LIVES LIVED AND LOST: 2013

Barbara Brenner *77, cancer activist
Charles R. Knight (American, 1874-1953)

*The River of Time* (*The Princeton Tiger*)

Oil on Canvas • 41 x 71 inches (Framed dimensions, 59 x 92 inches)
Signed and dated lower right: Chas. R. Knight / 1923

Provenance:
Henry Fairfield Osborn, New York (1923-1935);
thence by family descent
Private Collection, Florida (until 2012)

Charles R. Knight’s monumental painting, *The River of Time*, is known as the *Princeton Tiger* because its history is indelibly associated with the University. It was commissioned for the Nassau Inn in 1923 by the geologist and paleontologist Henry Fairfield Osborn (Class of 1877), Professor of Zoology at Princeton and later President of the American Museum of Natural History, where Knight was to paint his celebrated murals of dinosaurs and extinct mammals. The painting remained at the Nassau Inn, inspiring a generation of Princetonians, until Osborn’s death in 1935, when it was returned to his family. It has recently emerged from the collection of Osborn’s descendants and is now offered for sale.

For further information on the painting, please consult our website, www.robertsimon.com.
February 5, 2014  Volume 114, Number 7

PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY

Lives Lived and Lost: An Appreciation

PAW remembers alumni whose lives ended in 2013, including:

- Barbara Brenner ’77
- Earl Staten Browning Jr. ’53
- Bruce Dunning ’62
- Penn Kimball ’37
- Michael deCamp ’49
- Alan Rosenthal ’58 ’61
- James Walker Evans ’52
- Martha Carr Atwater ’86
- John “Bud” Palmer ’44
- James Sterling Young ’49
- Peter Lewis ’55

PAW.PRINCETON.EDU

Lives on Film
View a selection of video clips featuring alumni from the “Lives Lived and Lost” essays.

Campus Soundscape
Listen to a new collage of Princeton sounds, including several recommended by PAW readers.

A Common Cause
Gregg Lange ’70’s history column looks at the long span of anti-apartheid protests at Princeton.

Table Tennis Star
Watch a video of 2012 Olympian — and Princeton freshman — Ariel Hsing.

New Movie
Watch a trailer for writer and director Sean Hartofilis ’03’s indie feature debut, Beach Pillows.

On the cover: Photograph by Katy Raddatz/San Francisco Chronicle/Corbis
Fortifying the Humanities—and Princeton’s Soul

Six years ago, along with members of the faculty steering committee for the Firestone Library renovation, I toured libraries at several universities and met with architects who had worked on other library renovations. An important theme emerged from those visits, as my colleagues and I saw firsthand how libraries reflect the distinctive mission—the soul, one might say—of their institutions.

The current Firestone renovation exemplifies Princeton’s vigorous commitment to the humanities and liberal arts education. Our aim is to elevate the Princeton experience by sustaining and enhancing Firestone’s status as one of the world’s greatest research libraries. The project will preserve Firestone’s scholarly character while improving navigability and creating genuinely jewel-like study spaces that invite readers and inspire scholars.

At a time when governments around the world have unconscionably sacrificed humanities funding in the quest for short-term returns, our investment in the Firestone renovation reaffirms Princeton’s enduring belief in the ideals that led to the library’s opening in 1948 as a “laboratory for the humanities and social sciences.”

The idea of a “laboratory-library” at Princeton traces back to Professor Charles Morey, who in 1933 called for collections and spaces that would, in the words of historian James Axtell, “foster departmental esprit de corps by placing student carrels, graduate reading rooms, faculty offices, and seminar rooms in the midst of the book stacks of mutual interest.”

Morey’s architectural principles reflected Princeton’s distinctive educational ethos—and they still do. His successors on the current faculty steering committee emphasized the need for improved graduate study rooms, located near relevant collections, because of Princeton’s commitment to train the next generation of scholars in the humanities. And, unlike at other universities that create separate spaces or even separate libraries for undergraduates, Firestone’s design deliberately mixes undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty members—as is fitting for a university where every undergraduate resumes and writes a thesis and where every faculty member teaches.

As Morey envisioned eight decades ago, today’s faculty members and students intersect around Firestone’s materials in a dazzling variety of ways. Steering committee member and Professor of Classics Joshua Katz, for instance, introduces students to our Rare Books and Special Collections in his freshman seminar on “Ancient Egypt and Its Hieroglyphs.” Associate Professor of English Meredith Martin, meanwhile, is working with University Librarian Karin Trainer to spearhead a digital humanities initiative that will incorporate next-generation computational tools into humanistic research—exemplifying our efforts to modernize Firestone’s resources while still serving its mission as a home for books and an incubator of ideas.

Of course, for students and faculty alike, Firestone’s open stacks remain both the literal and metaphorical core of the library. The need for dedicated stewardship of Firestone’s browsable collection was expressed astutely by Professor of History Martha Sandweiss, whose comment to a University trustee I have often repeated. Asked why Firestone had to house so many books that were rarely checked out, Professor Sandweiss observed that her graduate students will find the germinal discoveries for original research not in oft-read, well-known books but in forgotten passages from books that others have neglected or overlooked.

Thanks to the generosity of William H. Scheide ’36, Lloyd Cotsen ’50, Leonard Milberg ’53, and many other stalwart friends, Firestone’s magnificent collections are lush with intellectual treasure. But much of its interior aesthetic has seemed, even to those of us who love Firestone, at times too faithful to the “laboratory” metaphor: functional and muscular rather than warm and embracing.

Through the vision of Karin Trainer, University Architect Ron McCoy, and our distinguished design partners at Shepley Bulfinch and Frederick Fisher and Partners, the renovation will give Firestone the grace and beauty that a great library deserves. Change is evident already. Stop by when next you are on campus, and you will find light-filled stacks on A Floor and a gloriously restored third-floor reading room (formerly a faculty lounge later cannibalized by book stacks).

More splendid spaces are to come. Much like renovating a ship at sea, the library must remain open and fully operational while the renovation proceeds. That takes time. Planning began in 1997 for a comprehensive renovation to meet the needs of 21st-century students and faculty. Work commenced in 2010 and will continue through 2018. Details and updates can be found on the excellent Firestone Library Renovation blog at http://libblogs.princeton.edu/renovations.

Seeing the renovation take shape is immensely gratifying. Early in my tenure as provost, Anthony Grafton, the Henry Putnam University Professor of History, told me the most important thing Princeton could do for the humanities was to renovate Firestone Library. Today, as president, I am proud of the University’s distinctive and profound commitment to ensuring that our magnificent library will foster scholarship and fellowship in brilliant fashion for generations to come.
COUNTERING BIAS
The article about Professor Emily Pronin (Life of the Mind, Dec. 4) regarding everyone’s “bias blind spot” is certainly a valid reminder of our primal tendencies toward self-interest and exaggerated assumptions of our own capacities. On the other hand, if we are all “hopelessly biased” in such fashion, how is it possible to achieve “reasoned analysis”? Isn’t Professor Pronin’s suggestion of “limiting exposure to potentially biasing information” as the “most effective defense against bias” somewhat unrealistic and contrary to the scientific method—shouldn’t all relevant information be considered? In exercising such a defense, should not a “reasoned analysis” be required to determine what is “potentially biasing” and what is not?
Professor Pronin serves us well in reminding us of human frailty, but it would be helpful to know her path to “reasoned analysis” — if there is one.
Poss Parham ’52
Greenville, S.C.

I find that focusing forward makes it much easier to see around bias both in myself and others. Rather than avoiding biased sources, I like to view both sides of media presentations of the same event or series of events. Unbiased presentations are hard to find.
Frederic Todd ’67
New Hope, Pa.

RESEARCHING CANINE BRAINS
Re “Decoding a Dog’s Brain” (Princetonians, Dec. 4): In a climate in which operant and classical behavioral conditioning have become the gold standard among humane dog trainers, these findings are really eye-popping. There is some intuitive resistance, among certain dog guardians, to the treat/reward/clicker methods that now prevail as operant/classical strategies, even though these methods are impeccably humane and very effective. Could it be that these guardians have some sense that their dogs are understanding their intentions in a way that opens the door to the novel social-conditioning approach suggested here? I can’t wait to see where this research goes. It also is gratifying to see animals employed non-exploitationally, in research designed for ends that benefit the animals themselves.
Lucille Kaplan ’75
Columbus, Ohio

Either “elite” means something or it doesn't.

A PRINCETON EDUCATION
I can appreciate the challenge of balancing the need for “fresh blood” on the faculty versus keeping the giants around on whose reputations Princeton’s status as an elite university depends (“Passing the Torch,” Dec. 4). But if meeting our newfound diversity objectives requires reaching down for the first time to non-elite universities to fill our quotas, it is only a matter of time before the quality of a Princeton education will suffer. Either “elite” means something or it does not.
If it had been possible to maintain the highest-quality faculty while reaching down, we should have done so long ago for economic efficiency’s sake. If Princeton’s “famed mathematics department” could have attained that reputation without the expense of hiring the best, what would be the point of paying up? Indeed, if elite and non-elite schools produced equally attractive prospects for our faculty, what would be the point of striving for an elite reputation in the first place?
It will be cold comfort for future students, much less alumni of a no-longer-elite Princeton, to revel in a Princeton education is not a “me too” experience representative of the nation as a whole.
Steve Wunsch ’69
New York, N.Y.

Letters should not exceed 275 words and may be edited for length, accuracy, clarity, and civility. Due to space limitations, we are unable to publish all letters received in the print magazine. Letters, articles, photos, and comments submitted to PAW may be published in print, electronic, or other forms.
Alums Recall Favorite Campus Sounds

To accompany a Dec. 4 feature on history professor Emily Thompson ’92’s research on the sounds of 1920s New York City, PAW Online offered an audio collage of the sounds of Princeton and asked readers to suggest their favorite campus sounds.

Several responded, and a followup Princeton audio capturing some of those sounds is posted at PAW Online.

Robert K. Sturtz ’78 recalled the Graduate College’s carillon and “feet rushing down stairs from McCosh lecture halls.”

For Landon Dennison ’58, the bell in Nassau Hall was “unforgettable,” and many readers agreed.

Nick Apostolakis ’55’s room on the fifth floor of Reunion Hall was about 100 yards from the bell. “The first week it woke me up every hour, the second week every two hours, the third week every three hours. By the fourth week I slept soundly; they had stolen the clapper,” he wrote.

Peter Angelica ’77 p’14, an Orange Key guide, would end his tours between Whig and Clio just as the bell rang for the change in classes. “The sound of the bell and the sight of the students crossing back and forth on Cannon Green was … the classic college moment,” he said.

Guy Hollyday ’52 remembered a more rousing sound: “‘Moose’ Mather ’52 used to play a tuba (or was it a sousaphone?) walking from the art gallery down to Dod Hall.”

YOUR COMMENTS ONLINE

Inbox

do so diminishes Princeton’s role as a dominant intellectual reservoir that produces cutting-edge individuals, scientific breakthroughs, and out-of-the-box creativity that shapes the world it is in, not shaped by the world it is in. That is the Princeton I know.

Why should “balance” be a factor in admission of undergraduates, graduates, or faculty when “balance” itself defeats something fundamental: maintaining the color-blind, gender-blind, and belief-blind standards we long have fought for. The only factor that matters should be excellence. A Princeton shaped by excellence alone excels in excellence, and the individuals it produces shape the world to higher standards. Please, let’s all maintain a Princeton that reflects excellence and excellence only; let’s reward achievement alone, not diversity; let’s continue to lead the world, not follow it.

Charles M. Hohenberg ’62
Professor of Physics
Washington University
St. Louis, Mo.

John Polt ’49, in response to a trustee report criticizing the University for not coming “close to looking like America today,” laments that it no longer matters “who you are, what your intellectual and other talents are, what you’ve achieved, or how you think …” (Inbox, Nov. 13).

Why does Mr. Polt assume that a more ethnically or racially diverse Princeton community will mean less exemplary individuals, without the intellect and other talents of white students, and who are low achievers and mediocre thinkers? Mr. Polt said that for the trustees, diversity was skin deep. There is no evidence for that. But there does seem to be some evidence for my suspicion that Mr. Polt thinks that intellect and talent are skin deep. If that’s true, that’s too bad, but kudos to the trustees.

Héctor L. Delgado p’13 p’17
Former assistant dean of students, Princeton University
Chair, sociology and anthropology department, University of La Verne
Arcadia, Calif.
Inbox

FROM THE EDITOR

Loss and Celebration

Some readers will see this issue of PAW as a compilation of loss. While that may be true, it also is an issue of celebration.

This is PAW’s second February tribute to alumni who have died in the prior year. It is intended to coincide with the annual Service of Remembrance, a beautiful and affecting service held each Alumni Day in the University Chapel. As we noted in our inaugural tribute last year, the alumni featured are not necessarily those who were well known or made extraordinary contributions to public life, though some were and did. Instead, in the essays beginning on page 22, PAW writers focused on ways of thinking and acting that set these alumni apart in large or small ways.

Another PAW tradition is to mark the passing of a class from our Class Notes section after the death of its last known surviving member. For the first time in 82 years, Class Notes omits the Class of 1931, whose last surviving member — lawyer, diplomat, and foreign-policy adviser — Robert R. Bowie, died Nov. 2 at 104. In recent years, the class column has been written by Francine Reed w’31.

In the class history in The Nassau Herald, Davis Reade Post ’31 claimed that the 616 classmates were “not quite as green” as previous freshmen, saying that they beat back upperclass pranks, commands, and “clothing inspections.” As juniors, the young men were rebellious; others might use a different term. Post recalled the “wild overflow of excited young men into Nassau Street following the Cane Spree” — resulting in a riot with open fire hydrants, blocked traffic, and stones thrown through Borough Hall windows. A year later, after a football rally, students rocked an intercity bus on Nassau Street and tore down the Christian Student statue. Offenders were suspended, some for almost a year.

Still, Post wrote shortly before graduation, members of ’31 looked back at their time on campus with pride: “We have had an exceptionally high scholastic record, we have upheld the Honor System, we have infused the extracurriculum with a wide assortment of talented young men, we have produced some good athletes, and in spite of occasional lapses, we know what it means to be a Princeton gentleman.”

To the gentlemen of ’31, and to others we remember in this issue, farewell.

— Marilyn H. Marks ’86

The On the Campus article on diversity in the Oct. 9 issue states, “A trustee report on diversity faults Princeton for not coming ‘close to looking like America today.’ ” It then goes on to cite underrepresentation in various racial and gender categories. There is no mention of the fact that Princeton looks even less like America in terms of its political and social philosophy. In an institution of higher learning — and Princeton is hardly unique in this respect — why does there seem to be so little value placed on achieving more diversity of thought?

Harry Knapp ’76
Danville, Calif.

WORLD WAR I OBSERVANCE

I loved the article about the Veterans Day remembrance of World War I and the celebration of the Rupert Brooke poetry with newly composed music by Ryan McCarty ’14 (On the Campus, Dec. 4). One additional lovely touch might have been a brief selection from Benjamin Britten’s War Requiem, which sets the words of another war poet, Wilfred Owen, to some astonishing music. Last year was Britten’s centenary, which also argues for his inclusion. It could have made a wonderful remembrance perfect.

Jamie Spencer ’66
St. Louis, Mo.

LEARNING FROM KATZEN ’58

I appreciate your brief profile of Jay Katzen ’58 (Princetonians, Oct. 23), although there is much more to tell if you had the space. His service to our country and on behalf of the hungry and the sick in Africa through Operation Blessing involved considerable personal danger both from violence and from disease. But Jay never talked about the dangers in my presence.

