A MOST LOYAL FRIEND

Lem Billings ’39, confidant to the Kennedys, was always present — in the background
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PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY

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On the cover: Photograph by Corbis/Corbis via Getty Images

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By Mark F. Bernstein ’83

Architecture
The 1929 construction of the Rothschild Arch, meant to represent the harmonious connection of religion and academia, showed how contentious small design choices can be.

Post-Polarization?
Professor Stephen Macedo looks for hints of bipartisanship in modern media and politics.

The Tokyo Files
Blogger Jonathan Kent-Uritam ’00 examines the culture and history of “the world’s greatest city.”

Citizen of the World
Alex Haykel ’19 has five passports, a wealth of international experiences, and a deep interest in philosophy.
Liberty and Privacy in the Digital Age: Princeton’s Contributions to Cybersecurity

"What is Princeton's boldest bet for the future?"

I’m often asked this question when I talk about our strategic framework, approved by the Trustees in January 2016 to guide the University in the years ahead. Perhaps expecting to hear of a new academic department or a grand online program, my questioners are occasionally surprised when I tell them that our “boldest bet” is to reaffirm emphatically the mission that has long defined Princeton as an outstanding liberal arts research university. We trust in the value of a long-term perspective at a time when many institutions are focused on short-term gains. We believe that curiosity-driven research and innovative teaching in the humanities, sciences, social sciences, and engineering are at the heart of the contributions the University can make.

At the same time, outstanding liberal arts universities today must also engage effectively with a rapidly changing world. Our students, whatever their chosen fields of study, should graduate with technological knowhow and with the capacity to raise important ethical questions about the nature of technology and the uses to which it is put.

The most recent Princeton-Fung Global Forum, convened by Woodrow Wilson School Dean Cecilia Rouse with the assistance of Associate Dean Elisabeth Donahue, showcased some of the ways that Princeton professors are meeting this challenge. Members of our faculty in computer science, engineering, public policy, and sociology joined with colleagues in industry and academia in Berlin, Germany, last month to address the topic, “Society 3.0+: Can Liberty Survive the Digital Age?” The forum served as a valuable opportunity to highlight diverse initiatives at Princeton on the critical and timely issue of cybersecurity.

Much of Princeton’s work in this area flows out of the Center for Information Technology Policy, an interdisciplinary center jointly sponsored by the Woodrow Wilson School and the School of Engineering and Applied Science. Calling itself “a nexus of expertise in technology, engineering, public policy, and the social sciences,” CITP supports research, teaching, and public events that address the interaction of digital technologies with society.

CITP director Ed Felten, the Robert E. Kahn Professor of Computer Science and Public Affairs, recently completed a term as the Deputy U.S. Chief Technology Officer in the White House. He is bringing this experience directly to the classroom in a course he is teaching this term on “Artificial Intelligence and Public Policy” (COS/WW 352). Together with Andrew Appel ’81, the Eugene Higgins Professor of Computer Science, and a number of their graduate students, Felten has been involved for over a decade in collecting electronic voting machines and hacking them to demonstrate their vulnerability to cyberattacks.

Other Princeton faculty address cybersecurity questions that emerge from the Internet, and more recently, the “Internet of Things,” the network of “smart” devices like programmable thermostats, fitness trackers, and even buildings, that collect and exchange data. Nick Feamster, a computer science professor and former acting CITP director, was the lead editor on a report recently issued by the Broadband Internet Technology Advisory Group, a coalition of academic and industry leaders. The report offered guidance both to device makers and to Internet service providers on how to improve security and privacy in the Internet of Things. Feamster is also involved in research to use patterns of domain registration to identify malicious websites before they can do much harm.

Jennifer Rexford ’91, the Gordon Y.S. Wu Professor of Engineering, is especially interested in how infrastructure shapes—and at times limits—people’s experience of the Internet. For the increasing numbers of users who have Internet access only through mobile devices, the ability of a few corporations to control the device, operating system, popular applications, and broadband markets means that these corporations also influence what information is disseminated and what innovations succeed. Rexford is applying her expertise in computer networking to help policymakers consider how federal regulation can keep up with this changing profile of Internet access.

Faculty members Prateek Mittal, in electrical engineering, and Matt Salganik, in sociology, are both concerned with threats to privacy in an era of Big Data, particularly data gleaned from people’s web browsing habits or social media accounts. Salganik’s forthcoming book, Bit by Bit: Social Research in the Digital Age, describes a number of cases in which Big Data research projects either failed to gain participants’ consent or failed to properly anonymize their data. His book is intended in part as an ethical guide for researchers embarking on work in this growing area. Mittal’s research focuses on developing systems that can effectively anonymize individual Internet use in order to mitigate the effect of mass surveillance. He is also designing technologies to support data-driven applications that can protect the privacy of the data they collect.

The Princeton-Fung Global Forum brought all of these Princeton faculty members and several more of their colleagues into conversation with counterparts from government, industry, nonprofits, and the academy. The resulting dialogues exemplified beautifully the power of Princeton’s long-term, interdisciplinary perspective to illuminate and address the problems that confront our world today.

Ed Felten, director of Princeton’s Center for Information Technology Policy, talks with students.

**THE PRESIDENT’S PAGE**

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Jorge Sarmiento, George J. Magee Professor of Geosciences and Geological Engineering. Director, Southern Ocean Carbon and Climate Observations and Modeling. Director, Cooperative Institute for Climate Science
The Outsized Role of the Southern Ocean in the Regulation of Carbon, Heat, and Biological Productivity

Mar 7
Robert Nixon, Thomas A. and Currie C. Barron Family Professor in Humanities and the Environment. Professor of English and the Princeton Environmental Institute
Environmental Martyrdom and Defenders of the Forest

Apr 4
Simon Levin, James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Mathematical Ecology: A Century of Progress, and Challenges for the Next Century

May 2
Robert Keohane, Professor of Public and International Affairs, Woodrow Wilson School
The Complex Politics of International Climate Policy

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PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY
An editorially independent magazine by
alumni for alumni since 1900
April 12, 2017 Volume 117, Number 10
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Was PAW really not able to find at least one “reflection” on Trump’s victory that reflected positively on the millions who elected Trump and Republican majorities in the House and Senate (“The Trump Era: Reflections,” March 1)? Do the uniformly anti-Trump perspectives of four of the five reflections (the fifth was largely a neutral data analysis) imply that today’s Princeton students are sequestered in a monolithic edifice of opinion and are not challenged to think critically outside conventional liberal wisdom? Please tell me it’s not so ...

Alex Zarechnak ’68
Oakton, Va.

The views from Princeton of Donald Trump and his election are interesting, but most of them generally repeat the sorts of observations we’ve been getting in the press and other media for some time. As a historian (not of the United States) and certainly no student of American politics, I wish that someone better schooled than I would try to answer the broader question: How do we explain the massive failure of the American political system that led to the election of 2016?

Here we had a long, painful, and expensive campaign lasting at least two years, yet which ultimately gave birth to a couple of candidates who, rightly or wrongly, many saw as among the most disliked and distrusted people on the political scene. What explains this extraordinary breakdown of our much-vaunted political system? Party structures and party leaderships? Citizens United? Inside the Beltway politics? Identity politics, Democratic and Republican both? Something else?

Perhaps others have engaged the question, and I’m just reading the wrong stuff. Or perhaps the nasty little secret is that the current occupant of the White House (when he can get away from Fifth Avenue and Palm Beach) has been a windfall for our analysts and opinion-makers in the media and elsewhere. A twittering mass of insecurities, he’s become the gift that keeps on giving, and our pundits are perhaps loath to interfere. (At my age, my first vote was cast for Adlai Stevenson ’22, and sometimes it seems that it’s all been downhill from there!)

Nicholas Clifford ’52
Middlebury, Vt.

Re “The Trump Era”: The printer must have goofed. Surely your copy read “The Trump Error.”

Malcolm J. Curtis ’70
North Haledon, N.J.

I was happy to see that PAW’s Jan. 11 edition was dedicated to languages. In a
The **Association of Princeton Graduate Alumni** invites graduate alumni to return to campus for **REUNIONS 2017**

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globalized world and in multicultural societies, knowledge of languages helps to facilitate communication and bring us closer together. In my work as a researcher with the INSEAD business school, I recently developed the Power Language Index (based on 20 indicators covering five opportunities afforded by language) as a means to measure the efficacy of languages.

Not surprisingly, English is (by far) the most powerful language. Mandarin, French, Spanish, and Arabic round out the top five. In a world where we are losing languages — and with it culture — it is important to remind people of humanity’s linguistic dividend and the need to preserve our tongues. Moreover, given the political climate where there is backlash (by some) against those for not speaking English in America, it should be reminded that although English is the most powerful language in our era, true power comes to those who learn a second (or third) language.

Kai L. Chan *08
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

COVERING MUSLIM ISSUES
I’m a Muslim alumnus, and I just wanted to say the March 1 issue’s coverage of Muslim life and issues facing Muslims in the United States was incredibly heartening, supportive, and warm. I wanted to share my gratitude.

Zeerak Ahmed ’13
Cambridge, Mass.

The disruptions caused by the war resulted in members of ’47 receiving Princeton degrees on 19 dates between 1945 and 1954.

sections of ’47 joined us in October and November 1943 and January and February 1944, the dates tying new engineering students to the semester schedule of Army units then on campus (in uniform), and new A.B.s to the parallel schedules of Navy and Marine Corps units. Ultimately, ’47 grew to 766 members, including accepted freshmen by then in the armed services, and others in campus training units who stayed after demobilization and were academically parallel to ’47 civilians.

Confusingly, the disruptions caused by the war resulted in members of ’47 receiving Princeton degrees on 19 dates between 1945 and 1954 (with two more getting their degrees much later, in 1980 and 2000). And some got their undergraduate degrees from other universities where, after enlisting, they were sent to units similar to those at Princeton. Many of them retain their loyalty to the Tiger (and even pay class dues). Hence our unofficial class motto: “War torn ... but peaced together.”

We’re proud of Sid, his affiliation with ’47, and his very significant contributions to science and to our country.

A.V. Kokatnur ’47
Lompoc, Calif.

RECALLING PAST CLASSES

Peter D. Kinder ’70
Cambridge, Mass.

COOKIE QUERY ANSWERED
Re “Why are Mallomars seasonal?” (Life of the Mind, Feb. 8): Mallomars date from before World War I and air conditioning. Their coating is pure chocolate, which would be prone toward melting in hot weather, so they are sold only from late fall through winter until early spring.

Lewis Shulman ’66
Somerset, N.J.

WE’D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU
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Letters should not exceed 250 words and may be edited for length, accuracy, clarity, and civility. Due to space limitations, we are unable to publish all letters received in the print magazine. Letters, articles, photos, and comments submitted to PAW may be published in print, electronic, or other forms.
Growing up in an immigrant family in small-town Texas, April didn’t know much about the Ivy League, and she was nervous about attending Princeton. Arriving on campus, she still harbored reservations: “It was a rarefied, idyllic place, and I felt like an outsider looking in.” Determined to find a way to belong, she plunged into the life of the University, becoming an Orange Key tour guide and a residential advisor, then leading the Asian American Students Association, and eventually serving as a member of the Race Relations Working Group and the Task Force on Diversity in the Curriculum. She graduated with a major in the Woodrow Wilson School, two different program certificates and the Harold W. Dodds Achievement Award.

She didn’t pause to take a break. After Commencement, she took on leadership of what is now the Asian American Alumni Association (A4P) and served as its president for nearly a decade. At the same time, she signed on to her local Alumni Schools Committee and was a class section chair for Annual Giving. More recently, she was a member of the steering committee for both the 2006 “Kaleidoscope” conference, celebrating alumni of color, and the 2015 “We Flourish” conference, celebrating Asian and Asian American alumni at Princeton. A former Alumni Trustee candidate, April has been on the Committee to Nominate Alumni Trustees since 2014, and this year is the chair of the Committee.

A lifelong advocate of addressing the achievement gap in education and still informed by her early days of working in the Admissions Office at Princeton as a work-study student, April has devoted her career in the field of education to enabling all students to access an excellent education. She sees her volunteer roles for Princeton as an extension of this commitment: to support students or alumni who have ever felt a sense of “otherness” to find a way to claim Princeton as their own. April sought to strengthen A4P so that alumni could “find a way to re-engage with the University.” On the Committee to Nominate Alumni Trustees, she works to identify and “bring to the table alumni who are ready to help Princeton improve, adapt and lead.”
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April Chou ’96
Chair, Committee to Nominate Alumni Trustees

To learn the many ways to stay connected to Princeton, contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at 609-258-1900 or www.alumni.princeton.edu
Dear Fellow Alumni,

As Chair of the Alumni Council and President of the Alumni Association, I see first-hand the enormous time and effort spent by loyal Princetonians who serve the entire alumni population. Thousands of volunteers work to encourage all alumni to join them in engaging in the life of the University. Some examples:

• Last October hundreds turned out for the Alumni Volunteer Weekend where leadership seminars and activities provided best practices to all.
• Thousands of alumni have enjoyed the regional dinners hosted by our ever-traveling President Eisgruber.
• Many more thousands interview undergraduate applicants around the globe each year.
• Volunteers spent many hours preparing for the wonderful “¡Adelante Tigres!” conference celebrating all Latino alumni earlier this month.
• And, as you see in these pages, the volunteers who make up the Committee to Nominate Alumni Trustees identify outstanding candidates for the board of trustees, benefiting all in the Princeton community.

We are already the most engaged alumni body on the planet, but if you are not already, I encourage you to get involved with your class, region, graduate alumni program or student organization of interest. We are Calling ALL Tigers to connect with your fellow alumni and your great University!

To learn how you might volunteer for Princeton, please contact me at wieser74@gmail.com.

Calling ALL Tigers!
On the Campus

The new reading room for Rare Books and Special Collections in the renovated C-floor atrium is one of Firestone Library’s signature spaces. Changes include new chandeliers, security systems, and programmable skylight panels that darken to control direct daylight levels at reading tables.

Photograph by Ricardo Barros
In December 2015, weeks after members of the Black Justice League staged a sit-in in Nassau Hall, Princeton’s artists confronted how issues of race played out in their own community. At a meeting held by the Lewis Center for the Arts, students complained that there were not enough theater roles for minority students and of a lack of diversity among the arts faculty and in course readings. Some felt they had had to fight for a place beside more privileged students with years of voice lessons or performance experience.

“There was a feeling that came out of those conversations that the Lewis Center could do more to be a resource for students of color,” says Monica Youn ’93, a creative writing lecturer. She now heads the committee that emerged from that meeting, the Lewis Center Committee on Race and the Arts, which aims, she says, to “dismantle certain preconceptions about who is an artsy person, who gets to do art, and what sort of arts are valued.” The committee of about 20 faculty, staff, and students has supported changes in the center’s offerings: diversifying the curriculum, organizing events around topics like arts and social activism, and broadening the center’s reach on campus.

One of the first changes was a new class taught by assistant professor Brian Herrera on “Movements for Diversity in American Theater.” Since then other courses have been developed, including “Race and the American Musical”; a visual-arts class on photographic representations of race, gender, and identity; and a poetry class, taught by Youn, on “Race, Identity, and Innovation.”

Attempts to diversify the arts curriculum extend to classes that aren’t explicitly about race, says Michael Cadden, Lewis Center chair. In his fall course on “Some Contemporary Shakespearean Afterlives,” students studied a play about Ira Aldridge, the first black actor to play Othello on the London stage, and discussed interracial productions of Shakespeare in the 1940s with Paul Robeson and José Ferrer ’33 that helped integrate American theaters.

Incorporating a broader range of artistic styles and backgrounds has been a priority in recruiting new faculty, arts fellows, and visiting artists, many of whom have acted as bridges between the Lewis Center and independent student arts groups.

The dance department arranged a master class with a professional street dancer for members of the Black Arts Company, and created a new role for hip-hop lecturer Raphael Xavier to act as a mentor for student dance groups. These partnerships help bring Lewis Center resources to where the students are, explains Rebecca Lazier, a senior lecturer in the dance department.

---

Arts for All

The Lewis Center works to diversify its offerings, broaden its reach

---
On the Campus

Alexandra Daniels ’17, center, plays the lead character, Tracy Turnblad, in the musical Hairspray.

Some campus arts groups “have an idea of the Lewis Center, and they don’t think it’s for them,” she says. “We have to go out and do more collaborations and find more ways to demonstrate who and what we value.”

The initiative has supported students who are exploring issues of race in their independent work. Edwin Rosales ’17, an English major pursuing certificates in creative writing, theater, and Latin American studies, is drawing on his own heritage in two Lewis Center thesis projects. He is writing a collection of short stories about an immigrant family from Guatemala adjusting to life in America, as well as a play called Spring, On Fire, set during the Guatemalan civil war. For Rosales, who left Guatemala at age 6, the play — which will be staged in late April — is a means of “finding a way back into my culture” and presenting it to audiences who may be unfamiliar with Guatemalan history. “It was an opportunity to tell a story that’s not usually told,” he says.

Among the theater department’s recent partnerships is one with East West Theater, a student group created by Kathy Zhao ’17 to attract Asian Americans and theater newbies to Princeton’s drama scene. As an Asian American, Zhao says, she is often typecast. In a 2015 production of Mikhail Bulgakov’s Zoya’s Apartment, Zhao was cast as the Chinese owner of a laundry who sells opium and speaks in caricatured broken English. “I felt really ashamed to be portraying Chinese people this way,” Zhao says. “It was a misrepresentation of Chinese people in such negative stereotypes.”

