

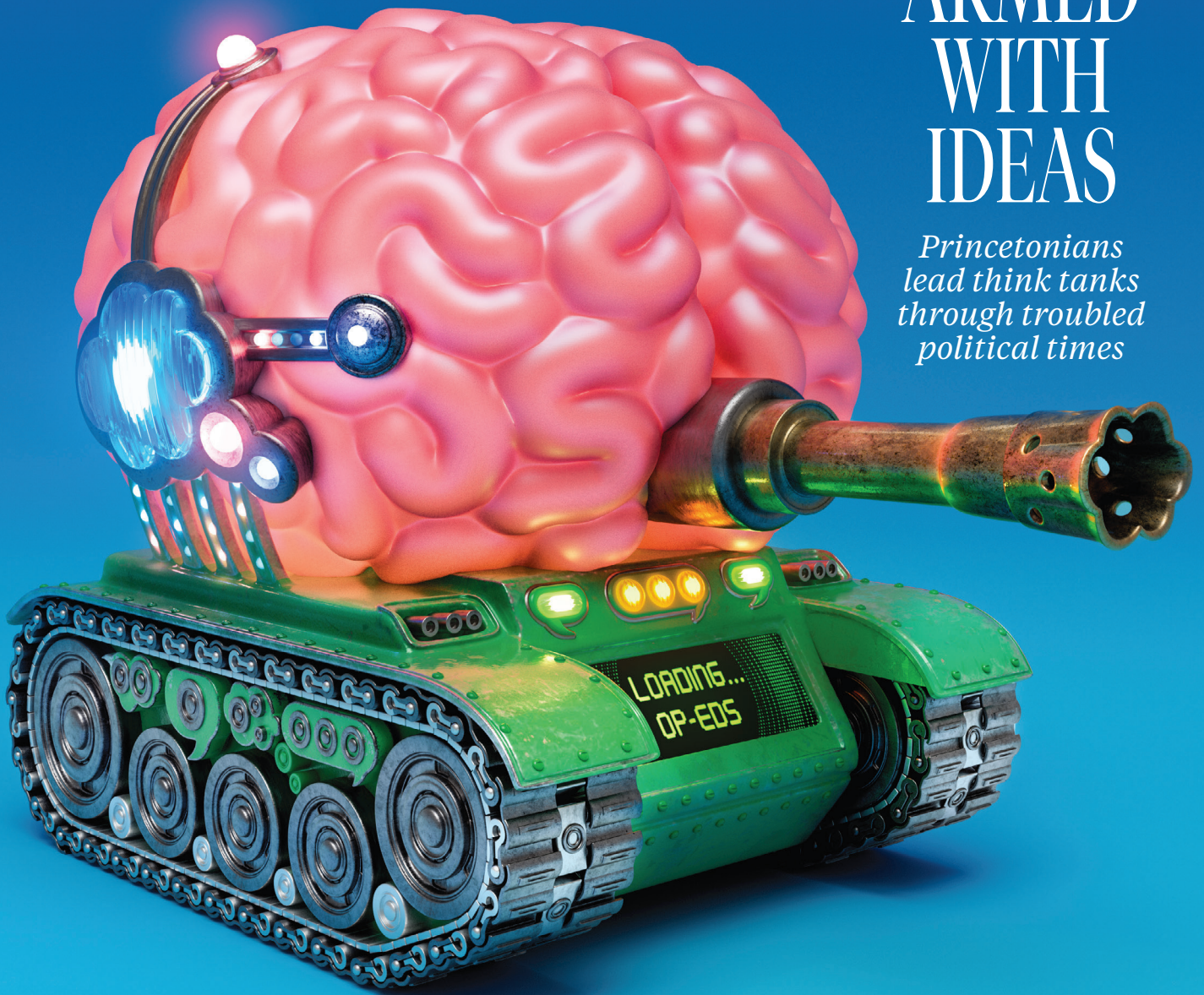
ORAL HISTORY OF 1964 FOOTBALL / NOBEL IN PHYSICS

PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY

NOVEMBER 2024

ARMED WITH IDEAS

*Princetonians
lead think tanks
through troubled
political times*





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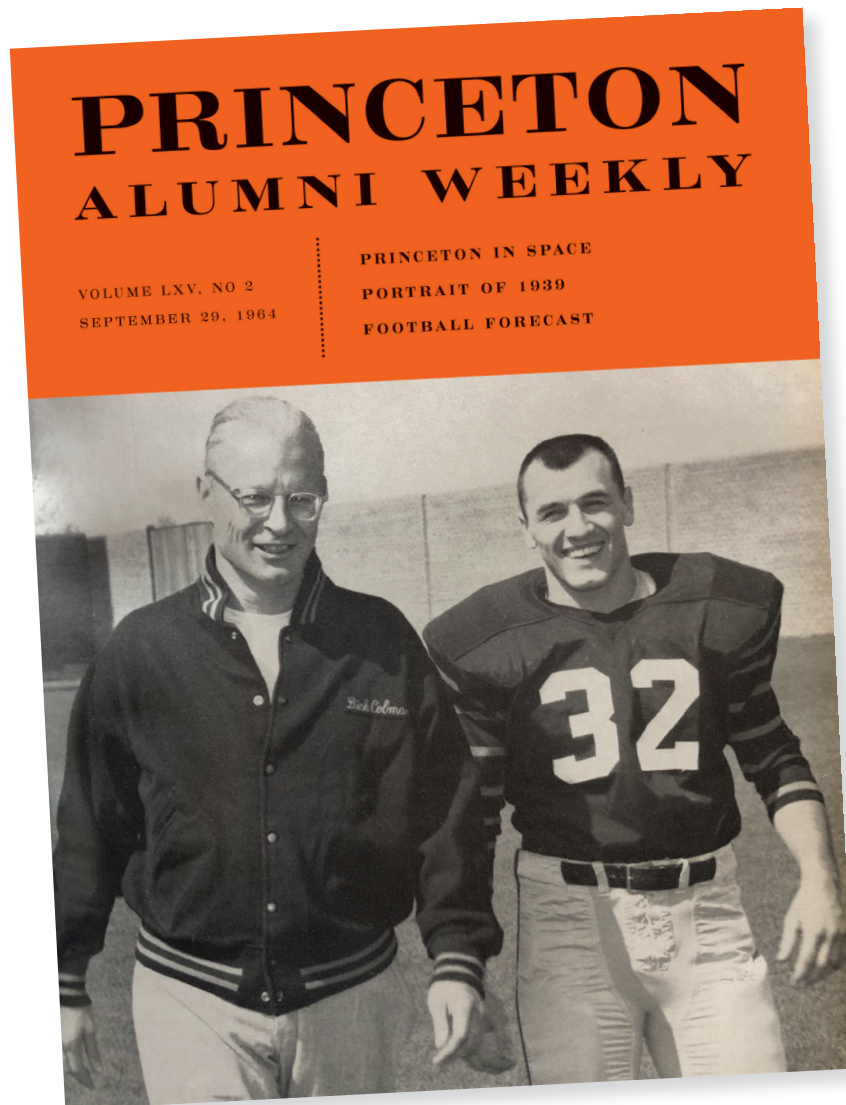
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NOVEMBER 2024 VOLUME 125 NUMBER 3

An editorially independent magazine by alumni for alumni since 1900



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OF PERFECTION**
*Dick Colman, left, and
Cosmo Iacavazzi '65-'68
on the Sept. 29, 1964, cover
of PAW as the Tigers' 9-0
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See page 40.*

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ON THE COVER

Think tanks put their minds to tackling domestic and foreign policy issues.

Illustration by Lisa Sheehan



Published using 100% recycled paper

The Committee of Three

MATILDA LUK
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Princeton's excellence depends on many factors, but foremost among them is the caliber of the professors who produce world-class research, educate our students, help to run the institution, and conduct searches to identify potential colleagues.

At Princeton, the most important guarantor of faculty quality is a committee known as "the Committee of Three," or simply "C3." Because the committee's work

is profoundly consequential and highly confidential, I don't mind the aura of mystery that sometimes surrounds it. But it is also a model of rigorous assessment that should inspire confidence among Princeton's alumni and all who care about this University. It deserves to be better known.

Formally called the Advisory Committee on Appointments and Advancements, C3 has eleven participants, including the five highest ranking academic officers in the University along with six other members of the faculty who are elected by their peers. The six faculty members must represent all four divisions of the University (that is, the humanities, the social sciences, the natural sciences, and engineering). At least two must be department chairs.

Nobody seems to know why this eleven-person committee with six faculty members from four divisions is called "the Committee of Three." Somebody once told me that it is because the University previously had three divisions, not four, but that might be a myth.

The committee reviews every tenure recommendation at the University, including both internal promotions and external appointments. Its task is to ensure that Princeton tenures only scholars whose academic achievements are outstanding and who will continue to be leaders in their fields.

C3 serves as a quality-control check on the academic departments, which have the primary responsibility for ensuring the excellence of tenure candidates. Departmental faculties at Princeton are, after all, world-class experts in their fields. They are in the best position to judge the merits of potential appointees.

When a department recommends someone for tenure, it sends the dean of the faculty a dossier summarizing its reasoning and providing evidence such as, for example, teaching reviews, reference letters, and scholarly reviews of the candidate's books.

The dean of the faculty then solicits more external reference letters. Some invitations go to professors drawn from a long list submitted by the department, and others go to experts identified independently by the dean's own staff.

The department does not know to whom the dean has written, nor does any member of the department see the letters to the dean. Confidentiality is essential; we want reviewers to express candid opinions.

C3 then reviews the departmental dossier and the external letters obtained by the dean. If any member of C3 is from the department that nominated the candidate, that person is recused and never sees the file.

C3's meetings are formal. Its procedures have been unchanged for decades. The University president chairs the meetings and calls at random on one of the six faculty members to introduce each case.

There is no presumption that the faculty member presenting the case is an expert in the candidate's field. On the contrary, I might call on an English professor to introduce a case from Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, or a physicist to present a case from Religion.

After the initial summary, we go around the room and each member of the committee, including the five academic officers, offers brief comments.

The cases usually pivot on the external letters. If they reinforce the department's favorable judgment—and they most often do—then we endorse the appointment and recommend its approval by the Board of Trustees.

C3 applies a standard that is exceptionally high. Roughly speaking, we want someone to be *at least* in the top half-dozen or so scholars in their subfield and experience cohort.

A case may therefore be in trouble if two or three letters say, in effect, "I can think of five people in the subfield who got their doctorate at around the same time as this person, and who are better, but this person is probably in the top ten." Tenth best in the world is almost never good enough for the Princeton faculty.

"C3's meetings are formal. Its procedures have been unchanged for decades. ... This is the most rigorous personnel process that I know."

When C3 has doubts about a case, we ask to meet with the department chair. The chair then gets interrogated about the nomination by eleven leading representatives of the University faculty. We try to get replies to objections or reservations raised in the letters, but we are careful never to ask any question that would reveal the identity of a letter-writer.

The chairs often persuade C3 that their candidates deserve tenure. C3, however, usually rejects a few appointments each year.

This is the most rigorous personnel process that I know, far more exacting than what exists at most universities or in most professions.

Is it infallible? Of course not. But I have now served on the committee as provost and president for more than twenty years, and there are very few decisions that I regret even with the benefit of hindsight. The dedication and hard work of C3's members are manifest in Princeton's dazzling academic quality.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Christopher L. Eisgruber".



YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE LATEST ISSUES

ON COLLEGE ATHLETICS

I would like to respond to President Eisgruber '83's very thoughtful perspective on the Ivy League athletics model (President's Page, September issue).

The prescience of the Ivy League presidents in 1954, when Ivy athletics were formally deemphasized, is remarkable. The fact that it took 70 years to reach this reckoning point is equally remarkable.

Those of us who chose to participate in Princeton athletics 50 years ago were well aware of the ramifications. The letter of admission was the first and most relevant reward; participation thereafter was voluntary and carried with it the sometimes-subtle rewards of such participation: decent equipment, a locker, periodic road trips to other campuses, and in the case of the 1970s football teams, an occasional victory. That was sufficient.

Institutions that chose the different path, hoping that major college athletics would be increasingly remunerative, are now facing a form of chaos that would have been difficult to anticipate. While I don't begrudge an athlete at one of those institutions receiving some portion of those monetary benefits, Eisgruber's declaration that the prospect of paying Princeton athletes is a "nonstarter" is comforting, and as it should be. We can all sit back and watch this madness play out, hopefully with quiet detachment and a minimum of schadenfreude.

If the prevailing legal entanglements ultimately forbid Ivy League athletes from participating on a national level, then so be it. It would be, as Eisgruber states, "a shame." We have more important things to do.

KEVIN R. FOX '77
Broomall, Pa.

KUWAIT PETROLEUM CEO

I am embarrassed to see PAW publishing propaganda for Kuwait's oil industry ("Pariah or Partner?," September issue). Nawaf al-Sabah '94's talking points reflect the oil heir's obvious personal investment and minimal background in economics, climate science, and engineering. Although a few paragraphs mention views unsympathetic to Kuwait Petroleum, those admissions are immediately undercut by unsupported supposition from al-Sabah. PAW can do better than this uncritical fawning.

Emissions from oil extraction and refinement are less than 5% of the emissions from burning oil, so it's

laughable that al-Sabah claims Kuwait Petroleum's efforts to neutralize their direct contribution can "solve the climate problem" while the corporation increases its oil production by 50%. Kuwait may not be able to go cold turkey on oil, but it should look to its oil-producing neighbors' plans to diversify their economies if it doesn't want to be left behind.

ARIADNE MYTELKA '17
Philadelphia, Pa.

Upton Sinclair famously wrote, "It is difficult to get a man to understand something when his salary depends on his not understanding it." We have

the proof here yet again. No amount of greenwashing will make man's actions or conscience clean. The drug dealer, the plastic bag seller, and the peddlers of soft drinks all claim to be addressing a market. In truth, they are making money on the misery of others and shielding their faces from their responsibility. In the nation's service? In the service of all nations? I think not.

GRÉGOIRE LANDEL '98
Sèvres, France

Mark F. Bernstein '83's favorable profile of Nawaf al-Sabah '94 was informative. However, I found the title of the article — "Pariah or Partner?" — a warning of climate hysteria to come. As we learned at Princeton, language is also subtextual.

While this well written article thankfully avoided Greta-speak, the inclusion of words such as mushroom cloud, planet wreckers, greenwashing, and the aforementioned pariah made the article appear a bit biased.

The article would be more compelling if it had also cited additional sources supporting al-Sabah's claim that fossil fuels will be with us for a long time as the global demand for electricity soars, and therefore requiring adaptation, not banning. This accomplished journalist might have conversed with professor of physics emeritus Will Happer '64, who could have called on his friend 2022 Nobel Prize in Physics winner John Clauser, or another CO2 Coalition board member, Patrick Moore, an early environmental activist with Greenpeace.

Outside the Princeton sphere one could find many sources (including Obama-era EPA administrators) to support the obvious reality that any draconian U.S. efforts to decarbonize would be expensive and futile due to China, India, and developing countries' desire to increase their prosperity. The Cornwall Alliance has material on the present

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harm to the global poor as we deny them cheap electricity as they mine and produce renewables. Do we have enough material for a follow-up, Mr. Bernstein?

KERRY BROWN '74

St. Petersburg, Fla.

Let me add a personal dimension to the dramatic story of Nawaf al-Sabah '94, who was “front and center” during the Gulf War. As a U.S. diplomat posted in Riyadh during 1990, I was nowhere near the center but decidedly on the front. After the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2, the U.S. embassy dispatched me to the town of Khafji on the Saudi border with Kuwait. My assignment was to assist those fleeing south over the border, including many members of the al-Sabah family. But my outpost came under threat, and I fell back to Riyadh, where I pursued two main questions with Kuwaitis: Did Iraqi occupiers plan to drive out all Kuwaitis, or rather seal the Saudi border? And did Saddam Hussein intend to roll down the Saudi coast and capture its oil fields?

A picture slowly emerged from encounters of Kuwaitis with Iraqi soldiers on these two points. The Iraqi policy was haphazard, punctuated by capricious decisions. There was no grand strategy but rather a tissue of inconsistent tactics. As the U.S.-led Desert Shield took effect, another question arose: Was an indigenous resistance movement forming in Kuwait against Iraqi occupation? Exiled Kuwaitis said indeed there was, yet it took another force to liberate Kuwait, Desert Storm. Its success allowed Kuwaitis “again to be able to chart their own destinies,” as President George H.W. Bush said in the presence of al-Sabah, who is now doing precisely that as CEO of the Kuwait Petroleum Corp.

FLETCHER M. BURTON '88

Nashville, Tenn.

PAVED PARADISE

While on campus for my 10th reunion, I was astonished to see that the pristine swath of land that used to be our historic cross country course, now “the Meadows Neighborhood,” had been paved and turned into uninspiring big-box buildings

and parking lots (On the Campus, July/August issue). I also find it worrisome that the longest standing cross country coach was not consulted about the development. I asked Peter Farrell (women’s cross country and track coach from 1978 to 2016) if he was contacted. He wrote in a text, “Nope. They don’t seem to want advice from a relic.”

Sure, there is a new condensed, oval cross country course that’s manicured and will be spectator friendly. And the current cross country coaches were involved with this new course. Farrell admitted, “I’m actually happy that they salvaged something.”

Still, PAW’s article doesn’t compute. To say that the West Windsor land is “expected to be a major focus for athletics” without commenting on the fact that our historic cross country course was paved is paving over history.

To add insult to this development, this whole project follows supposed campus planning guiding principles in the name of “sustainability.” Since when did new building construction on undeveloped land earn the badge of sustainable? Aren’t we missing the point here? If we want to preserve biodiversity, shouldn’t we protect what’s in our own backyard?

I can live without a historic cross country course, but can we thrive on a planet with less and less undeveloped land?

CLARE GALLAGHER '14

Boulder, Colo.

BIG THREE BONFIRE

In “To Build a Better Bonfire, Say Farewell to the Big Three” (September issue), my good friend Henry Von Kohorn '66 states the painful truth that “The Big Three” is a fiction to everyone but Princeton. Having known Henry for over 60 years, I can attest to his inability to refrain from telling the truth. He is the kind of guy who would tell the emperor not only that he had no clothes, but also that he was ugly.

I have a single quibble with the essay. Unlike Henry, I have not succumbed to the vanity of the bonfires. I would eliminate them.

NORM TABLER '66

Carmel, Ind.

I just read Henry Von Kohorn '66's recent article, and I couldn't agree with him more.

Neither Harvard nor Yale views Princeton as their leading adversary and his statement about three being a crowd rings undeniably true.

I attended the Yale-Harvard game for the first time in the fall of 2021 and learned that it was commonly referred to as *The Game* by both Yalies and Harvardians (or whatever they call themselves). That alone says enough!

MARIA CARRERAS KOUREPENOS '85
New York, N.Y.

Henry Von Kohorn '66, a deeply distinguished alum whose service to Princeton is as voluminous as it is admirable, makes some good points in his essay. I'd go a step further and suggest that the bonfire should celebrate those years that Princeton wins more Ivy championships across all sports and genders than its putative rivals.

But do note the risk. Remember how many Princeton alumni it takes to change a light bulb: three. One to call the electrician, one to mix the cocktails, and one to wax rhapsodic about how much better the old light bulb was.

STEPHEN P. BAN '84
Glenview, Ill.

GIVING TRENDS

Annual Giving raised \$66.7 million in the campaign year ending June 2024 (On the Campus, September issue), with donations from 45% of undergraduate alumni. This was down for the second straight year — from an all-time high of \$81.8 million in 2022 — with participation also less.

But figures over the past decade suggest far greater concerns. The participation rate was 61.4% in 2014. It is now more than a quarter less. The 2014 rate was also not exceptionally high. Participation was 58% to 61% every year back to 1996 and 54% or higher every year since 1951-52.

The amounts donated, adjusted for inflation, also suggest concerns. In prices of June 2024, the all-time high was 2017, with \$96 million raised. The \$66.7 million in 2024 was close to a third less. The

reduction is even greater if compared to the previous rising trend.

This has not been a one-year issue, nor an issue only of the 2020 shocks. The participation rate was already 55.4% in 2019, before dropping to 47.8% in 2020. It is now 45%. The amount raised (in constant prices) also fell yearly from 2018 to 2024, except for 2022.

The University should consider why alumni have evidently become increasingly concerned. While neither the share who donate nor the amount raised should be taken as the sole or even primary indicators of concern within the University community, the issue should not be ignored. Rather than assert all is fine, the Board of Trustees should examine why a significant share of the University community apparently believes otherwise.

FRANK LYSY '73
Washington, D.C.

PUZZLE KUDOS

Thanks for including a crossword puzzle (by Stella Daily Zawistowski '00) in the September Alumni Weekly. There are plenty of crossword puzzles out there, but not many for which the first clue is "Hoagie Haven, for one." It was also a pleasure to relive PAW covers of decades past.

THOMAS DRUCKER '75
Northfield, Minn.

JOURNEYS OF THE MIND

Readers could be forgiven for thinking that PAW has been acquired by a highbrow travel agency. The September issue featured a "Tiger Travels" section with articles like "Shirley Tilghman's Travel Musts" and "Princetonians' Guide to Paris." That's in addition to the glossy, 24-page insert, "Princeton Journeys," replete with eye-popping educational touring opportunities in all corners of the globe.

PAW can hardly be faulted for following the lead of the University itself and of higher education in general. Study abroad programs and even the establishment of university annexes in tourist epicenters overseas — Paris, Budapest, Lugano, Rome — are as basic to the 21st century American college scene as chapel and the freshman beanie were 75 years ago. Academia is playing

the tune its customers expect. After all, travel is the currency of worth in society today, the sacrament of our restless culture. Just as people scroll, scroll, scroll on their phones, they book, book, book reservations to new places.

I only hope that Princeton doesn't entirely abandon the centuries-old tradition of the university as a place of retreat for intensive learning and self-discovery, a temporary haven from the fraught world and its incessant demands and stimuli.

My own travels abroad as a young man were beneficial and enriching, but their impact pales in comparison to the dynamite I took to the locked vault door of my own soul by reading and thinking for four years in places like Firestone Library, tiny dorm rooms, and under trees in Prospect Gardens — none requiring a boarding pass.

GEORGE ANGELL '76
Baltimore, Md.

Editor's note: The Princeton Journeys insert is a paid advertisement.

YOUR PERSPECTIVE

Let us know what you think

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Letters should not exceed 250 words and may be edited for length, accuracy, clarity, and civility. Due to space limitations, we are unable to publish all letters received in the print magazine.

Letters, articles, photos, and comments submitted to PAW may be published in print, electronic, or other forms. The views expressed in Inbox do not represent the views of PAW or Princeton University.

To read more about PAW's commenting policy or guidelines for submitting an essay proposal, click the QR code or go to paw.princeton.edu



TIGERSIDE CHATS

Insightful dialogues featuring faculty, staff and alumni



SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

AI Snake Oil: What Artificial Intelligence Can Do, What It Can't, and How to Tell the Difference

ARVIND NARAYANAN, *Director of the Princeton Center for Information Technology Policy and Professor of Computer Science*



NOVEMBER 13, 2024

Previewing the New Princeton University Art Museum

JAMES STEWARD, *Nancy A. Nasher–David J. Haemisegger, Class of 1976, Director, Princeton University Art Museum*



DECEMBER 4, 2024

Inside the Colorful World of Birds and Their Eggs

CASSIE STODDARD, *Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology*



JANUARY* 2025

The Princeton Campus: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

RON McCOY *80, *University Architect*

**Check website for official date*

Mark your calendar

Join fellow alumni online for a series of compelling conversations with Princeton experts.



