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Kiawah Island has been named Condé Nast Traveler’s #1 island in the USA (and #2 in the world) for a myriad of reasons – 10 miles of uncrowded beach, iconic golf and resort, the allure of nearby Charleston, and a superb private Club and community to name a few. For a recharge, for a holiday, or for a lifetime, your discovery of Kiawah Island can be the first day of the best of your life.

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January 13, 2016 Volume 116, Number 6

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An editorially independent magazine by alumni for alumni since 1900

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PAW.PRINCETON.EDU

Campus Romance
Read Princeton love stories as told by alumni, including Steve Zimmerman ’50, pictured at left with his future wife, Betty, at Houseparties in May 1950. They celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary last year.

Serenades
Listen to Ruth Gerson ’92’s favorite love songs and read her tips for singing one.

From the Heart
Gregg Lange ’70 takes a romantic look at the history of Princeton’s Lovers Lane.

Creature Feature
Shelley expert Susan Wolfson reviews Victor Frankenstein.

On the cover: As President Eisgruber ’83 listens at right, student activists lay out their demands before occupying Nassau Hall; photograph by W. Raymond Ollwerther ’71.
What is happening on our campuses?

Protests about racial justice have roiled campuses across America this fall, including at Princeton. Many alumni have asked me about the causes for this turmoil.

Media pundits and others often suggest that students today are simply too quick to take offense, and in some cases are taking offense when it is not intended. On occasion students have seemed to demand that they be insulated from any viewpoints or behaviors that make them feel disrespected or unwelcome.

Many find this trend alarming, and for good reason. Freedom of speech is a bedrock value at Princeton and every great university. Teaching, learning, and research depend on the open and honest exchange of ideas.

We expect all interactions on our campus to be guided by principles of civility and mutual respect, but we do students no favor—on the contrary, we do them great harm—if we shield them from all expression that discomfits, angers, or offends them.

While youthful hypersensitivity has been a factor in the protests occurring nationwide, it would be shortsighted to regard it as their primary cause. The current wave of campus activism began with last year’s Black Lives Matter campaign. Since then, the nation has witnessed a profoundly disturbing stream of violence against black people, including several shootings by police and the murder of nine innocent worshippers at a church service in Charleston, South Carolina.

In response to national events and in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement, members of the campus community held a peaceful protest and 45-minute “die-in” outside the Frist Campus Center on December 4, 2014.

These recent events have heightened student awareness of and anger about longstanding issues of fair treatment and racial injustice. Stereotypes and prejudice remain all too prevalent throughout American society. Research indicates, for example, that unconscious bias affects how employers regard applicants of color. Data show that students from underrepresented groups face social and academic obstacles significantly greater than those confronting comparably qualified white students.

Prejudice sometimes surfaces with disturbing overtness. When students speak up on questions of racial justice, for example, they may find themselves the target of slurs or insults on social media or in person. However, much of the prejudice confronting students of color manifests itself more subtly. It operates through stereotypes (which is why our Pre-read this year was Whistling Vivaldi) and is embedded in cultures. How, our students ask, can they confront this bias?

One way to confront a culture is to contest its symbols. That—not hypersensitivity—is why campus protests have so often centered on issues related to institutional symbols that some students regard as indicators of patterns of bias.

At Princeton, few symbols figure so powerfully as Woodrow Wilson. Our School of Public and International Affairs is named for him, as is one of our residential colleges. He gave Princeton its informal motto, “In the Nation’s Service.” We quote him often at ceremonial gatherings.

Wilson was a remarkable man. In my view, he did more than any other single individual to shape Princeton into the great university it is today. His contributions to world affairs won a Nobel Prize. On the other hand, Wilson was also guilty of great wrongs, including the re-segregation of the federal civil service.

Every human being mixes good and bad, and we would honor no one if we insisted on an unblemished record. Yet, when we recount Wilson’s story at Princeton we have often glossed over his failings.

I told the protestors that I believe we should retain Wilson’s name on both the School of Public and International Affairs and on our residential college. At the same time, I agreed to ask the Board of Trustees to re-examine how Princeton recognizes Wilson’s overall legacy. I did so for three reasons.

The first is simply that as a university we have an obligation to get the history right.

The second is that I trust this community to deliberate thoughtfully and the Board of Trustees to decide wisely. I am confident that Princeton’s review of Wilson’s legacy will illuminate history, not erase it. Interested alumni may participate in the project by going to: wilsonlegacy.princeton.edu.

The third is that our understanding of our past affects how we view the present. To borrow a phrase from my Harvard counterpart and historian Drew Gilpin Faust, “an accurate and just history [can] change the world.” Acknowledging the full import of Wilson’s legacy can help us to recognize more fully who we are today as a University and can enable us to pursue our mission of teaching, research, and service more effectively.

Though I reject some of the tactics and arguments invoked by the protestors to challenge Wilson’s legacy, I believe it is important that we use this opportunity to understand better how our students experience Princeton’s history and culture. All of us have a responsibility to take a careful and informed look at our history, and to find ways to advance our University’s unending quest for fairness and justice. I am persuaded that if we commit ourselves to examining the facts in an open, civil, and transparent fashion, we will make Princeton an even stronger and more inclusive community.

Inbox

THE FREE-SPEECH DEBATE
Regarding Christopher Shea ’91’s article on free speech (feature, Nov. 11), I have to agree with professors Robert George and Carolyn Rouse. I am incredulous at the need some students feel to be protected from “microaggressions,” when in the real world they come in the macro variety. Perhaps it’s an effort to counter an uncontrolled online environment where exchanges descend so easily to the anonymous, vituperative, ad hominem — and cowardly and intellectually lazy — levels.

I am a social liberal. But as a communications professional for more than 30 years, I have been obligated at times to understand and promote points of view I do not share. Rather than trauma, I have experienced a greater understanding of different points of view and therefore have been better prepared, when called upon, to support my own. Ignorance of differing points of view leads to a breakdown of communication, and one need look no further than Washington, D.C., to observe the ramifications for society.

Civility refers to how speech is delivered, not to its content. Therefore, institutional speech guidelines should be limited to delivery, not content. Pusillanimous self-absorption can occur at any age, but is rife among young adults. That’s OK — growing up is scary. But a university does its students a disservice when humoring those who need to feel “safe” from ideas that cause discomfort. Learning how to cope with diversity of thought is an important tool for life. Coping with “microaggressions” in a university environment isn’t a bad place to start.

N. Gregory Pettit ’81
Lexington, Ky.

I think a good question is how Princeton will continue striving for excellence in teaching, learning, research, and the life of the mind. Free and safe speech will help this, surely. Other prerequisites would seem to be respect, kindness, compassion, and a much greater effort to understand other points of view — be they emotional, situational, philosophical etc. Let us learn from another, with respect, as well-intentioned people. Let’s endeavor to protect the free speech of all in the community, and give a decent, perhaps more extended, hearing to those saying something worthwhile. Our best ideas will bubble up among us if we can cohere with respect in a single community.

Idris Magette ’96
Titusville, N.J.

According to Asanni York ’17, a member of the Black Justice League, when January 13, 2016

Editor’s note: This year’s Service of Remembrance will be held on Alumni Day, Feb. 20, 2016.

“people in the minority speak their truths ... [t]hey risk their livelihood and well being.” Not surprisingly, he is described as having “a relatively expansive view of hate speech.” Former student James Madison 1771, father of the First Amendment, must be rolling in his grave.

No person is entitled to maintain the pernicious position that any utterance, whether of fact or opinion, must be accepted without scrutiny. The First Amendment guarantee of freedom of speech is meant to foster the civil exchange of information so that the uninformed, the misinformed, the purposefully untrue, or the unsupportable position may be exposed and rejected by the body politic. Analysis and judgment enhance society, rather than undermine it. Ask anyone who has served as a juror. So if “your truth” is that the sun revolves around the Earth, then you should be disabused of it, not applauded.

For example, the article references the death of Michael Brown, particularly as an event that stimulated the formation of the Black Justice League. Anyone who maintains as “their truth” that Mr. Brown was maliciously killed by a police officer while surrendering, with his hands up, should be dismissed as uninformed, if not purposefully stating a lie. Read continues on page 8.
THE WILSON LEGACY, AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT:
READERS RESPOND

The demand by student protesters that the University rename the Woodrow Wilson School of International and Public Affairs and the Wilson residential college prompted many letters, Web comments, and Facebook posts from alumni. Here is a sampling; expanded versions and additional viewpoints can be found at PAW Online.

Have we all lost our minds? I am generally horrified that the University is contemplating removing Woodrow Wilson from the institution’s history, renaming both the School of Public and International Affairs and a residential college and erasing a mural in the Wilson dining hall because of an on-campus movement that claims his legacy makes certain students feel unsafe. To quote one student from a recent New York Times article, “For black students, having to identify with someone who did not build this place for you is unfair.”

I am an alumna. Princeton didn’t build this place for me, either. Should we now remove all paintings and building names of men associated with the University prior to 1969, the first year the University admitted women? Following similar logic, should we nullify all degrees conferred prior to 1972, since women were not eligible? Should we erase all legacies that began with families whose Protestant great-grandfathers attended the school? Let’s be honest, Princeton was not built for anyone non-white, non-male, and non-Protestant, yet among his racist convictions, Wilson was the first University president to admit Catholics and Jews. If not for that step, perhaps none of the diversity represented on campus today would have come to pass.

My parents taught me nothing comes of throwing temper tantrums, yet would-be tantrums are sweeping the nation’s campuses. Where is the American ethos of bucking up, holding your head high, and getting your job done? I work in an industry that is 83 percent male worldwide — 83 percent. I am degraded, belittled, and offended almost daily. Big deal. Should I cry to my bosses (who are also all male) that isn’t fair? No. I go to work every day, do the best job I can, earn respect, and change the industry from within. I am proud this country evolved to offer me a seat at an all-male table, even though the table wasn’t originally built for me. We need to embrace our history and how far we have come, not erase it.

Michelle M. Buckley ’01
Boston, Mass.

To change a name is awkward; the unfortunate issue is Princeton’s School of Public and International Affairs was named for Thomas Woodrow Wilson. Better to admit a mistake than to live with it forever ... “Dare to be true.”

Bayard Henry ’53
Westwood, Mass.

What is happening to Princeton? Better: What is happening to all our colleges and universities? I graduated with a Ph.D. from Princeton in 1966. I have been teaching ever since. In the 50 years since I first entered the classroom, I have seen a steady decline (increasing in rapidity of late) in student performance and focus on his entire history, the ugly as well as the good. There is value in recognizing that the celebrated among us nevertheless are humans who hardly ever merit being idolized.

Murphy Sewall ’64
Windham, Conn.

If Princeton students cannot solve problems working together as undergraduates, how will they be able to work together as our nation’s future leaders in many fields? Come on, don’t expect the administration to solve your
challenges; work them out yourselves. It will benefit both the University and your own development.

Clifton White '62
Venice, Fla.

Following events as well as I could from the West Coast, I thought the University administration handled well the sit-in having to do with Woodrow Wilson. As someone whose undergraduate major was the Woodrow Wilson School, I would like to propose that, if the school’s name were to be changed, we consider renaming it the Dulles-Stevenson School (or the Stevenson-Dulles School).

John Foster Dulles 1908 was Secretary of State in 1953–59 and ran America’s foreign policy for six critical years during the Cold War. He was also briefly a U.S. senator from New York. Adlai E. Stevenson II ’22 was governor of Illinois in 1949–53 and the presidential nominee for the Democratic Party in 1952 and 1956. He served as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations in 1961–65 (he died in office).

This combination has the advantage of including a prominent Republican and a prominent Democrat, and therefore doesn’t appear partisan. It also may be a good idea to establish a precedent that the School of Public and International Affairs (which is now 85 years old) changes its name every two or three generations. Given the caliber of the people who attend Princeton, there are bound to be alumni who achieve distinction in public service every 50 to 75 years and deserve to be honored.

Bing Shen ’71
San Francisco, Calif.

As an alumna, I appreciate President Eisgruber’s proactive communication with us, and applaud his efforts to defuse a volatile situation. But I must take issue with the scope and tone of the protesters’ “demands,” and respectfully disagree with the University administration’s seeming capitulation to noisy threats and unpleasantries.

Woodrow Wilson, in his day, would not have wanted me to attend Princeton either. But I am proud to be among the first generation of women to have attended Princeton. I am honored to have enjoyed the friendship and intellectual comradery of my fellow students, brilliant and forthright persons of varied races, ethnicities, beliefs, and nationalities.

The Princeton I attended taught me, first and foremost, that knowledge and understanding are acquired not by surrounding oneself in a cozy echo chamber where one is sheltered from conflicting—and at times uncomfortable—views, but obtained only through exposure to all viewpoints, serious examination thereof, reasoned discourse, and the resulting ability to formulate, test, question, express, and support one’s conclusions. Today’s Princetonians deserve nothing less.

Nan Moncharsh Reiner ’77
Alexandria, Va.

History shows that Woodrow Wilson was perhaps among our country’s most complex presidents, leaving behind a uniquely contradictory legacy.

As a WWS MPA graduate, I am closely following the ongoing debate. History shows that Woodrow Wilson was perhaps among our country’s most complex presidents, leaving behind a uniquely contradictory legacy. He was a model progressive on many issues, both international and domestic. It was on the basis of those dimensions of his legacy, together with his contributions to Princeton, that he earned the honor of having his name placed on our beloved school. At the same time, he was a deeply bigoted individual who turned back the clock on race relations with sweeping decisions that were even then considered to be out of date and much more racist than the dominant racial thinking in most of the U.S. at the time. The legacies of his thought and actions have weighed heavily on our country’s subsequent history. They have caused deep and irreparable harm to countless millions of African Americans while damaging the character and conscience of even larger numbers of complicit white Americans over the past century.

I respect the courage, aims, and timing of the Princeton students, and strongly support them in their demand for an end to the almost saintly reverence given to Wilson on the Princeton campus. To this end I join my voice to their demands for changing the name of our school. I believe it not only correct, but imperative, that we send a clear signal of the values on which our school stands and for which we work.

Peter Matlon ’71
Washington, D.C.

I am gratified to see that letters on the Wilson issue reject this attempt at revisionist history, as I emphatically do. To conflate Wilson’s brilliant educational achievements at Princeton and his many other civic contributions with his abysmal racial bias is simply absurd. It is ironic that Wilson was such a controversial figure as University president that it took a generation before his name was finally added to SPIA in 1948, and now we get this misguided attempt to delete him from the record. I am proud to be the sixth Hibben to graduate from this great university, and nothing will ever change that, but if Wilson is expunged from Princeton, he takes me with him.

Stuart Hibben ’48
Swarthmore, Pa.

In discussing the record of Woodrow Wilson and his legacy on our campus (including his views on race), it is very important to realize that this is not the first time that Princeton University has had this discussion. The 2006 Princeton Colloquium on Public and International Affairs, April 28–29, 2006, titled “Woodrow Wilson in the Nation’s Service,” was a University-wide collaboration and was part of the year-long 75th-anniversary celebration of the WWS and coincided with the 150th anniversary of Wilson’s birth. The final report of the colloquium provides important background to the current discussion and can be accessed at: http://bit.ly/PCPIAreport.

Charles Plohn Jr. ’66
Princeton, N.J.
In response to PAW’s article “Can We Say That?” I recommend reading the book *Freedom for the Thought That We Hate* by Anthony Lewis, the *New York Times* Pulitzer Prize-winning commentator on civil liberties and civil rights.

**Ralph Nader ’55**
Washington, D.C.

Grow up! The world will present difficulties far greater than the real or imagined slights experienced in campus debates. Princeton is not a nursery school, or is it?

**Timothy B. Jensen ’65**
Edina, Minn.

**PREVENTING SEXUAL ASSAULTS**

Reading the President’s Page on “New Data about Campus Sexual Assault” (Nov. 11), I was struck by the emphasis first on disciplinary actions and then on awareness-raising. Both are vitally important, but where is the Honor Code that each student signs that commits him and her to certain behavior? I recall the code against cheating and requiring him and her to certain behavior? I recall the code against cheating and requiring me to report any others who cheat that was deeply embedded in me in my years at Princeton — and that I think molded behavior better than discipline and awareness-raising.

Why not a code so that every student pledges not to be part of sexual assault and to step in whenever such is occurring?

**Ken Phillips ’62**
Roslindale, Mass.

Sexual assault is a frequent subject of dinner conversation in my house. As a prosecutor for the Army, my husband deals with these cases every day. Our discussions give me a closer perspective on the policy issues being debated at Princeton.

“Sexual Misconduct: The New Rules” (feature, Sept. 16) was right to emphasize that “no means no” is not enough. However, a messaging campaign focused on “yes means yes” will still fall short. There is a serious disconnect when we treat sexual assault gravely but otherwise treat sex casually. Students feel enormous pressure to be sexually active at the cost of other principles, including respect of others’ personal rights. These sorts of attitudes also minimize the pain of victims and often discourage them from reporting the assault out of embarrassment for feeling that it actually did matter.

I hope that moving forward, the University will take a cue from student groups like the Anscombe Society and a newer group called The Alternative (both absent from the article) who pose questions beyond consent when it comes to sexual choices. I was never a member of either group, but I, and many others I knew, appreciated the message that consent is necessary, but not sufficient, for a sexual culture that is truly based on respect.

**Eva Marie Haine ’11**
Annapolis, Md.

**MEMORIES OF WPRB**

The feature on WPRB in the Nov. 11 issue was excellent and brought back many good memories. I was, however, astonished that no mention was made of the superb classical music program broadcast every Thursday morning for decades by the knowledgeable and suave Teri Noel Towe ’70.

Teri’s program was one of the best of its kind available on any frequency, and many of us wish it would return. WPRB’s musical offerings should go beyond “underground stuff.”

**George L. Bustin ’70**
Pennington, N.J.

I enjoyed your excellent review of WPRB’s 75-year history. It brought back so many memories. In 1964–65, I was the sports director for the station and did play-by-play for both football and basketball. I had grown up in the New York City area, listening to so many legendary sports announcers.
Protests and Love

We planned this issue of PAW — our annual theme issue — on the subject of love. We commissioned an elegant cover from artist Jon Valk; you can see it here.

Yet for much of the time we were preparing our articles, love seemed to be in short supply. And so that cover seemed incongruous.

As you no doubt know by now, members of the Black Justice League sat in President Eisgruber ’83’s office for 33 hours, raising important questions about the racial climate on campus. PAW has been publishing regular updates, posting alumni views, and providing links to opinions published elsewhere, at http://bit.ly/PAWupdates and on our Facebook page.

Those links take you to essays, articles, and interviews by students, alumni, and faculty members, about both Princeton’s environment for black students and the narrower issue of the legacy of Woodrow Wilson 1879. Among the most thoughtful, in my view, are essays by historian and Wilson biographer John Milton Cooper ’61; history professor Martha Sandweiss, who with her class has been exploring Princeton’s ties to slavery; professor emeritus and longtime blogger John Fleming ’63; and political theorist Corey Robin ’89, who teaches at Brooklyn College and the CUNY Graduate Center. Princeton professors Eddie S. Glaude Jr. ’97, Joshua Guild, and Julian Zelizer have offered their insights on public radio.