For her senior thesis Zhao chose to stage Lloyd Suh’s Charles Francis Chan Jr.’s Exotic Oriental Murder Mystery, a play-within-a-play whodunit focusing on the emergence of the term “Asian American” in the 1960s as a new ethnic and political identity. “I wanted to create roles for Asian Americans,” she says. The production was accompanied by an East West Theater symposium on Asian-American theater.

Similar concerns led Alexandra Daniels ’17 to propose and perform in a version of the musical Hairspray with the lead character, Tracy Turnblad, recast as a mixed-race teenager. It was an idea she’d been working on since her freshman year, she says, when she was told she could never play Tracy because she wasn’t white. “How can I let the color of my skin define what roles are available to me?” Daniels says.

Zhao and Daniels are part of a newly created team of 19 peer mentors. The student mentors “put a more approachable face on the arts at Princeton,” Youn says, by sharing challenges they’ve experienced in pursuing arts at the University. They work with student groups and members of the Scholars Institute Fellows Program for first-generation and lower-income students. As the arts programs prepare to move next fall to the new Lewis Center complex south of McCarter Theatre, the committee hopes to build on efforts to provide a more welcoming and inclusive environment. The new season will open with drop-in master classes in a variety of dance styles, a new hip-hop piece by Raphael Xavier at the annual dance festival, and the premiere of a Lewis Center-commissioned adaptation of The Bacchae by award-winning playwright Branden Jacobs-Jenkins ’06.

To encourage more diverse productions, the theater program has added thesis guidelines requiring applicants to explain how their proposals “improve the range of voices in the theater community,” says Jane Cox, the program’s director. Also in the works is an alumni mentorship program to pair undergraduates with arts professionals.

“So much of art is about telling stories and about the representation of people’s ideas and experiences, and it’s hard to participate in something where you don’t see yourself represented,” says Stacy Wolf, director of the music theater program. “Our goal is for every single student at this university to take a class in the arts, and we want everyone to feel welcome.”

By Paula Wasley ’97
Teach-In Marathon

Day of Action draws large turnout for sessions on social, political issues

More than 1,000 people took a break from their usual activities March 6 to attend a Day of Action organized by students in Frist Campus Center. The 12-hour event offered more than 60 teach-ins and talks by Princeton faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates about a wide range of social and political issues.

“We wanted to provide an open platform to pull together ideas and commitments about what we can do going forward, both individually and collectively,” said Sebastien Philippe, a fifth-year Ph.D. student in mechanical and aerospace engineering and president of Princeton Citizen Scientists, a graduate-student group.

Phillippe said attendance for the event far exceeded the group’s expectations: Many rooms were filled to capacity, with people lining up in the halls outside to learn more about topics including environmental justice, Islamophobia and racism, gender inequality, right-to-life issues, and health care under the Trump administration.

In a session on science communication, Daniel Steinberg, director of education outreach at the Princeton Center for Complex Materials, challenged a group of students and scientists to explain their research drawing only from a list of commonly used words. Neuroscientist Sam Wang — perhaps better known for his website on polling and elections data — spoke on the politics and statistics behind gerrymandering, with redistricting scheduled to take place after the U.S. census in 2020. His session was so popular that it had to be moved to a larger room.

Some talks were structured to be strictly informative, while others — such as a session on community organizing — had an activist bent, Philippe said. More than a dozen University and local organizations set up tables to share information and recruit members; 28 people registered to vote.

Students said they came to the event to learn and to connect with others with a passion for similar issues.

“I’m a huge immigrant-rights advocate, but I realize that there are so many other topics on campus that people are passionate about. Being able to give them the space to teach me about something I may not know as much about is probably the most important thing that we can do for each other,” said Soraya Morales Nunez ’18. “Especially at a place like Princeton, because coming out of here you’ll have the resources to change the world.”

At a concluding session, organizers urged attendees to find a way to get involved — whether it be through contacting local officials, volunteering in the community, or some other action.

“Pick something and do it,” said Stevie Bergman, a physics Ph.D. student and member of Princeton Citizen Scientists. “Even if you try it and it takes up too much of your time and you realize it’s the wrong thing to do, you’ve learned something and someone else has gained something from your presence.”

The event was co-sponsored by the Citizen Scientists group and Princeton Advocates for Justice, a coalition of more than 25 student groups. Organizers said they hoped similar events would take place on other campuses. MIT plans a Day of Action April 18.

By A.W.
professor emerita of ecology and evolutionary biology. “But the numbers haven’t changed all that much.”

The presenters agreed, especially about leadership, where they cited a plateau across disciplines. From science to politics, women rarely occupy more than 20 percent of leadership positions, according to Jani. This is often in spite of a higher proportion of women receiving the required degrees. For Graham, this harms the whole community.

“Let’s have science represent the trainees of science,” she said.

The audience found this problematic as well. Jennifer Guyton, a fourth-year Ph.D. student in ecology and evolutionary biology, highlighted the need to “face those hard truths and recognize where our own biases lie.”

“We need to be actively thinking about women scientists and actively showing young children, particularly young girls, that they can be scientists,” said Jim Wu, a first-year Ph.D. student in physics. By Nikita S. Dutta GS

DEBATING THE RIGHTS OF MOTHER AND FETUS

With the Day of Action focusing on issues more commonly associated with liberal ideologies, a teach-in about protecting the rights of unborn fetuses stood out. “If we’re not taking care of the unborn and preserving their rights, we really can’t say we’re preserving anyone’s rights,” said Matthew Igoe ’20, who began the conversation.

The session, “Promoting a Consistent Life Ethic Across the Political Spectrum,” featured Wilson School professor John Londregan, Ana Samuel ’00 *02, Allie Burton ’17, and Igoe. The audience consisted largely of graduate students, many of whom questioned the panelists on their views regarding the rights and health of the mother, birth control, the relationship between abortion and euthanasia, and the viability of the fetus at varying points of the pregnancy.

“The question is,” Londregan said, “should we go the lengths of being willing to kill someone in order to affirm the autonomy of another individual, given that the pregnancy process isn’t a permanent one and given that it is a part of our natural life cycle?”

Samuel advised listeners to support pregnancy shelters and equip women with an “abortion safety checklist” that includes information about greater risks for conditions such as placenta previa, future premature births, and mental distress. She also suggested forming a network of alumnae who have chosen not to terminate their pregnancies.

“I would love to see a group of alums come out and show why they are so happy they kept the child — that would be very inspiring, I think,” Samuel said. Not surprisingly, the panelists and audience did not come to an agreement on abortion rights by the end of the short teach-in, and conversations continued as participants left the room. By Anna Mazarakis ’16

COMMUNITY ORGANIZING: SHARING EXPERIENCES

“If we don’t get it, SHUT IT DOWN!”

Nyle Fort, a second-year Ph.D. student studying religion and African American studies, asked the 100-plus audience members at a Day of Action panel on community organizing to chant these words along with him, and they did. The chant was a rallying cry in Ferguson, Mo., Fort said, when he traveled there in 2014 to protest the killing of Michael Brown. Fort described how he and other protesters made it their mission to embrace the chant and “shut everything down” — from the streets, to the malls, to a St. Louis Rams football game.

“But in the midst of all of this,” he said, “we began to think, ‘OK, we’re shutting stuff down, but what do we want to build up?’”

That led to his work with other activists to create Books and Breakfast, a program to provide children in Ferguson with a meal and a book before school and to foster a sense of community in a divided city. Fort was so inspired that he decided to bring the idea back to his hometown of Newark, N.J.

“There were a lot of people who were jobless or in jail, and a lot of young people who were poor,” he said. “Although those aren’t the kind of issues that would be covered by [major news networks], they are the things that affect people in our community every day, and we have to respond to those things.”

Two other graduate students shared their organizing experiences, one working to abolish security checkpoints targeting undocumented immigrants in Los Angeles, the other in efforts to expand affordable housing in Arlington, Va.

Cornel West ’80, professor emeritus of African American studies, urged those in the audience to make their voices heard. Hatred and discrimination “bring out the best of the country,” West said, referring to protests and demonstrations against actions taken by the Trump administration. “The problem simply is, we’re not winning — and that’s why organizing is important.”

By A.W.
Seniors Solveig Gold and Marisa Salazar are this year’s winners of the Pyne Prize, the University’s highest general distinction for undergraduates. They spoke with PAW in early March.

SOLVEIG GOLD ’17
Gold, born and raised in New York City, is concentrating in classics with certificates in Hellenic studies, values and public life, and humanistic studies. She is a member of the Tigerlilies a cappella group, the Triangle Club, and the Glee Club; a staff writer for the Princeton Tory; and co-founder of the Princeton Open Campus Coalition, which promotes free speech and academic diversity on campus.

What’s your favorite thing about studying classics?
I love feeling connected to past people through ideas. The people I like to study in antiquity — such as Plato or Socrates — ask questions that we are still asking to this day. I love that I can join that same conversation that spans generations across time and space with people all over the globe.

What motivated you to found the Princeton Open Campus Coalition?
When the protests and sit-ins started happening, it was the first time that many of my more liberal-leaning friends came up to me and said, “Wow, I’ve never felt like I couldn’t voice my opinions before, but now I feel like I can’t say anything without being labeled a racist or a bigot.” I think that for a lot of conservative-leaning students this is a normal fear, but when it got to the point where liberal students felt that way too, I knew I had to do something about it. The nine other founders and I created the Princeton Open Campus Coalition because we felt that someone had to make it clear that it’s OK to disagree, it’s good to disagree, and that actually, that’s the goal of the University — to promote healthy and friendly disagreements that ultimately lead to greater truth.

How do you see yourself using your classics degree?
I’d like to be a professor, but I’d also like to have a public voice, so I see myself being a kind of public intellectual, commenting on current events through the lens of the classics, which can often shed new light on modern issues.

MARISA SALAZAR ’17
Salazar, who was home-schooled in Las Cruces, N.M., and whose grandparents emigrated from Mexico, is majoring in chemistry. She was an officer with the Princeton American Sign Language Club and has served as a pre-health peer adviser, a residential-college adviser, and the McGraw Center’s head tutor for organic chemistry. Salazar plans to attend medical school after graduation.
On the Campus

At the Alumni Day luncheon, you spoke about growing up and being part of two worlds, but not really feeling at home in either one. Has that changed during your time at Princeton?

Even though I grew up very heavily immersed in Mexican culture — things like food traditions, Ballet Folkloríco, and the value of family and one’s place in the community — I didn’t fit in with a major aspect of the culture, which was the language. At Princeton I started learning Spanish, and now I can talk about basically anything I want to talk about with my grandmother. Language and culture are so linked that having access to the language has opened a door to a part of my identity that I was always longing for but never really able to access.

You gave part of your Alumni Day talk in American Sign Language. What motivated you to learn it?

The summer before my freshman year, when I found out who everyone in my zee [residential-college advisee] group was, I found out that one of them, Colin, was Deaf [Salazar requested an uppercase “D” to emphasize the culture and community]. I taught myself enough ASL over the summer to introduce myself to Colin. He was really excited because usually people don’t know even a little bit of sign. Ultimately, it’s important to learn ASL, just to learn about the Deaf community because it is its own community and culture, but the most important thing for me was to be a friend.

You’ve said that you hope to work on providing medical access to traditionally underserved populations and on global health. What led to those goals?

Growing up, I was very aware of inequalities in the world. I am a Christian, and that ethical way of looking at the world through sacrificial love and sacrificial giving has shaped how I think about a lot of things — and that’s not compatible with inequity. So I see this inequity and just can’t see myself not doing something about it.

Interviews conducted and condensed by Layla Malamut ’18

“Galef is an excellent writer, and the book throughout is a delight—he makes the reader want to immediately start writing.”

—Publishers Weekly

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REACHING OUT TO GRADUATE ALUMNI

What’s on the minds of graduate alumni? During this academic year, Graduate School Dean Sanjeev Kulkarni, left, has talked with alumni in six cities, and the transition to the working world is a major concern.

“Helping our students develop professionally and be better prepared for a competitive job market is an important issue,” Kulkarni said in an interview after conversations with alumni in Denver, Atlanta, Raleigh-Durham, Houston, Austin, and Dallas as well as in Princeton.

Other topics that graduate alumni bring up: what’s changed at the Graduate School, trends in graduate education and funding pressures on the national scene, housing for grad students, and what the University is doing to make them “more a part of the community,” Kulkarni said.

Graduate alumni make up about 30 percent of Princeton alumni, he said, and the University is working to strengthen its ties with them.

Kulkarni said he urges alumni to stay involved by attending regional events, interviewing applicants as part of the Princeton Schools Committee, developing internship opportunities at their workplaces, and returning often to campus.

Attendance by graduate alumni at Reunions has been growing, he said, noting the success of offering a location with a “real tent” similar to the headquarters of major undergraduate reunion classes and a focus each year that rotates among the four academic divisions and the Wilson School (this year it will be the natural sciences). ◆ By W.R.O.

paw.princeton.edu April 12, 2017 PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY 17
What to Read and Trust
Advice from a journalist who teaches about sources, social media, and credibility

Joe Stephens, a veteran investigative reporter for The Washington Post, has been Princeton’s Ferris Professor of Journalism in residence since 2014. His course this spring, “The Media in America: What to Read and Believe in the Digital Age,” asks students to consider the challenges and opportunities facing democracy and the freedom of observation by a journalist. Second, there are identified, human sources. And finally, there are documents and data. When you’re reading, you should be looking for those to be identified — then you can evaluate how much you trust the information. That’s what we do in class.

I want my students to think about how credible the information that they’re getting is, rather than just letting it wash across them ... and I want them to think about how they’re constantly consuming media, whether they realize it or not. It used to be that if you were going to read the news, you had to go out and buy it. You had to pay for it, and you had to think, is this worth my money, worth my time? But now it’s just everywhere.

How should we evaluate unnamed sources?
Sometimes you have to have unnamed sources. But I think it should raise your antennae as a reader any time there are unnamed sources. Is it coming from a news organization that has a track record of being reputable? And does the news organization explain why they’re using only unnamed sources? Do they give you context and other reasons to back it up? Watergate, for example, had a lot of unnamed sources, but it was an important story, and it held up.

What news organizations should we all be reading, listening to, and watching?
There’s no easy answer. Some of the big legacy organizations like The New York Times and The Washington Post are doing perhaps the best work of their entire history now. ... The bottom line is that while you’re taking in the fun stuff, like Saturday Night Live and The Daily Show, you’re also making sure that you’re taking in some serious, credible information and giving some thought to putting together your own personal media diet.

You talk in your class about “iron-core” journalism — what is it?
We have this entire universe of media, but in the center of it all is a small “iron core” of hard-news reporting. There is a relatively small number of working

“Before you retweet or put something on your Facebook page, actually take the time to read it.”
— Joe Stephens

Joe Stephens
April 12, 2017
Princeton alumni weekly
19
On the Campus

IN SHORT
Princeton filed a LAWSUIT March 17 to prevent the U.S. Education Department from releasing hundreds of pages of documents related to an investigation into complaints that the University discriminated against Asian and Asian-American students. The department ruled in 2015 that Princeton lawfully considered race as one factor in making admission decisions and that there was insufficient evidence of discrimination.

IN MEMORIAM: CARLES VALLHONRAT, lecturer with the rank of professor in the School of Architecture, died Feb. 21 in Haverford, Pa. He was 89. Vallhonrat joined the faculty in 1972 and retired in 2001. Since 1975, he had been principal of C.E. Vallhonrat, Architect, in Philadelphia. He wrote about tectonics and Austrian architect and designer Josef Hoffman. Vallhonrat was the founder of the Louis I. Kahn Archive in Philadelphia and narrated the film Spent Light: Louis Kahn and the Salk Institute.

IN MEMORIAM: WILLIAM W. GRAESSLEY, professor of chemical engineering emeritus, died Feb. 18. He was 83. Graessley was a faculty member from 1987 until 1998, when he became an adjunct professor at Northwestern.

Almost everyone shares news in one way or another. What should we as informed citizens be doing as purveyors of news?

Before you retweet or put something on your Facebook page, actually take the time to read it. And think about where it came from — does it have transparent sources that you trust? A big part of the problem with fake news is that all of us are sharing things on our social media without first figuring out whether they’re accurate and true. People will see a headline and quickly share the article without first figuring out whether they’re true. Without a reliable source of information, it’s like throwing at us.

For the next wrinkle that the internet throws at us, we’ll unwind this trend and wait for the next wrinkle that the internet throws at us.

Are people becoming more savvy about recognizing fake news?

I think so. A lot of problems have popped up in the last year with fake or biased news accounts, but I think people are already adapting. One sign is that over the last year, the number of subscribers of legacy news organizations like The New York Times and The Washington Post has gone up dramatically. I think this sudden increase shows that people are catching on and knowing that they need a reliable source of information. With luck, we’ll unwind this trend and wait for the next wrinkle that the internet throws at us.

Graduate students approved a REFERENDUM in February calling on the University to divest from private prisons and detention corporations. The vote was 606-60. About 27 percent of graduate students voted.

On the Campus

Reunions AA Haven

Alumni and their families are welcome at

Open AA Meeting
Murray Dodge, Room 103
Friday & Saturday
June 2 & 3, 5 pm - 6:30 pm

AA Haven
Feel free to drop by the AA Haven for fellowship from 7 pm - Midnight
Frist Campus Center,
Class of 1952 Room.