I knew Jay well for about 10 years, including the time when he served in the Virginia House of Delegates from my district. As with his subsequent service in maintaining the monument to the victims of communism in Washington, D.C., Jay worked tirelessly to preserve the best elements of our
nation, such as individual responsibility and individual freedom from onerous government taxation and regulation. And Jay still has his high spirits and sense of personal responsibility to work within his current capacity. Jay Katzen is a distinguished alumnus from whom we all can learn much.

Thomas D. Logie ’72
North Port, Fla.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Nov. 13 issue includes a picture of the end-of-the-war celebration on campus in 1945 (From the Archives) and asks if anyone remembers the event. I remember it well because, as a 17-year-old freshman, I was exposed to more alcohol than I had ever seen. The next morning there was a no-parking stanchion in the foyer of our suite, which I couldn’t even lift. Nevertheless, when the proctors came, my roommates convinced them that I had brought it home by myself the night before. I was summoned to visit Dean Livingston, who first warned me that I could be expelled for what I had done. He then gave me some fatherly advice about finding my alcohol limit and learning how to hold my liquor. He also said I had to inform my parents about the incident. It may have been the most important lesson I learned at Princeton, because I did graduate and have gone on to a successful career as a physician.

Ward O. Griffen ’49
Frankfort, Mich.

A Message to Alumni From the Department of Athletics

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) clearly defines permissible recruiting activities involving enrolled and prospective student-athletes. Under NCAA guidelines, alumni may not provide “extra benefits” to ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETES that are not available to all other students at the University. Some examples of “extra benefits” are:

- Arranging, providing or co-signing a loan.
- Providing any gifts or transportation.
- Providing a ticket to any entertainment or sporting event.
- Providing parents, family or friends of a student-athlete free admission to a banquet, dinner, or other function.
- Providing a meal to a student-athlete (except in your home on a pre-approved, occasional basis).
- Providing a meal to the parent(s) of a student-athlete.

As a general rule, the NCAA prohibits involvement by alumni (and other “boosters” or “representatives of an institution’s athletics interests”) in the recruitment of PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETES. Because of the Ivy League’s extensive and valued use of alumni in recruiting ALL students, however, the NCAA has granted a limited exception to some of its contact rules. Only members of the local SCHOOLS COMMITTEES are covered under this exception. If you are not a local Schools Committee member, you are prohibited from having any contact with prospective student-athletes, including correspondence and telephone calls.

If you are a local schools committee member, the following applies to your off-campus contact with prospective student-athletes:

- All off-campus interviewing and recruiting activity must be carried out within Princeton’s regular admissions (i.e., local Schools Committee) structure and normal program for prospective local students. Again, if you are not a local Schools Committee member, you are prohibited from any contact with prospective student-athletes.
- Any individual involved in interviewing prospective student-athletes through the local Schools Committee structure must also perform this function with non-athletic prospects.
- Whenever you are in contact with prospects, their parents, or friends, it is a violation of NCAA and Ivy rules to pay for any meals, snacks or entertainment, except during Schools Committee or bona fide alumni group gatherings that involve both athletics and non-athletics prospects.
- Alumni may not have on-campus contact with prospective student-athletes.
- It is an NCAA violation for alumni to engage in certain evaluation activities, such as picking up game films and transcripts, or contacting high school coaches, athletic directors or other employees regarding prospects.

REMEMBER ... IMPROPER CONTACT OR ACTIVITY BY ALUMNI CAN RENDER A STUDENT, AND IN SOME CASES AN ENTIRE TEAM, INELIGIBLE FOR INTERCOLLEGIATE COMPETITION.

If you have any questions, contact Allison Rich, Senior Associate Director of Athletics/SWA, at (609) 258-3751 or arich1@princeton.edu
During an early-December snowfall, students used the materials at hand to create a snowman in the courtyard near Jadwin Hall.

Photograph by Ricardo Barros
The number of students showing up for drop-in, group tutoring in quantitative subjects such as chemistry and economics has tripled since 2009, according to Nic Voge, associate director of the McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning. During the 2009–10 academic year, close to 2,000 students visited the center for tutoring, which is free; in 2012–13, the number was 5,882. During the fall semester, 3,800 students attended tutoring sessions. Tutoring is offered in chemistry, economics, math, physics, and statistics, mostly for introductory courses.

At the Writing Center, 2,139 students sought free, one-on-one help with writing assignments last fall, up 21 percent from a year earlier. During reading period, there was an 82 percent jump in demand from last year to this year. The residential colleges offer one-on-one peer tutoring, which also has experienced a significant increase since 2010.

“We’re seeing a trend societally for higher-performing students to get academic help,” Voge said, citing similar demands on tutoring resources at peer institutions. The McGraw Center recently has shifted the way tutoring is presented to students — fliers and newsletters now emphasize that tutoring, known as “study hall,” helps students get acclimated to college standards, rather than offering it as a solution to the problem of poor grades. “For tutoring to be beneficial, we want students to get it early — not wait until they’re far behind,” Voge said.

His office also expanded its outreach, publicizing its programs to professors, the athletics department, student organizations, even Outdoor Action student leaders.

Christopher McConnell ’14, who tutors in economics, said students regard the center as “a great place to work on problem sets and get some assistance on the material. If there ever was a stigma associated with McGraw, I don’t really sense it anymore.”

“Tutoring Takes Off
Students don’t feel stigma in seeking help as demand surges for academic assistance

To address the surging demand, the McGraw Center increased the number of undergraduate tutors from about 40 in 2012 to almost 60 last fall and began allowing graduate students to serve as tutors.

Typically one tutor works with four to six students, who gather in large rooms at the Frist Campus Center, though a single tutor may work with as many as 20 students for high-demand classes such as introductory economics. “These are facilitated study groups, so students tend to come and work together,” said Lisa Herschbach, who began serving as McGraw’s director Sept. 1. Sessions are held for three hours in the evening Sunday through Wednesday, for 10 weeks each semester.

By J.A.
The ‘Dean of Deans’

‘Dean Fred’ Hargadon, who oversaw admissions for 15 years, dies at 80

Fred Hargadon, Princeton’s dean of admission for 15 years and such a dominant figure in college admissions that he was known as the “dean of deans,” died Jan. 15. He was 80 and lived in Princeton.

Renowned for the personal attention he gave each application, “Dean Fred” welcomed successful students with an acceptance letter beginning: “Yes!” In his honor, the word was carved into a stone at the entrance of Hargadon Hall in Whitman College. The strong relationships he built with students, especially with athletes, continued during their time on campus; he was an honorary member of several classes and gave the Baccalaureate address just before he retired in 2003.

“It was extraordinary how many students he kept in touch with,” said former president Harold Shapiro ’64, who hired the tall and often rumpled Hargadon in 1988. “For many students, he is the person they remember the most from Princeton.”

Hargadon’s tenure at Princeton spanned a period of change and increasing competition in college admissions. When he arrived — after five years heading admissions at Swarthmore and 15 years at Stanford, then working at the College Board — about 17 percent of applicants were accepted to Princeton each year. When he left, the admission rate was about 10 percent. He was a strong supporter of binding early-decision admission over early action.

“The academic strength of the student body grew measurably” during his time as dean, said Professor Nancy Weiss Malkiel, the former dean of the college. “The student body became much closer to being balanced in terms of gender and much more diverse in terms of race and ethnicity, and socioeconomically.”

Hargadon had his critics. He retired in 2003, a year after admission-staff members used applicants’ Social Security numbers and birth dates to check their admission status at Yale. After a University investigation, Hargadon apologized in a statement for the “unwarranted breach in confidentiality.” A book about admission in the Ivy League, The Chosen by Jerome Karabel, suggested that policies put in place by Hargadon to bolster Princeton’s competitive position inadvertently led to a decline in the number of Jewish students at Princeton. Hargadon disagreed sharply.

Despite the criticism, the adoration among Princeton alumni remained. After learning of his death, one alumna wrote on Facebook, “Thanks for taking a chance on me, Dean Fred.”

By J.A.

Air Fresheners

Since 2008, the University has worked to reduce its carbon footprint. One goal for 2020 is to cut by 15 percent the 5,000 cars coming to campus. So far, incentives have reduced the number by 452.

Number of faculty, staff members, and graduate students who participate in incentive programs for travel by:

Mass Transit

326

Bicycle

198

Carpool and Vanpool

177

Number of members of a car-sharing service:

676

Reduction in pounds per year of carbon-dioxide emissions (a 19 percent drop) since 2009 with the use of 14 campus shuttle buses that run on biodiesel, a sustainable fuel:

297,350

Source: Transportation and Parking Services; figures as of June 2013

SHARE your favorite memory or story of Fred Hargadon. Email paw@princeton.edu or comment at paw.princeton.edu.
On the Campus

Class Stones, Revisited

With Nassau Hall nearly out of space, PAW offers some ideas for the future

Since the end of the Civil War, classes have planted ivy at the base of Nassau Hall and commemorated it with a small stone bearing the class numerals. But Nassau Hall is filling up, and several administrators, the University architect, and representatives of the Alumni Association have begun to contemplate what to do when there’s no more room.

Although there is no assigned date for the group to make its recommendations — there is still enough space for several more years, according to University Vice President and Secretary Robert Durkee ’69 — PAW thought it would be fun to do some brainstorming of its own. With help from Alejandro Zaera-Polo, dean of the School of Architecture, we asked several graduate students — Tyler Hopf, Loren Yu, Manyan Lam, José Meza, Lily Zhang, and Abby Stone — and recent grad Tulip Yeung ’12 to apply their creative minds to this challenge.

Their submissions, with explanations, ranged from the practical to the whimsical, and from high-tech to low. Whatever the University decides to do, we hope these ideas will help promote another longtime Princeton tradition: a good old alumni debate. ♦ By M.F.B.

Future Old Ivy

In this renewed perpetuation of Princeton entitlement and manicure, above, images of a sprig of ivy and class year are etched digitally into stone (inset photo). Successive classes carve away old plots of stone while maintaining the tradition of an ivy-covered Old Nassau. — Loren Yu GS and Tulip Yeung ’12

Mod-Stones: A Mathematical Ruin

Great historical monuments often are steeped in mysterious mathematical concepts. Below, the new ivy stones take a cue from our ancestors to use playful arithmetic logic. Each class
Ivy & Stone

Dispersed throughout campus, the existing stones on Nassau Hall, below, take on a new character with new materials and shapes. Each class will select the stone and shape, specialized with insignia or text-based marks. Forming a network that extends across campus, Ivy & Stone details class histories and stone locations through a website and app.

— José Meza GS

Stone Spiral

Stone Spiral, above, creates a radially expanding path throughout campus, with Nassau Hall at its center. The existing class stones will be rearranged chronologically to loop around the building’s perimeter, then extend onto the grounds. Each successive class will mount its stone in the ground, following an expanding spiral pattern that eventually will traverse the entire campus. — Lily Zhang GS and Abby Stone GS

— Manyan Lam GS

Ivy & Stone

Stone will be shaped by its graduating year and modular arithmetic — e.g. the graduating year 2013, divided by 3, 4, and 5, produces remainder values of 0, 1, and 3. These numbers determine how many notches will appear on a standard 2-by-4-by-2-foot concrete block, creating jigsaw puzzle-like stones. The way the stones fit together creates a nuanced and unconventional wall with room to sit, climb, or let ivy grow. — Manyan Lam GS

Stone Spiral

Continued on page 12
Walk of Stones Modeled after the Hollywood “Walk of Fame,” class stones are spread throughout campus. Each class helps choose where its stone is located. With a new campus map in hand, students and alumni may say, “Meet you at the Class of 2058!” The traditional ivy can be replaced by trees. With a new Walk of Stones, the graduating classes become “famous” in their own right.
— Tyler Hopf GS
Princeton voices were prominent as American universities spoke out against the American Studies Association’s December call for an academic boycott of Israel to protest the country’s treatment of Palestinians.

“Scholarly engagement sustains learning and helps to build liberal democratic values,” President Eisgruber ’83 said in a statement. “American universities should continue to work constructively with scholars and institutions throughout the world, regardless of whether we admire or dislike the governments under which they operate.” He said his personal support for academic engagement with Israel is “enthusiastic and unequivocal.”

As of mid-January, the presidents of more than 175 colleges and universities had rejected the call for a boycott by the association, described as the nation’s largest group devoted to the study of American culture and history. In May the Association for Asian American Studies had approved a similar resolution.

Hunter R. Rawlings III ’70, president of the Association of American Universities, was among those signing a statement by the group’s executive committee that the boycott violated academic freedom. He said his group was concerned that scholarly groups increasingly were calling for boycotts.

“It is dangerous business, and basically unwise, for institutions to become embroiled in these kinds of debates,” former Princeton president William G. Bowen ’58 told The Chronicle of Higher Education. “The consequences for institutions are just too serious.”

While voicing dismay over the ASA’s action, Eisgruber said he would not “make it unwelcome on campus or inhibit the ability of faculty members to affiliate with it.” He said he hoped that eventually the group’s members would bring it “to its senses.” ◆ By W.R.O.

IN SHORT

A BEQUEST from industrialist and philanthropist William S. Dietrich II ’60, who died in 2011, will endow the University’s Economic Theory Center, which has been renamed for him. The gift will support faculty research, seminars, fellowship programs, visitors from around the world, and symposia, as well as student financial aid.

After 15 years as Princeton’s first ensemble-in-residence, the BRENTANO STRING QUARTET is moving to Yale in the fall. The quartet will perform its final campus recital Feb. 13 in Richardson Auditorium, though it will continue to work with students during the spring term.

“Ballad for Trayvon Martin,” a composition by Anthony Branker ’80, director of Princeton’s Program in Jazz Studies, premiered in December. The piece honors the teenager who was killed in 2012 by a neighborhood-watch volunteer in Sanford, Fla. Branker told The Star-Ledger that the incident brought to mind an experience he had as a young man, when he was stopped by police at gunpoint because it was believed he had broken into someone’s home.

As the University’s new executive vice president, TREBY WILLIAMS ’84 will lead development of a new campus plan and construction program while overseeing campus life, facilities, human resources, and a range of University services. Williams worked in the executive vice president’s office for seven years and was an assistant U.S. attorney for 12 years.

paw.princeton.edu  February 5, 2014  PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY 13
On the Campus / Sports

TABLE TENNIS

Bullwhip Backhands
A national champion as a freshman, Hsing looks to another Olympic run

Last December, at the U.S. National Table Tennis Championships in Las Vegas, little stood between Ariel Hsing ’17 and the singles title. Hsing was the two-time defending champion, an Olympian, and the highest-ranking American in the world. But her first college exams were looming, and as she pored over Econ 100, her opponents smelled blood. “It felt like everyone was gunning for me,” she said.

Uncharacteristically conservative as she started the finals, Hsing said, “My stamina was very low, and I was pretty nervous.” But she steadied by “taking deep breaths and counting to 10,” and unleashed her inner Tiger—a barrage of bullwhip backhands, for which she is known. Soon, she hoisted a towering trophy glinting from camera flashes, and returned to Princeton with a triple crown: victorious in singles, doubles, and mixed doubles.

By some estimates, table tennis is the world’s second-most-played sport. In the United States, it is one of only three sports that has never yielded an Olympic medal (the other two: badminton and team handball). Part of the reason, explained French and Italian Professor Volker Schroder, faculty adviser to the Princeton University Table Tennis Club, is that “it is very difficult if not impossible to maintain one’s level while in college.” American hopefuls must often choose between the table and the textbook—something Hsing, like other Princetonians before her, refuses to do, despite a reduced training regimen.

Over the past decade, Princeton has gained a reputation as a national powerhouse. For three consecutive seasons, Adam Hugh ’10, a U.S. national team member, ushered the coed team to second place at the College Table Tennis National Championships. This season, Hsing and Shirley Fu ’17, two-time Canadian women’s champion, are favored to win the women’s doubles championship in April. All three have Olympic ambitions, but only Hsing has competed in the Games—nearly upsetting the eventual gold medalist in 2012.

