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MARCH 2025

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*An editorially independent magazine by alumni for alumni since 1900*

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*Illustration of DNA by Connect World/Adobe.*





# Moments of Joy

**Y**ou have one of the hardest jobs in America,” alumni will sometimes say to me. That’s an exaggeration — but it’s true that university presidents face lots of challenges and that the last five years have been especially demanding.

I am confident, however, that I have one of the best jobs in America, not least because I get to share in so many joyful activities on this inspiring campus. When you are president you are invited to participate in almost every part of the Princeton community.

A few of those moments, such as the celebrations for John Hopfield’s Nobel Prize in Physics this past October, are exceptional and receive international media coverage. Most, however, are part of the everyday life at a great university. With a new semester underway, I wanted to share a few memories from the one that just concluded.

In late August, I greeted first-year students and their families on move-in day. My dog, Buster, accompanied me and, as expected, attracted more attention than I did. It was marvelous to feel the enthusiasm of our newest Princetonians and to see how thoughtfully and warmly they were welcomed by staff from throughout the University.

I got to know a few of our students more personally when they joined me in their residential colleges for informal precepts on this year’s Princeton Pre-read, *The Worlds I See: Curiosity, Exploration, and Discovery at the Dawn of AI* by Fei-Fei Li ’99. The precept with students from Rockefeller and Mathey was especially unforgettable: It was featured on *Good Morning America*

as part of “The Book Case,” a podcast co-hosted by Charlie Gibson ’65 and his daughter Kate.

Because cameras tend to distract students, I normally don’t allow them into my precepts. I made an exception because I trusted Charlie, and I am glad that I did. Our students were fabulous — as you can see on GMA’s YouTube or by searching for “Princeton” on the video tab at [goodmorningamerica.com](http://goodmorningamerica.com).

We also welcomed an exceptional group of new master’s and doctoral students to Princeton this year. In what I hope will become an annual tradition, Dean of the Graduate School Rod Priestley hosted a reception at his home near the Graduate College where I got to chat with several students and learn about the scholarly projects that brought them to campus.

In early September, I participated in services with Kesher, the Reform Jewish community at Princeton’s Center for Jewish Life. One of our juniors celebrated her bat mitzvah that evening; she spoke movingly about how the center helped her “connect with [her] Jewish identity to better the world.”

Later in the semester, award-winning photographer and professor of the visual arts Deana Lawson curated an exhibition at the Lewis Center for the Arts. After she learned that my wife, Lori, and I had an interest in photography, she invited us to the opening. She treated us to a personal tour where we benefited from her insights and those of other artists featured in the show.

We also accepted an invitation to a concert celebrating the Glee Club’s 150th anniversary. Princeton’s oldest and largest student choir performed along with The King’s Singers, a world-renowned cappella ensemble that formerly counted Glee Club director Gabriel Crouch as a member. The concert was magnificent. (Lori and I recommend the delightful rendition of “I’m a Train,” which thoroughly captivated the six-year-old boy sitting in front of us — you can find versions by The King’s Singers on YouTube or Spotify.)

In late December, my wife, son, and I had courtside seats as our men’s basketball team claimed statewide bragging rights with a thrilling 83-82 victory over a highly regarded Rutgers team at the Prudential Center in Newark. It was one of the best college basketball games I have seen in a long time and, to top it off, Yankees great CC Sabathia took the seat next to me. (I invited him to Princeton, of course!)

I could add many other examples, but I hope these and the accompanying photos are enough to give you a sense of why I so enjoy being Princeton’s president. Perhaps they will also remind you of cherished experiences from your own time on campus. These moments may not often get covered by news media or hyped by influencers, but the ordinary joys of campus life are what make my job so energizing and what make Princeton “the best old place of all.”



A few ordinary moments of joy (clockwise from top): Sharing the warmth of move-in day, greeting students as an academic year begins, and welcoming alumni back to campus at Reunions. Photos by [Tori Repp/Fotobuddy](#) and [Sameer A. Khan/Fotobuddy](#)





# INBOX

YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE LATEST ISSUES

## HONORING GOHEEN AT SPIA

Last summer, presidents of 14 of the Princeton classes that were on campus during the presidency of Robert Goheen '40 \*48 wrote to the University proposing a recognition on campus commensurate with the impact of his legacy.



GOHEEN '40 \*48

He transformed Princeton into a coeducational university, vastly expanded its commitment to racial and ethnic diversity, created the first residential colleges, significantly increased federally sponsored research, installed a more participatory governance structure, and provided new homes for the School of Public and International Affairs, the School of Engineering and Applied Science, the Art Museum, music, architecture, math, the sciences, and other fields. He led the University through tumultuous times with probity, wisdom, open-mindedness, integrity, and courage.

After much discussion they concluded that in light of his instrumental role in strengthening the School of Public and International Affairs and creating an iconic home for it, his exemplary service as U.S. ambassador to India, and his post-presidential teaching in the school, an especially fitting and visible memorial would be to rename SPIA the Robert F. Goheen School of Public and International Affairs.

The University forwarded the proposal to the CPUC Committee on Naming, which is composed of faculty, students, staff, and alumni. The committee has a website where suggestions can be submitted ([namingcommittee.princeton.edu](http://namingcommittee.princeton.edu)). As former presidents of the Class of 1969, we hope alumni who share our high regard for President Goheen's legacy will contact the committee on their website and provide feedback in support of the proposal, as we have.

**CHRISTOPHER H. MILTON '69**  
*Wellesley Hills, Mass.*

**RICHARD C.J. KITTO '69**  
*Princeton, N.J.*

**J. WILLIAM CHARRIER '69**  
*West River, Md.*

*Editor's note: Additional signatures appear online at [bit.ly/goheen-spia](http://bit.ly/goheen-spia).*

## WEAPONS DIVESTMENT

I'm heartened that the student referendum calling for Pringo to divest its ownership in companies that manufacture weapons passed, winning 68% of the vote (On the Campus, January issue). The companies listed as targets, Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, RTX (formerly Raytheon), and General Dynamics, are all American companies, which is not surprising given that the U.S. accounts for 40% of the global weapons trade.

Yet Rabbi Gil Steinlauf '91 claims

that the referendum links Israel to the military-industrial complex, thus embedding "anti-Israelism firmly in a generally progressive sensibility and world-view." He is the one linking militarism to Israel, not the referendum and not "progressives." Does he really think that anyone who does not want to profit from war and its destruction is therefore anti-Israel? He may be correct that many people with a "progressive sensibility" oppose current Israeli government policy, but that is not the same thing as being anti-Israel. It seems

to me that Rabbi Steinlauf's analysis is clouded by his defensiveness about Israel.

**SUSAN SMITH BJERRE '74**  
*Carmel-by-the-Sea, Calif.*

## INDIVISIBLE GUIDE

The incendiary headline in the January Princetonians section referring to President Trump, "Indivisible Releases New Guide For Defending Democracy," should be in quotation marks. According to a majority of American voters, larger and more diverse than any in human history, and with growing international support, this position is ridiculous, even dangerous, let alone controversial. PAW should know better.

The diversity of Trump voters should be enough to end all ideological assumptions in the classroom, as more immigrant and first-generation Americans, Black people, Latinos, Native Americans, women, survivors of communism, and every other conceivable grouping were amply represented among them, in larger percentages than ever before. Truthfully, the continued myth of conservatives, unarmed, unorganized, many elderly and handicapped, fomenting insurrection, as more facts come to light, only makes the position this headline threatens even more laughable.

Conservative ideas help make people prosperous and free. That's the opinion of Trump voters, and it is worth study, not evisceration. Fear of such ideas is the real threat to democracy.

**DORINA AMENDOLA '02**  
*Waverly, Pa.*

Thanks for unabashedly covering this news of a Princetonian making such an effective contribution for the preservation of liberal democracy. Ezra Levin \*13 and Angel Padilla \*13 made a remarkable difference with their innovative and motivating Indivisible guide in 2017. It inspired me to join our local Indivisible group here in Colorado. And hundreds of thousands of defenders



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CLASS NOTES/MEMORIALS EDITOR

Nicholas DeVito

SENIOR WRITER

Mark F. Bernstein '83

WRITER/ASSISTANT EDITOR

Julie Bonette

ART DIRECTOR

Matt Cole

PUBLISHING DIRECTOR

Allison Sullivan

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

Grace Ni '23

REPORTING FELLOW

Hope Perry '24

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100 Overlook Center, Suite 300  
Princeton, NJ 08540  
alumrecs@princeton.edu, 609-258-3114

*Princeton Alumni Weekly* (I.S.S.N. 0149-9270) is an editorially independent, nonprofit magazine supported by Princeton University and paid advertising. Its purpose is to report with impartiality news of the alumni, the administration, the faculty, and the student body of Princeton University. The views expressed in the *Princeton Alumni Weekly* do not necessarily represent official positions of the University. The magazine is published monthly with a combined July/August issue.  
*Princeton Alumni Weekly*, 194 Nassau Street, Suite 38, Princeton, NJ 08542. Tel 609-258-4885; email paw@princeton.edu; website paw.princeton.edu.

Printed by Fry Communications Inc., Mechanicsburg, Pa. Annual subscription: \$30 (\$34 outside the U.S.), single issue: \$2. Copyright © 2025 the Trustees of Princeton University. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. Periodicals postage paid at Princeton, N.J., and at additional mailing offices.

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of democracy likewise joined Indivisible groups across the country. Princeton in the nation's service.

**BARRY PETERS '68**  
*Highlands Ranch, Colo.*

**PHOTOGRAPHY'S IMPACT**

I enjoyed reading Frankie Solinsky Duryea '26's article about photography classes in the January issue (Student Dispatch). However, saying that the classes offer a "welcome creative respite" does not do justice to their impact on some students. I took a photography class with Emmet Gowin in 1974, soon after he joined the Princeton faculty. It was the most engaging and inspiring class I took at Princeton, and it changed my life. Gowin had a warm and conversational teaching style, and his enthusiasm and even reverence for photography was contagious. I'm still infected, over 50 years later.

I majored in economics at Princeton, and after graduating, I worked in advertising, business, and eventually in academic teaching and research. Sadly, I had to put my photography on the back burner for most of this time in order to earn a living and raise a family. When I retired from college teaching a few years ago, I threw myself back into photography with a vengeance, and it felt as if I had never put my camera down. I'm currently pursuing a new career as a (newbie) fine art photographer, and I am more inspired today by Gowin's teaching and photographs than I have ever been before.

**ARTHUR STERNGOLD '74**  
*Muncy, Pa.*

**SERVICE VS. FINANCE**

President Christopher Eisgruber '83 should be commended for his noble words in "Something Transcendent" (President's Page, October issue). This was the president at his best. His excellent remarks, however, reveal a serious problem at our beloved university: People like him are delivering the right message, but when we see what our students do upon graduation, it's clear that the message is seldom getting through.

Something goes extremely wrong

between the day students first set foot on campus and graduation day. Too many of them stray far from the worthwhile outlook Eisgruber prescribes. Among every recent year's graduates, the second most popular next step is a career in finance, a field that has been doing truly virulent harm to society. For the Class of 2023, the percentage going into this career was approximately 25% of those employed at the time of the Princeton's Center for Career Development survey, but it's actually higher because many of those choosing graduate school move into this field after that. Obviously, admirable, valid messages like President Eisgruber's are not reaching them. Instead, they choose paths that are already creating unconscionable, growing levels of inequality and misery.

Evidently, too many of our graduates are choosing to work in the service of destroying the nation to enrich themselves, not "in the nation's service and the service of humanity." We need to figure out why their values decay so much between entry and graduation and prevent it.

We Princetonians are better than this. The nation and humanity need us to be.

**PETER J. GREENHILL '81**  
*Honolulu, Hawaii*

**BASKETBALL HISTORY**

Kudos to Tom Chestnut '70 for an insightful, heartfelt, and well-written piece ("Bill Bradley '65, Butch van Breda Kolff '45, and the Rise of Princeton Basketball," published online Dec. 19, 2024).

Van Breda Kolff was a players' coach who magnified our love of the game. Two-hour up-tempo practices, intense scrimmaging, and pauses to both instruct and criticize. Lots of tears when he left.

Butch encouraged physical play, hustling, rebounding, diving for loose balls. Bud Palmer, his teammate at Princeton and the Knicks who later became a smooth sports commentator, when asked what kind of player Butch was with the Knicks replied he would dive six rows into the seats to try to retrieve a ball going out.



Notice how thin the players were at the time. We had no strength coaches, but I thought it would be wise to add some muscle and eventually found my way to the weight room tucked away in a remote corner of Dillon. It was packed with grunting and unfriendly footballers who looked at me in disdain. It was my last trip to the venue.

**JEROME P. COLEMAN '70**  
*Rye, N.Y.*

### BASKETBALL CACOPHONY

The recent basketball game against Akron was thrilling, Princeton winning by a 3-pointer in the last two seconds. But the noise and the overall experience were terrible: 30 minutes of extremely loud hip-hop before the game, more loud “music” at halftime, and intrusive advertisements whenever the teams weren’t playing. It was like being in the shabbiest strip mall possible and unfit for America’s finest university. We’ll never go to Jadwin again.

**ANDREAS PRINDL '60**  
*Princeton, N.J.*

### YOUR PERSPECTIVE

Let us know what you think

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SAMEER A. KHAN '21 / FOTOBUDDY; COURTESY OF RYAN QUIGLEY '20



# ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

CONTENT AVAILABLE ONLY AT [PAW.PRINCETON.EDU](http://PAW.PRINCETON.EDU)



### SPORTS Curling for All

The Princeton Curling Club, founded in 2020 during the COVID pandemic, has become a mainstay on campus, winning two silver medals at the College Curling National Championships. It’s also the first college curling club to host a fully accessible bonspiel (tournament), with multiple wheelchair curlers.

### ALUMNI Football and Healing

**Ryan Quigley '20** was badly injured on New Year’s Day when a truck plowed



RYAN QUIGLEY '20 AND SAQUON BARKLEY

into a New Orleans crowd and killed 14 people — including his best friend, Tiger Bech '21. On Feb. 9, Quigley went back to the city where it happened to see the Super

Bowl with tickets gifted by the Eagles to him and Bech’s sister.