FEBRUARY 4, 2025

Navigating the Changing Landscape of College Sports

JOHN MACK '00, *Ford Family Director of Athletics*



MARCH 4, 2025

POVERTY, BY AMERICA

MATTHEW DESMOND, *Maurice P. During Professor of Sociology*



APRIL 9, 2025

Princeton's Sustainability Action Plan

SARAH BOLL, *Executive Director of the Office of Sustainability*

Learn more about the webinar series and see the full roster:

alumni.princeton.edu/tigersidechats



THANK YOU

for making **Orange & Black Day 2024** historic!

On campus, at regional parties, and online, where alumni posted photos and videos with **#OrangeAndBlack**, Tiger spirit lit up screens around the world.

Take a bow, Tigers.



See alumni.princeton.edu/orangeandblack

Stay connected to Princeton by following
@PrincetonAlumni on social media





Alumni Day

SAVE THE DATE
February 22, 2025

Princeton University will present its top awards for alumni, the Woodrow Wilson Award and the James Madison Medal, in Richardson Auditorium during a day of campus events.

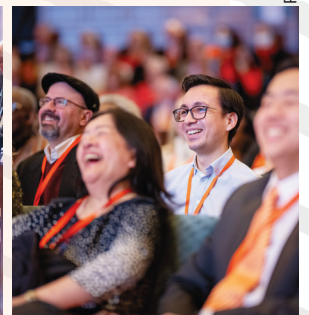
- Reconnect with friends, fellow alumni and Princeton families.
- Hear from the award winners.
- Celebrate at the luncheon in Jadwin Gymnasium.
- Attend the Service of Remembrance.
- Enjoy the All-Alumni Reception.

Learn more at alumni.princeton.edu/alumniday

Alumni Day is a free event, open to all alumni and their guests.



Photos: Sameer A. Khan/Fotobuddy



Stay connected to Princeton by following
@PrincetonAlumni on social media and visiting alumni.princeton.edu



MAJOR CHANGES TO PAW'S WEBSITE

PAW.PRINCETON.EDU

WE'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT OF PAW AS MORE than a magazine — it's also a way for alumni to connect with each other and their alma mater. To that end, we've spent the past year developing a new website, and now we're thrilled to bring it to you.

At the new paw.princeton.edu, you'll find all the stories that run in print, but also much more, including the features listed here. We hope you take it out for a spin — and let us know what you think.



INTERACTIVE GAMES

Each month, Stella Daily Zawistowski '00 is creating a new Princeton-themed crossword puzzle that you can solve online, and Tyler Maxey '23 is contributing batches of original logic puzzles based on PAW stories. Find them on the Games page.

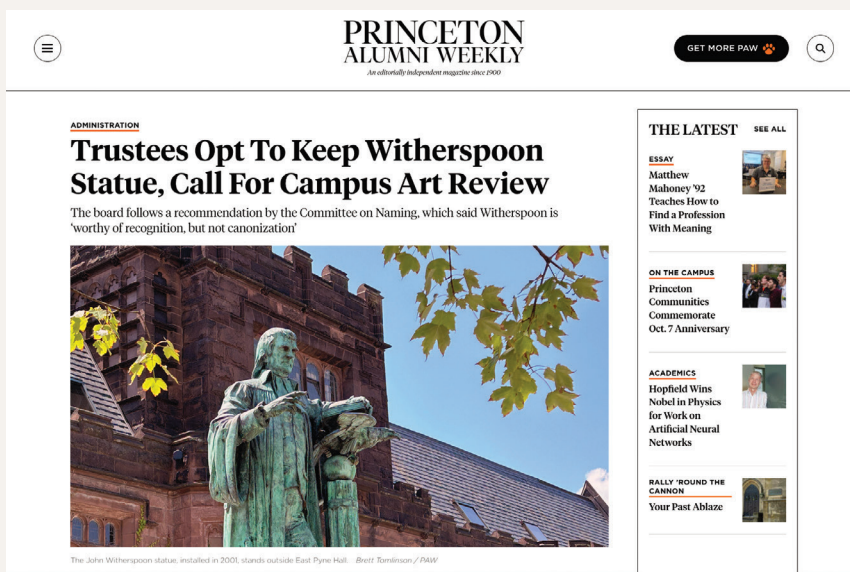


PODCASTS

The new, monthly Memorials PAWcast takes a closer look at the lives of alumni who have recently died. The first three episodes feature interviews about Joe Schein '37, Ernie T. Pascarella '65, and Isabella De La Houssaye '86.

... AND LOTS MORE

Better organization on the site makes it easier to find the stories that most interest you, whether it's research in the natural sciences and humanities (check out the Disciplines pages), Tigers of the Week (Alumni Profiles), divestment discussions (Administration), or guest essays (Opinions). And remember to follow the growing bank of stories in Tiger Travels, where we hope alumni will get travel tips — and then share stories of their adventures with us. [▶](#)



BREAKING NEWS

When news breaks about Princeton or its alumni, look for real-time coverage in the Latest News sections of the website, and get the scoop on protests, Tigers in the NCAA, and more.



COLLECTIONS

In a nod to PAW's long history, we've begun digitizing stories about notable Princetonians. F. Scott Fitzgerald 1917? Jimmy Stewart '32? Toni Morrison? Dig in and see how PAW covered them over the years.



FIND YOUR CLASS

See how PAW is covering your classmates — from features and news to Class Notes and Memorials — on the new Find Your Class page.



ON THE CAMPUS

NEWS, SPORTS, AND STUDENT LIFE



A BURST OF AUTUMN

The changing leaves alongside 1879 and Laura Wooten halls greeted students during midterms week in October.





EYES ON THE PRIZE
John Hopfield is honored
on campus Oct. 11.

PRIZE PHYSICIST

Hopfield Wins Nobel for Work on Artificial Neural Networks

BY BRETT TOMLINSON

JOHN HOPFIELD, AN EMERITUS professor at Princeton whose work has spanned physics, biology, neuroscience, and chemistry, was awarded the 2024 Nobel Prize in physics for his research on artificial neural networks that helped pave the way for machine learning applications. He will share the prize with Geoffrey Hinton, a professor at the University of Toronto.

The award, announced Oct. 8 by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, recognizes Hopfield and Hinton “for foundational discoveries and inventions,” according to a press release. Hopfield “created an associative memory that can store and reconstruct images and other types of patterns in data,” the release said. Now known as the “Hopfield network,” the groundbreaking research was first published in 1982.

Princeton celebrated the award with a news conference that drew about 350 people to Frick Laboratory’s Taylor Auditorium — students, administrators, media, staff, and faculty, including Nobel laureate James Peebles *62, who sat in the front row. Unfortunately absent was

Hopfield, who happened to be visiting England and joined the event by Zoom.

Three days later, Hopfield was back in Princeton and received a roaring round of applause in person at the Princeton Neuroscience Institute, where students and colleagues filled the central hallway and offered a champagne toast to the guest of honor.

President Christopher Eisgruber ’83, in his introduction at the Oct. 8 news conference, quoted Hopfield’s remarks about “science that gets done for curiosity’s sake” and the breakthroughs this often yields. “John, I very much hope that Congress is listening as you speak,” said Eisgruber, who advocated for “generous funding” for the National Science Foundation and other agencies.

Professor Mala Murthy, director of the Princeton Neuroscience Institute, said that the Hopfield network “revolutionized our understanding of neural processing and laid the foundation for modern computational neuroscience and artificial intelligence.” Hopfield also had a foundational role in Princeton’s neuroscience community,

Murthy said, recruiting faculty in the early 2000s to help build what later became the Princeton Neuroscience Institute. And when he visits his emeritus faculty office, she added, “there’s often a long line to visit with him.”

Hopfield, 91, joined the Princeton

faculty in 1964 and served as a professor of physics until 1980, when he departed for Caltech. He returned to Princeton in 1997 with an appointment in molecular biology but also holds associated faculty status in physics and neuroscience. He transferred to emeritus status as the Howard A. Prior Professor in the Life Sciences in 2008.

Responding to a handful of questions submitted by reporters, Hopfield spoke about his path in the sciences, straying to the fringes of his initial discipline, physics, and intersecting with other fields, most notably biology. He described interdisciplinary work as “the kind of science which has such extensive possibilities, as well as being the possibility that you just don’t find anything at all — a risk you have to take.”

In both the news conference and the Oct. 11 gathering at the neuroscience building, Hopfield’s remarks addressed the use and spread of artificial intelligence. His co-winner, Hinton, has been outspoken about the dangers of unregulated AI, and Hopfield acknowledged the problem of “creating a technology that threatens its creators,” most vividly witnessed in the development of the atomic bomb.

“I’m worried about anything that says ... ‘I’m faster than you are, I’m bigger than you are, and I can also run you; now can you peacefully inhabit with me?’” he said. “I don’t know. I worry.”

Hopfield and Hinton will share the prize of 11 million Swedish kroner, about \$1 million.

Hopfield is the 23rd Princetonian to win the Nobel Prize in physics, including five who’ve won the award in the last decade: senior scholar Syukuro “Suki” Manabe (2021); Peebles (2019); alumnus Kip Thorne *65 (2017); Professor F. Duncan Haldane (2016); and former professor Arthur McDonald (2015). ■

History in the Making

New dean Michael Gordin makes the case for liberal arts teaching and a fresh schedule for final exams

BY JULIE BONETTE

THE MOST SURPRISING THING to Michael Gordin about his new role as dean of the college is not the number of meetings on his calendar (a lot), but “the sheer diversity of what goes on [in those meetings], and that they happen back-to-back.”

On a typical day, he might attend a discussion about construction on Hobson College, scheduled to be completed in spring 2027, followed by a meeting about the Honor Code, and then another on financial aid. As leader of the Office of the Dean of the College, Gordin oversees the undergraduate experience from admission to graduation.

“That’s been one of the things that I have found very challenging,” he said in an interview two months after beginning the new position on July 1.

Gordin, a member of Princeton’s faculty since 2003, is only the 13th dean of the college since the post was established in 1909. He succeeds Jill Dolan, who held the role since 2015, and reports to Provost Jennifer Rexford ’91, who led the search committee.

Gordin has been the Rosengarten Professor of Modern and Contemporary History at Princeton since 2013, and he recently served as co-chair of the University’s Middle States Re-Accreditation Steering Committee, which successfully concluded its work earlier this year.

One of the first initiatives Gordin took up from his predecessor was to make improvements to the end of semester schedule. Starting this fall, final exams will be scheduled on the same day of the week and time as their corresponding class periods, meaning the exam schedule can be set much earlier. And in the spring, final papers and projects

“I felt like he had a very good balance of thinking about the University from an institutional point of view, but also caring about the student experience.”

— KATE MACAKANJA ’23

will have staggered due dates, though Dean’s Date will still be the final day that work can be submitted. Gordin called the previous situation “unmanageable” and “extremely stressful and quite compressed.”

Despite his own full plate, Gordin, ever the educator, will teach in the humanities sequence in the spring, and he’s also finishing up a book about what happened to science when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991 — “the only example in the modern period of an advanced intellectual apparatus atrophying.”

By his own admission, Gordin’s scholarship focuses on “fringe topics,” and his projects usually start “with a random conversation.” He has authored or co-authored nine books on matters such as pseudoscience and the 16 months in 1911-12 when Einstein lived in Prague.

Gordin also “celebrates the weirdness” of his students’ chosen subjects, according to Kelly Minot McCay ’16, who worked with Gordin on her thesis. He “was always happy to let my interests direct my course of study, and then [he would] provide sources or perspective or assistance as needed.”

McCay, who is currently pursuing her Ph.D. at Harvard, said that Gordin is still an influential adviser and has “always treated me with a huge amount of respect as a scholar.”

Kate Macakanja ’23, who also worked with Gordin on her thesis, said she’s confident that he will be a positive presence in the University’s administration. “I felt like he had a very good balance of thinking about the University from an institutional point of view, but also caring about the student experience,” she said.

Gordin sees himself as a proponent for not only students, but also the value of a liberal arts education. “There’s a sense that liberal arts means humanities, and it doesn’t,” he said. “Liberal arts is an attitude towards teaching” that requires learning how to ask and answer difficult questions. He believes strongly that teaching and learning have “to be advocated for and spoken for.” ■



MICHAEL GORDIN



COMMITTEE ON NAMING

Trustees To Keep Witherspoon Statue in Place — for Now

BY JULIE BONETTE

P RINCETON'S BOARD of Trustees announced in October that the controversial statue of former University president John Witherspoon in Firestone Plaza will remain, though the trustees also said that the Campus Art Steering Committee is now charged with performing a review of campus art, starting with the Witherspoon statue.

The announcement comes after a two-year review of the statue by the Committee on Naming, which was prompted by a 2022 petition signed by 285 community members who called on the University to replace the statue because Witherspoon, Princeton's president from 1768 to 1794, owned slaves. A clergyman and scholar, Witherspoon was the only college president to sign the Declaration of Independence, and he led Princeton (then the College of New Jersey) during a critical period in the institution's history.

Over the past two years, the Committee on Naming, a standing committee of the Council of the Princeton University Community that provides advice on naming and iconography to the Board

of Trustees, solicited input from the University community through listening sessions and two symposiums: on Witherspoon's life, with a particular emphasis on his views of slavery and abolition, and on the statue itself. Presenters offered a wide variety of perspectives on Witherspoon as well as options for the statue, from relocation to adding contextualization to destruction.

The Committee on Naming determined that "John Witherspoon is worthy of recognition, but not canonization," according to a statement by the trustees. The committee's final report

“Monuments make meaning and wield power, and it is the responsibility of an academic institution like Princeton to help viewers understand this about the Witherspoon statue.”

— RACHAEL DELUE

Chair of art and archaeology at Princeton

recommended the University provide contextual information with the statue to “reduce the glorification of Witherspoon by offering a more complex and accurate history” than is currently displayed, and also recommended the University consider relocating the statue.

Ultimately, the trustees decided “we do not believe that questions about John Witherspoon's legacy provide sufficient ground for removal or relocation of the statue” but also that that “does not mean the statue should or must remain in its current state or location.”

The Committee on Naming endorsed a recommendation from the former Ad Hoc Committee on Principles to Govern Renaming and Changes to Campus Iconography — a group of trustees, students, faculty, and staff that met from 2020 to 2021 to develop principles about when the University should remove or contextualize representations of individuals honored on campus — to conduct a periodic review of “the educational and aesthetic qualities of campus artwork as well as how artwork is described.”

The Campus Art Steering Committee will conduct the review and start with the Witherspoon statue to address questions raised during the previous two years such as the scope and aesthetics of the statue. The committee, which was established in 2009, is co-chaired by James Steward, the director of the Princeton University Art Museum, and University Architect Ron McCoy *80.

Reaction from the campus community was mixed. Brendan Kolb, a graduate student and one of five members of the philosophy department who originated the 2022 petition, said he “respect[s] the time and thought that the Naming Committee put into their report,” but “the Campus Art Steering Committee now has the opportunity to make significant changes regarding the statue, changes that will make campus more welcoming and honest.”

Rachael DeLue, chair of art and archaeology at Princeton and one of the symposium presenters, said “the report outlines a range of possibilities

and strategies for reckoning with the statue going forward. This is important, because to my mind doing nothing and maintaining the status quo is simply not an option.”

DeLue called the move to refer the matter to the Campus Art Steering Committee “judicious,” adding, “Monuments make meaning and wield power, and it is the responsibility of an academic institution like Princeton to help viewers understand this about the Witherspoon statue.”

Fellow symposium presenter Sean Wilentz, a professor of history, said the decision “plainly invites further controversy,” but he applauds that the committee “rejected tendentious repudiations of [Witherspoon] regarding slavery and antislavery.”

Wilentz cautioned, though, that should the statue be removed “on alleged aesthetic grounds” in the future, it would “look to much of a candid world like a craven evasion of the fundamental issues at stake.”

The group Princetonians for Free Speech echoed that sentiment, writing in a statement that the report’s “detailed wording seems to imply that the trustees have ducked their duty by laying the groundwork for probable future cancellation of the Witherspoon statue on aesthetic grounds,” adding that “erasing history to promote someone’s view of ‘social justice’ does not advance knowledge or seek truth, the core purposes of a university.”

Bill Hewitt ’74, who has blogged about the issue, also said the University “wisely” decided not to move the statue, but “erred in referring the future” of the statue to another committee.

“The trustees made a thoroughly considered decision in 2000 to accept the proposal from the University of Paisley in Scotland to have two twin statues to honor John Witherspoon,” Hewitt said, and that was not for “his relationship to slavery, but rather [for] his contributions as an essential early president of Princeton, as an influential teacher of James Madison and others, and finally, himself, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.” **P**

CLASS CLOSE-UP

New Princeton Class Tackles the Plastic Problem



A MASSIVE CHALLENGE

Assistant professor Emily Davidson's class discusses "Ethyl," a life-sized blue whale sculpture created from single-use plastics to raise awareness of their impact on the environment.

FROM THE ACCUMULATION OF plastic in landfills that prompted plastic bag bans to the recent headlines about toxic components of plastic food containers and utensils, it's clear, at least to Emily Davidson, that the plastics “problem” is “one of the biggest challenges of our time.”

But Davidson, an assistant professor of chemical and biological engineering who leads a lab on campus focusing on polymer design, synthesis, and assembly, also knows “there’s a lot of real benefits that plastics bring to our lives.”

That’s the main thrust of Davidson’s new class, *Plastics, Profit, and People: How Science & Society Can Strive for Sustainability*, which is cross listed in engineering, environmental studies, and the Council on Science and Technology. The class combines technical knowledge of materials with related information on the history, economics, and sociology of plastics.

During one lecture, Davidson posed this real-life scenario: A chocolate company wants to increase the amount of recycled content in its packaging without sacrificing performance (recycled plastic often performs more poorly than “virgin” plastic). In small groups, students debated the risks of introducing additives to a food product.

“This is the real trade-off that [companies] have to make,” Davidson said.

Davidson designed the class to be accessible to all majors, and the 33 enrolled students span from freshmen to seniors.

Charlotte Selover ’25, a chemistry major, said she thinks hearing other perspectives in the classroom “is good because I’ve always approached the plastic conversation from my field.”

Selover was particularly interested to read about early uses of plastics; for example, Indigenous people used naturally derived polymers, such as cellulose, to make rubber balls for entertainment and rituals. Another favorite reading followed a man attempting to live plastic-free for a day, detailing all the substitutes he had to make.

Rounding out the readings and Davidson’s lectures are three labs that introduce students to the properties of plastics, and a few field trips, including visits to the University’s S.C.R.A.P. Lab and a nearby materials recovery facility, which processes recycled materials. She is also bringing in guest speakers: an investigative science journalist, a local politician who supports plastic bag bans, and an employee of chemical and consumer goods company Henkel who works with sustainable products.

For the final assignment, students will work in groups to create posters that propose solutions to a plastics problem of their choice.

Selover says there is “no one-size-fits-all solution” to environmental problems like plastic, because it can be easy “to say that we need to impose regulations ... but it’s not always feasible for every sect of society to just stop using certain materials and resources.” **P** By J.B.



ADMINISTRATION

Princeton to Accept Certain Fossil Fuel Funds

BY HOPE PERRY '24

P RINCETON WILL RESUME taking donations for research from the fossil fuel companies it has dissociated from, as long as the research funded focuses on the “amelioration” of environmental harms caused by carbon emissions, the University announced Oct. 3.

The announcement, signed by Provost Jennifer Rexford '91, Dean of the Faculty Gene Jarrett '97, and Dean for Research Peter Schiffer, presents a shift in policy since the University's initial decision to divest from publicly traded fossil fuel companies and dissociate from “the most-polluting segments of the industry,” approved by the Board of Trustees in 2022.

That decision came after years of student and alumni organizing.

“The administration has the responsibility for determining how to implement the Board of Trustees' fossil fuel dissociation decision,” University spokesperson Jennifer Morrill said in an email to PAW. “The administration ensures the Board of Trustees is appropriately and regularly informed about a broad range of matters.”

Anna Buretta '27, co-lead of Sunrise Princeton, called the policy change “extremely heartbreaking” and said she felt “very disappointed and very frustrated” by the new policy.

Sunrise Princeton is the student activist group on campus committed to fossil fuel divestment. Previously, the group was known as Divest Princeton,

which is now the moniker of the alumni fossil fuel divestment group.

Buretta said she had been excited “to see an institution like Princeton take the step in the right direction in 2022 to divest and start setting a precedent towards other universities to actually distance themselves from these companies.”

Now, she said, she has doubts.

“We're going to take money from the people who are causing the climate crisis. That, to me, is very scary, because it shows that ... they don't necessarily have my best interest at heart.”

Chris Greig, a research scientist at the Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment at Princeton, offered a different perspective. “It's probably where I thought they should have positioned themselves from the beginning,” he said.

Greig teaches a course called Rapid Switch: The Energy Transition Challenge to a Low-Carbon Future, with Andlinger Center colleague Eric Larson. Before Princeton, Greig served as director of an energy initiative at the University of Queensland, and before that he worked in carbon capture and storage for more than two decades.

There are three stipulations for research conducted with funds from fossil fuel companies. First, the money is only allowed to support projects that are “aimed toward the amelioration of the environmental harms of carbon emissions.” Second, faculty will “retain the academic freedom to publish their results.” Finally, the shift only covers

THE GREATER GOOD?

Student activists questioned the University's move to allow fossil fuel industry funding for research that aims to produce environmental benefits.

grants that fund projects and does not cover broader funding.

“Some of the activists think that it is impossible for researchers to do, you know, academically robust independent research when it's funded by fossil fuel companies,” Greig said. “I don't buy that argument at all.”

Greig referenced the Net-Zero America study, which was sponsored by BP and Exxon Mobil. He served as a co-principal investigator on the project along with colleagues Larson and Jesse Jenkins. The report produced by the project presented five different ways the United States could decarbonize its economy using already-existing technology.

“I think that was a pretty good example of research that was conducted independently,” he said.

But Buretta pushed back, citing a report published by the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability Democrats and the Senate Committee on the Budget. The report cites internal emails from BP about the Net-Zero America Project and claims that the emails show “BP's relationship with Princeton allowed it to advocate directly for energy and emissions policies like carbon capture without accountability for refusing to invest at scale.”

The University will also “no longer disclose the names of companies that meet the dissociation criteria and with which Princeton has had a relationship in the recent past,” according to the announcement. When Princeton dissociated from 90 fossil fuel companies in 2022, the list included Exxon Mobil, which had funded the University's E-filiates Partnership. Princeton established an energy research fund “in part to offset research funding no longer available because of fossil fuel dissociation,” according to a November 2022 announcement.

Buretta said she is concerned about a “lack of transparency” in Princeton's dissociation decisions. **P**



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STUDENT DISPATCH

Reading For Fun? Library Collection Says ‘Please Do!’

BY LUCIA BROWN '25



WHEN TEODOR GROSU '26 wants to expand his understanding of the universe, he does it in two ways: studying astrophysics and reading fiction.

With his subjects of study light-years away, he finds a level of imagination inherent to the science. He has been bringing this imagination to fiction and screenwriting courses — and continues to read for pleasure on the side.

“Reading, if you do it for fun, also teaches you things, accidentally sometimes,” Grosu said. “You can find things in reading you didn’t set out to look for.”

In July, he borrowed *Held* by Anne Michaels after it was longlisted for the Booker Prize — writer and professor Yiyun Li, whose class Grosu is enrolled in this semester, is one of the members of the 2024 judging panel. On the inside cover of *Held* is a bookplate identifying the title as part of Princeton’s Dixon Collection.

Established in 1921 in memory of William Boulton Dixon 1915, the Dixon Collection uniquely assembles the most popular contemporary literature. The goal of the collection, outlined in 1920 by J. T. Gerould, librarian of the University, is to make available “everything that represents the content of the best thinking of the present, even though it may not have a permanent value.”

Today, fresh loads of between 70 and 150 Dixon books arrive weekly to the library’s processing office on Alexander Road. All primarily for leisure reading, these titles include popular fiction, nonfiction, science and music writing, and even coffee table books and travel guides. The collection has also expanded into e-books and audiobooks.