Emotions have been running high lately. Some comments on both sides of the issue — including nasty posts on PAW’s Facebook page — were hard to hear and read. And so, we didn’t want to give up on love altogether. You’ll find our feature stories and essays on those topics, beginning on page 34.

And though some members of the Princeton community have focused on the divisions that came to light during the sit-in, the students in Nassau Hall have opened conversations that stand to make the University stronger.

That’s a form of love, too. — Marilyn H. Marks ’86
Sara and Dan met while working at the *Daily Princetonian* – Dan an executive photography editor, Sara a copy editor – and were a couple by graduation. Three years later, Dan proposed to Sara under Blair Arch. And in August 2013, they were married in the Chapel. But this story is more than a love story about two alumni. It is also a love story about the couple and Princeton, the town and the University.

In fact, it’s amazing that Sara and Dan didn’t cross paths earlier than their junior year. Both have alumni parents. Both grew up in or near Princeton. Both spent lots of time on Princeton’s campus as children. (Sara: “At age four, orange was my favorite color.” Dan: “I loved running around the stands at football games.”) They have lived together in Princeton since 2010. And since graduation they have both been hard-working alumni volunteers, inspired by Sara’s mother, Arlen Hastings ’80.

Sara says, “The secretary for the Princeton Area Alumni Association (PA3) was leaving. My mom was already active in the PA3, and somehow I found myself signed up to fill in! That was five years ago and I’m still the secretary, although now I’ve been elected.” In addition, she has been a class Reunions Committee member, an ASC interviewer and a P-rade marshal. She and Dan also joined forces to overhaul PA3’s website, with Dan bringing his tech expertise in creating the website and Sara overseeing the content. This new website was a major factor in PA3 winning the 2013 Alumni Council ACE Award for excellence in communications.

As for Dan, in addition to being PA3’s tech chair, he has built a new website for the class of 2009 as that class’s technology chair, and he serves on the Alumni Council’s Executive Committee as the vice chair of the Technology Advisory Committee. He wrote the code for “Countdown to Reunions,” which has gotten over 100,000 page views since inception, and he will be playing a significant role in the TigerNet transition that will take place in 2016.

To Sara and Dan, a toast to the happy couple who continue to do so much to keep alive “the excitement around all things Princeton.”
Graduate Alumni

Congratulations to James Heckman ’71
Winner of the 2016 Madison Medal
Join us in celebrating Madison Medalist James Heckman ’71, a Nobel laureate in economics who is on the faculty of the University of Chicago, at Alumni Day on February 20, 2016. Learn more about this year’s Medalist and register for Alumni Day activities at: http://alumni.princeton.edu/goinback/alumniday/2016

Dean of the Graduate School Sanjeev Kulkarni to meet with alumni in Europe
Dean Kulkarni has been visiting regions throughout the year to connect with graduate alumni, provide an update on what is happening on campus, and listen to thoughts and ideas from alumni on the future of graduate education at Princeton. Share your insights at an upcoming event in one of the following locations: London (March 9); Paris (March 10); and Berlin (March 12). For more information, visit: http://alumni.princeton.edu/graduate/dean

APGA Reunions 2016: Perfectly Proportioned to Party!
All graduate alumni are invited to campus for Reunions May 26–29, when the Association of Princeton Graduate Alumni (APGA) will celebrate the Humanities, including the School of Architecture, with the theme Perfectly Proportioned to Party! Come for the whole weekend and enjoy three days of delicious meals with fellow graduate alumni, engaging academic programming, and fabulous entertainment. We hope to see you there!

L’CHAIM!
TO LIFE
CELEBRATING
100 YEARS OF
JEWISH LIFE
at PRINCETON
SAVE THE DATE
APRIL 14 - 16, 2016

Princeton University cordially invites you to come back to campus for a University conference held in celebration of 100 years of Jewish life at Princeton.

Conference highlights include:

• A conversation with President Christopher L. Eisgruber ’83
• Programs and panels featuring faculty, senior administrators and fellow alumni
• A festive Shabbat dinner with students
• The chance to network and socialize at informal gatherings with students and fellow alumni
• Tours, tastings, and much, much more!

Additional details: alumni.princeton.edu/jewishlife
There is no registration cost for the conference.
In addition to addresses by the two award winners, morning programming will include:

- “The Media and the 2016 Election,” a panel of alumni journalists moderated by Julian Zelizer, Malcolm Stevenson Forbes, Class of 1941, Professor of History and Public Affairs, Woodrow Wilson School
- “Frontiers of Global Health,” a multi-faceted panel moderated by João Biehl, Susan Dod Brown Professor of Anthropology and Co-Director of the Program in Global Health and Public Policy
- A look inside the new Princeton Baby Lab, where co-directors and assistant professors of psychology Lauren Emberson and Casey Lew-Williams study how young children learn

Then gather in Jadwin Gymnasium for a reception, followed by the Alumni Association Luncheon and Awards Ceremony.

After the luncheon, join fellow Princetonians for the moving Service of Remembrance at 3:00 PM in the University Chapel.

Cap off the day with a festive Closing Reception for all alumni at 4:00 PM in Chancellor Green Rotunda.

Campus is abuzz with other activities all day, including a workshop on navigating the college admissions process, exhibits at the Art Museum and Firestone Library, performances in the lively arts, student projects… and much more.

For the full Alumni Day schedule and registration information, go to: alumni.princeton.edu/alumniday

Schedule subject to change.
Sunrise casts a glow over the Shea Rowing Center and the woods behind it in this early-December view across Lake Carnegie.

Photograph by Ricardo Barros
A student sit-in Nov. 18 ended after 33 hours, but the issues it raised — relating to Princeton’s racial climate, the role of history, and the legacy of a man long seen as a Princeton hero — remained after the protesters walked out of Nassau Hall.

Members of the Black Justice League (BJL), which also organized the Chapel protest last spring, left the office of President Eisgruber ’83 after a five-hour meeting in which the president agreed to address the group’s demands. He made no commitments about how the best-known of the demands — removing the name of Woodrow Wilson 1879 from University buildings and programs — would be resolved. The protest left the campus divided, with petitions springing up to oppose the demands and an unrelenting stream of articles and social-media posts published in both campus and national media.

In accordance with the agreement, meetings between top administrators and the student protesters have begun to take place. A Wilson Legacy Review Committee will post information and collect opinions from members of the University committee on its website, http://wilsonlegacy.princeton.edu. The 10-member trustee committee is chaired by Brent Henry ’69 and includes Ruth Simmons, former Princeton vice provost and Brown University president emerita, who led an exploration of Brown’s connections with slavery; and A. Scott Berg ’71, who wrote a best-selling biography of Wilson. Henry, now vice president at a Boston-area health-care system, led a sit-in in the New South administration building in 1969, when he was head of the Association of Black Collegians.

“I think what the students have done around Woodrow Wilson has been amazing, in terms of the conversation that it has sparked, not only here at Princeton but around the country,” said Eddie S. Glaude Jr. ’97, chair of the African American studies department. “I think that conversation can move in a number of different directions. As long as we are honestly and genuinely confronting our past, we have a great opportunity to imagine what we will be moving forward.”

The sit-in began after a lunchtime demonstration on the steps of Nassau Hall. With more than 200 people on the green, including Eisgruber, who stood silently at the bottom of the steps, students laid out their demands: that the University administration “publicly acknowledge the racist legacy of Woodrow Wilson and how he impacted campus policy and culture,” that the Woodrow Wilson School and Wilson College be renamed and a Wilson mural be removed from Wilcox Hall; that faculty and staff be required to take “cultural-competency training,” and classes on the “history of marginalized peoples” be added to students’ distribution requirements; and that there be affinity housing and campus space dedicated to black students and culture.

Then about 60 students walked into Nassau Hall, chanting, “We here, we been here, we ain’t leaving, we are loved,” many heading into the president’s office. After a short discussion with Eisgruber, the students settled in, playing music and working on schoolwork. Professor Joshua Guild brought the precept for his African American history course to Nassau Hall, saying the material was related to the protest and that “a third of the class was already there.”

Ruha Benjamin, a professor of sociology and African American studies, sent in pizza. Cornel West ’80, a former Princeton professor now at Union Theological Seminary, phoned to offer support. Simmons, on campus to attend a regularly scheduled trustees meeting, stopped in to talk. The Rev. William Barber, leader of North Carolina’s “Moral Mondays” protests, who was speaking in the Chapel that night, visited to pray with the students.

After the students were told that anyone who left the president’s office would not be allowed back, 17 students prepared to camp there overnight. More than 40 others pitched tents and laid out sleeping bags outside Nassau Hall. Rain woke the students as morning arrived.

At 8:30 a.m., the doors to Nassau Hall were unlocked and students returned to the atrium. Azza Cohen ’16, who had slept by one of the tigers...
outside the building, made a video in which protesters addressed why they were participating (see it at https://youtu.be/6e7FlS8q6Fo). Activists have described a range of ways in which they feel unwelcome at Princeton, from casual suggestions by white peers and professors that black students are unable to do the work, to a paucity of black role models on the faculty, to anonymous threats on social media. (See page 17 for a Q&A with BJL members.)

At about 3:30 p.m., Eisgruber and other administrators returned to the office, and the two sides ultimately hammered out an agreement. In the document, administrators pledged, among other things, to “initiate the process to consider removal” of the Wilson mural (which Eisgruber supported); to begin conversations about Wilson’s legacy, including the request to remove his name from the Wilson School and Wilson College (which Eisgruber opposed); to designate four rooms in the Carl A. Fields Center for cultural-affinity groups; to begin discussions on designated housing “for those interested in black culture”; to work to “enhance cultural-competency training” for University counseling staff; to “arrange an introduction with BJL concerning the possibility of cultural-competency training” for faculty members; and to invite BJL to discuss a possible diversity requirement with the General Education Task Force. The agreement also stated that “no formal disciplinary action has been nor will be initiated if students peacefully leave” the office. Students left the building at about 8:45 p.m.

But alumni, students, and faculty did not agree on what should happen next. Three petitions — two opposing the BJL’s demands and one in support — appeared online. Student groups met to discuss the racial climate. A new student group called the Princeton Open Campus Coalition promised to promote “diversity of thought” and to oppose “a policing of free speech.” “I agree with the Black Justice League that diversity on campus is important,” said Evan Draim ’16, a founder of the Open Campus group. “However, we cannot achieve real diversity without academic freedom and free speech.”

The New York Times weighed in with an editorial endorsing changing the name of the Woodrow Wilson School. The Daily Princetonian took the opposite view. Scholars and pundits — in opinions collected at paw.princeton.edu — offered varying analyses, some arguing that Wilson was even more racist than most people of his time, others stressing his accomplishments as president of Princeton and then of the United States. (PAW will address Wilson’s legacy in more depth in a later issue.)

Wilson’s racism “should not eclipse the many great things he did at Princeton and in the world,” said Wilson biographer John Milton Cooper ’61, who laid out his record on both sides of the ledger. Among the positives, Cooper wrote: “He began the long march toward the transformation of a small, snobbish men’s college into this great diverse university that can vigorously question his views and legacy.” Cooper opposed...
On the Campus/ Nassau Hall Sit-In

a name change.

Another professor, Johns Hopkins’ Michael Hanchard ‘91, disagreed. “Monuments, as symbols, project values, not neutral representations of the past,” he wrote at The Huffington Post. “Based on [a] belief in the power of democratic social movements to transform values in a national society, I support efforts, whenever possible, to rename or remove monuments that directly or indirectly extol the deeds and character of historical figures most associated with genocide and the comprehensive marginalization of minority populations.”

In an email to the campus community following the sit-in, Eisgruber noted conversations about campus racism that have taken place for more than a year. “I have heard compelling testimony from students of color about the distress, pain, and frustration that is caused by a campus climate that they too often find unwelcoming or uncaring...,” he wrote. “Our students deserve better, and Princeton must do better.” He said Princeton would respond through “appropriate University processes” and highlighted work already underway to increase diversity and equity on campus.

“More remains to be done,” Eisgruber said. “I care deeply about what our students are saying to us, and I am determined to do whatever I can... to improve the climate on this campus.”

Some professors endorsed the students’ demands and supported the activists. Among those who did not was Professor Stan Katz, in the Woodrow Wilson School, who said he was most alarmed by the demand to add a distribution requirement. “It’s wrong for the University to send a signal that what we’re most concerned about is people’s feelings,” he said. “This is not the university of feelings; this is the university of knowledge.”

She went on to emphasize other, more productive conversations about racial justice that took place during the sit-in.

In the weeks after the sit-in, Dean of the Faculty Deborah Prentice said that some departments have inquired about funding for voluntary cultural-competency training. Dolan said that at a General Education Task Force meeting on the potential revision of distribution requirements, students provided “incredibly articulate, nuanced, multiple perspectives on what a diversity requirement as part of the general education requirement might mean.” Vice President for Campus Life Rochelle Calhoun said the Carl Fields Center plans to have four rooms ready for use by cultural-affinity student groups by the beginning of the spring semester. The BJL hopes to meet with the Board of Trustees to discuss its demands.

Student activism has continued. A teach-in Dec. 12 on “Black Activism and Consciousness at Princeton” drew about 100 people; students and faculty discussed campus racial issues and the challenges of defining a black identity. Wilglory Tanjong ’18 said the BJL, which sponsored the teach-in, is “pushing for the same demands that black students in the ’60s and ’70s pushed for.”

The Association of Black Princeton Alumni issued a statement: “We are heartened by the activism of the black students on campus, and share many of their frustrations in light of our collective experience as black Princetonians and blacks in America.” The statement noted recent progress that has been made on campus, and said it stood ready to “assist our students, President Eisgruber, and the broader community in achieving a more welcoming, diverse, and inclusive Princeton.”

**By A.W. and staff**
Behind the Sit-In

Black Justice League: ‘Extremely slow’ response on racial issues led to protest

The Black Justice League (BJL), a group of about 15 students, was formed in November 2014 with the goals of “standing in solidarity with Ferguson and dismantling racism on our campus.” After meeting with campus administrators in the months since, the group said, it decided to change tactics, leading to the sit-in in President Eisgruber ’83’s office that began Nov. 18. PAW spoke in early December with two BJL members, Esther Maddox ’17 and Asanni York ’17.

Your group has said you’ve had a decent working relationship with some administrators. When did you decide that occupying the president’s office was the best course of action?

Maddox: The protest that we held that Wednesday was in line with a national and international day of protest across university campuses. The idea was to stand in solidarity with Mizzou [the University of Missouri] and Yale and other universities that were protesting institutional racism on their campuses. The sit-in arose out of the frustration with the University just being extremely slow. So we saw it was necessary to essentially occupy their space in order to get the attention that we thought our cause warranted.

What were your expectations for the protest?

York: The original plan was to occupy [President Eisgruber’s] office around 12-something that day; then we would leave at 5 when he left. Then we would return the next day at 9 a.m. when he arrived; then we would stay till 5 p.m. But on the first day we basically had an administrator tell us that they were going to lock the doors and not allow us to come back in the next day. So we decided if we can’t get back in, we are going to stay.

Maddox: First and foremost, we wanted recognition from the administration that the issues that we were bringing to the table were important and that they necessitated immediate action. We went in with the intent of having Eisgruber sign off on those demands — not necessarily for him to immediately implement those demands, but a commitment from his administration that those demands would be carried out in an expedited manner. We don’t want to see the University drag its feet until we graduate.

When did the legacy of Woodrow Wilson become part of the protest?

York: The discussion around Woodrow Wilson, and the veneration of Woodrow Wilson on this campus, came into the

“You have to disrupt the system in order for that system to change.”
— Asanni York ’17
On the Campus/Sit-In

discussion toward the end of the last academic year. After holding several conversations with administrators about what was happening — and what was going to happen and whether anything was going to happen — we brought those demands together, and the Woodrow Wilson demand, to this sit-in.

What do you think of the reactions to the protests — both supporting and opposing you?

Maddox: I wasn’t surprised that there was pushback, especially considering the nature of Princeton University being a very traditionally oriented campus. I knew the things we were presenting were very much putting in question some of those traditions, and maybe even condemning some of those traditions. The thing I was most surprised about was people just not taking the time to fully read and understand our demands. People were really tripped up by the Woodrow Wilson demands.

York: It is very frustrating that all of the work we are doing is being reduced to, “Oh, you guys are being disrespectful by sitting in the president’s office.” I and a lot of people in BJL don’t agree with the tone-policing — the belief that you have to be nice to the system in order to get the system changed. Throughout American history that has never been the case. You have to disrupt the system in order for that system to change.

What sort of insults or insensitivity have you encountered on a day-to-day basis at Princeton?

York: I think the stuff that we’ve seen on Yik Yak [a social-media forum with anonymous posts], especially around the time the protest happened, is pretty much indicative of the things you hear day to day. I’ve had experiences where I was at a pregame [party] on the way to an eating club where a white person said he didn’t want to go to the eating club “because that’s where all the niggers hang out.”

Maddox: I’ve had quite a few experiences within the classroom where people were
“The discussion and conversations that were happening not only on campus, but in this country and across the world, really put into perspective what we had done.”

— Esther Maddox ’17

having conversations that were disguised as academic conversations, but were extremely racially charged. I’ve heard students making fun of police brutality. There’s also the view of black people on this campus: People think we were given a free pass to get here — that we didn’t work hard.

What’s it been like for you since the protest?

York: I kind of stay away from all of the social things that I did prior to the sit-in just because of Yik Yak and all of the petitions. I don’t know who wants to sit and smile at my face, but meanwhile they want to go online and write the nastiest comments and the most racist comments about me or about the people in BJL or black students in general — on Yik Yak or in comments on the Prince [website].

Was there a high point of the protest for you?

Maddox: The discussion and conversations that were happening not only on campus, but in this country and across the world, really put into perspective what we had done. ... It validated what I had sat in a room for 33 hours for. It felt like there was something that came out of it.

What do you think of the final agreement with the University administrators?

Maddox: With this university and with all universities, it’s all bureaucracy. We know we’ll need to sit in more meetings and more task forces, but we know at the very least there is pressure on the University to act. ◆ Interview conducted and condensed by Christopher Shea ’91

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On the Campus/Nassau Hall Sit-In

Illustration: Daniel Baxter; photo: courtesy Matthew Silberman ’17


After the doors of Nassau Hall were locked at 5 p.m. on Nov. 18, the first day of the sit-in by the Black Justice League, no more students were allowed to enter President Eisgruber ’83’s office. Those who had left couldn’t return, and fewer than 20 students remained inside. But thanks to the University Press Club’s “live blog” — written by a member embedded with the protesters in 1 Nassau Hall — students, administrators, and the public could feel as if they also had a seat inside as the protest unfolded.

The live blog consisted of brief, time-stamped updates from inside the president’s office.

Gabe Fisher ’17 was the primary contributor to the blog, joining the group of protesters in Eisgruber’s office just minutes before the doors were locked — the only journalist in the room through the end of the sit-in. Other Press Club members had been in the office earlier, and continued to file updates on protest-related events outside Nassau Hall.

Fisher quickly chose the live-blog style of reporting: The constant, short updates satisfy the desire for immediacy that readers have in the digital age, he said, and the Press Club’s live blogs — usually of less serious events, like the final desperate hours before Dean’s Date — have been among the group’s most-read posts.

As candid moments like the printer jam were reported, the blog illustrated that despite the dramatic, sensational quality that the protests had to outsiders, things in the room were still relatively normal, and bounded by the same inconveniences of everyday life.