“[New Year’s] was going to be the first and last time I ever went to New Orleans,” Quigley told PAW. “But I didn’t want evil to win. I need to go back to change the end of the story.”



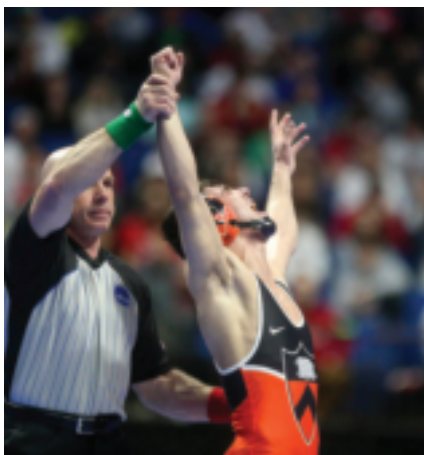
### MEMORIALS PAWCAST Victor Brombert

On the latest PAWcast remembering Princetonians who have died, Stony Brook University professor **Elyse Graham '07** discussed Victor Brombert, a beloved, longtime professor of comparative literature at Princeton.

Graham interviewed Brombert for a 2021 PAW feature and discussed his remarkable experiences during World War II and how much he loved teaching. “He was one of Princeton’s great teachers,” she said, “and he’ll be remembered for that.”

## GREATEST ATHLETES WHO DID WE MISS?

January's "Top Tigers" feature, listing the 25 greatest athletes in Princeton history, drew comments from a record number of readers online. Many suggested Tiger stars who were not selected by our panel. Read additional comments online at [bit.ly/25-greatest](http://bit.ly/25-greatest).



GLORY '23

I loved your piece on highlighting Princeton's 25 Greatest Athletes, but there was one athlete who was certainly overlooked in the process: Pat Glory '23 was the first Princeton Tiger to win an NCAA wrestling championship since 1951 and the program's second four-time All-American. He was a two-time Dan Hodge Trophy finalist, awarded to the country's top collegiate wrestler (at all weight classes).

In 2020, he led Princeton to its first Ivy League title since 1986 en route to being the Ivy League Wrestler of the Year. Internationally, in 2021 he represented the U.S. in the World Championships.

**CHRIS PEREZ '16**  
*Nashville, Tenn.*

I was disappointed by the list having so few Black athletes. Here are two notable omissions:

Armond Hill '85 co-captained Princeton men's basketball to the 1975 NIT title and was the 1975-76 Ivy League player of the year.

Craig Robinson '83 was two-time Ivy men's basketball player of the year. His 20 points and 16 boards powered

Princeton to an NCAA first-round win over Oklahoma State in 1983.

**NARAYANA KOCHERLAKOTA '83**  
*Pittsford, N.Y.*

Omitting Henry Bolger Milligan '81 from this list is a travesty. I can't imagine many of those recognized earned 10 varsity letters (four wrestling, three football, three baseball) during their four years at Princeton. He was awarded the Roper Trophy in 1981, along with multi-sport star Mark Lockenmeyer '81.

Henry just didn't participate in three sports, he excelled at all of them. As a defensive back in football, he tied the Princeton record for interceptions. In wrestling, he qualified for the NCAA Championships both his junior and senior years and achieved All-American status as a senior. He was also a standout third baseman and pitcher on the baseball team.

Post-graduation, Henry took up boxing and was National Amateur Heavyweight Champion in 1983. He very well could have won his own Olympic medal had he not had the misfortune of running into an up-and-coming powerhouse named Mike Tyson during the trials. Milligan is not one of Princeton's 25 greatest athletes, he's one of our top five!

**TOM MICHEL '81**  
*Deer Park, Ill.*



GOODFELLOW '76

Leaving Emily Goodfellow '76 off this list is a criminal oversight. Even Penn's newspaper recognized

her accomplishments, naming her Princeton's greatest athlete of all time.

**BILL ULLMAN '85**  
*Brooklyn, N.Y.*

I suppose I'm not the only alum to point out that a classmate should be on the list of Princeton's Greatest Athletes, but I doubt that any other alum will have a stronger argument than mine. Geoff Petrie '70 richly deserves to be on the list. He was the top star on superb basketball teams at Princeton, scoring more than 20 points per game in his junior and senior years. Portland selected him in the first round of the 1970 NBA draft. At the end of his initial season, he was named co-rookie of the year (with Dave Cowens of the Celtics), no mean achievement. The NBA has held a one-on-one tournament in just two seasons. Geoff was the winner in 1973. His NBA career was short, six years, due to injury, but he averaged more than 20 points per game and was chosen for two All-Star teams.

**JAMES W. ANDERSON '70**  
*Wilmette, Ill.*

I will second those who make arguments for Henry Milligan '81, Geoff Petrie '70, Craig Robinson '83, and Bob Tufts '77, and I also think that George Sella '50 and Andrei Iosivas '23 are worthy of the list.

That said, you really whiffed by not including Jen Babik '95, who helped lead the softball team to three Ivy titles and the Women's College World Series. She was a third-team All-American her senior year, a three-time first-team All-Ivy softball player, a varsity field hockey player, and a Rhodes scholar, too. Perhaps you were saving her for the list of top 25 Princeton unicorns?

**RICH GORELICK '82**  
*Yardley, Pa.*

While I don't disagree with any of the selections, one person who deserves consideration is Bill Bonthron '34. At a time when the 1,500-meter run was regarded as one of the premier track and field events, Bonthron held the world record for two years. In 1934, he received the Sullivan Award as the top amateur athlete in the U.S. Bonthron and





BONTHRON '34

Bill Bradley '65 are the only Princeton athletes to receive the award.

Buoyed by Bonthron's acclaim, Princeton hosted the inaugural invitational mile run at Palmer Stadium in 1934. Before a crowd of 18,000 people, Bonthron faced three famous rivals: Glenn Cunningham of Kansas, Gene Venzke of Penn, and Jack Lovelock of New Zealand. Bonthron broke the world record for the mile, but so did Lovelock, who won the race. The first Princeton Invitational was such a spectacular success, it became a staple of Reunions weekend, with 40,000 spectators attending the following year.

**DON PIERSON '64**  
*Weston, Mass.*

Fun list, both for reacquainting me with some of the greats and informing me of other Tigers whose achievements I just wasn't aware of.

It's nice to see other commentators mentioning Geoff Petrie '70 and Bill Bonthron '34. How about also Robert Garrett 1897, who bagged gold, silver, and bronze medals in track and field in the first two modern Olympics?

**GREG SCHWED '73**  
*New York, N.Y.*

As deserving as these choices are, any list of the top 25 Princeton athletes is

### THE READERS' TOP 10

More than 85 PAW readers used our interactive ranking tool online, producing this list of the University's top 10 greatest athletes (and ties).

1. **Bill Bradley '65**
2. **Hobey Baker 1914**
3. **Dick Kazmaier '52**
4. **Ashleigh Johnson '17**
5. **Patrick Glory '23**
6. **Caroline Lind '06**
- 7 (tie). **Carol Brown '75**
- 7 (tie). **Chris Young '02**
9. **Yasser El Halaby '06**
- 10 (tie). **Cathy Corcione '74**
- 10 (tie). **Sondre Guttormsen '23**

incomplete without Augie Wolf '83, who still holds the school record in the shot put and held the school discus record until 2022. An eight-time Heps champ, Augie dominated the Ivy League like no other thrower before or since, including winning the shot and discus outdoors in '81, '82, and '83. Augie was national champ, indoor and outdoor, in 1984 and went on to finish fourth at the 1984 Olympics.

**JAY DIAMOND '86**  
*New York, N.Y.*

Princeton football versus Rutgers, 1965: There was no need for Charlie Gogolak '66 to kick a sixth field goal late in the game, but Palmer Stadium was rumbling with the chant of "Go-Go-Gogolak," and the cheers were crushing when he was sent on to the field for that last score. I'd put Gogolak on your list just for that one unforgettable moment.

**BILL EARLE '69**  
*Baltimore, Md.*

How about John Van Ryn, Class of 1928? Before being inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1963, he won the intercollegiate doubles championship in 1927; won the Wimbledon doubles championship three times (1929-31); won the 1931 French Open doubles championship; won the U.S. National Championship in doubles two times; with his partner, Wilmer Allison, went 14-2 in Davis Cup

doubles (a record surpassed only by John McEnroe and Peter Fleming at 14-1!); and was also an accomplished singles player, advancing to the quarterfinals seven times in the majors.

"Johnny" was certainly the most accomplished Princeton tennis player — and deserves a place high on the list.

**DAN JAMIESON '74**  
*Princeton, N.J.*

I was delighted to see Jed Graef '64, Olympic and world record holder in the 200-meter backstroke, on the list. In his time, he was the best there was at his event.

I would also consider Ross Wales '69, who was unbeatable in his event and medaled in the 1968 Olympics in the 100-meter butterfly. It was also fun to watch him during swim meets sitting studiously on the bench with glasses on reading until it was time to take off his jacket and win his event, dry off, and pick up his book and resume where he had left off.

**HOWARD WAINER '68**  
*Pennington, N.J.*

What an amazing surprise to be on the PAW top 25 athlete list. Not so sure I will feature in the additional rankings! However, I did put a lot of time and effort into sport from age 12 to 35 without any sponsorship or sports scholarships. This included training twice a day during the first seven years of my professional career in asset management. I have recently taken up rowing again in the masters events with undiminished love for the sport.

**ANNE MARDEN '81**  
*Concord, Mass.*

While myriad debates rage — about inclusions, omissions, the notion of a university celebrating its athletes, and even the folly of eyeball-and-click-attracting rankings themselves — I hope we can all agree that the cover art for the issue is absolutely brilliant in both conception and execution. Three cheers for the creator, Sean Rubin '09!

**CHARLIE BELL '76**  
*Mattapoisett, Mass.*





# ON THE CAMPUS

NEWS, SPORTS, AND STUDENT LIFE





**TAKING ROOT**

*The new Frist Health Center incorporates elements of the natural world in its winter garden, situated near the building's entrance. See page 12.*



TORI REPP / FOTOBUDDY



**GLOBAL OUTLOOK**

*Dean Amaney Jamal, right, at a November 2023 discussion on Israel and Gaza, wants SPIA students to be well versed in international and domestic affairs.*

as a migration specialist at the Inter-American Development Bank.

Jamal told PAW that SPIA's academic focus is "a foundation" for practical training. "So the practical work can be more effective, efficient, and elicit the desired outcomes."

The rebrand also emphasizes the importance of the "international" part of SPIA. According to Jamal, SPIA has long had a reputation of being a school focused primarily on the United States.

"To have knowledge of the world is to have knowledge of the United States, and to have knowledge of the United States is to have knowledge of the world," Jamal said.

**SPIA has focused** in recent years on recruiting more international students, with that population making up 49% of admitted students in the master's of public policy (MPP) program between 2022 and 2024. MPP candidates are mid-career professionals who attend the school for one year, while the master's in public affairs (MPA) is a two-year program.

"I think ... even if you're working at the state and local level in the United States, there are global implications to whatever your portfolio might be," said assistant dean for global outreach Steven Petric \*17. "So the perspectives that people can offer from different countries, different contexts, different cities, different backgrounds, can actually enrich the training that we're providing at this school."

Alvarez Enriquez, an international alumnus from Mexico, said he believes international students enrich the experience of the school. "I think more international experience will complement and broaden the scope of the school," he said.

Katherine Phan \*23, who came to SPIA after spending time as an activist, told PAW that she finds SPIA's introduction and expansion of DEI requirements "borne from a legacy of student protest

**PUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

# SPIA's Strategic Outlook Focuses on Policymakers, International Views

BY HOPE PERRY '24

**P** RINCETON'S SCHOOL OF PUBLIC and International Affairs (SPIA) launched a new set of "strategic pillars" emphasizing its student and faculty diversity, alumni network, and real-world impact. SPIA surveyed more than 550 people inside the school and 265 alumni as part of the research process to come up with the new direction.

The pillars, launched in October, emphasize expanding internationalization and engaging policymakers. The plan underscores the importance of using SPIA's new center in Washington, D.C., as well as connections in New Jersey, to train students and bring student expertise to practitioners. The plan also places an emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), through programming, speaker events, and degree requirements.

But graduate alumni are split on whether these approaches are what the school needs.

Amaney Jamal was named dean of SPIA in June 2021, and her background in the politics department as an academic — rather than in SPIA as a practitioner — has been the basis of concern for some alumni.

John Yochelson \*67, who joined other graduate alumni from the late 1960s in voicing concerns to Jamal and President Christopher Eisgruber '83, including in a letter to PAW in December, said he thinks that today's school focuses too much on the academic aspects of policy rather than on the practical.

Recent alumni told PAW that they appreciated the practical training but wished that they had had more of it in specific areas.

"They are still lacking faculty that are experts and practitioners ... on issues. They could promote more workshops on what's going on to the south of the border," said Juan Pablo Alvarez Enriquez \*22, who now works



and activism,” extremely important. Following student activism in 2020, SPIA now requires all MPA students to complete a course in Race, Power, and Inequality.

“As the current U.S. administration actively dismantles critical DEI programs and initiatives to uphold its agenda of white, cisheteronormative, Western supremacy, there is no time more critical than now for the school to push its students to analyze their policymaking through the lens of international justice, critical race theory, and more,” she told PAW in an email. “To do any less would be to admit that the school’s vision ‘in the nation’s service’ is only to uphold the status quo.”

Another facet of those DEI initiatives is creating space for “open and constructive dialogue,” such as through the Dean’s Leadership Series, a program that has faced criticism.

Jamal argued that bringing in speakers — even provocative ones — is, in itself, part of the school’s training.

“Our students will find themselves in corridors, in meetings, in hallways where they’re going to have to process and deal with differing and opposing viewpoints, and sometimes ... unpopular viewpoints, or viewpoints that don’t normatively fit into what our students are comfortable with,” she said.

“But at the end of the day, our students are going to have to sometimes engage viewpoints that make them very uncomfortable, and so we want to equip our students with those tools to be able to have those conversations ... .”

Dave McNally ’68 said the school should “get back to its founding principles” of “bolstering the public services in this country.”