Hsing shrugs at her success, reciting her family motto: “It’s about the process, not the result.” Juggling classwork with world-class athletics to a degree that Schroder called “unprecedented” in Tiger table tennis, Hsing said that one boosts the other. Tracking a tiny plastic ball at 70 mph sharpens the mind, which “definitely helps when you’re studying.” Exploring modern dance lightens the feet, to “make me a little more graceful while I’m playing.”

Hsing is considering taking a year off to prepare for the 2016 Olympics. But for now, “I wake up every single day feeling happy,” she said— even on the longest of days. During team practice after an all-night photography project, Hsing relented to Fu’s insistence on a game. “I’m not in peak condition,” Hsing warned, smiling blearily. Fu fired the ball over the net. “Even so,” said the Canadian champion, “you’re still the best one here.” ◆ By Dorian Rolston ’10

Ariel Hsing ’17 prepares to serve during a 2013 competition in Morocco.

Courtesy ITTF
There's No Place Like Jadwin, Which Pays Off for Princeton's Teams

Brett Tomlinson

In the last four seasons, the Princeton men's and women's basketball teams have enjoyed remarkable success in the Ivy League, particularly at Jadwin Gym, where the men have had a 25–3 record and the women were a perfect 28–0 prior to the start of this year’s league games. On the road against the same teams, the men have been strong, though not as dominant (18–10), while the women had a still-eye-popping 26–2 record.

Home-court advantage is common in college basketball, but according to Michael James, a 2006 Harvard grad, data analyst, and Ivy basketball devotee, Princeton’s edge is extraordinary. His predictive model for Ivy men’s games, which draws on 20 years of data, gives Princeton's edge is extraordinary. His data analyst, and Ivy basketball devotee, Michael James, a 2006 Harvard grad, in college basketball, but according to

According to Princeton players, an arena's sightlines do matter. Blake Dietrick '15 of the women's team, one of the nation's leading three-point shooters, learned that lesson in high school when her team stepped out of its cozy gym to play at Boston's TD Garden — and shot miserably. Will Barrett ’14, the most prolific three-point shooter on the men’s team, said it can be particularly tough when you only visit a gym once each year. “Being a shooter, going into a stadium like this, I can see how the backdrop might affect you,” he said. “But I'm used to it — it feels like home.”

Numbers that Ezekowitz compiled for the Harvard Sports Analysis Collective last March support that claim: In the last six seasons, visiting Division-I men’s teams have made 29.9 percent of their three-point attempts at Jadwin, nearly five percentage points below their season averages. The percentage of successful free throws dips as well, from 70.5 percent to 67.4 percent. Meanwhile, the Princeton men have had roughly equal three-point percentages at home and on the road, and better free-throw shooting at home. (Ezekowitz did not compile figures for women’s games.)

The point of the exercise, Ezekowitz said, was not to discount the Tigers’ highly regarded defense or make excuses for his beloved Crimson men’s team, which has lost its last 24 games at Princeton. Instead, he was trying to connect anecdotal claims with statistical trends.

According to Princeton players, an arena’s sightlines do matter. Blake Dietrick ’15 of the women’s team, one of the nation’s leading three-point shooters, learned that lesson in high school when her team stepped out of its cozy gym to play at Boston’s TD Garden — and shot miserably. Will Barrett ’14, the most prolific three-point shooter on the men’s team, said it can be particularly tough when you only visit a gym once each year. “Being a shooter, going into a stadium like this, I can see how the backdrop might affect you,” he said. “But I’m used to it — it feels like home.”

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Both TRACK & FIELD teams are off to an auspicious start. At the New York City Gotham Cup Jan. 10, the men captured four events. Tom Hopkins ’14 won the 500-meter run and the long jump. Michael Williams ’14 and Chris Bendtsen ’14 placed first and second in the mile, while Alejandro Arroyo Yamin ’14 and Tyler Udland ’14 placed first and second in the 3,000-meter race. At their tri-meet against St. John’s and St. Joseph’s, the women took five of six field events. Julia Ratcliffe ’16 won the weight throw, Brielle Rowe ’16 the shot put, Lauren Santi ’17 the pole vault, Taylor Morgan ’16 the high jump, and Imani Oliver ’14 the triple jump.

Following a disappointing 6–3 loss to top-ranked Harvard Jan. 11, WOMEN’S SQUASH regained its form against Dartmouth Jan. 12, sweeping yet another school 9–0 and heading into the finals break with a 5–1 record.

WRESTLING defeated Hofstra 22–19 Jan. 10, inching by on bonus points for Princeton’s first win over the Pride since 1989, as the Tigers improved their record to 4–1.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL (10–5) opened the Ivy season by trouncing Penn 84–53 Jan. 11 as Blake Dietrick ’15 recorded 16 points and 11 rebounds, picking up her first career double-double and Ivy Player of the Week honors. MEN’S BASKETBALL (11–3) rallied to tie the Quakers with 5 seconds to play, but the Tigers fell to Penn 77–74 at the Palestra Jan. 11.
Life of the Mind

Q&A: AUTHOR TO AUTHOR

A Future in Ruins
Chang-rae Lee’s new novel depicts an American nightmare

Chang-rae Lee is known as a gifted storyteller whose novels have captured America’s complex relationship with its many immigrant communities. In his latest work, Lee, a professor of creative writing, reaches a century into the future and imagines the country as a ruin. Environmental catastrophes have struck, abandoned American cities have been transformed into labor colonies filled with immigrant workers, and class stratification is more pronounced than ever. On Such a Full Sea is the story of one nervy girl who defies the rules, and a commentary on the growing divisions in American society.

Lee spoke with Rebecca Newberger Goldstein ’77, a philosopher and novelist whose work combines scientific exploration with imaginative narratives. Her latest book, Plato at the Googleplex: Why Philosophy Won’t Go Away, will be published in March.

RG: What prompted you to write a novel set in the future?
CL: I didn’t set out to write a futuristic tale. It only came about after toying with an odd idea about the resettlement of long-blighted urban areas of the United States by foreigners — more specifically, by Chinese nationals whose city or area had been environmentally ruined. The more I thought about it, the more I was drawn into the notion, but I couldn’t see this happening anytime soon. However, I could imagine the scenario as a possibility in a very different future, say when America might be in severe economic and social decline. Thus the futuristic setting.

RG: On Such a Full Sea describes a dystopia in which class boundaries are enforced geographically. There’s a fable-like quality to the novel that, on the surface, seems different from your previous realist novels. But on a thematic level, it seems there’s a strong sense of continuity — the mood of alienation, the sense of never feeling confident that you know the rules of the game.
CL: I do think this book is quite different from my others, though not primarily because of the world it describes. This story is set in the future but it’s not terribly “futuristic,” so I didn’t find myself doing a lot of that nuts-and-bolts, science-fiction world-building. Many so-called “ethnic” or “minority” novels might well be read as novels about people encountering strange and often inhospitable realms and citadels, and in this regard I feel I’ve been writing “dystopian” fictions all along; the difference in those novels is that the dystopian tension exists for only a small part of the populace.

RG: You raise provocative questions about social class. What do you hope to get readers thinking about?
CL: The book expresses several of my concerns about the direction we’re taking as a nation and world, most pointedly in terms of class division. The society of the novel is divided three ways — the elite and educated rich, the ever-laboring middle class, and the left-to-their-own-devices poor. These are rigid divisions in which mobility between the classes is near impossible, which I fear is happening to us. I think we can all sense the deepening entrenchment of those who have wealth and education and those who lack it, and can see how self-perpetuating those conditions are. I fear we don’t actually live in a single society anymore. We don’t readily see them, but there are walls between us.
Life of the Mind

**ENGINEERING**

**Aloft, Zondlo Tracks Greenhouse Gases**

*Where clouds are born* Those long, wispy strands high in the sky you can see on a clear day are cirrus clouds. Typically present at 30,000 to 40,000 feet even when lower clouds cover them, cirrus clouds are made of water vapor. Scientists don’t know the exact conditions needed for cloud formation, but understanding the process could clarify how human activity, especially pollution, is contributing to climate change.

*It’s all in the details* Mark Zondlo, an assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering, takes to the skies to measure water vapor, which is the most abundant greenhouse gas. Water vapor has a large impact on the climate: When global temperatures rise, more water vapor is present, which traps more heat in the air and makes temperatures go up. During eight-hour excursions on a former corporate jet — transformed into a flying research laboratory by the National Science Foundation — Zondlo uses a laser-based sensor he developed to track water vapor and its impact on clouds. Zondlo’s research team has logged more than 1,000 hours of flight time using the sensor, which can detect minor fluctuations in water vapor. The data so far show that cirrus clouds form when relative humidity is above 100 percent, and that where they form is strongly dependent on local changes in water vapor.

*New tools to understand the atmosphere* Zondlo uses similar laser-based optical sensors to detect air pollutants and other greenhouse gases. His work is part of Princeton’s Mid-InfraRed Technologies for Health and the Environment, an engineering research center with multi-million-dollar funding from the federal government to develop sensors that detect minute amounts of chemicals found in the atmosphere. The sensors developed in Zondlo’s laboratory are low-power and mobile — easily mountable on a car, a small drone, or an airplane — and can take measurements 10 times a second. The output is a chemical fingerprint that can identify the source region and the specific gases in real time.

*Global yet local* Zondlo and his team hit the road to study how air quality influences climate. With a sensor mounted on the ski rack on their car, they recently took road trips in California, Texas, and Beijing. “We found that the amount of ammonia emitted from cars is much higher than expected from prior measurements,” says Zondlo. Ammonia is difficult to measure but is an important contributor to the unhealthy haze over polluted cities such as Beijing. “We want to develop effective mitigation strategies for climate change,” Zondlo says. ✦ *By Anna Azvolinsky ’09*
As recently as 20 years ago, a boy who wanted to play only with girls’ toys or wear dresses may have been sent for psychological counseling. But today, more parents not only are supporting their children’s choices to identify with another gender, they are demanding that schools create gender-neutral bathrooms and that official documents reflect a child’s chosen gender.

Sociology professor Tey Meadow is studying the first generation of parents to openly support and advocate for their gender-nonconforming and transgender children, a subject on which little research has been conducted. Over the last seven years, she has interviewed more than 60 families across the country with children between 4 and 18, to examine evolving conceptions of gender.

Until recently, Meadow argues, there was no language with which to discuss publicly what it means to be a transgender child. While many transgender adults describe experiencing strong feelings about their gender during childhood, there were few opportunities to express such feelings. Today, parents are recognizing those feelings in their children and making space for their expression, Meadow says. Her research will be gathered in her upcoming book, *Raising the Transgender Child: Being Male or Female in the Twenty-First Century*.

Meadow focuses her research on families that support their child’s exploration of gender identity. Not all families are supportive, but many more are than in previous generations, she says. (No figures are available on how many families react positively to children in this situation.) She examines the way those families work to understand gender in new ways and bring those insights to institutions with which their children interact.

The process for these families often is difficult. Most “labored internally for some time to comprehend why their child’s internal emotional life falls so at odds with the role they seemed destined to fill,” Meadow wrote in 2011. In one family, the parents described their child’s troubled childhood, which was plagued by frequent tantrums and violent outbursts. The child, male at birth, repeatedly rejected boys’ clothing and begged for female accessories. Once the child was permitted to attend a family vacation dressed as a girl, the parents witnessed a dramatic improvement, as recounted by the mother: “You could just tell a load had been lifted off her shoulders and she was just free.”

Observing how transgender children develop an understanding of their gender, Meadow believes, can provide insights into how individual identity is integrated into society. It is a process most of us take for granted because our gender identification is aligned with our biology, she says.

The families Meadow interviewed are demanding changes at schools and elsewhere “because they believe what their children say about themselves, and they want their children to be happy. They engage in a process of relearning things they thought they already knew in the service of helping their children move fully into themselves.” And that, Meadow says, “is incredibly heartening.”

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**Parents are demanding that official documents reflect the gender a child chooses.**

*By Jessica Lander ’10*
Attorney and activist Barbara Brenner ’77 challenged the cancer establishment. She died of ALS in May.
Princeton knows the power of pomp. Students begin their time on campus with a ceremony combining all the seriousness and exuberance of a grand new phase of life; they leave after celebrations — both poignant and raucous — marking four years’ worth of accomplishments, fun, and friendships.

Of all the ceremonies that Princeton does so well, the Service of Remembrance may be the most affecting. It is this Chapel service, held each Alumni Day, that best speaks to the community that is Princeton, by marking the deaths — and the lives — of those who recently died. All are remembered: alumni, students, professors, and staff from every department; the famous and those known only to family and friends.

In this annual tribute, PAW celebrates the lives of alumni who died in 2013. Those whose stories are told on the following pages — you may recognize some but not all of the names — represent a small slice of the losses Princeton experienced last year. There are many others: industry giants such as marketing genius Robert Elberson ’50, who introduced the distinctively packaged L’eggs pantyhose brand; scholars like Clifford Nass ’81 ’86, who studied how people multitask while using new technologies, and warned of the dangers; “local heroes” such as Dick Kazmaier ’52, Princeton’s only Heisman Trophy winner (see PAW, Sept. 18). Chet Safian ’55 was a lawyer and investment banker but found his true calling as a volunteer and as a co-founder of Princeton Project 55, now called Princeton AlumniCorps. Another alumnus who found satisfaction after retirement was Nelson Runger ’53, a public-relations executive for 30 years before becoming an acclaimed narrator of audiobooks.

Every alum has a story. Here are just a few.
When her life partner, Barbara Brenner ’77, died, Suzanne Lampert ’75 recalled the promise she had made to her: “I always told her that I would make sure her obituary said she died after a long battle with the breast-cancer industry.”

After Brenner learned she had breast cancer at 41, she joined the board of Breast Cancer Action (BCA), a grassroots advocacy organization in San Francisco, and a year later became its executive director, elevating the five-year-old group to a national force that altered the conversation about the disease.

Hers was an obstreperous voice that took on those she saw as offering “feel-good” approaches to the disease and profiting from breast-cancer advocacy campaigns. She was critical of “pinkwashing,” her term for the way some companies used pink ribbons as marketing ploys while making products that contributed to causing cancer. BCA’s “What The Cluck?” campaign fought a fundraising program in which Kentucky Fried Chicken and Komen for the Cure sold pink buckets of chicken; the group argued that fried chicken could boost obesity, a risk factor for breast cancer, and that the fast-food chain targeted low-income communities with little access to healthy food.

“She loved the saying ‘Speak truth to power,’ and she was never afraid to take on anybody — doctors, the FDA, anybody she perceived was not serving the interests of cancer patients,” Lampert says. Brenner told Ms. Magazine in 2005: “We serve no purpose in being nice.”

BCA became the first breast-cancer organization to refuse to accept funding from corporations such as drug companies that it saw as profiting from or contributing to cancer. Brenner — dubbed “the pit bull of breast cancer” in a profile published by Smith College, where she had been an undergraduate — also argued that mammograms are over-promoted as a lifesaving tool, and pressed for research into the causes and cures for cancer and the tools needed to achieve results, such as comprehensive data on cancer patients.

Brenner, who was 61 when she died, dropped out of the Woodrow Wilson School master’s program to follow Lampert to California, and later graduated from law school at the University of California, Berkeley.

She was diagnosed with breast cancer again in 1996, when she had a mastectomy, and in 2010 learned she had ALS, a progressive disease that affects the brain and the spinal cord, which was the cause of her death. The disease stole her powerful voice, but she continued to speak out through witty and incisive posts on her blog, Healthy Barbs, reflecting on her life and taking on the medical establishment. In her final post, dated three days before her death, she thanked her friends and readers, saying she had been blessed to lead “a rich life full of love and culture and travel and work that had meaning.”