“In the role of students, we’re able to cover these nationally important events,” Fisher said, “but it’s also an attempt to cover these people not just as protesters or radical activists, but also as college students.”

Esther Maddox ’17, a Black Justice League member who took part in the sit-in, said the group was uncertain at first what it would be like to “work constantly with the public’s eye on our backs.” But the protesters felt the blog ultimately portrayed the events of the sit-in respectfully and accurately, she said, and helped speed the process of reaching an agreement with Eisgruber. “Without it, I think the reaction to what was happening would have been much slower,” she said.

Early on, the Black Justice League asked all reporters to identify themselves, Maddox said. (Other journalists were present as the sit-in began, but all except Fisher left by 9 p.m. the first night.) “The journalists respected our space and understood when it was appropriate for them to be observing and reporting the events that were developing, and when it was time for them to step out and allow us to work,” she said.

Both on and off campus, readers said the blog provided real-time access to the protest and the discussions that ultimately led to an agreement. Even Eisgruber acknowledged that his staff was reading the blog because it was the only way to know what was happening inside his office while he was gone.

After the sit-in was over, Fisher pitched his story to a former Press Club member who had covered a protest in Nassau Hall during his time at Princeton: New Yorker editor-in-chief David Remnick ’81. The result was an article by Fisher for the magazine’s website.

But Fisher downplayed the drama of the protest in an interview with PAW. “It didn’t feel like we were in a war zone at 2 in the morning on a Wednesday night,” he said. “It felt like we were a bunch of college students who had a lot of homework to do, who happened to be in the president’s office.”

The live blog consisted of brief, time-stamped updates from inside the president’s office.
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DECADES OF ACTIVISM

A Protest Timeline

Generations of Princeton students have protested a wide range of issues: Here are some of them. ◆ Compiled by Jennifer Shyue ’17

April 12, 1935 More than 600 people gather in Alexander Hall to call for world peace; presidential candidate Norman Thomas 1905 is a speaker.

March 11, 1969 For more than 11 hours, about 100 students demonstrate at New South to protest Princeton’s investments in South Africa. Five students are put on disciplinary probation, and 10 are charged with violating the University’s policy on protests.

1967–72 Numerous protests against the Vietnam War and the ROTC program. During the “Hickel heckle” March 5, 1970, nearly 75 students harass U.S. Interior Secretary Walter J. Hickel as he tries to speak in Jadwin Gym. Nine students are placed on disciplinary probation; three are suspended.


May 1, 1986 Six students conduct a seven-hour sit-in in the dean of students’ office over questions of the University’s oversight of the Women’s Center.

Feb. 15, 1989 Nearly 50 protesters sit in Nassau Hall’s Faculty Room for 17 hours; the issues are communication with students and the needs of minority students. President Harold Shapiro ’64 agrees to hold weekly office hours.

April 20, 1995 17 students hold a 36-hour sit-in in Shapiro’s office to demand faculty and courses in Latino and Asian American studies. Shapiro says he won’t discuss the issues “while this inexcusable occupation … continues.” An agreement is reached, calling for $6 million for faculty hires. ◆
No More ‘Masters’

The University announced in November that it had discontinued the title of “master” and that the faculty members who help run its six residential colleges are now called “head of college.”

“The former ‘masters’ of our six residential colleges have long been in conversation with the Office of the Dean of the College about their anachronistic, historically vexed titles,” Dean of the College Jill Dolan said. “We believe that calling them ‘head of college’ better captures the spirit of their work and their contributions to campus residential life.”

Two weeks after Princeton’s action, Harvard announced that it would seek a new title — not yet decided — to replace the term “house master” for its heads of residential housing.

A Strong Year for Top Scholarships

Four Princeton seniors and one alumna have been named Rhodes scholars, and three seniors will receive Marshall scholarships. Mitchell and Sachs scholars also have been announced.

Among the Rhodes recipients, Richard Lu ’16, of Ballwin, Mo., who is majoring in chemistry and pursuing a certificate in global health and health policy, will pursue master’s degrees in international health and tropical medicine and in global health science. Cameron Platt ’16, of Santa Barbara, Calif., an English major with certificates in theater and medieval studies, will work toward master’s degrees in English and American studies, and medieval studies. Evan Soltas ’16, of Rumson, N.J., who is concentrating in economics and earning a certificate in statistics and machine learning, will pursue a master’s degree in applied statistics. Nicholas Barton ’16, an astrophysical sciences major from Hamilton, Bermuda, will seek master’s degrees in mathematical modeling and scientific computing, and applied statistics. Katherine Clifton ’15, of Honolulu, who concentrated in English, is in Serbia on a Dale fellowship. With the Rhodes, she will pursue master’s degrees in Russian and Eastern European studies, and in forced migration and refugee studies.

Online: Paw Goes to the Movies

Senior writer Mark F. Bernstein ’83 interviewed graduate students, at left, following a campus screening of The Ph.D. Movie 2, a comedy about real-life grad school experiences. He also interviewed English professor Susan Wolfson after watching Victor Frankenstein, the latest film inspired by Mary Shelley’s classic Frankenstein. Read Bernstein’s reports at paw.princeton.edu.
IN SHORT

Students and community members gathered for a CANDLELIGHT VIGIL outside the University art museum five days after the Paris terror attacks. Student speakers expressed their grief and solidarity with victims of attacks in several countries in recent months.

Princeton students will be able to pursue a certificate in MUSIC THEATER beginning this fall. Juniors and seniors in the program, approved by the faculty in November, will take courses in music, theater, and dance. The curriculum will include the creation, performance, and study of music theater. Professor of theater Stacy Wolf will serve as director of the program.

Former Princeton president SHIRLEY TILGHMAN has been appointed a member of the Harvard Corporation, the principal fiduciary governing body of Harvard University. A professor of molecular biology and public affairs at Princeton, Tilghman chaired a recent review of the life sciences at Harvard.

IN MEMORIAM

WALTER L. WALLACE, professor of sociology emeritus, died Sept. 18 in Princeton. He was 88. Wallace’s early research focused on the sociology of education and sociological theory, which he pursued after joining the faculty in 1971. Later he turned his attention to issues of ethnicity, race, and nationality. The author of seven books, including Principles of Scientific Sociology, Wallace received national attention in 2008 when he was identified as Michelle Obama ’85’s thesis adviser. He retired in 2001.

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Amir Bell ’18 fouled out of two of his first three games for the Princeton men’s basketball team — a discouraging start for the then-freshman point guard. The growing pains were part of a season-long process: He was the only Tiger to start all 30 games last year, but foul trouble sometimes kept him off the court.

This season, increasing Bell’s playing time, his leadership, and his influence are goals that the sophomore and his coaches share. “I expect more out of myself,” Bell said. “I’ve been through a year of college basketball. I expect to give my team more ways to win.”

November and early December brought promising results: Bell has made gains in a handful of statistical categories — including assists, steals, and three-point shooting percentage — while keeping his fouls in check. The Tigers opened the year 5–2, averaging 77 points in their first seven games.

Head coach Mitch Henderson ’98 likes how Bell has grown, and he likes the point guard’s aggressiveness, which belies his reserved nature off the court. “I’m glad he’s the one leading us,” Henderson said.

Bell grew up admiring NBA star Jason Kidd. He got his first taste playing point guard as a lanky kid more than 10 years ago in youth leagues, for his father. “He taught me a lot and really gave me a start,” Bell said. “You could say I’m a coach’s kid. His love for the game really was passed down to me.”

Bell played as a freshman at nearby East Brunswick High. He faced stiff competition in the summers with his Team Jersey Elite AAU team, and his high school rival was anchored by Karl-Anthony Towns, the top NBA draft pick in 2015.

“You play against good competition in AAU and high school and when you get into college, you’re ready for some of the best competition in the world,” Bell said.

Last year, Bell ranked seventh in the Ivy League in assist-to-turnover ratio and averaged 8.8 points per game, despite making less than 30 percent of his three-point attempts.

“He’s been through an entire season,” Henderson said. “He’s done everything. He’s made big shots, gotten big rebounds, turned the ball over in big moments, [and] made good passes in crucial moments.”

Between his freshman and sophomore seasons, Bell spent time in the weight room, adding 10 pounds to his 6-foot-4-inch frame, and worked relentlessly on his shooting. His experience has equipped him to direct a Princeton team with four returning starters and a talented freshman class.

“I feel a lot more comfortable being a leader on the team, and more comfortable in the system,” Bell said. “I know what it takes to win a basketball game and how hard it is to win.” — Amir Bell ’18

I expect more out of myself. I’ve been through a year of college basketball. I expect to give my team more ways to win.” — Amir Bell ’18
MEN'S WATER POLO

Tigers Win Eastern Crown, NCAA Bid

Princeton, the top men’s water polo team outside of California for much of the fall, backed up its ranking with wins over three of its top Eastern rivals at the College Water Polo Association Championships Nov. 20–22, earning the program’s first NCAA Tournament berth since 2011.

After defeating Bucknell and host Harvard, the Tigers played a rematch with Johns Hopkins, the runner-up to Princeton at the CWPA Southern Tournament two weeks earlier. Led by center Thomas Nelson ‘16, who had four goals, Princeton edged the Blue Jays 7–6. Goalie Vojislav Mitrovic ’18 made 14 saves in the win.

The Tigers fell 12–7 to the University of California-San Diego in the play-in round of the six-team NCAA Tournament Dec. 3. Mitrovic added eight saves in the loss, becoming the first goalie in team history to make more than 300 saves in a season.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Stellar Finish Propels Princeton to Ivy Title Share

Even after her team dropped its first three Ivy League matches, women’s volleyball coach Sabrina King ’01 had high hopes. “We all knew that this was a very talented team,” she said.

Her players seemed to realize this, too — and that was part of the problem, in King’s view. They put too much pressure on themselves. When the Tigers began to swing freely, they proved that they belonged among the Ivy’s best.

On Oct. 30 and 31, Princeton completed 3–0 sweeps against Harvard and Dartmouth, which had been tied for first place entering the weekend. Two weeks and four wins later, the Tigers finished the league season with a 10–4 record, sharing the Ivy championship with Harvard.

Outside hitter Cara Mattaliano ’17 was named the Ivy Player of the Year, and right-side hitter Kendall Peterkin ’16 earned All-Ivy honors. King also gave credit to setter Claire Nussbaum ’19, who took over a high-pressure starting role as a freshman.

The only stumble in the final month of the season came in a playoff at Harvard Nov. 20, when the Crimson won 3-1 to earn the league’s automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. King believes that coming so close will keep her team hungry next year. “The goal is attainable,” she said, “and they know that now.” ◆ By B.T.

SPORTS SHORTS


Princeton FOOTBALL dropped its third straight game, 17–10, at Dartmouth Nov. 21 to finish the season 5–5 overall and 2–5 in the Ivy League. The Big Green shared the Ivy title with Harvard and Penn.

WOMEN’S SOCCER advanced to the second round of the NCAA College Cup with a 4–2 win over Boston College Nov. 14. Southern California eliminated the Tigers, 3–0, Nov. 20.

FIELD HOCKEY upset Maryland, 3–1, in the opening round of the NCAA Championships Nov. 14 but lost 5–0 to Syracuse, the No. 1 seed and eventual national champion, in the quarterfinals.

Led by Lizzie Bird ’17’s 58th-place finish, the WOMEN’S CROSS COUNTRY team placed 21st in the team standings at the NCAA Championships in Louisville, Ky., Nov. 21.

The MEN’S and WOMEN’S RUGBY teams celebrated their 85th and 35th anniversaries, respectively, at a Nov. 14 banquet that drew more than 300 alumni, students, and friends of the program. The women’s national championship teams of 1995 and ’96, below, were honored at the event.
On the Campus / Sports

THE ROAD TO RIO

Star Goalie Johnson ’17 Emerges as a Leader for U.S. Water Polo Team

Ashleigh Johnson ’17 has trained to play water polo nearly her entire life. Her mother, Donna, a single parent and full-time nurse, pushed her five children to excel at the sport. “There’s nothing you can’t do — just keep at it,” Johnson remembers her mother telling her as a child. The refrain still guides her training today.

While most elite water polo players choose West Coast schools like Stanford and UCLA, where the competition and training are most intense, Johnson, a junior national-team player and top recruit, chose Princeton. “She didn’t want to major in water polo,” said Eric LeFebvre, Johnson’s high school coach in Miami, Fla. “At Princeton, she could follow whatever she wanted.”

What Johnson wanted was to study psychology, with an eye toward medical school. Princeton has challenged her academically, she said, but not to the detriment of her athletic development. “I’ve become way more self-motivated,” said Johnson, who would often train on her own while head coach Luis Nicolao worked with the non-goalsies. “I know what shape I have to be in to play at my best.”

As Johnson matured, she became more vocal in the water, according to Nicolao. By the time she took a year off from Princeton to train full time for the Olympic Games this summer in Rio de Janeiro, her coach on the U.S. National Team, Adam Krikorian, saw a different personality starting to shine through her reserved exterior. “When that competitiveness comes out, it’s natural to be more assertive,” he said.

In Johnson, Krikorian sees a tireless competitor. Even during practice, when no one is keeping score, Johnson will scramble to block every shot that her teammates attempt.

Krikorian also sees a leader, and for that he credits Princeton. As the first African American on the women’s national water polo team, Johnson has drawn crowds while on tour in Europe and in Asia. She’ll be featured in NBC’s advertising campaign for the Olympics. “There are lines and grown men wanting a picture or autograph with Ashleigh,” Krikorian said. “You don’t see that in our sport. We’ve had to pull her away. It’s new for all of us. There’s a responsibility with that — being a good role model.”

◆ By Alfred Miller ’11
Life of the Mind

ECONOMICS

Mortality Rising
Case-Deaton study reveals a sharp rise in death rates for middle-aged whites

A study by professors Anne Case ’88 and Angus Deaton captured headlines for days — even attracting the attention of President Barack Obama — for its startling finding of a steep rise in death rates for middle-aged American whites.

Mortality rates for middle-aged whites of both sexes rose by half a percent each year between 1999 and 2013, the study found, in sharp contrast to mortality rates for Americans of other ages and in other racial groups, which fell. The rise was particularly stark among middle-aged whites without a college degree. If rates had continued to decline at their historical levels before 1998, the study estimated that half a million deaths might have been avoided.

Both Case and Deaton are jointly appointed in the economics department and the Woodrow Wilson School, and also are married. Deaton received the 2015 Nobel Prize in economics.

The report, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences in November, suggests that the increase in mortality rates is not related to a growing number of deaths from cancer or chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease. Rather, it corresponds with a sharp rise in suicides, drug and alcohol poisoning, and cirrhosis of the liver. It also coincides with a dramatic increase in the use of strong painkillers and other opioid drugs, such as Vicodin and OxyContin, as well as a renewed heroin epidemic, much of it in rural parts of the country, affecting more whites, middle-aged people, and women than in previous epidemics.

“The opioid problem has got to be reined in,” Case says, “and the rise in suicide rates has to be addressed by the mental-health community and the people who fund it.”

Although social scientists and demographers have been writing for some time about the obstacles faced by working-class Americans due to the loss of manufacturing jobs and stagnating wage rates, the study provided surprising evidence of how serious the problem is.

The authors stumbled on the findings while studying government statistics on death rates and illness, and initially were skeptical that the figures were as bad as they appeared. “We both were sort of blown off our chairs when looking at that,” Deaton told The Washington Post.

Obama buttonholed the authors at a White House reception for American Nobel laureates shortly after the study was published. “We weren’t even through the door before he said, ‘Thank you for this work. This is really important,’” Case recalls.

Two medical journals previously had rejected the study. The New England Journal of Medicine, Case says, declined to publish the piece because while it identifies factors — such as suicides — driving the increased mortality rate, it did not explain what is causing those factors to rise, which she compared to the fire department refusing to answer a call until the homeowner could say what had caused the fire.

The attention that the findings garnered led to a discussion in the media of the sexist treatment sometimes experienced by women economists. Although Case is the lead author of the study, Deaton’s name frequently was listed first in press accounts. “I think women are often not heard, or are given second-billing, by both men and women,” Case says. “Does that concern me? Of course it does.”  

By M.F.B.
How Race Still Enslaves, And What Must Be Done

The Great Recession and systemic racism continue to afflict African Americans, and after seven years in office President Barack Obama has done little to address it, says Eddie S. Glaude Jr. *97, chair of the Department of African American Studies. In his new book, Democracy in Black: How Race Still Enslaves the American Soul, Glaude takes the president to task and calls for sweeping changes in American politics and the American outlook on race.

What made you write the book? Two things. One was the amazing activism on the part of young people in response to Michael Brown’s death in Ferguson. The other was the disconnect between the talk of economic recovery and what I knew about the true state of black America. There was this narrative that we had turned a corner economically when all the data suggested otherwise.

Has social media changed political mobilization? Prior to 2008, there was a massive amount of organizing around the World Trade Organization and the Iraq War. Prior to Ferguson, there was the Occupy movement and mobilization around the killing of Trayvon Martin. Much of that was on the ground, face to face, but we know more about it because of social media.

In Ferguson, people like [activists] DeRay Mckesson and Johnetta Elzie are doing amazing work without relying on mainstream media. Dr. King and others in the 1960s and ’70s had to time their protests in order to make the nightly news. That doesn’t have to happen now. It happens with a 140-character tweet, or a post on Vine, Instagram, or Snapchat.

The Occupy movement got a lot of attention, but some observers have suggested that the Tea Party has achieved more by electing candidates to office. Do you disagree? The Occupy movement has had a great influence on our public rhetoric and politics. Income inequality has become a central topic in the current presidential election because of it. I think the Occupy movement in some ways disrupted the corporate hold on the Democratic Party. Bernie Sanders’ campaign wouldn’t have been possible if it hadn’t been for Occupy. We will have to see about its effect downstream, in mayoral races, council races, state legislative races.

But the changes that happened in Ferguson weren’t attributable to the electoral process. Voting did not get the police chief fired or stop predatory policing. So to claim that they needed to channel protest into more established political processes misses the point. The Ferguson protesters transformed their circumstances.

“The beauty of democracy that extends dignity and standing to every individual has been hijacked in the name of security and corporate greed.”
— Eddie S. Glaude Jr. *97, chair of the Department of African American Studies

Is your book a response to Ta-Nehisi Coates’ book Between the World and Me? I’m more interested in describing the conditions under which ordinary people can struggle for more democratic arrangements. Coates isn’t interested in that. Struggling and questioning alone are not enough. You have to ask why you are struggling. We should struggle because we need a broader vision of democracy. Over the last two decades, Americans have seen a fundamental assault on democratic life in this country. The beauty of democracy that extends dignity and standing to every individual has been hijacked in the name of security and corporate greed, and the most vulnerable in our society have suffered because of it. In these kinds of moments it has always been the case that those on the margins give voice to a vision of democracy that saves us from ourselves.

I don’t want people to read my book and say, wow, it’s really bad for black people, and feel that they can do very little about it — that nothing is demanded of them. I want them to read it and say, now, what must we do?

You are very critical of President Obama. Why? President Obama is who he always has been. If you read The Audacity of Hope, there was no reason for us to think that he was going to come in and fundamentally upend things. Although we did: We green-screened him because the political options have so narrowed. The euphoria surrounding his election has not translated in any shape, form, or fashion to the transformation of the conditions of the black community or the most vulnerable in this country. The only thing he can say is that it could have been worse. That is not enough, in my view.