Recent alumni, however, said SPIA’s dedication to service is part of what drew them to the school in the first place. For Sean Massa \*24, the emphasis on public service made SPIA his top choice.

“It seems like that’s a core value that really runs through all aspects of the school, and it really shows,” he said, “just really dedicated people who want to give their lives to public service in different fields, in different ways.”

## STUDENT ARRESTS

# Protesters’ Trial Set for April

**T**HIRTEEN PRO-PALESTINIAN protesters are set to head to trial to face trespassing charges in municipal court on April 14, almost



RAO

exactly one year after occupying Clio Hall last spring.

The trial, which is expected to last three days, was scheduled at a virtual hearing on Jan. 14, after it became clear that the parties could not agree on a proposed plea deal. At the hearing, Aymen Aboushi, the defendants’ lawyer, said an agreement was reached with municipal prosecutor Christopher Koutsouris and Judge John McCarthy III ’69 on Dec. 6 at a private meeting: Charges would be dismissed against 12 individuals in exchange for community service, while the last defendant would be offered a conditional discharge with the option to go to trial.

That lone defendant wasn’t named, but later that day, graduate student Aditi Rao posted on X that she had received a call the day prior “saying that I either plead guilty to trespassing in a room I have all legal rights to be

in or 12 comrades face full trial with me ... but my friends and I believe in solidarity.”

Rao linked to a petition by Princeton Israeli Apartheid Divest that “demand[s] that Princeton drop the charges.” As of Feb. 6, it had 1,354 signatories. Aboushi said University counsel was on board with the resolution proposed on Dec. 6, but the University is not a party of the case.

Koutsouris said the state had not reversed course since the December meeting, and that he had been expecting a plea by one person, which didn’t happen. The prosecution wants the person who committed “the most egregious conduct” to take responsibility, Koutsouris said, but he could make a case against all the defendants.

Aboushi motioned to resolve 12 of the cases, and though McCarthy said he would take it under advisement, he inquired about potential trial dates directly afterward.

The trial is scheduled to take place in person at Princeton Municipal Court, though McCarthy said he would consider allowing two defendants who have moved out of state to appear virtually. **By J.B.**

## TECHNOLOGY

# Microsoft, CoreWeave Join Princeton-Based AI Hub

**T**ECH GIANT MICROSOFT and New Jersey-based cloud-computing company CoreWeave have signed on as founding partners in the NJ AI Hub, an artificial intelligence innovation center launched by Princeton University and the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) last year.

“By leveraging the strengths of the private sector, Princeton, and the state of New Jersey, our goal is to build a thriving regional AI economy that not only drives economic growth, but sets a new standard for research,



SMITH '81

development, and workforce development,” said Brad Smith ’81, vice chair and president of Microsoft, in a Jan. 31 announcement.

The four partners — Princeton, NJEDA, Microsoft, and CoreWeave — are expected to invest \$72 million in the NJ AI Hub, including up to \$25 million of state funds, according to the announcement. **By B.T.**



## FRIST HEALTH CENTER

# New Home of UHS Adds Space For Medical Care, Counseling

BY HOPE PERRY '24

**F**RIST HEALTH CENTER, the new home of University Health Services, opened in January following a seven-year design and construction process. Frist replaces the McCosh Health Center building originally constructed in 1925.

The project was funded in large part by a gift from Thomas Frist Jr., co-founder of HCA Healthcare, one of the nation's largest health-care providers, and his wife, Patricia Champion Frist. Thomas Frist is a brother of former Tennessee Sen. Bill Frist '74.

The new facility, just south of the McCosh site, is 44,000 square feet larger than the old building. The new space allotment includes 16 more rooms for Counseling and Psychological Services (CPS) for a total of 38, and nine more exam rooms than the previous facility for a total of 22.

"It's important to make sure that students have good experiences as well, and that they're feeling taken care of, just because of the special vulnerabilities that come with seeking out mental health care," John Kolligian, executive director

of UHS, told PAW. "Even though we believe both we at Princeton and at many other schools [are] making inroads in overcoming some of the stigma around mental health, it's still present."

The addition of these rooms, especially those for counseling, mean that students should be able to more easily make, receive, and attend appointments. One recommendation from the Undergraduate Student Government mental health report released in 2022 was that CPS hire more counselors from more diverse backgrounds.

In an email to PAW, University spokesperson Jennifer Morrill wrote that "[t]he campus plan update that President [Christopher Eisgruber '83] mentioned in his State of the University letter will help inform long-term plans for [the old McCosh Health Center]. In the interim, space there will be used for a range of short-term needs."

Janet Finnie '84, the director of UHS, gave PAW a tour of Frist. The new building emphasizes biophilic design, which integrates elements of the natural

world into the structure. One of the most stunning features of the new building is "the winter garden" — a glass room off the entrance atrium overlooking one of the outdoor gardens. The room is entirely filled with plants — on the floor and suspended from the ceiling.

The design process for the new building was "highly collaborative," Finnie said, and included UHS employees as well as architects and Princeton's Office of Design and Construction. "This process started years ago," Finnie said, adding that the team traveled to two health-care design conferences.

The building is also constructed on a mass timber frame, which is generally considered more sustainable than steel or concrete, according to the World Economic Forum.

Peter Macak, a senior maintenance technician at the University's carpentry shop, built tables for the staff lounge and bedside tables for rooms in the infirmary.

Rooms in the old infirmary used to be in the style of shared hospital rooms. Now, the infirmary has two distinct sections: one that is set up like an emergency room, with curtains between a row of exam chairs, and the other with hospital beds for overnight stays. The overnight rooms each house one patient and look like hotel rooms with hospital beds.

Throughout the building, rooms and furniture follow a distinct color scheme that includes ochre, green, blue, and purple — a design aesthetic that is meant to avoid being too "clinical and sterile," Finnie told PAW.

The building also houses two "guest suites" for parents or guardians who come to stay to be near a student who may be undergoing a more serious illness or procedure. The guests are permitted to stay free of charge in the hotel-style rooms.

The expanded floor plan also allows additional space for occupational health services.

"We tried to make it more welcoming," said Finnie. "So we wanted to really make it a pleasant space for students to come." ■





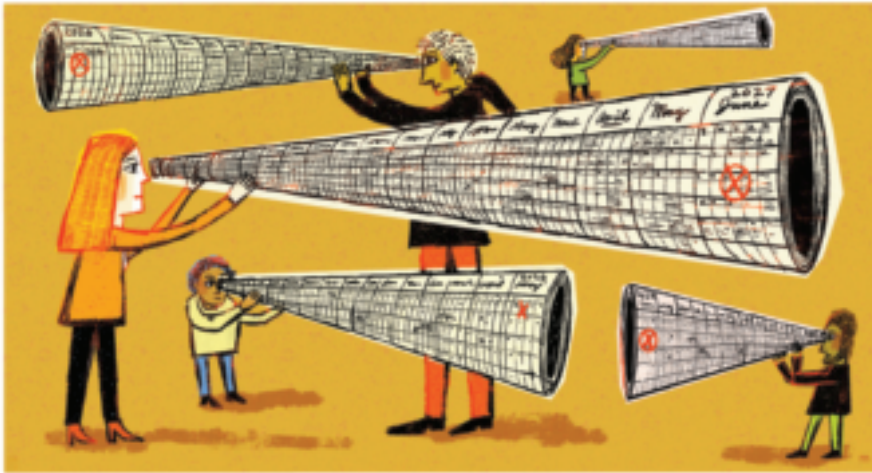
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## STUDENT DISPATCH

# Earlier Start Puts Pressure on Job-Hunting Undergrads

BY ANIKA ASTHANA '25



**D**ANIEL WANG '26 wanted to pursue a career in investment banking and private equity, so he started submitting applications in January. “I interviewed in February and March and signed an offer in late March,” he said.

It’s a path that may sound familiar to Princetonians who interviewed for jobs as seniors or internships as juniors. But Wang began his job search in January 2024, midway through his sophomore year, and signed on for an internship that begins in June 2025.

Recruiting timelines for professional service industries such as finance and consulting are taking place on an accelerated schedule. Anxiety about the job market, peer pressure, and the early timelines are causing Princeton students to begin the job hunt as early as their

sophomore fall — before most have even declared their majors.

“Finance, consulting, and big tech are industries that hire in a specific way, that have the resources to hire across the country, and we’re seeing these timelines move earlier and earlier,” said Kimberly Betz, the executive director of Princeton’s Center for Career Development.

Jay Kang '26 interviewed for jobs from sophomore spring through junior fall and signed an offer with Bain and Co. almost a year before his internship. “The first interview started in May, it went throughout the summer and ended in October, and it was brutal,” said Kang.

The early timelines place pressure on sophomores. Junior summer internships in these fields are the most direct line to employment after graduation, as many companies extend return offers for full-time employment.

This early pressure to shift into a career in professional services comes with an increased anxiety that Princeton students are pursuing these opportunities at the direct expense of career paths based “in the service of humanity.” This energy can be felt on campus: I was one of just two students to attend a Career Center event titled

“Finding Social Impact Internships & Jobs.” The Bridgewater Associates information sessions held the following month were standing room only.

While thinking about their careers, students might choose to go into consulting or finance for a myriad of reasons. They are often genuinely interested in the fields, and having highly educated, service-minded people in the highest echelons of business beats the alternative. Many students also confess to pursuing these opportunities to build credibility and become financially stable before switching to a career that aligns more closely with their interests.

“People are at a crossroads as a sophomore, and consulting is a very visible field,” said prospective SPIA major Sophia Zuo '27. “It’s very accessible, and it just seems like an alternative, stable, profitable option, which is why when students face uncertainty, they pivot to finance and consulting.”

Although the recruiting process for finance is early, preparation begins even earlier, as early as students’ freshman spring or sophomore fall. They begin attending information sessions, setting up networking calls, and preparing for interviews. “It’s a very visible process — you hear people in the dining hall saying, ‘I had 10 calls already, I called this Goldman guy.’ If you’re not in a finance club, there is not a lot of clarity about how to approach the process,” said Wang.

The Center for Career Development tracks the postgraduate employment destination of students. Over the past seven years, it has found that around one-third of surveyed students with jobs after graduation are working in finance or consulting. While students tend to jump around in their careers, the data emphasizes the popularity of these industries as a first step after Princeton.

Finance seems to be leading the early recruiting timelines — and the recruiting incentives. For example, Insight Partners, a venture capital firm that hires from Princeton, opened its recruiting for 2025-26 full-time investment analyst positions during the fall of 2023. Point72, a highly sought after hedge fund,



opened applications for its summer 2025 internship in February 2024. These firms can offer from \$120,000 to \$200,000 in total compensation for first-year analysts, with quantitative analysts making even more. Consulting salaries typically start in six figures as well.

The overwhelming presence that finance and consulting recruiting has on the Princeton campus often makes students who are pursuing other options second-guess their decisions. “I feel like I’ve always been very certain about my career, that I want to do astrophysics,” said Lillie Szemraj ’26. But in her sophomore year, she was feeling left out when students around her started preparing for technical and case interviews.

Students who are successful in their pursuit of internships and job offers in the professional services make critical career decisions before they have had a chance to really explore their interests. “I

think my main gripe about this is that it feels too early — to a point where you’re not allowed to recruit for other industries that you might be interested in and fully explore your opportunities,” said Wang. “It doesn’t give me as a college student the opportunity to explore other offers.”

The Career Center is accelerating its own visibility to match this hastening of deadlines. The center has started participating in FYRE, the First Year Residential Experience, and connecting with students in their freshman year. The center tries to impress upon students that careers are not linear and that students pursue a broad variety of opportunities after graduation. “By aggregate, there’s more students pursuing other pathways, but there’s no way to see it from a student perspective. From an advising perspective, it’s easier for us to see,” said Michael Caddell, the director of administration for the Center for Career Development.

“I don’t love those early recruiting timelines. I think it puts a lot of stress on the students. It limits their options and creates a false urgency on students,” said Betz. She wants to encourage students to really think about who they are and what they want to do — and recognize that recruiting in college is just the first step.

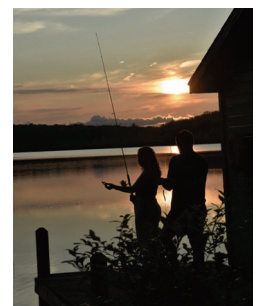
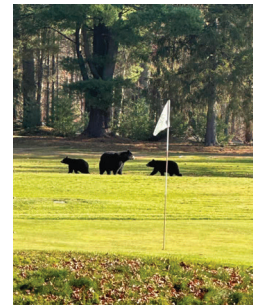
Students do not need to start interviewing and securing offers as sophomores to exit Princeton with good employment opportunities in most fields. If they miss the junior summer full-time recruiting opportunities for finance or consulting, they can still join these industries after graduation. However, their chances of breaking in may be slimmer, which might incentivize them to think about some of the less visible, arguably more interesting career paths.

“Career paths are so not linear,” Betz said she wants to remind students. “You will probably be doing different things when you’re 30 than when you’re 20.”



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JAN 6. CAPITOL RIOT

# Pardoned Larry Giberson '23 Blames Actions on 'Culture War'

**L**ARRY GIBERSON '23 has regrets about his participation in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol, but he told PAW he believes the pardon President Donald Trump extended to the rioters on his first day in office is “a signal of unity and a signal of forgiveness that doesn’t even necessarily apply to the individuals who receive it so much as it applies to the nation as a whole.”

Giberson was convicted of felony civil disorder and sentenced to two months in prison for his actions that day, which, according to a sentencing memorandum filed by the prosecution, included entering the Lower West Terrace Tunnel,

joining others in an attempt “to create a wall of stolen police shields against the line of police officers,” and coordinating “in pushing and pulling against the police.”

Giberson spent just over seven weeks at the Federal Correctional Institute in Danbury, Connecticut, and six months on home detention at his parents’ house in Manahawkin, New Jersey, last year. Though his sentence was already complete when he was pardoned, he said it should allow him to restore his firearms purchaser identification card and serve on juries, as well as make it easier to travel internationally.



More than 1,000 people pleaded guilty or were convicted of federal charges for their roles in the riot as of August, according to the Department of Justice.