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He published extensively on radiation cross-linking of polymers and the thermodynamics of polymer blends. His awards include the High Polymer Physics Prize.

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– Mung Chiang, Fundholder & Arthur LeGrand Doty Professor of Electrical Engineering, Princeton University

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On the Campus

Fighting Cyberwarfare

At Princeton-Fung Global Forum, Smith ’81 calls for treaty, new agency to deter attacks

With growing evidence that Russian cyberwarfare technology was used to try to influence an American election, it is increasingly apparent that current computer-security technology is inadequate.

Microsoft President Brad Smith ’81 offered a solution March 22 at the Princeton-Fung Global Forum in Berlin: a “digital Geneva Convention” to protect the world from a new kind of warfare.

Smith’s proposal builds on the meetings held in Geneva in 1949 in the wake of World War II to establish ground rules for the conduct of warfare and the treatment of civilians during war. He called for the creation of an organization parallel to the International Committee of the Red Cross to establish rules and limits against internet attacks.

The two-day forum focused on the question of whether liberty can survive in the digital age. It included talks by Smith; Vint Cerf, a Google executive who was one of the designers of the underlying technology used to create the internet; and Neelie Kroes, the former vice president and commissioner for digital economy and society of the European Commission.

The event also included six panels on challenges posed by the growing influence of the internet on society, ranging from privacy and surveillance and “the internet of things” to the recent phenomenon of “fake news.”

It was Microsoft’s president, however, who captured the attention of forum attendees. “I thought it was worth taking a page out of the history books ... to start to talk about creating a digital Geneva Convention,” Smith said.

His proposal, first made in February at a computer-security conference in San Francisco, is to bring together like-minded governments to pledge they will not hack the accounts of journalists or other private citizens who are involved in the infrastructure of our democracy.

― Microsoft President Brad Smith ’81

A new Geneva Convention would cause governments “to step back and pledge that they will not hack the accounts of journalists or other private citizens who are involved in the infrastructure of our democracy,” Smith said.

The biggest challenge facing a new treaty organization for the digital era would be finding a way to ensure attribution — to determine where an internet attack actually comes from, he said. What sets cyberwar apart from traditional warfare is that it is maddeningly difficult to determine an attacker’s identity.

“If the truth is that we in the private sector often know,” Smith said. “But we have employees in these countries that we need to protect.” Finger-pointing is needed to discourage and deter this kind of action, he added.

Among the 450 attendees, there was both support for his proposal as well as some pessimism about the prospects of limiting cyberwar with new treaties and new actors. “Unfortunately, Microsoft is not the Red Cross,” said Julia Pohle, a senior researcher at the WZB Berlin Social Science Center. By John Markoff

Princeton men’s basketball had one shot to tie and another to win in the closing seconds of its NCAA Tournament opener against Notre Dame March 16. Neither shot fell, and the Fighting Irish survived the Tigers’ upset bid, 60–58.

Pete Miller ’17 tipped in a missed 3-pointer by Steven Cook ’17, cutting the Notre Dame lead to one point with 16 seconds left. The Tigers fouled Notre Dame guard Matt Farrell to stop the clock, and Farrell missed the front end of a one-and-one, giving Princeton a chance to take the final shot.

Amir Bell ’18 found Devin Cannady ’19, the Tigers’ most prolific 3-point shooter, on the left side of the court. Cannady’s high-arcing shot looked straight and true but sailed a touch long. Princeton managed to foul the rebounder, Steve Vasturia, but with 0.4 seconds on the clock, the Tigers had little chance for an even a desperation heave after Vasturia made one of two foul shots.

At the postgame press conference, head coach Mitch Henderson ’98 had no complaints about the play that set up Princeton’s final shot. “That shot’s gone in an awful lot for us, Devin’s shot,” he said. “It was the right look for us.”

Cannady sparked Princeton’s second-half comeback with 8:35 left, hitting a 3-pointer, drawing a foul, and making the free throw to cut Notre Dame’s lead to 50–45. Cook also made a key 3-pointer, drawing Princeton to within one, 55–54, with 3:20 left.

The Tigers finished the year with a 23–7 record, including a perfect 16–0 mark in Ivy regular-season and tournament games. While Princeton was the preseason Ivy favorite, those projections were made before seniors Hans Brase and Henry Caruso went down with season-ending injuries. In their absence, Weisz, Cook, and Miller carried an even larger share of the team’s leadership, guiding the Tigers through several tight finishes, including an overtime win over Penn in the Ivy Tournament semifinals.

Henderson said that the seniors “made us a championship team again, and we’re thankful for that.”

Spencer Weisz ’17, the Ivy League Player of the Year, led the Tigers with 15 points on 6-for-11 shooting. He added four assists, five rebounds, and two blocks while playing all 40 minutes.

Notre Dame forward Bonzie Colson caused the most headaches for Princeton, leading the Fighting Irish with 18 points and seven rebounds. But the Tigers managed the pace of the game and held their own in the paint, nearly matching the Fighting Irish in rebounds. They kept Notre Dame well below its season average of 78 points per game.

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By B.T.
**WRESTLING**

**Magnificent Seven: Record Number of Participants and a Top-25 Finish**

Moments after his second-round win over Penn State’s Jimmy Gulibon in the NCAA Championships in St. Louis March 16, Matthew Kolodzik ’20, still catching his breath, talked about the tournament in an interview with USA Wrestling. “There’s nothing like it,” the Tigers’ star 141-pounder said with a smile. “It’s the best time in the world.”

Two days later, Kolodzik again was all smiles as he received the seventh-place trophy in his weight class, becoming the first freshman in team history to earn All-America honors.

Kolodzik’s finish capped a season of milestones for the Tigers, who sent a program-best seven wrestlers to the NCAA Championships. Kolodzik and Jordan Laster ’17 (149 pounds) won individual championships at the EIWA meet, and Pat D’Arcy ’19 (133 pounds), Mike D’Angelo ’19 (157 pounds), Jonathan Schleifer ’18 (174 pounds), and Ray O’Donnell ’17 (heavyweight) earned automatic NCAA bids. Brett Harner ’17, an All-American in 2016, received an at-large bid to the NCAA meet.

At the EIWA meet, where Cornell won its 11th consecutive team title, Princeton finished third, 4.5 points behind second-place Lehigh. The Tigers placed 25th at the NCAA Championships, their best national finish since 1985.  

**WOMEN’S BASKETBALL**

**Princeton Reaches Tournament Final, Falls to Penn**

Princeton women’s basketball recovered from a slow start to the regular season, and later recovered from a slow start to the Ivy League season. The Tigers could not do the same after a slow start in the inaugural Ivy Tournament championship game March 12.

Second-seeded Princeton fell 57–48 to Penn, the Ivy’s regular-season champion, in the tournament final at the Palestra. Bella Alarie ’20 led the Tigers with 11 points and 11 rebounds despite first-half foul trouble. It was her second tournament game with a double-double. Afterward, she talked about what she’d learned in her first collegiate season.

“I think it takes a whole lot of heart,” Alarie said. “It takes rebounding, it takes out hustling the other team, playing with a lot of energy. Throughout the season, we’ve had our ups and downs, and it’s all come to how you come together as a team and just play together. … That’s something I picked up on this year and will hopefully go on for the next couple years.”

Princeton earned a spot in the Women’s NIT, where it lost a close first-round game to Villanova, 59–53, March 17 at Jadwin Gym.  

**SPORTS SHORTS**

Olivia Hompe ’17 became the seventh player in Princeton history to score 200 career points as **WOMEN’S LACROSSE** knocked off No. 8 Notre Dame at Class of 1952 Stadium March 11.

Gavin McBride ’17 and Michael Sowers ’20 each scored five goals as **MEN’S LACROSSE** opened its Ivy League season with a 17–8 win at Penn March 18. It was the fourth time that the 5–2 Tigers scored 17 or more goals in a game this year.

After a 12–0 start to the season, **WOMEN’S WATER POLO** lost to No. 6 Arizona State, 7–6, at the Roadrunner Invitational in Bakersfield, Calif., March 18. The 11th-ranked Tigers rebounded with wins over Cal State-Bakersfield and Cal State-East Bay March 19.

Ramzi Haddad ’20 drove his first collegiate home run over the right-centerfield wall in the ninth inning to give **BASEBALL** the lead in a 5–3 win at UNC Greensboro March 10.

Erica Nori ’17 pitched a no-hitter against North Dakota March 18, leading **SOFTBALL** to a 6–0 victory. Nori struck out seven and walked three in the program’s first no-hitter since 2006.
The Earth as we know it was formed billions of years ago, when a proto-Earth crashed into a Mars-sized planet known as Theia. The explosion created a hot mess of rock and magma that eventually came together to form the moon. What was left of the proto-Earth, together with material from Theia, became our planet. For a long time, scientists have struggled to guess exactly when this cataclysmic event occurred. According to Blair Schoene, associate professor of geosciences, “There is nothing on Earth that is the age of the Earth,” since wind, water, and plate tectonics have long since recycled any material from the original proto-Earth.

The moon presents a different challenge. Even though the rocks there have remained relatively undisturbed, they took their time to form from a vast ocean of magma that no longer exists. Now, a former postdoctoral researcher in Schoene’s lab, Melanie Barboni, has determined the age of crystals derived from that magma and the time when the moon first formed. The results reveal it — and Earth as we know it — to be much older than scientists thought.

Barboni worked backward in a two-step process. The first part of the process was with Schoene at Princeton, where they dated the age of zircon crystals in moon rocks collected by Apollo 14 astronauts. Barboni, who is now an assistant researcher at UCLA, and Schoene subjected the rocks to a technique called isotope dilution thermal ionization mass spectrometry, a high-precision technique to determine the amounts of uranium and lead isotopes.

Unlike traditional mass spectrometry, the process destroys small quantities...
of the crystals; however, results are 10 to 100 times more accurate than other methods. The researchers dissolved tiny grains of rock, about the width of a strand of hair, in acid, then ionized them by placing them on a 1,400-degree-celsius filament. “We can have this very stable ion beam [that] sits there for hours, and we can measure it over and over,” says Schoene. Since uranium degrades to lead isotopes at a known rate, the researchers could accurately measure the age of the rocks by measuring the relative quantities of each.

The moon formed less than 60 million years into the formation of our solar system, providing an important reference point for astronomers hoping to understand how Earth and other planetary bodies formed.

For the second part of the experiment, performed at UCLA, Barboni measured the proportions of the element lutetium and isotopes of hafnium to determine when the crystals themselves formed from the magma. Together, the two processes determined the age of the moon to be at least 4.51 billion years old. That is 40 million to 140 million years older than previously thought, Barboni and Schoene wrote in a paper published with other colleagues in Science Advances in January.

The paper also notes that the moon formed less than 60 million years into the formation of our solar system, providing an important reference point for astronomers hoping to understand how Earth and other planetary bodies formed. “Knowing the age of the moon also, in a way, tells you the age of the Earth,” says Schoene, “since this giant impact was time zero, even if parts of it were present before that.” In addition, he says, knowing the approximate date of this birthday can help geoscientists determine the chemical composition of both the moon and Earth, providing new insight about not only our celestial neighbor, but also the planet we call home.  

By Michael Blanding

A New Challenge to an Old Fiction

Odysseus departs for war, adventure, and the open sea. Penelope stays home, weaving the fabric of domestic life. The story is ancient, but in a new book, two Princeton English professors argue that the notion that the lives of men and women are shaped by fundamentally different preoccupations still resonates in a common but misleading understanding of fiction written by women.

The view that Anglo-American women write primarily domestic novels “is itself a resilient fiction,” professors Maria DiBattista and Deborah Epstein Nord write in At Home in the World: Women Writers and Public Life, from Austen to the Present (Princeton University Press). “This domestic myth casts women’s writing as inevitably — and conservatively — preoccupied with the mundane and circumscribed aspects of home, personal relationships, sexual mores, marriage, and the taming of refractory men.”

Drawing on a wide range of authors spanning more than two centuries, DiBattista and Nord argue that women writers have just as often wrestled with public, supposedly male concerns like history, politics, war, and social reform, shaping their fictions around issues such as slavery, immigration, and the making of the American frontier.

“Men and women don’t necessarily approach these things in the same way or with the same sort of psychic material,” Nord says. “But the scope and the subjects and the concerns of men and women are closer than maybe we would have thought.”

Nord and DiBattista also argue that women writers often treat the domestic sphere with skepticism, irony, or even revulsion. In stories written by women, protagonists struggle to reconcile the competing, sometimes equally compelling claims of home and abroad, private and public, personal and political.

Even a writer as apparently domestic as Jane Austen challenges traditional
notions of women’s writing, DiBattista and Nord argue. In *Persuasion*, Austen’s last completed novel, heroine Anne Elliot attains freedom and happiness by abandoning her family’s landed estate for a less-settled life with her husband, a naval officer who earned his fortune in the Napoleonic Wars. Anne’s embrace of a peripatetic life mirrors Austen’s acceptance of new, more fluid social structures, DiBattista and Nord argue.

Although individual characters may choose home or abroad, the public or the private, “the vision of the novel itself is always saying these are divided imperatives, divided longings,” DiBattista says. “And that’s why so many of the novels that we deal with end on a note of suspension or irresolution. They’re not giving us easy answers.”

At *Home in the World* grew out of “The Female Literary Tradition,” a course that DiBattista and Nord taught together three times in the 2000s. Once, as DiBattista listened to Nord’s closing lecture, she realized that their examination of women’s writing had begun to coalesce around key themes: the vexed meaning of home and country, the importance of venturing abroad, the radical possibilities of what home someday could become.

Their work engages with a debate about the nature of male and female writing that stretches back to the advent of feminist literary criticism in the 1970s — and perhaps to Virginia Woolf’s famous 1929 essay on women’s writing, “A Room of One’s Own.” Early feminist critics argued that women’s writing was different from men’s and that women writers had historically seen themselves as engaged in a distinctive, shared project.

Although DiBattista and Nord perceive the women writers they discuss as constituting what DiBattista calls a “federation,” they acknowledge that, for some readers, the argument of *At Home in the World* may seem to challenge the notion that women’s writing belongs in its own category.

“Is it still useful to think in terms of a women’s literary tradition? Is that something that has its purpose and now no longer has?” DiBattista asks. “We hope our book keeps that conversation alive.”

Life of the Mind

**IN SHORT**

Millions of **ABANDONED GAS AND OIL WELLS** across the country release greenhouse gases — such as methane — that contribute to climate change. A study by civil and environmental engineering professors Michael Celia and Denise Mauzerall and former Princeton postdoc Mary Kang (now at Stanford) provides crucial guidance on which wells to close. Working in Pennsylvania, the researchers estimated that its 400,000 to 750,000 abandoned wells are responsible for up to 8 percent of methane emissions statewide. According to their study in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* in November, 90 percent of those emissions come from only 10 percent of the wells: those that were never plugged and gas wells in coal regions that were plugged but vented to relieve pressure. By closing these specific wells, states can efficiently stop the majority of emissions.

Scientists have been alarmed by the decrease in rainfall in the subtropics, fearing it will exacerbate areas already experiencing drought. But a new study looking at **SUBTROPICAL RAINFALL** by Jie He, a postdoc in the Program in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, published in *Nature Climate Change* in November, offers a bit of optimism. Working with Brian Soden of the University of Miami, he found that previous models failed to account for warming of the Earth’s surface. Figuring that in, He and Soden found that much of the rainfall decreases will occur over the ocean, while decreases on land will be less severe, somewhat mitigating the effects of climate change.

**GENDER STEREOTYPES** about girls’ intellect set in as early as age 6, according to a new study by philosophy professor Sarah-Jane Leslie ’07 and colleagues. In one test, children 5 to 7 were told a story about a “very, very smart person” and then were shown two men and two women and asked to guess who was the story’s protagonist. While 5-year-old boys and girls showed no bias, by 6 and 7 girls were less likely to think of their gender as “smart.” The study, published in *Science* in January, cautions that these stereotypes could have long-term consequences, including causing girls to avoid fields associated with innate “brilliance,” such as science and technology.

Scientists have long known that **PREMATURE BABIES** lag in neurological development compared to full-term babies, but research published in *Current Biology* in February provides new insight. Assistant psychology professor Lauren Emberson, research specialist Alex Boldin, and colleagues from the University of Rochester fitted babies with special caps to measure brain activity and then applied repeated stimuli, for example, a honking sound followed by the image of a clown. They found that brains of premature babies were less likely to make predictions based on stimuli (i.e., that the honking preceded the image) and that the ability to make those “top-down sensory predictions” may be a key part of neural development. Scientists hope to use the research to find ways to overcome the developmental delay.

By Michael Blanding
Annual Giving
is the catalyst for Jennifer’s good chemistry.

Annual Giving builds the foundation of excellence that allows innovation and discovery to flourish.

PhD candidate Jennifer Obligacion discovered a passion for chemistry in high school and chose it as her major at the University of the Philippines. She came to Princeton for graduate study, and the chemistry has been good ever since.

In Professor Paul Chirik’s lab, she’s developing catalysts for carbon–boron bond formation, research that will contribute to the synthesis of new medicines and tangibly improve human health.

