National Bank of Clayton.

A relentless advocate of higher education among young women and men, he sat on the boards of both Mary Institute and St. Louis Country Day School. Louis also enjoyed activities in the area of sports such as hunting, fishing, golf, and scuba diving.

Louis was first and foremost a family man — including not only immediate and extended members, but their friends, his colleagues, and his customers. The class extends its sincere condolences to the extended family.

Everett E. Jackson IV ’47

Ev died May 18, 2014, at his home in Roland Park, Md.

He grew up in Riderwood, Ala., where his family had a successful lumber business. The class extends its sympathy to his wife, Geraldine; three sons, including Gerald ’81; three daughters; and 13 grandchildren, including Ashley ’13 and Catherine ’15.

THE CLASS OF 1949

James E. Reik ’49

Jim died April 15, 2014, in his home in East Hartford, Conn.

Jim prepared for Princeton at the Taft School. After two years in the Army Air Force (and achieving the rank of second lieutenant), he matriculated at Princeton in the fall of 1945. Jim majored in economics, served on the board of the Tiger, and belonged to Tower Club.

In 1952 he graduated from Harvard Law School. After three years in New York, Jim joined what later became the Hartford Insurance Co., where he was employed for 30 years. After retiring in 1985, he served as counsel to the State Employees Retirement Board, and left that post in 1987.

Jim and Cynthia were active members of the Hartford Monthly Meeting of Friends, and much of their social life revolved around the Meeting and the Quaker Lane Cooperative Nursery School. Travel and visits to Tanglewood were often taken with fellow Quakers who shared their interests and beliefs. His “good marriage” to Cynthia, a Radcliffe alumna, made for a happy, fulfilling life for Jim. He is survived by Cynthia; their children, Deborah, Jonathan, David, and Constance; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. We salute his memory.

Russell Thayer ’49


Russ spent three years in the Air Force, serving from 1942 to 1945 before coming to Princeton. He flew in many combat missions and received the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with 11 clusters, the ETO ribbon with five clusters, and the Belgian Fourragère. As an undergraduate, he rowed on the crew, ate at Ivy, and majored in history.

Russ was married for his last year at school and graduated the same day his daughter, Elizabeth, was born.

He spent his entire career in the airline industry and loved every minute of his time with five major airlines. As he once said, “If you do what you love, you will never [just] work a day in your life.” Russ never lost his love for the wild blue yonder.”

He is survived by his wife, Susan Soderman Thayer; his children, Elizabeth, Dixon, Shelby, Samuel, and David; and his six stepchildren. Russ’ first wife, Elizabeth Miffin, died in 1994. The class extends its sincere condolences to the extended family.
THE CLASS OF 1950

Thomas B. Williard '50

Tom died Dec. 2, 2014, in his native Ohio. Affectionately known as “The Doc,” he maintained a private internal-medicine practice for 43 years. After graduation from Bexley (Ohio) High School and voluntary service in the Navy, he entered Princeton. As an undergraduate, he played basketball, ate at Tiger Inn, and majored in biology. Following graduation from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine in 1955 and completion of his internship and residency, he established his practice of internal medicine.

Tom served as medical staff president and trustee of the Mount Carmel (Ohio) Medical Center and was honored as its Physician of the Year in 2005. Ohio State College of Medicine, where he was a clinical instructor, elected him Teacher of the Year in 1973. An extraordinary diagnostian, he listened compassionately to his patients, which frequently resulted in long wait times in his office. He often brought one or another of his nine children to the office or on house calls.

Following in his grandfather’s and father’s footsteps, Tom served on the Bexley Board of Education for 17 years. He was an avid golfer and enjoyed a good poker game.

Our condolences go to Virginia, his wife of 59 years; and to his extended family.

THE CLASS OF 1951

Holland R. Donan '51

Hollie was born June 24, 1928, in Montclair, N.J. He attended Montclair High School and Blair Academy. At Princeton, Hollie majored in history, was active in Orange Key, and ate at Tiger Inn. He roomed with Will Hamilton, Cham Johnston, and Hal Urschel.