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Giberson attributes his actions on Jan. 6 in part to “the culture war [that] really flared up” in 2020 when there was “butting heads between both sides.” While admitting that he’s “no innocent,” Giberson also said that “when you’re in a crowd of people where there’s a lot of emotion and turmoil and anger roiling about, that can be a dangerous place to be. And that can be a dangerous way to get sucked up in a crowd and do things that you later regret.”

Since his ankle monitor was removed in November, Giberson has traveled around the U.S. He said he planned to visit South Korea and Japan in February and March. He isn’t sure what he’ll do after that, but Giberson does know what it *won’t* involve: “Dealing with the legal system as firsthand as you can get, it really gave a sour taste in my mouth for the practice of law. ... So, I probably saved myself a lot of money on law school.” **By J.B.**

## IN MEMORIAM

**Paul Benacerraf '52 \*60**, who taught at the University for more than four decades and wrote influential works on the philosophy of mathematics and logic, died Jan. 13 at age 94. His intellectual life at Princeton began with his arrival as an undergraduate in 1948



and continued beyond his retirement in 2007. Benacerraf chaired the philosophy department twice, for a total of 16 years, and served as provost for three years at the beginning of Harold Shapiro \*64's presidency. A biography published by the Office of the Dean of the Faculty in 2007 described Benacerraf as “the departmental sage, the philosopher’s philosopher.”

**Anson G. Rabinbach**, a professor of 20th-century European history, died Feb. 2 at age 79. For nearly half of his time at Princeton, Rabinbach directed the Program in European Cultural Studies. His course list included intellectual history, conceptual history, and the



history of European fascism. He wrote or edited books about Nazi Germany and its aftermath; social democracy and Marxism in Austria; and ideas in labor and industrialization that crossed national boundaries. Rabinbach transferred to emeritus status in 2019 after 23 years on the faculty. **P**



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MARC-ANTHONY MCGOWAN '28

## WRESTLING

# New Path to Nationals

## Tigers to host inaugural Ivy League Tournament

BY BRETT TOMLINSON

**T**HE IVY LEAGUE WRESTLING season has historically been an intense round-robin that spans about a month, from late January to late February. Beginning this year, the six Ivy teams will meet again in March for a one-day, high-stakes tournament as the league's top wrestlers vie for automatic bids to the NCAA Championships.

"There's a little bit more pride that goes into it when it comes to competing against other Ivy League teams," said Ty Whalen '27, a Princeton co-captain. "In the dual meet setting, it's already very competitive. But to have all six teams in one room, I think that will definitely be fun."

Princeton will host the inaugural Ivy League Tournament at Jadwin Gym on March 9 with a Tigers lineup that includes Luke Stout '25 (197 pounds), a three-time NCAA qualifier; Whalen (149 pounds), who returned from injury in January and won seven of his next eight matches; and newcomer Marc-Anthony McGowan '28 (125 pounds), who posted a 13-2 record through early February.

Launching the tournament meant

leaving the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association (EIWA), Princeton's home conference for more than a century, and head coach Joe Dubuque said the decision was not made lightly. Stats from recent years showed that Ivy wrestlers were responsible for nearly half of the NCAA automatic bids allocated to the EIWA Tournament, despite making up just over one third of the 17-team field. If that trend continues, the Ivy League Tournament could average more than two bids per weight class. (Allocations are announced by the NCAA in late February, after this issue went to press.)

"From a data standpoint ... this looks to

**"From a holistic standpoint, this is going to catapult Ivy League wrestling into one of the better conferences [in the country]."**

— JOE DUBUQUE  
Wrestling head coach

be better for not only Princeton wrestling but for the Ivy League," Dubuque said. "I think as a whole, Ivy League wrestling is getting better and better every year. ... From a holistic standpoint, this is going to catapult Ivy League wrestling into one of the better conferences [in the country]."

Clay McEldowney '69, a wrestling alumnus and devout supporter of the program, agrees that the Ivy League "is much stronger in wrestling than it's ever been — the quality of the competition, the preparation of the athletes." But he questions whether breaking away from the EIWA was the right move.

The two-day EIWA Tournament has been a huge draw for wrestling fans and an electric atmosphere for the athletes, McEldowney said. He wonders if the Ivy Tournament can consistently provide the same kind of experience — and, if it doesn't, whether that would have a negative long-term effect on things like recruiting and the number of NCAA qualifiers.

"Anecdotally, most alumni are not in favor," said McEldowney, who still plans to be at Jadwin in March, decked out in orange and black.

Dubuque understands those concerns and has been working with Princeton's events team to make the tournament a showcase of the sport that draws a healthy crowd to Jadwin. He's reached out to alumni, students, and the region's youth and high school wrestling communities. (New Jersey's high school state championships wrap up the day before the Ivy meet.)

"The way we put this tournament together, the way we run it, the way we promote it is very, very important for the future of Ivy League wrestling," Dubuque said.

A strong Ivy season by the Tigers could help build momentum. Princeton dominated its first three Ivy dual meets, defeating Columbia, Brown, and Harvard, and as of early February, five Tigers held spots in InterMat's national rankings. The program has averaged five NCAA qualifiers per year in its last nine seasons, including 2020, when the meet was canceled due to COVID. ■

'74

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Andy Cowherd '74

Photo: Steven Freeman

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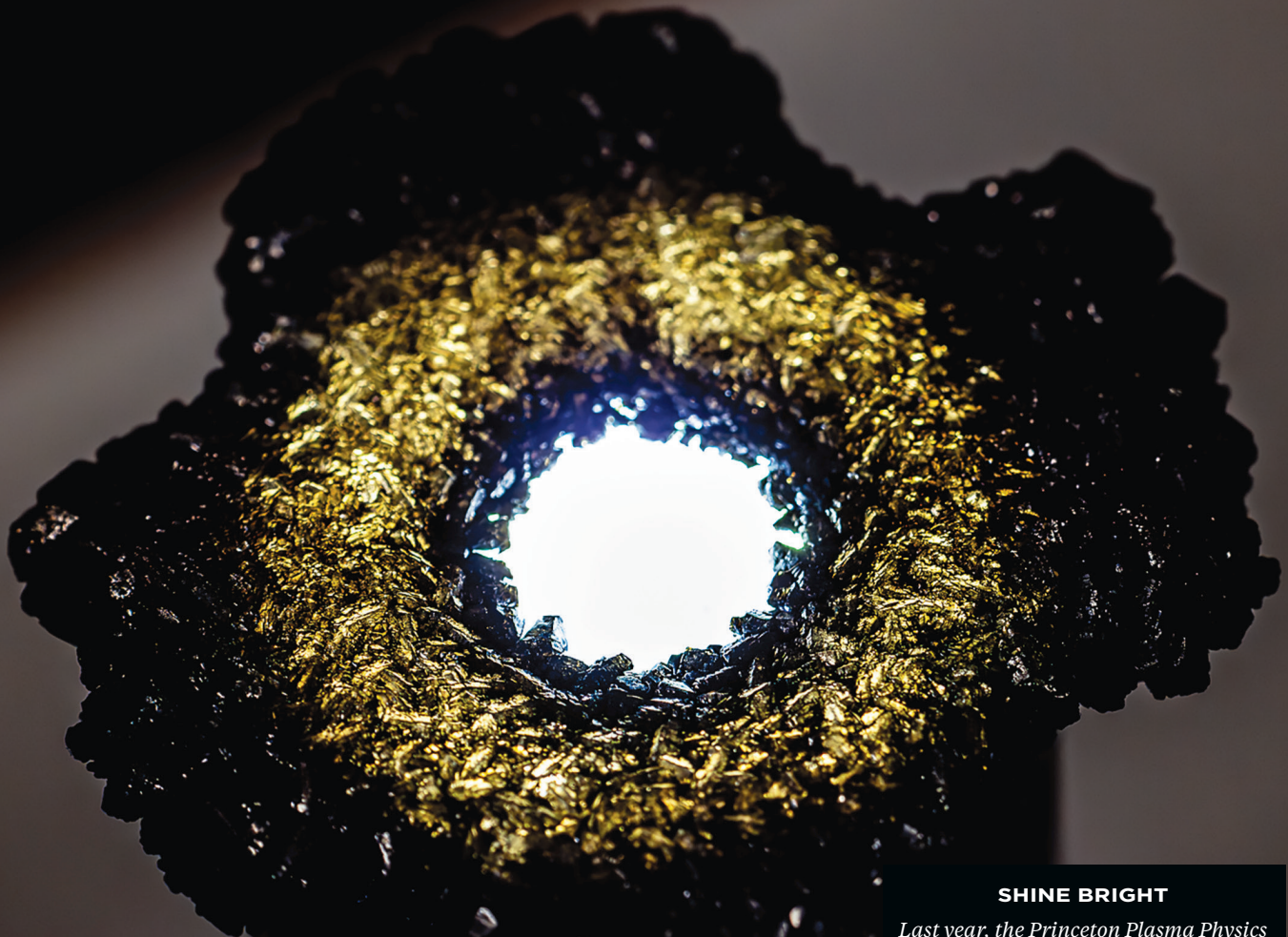






# RESEARCH

ADVANCING THE FRONTIERS OF KNOWLEDGE



## SHINE BRIGHT

*Last year, the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory opened the Quantum Diamond Lab to study and develop lab-grown diamonds for quantum information science applications. In December, PPPL was awarded two Microelectronics Science Research Center projects and will use one to research the extreme properties of diamond material to understand how it can be used to make sensors and electronics that can handle harsh environments. Alastair Stacey, head of PPPL's quantum materials and devices, will lead the project. Pictured here is a lab-grown diamond.*



## HISTORY

# PAW Goes to the Movies

Professor Sean Wilentz explains *A Complete Unknown*

BY MARK F. BERNSTEIN '83

**B**OB DYLAN ONLY PLAYED three songs backed by electric instruments at the 1965 Newport Folk Festival, but that set has been called a transformative moment in modern music, dissected in books, articles, and seemingly endless debate. Now it is the subject of a feature film, *A Complete Unknown*, starring Timothée Chalamet as the young Dylan, Edward Norton as his mentor, Pete Seeger, and Monica Barbaro as folk singer Joan Baez. The film received eight Oscar nominations, including Best Picture, Best Actor, and Best Supporting Actor and Actress.

Who better to review *A Complete Unknown* for the latest installment of PAW Goes to the Movies than Sean Wilentz, the George Henry Davis 1886 Professor of American History? Bob Dylan has earned 38 Grammy nominations during his long career (not to mention the 2016 Nobel Prize in literature). Wilentz has two Grammy nominations, receiving the first in 2005

for his liner notes on a recording of Dylan's 1964 concert at Philharmonic Hall. In addition to numerous works on American political history, he is also the author of the 2010 book *Bob Dylan in America* and is currently working on another project about Dylan's early career, which will be released later this year.

Ties to Dylan are also somewhat personal for Wilentz. He attended that 1964 Philharmonic Hall concert as a teenager, and his family owned a Greenwich Village bookshop that was frequented by Dylan and other folk musicians. Wilentz has written that Dylan first met poet Allen Ginsberg in his uncle's apartment above the bookstore in 1963.

Wilentz recently went to see the film with PAW senior writer Mark F. Bernstein '83, and the two discussed it afterward.

### What did the filmmakers get right?

The spirit. The scenes I liked best were

### SAY CHEESE

*Professor Sean Wilentz, left, and PAW's Mark F. Bernstein '83 pose for a quick picture at the Princeton Garden Theatre before watching A Complete Unknown.*

almost parables of the story of Dylan's development and how he fit in the Greenwich Village scene. There's a scene toward the middle of the movie when Bob Neuwirth, an artist and folk singer who's going to become a sidekick of Dylan, shows up, and from that moment on, when Dylan first starts playing the electric stuff, I was smiling, and my feet were tapping.

### How accurate was it?

The facts are all true, the songs are all true. But none of it happened the way that the film depicts it. Dylan didn't come to Greenwich Village in 1961 with "Girl from the North Country" ready to go. It's not a criticism, but one of the things the film couldn't capture was his development from the time he arrived in New York to, say, 1963 or so. He wasn't that great when he arrived. He was OK, but he learned a lot. It was that learning process that's missing.

### Did they make any other big mistakes?

I think both the writers and Chalamet portrayed Dylan from the get-go as a somber genius. That wasn't Bob Dylan at all. Dylan, when he hit the Village, was jittery. His foot would be jiggling all the time. He had this intense energy, and that doesn't come across. And he was also very funny, very witty. He still is.

The biggest mistake, for me, was the way they depicted Suze Rotolo, Dylan's first girlfriend in New York, although the character, played by Elle Fanning, is called Sylvia in the movie. I knew Suze, and she was nothing like the Sylvia character. The filmmakers made Sylvia out to be a kind of a dilettante, but Suze was a serious artist, and she introduced Dylan to a great deal about poetry and painting, as well as politics.



**Dylan's electric set at Newport has been very controversial, but what was its real significance?**

I think it was an extension of what he was doing musically, rather than a break with it. The movie, as well as Elijah Wald's 2015 book on which it is based (*Dylan Goes Electric!: Newport, Seeger, Dylan and the Night That Split the Sixties*), sets up a kind of uneasy connection between Dylan and Pete Seeger, who was one of the leaders of the folk revival. Seeger is a left-wing political and musical purist, and Dylan wants nothing to do with that. But Dylan was part of the folk revival, and he was moved by the early Civil Rights Movement. He wrote those early songs, like "Blowin' in the Wind" and "The Times They Are A-Changin'," absolutely sincerely. But then the whole form became confining.

The very first song he sang at Newport was "Maggie's Farm." That is based on an old song called "Down on Penny's Farm," done by the Bentley Boys in the 1920s. And Dylan had already turned it into another song called "Hard Times in New York." And then he transformed it again into "Maggie's Farm," except this time with Mike Bloomfield, a great blues player, on guitar. One of the things Dylan does so beautifully is to take a tradition, reinvent it, and take it somewhere else.