Can you describe your proposal for a “blank-out” in the next election? The blank-out campaign comes out of Jóse Saramago’s novel Seeing. It’s an allegory about the authoritarian underpinnings of so-called democracies. People begin to understand that the game is rigged, so they have to figure out how to expand their political options. They have an election, there is a huge
EXCERPT

Democracy in Black

Black churches, black colleges and universities, black workers, the black middle class, black communities in general find themselves between two worlds, one world coming undone and the other out of reach. The resources that once enabled us to think about racial progress persist now in nostalgic longings for a time passed or in invocations of a politics that doesn’t quite fit the moment. People continue to march. But there are voices, young bold voices, emerging that point toward a different path. People like the Reverend Al Sharpton attempt to silence those voices as he invokes Dr. King and his legacy.

What will happen if these institutions disappear altogether? What will provide us with the space to imagine ourselves differently and to courageously challenge white supremacy in this country? Or, as James Baldwin put it, “What will happen to all that beauty?”

Baldwin asked this question as he grappled with the political nature of race. Color, for him, “is not a human or a personal reality; it is a political reality.” The political reality was and remains that as long as white people valued themselves more than others because they were white and refused to examine their habits and assumptions, others would have to come together, build institutions, and act politically on the basis of color. The question about the status of “all that beauty” is one about what our experiences tell us about being human, and how they offer a pathway for democracy in which the lives of black people matter as much as everyone else. As white supremacy digs in its heels, as the complexity of black identities betrays the lie that all black people are alike, and as the economic crisis continues to devastate black America, we can’t help but ask “what will happen to all that beauty?” We haven’t reached any kind of promised land. We stray between lands, desperately holding on as we see so many people we love fall into poverty, go off to prison, or land in the grave.
Early readers did not love *The Great Gatsby* upon its April 1925 publication. F. Scott Fitzgerald 1917 clipped and pasted some of the first reviews into his *Gatsby* scrapbook, now in The Fitzgerald Papers of Princeton’s library — sometimes with withering, or self-deprecating, comments of his own appended. An arch reviewer for *The New Yorker* summarized the novel thus: “Gatsby, its heroic victim, is otherwise a good deal of a nut, and the girl who is its object is idealized only by Gatsby.” A few months later, *The New Yorker* would refer to Gatsby as “a rough diamond of devotion and chivalry, cast before swine on Long Island” and “a true romantic hero in North Shore Long Island high low life.”

Yet even the most eager naysayers, keen to pounce on the young novelist trying to follow the precocious successes of *This Side of Paradise* and *The Beautiful and Damned* with something more thoughtful, understood one thing: Gatsby’s romance. The plot, setting, and characters might be petty, and polluted with Jazz Age decadence, but there was something in Jay Gatsby that compelled and attracted. “Romantic constancy,” “heroic victim,” “devotion and chivalry,” “true romantic hero” — these words are there, even in *The New Yorker’s* snide assessments.

A year after Fitzgerald’s death in 1940, at 44, his friend Edmund Wilson 1916 oversaw the republication of *Gatsby*. It was one of the first paperbacks in the Armed Services editions printed during World War II and distributed free to 150,000 military personnel. This moment, of great cultural importance, kick-started *Gatsby’s* popularity: The novel caught something in America’s postwar spirit after World War II as it had not after World War I, and has since come to define that elastic concept “the American dream,” both at home and abroad. By now, *The Great Gatsby* has sold more than 25 million copies worldwide, with half a million sold each year.

What is it that compels? Fitzgerald’s command of language propels the narrative straight through our eyes and minds into our hearts. One word he deploys with precision and passion is “love” (and its corollaries, like “loved”). In a novel of less than 50,000 words, he uses the word love and its forms nearly 50 times — with half coming during the short, cataclysmic scene in the Plaza Hotel in Chapter 7. That scene, though, is the denial of love, the end of love, the dismissal of what Gatsby has felt for Daisy: the end of the relationship that is, quite literally, at the heart of the novel.

Is *Gatsby* a love story? Before we come to Jay and Daisy, consider the other love stories in the novel. Fitzgerald never uses the word “love” in discussing them except once, at the very end. Myrtle Wilson is Tom Buchanan’s mistress; they do not speak of love. Nick Carraway and Jordan Baker are together for that brief, hot summer of 1922, before death and deception — not theirs, as much as those of others — separate them for good. When Jordan tells Nick she is to marry someone else, he is moved: “Angry, and half in love, with her, and tremendously sorry, I turned away.” Half in love is not in love. These stories pale next to Daisy and Jay — or, rather, Jay and Daisy. He is the lover, and she the object of his love.

For a girl he meets in Kentucky and with whom he has a “month of love,” Jay Gatsby remakes his entire life, living in the illusion that someday they will be together. Neither a world at war nor her decision to marry a wealthy bully who is one of the more reprehensible characters in American literature changes this. Daisy Fay Buchanan’s presence is not even necessary for Gatsby’s love; he keeps up with her, and her married life, through the papers, and then from the distance of the little “courtesy bay” between West and East Egg.

Does Daisy ever love Gatsby? She says she does. She also says, though,
that she loves to see Nick at her supper table; that she loves her scarcely seen daughter; and, in that pivotal scene in the Plaza, that she has loved her husband, Tom.

“Oh, you want too much!” she cried to Gatsby. “I love you now — isn’t that enough? I can’t help what’s past.” She began to sob helplessly. “I did love him once — but I loved you too.”

Gatsby’s eyes opened and closed.

“You loved me too?” he repeated.

The essence of the words from Gatsby’s most famous line, “Can’t repeat the past? Why of course you can!” repeated here, makes what Daisy says all the more painful, and final. In the long retrospective section of Chapter 8, in which Nick finally hears straight from Gatsby how he became “Jay Gatsby,” and his meeting Daisy and the founding of his infinite love for her, we get the story only because all is, now, in the past. Gatsby returns to Louisville, we learn, after Daisy and Tom had left on their honeymoon. He wanders its streets, looking for “the pale magic of her face along the casual street,” but even then it is there only in his imagination.

Even though he has known from that time “that he had lost that part of it, the freshest and best, forever,” Gatsby spends the whole novel, as the story unfolds in its palimpsest of past and present (though never a future, and here is the novel’s deepest tragedy), trying to repeat those days with Daisy. His fidelity to an ideal makes Gatsby a romantic hero for modern times, a dreamer against the pains of reality. His dreams aren’t pure, and his path to them is a crooked one, but this makes him less of a cipher and more of a man. In the end, he could be said to have given his life for Daisy: After she, in his car, runs down her husband’s mistress, Gatsby takes the blame. To die for love is, in literature, a macabre and much-sentimentalized pinnacle of achievement.

Hollywood cannot stay away from Gatsby — most likely because Fitzgerald’s prose is full of sights and sound: of unforgettable images like golden shoulders and yellowy hair, and golden and silver slippers shuffling to “Beale Street Blues”; Daisy Buchanan’s white dresses; Gatsby’s gorgeous pink rag of a suit; a woman like an angry diamond. Yet no movie version can ever realize the book.

In Baz Luhrmann’s 2013 Gatsby, the theme music assigned to Daisy (Carey Mulligan) was Lana Del Rey’s “Young and Beautiful.” The floaty voice arises throughout the film, asking incessantly, “Will you still love me / When I’m no longer young and beautiful?” Yes, Gatsby will love Daisy when she’s no longer young and beautiful. He already does. She is not the girl Daisy Fay any longer, but another man’s wife and a little girl’s mother. This is why Fitzgerald, generous with details in describing other women in the novel, gives so little about Daisy. Is her hair yellow, like her daughter’s? Or dark and shining? What color are her eyes? How tall is she? We really have no idea — because it does not matter. It does not matter to Gatsby, and that is the point. What she looks like is immaterial, because she has become his Daisy, and that is all. If you read Daisy as a sketched-out, incomplete, shallow character, you’re seeing her perhaps as she is, but you are not seeing her through Gatsby’s eyes. Love may be blind, but it is his love, and it is true to the death. Once Gatsby is gone, we never see Daisy again.

Today the name Gatsby is a shorthand for the echoes of the Jazz Age that are most seductive — an elegant man at a party, his party, “the host, who stood on the porch, his hand up in a formal gesture of farewell.” It is in the name of hundreds of blogs, businesses, and a popular line of male grooming products. Above all, though, it is the made-up name of a man who created himself to win a woman. It embodies, to use Nick Carraway’s words (as one must, in the end), “an extraordinary gift for hope, a romantic readiness such as I have never found in any other person and which it is not likely I shall ever find again.” That Gatsby is also elusive, sentimental, and likely a criminal pales against this hope, this romantic readiness. A perfect hero happily in love with a perfect heroine who returns his love is the dullest of stories. But they are our imperfect Jay, our flawed Daisy: briefly together at last, so fleetingly, in the pages of the slim novel in its Scribner cover that has become the most famous book jacket of all time.

Anne Margaret Daniel ’99 teaches literature at the New School University in New York City. She has published extensively on American Modernism and on F. Scott Fitzgerald 1917, and is writing a book about him.
that marriage is not hopelessly patriarchal, heteronormative, or plain old-fashioned, to choose but a few of the dismissals sometimes leveled against it. Politics professor Stephen Macedo ’87 has explored the many aspects of this controversial but enduring institution in his recent book, *Just Married: Same-Sex Couples, Monogamy and the Future of Marriage*, and for the most part, he likes what he sees.

Nevertheless, according to a 2014 report by the Pew Research Center, a record share of Americans over age 25 remain unmarried and, if trends hold, many may never marry. When asked why they never had wed, they gave three broad reasons: They had not found the right partner, they did not feel ready, or they were not financially prepared to settle down.

In Macedo’s view, marriage “is not only desired but worth desiring.” Certainly, it confers many legal benefits, and studies show that on average, married people live longer, are more financially secure, and suffer from lower rates of depression than their unmarried counterparts. These benefits, of course, go hand in hand with legal and social restrictions: Married couples can’t uncouple easily and are expected to be sexually monogamous.

Though marriage is defined as the union of two people, Macedo points out, in the larger sense there is a third party to any marriage: society. “The existence of the legal form of marriage,” he writes in his book, “facilitates the fulfillment of people’s serious desire to get married and to be married as a matter of common, public knowledge: that is, in the eyes of one’s whole society, not just the eyes of one’s church or social circle.”

Wedding vows, in other words, are unique. Couples “make a distinctively comprehensive and open-ended commitment to care for each other in sickness as well as health, in vigor and old age. The law of marriage both signals and supports the distinctive and extensive mutual commitments and responsibilities that are central to its public meaning and role in people’s lives,” Macedo says.

Furthermore, because marriage is now entered into freely between spouses possessing equal legal rights, Macedo believes it serves as a social exemplar — even if it frequently is flouted. “[F]rom the standpoint of justice,” he continues, “monogamous marriage helps imprint the DNA of equal liberty onto the very fiber of family and sexual intimacy.”
Far from undermining the institution, then, same-sex unions strengthen it by extolling marriage as the ideal living arrangement for all couples, gay and straight, Macedo argues. Put it this way: It is hard to be socially transgressive and appear on the Times’ wedding page at the same time.

**But you say it’s time we moved in together**

*And raised a family of our own, you and me*

*Well, that’s the way I’ve always heard it should be*

*You want to marry me, we’ll marry*

— Carly Simon

The 2014 Pew report generated scare headlines that many millennials are doomed not to marry. Sociology professor Sara McLanahan believes the study masks deeper divisions.

McLanahan is the director of the Bendheim-Thoman Center for Research on Child Wellbeing and is the principal investigator for the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study, a collaborative effort with researchers at Columbia University that has tracked more than 5,000 children born from 1998 to 2000. She sees “diverging destinies” between rich and poor Americans.

More and more, Americans tread two paths. The well-educated and economically secure, she finds, are likely to get married and stay married. They report greater satisfaction with their marriages, and their divorce rates have declined to levels not seen since the 1960s. McLanahan believes that most well-off millennials eventually will wed, although the number who never marry also will rise simply because people who have not married by age 40 tend not to marry later. But those lifelong singles probably will not have children. The so-called “Murphy Brown” phenomenon of well-to-do single women choosing to have children on their own is a negligible factor in the number of out-of-wedlock births.

For those with less education and more precarious economic prospects, the situation is very different. Their reported desire to marry almost equals that of better-off Americans, and they may conceive children in the expectation that marriage will follow. But those desires are often unrealized. Instead, McLanahan’s research shows, they are much more likely to be apart five years after their child is born and to wander through serial romantic relationships. She traces the divide to the lessening stigma against out-of-wedlock births since the 1960s and to a loss of manufacturing jobs and growing wage stagnation since the 1970s and 1980s. While it has long been true that marriage rates decline during economic downturns, McLanahan is not confident that a stronger economy in the near future will reverse the trend.

What do never-married women seek in a potential mate? According to the Pew report, the top priority is steady employment. But it has grown harder for working-class men, who tend to hold traditional views of their role as family breadwinner, to achieve that. Men also are falling behind women in educational achievement, which further dampens their financial prospects.

In the short term, McLanahan advocates strengthening the social safety net for single parents, working to prevent unmarried pregnancies, and reducing the rate of incarceration, which exacerbates family breakups. The need for action is urgent, McLanahan says, because fragile families tend to perpetuate themselves.

“Relationship dissolution is only the first step toward household instability,” she wrote in a co-authored 2010 study for the Brookings Institution, and is linked to lower test scores and behavioral problems in children, especially boys. “With unstable and increasingly complex home environments, and with children’s development already moving off track by age 5, it is difficult to be optimistic that most of the children of unwed parents will grow into flourishing adults.”

In a world that seems to be increasing in conformity

*It’s harder and harder to be who you want to be*

*It takes a lot of courage to stand up and get what you need*

*Ah, lots of us are happy in a different kind of family*

— Gaia Consort

Ariana Myers, a graduate student in history and president of Princeton’s Queer Graduate Caucus, is transgender; she is in a romantic relationship with a partner who is nonbinary — that is, not identifying with either gender. Myers objects to what she calls “mononormism.” “Humans form all kinds of relationships,” she explains. “Especially those involving more than two people — the fact that they are not respected and are viewed as subversive is a big problem.”

From the 19th-century Oneida Community to the 1960s San Francisco communes, Americans always have experimented...
with different types of domestic arrangements. But should those relationships be recognized as marriage? Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia and others have suggested that, if same-sex marriage is legal, anything goes. Ryan Anderson ’04, a senior research fellow at the Heritage Foundation and author of the new book Truth Overruled: The Future of Marriage and Religious Freedom, believes that although there are no nobroad-based popular movements to recognize other nontraditional romantic arrangements as marriage, the logic behind the Supreme Court’s gay-marriage decision has stripped courts of a sound constitutional basis for denying them.

“It’s unclear, as a logical matter, what sort of limiting principle would now apply,” Anderson says.

Nevertheless, Macedo — who will debate Anderson on this topic at Notre Dame in February — resolutely stands athwart Scalia’s slippery slope. Sound policy considerations, he insists, justify limiting marriage to two people and two people only.

Polygamy has a long history, he writes, but almost always tends to empower wealthy men while leaving those of lesser means without partners, deprives women of a mate’s sole attention, and promotes jealousy and conflict at home. “While same-sex marriage helps us secure equal basic liberty and fair opportunity for all,” he concludes, “substantial evidence suggests that the spread of plural marriage would undermine these same values.” Accordingly, society is entitled to withhold recognition.

A related question is whether society ought to recognize a much broader array of committed relationships. Elizabeth Brake, a philosophy professor at Arizona State University, calls the modern rules of marriage “amatonormative,” privileging unions based on romantic love between two people as the preferred social arrangement. She wishes to see marital benefits extended to people in non-traditional relationships, such as roommates who share living expenses or a young person caring for an elderly neighbor.

Macedo agrees that there may be reasons to make it easier for such people to care for one another — but without redefining marriage. “It is not invidious,” he says in an interview, “at least after the inclusion of same-sex couples, for our law to support a form of commitment as widely sought and esteemed, as useful, and as flexible as marriage, even if a considerable number of our citizens are not able to take advantage of it, and a smaller number do not wish to have anything to do with it.”

It’s a beautiful night,
We’re looking for something dumb to do.
Hey baby,
I think I wanna marry you.

— Bruno Mars

Far from being a hidebound institution, marriage is always changing. Same-sex unions aside, consider how different it is today compared to a century ago. Couples get married later and divorce more easily. They are more likely to live together first. Women have equal property rights and often keep their birth names. Unions between people of different religions and races no longer raise an eyebrow. Marriage evolves and endures.

“I don’t think love is any less popular than it ever was,” observes Margot Stein ’83, a Reform rabbi in Philadelphia.

But as society has changed, the rituals associated with marriage have changed, too. Many couples now write their own vows, and few women promise to “obey” their husbands. The ketubah, the Jewish wedding contract, is now often worded to ensure a woman’s rights in divorce (to counteract Jewish law, which gives the power of divorce to the husband alone). “We try to find language within Jewish tradition to uphold Jewish values,” Stein says.

K. Jeanne Person ’84, an Episcopal priest and counselor, sees much the same trend in her Brooklyn congregation. “Making a lifelong commitment to someone is something humans yearn to do,” she says. Even many devoutly secular couples seek to sanctify their unions in a religious ceremony. “They come out of a sense of tradition and family,” Person says. “The ritual is meaningful to them, even if they don’t know what it is.”

However, today’s couples also feel more freedom to pick and choose what they want in their wedding ceremony, says Kathryn Hamm ’91, the president of GayWeddings.com and a consultant for the online site WeddingWire. More and more, Hamm says, a bride may have a man of honor rather than a maid of honor, or male as well as female attendants. If a wedding involves two grooms or two brides, they may walk down the aisle together.

With modern marriage so different and yet so familiar, the best perspective may come with time. Jim Farrin ’58 has been married to his wife, Marianne, for 55 years. They met when she was an undergraduate at Stanford and he was in business school, and have raised five children while living in 10 countries. Once their youngest left for college, Marianne decided to get a master’s degree in social work and became a licensed therapist. She then got a divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary, which brought the couple back to Princeton to live.

Asked the secret to a long and successful marriage, Farrin cites several things — listening, supporting each other, being flexible, and not losing sight of why you married each other in the first place — but he boils it down to one simple admonition: “Persevere.”

“Let’s face it, none of us is perfect,” he says. “But for me, the prize has always been to stay married to Marianne.”

Mark F. Bernstein ’83 is PAW’s senior writer.
The Mother of ALL LOVES

Loving my children has taught me how to close my eyes, hold my breath, and jump — over and over again

BY ALLISON SLATER TATE ’96

“He will be fine.” My husband gently nudges my shoulder as I stare at the small, tousled head of hair already bobbing away from me, my child’s enormous blue backpack shifting with his weight as he walks. I reluctantly close the garage door. I don’t like this. I leave my children all the time, but for some reason, it’s very hard for me to be the one left behind while he walks away, straight out into the world, without me.

Last spring, while I was away on a business trip, my husband decided to give in to the pleas of my then-7-year-old and fiercely independent third son and let him walk to school by himself, unaccompanied even by his older brother. It’s what he desperately wanted: to go to school under his own power, his own way, this child who seemed to come out of the womb telling the world, “Buzz off, I’ve got this.” By the time I returned home from my trip, he already had been making the short trek for several days, and the proverbial ship had sailed.