YOUR SUPPORT OF ANNUAL GIVING PROVIDES GRADUATE STUDENTS LIKE JENNIFER WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO SOAR.
CONVERSATION

What Just Happened?! Two historians discuss the 2016 election

Among the Alumni Day events this year was an unmoderated and lively discussion about the 2016 election between two Princeton historians: Sean Wilentz and Kevin Kruse. The two professors educated and entertained the crowd in McCosh 10 for more than an hour. A video is available at paw.princeton.edu; their conversation, which has been shortened and adapted for print, follows:

Sean Wilentz: I take it our charge is to be historians. Whether you reacted to the events of Nov. 8 with elation or despair or something in between, I think it’s been difficult to get our heads around what happened. Our charge is to try and lend some historical perspective, to put our own loyalties aside for a moment. Thinking historically means trying to understand where this all fits in the recent past, and everything that led up to the recent past, to try and understand the

A historian whose subjects have ranged from Andrew Jackson to Bob Dylan, Professor Sean Wilentz has written major books on Ronald Reagan and U.S. politics since Watergate, the role of political parties, and the emergence of New York City’s working class. His 2005 book, The Rise of American Democracy: Jefferson to Lincoln, received the Bancroft Prize, among the most prestigious awards for history writing.

Professor Kevin Kruse studies the political and social history of 20th-century America and has particular interests in race, civil rights, religion, and modern conservatism. His most recent book, One Nation Under God: How Corporate America Invented Christian America, examined the rise of American religious nationalism in the mid-20th century and its legacies in American political and religious life.

Photo illustration by David Vogin; portrait illustrations by Peter James Field

paw.princeton.edu

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larger historical dynamics that brought us to the place that we were on Nov. 8, and what that portends for the future. I think that’s what we’re here for.

Kevin Kruse: Look, I get asked to comment on the present, or, God forbid, to make predictions about the future, and I always have to remind people that as a historian my professional training is in hindsight. As historians we can look back on snap opinions made after other big elections and see just how wrong those were. After 1964, lots of accounts had said, “My God, this is it for conservatism. You’ll never see a conservative president in America again. Barry Goldwater has killed it. Liberalism is here to stay.” After 1980, “Well, the New Deal is dead. It’ll never come back. It’s going to be swept off the face of the Earth by the Reagan revolution. Social Security is on its last legs.” After Obama in 2008, “Well, we’re now in a post-racial America. Racism is gone. Congratulations, we did it.”

So there’s this trend of overreacting to a presidential election, and we have to remember that a presidential election, for all of the very real ramifications it has on contemporary politics and policy, is but one data point in a much larger stream. And it’s a data point that I think we need to take in its proper context, because we had 123 million votes cast in this election. If you moved 50,000 of those in just three states, we’d be talking about President Hillary Clinton today, and drawing a whole bunch of other wrong, big conclusions about what that meant.

SW: Well, let’s look at the proper data point in order to start to understand this. Certainly something happened 50 years ago, and you mentioned the Johnson-Goldwater election. A rupture did occur, I think, in American political life about the time of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Vietnam War, and then Watergate. And I think, in some ways, anything we’re talking about is still a product of that rupture.”

— Sean Wilentz

“Certainly, something happened 50 years ago, and you mentioned the Johnson-Goldwater election. A rupture did occur, I think, in American political life about the time of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Vietnam War, and then Watergate. And I think, in some ways, anything we’re talking about is still a product of that rupture.”

— Sean Wilentz

KK: Yeah. Gingrich really is a key figure to take into account here. Gingrich, who had been a backbencher throughout the 1980s and had been considered a fringe figure, found a way to first take over the Republican Party on behalf of a very hardcore set of conservatives, and then to use that Republican Party to take over national politics. And the tool for that was partisan attacks on your opponents — not seeing them as the gentleman across the aisle, the gentrélady across the aisle, but seeing them as the enemy. Frank Luntz, the Republican pollster, famously had a memo — “Language: A Key Mechanism For Control.” And the key to this was to refer to Democrats, he said, as people who were sick, people who who were out to destroy the country, people who were traitors, to use that exact term — that they were traitors.

That was something, I think, not entirely new. We’d basically seen this with Joe McCarthy, but it had largely been discredited. What you saw with Gingrich was that language was embraced by his party as a way back. And it was fueled by changes that happened in media, too. And so we have, at the same time Gingrich is coming to power, the demise of the so-called Fairness Doctrine in media, which had said that with any issue of a public controversy, you needed to have both sides: You’ll have a conservative and a liberal debate these issues, and we’ll present both views, and the public can decide. Well, with the end of the Fairness Doctrine in 1987 by the Reagan administration,
and the rise of first talk radio and then
the internet, you have a very fractured
media landscape in which you don't have
to offer both sides. You instead press
one point of view very aggressively. And
so you had the rise of Rush Limbaugh,
the rise of Matt Drudge. You had the
creation of, then, Fox News. And there
were efforts on the left to try to counter
this. They were never as effective as
those on the right. But you see the
media landscape start to fracture, and so
politics becomes incredibly polarized.

You add in political reforms like
gerrymandering, in which large numbers
of members of the House never have to
deal with a mixed electorate, and are
instead dragged further and further
to the political poles. They have no
incentive to compromise at all — in fact,
compromise is what ends their careers.

SW: Let’s continue. So, 1994 was a
big deal, but it wasn’t determinative.
What happened after that? The way
I read it is, there was a process of
radicalization going on. It wasn’t just
that the Republicans shifted in 1994; it
was that all of politics was getting much
more radical. Gingrich is replaced by
Dick Armey and Tom DeLay. They are
a very different kind of Republican than
even Gingrich was. It’s almost like the
French Revolution without Thermidor.
It just keeps on going, you know, more
Jacobin, more Jacobin, more Jacobin, and
now — I’m not saying we have the Reign
of Terror, but nevertheless ...

The Democrats have their problems,
too, God knows. The divisions that
were there from the late ’60s between
one wing and the other seem to have
persisted. They’ve gotten nastier and
angrier. It really goes back to 2000,
when a portion of the Democrats
actually left the party and voted for
Ralph Nader [’69]. There was a division
within the Democratic Party: What
should progressive politics look like? A
dynamic has taken over that has led to
a radicalization of both parties so that
neither party’s really a party anymore.

KK: What do you mean, not a party?

SW: In the sense that the middle is gone.
I mean, political parties historically in
American history have always been filters.
They’ve always been coalitions, and they
act as a stabilizing force in American
history. We’re Americans and we’re
never going to agree about everything,
and there ought to be conflict in politics.
But up till now it had been run by parties
that had coalitions which, in effect,
helped stifle some of those arguments
before they became part of a general
election. That has fallen away. You had
a party structure in the last election on
the Republican side that collapsed in
the face of a challenge from outside. Say
what you will about the president, he
was not a Republican particularly before
he ran for president. He was able to take
that party’s base and move it elsewhere.
That’s unthinkable, I think, in a party era.

KK: We saw the fractures appear in the
Democratic Party when they were in
charge, and now you’re going to see
the fractures in the Republican Party
in the same way. The question is: As
it’s been said, Democrats fall in love;
Republicans fall in line, right? Democrats
always demand purity, right? And so
you get this circular firing squad of
liberals and leftists angry at each other.
The Republicans have been much
better at that, and I think you need no
greater example than how hard they
all fought Trump, and then once he got
the nomination, they all marched in
line. You’re seeing Paul Ryan and Mitch
McConnell swallow their pride and fall
in line because they’re getting what
they want out of Trump at the moment.
They’re going to look the other way as
long as possible and insist that they’re all
on the same team. If his popularity dips,
I think we might see the knives come out.

SW: So where did Trump come from?
I mean, how do we explain this?

KK: Well, we’ve seen all the parts of
Trump before. We’ve seen the nativism.
We’ve seen the hostility and the use
of immigration as a political issue. We’ve
seen the nationalism. We’ve seen the
conservative populism, the people like
George Wallace. I think that what’s really
novel here is that these different things

“Democrats always demand purity, right?
And so you get this circular firing squad
of liberals and leftists angry at each other.”
— Kevin Kruse
that had existed in isolation have come together and really swept away both the conservative opposition that we saw in the primary, and then swept away clean in the general election. We’ve seen bits and pieces of this before, but his success came from putting those together and fueling them in a way that we’d never seen before.

**SW:** I think that’s right. The question is why did it come together now rather than before? I mean, the Trump phenomenon, people are saying, is not just an American phenomenon, right? There’s Brexit. There’s everything that’s going on in Western Europe. There’s the Russians, always out there somewhere. I’m wondering whether the events of 2008—the financial collapse — were such a shock to the political system and the ways in which people live their lives that someone like Trump could emerge.

When Trump came down the escalator in Trump Tower, no one thought anything was going to happen. But what I think he understood was that the Republican Party had lost touch with its base. Finally the base turned around and basically flipped them the finger and said, “We’re going with this guy.” The issues that he was talking about — like trade — those are all explicable coming off of 2008. But I also think the political dynamic went back further and that finally ... maybe Trump is Thermidor. Trump is the end of the process.

**SW:** So what about the Democrats? Why don’t we talk about them for a while — equal opportunity? I posited that a lot of the divisions that we saw coming up in 2016 were old ones that went back to the division between, should we say, the Johnson Democrats or the Humphrey Democrats back in 1968, and the New Politics Democrats who had rallied first around Eugene McCarthy, then around Robert Kennedy, and then eventually became the McGovern Democrats in 1972. The party remained riven, I think, by those divisions between what used to be the George Meany wing, which became the Reagan wing in 1980; and the New Politics wing, the bicoastal liberals and progressives. Is that what happened in 2016, with the Sanders and Clinton business, or was it something deeper?

**KK:** I think the Sanders wing is something that’s really new and surprising. I think what we saw there was tapping into a new wave of resentment, and one from the left against the establishment. In a way, the Republican opposition to Obama paved the way for this, because you had eight years of Republicans screaming that Barack Obama was a socialist.

Look at any metric for corporate profits, the stock market, the way in which Obamacare was put into effect: It wasn’t what a socialist would’ve done — it was a very conservative approach. But what you have is a whole generation that came to political maturity hearing Barack Obama was a socialist, so suddenly, if they point out that Bernie Sanders was a socialist, they went, “OK, great, more of the same.”

**SW:** You could say that the Republicans really did the Democrats a lot of damage, then, because it brought out a split in the party that may have cost the Democrats the election in the fall. Screaming “socialist” actually worked, because they created socialists among the young, in particular. But again, I go back to 2008. Do you think that made a difference? I think that it did.

**KK:** I think 2008 was a shock, but I think the timing of it was such that it wasn’t enough of a shock. The problem was that the meltdown happened at the very end of George W. Bush’s term and so Obama came in as things were falling apart. It’s as if Franklin Roosevelt had taken power not in 1933 but in 1930, before the Depression had hit rock bottom and everyone realized the old way really is bankrupt and said, “Let’s give the new guy a shot.”

**SW:** I think 2008 did change the landscape, especially for the Clinton wing of the party. Hillary Clinton had to run against some of her husband’s actions because the world had changed in 2008. One of the ironies was that Bill Clinton brought a section of the white working class back into the Democratic Party. He took some of those Reagan Democrats back. Those are the people who ended up electing Trump. The irony...
I think it’s also about how they made their appeal. I don’t want to bash identity politics here, but to some degree they played up not just issues of her being the first woman, but also Trump’s sexism. Rather than play ads about moderate Republicans who couldn’t look their daughters in the eye, they should have been playing ads about working-class contractors that Trump stiffed. It’s what they did with Romney — presented him as the boss who fired you, and everybody could relate to that. And I think if you play those ads in Michigan, that’s going to resonate with people a lot more.

SW: I don’t think that the candidate used the words “jobs” or “infrastructure” from the convention on, for example. Politically dopey.

KK: I think you’re onto something. I think they bought into the media frenzy. They got overconfident about that, and they let voters get overconfident. You think back to *Saturday Night Live*, you know, the weeks before the election — they were treating this as a done deal, you know, that Hillary had this in the bag.

SW: There’s a fair amount of that. There were also the — how to put it? — other events, which seem to me to be unprecedented. So, speaking as an historian: the hacking, the Russian stuff, and then the FBI director. They just seem unprecedented to me.

KK: They are unprecedented. That’s not a partisan statement.

SW: I mean Nixon was impeached because the plumbers broke into the Democratic National Committee in 1972, and he lied about it, and *da-da-da*. This is the Russians breaking into the DNC! This isn’t a bunch of Cuban exiles. This is Vladimir Putin. That’s extraordinary to me. And the way in which, you know, that seems to be even now muddled — that’s extraordinary. And as for the [FBI] director, I have no idea what he was doing, but I think that it was — what should we say? — it compromised the integrity of the democratic process.

Candidates say terrible things about each other all the time. That’s American political history. But to have an authority figure that from outside of the process come in and say that, in fact, one of the candidates may be going to jail — that was odd.

KK: “That was odd.” That’s the understatement of the century.

SW: So where do we go from here? We’re not going to prognosticate, folks. But what are the fields of force? I mean, now that this great hurricane has struck, what does the rubble look like? The Republican Party, as you said, they’re willing to go along with Trump, up to a point. Where will they go if that point gets reached?

KK: I keep coming back to Nixon. If you look at the Republican Party in the wake of Nixon, again, it was — talk about flash judgments — it was pronounced dead. One of the activists, Richard Viguerie [a pioneer of direct mail], said, “You’ll never be able to market the term ‘Republican’ again in my lifetime. It’s like the Edsel, or Typhoid Mary.” There was talk about forming a Conservative Party. But they decided against that. They stuck with a label, and they came roaring back in very short order. Six years later, after Watergate has pronounced them dead, they’ve got the Reagan revolution. They did it by rejecting the disgraced president. And this is the question we have now: What happens with the Republican rank and file in the House and the Senate? Where do they decide their interests and his interests diverge, and how much? ... This is where I think the current wave of protest really does matter, as it is giving a lot of those Republicans on the fence some second thoughts.

SW: And on the other side, what do we see? Did the primary so divide the party, do you think, that there’s not a chance for them to cohere, or do you think that they will?

KK: I think they will. You’ve already started to see this, Bernie Sanders and Organizing for America, the Obama group, have come together on a couple issues. People have tried to make up this false divide in the DNC between [newly elected DNC chairman Tom] Perez as Obama’s candidate and [DNC challenger Rep.] Keith Ellison as Sanders’ candidate. These guys have dinner together. They’re friends. They’re on the same page. Nothing brings together a party more than being in opposition.

SW: Defeat concentrates the mind wonderfully.

KK: There are going to be House elections in the coming months. If Democrats can mobilize behind those campaigns, I think that’s important. Another thing the Democrats need to do that they’ve neglected is remember that all politics are local, and it’s not just about the president. Republicans have been invested in state and local elections for decades now, and they have reaped the benefits of that. They have taken over state legislatures. They have taken over local city councils. They’ve worked on school boards. Liberals do not understand the importance of school boards. Conservatives absolutely do, not just in terms of effecting local policy, but in becoming a feeding ground for larger politics.

Virtually every issue, no matter what you care about as a voter, it gets channeled through state politics. The states are in charge of redistricting, which leads to that gerrymandering, which leads to the control of Congress. They are in charge of voting rights, which determines who gets access to the franchise. So even if you just care about national politics, they still go through the state level.
LEM BILLINGS ’39 was John F. Kennedy’s funny friend. Funny as in humorous, sure: Lem was always quick with a joke, especially at his friend’s expense. “Haven’t you found any girl that will have you, Kennedy?” he jabbed in a 1945 letter. “You know, you’re no spring chicken any longer — 28 in a couple of weeks, as I recall — and when I last saw you your hairline was receding conspicuously.” Lem, in contrast, reported “looking very well, with a bronzed and stern appearance.”

Lem, said Ethel Kennedy, “saw the ridiculousness of the human condition, and parodied it until tears came down his cheeks and an asthmatic coughing fit ended his glee.” Bobby Kennedy Jr. remembered him this way: “Whenever I felt lonely, or sad, or left out, I would call Lem and laugh.”

But Lem was also funny in other ways. Funny as in flamboyant. Funny as in queer.

Which is to say: Have you heard the one about JFK’s gay best friend?

Lem Billings was there. He walked with John F. Kennedy through the halls of Choate and Congress; he nursed Jack through sickness (and hangovers) from Princeton to Washington, D.C. His was such a constant presence at the Kennedy compound in Hyannisport that Ted Kennedy later remembered, “I was 3 years old before it dawned on me that Lem wasn’t one more older brother.” An exasperated Jackie Kennedy once complained that “Lem Billings has been a houseguest every weekend since I’ve been married.” Sure enough, he had his own bedroom at the White House.

If he had been a heterosexual man, you would have seen him on TV, burnishing the Camelot myth alongside JFK protégés like Ted Sorensen and Arthur Schlesinger Jr. Instead, Lem could only be Lem: 6 foot 2, stocky and asthmatic, with a high-pitched voice and a piercing laugh. He hated the Kennedys’ afternoon football games but came alive at cocktail hour, belting out bawdy Mae West numbers at Jack’s behest: “Make that low-down music trickle up your spine, baby / I can warm you with this love of mine / I’m no angel.”

He loved art as much as Jack loved politics, even dragging a college-age Jack to Florence to admire Michelangelo’s David. (Lem described it in his journals as “the most beautiful statue I’ve ever seen or hope to see.”) Jack merely noted that he was “quite impressed.”) Two decades later, President Kennedy took his friend along on his administration’s first trip to Europe. While Jack fretted about how to impress Nikita Khrushchev, Lem was in charge of buying objets d’art to give to the Soviets as diplomatic gifts.

There are lots of little stories like this — stories where Lem stands proudly in the background as Jack commands the world stage. Still, I have sometimes noticed gay men dropping Lem’s name like a charmed token. Some treat his friendship with JFK as a badge of honor: Lem was here, they marvel, he was queer, JFK got used it. Others fashion him an emblem of gay heartache — of that formative, unrequited yearning most queer boys feel for a straight friend.