I liked the invented last scene, where Dylan goes out to see Woody Guthrie in a hospital in New Jersey. Earlier in the movie, Guthrie had given Dylan his harmonica and Dylan decides to keep it. And as the credits roll, we see him riding off on his motorcycle. That scene is significant not only in what it says about Guthrie as Dylan's mentor, but also



**FOREVER YOUNG**

*A series of scenes from A Complete Unknown: Top, Pete Seeger, played by Edward Norton, and Bob Dylan, played by Timothée Chalamet. Middle, Dylan walking with his first girlfriend in New York, played by Elle Fanning. Bottom, Dylan playing his electric set at Newport.*

because it says that Dylan is not going to renounce what he had done as a folk musician, even though he was moving on artistically. That's the difference between

an ideologue and an artist. Ideologues renounce things. Artists absorb things and use everything at their disposal to create.

**Seeger and the other older white folk singers come across as stodgy reactionaries. Is that fair?**

Someone asked me recently, why did people get upset about Dylan playing electric music when Johnny Cash and Muddy Waters were already playing electric? That's because there was this compartmentalization. If you were some white Southerner, you could go ahead and play electrified country music. If you were a Black man from Mississippi who had gone to Chicago, sure. But if you're the embodiment of a movement that cherished its purity, its authenticity, and its connection to the "folk" — aka proletariat — you couldn't. So, there was this compartmentalization that I think was subtly hierarchical. Even though Seeger and the other folkies were great fighters for civil rights, and championed Black artists, a certain patronizing view of other musicians and other traditions crept in. Dylan's genius was that he blew all that apart.

**What is Dylan's influence on American music?**

He put intelligent poetry into pop music. There were forms of poetry before him; I mean, Cole Porter had more than a touch of a poet. I'm not putting those people down. But Dylan introduced modernist poetry and other lyrical forms, including traditional folk balladry, that were practically unheard of in popular music before him. He knows every inch of American music and has managed to take it into places it had never been before. ■

*Interview conducted and condensed by M.F.B.*

BEHIND THE RESEARCH: GARRY SPARKS

# Changing the Way We Think About Religion in the Americas

BY MICHAEL BLANDING



**W**E TYPICALLY PICTURE THE SPANISH INVASION OF LATIN AMERICA as one of *conquistadors* forcing their rule and religion upon Indigenous populations. The moments of first contact in the 1500s, however, were much messier and more interesting, according to religion professor Garry Sparks. Christian missionaries sometimes collaborated alongside Maya elites to translate and interpret religious ideas in a way that has left an indelible impression on Mesoamerican culture.

“We have this remarkable paper trail of documents in Native languages of the time,” says Sparks, who draws upon Princeton’s collection of some 300 such manuscripts — one of the largest collections in the world.

Sparks first became interested in Central American culture while volunteering with the influx of refugees from El Salvador and Guatemala when he was a student in Texas in the late 1980s and early 1990s, later spending three years among the Highland Maya in Guatemala. Since earning a doctorate at the University of Chicago, he has dedicated his research to exploring these connections, including co-teaching a two-week summer workshop to bring international, scholars together. “There is a profound ignorance and misunderstanding of Latin American religion today,” he says. “My hope is to get back to cycles of respect, mutuality, solidarity, and constructive engagement.”

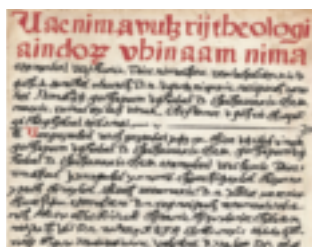
## Quick Facts

**TITLE**  
Associate Professor of Religion

**TIME AT PRINCETON**  
1 year

**RECENT CLASS**  
*Special Topics in the Study of Religion: Inventing “Indians” and “Religion”*

## SPARKS’ RESEARCH A SAMPLING



### A UNIQUE COLLABORATIVE THEOLOGY

Much of Sparks’ research focuses on a tome called *Theologia Indorum* (“Theology for/of the Indians”), a remarkable text written in multiple Mayan languages by a Spanish Dominican priest in the 1550s. And Princeton’s Special Collections hold nine of the 20 known versions. Sparks has worked to reconstruct and translate the 800-page text — one of the longest written documents in any Native American language.

The work draws from Maya myths and cosmology in translating Christian concepts, for example, presenting God as both “mother and father” — an idea more in line with 20th-century feminist theology. “It shows an amazing amount of chutzpah, as well as optimism in the intellect of the Indigenous audience,” Sparks says.



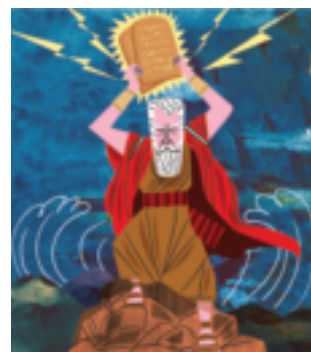
### ANCIENT SONGBOOK

Another manuscript at the Library of Congress offers a fascinating mystery — lyrics to some 50 Christian songs

written also in the 1550s in K’iche’, one of the languages of the *Theologia Indorum*. Legend has it that the Spanish military gave Dominican priests five years to peacefully persuade the Maya, and the missionaries entered singing. “Whether or not that’s true, these seem to be among the first original pieces of Christian music composed in the Americas,” says Sparks, who is working on a translation with another scholar. He believes they may be connected to another manuscript at Princeton with musical notation for Gregorian chants, which could provide melodies to the lyrics in songs that were reportedly still in use by Maya into the 1860s.

### RELIGION ON-SCREEN

Along with his work on Native religions, Sparks also teaches a popular course on religion and film, exploring classic and modern movies that depict various aspects of religion, such as *The Ten*



*Commandments* and *The Last Temptation of Christ*, as well as decoding religious archetypes in ostensibly secular movies, including *Star Wars*, *The Silence of the Lambs*, and *The Big Lebowski*. “They are all films that are notable in the history of film — for good or for ill, they were thrown into the pond of cinematic history and cause huge ripple effects,” Sparks says. “And they are all doing something with religion that may not be as obvious as they appear — sometimes even to the film producers themselves.” **P**

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



# VENTURE FORWARD



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



# A NEW

# TO SEE





# WAY

Ryan Corcoran '99 is among those leading advances in early cancer detection using a blood test called liquid biopsy

BY SUSAN RESLEWIC KEATLEY '99

PHOTOGRAPH BY JACKIE RICCIARDI

# CANCER

In March 2018, Susan Schaefer '01 was nursing her 8-month-old son, Finn, and noticed something odd about one of his eyes. “One side was red, like asymmetric pink eye,” she says. Schaefer took Finn to the pediatrician and then an ophthalmologist, where an ultrasound revealed a large mass in his eye.

They were then directed to the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City for more testing. It turned out that Finn had an extremely rare and malignant cancer — uveal melanoma. “The oncologist said he had never seen anything like this in a child so young,” Schaefer says. Weeks later, that oncologist removed Finn’s eye. Schaefer and her husband hoped they were in the clear but had to take their toddler in for a visual exam every six months. “Even though his eye which contained the tumor had been removed, we didn’t know if any cancerous cells could be lurking in the eye socket,” she says.

However, on a visit in May 2021, Schaefer was offered an alternative to the exam. “The doctor told me there was another test that could tell if the cancer returned by looking for tumor DNA in his blood.” When the test came back negative, “it allowed me to let go of a lot of stress and worry in a way I wasn’t able to after the visual exams,” Schaefer says.

The blood test used on Schaefer’s son is known as a liquid biopsy, a relatively new approach that has seen rapid advances and adoption in cancer medicine over the past decade.

Scientists have long known that DNA fragments float freely in the blood, mainly from dying cells at the end of a normal cell cycle. In tumors, the cell cycle is on fast forward, with tumor cells proliferating and dying at dizzying rates, often resulting in detectable cell-free DNA from the tumor in the blood of cancer patients. About 10 years ago, when DNA sequencing became more sensitive and affordable, oncologists began to see liquid biopsy as an alternative to a standard biopsy: It promised a less invasive procedure to get data that could guide cancer treatment in real time. Then, in 2015, a landmark study showed that the suspicious DNA patterns in several pregnant women undergoing prenatal testing, via bloodwork, were due to cancer. The idea that perhaps one could screen for cancer, before symptoms and with a blood test, took hold.

In a 2018 article in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, Dr. Ryan Corcoran '99 called an early cancer detection blood test the “holy grail.” While routine screening is available for a handful of cancers (breast, colon, lung, prostate, and cervical), 600,000 people die from cancer every year in the United States, and 80% of those deaths occur due to cancers with no screening tests. Now, the first tumor DNA blood test, GRAIL’s Galleri test, with the potential to detect a variety of cancers before patients have symptoms, could receive FDA approval in early 2026.

“It is remarkable how much progress the field has made over the past few years toward blood-based early detection of cancer, and this could lead to a profound reduction in cancer

mortality,” says Corcoran, an oncologist and researcher at Massachusetts General Hospital and an associate professor of medicine at Harvard.

PAW spoke with Corcoran and several other Princetonians who are using liquid biopsy about how it is changing cancer detection and care, and what the future looks like for this groundbreaking technology.

**A**FTER A STINT INTERNING FOR MERCK IN 1994, set up by a connection through his grandmother, who was somewhat of a local celebrity as the owner and hostess of the Lido Diner on Route 22 in Springfield, New Jersey, Corcoran majored in molecular biology at Princeton and went on to get his M.D.-Ph.D. at Stanford in 2006. “I loved medicine *and* research, and wanted to live on the edge between them,” says Corcoran.

Corcoran joined the faculty at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard in 2012. In 2014, fueled by a curiosity about how cancers resist treatment, his lab was one of the first to explore the potential of liquid biopsy. “Often, the physical tumor biopsies didn’t work,” he says. Because a tumor’s genetic variations can be so heterogeneous throughout the tumor, a physical biopsy on one part of the tumor can often miss the big picture. “With a standard biopsy,” he says, “it was like if Darwin had gone to the Galapagos and looked at the variation in finches on one island. A liquid biopsy lets us see all of the islands,” and theoretically, all of the DNA variation present in the tumor.

In addition, because tumors can be remarkably diverse in their genetic makeup, certain variants within the tumor lie in wait. Throughout a course of standard cancer treatment — chemotherapy and radiation, for example — the cells that are resistant to treatment can proliferate and eventually dominate, letting the cancer persist. “Unfortunately, every cancer becomes resistant,” Corcoran says.

Corcoran’s group at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard used liquid biopsy on gastrointestinal cancer patients to see how their tumors were becoming resistant during treatment. The first few patients were part of a clinical trial for a new drug; Corcoran’s group kept seeing DNA mutations arising in the exact gene the drug was designed to target. More and more patients showed mutations in this gene as they became resistant to treatment. “We were able to see exactly what was driving two-thirds of the resistance to this drug,” Corcoran says.

The work helped accelerate the development of new drugs that could tackle the resistance, in collaboration with several





drug companies. “In some cases, we were able to make very precise, even predictive treatment decisions, matching patients to therapies that could potentially overcome treatment resistance” based on the specific DNA mutations detected, Corcoran says.

At the Inova Schar Cancer Institute in Fairfax, Virginia, medical oncologist Dr. Lauren Mauro ’02 learned of liquid biopsy several years ago, but, she says, “We started using it in breast cancer routinely in the last few years when it became more clinically available and accepted as an accurate way to check for mutations that we could target with our newer drug therapies.” She says liquid biopsy is also useful in situations where a tissue biopsy poses a risk to the patient. In the past, a needle biopsy was needed to investigate a tumor in places like the lungs, liver, or bones. “But,” Mauro says, “this is an invasive procedure requiring anesthesia, holding of blood thinners, a ride home from the hospital, and time off of work. It also carries a small risk of infection, bleeding, and pain.” In many cases a liquid biopsy can be done instead. “A simple blood draw is by far easier, quicker, and safer for the patient. This has been a game changer for us,” she adds.

In her lab at the Yale School of Medicine, oncologist and researcher Dr. Anne Chiang ’87 uses liquid biopsy routinely in lung cancer patients at diagnosis. She says that while tissue

#### SAFE AT HOME

*Susan Schaefer ’01 has found relief now that her son Finn can be checked for a return of his cancer using a liquid biopsy blood test.*

biopsies remain the gold standard, they take time, and “I do the blood test at the same time as the tissue biopsy, because I can see the mutations in the tumor faster, and sometimes because we find out we didn’t get enough cells in the tissue biopsy.” This

way, the time to treatment is quicker and the liquid biopsy can guide treatment and validate the results of the tissue biopsy. Chiang continues to use liquid biopsy throughout treatment. “Even if a patient is doing really well on a treatment targeted against one mutation, they often develop resistance. So, we always do a liquid biopsy at that time if it looks like the treatment isn’t working.”

**Y**ET, AS MANY PATIENTS, FAMILIES, AND THEIR medical teams know all too well, even when cancer appears beaten, it can return. In lung cancer patients, ongoing trials are exploring how to use liquid biopsy to determine if a patient is really in remission or if cancer cells are again proliferating, says Chiang. A liquid biopsy may be able to detect such “residual disease” — microscopic cancer — before a tumor shows up on an image. “By the time you see a tumor on a CT scan, it’s about one centimeter in diameter, which is about a billion cells,” says Corcoran. “At that point, the odds of one or more cancer cells being resistant to whatever

therapies we have to offer is high. You really need to intervene when there are fewer cancer cells present, before you see the tumor on a scan.”

In 2020, in collaboration with a group at Memorial Sloan Kettering, Corcoran’s group launched the first clinical trial in the U.S. — the ACT3 trial, funded by Stand Up to Cancer — to adapt postsurgical therapy based on the detection of residual disease in colon cancer patients.

After medical school, Dr. Chloe Atreya ’98 chose UCSF for her oncology fellowship so she could work in the lab of her Princeton senior thesis adviser, Kevan Shokat. She is now a gastrointestinal oncologist at the UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center. She says that in her practice, liquid biopsy has changed how she thinks about colon cancer stages and treatment. For example, Stage 2 colon cancer traditionally has been defined by a tumor that has not yet spread to the lymph nodes and typically is cured by surgery. However, if the tumor has certain high-risk features, doctors may recommend chemotherapy after surgery.