We don’t live far from the elementary school; it’s a walk of a little over a quarter of a mile, and there are two crossing guards and sidewalks the entire way. But it’s a busy road, and my son has to walk in front of a few office-building driveways and a convenience-store parking lot, and in 2015 we hear of every single bad thing that happens to a child, ever. Beyond all that, he’s still just plain little. Therefore, his newfound and treasured modicum of independence comes with not a small amount of maternal angst.

Parenting is incredibly wonderful; parenting is incredibly hard. For me, the worrying is one of the most excruciating parts of the entire endeavor. I am, admittedly, not someone who does especially well with uncertainty or danger in general: My third-grade teacher solemnly told my parents in their parent-teacher conference circa 1982 that I was “exceedingly cautious” and “risk-averse.”

I’m not sure what I expected parenthood to be like. I think I dived into it without really considering what it would entail past diapers and bottles, which, though contrary to my usual instincts, was probably for the best. If I had known what I was really signing up for, I likely would have avoided pregnancy, too — because, as it turns out, parenting is any adrenaline junkie’s dream come true.

We’re past diapers and bottles now, and instead, we’re neck deep in the rest of this adventure: the first days of school and anxious, excited, intimidated creatures clutching their new notebooks and lunch boxes, the failed tests and the speech delays and the occasional orthodontic procedure, the unrequited crushes, the friendships that fade away unexpectedly, the last picks for the schoolyard flag-football teams, and the pressure of possessing a high school transcript. It turns out that in those moments when they were infants and I wondered if I would ever sleep again, the answer was no, not with the abandon I ever did before.

Parenthood isn’t all heart-stopping moments, of course. Sometimes it is warm, soapy baths and bedtime stories under quilts. It’s toothless smiles and footed pajamas and handwriting paper and Halloween masks that don’t quite fit. It’s unexpected heart-to-hearts on a car ride home from a party and ice cream on a Wednesday afternoon just because. It’s remembering how exciting an old school-playground carousel can be, or how thrilling that first ocean wave is that knocks over little legs. It’s watching the light bulb go on when a child finally realizes he can read.

It’s catching a profile at a certain angle and realizing you are seeing the face of a future adult — and maybe an echo of your own parents. It’s so many snapshots of completely perfect moments when I least expected them, the memories I never knew I would have that now sustain me when my teen and tween declare me the worst and so annoying.

On so many days, though, parenting also means I’m thrown into the depths of an ocean, and I have to swim. I’m crossing bridges that stretch farther and higher than I can see. I’m diving down hills on roller skates with no brakes. I’m jumping out of airplanes and hoping my parachute works. This is what parenting is: It’s the most breath-stealing thrill ride you can imagine, demanding we make what seem like enormous, game-changing decisions armed only with the knowledge we have at any given moment, depending on the faith we have in our instincts and hoping it is well placed. I lay my head — like every other parent, I suspect — on my pillow each night weary.
from the sheer weight of it all, convinced I’m mucking it up right and left.

But that weight is a force, and the act of parenting — of loving a child — changes a person. It pushes me out of my comfort zone. It forces me to be brave. It compels me to be compassionate, to soften my edges, to allow for gray areas even when I want the answers to be in simple black and white. This is the kind of love people write songs and poetry about. If someone wrote a love song about parenting, for me, it would be like a Simon and Garfunkel song: intricate and sometimes quirky, with lyrics that are purposeful and elegant in their construction, even if I don’t notice at first. It’s not showy or brazen, but strong, pulsing, enduring, soft-spoken but fierce. Parenthood is a story. And it makes me better.

Letting my son walk to school by himself is the most loving thing I can do for him right now, and so I will do it, even if it means that I live with that rush of anxiety as he steps off our driveway each morning. After all, while “risk-averse” is a reflex I have fought myself, it’s not how I hope my children spend their one “wild and precious life,” as the poet Mary Oliver names it.

So I find a way to push my heart back down my throat to its rightful place in my chest, and I kiss my son’s head. I stand there while he pulls up his socks and puts on his shoes, his 8-year-old body impossibly big and sturdy and still somehow heartbreakingly delicate and fragile. My chest swells with the pride of a mother whose child has made a decision and follows his own will. I pray because I cannot control everything — I can’t keep the unpredictable from happening no matter how much I hover, no matter how much I love him — and because I have to let him go anyway. Then I tell him goodbye, because that’s my job: to teach him how to go out into the world on his own and be OK with it, even when it feels just a little bit scary.

Allison Slater Tate ’96 is a freelance writer and editor and the mother of four children. Find her on Facebook, Twitter, and at allisonslatertate.com.
A Songwriter’s Favorite

LOVE SONGS

When neither words nor melodies alone suffice

BY RUTH GERSON ’92

The greatest love songs arise from the greatest passion, and that passion can emerge from a limitless number of situations and relationships, real and imagined. Above all, they are written and sung by one — and only one — person to an equally unique individual, about a single experience of love like no other. These verses come when words or melodies on their own will not suffice, and the overpowering sense of love — or, perhaps, the equally overpowering lack of it — consumes a soul and demands to be heard. The source of that passion is the specificity of the person singing it — her voice; the person she is singing it to — his ear; and what just happened to make her sing it to him now. What springs forth is a universal expression that we can all relate to: The greatest love songs allow the many to plug into a dialogue between lover and beloved and experience the infinity of love.

Take Dolly Parton’s “I Will Always Love You,” which you will find on just about every list of the greatest love songs ever written. It is one of the best-selling and most award-winning singles of all time. Whether it’s the virtuosic, soaring vocals of Whitney Houston (1992); the elegant, tender endearments of Linda Ronstadt (1975); or the soulful power of Linda Ronstadt (1975); or one of many other performances — at some point, somebody will make you feel the love. Surprisingly, Parton’s love song wasn’t written for a lover — she wrote it as she left her partner, Porter Wagoner. She had started her career with Wagoner, and when she wanted to go out on her own, he didn’t want to let her go. “There was a lot of grief and heartache there, and he just wasn’t listening to my reasoning for my going,” Parton recalled in an interview in 2011. “So, I thought, ‘Well, why don’t you do what you do best?’ ... I went home and out of a very emotional place in me at that time, I wrote the song ‘I Will Always Love You.’”

Parton played it for Wagoner, who was so moved he cried and said he would let her go — as long as she allowed him to produce the song. She did, and it soared to No. 1 on the country chart. It was a transformative moment in her life, shared with a person of great consequence to her. “I Will Always Love You” meant one thing to her, another to him, and something different to each person who has heard it. It exemplifies the individual experience of a singer and a listener, composing an expression that speaks to the hearts of many.

“I Will Always Love You” is not my favorite love song, though Dolly Parton is one of my favorite songwriters and singers. My favorite love songs possess the same specificity of “I Will Always Love You” and bear two additional qualities: They are embedded in the creative occurrence of love, and are sung from lover to beloved.

Stevie Wonder’s “Isn’t She Lovely,” released in 1976, rejoices in the birth of Wonder’s daughter Aisha, as he shares the gift of her life with his partner, Yolanda, to whom he sings directly: “Londi, it could have not been done, without you who conceived the one.” “Isn’t She Lovely” brings us into the awe of love, tracing flashes of joy. In the first moment of the song, we aurally witness Aisha’s birth, with intensely beating drums, surfacing into a crescendo of harmony and the sound of a newborn crying. We then hear the stirring, sweet sounds of a toddler saying, “Feed me,” and the heart-melting moment of a mother’s adoration. Wonder’s daughter.Aisha,而言是爱之源，爱之心，爱之魂。

The same is true of Linda Creed and Michael Masser’s “The Greatest Love of All,” an expression both mighty and tender that originally was recorded by George Benson in 1977 for the movie The Greatest (a Muhammad Ali biopic) and brought to the top of the charts by Whitney Houston in 1985. Creed wrote the lyrics as she faced breast cancer — as Wonder celebrates the joy of love — its creativity, humor, and hope.

The same is true of Linda Creed and Michael Masser’s “The Greatest Love of All,” an expression both mighty and tender that originally was recorded by George Benson in 1977 for the movie The Greatest (a Muhammad Ali biopic) and brought to the top of the charts by Whitney Houston in 1985. Creed wrote the lyrics as she faced breast cancer — she hoped to tell her children what she wished for them and how to live their lives without her. Though the song was inspired by individual experience, what is conceived each time it is sung and heard is a universal cognition of the power and fortitude of self-love: “Learning to love yourself,
Want to sing or create a love song of your own?

Ruth Gerson recommends these favorite love songs — available at PAW Online — that are fairly easy to sing. For her suggestions on how to write one yourself, go to paw.princeton.edu. You'll also find her singing tips and one of her own songs, “Love For You.”

“At Last” by Gordon/Warren
“My Funny Valentine” by Rodgers/Hart
“First Day of My Life” by Bright Eyes
“Unforgettable” by Irving Gordon
“How Can I Tell You” by Cat Stevens
“Into My Arms” by Nick Cave
“The Nearness of You” by Carmichael/Washington
“Falling Slowly” by Hansard/Irglová
“Crazy Love” by Van Morrison
“Too Shy to Say” by Stevie Wonder
“I Can’t Help Falling in Love With You” by Peretti/Creatore/Weiss
“Make You Feel My Love” by Bob Dylan
“Fly Me to the Moon” by Howard/Ballard
“Just the Way You Are” by Billy Joel
“Our Love Is Here to Stay” by George and Ira Gershwin

Do you have a favorite love song? Tell us what it is — and if there’s a story behind it — at paw.princeton.edu.
It doesn’t matter where you’re going, but rather who you have beside you.
It doesn't matter where you're going, but rather who you have beside you.


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Finding Love at Princeton

Is campus dating out of style?

BY MARY HUI ’17

Last February, large red posters titled “How To Win At A First Date” appeared around campus, and leaflets were placed on tables in the dining halls. All offered tips for how to have a great first date. Tip one: Be spontaneous. Tip six: It’s OK to seem interested. Tip seven: Have fun, because it’s just a date. And at the bottom, a hashtag declared: #BringDatingBack.

The posters and leaflets were part of a campaign run each Valentine’s Day for the last several years by the Love and Fidelity Network, a national program based in Princeton that promotes love and “sexual integrity” at universities. The network was founded by Cassandra Hough ’07, who also co-founded Princeton’s Anscombe Society as a sophomore in response to her frustrations with the campus “hookup” culture. Similar poster campaigns took place at 30 other schools, including several Ivies.

“Many of us ... were frustrated that the intellectual and social life was dominated by this casual, ‘anything goes’ mentality toward sex and relationships,” says Hough. There was no campus conversation that took sex and relationships seriously, she says, “or that even talked about dating, and how dating could be a fun, interesting way to get to know people.”

The #BringDatingBack hashtag prompts the question: Is dating dead at Princeton? Is courtship — with all the attention, time, and commitment it requires — too much for students to squeeze into already-packed schedules?

With all the Princeton marriage photos filling up the back pages of Class Notes, PAW readers might be forgiven for thinking that everyone finds love at Old Nassau. The Alumni Records office knows of 4,089 couples in which both partners are Princeton alumni.

Katherine Hawkins Hwang ’15 is half of one of those couples. “I came in expecting to marry,” she says. Hwang graduated from a small Christian school in Montana, and a fifth of her graduating class of 30 married out of high school. Arriving at Princeton, she thought, “If things ran the normal course ... I would find someone” on campus.

And things did “run the normal course.” Katherine met Daniel Hwang ’15 during her freshman year at the Princeton Evangelical Fellowship, where they were both members. They started dating in their sophomore year, got engaged over winter break of their senior year and, after juggling the planning of their wedding and writing their theses, they married shortly after their graduation. They now live together in a cozy apartment in town and work as ministry interns at the Fellowship.

Daniel wasn’t the first in his family to find love at Princeton. His father, William Hwang ’84, met his wife, Esther Ya-Ya Hwang ’83, on campus. Daniel’s brother, Jonathan Hwang ’09, also married a fellow student, Melissa Plapp ’09. Coincidentally, Katherine’s senior-year roommate, Eunhae Park ’15, also met her husband Jojo Cheng ’15 at Princeton. They got married the day after their graduation.

Sarah Porter ’16 — like many other students — has had a different campus experience. She also arrived at Princeton expecting that a long-term relationship — perhaps even marriage — would be inevitable. But she has not found love, and “there haven’t been very many sub-archway kisses,” she says. She is disillusioned with the almost non-existent dating culture at Princeton, where busy students turn to hooking up on the Street to sidestep their aversions to commitment and potential rejection.

“People used to date. Now people are so afraid of commitment or having ‘the talk,’” Porter says. “It’s almost cliché, the ‘so what are we?’ conversation.”

For decades, dating at Princeton was circumscribed by the women’s visiting rules known as parietals. Women arrived by the busload for campus parties, but the rules put a damper on what could happen afterward. “You could entertain a Lady (it would most certainly be a Lady with a capital ‘L’, of course) any way you wished ... until 6 p.m.,” PAW Online columnist and Princetoniana expert Gregg Lange ’70 has written. “The rule was memorialized as Sex after Six.” By the end of the 1960s, with the beginnings of coeducation, parietals were virtually dead, a victim of lax enforcement. Lange recalled how “one
memorable 5:25 a.m. fire in Patton Hall in the ’60s spilled half as many forbidden women onto the lawn as students (the landlord was not pleased).”

In 1971, two years after coeducation began, the male-female ratio was 19 to 1 — a rough dating environment by any measure. Openly gay students in those days were rare. Today, the male-female ratio is about 50-50, and relationships all along the gender spectrum are far more open. Some students suggest that social bonding encouraged in the residential-college system has made it easier and more convenient to develop romantic relationships even in the first months at Princeton. Leila Clark ’18 says that she has seen numerous “zee-group couples,” referring to students from the same residential-college advising groups. Others take more time: “I see a lot of people in relationships, especially by senior year,” says Daniela Cosio ’16.

Still, others place less emphasis on finding love. The media have covered the demise of dating in college, largely replaced by a hookup culture centered on casual sexual relationships. A 2013 study by University of Portland sociologist Martin Monto and co-author Anna Carey found that while contemporary college students did not report having more frequent sex or more sexual partners than undergraduates in the 1988–1996 period, they were more likely to have casual partners and less likely to be in a long-term relationship.

About 2,500 Princeton students use the social-networking app Friendsy (among other apps) to meet people, specifying whether they want to find a friend, date, or hookup. According to Friendsy, which was founded by Michael Pinsky ’15, almost half of the clicks have been for friends. About a third are for hookups, and 17 percent for dates.

Everyone is “so truly busy,” Porter says. “Here, you have to very purposely set aside time [for dating]. You can easily spend 100 percent of your time on schoolwork. It’s like what people say: You can pick two of three things: school, social, sleep.” Partly because of this perpetual time crunch, the various aspects of students’ lives are packed together, she continues. “In the same spaces, I hook up with people, I do school work, and at the same time balance academics and athletics — all within such a small sphere and in one day,” she says. The pressure makes it difficult “to relax and go with the flow when meeting someone.”

Students “don’t dial back” when they party, Porter says — the intensity carries over from the classroom to the Street. “The idea of ‘fun’ is Saturday night at 1 a.m. and all things associated with that: the grimy dance floor, and definitely alcohol,” she says. Has the national spotlight on sexual assault changed the environment? Some undergraduates interviewed suggest that while the hookup scene has not grown smaller, students are more likely to seek consent.

“Everything is geared toward work. Everyone’s busy, therefore no one commits,” says a junior from France. He declined to start a relationship during his first two years on campus because of his schedule, but has a girlfriend now. Even so, the two students put their work first and don’t impose “unrealistic expectations” on each other, he says.

Christy Wampole, an assistant professor of French and Italian at Princeton, writes about contemporary life, irony, and our distracted culture in a new book, The Other Serious: Essays for the New American Generation. She says today’s dating culture is part of a general tendency to want to control and organize every aspect of our lives: “One’s love life is something to be managed” like finances and career choices, she says in an email. “Online, you can customize your preferences and opt for the most ‘efficient’ companion. ... As much as possible, chance is eliminated from the equation.” That’s a change from traditional relationships, which — as anyone who has been in one knows — are nothing if not messy.

Graduate students, a bit further along in life, seem more willing to start long-term relationships and date fellow master’s-degree and Ph.D. students. Macs Smith, a fifth-year doctoral student, says that his department, French and
Italian, has had three marriages and an engagement in the last calendar year, two of them between students who met on campus. Yet grad students lament that it’s not easy to meet people at Princeton: A friend of Smith once described the University as “a place where sexual tension goes to die.”

The Graduate School tries to spice up student social life through regular activities and excursions, including speed-dating events held once or twice a year for heterosexual and LGBT students. But Natalia Cordova, a fifth-year neuroscience Ph.D. student, observes that planners often must solicit women to sign up and limit participation by men.

“You get that email and you’re like, wow, I don’t want to go to this,” she says, suggesting that this makes the men appear a bit ... desperate. “It sounds like the odds are good, but the goods are odd,” she said. (To be fair, men still make up 61 percent of all graduate students — and 74 percent of grad students in engineering.)

Are students satisfied with the campus social scene today? That’s not clear. In her book The End of Men, Hanna Rosin argues that hookups can work well for college women, who often see them as a way to have a satisfying sex life while focusing on academic and professional goals. But New York University sociologist Paula England, who conducted an online survey of 24,000 students at 21 colleges, found different results.

Both men and women wished there were more opportunities at school to find someone to have a relationship with, and said they would like to be in an exclusive relationship if they could find the right person. Only 16 percent of surveyed women wished their schools offered more opportunities for hooking up, compared to 48 percent of the men.

Pamela Soffer ’15 suggests that women are more likely to be disappointed in hookups than men are. Soffer wrote her senior thesis in psychology on online dating, surveying 200 Princeton students who had been shown sexualized or non-sexualized photographs. The men responded to the sexualized photos by increasing the value of short-term qualities and lessening the value of long-term relationships. Extending her thesis to Princeton’s social scene, she hypothesizes that Prospect Street functions like the sexualized photos, and men in that context would exhibit a greater desire than women for casual relationships. No one is completely satisfied. “There’s a conflict of expectations,” she says. “Most of the disappointment, most of the controversy with hookups ... comes from that.”

So the Love and Fidelity Network’s Valentine’s Day campaign is likely to continue, its members hoping to show students a different path — and to teach the basics of courtship. Most students he knows do indeed want a real relationship, says Thomas Clark ’18, the vice president of the Anscombe Society — but “we don’t know what that is, what that entails.”

For some, being in love means feeling affection or passion, “almost like a giddiness,” Clark says. For others, love is not just a passive feeling, but is rather “a choice, a decision.” That makes love hard to talk about.

“Everyone is looking for love in some way,” he says, “but differences in vocabulary mean that we end up completely missing each other.”

Mary Hui ’17 is a PAW contributor and Press Club member.