As a “restricted book fund,” the endowed Dixon fund can only be used for the purpose of acquiring titles within the Dixon definition. The collection is widely circulated for pleasure and research; last year, faculty and staff made up half of the collection’s usage, with undergraduates comprising 25% and graduate students 20%. Grosu said that while finding time to read may be a challenge, the collection encourages students to enjoy life beyond coursework.

While a “book jobber” does the general work of acquiring the titles from mainstream publishers for weekly

shipment, Steve Knowlton, librarian for history and African American studies, who oversees the collection, has also been seeking out “alternative literatures”: graphic novels, books from small, independent publishers, and, newly, polemical works.

“[Today] we don’t have to limit ourselves,” said Knowlton. “What one critic may view as unworthy of respect, a reader may find a lot of enjoyment from.”

Many Dixon Collection practices are modeled after public libraries: Dust jackets are preserved under that shiny, mylar cover (the only collection in the library that does this), new titles are marked with a yellow sticker on the spine, and the collection is easily browsable on first-floor bookcases.

At the end of their six-month shelf life, though, Dixon books are not deaccessioned or weeded out, like their public library cousins. Instead, they are “de-Dixoned” down to the stacks.

Previous generations’ criticisms of contemporary holdings — like the dearth of books by John Cheever, pointed out by Edward Tenner ’65 in a 1965 library council advising meeting — are likely unsubstantiated among the expansive current collection.

Indeed, in Princeton’s collection now are almost all popular novels published from the 1930s to today. With interlibrary loan, the collection extends far beyond Princeton’s campus.

More than 2,800 titles were added in the 2023-24 academic year. And, at the time this article was written, newly released Dixon e-book titles by Louise Erdrich, Ta-Nehisi Coates, Ina Garten, and Malcolm Gladwell already had waiting lists.

Joan K. Martine, head of circulation at Firestone, fondly recalls emeritus faculty walking up to the front desk with stacks of Dixon books and returning two weeks later for more. She hopes more current Princeton students will take the chance to explore the collection, which curious readers can find in the Thomas-Graham Reading Room, by the solarium.

“The bulk of our collection is academic. And it’s a world-renowned collection,” said Martine. “But to have something lighter — that’s really nice.” **P**

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STUDENT ARRESTS

Judge Denies Plea Deal to Clio Hall Protesters

BY JULIE BONETTE

THE TWO PRO-PALESTINIAN protesters who were arrested on Princeton's campus for attempting to set up tents in the spring pleaded guilty and received suspended fines on Oct. 1, but Judge John McCarthy III '69 denied the same deal to the first of the Clio Hall occupiers appearing in Princeton Municipal Court.

Achinthya Sivalingam '24 and Hassan Sayed, a graduate student in economics, appeared in person to accept an agreement from prosecutor Christopher Koutsouris to plead guilty to a municipal noise ordinance, rather than defiant trespassing as originally charged. McCarthy accepted the deal and suspended their \$100 fines, though both had to pay \$33 in court costs.

The judge then turned to the 13 defendants who were arrested on April 29 following the occupation of Clio Hall, 10 of whom appeared in person while the other three were on Zoom.

Aymen Aboushi, the Clio defendants' lawyer, said six of his clients wanted

to accept the same plea deal that Sivalingam and Sayed received. McCarthy responded by calling on Sara Ryave '24 to testify under oath about her role in the Clio Hall takeover.

She said she entered the building with the intention of talking to Rod Priestley, dean of the graduate school, who was not present, about divestment from Israel. She said that someone in the group — though she couldn't recall who — asked staff to leave, but she wavered on whether there was a 60-second countdown, as reported by PAW in June.

"I do believe that one of us did ask, tell them, that ... they had a certain amount of time to leave," Ryave said, adding that the only staff member in the office they occupied finished an email and left before protesters barricaded the doorway with furniture. She did not recall being told that they were trespassing, stating that she was primarily in the back of the room looking out a window. She did admit to making loud noises.

The judge, who said several times that

PROTESTERS IN COURT

An Oct. 1 court date resolved the cases of two students arrested last spring, but those involved in the Clio Hall takeover might still go to trial.

all plea deals needed to be based in fact and in the interest of justice, denied the deal, stating that the noise ordinance charge was not appropriate given the circumstances. While commending Aboushi's clients' strength, courage, and conviction, McCarthy said there needed to be responsibility and those who pitched tents outside should not receive the same deal as those who issued a countdown to staff while occupying a building.

"I'm not accepting this plea agreement. It's not in the interest of justice," McCarthy said, urging the parties to give the matter more thought. The next hearing was set for Nov. 5.

In the spring, the University announced that those arrested were unlikely to face penalties greater than probation in the campus disciplinary system. Princeton Israeli Apartheid Divest (PIAD) posted on X, formerly Twitter, that those arrested were given four years of disciplinary probation by the University; the University declined to comment on disciplinary action. **P**

IN MEMORIAM

Giacinto Scoles, a chemistry professor who made pioneering contributions to



the use of molecular beams, died Sept. 24 at age 89. Scoles joined the faculty in 1987 and transferred to emeritus status in 2008 as the Donner Professor of Science. His research

interests included intermolecular forces and chemical-reaction dynamics. Scoles helped to establish the Princeton Materials Institute and edited *Atomic and Molecular Beam Methods*, "the indispensable handbook for practitioners of the art of molecular beams," according to a biography published by the Office of the Dean of the Faculty. **P**

BIAS INCIDENTS

Princeton Investigates Anti-Israel, Anti-Palestinian Stickers and Flyers

STICKERS AND FLYERS with hate messages were found on campus early in the fall semester, prompting the University to open investigations and remind the campus community of its role in addressing harassment.

Princeton Public Safety opened an investigation into a bias incident against Palestinians in early September when about 30 flyers printed with the phrases “Nuke Gaza” and “Kill Roaches” were found on a walkway near Spelman Hall.

The New Jersey chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-NJ) published a statement condemning the flyers and the growth of anti-Palestinian racism nationwide.

Several weeks later, on Sept. 28, multiple stickers were found scattered across campus on stop signs and

bulletin boards with anti-Israel messages, including “Death to ‘Israel!’” and “Tel-Aviv [sic] will Burn.” The stickers were from the United States Postal Service intended for use as mailing labels.

Maximillian Meyer '27, president of Tigers for Israel, said he was “dismayed and disgusted to see signs that call for the genocide of the Jewish people — call for the death of a nation in which half of the world’s Jewish people live.”

Meyer said that he and a few other students reported the stickers, and they were taken down Sept. 30.

University spokesperson Jennifer Morrill confirmed that the stickers were being investigated by Public Safety as a potential bias or harassment incident.

Michele Minter, vice provost for institutional equity and diversity, gave a presentation at the Sept. 30 Council of

the Princeton University Community meeting about Title VI protections on campus under the Civil Rights Act. In her presentation, she highlighted a May 2024 Dear Colleague letter from the Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights that specifically states that Title VI protects Jewish, Muslim, Israeli, and Palestinian students.

Minter explained that harassment allegations need to meet certain standards, including that behavior or speech that harasses someone has to be directed at a specific person based on a protected characteristic. But allegations of a hostile environment, Minter noted, are subject to a broader standard. Some activities that can contribute to a hostile environment are also constitutionally protected free speech, including flyers, social media posts, and protests.

In a statement to PAW, Minter wrote that Princeton “deplores all hateful speech,” and that “anonymous, offensive speech — particularly that which includes rhetorical threats of violence — is especially unwelcome.”

By H.P.



PROTESTERS AT THE CPUC MEETING

Princeton Community Weighs In on Israel Divestment Proposal

AFTER SOLICITING FEEDBACK from the University community on the proposal from Princeton Israeli Apartheid Divest (PIAD) to divest from companies and holdings with ties to Israel in response to Israel’s actions in the Israel-Hamas war, the Resources Committee of the Council of the Princeton University Community (CPUC) may meet with student groups in a continued effort to gauge consensus of the issue on campus.

The Resources Committee is tasked

with considering issues related to the University’s endowment portfolio, and the Board of Trustees ultimately makes the final decision on divestment. One of the University’s three guidelines for divestment requires the committee to determine whether it is “possible for the University community to reach a consensus on how the University should respond” to the issue at hand.

The Resources Committee accepted feedback from students, staff, faculty, and alumni from Monday, Sept. 30, until

Friday, Oct. 11, through a portal on its website.

The portal was designed “to get input from a broad cross-section of the University about this important issue” in an unbiased forum that protects and preserves the openness of debate for competing ideas, according to remarks by Professor Jay Groves, chair of the Resources Committee, at the September meeting of the CPUC.

The committee had already received “thousands of emails” about the June petition by the end of September, Groves said, though the committee suspected many of those communications came from “the most interested parties, and maybe we haven’t heard enough from everybody else.”

Depending on the feedback received, the committee may hold meetings with groups that specifically requested them. Groves declined to give details on the committee’s timeline.

PIAD wants Princeton to divest from entities that “enable or facilitate human rights violations or violations of international law as part of Israel’s illegal occupations, apartheid practices, and plausible acts of genocide.”

By J.B.

COMEBACK STORY

*Amir Bell '18
recovered from a
broken leg to play his
sixth pro season.*



BASKETBALL

A New Kind of Education

Former Princeton players stretch their wings, embrace new experiences as overseas pros

BY DAVID DRIVER

OPENING TIP WAS MORE THAN one hour away as Amir Bell '18 stretched his legs in individual drills courtside before a game late last season in the top men's pro basketball league in Poland.

About 15 minutes later, he joined his teammates in a different set of exercises aimed to loosen the leg muscles — as a muscular, stern strength and conditioning coach for his club, Anwil, watched intently a few feet away. Perhaps routine to the untrained eye, this pregame ritual took on added meaning for Bell as he battled back after a horrific injury while playing in Germany in March 2023.

"I was playing in Bamberg last year and I broke my leg. I was able to get back for the start of the season, but there were ups and downs," recalled the 6-foot-4 Bell, a native of East Brunswick, New Jersey, who spent the 2023-24 season in Wloclawek, a city of about 100,000 in southeast Poland.

"It has been working with the strength coach and the training staff, just making sure you have a daily routine. The doctors and my training staff were confident after the surgery. They pushed me hard to come back after the surgery."

Getting injured thousands of miles from home is one of the challenges Bell has faced in six seasons of overseas hoops. He had played in Italy, Malaysia, Israel, and Germany before joining Anwil in Poland.

Experiencing different cultures is part of the job, Bell said, as he realized during his first season, in Italy. "You play a game in Bologna and the fans are going crazy an hour and a half before the game," he said. "The hardest adjustment off the court was probably being away from friends and family. The season is 10 months, so you're basically living abroad your whole life. You have your summer at home. On the court, when you first get overseas, you realize the game is called a little different."

Bell keeps in touch with former Princeton teammates who've also played overseas, including Myles Stephens '19 (Czechia, formerly called the Czech Republic), Spencer Weisz '17 (Israel), and Ryan Schwieger '21 and Richmond Aririguzoh '20, who played for the same team in Germany last season. Stephens has also played for pay in Belgium, Finland, Germany, and Italy, while Aririguzoh has competed with clubs in Belgium and Denmark.

After starting the season in Italy, Stephens helped lead ERA Nymburk to the title in the top Czech league as he averaged 12.3 points in league games. "It has been a long and mentally tough year for me playing first in Italy and then transitioning to Czechia," he said. "Here in Nymburk it has been great though. And you cannot beat being only a 30-minute drive from Prague." He had 16 points in the championship series finale as Nymburk beat Ústí nad Labem May 30.

Other former Tigers overseas in 2023-24 included Ethan Wright '22 (Romania) and Ian Hummer '13 (Japan). Hummer has also played in Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Russia, and Turkey.

Wright's mother, Ellen DeVoe '86, was a standout for the Tigers, while Aririguzoh was born in Italy and moved to the U.S. at age 12, then was a star at Trenton Catholic.

TIGER ATHLETICS GIVE DAY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2024



Tiger Athletics Give Day, a 24-hour giving challenge, returns for its eleventh year on Dec. 3rd (*National Giving Tuesday*). We encourage you to join the more than 30,000 Princetonians who have participated in TAGD, to date, in support of our Tiger varsity student-athletes.

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On the women's side, former Tiger stars who have played overseas recently include Grace Stone '23 in Australia, Blake Dietrick '15 in France, and Carlie Littlefield '21 in Slovakia. Stone, from New York, is a rookie who also played in Cyprus. Dietrick, a native of suburban Boston, is a seasoned veteran who has also played in the WNBA for San Antonio, Atlanta, and Seattle. Her overseas experiences include stints in Australia, Spain, Greece, and Italy. Littlefield ended her college career at North Carolina after three years as a starter for the Tigers in 2017-20.

Not everyone can adapt to life overseas.

"You just must become more mature and independent," Dietrick told PAW in an email. "You don't have a cohesive team in the same way because of the language barrier, and older players who have families, etc. You need to learn to figure things out on your own, both on and off the court. But that independence forces you to grow and adapt quickly if you want to be successful."

There are fun challenges, too, like finding a go-to coffee shop or figuring



GLOBETROTTER

Blake Dietrick '15 is among Princeton's well-traveled international stars. She's played in the WNBA at home and abroad in France, Australia, Spain, Greece, and Italy.

out the best way to spend your free time. "My favorite city to live in was Athens, Greece," Dietrick said. "I would hop on a ferry and go to an island on off days, or explore the city center. Athens has so much history, and the Greek people are so welcoming and happy to help you. The food is also fabulous and fresh and local. It was such a wonderful experience."

Littlefield had to make several transitions when her pro career began in Belgium. She recently played in Košice, Slovakia.

"The biggest adjustment off the court when playing overseas is figuring out how to fill your free time when not playing basketball," the Iowa native told PAW via email. "Many of my teammates that I have played with overseas have jobs or are still in school. This has presented an opportunity for me to spend my free time exploring new cities, finding new hobbies (building puzzles), trying to learn a new language, and really getting comfortable with being alone in a new environment, which is not always easy."

Many top-flight American women, including Dietrick, are forced to play overseas after the WNBA season since the pay in the women's pro circuit is far less than their male counterparts earn in the NBA.

Most American men with a Division I pedigree are provided the free use of an apartment and car, and sometimes a

meal allowance, by their club in Europe, which minimizes expenses.

Bell, the Ivy League Defensive Player of the Year in 2017-18, said having been groomed in the Princeton offense is an asset in Europe. "We share the ball a lot [in Poland], a lot of two-man action, three-man action. That really helps us Princeton guys transition overseas."

Many American men opt to play in the U.S.-based G League, which gives them a better chance of a call-up to the NBA, as has happened in recent years for Devin Cannady '20 and Tosan Evbuomwan '23. Europe, however, offers better pay than the G League.

"I really wanted to go overseas from the start after talking to older guys at Princeton," said Bell, who majored in politics. "From that first summer after college, that was my main goal. I look at it as a job and how I can make a living, especially year six, I have been out here a while. It is my job, it's my 9 to 5." **P**

DAVID DRIVER, *the author of Hoop Dreams in Europe: American Basketball Players Building Careers Overseas, lives in Poland with his wife.*



HOOPS
PREVIEWS

Can Caden Pierce '26 and Xaivian Lee '26 power the Princeton men's team through a challenging nonconference schedule? Who will step into leading roles for the women, now that top scorer Kaitlyn Chen '24 and defensive stalwart Ellie Mitchell '24 have graduated? PAW takes a closer look at these storylines and more as the Tigers prepare to tip off the 2024-25 season.

Read more at paw.princeton.edu.

COURTESY OF BLAKE DIETRICK '15

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM



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ART *on* HULFISH



HELÈNE AYLON

UNDERCURRENT

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ABOVE: Tracey Moffatt, *Something More #1*, 1989. Museum of Photographic Arts at the San Diego Museum of Art. Gift of Farrell Family. © Tracey Moffatt BELOW: Helène Aylon, *Terrestri: "Rescued" Earth (Sunrise Departure)*, 1982. Courtesy of Helène Aylon Estate and Leslie Tonkonow Artworks + Projects, New York.

VENTURE FORWARD



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Lisa Washington '89
*Senior Vice President and
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PHILADELPHIA
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*National Correspondent,
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AUSTIN
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Venture Forward is a mission-driven engagement and fundraising campaign focused on Princeton's strengths in the liberal arts, pushing the boundaries of knowledge across disciplines, and collaborating to champion inclusion, science, public policy, the humanities and technology.

Photos: Kenny Braun; Floyd Dean; Noel A. Valero; Terry Vine



RESEARCH

ADVANCING THE FRONTIERS OF KNOWLEDGE

TREASURE TROVE

Through the Molyvoti, Thrace, Archaeological Project (MTAP), archaeology professor Nathan Arrington '02, along with his collaborators and students, has traveled to Greece multiple times since 2013 to excavate an ancient trading port. An ancient temple was among the group's many findings. Read more about the project on page 30.



COURTESY OF NATHAN ARRINGTON '02



WINDING DOWN

Anthony Grafton Approaches His Final Year of Teaching

BY MARK F. BERNSTEIN '83

WHILE MOST CAREERS MIGHT be depicted horizontally, as a timeline, professorial careers are sometimes expressed vertically, as a family tree. Academics, like football coaches, are linked to those they learned from, and to those who learned from them.

By that measure, Anthony Grafton's academic tree is a massive oak. Its roots stem up from his own mentors, such as the great classical historian Arnaldo Momigliano, and its branches spread out to contain the names of nearly 50 graduate students whose dissertations he has advised, plus countless senior theses. That does not even count the hundreds of recommendation letters Grafton says students ask him to write every year to graduate schools, professional schools,

and potential employers. He jokes about having all of them published.

Grafton, the Henry Putnam University Professor of History, has said that he will retire at the end of the 2024-25 academic year. Since joining the Princeton faculty in 1975, a year after earning his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago, he has been a

“I’ve liked my students for almost 50 years. I just think they’re wonderful people and have enormous potential. If you manage to hit them the right way, they do incredible work.”

— ANTHONY GRAFTON

FINAL CHAPTER

After nearly 50 years as a Princeton faculty member, Anthony Grafton will be retiring at the end of this academic year. Grafton is a historian of Renaissance Europe.

prolific author, engaged professor, and tireless champion for the humanities. He is the author, co-author, or co-translator of 23 books (he speaks or reads eight languages), as well as the author of hundreds of articles for scholarly and mainstream publications.

Despite the centrifugal pull of being a somewhat public intellectual, Grafton remains close to his former students, who enjoy telling stories about their time studying with him. Elizabeth McCahill '05, now an associate history professor at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, recalls Grafton coaching her on Latin as she worked on her dissertation about a 15th-century papal secretary who wrote obscene poetry. Every Friday, they would meet at Small World Coffee, where she would translate the poems aloud to Grafton, enduring curious looks from other patrons.

While most professors become mentors to their grad students, some, like Grafton, become a little bit more. A few years after she graduated, McCahill says, her longtime boyfriend planned to propose and asked if he should talk to her father first. “I told him no,” McCahill laughs, “but you might want to talk to Tony.”

This academic year will be something of a victory lap for Grafton, though one he intends to take at full pace. He is teaching one course, on the practice of history since World War II (good training for seniors preparing their theses, he says), and is co-teaching two others, one on angels and devils in Western tradition and another on the human world in the Renaissance.

Grafton's writing schedule won't slow down, either. His most recent book, *Magus: The Art of Magic from Faustus to Agrippa* (Harvard University Press), was widely praised. He is also currently “a couple of hundred thousand words” deep into another manuscript, this one on early modern understandings of

Christianity, which grew out of a series of Mellon Lectures he gave at the National Gallery of Art in 2014.

After that, who knows? “I’m just not sure,” he says about continuing to write after Princeton. “I feel I’ve done enough damage to the forests of North America.”

Looking back, Grafton says he thinks his short books may have been more influential than his longer ones. “If you want to have students read and discuss

your work, going over 300 pages is not a great idea,” he suggests.

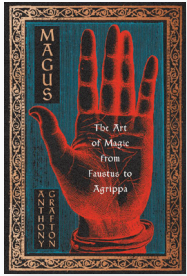
That is not to imply a lack of respect for the younger generation or their reading habits. “I’ve liked my students for almost 50 years,” Grafton says. “I just think they’re wonderful people and have enormous potential. If you manage to hit them the right way, they do incredible work.”

Grafton says

he intends to move to the Bay Ridge neighborhood of Brooklyn, where his daughter, son-in-law, and oldest granddaughter live. (A son, his partner, and two other grandchildren live in Washington, D.C.) He fantasizes about spending his retirement picking up new novels at the local independent bookstore — author Marilynne Robinson is a current favorite — heading to a coffee shop, and just reading or watching the ships pass by.

One important matter remains unresolved: the disposition of Grafton’s wooden book wheel, six feet tall and several feet across, which sits in his home office and is where he keeps more than half a dozen lexicons and reference books. It is too big to take to Brooklyn, and as of late spring, Grafton was still trying to decide what to do with it. But not to worry, he says.

“A good book wheel will find a home.” ■



PROLIFIC PENMANSHIP

Anthony Grafton is the author and co-author of more than 20 books. His latest, Magus: The Art of Magic from Faustus to Agrippa, was published in 2023.

FACULTY HONORS

Professor Ruha Benjamin Wins MacArthur Fellowship

THE MACARTHUR FOUNDATION announced Oct. 1 that Ruha Benjamin, the Alexander

Stewart 1886 Professor of African American Studies at Princeton, is among the recipients of the 2024 MacArthur Fellowship. Benjamin, who has taught at Princeton since 2014, was cited by the foundation for demonstrating “the importance of imagination and grassroots activism in shaping social policies and cultural practices” through her “critical analysis of innovation with attentiveness to the potential for positive change.”

Each of the 22 fellows in this year’s class will receive an \$800,000 “no-strings-attached” award to be distributed in installments over the next five years. The aim of the program is to “identify extraordinarily creative individuals with a track record of excellence,” according to the foundation’s website.

When PAW spoke with Benjamin in 2019, she explained that her work focuses on “areas of inquiry that go unquestioned because we think of them as objective, as neutral, as asocial,” like science, technology, and medicine.

“At the heart of all my work is the invitation to imagine and craft the worlds we cannot live without, just as we dismantle the ones we cannot live within,” Benjamin said in the MacArthur announcement.

On X, formerly known as Twitter, Benjamin posted that she received the call from the foundation announcing the award “the morning after a tense call with Princeton University officials investigating my support of students protesting the genocide in Gaza ... What would have been a moment of pure joy and excitement was tempered by the sense that the same institutions that are quick to celebrate our accomplishments have been slow to respond to students’



BENJAMIN

demands to disclose and divest from genocidal violence.”

Benjamin also posted on X that she planned to “celebrate” her award by attending a court hearing for the pro-Palestinian Princeton students who were arrested in the spring.

Benjamin has been a supporter of pro-Palestinian protests at Princeton and was present in a role she described as that of a “faculty observer” when protesters occupied Clio Hall on April 29.

Regarding what it means to win the MacArthur Fellowship, Benjamin posted that it “encourages me to continue beating that drum in my teaching, writing, and advocacy ... It motivates me to continue the work of radically expanding who gets a say in shaping our shared future.”

Benjamin is the author of four books and founder of the Ida B. Wells Just Data Lab at Princeton, which “brings together students, educators, activists, and artists to develop a critical and creative approach to data conception, production, and circulation,” according to the lab’s website.

Benjamin received a bachelor’s in sociology and anthropology from Spelman College and a master’s and Ph.D. in sociology from the University of California, Berkeley. She is on sabbatical for the 2024-25 academic year. ■ By J.B.



ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeology Project in Greece Unearths Major Findings

BY STAV DIMITROPOULOS

FOR SIX WEEKS IN THE SUMMER of 2023, art and archaeology professor Nathan Arrington '02, along with his class and collaborators in the Molyvoti, Thrace, Archaeological Project (MTAP), would set off for the city of Komotini, Greece, at 5:30 a.m. The early start ensured they could dig from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. to avoid the scorching afternoon sun. Throughout this time, the group would rotate days of jumping into pits wielding pickaxes and shovels with days of learning about the excavated ceramics, seeds, plants, and bones — which students in Arrington's class, *Archaeology in the Field*, wrote essays about.