In 2011, Brenner made a video for USA Today in which she spoke about the many things she still could do, including playing the piano and completing The New York Times crossword puzzle with relative ease, “at least Monday through Wednesday.” At the time, she was using an iPad application that turned her written words into speech, though the
Jennifer Altmann is an associate editor at PAW.

WATCH: Brenner’s USA Today video at paw.princeton.edu

SEP. 7, 1917 • OCT. 23, 2013

Earl Staten Browning Jr. *53

Face to face with evil, he did the right thing

By W. Barksdale Maynard ’88

The death of Earl Staten Browning *53 in a Charlottesville retirement home at age 96 was noted as far away as London, where The Telegraph praised the former U.S. Army colonel for his dogged pursuit of notorious Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie, the “Butcher of Lyon.” It was just one adventure among many for the career military officer who saw service around the world.

Growing up in Iowa City, Browning milked the cow on cold mornings and dreamed of becoming a globe-trotting adventurer like the heroes of old-time boys’ novels. All his life he read voraciously, piling volumes in front of volumes on crowded shelves and, eventually, arranging bookcases in front of bookcases.

World War II brought the excitement Browning craved. The young would-be reporter, a graduate of the University of Iowa, heard the news of Pearl Harbor, then dashed to the train station to send the Army a telegram: “Am instantly available for active duty.”

So began a colorful stint in the Counter Intelligence Corps in London and Iceland, followed by a landing in Normandy after D-Day. Browning entered Dachau just hours after it was liberated, seeing corpses stacked like cordwood and vowing justice against war criminals.

As he chased enemy agents throughout Germany in the chaotic months following Nazi surrender, at the top of his wanted list was Barbie, the former Gestapo chief of Lyon, France, who had ordered the death, torture, and deportation of thousands of Jews and resistance fighters. Browning was disgusted to learn that Barbie was under American protection for providing tips against Communists, the new enemy, and argued that he should be detained for interrogation. He briefly prevailed, jailing Barbie for six months, but the Americans later sent the Nazi officer to live in Bolivia. Not until the 1980s would Barbie stand trial, having been extradited to France, where he died in prison. Browning’s honorable role in the sordid Barbie affair was revealed to the world.

After his military service, Browning came to Princeton for graduate study in international relations and politics, reveling in the intellectual atmosphere. A further military career followed, with appointments in South Korea, the Pentagon, and in Saigon at the height of the Vietnam War. He fell in love with travel, eventually visiting more than 100 countries, some of them in vigorous old age.

“He was a person of the mind,” recalls his son E.S. “Jim” Browning ’71, “and like a walking encyclopedia.” Always precise, Browning once became visibly pained when, in telling a story about Utah Beach during the Normandy invasion, he...
one of the frustrating things about journalism — at least for us journalists — is that it is so transient. An article that takes months to research can capture attention for a day, then be instantly forgotten. Even the best TV segments, seen by millions, are unlikely to be remembered by many viewers a week later.

So it was that, until I began writing this story, I had never seen an extraordinary 1975 CBS News segment by Bruce Dunning ’62 about a dangerous effort to rescue South Vietnamese refugees during the last days of the Vietnam War. At the time, the piece was widely viewed as one of the most compelling broadcasts to emerge from the conflict. It still is.

Dunning’s path to Vietnam included stints in Florida and Paris, where he worked for the International Herald Tribune and CBS Radio. Eventually, CBS sent him to Vietnam to cover the war. Colleagues from both that period and later in his career remember him as notably modest. “He didn’t arouse aggression in a place that was very aggressive,” says CBS correspondent Bob Simon, who worked alongside Dunning in Vietnam.

Indeed, what is most striking about his 1975 segment is how understated it is. The story Dunning had to tell was nothing if not dramatic: He was aboard a World Airways jet that had flown into Da Nang — a city in South Vietnam that was about to fall to the North — with the intention of ferrying out women and children. But when the plane landed, it was surrounded by South Vietnamese soldiers who, determined to flee, began forcing their way on board in a chaotic confrontation. Only a few women and children ended up on the flight. The plane was damaged during the melee, and took off with people still hanging from it. It landed safely in Saigon more than 90 minutes later after a harrowing and uncertain journey.

In the nearly-five-minute long segment, Dunning narrates this footage in an impeccably straightforward tone, never calling attention to the fact that he has placed himself in substantial danger. “Can you imagine how some of the quote-unquote correspondents would handle that story today?” says Simon. “It would be all about them.”

The Da Nang dispatch would be the most famous of Dunning’s career, though he went on to serve as Asia bureau chief for CBS, developing an expertise on Japan. After retiring in 2005, Dunning devoted time to Princeton, editing the Class of 1962’s 50th-reunion book and eventually becoming class couldn’t quite recall the spelling of a comrade’s middle name. That was 60 years after the fact.

In later life, the retired colonel became celebrated for his long-ago arrest of Barbie, but, Jim Browning explains, that was only one shining episode in a life devoted to a single, overriding principle: “Always do the right thing.”

W. Barksdale Maynard ’88 is the author, most recently, of Princeton: America’s Campus (The Pennsylvania State University Press).
Richard Just ’01, the chairman of PAW’s advisory board, is the former editor of The New Republic and, most recently, Newsweek.

WATCH: Dunning’s report from Da Nang at paw.princeton.edu

OCT. 12, 1915 • NOV. 8, 2013

Penn Townsend Kimball II ’37

Falsely accused, he fought to clear his name

By Christopher Shea ’91

Eagle Scout, chairman of the Prince, Rhodes scholar, U.S. Marine in the Pacific theater during World War II; later, a journalist at Time and The New York Times, political adviser, and longtime professor at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. The record of Penn Kimball ’37 was unassailable but for the asterisk: In 1946, he was falsely, and secretly, deemed a security risk by investigators at the State Department and the FBI.

The dossier against him fattened in the 1950s after investigations by the CIA (which, ironically, may have been thinking of recruiting him). He remained ignorant of the files’ contents for decades, but his quest to clear his name, beginning in 1977, defined the last chapter of his professional life. In school, “we do not learn, nor should we accept, that nameless moles can brand us disloyal for our lifetime,” he wrote in his 1983 book about his travails, The File.

Kimball readily noted that others suffered more than he
from anti-Communist witch hunts, but the mainstream nature of his beliefs — he was a down-the-line New Deal Democrat — made the sub rosa judgments about him especially Kafkaesque. He never knew what the files cost him, professionally, but in 1962, for instance, an expected appointment to the Federal Communications Commission inexplicably evaporated.

The saga began in 1945, when, transitioning to civilian life, Kimball took the Foreign Service exam. He scored well and seemed on track to being offered a post in Saigon, but took a job with Time instead. Security investigators’ suspicions had been kindled, however, by his having worked, pre-war, for PM, a left-leaning newspaper, and by comments from residents of his very conservative hometown, New Britain, Conn.

Ignoring accolades, agents played up the views of one New Britinite who called Kimball “one of those young fellows who have received too much education and gone communist or socialist.” They scribbled down the testimony of a Time employee who said Kimball “aligned himself with the communist element” in the magazine’s union. Kimball learned something was amiss in 1948 when, between jobs, he queried if a Foreign Service position was still available. It wasn’t, and he couldn’t extract an explanation of what the investigation had turned up.

Kimball was professionally restless: He quit Time for The New Republic; he helped start the cultural television show Omnibus; and he assisted on political campaigns both successful (Connecticut Gov. Chester Bowles) and not (New York Gov. Averell Harriman’s re-election bid).

In the mid-’70s, with the government promising new transparency, Kimball finally decided to investigate the blotch on his record, and hounded agencies for his files. He reconstructed the “pathetically inept” background checks and confronted people he discovered, or suspected, had spread tales about him (they dodged or pleaded innocence). He filed a $10 million lawsuit against the government and persuaded U.S. Sen. Lowell Weicker to read still-classified files; Weicker said Kimball was owed an apology. Kimball dropped the suit in 1987 when the government stated he was not “ever disloyal to the United States.”

Kimball was incensed by his treatment but never embittered, says his daughter Lisa Kimball. “That was the most remarkable thing about my father,” she says. “He remained an optimist” — an optimist who counseled vigilance against the excesses of the security state.

“What does the future hold — as government officials amass more and more data?” he wrote, presciently, in 1983.

Christopher Shea ’91 is a Washington, D.C.-based journalist.

WATCH: Kimball in a 1984 PBS interview at paw.princeton.edu

Michael deCamp ’49
He explored the wonders of another world
By Merrell Noden ’78

Michael deCamp ’49 spent his boyhood summers at the Jersey shore, swimming in the surf and wondering what wonders might lie beneath it. He found out in 1954 when Carleton Ray, a friend who happened to be the
director of the New York Aquarium, invited him to the Bahamas to try skin diving — something Ray was certain his athletic, ocean-loving friend would enjoy. DeCamp would spend the rest of his life quietly promoting the sport, both as a diver and as a photographer whose high-resolution shots of sunken ships earned him the title “the father of East Coast wreck diving.”

“He felt they were like Spanish castles,” says Wesley, his wife of 63 years. “They had a lot of personality.”

DeCamp dove down to tankers, freighters, German U-boats, submarines, and passenger liners like the Andrea Doria, to which DeCamp led the first recreational dive in 1966. In 1964, a few days after the Norwegian tanker Stolt Dagali went down 15 miles off the Jersey coast, deCamp followed an oil slick to locate the ship and recovered the only body to be found.

He was most proud of his expedition to Antarctica. Wearing only a quarter-inch-thick wetsuit while diving through a hole in ice so thick it had to be dynamited, deCamp spent several months swimming with Weddell seals and adding to his collection of photographs.

Those photos, which deCamp published along with essays in magazines like Skin Diver and Sports Illustrated, stirred the imaginations of young men like Chuck Zimmaro, who was a starry-eyed teenager when he first met his hero. “I compare Michael to [Civil War photographer] Mathew Brady,” says Zimmaro, a longtime scuba instructor. “There had been a lot of stuff written about the Civil War, but very few photos to bring those words to life. Like Brady, Mike brought a world to life. In a way, he was preserving underwater maritime history.” Shortly before his death deCamp donated his entire collection — some 250,000 slides — to the New Jersey Maritime Museum in Beach Haven.

Even as he continued diving and taking photos of the underwater world, deCamp gravitated to serious art photography, fashioning surreal landscapes in a form he called “sculptural photography.” That work, too, has been exhibited in shows all over the world.

“I don’t think there’s ever been anything like the works of Michael deCamp,” says Deborah Whitcraft, director of the New Jersey Maritime Museum. “He is like a king in the diving community — and always will be.”

Freelance writer Merrell Noden ’78 is a frequent PAW contributor.

ALAN ROSENTHAL *58 *61 IN THE EARLY 1970S

MARCH 18, 1932 • JULY 10, 2013

Alan Rosenthal *58 *61
He saw government’s sausage being made

By Louis Jacobson ’92

Over nearly five decades, Rutgers University political scientist Alan Rosenthal *58 *61 studied, advised, and prodded state legislators, but his most memorable observations may have come from a 2001 essay in State Legislatures magazine in which he tested the old saw that “there are two things you don’t want to see being made — sausage and legislation.” Rosenthal decided to tour a facility of the Ohio Packing Co. in Columbus, which turned out 40,000 pounds of sausage a day; he concluded that the old metaphor had outlived its usefulness.
“The process of making sausage ought not be minimized; it is complex,” Rosenthal wrote. “But it is also comprehensible. In an hour-and-a-half tour, I could figure it out. I have been a student of the legislative process for more than 30 years, but I still can’t figure it out. The legislature is too human, too democratic, and too messy to be totally comprehensible.”

No wonder Gary Moncrief, a Boise State University political scientist, calls Rosenthal a “political anthropologist.”

Rosenthal, who died of cancer at age 81, had worked at Rutgers since earning a Princeton Ph.D., including a long tenure as director of the Eagleton Institute of Politics. Rosenthal worked with state legislators across the country to institute best practices—an effort widely credited with professionalizing what had been a marginalized branch of state government. He convinced lawmakers to raise salaries of legislators, add staff, computerize the bill-tracking process, and establish nonpartisan research offices. He urged them to nurture civility, curb partisanship, and seek consensus through strong leadership.

“Alan rescued state legislatures and legislators from the garbage bin by dint of his intelligence, persistence, humor, and judgment,” says Gordon MacInnes, a former Democratic legislator in New Jersey who now runs a think tank in Trenton. “He worked his way into the confidence of suspicious politicos because he was sensible, smart, and funny.”

Rosenthal earned his undergraduate degree from Harvard, but he spurned Harvard Law to join the Army, where he worked as a spy in West Germany. Another unusual pursuit: He occasionally appeared as a clown for the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

Rosenthal was “absolutely one of a kind and larger than life,” says Cliff Zukin, a fellow Rutgers political scientist.

“Alan was irreverent, impatient, brilliant, creative, and playful. He never realized there was a box to think out of.” Rosenthal also was opinionated and disliked journalists, whom he saw “as getting in the way,” says Zukin. Karl Kurtz, director of the National Conference of State Legislatures’ Trust for Representative Democracy, recalls Rosenthal’s impatience with “long-windedness and scholarly malarkey.”

Toward the end of his life, Rosenthal felt conflicted about the state of American politics, according to those who knew him.

“He was disappointed,” Zukin says. “For him, the legislative arena is where conflicts went to be resolved, which required compromise, some trust, and good will. He would despair that institutions had stopped working, at least on the national level. He felt more hopeful about the states.”

Louis Jacobson ’92 writes a column on state politics for Governing magazine.

AUG. 20, 1930 • FEB. 6, 2013

**James Walker Evans ’52**

A man of God who rode for freedom

*By Raymond Arsenault ’69*

Jim Evans ’52 was first and foremost a man of God, an ordained Episcopal priest who preached the gospel for nearly five decades. As a pastor, he dutifully followed denominational liturgy, performing the sacraments and
guiding his congregants to salvation and a glorious afterlife. But his greatest passion — the driving force of his life — was the “Social Gospel,” the belief that the faithful should do whatever they can to redress human suffering and worldly injustice. In September 1961, this belief led Evans to become a Freedom Rider.

As a member of the Episcopal Society for Cultural and Racial Unity, an Atlanta-based group of clergymen and lay leaders, Evans felt compelled to join a “prayer pilgrimage” from New Orleans to Detroit, where the Episcopal Church’s triennial convention was scheduled to begin Sept. 17. Groups of Freedom Riders — black and white activists who deliberately sat in the “wrong” seats on buses and in terminals — had been streaming into the Deep South since early May in an effort to challenge local and state segregation laws, and Evans and 36 other “pilgrims” decided to join them in a show of solidarity. The plan was to conduct desegregation tests along the route while “penitently admitting our own involvement in the sinful system of separation and segregation at so many levels,” according to a statement put out by the participants.

Strictly speaking, this action did not constitute civil disobedience, since the U.S. Supreme Court already had ruled that legally mandated segregation in interstate travel was unconstitutional. But it was fraught with danger nonetheless. Earlier in the year, scores of Freedom Riders had been beaten by white supremacists, and hundreds had been arrested and imprisoned.

As the pastor of small congregations in St. Clair and Sullivan, small towns on the southern edge of Missouri’s “Little Dixie” region, Evans was familiar with racial segregation and discrimination. But the young priest did not encounter the full force of Jim Crow until he tried to desegregate the Trailways waiting room in Jackson, Miss.