ALUMNI LOVE STORIES

A PROSPECT PROPOSAL “Caroline Turner ’00 and I met our freshman year in an intro French class, but we really didn’t travel in the same or overlapping circles. She was a lacrosse recruit from Long Island, super-smart in economics and Shakespeare. I was from Kentucky, and spent most of my time at The Daily Princetonian. Our sophomore year, we got assigned to the same Civil War precept, and became fast friends. We dated on and off through college, but after graduation, we drifted apart. After Reunions one year, we decided to give it another shot. In 2006, six years after we graduated, I took her to Prospect Garden and gave her a copy of Le Petit Prince — because we never did forget our French — with my wedding proposal inscribed in the opening pages. She opened it up, and said yes, and we kissed on the same exact bench where we had our first kiss as undergraduates.” — Ian Shapira ’00

TWO FOR TEA “As freshmen, Randy and I met as members of the sailing team, but I thought he was loud and bossy. However, my roommate, Nana Pavsek ’75, knew him from biology class and said he was really nice. Not long after, I was returning on my bike from a canceled sailing-team practice and saw him headed the other way. I took a deep breath and said, ‘No practice today.’ We biked back to Holder, where I offered him some iced tea, not knowing that he was, and is, obsessed with iced tea. That was October 1971. We’ve now been married 40 years. We still sail together, and he still drinks iced tea.” — Lorraine Longino Barba ’75

DANCING ON WINDOWSILLS “‘Killer and Killer’ was the nickname coined for us by our friend Mark Vargo ’85. Gail Shuttleworth ’86 was captain of the Princeton rifle team and I was a black belt with the Princeton tang soo do karate team. One night we spent dancing on the windowsill at Tower Club with music blasting in the empty living room. We later heard that people walking on Prospect Street thought there was a big party and no space on the dance floor, but it was a party of two. Now that the children are away at college, perhaps it is time for some more dancing on the windowsills.” — Jeff Rosaijsky ’85

Read more Princeton love stories — and add your own — at paw.princeton.edu.

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Not Your Grandma’s
ROMANCE

For these alumni authors, there is always a happy ending

BY JENNIFER ALTMANN

Many people think of romance novels as formulaic stories where a powerful man finds true love with a delicate young thing. The cover no doubt features a shirtless hunk or a lot of cleavage — or both.

But the Princeton alums who write romances are much more inventive than that. Ann Herendeen ’77’s Pride/Prejudice is a takeoff of Jane Austen’s novel in which Mr. Darcy and Mr. Bingley have mind-blowing sex — with each other. Granville Burgess ’69’s Stone in the Crick is about a young Amish woman who falls for a good-looking outsider — and there’s no sex at all. Anna Muzzy ’92’s First To Burn is a paranormal suspense story about a sixth-century Viking who is immortal.

Most of the half-dozen Princetonians who write romance fiction or work in the field do have one thing in common: They grew up reading romance novels. “I started reading romance over my aunt’s shoulder at the beach at 8 years old,” recalls freelance editor Krista Stroever ’97. “I learned to read fast. I had to finish the page before she turned it!”

After years of reading romance novels — and careers as lawyers, librarians, and computer programmers — these alums decided to try their hand at writing them.

Often derided as poorly written or tacky, romance novels are major moneymakers for the struggling book business: Sales reached $1.08 billion in 2013, 13 percent of adult-fiction book sales. Each month, romance publisher Harlequin releases about 110 titles in 34 languages. “The revenue from romance is what allows publishers to publish literary fiction — if you buy a romance, you’re supporting literary fiction,” says author Nancy Herkness ’79.

And yet romance is the Rodney Dangerfield of literature — it gets no respect. “I get comments like, when are you going to write a real book?” Herkness says. Many in the field think their genre is disrespected because most of the novels are by women, for women, and about women. The rejection from most literary quarters has fostered tight bonds among those who write and read these works. “The New York Times isn’t reviewing us, so we’ve developed our own support systems,” says author Mindy Klasky ’86. Like many of her peers, she often helps writers who are just starting out: “We spend a lot of time tooting other people’s horns.”

The books’ covers — and the sexual content of some of them — lead many to consider it embarrassing to read a romance. “People would crochet covers for their novels,” says producer and director Laurie Kahn ’78, who spent four years researching and filming her 2015 documentary Love Between the Covers, which looks at the community of women who create and read romance novels. “Most people’s stereotype is the lonely, pathetic woman living out her fantasies by reading and writing romance novels, but nothing could be further from the truth.” Her film profiles a surgeon who writes romance novels, as well as authors who are earning millions of dollars a year.

Romance novels today encompass an incredibly diverse set of subjects and styles. “It’s not your grandma’s romance,” says Kahn, who lists a few of the dozens of subgenres that have sprouted up in the last few decades: paranormal, Western, vampire, time travel, lesbian, science fiction, Christian. (The well-worn tropes still exist too, such as billionaire meets ingénue, May/December relationship, the lost heir.) The sexual content ranges wildly, from sweet (read: chaste) to spicy to BDSM (bondage, domination, sadism, and masochism). The books treat women’s sexuality positively, countering the many negative depictions in our culture, Kahn points out.

And though their characters run the gamut, the stories’ destinations are the same: They all have an HEA, a happily ever after.

The last decade has brought increasing academic attention to romance, with several scholarly conferences (two held at Princeton), the debut of the Journal of Popular Romance Studies, and the Popular Romance Project, conceived by Kahn, which studies romance and has received funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Internet has revolutionized the genre. E-readers
Romance novels — plus one documentary film — by Princetonians
provide privacy and less expensive e-books, with some titles selling for as little as 99 cents. Low prices are a boon to romance readers, who are some of the most voracious consumers of fiction. Romance Writers of America says these readers usually finish a novel in one week, and some try for the “century challenge” — reading 100 in one year. Self-publishing has offered a way for the novice writer to get her work seen and perhaps snapped up by a big publisher, which happened to Herendeen. (Fifty Shades of Grey, the biggest-selling romance in decades, initially was self-published.) Some of the alumni writing romance are selling tens of thousands of books and making a healthy living, while others are sticking with their day jobs as they work on building an audience.

Anna Muzzy was inspired to write First To Burn, her first published novel, by Beowulf. She ran across a couple of books about the fictional Scandinavian warrior from the sixth century while serving as the librarian at her children’s preschool co-op. “I started thinking, who are these guys in the back of Beowulf’s boat?” Her next thought: What if they were immortal? Her novel is a paranormal suspense story — a popular romance genre — in which immortal Vikings “fight each other and fall in love along the way,” says Muzzy, who writes under the pen name Anna Richland.

The main character, hotshot Special Forces Sgt. Wulf Wardsen, once battled alongside Beowulf and now serves in Afghanistan, where he falls in love with inquisitive Army Capt. Theresa Chiesa, who went to Princeton. Muzzy drew from her own experience for that part of the book: She was in ROTC at Princeton and served as an Army lawyer for eight years, deployed to Macedonia and other countries (but not Afghanistan). To create dialogue that followed the original Beowulf — an epic poem written in Old English sometime before the 11th century — she produced her own translation for parts of the poem.

Muzzy, whose books are published by Carina Press, a division of Harlequin, went in a different direction with His Road Home, which won the 2015 RITA award for best novella from the Romance Writers of America. The book, a contemporary military story, is about a Special Forces medic who loses both legs and the ability to speak after stepping on a mine in Afghanistan. Muzzy, who is white, made the main characters Korean American and Mexican American. “I was interested in writing a book where everyone wasn’t Caucasian,” she says. In online forums, readers praised the book for its interracial romance and matter-of-fact exploration of sexuality for people with disabilities; several asked her to write a sequel, which she is working on.

“There is a powerful feedback loop between writers and readers in romance,” says William Gleason, the chair of Princeton’s English department, who studies American genre writing and has students read a romance novel in his course “American Best Sellers.” He wants students “to take romance seriously, in the same way they might take a detective novel or a mystery. And to learn that unlike any other cultural industry, this is almost exclusively written by women for women, which many critics think is one reason it gets denigrated. It’s remarkable when you realize how powerful and successful the industry is.”

Gleason co-organized the two academic conferences on romance novels at Princeton. The first, in 2009, was billed as “the first national conference to focus on the multiple ways that romance novels — long the most maligned of literary texts — can provide rich critical insight for the study of American culture, politics, and society.” Gleason says an increasing number of professors are making romance their academic specialty.

“There can be so much stigma in admitting that you read it
or like it,” he says, “but it’s one of the most powerful genres in
the world, certainly in American culture. This is the genre of
stories about love, one of the most powerful human emotions
we have.”

Nancy Herkness loves romances for their emotion. “Falling in love is one of the most intense things you do in your life, and if you’re married, you can’t keep doing that unless you read a romance.” She studied poetry at Princeton, and after running the cosmetics department at Abraham & Straus on Long Island, she got a job writing software programs. She married and had children, and decided to try writing romances. So far, she’s published eight novels. Her newest, *The CEO Buys In* — about self-made billionaire Nathan Trainor, who makes a bet that he can find a woman who loves him for who he is, not his money — has sold 100,000 copies since July.

A major part of Herkness’ success, she says, is thanks to Jeff Bezos ’86, the founder of Amazon. Her books are published by Montlake Romance, a division of Amazon, which sent traditional book publishers into a panic seven years ago when it moved from selling books to also publishing them. Amazon gives authors a better royalty rate on e-books than most traditional publishers and a greater say in marketing decisions such as cover designs, Herkness says — and authors benefit from Amazon’s marketing prowess. The cover of *The CEO Buys In* was a screensaver on some of Amazon’s Kindle e-readers the week it was published, which sent it to No. 6 on the Kindle bestseller list.

Herkness loves writing, but for her, the pursuit is as much about being an entrepreneur as about being an author. “I write to be read,” she says. “I have to put on my entrepreneurial hat and sell books.” When she noticed small-town romances were selling well, she thought, “I grew up in small-town West Virginia. I can pick up that market, no problem.” The result was her *Whisper Horse* novels, which are set in the fictional town of Sanctuary, W.Va., and have won numerous awards.

The changes to the book business wrought by the Internet have benefited romance writers. Self-publishing — once a small part of the business called vanity publishing — has exploded, producing more than 458,000 titles in 2013, a 17 percent increase over the previous year. For several hundred dollars, an author can submit a manuscript to a company that will produce a cover and list the book for sale on Amazon and other venues. Many of these exist only as e-books, while others can be printed on demand.

Ann Herendeen is a cataloging librarian at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City who decided to give writing a try in her 40s. She self-published her first novel, *Phyllida and the Brotherhood of Philander*, in 2005, when it was rejected by traditional publishers. The novel is a Regency romance — a popular subgenre setting the story in early 19th-century England — turned on its head. The penniless and curvaceous heroine achieves happiness when she strikes a deal to marry Andrew Carrington that gives them both freedom — he lets her write gothic romance novels, and she lets him continue his liaisons with men, including the dashing Matthew Thornby. *Library Journal* called the novel “a brilliant exploration of love, sexuality, class, and gender.”

“I wanted to tell this story as a love story, as opposed to the usual way — ‘my husband is gay, it’s a tragedy, boo hoo,’” Herendeen says. “The hero has a wife and boyfriend, and everyone can accept and like each other.” When the book was published, there were not many romance novels with main characters who were bisexual, she says, especially in

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**Nancy Herkness ’79**
Author
*The CEO Buys In*
Genre: contemporary romance

**Mindy Klasky ’86**
Author
*Girl’s Guide to Witchcraft*
Genre: paranormal romance

**Anna Muzzy ’92**
Writing as Anna Richland
Author
*First To Burn*
Genre: paranormal suspense romance

**Laurie Kahn ’78**
Director
*Love Between the Covers*
Documentary film on romance fiction
Romance novels have several levels of sexual content

**Sweet**
ONLY KISSING

**Mild**
LOVEMAKING, IF IT OCCURS, IS ALLUDED TO BUT NOT DESCRIBED

**Hot/Spicy**
EXPLICIT DESCRIPTIONS OF SEX

**Scorcher**
FREQUENT GRAPHIC SEX SCENES

historical settings, though this now is a burgeoning corner of romance literature.

Eighteen months after Herendeen published the book, Rakesh Satyal ’02, then an editor at HarperCollins, contacted her, and Harper brought out its own version in 2008. Two years later it published Herendeen’s *Pride/ Prejudice: A Novel of Mr. Darcy, Elizabeth Bennet, and Their Forbidden Lovers*, which revisits the classic novel by uncovering, says Herendeen, the homosexual and bisexual subtext hidden in the original. “Austen created characters who clearly love each other, but there’s no way to discover why Darcy is so into Bingley. To me, bisexuality makes sense. The men could be lovers in the physical sense, and the story would still be the same story.” Elizabeth Bennet and Charlotte Lucas also have a sexual relationship. The book’s explicit sex scenes culminate in an orgy. The novel was a finalist for the 2011 Lambda Literary Award in the bisexual fiction category.

Herendeen researched gay life during the time period, and posited that in a society in which men had intense friendships and people made months-long visits to each other’s homes, such intimacies could take place without causing a scandal. On the website Goodreads, one commentator on the book wrote, “Sometimes I really thought, ‘Oh my God, what if she’s right? What if she interpreted *Pride and Prejudice* correctly and I was wrong all the time?’”

The novel is a form of fan fiction, which features characters from a TV show, movie, or another novel. One of the first examples of fan fiction appeared in the ’60s, when people penned stories in which Kirk and Spock of *Star Trek* were sexually linked. Fan fiction with same-sex pairings is known as slash fiction, and Herendeen refers to her works as “m/m/f ménage told as a romance, a love story with two happy endings.”

Mindy Klasky, who has written bestselling “spicy” romances — in addition to fantasy novels — says writing a sex scene “actually has a lot in common with writing a sword-fighting scene. You have to keep track of the arms and legs, and make sure it’s physically possible.” Many romance authors “won’t call them sex scenes. They call them love scenes, because you’re writing about the emotion behind those body parts.”

Klasky, a former litigator and law librarian who started her fiction career 15 years ago, writes three to four books a year and says she earns six figures. Several of her books were issued by major publishers, but these days she self-publishes much of her work because it gives her more control and more profit. Her most successful book is *Girl’s Guide to Witchcraft*, the first in a series of light paranormal romances about a librarian who is a witch and has found a spell that makes her irresistible to men. She’s sold 50,000 copies and given away another 500,000 to drive readers to buy other books in the series, a technique traditional publishers wouldn’t typically use, she says. The latest book in her vampire romance series comes out in June.

While some of Klasky’s novels are quite explicit, other alums are writing romances that are downright chaste: Caroline Coleman ’86, a onetime litigator, wrote a Christian romance about Søren Kierkegaard’s love life, told from the point of view of his fiancée. *Loving Søren* interweaves an exploration of his philosophical beliefs with the awakening of his fiancée’s religious faith. In Christian fiction, Coleman says, there’s “usually no sex before marriage and no swearing.”

The height of sexual frisson in Granville Burgess’ Amish romance comes when the protagonist, Rebecca — who is engaged to the sturdy but dull Jacob — lets her hair down during a wild horse ride with Gregory, an outsider in town who is looking for his birth mother. The market for Amish romance — a thriving subgenre — is evangelicals and other readers of Christian romance, says Burgess, a playwright and theater producer who self-published *Stone in the Crick*, his first novel. Writing romance as a man, “I tried to get inside a woman’s skin,” says Burgess, who relied on his wife, raised Mennonite on an Amish farm, for research.

Women always are center stage in romance novels, and those women are guaranteed to find a satisfying relationship by the book’s end, whether it’s with a Viking or a vampire or another woman. “Romance fiction is about hope, and about the possibility of finding a relationship in which you’re appreciated for who you really are,” Kahn says. And if critics find the stories unrealistic, well, that’s what they’re meant to be. “Romances are fantasies,” Herkness says. “We try and make them as authentic as we can, but it’s still a fantasy.”

It’s the uplifting final pages, say many, that draw readers to romance. “I need a happy ending,” Muzzy says. “The world is a dark and grim-enough place. I don’t need to read dark stories.” No matter how difficult the complications of the plot are for the protagonist, the story always ends on an optimistic note. “You know it will be emotionally satisfying,” Klasky says. “There’s a comfort in knowing that, despite everything, there will be a happy ending.”

*Jennifer Altmann is an associate editor at PAW.*

WATCH the trailer for Laurie Kahn ’78’s film Love Between the Covers at paw.princeton.edu
MADE OF CLAY:
To make this piece, “lightness of being (settled),” artist Martha Russo ’85 dipped household objects such as burnt toast into white porcelain clay and fired the objects in a kiln. “Coalescere,” an exhibition of 25 years of her work, opens in March at the Boulder (Colo.) Museum of Contemporary Art.

By Jennifer Shyue ’17
Paul Holdengräber ’95 once spent his days discussing comparative literature in front of a classroom of students at the University of Miami and Williams College. But for the last 10 years, he has chatted before an audience of 500 with some of the world’s most interesting people — from hip-hop artist Jay Z to writer Cheryl Strayed, from magician David Blaine to biologist E.O. Wilson — as founder and director of “Live from The New York Public Library.”

“The great moments are when something happens and both people are sort of baffled,” Holdengräber says. Case in point: his interview last spring with drag queen RuPaul, which began with RuPaul clearly uninterested in being in the interviewee’s seat and ended with the two in an impromptu dance after RuPaul propositioned Holdengräber and received a gracious rejection.

On stage, armed with weeks of research and literary quotations that he sprinkles into the conversation, Holdengräber is highly engaged with his guests and clearly takes pleasure in the process. He credits his years at Princeton, where he earned a Ph.D. in comparative literature, with teaching him “infinite curiosity.”

His upbringing was a training ground for his current work, he says. His Viennese parents escaped from Hitler’s Europe to Haiti, where they met. Holdengräber spent his early years in Mexico, then in various European countries before the family settled in Belgium when he was about 9. His father encouraged both vigorous discussion and hitchhiking, and Holdengräber’s teenage jaunts through Europe and America taught him how to talk with whoever was behind the wheel.

“It’s wonderful being interviewed by him. It’s exhilarating,” says Adam Phillips, a British psychoanalyst who has held a series of conversations with Holdengräber. “It is genuine performance art and it is genuinely intimate, and every conversation feels new and intriguing.”

For his part, Holdengräber often leaves the stage wondering whether the conversation worked: “I have a maddening sense of what the perfect conversation would be, but it always eludes me.”

BY ANDREA GOLLIN ’88

PAUL HOLDENGRÄBER ’95 ON SOME OF HIS MOST MEMORABLE INTERVIEWS

BOXER MIKE TYSON:
“This was one of the most extraordinary conversations. He both listened very carefully and responded with great candor and intelligence and feeling. My mother had me ask what it feels like to be hit so hard in the head. He said, ‘What I did for a living is what you try to avoid your whole life.’”

POET W.S. MERWIN ’48:
“The interview with then-poet laureate W.S. Merwin was deeply moving. When he came on stage, I felt guilty. I said, ‘I don’t read enough poetry.’ He said, ‘Don’t read poetry. Read poems.’ To my mind, that was very liberating.”

MUSICIAN PATTI SMITH:
“One of the most glorious moments I’ve had was interviewing Patti Smith. I’ve lived my life backward in so many ways. In the middle of my life I discovered Patti Smith through her writing, which is highly poetic, and then I listened to her music.”

A professor of economics and accountancy at the George Washington University School of Business, Lusardi writes about things that affect one’s finances, from selecting health insurance to figuring out how much to save for retirement.

“How much do we know about the power of compound interest? Do we know how to diversify risk? Such knowledge provides a firm foundation for good financial decision-making over the entire lifetime.”