Hollie had a storied collegiate football career, being named an All-American twice. Charlie Caldwell ’25 called him the best tackle he ever had coached and a great team motivator. In 1950, the team won the Lambert Trophy and had its first perfect record in 15 seasons. Hollie was named Lineman of the Year in 1951 and was elected to the College Football Hall of Fame in 1984.

He married Nancy Carroll in 1951 and served in the Army Transportation Corps. He had a 50-year career in the insurance business and for 30 years was named to the Million Dollar Roundtable, a trade association formed to help insurance brokers establish best business practices.

Hollie died March 4, 2014, of cardiopulmonary arrest. He is survived by his children, Ann, William, Katherine, Susan, Mary Ellin, Elizabeth, Thomas, and Peter; 17 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. Nancy and his brothers, James and Anderson, predeceased him.

THE CLASS OF 1952

Harry G. Burks III '52


After 30 good years at Exxon, Harry took up farming. He raised llamas, miniature donkeys and horses, goats of all sizes, and special-breed ducks and other fowl.

Harry’s principal interests in retirement were his faith and volunteer work, and he dedicated his time to teaching inmates in Texas prisons as a Christian ministry.

Harry died July 17, 2014, leaving his wife, Ann; and children Ann and H. Gray IV, to whom the class offers sympathy.

C. Marshall Lowe '52


Marshall then earned a bachelor of divinity degree at Princeton Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. from Ohio State. A Presbyterian, he was the pastor of a church in Newark while still a student. After finishing his degrees, Marshall served on the faculties of Maryville College in Tennessee and at UC, Berkeley.

He retired from academic life and took up tree farming in Chesterhill, Ohio, as the owner of Joy Valley Farms with his wife, Betty.

Marshall died Jan. 1, 2015, leaving Betty and their sons, David, Peter, and Stephen, to whom the class sends its sympathy.

THE CLASS OF 1954

Alon P. Winnie '54

Alon died Jan. 18, 2015.

Born in Milwaukee, he graduated from Milwaukee Country Day School. At Princeton, he was a member of Tiger Inn and Triangle Club.

He completed four years at Northwestern University Medical School, during which time he used his talent to write three musical comedies. Alon then began his internship at Cook County Hospital, where he developed acute paralytic poliomyelitis, with his survival depending on a ventilator and a tracheostomy. After his recovery and subsequent completion of training in anesthesia, he remained there for a decade, teaching clinically.

He next was appointed chairman of anesthesiology and pain management at the University of Illinois College of Medicine and spent the next 20 years training residents and fellows. Alon’s final move was to return to Cook County Hospital, where he became chairman of anesthesia.

He authored a textbook on plexus anesthesia that received the Anesthesia Foundation Award as the Book of the Year in 1983. Alon was the recipient of more than 10 professional awards and served as president of four organizations related to his specialty.

The class sends sympathy to his former wife, June; sons Alon and Russell; daughter Debbie; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Richard A. Yaffa '54

Dick died Jan. 21, 2015.

Born in Boston, Mass., he was a graduate of New Rochelle (N.Y.) High School, where he played football and was named an All-American and Most Valuable Football Player of the Year.

At Princeton, he was a member of Tiger Inn and a starting member of the Top 10-ranked team in the backfield when Dick Kazmaier ’52 won the Heisman Trophy. A track star, he won gold, silver, and bronze medals at the Maccabiah Games in Israel. He also was a member of record-setting Penn Relay and Melrose Games relay teams, an avid tennis player, and nationally ranked in the seniors division by the U.S. Tennis Association. Dick was elected a member of the Westchester and the New Rochelle sports halls of fame.

After serving in the Army as a lieutenant, he graduated from Harvard Business School. As an entrepreneur, he founded Manhattan Products and Laundry Aids. He was president of the United Way of Westchester and of Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester.

Dick founded the My Money Workshop Foundation, which was his most recent passion. He developed the curriculum, educating thousands of high school and college students on financial literacy.

The class extends its condolences to his wife, Claire; sons Richard and Robert; and three grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1956

Thomas S. Fulmer '56

Tom died July 31, 2014, in Princeton, of complications related to ALS.

Born in Cleveland, he graduated from Bayside High School in Queens, N.Y. At Princeton he majored in architecture. He sang with the Glee Club, managed the crew team, and was active in Campus Club.