MTAP, a collaboration between Princeton, the Ephorate of Antiquities of Rhodope, and the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, explores the history of an Archaic-Classical trading port and polis, often identified as Stryme — an ancient Greek city located on Molyvoti. The project has turned up a variety of findings that led researchers to unexpected paths. One of special intrigue is the extra urban sanctuary researchers unearthed near the village of Pagouria below a plowed cotton field. It is a temple that dates to the middle of the third century and housed at least one female deity.

The presence of worked antlers at the temple point to Artemis Bendis, the Thracian goddess of hunting. Yet a figurine found at the temple belongs to Athena, the goddess of wisdom, war, and crafts, and patron of the city of Athens, Arrington confirms. It is also quite possible that the deity is Kybele (or Cybele), the Phrygian mother of all gods, who was widely worshiped in Greece and the Roman Empire, he adds.

“Archaeology is where the hard sciences meet the humanities. The digging is always just the beginning. You have to make sense of the objects, which also have to be tended to and cared for.”

— NATHAN ARRINGTON '02

Other findings included the excavation of two buildings and establishment of the dimensions of the city and its grid plan. In total, MTAP has unearthed a whopping 26,704 specimens of animal bone from 60 different species, 2,804 plant specimens, and other artifacts that

DIG IN

Students who take Nathan Arrington '02's class Archaeology in the Field get hands-on experience working at an excavation site in Greece.

offer valuable insights into quotidian ancient Greek life and confirm the hypothesis that a bustling commerce center was once thriving on Molyvoti.

Arrington and his collaborators will soon begin publishing the findings of this research and all that's been collected since the first excavation in 2013. The first volume, titled *The Molyvoti, Thrace, Archaeological Project 1: Landscape, Architecture, and Material Culture*, is scheduled to be released early next year. They plan to release three additional volumes in the future. The team is also in the process of creating an online database that the public can access to view the findings.

For students who participated in the excavation, it was a rewarding experience, says Ethan Spain '26, a mechanical and aerospace engineering major. The class is open to students in all departments, as long as they are ready to roll up their sleeves and dig. The class allowed Spain to take his first international trip, and he found ways to connect the experience to his career interests. “It turns out the similarities with engineering were strong,” he says. “Your hypothesis is changing all the time, but you're also working on one thing for a week at a time, and then you're switching. And you're relying on a lot of other experts to talk to you to reach conclusions.”

Although the fieldwork concluded in 2023, the project is not over. “Archaeology is where the hard sciences meet the humanities,” says Arrington, who believes there are many misconceptions around his scientific field. “The digging is always just the beginning. You have to make sense of the objects, which also have to be tended to and cared for.” So now they are finalizing conservation efforts and are in the study phase.

He adds, “There's always more digging to do, but at some point, the responsible thing is to say, we're stopping here.” **P**

BEHIND THE RESEARCH: LACY FEIGH

Understanding Ethiopian History and Culture

BY HOPE PERRY '24



LACY FEIGH KNEW THAT SHE WANTED TO RESEARCH ETHIOPIA after spending two years there as a member of the Peace Corps. As an English teacher, she noticed that some students — predominantly girls — were coming to class late. These girls were working at home and performing domestic tasks such as cooking and cleaning, keeping some of them from attending school regularly and on time.

She was interested in what seemed to her like a “very bonded form of domestic labor” and wanted to learn about the history of this dynamic. Many of the women and girls who were in these roles were from rural and ethnically marginalized communities. Feigh was curious about the connection between this and the domestic labor that enslaved people performed in the 19th and 20th centuries. From her initial interest, Feigh found her way into the field of Ethiopian history and focused on the history of slavery in the formation of the Ethiopian state, the topic of her Ph.D. dissertation, which she completed at the University of Pennsylvania. Now Feigh teaches classes on Ethiopia in Princeton’s history department.

Quick Facts

TITLE

Lecturer in the Council of the Humanities and History

TIME AT PRINCETON

1 year

RECENT CLASS

History of Coffee in Africa and the Middle East

FEIGH’S RESEARCH A SAMPLING



UNDERSTANDING THE PAST

Feigh’s work examines the relationship between slavery and the formation of the modern state of Ethiopia. During the imperial period, wars of expansion pushed further outside the boundaries of Ethiopia’s central highlands, closer to the borders of what today are Sudan, South Sudan, and Kenya. People

from these peripheral regions were captured and often forced to be travel guides and translators for the army as it pressed further into territory that would eventually become the state of Ethiopia.



GUIDING THE WAY


Part of Feigh’s upcoming book, *Abyssinia to Ethiopia: Slavery, Race, and the Transition from Empire to Nation, 1855-1963*, focuses on

these guides, many of whom were Oromo, or from other ethnic groups in southern Ethiopia. The Oromo are an ethnic group in Ethiopia that has long faced discrimination. These guides were critical to the formation of the modern state of Ethiopia and enabled the expansion and annexation of the state during the imperial period. But Feigh’s research shows how these guides and translators were part of a broader expansion process that depended on their language skills. Feigh’s work focuses on the role of these individuals and how their indigenous knowledge helped create the state of Ethiopia.

DEFINING IDENTITIES

Ethiopia, once called Abyssinia by Europeans and in internal Arabic documents, was the subject of large amounts of debunked race science in the 19th



and early 20th centuries, as Ethiopians were often considered by some to be racially between Black and white, though they did not necessarily see themselves this way. This concept, part of a broader theory coined by W.E.B. Du Bois as the “Global Color Line,” promoted race, ethnicity, and color as important features of how countries in the Global South were viewed by their northern counterparts. In the future, Feigh hopes to study coffee production in Ethiopia and the Nile Valley. 

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

Shedding Light

Five Princetonians on the role of think tanks and pointing the way forward for America

BY DAVID MONTGOMERY '83

PORTRAITS BY STEPHEN VOSS

PRINCETON'S PEACEFUL TAKEOVER OF Washington's idea factories was accomplished before scarcely anyone noticed. In January, when Cecilia Elena Rouse started as president of the Brookings Institution, she became the fifth scholar with strong Princeton ties to be running one of the country's most influential think tanks, those brainy-yet-practical places where today's research and analysis lead to tomorrow's national policies and laws. Rouse, who got her bachelor's and doctoral degrees from Harvard, was dean of the School of Public and International Affairs from 2012 to '21 and continues to be a professor of economics and public affairs at SPIA.

Six months before Rouse's ascension at Brookings, Michael Froman '85 became president of the Council on Foreign Relations, which is headquartered in New York but has a major Washington presence. Robert Doar '83 was named president of the American Enterprise Institute in 2019. Anne-Marie Slaughter '80, also a former dean of SPIA, from 2002 to '09, became CEO of New America in 2013. And in 2012, Sarah Rosen Wartell '83 was named president of the Urban Institute.

How did this convergence happen?

"I do think, particularly for those of us who were drawn to Princeton because of SPIA, that the Princeton-in-the-nation's-service-and-the-service-of-humanity ethos is real," Slaughter says. "It's been kind of a north star throughout my whole career Or perhaps many of us are just inveterate generalists ... seeking jobs where we never have to settle down with just one subject."

Four of the five got undergraduate degrees from SPIA or taught at SPIA — or both. Doar is the outlier; he majored in history. All say their experiences at Princeton provided a foundation for the work they do today.

PAW posed similar questions to each of the leaders in separate interviews to try to understand the nature of this somewhat mysterious and quintessentially Washington creature, the think tank. Such institutions are rarely in the news as much as they have been recently, with the conservative Heritage Foundation's far-right blueprint Project 2025 roiling the presidential race this fall. The Princeton think tankers discussed why this work is so essential at a time of deep division and polarization in America, and they described how think tanks can help point a way forward for the nation.

MASSIMO PIZZOTTI / GETTY



WHAT IS A THINK TANK, ANYWAY?

Think of think tanks as knowledge brokers operating in the space between academia and government. “Think tanks form that bridge between those who are doing research for research’s sake and those who have to make decisions,” Rouse says. “Our mission fundamentally is about using this evidence to improve policy.”

Rouse has worked on both sides of that bridge — as an academic research economist writing journal articles with long time horizons, and as a member and the chair of the White House Council of Economic Advisers in the administrations of Barack Obama and Joe Biden. Now, at Brookings, she is the bridge. “Think tanks are nimbler,” she says. “They are doing research that is more directly relevant to what the policymakers and decision makers need.”

In May, a Brookings expert on AI and emerging technologies wrote a piece tracing the rise of Russian state media on TikTok. A few weeks later, TikTok announced new limits on state-affiliated accounts, according to news reports. “We don’t often see something that has an impact that immediate, but it clearly happens,” Rouse says.

Think tanks are filled with scores of scholars and analysts working on projects that, depending on the institution, they assign to themselves or are contracted to do by outside agencies or foundations. Their websites might be mistaken for particularly high-protein media homepages, featuring sober white papers sprinkled with punchier blog posts.

The job “is to bring empirical research and strong analysis and commentary to the public debate,” Doar says. He’s a veteran administrator and specialist in safety net programs who came to the American Enterprise Institute, or AEI, after serving as commissioner of social services in the administration of New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and commissioner of temporary and disability assistance programs for New York Gov. George Pataki.

“There is a distinction between people who are writing big ideas for the long haul and then there are people that are more active on a daily basis ... in the back and forth of the public debate,” Doar says. “We’ve evolved to have a little bit of both here. I think in the past, think tanks only played the long game, were a little ivory towerish. But if you want to have impact, you can’t be that way, because information moves so quickly. ... Policy decisions get made, and if you want to be in that discussion, you’ve got to be fast on your feet.” AEI blasts a morning email to 185,000 subscribers highlighting the dozen or so new pieces of work its scholars produced the previous day, and it regularly pitches its experts to appear on television news talk shows.

Think tanks come in different flavors. The Urban Institute is better described as a research organization, Wartell says.

Urban was founded in 1968 to marshal data and evidence to promote upward mobility and equity. Its experts tend not to be former government officials offering commentary based on their experience. Rather, she says, Urban’s analysts tackle knotty research projects to recommend solutions to foundations, bureaucrats, elected officials, and activists.

“We have a lot more expertise in the inner workings of government programs and agencies, particularly in the social safety net and social services area,” Wartell says. She came to Urban from another think tank, the Center for American Progress, and previously served on the White House National Economic Council and at the Department of Housing and Urban Development during the Bill Clinton administration.

A think tank is only one component of the Council on Foreign Relations, which includes about 70 fellows producing research, analysis, and commentary, according to Froman. The council also is a membership organization with more than 5,000 paying members, and it’s the publisher of the journal

Foreign Affairs. “A think tank at its best does some combination of three things,” says Froman, who was the U.S. trade representative and held other positions in the Obama administration. “One is help set the agenda” — making sure relevant issues reach policymakers, the media, and the public. “The second is shape the debate” — seeing that diverse perspectives are examined and policy

tradeoffs are acknowledged. “And the third is to help generate concrete policy ideas for people in government.”

New America styles itself as a “think-and-action tank,” focusing on ideas to help the nation flourish amid social and technological change, Slaughter says. “There are lots of good places that have terrific ideas. We believe that to translate those ideas into actual change, you need an action dimension. You need, in some ways, to be implementing the policies and testing them out before you ever even propose them.” She came to New America after serving as director of policy planning in the State Department from 2009 to ’11 — the first woman to lead State’s internal think tank — under Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

“‘Think-and-action tank’ at least captures the idea that we are determined to marry our big ideas to action in the service of actual change,” Slaughter adds — an aspiration that all five leaders share.

“Fundamentally, I think people want evidence. So there will always be a role [for think tanks] here.”

— CECILIA ROUSE

HOW DOES A THINK TANK KNOW IT’S MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

Think tank annual reports nearly always include a by-the-numbers section. Here is where they tally books published, op-eds written, webpages viewed, symposiums hosted, podcasts downloaded, and so forth. For example, in 2023, Brookings scholars issued 1,363 commentaries and 356 research



CECILIA ELENA ROUSE

President of the Brookings Institution

Was dean of the School of Public and International Affairs from 2012 to '21 and continues to be a professor of economics and public affairs at SPIA.

would be that aforementioned analysis of Russian state media on TikTok. Policy is “a team sport,” Rouse adds, and it’s sometimes hard to tease out whose contribution to the conversation is most decisive. Longer term, she pointed to work by Brookings scholars in the late 1990s identifying the potential impact of making the child tax credit refundable in alleviating child poverty. A version of the idea became part of George W. Bush’s tax cuts, she says. By the time of Biden’s American Rescue Plan in 2021, the credit was expanded, “which had such a profound impact ... especially for child poverty,” Rouse says.

The Urban Institute’s experts also laid groundwork for the child tax credit expansion, Wartell says. “We had a huge influence not so much on whether there was a child tax credit expansion ... but on how it was administered, because technical work that we had done in years leading up to that moment ended up becoming very relevant to agencies, the IRS, to even Congress in how they planned the delivery of that assistance.”

Wartell agrees with Rouse that impact can be more than a decade in the making. The American rescue package also gave states the option to expand Medicaid coverage for low-income mothers from 60 days to one year after the birth of a child. Urban began studying that issue in 2018 and produced a major report in 2021. “Now red and blue states have done that ... and that impact is a whole bunch of mothers with access to care, which we think will ultimately benefit their children,” Wartell says.

At New America, “we talk about moonshots and milestones,” Slaughter says. “We want our programs to adopt moonshots — big, big goals — and then lay out, here are the milestones that will tell us we’re on our way to achieving those goals.” For years, New America has been studying the merits of ranked choice voting and other nonpartisan changes that could make democracy more representative and less polarized. Now some of those reforms are being adopted in several states and localities.

New America also tries to reverse the standard think tank model that starts with a high-level idea and pushes for implementation on the ground, Slaughter says. Its New Practice Lab investigates what’s not working on the ground to come up with the high-level solution. “You have to start with the people who are actually having the problem,” Slaughter says. “So if you’re talking about housing, you focus on people who have lost their houses ... You ask them what benefits they’re getting, and are those helpful, and what would make a difference.” To find out, the lab sends “sprint teams” of “policy experts, design experts, bureaucracy wranglers, technologists” deep into the weeds

reports; the think tank scored 182,000 media mentions; and the Brookings website had 46 million page views, according to its 2023 annual report. That year, AEI scholars published 1,525 op-eds and articles, plus 102 research reports; they testified before Congress 33 times and held 650 briefings for members of Congress, Capitol Hill staff, and agency officials, according to its annual report.

But such metrics don’t tell the full story of a think tank’s effectiveness, the leaders say.

“My way of evaluating impact is, did we have some impact on the public policy decision?” Doar says. For example, in response to Russian aggression against Ukraine, AEI scholars were “extremely active” in offering analysis and commentary arguing that supporting Ukraine “was a good public policy — and that public policy prevailed,” Doar says. On the domestic front, scholars from AEI were skeptical of the recent tax bill that passed the House but failed in the Senate. “We played some role [in the bill’s defeat] along with lots of other people,” Doar says. “The ultimate outcome is we want a better, stronger country.”

Rouse says she thinks of impact “in terms of short term, longer term, and then longest term.” A short term example

of service programs, such as New Jersey’s paid family and medical leave program.

Froman cites several examples of scholars at the Council on Foreign Relations making a difference in setting the agenda, shaping the debate, and informing foreign policy choices. Council fellow Shannon O’Neil’s 2022 book *The Globalization Myth: Why Regions Matter* arguably has influenced Biden’s Americas Partnership for Economic Prosperity approach to Latin America, Froman says. “It basically reflects a lot of her thinking about how does the U.S. develop an economic framework for dealing with the Western Hemisphere.” The council has hosted robust debates involving its fellows along with outside experts and policymakers on such major questions as how the war in Ukraine should end; the viability of a two-state solution for Israel and Palestine; and the best approach toward China. The council saw its scholars’ ideas migrate into policy when, recently, according to Froman, experts connected with the council helped the administration hammer out international cyber strategy and policies on AI.

“When a fellow comes to me and says, ‘Hey, I wrote that op-ed last week, I’ve gotten five calls from members of Congress, they’ve asked me to come up and brief them because they’re working on legislation relevant to this, and they want my input,’ we see what happens there,” Froman says. “Is that input included in the legislation? Does the legislation get passed? That’s the kind of thing you need to do to be able to satisfy yourself that you’re having the desired impact.”

ARE THINK TANKS PARTISAN?

It depends what you mean by partisan. All five of the think tanks led by Princetonians are organized as nonprofits that can receive tax-deductible donations. That means they can’t lobby for bills or do partisan advocacy, though outside advocates freely pick and choose bits of their research to support partisan aims.

Other think tanks take a different approach. They create affiliated lobbying arms that eschew tax-deductible support and practice political advocacy with gusto. A leading practitioner on the right is the Heritage Foundation’s Heritage Action for America, which lately has urged supporters to call on Congress to “dismantle DEI.” The larger foundation also organized and led the coalition of right wing groups that fashioned Project 2025 as a governing agenda to radically remake the federal government under a second administration for Donald Trump. On the left, an example of this advocacy think tank approach is the Center for American Progress Action Fund, which recently published a report called, “How Trump and a Project 2025 Lead Author Are Trying To Undermine Checks and Balances Central to U.S. Governance.”



ROBERT DOAR '83

President of the American Enterprise Institute

Served as commissioner of social services in the administration of New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

The Princetonian think tank leaders say they haven’t created lobbying affiliates because remaining independent of political parties is vital to their credibility. However, it’s not hard to detect ideological sympathies in the issues that each think tank emphasizes. A place can be literally nonpartisan, in the sense of not being tied to a party, even as its concerns may overlap more with one party or another. The think tank leaders are keenly aware that policy centrism these days is elusive, if not impossible — and probably undesirable.

“Our scholars want to be taken seriously as scholars,” says Rouse of Brookings. “When your work is viewed as being in service of a particular ideology ... it runs the risk of there being a question of, ‘Did you really ask all the hard questions about your results? ... Did you really look at it from all angles?’”

For example, on the question of the child tax credit, scholars can come to different conclusions about its impact on labor force participation depending on their estimates of technicalities like “labor supply elasticity,” Rouse says. “If you’re viewed as partisan, you’re going to be accused of cherry-picking every time.”

That said, Rouse jokes, she was at a party with a Republican who told her that Brookings is “nonpartisanish.” “And I said, ‘No, really!’” she says. She knows that some people view Brookings as being more left-leaning even though “that’s not how we see ourselves.” It has made her want to double down on making it clear that Brookings evenhandedly considers a range of views. To that end, as an example, over the years, Brookings has collaborated on projects with its neighbor on Massachusetts Avenue, AEI, which is often viewed as leaning

right. And it's why Brookings isn't following Heritage into the brashly political fray.

"I mean, Heritage is hugely impactful with Project 2025," she says. "And having [a lobbying arm] really allows you to be in the room [with party strategists] in a way that you can just be unapologetic about it, and that has some appeal. But we also looked at the think tanks that had [lobbying arms], and they struck us as really having more partisan reputations."

In the end, Rouse says, Brookings decided "we were not ready to give up our nonpartisan part of our identity."

Brookings created an "Election '24" section of its website focusing on six issues — the economy, government spending and debt, AI, America's role in the world, climate, and democracy — at stake this year. The think tank also went on the road with live events devoted to some of the issues. After the government spending-and-debt forum at Miami Dade College in April, students came up afterward and asked where to register to vote. "That was exactly what we were setting out to do," Rouse says.

Before he became president of

*"We're neither
Never Trumpers nor
Trump cheerleaders.
We call them
as we see them."*

— ROBERT DOAR '83

AEI, Doar was a lead member of one of those collaborations with Brookings, the AEI-Brookings Working Group on Poverty and Opportunity. Doar says he accepts the label of "right-of-center" for AEI. Partly it reflects the think tank's dedication to limited government, free enterprise, and a strong America abroad — values historically associated with the right. However, "one of the things that

I make clear to people is we're not on anybody's team," Doar says. "We're neither Never Trumpers nor Trump cheerleaders. We call them as we see them. And some days our scholars call the same issue differently. I have a couple people here that are supportive of a carbon tax, and I have a couple of people here that are very opposed to a carbon tax. And so I let them both produce their work."

Leading up to the election, AEI's scholars and analysts kept track of the candidates' positions. One piece in mid-September found that, from a fiscal point of view, Vice President Kamala Harris' plans compared favorably with Trump's. The analysis estimated that Harris would reduce the deficit by \$2.5 trillion over 10 years, while Trump would raise the deficit by \$1.9 trillion to \$3.2 trillion. No matter which party controls the White House and Congress, "there will be a need for nonpartisan, empirical research and policy analysis which helps our elected officials make the correct choices on major issues," Doar says in a follow-up email. "That's what AEI does."

When New America was founded in 1999, it aspired to advance ideas from the "radical center" of policy innovation, Slaughter says. Since then, the center has shifted, possibly disappeared, and "most of what we think is in the public interest is right now closer to where a lot of Democrats are," she says. Exceptions include New America scholars' ideas on democracy reforms that could loosen the grip of the two parties, which many stalwarts of both parties oppose. "Mostly I think our goal is not to be predictable," Slaughter says. "We do not ever want people to say, 'Oh, well, that's New America, they'll take this line.'"

Slaughter continues: "I would love to see a Project 2026 for the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence that was nonpolitical Why can't we have one that is not 900 pages but also is not clearly ideologically driven, that just [offers] ideas that seem to work regardless of where they come from?"

A think tank's research on contentious topics may be taken up by partisans, but that doesn't make the think tank partisan, Wartell notes.

A body of research from Urban's analysts evaluated the impact of work requirements as a condition of receiving public benefits and found they don't increase the amount of work done by beneficiaries but do create barriers to enrollment, Wartell says. "What you end up doing is reducing

**ANNE-MARIE
SLAUGHTER '80**

CEO of New America

Served as dean of SPIA from 2002 to '09. Was the first woman to work as the State Department's director of policy planning, under Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.



the extent to which unemployed people get access to the benefits, and people fall below the poverty line.” The research was widely cited by opponents of work requirements. Wartell calls it “influential work on a political topic that is entirely consistent with Urban’s mission.”

Similarly, a collaboration between Urban and Brookings called the Tax Policy Center evaluated various versions of the Trump administration’s tax cut plan. On Sunday news talk shows, supporters of the plan had to face questions raised by the center, Wartell says. The law “is different today because the policymaking process had to contend with analysis that we were offering into the debate in real time.”

At the Council on Foreign Relations, “if there is a bias here, it’s in favor of U.S. engagement and leadership in the world,” Froman says. That inclination cuts across party lines because, throughout American history, there have been isolationists and internationalists all along the ideological spectrum. The council scheduled four live events in October in battleground states to highlight the foreign policy perspectives of the two candidates. “Our job in a polarized world is ... not advocating for one or the other,” Froman says. “It is to make sure that the voters will be better informed or making informed decisions based on hearing from a wide range of perspectives.”

HOW CAN THINK TANKS HELP REDUCE POLITICAL POLARIZATION?

“We’re not going to hold back because we’re afraid of polarization or of division,” Doar says. At the same time, “facts and empirical evidence and solid research can inform and calm the tensions that exist between people, because they can get people to see that a little bit of their view is correct, and a little bit of the other guy’s view is correct I think you need to just be open and listening and engaging people in a civil way.”

“It feels to me like the most polarized moment in my lifetime,” Wartell says. And yet, “it is also the case that I don’t think we’ve ever had a moment in time where the interest in discussion around ‘what does the evidence tell us’ has been higher.” To allay suspicions about potential bias of the experts, she continues, “there is the need to be transparent about methods, about questions, about data use, because two very high-quality scholars who ask a related question in different ways can draw different conclusions from the research they do.”