FOLLOWING: ANNALUSARDI.BLOGSPOT.COM

Blogger:
ANA LUSARDI ’92
An Economist Explains Personal Finance

From top: Sarah Stacke/The New York Public Library; Julie Woodford
For most of the year, vascular surgeon David Kuwayama ’08 can be found in an operating room at the University of Colorado Hospital. But last October, he repaired bullet wounds from AK-47s and performed amputations in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In Colorado, he typically performs three operations a day; in Congo, he was performing up to 25.

For six weeks each year, Kuwayama takes unpaid leave to volunteer for Doctors Without Borders. Working for the organization has been Kuwayama’s dream since high school. He attended a Jesuit school in Wisconsin where his teachers — all priests who had worked in developing countries — encouraged students to follow international news, from the Bosnian war to the Rwanda genocide.

Kuwayama’s medical training did not follow the traditional path. During his residency, he detoured to Princeton’s Woodrow Wilson School to get a master’s degree in public affairs. The only physician in his class, Kuwayama wanted to study policies related to humanitarian aid. While there, he worked with former Sen. William Frist ’74, a visiting lecturer at the time, and spent six weeks in the Darfur region of Sudan assessing the surgical needs of refugees.

Kuwayama’s first Doctors Without Borders mission was to a refugee camp in Congo-Brazzaville, where he was the camp’s only surgeon, performing C-sections, doing leprosy surgery, and removing tumors, procedures outside the normal scope of his practice. “Never in anything in my life have I felt more valuable,” he says. “If I just decided to leave, people would die. I can’t say that about any other situation I’ve been in.”

By Jessica Lander ’10

Surgeon David Kuwayama ’08 volunteers with Doctors Without Borders in Congo.
A few months ago, a team of Harvard astronomers that included Zachory Berta-Thompson ’07 made a thrilling discovery. Using remotely controlled telescopes in Chile, they observed a minute flicker of light from a star 39 light-years — or 234 trillion miles — away. That in itself wasn’t unusual, until they saw it again. “We saw a dip in the brightness of the star, and then we saw it repeat and repeat again every 1.6 days,” says Berta-Thompson, who now is a Torres Fellow in exoplanetary research at MIT.

That pattern represented the unmistakable orbit of a new planet, dubbed GJ 1132b, which may be astronomers’ best hope for understanding an extraterrestrial world. While astronomers have discovered more than 5,000 planets outside our solar system, which are known as exoplanets, the vast majority are hundreds or thousands of light-years away — much too far to examine in depth, never mind analyze for signs of life. But this new planet is within range of telescopes that can examine its features.

“Finding a rocky planet around a star in the Milky Way isn’t by itself particularly surprising,” says Berta-Thompson, who studied astrophysical sciences at Princeton before earning a Ph.D. at Harvard in 2013. “Those planets are extremely common. The thing that’s special about this one is that it’s especially easy to observe.”

Berta-Thompson is the lead author of a paper in Nature that reports that the planet is 1.2 times the size of Earth. By using massive telescopes to study the color of light that travels through the planet’s atmosphere as GJ 1132b passes in front of the star, the team hopes to find the fingerprints of molecules that can tell them about the planet’s atmosphere and geology — the first time those factors will be recorded for a rocky exoplanet. Due to its proximity to the star, one thing they don’t expect to find is any sign of life. “It’s quite a bit hotter even than Venus, so it’s probably lost all its water vapor to space,” Berta-Thompson says. “It’s impossible to imagine that any life could survive.”

Other planetary surveys have shown, however, that a star with one planet often has others as well. By using the powerful Spitzer Space Telescope, the team hopes to detect even tinier variations in the star’s light that could represent passage of another planet in the system. “It doesn’t have to orbit much farther away from its star to be cool enough to support life,” Berta-Thompson says. “That’s the planet we are optimistically hoping exists.”

Whether or not a cooler Earthlike planet exists in that far-off solar system, astronomers have much to learn just by studying GJ 1132b. Berta-Thompson makes a terrestrial analogy using his alma mater to explain the significance. “It’s like an entire library like Firestone, which has millions of books, but we’ll never be able to read them all,” he says. “This planet is like a book right in front of us on the shelf that we can take down and read.”

— Zachory Berta-Thompson ’07

By Michael Blanding
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/2016/01/13/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 1939

Amory J. Parmentier Jr. ’39 ’40 Our champion épée fencer died July 26, 2014, in his longtime winter home of Durham, N.C.

Bud’s lifelong career with Procter & Gamble “began” when he was an electrical engineering major at Princeton. His thesis was on “The Design and Construction of a Fixed Frequency Stroboscope.”

After touring Europe by bicycle in the memorable summer of 1939, Bud started at P&G in Cincinnati. In 1942 he joined the Navy, where he rose to the rank of lieutenant, doing combat duty in the Pacific and teaching about radar and sonar at MIT and Harvard. After his discharge in February 1946, Bud went back to P&G, working at various locations until settling at the Port Ivory plant on Staten Island, while living in Westfield, N.J.

For many years, Bud’s summer home was his farm in West Paris, Maine. He retired from P&G after 37 years in 1979. That year, he wrote in our 40th-reunion book that “common sense, patience, and a sense of humor have helped me over some rough spots, and enable me to enjoy each day as it comes.”

Bud is survived by his two sons, Ed ’69 and Rick ’71; and by other members of his family, including nephew Jim Parmentier ’66.

THE CLASS OF 1944

Robert B. Meese ’44

Bob died July 3, 2015, at the Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Center in Ashland, Ohio.

At Princeton he roomed with Boots Killian and Bob Frei and was in Charter. He entered the Army artillery in January 1943; he served in Normandy and the Rhineland and fought in the Battle of the Bulge, later receiving five battle stars.

After the war, Bob returned to Princeton, where he graduated cum laude in 1947 with a degree in economics. A native of Mansfield, Ohio, he had an important career there for 48 years as an agent for Mutual Benefit Life Insurance and was a member of the Million Dollar Roundtable.

Bob was a trustee of Mansfield Memorial Park and a member of the Rotary Club. He was commodore of the Mansfield Sailing Club as well as a competitive sailor and tennis player and a lifelong Cleveland Indians fan. He was a voracious reader and formidable bridge player and was on the Alumni Schools Committee.

Don’s wife of 63 years, Joan Watson, died in 2009. His daughter Kathleen and sister Nancy also predeceased him. Don is survived by his daughters Marilyn Hixson, Deborah Schenk, and Jane Meese; son David; five grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1946

John Mullanphy Harney ’46 If you lived in the St. Louis area and wanted to buy decorating services, antique furniture, or accessories, you went to Warfield’s Inc., a distinguished firm owned by John. He was the third-generation owner of the company, which was founded in 1912 by his grandmother and continued by his mother until he took charge in 1964.

From 1951 to 1974, John made frequent trips to England, France, and Italy to buy antiques. At home, he headed the company’s interior-design work. After 1974, he maintained the business while working out of his home.

In 1948, following Navy service, John earned a master’s degree in the fine arts at Harvard. A lifelong bachelor, John, who died July 1, 2014, was praised in his St. Louis Post-Dispatch obituary with the words, “He will be remembered by his many friends for his exceptionally good company and interesting conversation.”

THE CLASS OF 1948

Joseph D. Dubuque ’48

Joe was a lifelong resident of St. Louis. He died there July 7, 2015, at age 89.

A graduate of St. Louis Country Day School, he attended Trinity College in Dublin as well as Princeton. Joe started in business as an advertising copywriter at the Boyd Co., and in 1966 became vice president of publicity and public relations.

In 1975 he joined John Barlow Interiors, becoming owner of the firm and president in 1978. He was for many years an oblate (a person living in a religious community but not bound by vows) at the Benedictine Abbey of St. Mary and St. Louis.

Joe is survived by three nephews, two nieces, and their families.

E. Hunter Wilson Jr. ’48

Dooner was born and grew up on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. After Navy service and graduation from Princeton in 1949, he and five other ’48 classmates went through medical school at Johns Hopkins together, graduating in 1953. Dr. Jack Zimmerman, one of these, notes that Dooner was “one of [Baltimore’s] busiest and most respected internists for more than 40 years.”

His pastimes were tennis, music, and writing. His novel, In My Father’s House, “caught the essence of life at Johns Hopkins,” according to lifelong friend and colleague Dr. Bob Welch ’48.

In our 50th-reunion book, reflecting on college and career, Dooner remarked, “If one can have the good fortune and privilege to associate himself with the best and near-best, there is a chance that he will end up the best person he can be, and live the best life he can live.”

He died July 13, 2015, at age 88. Survivors are his wife, Valerie Wilson; his sister, Hannah Firth; daughters Louisa Murphy and Emily Murphy; stepchildren Eleanor Hartman, Charlotte Harvey, and Colston Young; and three grandchildren.

William I. Zabriskie Jr. ’48

Bill was born in Englewood, N.J., and grew up in Upper Nyack, N.Y. After Navy service, he graduated in 1948 with a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering and married Winona. Other Princetonian Zabriskies include his father, William ’21; his son, Dane ’72; and a cousin.

Bill’s professional career was at the American Brake Shoe and Phelps Dodge companies, and as a licensed engineer in New York and Rhode Island. He was involved in curling, Boy Scouting, the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, and Habitat for Humanity.

The family lived in New City, N.Y., for 37 years. Then, upon Bill’s retirement in 1984, Bill and Winona moved to Old Saybrook, Conn., near their summer home on Block Island, R.I. Next they moved to Marco Island, Fla., and finally settled in a retirement community in North Naples, Fla., where Bill died July 17, 2015, at age 90. In addition to Winona, Bill is survived by his daughter, Fern; Dane; two grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.
THE CLASS OF 1949

J. Seymour Flinn '49
Seymour Flinn died Dec. 9, 2014, at his daughter’s residence in Acton, Mass. A retired Episcopal priest, he had a long and productive career in both parish ministry and Episcopal diocesan work in this country and overseas, teaching in Liberia and Uganda.

Seymour came to Princeton from the Friends School in Wilmington, Del. He majored in English, worked on The Daily Princetonian, sang in the Chapel Choir, and belonged to Tower Club. After graduating, he taught for two years in Liberia, then entered Virginia Seminary in Alexandria and was ordained in 1954.

He and his wife, Rosalie, were married in 1959. They immediately went to Mbaele, Uganda, where their children, David, Melissa, and Andrew, were born, and Seymour served on staff of the Mbaele Cathedral.

Sadly, Rosalie died of cancer in 1984. Seymour married Janet Hallett, the widow of a seminary classmate with three children of her own, in 1986. After 40 years serving the church in various capacities, Seymour retired in 1992, and he and Janet moved to a retirement community in Rapid City, S.D.

We extend our condolences to Janet and their combined six children.

Clark Hungerford '49
Clark died Dec. 11, 2014, at his home in Lake Bluff, Ill.

He came to Princeton from the Lawrenceville School and studied civil engineering. Clark left in 1947 and subsequently earned a civil engineering degree from Auburn University and an MBA from the University of Chicago.

He spent his entire career in the railway industry, first with Southern Railway for 19 years, then with Burlington Northern in Chicago for seven years, and finally with the Western Railway Association, then known as the Small Railway Service Association. At the time of his retirement, he was listed as president of the Western Weighing and Inspection Bureau.

In our 50th yearbook, Clark wrote of his retirement years and mentioned that his current activities involve developing a golf resort-property developments. "His long and productive career in both parish ministry and Episcopal diocesan work in this country and overseas, teaching in Liberia and Uganda.

THE CLASS OF 1951

J. Sprigg Duvall IV '51
Sprigg was born Jan. 11, 1929, in Washington, D.C., to Marguerite Chase and John S. Duvall III. He prepared at Montgomery Blair High School, majored in SPIA, joined Elm, and roomed with John Cochran, Guy Newland, and Bill Godson.

Sprigg and Eleanor ("Ellie") Hjerpe were married in 1952. He served in the Navy as an officer for four years and was last assigned to the USS Bennington. In May 1955 an explosion on the ship killed 104, wounded 300, and left Sprigg with second- and third-degree burns over 50 percent of his body. After 14 months of convalescence, he was released in 1955.

Sprigg then commenced his lifelong career in the Maryland insurance brokerage firm of V.O. Schinnerer & Co., where he created the first integrated professional liability and risk-management program. Sprigg became CEO of Schinnerer in 1971 and retired in 1991. He served as president of the Class of 1951 from 1985 to 2007.

John Cochran, Guy Newland, and Bill Godson.

Arthur Walton Litz Jr. '51
Walt was born Oct. 31, 1929, in Nashville to Lucile Courtney and A. Walton Litz. At Princeton he majored in English, roomed with Grady Miller, and was on the editorial board of the Nassau Lit. Walt was a member of Court Club and elected to Phi Beta Kappa. After graduation, he earned a Ph.D. from Oxford while studying on a Rhodes scholarship at Merton College in 1954.

He became a professor of English literature at Princeton in 1956 and served as chair of the English department from 1974 to 1981. Walt was a longtime instructor at the Bread Loaf School of English at Middlebury College. In 1989, he was named to the Eastman Visiting Professorship at Balliol College, Oxford.

Walt is perhaps best known as the author or editor of more than 20 collections of literary criticism, including major editions of Pound, Joyce, Williams, Stevens, and Eliot. He was an American Council of Learned Societies fellow, a recipient of the E. Harris Harbison Award for Gifted Teaching, and a Guggenheim fellow.

Walt died June 4, 2014, and is survived by his children, Katharine, Andrew, Victoria, and Emily; and six grandchildren. His former wife, Marian, died Oct. 14, 2014.

THE CLASS OF 1950

Robert T. Pottenger Jr. '50
Bob, a retired allergist and immunologist, died May 2, 2014.

Born in San Francisco, Bob graduated from San Marino High School in South Pasadena, Calif. At Princeton, where his father was in the Class of 1924, he majored in biology. Bob played freshman football, participated in wrestling and track, and was a member of Court Club.

He earned a medical degree from the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1954. A yearlong internship was followed by two years in the Air Force in California. After his discharge, Bob spent a year in general practice before moving to Hawaii to be a physician in a sugar plantation clinic.

By our 50th reunion, he had returned to the mainland, where he pursued a private allergy practice in Pasadena for more than three decades before retiring to Minden, Nev.

He was instrumental in editing *Pottenger’s Cats — A Study in Nutrition*, which included a groundbreaking study conducted by his uncle between 1932 and 1942.

From the *Columbia Medicine Magazine*, we learned that Bob was predeceased by his wife, Ann, and is survived by seven children and 13 grandchildren.

Arthur W. Mudge II '51
Art was born July 15, 1929, in Andover, Mass., to Alice Tatler and William F. Mudge 1917. He prepared at Choate and majored in geological
engineering at Princeton. Art belonged to Charter and played hockey and lacrosse. He roomed with Wells Eighmy, Cal Rand, and George Shafer.

He served for two years in the Army Corps of Engineers after graduation. Art and Mary Ann Cadwell were married in 1953; three years later, Art earned a law degree from Harvard. He practiced law in New Hampshire for 10 years, where he was a partner in Sulloway Hollis & Soden in Concord.

Art joined the Agency for International Development in 1966, becoming a regional legal adviser in Central America. He was based in Panama. He went on to become assistant mission director in Bolivia and Peru, and director in Guyana, Nicaragua, and Sudan. In 1979, he was invited to serve as a fellow at the Harvard Center for International Affairs. In 1984, Art resumed law practice with the Sulloway firm.

He died May 23, 2014. He is survived by Mary Ann; their daughters, Rebecca, Susanna, Sarah, and Kathryn; five grandchildren; and his sister, Nancy Sycamore. His brothers, William and Ann; their daughters, Rebecca, Susanna, Sarah, and Lynda. They survive him, along with five grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1952

Ray F. Chimurgy '52
Ray died April 7, 2015.
He joined the class from Yonkers (N.Y.) High School, where he was a star athlete. At Princeton, Ray played varsity baseball and was captain of the team. He majored in economics, joined Cannon, and roomed with Herb Hedick and Robert Brenner.

After graduation, Ray entered the Army for two years and earned the rank of lieutenant. He worked as a credit manager with Johns-Manville from 1956 until 1990. The company moved him and his family to Pennsylvania and eventually to California, where he lived for the last 41 years of his life.

Ray married Mary Ann Arnone (they later divorced) and had three children, Valerie, Lisa, and Lynda. They survive him, along with five grandchildren. The class offers sympathy to them all and appreciation of his military service for our country.

Donald Oberdorfer '52
He prepared at Druid Hills High School in Atlanta and came to Princeton determined to become a journalist. Don majored in the Woodrow Wilson School and was chairman of The Daily Princetonian. He served in Korea following graduation.

When he retired from The Washington Post after working there from 1968 to 1993, he was virtually the dean of diplomatic journalists in Washington, widely respected by peers for his integrity and decency and for the depth and thoroughness of his reporting. These characteristics won confidence and gave him access to the highest levels to those who made history in our generation.

Fascinated by the dynamics of great turning points in history, Don published books on the Tet Offensive in the Vietnam War and on the historic evolution of events in the Soviet Union that led to its dissolution. His magnum opus tackled the relationship between the two Koreas. He also wrote a biography of ex-Sen. Mike Mansfield and Princeton University: The First 250 Years. After leaving the Post, he joined the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies as its journalist in residence and a professor of international relations.

We extend our warmest condolences to Don’s wife, Laura; and children, Daniel and Karen Sue.

THE CLASS OF 1953
John S. Brumback Jr. '53
Director of Admission Radcliffe Heerance ’1909 looked kindly at Culver Military Academy, and John was one of the good students from that school he admitted in the fall of 1949. Born in 1932 in Toledo, Ohio, the son of John S. 1915, he majored in history and belonged to the Republican Club. John dined at Dial and roomed with Jim Fulks, also a Culver graduate, during his upper class years. After he earned his Princeton diploma, John joined the Army and attended Harvard Business School.

John moved to Orlando, Fla., and joined Martin Marietta Corp. Later, an interest in home building prompted his overseeing the construction of hundreds of houses in Central Florida, with his most prized project being his family home. Interested in politics, John met his wife, Susan Boomer, the sister of his campaign manager, driving his run for a state senate seat. Next, he built citrus groves (XRX Groves) into a prosperous business. Still later, he worked as a bank director and manager of family businesses.

John died May 20, 2015, in Orlando, after a stoic fight with cancer. In addition to Susan, he leaves daughters Cynthia F., Helen Leonard, and Christine ’95; two grandsons; and his sister, Cynthia Alice.

James G. Metcalf '53
Jim died July 21, 2015, in Louisville, Ky., after a long illness. Although he was born in Cincinnati, Jim lived most of his life in Louisville except for a brief tour in the Army after graduation.

Jim came to Princeton from the Choate School. He was on the track team for four years, played IAA basketball, and was a member of Colonial Club. Jim reported in the 1953 Nassau Herald that he planned to be a farmer, but after returning from military duty he went to work for Citizens Fidelity Bank of Louisville and eventually became a senior vice president and senior loan officer there.

The campaign against cerebral palsy was a continuing interest; Jim was president of United Cerebral Palsy 10 years after graduation and served on the board for the rest of his life. Jim was also on the boards of the Kentucky Dance Council and Kid Center and was a member of the Louisville Country Club and St. Matthew’s Church. Jim enjoyed time spent on the water, whether on the Ohio River, in Florida, or in the Bahamas.