He earned a lieutenant junior grade
commission at Navy Officer Candidate School and served two years aboard the destroyer USS Ault. He then earned a graduate degree in architecture at MIT in 1961.

Tom returned to Princeton to join his father’s architectural firm and later partnered with Bill Wolf ’65. His designs included an extensive renovation of Edwards Hall, which earned an Excellence in Architecture Award. He was a consulting architect from 1993 until his retirement in 2006.

Tom contributed his insights for renovations to Nassau Presbyterian Church, the Nassau Club, and Campus Club; his skills for planning and management to several township boards; and his bass singing voice to his church choir.

He served as a class officer (honored with the Distinguished Classmate Award), P-rade marshal (inducted into the Society of the Claw), docent at the art museum, and trustee of Campus Club.

Preceded in death by his wife of 42 years, Julia ("Judy," daughter of Sye Hemminger ’25), he is survived by his second wife, Eleanor ("Peggy"); son Scott ’90; daughter Christine; granddaughter Thea; and brother David ’33. His brother-in-law, Charles Hemminger ’52, died April 13, 2015.

THE CLASS OF 1958

George V. Allen Jr. ’58

George died of Parkinson’s disease Dec. 11, 2014, one day after his 79th birthday.

He came to Princeton from Deerfield Academy. George majored in history and joined Cottage Club. He was a member of both the freshman and varsity squash teams. His senior-year roommates were Tom Kellogg, Had Talbot, Dave Montgomery, and Jerry Savitz.

After a stint in the Army, he graduated from the University of Virginia Law School.

George was a longtime partner at the Washington, D.C., law firm of Shaw, Pittman, Potts & Trowbridge. An ardent conservationist, he was a member of Campus Club. He served as a class officer (honored with the Distinguished Classmate Award), P-rade marshal (inducted into the Society of the Claw), docent at the art museum, and trustee of Campus Club.

The class extends its sympathy.

Charles R. Ayers ’58


He came to Princeton from Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Va. He majored in chemistry and joined Tiger Inn. Charlie was deeply involved in music, joining Triangle Club, the Glee Club, Madrigal Club, and the Savoyards.

Junior year he roomed with Bob Nilson, Norris Lankford, Charlie Babcock, and Joe Lawrence.

After graduating from Princeton, he became a pediatric cardiologist fellow at Duke University, where he was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha honor society.

Charlie then moved to California, where he established the specialty of emergency medicine at Kaweah Delta Hospital and was the original CEP Emergency Department medical director. As director, he initiated the peer-review and continuous quality-improvement processes still used in the hospital today.

Charlie loved music, astronomy, fishing, and sailing. He taught himself Spanish in order to improve his treatment of non-English-speaking patients. He started learning Shotokan karate when he was 50.

To his wife, Leslie Adams; his daughters, Kim and Debbie; and his grandchildren, Maya and Nick; the class sends sympathy.

Rodger T. Faill ’58


He came to Princeton from the Deveaux School in Niagara Falls, N.Y. He spent only a short time with us at Princeton and received his bachelor’s degree and Ph.D. from Columbia University.

Rodger worked as a geologist at the Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey Harrisburg for his entire career. He also was chairman of Paxtang Borough Shade Tree Commission.

Surviving are his wife, Carol; and children Adam, Heidi, Peter, and Tasha. To them all, the class extends its sympathy.

Wilson K. Kinkead ’58


He came to Princeton from the Haverford School and was a member of Campus Club. As a chemical engineering major, Bear was editor of the Princeton Engineer and secretary of the engineering council. His senior-year roommates were Robin Ledwell, Joe Roxe, and Lud Clark.

Following graduation, Bear earned a master’s degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1965. He met his wife-to-be, Virginia (“Ginny”) Putnam, at Robin Ledwell’s wedding, and they were married for 50 years.

Bear spent his career in the aerospace business, largely with General Electric in the Philadelphia area. He worked in a variety of capacities and on several different systems. After 30 years at GE, he had the opportunity to move to California with Lockheed Martin, and was instrumental as a project manager for the DSCS III satellite program.