Arrested along with 14 other Episcopal priests, Evans soon found himself in a city jail cell, where he remained for six days, leaving only for a brief trial that ended with a conviction for “breach of peace,” a fine, and a four-month sentence. On Sept. 19, after filing an appeal, Evans and all but two of his colleagues posted bail and flew to Detroit. The charges against them later were dropped.

In the years that followed, as he moved from church to church across the Midwest, he remained a Freedom Rider at heart, a generous, consistent champion of civil and human rights. When I first met him in March 2010, he was suffering from Alzheimer’s disease, which would take his life three years later. Yet as I talked with him about the Freedom Rides, I could see that the essential character of the man who had risked so much a half-century earlier was intact. Fourteen months later, I saw him again on the set of the Oprah Winfrey Show, where 180 Freedom Riders had gathered to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Rides. I had wondered if Evans would have the mental awareness and physical strength to attend, but as the camera panned the set to open the show, there he was for all to see. Clutching his wife Margaret’s hand, but standing ramrod straight, he was a Freedom Rider to the end.

Raymond Arsenault ’69, the John Hope Franklin Professor of Southern History at the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, is the author of Freedom Riders: 1961 and the Struggle for Racial Justice.
Martha Carr Atwater ’86
She had Emmy-winning talent, but many knew her as mother and friend

By Kathryn Beaumont ’96

Martha Atwater’s close friends were not surprised that her writing and humor won her an Emmy for her work on the award-winning PBS children’s show Word World. They weren’t even surprised by the fact that it took Atwater years to disclose the news.

“It was so Martha not to mention it,” says her former roommate Mary Slattery Johnson ’86. And, Johnson points out, it wasn’t modesty that kept her from sharing professional success but, rather, compassion: “She didn’t want you to feel bad that she had won an Emmy and you hadn’t!”

After majoring in English, Atwater moved to New York to attend film school at New York University and become a writer. She searched for a writing job for a few months, then started working as a valet at New York’s Water Club, a restaurant. She reveled in the experience, viewing it as a way to get to know the “human experience,” as Johnson puts it. Soon Atwater started working at Scholastic Press, rising to become vice president of programming and working on such well-loved PBS programs as Clifford the Big Red Dog, The Baby-Sitters Club, Goosebumps, and Arthur.

Atwater was best known in her Brooklyn Heights community as a devoted parent (with her husband, Tom Wallack, she raised two daughters, now 17 and 13) and a cheerful neighborhood activist with a larger-than-life personality. As a member of the community association, she asked the difficult questions everyone else tiptoed around, all while making her neighbors and colleagues laugh. She ran the fundraisers at her daughters’ schools, once arranging for Cliford himself to introduce the school’s movie night. “She was one of those people who typified the expression, ‘If you want to get something done, ask a busy person,’” says Lexi Russello, who served on the board of the Brooklyn Heights Association with Atwater. “That’s why so many people in the community knew her.”

In February, Atwater had just come out of a bakery in her beloved Brooklyn, where she had bought cookies for her family, when a truck jumped the curb and struck her, killing her. One of the first people to arrive at the family’s home was the neighborhood grocer who often helped carry her bags.

In late 2010, Atwater started a blog at www.desperatelyseekingjonstewart.com, which featured witty observations on everything from pop culture to politics. She last posted Feb. 21, the day before she died, beginning “Henny Penny was right: The sky is falling!” and listing funny solutions to the not-so-funny problems in the day’s headlines. As for the blog’s name, she wrote, she was not a groupie of the television host but, rather, “I want to meet him because I have accomplished something significant. I want to meet him because I’m somebody to meet.”

Kathryn Beaumont ’96 is an attorney and freelance writer in Boston.
Even wearing clunky headphones, John “Bud” Palmer ’44 was a strikingly handsome man. Clad in a white shawl-collar sweater for the prelude to the 1960 U.S. Olympic hockey team’s game against the Soviet Union, Palmer gracefully leaned on a stadium railing, microphone in hand, and explained the stakes to a national television audience.

Palmer’s was the sole voice on the two-hour broadcast of one of Olympic hockey’s greatest upsets, a 3–2 victory for the United States, deftly navigating a play-by-play filled with Grebennikovs and Tsitsinovs. The success of the Winter Games at Squaw Valley, Calif., would help to solidify the place of sports on network TV.

The son of a silent-movie actor and an aspiring soprano, John Palmer Flynn was born in Hollywood, Calif. As a boy, he was dubbed “Bud” because he was the budding image of Lefty Flynn, his talented but troubled father, whose career petered out after a few starring roles. He dropped his father’s last name when his parents divorced, but the nickname stayed with him.

Athletics dominated Palmer’s time at Princeton. One of the first basketball players to use a jump shot, the 6-foot-4-inch center broke the Tigers’ single-season scoring record in 1942–43. He also captained a championship soccer team and earned All-America honors in lacrosse before joining the Navy as an aviator.

After completing his military service, Palmer showcased his jump shot at Madison Square Garden, starring for the New York Knicks of the fledgling Basketball Association of America (precursor of the NBA). But he found his calling away from the court in the broadcast booth, first on radio and later on television.

Palmer covered everything from the Masters golf tournament to the Little League World Series, and he explained his approach succinctly in a 2007 interview with The New York Times: “I tried not to tell people what they just saw, and I learned when to keep my trap shut.” Herb Hobler ’44, a Princeton basketball teammate, recalls watching Palmer on TV. “It was exciting,” he says, “not just because a friend of yours was on television, but because he was good.”

Palmer also modeled menswear; pitched for Vitalis, the hair tonic; and served as the original “Ask Jake” advice columnist in Glamour magazine. In 1966, New York City Mayor John Lindsay appointed him as commissioner of public events, a job that leveraged Palmer’s ample talents as an entertainer and raconteur. His assignments included welcoming Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir at Kennedy Airport and ushering the Philippines’ first lady, Imelda Marcos, on a shopping tour.

John Christgau, author of The Origins of the Jump Shot: Eight Men Who Shook the World of Basketball, interviewed Palmer in the mid-1990s and exchanged letters with him for years. He says Palmer seemed determined to make his mark on the world, partly because of his father’s unfulfilled promise and partly because of his natural disposition. Says Christgau, “He had charisma and presence and was absolutely, totally engaged in life.”

Brett Tomlinson is PAW’s digital editor and sports columnist.

WATCH: Palmer interviews Bob Clotworthy at paw.princeton.edu
In the hours and hours of oral-history interviews that James Sterling Young ’49 recorded with Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, there are more than their two voices on the tape — and there’s more than just talking. Kennedy brought his Portuguese water dogs to one session, and they barked into Young’s microphone. And when Kennedy was answering Young’s questions about his nine races for the U.S. Senate, Kennedy, like any good Irish tenor, burst into song, performing all-but-forgotten campaign ditties.

A historian who first focused on the nation’s early history, Young went on to establish the country’s only program devoted to compiling oral histories about the presidency; they are housed at the Miller Center at the University of Virginia, where he joined the faculty in 1978. He presided over about 400 interviews and directed oral-history projects on presidents Jimmy Carter through George W. Bush. Studiously nonpartisan, Young toasted Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton “with equal vigor and sincerity,” says former Virginia Gov. Gerald L. Baliles, director of the Miller Center.

Though most of the presidents did not sit for their own oral histories, Young believed there were lessons to be learned from the advisers and assistants who had fought the policy battles for their bosses. Sometimes he assembled panels of scholars to interview Cabinet members and adversaries. He was not one to pry, but he could ask tough questions, softened by his Georgia accent and his unhurried approach — he was, after all, not a journalist rushing to a deadline but a scholar who knew that his audience was mainly other historians. Baliles says that something else in Young’s background shaped the way he paced the questioning: His experience as a talented amateur pianist had made him a disciplined listener. “‘You can learn by listening’ is what he said,” Baliles recalls, “and then he quoted LBJ — you can’t learn if you’re not listening.”

The Kennedy project was an expansion of Young’s oral-history work on the presidency. Kennedy never occupied the Oval Office, but he was a major figure in Washington for nearly 50 years, from the moment he was elected to the Senate in 1962. At Kennedy’s request, Young conducted 280 interview sessions with more than 150 subjects, including 29 with Kennedy himself. Kennedy later used transcripts from Young’s interviews as the backbone of his autobiography, True Compass.

Kennedy’s widow, Victoria Reggie Kennedy, says the conversations with Young “changed the nature of Teddy’s memoir.” The book “was very, very open and very, very personal,” she says, “and that is absolutely because of the relationship he struck with Jim Young.”

Young also struck up a relationship with Kennedy’s dogs, but did not let them interfere with the interviews. Not wanting historians reading the transcripts to think that Kennedy’s reprimands of “bad boy” were meant for him, Young leaned into the microphone and provided the oral-history equivalent of stage directions: “We’re going to have to be careful to note where he’s talking to the dogs.”

James Barron ’77 is a reporter at The New York Times.
When Shirley Tilghman asked Peter B. Lewis ’55 to consider funding a new, cutting-edge genomics center, he was excited about doing something that had not been done before. And the more she emphasized the risks involved, the more his excitement grew.

“My expectation was that any donor thinking of a very, very substantial gift would like some assurances of its success,” says Tilghman, then a molecular biology professor who soon would be named Princeton’s president. “Not Peter. What really sparked his interest was that ... we were going to take risks.”

For Lewis, taking a $35 million chance on what would become the Lewis-Sigler Institute for Integrative Genomics (other donations funded the Lewis Center for the Arts and the Lewis Library) was another manifestation of the brash confidence that enabled him to turn his father’s 100-employee business into the country’s fourth-largest auto insurer, partly by taking on the risks of untapped markets — such as people with bad driving records and owners of exotic sports cars. When Lewis died in November from a heart attack, Progressive Corp. had more than $16 billion in sales and 26,000-plus employees.

It is telling that Lewis named his yacht the Lone Ranger. He advocated causes and organizations eschewed by other corporate bigwigs. After part of his left leg was amputated in 1998, Lewis used marijuana to manage pain and then bankrolled groups fighting for its legalization. He was a major contributor to the American Civil Liberties Union, the Center for American Progress, Human Rights Watch, the Southern Poverty Law Center, and other groups supporting individual rights and social change.

Lewis was “a true believer in justice, fairness, equality, and the plight of the less advantaged,” says Anthony Romero ’87, executive director of the ACLU. But Lewis was not a “passive investor in any charitable cause,” Romero says. “He wanted to understand the how and the what, and not just the why.”

When he didn’t like that how or what, Lewis could be prickly. He boycotted Cleveland philanthropies to protest “an incestuous old-boy network of interlocking board members on local charities” in his hometown, according to The Plain-Dealer. Once the largest individual patron of New York’s Guggenheim Museum, Lewis withdrew financial support and resigned from its board in 2005 after publicly disagreeing with museum management. He scrapped a dream home being designed by architect Frank Gehry when they couldn’t agree on plans and costs soared, though he remained Gehry’s fan and friend and pushed successfully for the architect to design the science library Lewis was funding at Princeton.

In 2012, Lewis signed the Giving Pledge, a campaign to have the world’s richest people dedicate most of their wealth to philanthropy. By then, he had given away half of his fortune — estimated by Forbes at $1.4 billion in 2006 — including more than $220 million to Princeton. With his pledge, Lewis wrote that his life followed several catch phrases. “Think outside the lines,” he wrote. “Problems are opportunities.”

Fran Hulette is PAW’s Class Notes and memorials editor.
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BJ MILLER ’93

WOUNDED HEALER
After a horrific accident, he built a life helping others who are nearing death

Twenty-three years ago, in the wee hours of a November night during his sophomore year at Princeton, BJ Miller ’93 was horsing around with friends after leaving a party. He climbed on top of the parked Dinky shuttle train, and 11,000 volts arced from the power line through the watch on his left hand, running through his body. He was severely burned and nearly died. The accident resulted in the loss of his legs below the knee and his left forearm. Today Miller is a palliative-care doctor, working to ease patients’ physical and emotional suffering at their most vulnerable point in life — something for which he’s eminently qualified. He walks, hikes, and bikes on carbon-fiber prosthetics that look like supple metallic bones.

Miller does not remember much from that night: a boom and blinding light that occasionally visit him in the moments before he goes to sleep, and the transport helicopter that carried his 6-foot-5-inch frame. “What I mostly remember is waking up about a week later, feeling the way you do when coming out of a bad dream. But when I jumped out of the hospital bed, ripping all the tubes out of me, trying to walk, and falling in a heap on the floor, I realized that the nightmare had actually been true,” he recalls.

Miller says he has no regrets — not even for the injury. “Too much good stuff has come out of it,” he says. “I was not headed toward a career in medicine before the accident, and I don’t think I’d be as good a palliative-care physician if I hadn’t had that experience. Every day I feel I have a head start when I meet patients and their families, because they know I’ve been in that bed. That can take us to a much more trusting place more quickly.”

He has cared for thousands of people as they lived out their last days. “Mortality is an incredible unifying force, because

IMPACT: Many students have been affected by war, but some are studying to be nurses, doctors, teachers, or business people. “That’s what keeps you going.”

FROM TOP: BRANT WARD/ THE SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE/ CORBIS; COURTESY TRENT FUENMAYOR ’12

BJ Miller ’93 at the Zen Hospice Project in San Francisco, where he is executive director.

STARTING OUT

TRENT FUENMAYOR ’12
Assistant director of the Irene Gleeson Foundation, an NGO in Kitgum, Uganda, which enrolls more than 7,000 children in its schools.

DUTIES: Fuenmayor oversees the organization’s schools and hospice and handles fundraising, media relations, and board-level communication.

BEST PART: The kids, many of whom are orphans. He plays volleyball and soccer with them. “They started to call me ‘father.’”

IMPACT: Many students have been affected by war, but some are studying to be nurses, doctors, teachers, or business people. “That’s what keeps you going.”

BEST PART: The kids, many of whom are orphans. He plays volleyball and soccer with them. “They started to call me ‘father’.”

IMPACT: Many students have been affected by war, but some are studying to be nurses, doctors, teachers, or business people. “That’s what keeps you going.”

CONTINUES ON PAGE 38
100 percent of us die,” reflects Miller, the executive director of the Zen Hospice Project, a residential facility for dying patients in San Francisco. “It unites us across cultures, wealth, and age.”

Zen Hospice is a natural fit for Miller. The organization, based loosely on Buddhist principles, offers care that helps patients embrace the spiritual side of death. For the past two years, he has overseen patient care in the facility’s six beds; all of the patients are believed to have less than six months to live. In addition to offering comfort at bedside and prescribing symptom management and pain medications, he fundraises for the organization and has served on a national committee to help raise the profile of the field of palliative care.

Working 70 to 80 hours per week, Miller also sees patients at the University of California, San Francisco Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, where he has taught and practiced for seven years. He occasionally makes house visits to dying people.

Left with a deep understanding of suffering and chronic pain after his accident, Miller has embraced a life steeped in humility and the big questions.

After several months of recovery following the accident, Miller was left with what he calls “a new body.” “The gift was that it got me out of the habit of thinking about the future and comparing myself to others. It rammed me into the present moment,” he says. “I’m actually grateful for that. I found a new confidence.”

Having grown up with a mother who used braces, crutches, and eventually a wheelchair because of childhood polio, Miller knew firsthand that having a “disability” did not have to be an impediment to a normal life. “That helped me circumvent the self-loathing that can happen in situations like this,” he says. “I decided not to try to ‘overcome’ my situation, but rather to play with it and be fed by it.”

“BJ was the same person after the accident as he was before,” says Tom Pinckney ’93, a close friend who has stayed connected with Miller. “He just had a new set of challenges, which he dealt with incredibly effectively.”

Support from family and friends sustained Miller through a difficult period at Princeton when he sued the University, New Jersey Transit (which operates the Dinky), and other parties. He reached a settlement for a total of more than $7 million, to cover medical expenses for the rest of his life, and new safety measures and warning signs were installed at the station.