An antidote to polarization is using evidence to demonstrate what works, Wartell adds. Urban takes on projects to help state agencies reach desired outcomes — from strengthening early care and learning programs in Georgia to improving prison conditions in five states. “State administrators, red or blue, care about their program reaching the people who it’s designed for,” she says.

“We do a lot of work on civic engagement and what we call co-governance, which is really collaborative governance between people and town government,” Slaughter says. “All of that is trying to bring people together in different ways that break through the Democratic, Republican, liberal, conservative scrim through which we all see each other. I’m also very interested in even more personal ways of overcoming polarization. I often argue that you can never persuade somebody if you’re not persuadable, and you’re not persuadable unless you’re willing to say, ‘I’m wrong or I’ve changed my mind,’ which many of us are not so good at doing.”

“What we try and do, in recognizing that there’s a polarization of views, is to highlight what the trade-offs and the implicit assumptions and the possible ramifications of different views are,” Froman says. “So we say, ‘Come get a variety of perspectives on what to do on China,’ as an example. We hate our dependence on Chinese imports. We also hate inflation. The actions proposed to deal with the first may well worsen the second. It’s not our job to say we shouldn’t make that trade-off. Our job is to highlight the trade-off.”

“Fundamentally, I think people want evidence,” Rouse says.

SARAH ROSEN WARTELL '83

*President of the
Urban Institute*

Served as deputy
director of the White
House National
Economic Council in
the administration of
President Bill Clinton.





MICHAEL FROMAN '85

President of the Council on Foreign Relations

Served as the U.S. trade representative in the administration of President Barack Obama.

“So there will always be a role [for think tanks] here. But I think part of the way that we have to be more strategic about helping people see our evidence is how you write about it so that people can hear it. Write it in a way that’s not confrontational but starts with where they are and uses a language that they can receive and receive the evidence that we have.”

HOW DOES YOUR PRINCETON EXPERIENCE INFORM YOUR WORK TODAY?

Think tanks regularly collaborate with scholars based at universities, and Princeton faculty have worked on numerous projects with all five institutions. In addition, the five leaders cite the impact Princeton has had on them individually as scholars and leaders.

Starting at the end of her freshman year, Wartell worked as a research assistant or teaching assistant for various faculty in SPIA. She found herself studying the community development block grant program in New Jersey and school desegregation in Chicago, and she helped a task force revising sex crimes statutes in New Jersey. Her “interest in

place and the role place plays in opportunity I think was profoundly shaped by the experiences I had at Princeton,” she says. “I don’t think it’s a coincidence that I ended up at the Urban Institute with the portfolio of work we work on today.”

Froman’s introduction to the Council on Foreign Relations came when he was at Princeton, studying under the late Richard Ullman, a SPIA professor who had been involved with the council. “My interest in going into government and into foreign policy really started at Princeton,” Froman says. “When I think about what I do every day at the council, particularly the think tank part of the council, it all goes back to ... policy conferences and policy task forces at the School of Public and International Affairs, where you bring together students and experts to work through challenging policy issues.” In his senior year, Froman recalls, he partnered with Ullman to organize a conference on negotiations that included Cyrus Vance, Zbigniew Brzezinski, and Jimmy Carter. “That very much lit a fire in me to want to be in government and be in the space of foreign policy, which I’ve been in ever since.”

Doar, whose history studies focused on 20th-century America, recalled the many professors who inspired him, including Stanley Katz, Nancy Weiss Malkiel, Valerie Smith, David Van Leer, and Robert Darnton. “That’s informed what I do here,” he says. “I wish I’d worked a little harder,” he jokes, but “they got me interested and got me off to a start.”

Rouse carries her experience as a scholar and dean at Princeton into her leadership at Brookings. “I believe very deeply in the value of the research and the value of evidence,” she says. “Shared governance is something I’m very familiar with, and working with scholars who are independent-minded is something I’m very familiar with.” In addition, “sharing the view that research really can help inform and help decision-makers make better decisions — I really believe that very strongly. That comes from my Princeton roots.”

“I’m a sap when it comes to Princeton,” Slaughter jokes. She says she gets a little teary when she sings “Old Nassau.” “I deeply believe that this is a very special university, and the way it stamps you, because it does stamp you as an undergraduate.” She applied to Princeton to get into SPIA, then veered into academia for a time, as a professor at Harvard Law and then Princeton. “I love the world of ideas In the end, I’ve been happier connecting those ideas to action, which I was able to do at [the State Department], and I’ve been better able to do at New America I definitely think this is as much a product of being a Princetonian as being an academic was — in many ways more.” ■

DAVID MONTGOMERY '83 is a freelance journalist and former staff writer for The Washington Post Magazine.



THE BOYS OF FALL IN WINTER

Sixty years after their perfect season,
members of the 1964 football team look back

BY MARK F. BERNSTEIN '83

1964 BR/C-A-BRAC



OUT OF THIS WORLD

*Fullback Cosmo Iacavazzi '65 *68
was one of two All-Americans on
the 1964 Princeton team.*

THEIR SEASON OF GLORY BEGAN IN TRAGEDY AND DEFEAT.

The undefeated 1964 football season might be said to have begun on Nov. 30, 1963, in a heartbreaking 22-21 loss to Dartmouth. That game, postponed a week because of President John F. Kennedy's assassination, drew a crowd of 35,000 to Palmer Stadium. Princeton clung to a narrow lead until an uncharacteristic fumble by fullback Cosmo Iacavazzi '65 '68 on his 2-yard line set up the winning Dartmouth touchdown. The Tigers were forced to share the 1963 crown.

But the rising seniors on the team would not taste defeat again.

In 1964, the Tigers mowed through their schedule, finishing with a record of 9-0 and outscoring their opponents 216-53. Team honors followed — in addition to the Ivy title, Princeton was runner-up for the Lambert Trophy as best in the East and finished ranked 13th in the UPI coaches' poll — as well as individual honors. Seven players made first team All-Ivy and Iacavazzi (called "The Roar of the Tiger" by *Sports Illustrated*) and Stas Maliszewski '66 were All-Americans.

"Somebody up there must have been looking out for Old Nassau this year," A. Franklin Burgess Jr. '65 wrote in PAW.

However, the season also marked the end of an era, or at least the beginning of the end. Vietnam and protests were about to rock the campus and the country. By the end of the decade, Princeton had moved on from its distinctive single-wing offense and would never again achieve the same kind of national prominence on the gridiron.

Now in their 80s, the surviving members of that 1964 team remain close and, when they can, return to watch the current team play. Six decades later, they like to look back on their perfect season, retell some old stories, and share a little of what they have learned about the game and each other.

P *As the 1964 season began, some used the Dartmouth defeat as a spur, but others tried to put it behind them.*

Iacavazzi: I felt I'd let us down. From a personal point of view, I just made it a point that I would never drop the ball again. Never.

Ron Grossman '67 (linebacker): When we went to training camp at Blairstown, Cosmo handed us all Avis buttons. Avis was the number two rental car company, and they had a slogan: "We try harder." That was our motivation.

Doug Tufts '65 (wingback): I wasn't even thinking about it. I was just thinking: Bring it on. Bring on the new season.



PRINCETON ATHLETICS

By modern standards, the team's training regimen was *spartan*.

Maliszewski (linebacker/guard): There was no weight room.

Tufts: Being a little guy, I did a lot of my own weight training. I had a setup in my backyard with dumbbells and barbells, because a big part of my responsibility was blocking. I had a routine where I would use them to simulate getting underneath a 300-pound tackle and doing what I could.

Paul Savidge '66 (guard/defensive tackle): During the summers, I would put on my winter coat and these great big insulated boots. The owner of the farm I grew up on had these riding paths through the woods. So, I'd be running with all this weight on thinking, if I survive this, Blairstown will be nothing. I'm lucky I didn't die of heatstroke.

By 1964, Princeton and Penn were among a handful of programs in the country still running the single-wing offense, which emphasized precision blocking, speed, and elusiveness.

Iacavazzi: The ball would be usually snapped straight to me at fullback or straight to the tailback. The single-wing backfield setup was sort of like today's shotgun formation, if you will. I'd be standing alongside or behind the tailback. And most times we would get the ball directly and run directly.

Dick Colman was entering his eighth season as head coach after succeeding the legendary Charlie Caldwell 1925 in 1957. An All-American at Williams, where he lettered in six sports and later coached lacrosse, Colman would be inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1990.

Roy Pizzarello '65 (quarterback): He was a Quaker, which always surprised me — a person sworn to nonviolence who spent his career coaching football! But he was a good strategist. He never cursed. The worst thing he ever said when he got angry was, "Ten thousand fiddle-dee-dees." Or if you dropped the ball, he might say you should have died as a baby rather than fumble.

Tufts: He had high expectations for us. And when he gave us instructions, I just thought he had faith in us that we could meet his high bar.

Dick Springs '64 (wingback): In 1963, maybe '62, we started using this huge mainframe computer to analyze our film. We'd have quarterback meetings with Colman on Friday afternoons and he and the coaches would pull out these computer sheets

and tell us, you know, on third and 6, they'll be in this defense. And these are the plays that might work against that. We knew more about what the other team was doing than they knew about themselves, because we were the only people using a computer at that time. [Springs had graduated before the 1964 season started. He died two months after this interview was conducted.]

Princeton's leading scorer was Charlie Gogolak '66, a Hungarian refugee who, with his older brother Pete who attended Cornell, became one of the nation's first soccer-style kickers. Opposing teams sometimes tried to block Gogolak's kicks by stacking defensive players on each other's shoulders. The NCAA outlawed the tactic in 1966.



RARE AIR

Don McKay '65 looks to throw, one of the 120 pass attempts the Tigers made all season.

Gogolak: I have to admit that sometimes they did distract me. And sometimes they didn't. If I made the kick, they didn't. I'm sure you've seen the photo where there were two defensive linemen standing on the shoulders of two tackles. It hit all the magazines. I remember going up to [assistant coach] Jake McCandless ['51] and saying, "Jake, what do I do?" He said, "Kick just the way you normally do. Don't worry about hurting anyone. If you hit one of them in the head, that's his problem, not yours."

After a narrow victory against Rutgers in the season opener and a win over Columbia, Princeton traveled to Dartmouth. It was the first game

Princeton had ever played in Hanover and the first time the team had ever flown to a game. For the juniors and seniors, it was a chance at redemption.

Maliszewski: Any time you lose to somebody, it's a frickin' revenge game, OK? I mean, when I think about the seasons I played [1963-65], we only lost three games. The only games that have made a lasting impression on me are those three games. We shouldn't have lost any of them.

Iacavazzi: I scored one touchdown on a pass across the middle, and the Dartmouth linebackers didn't know what to do. They were expecting me in the backfield. You can see it in the film. All three linebackers keyed on me. But I wasn't in the backfield. They literally didn't know what to do.

Now firing on all cylinders, the Tigers won their next four games — against Colgate, Penn, Brown, and Harvard — by shutouts.

Pizzarello: The Harvard linemen were some of the toughest

ones to block. They were very big and very strong. I wasn't very big. My senior year, believe it or not, I weighed about 160 pounds, and I was blocking guys who were 230, 240. Against Harvard, I remember telling [Iacavazzi], "I can't block them out, I'll block them in." So, whenever we went around end, I'd block them inside and he would run outside. And it worked out pretty well.

P *Princeton clinched the Ivy League title with a 35-14 victory at Yale, but the game was closer than it appeared.*

Savidge: I'll never forget that walk into the Yale Bowl. The Yale alumni were lined up against the fence as we came through, and they were yelling at us, stuff like, "You freaking this-and-that!" And I said to myself, "My God, these guys are all doctors and lawyers and successful people! What the hell?" If the Yale coach had known what his fans were doing, he would have shot them, because if we weren't ready when we got there, we were ready after we went through that gauntlet.

Iacavazzi: I thought that was our toughest game. They scored on us first, the first time it happened in the whole season, and we were tied at halftime — the first time that had happened, too. We were tight. You know, it's a big game. When we got to the locker room, Colman just looked at us and said, "Worse things have happened. Lincoln was assassinated."

Grossman: I remember him saying Lincoln got shot and thinking to myself, what the hell does that have to do with the game?

Iacavazzi: It was almost laughable. You're in this macho setting at halftime, and your head coach says something like that. But it loosened us up. We really broke it open in the second half.

Pizzarello: Yale is a very intelligent school, but when they wanted to blitz right, they'd yell, "Roger!" And when they wanted to go left, they'd yell, "Larry!" After about five minutes of that, we figured it out.

P *Heading into their finale at home against Cornell, the Tigers were playing for their first perfect season since 1951, but the pressure did not affect them. They won the game 17-12.*

Maliszewski: Princeton was a different place back then. It wasn't as big. You'd walk around campus and guys who had nothing to do with football would engage you. Invariably, people would ask, "Are we going to win?" After a short time, I had a standard reply: "You don't practice to lose. We practiced this week. We expect to win."

P *Little commented on at the time, the 1964 season was also significant because Hayward Gipson '67 became the first Black letter winner in Princeton football history.*

Iacavazzi: A few years ago, they honored him with a mural outside the football office in Jadwin Gym. That's when they said he was the first Black [letter winner]. I didn't even know that. A lot of us went to the dedication, but I thought Stas had the best line. He looked over at Gip and said, "You're Black? I always thought you were Polish."



Ron Landeck '66 (tailback):

Gipson was a great teammate. He was always there for those around him. I mean, always a good sense of humor, upbeat, hardworking.

Gipson (cornerback): I was a javelin thrower in high school, and an older assistant track coach took an interest in me. I had a free weekend with nothing to do, so I decided to go down to Princeton. I was so blown away by how down to earth and open everything was. Princeton became the place where I wanted to go.

The African American population at Princeton at the time was miniscule; I think there were 10 African American students in the entire undergraduate population of about 3,200, though when I was there, it started to grow. But I had grown up in that kind of environment and had always been encouraged by my parents to do what you want to do. Just do your best and keep your nose to the grindstone and go for it.

60 YEARS LATER

*Cosmo Iacavazzi '65 *68 is shown recently at Princeton Stadium, where the 1964 team is honored with a plaque.*

Princeton would not enjoy another undefeated football season until 2018, by which time the program had moved down from the NCAA's top tier. Palmer Stadium was razed after the 1996 season, and Princeton Stadium, with a much smaller seating capacity, built on its footprint. Princeton football no longer receives national press attention and occupies a smaller place in the campus athletic consciousness than it did 60 years ago.



TACKLED

From left, Donald Roth '65, Stas Maliszewski '66 and a teammate stop an opponent for the stout Tigers defense, which allowed 53 points in nine games.

Iacavazzi: It's just as important to the players and coaches as it was to us former players. Personally, I am a little disappointed in the lack of student interest in the games in terms of attendance, but that's kind of where it's at today. There are so many competing alternatives.

Gipson: I guess I'm a little disappointed in watching games on TV or when I do get down there. The players just don't seem as tough. I don't care what the score is, if I know that they're really in it to win it, that they've worked hard on fundamentals, and they're playing the game right. And I don't always feel that. There was a commitment to excellence and fundamentals that I just don't see as consistently in today's teams.

Doug James '67 (safety): Other than the smaller crowds, very little has changed in terms of the devotion of the players themselves. The University has long stood for excellence across the board — academically, athletically, artistically, and otherwise. And I think the quality of play today is absolutely superior.

Gogolak: It doesn't bother me terribly, except there used to be a certain atmosphere to a game. Palmer Stadium held something like 44,000 people, and you went in there and heard that noise, and it kind of got you fired up.

Landeck: Our game against Dartmouth the following year, in 1965, was the last time Palmer Stadium was full. Tickets were selling at the Princeton Club in New York for \$250 apiece, and there was scalping going on! But I applaud the student-athletes of today who come to Princeton. They make the same choice we did back then, which is that I'm going to a place to get a good education. And football can be a part of that.

Maliszewski: I never considered myself a student-athlete. I was a student — period — who happened to play football. We didn't have student-musicians or student-actors. We were all just students.

Besides the stories they still love to tell, the surviving members of the 1964 team learned some lessons they would like to share with the current team.

John O'Brien '65 (tailback): I would just say, think and act like one team every minute. And think like champions.

Tufts: Show up, risk it all, go out and see what you can do. When you see a bunch of guys around you giving their best, you develop a faith

that they are going to do what they need to do for the team. And so, you've got to do what you can do for the team.

Gogolak: They had a thick paper sign in the locker room. There was a big capital "DE" and then a picture of a tiger tail. De-tail — you see? So, the idea was, Tigers, know your detail. That's what you

saw sitting by your locker, that sign. Everybody knew that if they performed their details, good things were going to happen.

Walt Kozumbo '67 (defensive end): Our team was not a power team; our team was a guts and gore team. We stuck together. And we really benefited from those older guys. They were our role models. They passed on to us the idea of winning, that you had to really want it.

Landeck: I think about teamwork and really, just the brotherhood. You wanted to get out on the field and give it your all. That's what I wish for today's teams, to feel that brotherhood just as strongly, and learning those life lessons out there on the football field.

For fans, at least, one question lingers. How would the undefeated 1964 squad fare against today's Princeton football teams?

Iacavazzi: They're much bigger, much faster than we were. Our biggest guy was Ernie Pascarella ['65]. I think he weighed 235 pounds. Now you have quarterbacks who weigh more than that. But our mindset was, we will beat anybody, anywhere, anytime.

Maliszewski: It's a different world. I mean, you almost can't relate to it. The weights, et cetera. Just a different ballgame.

Grossman: I think we could give them a good game if we weren't as old as we are. I think they would be surprised at the quality of football that was played back then. They certainly are bigger and stronger than we were. But I think we could hold our own.

Pizzarello: We'd kick their ass. ■

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



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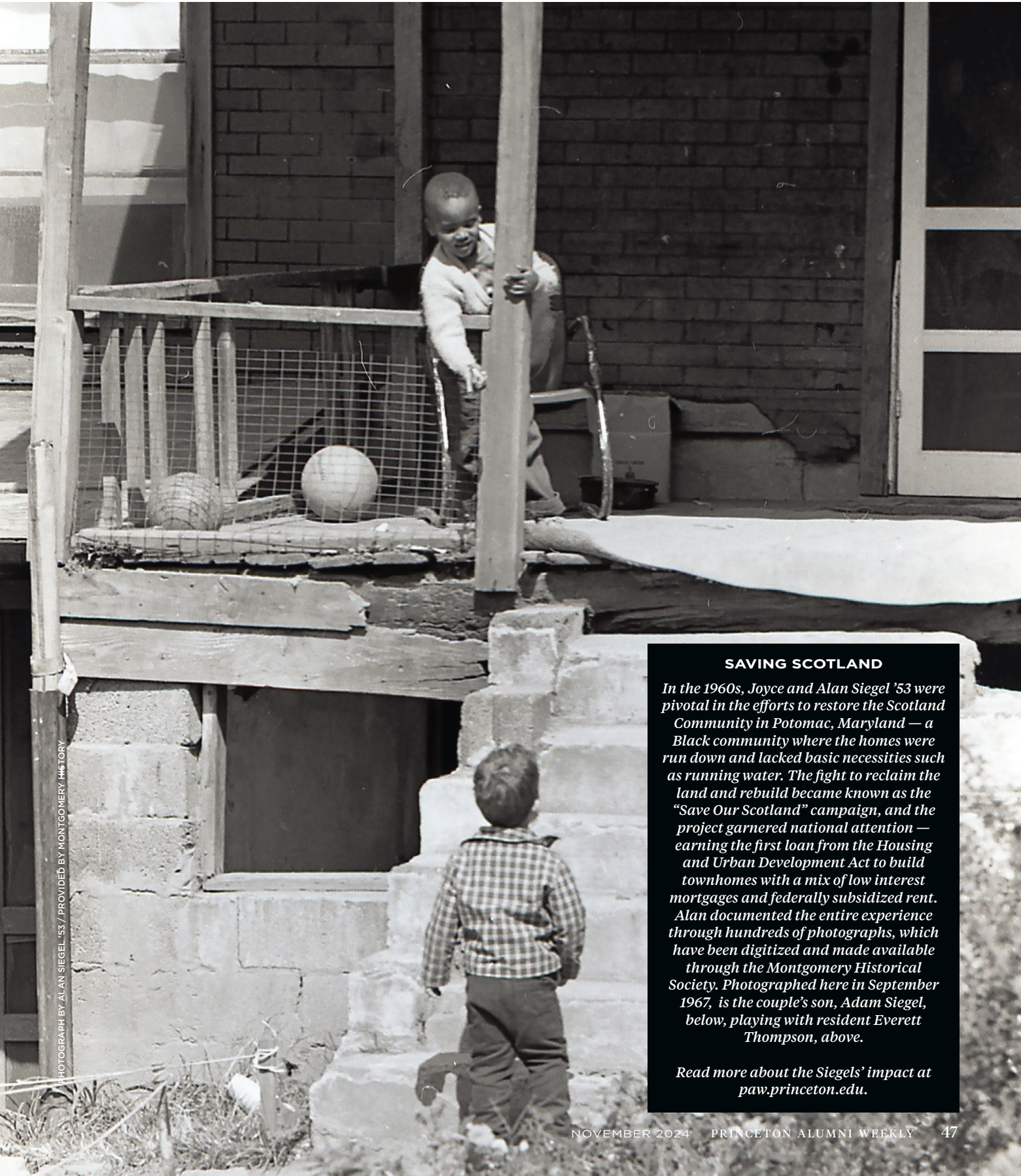
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PRINCETONIANS

ALUMNI STORIES AND PERSPECTIVES



PHOTOGRAPH BY ALAN SIEGEL '53 / PROVIDED BY MONTGOMERY HISTORY

SAVING SCOTLAND

In the 1960s, Joyce and Alan Siegel '53 were pivotal in the efforts to restore the Scotland Community in Potomac, Maryland — a Black community where the homes were run down and lacked basic necessities such as running water. The fight to reclaim the land and rebuild became known as the “Save Our Scotland” campaign, and the project garnered national attention — earning the first loan from the Housing and Urban Development Act to build townhomes with a mix of low interest mortgages and federally subsidized rent. Alan documented the entire experience through hundreds of photographs, which have been digitized and made available through the Montgomery Historical Society. Photographed here in September 1967, is the couple’s son, Adam Siegel, below, playing with resident Everett Thompson, above.

Read more about the Siegels’ impact at paw.princeton.edu.



ALUMNI EVENTS

Talk of the Town

LGBTQ+ alumni conference honors Every Voice

BY JULIE BONETTE

FROM SOFT-SPOKEN PERSONAL and sometimes painful reflections to hopeful and bold discussions about the future of being queer, more than 600 alumni and their guests gave voice to the LGBTQ+ experience at Princeton at Every Voice, the first alumni affinity conference since the pandemic, from Sept. 19 to 21.

Throughout the weekend — which featured more than 120 speakers as well as art installations, receptions for affinity groups, and a Saturday night showcase with drag, dance, poetry, and music — many Princetonians touched on the difficulties that often came with being queer at Princeton as a student, particularly in the 1960s and '70s, but the feeling on campus throughout the conference was that of cautious optimism and joy.

“The Princeton of today is truly transformed from the time that many of us were students here,” said Provost Jennifer Rexford '91 at Friday morning's opening remarks. Many attendees were astounded to hear that, according to Rexford, a survey of the Class of 2026 showed that one in four

identify as LGBTQ+.

Many of the conference attendees “were not able to build a strong network of Princetonians” when they were students, says Yolanda Silva, director of affinity programs, “and so, I feel like these conferences are hopefully giving that opportunity ... And seeing other people from the community and being able to be open and proud and just have those conversations, I think, was really powerful.”

“As Tigers, we each have our own story, backgrounds, and experiences, and one strength of our global community is that we celebrate each other individually and collectively,” said Monica Moore Thompson '89, president of the Alumni Association, in her remarks.

“Every Voice is about all our voices. It's about who we are as individual alumni, and it's about creating community in which each of us is heard.”