As a boy he went to camp in Maine, and later in life, he often returned with his family, climbing Mount Katahdin, canoeing the Allagash and St. John rivers, and visiting friends.

Predeceased by Ginny, he is survived by their children, Peter, Steven, and Susan; and grandchildren Sarah, Alexander, Phoebe, and Matthew. To them all, the class extends sincere condolences.

THE CLASS OF 1959

Richard M. Cummings ’59

Richard died June 18, 2014, of prostate cancer.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, he came to Princeton from Midwood High School as Richard Cohen. He majored in politics and ate at Key and Seal. He attended Columbia Law School, where he edited the law review and graduated with highest honors. He later earned a master of letters degree in international law at Cambridge.

Richard’s eclectic pursuits following Cambridge included law, activism, politics, academia, theater, and literature. After a brief stay with the law firm of Breed, Abbott in New York, he taught at the University of Louisville Law School and then had a visiting professorship at the University of Addis Ababa.

Upon his return to the United States, Richard took a visiting professorship in political science at Hampton (N.Y.) College. He opened a law practice in Southampton and entered politics, running unsuccessfully for the Suffolk County (N.Y.) legislature (and later for Congress), serving on the Southampton Town Democratic Committee, and carrying McGovern delegate credentials to the 1972 Democratic Convention.

His later years were interspersed with other professorships and prolific writing. Numerous “letters to the editor” in PAW reflected his deep affection for Princeton.

Richard is survived by Mary, his wife of almost 50 years; and two sons, Benjamin and Orson. The class sends its sympathy.

H. Larry Wentz ’59


Born in Altoona, Pa., Larry prepared for Princeton at Eichelberger High School in Hanover, where he was class president both his junior and senior years. He graduated magna cum laude in chemistry from Princeton, where he served on the Undergraduate Schools Committee, played in the University Band, debated at Whig-Clio, and ate at Tower. He earned an MBA from Harvard, then served six months in the Army at Fort Gordon Crime Lab, where he said he solved “not a single crime.”

H. Larry Wentz ’59


Born in Altoona, Pa., Larry prepared for Princeton at Eichelberger High School in Hanover, where he was class president both his junior and senior years. He graduated magna cum laude in chemistry from Princeton, where he served on the Undergraduate Schools Committee, played in the University Band, debated at Whig-Clio, and ate at Tower. He earned an MBA from Harvard, then served six months in the Army at Fort Gordon Crime Lab, where he said he solved “not a single crime.”
Larry started his career in chemicals, and there he remained, working for Exxon, DuPont, and Sohio (now BP Chemicals). He retired in 1994 as vice president from Sohio, where he had managed product trading and control, crude oil trading and transportation, and the commercial-composites division. When the strain of retirement proved too great, Larry joined Brittany Corp., where he remained for several years.

One of Larry’s passions, which he shared with Joy, his wife of 53 years, was riding their Icelandic horses, often performing drill routines (some of which they wrote and designed) in shows, and riding in the indoor arena that he built.

Larry is survived by Joy and his sons, Jon and Fred. The class sends its sympathy.

Jim led an inspirational life. A skilled woodworker and gifted tenor in community opera and church choirs, he had strong, informed opinions on political issues. Above all, Jim was a person of deep Christian faith. After his first wife, Carol, died, he raised their two sons. He was blessed to marry Yola in 1993.

He had a wonderful, appreciative sense of humor and a clear-headed sense of himself. He made important contributions at the Department of Defense and elsewhere, but he clearly knew that this was only a part of his life. His family, his friends, and his faith in God were the defining aspects of Jim’s life.

Jim is survived by Yola; his sons, Chris and Corey; 11 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. To them all, the class offers its deepest sympathy.

Jim was the oldest of four siblings and came to Princeton as a graduate of Denver South High School in Colorado. He roomed with Donald Prowler in Witherspoon Hall freshman year; they remained roommates through graduation. Jim played freshman baseball. Sophomore year, he was part of the nucleus that re-established Dial Lodge as an active club. Friends and suitmates recall his wonderful ability to make serious education fun; every day was brighter in his presence.