After the injury, Miller no longer could row for the crew and changed his major from Chinese and Asian studies to art history, because he found art took him “to another plane and onto questions of human existence.” Art was therapeutic; it helped him gain perspective as he refashioned himself. But when it came time to graduate, he decided to pursue a career in medicine, earning a medical degree from the University of California, San Francisco. “UCSF took a chance on me, seeing that my time as a patient had value,” says Miller. Rehabilitation medicine seemed like a natural course, but a rotation in the field turned him off. “I didn’t like coming in with a big smile and being the poster boy for people who were trying to recover basic bodily functions,” he says. “Something felt not right about it.”

The suicide of his sister during that period again forced Miller to confront issues of suffering and death in an acute way. When he took an elective at the Medical College of Wisconsin in palliative care, it was “instant love.” “You’re encouraged to use your suffering as a motivator and teacher. That was the right fit,” says Miller.

Life isn’t all about hospice work for Miller. He owns a 10-acre farm in Boulder, Utah, where hay and alfalfa are grown for nearby ranches and horse farms, as well as apples, pears, nectarines, plums, grapes, and raspberries. “Getting outside in Mother Nature is extremely important to me,” says Miller, who also enjoys mountain biking and “road trips to nowhere.” In 2000, he and his friend Justin Burke co-founded a loose-leaf tea company named Tribute Tea, in which Miller lightly keeps a hand.

Miller’s approach to medicine is to “act from compassion and awareness,” he says. Diane Mailey, director of strategic development at Zen, says, “BJ is an extraordinary caregiver and person. He never puts himself above anyone, but relates to patients deeply, person to person.”

“That’s the most potent medicine, just coming from a place of love and kindness,” Miller says. “Medicine traditionally thrives on a hierarchy that I’m happily flattening. I equate the doctor and patient because I am a patient. Sometimes there’s nothing fixable and nothing left to do except bear witness and lend a shoulder, even if it’s handing someone a tissue and not running away when things get rough.” • By Marguerite Rigoglioso
Richard Stengel ’77 spent many years working on one particular story: South African president Nelson Mandela, who died in December at 95. Stengel ghostwrote Long Walk to Freedom, Mandela’s 1993 memoir, and wrote two other volumes about Mandela and South Africa. The former managing editor at Time magazine, Stengel has been nominated by President Obama to become undersecretary for public diplomacy and public affairs at the State Department. He spoke with PAW after Mandela’s death.

How did you first connect with Mandela? I had gone to South Africa in the mid-1980s for a freelance assignment for Rolling Stone magazine. I did a piece for them about life in a little town where there was a forced removal going on — moving black residents out of the town. I wrote a book about it, January Sun: One Day, Three Lives, A South African Town. When Little, Brown signed up Mandela for an autobiography, the editor read my book and hired me to work as a ghostwriter. I met Mandela for the first time when I went to South Africa in December 1992.

How often did you meet with him? For most of 1993, I would meet with him several times a week, usually early in the morning, to get him talking about his life. I also asked if I could just hang around with him. We hit it off.

What was he like? He was very sunny. He had a lovely sense of humor. When Mandela went into prison, he was known as a hotheaded firebrand — not someone we would recognize today. Prison taught him self-control. He was a terribly early riser. Mandela had not spent much time around Americans, so I became like an ambassador for the U.S., a proxy for him. I remember one morning starting at 4:30 a.m. We met at his house in the Transkei, and I was bedraggled when I showed up. He said, “You don’t look like a superpower!”

You’ve suggested that he was not especially sentimental or spiritual. He was a hard man, which is something that gets lost in all of the beatification. He was a revolutionary. He made many hard choices in his life. As the saying goes, he had a nice smile but iron teeth.

How bad were the conditions in prison? At first, he didn’t have much freedom of movement and he couldn’t talk back to the jailers, because if you talked back, you’d get a beating. That gave him self-discipline. He lived in a tiny cell. When I first went to Robben Island and saw it, I gasped, because he was 6-foot-2, with broad shoulders and a big head, and his cell was like a shoebox. Everything in his cell was meticulously organized. There were records of everything — little diaries of what he had eaten, how many sit-ups and push-ups he did.

Eventually during his imprisonment, people knew he was going to be a great leader. So probably for the last 10 years in prison he was treated more delicately. But for the first few years it was very tough.

How does he compare with Gandhi and Martin Luther King? The person I liken him to more is George Washington. He was the father of his country, and everything he did was a prototype for what followed. One of Mandela’s most important decisions was to serve one term, even though he could have been president for life. George Washington did much the same when he stepped down after two terms. Gandhi and King were apostles of nonviolence — it was intrinsic to their philosophy. That was not the case with Mandela. For him, nonviolence was a tactic, not a principle.

To what extent have his successors lived up to his ideals? It’s hard to live up to the model of Nelson Mandela. He put the country on the road to being a successful, nonracial, capitalist democracy. And I think people in South Africa feel like they are a young nation with a tremendous amount of potential. It has lots of problems, but I think Mandela set them up with a very solid foundation.

Q&A

Landon Y. Jones ’66 is the former managing editor of People and Money magazines, a former editor of PAW, and the author of Great Expectations: America and the Baby Boom Generation. This essay originally appeared in The Wall Street Journal.

“Harley? You’re first!”

The announcer’s words crackle over a loudspeaker in my direction, but not at me — he’s talking to the horse I’m sitting on. I have known Harley for only five minutes, but now we are a team, bonded by mutual fear. Harley seems skittish about the inexperienced rider on his back, and I’m afraid that I’ve made a big mistake: I have entered the weekly rodeo at a guest ranch in Wyoming.

The first event is barrel racing, known as a “girl’s event” on the pro rodeo circuit, but one that requires experience, adroit handling, and intimate knowledge of horses — none of which I possess.

It is too late to back out. My son, daughter, and granddaughter are all mounted up behind me, their horses whinnying and pawing the ground. My wife and the rest of my family are watching from the bleachers. I find myself thinking about the old TV Westerns I used to watch as a kid — The Roy Rogers Show, The Lone Ranger, Maverick, Bonanza. Maybe I can blame them. They all romanticized an Old West that never existed. Now, as the oldest rodeo competitor here by at least 20 years, I am trapped in a reptile-memory, baby-boomer fantasy.

A barrel-racing course looks deceptively simple. It’s laid out like a baseball diamond. You and your horse begin at home plate, go to the barrel on first base and turn around it, cross and circle third base, head out to second, and then dash straight back home. You circle the first barrel on the right and then two lefts — all against the stopwatch. The pros make it look easy, using their legs, not their hands and arms, to guide specially trained horses. Their literature abounds in Zen-like maxims (“Create Soft, Round Movement for Sharp Turns and Fast Runs,” says one website).

Harley and I, barely introduced but, I hope, as familiar as an old vaudeville team, are soon at the starting line, a chalky scratch in the dust. “Go when you’re ready,” the announcer says. Suddenly I have become the Marlboro Man, giving the sequined teenage cowgirls a wave — nothin’ too fancy — as I ride manfully into the sunset.

What I do not know is that horses see themselves as potential prey in a world
red in tooth and claw. Their best defense is their speed. They run. So when a mysterious white object suddenly flutters into the corner of their vision, they panic. Harley spooks, wild-eyed, suddenly galloping ahead and leaping to his left. I go airborne, watching with fascination as the horse slides out from under my legs. I hang for a moment in the air, suspended in slow-motion like one of those Warner Bros. cartoon characters who goes off a cliff, his legs pinwheeling.

Then, astonishingly, the Earth rises up and smites me. I have landed flat on my back — fortunately, as it turns out, since in the overwhelming majority of the worst horseback accidents, riders land on their heads or necks, often with catastrophic results. The morbidity and mortality rate among horse riders is 20 times higher than that of motorcyclists.

I sit in the dust, stunned. Wranglers and officials run over to me. Don’t move! Lie down! Can you feel your legs? Are you numb? I mumble a few responses; then, as I have learned to do from watching TV timeouts for injured football players, I give a thumbs-up, dust myself off, and limp away. The crowd claps politely for a fellow who has done nothing but fall off a horse.

A visit to a hospital emergency room the next day reveals three broken vertebrae. Again, I was lucky. The bruise on my back is the size and shape of South America, but I should be healed in six weeks. The worse wound is to my pride. I am no Tom Mix. I am not even Gabby Hayes. I am an age-denying, pre-baby boomer whose reach exceeds his grasp.

In the car later, my daughter tries to console me by saying that occasional disappointment is the price for being ambitious. My 6-year-old grandson finds another lesson. When I ask him what he has learned from this episode, he looks at me very carefully and says, “Never show off on a horse.”

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Alumni Day Events Planned
Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor ’76 will receive the Woodrow Wilson Award, the highest honor given to an undergraduate alum, when she returns to campus for Alumni Day, Feb. 22. Hunter R. Rawlings III ’70, president of the Association of American Universities and former president of Cornell and the University of Iowa, will be honored with the James Madison Medal, the University’s top award for a graduate alum. Alumni Day annually draws about 1,200 Princetons and guests to campus for lectures, special activities, exhibits, and a luncheon in Jadwin Gymnasium.

Rawlings’ talk will begin at 9 a.m. in Richardson Auditorium, followed by Sotomayor’s lecture at 10:15. Other 9 a.m. events include a workshop for social-networking novices and a demonstration of chocolate-making by members of Princeton’s student-run chocolate club. Returning events include Dean of Admission Janet Rapelye’s talk on college admission and the 3 p.m. Service of Remembrance in the Chapel honoring deceased alumni, faculty, students, and staff. Exhibits include “Found in Firestone,” a library display of objects discovered during the building’s renovation.

To register and view a listing of events, go to alumni.princeton.edu/alumniday.

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Pursuits

GEORGE WHITE ’57 has jumped out of planes a whopping 1,958 times and has no plans to stop skydiving. “It is more fun than anything else I’ve ever done,” he says. The retired nuclear-fuel broker and consultant made his first parachute jump in 1959 while in Army Airborne School. White likes formation skydiving best, and in 2012, with Skydivers Over Sixty, he participated in an age-group world-record formation of 55 men and five women that, he says, “looked like a doily.”

Filmmaker and playwright DOUGLAS MCGRATH ’80 wrote the book for Beautiful: The Carole King Musical, about the singer-songwriter’s rise to stardom, which opened on Broadway Jan. 12. In working on the production, McGrath interviewed King, her ex-husband Gerry Goffin, and their fellow songwriters and friends Barry Mann (played by Jarrod Spector ’03) and Cynthia Weil. “It was quite emotional for all of them at different points, because they are talking about their youth, they’re talking about triumphs, and they are also talking about a lot of things that went wrong in their lives,” says McGrath. He hopes younger people see the show, because “in many ways it’s a girl-empowerment story.”

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PAW ONLINE
Watch a video of Landon Y. Jones ’66 on his rodeo ride at paw.princeton.edu

Photos: Courtesy Landon Y. Jones ’66; Terry Weatherford

paw.princeton.edu  February 5, 2014  PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY  41
When Americans think about the civil-rights movement, few give much thought to the role played by figures and organizations outside the United States. This overlooked aspect of the struggle against Jim Crow forms the basis of Black Revolutionary: William Patterson and the Globalization of the African American Freedom Struggle (University of Illinois Press) by Gerald Horne ’70, a professor of history and African-American studies at the University of Houston.

Patterson (1891–1980) was an African-American lawyer who, supported by the Communist Party, leveraged international outrage to right injustices against American blacks as far back as the “Scottsboro Boys” case in the 1930s. In that case — which involved nine black teens wrongly accused of rape in Alabama — Patterson provided aggressive legal and public-relations assistance to the defendants on behalf of International Labor Defense, the U.S.-based legal-aid arm of the Soviet-led Communist International. Thanks in part to Patterson’s efforts, the case became an international cause célèbre, putting pressure on U.S. officials to take seriously the injustices highlighted in the case.

Patterson’s role in the Scottsboro case, as well as his later efforts to fight Jim Crow as a lawyer, strategist, and spokesman, shed light on the tensions between mainstream civil-rights groups such as the NAACP and more radical organizations that were willing to accept assistance from the Soviet Union and take a more aggressive approach.

More moderate civil-rights groups “felt that alliance with any organization tied to Moscow meant the movement was doomed to failure,” Horne says. But the radicals felt the situation was so dire that the movement needed to find allies where it could, he says.

Patterson and his colleagues paid a price in the 1950s, when the Cold War heightened suspicions of those with communist ties; he spent time in prison stemming from his refusal to turn over documents related to party activities. Given such pressures, the civil-rights groups that kept their distance from the far left are more widely remembered today, a reality that obscures the once-simmering tensions between the movement’s two wings.

Horne, who grew up in Jim Crow-era St. Louis, worked for the National Conference of Black Lawyers before eventually shifting to academia. He has authored more than 30 books, most of which address questions of race in locations from Zimbabwe, Brazil, and India to Harlem and Hollywood. His next book, expected to be released in April, is The Counter-Revolution of 1776: Slave Resistance and the Origins of the United States of America.

Understanding American society within a larger international context is “particularly crucial today, when the black American community is in the midst of discussing myriad problems — the death penalty, incarceration, unemployment,” he says. Horne believes that too few intellectuals and leaders are noticing the similarities in social and economic challenges that span international borders. “It hasn’t broken through yet,” he says, “but I have no doubt that it will.” ♦ By Louis Jacobson ’92

NEW RELEASES

In Startup CEO: A Field Guide to Scaling Up Your Business (Wiley), Matt Blumberg ’92 “set out here to write the book I wish someone had given me on my first day of work as CEO of Return Path.” Among other things, Blumberg offers advice on defining a vision, hiring staff, and managing a board. Blumberg founded Return Path, which develops email services and products for marketers, in 1999.

Hayley Snow’s family comes to town for a wedding and her teenage stepbrother goes missing in Murder with Ganache (Signet), the latest mystery by Lucy Burdette (aka Roberta Isleib ’75) featuring Snow, a food critic in Key West, Fla. After her stepbrother is found and then suspected of murder, Snow tries to figure out what happened.

In Beach Pillows, the feature-film debut for writer and director Sean Hartofilis ’03, two aimless childhood friends seek fulfilling paths in the grown-up world of their Long Island hometown. Geoffrey Arend and Vincent Kartheiser star in the movie, released to video-on-demand by Gravitas Ventures in January.

WATCH: Film trailer at paw.princeton.edu
Online Class Notes are password protected. To access, alumni must use their TigerNet ID and password. Click here to log in: http://paw.princeton.edu/issues/2014/02/05/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 1933

John W.H. Glasser '33

John Glasser died June 24, 2013, in his home in Wyckoff, N.J. He was 100 years old, born on Christmas Day 1912.

“Johnny” was one of 1933’s class “babies,” arriving at Princeton from Eastside High School in Paterson, N.J., at age 16. While at Princeton, he enjoyed handball with Bruce Mather and birding with Dr. Charles Rogers.

Encouraged by his adviser, Professor Hubert Alyea ’28, Johnny entered Johns Hopkins School of Medicine along with several classmates (including Walter Buck, Josh Billings, and John Luettscher). After graduating he did an ob-gyn residency, followed by four years in the Army Medical Corps, serving in France and England. After specialty training at St. Luke’s Woman’s Hospital in New York City, he joined Valley Hospital in Ridgewood, N.J., where he practiced for 38 years before retiring in 1989.

Johnny was a volunteer for the Appalachian Mountain Club in New Hampshire and recently finished the booklet Nature Trail Guide to the White Mountains. He was an Elderhostel instructor for 10 years, an original board member of the New Jersey Botanical Garden, and a speaker for the Pinelands Commission. He could read the New Testament in its original Greek and taught Bible classes at various churches.