Gay history in America has often been hidden history. But now that the country is more open to queer identities, Lem deserves his moment in the light. He may not have been a famous, great American, but he lived a great — improbable, historic, melodramatic — American life.

Lem’s moment almost arrived in 2007. That year, the journalist David Pitts released Jack and Lem, an account of the pair’s 30-year friendship that drew on exclusive access to their correspondence. Unfortunately, the publishing company in charge of releasing Jack and Lem folded just as the book was set for release. Pitts’ work went largely unpublicized and unreviewed. It’s nevertheless an important study — most of the anecdotes in this article are drawn from it, with the author’s permission — and it’s by reading Jack and Lem that the contours of an extraordinary friendship emerge.

Jack and Lem met at Choate in 1933. Kirk LeMoyne “Lem” Billings was a bumbling giant, the offspring of a prominent but cash-poor Protestant family. Jack was small and inquisitive, a scion of the Catholic, new-money Kennedys. In Lem, Jack
In Europe in 1937, John F. Kennedy and Lem Billings ’39 adopted Dunker the dachshund.
found a confidant and caretaker; Jack was frequently ill while at Choate, but Lem kept his spirits high with jokes and gossip. Lem, meanwhile, relied on Jack not just for friendship, but for stability. He’d arrived at school reeling from the recent death of his father, which left the family destitute. He was also newly separated from his siblings: His sister Lucretia recently had married, and his older brother, Frederic “Josh” Billings ’33, had moved to England to study on a Rhodes scholarship. Lem was grateful for the chance to embed himself in the Kennedy clan. “Things were in upheaval,” says his nephew Frederic III ’68. “The Kennedys provided family and support and so forth.”

Lem always put Jack first in life. Jack, meanwhile, put Jack first — but to his credit, never left Lem behind. After Choate, the pair briefly attended Princeton together in the fall of 1935. Then Jack got sick and decamped to Harvard. They reunited a year later for a summer road trip through Europe, adopting a dachshund named Dunker together while motoring through Nazi Germany. Then came graduation, war, and separate postings — Jack in the Pacific, Lem in North Africa. Afterward, Lem embarked on a long career in advertising and cultivated a passion for interior design. JFK plotted his political career.

Whenever Jack needed him, Lem would rush to his friend’s side. In 1946, Lem moved to Boston to be with Jack for his friend’s first congressional run. In 1960, he helped run Jack’s campaign for the Wisconsin presidential primary. Later, as First Friend, Lem stayed with Jack during the Bay of Pigs and Cuban missile crises. Through it all, Lem had a singular ability to put Jack at ease. “It’s hard to describe it as just friendship; it was a complete liberation of the spirit,” Eunice Kennedy Shriver recalled to Pitts. “I think that’s what Lem did for President Kennedy: President Kennedy was a completely liberated man when he was with Lem.”

In keeping with this liberated spirit, a large portion of Jack and Lem’s correspondence — there’s no way around it — centers around sex. While at Choate, the friends traveled to New York together to lose their virginity to a prostitute. (Lem didn’t go through with it, he later told a friend.) Later, Pitts writes, “Jack’s dates would be managed by Lem,” who would make and cancel arrangements and bring women to Jack when Jack was ready for them.

Did Jack ever know Lem was gay? Almost certainly, Pitts demonstrates, even if JFK might not have named it as such. One telling moment occurred in 1934, at Choate. As Pitts tells it, there was a tradition at Choate where “boys who wanted sexual activity with other boys ... exchanged notes written on toilet paper to indicate their interest. Toilet paper was used because it could easily be swallowed or discarded to eliminate any paper trail.” Lem sent Jack a toilet-paper note. Jack’s response was captured in a letter written from a hospital in Rochester: “Please don’t write to me on toilet paper anymore. I’m not that kind of boy.” He then continued detailing his medical ordeal as if nothing major had happened. “My virility is slowly being sapped,” he complained. “I’m just a shell of the former man.”

Lem’s toilet-paper message wouldn’t necessarily have been received by JFK as a declaration of strict homosexuality — such propositions were common enough in boarding schools at the time. But Lem did go on to have (furtive) homosexual relationships with several men throughout his adult life, Pitts reports, and spoke of his homosexuality to gay friends later in life. And though Lem never publicly declared himself a gay man, Pitts’ interviews with Kennedy staffers indicate that Lem’s homosexuality was treated by White House personnel as an open secret. “This goes back to the way that homosexuality was treated at the time, which was as something that liberal people tolerated but didn’t want to talk about. So he was kind of cast to the sidelines because of that,” Pitts says. For Lem, the price of Jack’s friendship was absolute discretion, if not repression.

Sex, and sexuality, are key to understanding JFK’s closeness to Lem. Jack’s sexual conquests — before and during his presidency — are legendary and legion. “Women were kind of sex objects to JFK, not to be taken too seriously,” Pitts says. So it makes sense that his closest relationships were with men. And among these men, it figures that JFK’s closest relationship of all would be with a man unburdened by the demands of married life or fatherhood. A man who’d be able to devote himself totally to his friend: a closeted, unmarried homosexual like Lem.

When David Pitts set out to write Jack and Lem, he was mainly interested in Lem Billings’ life for what it said about John F. Kennedy’s. I was curious about what Lem was like when he wasn’t in Jack’s shadow. I took a train to Princeton to find out. His four years at Princeton, I figured, were his before years: that
brief period before he became the official best friend of a war hero, a congressman, a president, a martyr. College was a time when he was separated from Jack and — perhaps — had to forge a separate identity for himself.

The most prominent artifacts of Lem’s time at Old Nassau are, of course, those related to his famous college roommate. A cheeky Christmas card from Lem, Jack, and a third Choate boy, Ralph “Rip” Horton ’39, who lived together in Reunion Hall from October to December 1935. A snapshot of Lem, Jack, and Horton in their preppy best outside a Princeton drugstore. A framed photo of Lem and Jack at Ivy Club, displayed in that club.

From there, the archival trail grows more faint. Lem had friends at Princeton, but he was not a joiner. Unlike the classmates who surrounded him in the Class of 1939 Nassau Herald, Lem was not a member of The Daily Princetonian, nor the Triangle Club, nor Whig-Clio. He passed on student government, Orange Key, and the German Club. His sole lasting affiliation was his eating club, Ivy. Lem’s low profile is particularly noticeable when set against that of his older brother. While at Princeton, Josh was captain of the football team, president of the Undergraduate Council, and a winner of the Pyne Prize.

Princeton-era Lem comes alive only in his senior thesis, written about Tintoretto for the art history department. Lem had seen works attributed to the Venetian master while traveling with Jack in Europe. He concluded that Tintoretto had been unfairly overshadowed by “Venice’s apparently unapproachable favorite,” Titian. It was Tintoretto, not Titian, whose work “came from his innermost soul,” that was “beautiful not only because of a splendid surface, but also because of the presence of feeling far beneath the surface,” Lem wrote. It’s impossible to read Lem on Tintoretto’s hidden depths without wondering about the writer’s own subsumed feelings of longing and inadequacy: “[As Tintoretto] himself expressed ... ‘The further you go in, the deeper is the sea.’”

David Pitts hadn’t visited Princeton while researching Jack and Lem, so I called him and shared what I’d found. He wasn’t surprised by the lack of material. Lem spent most weekends in college away from Princeton, Pitts explained: “I found all the telegrams. If they weren’t meeting in Cambridge, they were meeting in New York.” When Jack and Lem weren’t together, they were writing each other teasing letters.

Even at Princeton, it seems, Lem’s first priority was his best friend, Jack. At Choate, Lem had been captain of the crew team. At Princeton, Lem briefly rowed on the freshman
boat, but that soon took a backseat to his Kennedy family obligations. “When spring vacation came around, the team was going to Florida to row because Lake Carnegie was frozen,” said Lem’s nephew Frederic. “But my uncle was invited to go to Hyannisport with the Kennedys. So he told the crew coach that that’s what he was going to do. And the crew coach said, ‘Well, when you return, you won’t have a seat in the boat.’ That was the end of his crew career at Princeton.”

As for how, and whether, Lem might have found an outlet for same-sex desires while on campus, one can only guess. Queer historians paint the 1930s as a time of repression at Ivy League universities. Look at photos of students from the 19th century, Yale history professor George Chauncey notes, and you’ll see that they’re all over each other. By the 1920s or so, the poses had stiffened out. Not coincidentally, psychoanalytic theories had entered public consciousness for the first time after World War I, leading people to newly consider sexuality, and homosexuality, as “identities” central to their being. Male intimacy gradually came to mean something that it hadn’t meant before. At best, it was a phase that upper-crust boarding-school boys could grow beyond. For those who couldn’t shake them, though, homosexual acts transmuted during this age into a character flaw — suggesting to psychologists, and to the public at large, a tendency toward depravity and criminality.

That’s not to say that homosexuality wasn’t present at Princeton and its peers in the 1930s. (Chauncey, for instance, has surfaced reports of an all-gay Yale fraternity at this time.) But many students with same-sex leanings had no one to confide in. One alumnus wrote this in his 50th-reunion yearbook: “As a homosexual member of the Class of 1938, who, perforce, had to remain in the closet throughout his university years, I look back with mixed feelings at my time at Princeton. Throughout my four undergraduate years I imagined I was the only gay person in the class. ... In truth, I feared if my sexual orientation were ever discovered, I would be expelled from the university.”

As Lem moved away from Old Nassau and into the world, the consequences for homosexual behavior remained severe. Soldiers fighting in World War II could be, and were, court-martialed for same-sex relations. In the 1950s, Sen. Joseph McCarthy led witch hunts to out homosexuals in the Army and the State Department. Lem would have been well acquainted with this threat: Robert Kennedy briefly worked for McCarthy during the Red Scare, and Eunice and Pat Kennedy both dated him.

Though McCarthy eventually disgraced himself, the dangers of being outed persisted well into the 1960s. Had Lem been publicly exposed as gay during that time, it would have been a major scandal for the Kennedy White House. President Kennedy could have lessened this risk by distancing himself...
from Lem. But Jack stayed loyal: “He took political chances to maintain his friendship with Lem,” Pitts says, although Kennedy himself might not have seen it as quite so grand a gesture. To him, Lem was first and foremost his best friend. A “don’t ask, don’t tell” attitude toward homosexuality (common among upper-crust Americans at that time) suited Kennedy equally well in the White House as it had at Choate.

JFK’s murder in 1963 shattered his best friend. “In many ways, Lem thought of his life as being over after Jack died,” Robert Kennedy Jr. told Pitts. Lem continued to play the clown in public, especially when around Jack’s children, nieces, and nephews, to whom he was devoted. But behind the scenes, friends said, he suffered from mood swings, depression, and heavy drinking.

Lem died of a heart attack in 1981, at age 65. The young generation of Kennedy men served as the pallbearers at his funeral. Eunice Kennedy Shriver memorialized him fondly: “I’m sure he’s already organizing everything in heaven so it will be completely ready for us — with just the right Early American furniture, the right curtains, the right rugs, the right paintings, and everything ready for a big, big party. Yesterday was Jack’s birthday. Jack’s best friend was Lem, and he would want me to remind everyone of that today. I am sure the good Lord knows that heaven is Jesus and Lem and Jack and Bobby loving one another.”

Lem’s family didn’t see his life quite so rosily. “All of them thought he was far too close to John Kennedy and far too attached to him, that [Jack] was almost an obsession to him,” says Pitts. They saw Lem’s life as tragic because Lem had sacrificed so much to become close to Kennedy. Today, Lem’s nephew says he’s not “necessarily proud or unproud” of his uncle’s relationship with JFK. “My uncle was not someone you could have a reasonable conversation with about what was going on with the Kennedys. He did not want to hear one negative syllable, and there were a lot of negatives going along.”

There’s no easy way to compare Lem’s life to the ones he might have lived. Some gay men of his era suffered through empty marriages and ruinous affairs rather than come out of the closet; others came out and suffered terrible consequences. More happily, some came out and found romantic love with other men, of the kind that Jack could never give Lem. Few gay men will ever have the option that Lem did: to serve as jester, confidant, and friend to one of history’s most storied figures — at the cost of keeping his private life utterly private.

Because of this compulsion toward privacy, Lem’s life has been inscribed in history as little more than a footnote to his friend’s. But on this matter, at least — the question of whether his life was better or worse for having been devoted to John F. Kennedy — Lem deserves the last word. “Jack made a big difference in my life. Because of him, I was never lonely. He may have been the reason I never got married. I mean, I could have had a wife and a family, but what the hell — do you think I would have had a better life having been Jack Kennedy’s best friend, having been with him during so many moments of his presidency, having had my own room at the White House, having had the best friend anybody ever had — or having been married, and settled down, and living somewhere?”

OLD AGE, THEY SAY, IS NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART —
BUT THAT IS A CLICHÉ. Henry Morgenthau III ’39 expresses the thought much better:

I’m telling you my dear,
dying is the most important
event in your life.
You can rehearse it
in your head and with your body.
You can prepare for it
all your life,
you can only do it once,
there is no looking back.
You can never ask,
“Did I do it well?”
You will never know.
No one will know.
It will be said,
“Surrounded by his loving family,
he died peacefully.”
Cold comfort for the warm-blooded:
a sugar-coated lie.

The poem comes from Morgenthau’s A Sunday in Purgatory (Passager Books), his first collection of poetry, published just before his 100th birthday in January. The tone is by turns wistful, humorous, and occasionally angry; several poems looking back on a rich life, others staring across a tenuous present. (“Purgatory” is the Washington, D.C., retirement community where he lives.)

To spend an hour with Morgenthau is to take a stroll through a large swath of history. His grandfather was the American ambassador to the Ottoman Empire. His father was Franklin Roosevelt’s treasury secretary and neighbor. As a Princeton undergraduate, young Morgenthau paid a call on Albert Einstein. As a longtime documentary producer, he worked with Eleanor Roosevelt and Martin Luther King Jr. Though he likes to talk about the work he is still doing, it is difficult to resist dragging Morgenthau back into the past, just to hear his stories.

Start with John F. Kennedy, briefly a Princeton classmate. “Oh, I had known him quite well,” Morgenthau says; their fathers both served in the Roosevelt administration. In the summer of 1938, shortly before the outbreak of World War II, both families vacationed at Cap d’Antibes in the south of France. “For the future heroes and collaborationists/basking together in the Mediterranean sun,/ it is ‘our last summer,’” Morgenthau writes in his poem “A Marvelous Party.” A favorite diversion for both Morgenthau and Kennedy was sitting on the hotel veranda to watch film star Marlene Dietrich, another guest, sunbathing on the rocks.
“Writing poetry for me is a celebration of the evening of a long life — a coda, a strikingly new expression of my inner being that surprises me as much as those who know me.”

Taking a break from his tea, Morgenthau sits back in a parlor in his apartment where busts of his father and FDR stare at each other across the room. On the wall behind him hangs a doodle Roosevelt drew for young Morgenthau in 1930. Possessed with a cruel sense of humor — he nicknamed Morgenthau’s dour and portly father “Henry the Morgue” — FDR sketched three figures, of Morgenthau at the ages of 13, 20, and 40, each with a larger belly. “Awful fate,” Roosevelt wrote, “May be avoided by NOT following Pa’s example.”

When he was governor of New York, Roosevelt often would drop by for dinner at the Morgenthau farm in the town of East Fishkill, where the family raised chickens and cows and grew apples. “We would lean over the banister and listen to him,” Morgenthau recalls. “He loved to tell these great stories, and at the end he would always say, ‘Don’t you love it?’” During World War II, Roosevelt once brought Winston Churchill over for mint juleps. Churchill hated them, Morgenthau says.

On March 4, 1933, Morgenthau sat just below the inaugural stand at the U.S. Capitol as Roosevelt proclaimed, “The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.” A little less than nine years later, he was in the packed House gallery, seated on a step next to presidential aide Harry Hopkins, when FDR sought a declaration of war against Japan. In 1940, he danced at his sister Joan’s debutante party in the White House and recalls Eleanor Roosevelt as an unexpectedly graceful dancer.

In later years, Morgenthau became a documentary filmmaker for Boston public television station WGBH, and from 1959–1962 produced a series, Prospects of Mankind, with Mrs. Roosevelt. She once told him of a day she spent in Harlem with Adlai Stevenson ’22 during one of Stevenson’s presidential campaigns. When crowds recognized them at a traffic light and surged around their car, Stevenson recoiled in the back seat. “What am I going to say to these people?” he asked.

“If he didn’t know,” Morgenthau remembers Mrs. Roosevelt saying, “there was nothing I could tell him.”

Morgenthau’s documentaries were groundbreaking. In 1963, he produced The Negro and American Promise, featuring interviews with King, James Baldwin, and Malcolm X. Baldwin’s interview was filmed on May 24, 1963, after an incendiary meeting, which Morgenthau also attended, between civil-rights advocates and Attorney General Robert Kennedy at Kennedy’s Manhattan apartment. Baldwin was still angry at the taping, and it shows. “I realized that we had something that was really hot,” Morgenthau recalls. Indeed, a clip from the interview appears in the new Oscar-nominated documentary about Baldwin, I Am Not Your Negro.