Princeton's long and winding path toward acceptance and inclusion was particularly evident at a session in Mudd Library where April Armstrong '14, a

FEELING SEEN

More than 600 alumni and guests gathered for Every Voice, the alumni affinity conference celebrating Princeton's LGBTQ+ community.

library collections specialist, presented relevant artifacts from the University Archives, starting chronologically with a program from 1882 that detailed students' planned speeches, which were canceled when they came dressed as Oscar Wilde, who was known for pushing back “against dominant ideas about masculinity,” according to Armstrong. The students' actions made them ineligible for orations prizes.

“I enjoy seeing open displays like that throughout history,” said Liz Peters '79. “I find it's affirming, [and] it also puts into perspective the fact that we've always been here.”

Peters said one of her favorite parts of the weekend was meeting “all of the other members of '79 and '77 who hadn't been out” as students. “I teased them and said, ‘Where the hell were you? We were easy to find.’”

The broad range of student experiences at Princeton was especially pronounced at the Thursday night plenary, where six alumni read personal passages from throughout their queer journeys. Ricardo DeLeon '86 remembered thinking he needed “to try harder” to fit in after someone called him gay, but Sam Gravitte '17 received the “biggest embrace of [his] life” after coming out to his fellow lacrosse players.

“We've heard a lot of stories of people's experiences on campus: the good, the bad, and the ugly,” said Michael Solis '07. “And I think Princeton moved in a really positive, progressive direction over recent years, so I'm delighted to be back.”

For John Wood '83, the weekend was a wonderful reminder of the first and only other Every Voice conference in 2013, where he felt for the first time that he could be “fully seen by the University as who I am,” and where he met his husband, Zahid Chaudhary, an associate professor of English. Wood said he thinks Princeton has “evolved even more since then, in the interim 11 years that

happened, which is great.”

During one meal, David John Attyah '89 sat with alums from the 1980s, '90s, and '00s, and felt it was “like a timeline of how Princeton had evolved around gender and sexuality, and in that regard, it’s really powerful and important work, and it’s hard to do, and I appreciate that Princeton’s willing to do it.”

In a conversation with Rexford, President Christopher Eisgruber '83 said that inclusivity is currently under attack, but Princeton is “focused on diversity because it is essential to excellence.”

The conference was originally scheduled for 2021, but planning was disrupted by the pandemic. However, Silva says the delay actually presented an unexpected opportunity, as it allowed the University to convene a 10-month task force on the future of affinity programming, which confirmed the importance of these events to alumni.

Silva says her team then refocused on Every Voice, holding 12 focus groups with more than 300 alumni in the year leading up to the conference, which ensured “that we got input from a very diverse group of people.” She said one of the most common themes from those conversations was the importance of a dynamic conference — “this community didn’t want to just sit down and be talked at.”

Heather Rae Martin '07, a speaker and member of the steering committee, said “it was very important [to] me for there to be intersectional conversations, for there to be as much visible representation as



possible throughout the weekend.”

Four current students reflected on their experiences in a session titled “Voices of the Present” on Friday afternoon. Haley Choueiri '25 said she has no problem holding hands with her partner on campus, while graduate student Cass Y. Kim said that they found it difficult to be out in STEM spaces,

“We’ve heard a lot of stories on campus: the good, the bad, and the ugly. And I think Princeton moved in a really positive, progressive direction over recent years, so I’m delighted to be back.”

—MICHAEL SOLIS '07

NOW WE’RE TALKING

James Blue '91, Azza Cohen '16, Zach Zimmerman '10, and Michael Cadden at the “Exploring LGBTQ+ Voices in Entertainment” panel on Saturday night. Below, Charliz Katzenbach '71 showcasing her work in the LGBTQ+ Alumni Artists Exhibit in the CoLab space of the Lewis Arts Complex.

noting “not every field has notable, visible [LGBTQ+] people in their history.”

Alex Rosado-Torres, associate director of the Gender & Sexuality Resource Center (GSRC), announced at one session that alums now have an easily accessible and searchable way to review the LGBTQIA+ Oral History Project, which originally launched in 2017 and was formerly housed on a clunky website with other Mudd archives. The new digital exhibit, which can be found at princetonlgbtqhistory.com, was launched to better showcase the more than 130 interviews with alumni spanning six decades about being queer at Princeton.

Rosado-Torres also announced the GSRC will host a queer and trans conference next fall, and the theme will be The Stories We Tell.

The next University affinity conference, for graduate alumni, will take place Oct. 9-11, 2025, and a conference for Asian alumni will follow. [P](#)



PAWCAST Listen at paw.princeton.edu to Reina Coulibaly '24's conversation with Ara Tucker '01 about her career, writing, and life at Princeton as a queer Black woman.



IAN CALDWELL '98 AND DUSTIN THOMASON

The Rule of Four, 20 Years Later

BY HARRISON BLACKMAN '17

“STRANGE THING, TIME. It weighs most on those who have it least. Nothing is lighter than being young with the world on your shoulders.” So began Ian Caldwell '98 and Dustin Thomason's Princeton-based novel, *The Rule of Four*, which remained on the *New York Times*' bestseller list for almost a year. Published in 2004, amid the fervor over Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code*, *The Rule of Four* was perceived as the Princeton take on the “art history-thriller” genre. Despite the narrative conceit of a 30-year-old character reflecting on his collegiate experience — and campus intrigues involving the secrets behind a mysterious Renaissance text — the book's two authors were only 22 when they wrote the first draft.

“For a young character written by young authors, it is a kind of a funny way to start a book,” Thomason concedes. That young character was Tom, a senior haunted by his late father's obsession with the *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili*, a Renaissance-era codex believed to contain a hidden message. After he befriends another student named Paul, who has pursued the same puzzle for his senior thesis, Tom finds himself increasingly devoted to solving the mystery. Equally intrigued is a menacing fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study, Vincent Taft — a character bearing an uncanny resemblance to Princeton history professor Anthony Grafton.

For 20 years, *The Rule of Four* has enchanted readers both of a tiger stripe and around the world — not to mention being a fixture at the U-Store. The book depicted aspects of a Princeton experience that have since become ancient history (including the “Nude Olympics,” a streaking frenzy prompted by the first snowfall — banned since 1999 — as



CALDWELL '98



THOMASON

well as stealing Nassau Hall's bell clapper — forbidden since 1992, when the clapper was permanently removed). Fictional flourishes, such as the presence of an underground network of “steam tunnels” by which the central characters sneak around campus (and play paintball) have transformed into legends perpetuated by *The Daily Princetonian*. While some such utility tunnels do exist, they hardly resemble the expansive, integrated system presented in the novel. “It seems to portray such an antediluvian Princeton,” says Grafton, who introduced Caldwell to the real-life *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili* in a course on Renaissance magic and witchcraft (and served as the inspiration for the book's main villain).

But other aspects invoked by the novel remain timeless — the unusual world of the eating clubs, the graduate student who can always be found in Firestone Library's Rare Books and Special Collections, and a sprawling senior thesis project that motivates a campus murder. Well, maybe not that last part.

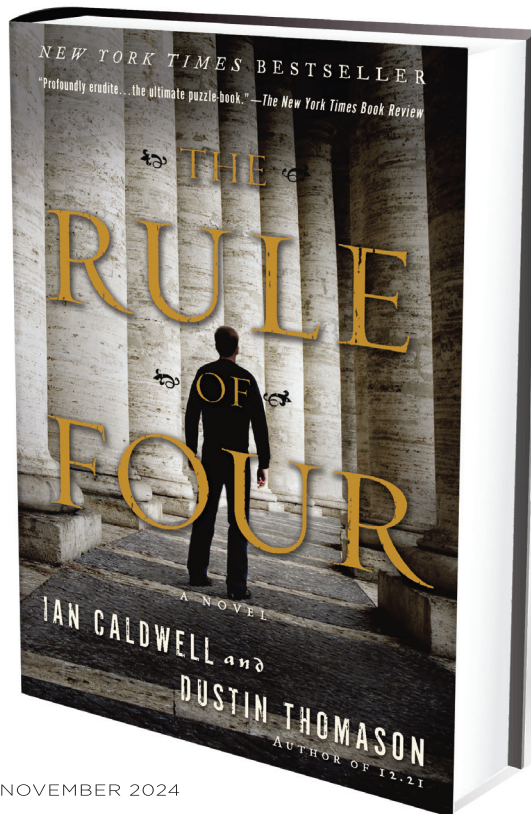
“I'm not surprised *The Rule of Four* was viewed as a sort of ‘Princeton book’ because of the Princeton-specific scenes,” Caldwell tells PAW by email. “What I really did love about Princeton, from the first day to the last, was the wonder and exhilaration that I felt in some of my humanities classes. The feeling of being given a seat at a table where the giants of the past 3,000 years were having the one eternal conversation.”

Caldwell and Thomason were lifelong friends who grew up together in Northern Virginia, playing on the same soccer team coached by Caldwell's father, a diplomat. Though Caldwell went to Princeton and Thomason to Harvard, the pair vowed to complete a novel together after graduation, during the summer of 1998, before Caldwell pursued a career in software and Thomason embarked for medical school. Improbably, they planned

to write the novel while driving across the country. “The road trip never happened,” Thomason says, “but we spent the whole summer right after we both graduated in [Ian's] parents' basement.” Setting two computers next to each other, Thomason wrote the odd-numbered chapters, and Caldwell wrote the even-numbered installments. At noon, they took lunch and discussed

“What I really did love about Princeton, from the first day to the last, was the wonder and exhilaration that I felt in some of my humanities classes.”

— IAN CALDWELL '98



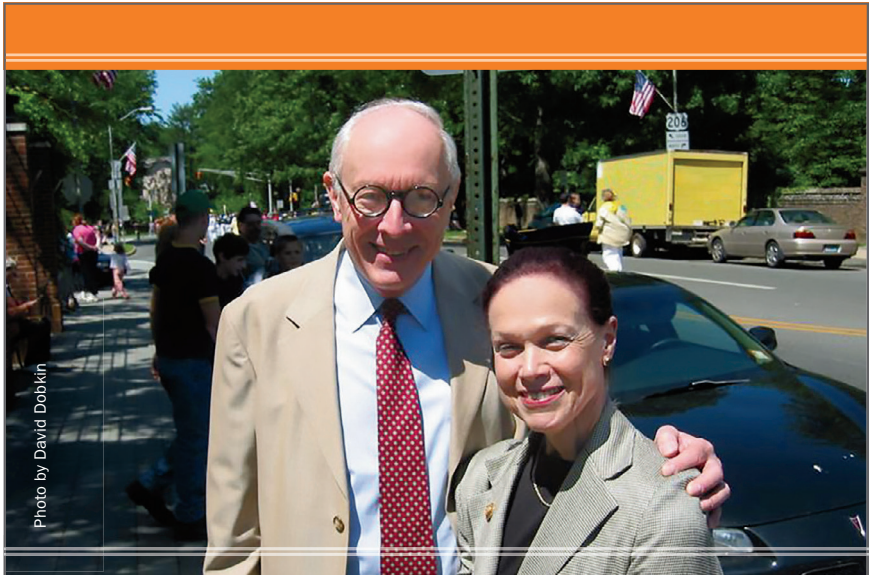
AGENCE OPALE / ALAMY; ZUMA PRESS / ALAMY

the next beats in the plot. “A consultant from McKinsey, or probably any smart third grader, could have told us this was basically the worst Rube Goldberg process for writing a book together, but it’s what we did, week after week,” Caldwell says. Though little of the original draft that summer made it into the final novel, which arrived years later, the pair found their own way, and Caldwell eventually quit his job to complete the book. “It looked like career suicide,” Caldwell says. “The decision to go for it set a pattern in my life of choosing my own path rather than having circumstances choose it for me.” His second novel, *The Fifth Gospel*, a mystery set around another ancient text, this time playing into Vatican politics, was released in 2014.

While Thomason produced his own follow-up (*12.21*, a thriller about the end of the Mayan Calendar published in 2012), he’s taken creative collaboration further in Hollywood, most recently as an executive producer of Apple TV+’s *Presumed Innocent*. Thomason says that writing the first novel with Caldwell was “our own workshop, what I would ultimately understand to be a writers’ room.” Despite a long career in TV, for Thomason, “*The Rule of Four* will always be my ‘first love.’”

Perhaps the act of writing the book at that age reflected the romance the novel itself tried to channel about the moment in students’ lives when “big questions” consumed their attention. In a 2004 essay Grafton published in *The New York Review of Books*, he argued *The Rule of Four* was one of the first campus novels to acknowledge that students “spend vast amounts of time alone, attacking the kinds of intellectual problems that can easily swallow lifetimes.” Though many of the students from that time went on to professional lives, Grafton argued, “for a moment, amid the raging hormones, the desperate job searches, and the eager social jockeying, thousands of young people across America ... know something of the mysteries that scholars and scientists call their own.”

Regarding the inspiration behind the steam tunnels, Caldwell insists on one last mystery: “What happens in the steam tunnels stays in the steam tunnels.” 📖



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ILZE THIELMANN '88

A Helping Hand for Migrants

BY JENNIFER ALTMANN

ILZE THIELMANN '88 PRESIDES OVER a New York City shop filled with neatly arranged racks of clothing, shoes, and toys, all given away for free. The Little Shop of Kindness, which she founded in March 2023, provides much-needed supplies to asylum seekers and migrants who have arrived in huge numbers since 2022, when the governor of Texas started busing them to the city. Last year, the shop served more than 15,000 people who had traveled to the United States from 40 countries.



THIELMANN '88

One of Thielmann's central goals was to create "an atmosphere that was dignified and welcoming and treated them as customers," she says. "We offer sandwiches and coffee, we give them a tour of the shop, and we help them select items. We let them try clothes on and make them feel a little bit normal at a time when there is a lack of normalcy in their lives."

Asylum seekers make appointments online to visit the shop, or receive emergency referrals from partner organizations. Volunteers guide them through the offerings of clothing as well as toiletries and other supplies, all donated or purchased with donations. At tables up front, volunteers are present to offer referrals for social services, help register children for school, and provide other resources.

After graduating from Princeton, Thielmann spent more than 24 years working as a lawyer before leaving her firm in 2017. Two years later, she began volunteering to greet asylum seekers arriving by bus at Port Authority Bus Terminal. The number of people arriving spiked sharply in 2022, prompting Thielmann to put together an improvised welcome center at the terminal.

"People got off the buses and had utter confusion and fear on their faces. They did not know what was going to happen next," she says. After she asked for volunteers on social media, people began showing up to help every day at 5:30 a.m.

When the Port Authority told Thielmann she could no longer offer services there, she found a location in a building nearby and formalized the shop, which is part of the nonprofit organization Grannies Respond/Abuelas Responden. (Thielmann is the director of Team TLC NYC, the New York branch of Grannies Respond.) When that space flooded, she held pop-ups around the city for four months in the winter, distributing coats, sweaters, and other supplies to more than 3,000 people. "We would not give up, even though we had no shop," she says.

Earlier this year, Thielmann moved The Little Shop of Kindness to its current location, on the third floor of a church building on the Upper East Side. Everyone who works at the shop, including Thielmann, is a volunteer, one of more than 2,000 who have signed up to help since the shop opened. They range from students to retired people to migrants themselves, who often help with translating. The majority of the shop's clients are from Latin America; there are also significant numbers of French and Arabic speakers from African countries.

In May, a couple from Ecuador visiting the shop mentioned they were looking for wedding outfits. The team found a sleeveless white dress for the bride, a button-down shirt for the groom, and rings from the shop's jewelry counter. Thielmann purchased flowers for the ceremony and held a small reception at the shop after the couple exchanged vows in a nearby park. Three more couples have since celebrated their weddings at the shop.

The Little Shop of Kindness receives donations and grants, but Thielmann is looking for corporate sponsors to provide a steadier stream of support. "There are other human beings in need," she says. "If we're able to help them, there's no choice. We have to help them." **P**

NOMINATE OTHER INSPIRING ALUMNI

This story is part of PAW's series highlighting the stories of alumni doing inspiring work. To nominate others, please email your ideas to paw@princeton.edu.

COURTESY OF ILZE THIELMANN '88

CLASS NOTES

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

MEMORIALS



LISTEN TO OUR NEW MEMORIALS PAWCAST



Visit paw.princeton.edu/podcasts to hear a podcast discussion where we reminisce about an alum who recently died. This month's episode is about Isabella De La Houssaye '86.

THE CLASS OF 1950

FIELDING E. LAMASON '50

Born in Beaumont, Texas, Tex grew up in Louisiana, Wisconsin, Illinois, New York, and New Jersey as his father sought work. After graduating from Pingry, he was a sergeant in the Army Air Force from 1944-46. At Princeton, he majored in history and joined Cottage Club. After graduation, he entered the training program of Chase Manhattan Bank in New York, where he enjoyed several months of bachelorhood before being recalled into the Army early in 1951.

Tex returned to the U.S. in early 1953, was released from active duty as a first lieutenant, married Mary Frances Longley (MF), joined the investment banking firm of Kidder, Peabody & Co., and settled down in the Philadelphia area to pursue a career and raise a family near Villanova, in an old-frame house with enough rooms to move about in and raise two boys and two girls. He beagled with the Treweryn Beagles and then the Ardrossan pack, played tennis and squash, taught Sunday school, and regularly exercised his privilege to vote. He came 'round to the Democrats as his father said he would, and to Princeton's co-ed path. He later campaigned against gun violence and for regulation with CeasefirePA. He followed Princeton athletics assiduously — thrilled with and for any teams' successes, commiserating quietly over their losses. He loved history, especially the stories from and analysis of World War II, and traveled around the battlefields and castles of France with MF and anywhere else with his second wife Nancy.

Tex died Dec. 10, 2023. He was predeceased by his first wife, MF, and his son Chip '76. He is survived by his wife, Nancy; three children; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

CHARLES W. SLACK '50 *54

Experimental social psychologist, writer, and pastor, Charles died May 29, 2023, of heart and kidney failure after a yearlong struggle with prostate cancer at Hollywood Hospital in Nedlands, near his Scarborough Beach home in Western Australia. He was 94 years old.

At Princeton, Charles was influenced by Hadley Cantril's work on the psychology of perception.



Charles met his first wife, Josephine Ives, at a state poetry contest in Trenton when they were high school students.

Josephine won first place and her husband-to-be won second.

A few years later, as an undergraduate, Charles won the Golden Tiger Award, the University's top literary prize at the time. They were married in the summer of 1950.

In 1955, he moved to Harvard University, where he was an assistant professor of psychology. After his time at Harvard, the family moved to Alabama, where Charles was on the faculty of the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa. The family moved from Tuscaloosa to Montclair, N.J., in 1961.

After they divorced in 1968, Charles met his second wife, Eileen Newton. She was a graduate student at Columbia Teachers College, where he was teaching. After a few years in New York, the couple moved to Birmingham, Ala. In 1976, Charles, who had long struggled with alcohol and drugs since his experimentation with LSD, became clean and sober. He remained so until the end of his life.

Also in 1976, Charles and Eileen moved to Melbourne, Australia, where he worked for the State of Victoria running a halfway house for boys who had been released from detention.

Charles and Eileen were divorced in 1992, and he took a job in Perth. It was in Western Australia that Charles met Susan Reid at his church. They were married in 1995.

Charles is survived by Susan, whom he adored and who cared for him diligently and lovingly through his final years of illness. He also is survived by three children from his first marriage: Frances Raeside, Roma Devanbu, and Gordy Slack; and five grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1952

MOORHEAD C. KENNEDY JR. '52

Mike came from Groton and joined Key and Seal, majoring at SPH in Oriental languages.



He worked on the *Nassau Sovereign* and the *Nassau Lit* and roomed with Crowell Baker and Robert Goodale.

Mike graduated from Harvard Law School in 1958 after Army service in Germany. He got a juris doctorate, and a version of his

thesis on Islamic law was published in *Collier's Encyclopedia*.

Entering the foreign service in 1960, he was, in 1979, one of the embassy staff members taken hostage by Iranian militants in Tehran for 444 days. His wife, Louisa, was widely recognized for her statements on their behalf.

Mike died May 3, 2024. He is survived by his sons Mark, Philip, Andrew, and Duncan, to whom the class sends best wishes, with respect for Mike's service to our country.

THE CLASS OF 1953

WILLIAM F. CLOSE '53

Bill died April 23, 2024, in Danbury, Conn.

He was born in Washington, D.C. and came



to Princeton from Summit (N.J.) High School. He was a member of Tower Club and majored in history, writing his thesis on "Progressivism and Foreign Policy." He

was head cheerleader in his senior year.

Commissioned as an ensign in the Navy, Bill served three years on a destroyer in the Atlantic, Caribbean, and Mediterranean and then graduated from Harvard Business School.

After a short time with Smith Barney and Co., Bill became a partner of E.F. Hutton & Co. and went to work on the New York Stock Exchange as a floor broker for 32 years.

He belonged to the New York Yacht Club and enjoyed sailing at Sachem's Head Yacht Club in Guilford, Conn. He raced in nine Newport-to-Bermuda Races, winning the race in 1962. He cruised with a number of other clubs and sailed transatlantic in 1984.

Bill is survived by his wife of 32 years, Stephanie; by his four children from two previous marriages; and nine grandchildren.

ALAN B. HANDLER '53

Alan was born in Newark, N.J., and came to Princeton after graduating from Newark



Academy. He majored in the School of Public and International Affairs and wrote his thesis on "Ideological Aspects of the Soviet-Yugoslav Conflict." He

graduated from Harvard Law School in 1956 and formed a partnership with his father and brother as Handler and Handler in Newark, N.J.

In 1960, Alan joined the office of the attorney general of the State of New Jersey and in 1967 was appointed by the governor of New Jersey as a judge of the Superior Court of New Jersey. Over the course of his career as a judge, he wrote close to 500 opinions, including dissents and concurrences. As an appellate court justice, in 1974 he wrote the majority opinion giving girls the right to play Little League baseball

in the state of New Jersey, and in 1975 he wrote the opinion in what is believed to be the first case in the nation to address the right of transsexual people to marry, divorce, and claim spousal support. In retirement, Alan enjoyed spending time at his sheep farm in Hunterdon County with his family and a wide assortment of animals.

Alan died May 23, 2024. He was predeceased by his wife, Rose; and is survived by his three daughters and two stepchildren.

PETER B. OBBARD '53

Peter died April 26, 2024, in Newtown, Pa.

He was born in Pittsburgh and attended



Sewickley Academy and St. Andrew's School before coming to Princeton. He joined Colonial Club and majored in the School of Public and International

Affairs, writing his thesis on "The Movement to have Industry-wide Bargaining Declared Illegal."

After graduation, Peter served two years in the Army and then earned an MBA at Harvard Business School before going to work in sales and marketing for Pittsburgh Plate Glass and then as a stockbroker for Smith Barney.

Peter was a voracious reader who loved history, antiques, and museums. In his retirement he volunteered at Winterthur Museum in Delaware and served as the first chair of the endowment committee for the town library of Southwest Harbor, Maine, where he spent the summers. His last years were spent happily at Pennswood Village in Newtown, Pa.

Peter was preceded in death by his wife, Judith, and is survived by four children and seven grandchildren.

JOHN C. ROBINSON '53

Jack died in Milton, Mass., April 20, 2024.

He was born Aug. 5, 1931, in New York City



and grew up in Greenwich, Conn. In eighth grade he entered Milton Academy, where at the age of 14 he met his future wife, June Nordblom. He went from

Milton to Princeton, where he joined Cottage Club and majored in English literature, writing his thesis on Robert Frost. After graduating, Jack spent four years in the Navy, based in San Diego. He served on active duty aboard the destroyer USS *Stembel* and became the ship's navigator and an expert on celestial navigation in the Pacific.

After the Navy, Jack and June returned to Milton, which became their home base for the rest of their lives together. After attending Tufts Medical School, Jack completed his pediatric residency

and fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital, where he served as pediatric chief resident and mentored countless pediatricians. He was a teaching fellow and assistant clinical professor in pediatrics at Harvard Medical School for almost 20 years. Jack also started a private pediatric practice that grew into Milton Pediatrics, with numerous pediatricians caring for thousands of children and families, spanning multiple generations.