This thinking changed in 2019 when a clinical trial in Australia showed that if, after surgery, the liquid biopsy came back positive, there was nearly a 100% chance of cancer recurrence, even in cases where the tumor lacked those high-risk features. “I now routinely use liquid biopsy with my patients who have Stage 2 colon cancer,” Atreya says.

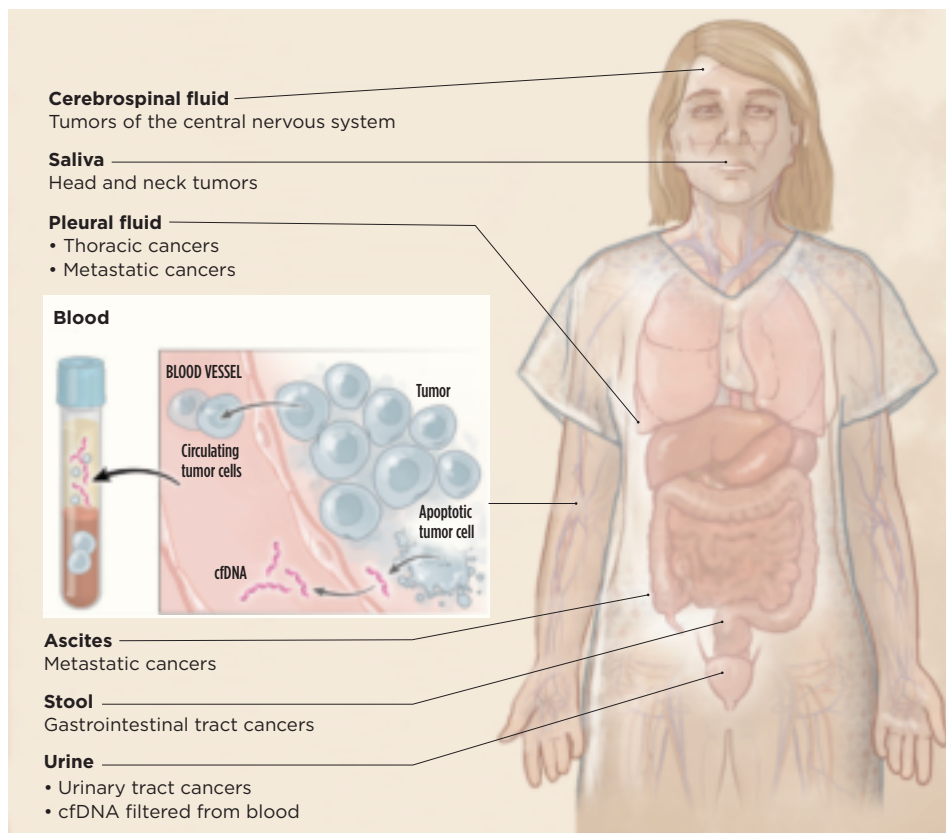
“It used to be that we chose the cancer regimen based on the tumor location,” says Dr. David Henry ’70, “but the staging in colon cancer is imperfect. With liquid biopsy, we now know there might be Stage 2 patients who need chemotherapy and Stage 3 patients who don’t. Liquid biopsy is redefining what the stages mean in colon cancer.”

An oncologist since 1981 and now practicing at Pennsylvania Hospital in hematology and oncology, Henry says he remembers when cancer treatment was one size fits all, and then in the early 2000s, it changed with the ability to see genetic markers of tumors. “It’s an amazing time,” he says.

Dr. Julia Beaver ’01 says that better detection of residual disease has great public health implications. “Right now, only

## Liquid Biopsy Explained

*In 2018, Dr. Ryan Corcoran ’99 wrote an article in The New England Journal of Medicine outlining liquid biopsy as an emerging tool in early cancer detection. In most cases, blood (inset graphic) is drawn and checked for cancer DNA. Several other bodily fluids can also be used in liquid biopsy to check for specific cancers, including:*



certain patients may benefit from additional treatment — for example, chemo or radiation — after surgery [to remove a tumor]. More patients than necessary often receive additional treatment to account for the chance the cancer could come back,” says Beaver, who briefly played professional squash after graduating from Princeton before training to become an oncologist. She then moved to the FDA in the oncology division, most recently as chief of medical oncology at the Oncology Center of Excellence, until her current role as senior vice president of clinical development at Treeline Biosciences. “Right now, there are multiple ongoing trials testing whether tumor DNA can be used to select patients with remaining residual disease after surgery and if they would benefit from additional treatment,” she says.

Last April, an FDA advisory committee voted unanimously to allow residual disease to be used as an endpoint in drug trials for multiple myeloma. Such a move may expedite drug development for patients with multiple myeloma and can be used as a framework to explore the utility of residual disease in other cancer subtypes, says Beaver.



**S**O, WHAT ABOUT THE HOLY GRAIL: a blood test to tell if a person has cancer before they have any symptoms? Such tests are already available for specific cancers. Last July, a blood test for colon cancer, Guardant's Shield test, was approved, and more recently, the FDA approved an updated form of Cologuard, which looks for DNA signatures of colon cancer in a person's stool. While a colonoscopy remains the recommendation for colon cancer screening, only about half of the population avails itself of the test, according to studies.

"If you could reach 90% to 95% compliance with a blood test," says Corcoran, "then you could potentially catch more. You can tolerate a higher false positive rate if, after a positive result, the next step is a colonoscopy."

Graham Read '15 is working on developing a new liquid biopsy for prostate cancer, based on RNA, in his position as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Illinois Cancer Center.

For decades, prostate cancer has been diagnosed through a different kind of liquid biopsy, one that looks for the protein prostate specific antigen (PSA) in the blood, a test that has been riddled with false positives, since a benign prostate can also pump out lots of PSA. Another problem with prostate cancer diagnosis is distinguishing the more

aggressive kinds from the slow-growing ones that might not cause harm for decades. "If we can't tell the difference between a more aggressive or less harmful cancer," Read says, "then the idea is, you treat as if it's the worst-case scenario. But that results in a lot of people with less aggressive tumors getting aggressive treatment."

Read is trying to identify RNA signatures of the more aggressive cancer. He is looking at very small RNA molecules — called microRNAs — as potential markers to identify the more harmful cancer. "At one time, people thought microRNAs were junk," says Read. "Their usefulness in molecular biology was only recently recognized" — in fact, the discovery of microRNAs won the 2024 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine — "and now they could turn out to actually guide cancer treatment."

Prostate cancer is different from other cancers in that there are almost always multiple tumor sites on the prostate, Read explains. "You don't know in a traditional needle biopsy if you've sampled all of the sites," he says. A liquid biopsy, by contrast, gives a comprehensive view. "It would be nice for a patient to know their actual risk. No one wants to hear, 'You have cancer,' and the default idea is, I should do everything I can, including aggressive treatment that can be hard on the body. A liquid biopsy might be able to give a patient a more accurate prognosis."

Nick Papadopoulos, a professor of oncology and pathology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and the co-founder of two companies focused on early cancer detection, praises the promise of an early detection blood test for multiple cancers. "When we catch cancers at Stage 1," as such a test could do, "the chances of survival are good. We can think about curing

people, not just about prolonging life," he says. But, Papadopoulos continues, the bar for such a test is high. If a person received a positive result, the next step would be some kind of imaging to pinpoint the location of the tumor. "You can't have a lot of false positives," says Papadopoulos, that would send people off for expensive and anxiety-provoking imaging and other procedures, some of them invasive, which they ultimately don't need.

Daniel Notterman, a professor in molecular biology at Princeton, says liquid biopsy tests could be especially useful for pancreatic and ovarian cancer, both typically not detected using conventional methods until they have spread throughout the body and a cure is out of the question. *The Wall Street Journal* recently described such a case, in which someone detected pancreatic cancer early enough to treat via the Galleri test.

GRAIL's Galleri test promises to detect over 50 cancers, many of which are the aggressive, lethal cancers that lack

other screening methods, and is scheduled for FDA review in early 2026. Galleri is available now with a prescription and has been offered to eligible Princeton University faculty and staff over age 40 as part of a pilot program with GRAIL for the past two years. Looking ahead, Notterman says, these tests will probably become common "when they

have been tuned to detect tumors early enough so that they are very easily removed and treated, in the same way that colon cancer screening allows the removal of polyps before they progress to advanced cancer."

Eric Klein, a former professor of urology at the Cleveland Clinic and a scientist at GRAIL, is undeterred by a vocal complaint by physicians, which is what if the test is positive but no tumor shows up on a follow-up imaging test? "While it may be that no cancer is present," he says, "it could also be a case in which a more sophisticated follow-up might find it," he says, citing an example of a patient in a trial in whom an unusual kind of cancer was found in the person's small bowel. "We are learning how to look and discover at the same time, and find things we usually don't see," he says. Furthermore, he adds, the cancers that shed detectable levels of DNA into the blood are by nature more aggressive. "It's unlikely you'll see a cancer detected by Galleri that is nothing to worry about," he says.

For certain, blood tests that detect cancer DNA are rapidly changing cancer care and stand to transform cancer detection in the near future. Papadopoulos recalls the first screening tests for the BRCA gene, which dramatically increases one's chance of developing breast cancer. "All we heard at first was 'No! Those tests will never take hold!' and look, it's everywhere now." Beaver agrees. "These tests have even more promise than what we are seeing in current applications," she says. "These tests are here to stay." ■

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SUSAN RESLEWIC KEATLEY '99 majored in chemistry and is now a writer and host of the podcast *Science Fare*.

*"You don't know in a traditional needle biopsy if you've sampled all of the sites. It would be nice for a patient to know their actual risk ... . A liquid biopsy might be able to give a patient a more accurate prognosis."*

— GRAHAM READ '15

PRINCETON'S

SLOW

BURN

Inside the PetroTigers  
and the University's  
four decades of private  
fossil fuel investments

BY HOPE PERRY '24

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JORDAN VONDERHAAR





**UNDER FIRE**

*PetroTiger I owns a 0.0034% interest in the mineral deposit under this piece of land in Glasscock County, Texas.*

**DECADES BEFORE DIVESTING FROM PUBLICLY TRADED FOSSIL FUEL COMPANIES, PRINCETON ADMINISTRATORS WEIGHED A RISKY BUT POTENTIALLY LUCRATIVE OPPORTUNITY: SHOULD IT BUY MINERAL RIGHTS IN TEXAS IN HOPES OF STRIKING OIL?**

Some viewed this as a smart investment following the oil crisis of the 1970s. Princeton, they figured, ought to get onto the supply side of the energy market. But not everyone was as bullish on the idea.

In April 1984, Princeton geosciences professor Kenneth Deffeyes<sup>56</sup><sup>59</sup> advised the University in a letter to explore putting money into limited partnerships conducting oil exploration, rather than further investing in publicly traded oil and gas companies, but cautioned about potential public backlash, going so far as to compare the move to something an ostentatious entrepreneur might do.

“We all shudder at the thought that Princeton would take its endowment and go out wildcatting: a desperation move worthy of a John DeLorean. Inevitably there would be some dry holes and inevitably there would be plenty of people who could write to PAW that they knew better all along,” he wrote. “On the other hand, it is possible for an individual to take investment risks with the University as the intended beneficiary.”

Three years later, Princeton followed Deffeyes’ advice and formed two limited partnerships: Tiger Energy I and

Tiger Energy II. The names changed several months later to PetroTiger I and II and were followed by PetroTiger III in 1989 and PetroTiger IV in 1995.

Based on Princeton’s available tax filings, it made more than \$149 million in profits (adjusted for inflation) from the PetroTigers between 2004 and 2022. (PAW consulted with Darryll Jones, a professor of nonprofit tax law at Florida A&M University, in calculating this figure. The University declined a request to fact check it.) The total represents a relatively small gain compared to the \$15.6 billion by which the endowment grew during the same period.

Last September, the student activist group Sunrise Princeton released a report that included details about “a fossil fuel company called PetroTiger,” which it described as “an oil and gas enterprise that all evidence suggests Princeton owns.” Vice President of Finance Jim Matteo was asked about PetroTiger by a member of Sunrise Princeton at the September meeting of the Council of the Princeton University Community (CPUC). He said, it is “an energy property that [Princeton has] invested with going back to the 1980s” and the University doesn’t plan to eliminate private investments in fossil fuels.

This prompted PAW to look into how and why the University came to own mineral rights in the Southwest, and the current position of these investments. PAW reviewed thousands of pages of documents — including minutes from meetings of the Board of Trustees and correspondence between administrators — analyzed tax records and court filings, and consulted with tax and oil experts.

PetroTiger I is the only partnership still in business after PetroTiger III was shuttered in December. University spokesperson Jennifer Morrill declined to address the status of PetroTiger I and III or respond to other questions, writing in an email, “We do not comment on individual investments in the endowment.”

Pressure has mounted on Princeton and other universities over the past decade to divest from fossil fuel companies — publicly traded and privately held — as the impact of climate change intensifies. The University announced in 2022 a sweeping plan to dissociate from 90 companies identified as the biggest polluters and divest from public fossil fuel companies.

The following special situation investments were approved since June 30, 1987:

<u>Asset</u>	<u>Business</u>	<u>Commitment</u>
Clayton & Dubilier Private Equity Fund III Limited Partnership	Leveraged Buyouts	\$20,000,000
Sierra Ventures II	Venture Capital	5,000,000
PetroTiger I & II	Oil and Gas	9,000,000

The commitment

**IN BUSINESS**

*Minutes from a Board of Trustees meeting on Oct. 24, 1987, show an investment of \$9 million in PetroTiger I and II.*



Nearly 40 years earlier, the debate was also vigorous, albeit different in nature, as Deffeyes articulated in his letter: “It isn’t clear that the University could legitimately encourage this kind of activity. It isn’t clear we have enough interested people to carry it off ... There are lots of questions.”

**PRINCETON WAS STILL BURNING OIL** to heat the University during the 1970s oil crisis. Richard Spies ’72 held various positions with the University from 1971 until 2001, including vice provost and vice president for finance, and recalls the struggle to keep the heat on.

“There were days when we were down to a pretty small reserve there [and] people [were] scrambling around finding oil,” Spies tells PAW. “I was not directly involved in that part of it, but I was involved in ‘how the hell do we budget for this, given that we were going to pay whatever it cost to fill those tanks.’”