Keep asking, and the stories keep coming. When Morgenthau was an undergraduate, his grandfather took him to pay a call on Einstein at his home on Mercer Street. Einstein was interested to learn that Morgenthau was majoring in art history and bored in with penetrating questions. Morgenthau still shudders that he answered inarticularly: “Einstein was warm and courteous, but I sort of felt that he was seeing right through me,” he recalls.

Although he wrote a family history, Mostly Morgenthau, in 1991, he says he began attending poetry workshops in his mid-’90s in part to establish his own identity within his family’s distinguished line. He showed his work to a few people and was encouraged to go on. In fact, Morgenthau writes for the best reason of all: because he has something to say.

“Writing poetry for me is a celebration of the evening of a long life,” he explains in an introduction to A Sunday in Purgatory, “a coda, a strikingly new expression of my inner being that surprises me as much as those who know me. Now as death kindly waits for me, I am enlivened with thoughts I can’t take with me.”

Morgenthau published his first poem in 2013, but describes the collection as a “fluke.” Uncertain whether his work was good enough, he declined to submit most of it to a publisher. Friends did so without his knowledge, telling him afterward, “We hope you don’t mind that we went behind your back.” Poet David Keplinger likens Morgenthau’s work to the confessional style of Robert Lowell, an old friend whose influence he acknowledges. Several poems in the collection look back at his privileged youth (“Our Crowd” muses about “the gilded ghetto/of Manhattan’s Upper West Side” where he grew up), but more are introspective, revelatory, and bluntly self-critical, though sometimes sweetened by humor. “Pack up your troubles/in your old kit bag/and hand them over/to your psychiatrist,” he writes.

Though a bit unsteady on his feet, Morgenthau remains hale for 100. In the collection’s title poem, he assesses the current landscape:

At Ingleside, a faith-based community for vintage Presbyterians, I am an old Jew.
But that’s another story.
I’m not complaining with so much I want to do,
doing it at my pace, slowly.
Anticipation of death is like looking for a new job.

Like many who have lived so long, Morgenthau admits to a love-hate relationship with the medical profession. “They do a lot of things to keep you going, but the aging process still goes on.” There are days when it surprises even him: “Sometimes I accidentally look in the mirror and I see this rusted, ancient machinery that was built during World War I.”

So, linger. Urge him back for one more reminiscence about a world long gone. Despite his family’s prominence, young Morgenthau was excluded from the Prospect Avenue eating clubs because he was Jewish. “It was an emasculating experience that left me feeling that I was something less than a Princeton man,” he wrote bitterly in his family history.

Decades after he had been snubbed, when his daughter was looking at colleges, Morgenthau took her to Nassau Hall to visit his old friend and classmate Fred Fox ’39, who offered to take them on a campus tour.

“He said, ’Things haven’t changed a bit,’” Morgenthau recalls. “And I said, ’Freddy, yes they have, and all for the better!’”

Mark F. Bernstein ’83 is PAW’s senior writer.
ON THE RIGHT TRACK: Glenn Lunden ’85’s childhood fascination with Lionel trains has culminated in 31 years (and counting) with MTA New York City Transit. He oversees the scheduling of 8,215 subway trips carrying 6 million riders daily. If emergency rerouting is necessary at 3 a.m., Lunden is called into action. He’s “keenly aware” of how often trains should be running at all times of day, so if he finds himself waiting on a platform too long, he’ll investigate.
Gary Wolf *78, FAIA, is an architect whose Boston firm, Wolf Architects, is active in historic preservation and new design.

Although books may seem more ephemeral than buildings, they have the advantage of being easily preserved. Architecture, monumental and “lasting” in our imaginations, is often remarkably transitory. Thus, last year, Robert Venturi ’47 *50’s Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture (C&C) was celebrated worldwide in conferences and essays on its 50th anniversary, while one of his best-known buildings faced possible demolition.

C&C was among the most important architectural publications of the 20th century. Published in 1966, it altered the course of architecture, and, after multiple editions in 18 languages, it’s still required reading. The book was a revelation, it was controversial, and it introduced what would become post-modernism. Venturi’s “gentle manifesto” drew on his seven years in Princeton’s small, thoughtful, history-rich architecture program, led by French-born architect Jean Labatut, where William F. Shellman ’41, architectural historian Donald Drew Egbert, and a few others would teach an influential generation of educators and architects. (At one point, the deans of nine architectural schools were Princeton graduates, among them notable architects Charles Moore ’57 and Donlyn Lyndon ’57.) C&C was a Princeton-inspired warning shot across the bow of orthodox modernism, threatening its continued reliance on functionalist justification, its ahistorical vision, anti-urban agenda, and often-simplistic tendencies. “Where simplicity cannot work,” Venturi posited, “simplicity results.”

A dense little tome filled with postage-stamped-size black-and-white photos and drawings, C&C suggests the stimulation of Princeton’s studio. “Learning from Labatut,” Venturi later wrote, “was like traveling to the most beautiful cities in the world … hearing the most sublime quartets, and a lot like falling in love.” In C&C, Venturi discusses Renaissance architect Michelangelo along with modernist form-makers Le Corbusier and Alvar Aalto. He finds lessons in the buildings of then-forgotten architects such as Frank Furness and Edwin Lutyens. High-style architecture co-exists with vernacular buildings and renovated structures. Venturi even references literary criticism before that became requisite in architectural theory, and cites authors such as T. S. Eliot, William Empson, and Cleanth Brooks (thanks to his Princeton roommate Philip Finkelpearl ’46).

With its abundant photos and a portfolio of Venturi’s own work, C&C is an architectural chapbook that makes the case for a complicated design goal — “the difficult whole” — in contrast to the abstract reductiveness of rote modernism and urban renewal. It presents compositional techniques, such as inflection, that balance order and exception, and that accept contrast, convention, ambiguity, incongruity, and juxtaposition. As if this were not enough, Venturi refers to the edgy pop-art movement, and poses two questions that make C&C more disruptive than any other book on architecture: “Is not Main Street almost all right?” and “Indeed, is not the commercial strip of Route 66 almost all right?” This open-minded consideration of America’s everyday environment as part of an “inclusive” vision elicited outrage and ridicule — as well as inspiration.

C&C helped launch a career that brought the now-91-year-old Venturi the National Medal of Arts and the Pritzker Architecture Prize (considered the field’s equivalent to the Nobel Prize), among other international accolades. His Philadelphia office, where he and his wife, Denise Scott Brown, were partners, would win numerous awards for its museums.
The impact of Venturi’s projects in the last quarter of C&C was one of its remarkable legacies. These became cult destinations for students and architects from around the world. 

In 2016, the Vanna Venturi House, built for the architect’s mother, was for sale and might have become razed by a developer, but the home’s seller held out for a sympathetic buyer.

Educational buildings (among them more than 10 projects — restorations, renovations, and new buildings — at Princeton), private houses, and other structures from coast to coast, with major buildings overseas as well.

The impact of Venturi’s projects illustrated in the last quarter of C&C was one of its remarkable legacies. These became cult destinations for students and architects from around the world. They were humble but seminal, often with a half-round or segmentally arched window, abstracted applied ornament, distorted building geometry, and screen walls, and they begat ubiquitous offspring. Beyond such signature forms, the influence of Venturi’s design and of his inventiveness has been seen on architects from Louis Kahn to Henry Cobb, from Britain’s James Stirling to the late Princeton professor emeritus Michael Graves. In conjunction with C&C’s anniversary, contemporary practitioners in Europe and Asia have acknowledged more recent lessons from the book.

Today, architects emphasize energy-saving technologies and obsess over the exteriors of jewel-like structures that perhaps recall C&C’s midcentury targets. While energy efficiency is imperative, this anniversary reminds us that the larger, lasting concerns of C&C are equally essential for a sustainable world: designing in context, recognizing the complexity of the American city, acknowledging the limits of systems, welcoming the heterogeneous and the hybrid, and, implicitly, preserving historic buildings.

My copy of C&C includes an annotation from my student visit to Venturi’s Grand’s Restaurant in Philadelphia: “Closed and altered.” Several years ago, his firm’s brilliant Franklin Court complex in Philadelphia was scandalously disfigured with a poorly conceived replacement museum building. Then, in 2016, C&C’s most widely recognized structure was in limbo; despite being identified as one of “10 Buildings that Shaped America,” and featured on a U.S. postage stamp, Venturi’s mother’s house in Chestnut Hill might have become a “teardown.” C&C survives at 50 years, with valuable insights for present and future generations; its now out-of-fashion buildings — and the other important work of its author’s firm — surely must endure beyond the printed page.

Venturi on Campus: Wu Hall

Wu Hall’s long west façade perhaps best illustrates the contrary, much-debated design approach that Venturi laid out in C&C as an alternative to architects’ eternal daydreams of perfection — a view that would help liberate much architecture of the recent past by accepting contradiction. Whereas architects typically aspire for order and coherence, the real world makes that difficult. This is readily apparent in the fact that the idealized, symmetrical villas of Renaissance master Andrea Palladio, as seen in the beautiful drawings of his influential books (think of Monticello as a descendent), actually featured diagonal walls that followed the angles of bordering streets, bays truncated by inconveniently located property lines, and other similar circumstantial distortions. So at Wu Hall, Venturi does not impose perhaps arbitrary or unworkable visual alignments or regiment the competing building systems — such as tile grids on floor and ceiling, sprinkler heads, and smoke detectors. Instead, we see the window mullions repeating one rhythm, the circular columns of the structural system another, and the vertical control joints of the exterior brick façade yet another (with one of them running up and down right through one of the oversized ornamental “keystones”). Such deliberate polyrhythmic misalignments opened the doors of architecture to collage, collision, and the near-cacophonous juxtapositions seen in Frank Gehry’s Lewis Library across Washington Road. By Gary Wolf ’78

View more buildings by — or inspired by — Robert Venturi ’47 ’50 at paw.princeton.edu
That movement led to the Tea Party, which swung both houses of Congress to Republican control and bedeviled Obama for the rest of his time in office. If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, the right wing should feel flattered indeed.

“Politics is the art of the possible,” Levin, Padilla, and Greenberg wrote in a January op-ed for The New York Times, “and the Tea Party changed what was possible.” With that in mind, they insist that much more is now possible for the left than those dispirited by Hillary Clinton’s defeat may realize.

The project started as a Google doc shared among a few dozen friends and colleagues desperate for a plan of action. So many people weighed in that their page repeatedly crashed, leading them to turn it into a website and a downloadable pamphlet which, as of mid-March, had been viewed nearly 18 million times. They have also added a directory of more than 5,800 community groups, including at least two in every congressional district.

“Indivisible” offers step-by-step instructions for how to form or locate citizen-advocacy groups and the most effective ways to pressure members of Congress: making phone calls, attending town halls and other public events, demanding meetings, and even organizing sit-ins. Though perhaps the best known, “Indivisible” is one of a host of recent guides for progressive engagement, putting the power of the internet and social media in the service of political activism.

The key is unrelenting citizen pressure, Levin says. All members, even those in the safest districts, are motivated by the desire to be re-elected; angry constituents put that at risk. In swing districts, calls and protests might persuade a representative to oppose President Donald Trump, but even solid liberals can be stiffened in their opposition and staunch conservatives cowed into staying off the front lines. Levin cites the number of Republicans who either spoke against Trump’s Jan. 28 executive order on immigration, or muted their support of it, as evidence that pressure works.

“None of this is rocket science,” Levin adds. “This is Civics 101.”

EZRA LEVIN ’13 AND ANGEL PADILLA ’13

AN ‘INDIVISIBLE’ FORCE
Former congressional staffers take a page from the Tea Party playbook

Across the country this winter, jittery liberals have been putting aside their copies of The New Yorker and The Atlantic for a 23-page online booklet that began as a Google document. “Indivisible: A Practical Guide for Resisting the Trump Agenda” — a do-it-yourself kit for how to build a Tea Party of the left — is the product of more than two dozen writers, most prominently Ezra Levin ’13, Angel Padilla ’13, and Levin’s wife, Leah Greenberg.

The three are former Democratic congressional staffers who witnessed firsthand the grassroots conservative backlash to President Barack Obama’s legislative agenda in 2009 and 2010.

"Politics is the art of the possible, and the Tea Party changed what was possible."
— Ezra Levin ’13, Angel Padilla ’13, and Leah Greenberg

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MEMORIALS

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

THE CLASS OF 1944
Paul N. Temple '44
Paul died Nov. 29, 2016, in San Rafael, Calif., with many family members present.
He won a scholarship to Princeton and majored in politics. Paul was in Tower Club and roomed with Woody Matlock, Hank Ebbitt, and Kent Taylor. He served as an ensign in the Navy during World War II, married Margaret Borgstrom, and went to Harvard Law School.
Beginning his career in San Francisco, then Washington, D.C., with Celanese and Exxon, he went to Spain in 1961 to serve as chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce. Later he started his own investment firm.
In 1995 he returned to Marin County, Calif., where he had a long and distinguished career. Sen. Claiborne Pell once introduced him as “the most truly good man I know.” He used his talents for the good of others. He founded a nonprofit foundation, having family members serve as board members. He was described as “larger than life.” Paul traveled the world and was always ready to serve mankind. He enjoyed tennis, golf, and snorkeling, but his greatest happiness was his family. Paul attended 11 major reunions, once with 25 family members accompanying him.
He was predeceased by his first wife, Margaret, in 1981. Paul is survived by his wife of 35 years, Diane; seven children, including Robin ’76; 19 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and one great-great granddaughter.

THE CLASS OF 1948
Thornton J. Anderson Jr. ’48
Andy was born Dec. 2, 1925, in Cleveland, Ohio, and died Feb. 8, 2017, in Longwood, Fla. He was 91.
At Princeton he competed in soccer and track, was a member of Key & Seal, and graduated summa cum laude in mechanical engineering.
He served in the Marines during World War II and in Korea. He retired in 1985 as a colonel in the United States Marine Corps Reserve.
He was in the CIA for 28 years, eight of which were spent overseas, including assignments up-country in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. He spent three years in a Cuban prison camp. In 1985 he retired from the CIA as a division chief. Andy held the rarely awarded Intelligence Cross and other high honors of the Intelligence Service.
In retirement in Florida, he was founder and leader of an Episcopal church, was awarded the Grand Croix of the Knights Templar of Jerusalem, and was a leading member of the Scottish-American Society.
Andy was predeceased by Nancy, his wife of 61 years. He is survived by one of their two sons, T.J. Anderson; and two nieces and two nephews.

THE CLASS OF 1949
David W. Cudlipp ’49
Dave died Jan. 16, 2017, in Duxbury, Mass., at age 88, following daunting medical challenges. Although he had been in hospice care since Jan. 1, 2016, he was active and played golf from then until frosty November, all the while with a sense of humor and sharp intellect.
Born June 1, 1928, in Morristown, N.J., he lived most of his youth in Short Hills, N.J. However, his early childhood was spent in Mt. Tabor, N.J., where he met Art Hilsinger, at age 4, with whom he maintained a close friendship for eight decades, and with whom he roomed during his first year at Princeton in 1945. He majored in economics, was a member of Elm Club, and was manager of the varsity football team.
After Princeton Dave joined J.P. Stevens & Co. in New York and spent four decades in the textile industry. Upon his retirement he found that although golf was his passion, he could not expend all of his considerable energy on the golf course or the tennis and paddle courts. He and his wife, Nancy, moved to Osterville on Cape Cod. There he started a two-decade second career with two other textile companies.
Dave is survived by Nancy, his loving wife of 38 years; son David; grandchildren Todd and Christopher; and his sister, Joyce Wiggins. In addition, his four stepchildren and their families loved him without reservation. A hearty celebration of Dave’s life will be held on Cape Cod this summer.

Richard L. McClelland ’50
Dick died July 28, 2016, in Charlotte, N.C. He was a dentist in the Princeton area for 50 years as well as a Navy Reserve captain.
He enlisted in the Navy at age 17 and was an aerial gunner from 1945 to 1946. At Princeton, he majored in biology and belonged to Campus. In 1954, he earned his dental degree with honors from the University of Pennsylvania. For the next three years, he finished his Navy commitment as a dental officer on two aircraft carriers.
After active duty, the “lure of Saturday afternoons in Palmer Stadium” prompted him to open an office in Princeton, where he specialized in restorative dentistry. His career included roles as chairman of the Princeton Medical Center dental department and fellow of the American College of Dentists. As a reservist, he was on the dental faculty at Bethesda Naval Hospital. He retired from dentistry in 1991 after a back injury and eventually moved to Charlotte to be near his three sons.
Dick was president of the Princeton Rotary Club and a 50-year member of the Nassau Club and the Princeton Club of New York, where in 1957 he had his first date with Elizabeth Michon, whom he married a year later.
Dick is survived by Elizabeth; sons Scott ’82, Bill ’83, and Craig ’88; nine grandchildren; and his brother, Craig ’86.

William S. Montgomery Jr. ’50

He came to Princeton from Jenkintown (Pa.) High School. A member of Elm, he worked at WPRU, played freshman golf, and majored in basic engineering.

His first career, in heat-processing furnaces, took him from the East to the West Coast and back. He was awarded two patents on glass tempering furnaces. In 1987, he changed careers by leaving his vice presidency in the Selas Corp. in Dresher, Pa., to form a company with his wife, selling giftware to the retail trade. They sold the business in 1991 and moved near his oldest son in California.

In 2003 they moved to Arizona. There he renewed his interest in golf, playing regularly until his death.

Bill was always a boater. Early in his first marriage, he built a sailboat in his apartment and sailed it on the Hudson River. An owner of several boats, his last was during retirement in California, where he was a commander of the Diablo Power Squadron and regularly sailed in the Sacramento Delta area.