Upon his retirement at age 79, his extended family and grateful patients established the John C. Robinson Chair in Pediatrics at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Predeceased by his wife, Jack is survived by his brother, four children, 10 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

RICHARD T. WEST '53

Richard was born in New York City and came to Princeton after graduating from



the Pingry School. He majored in architecture and joined Key and Seal Club. After graduation, he served as an ensign in the Navy with tours in the South

Pacific, Mediterranean, and Caribbean. He then earned a master's degree in regional planning from Cornell.

Richard worked for the Cornell Planning Committee for a year after graduation and then moved to York, Pa., where he served as head of the York County Planning Commission. Later he worked in city planning in Pittsburgh and in the mayor's office. He established Ideas, Images, and Implications and designed a logo used by the Pittsburgh police department. A conversion experience in 1969 led to a variety of experiences such as teaching English in China and a missionary journey to Haiti.

Richard died June 1, 2024, in Dunmore, Pa. Predeceased by his wife, he is survived by one son, three daughters, seven grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1955

ROBERT S. ADELSTEIN '55

Bob, a clinician and distinguished medical researcher doing groundbreaking work at the



National Institutes of Health for 61 years, died May 7, 2024, in Baltimore. His many appointments and awards included chairman of the editorial board of the *Journal of Biological Chemistry* for 20 years, the U.S. Public Health Service Medal, and a mentor of the year award.

Bob was born Jan. 16, 1934, in Brooklyn and attended Stuyvesant High School, where he was class president, editor of the

school magazine, and a member of the track team. At Princeton, he joined Court Club and served on its bicker, social, and house committees. He was chairman of the Princeton Hillel Foundation, a broadcaster for WPRU, and a member of the Pre-Medical Society and Theatre Intime. He also played IAA football and softball. His senior-year roommates were Marc Schwartz and Marshall Rosenbloom.

After Princeton, Bob graduated from Harvard Medical School and did his internship and residency at Bellevue, Duke, and the University of Washington in Seattle. A growing concern for civil rights featured joining the 1963 March on Washington, highlighted by Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech.

Bob was a member of the 1746 Society that arranges legacy gifts to Princeton. His view of his own legacy was "the same thing that I think I received from my mentors, and that is to be as honest as you can in your research at all times, and to not be afraid of changing your mind if the scientific facts begin to show that you've made a mistake."

Bob is survived by his wife, Miriam; children Benjamin, Michael, and Sandra; and four grandchildren.

CHARLES W. COKER SR. '55

Charlie, a noted leader in business and community service in South Carolina, died



June 27, 2024, at home in Hartsville, S.C. He followed his father as the head of Sonoco Products Co., a packaging firm that is South

Carolina's only Fortune 500 company; was inducted into the South Carolina Business Hall of Fame; held South Carolina's highest civilian honor, the Order of the Palmetto; and received the Silver Beaver Award for outstanding service to Scouting.

Charlie was born May 10, 1933, in Florence, S.C. He attended Woodberry Forest, where he participated in football, wrestling, and student government. At Princeton, he majored in history and was vice president of Cottage Club and the 21 Club. He was a Chapel deacon and won major numerals in freshman football and a letter in JV football. His senior-year roommates were Garrett Wall, Art Boyd, and Bill Glockner.

Charlie was a director of Bank of America, Sara Lee Corp., Hanes Brands, Springs Industries, and Carolina Power & Light (now Duke Power), and he was chairman of the board of Hollings Cancer Center at the Medical University of South Carolina. He led fundraising efforts for the establishment of the South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics. His personal motto, which was adopted as Sonoco's motto,

was: "People build businesses by doing the right thing." Friends described Charlie as "a true Southern gentleman with a witty sense of humor."

Charlie was predeceased by his wife of 65 years, Joan Sasser Coker. He is survived by sons Charles Jr., Robert, and Thomas; daughters Ellen Baldwin, Carrie Haley, and Margaret Hungerford; 20 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

ROBERT S. CUSTER '55

Bob, whose life was full and varied, died April 16, 2024.



He was born in Garden City, N.Y., Dec. 27, 1933, and graduated from Garden City High School, where he participated in football, lacrosse, student government, and the honor society. At Princeton, he joined Tower Club and majored in chemical engineering. He won major numerals in both freshman football and lacrosse, played JV football and varsity lacrosse on the 1953 NCAA championship team, and participated in IAA ping pong and pool. Senior year he roomed with Don Emmons.

After graduation from Harvard Business School, Bob embarked in a career with firms related to chemical engineering and founding his own company, retired in 1997, and moved to Oregon.

With his wife, Gerry, he enjoyed good food — from salmon quiche to chocolate chip cookies — and explored Oregon's many noted wineries. He was a fierce poker player, and he enjoyed playing tennis and watching football and local orchestras and theater groups. From the time his two sons joined Boy Scouts, he was their hiking and canoeing leader. Together, they backpacked in the Rockies and bicycled and hiked in Europe. One of Bob's greatest experiences was hiking the Annapurna Circuit in Nepal to an altitude of over 17,000 feet. He traveled to every continent but Antarctica.

Bob is survived by his wife of 56 years, Gerry; sons David and Jonathan '84; and two grandchildren.

DONALD L. GREENE '55

Don, whose last words to read before he passed away were the class memorials in the



Princeton Alumni Weekly, died Nov. 12, 2023, at home in Greenville, Del. His wife, Abigail, said he followed the Class Notes and Memorials faithfully.

Don was born Nov. 25, 1933, in Roxborough, Pa. He graduated from the William Penn Charter School, where he was salutatorian and participated in publications, student government, and dramatics. At Princeton, he joined

Colonial Club and majored in aeronautical engineering. Senior year he roomed with Bill Van Alstyne, Jim Macaleer, and Bud Haabestad.

After graduation, Don married Abigail Wright and became a Navy pilot. After military service he worked for Hercules, IBM, and Shared Medical Systems, where he retired as vice president of international systems.

Don was a devoted member of Concord Presbyterian Church, where he served as a Sunday school teacher for more than 15 years, elder trustee, and retreat leader. He volunteered for Friendship House, where he served in many capacities, including president of the board of directors. He was also closely involved with development of the Clothing Bank of Delaware and served a three-year term as president of the resident council of Country House. Don was an avid reader and music lover who enjoyed working in his yard and building model sailboats.

He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Abigail; children John, Meg, and Kate; and two grandchildren.

ALEXANDER STUART MCKINNEY '55

Sandy, a physician about whom it was said, "his life was spent helping others," died



June 20, 2024, at his home in Brevard, N.C. He was born Feb. 3, 1933, in New York City and graduated from the Kent School, where he participated in tennis, publications,

debating, and the French Club. He then spent a year at the Sorbonne in Paris, studying French history.

At Princeton, he majored in biology and joined Colonial Club. He played IAA football and squash and was a member of the Pre-Medical Society, the French Club, and the Yacht Club. His senior-year roommates were Flix Kloman, Peter Elliman, and Houston Landis.

After Princeton, he graduated from Columbia Medical School and the New York Neurological Institute. After his residency he served two years in the Navy at the Naval Hospital in Portsmouth, Va. He then went to Atlanta, where he taught and practiced neurology at Emory University for 20 years before moving to Waynesville, N.C., in 1985. He practiced 10 more years at Mountain Medical Associates before retiring.

Sandy loved family gatherings and spending time with friends. He enjoyed gardening (especially his roses), a book club, and playing tennis, travel, and music.

He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Susan Lowe McKinney; sons James, David, and Mark; stepdaughters Josephine Donehoor, Mary Starr, and Jennifer Goff; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

ROBERT W. PARSONS JR. '55

Bob, an organic chemist who spent much of his career working with a variety of foundations, died May 2, 2024.



He was born Jan. 15, 1933, in Summit, N.J. He attended Pingry, where he was active in the international relations club, student government, and the German club. At Princeton, he majored in chemistry and joined Court Club. His associations included WPRU and the Chemistry Club. His special interests included music, cabinetmaking, sailing, and tennis.

Bob earned a Ph.D. in organic chemistry at MIT, then spent seven years in research at Merck & Co. and two years at Squibb. He had a passion for supporting medical research in fields that were important to him, notably asthma, hay fever, and allergies. He was also an active volunteer, working at the Summit Playhouse and Family Promise, which deals with family homelessness. Bob was also an active member of Newbridge Church in Morristown.

In 1961, he was elected to the boards of Lillia Babbit Hyde and the John Jay and Eliza Jane Watson foundations and in 1969 joined their staffs. In succeeding years, he was involved with more than a dozen charitable organizations, including the Rensselaerville Institute, the Paper Mill Playhouse, the Council of New Jersey Grantmakers, and the Council on Foundations.

Bob loved spending summers in Mantoloking on the Jersey Shore and on Cape Cod. He liked to play the piano and watch local theater, movies, and television. His favorite comedies were the Pink Panther films and *The Carol Burnett Show*.

Bob is survived by his children: Kathryn, Stephanie, and Robert III; two grandchildren; and his brother Roger.

THE CLASS OF 1956

E. PETER GILLETTE JR. '56

Peter died July 30, 2024, at his home in Minneapolis.



He came to Princeton on an NROTC scholarship, joined Cap and Gown, played varsity ice hockey, and majored in history. Upon graduation he was commissioned in the Marine Corps, serving in Asia and in the Reserve before retiring as a major. He joined Northwestern National Bank, studied law at night, and was admitted to the bar in 1963. He attended Harvard Business School as a Bush fellow and in 1980 was elected CEO of the bank. He later served as commissioner of trade and economic development for Minnesota.

Peter was just as active in educational and charitable affairs, raising funds for the United Way, Walker Art Center, and the Minnesota Orchestra while serving as a trustee of the Blake School, Macalester College, and the Marine Corps University Foundation. In 1982, he was elected a Princeton trustee. In his private time, he enjoyed tennis, golf, bridge, and running — completing a marathon in 1988.

Peter is survived by his wife of 63 years, Julia Scotty; daughters Julie '84 and her husband Tommy Johns '84, Annie and her husband Fritz Cleveland, and Rebecca and her husband Darryl Sellers; and six grandchildren, including Anna Johns '25.

THOMAS G. MEEKER '56

Tom died July 27, 2024, after a lengthy illness. He personified our class with his dedication, enthusiasm, creativity, and love of Princeton.



Following his father, Horace Meeker '29, to Princeton, he came to us from Glen Ridge (N.J.) High School, where he played football; he continued on to the Tigers' championship 150-pound team. He joined Cap and Gown and majored in art, writing his thesis on Leonardo's "Last Supper." Tom served in the Army Reserve and joined Smith-Meeker Engineering, which specialized in audio-visual systems. He earned an electrical engineering certificate at the Newark College of Engineering and served as the firm's third-generation president.

In 1988, Tom married Joanne Thompson, who supported his manifold contributions to Old Nassau: Alumni Council chair on class affairs, on Reunions, class president, and secretary for 18 devoted years. Especially remembered with fondness are the tailgates that they fostered behind Cap for many years. Tom was equally committed to his Congregational Church and to the Crane's Mill retirement community, where his humor with the drama club entertained all.

Tom is survived by Joanne; children Thomas Jr., Patricia and her husband Tom Healey, and Christopher and his wife Elizabeth; nine grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and sister Beverly.

THE CLASS OF 1958

FRANK P. STELLA '58

Frank died May 4, 2024, in New York City. He was 87.

He came to Princeton from Phillips Andover Academy, where he was active in art, wrestling, and lacrosse.

At Princeton, Frank majored in history, competed on the varsity wrestling and lacrosse teams, and was probably the most original art editor in the history of the *Nassau Lit*. He was a member of Elm Club, where



he played goalie on the club hockey team.

With a career spanning more than 60 years, Frank left behind a trailblazing legacy that reoriented the

North American arts landscape and defied any strict characterizations of his work as it evolved across concepts and media. He made his art-world debut at the age of 23 with his Black Paintings series (1958–1960), which was included in the Museum of Modern Art exhibition "Sixteen Americans" alongside the work of artists including Robert Rauschenberg, Ellsworth Kelly, Jasper Johns, and Jay DeFeo. Frank's work can be found in major art museums across the country, including the Whitney Museum of American Art, which hosted the Museum of Modern Art of Fort Worth's traveling retrospective for him in 2015; the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Gardens; and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Princeton gave him an honorary doctor of fine arts degree in 1984.

Frank is survived by his wife, Harriet McGurk; five children; and five grandchildren. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.

SOLON SCOTT SUDDUTH '58

Scottie died May 19, 2024, in Hampton, N.H. He was 87.



He came to Princeton from Peabody School, where he was in the glee club, student government, and played tennis.

At Princeton, Scottie received the Class of 1879 Scholarship, majored in biology, rowed crew freshman and sophomore years, was on the IAA junior board, and was a member of the Pre-Med Society and Freshman Glee Club. He joined Colonial Club and roomed with Joe Nye, Phil Childress, and John Sawhill.

After graduation, Scottie graduated from Johns Hopkins medical school, interned for two years at Boston City Hospital, and then spent two years in the Navy. In 1969, he completed specialty training in obstetrics and gynecology at Boston's Lying-in Hospital. He then practiced obstetrics and gynecology in Exeter, N.H.

Scottie is survived by his wife, Gail; three children; 11 grandchildren; and one stepson. Another son, Andrew, died at age 44. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.

THE CLASS OF 1960

DONNELLEY ERDMAN '60 *63

Grew up in Pasadena, ended up in Santa Barbara, with stops along the way in Boston, Houston, Aspen, et al. Attended Andover. Golden boy of Princeton's architecture studio. Ivy Club. Shock of blond hair,



arresting blue eyes. Graceful, mischievous, idiosyncratic. Ever youthful. Died April 25, 2024. Old age. Irreplaceable.

When Erds was around, something was always afoot,

like launching his "rather more important" rocket from Holder Court. One spring break, when he couldn't get to Florida, he brought Florida to 1879 Hall, complete with sand, sun lamps, and overflowing inflatable pool. No one was more fun to be with.

Already a pilot, sailor, and skier, Don became a distinguished architect and teacher at Rice University. A font of creativity, he never stopped illustrating, designing, and Photoshopping, bringing his great eye and impeccable taste and wit to everything he touched. His motto: "Always in error, never in doubt."

He was drawn to novelty and innovation. Whatever the must-have gismo of the moment — camera, phone, shades, ski boots — Erdman was there first. Way before most, he was trolling the internet, chasing down vintage Fiesta dinnerware and citrus labels on eBay.

He was devoted to Cinda Wheeler Erdman, for 64 years his partner in crime, and delighted in their three kids, and then their kids.

Across all the years, Donnelley's Princeton friends savored the warmth of his company, and his dazzling flair for life.

BORIS J. KAYSER '60

Boris, our valedictorian, graduated from nearby Lakewood (N.J.) High School,



laden with science honors. His Westinghouse Science Talent Award was the most significant, not only for its prestige but also because he met fellow co-winner Susan

Zimet. With us, he majored in physics, participated in the music and math clubs and Whig-Clio, and added to his skein of physics awards.

He and Susan married in 1960 and went together to Caltech. He earned a Ph.D. in particle physics in 1965 as Susan studied astronomy. Two post-doctoral years at UC Berkeley, three at SUNY at Stony Brook, and two more at Northwestern led to the National Science Foundation, serving as program director for theoretical physics from 1972 to 2001.

At NSF, Boris helped establish the prestigious Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics at UC-Santa Barbara and began a broader study of the "ghost particle" neutrinos. He also wrote the definitive *The Physics of Massive Neutrinos*.

After retiring from the NSF in 2001, Boris became a distinguished guest scientist at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory and

continued to lead the study of neutrinos, both theoretical and experimental. He retired from Fermilab at the end of 2012.

Boris died April 14, 2024, of complications of a fall. He is survived by his fellow scientist, Susan, to whom we send our deepest sympathies.

VINCENT R. LEE '60 *66

Vince loved high mountains, designing fine homes, and archaeology. He came



to Princeton from North Tarrytown (N.Y.) High School, where he was active in sports. At Princeton, Vince majored in architecture, ran track for three years, enjoyed Cannon Club, and excelled in Navy ROTC.

He spent four years in the Marine Corps, two in Okinawa, and two teaching at the Mountain Warfare Training Center in the Sierra Nevadas. Vince then guided and taught climbing in Colorado and Wyoming for two years and joined an architecture firm in Jackson Hole.

He earned an MFA in architecture at Princeton in 1966 and returned to Jackson Hole to practice architecture, guide mountain groups, and give years of service to land preservation, controlled development and the environment, at the local and state levels.

While guiding groups in Peru, Vince identified many Inca sites and developed an enthusiasm for archaeology. He mapped, studied, and wrote about them, gaining professional recognition for his work. His book, *Forgotten Vilcabamba*, is an authority on the subject.

Vince and his wife, Nancy, retired to somewhat milder Cortez, Colo., in 2000, where they enjoyed a small horse and llama ranch. Vince died April 17, 2024. He is survived by Nancy, his three sons, and one granddaughter. Our sympathies to all the family.

THE CLASS OF 1961

ROBERT HOMAN CRAFT JR. '61

Bob died at home in Washington, D.C. March 15, 2024, after a five-year struggle with pancreatic cancer.



Born in New York City, he came to us from Scarsdale High School. At Princeton, he was in the Woodrow Wilson School and was a Keyceptor and a member of the Intercollegiate Committee and the Undergraduate Schools Committee. He played 150-pound football and took his meals at Cap and Gown, of which he was president. He roomed with Jerry Norton, Clark Woolley, John MacMurray, George Waters, and Stan Baldwin.

Following a B.A. in jurisprudence at Oxford and an LL.B. at Harvard Law

School, Bob embarked on a 38-year career with Sullivan & Cromwell, at first in New York, and then in Washington. He spent two years with the State Department and the SEC before helping to found the firm's Washington office. He served there as managing partner and retired in 2006. During his extraordinary career he worked with virtually every major investment bank in national and international markets. Among his many extracurricular activities were the opera, his beloved Camp Dudley, and coaching Little League baseball. He was a loyal and supportive classmate.

Bob is survived by his wife of 53 years, Jamie; and sons Tiger and Ford and their families, which include five grandchildren.

TALBOT C. MACK '61

Tal died peacefully Jan. 28, 2024, at home with his family in The Plains, Va.



Born in New York City, he grew up in New Canaan, Conn., and came to us from Phillips Exeter Academy. At Princeton, he played varsity hockey, ate at Ivy Club, was a Chapel Deacon and a member of Whig-Clio, and worked with the Campus Fund Drive. He roomed in Holder Hall with Bill H. Miller, Tom Garrett, George Barker, Scott Driscoll, Toby Rankin, and Rick Butt.

After service as an officer on a Navy minesweeper, Tal worked for a publishing firm and then earned a master's degree in education at Virginia Polytechnic Institute before embarking on a long teaching career in Virginia. Teaching first in the Fauquier County public school system, he moved on to the Powhatan School in Boyce and then to his permanent institutional home at The Hill School in Middleburg. At Hill, he taught English, writing, and history; founded *Calliope*, the School's literary magazine; and coached sports for more than 40 years. His neighbor and friend Stan Dees '60 wrote of Tal: "A kind and gentle person, a very good poet, and a beloved teacher."

Tal is survived by his wife of 48 years, Catherine; six children; and nine grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1963

JOHN T. GALLOWAY JR. '63

John, a third-generation Presbyterian minister with a powerful and productive sense of mission, died peacefully May 7, 2024, in his hometown of Wayne, Pa.



With a career lasting more than 40 years, John served churches in Greenwich, Conn.; Spencerport, N.Y.; Pittsburgh; and Wayne. He retired in 2007 after serving since 1993 as head of staff and senior pastor at Wayne Presbyterian Church. His father

led the church from 1948 until retiring in 1973. His grandfather retired in 1950 after a ministry of 50 years.

John came to Princeton from Radnor High School in Wayne. He majored in history, took his meals at Campus Club, and roomed with Charles Stevens, Earl Hoffman, and Robert Keller.

John earned a master of divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1966. In our 50th-reunion yearbook he offered this reflection: "I am a retired Presbyterian minister who preached a few sermons and had 30,000 or more listeners each week on the radio. I married and buried, and attended too many boring meetings. My joy in ministry was mission. I did some work with storefront academies in Harlem, migrants in upstate New York, and, after steelworkers put on a demonstration in a church I served in Pittsburgh, our subsequent meetings with the demonstrators led me to approach Blue Cross. We got them to develop a product line that we then put into action and supported called the Caring Program for children. It went nationwide, was perhaps the first national effort at insuring children living in poverty, and covered over a million kids."

At the annual Service of Remembrance on Alumni Day, the sermon traditionally is given by a member of the clergy in that year's 25th-reunion class. In 1988, John was our guy.

John is survived by his wife, Nancy; son Scott Galloway; daughters Christie DiPietro and Katharine Kubat; stepdaughter Kathleen Lathrop; and eight grandchildren. John's first wife, Susan Hall Galloway, died in 2003.

THE CLASS OF 1964

ROGER E. ANDERSON '64

Roger died March 26, 2024.

He grew up in New York City and attended



Brooklyn Technical High School, where he was on the swimming and track teams and held several class offices. At Princeton, he majored in history, swam on the freshman team, played lacrosse for three years, and ate at Tower Club.

Following Princeton, he won a Fulbright to study in Sweden, where he mastered Swedish and met Kristina, his future bride. He returned to the United States and earned a law degree at Yale, married Kristina, and joined Chase Bank, which sent them to Milan for five years.

After an assignment in pre-revolutionary Iran, he and Kristina moved to Copenhagen, where Roger worked for the Danish bank Privatbanken. His next assignment was in New York City, where he managed Privatbanken's operations for nearly 10 years before forming his own advisory firm.

While in New York, Roger was active in

the American Scandinavian Foundation, served on the Martha Graham Dance Co. board and was appointed honorary consul general to the Republic of Latvia. He and Kristina ultimately moved back to Denmark, where he continued advising startup companies.

Roger was devoted to his family and lived a full and rich life. The class extends our condolences to Kristina, their children and grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1966

WILLIAM G. LARSEN JR. '66

Sandy died June 12, 2024, of cancer.

He grew up in San Mateo, Calif., and



graduated from the Thacher School in Ojai, Calif., where he played soccer, ran track, edited the school newspaper, and served on the student council. His father was

Princeton '41. Sandy majored in history, belonged to Tiger Inn, and played IAA football, hockey, and softball.

After graduation, he enlisted in the Marines and served as a bombardier-navigator on Grumman A-6 Intruders on missions in Vietnam, earning 11 Air Medals and reaching the rank of first lieutenant.

Sandy earned an MBA from Stanford in 1973 and worked at Price Waterhouse and Bank of America before joining classmate Kit Mill in establishing an executive recruiting firm. He retired following the sale of the firm in 1998.

In 2001, Sandy moved to Sonoma wine country, where he spent his time hiking, trail-building, and serving as president of his local mutual water company, which boasted 24 customers. In our 50th-reunion yearbook he reported that he had again taken up golf and was focused on "getting back down to double digits."

The class extends its condolences to Sandy's brother Bob and sister Kay.

THE CLASS OF 1967

LEONARD E. AVERILL '67

Len died April 17, 2024, in Pomfret, Conn. He graduated from Christian Brothers Academy



in Albany, N.Y., where he was born and grew up. At the academy he was an honors graduate, a major in the cadet regiment, and played tennis and football.

Len followed his father, John B. Averill '31, and uncle Spike Averill 1928 to Princeton. He majored in biology preparatory to a medical career like his doctor father. He roomed at 123-124 Henry Hall with Rich Geisel, Don Oakley, Bob Thum, Dave Wilson, Ted Gallagher, and R. Graybill Johnston. A member and athletics chairman of Charter Club, he belonged to Orange Key, the Special Services Committee, and the Pre-Med Society.