Jim leaves two daughters, Carolyn Dusserre ’81 and Jane, and five grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1955
Winthrop R. Adkins ’55
Win was born Oct. 25, 1932, in Beirut, Lebanon, to his missionary parents, Edwin Sanderson and Dr. Leslie John Adkins. He died July 17, 2015, from complications following lung surgery at age 82.

Matriculating from Andover, Win majored in modern languages in the SPEC program and joined Quadrangle. He roomed in Blair Tower with McCarty, Hochstein, Lauer, Young, Matt,
Lynn, McConnell, and Slack. Described as a “quintessential teacher of life,” Win received his doctorate in counseling psychology in 1963 from Teachers College, Columbia University.

Working incessantly and involved in far too many activities to recount here, Win’s signature achievement was the Adkins Life Skills Program, a successful and nationally known program. An inspired and passionate teacher, Win was concerned always with social and economic justice and with making a real difference in the world. He was a “force of life” who dignified all he met and made them feel special.

Always so much fun to be with, he was a loving husband, father, brother, and uncle to his family. Win is survived by his wife, Caroline; son Jason; daughter Jennifer; five grandchildren; brother Douglas; former wife Susan Fisher; and many nieces and nephews.

Ashok M. Bhavnani ’55
Born in Bangalore, India, Dec. 1, 1933, to Enakshi and Mohan Bhavnani, Ashok died July 25, 2015, from lung cancer complications at home in Manhattan.

The offspring of two talented artists in film and dance, Ashok came to Princeton from The Doon School in Dehradun, India, and majored in architecture. He joined Cap and Gown and roomed with Win Adkins, Ben Hendrix, and Hyman Bass during his senior year.

His career in architecture was a litany of successes in a wide range of structures, from residential to commercial. His work on Roosevelt Island was important in the mid-1970s; it turned the underused East River island into planned middle-income housing that thrives to this day. He conceived and executed the much-lauded Merkin Concert Hall in Manhattan, considered one of the world’s most acoustically sound small concert halls.

He was honored with the Albert S. Bard Award, which he received for both Merkin Hall and Roosevelt Island. His work was published and written about widely, including in Arts and Architecture, The Architectural Review (UK), Baumeister (Deutschland), The New York Times, and New York Magazine.

Ashok is survived by his wife, Marjorie; son Raoul ’93 and his wife, Savitha; and two grandchildren, Nikhil and Nina.

Leonard S. Zegans ’55
Professor emeritus at the University of California, San Francisco, Leonard was born April 12, 1934, and died July 7, 2015, in Lebanon, N.H.


Leonard’s life story is recounted as one honor after another. At NYU School of Medicine, he worked on immunology and tissue-graft rejection and then completed his psychiatry residency at Michigan, where he received a National Institutes of Health grant to study creative processes. He later received a National Institute of Mental Health Special Research Fellowship and worked with Nobel Prize-winner Konrad Lorenz. In 1995, he was the recipient of the J. Elliott Royer Award for Outstanding Achievement in Psychiatry.

In addition to his numerous educational, clinical, and research contributions to the University of California at San Francisco and the field of psychiatry, Leonard was a beloved husband, devoted father of two, and cherished papa to five grandchildren. He will be remembered for his humor, enthusiastic pursuit of fun, penchant for storytelling, and thoughtful advice.

THE CLASS OF 1956

Coleman B. Brown ’56
Coleman died Dec. 14, 2014, following a long illness. He was a professor of philosophy and religion at Colgate University from 1970 to 1999 and also served as chaplain from 1974 to 1989.

Coleman came to Princeton from Evanston, Ill., where he was born and went to high school. He graduated magna cum laude with a degree in history and received the Pyne Prize. Coleman was class president for three years and accomplished many things; among them was ensuring that every student had a spot in an eating club.

Coleman received a master’s degree and a Ph.D. from Union Theological Seminary in New York City in 1959 and 1979, respectively. Ordained to the Presbyterian ministry, he served throughout the 1960s in an inner-city church in Chicago, where he was active in the civil-rights movement and clergy protests against the Vietnam War.

At Colgate, students described his courses as life-changing, and the University Church that he led welcomed “seekers, believers, and doubters,” as he often said. Coleman won numerous teaching awards at Colgate. In 2007, he received the Units Award from Union Theological Seminary and an honorary degree from Ursinus College. He received a Princeton ’56 Distinguished Classmate Award in 2010.

Coleman is survived by his wife, Irene; his children Justin, Susan ’84, Bradford, and Joshua; 10 grandchildren, including Isaiah Brown ’16; brother David ’59; and cousin John Cheeseman ’61.

Alfred U. Elser Jr. ’56
Fred died Feb. 24, 2013. He was the son of Alfred Uihlein Elser, a member of the Class of 1928, and Gertrude Emma Deuster.

Fred was on the football, basketball, and track teams at Milwaukee Country Day School. At Princeton he majored in physics, received numerals in freshman track, and was a member of Key and Seal.

He earned a master’s degree in applied mathematics from Stanford in 1958. Fred then worked for IBM in marketing and management from 1958 to 1994. He was a longtime board member of the Joseph Schlitz Brewing Co.

An active volunteer in Greenwich, Conn., Fred served as a trustee of the Bruce Museum. He founded and led the SeniorNet computer school, directing a volunteer staff of 40 people.

Fred’s club affiliations included the Indian Harbor Yacht Club, the Stanwich Club, the Greenwich Croquet Club, and the New England Society in the City of New York. He was also in the Milwaukee Club, the Milwaukee Country Club, and the West Highland White Terrier Club of America. He was a longtime member of Christ Church in Greenwich.

Fred is survived by his wife, Anne Hall Elser; and by three children from a previous marriage, Alfred Elser III, Elizabeth Elser, and Amy Elser Hall.

Robert T. Strommen ’56
Bob died June 19, 2013, after several years of declining health.

He was born in Pittsburgh and graduated from Turtle Creek High School. At Princeton, he majored at the Woodrow Wilson School and was a member of Campus Club. After graduation Bob entered Union Theological Seminary and became a minister in the United Church of Christ.

He was quickly drawn to the emerging civil-rights and social-justice movements of the 1960s, culminating in several trips to Mississippi to help register black citizens to vote. He left the parish for a succession of positions in the church, focusing on political and social justice.

After his retirement in 2000, Bob continued to be active in social-justice causes, with particular passion for fairness in labor practices and equality for LGBT people. With the Cleveland branch of Jobs with Justice, he fought for a living wage for workers. He and his wife, Joyce, were constant fixtures at any protest, hearing, or event where equality for gay, lesbian, and transgendered individuals was being promoted and fought for.

Bob is survived by Joyce, his wife of 58 years; their children Erik, Beth, Gayle, and Ingrid; and three grandchildren.
THE CLASS OF 1957

Jan G. Brechnitz ’57
Jan died July 4, 2015, in Travelers Rest, S.C., at the age of 79.

At Princeton, he majored in economics and played JV and varsity football. Jan joined Cannon and roomed senior year with Bart Reitz and Orville Mann.

He moved to Belleville, Ill., and built a successful wealth-management practice over the years. Jan served his clients faithfully for more than 50 years before retiring in 2007.

Jan will be remembered for his character and generosity. He had a great love of life and a deep appreciation of music, history, food, and wine.

He was predeceased by his daughter Edith. To his loving wife, Shirley; son K.C.; and three grandchildren, the Class of 1957 sends its heartfelt condolences.

THE CLASS OF 1961

Edward Zachary Schaye ’61 Zach died May 6, 2015, in his native New York City.

He prepared at Horace Mann School. At Princeton he majored in English and won the Wanamaker Prize. Zach ate at Wilson Lodge and was active in the band, Bridge Club, and Chess Club.

After graduation, Zach earned his medical degree, completed his residency in psychiatry at NYU School of Medicine, and embarked on a career in psychiatry, practicing for many years from his office on Central Park West. In our 40th yearbook he wrote, “Getting re-acquainted with Princeton with two kids there. A better place because of co-education and the college system for undergraduates.”

He is survived by his wife, Shirley; son Ben ’02; daughter Verity ’04; and grandchildren Arielle and Eli. Ben wrote of his father, “He was a tremendous person, one of the smartest, funniest, most patient, and loving I ever knew.”

THE CLASS OF 1963

W. Nikolaus Worden ’63
An architect, expert sailor, and environmental steward, Nik died peacefully Oct. 23, 2014, at home in Port Townsend, Wash. In May 2015 he was honored posthumously with a Jefferson County Heart of Service award as a “tireless” volunteer with the Peninsula Trails Coalition and “insightful contributor to other nonprofits.”

Valedictorian at Lakeside School in Seattle, Nik studied architecture at Princeton. He was manager of the lightweight crew, a member of WPRB and Cloister Inn, and roomed with John Clum. For a thesis he designed a small art gallery in Princeton.

After earning a degree in architecture at MIT in 1965, he worked for small firms in Washington State and Norway, including five years with famed architect Fred Bassetti. Then came a long-term affiliation with Jones & Jones, a Seattle firm dedicated to projects enhancing sense of place in natural landscape.

Nik and his wife, Elizabeth, lived on a sailboat for a while and once took a sabbatical to sail the Inside Passage to Glacier Bay. In our 50th yearbook, he stressed his current delight in “sailing a small open boat on local waters with other similarly obsessed curmudgeons.”

Also surviving are sons Seth, Michael, and Peter, and his first wife, Macy. The class shares their sadness.

THE CLASS OF 1965


He was born in Exeter, N.H., in 1942 and prepped at Phillips Exeter Academy. At Princeton he majored in architecture and was president of Charter Club.

After graduation, Chip served in the Coast Guard, including a year in Vietnam on a patrol boat out of Da Nang. He then earned a master’s degree in architecture at the University of Washington and worked at firms in Boston, London, and New Bedford, Mass., where he designed a variety of buildings, including many residences in the traditional New England style.

Chip served on a number of local boards, focusing on architectural preservation and education. He was named Westport Point’s “Man of the Year” in 2010 by the New Bedford Standard-Times for securing funding for the Corson Maritime Learning Center in New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park and the nearby Horseneck Point Lifesaving Station.

His love of the sea arose from working on lobster boats early in life, and he spent many happy hours afloat and quahogging along the shore.

He is survived by Gay, his wife of 43 years; their children Alison, Ben, and Kate Jandernoa; and grandchildren Jonathan, Alayna, Kayla, and Carson. We offer condolences to them on the loss of this class stalwart.

THE CLASS OF 1967


He grew up in Chatham, N.J., where he was an all-state basketball player. At Princeton, Joe played freshman basketball and was a member of Cottage Club. He roomed with Allen Adler, Nick Criss, Bill Koch, Larry Lucchino, Bruce McLucas, Peter Safir, Jay Scribner, and Chick Scherrer. Although he left during his junior year and did not graduate, Joe’s poetic sensibility and
strong sense of humor made a great impression on his roommates, clubmates, and fellow ’67 basketball players.

After Princeton, Joe moved out West and fell in love with the Arizona desert. He was a talented writer, authoring several novels and writing for the Phoenix New Times. He began and ran a small, successful production company called Small But Mighty Films for many years. Joe loved music, fishing, and most of all, his family.

He is survived by his children, Alyssa, Jesse, and Rachel; grandchildren; former wife, Karen; and siblings Pat, Charlotte, Terry, and Kathy.

THE CLASS OF 1976

Julie E. Kirkham ’76

Julie died at home June 10, 2015, in Santa Monica, Calif., following a brief battle with multiple myeloma.

Julie came to Princeton from Bronxville (N.Y.) High School, where she was a nationally ranked tennis player. She continued her strong game at Princeton, capturing numerous varsity singles and doubles titles.

An English major at Princeton, Julie pursued a love of storytelling that was the foundation of her later success in the film industry. She was a member of Cap and Gown Club.

Julie moved to Los Angeles to become a script reader/development executive for Ray Stark Productions/Columbia Pictures. She rose through the industry to vice president of production at Orion Pictures, working on the Melanie Griffith science-fiction film Cherry 2000, and then as senior vice president at Quentin Tarantino and Lawrence Bender’s production company, A Band Apart. She was a producer on Ridley Scott’s thriller Black Rain; Jodie Foster’s Anna and the King; Dirty Dancing 2: Havana Nights; 3,2,1… Frankie Go Boom; Anna and the King; Dirty Dancing; and many more movies. Julie also taught screenwriting at both Chapman University and the University of North Carolina.

The class extends deepest sympathy to Julie’s husband, Elliott Lewitt; and their children, Isabelle and Theo.

Fielding E. Lamason Jr. ’76

Chip died July 23, 2015, of a heart attack at his home in Vashon, Wash.

Raised in Villanova, Pa., Chip graduated from St. Paul’s School. At Princeton, he majored in anthropology, played freshman ice hockey and lacrosse, and served as president of the Triangle Club in 1977.

After graduation, Chip worked for Princeton’s Office of Admission before matriculating at Villanova University School of Law. He clerked with the Superior Court of Pennsylvania before his career as an attorney at the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C.

In 1997, he changed career paths and became a recording musician while a stay-at-home father. In 2004, Chip moved to New Orleans to serve as executive director of the New Orleans Musicians’ Clinic. In 2005, he relocated to Seattle and founded Synergy Real Estate Consultants.

Always involved with writing and recording music, Chip was interested in traditional music from Mali and West Africa, Cuba, and Brazil. In recent years, he played guitar with a local performing band in Vashon.

The class extends deepest sympathy to Chip’s father, Tex Lamason ’50; his stepmother; siblings; and daughters Sara and Fiona.

GRADUATE ALUMNI

Gilbert P. Haight Jr. ’46

Gilbert Haight, professor emeritus of chemistry at the University of Illinois, died April 27, 2015, of natural causes. He was 92.

Born in 1921, Haight graduated from Stanford and earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from Princeton in 1946. During World War II, he worked on the Manhattan Project as part of his dissertation. After receiving his Ph.D., Haight was a Rhodes scholar at Oxford.

Subsequently, he held teaching positions in chemistry at the universities of Hawaii and Kansas, George Washington University, Swarthmore, Texas A & M, and lastly at the University of Illinois, where he taught from 1966 until he retired in 1989. During sabbaticals, he continued his research in Denmark, Australia, Malaysia, and San Diego, Calif.

Haight pioneered the blending of multimedia and television into lectures and labs for teaching chemistry. In 1979, he received the American Chemical Society’s George C. Pimental Award in Chemical Education. Haight’s chemistry textbooks have been widely used. His former Swarthmore student, David Baltimore, won the Nobel Prize in medicine in 1975.

Haight is survived by his wife, Shirley, whom he married in 1946; four children; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Daniel R. Norton ’48

Daniel Norton, a retired chemist, died June 19, 2015, at the age of 92.

Norton graduated from Antioch College in 1944, the year he married his wife, Rachel. From 1942 to 1946, he worked on the Manhattan Project for the Army. In 1948, he earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from Princeton.


In Evergreen, he was active in the local Audubon Society, the Mountain Genealogical Society, the American Field Service, his homeowners association, and as a deacon at two local churches. Friends at his Elk Run Assisted Living Community will remember him for his friendly nature and his singing.

Norton was predeceased by his wife and a daughter. He is survived by two sons, six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Richard T. Stavig ’54

Richard Stavig, professor emeritus of English at Kalamazoo College, died April 5, 2015. He was 87.

Born in 1927, Stavig enlisted in the Navy upon graduation from high school and served as World War II ended. In 1946 he entered Augustana College, where his father was president. After graduating from Augustana, he earned a Ph.D. in English from Princeton in 1954.

He taught at Washington and Jefferson College for two years, then joined the faculty at Kalamazoo. He taught English, and in 1960, he became the first director of the new Foreign Study Program. His title was expanded to dean of off-campus education in 1967, which he held until 1974. As dean, he established study centers throughout Europe and Africa, and guided thousands of students overseas.

In 1982, Stavig was one of the first recipients of Kalamazoo College’s Lucasse Award, given for excellence in teaching. After retiring in 1992, he received the College’s Weimer K. Hicks Award.

He is survived by LaVonne, his wife of nearly 65 years; two daughters; and a large extended family.

Donald H. Crosby ’55

Donald Crosby, retired professor of German literature at the University of Connecticut, died May 16, 2015, at age 88.

Crosby graduated from NYU in 1951 after serving in the Army Air Corps from 1945 to 1947. He then earned a Ph.D. in German language and literature from Princeton and was among the first class of Fulbright Fellows who went to Germany.

He was a professor of German literature at six colleges and universities before joining the faculty at UConn, where he taught for 20 years, retiring in 1990. During his career, he published more than 100 scholarly papers.

After UConn, Crosby was a popular lecturer in Washington at the Smithsonian, the German and Swiss embassies, Kennedy Center, Goethe Society, and Wagner Society. He was dedicated to promoting understanding that 11 years of Nazi horrors should not erase hundreds of years of German accomplishments in literature, philosophy, poetry, and music.

Crosby is survived by his wife, Bonnie Becker, whom he married in 1996; three children; a stepson; and eight grandchildren. His first wife, Dorothea Schmidt, died in 1972. A second marriage to Petra Englebert ended in divorce. He was predeceased by a daughter and stepdaughter.

This issue contains an undergraduate memorial for Armony J. Parmentier Jr. ’39 ’40.

Graduate memorials are prepared by the APGA.
Classifieds

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The Start of Women's Studies  
*John S. Weeren*

The introduction of coeducation in 1969 opened Princeton’s doors to women but did not ensure that they would encounter themselves in the curriculum. Overwhelmingly the product of male scholarship and largely taught by men (in 1979, just 2 percent of tenured faculty were female), the course of study proved harder to adapt than dormitories.

Although the faculty formed the Women’s Studies Committee in 1976, it was not until Jan. 5, 1981, after more than a decade of intensifying advocacy, that it voted to create the Program in Women’s Studies. As President William G. Bowen ’58 acknowledged, “Some have felt that we have been too slow and too conservative in our approach to women’s studies. However, as with any new interdisciplinary approach, the faculty has been concerned to respect traditional disciplines.”

The vote, when it came, was almost unanimous — in the words of *The Daily Princetonian*, “the wave of ‘ayes’ that rumbled across the room overpowered the two dissenting ‘nays’” — but were it not for the determination of a small but energetic group of women, there would not have been a vote at all.

The faculty’s action owed much to the work of the faculty-student Ad Hoc Committee on the Future of Women’s Studies, led by Associate Professor of History Nancy J. Weiss (later Dean of the College Nancy Weiss Malkiel), which recommended the creation of a full-fledged program in its 123-page report. Pressure was exerted by the Women’s Studies, Hiring, and Education Network, which argued that women’s studies are “not a passing trend” but rather “a permanent and serious area of scholarship that introduces a new vitality into academia.” And the Student Advisory Committee on Women’s Studies, spearheaded by Kathryn Surace ’81, helped keep the issue front and center.

“This university is a fairly conservative place,” Surace said. “It takes a while to get any idea through.” But in the fall of 1981, Princeton marked an important milestone by naming one of its own graduates, Kay B. Warren ’74, to lead its Women’s Studies Program.

*John S. Weeren is founding director of Princeton Writes and a former assistant University archivist.  

LISTEN to Edie Canter ’80’s oral history interview about women’s studies at paw.princeton.edu
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