Jim majored in chemical engineering and received a secondary-level teaching certificate from Princeton’s teacher-certification program. While he was an undergraduate, he met his wife-to-be, Vivian Salamandra, and after graduation the couple moved to Denver. In 1979, he began his career at the Harvard-Westlake School in North Hollywood. He is survived by Vivian; his daughters, Lacey and Marissa; brothers Kirk and Joel; sister Colette; and many nieces and nephews.

Marc was easily recognized by his nearly white-blond hair. He majored in sociology, taking time after
his junior year for international travel and to explore medicine as a career. A senior-year course in architecture captured his interest and inspired his thesis on the use of rooftop space in New York. He graduated with the Class of 1973.

Marc enrolled in the graduate program of architecture at UC, Berkeley, where he met his future wife and career partner, Karen Burks. After graduation, they formed their own firm, Burks Toma Architecture, and started a family, raising two sons, Matt and Walker.

Marc’s Princeton friends describe him as a gentle and polite man, fiercely loyal, thoughtful, and protective of those he cared about. Years of meditation had helped him discern who was important to him and what was important to him. He loved Karen and took extraordinary joy from watching his sons play football and baseball. He is survived by his wife, sons, a brother, and a sister.

The classes of 1972 and 1973 send their condolences to the family.

THE CLASS OF 1989

Audrey B. Venezia-Davis '89 Audrey died July 30, 2014. She was diagnosed with breast cancer in early 2011 and fought the disease with her usual determination and bravery.

After graduating from Princeton, Audrey earned a law degree at Fordham University, where she was a law journal editor. She worked for the Manhattan borough president and two large law firms in New York before becoming a full-time caregiver to her two sets of twins.

Audrey loved Princeton, often bringing her family to Reunions, including her 25th, shortly before her passing.

She is survived by her husband, Todd; and her four children, Michael, Erin, Laura, and Julia. She remains forever in the hearts of her family and friends.

GRADUATE ALUMNI

James E. McInerney Jr. *60

James McInerney, a retired Air Force major general who was a highly decorated command pilot in Vietnam, died Oct. 14, 2014, of cardiopulmonary arrest. He was 84.

McInerney graduated from West Point in 1952. In 1960, he earned a master’s degree in aeronautical engineering from Princeton. He had served in Korea, Washington, England, and Germany before going to Southeast Asia in 1967.

He received the Air Force Cross (the service’s highest award for valor after the Medal of Honor) for a 1967 attack on a vital enemy bridge. McInerney commanded an air squadron tasked with destroying anti-aircraft weaponry and surface-to-air missile launching sites. On 101 combat flights, he never lost an airplane from his squadron. He retired in 1980 as an Air Force deputy chief of staff.

Queen Elizabeth II made McInerney a commander of the British Empire for his efforts establishing the American Air Museum in England, which honors the 30,000 U.S. airmen based in England who died in World War II. He had been president of the British-American Business Association.

McInerney was predeceased in 2011 by Mary Catherine, his wife of 48 years. Among his survivors are two children, a granddaughter, a sister, and a brother.

Robert E. Leyon *62

Robert Leyon, retired professor of chemistry at Dickinson College, died Sept. 23, 2014, of acute myeloid leukemia (AML). He was 78.

Leyon graduated with a bachelor’s degree from Williams in 1958 and a Ph.D. in chemistry from Princeton in 1962. He joined the Dickinson faculty in 1969 and retired in 1998. He chaired the chemistry department and led it through a major curricular revision, and assisted in the development of majors in biochemistry and molecular biology.

He also served Dickinson as secretary of the faculty and treasurer and president of its Phi Beta Kappa chapter. For almost 20 years he enjoyed being the college’s macebearer, leading the faculty procession during graduation ceremonies.

A charter member of Cantata Carlisle, Leyon sang with this acclaimed choral group from 1990 to 2012 and served as a board member, treasurer, and president. In a 2014 essay he wrote that “music kept me more or less sane, being so different from chemistry, so rehearsal provided some time completely away from the concerns of my work.”

Leyon is survived by Carol Williams, his wife of 16 years; two children; and two grandchildren.

Michel M. Mazzaoui *66

Michel Mazzaoui, professor emeritus at the University of Utah, died peacefully Dec. 5, 2013. He was 87.