After Princeton, Len returned to Albany and graduated from Albany Medical College, specializing in obstetrics and gynecology. He served in the Navy during the Vietnam War at Roosevelt Roads Navy Base in Puerto Rico. For almost 30 years he practiced in urban hospitals and Mamaroneck, N.Y., before moving to Putnam, Conn., as vice president of the medical staff and then chairman and director of obstetrics and gynecology at Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam. In our 50th-reunion yearbook he noted that he had delivered 8,000 babies in his career. He was a lifelong skier and skied at most of the great runs of North America from coast to coast.

Len had two children with his first wife, Christine Averill Green: son Nathan '94 and daughter Lindsey, both medical doctors. He was remarried to Deborah Meri, with whom he shared her son, Lewis, from a previous marriage. They survive Leonard, who distinguished our Class of 1967 by his upholding both the college and family tradition of service to the country and community.

SANFORD KRAMER '67

Sandy died Dec. 29, 2023, in Scottsdale, Ariz., his residence since 1979. He died



from a condition called bronchiectasis, a birth defect that creates weak lung capacity and progressively worsens over a lifetime. He adapted by working when able, founding his own business to adjust when periods of breathing were difficult.

Born and raised in Pittsburgh, Sandy graduated from Taylor Allderdice High School, where he was a member of student council, math club, and the senior class publicity committee leader. A brilliant student, Sandy was a National Merit Scholar, winner of the Western Pennsylvania Mathematics Society Award, and was a National Science Foundation engineering program selectee. At Princeton, he majored in sociology, was the junior class social chairman for Key and Seal, and was varsity lightweight crew manager and junior crew manager. He roomed at 235 Lockhart.

After graduation, Sandy earned a master's degree from the University of California, Riverside, in 1972 and a Ph.D. in 1973, both in political science. In April 1976, he married Connie Lee and they began 48 years together.

Sandy's career included teaching stints in political science at Norton AFB and March AFB in the Los Angeles-Riverside area. He was an instructor at Chapman University and Cal State University, Los Angeles, and was the owner of the American Radio Heritage Institute.

Sandy traveled, visiting 75 countries on six continents, mostly via cruise ships as his health permitted. He wrote fondly about

"the best years of his life" at Princeton, studying and attending arts and athletic events. Classmates should read his essay in our 50th-reunion yearbook, a delightful, humorous, and wonderful insight into the personality of one of '67s most personable and distinguished members.

Sandy is survived by his wife, Connie; sister Harriet; nephew Dean; and niece Janis.

LAWRENCE LUCCHINO '67

Larry died April 2, 2024, in Boston of cancer.

He graduated from Taylor Allderdice



High School in Pittsburgh.

At Princeton, Larry majored in history and was secretary-treasurer of Cottage Club.

He was national chairman of the Undergraduate

Schools Committee, chairman of the Keycept program, headwaiter in Commons, secretary-treasurer of the Pre-Law Society, and played varsity basketball on the 1965 Final Four team.

After graduation Larry spent a year as a teaching fellow at International College, Lebanon, then attended and graduated from Yale Law School in 1971. He was a staffer on the House committee that investigated the Watergate scandal. He then joined the D.C. firm of Williams & Connolly, specializing in sports law before moving to management of professional sports teams beginning with the then-Washington Redskins and then the Baltimore Orioles. Named Orioles president in 1988, Larry ushered in a new era of MLB stadium architecture, recalling old-style stand-alone stadiums when he supervised the construction of Baltimore's Camden Yards. He did the same as president of the San Diego Padres from 1994 to 2001 in building Petco Park. Larry moved to Boston as president of the Red Sox from 2002 to 2015, where he led the renovation of Fenway Park, and rebuilt a team that won Boston's first World Series in 85 years. In his final baseball venture, he became owner of the Red Sox Class AAA farm team in Worcester, Mass.

Larry was inducted into the Red Sox Hall of Fame, the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame, and his high school's hall of fame. Recipient of eight honorary degrees from colleges, he was awarded Princeton Varsity Club's Citizen Athlete Award. His battles with cancer led him to serve as chairman of the Jimmy Fund, trustee of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and board member of the Special Olympics USA.

Larry is survived by his brother Bobbie; nephews F.J. and David; niece Jennifer; and seven grand-nieces and grand-nephews.

THE CLASS OF 1969

WILLIAM P. CURTIS '69

Bill died April 23, 2024, at home in Washington, D.C., following a five-year battle

with interstitial lung disease.

Growing up in Silver Spring, Md., Bill was passionate about politics and foreign policy. He followed his father, Donald W. Curtis *42, to Princeton. Bill left in 1968 to enlist in the Navy and worked at Robert Kennedy's presidential campaign headquarters, first as a volunteer and then as a staff member. Following two tours in Vietnam, Bill completed his undergraduate and graduate studies in economics at Berkeley.

An economist and analyst in the Office of Management and Budget during seven White House administrations, Bill was considered a sharp number cruncher and expert on the federal budget by colleagues and staff at other agencies, but also was valued for his collegiality and humor. He was passionate about basketball, playing in and organizing pickup games until illness took its toll.

His talent for numbers extended to analyzing basketball results, and March Madness was a highlight of his year. Bill was a voracious reader and arts enthusiast. A self-taught painter, he had planned to devote his retirement to this hobby. Living for many years in Alexandria, Va., Bill and his wife, Peggy Morrison Curtis, also spent time on Deer Isle, Maine.

In addition to Peggy, Bill is survived by his daughter Lisa and her family, and siblings Rich and Janet. The Class of 1969 sends all of them our sincere condolences.

THE CLASS OF 1970

MICHAEL M. AGBEKO '70

One of our premier representatives to the world, Michael died at his home in Accra, Ghana, on Good Friday, March 29, 2024, after a protracted illness.



He came to Princeton as part of the African Scholarship Program of

American Universities (ASPAU) program from St. Augustine's in Cape Coast, Ghana, and graduated with honors and a B.S.E. degree in civil and geological engineering. He was a member of Wilson College and enjoyed pingpong and soccer with his friends there.

After Princeton, he studied at the Rackham Graduate School at the University of Michigan, graduating with a master of science degree in engineering. In September 1974, he married his partner, Hagar, in New Jersey and returned home to Ghana a year later.

Michael's career spanned different countries, working at New Jersey Bell Telephone Co. in the United States, Architectural and Engineering Services and ABP Consult in Ghana, and with Swedish West Africa Consultants and Tima Associates in Nigeria. He was a devout Catholic, volunteering his time as chairman of the infrastructural development and maintenance committee of his parish in Accra. He also enjoyed mathematics and

pursued hobbyist projects.

Michael is survived by his children, Valerie, Norbert '04, and Marilyn '06; son-in-law Jonathan Banibensu; and grandchildren John and Jacob. He will be greatly missed by us all, even as his example of Princeton's service to all nations continues to inspire us.

WAYNE W. BASTEDO '70

A brilliant and insightful friend of a wide range of his classmates, Wayne died Feb. 15, 2024, in Henderson County, N.C.



He came to us from Port Jefferson High School on Long Island, where his interests in the school paper and theater were well established. At

Princeton, he was proudest of his work on the *Prince*, executed while a member of Naval ROTC, and he belonged to Whig-Clio and Stevenson Hall. He studied politics with Richard Falk, and while many of us hoped in vain for world peace, he put a plan on paper in his thesis.

Wayne was on active duty from 1970 to 1975, serving as a decorated communications officer on the USS *Enterprise*, then attained law degrees at Hofstra and NYU. He served in corporate legal departments at Exxon and Western Union, switching to a solo practice when he moved to North Carolina in the '90s, then lost in a race for state representative in 2004. His enjoyment of study and the arts led to an associate's degree in film production, and continuing work with the senior center drama group in Hendersonville. About 15 years ago, Wayne was diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome, a mild autism that explained to him insecurities he had fought to overcome his entire life. His 50th-reunion yearbook entry is a marvel of personal insight and courage.

Wayne is survived by his sister, Christine Brunner; his brother, Ralph '75; and their families. With them, we recall a friendship that, we now find, was a triumph of his will and intellect over his inner demons as well as the inevitable vicissitudes of our lives. Courage is in perpetual short supply, and he will be sorely missed.

THE CLASS OF 1976

T. KEITH DIX '76

Keith died May 30, 2024, at home in Athens, Ga., following a lengthy illness. He was an associate professor of classics emeritus at the University of Georgia.



Born and raised in Virginia, Keith graduated from Spotsylvania High School. At Princeton, he majored in classics, played the clarinet in the Marching Band, and joined Charter Club. He roomed with Wilson Hayman, George Holober, and David Wirth. During college, Keith made his first trip to Rome, a city that would be central to

his career and the anchor of his life. Keith loved his years at Princeton and returned for numerous Band and class reunions.

Keith continued his studies at the University of Michigan, where he obtained two master's degrees and a Ph.D. in classical archaeology and classics. There he met and married Naomi Norman. Their son William grew up traveling with his parents to archaeological excavations in Carthage, to their work in Rome and Greece, then back home to Athens, Ga. Keith was a devoted family man, helping his wife on her archaeological excavations.

As a teacher of Latin, Keith taught thousands of students. He taught many students who would become high school Latin teachers, thus spreading the love of Latin and the ancient Romans to generations. He was a well-loved storyteller and kept his audience of students laughing.

As a scholar, Keith was an expert on ancient libraries, and toward the end of his life he co-authored a well-received analysis of Aristophanes' comedy *Knights*. He described himself as "a utility player," publishing on topics from ancient libraries, Vergil, Aristophanes, and Roman history to the little-known but historically important Eteocarpethians. He participated in excavations in Israel and Tunisia.

The class officers extend condolences to his wife, Naomi; and son, William.

THE CLASS OF 1988

STEPHEN M. MADIGAN '88

Tragically, Steve died by suicide Feb. 27, 2023, in San Diego, Calif, after a long battle



with depression.

Born Nov. 26, 1965, Steve grew up in Omaha, Neb., and attended St. Margaret Mary's grade school. After excelling at Creighton Prep High School, he majored in EECS at Princeton.

Steve's quick wit and fun-loving ways brightened those years for so many who spent time with him. Simultaneously light-hearted and intense, he shared his positive and often mischievous spirit as he accompanied us on our journeys, including through engineering and Air Force ROTC. His companions will never forget Steve and will treasure the memories of his kindness and friendship.

Steve had many talents, including great intelligence, natural leadership, and an affinity for advanced technology. It was no surprise that he rapidly moved into a senior leadership role at Microsoft after graduating, leading transformative developments in the core Windows operating system.

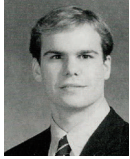
Steve is survived by his wife, Annie; his two sons Stephen Jr. and Joseph and their mother Debbie; his parents Bud Madigan '60 and Sandy Madigan; his sisters Missy and Kate; his brothers Mark and Danny; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, and uncles.

Our class extends its deepest sympathy to his family.

THE CLASS OF 1998

GEORGE W. MILLER III '98

George died suddenly April 19, 2024, in the Netherlands of a recently diagnosed autoimmune disorder.



He grew up in Arlington, Va., and attended the Potomac School, where he was captain of the baseball team and editor of the literary magazine. At

Princeton, George continued to pursue his love of baseball and literature, majoring in English and playing varsity baseball for two seasons, including as a relief pitcher for the 1996 Ivy League champion team. George joined Cottage Club and wrote his thesis on the development of American quest-romance novels, focusing on *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *Moby-Dick*.

After graduation, George began a career in the financial industry, first with Goldman Sachs in New York, followed by a series of hedge funds. In 2015, he embarked on his own quest for adventure, moving to Amsterdam to take a job with a Dutch pension-fund management company. George came to love the expatriate lifestyle, teaching himself Dutch and traveling extensively in Europe and Asia.

George was predeceased by his father, George Miller Jr. '63. He is survived by his mother, Kay; sister Angela; brother Bill '00; one niece; and two nephews.

GRADUATE ALUMNI

CALHOUN WINTON '55

Cal died at the age of 97, April 15, 2024, in Franklin, Tenn.

He was born Jan. 21, 1927, in Fort Benning, Ga. After studying at the Georgia Institute of Technology, Cal earned a bachelor's degree at the University of the South in 1948, a master of arts from Vanderbilt in 1950, and Ph.D. in English from Princeton in 1955. He was a captain in the Navy from 1944 to 1967.

Cal held positions on the English faculties of Dartmouth, the University of Virginia, the University of Delaware, the University of South Carolina, and the University of Maryland, where he spent the majority of his career. He achieved emeritus status at Maryland in 1997. At Maryland he served as director of the Center for Humanities Research.

Cal's publications included the books *John Gay and the London Theatre* and *Captain Steele: The Early Career of Richard Steele*. He was a founder of the American Society of 18th-Century Studies.

A devoted Princetonian, Cal was a member of the board of the APGA, a volunteer for Graduate School Annual Giving, and served on the APGA's Reunions Committee.

Cal is survived by his sons William and Jeffrys.

RONALD JACOBOWITZ *60

After a long illness, Ron died April 26, 2024, at his home in Phoenix. He was 89.

Ron was born in New York City. He began studying classical piano at a young age and majored in musicology at the City College of New York. He seriously considered a career as a classical pianist and musicologist, but he also loved mathematics. He received a master's degree in math at the University of Chicago, then enrolled in a Ph.D. program in musicology at Princeton. During his time at Princeton, Ron decided to switch back to mathematics and earned his Ph.D. in math in 1960, specializing in algebraic number theory.

Ron was a professor of mathematics at Arizona State University, and occasionally gave piano concerts. After he retired, he gave concerts on a regular basis. He particularly enjoyed playing for charity benefits in Israel, where his son had settled.

Ron's wide range of interests included obtaining an airplane pilot's license, learning to sail, and becoming proficient in several languages.

Ron is survived by his wife of 64 years, Ada; his children, Hadas, Esther Walzer s'81, and Menachem; 16 grandchildren (including Gil Walzer '16), and 10 great-grandchildren.

SÖREN A. ILLMAN *72

Sören died Oct. 31, 2023, in Helsinki, Finland.

Born in Helsinki May 12, 1943, Sören completed a bachelor's degree in philosophy at the University of Helsinki in 1966 and a licentiate degree in 1970. He earned his doctorate in mathematics at Princeton in 1972. His dissertation topic was equivariant algebraic topology.

Sören was a member of the mathematics faculty of the University of Helsinki, and a researcher at the Academy of Finland. He worked on Hilbert's fifth problem and Lie transformation groups. In the United States he was a visiting researcher or visiting professor at Princeton, Michigan, and Yale. He was also a visitor at Oxford, Cambridge, ETH Zurich, Kyoto University, and the Max-Planck Institute, and a researcher at the Mittag-Leffler Institute in Sweden. Seven doctoral theses were completed in Helsinki under his supervision.

Sören's awards included the Grand Prize of the Oskar Löftund Foundation, the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation Prize, and the Silver Medal of the University of Helsinki. He served as vice president of the Finnish Mathematical Society, and was decorated a Knight First Class of the Order of the White Rose of Finland.

Sören is survived by his wife, Kerstin, and children Johanna and Erik.

JONATHAN S. VINCENT *75

Jonathan died in Norwich, Vt., April 19, 2024. He was 74.

Born June 15, 1949, Jonathan received an A.B. in history and literature from Harvard in 1971, a master's in architecture from Princeton in 1975, and an MBA from the University of Chicago in 1982.

He was a licensed architect in several states, a LEED accredited professional, an NCARB holder, and a member of the Timber Framers Guild. For two years he worked at the advertising company Leo Burnett in Chicago, but he eventually returned to architecture. Jonathan ended his professional career as the director of design at Timberpeg in the Upper Valley of Vermont. In Norwich, he served as a member of the planning board, the finance committee, and as a lister.

Jonathan taught architectural history at Granite State College. He also taught ILEAD/Osher courses at Dartmouth. His favorite was his last, "The British Sports cars 1930-1980," taught with the help of an enthusiastic and knowledgeable class.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Priscilla; his children, William, Nick, and Sara; and his grandchildren.

ELIZABETH A. VALLEN *92

Liz died of cancer April 10, 2024, in Swarthmore, Pa. She was 59.

She was born Feb. 8, 1965, in Philadelphia. A first-generation college graduate, she earned a bachelor's degree in biochemistry at Case Western Reserve in 1986 and a doctorate in molecular biology at Princeton in 1992.

After fellowships at Yale and Rockefeller universities, Liz joined the Swarthmore faculty to teach cell biology in 1995. She served twice as chair of the biology department and became the Howard A. Schneiderman professor of biology in 2019.

Liz taught introductory courses and honors classes on cell and molecular biology. To the delight of many students, she used pool noodles to demonstrate how chromosomes interact. In recent years, she refocused her research on the cell biology of corals, sea anemones, and photosynthetic algae, and became an authority on marine environment and climate change.

She created a Science for Kids program that has grown from a dozen young students in 2004 to more than 50 in biology, chemistry, and physics workshops, and was active with Swarthmore's Summer Science and Summer Scholars programs. She was an editor for *Cell Biology Education*.

Liz is survived by her husband, Steve DiNardo, and children Zach and Abby.

Graduate alumni memorials are prepared by the APGA.

*An undergraduate memorial appears for Charles W. Slack '50 *54 and Vincent R. Lee '60 *66.*



BY STELLA (DAILY) ZAWISTOWSKI '00

Crash Through That Line of Blue!

ACROSS

- 1. Overall makeup?
- 6. Access your TigerNet account, say
- 11. Crunchy Princeton Soup & Sandwich Company order
- 14. Feature of O. Henry's works
- 15. LuPone or LaBelle
- 16. Your and my
- 17. Site of a bonfire when Princeton beats Harvard and Yale in the same season
- 19. Motorists' org.
- 20. Pronoun learned in SPA 101
- 21. Black-eyed ___
- 22. Get together
- 24. Tamera's sister on *Sister, Sister*
- 25. Garments worn under dresses
- 27. Class of '52 alum who won the Heisman Trophy
- 34. "Sure thing"
- 35. Quad in Mathey, for one
- 36. Ctrl-Z
- 37. "___, ref!" (soccer field request)
- 38. Degree earned by a CS major
- 39. Not very bright
- 40. Part of a Princeton Opera Company performance
- 42. Way to go!
- 44. Bread with a pocket
- 45. Class of '23 alum who went from Princeton Tiger to Cincinnati Bengal
- 48. Possessed, in the King James Bible
- 49. 2002 Olympics site, for short
- 50. Course that might let you skip to MAT 104, for short
- 53. "You've got mail" ISP
- 54. Sweetie, nowadays
- 57. Overly
- 58. Where Tigers play home football games
- 62. Portuguese "hello"
- 63. Half of Hispaniola

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
14						15						16		
17					18							19		
20				21			22		23					
			24				25	26						
27	28	29				30						31	32	33
34						35					36			
37						38						39		
40			41		42			43		44				
	45			46						47				
			48						49					
50	51	52						53				54	55	56
57					58		59	60			61			
62					63						64			
65						66					67			

- 64. Wipe all the data from
- 65. Either of two Spice Girls
- 66. Headed for overtime
- 67. Sinister spirit

DOWN

- 1. Casino cubes
- 2. Periods often named after presidents
- 3. Taboo action
- 4. The I in TI
- 5. Reason to wear contact lenses
- 6. Lydia Ko's org.
- 7. Bit of equipment at the Shea Rowing Center
- 8. Former telecom
- 9. Don't just take the standard deduction
- 10. Prime-time hour
- 11. "You're gonna need a bigger ___"
- 12. Feast where kalua pork might be served
- 13. Device for catching
- 18. Approaches

- 23. Jacob's twin
- 24. Quaker's pronoun
- 25. Outfit for the slopes
- 26. Not on time for
- 27. Parks from Tuskegee
- 28. Salmon roe at a sushi bar
- 29. Cruise ship accommodation
- 30. *A Streetcar Named Desire* surname
- 31. Letter between Hotel and Juliett
- 32. Polishes a *Prince* article, say
- 33. Capital of Italia
- 41. Eid al-___
- 42. Patriot's opponent in the Revolutionary War
- 43. Some Canadian gas stations
- 44. Plumbing pipe composition: Abbr.
- 46. Nader of the Class of '55
- 47. Badly in need of a meal
- 50. Unit studied in CHM 201

- 51. Pole ___ (Sondre Guttormsen '23's event)
- 52. Christmas "present" for a naughty kid
- 53. Like desert climates
- 54. Smile broadly
- 55. As well
- 56. Barbara of *I Dream of Jeannie*
- 59. Nintendo debut of 2006
- 60. Summer on the Seine
- 61. Extreme anger

STUMPED?

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WILLIAM HAMLIN NEELY 1917 (1896-1962)

A Flyboy's World War I-Era Journal Finds Its Way Home

BY ELYSE GRAHAM '07

WHEN WILLIAM NEELY 1917 was in his senior year, he joined the Princeton Flying School. World War I was raging in Europe, and though the United States hadn't yet entered the war, any observer could see that it would do so soon. (The U.S. entered the war in April 1917.) And so, Princeton University, to prepare its students for the fight, set up an aviation training school — eight weeks of study in flight mechanics and aerial combat tactics. The students took classes in Patton Hall; the faculty, having trained at a flight camp in Toronto, served as instructors, as did pilots who taught the actual flying. An anonymous alum donated two airplanes — Curtiss JN-4 models, nicknamed “Jennies.”

Flying in those days was an open-air adventure. The pilot sat in an exposed cockpit wearing goggles, a leather helmet, and a scarf to protect his neck from the cold. A technician had to spin the propeller to get the engine going. Once the plane had slipped the surly bonds of Earth, the pilot could see the town and campus as nobody had ever

seen them before. (The planes took off from a landing field that had been prepared on a farm a few miles away from town.) After the day's training, as a pilot's wife (and later aviator) who knew them, Edith Culver, wrote in a memoir, the flyboys — still wearing their aviation overalls, which they jovially referred to as “drinking suits” — drank beers together at the Nassau Inn and sang college songs.

**“Piloting the plane.
 The danger is the
 last thing that
 enters one's head.”**

— WILLIAM NEELY 1917

Neely, the son of an old Pennsylvanian family, kept a journal while he was in college: a handy little black leather affair in which he diligently wrote his daily reflections. On his birthday in February 1917, he wrote, “Today I have become [21] years old. I am now a man. It is up to me to do a man's work. I don't feel as though I have developed as much as I should at this age. I have not got as much self

confidence in myself as I should have.” At flying school, he found the confidence that had eluded him on the ground. By May, he was writing with gusto about his training flights: “Piloting the plane. The danger is the last thing that enters one's head.”

After his wartime adventures — which included a sky battle against the Red Baron's “Flying Circus” — Neely went home to Pennsylvania to study law. He rose to the highest judicial position in the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania while raising the fourth generation in a veritable Brady Bunch of Princetonians. (His sons, Jim Neely '48 and William “Ham” Neely '47, attended Princeton, as did his brother, father, uncle, great-uncle, and grandson, Robert Neely '03.)

Parents give their children all they can, but one thing they can't give them is the experience of knowing them as they were before the children were born. Sometimes, though, the universe offers that gift. In 2023, Jim and his wife, Patti, were doing an internet search to remind them of the date of William's death, and they found an article that mentioned William's college journal. They'd had no idea it existed.

Robert contacted the people who wrote the article. It turned out that William's wife kept the journal until her death in 1984, after which it went to Jim's older brother, Ham. Ham loaned it to a World War I historian, Mike O'Neal, then died before he could get it back. O'Neal showed it to the article's authors.

Robert kept his sleuthing secret from his father, which allowed him and his family to give his father the present of a lifetime. Shortly before Christmas, they received in the mail a candy box that bore a sketch of a WWI plane on top. O'Neal had sent the journal home.

“I held the journal until Christmas morning,” Patti writes. “Then, with two sons here with us and Robert on Zoom, Jim opened the peppermint candy box and found the journal. It was awe-inspiring for him to hold a 105-year-old book written in his dad's hand and to read about his flying.” ■

DANIEL HERTZBERG



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