An OPEC-led oil embargo in 1973 and the Iranian revolution in 1979 led to price shocks that impacted U.S. oil supply and caused lines and rationing at gas stations. In December 1973, Princeton closed campus for several weeks and delayed final examinations the next month in anticipation of a fuel shortage. In 1971, it cost the University about \$1 million to heat the campus, and that figure rose to \$3 million by the end of the decade. This meant having to “slash substantially from other programs or face a sizable deficit for 1979-80,” according to *The Daily Princetonian* at the time.

In the early 1980s, there were many opinions on the best way to protect Princeton from fluctuations in the energy market. For example, an April 1984 letter from University tax counsel Donald Meyer to the vice president of development, Van Zandt Williams ’65, suggested a series of moves.

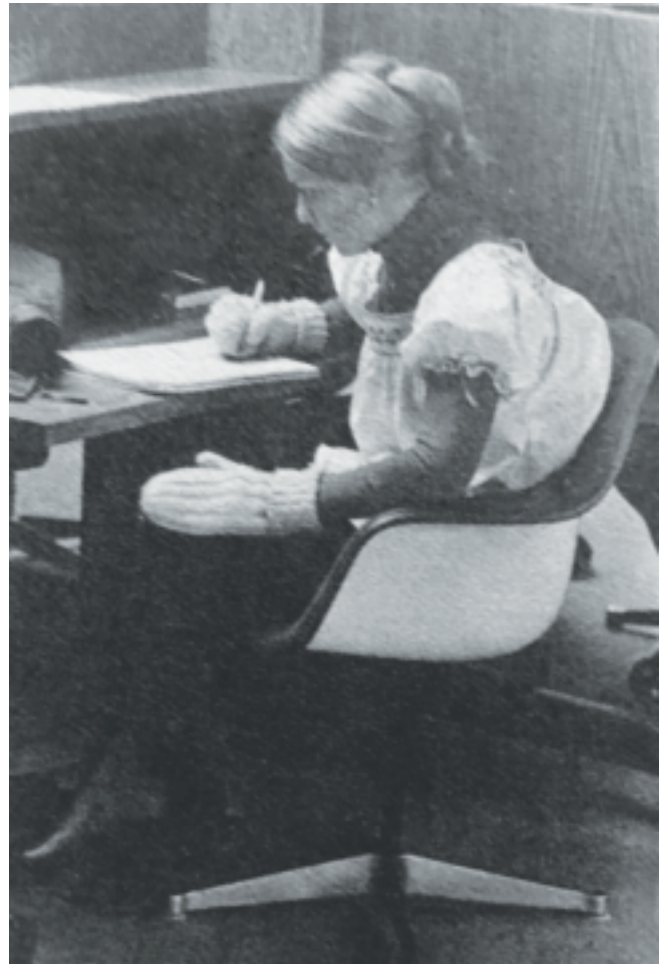
“If the objective is to eliminate the effect of a new oil price shock, there should be more direct ways to do it: a) establish a ‘strategic reserve’ either through storage of supplies or acquisition of proven reserves; b) invest in the oil futures market; or c) admit more Middle Eastern students,” Meyer wrote. Williams says he does not recall this memo, and PAW was unable to contact Meyer through Stanford’s Hoover Institution, where he is listed as counselor to the director.

Although some at the University were uncertain about investing directly in energy assets, Princeton did make a move in that direction in 1983, hiring Houston-based B.P. Huddleston as an oil and gas adviser.

Huddleston was a Texas A&M-educated petroleum engineer and had been a part of Bear Bryant’s famed Junction Boys football team. Shortly after being appointed, Huddleston received a letter from University Finance Vice President and Treasurer Carl Schafer, warning him that making private investments in the energy sector was likely to be met with criticism but that it would be worth it.

“Despite our stress on the *people* we deal with,” Schafer wrote, “I could imagine a situation in which the *property* concerned was of sufficient attractiveness that we would not care about the people — so long as we were insulated from them.” (Emphasis in the original.)

E. Philip Cannon ’63 served as a trustee from 1978 through 1982 and lobbied for the University to hire Huddleston. He says



#### MITTENS ON

*A student tries to stay warm in late 1973 when the University took “major steps,” according to PAW, to manage a fuel shortage, including keeping Firestone Library at 65 degrees.*

Princeton proceeded with its investment strategy, unaware of the impact burning fossil fuels could have on the environment.

“This is back when only Exxon’s inside scientists knew that global warming and the climate crisis were going to become an existential threat,” Cannon says. “The rest of us were still smoking Camel cigarettes and thinking ... everything was good, but actually ... we knew that cigarettes caused cancer, but we weren’t sure that burning fossil fuels was a bad deal. Even the Rockefeller family were still supportive. So it was not a dark stain on the University.”

Naomi Oreskes, a history of science professor at Harvard, is the co-author of *Merchants of Doubt*, which details how industry scientists kept the science of global warming under wraps for years. “I think in the 1980s most people close to the issue thought the fossil fuel industry would do the right thing and seek to change its business model, like diversifying into minerals or renewables,” Oreskes tells PAW in an email. “A few did at first, but most did not, and by the 1990s all the [major companies] were pivoting to denial.”

In the next decade, Princeton started to allocate resources into climate education and research. In 1994, the Princeton Environmental Institute (now the High Meadows

Environmental Institute) was founded; six years later, the Carbon Mitigation Initiative was established, with funding from BP and Ford Motor Co.; and in 2010, the Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment opened. During this time, the University held stock investments in oil and gas companies.

Between March 1983, when Huddleston was hired, and 1986, University officials considered the best way to get into the industry. But pressure was mounting on Princeton to take bolder steps — in part because of the actions of an Ivy rival.

**FOR YEARS, PRINCETON'S INVESTMENTS** had been managed by the Investment Committee of the Board of Trustees. A few men volunteered their time to try to grow the University's endowment, which in 1985, amounted to \$1.5 billion, or \$4.5 billion adjusted for inflation. The endowment as of October 2024 was \$34.1 billion, according to the University.

"They worked with advisers and sometimes with funds, but primarily they did it themselves," says Spies. "But the world evolved through the '70s ... and the '80s — to the point where that was not really sustainable."

A 1985 article in *The New York Times* that tracked the highest ranking endowments in the country reported that the University of Texas surpassed Harvard for the top spot, with Princeton third. The Texas endowment had "been built largely from the oil revenue generated from 2.1 million acres of West Texas oil lands it owns," according to the *Times*.

The next year, *The Wall Street Journal* reported that Harken Oil & Gas had "reached an agreement" with a Harvard investment affiliate on "acquiring and managing oil and gas reserves and energy-related companies."

By 1986, Princeton had decided to invest in oil and gas exploration through Huddleston. At the same time, the University was bringing in experts in other investment fields, including venture capital, to diversify Princeton's portfolio. This culminated in 1987 when the Princeton University Investment Co. (Princo) was formed.

After initially investing in Huddleston's companies, the University opted to form limited partnerships through which to make these investments: PetroTiger I and PetroTiger II.

PetroTiger I's investments would be "secured loans and purchases of net profits interests, mineral rights, and other property," according to minutes from the October 1987 meeting of the Board of Trustees. And, a key factor: "Income from PetroTiger I will not be taxable to the University."

Since the passage of the Tax Reform Act of 1969, tax-exempt

organizations have been permitted to engage in business activities, often through partnerships, that generate income. Some of those activities, including dividends and royalty interests — such as PetroTiger profits — are tax exempt.

PetroTiger II, which was invested in working interests — that is, actual drilling programs — was in a limited partnership with the Forrestal Center Corp., an office and research complex owned by the University.

According to tax filings, profits made by PetroTiger III and PetroTiger IV also weren't taxable to the University under the 1969 changes to the tax code.

At the same time, Princeton was adding to its portfolio of private oil and gas holdings. In 1987, it brought on Chase Investors Management Corp., through which it made a \$10 million investment in Apache Corp. and the Apache Petroleum Co. They expected a 14.4% return.

"The happy circumstance that helped bring us together on this transaction is that Huddleston, who for years has been one of our consultants and who does all of our engineering review work, is also a consultant to Princeton," wrote Chase Investors president Stephen Cantor in a January 1987 letter to University President Bill Bowen \*58.

Princeton's profits from the PetroTigers in these early years are unclear. Parts of the University archives that contain tax records are under a 30-year seal, making tax records from 1994 through 2000 unavailable. When asked for these records, University spokesperson Michael Hotchkiss told PAW that the Office of Finance and Treasury "searched its on-site and remote storage" and was unable to "locat[e] anything." (Records from 2001 to 2022 are available online via ProPublica's Nonprofit Explorer. PetroTiger does not appear until 2004.)



#### HOME OF THE PETROTIGERS

*The headquarters for the PetroTigers has been located at an office building in Houston, Texas, along with offices for other gas and oil companies.*

Years later, PetroTiger I is the only PetroTiger still in business, although it does not engage in oil drilling. According to public records conglomerated and made available by private land surveying companies, in 2024 it held royalty interests in the mineral rights of dozens of properties. Most of these interests are tiny, including 0.0034% of a deposit in Glasscock County, Texas, which was appraised to be worth \$680 in 2024, according to lease data from ShaleXP, an online oil and gas property research tool.

"You got to know what you're doing. I'm probably considered one of maybe a half dozen leading experts in the world on oil and gas law, and I don't get involved in that [sort of] investment," says Owen Anderson, a professor at the University of Texas.

Typically, mineral rights under a tract of land are sold and



handled separately from the surface land. Over time, mineral rights can become fragmented as people die and leave the rights to family, charitable organizations, or other interests. The owners can lease them to companies that receive royalties on the oil and gas that is extracted.

“These deals — the way that drilling interests, the royalty interests, the leasehold interests, the overriding royalty interests are structured — is dazzlingly complex and very unique to each particular prospect,” says Joe Schremmer, an associate professor of oil and gas law at the University of Oklahoma.

For example, at the time of publication, PAW reviewed records showing that PetroTiger I owns interests in just Texas properties, though older documents, including court records, indicate PetroTiger IV held interests in Oklahoma and Louisiana as well.

Princeton also owns other mineral interests across the country, but many of those were bequeathed.

Public records from the Texas secretary of state show that PetroTiger II, one of the initial companies established by the University, was merged with several other Huddleston-controlled companies in 1996 into Posse Energy. PetroTiger III and PetroTiger IV shared the same registered agent: Posse Resources LLC, which handles tax and governmental regulations.

Founded in 2017, Posse Resources is managed by Peter Currie — B.P. Huddleston’s son-in-law. Currie is also the registered agent for PetroTiger I and Posse Energy (the company with which PetroTiger II merged).

None of the PetroTigers in this story are connected with PetroTiger Ltd., a company unaffiliated with Princeton or Princo that was co-founded by an alumnus and investigated in the 2010s by the Department of Justice before closing.

PetroTigers III and IV were headquartered at the same nondescript corporate office in Houston, Texas, where PetroTiger I and Posse Resources currently share an office with several other gas and oil companies.

PetroTiger I also has links to another company, Muirfield Resources, based in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Multiple court documents show that a company called “Muirfield-PetroTiger 87” is doing business as PetroTiger I. Additionally, at least one mineral lease database shows PetroTiger I shares a P.O. box in Tulsa with Muirfield.

Multiple requests to speak with representatives of Muirfield Resources were unanswered.

B.P. Huddleston died in 2019. Currie did not respond to several voicemails and emails. His son, Mitchell Currie, the vice president of Posse Resources, initially replied to emails seeking comment before stopping.

**SHOULD PRINCETON STILL BE INVESTED IN** private gas and oil? The University no longer has trouble heating its buildings and is spending “hundreds of millions of dollars” to make the campus net-zero by 2046, according to University President Christopher Eisgruber ’83. However, many argue that completely detaching from fossil fuels will not slow their use around the globe.

“Maybe turn PetroTiger into a sustainable energy investment firm or something,” says Anna Buretta ’27 of Sunrise Princeton. “I don’t see why [these companies exist] just because they started

*“These deals — the way that drilling interests, the royalty interests, the leasehold interests, the overriding royalty interests are structured — is dazzlingly complex and very unique to each particular prospect.”*

— JOE SCHREMMER  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR,  
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

with this a billion years ago when they didn’t know how bad it was.” Buretta wonders why Princeton continues to invest in fossil fuel extraction if they are now aware of the environmental impacts.

Spies, now retired, says the idea that Princeton can “just wipe our hands” of fossil fuels “doesn’t sound good.”

“To me, it doesn’t feel good because, in fact, it’s ... pretending that the University really has no connections to fossil fuels, when, in fact, you do,” Spies says. “We’re a part of the world, and we should take some responsibility for that as well as we get benefits from that. So you can’t, on a particular issue, say, ‘Well, that’s not ours.’”

Buretta acknowledges that when the University first got into the energy business, the stakes weren’t the same. “But now there is so much research showing that fossil fuel companies are the main cause of climate change, and I don’t see why Princeton can’t change.”

It’s unclear how Princeton plans to handle PetroTiger I — the only remaining PetroTiger — going forward, as the University and Princo do not discuss individual endowment investments.

However, administrators have consistently argued that the investments the University makes in climate research, such as through the Andlinger Center and the Carbon Mitigation Initiative, as well as its plans for a carbon-neutral campus, outweigh whatever financial interests they hold.

In 2022, Eisgruber wrote in the dissociation announcement that “Princeton will have the most significant impact on the climate crisis through the scholarship we generate and the people we educate.”

Lynne Archibald ’87, an organizer for Divest Princeton, a coalition of alumni, students, and faculty formed in 2019 that has called on Princeton to divest from all fossil fuel holdings, says Princeton has already begun to see the effects of climate change, being impacted by wildfire smoke, extreme heat, drought conditions, and hurricanes.

“These things are going to increase, and [it] is a terrible idea that alumni will only begin to pay attention to when Princeton’s physical campus is threatened. But that’s coming,” says Archibald. “What we would like to see is people to be concerned about Princeton as a physical place, as a place that should be a leader in the climate crisis.” ■

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HOPE PERRY ’24 is PAW’s reporting fellow.