Bill is survived by his second wife of 46 years, Marilyn; five children; two stepsons; 27 grandchildren; and 37 great-grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1951
Richard K. Ahrendt ’51
Dick was born April 20, 1929, in Toledo, Ohio, to Roswell and Marguerite Baker Ahrendt.

He came to us from DeVilbiss High School and majored in psychology. He roomed with Jack Kallop and Bill Park and belonged to Terrace Club and the St. Paul Club. Dick went on to earn an MBA in international banking. He later formed his own firm for corporate and public finance and advice, specializing in work with the Mexican government. Most recently, he had been a member of the class executive committee.

Al is survived by his wife, Sherrie; and children Erica, Ashley, Reid, and James. Many classmates will miss him sorely as well. The Class of 1952 sends blessings on his memory for his generous nature and work for the class and for his service to our country.

Jeffery, and Megan. He is predeceased by his wife, Joan; their son, Richard; and his brother, William.

William D. Dwyer ’51
Bill was born April 28, 1930, to William and Clara Daniels Dwyer. He was raised in Jersey City, N.J., and attended Stevens Academy in Hoboken.

At Princeton he was a history major and belonged to Terrace Club and the St. Paul Society. Ill health deferred his degree to 1952, but he retained his membership in ’51.

In 1955, Bill graduated from General Theological Seminary in New York with a bachelor of sacred theology degree. At the same time, he was ordained as a priest into the Episcopal Diocese of Newark.

Called to inner-city ministry, he first served as vicar of St. Christopher’s Chapel on Henry Street, a Trinity Church mission in New York City. He married Utako Shiraishi in 1961. Bill was vicar of St. Stephen’s Church in the South End of Boston from 1965 to 1981. Then he served as rector of St. Peter’s Parish in Springfield, Mass., from 1981 to 1992. Fluent in Spanish, he was able to communicate directly with his Spanish-speaking parishioners.

Bill died Feb. 11, 2015, having lived a life of service to his fellow man. He is survived by his wife, Utako; and their children, William, Stephen, and Joy Ross. His funeral was held at Christ Church Cathedral.

THE CLASS OF 1952
James H. Armstrong ’52
Jim’s father was James N., a member of the Class of 1920. Jim graduated from Blair Academy, and at Princeton he majored in biology, joined Elm, played in the band, and served on the Presbyterian Student Council. He roomed with Dan Ost and Marvin Lauritsen.

Jim went on to earn a medical degree at New York Medical College in 1957. He served in the Navy for two years before practicing medicine in Kalispell, Mont. His medicine was exceptionally thoughtful, as we saw in his essay for The Book of Our History.

He performed abortions and was recognized by the Jeannette Rankin Civil Liberties Award in 1995, a year after his office was destroyed by arson. He was active in a number of medical associations and in his community.

Jim died Dec. 20, 2016. He is survived by his children, James ’86 and Maria ’84; and his partner, Leslie Walker. The class offers its sympathy to them all.

Ralph M. Bomonti ’52
Ralph prepared at Middlessex School and Le Rosey School in Rolle, Switzerland. At Princeton, he majored in politics, joined Key and Seal, and played soccer and fencing. He roomed with Dave Fleming, Fred Rogers, and Jack Vrooman.

After Princeton he joined Army intelligence and served in Germany. His joy in life was the outdoors, which he found in ranching near Los Olivos, Calif., and in working as a wilderness guide in the Yukon. He then returned to his old hometown in New York, living out his life with his dear wife, Nancy, who survives him.

Ralph died Dec. 20, 2016. He was predeceased by his twin brother, Terry ’52. The class sends Nancy condolences along with thanks for Ralph’s military service to our country.

Carroll Allen Ellis ’52
We lost one of our best when Al died Dec. 18, 2016.

He joined the class from Culver Military Academy after growing up in Mexico City. At Princeton he majored in history, joined Ivy, later becoming president, and was counted as a Distinguished Military Student. Al played J.V. football and rugby, led the polo team as captain to the intercollegiate championship, and served on the Interclub Committee and Orange Key. We voted him the most respected member of the class and elected him our first graduate president.

Al served as a lieutenant in the Army for two years and then graduated from Harvard Law School in 1957. He practiced for four years, then was a Rockefeller family associate until he joined First Boston Corp. to do international banking. He later formed his own firm for corporate and public finance and advice, specializing in work with the Mexican government. Most recently, he had been a member of the class executive committee.

Al is survived by his wife, Sherrie; and children Erica, Ashley, Reid, and James. Many classmates will miss him sorely as well. The Class of 1952 sends blessings on his memory for his generous nature and work for the class and for his service to our country.

Kenneth G. Negus ’52 ’57
Ken came to us from a high school in Council Bluffs, Iowa, to be in the Class of ’49. In the middle of sophomore year he left to join the Army, serving in Germany and Austria. This had an important effect upon his life, as he returned to graduate with the Class of ’52 and majored in German.

He was president of the German Club and was in the Russian and Spanish clubs. Ken ran track, sang in the Chapel Choir and the Glee Club, and joined Prospect.

He earned a master’s degree from
Daniel R. Wilkes ’52

Danny prepared at Andover. At Princeton, he majored in SPIA and joined Prospect. His extracurricular activities were widespread and varied. They included Hillel, the Student Christian Association, Harvard-Yale-Princeton Colloquium, the committee for NSA, the World Student Service Fund general committee, the Speakers Bureau, and WPRU. He roomed with Davis Roach, Bob Field, and John Thompson.

Danny earned a law degree at Harvard Law School in 1955, and in 1960 earned a master’s of law degree at New York University in international and civil law. He taught law at more than 10 universities in the United States, the United Kingdom, Greece, and Korea on subjects ranging from international law and affairs, to international criminal law, to coastal and river-basin development. He published 20 papers and six monographs on topics such as post-conviction rights of indigents and jurisdiction over coastal zones.

After retirement he settled in Cambridge, England, and entered upon a further round of attachment and action in a varied range of community organizations.

Danny died Dec. 4, 2016. He is survived by his two sons, George and Andy. To them we send our sympathies at the loss of their father, our ever-busy classmate.

THE CLASS OF 1953

Thomas Henneberger ’53 *54

Thomas was born in Glen Ridge, N.J., and went to Princeton after graduating from Montclair Academy. At Princeton he majored in electrical engineering and was a member of Cloister Inn. He was secretary of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers-Institute of Radio Engineers. He also earned a master’s degree from Princeton.

Thomas began his professional career with Bell Labs and then went to RCA to work on defense research and development projects. This led to work with the State Department, and he served in both Beirut and Frankfurt before returning to Washington, D.C., to be in charge of research and development and then to work for private firms doing defense contracts and security consulting. Returning to government service, Thomas worked with the Immigration Service and the Customs Service before retiring and moving to Charlotte, N.C., in 1993. Thomas married Patricia Smith in 1974, and she died in 2008. They had no children. Thomas died Jan. 7, 2017, in Burlington, Vt.

THE CLASS OF 1954

David G. Holdsworth ’54


Born in Lynn, Mass., he graduated from Winchester High School. He majored in mathematics and was a member of ROTC, Terrace Club, and the Chapel Choir, and played percussion in the band. His military career was spent at Fort Sill, Okla.

He later studied economics at New York University and joined the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, where he worked in the public-information department and later in the banking-studies department. In 1966, he married Elizabeth “Betsy” Lawson Whitesides, and they moved to Chatham, N.J., settling in New Vernon, N.J., in 1978. After retiring in 1995, they traveled the world, and he enjoyed growing a vegetable garden.

Dave was on the board of the Morris County Historical Society and served as its president. He also served as president of the Society of Colonial Wars.

The class is honored by his service to our country and sends condolences to Betsy, his wife of more than 50 years; daughter Kate and her husband, Ben; and granddaughters Emily and Maggie.

THE CLASS OF 1955

Craig S. Bartlett Jr. ’55

Scott was born April 24, 1933, in Montclair, N.J., the eldest son of Gertrude Louise Selvage and Craig Scott Bartlett. He died Jan. 15, 2017, peacefully at home.

Scott was a graduate of the Kent School and Princeton. He then took accounting and business courses at New York University, the City College of New York, and the American Institute of Banking. He went on to graduate from the Stonier Graduate School of Banking. Beginning as a banker at Chemical Bank, he later became vice president of the Bank of New York. In 1968, Craig went into investment banking, and then returned to commercial banking in 1973.

When he accepted early retirement in 1990, he was an executive vice president, chairman of the credit-policy committee, and senior lending officer at Westminster Bank. For the next 23 years he devoted his time to corporate board work. He also served for more than 30 years as an arbitrator for the National Association of Securities Dealers, New York Stock Exchange, and Financial Industry Regulatory Authority.

He retired to the Ford Plantation in Richmond, Ga. He enjoyed bridge as well as acting as a board member for the Savannah Philharmonic. Even in retirement, he remained active as a “day trader,” and his daily call to his broker was the highlight of his day.

One of his great joys was his yearly trip to Rockywold Deephaven Camps on Squam Lake in New Hampshire. It provided great joy for a man who loved people and delighting his family with his stories.

Craig is survived by Elizabeth, his wife of 38 years; children Craig, Laura, Susan, and Robert; nine grandchildren; and his brother, Bruce.

THE CLASS OF 1956

Peter W. McDavitt ’56

Pete died just before dawn Aug. 31, 2016, in Cambridge, Mass., after a long illness. He faced the challenges his ailments imposed bravely and with grace. Pete said on many occasions that he was grateful to have a long goodbye.

After Princeton, Pete earned a master’s degree in science at MIT and spent a year at King’s College in Cambridge, England.

Subsequently, Pete enjoyed being an aeronautical engineer — initially in helicopter design, then as a civilian at the Pentagon, and later in industry in the defense business. He was an avid reader and music lover, an active outdoorsman and sports fan, and a community volunteer. He played and coached rugby into his 50s. He also wrote a long and entertaining autobiography for his family and interested friends.

Pete believed in “doing more” rather than in “saying more” when it came to almost anything, although he could be a charming raconteur. He was kind but critical, and he was easily amused. He loved being alive.

Pete’s first wife, Barbara Nelson McDavitt, predeceased him. He is survived by his wife, Dr. Julie R. Ingelfinger; daughter Sarah McDavitt Woods and her husband, Ted; son William McDavitt and his wife, Amy; stepchildren Erich Ingelfinger and his wife, Trina, Franz Ingelfinger and his wife, Cynthia, and Katherine Ingelfinger; 10 grandchildren; and his sister, Edith Lott.

The Class of 1956 extends its condolences to them all.

THE CLASS OF 1959

Carl I. Belz ’59 *63

On page 371 of our Nassau Herald you will see that Carl Belz was voted the “Best Athlete”
in the class. An outstanding baseball player and All-Ivy captain of the basketball team, we lost our Best Athlete Aug. 28, 2016, to a heart attack brought on by unresolvable blood circulation problems that had previously occasioned amputation of one leg.

Arriving at Princeton with his twin brother, Herman, from Haddon Heights (N.J.) High School, the brothers Belz made their mark on the diamond, the boards, and Cannon Club.

Carl chose to major in biology with plans to attend Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons, where he was later admitted. But a drawing class taken senior year changed his direction. Forgoing a medical career, he earned both a master’s and a doctorate in art history from Princeton.

Drafted by the Philadelphia Warriors, but not accepting the offer, he played professionally in the Eastern Basketball League to pay his way through graduate school. He taught briefly at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and Mills College, then went on to become a giant in the field of contemporary art, serving for 24 years as director of the Rose Art Museum at Brandeis University.

Carl is survived by his wife of 47 years, Barbara; their daughter, Portia; three daughters by a previous marriage, Melissa, Gretchen, and Emily; two sisters; his brother, Herman; and five grandchildren. We have sent condolences.

Samuel A. Bowman III ’59

Sam died April 13, 2016, in New York City, after a lengthy battle with cancer — an engagement that, in his quotidian affairs, he tended largely to dismiss.

Born in Springfield, Ohio, the location of a vast and cherished family farm, he ventured eastward to Exeter before coming to Princeton, where his father had preceded him in the Class of 1916. Once settled on campus he majored in English, joined Cottage Club, and participated in Right Wing Club activities.

After graduation, Sam embarked on a distinguished investment career, ultimately serving as a senior vice president at Ingalls & Snyder. His clients were his friends, and he found fulfillment in their trust in him and in his ability to reward that trust.

In a moving encomium at his memorial service, his close friend, classmate, and clubmate Stu White noted that Sam, an English major, felt that Cottage Club had long neglected its most famous (and infamous) son, F. Scott Fitzgerald 1917. Sam commissioned a sculptor to craft a bronze plaque of the author at his desk, pen in hand, which is now situated in the Cottage courtyard.

Sam is survived by his wife, Grace; sister Julie; half-sister Gail; and numerous stepchildren, nieces, and nephews. We have sent condolences.

Morris Cheston Jr. ’59

After a long battle with Parkinson’s disease, Mo died of a heart attack June 5, 2016.

Horse, as he was known to us, came to Princeton from St. Paul’s School, bringing hockey and lacrosse sticks with him. He dined at Ivy Club, majored in economics, and spent much of his time on turf and ice, excelling as a lacrosse midfielder and becoming captain of the hockey team.

His Navy ROTC commission set him aboard a Navy destroyer in the Pacific for two years; he then attended Harvard Law School. He then joined Ballard Spahr in Philadelphia, becoming a partner soon after. But if law was Mo’s occupation, hockey was his mistress. In 1960, while in the Navy, he tried out for the gold-medal-winning U.S. Olympic team, just missing the final cut, and he continued playing for many years with, among others, the St. Nicholas Hockey Club of New York.

His pro bono contributions were legion and legend, comprising wildlife and horticultural organizations, schools, and churches. In recognition of a game well played and a life well lived, the Princeton hockey team wheeled Mo out to center ice to drop the puck for the 2016 Yale game at Baker Rink.

Mo was survived by Cynthia, his wife of nearly 50 years, who sadly died shortly after he did; daughter Melinda; and sons James II and Morris III ’92.

William P. Clark ’59

Bill died Oct. 25, 2016. He was a longtime resident of San Antonio, Texas. Bill was the first recipient of the Jerry Horton Award, honoring special work for Annual Giving. He served as our class agent from 1979 to 1984, achieving a 76.2 percent giving rate for our 25th reunion and receiving the Alumni Council Award for Service to Princeton.

Bill is survived by Rosemary and their sons, William ‘99 and Andrew ‘01. We have sent condolences.

Gary O. Emmer ’59

Gary died Oct. 14, 2016, in Wellesley, Mass. He was an avid hiker and outdoorsman and a member of the “4,000 Footer Club” and the “100 Highest Peaks Club.”

Born in Manhattan, Gary spent his formative years at Roslyn (N.Y.) High School on Long Island, where he was class valedictorian. At Princeton he nurtured his fondness for the outdoors in the Outing Club, as well as his proclivity for business management as manager of the Student Christmas Card Agency and associate business manager of The Daily Princetonian. He ate at Key and Seal.

Having majored in art and archaeology, Gary spent the summer after graduation, in his words, “unearthing artifacts on Long Island” — in fact, digging ditches to make money to attend Harvard Business School in the fall. While in business school, he married Barbara Waite, and following graduation he worked in management positions at Rust Craft Greeting Cards. He left in 1968 to do long-range planning with Hoague-Sprague Corp. and in 1979 he founded his own business-management consulting company.

Active in church and community activities, Gary is survived by his wife, Barbara; and daughter, Jennifer. We have sent condolences.

THE CLASS OF 1960

Belden A. Frease ’60

Belden died Jan. 16, 2017, of a rare form of cancer diagnosed years ago. He prepared at the Lawrenceville School, and at Princeton he rowed on freshman crew and was on the swimming and golf teams. He took up rugby as an upperclassman. At Charter Club, Belden was a dedicated poker player and backgammon competitor. His Princeton friends remember him as boisterous, mercurial, and disarmingly in later years he continued his pursuit of golf, rugby, poker, and backgammon, and later added shooting sports in the United States and the United Kingdom to his recreational pursuits.

After law school at the University of Virginia, Belden began his career with Burke & Burke in New York City, where he met and married Dolina in 1968. They later moved to Long Island where he became corporate counsel to the New York Islanders hockey team. He then served with Computer Associates as corporate secretary.
He and Dolina had no children. They shared a devotion to a succession of Jack Russell terriers. She survives him and has our sympathy.

Eric H. Henderson ’60
Eric died Feb. 4, 2017, of complications of a variety of medical problems after several years of poor health.

Eric grew up in Atlanta, graduated from the Westminster School, and majored in economics at Princeton, joining Cottage Club and the 21 Club. His senior thesis was on “The Influence of Labor Unions on the Cotton Textile Business,” which soon served him well as president of Covington Industries. He took over at age 24, shortly after his father’s death.

Eric was committed to giving something back to the world. His successful textile business enabled him to expand to a manufacturing plant in Kabul, Afghanistan, in 2003, founded with the purpose of employing the widows of Kabul. He then moved on to Haiti in 2011 to build another sewing plant to employ people after the devastating earthquake there.

Eric loved classical music, sailing in the Caribbean, traveling in Europe (especially in Italy), and his close-knit family. He was a true Southern gentleman and proud of his authentic Scottish heritage.