Johnny is survived by his wife, Evangeline Bethune Glasser; sons John W. ’66, James ’70, and David Glasser; and five grandchildren. He was predeceased by his first wife, Louise Weakley Glasser. The class sends heartfelt condolences to them all.

Robert Grayson ’40

Bob Grayson died Aug. 4, 2013, of lymphoma, at the age of 94. He was an innovative and much-loved pediatrician in Surfside, Fla.

Bob grew up loving science. When he graduated from high school, he received a scholarship to Princeton, where he earned a degree in chemistry. He was a member of Gateway Club and Whig-Clio.

After Princeton he attended the Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons. He joined the Army but remained in medical school. Upon his graduation, Bob did induction exams for the Army in Hershey, Pa.

While at Princeton he met Shirley Singer of Miami, Fla., and they married in November 1942. After his discharge from the Army, Bob studied pediatrics at Duke University before moving to Miami with Shirley and their two children. They later moved to Surfside, where Bob soon became known as the wonderful neighborhood pediatrician.

Bob loved to travel. He and Shirley visited China, Indonesia, and the Galapagos Islands.

He climbed Machu Picchu when he was in his 70s.

Shirley died in 2003. Bob is survived by his daughter, Jane, and his son, Bill. Our thoughts are with his family and all the people he helped for so many years.

James H. Herbert ’40

Jim Herbert died Aug. 24, 2013. He was 95.

Raised in Columbia, S.C., he spent summers on the family farm, Woodside, in Fauquier County, Va. He entered Princeton from Episcopal High School and was a member of Charter Club. After graduation, Jim returned to Virginia to become a cattle farmer.

In 1941 he joined the Army Air Corps, flying combat missions in P-38s and P-51s over Europe. Discharged in 1944 as a major, Jim earned the Distinguished Flying Cross and an Air Medal with five oak leaf clusters. He continued flying into his late 80s.


Jim is survived by Betty; their children and spouses, Elizabeth and Dr. John Cottrell, Jim and Stewart Herbert, Beverley and Kathleen Herbert, Bruce and Nancy Herbert, and Sarah Albritton and Andrew LaRowe; nine grandchildren; 10 nieces and nephews; and two sisters. His brother, Robert Beverley Herbert Jr., died in 1977. Our prayers and thoughts go out to this grand family as they celebrate Jim’s long, well-lived life.

THE CLASS OF 1936

George L. Barnes ’36

After a short stay in the hospital, George died April 5, 2013, in Wilmington, Del.

George was born in Philadelphia and prepared for Princeton at Upper Darby High School. He was a chemical engineering major at Princeton and stayed on to take graduate chemical-engineering courses as well. He was a member of the student chapter of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. He roomed with his great friend from sophomore year, John Hyle, with whom he remained friends for more than 70 years.

After Princeton, George began a long and varied career with DuPont. He initially focused on neoprene, a newly developed synthetic rubber with many uses during World War II. His career also involved work with an anti-knock gasoline additive called tetraethyl lead and in the rapidly expanding Freon field. In addition, he worked with plant operations and design, opening a DuPont facility in Montague, Mich., in 1962, and financial analysis. George retired from DuPont in 1982 and settled in Wilmington, Del.

George was predeceased in 2012 by his beloved wife, Barbara. He is survived by several nieces and nephews. The class sends its deepest condolences to his family.

James H. Herbert ’40

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Jim is survived by Betty; their children and spouses, Elizabeth and Dr. John Cottrell, Jim and Stewart Herbert, Beverley and Kathleen Herbert, Bruce and Nancy Herbert, and Sarah Albritton and Andrew LaRowe; nine grandchildren; 10 nieces and nephews; and two sisters. His brother, Robert Beverley Herbert Jr., died in 1977. Our prayers and thoughts go out to this grand family as they celebrate Jim’s long, well-lived life.

David K. Robinson ’40

Dave Robinson died Aug. 20, 2013, surrounded by his four children.

He was born in Cleveland and grew up in Detroit, where he graduated from Highland Park High School as the class president. He entered Princeton and served on many committees, and was class vice president from 1965 to 1970. He was a member of Charter Club.

Dave attended Harvard Law School for two years, during which time he was recruited by the FBI. He served as a special agent from 1942 to 1945.

Dave met Charmian Eversding in Pasadena, Calif., and they were married in 1946 upon his graduation from Stanford Law School. He went on to practice law at Hahn & Hahn for 60 years.

Dave was an avid sportsman. He and Charma traveled a great deal, but they always said their favorite place was the family beach house in Carpinteria, Calif.

Charmian predeceased Dave. He is survived by four children, Bob, Peter, Ann, and Timothy;
The Class of 1942

Kenneth W. Condit ’42 *51

Ken Condit, an acclaimed military historian, died July 16, 2013, in Mitchellville, Md.

At Princeton, he majored in history and was president of Gateway Club. Ken’s father, Kenneth H. Condit 1913, was dean of the School of Engineering.

When the United States entered World War II, Ken was ineligible for a commission in the armed forces because of a vision problem. He served in support units, ultimately winding up as a historian in the Quartermaster Corps. After the war he returned to graduate school at Princeton, earning a master’s degree in history. This led to service as historian for the Marine II, Ken was ineligible for a commission in the armed forces because of a vision problem. He

The Class of 1945

George Aubrey ’45

George Aubrey died April 29, 2013.

George entered Princeton from Exeter Academy, following in the footsteps of his brothers James ’41 and Stever ’43 and preceding his brother David ’50. He played freshman football and joined Tiger Inn. His Princeton studies were interrupted for service as a fighter pilot with the Army Air Corps.

Returning to Princeton, he received a degree in politics in 1947 and married Dorothy Craig. They had two children, Craig and Jamee, before they divorced. George then married Barbara Summar and adopted Barbara’s daughter, Karan. They later had a son, George W.

After a brief career in investment banking, George moved to Denver, where he founded Bellwether Exploration, an oil-drilling business. George and Barbara retired to Arizona in 1993, where Barbara died in 1997.

In 1998, George married Patty Rees and they moved to Sierra Vista, Ariz. George was active in politics and became chairman of the Intermountain Political Action Committee.

George is survived by Patty; brothers Stever and David; sons Craig and George; daughters Karan and Jamee; stepson Chris; and three grandchildren. The class expresses its sympathy to the family.

The Class of 1945

Richard W. Vanderbeck ’40

Richard Vanderbeck died July 14, 2013, in Morris, Conn., from complications of a broken hip. He was 94.

Dick prepared for Princeton at the King Low Heywood Thomas School, formerly the King School, in Stamford, Conn. He majored in mechanical engineering at Princeton, was a member of Court Club, and graduated with high honors. He went to work for U.S. Steel and earned a degree in metallurgy from Carnegie Mellon University. He worked in the Applied Research Division of U.S. Steel, from which he retired in 1980.

Dick served in the military in World War II, volunteered with civil defense, and served at local Presbyterian churches.

His last years were spent in Morris, Conn., where he loved hiking and canoeing with his family. He was a gifted oil painter and word-game enthusiast.

Dick was predeceased by his first wife, Rosanne McAlpin; his daughter, Kathleen; and his second wife, Jo Heinrichs. He is survived by three daughters and their families, Jane Ellen Vanderbeck and her sons, Phillip and Scott Hoffman; Judith Ellen Vanderbeck and her husband, Patrick David Kelly; and Peggy Jo Vanderbeck, her husband, Daniel Keller Thomas, and their daughter, Shelby Jo Thomas; and great-grandchildren Lauren Jane and Joseph Phillip Hoffman, Jacob Conner, and Cohen Scott Hoffman. Our thoughts are with the Vanderbeck family.

Richard T. West ’45

Dick West died May 3, 2013, after a long illness.

Dick entered Princeton in 1941 after graduating from Episcopal High School, where he had been an outstanding athlete and at the top of his class scholastically. He continued his well-rounded performance at Princeton: He was the captain of the freshman football, freshman baseball, varsity football, and varsity baseball teams and was named to the All-Ivy football team. In addition to the Poe Cup, Dick was awarded the Pyne Prize. Dick was an avid member of Cottage Club.

Between his sophomore and junior years, Dick served in the Army and married the love of his life, Jane Smith, who was with him at Princeton for his junior and senior years. In 1948 he received his bachelor’s degree in economics magna cum laude and as a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Dick was definitely a man for all seasons!

Dick retired as a principal of Weaver Bros. Inc., where he established a very successful insurance division.

In addition to Jane, Dick is survived by his daughter, Sally; sons Richard ’74 and Thomas ’79; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. The class expresses its sympathy to the family on their loss of this outstanding classmate.

Fred entered Princeton from Exeter School and attended the Hun School. At Princeton, he majored in history and was president of Gateway Club. Ken’s father, Kenneth H. Condit 1913, was dean of the School of Engineering.

When the United States entered World War II, Ken was ineligible for a commission in the armed forces because of a vision problem. He served in support units, ultimately winding up as a historian in the Quartermaster Corps. After the war he returned to graduate school at Princeton, earning a master’s degree in history. This led to service as historian for the Marine Corps from 1951 to 1961, followed by activity in the Historical Division of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS). Ultimately, as chief of the historical branch, he became responsible for the history of the JCS. In this position he wrote the two-volume Official History of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Ken retired in 1983.

Ken loved the water and spent many hours sailing on the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay. He was devoted to his family. To his wife, Doris, and his daughters, Caroline Bahler and Victoria Tull, the class sends sympathy.

Princetonians / Memorials
Finlay taught mathematics at Trinity College in Connecticut from 1954 until 1998, when he retired as Seabury Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. In 1962–63 he visited Princeton on a National Science Foundation postdoctoral fellowship.

In 1961 he married Anne Woodruff Gwynn, who died in 1965. He married Betty Mae Navratil in 1966. Fin divided his retirement years between Hartford, Conn., and Maine. He rode his custom mountain bike daily year-round until his 88th year.

Fin is survived by Betty; his sons, Stan, Sandy, and Marshall; and a namesake grandson born last year. The class expresses its sympathy to the family.

THE CLASS OF 1947

Mark B. Bollman Jr. ’47
Mark died Sept. 14, 2013, at the Stamford (Conn.) Hospital. He had lived in Greenwich, Conn., for 45 years.

Mark was extraordinarily dedicated to the Class of 1947. His service beginning in the 1950s was tremendous—highlighted by his two terms as president (1997–2002 and 2008–2013).

Mark entered Princeton in 1943, but his education was interrupted by Army service in World War II. Mark was wounded during the Battle of the Bulge in 1944, for which he received the Purple Heart. He returned to Princeton and graduated in 1949. He subsequently graduated from Harvard Business School in 1951.

Mark’s business career was outstanding. His advertising-agency career began at McCann Erickson in 1951 and lasted for 17 years. During that time he also was vice president of McCann Erickson’s Atlanta office. In 1963 he was transferred to Johannesburg, South Africa, to manage an agency bought by McCann Erickson. Following his years at McCann Erickson he spent nine years at N.W. Ayer as an electronics technician.

Returning to Princeton at war’s end, Ralph joined Campus Club, majored in history, and graduated as a member of Phi Beta Kappa in 1949. Three years later he received a divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary.

Ralph started his career as a hospital chaplain at New Jersey Neuro-Psychiatric Institute. While he was there he found time to earn a master of divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary.

The bulk of Ralph’s career was spent at the University of Kentucky. When he retired in 1991 he was chairman of clinical pastoral counseling at University Hospital. He was proud of his work helping to educate hundreds of theological students and clergy. Holding part-time positions in several Lexington churches, Ralph also earned a master’s degree in classical languages at the University of Kentucky.

The class sends its memories of this outstanding public servant to Ralph’s wife, Gail, and his two sons.

THE CLASS OF 1948

Charles W. Rosen ’48 *51
Charles died of cancer Dec. 9, 2012, in New York, his hometown. He was 85.

Charles was a world-renowned classical pianist, as well as a prolific scholar, author, and lecturer on subjects ranging from musical history and music performance to French and English literature. He held professorships and lecturerships at universities from Harvard to the University of Chicago. He authored award-winning scholarly books and numerous articles on music history, but he always considered himself above all a pianist. He was famous for the distinctive elegance of many of his recordings, including Beethoven’s last six sonatas and Diabelli Variations, Bach’s Goldberg Variations, and works by Chopin, Schoenberg, and Elliott Carter.

Charles was already an accomplished pianist when he entered Princeton from the Horace Mann School. (His neighbors in Witherspoon remember kibitzing about his daily practicing.) By 1951 he had earned three Princeton degrees, including a Ph.D. in modern languages and literature. That same year he made his piano recital debut at Town Hall in New York, had his first recording (of Debussy études) issued, and then was off to Paris as a Fulbright scholar in literature.

In 2012, Charles was awarded the National Humanities Medal by President Obama. He left no immediate survivors.

THE CLASS OF 1949

Ferdinand V. Huber ’49
Ferdinand Huber, known to us as “Mike,” died Nov. 5, 2011, in Bradenton, Fla.

Mike was born March 10, 1925, in El Salvador, where his father was in business. He came to Princeton from Scarsdale and Harrison high schools, majored in mechanical engineering, and joined Campus Club. He served in the Army Medical Corps in the European theater from September 1943 to July 1945. Professionally, he became an expert on heat transfer and fluid flow. He published several papers on these subjects and was awarded a number of patents.

He was a patient and loving caretaker for his late wife, Helen, for many years.

At the time of his death he was survived by his wife, Peggy, children Frederick V. III (also known as Mike), David Huber, and Nancy Huber Palecek; and several grandchildren. The class extends its sympathy to them all.


Dick was born Oct. 31, 1925, in El Salvador, and attended Millburn High School. Three Warbasse brothers graduated from Princeton, and all became physicians: Dick, Warren W. ’49, and Lawrence H. ’46. At Princeton, Dick joined Prospect Club, the ski team, Whig-Clio, the Nassau Lit editorial board, the Rifle and Gun Club, and the Episcopal Canterbury Fellowship. He graduated magna cum laude as an SPIA major.

He graduated from Harvard Medical School and had a career in internal medicine.
The Class of 1952

Robert C. Pickett ’51
Bob was born Oct. 12, 1928, in Little Rock to A.B. and Helen Clement Pickett. He attended Lawrenceville, where he graduated summa cum laude, and served in the Army from 1946 to 1948.

At Princeton he was an economics major and a member of the Russian, bridge, skeet, and Campus clubs. He roomed with Bailey Brower, Kirby Dwight, Paul Hensley, and George Nimick. Bob was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, graduated summa cum laude, and went on to earn an MBA from NYU in 1963.

A chartered financial analyst, Bob was managing editor of the Value Line Investment Survey in New York in the 1960s and served as senior vice president and chief investment officer at the Commercial Union Insurance Co. in Boston from the 1970s until his retirement in 1993.

He served as treasurer to the vestry at St. Anne’s-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church in Lincoln, Mass., where his memorial service was held. Bob died Oct. 13, 2012, the day after his 84th birthday. He is survived by his wife, Martha O’Neill Pickett; his sons John, Andrew ’83, and Bruce; and four grandchildren. He also is survived by his second wife, Annette Munn Pickett; his first wife, Judith Hyde Pickett; and predeceased him.

Raymond J. McGill Jr. ’52
Ray was an alumnus of Lawrenceville. At Princeton he majored in biology and roomed with Carl Bickert, Fred Atwood, and Earl Moore. He joined Charter Club, the Catholic Club, the Republican Club, the Pre-med Society, and the German Club.

Ray enlisted in the Army, serving in Korea with the Airborne Regiment, then with the U.N. Partisan Infantry in covert operations. Later he was discharged from the Army Reserve with a commission as a second lieutenant.