Mazzaoui was born in Nazareth, Palestine, during the British Mandate. He graduated from the American University of Beirut in Lebanon in 1952 with a bachelor’s degree. In 1966, he earned a Ph.D. from Princeton in Oriental languages and literature. He then was at the Institute for Islamic Studies at McGill University in Montreal.

In 1972, he published his book on the origins of the Safavids, a branch of Islam, based on his Princeton doctoral dissertation. A few years later, Mazzaoui left Lebanon during the civil war for the University of Freiburg in Germany. Then in 1976 he came to the University of Utah, where he taught until he retired in 2009.

A leading scholar on Safavid Persian history, Mazzaoui was one of the first to undertake a reconstruction of the early history of the Safavids. His philological and historiographic research delved into the prehistory of the Safavids and their influence in Iran.

Deborah Strom Gibbons *79

Deborah Strom Gibbons, a writer and one of the earliest women graduate students at Princeton, died May 1, 2014, of complications from a stroke. She was 66.

Gibbons graduated from the University of Rochester in 1969 with a major in art history. After entering graduate school in Syracuse, she transferred to Princeton and earned an MFA degree in 1975 and a Ph.D. in 1979 in art history.

She was the widow of Felton L. Gibbons, a professor of art at Princeton who died in 1990.


Active in the APGA, Gibbons was a board member from 1998 to 2001. She wrote an article for PAW on her Princeton graduate student years, which was published in the April 7, 1999, issue. She is survived by her mother, Beatrice; a brother; and a sister.

Juliet Wehr Jones ’93, a close friend and co-executor of her estate, wrote that Gibbons “had a wicked sense of humor, strong opinions, and a generous nature. She supported the professional advancement for women, serving as a mentor and advisor to many professional women over the years.”

Gregory A. Trandel ’92

Gregory Trandel, professor of economics at the University of Georgia, died Oct. 21, 2014, at the age of 52.

Trandel graduated in 1984 from the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana. He earned a master’s and Ph.D. degrees in economics from Princeton in 1988 and 1992, respectively.

He had been a faculty member at the Terry College of Business at the University of Georgia since 1989. A highly regarded instructor, he recently celebrated his 25th year there and had been honored with awards for teaching.

Trandel was an enthusiastic parent to his children, actively involved in local public schools for 20 years. He served on parent-teacher organizations at three elementary schools, a middle school, and a high school. Along with other activities, he was president of his local neighborhood association.

Trandel is survived by his wife, Margaret, whom he married in 1988; three children; and his mother.

Graduate memorials are prepared by the APGA.
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In a moving display of pride and mourning, the “service flags” from every Princeton class going back to the 1890s were massed at the steps of Nassau Hall nine months after World War II ended. They were then paraded to the University Chapel for the Service of Remembrance, which has become an annual rite of Alumni Day.

Red-bordered service flags had stars and numbers indicating how many classmates had been in uniform or had died in the war. In all, they showed that 353 Princetonians gave their lives for their country.

Nearly 10,000 alumni and students had served. The first to die was Rogers Lamont ’20, killed with the British army at Dunkirk. The oldest victim of the war was Maj. Clinton Dickinson 1909, who suffered a stroke while working for the draft board in Washington. The youngest included four students from the Class of 1948.

Seventy years after the end of the war, we can hardly fathom the sacrifice involved. Imagine the deaths of 48 or 50 members of an undergraduate class today: That’s equivalent to the 4 percent loss experienced by the Class of 1940.

Three Reunions had been canceled in wartime. Now the 1946 Victory Reunion brought 7,300 Tigers to campus, twice as many as ever before. Nostalgic alumni had enjoyed “going back to Nassau Hall” since the centennial celebration of 1847, but this was the first big, modern Reunions of the kind we love today.

Spirits were festive despite the sobering toll that the war had taken. No wonder the Civil War-era bell of Nassau Hall had rung for 45 minutes celebrating German surrender May 7 — and an unparalleled three-and-a-half hours on V-J Day, Aug. 14.

Given postwar shortages, it wasn’t easy coming to the Victory Reunion, and the University could provide only a single blanket to alumni staying in the dorms. Yet everyone had a good time, including Charles C. Black 1878 — at 87, the oldest returning alumnus of all.
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