Eric was predeceased by his son, Eric Hay Henderson Jr. He is survived by Wynn, his wife of almost 60 years and “senior-year roommate”; daughters Wynn, Alia (Ursula), and Sandy; and five grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1961
Maurice K. Tamsky ’61
Mo died Dec. 11, 2015, in La Jolla, Calif. Born and raised in St. Louis, he came to Princeton from University City High School, where he was class president and valedictorian. At Princeton he majored in chemistry, took his meals at Tower Club, and roomed with the freshman crew. His senior-year roommates were Ed Dubrow, Pete Blick, and rowed on the freshman crew. His senior-year roommates were Ed Dubrow, Pete Blick, and rowed on the freshman crew. His senior-year roommates were Ed Dubrow, Pete Blick, and rowed on the freshman crew. His senior-year roommates were Ed Dubrow, Pete Blick, and rowed on the freshman crew.

After Princeton, Mo earned his medical degree at University of Pennsylvania, clerked for an Oregon Supreme Court justice, and then taught at the University of Oregon. Returning to Pennsylvania in 1967, he spent the rest of his career practicing labor and employment law with Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhoads in Philadelphia, later becoming a partner. An accomplished musician and singer, John performed locally and internationally, even during his long illness.

John is survived by his wife, A. Taylor Williams, who is chief of litigation for the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Pennsylvania Courts; his children, Kathryn Williams, William, John, and Carrie; seven grandchildren; and brother J. Anson II ’67.

John C. Wright Jr. ’61
John died Oct. 17, 2015, at home in Gladwyne, Pa., of Parkinson’s disease. Born and raised in Bedford, Pa., he came to Princeton from Bedford High School. At Princeton he majored in the Woodrow Wilson School, was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, wrestled in the band, and took his meals at Court Club. He roomed with Steve Brown for three years.

Following Princeton, John earned a law degree at University of Pennsylvania, clerked for an Oregon Supreme Court justice, and then taught at the University of Oregon. Returning to Pennsylvania in 1967, he spent the rest of his career practicing labor and employment law with Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhoads in Philadelphia, later becoming a partner. An accomplished musician and singer, John performed locally and internationally, even during his long illness.

John is survived by his wife, A. Taylor Williams, who is chief of litigation for the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Pennsylvania Courts; his children, Kathryn Williams, William, John, and Carrie; seven grandchildren; and brother J. Anson II ’67.

THE CLASS OF 1963
Robert A. Blickenstaff ’63
Bob died peacefully Dec. 31, 2016, in Barrington, Ill., of pneumonia, surrounded by family. He was a retired DuPont executive who earned a Bronze Star in Vietnam.

During more than 30 years at DuPont, his roles included general manager of DuPont Philippines and president of DuPont Lanzside. Then he consulted independently on mergers and building projects. Bob was a community activist and fundraiser in Delaware and in Whitefish, Mont., where he designed a mountain home and shared nature adventures with his grandchildren at “Gramp Camp.”

Princeton educated him and opened doors, he wrote in our 50th Reunion book, “but more importantly it gave me a group of lifelong friends.” Entering from The Hill School, soft-spoken, well-spoken, and known to friends simply as Blick, he majored in chemical engineering. He was ROTC battalion executive officer, ate at Dial, and roomed with Gabel, Gordon, Grubbs, Hoey, and Knugman. Bob earned a master’s degree in chemical engineering from Northwestern and served a year in Vietnam, where he was cited for “meritorious achievement in ground operations against hostile forces.”

Morgan and Leonard. Susan writes: “Loved by his patients, colleagues, hospital staff, family, and many friends, his ready smile and sweet goodness will be missed always.”

John C. Wright Jr. ’61
John died Oct. 17, 2015, at home in Gladwyne, Pa., of Parkinson’s disease. Born and raised in Bedford, Pa., he came to Princeton from Bedford High School. At Princeton he majored in the Woodrow Wilson School, was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, wrestled, played in the band, and took his meals at Court Club. He roomed with Steve Brown for three years.

Following Princeton, John earned a law degree at University of Pennsylvania, clerked for an Oregon Supreme Court justice, and then taught at the University of Oregon. Returning to Pennsylvania in 1967, he spent the rest of his career practicing labor and employment law with Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhoads in Philadelphia, later becoming a partner. An accomplished musician and singer, John performed locally and internationally, even during his long illness.

John is survived by his wife, A. Taylor Williams, who is chief of litigation for the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Pennsylvania Courts; his children, Kathryn Williams, William, John, and Carrie; seven grandchildren; and brother J. Anson II ’67.

THE CLASS OF 1964
James E. Mitchell ’64
Jim died Sept. 9, 2016, in Vassalboro, Maine, surrounded by his loving wife and family. He was 74.

He grew up in Little Rock, Ark., and followed his father, William Mitchell ’29, to Princeton. Jim majored in the Woodrow Wilson School, joined Cap & Gown, and served as president of our class during his sophomore year. After spending a year in Beirut learning Arabic, he married the love of his life, Elizabeth Anne Harrill, in 1965. Jim and Libby raised four children, including his daughter Emily ’03. Jim joined the Marine Corps, served as a captain in Vietnam, and was the recipient of a Bronze Star with Combat V, denoting heroism. He then went to Yale Law School, followed by a job with the Maine governor, which took the family to Maine.

At our 50th reunion, Jim wrote: “I never made enough to support my political capital, but I did make enough to support my wife, who became Maine’s first woman Speaker of the House and the first woman in America to be both Speaker and President of the State Senate.” He became a probate judge, winning the 2009 Justice Skolnik Award from the Maine Civil Liberties Union, and described himself at the time as a “radical, liberal Marine judge with conservative values!”

Jim is survived by his loving wife, Libby; four children; and nine grandchildren. The class extends its sincere condolences to them all.

THE CLASS OF 1967
Robert C. Williams ’67
Bob died Dec. 10, 2016, in Detroit after a long battle with renal cancer.

Bob came to Princeton from Seaholm High School in Birmingham, Mich., where he had been active in student government and on the hockey team.

Bob’s father, Charles, was in the Class of 1938. During his freshman year at Princeton, he roomed with Mike Flynn, a friend from grade school. Bill Heyd joined them for the next three years. Bob was a member of Quadrangle and majored in history. He wrote his thesis, “The Role of the Negro in the Reconstruction of Louisiana,” for James McPherson. After Princeton, he graduated from Michigan Law School, taught writing at Catholic University School of Law, and clerked on the Michigan Supreme Court for G. Mennen “Soapy” Williams ’33, his second cousin.
In 1972, Bob joined the Oakland County prosecutor’s office, where he headed the appellate division for several decades during a long and distinguished career. He argued many cases before the Michigan Supreme Court and retired in 2009.

Surviving Bob is his longtime partner, Lisa Varnier, and his brother Jim, sister-in-law Marva, and their family. He was especially close to his nephews, David and Jim Jr., and their families.

To friends and family alike, Bob was known for being interested in and generous toward others. He peppered you with friendly questions and remembered your answers. Only with persistence could you get Bob to talk much about himself. His generosity, including for local charitable and social causes, was typically without bravado. Bob’s genuine friendship, impish humor, mild manner, disguised toughness, and quiet smarts enriched many lives.

THE CLASS OF 1996

Davis Chisulo Williams ’96
Sulo died Nov. 4, 2016, after a long battle with alcoholism and depression. Born Dec. 11, 1973, in Vallejo, Calif., Sulo was a talented musician, writer, actor, swimmer, and tri-athlete. He was a graduate of Montgomery (Calif.) High School, and earned a degree in English and a certificate in theater at Princeton.

While at Princeton, Sulo exploited his many gifts. He was a member of the men’s swim team freshman and sophomore year, the Zeta Psi fraternity, and Ivy Club during his sophomore and junior years, becoming independent his final year. He performed in a variety of theater productions. He was also a member of multiple bands, including the Ska Kings, with classmate Fayvor Love on vocals, and a funk-rock band called Smoothbry. Sulo played drums in both, and according to bandmate Nick Confessore ’98, “Sulo was fantastic. One of the best drummers I ever played with—comfortable with ska, punk, funk, everything. He was just a great percussionist, but, you won’t be surprised to learn, always wanted to be a front man, so sometimes we would let him come out and sing lead.”

After Princeton, Sulo continued a life in the arts, with acting, producing, and writing credits in film, television, and video games.

Sulo is survived by his mother, Barbara, of Santa Rosa, Calif.; his father, Don, of San Luis Obispo, Calif.; son Justice Fernandez Williams of Obispo, Calif.; and additional extended family.

Sulo’s mother, Barbara, asks that we remember him as we knew him: smart, funny, creative, driven, and generous. Donations in his memory may be made to the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence at http://www.ncadd.org/, or to a mental-health or alcohol-or drug-abuse prevention organization.

GRADUATE ALUMNI

Brandon H. Grove Jr. ’52
Brandon Grove, a U.S. ambassador and head of the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) during a 35-year career at the State Department, died May 20, 2016, of cancer. He was 87.

Grove graduated from Bard College in 1950 and earned a master of public affairs degree from Princeton’s Woodrow Wilson School in 1952. After service in the Navy, he started at the State Department in 1959 and performed consular duties in Africa, New Delhi, Berlin, and Jerusalem.

Grove also held administrative posts in Washington, such as senior inspector at the FSI and as deputy assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, before being appointed ambassador to Zaire in 1984. He was named director of the FSI in 1988 and retired in 1994.

From 1994 to 2001, he was a senior consultant for APCO Associates in Washington, and from 2006 to 2008 he was president of the American Academy of Diplomacy. He wrote of his adventures and lessons learned in his book, Behind Embassy Walls: The Life and Times of an American Diplomat.

Grove was predeceased by his wife, Mariana. He is survived by four children from his first marriage to Marie, a step-daughter, and seven grandchildren.

Thomas J. Hanratty ’53
Thomas Hanratty, professor emeritus of chemical engineering at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, died Aug. 24, 2016, at age 89.

Hanratty graduated from Villanova in 1947 with a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering, then earned a master’s of science degree from Ohio State in 1950 and a Ph.D. in chemistry from Princeton in 1953. He joined the faculty of the University of Illinois in 1953, and retired in 1997.

He was a leading researcher in fluid mechanics, inventing electrochemical methods allowing measurement more exact than previously possible. These meant a new understanding of turbulence, mass transfer, and the behavior of chemical reactors. He was a leader in establishing a new academic discipline by relating microscopic behavior to small-scale interactions in important multiphase flows.

Hanratty received many awards, most notably election to the National Academy of Engineering, the National Science Foundation, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He received honorary degrees from Villanova and the Polytechnic Institute of Toulouse. The American Institute of Chemical Engineers named him one of the most influential chemical engineers of the post-World War II era.

He is survived by his wife, Joan; five children; and three grandchildren. A son predeceased him.

James E. Anderson *63
James Anderson, retired chair of University Research Programs at the Ford Motor Co.’s research laboratory, died June 22, 2016, peacefully at home at the age of 77.

Anderson graduated with a bachelor of science degree in chemistry from Union College in 1960 and earned a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from Princeton in 1967. A year of postdoctoral work followed at Bell Labs.

Anderson then had a 37-year career at Ford’s research laboratory. He wrote more than 75 peer-reviewed articles and held many patents. From 1973 to 1976, he took a sabbatical and did research in Germany at the Max Planck Institute in Frankfurt and the University of Mainz. A second sabbatical came later at Stanford University. Until he retired in 2001, he collaborated with scientists worldwide, and traveled often to conferences in Europe and Africa.

His retirement was spent in Florida and Cape Cod, Mass., with travel to Europe and Latin America. His passions were tennis and his extended family.

Anderson is survived by Elizabeth, his wife of 54 years; four children; and nine grandchildren who held center stage when they were with him.

William A. Veech ’63
William Veech, who held the Edgar Odell Lovett Chair in mathematics at Rice University, died unexpectedly Aug. 30, 2016. He was 77.

Veech graduated from Dartmouth in 1960 and earned a Ph.D. in mathematics from Princeton in 1965. In 1969, he joined the faculty at Rice and was the department chair from 1982 to 1986. He held the Milton Brockett Porter Chair from 1988 to 2003 and the Lovett Chair since 2003.

He was the sole author of more than 60 papers, which often transformed whole subjects. Veech believed in the importance of developing one’s own unique perspective. He had a characteristic blend of dynamics, geometry, and deep analytic technique. His work has been important in topological dynamics.

Veech worked at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton during many visits there in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s. He was an Inaugural Fellow of the American Mathematics Society. Veech was regarded as a generous mentor and a great friend to his students and colleagues.

Veech is survived by Kathryn, his wife of 30 years; and two daughters.

This issue contains undergraduate memorials for Kenneth G. Negus ’32 ’57, Thomas Henneberger ’33 ’54, and Carl I. Belz ’39 ’61.

Graduate memorials are prepared by the APGA.
Classifieds

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Paris, Marais: Elegant, 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment, vibrant Pompidou museum/ sidewalk café quarter on 13c pedestrian street, full kitchen, w/d, AC, cable. desaix@verizon.net

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Ile St-Louis: Elegant, spacious, top floor, skylighted apartment, gorgeous views overlooking the Seine, 2 bedrooms sleep 4, 2 baths, elevator, well-appointed, full kitchen, WiFi. 678-232-8444. triff@mindspring.com


Paris, Tuileries Gardens: Beautifully-appointed, spacious, 1BR queen, 6th floor, elevator, concierge. karin.demorest@gmail.com, w’19.

Paris 16th: Sabbatical? Live le charme discret de la bourgeoisie. Spacious one-bedroom apartment, 6th floor, elevator, metro Mirabeau. Perfect for long stays. trips@frenchtraveler.com

Aix-en-Provence: Cours Mirabeau, heart of town. Beautifully appointed, 2 bedroom apartment, peaceful, steps to shops & restaurants, garage, wifi. Perfect for exploring Provence. $1450/week. greatfrenchrentals@comcast.net

England, Cotswolds: 3BR stone cottage, quiet country village near Broadway and Stratford-upon-Avon. Information: www.pottersfarmcottage.com, availability: pottersfarmcottage@msn.com


Rome, Italy: Breathtakingly beautiful art-filled apartment on via Gregoriana near Spanish steps. 2 bedrooms in a 17th century palazzo. Mariaceliswirth@yahoo.com, 212-258-4886.

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Lucca, Italy: Converted stone farmhouse, 2BR, 2BA, heated, peaceful gardens, small pool, easy walk to village cafe. For sale/long-term rental. luccalike1@verizon.net, ’60.

United States Northeast

Waitsfield, VT: 6BR, 3BA, fireplace, sleeps 2+3, brand new Simmons Beautreysat. MadRiver swimming. 3 day minimum. snohouse@hotmail.com, 978-922-0101, w’51.

Wellfleet: 4 bedroom beachfront cottage with spectacular views overlooking Cape Cod National Seashore. 609-921-0809 or warrenst@aol.com

Stone Harbor, NJ: On beach, upscale. 570-287-7191. E-mail: radams150@aol.com


Nantucket Oceanfront: Charming, antique-filled cottage on five acre oceanfront estate. Sleeps six comfortably. $4,600—$7,400 weekly, May—October. phoeby6j@comcast.net for details/pictures, ’63.

Sag Harbor, N.Y.: Hampton’s bayfront in private community 3BR, 2BA, LR, DR, CAC, porch, beach, sunsets. Aug/Aug-LD. mnschlendorf@gmail.com, ’59.

NYC: 2 BR/2BA, furnished SoHo apartment. Doorman building, CAC, w/d in unit. Available May 15 for 1+ year rental, $8,000/month. Contact: jemsoho@gmail.com. ’13.

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Jackson, Wyoming: New, contemporary 2.5 bedroom home walking distance from Town Square and trailheads available for summer 2017. Photos/details at homeinhj.com, contact: homeinhj@gmail.com, 307-690-3374, k’93.

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Classifieds
That Was Then: April 1887

**A Hermit’s Sad Existence**

*John S. Weeren*

In 1887, *Lippincott’s Monthly Magazine* published a series of essays devoted to the social life of prominent American colleges and universities, and in April, Princeton had its moment in the spotlight. The essay’s author, Princeton junior Edwin M. Hopkins, described a “semi-monastic” community of undergraduates where social interaction with nonstudents was “somewhat more frequent than angels’ visits.”

For most new arrivals, Hopkins wrote, this isolation was affirmed rather than eased by President James McCosh’s freshman reception, where “the proportion of ladies to students is so small that none but the brave, and moreover the very strategical, will be likely to secure more than a word with any one of them.” Even those who were lucky enough to walk an unattended woman home were often doomed to disappointment: “There is a simple good-night and nothing more,” excepting, perhaps, an exclamation of dismay “from the disappointed one as he realizes that all his efforts have failed to secure him an invitation to call and an entrance into Princeton society.”

The blame for this divide was laid at the feet of both town and gown, but even as fingers were pointed, hands were extended, allowing a “fortunate few” to “enlarge their general acquaintanceship and attain to the presence and speech of ladies other than their landlady and washerwoman.” One opening took the form of “Sabbath-school work,” facilitated by the Philadelphian Society, forerunner of the Student Volunteers Council, while church choirs and the town’s Choral Union offered another entrée. Once established, relationships could blossom, leading to “calls, drives, tennis-games, excursion-parties, and all those things that tend to relieve ... the unhappiness of a hermit life.”

A review in *The Princetonian* caviled with Hopkins’ treatment of town-gown relations but undermined its critique by quoting *Lippincott’s* January essay on social life at Harvard, whose students have “no more acquaintance with the world about college than a clerk has in a town where he may happen to be employed.”

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