He earned a medical degree at Johns Hopkins and did a residency in dermatology at Massachusetts General Hospital, returning to teach at Hopkins for several years. He opened his private practice of dermatology and cosmetic surgery in Baltimore, where he worked until 1996.

In 1976, Ray married Helen Owens. He died Oct. 23, 2004, leaving her and her son, Parker. To them, the class offers regrets and an apology for the tardiness of this memorial.

Thomas F. Daubert ’52
A regular at Reunions, generally accompanied by his son, Tom Jr. ’74, Tom came to the class from the high school in Martins Ferry, Ohio. He majored in psychology, joined Colonial Club and Orange Key, and played football. He roomed with Fred Slivon, Jim Beck, Andy Deiss, and Twiggis Myers.

Tom worked in marketing at Smith, Kline and French Laboratories for 36 years, and then at a market-intelligence firm serving the pharmaceutical industry.

We learned of his Sept. 10, 2013, death in a moving letter from Tom Jr., expressing his love and respect for his dad and recalling his father’s affection for all things Princeton.

The class sends regrets to Tom’s wife, Mary Louise, and Tom Jr.

F. Malcolm Graff Jr. ’52
Private banker and opera devotee, Malcolm’s work was at Bankers Trust and Bessemer Trust. His private life was devoted to his wife, Yveta Synek Graff, coaching for opera companies in many world cities, and promoting performance of the works of the Czech composer Janácek.

Malcolm died Sept. 18, 2013, in Montecito, Calif. His obituary in The New York Times was accompanied by tributes from the Bagby Foundation for the Musical Arts, the Metropolitan Opera, and the Metropolitan Opera Guild, on whose boards he had served for decades.

He came to Princeton from Shady Side Academy and majored in chemical engineering. He joined the Canterbury Fellowship, Court Club, and the Republican Club. He roomed with John Moore, Scotty Scott, Hal Arensmeyer, and Bob Morris, among whom his dry and clever wit was appreciated.

After graduation he went to Harvard Business School and served in the Army in Europe and North Africa.

The class sends its sympathy to Yveta and to her son, Steven Love, upon the loss of our accomplished and generous classmate.

Benjamin M. Rice Jr. ’52
Ben graduated from Milton Academy. At Princeton, Ben joined Cottage Club, the staff of the Princeton Tiger, and the pistol team.

He majored in SPIA and roomed with George Riegel and Walt Griffith. He served in the Army as an artillery second lieutenant in Korea and then went to Harvard Business School, graduating in 1956.

His career in finance was capped by a position at Brown Brothers Harriman as an energy financial analyst. He lived in New York, was a member of the Union Club, and did considerable pro bono work in social rehabilitation.

At the time of his death Sept. 19, 2013, he was married to Joan Ross Rice. To her and to his sons Benjamin, John, and Christopher, the class offers condolences.

Walter F. Stephan ’52

Walt came to Princeton from Princeton High School. He majored in math, belonged to Prospect Club, and roomed with Dick Will. He also played tuba in the marching band.

After graduation he earned a master’s degree in engineering from Stephens Institute of Technology and an MBA in finance at the University of Chicago. He retired in 1990 from a successful career in information management, managing military, scientific, publishing, and educational information-systems development.

He married Margaret, a graduate of Hunter College, and they had four children, Walter Frederick, Michael, John, and Julie Ann.

The Class of 1953

Pier Mancusi-Ungaro ’53
Pier, an eminent internist, was born in Newark, N.J., and spent 40 years practicing medicine in Montclair, N.J., before retiring in 2000. He died Sept. 11, 2013, in Boynton Beach, Fla., after a short illness.

Pier came to Princeton from Newark Academy, majored in chemistry, and dined at Cloister Inn. His roommates were Tom Inslee and Fred Crispin. Fred remembers with a smile that Pier kept a pig’s fetus soaked in formaldehyde in front of the beer in their refrigerator.

After graduating from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and while completing his residency at New York Presbyterian Hospital, he met Sally Rose Moore over a bridge table (she is now a life master at the game), and they married in 1957.

Son Gregory, a graduate of Hamilton College, said that Pier’s “gentle probing bedside manner helped him develop enduring relationships with those under his care.” Gregory added that his father made house calls...
and took time to listen to and understand a patient’s personal story.

In addition to his son, Pier is survived by his daughter, Linda, and his grandchildren Eleanor, Margaret, and David Napoli. Gregory said his father was extremely proud of having attended Princeton and hoped at least one grandchild would gain admission there.

THE CLASS OF 1954

David F. Dickson '54

David Dickson died Sept. 25, 2013, in Fernandina Beach, Fla. Born in St. Louis, Mo., David graduated from high school in Munich, Germany, where his father was a colonel in the U.S. Army. At Princeton, he majored in politics and was a member of Prospect Club. After graduating, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army and served in Germany. He was a member of the Army Reserve for 25 years, achieving the rank of colonel.

David earned a law degree from Yale in 1962 and began teaching at Florida State College of Law. While teaching, he earned a master’s degree in art and a doctorate in government. He taught U.S. constitutional law as a professor. David enjoyed landscaping and had a lifelong love and study of the Episcopal faith.

He is survived by his wife, Gwen; sons Tom, David, and Paul and their mother, Claire Wolkind; sons Jon and Evan and their mother, Claire Wolkind; stepdaughters Leigh Beal and Lynne Couter; and five grandchildren. The class extends its condolences on their loss.

THE CLASS OF 1962

Laurence B. Levine '63

Larry died peacefully June 12, 2013, in Washington Depot, Conn., shortly after delightedly attending our 50th reunion. A graduate of Stanford Law School, Larry was a highly regarded investment banker working for top Wall Street firms and specializing in mergers and acquisitions in shipping, transportation, and insurance for clients such as Maersk, Shell, and Sun Oil.

Growing up in Manhattan and active in squash and crew at Fieldston, Larry also was a talented musician who at age 12 studied piano and conducting at Juilliard. At Princeton he played piano for Triangle and won the Francis Biddle Prize for Literature. During his sophomore year he joined the Marines, served a hitch, and graduated with '64.

While living in Palm Beach, Fla., in the 1990s and 2000s Larry was active in many not-for-profits and co-chaired the Poseidon Piracy Prevention Project, which helps protect mariners and their families.

In our 50th book, Larry wrote fondly of the day he left for the Marine Corps and his '63 classmates’ sendoff, which filled him with “pure friendship, support, energy, and encouragement.” The class extends its sympathy to his son, Blair Brandt; his partner, Nancy Winston; and his ex-wife, Laura.

Carl A. Lichtenstein '63

Carl died of a cerebral hemorrhage July 7, 2011, in New York City. A gifted student from Dover, N.J., with encyclopedic academic interests, Carl majored in physics at Princeton and later earned a Ph.D. in high-energy physics at Cornell. His work on wide-angle bremsstrahlung (electromagnetic radiation) brought him some measure of recognition within the community of high-energy physics. That work led to his being lead author on the resulting paper and to an appointment at Harvard’s Cyclotron Laboratory.

Had he so desired, Carl could have parlayed his early success into a secure position within academia, but he chose a different path. His political views moved leftward in the early 1970s, and he joined both the Spartacist League and the International Communist League. Carl left us no written record of intellectual transformation, but his history was detailed in an obituary published online by the ICL. Aug. 5, 2011. He archived the papers of Leon Trotsky and was an intermediary between the ICL and the rival Socialist Workers Party.

Surviving are his wife, Alice; a son, Lee; and a sister, Lois. We will miss his keen intelligence, his dry humor, and his quiet understatement.

THE CLASS OF 1966

William Sean O’Donoghue '66


Born in New York City, Sean grew up in Bedford, N.Y. He graduated with honors in history from St. Paul’s School in Concord, N.H., where he played football. At Princeton, Sean majored in English and wrote his thesis on the works of Laurence Sterne. He belonged to Charter Club and roomed with Ed Durkee and Clint Johnson.

After graduation he enlisted in the Army and served in Vietnam, reaching the rank of first lieutenant. Following his service, Sean worked for the New York Stock Exchange and later as an information-technology consultant. In recent years, Sean listed his occupation as a retired Internal Revenue Service auditor. He had lived most of his life in Manhattan.

The class extends its sympathy to Sean’s brother, Michael, and to the rest of the O’Donoghue family.

THE CLASS OF 1970

Robert Benedict Davies '70

After an extended battle, Bert succumbed to leukemia.

Nov. 3, 2012. Bert followed his grandfather (Class of 1910) and father (1940) to Princeton. He prepared at Kent School in Connecticut, where he was active in crew and soccer. At Princeton, he coached the freshman lightweight crew for three years.

After graduation, Bert served in the Army. He later co-founded Beacon Capital in Darien, Conn., and had a long and successful career as an investment adviser.

Bert’s special gift was the ability to find and nurture friendships — often through his love of friendly competition from cards to golf. His long-running Tower Club annual golf outing is being continued by classmates in his memory.

At our 40th, Bert had recently shot his best golf score ever (76) and reported great satisfaction in seeing that those closest to him all seemed to be happy. Bert was devoted to his family and loyal to his many friends. He said that he had been blessed to have a modestly stress-free life with enough opportunities for stimulation to keep things interesting.

To Kate, his wife of more than 40 years; and his children, Ben and Liza ’02, the class extends its sincerest condolences.

The Class of 1966

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Surviving are his wife, Alice; a son, Lee; and a sister, Lois. We will miss his keen intelligence, his dry humor, and his quiet understatement.

THE CLASS OF 1972

Kirk D. Alexander ’72 ’75

Kirk Alexander died peacefully with his family by his side at home in Davis, Calif., Oct. 1, 2013, after a four-year battle with cancer. He was 63.

A Denver native, Kirk came to Princeton from the Choate School. A member of Ivy Club, Kirk spent his junior year in Madrid, Spain. He roomed with David Barkhausen, Don Gilpin, Dan Schwartz, and Sandy Stuart.

An art history major, Kirk also earned a master’s degree in civil engineering in 1975. As a student, he united these interests by creating a mapping program for Gothic cathedrals. In the 1980s, he led Princeton’s Interactive Computer Graphics Laboratory. In 2003, he moved to the University of California, Davis to manage educational technology and online-learning projects.

Kirk was an avid hiker, biker, skier, and kayaker. Some of his happiest times were spent hiking the trails around Miramonte, the family’s mountain home in Coal Creek Canyon, Colo.

He is survived by his wife, Joan Ogden; daughters Kate and Christine Alexander; his father, Bruce D. Alexander; two brothers, Bruce and his wife, Lisa, and Paul and his wife, Carolyn; nephew Colton; and nieces Madison, Sarah, and Morgan. To them and Kirk’s many friends, the class extends its condolences.
John J. Giovannone ‘72
John died Sept. 26, 2013, at home in San Juan Capistrano, Calif., with his wife, Cyndi, and immediate family by his side. He was 63.

John — better known to classmates as “Bananas” or “G” — arrived at Princeton from Loyola High School in Los Angeles as a single-wing center, the rarest of football specialists of a waning era. When Princeton abandoned the single-wing offense in 1969, John joked that he was the first of our class to be downsized or “obsoleted,” typical of his sunny, ever-optimistic outlook. He played rugby instead of football. John majored in physics and joined other sophomores to reopen Dial Lodge. He was one of the “Little Hall Gang” of junior and senior suitemates.

After Princeton he attended Hastings School of Law and enjoyed a 30-year career as a corporate and securities attorney.

In mid-September, as his suddenly recurring cancer progressed, suitemate John O’Donovan emceeed a Skype reunion with classmates Pete Belcher, Fred Eccleston, Jim Graf, Tim Howard, Matt Mancuso, Steve Sikora, and Brian Williams, an occasion described as “a lot of stories, a lot of laughter, a lot of love.”

John is survived by Cyndi; son John and his wife, Lauren, and their children, Emma, Izzie, and Jack; son Brian and his fiancée, Autumn; and his daughters, Andrea and Katie.

THE CLASS OF 1973
John L. Dennison ’73
John Dennison of Landenberg, Pa., died suddenly June 30, 2013, at age 60, leaving behind his beloved wife, Denise; his father, David; sisters Karen, Andy, and Danny; and many loving friends.

Born in Wilmington, Del., he was the only son of David and Peggy Dennison. John graduated from Unionville High School in 1969 and from the University with a bachelor’s degree in biology. John loved Princeton dearly and 1969 and from the University with a bachelor’s degree, and became emeritus in 1980. He was an authority on the works of Charles Lamb and wrote Charles Lamb: The Evolution of Elia (1964) and Charles Lamb (1976).

Barnett co-authored The English Romantic Poets and Essayists: A Review of Research (1957 and 1966), sponsored by the Modern Language Association. He also published many scholarly articles and was the editor of Eighteenth-Century British Novelists on the Novel (1968) and Nineteenth-Century British Novelists on the Novel (1971). In 1988, he received an honorary doctor of letters degree from Randolph-Macon.

Barnett was predeceased by his wife, Madeleine, whom he had met at Princeton. He is survived by a son, two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

John Keith Stewart ’53
Keith Stewart, professor of English emeritus at the University of Cincinnati, died April 3, 2013. He was 91.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in English from Stanford in 1944. From Princeton, he received a master’s degree in 1947 and a Ph.D. in 1953, both in English. After a short period at the University of Virginia, Stewart joined the Cincinnati faculty in 1957, retiring in 1990.

Stewart’s field was 18th-century English literature. Upon retiring, he devoted himself to restoring books at the University of Cincinnati’s library (for which his family dedicated memorial contributions).

He was a lover of classical music, and, a few days after his passing, a memorial concert was held for him at the University’s Langsam Library. His children described him as a kind and generous man who, with their mother, guided them through the difficult 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s and off into life.

Stewart is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, whom he married in 1949; their three children; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Graduate memorials are prepared by the APGA.

This issue has undergraduate memorials for Kenneth W. Condit ’42 ’51, Emmett Finlay Whittlesey ’45 ’57, Charles W. Rosen ’48 ’51, and Kirk D. Alexander ’72 ’75.
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In Search of Brainy Bunnies
W. Barksdale Maynard ’88

One snowy day in the late ’70s, 90 women knocked on the door of Room 403 at the Nassau Inn, hoping to pose for Playboy, the iconic men’s magazine.

Staff photographer David Chan had come to town seeking models for a special “Girls of the Ivy League” issue. He told a reporter he was on a crusade to show the world that “the intelligent woman” is not necessarily “a spinster with a concave chest, Coke-bottle lenses, and her hair in a bun.”

Founded by Hugh Hefner in 1953, Playboy had become a much-discussed cultural phenomenon, dividing Americans into prudes versus sophisticates. When Firestone Library took out a subscription in 1968, it appeared sophisticates were gaining the upper hand.

The Princeton hopefuls who interviewed at the Nassau Inn weren’t in it for the money — Chan paid just $500 for a nude picture, much less for clothed. Instead, it probably was the thrill of being part of the Playboy phenomenon, then at its giddy height, with each issue selling 5 million copies. Three years earlier, even presidential candidate Jimmy Carter gave an interview to Playboy, acknowledging that he had “committed adultery in my heart many times.”

At Princeton, outside in the snow, 75 student demonstrators waved placards and chanted “Sexploitation has got to go!” The Women’s Center had organized the rally, furious that The Daily Princetonian had run Playboy’s advertisement soliciting models. The high-minded Harvard Crimson had refused.

Chan later said he found Princeton women pleasingly slim — at Harvard and Cornell “they’re a lot heavier” — but distressingly modest. In the end, three Tigers vamped in the magazine, all more-or-less clothed.

“Girls of the Ivy League” proved a newsstand hit, reported Prince journalist Elena Kagan ’81, destined for future judicial fame. Playboy twice visited campus in succeeding decades, amid further controversy.
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