# ANOTHER CASH GRAB?

A 'meteor is about to hit' higher education  
as Republicans look to increase the tax  
on endowments

BY CHRISTOPHER CONNELL '71

ILLUSTRATION BY MARYSIA MACHULSKA







## IT SOUNDS PREPOSTEROUS.

President Christopher Eisgruber '83 warned in his annual State of the University letter in January that absent additional fundraising and income from investments, if Princeton University keeps spending 5% or more each year from its \$34.1 billion endowment — which is its customary practice — it “will be gone in 20 years or less.”

Unless the world turns upside down, that is not actually going to happen. Princeton will keep fundraising and the endowment should keep producing returns, if not at the almost 10% a year rate of the past two decades. At the same time, the University will keep tapping the endowment, as it did this fiscal year for \$1.7 billion as part of its \$3.1 billion operating budget, which covers everything from student aid and faculty salaries to opening new labs and mowing the lawns.

Princeton relies on its endowment for an unusually large share of its budget. “We ask a lot of it,” says deputy provost Richard Myers, including allowing the University to break into promising new areas of research such as artificial intelligence and precision health care that can pay big dividends for the country’s economy. “If you take X million dollars out of the endowment today, that money’s gone from the endowment forever,” and with it the potential for future breakthroughs, he says.

But there’s a snake in that grass and it’s already biting. In 2017, Uncle Sam took the unprecedented step of challenging the tax-exempt status of higher-education institutions by imposing a 1.4% excise tax on the investment earnings of private colleges and universities with the most wealth, including Princeton. In 2023, 56 institutions paid \$380 million to the U.S. Treasury. These revenues go into the government’s general funds; they aren’t earmarked to help students pay for college, which was the idea when lawmakers first eyed taxing wealthy colleges in the late 2000s. Also, the excise tax does not expire; it is part of the permanent tax code.

Now, spurred by Republicans who want to punish “woke” colleges dominated by what President Donald Trump calls “Marxist maniacs,” lawmakers have their knives out to slice even deeper into these endowments, and more colleges may be caught in the net.

One proposal would hike the excise tax to 14% on net investment income. Rep. Troy Nehls, R-Texas, wants to boost it to 21%, the same as the corporate tax rate. And then-Sen. and current Vice President JD Vance pushed in 2023 to make the excise tax 35%, which in Princeton’s case could mean hundreds of millions of lost dollars each year. Vance, a Yale Law School graduate, said it was “insane” how much universities charged in tuition and likened them to “hedge funds with a university attached.” Democrats blocked that bill. Trump, another Ivy League (Penn) product, railed against big university endowments when he first ran for president in 2015 and stepped up the attack in his recent run.

Republicans have made college faculty and leaders a target in their culture wars, even before universities’ mishandling of protests over the war in Gaza and the rise of antisemitism on

campuses sparked calls to cut off federal aid to institutions that didn’t crack down and cost the presidents of Harvard and Penn their jobs. Attempts by former President Joe Biden to forgive a large chunk of the \$1.7 trillion mountain of student loan debt have also fueled their anger.

They have introduced more than a score of bills not only to raise the endowment excise tax, but actually to confiscate a chunk of the corpus of the biggest endowments, not just earnings. Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., has touted his “Ivory Tower Tax Act” that would take 1% a year out of these endowments. Or there’s his “Woke Endowment Security Act” that would impose a one-time 6% tax on full endowments, costing Princeton \$2 billion.

The current excise tax hits colleges with at least 500 undergraduates and endowments of \$500,000 or more per student. While Harvard, Yale, and Stanford boast larger endowments, none has endowments-per-undergraduates as large as Princeton’s \$4 million.

College leaders have their hands full dealing with the raft of executive orders and actions that Trump let fly in his first days back in office, including his efforts to quash diversity programs, a short-lived freeze on grants, and an immigration crackdown that could threaten “Dreamers” and international students.

Phillip B. Levine '90, a Wellesley College professor of economics and authority on endowments, says he believes presidents aren’t raising alarms about the endowment tax loudly enough. “They don’t recognize a meteor is about to hit,” he says.

The huge returns that almost all college endowments booked in 2021 — 31% on average and nearly 47% for Princeton — fed antipathy toward the sector.

“All of a sudden there were these massive amounts of money. People thought, ‘Wow! These places are now very wealthy, with billions of dollars sitting in the bank,’” says Levine. “And then there’s the misperceptions about how we use the money, that it’s just a piggy bank that you can go and take money out of anytime you want. That’s not how it gets used.”

Eisgruber and his development office, which raised \$67 million from alumni and others last year, deal with those misperceptions all the time.

In the State of the University letter, Eisgruber wrote that “worrisome taxation proposals ... result partly from misunderstandings of what endowments do. Even sympathetic Princetonians sometimes ask why the University must continue to raise money when its endowment is so large.”

People “sometimes assume that an endowment is like a savings account and that universities can ‘dip into it’ to pay for unexpected needs or special projects,” he wrote. But it is “nothing like a savings account. It is more like a retirement annuity that must provide income every year for the remainder of the owner’s life.”

Not everyone agrees that taxing big university endowments is a bad thing. Gregory Conti, an associate professor in Princeton’s Department of Politics, recently penned an argument for taxation that appeared in *Compact* magazine and *The Chronicle of Higher Education* under the headline, “Hate Endowment Taxes? Reform the University.”

Conti, a political theorist and senior fellow at the conservative Manhattan Institute, wrote that historically, “large endowments are not the normal mechanism for funding education” and no



other countries' universities have these outsized endowments. Skepticism toward them is not an "intrinsicly right-wing proposition, even if that is the direction from which hostility is coming at present."

But Conti criticized what he described as the liberal tilt, ideological conformity, and administrative bloat at universities and said, "If they wish to continue to enjoy their privileged position, colleges need to do much better at living up to the values that legitimize them in the first place." Conti acknowledged that endowments support world-leading research at U.S. universities. "To even the most hardened critic of higher education, this is a very strong argument," he wrote.

The conservative author and columnist George F. Will '68 called the excise tax "astonishingly shortsighted" when it was first imposed. "Great universities are great because philanthropic generations have borne the cost of sustaining private institutions that seed the nation with excellence," he wrote.

More than 70% of the financial aid Princeton provides comes from the endowment, according to the University. While tuition this year is \$62,400 and room and board \$20,250 on top of that, 62% of all undergraduates and 71% of first-year students receive financial aid. Most families with incomes up to \$100,000 pay nothing, which Levine says makes Princeton "one of the cheapest schools in the country."

Princeton has been a leader among top universities in opening its gates wider to more students from lower ends of the income scale. It made national headlines in 2001 when it stopped requiring students take out loans in their aid packages. Some do, but almost 90% graduate debt-free, according to the University.

While the Ivies and other elite schools are still considered bastions of the privileged, Princeton has tripled the percentage of students who qualify for federal Pell Grants, given to students from low- or modest-income families. It was 7% in the Class of 2008. It's 22% for the Class of 2028.

**O**F COURSE, PRINCETON IS NOT ALONE in bristling against the excise tax. It hits small, excellent liberal arts colleges as well.

Carleton College in Minnesota pays \$1 million in excise taxes from its \$1.2 billion endowment. That's "the equivalent of 10 full scholarships," Carleton president Alison Byerly wrote in a *Washington Post* op-ed in January. More than half its 2,000 undergraduates receive aid.

Some proposals in Congress — including one that Rep. Brendan Boyle, D-Pa., pushed in the past — would spare wealthy colleges from paying the excise tax if they provided sufficient financial aid. Princeton would easily pass that bar.

But there are other bills that could impact higher education, even disqualifying some universities from federal student aid programs or cutting what they can charge for administering big research grants. "We do see this as the nose of the camel," says Steven M. Bloom, assistant vice president of government relations at the American Council on Education, which along

with the Association of American Universities (an organization of top research institutions that Eisgruber chairs) is an influential voice in Washington on higher education policy.

Although Princeton's endowment has grown solidly for decades, that is not a given. After the banner year in 2021, it declined by 1.5% in 2022 and 1.7% in 2023 before a 3.9% gain in 2024, which was half the Ivy League average.

Princeton's investments include big sums — \$14 billion last year — in private equity funds and venture capital that don't always hit home runs. Since it taps the endowment each year to cover a majority of its budget, these drawdowns can equal or surpass earnings. The \$34.1 billion endowment currently stands \$3.6 billion below its 2021 peak of \$37.7 billion, Eisgruber said in his letter. "At a university, endowment payout must cover a portion of the operating budget every year for the rest of the university's existence — and we hope Princeton will live for centuries," Eisgruber wrote.

More than half — 55% — of the endowment is restricted to allow only the income generated to be tapped and 70% to be used solely for the donor's purpose, such as scholarships or endowing a faculty chair.

There is no comparable tax on the endowments of other 501(c)3 organizations. Private foundations are required to spend 5% each year for charitable purposes. Donors might be surprised or even dismayed to learn that returns from the tax-deductible \$1,000 or \$10,000 or even \$1 million

they gave years ago is now subject to taxes.

Republicans say they plan to use the budget process called reconciliation to push through the tax cuts and other priority spending bills. They can do so in the Senate with a simple majority. Higher education experts in Washington are girding for two reconciliation bills, with the tax cuts and the excise tax issue perhaps not coming up until late in the year.

Another way to hit higher education and students would be to tax Pell Grants and all other scholarships and fellowships, which could raise \$54 billion over 10 years while making it harder for students to pay for college.

Raising the excise tax "isn't a done deal," says Andrew Grossman, chief tax counsel for the Democrats on the House Ways and Means Committee. "The Republicans have very slim margins, especially in the House. It really only takes one or two members to put their foot down and stymie a provision like this."

"Nothing is done until it's done," says Liz Clark, the National Association of College and University Business Officers' vice president for policy and research.

Meanwhile, Eisgruber says he intends to keep making the case against these "threats of confiscatory or punitive taxation" and trying to explain "to the Princeton community, lawmakers in Washington, and the American public ... how endowments work and the public benefits they create." ■

**"There's the misperceptions about how we use the money, that it's just a piggy bank that you can go and take money out of anytime you want. That's not how it gets used."**

— PHILLIP B. LEVINE '90  
Wellesley College professor of economics

CHRISTOPHER CONNELL '71 is an education writer in Washington, D.C.

# VENTURE FORWARD



At Princeton, we're making audacious bets — by building a transdisciplinary hub that connects the University with Africa's most creative thinkers.

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Photo: Drew Levin

THE PRINCETON CAMPAIGN





# PRINCETONIANS

ALUMNI STORIES AND PERSPECTIVES



COURTESY OF NIKOLCHE GJOREVSKI '12 / IHB

## CELL COPY

*Nikolche Gjorevski '12 leads a research team at the Roche Institute of Human Biology that's building organoids — miniature, three-dimensional clusters of cells that mimic the key functions of individual organs, such as how they grow, contract, disease, and respond to drugs. Because they're derived from human stem cells and resemble the shapes of human organs, organoids are a more accurate model for human biology than*



GJOREVSKI '12

*animals and lab-grown cells. Building involves growing a liquid mixture of cells in a precisely-shaped mold, similar to creating a sculpture by casting molten metal. While organoids are a relatively new technology, Gjorevski is hopeful for their research potential. "Organoids give us the best data and insights into the mechanisms of biology and disease and drugs, short of actually testing them in humans," he says.*

*Read more about Gjorevski's work and find other Tigers of the Week at [paw.princeton.edu](http://paw.princeton.edu)*





DISASTER AFTERMATH

# LA Fires Claim the Homes of Alumni

From Altadena to Malibu to Pacific Palisades, Princetonians are picking up the pieces

BY HARRISON BLACKMAN '17

**I**N THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT ON Wednesday, Jan. 8, Jason Rhodes '99, an astrophysicist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, watched in increasing alarm as the hillside surrounding his home in Altadena, California, became engulfed in flame. "It was the worst hellscape I've ever walked through," Rhodes says. "It was howling winds, smoke. I could hardly see 20 feet away."

Rhodes evacuated that night with his wife and daughter, and the next morning a neighbor visited the burned-out area and informed Rhodes that his house had been destroyed. Two days later, Rhodes examined the rubble himself.

"I thought it was going to be really emotional to see the house burned down, but I found it strangely not emotional at all," Rhodes says. "The reason was I had no bearing to see that this had been my house, because none of my neighbors' houses were standing — there was nothing recognizable about my house."

Even big items that he thought might survive, like the refrigerator or washing machine, "weren't there anymore," having been incinerated in the blaze.

Rhodes is just one of many Princetonians based in Southern California who lost their homes to the wildfires that swept through the Los Angeles basin in January, products of a winter with little rain and the notorious Santa Ana wind phenomenon that brings gale-force winds from the desert that heat up as they descend the mountain ranges and can cause fires to spread with alarming speed.

The Eaton fire in the San Gabriel Mountains and the Palisades fire in the Santa Monica Mountains, as well as several other smaller fires, burned more than 50,000 acres of land, larger than the size of Washington, D.C., destroying more than 16,000 structures and claiming 29 lives. The impacts have been felt across the region, as toxins and ash released

from burning homes have contributed to dangerous air quality in a metropolitan area of over 18 million residents.

That devastation has been particularly felt in the seaside community

**NOTHING LEFT**  
*The wildfires destroyed E. Randol Schoenberg '88's Malibu home, as well as his brother, Larry Schoenberg's, Pacific Palisades house (pictured above) and Belmont Music Publishers, which stood in a building behind it.*

E. RANDOL SCHOENBERG '88





of Pacific Palisades. “I always knew the canyons and the hillsides were at risk,” says Peter Braveman ’72, who lost his Palisades house in the fire, noting the perceived safety of living within the Palisades village, densely populated and in flat terrain. “We actually never thought that where we were in the Palisades village was going to be at risk.”

E. Randol Schoenberg ’88, an attorney known for his role in the Klimt painting repatriation case that inspired the film *Woman in Gold*, lost his house in nearby Malibu. He explained that the fire spread so quickly that nothing could have stopped it. “Our Malibu house was eight miles from where this started,” Schoenberg says, adding that the fire, fueled by 70-mph winds, only took 11 hours to reach and destroy the house. “There’s no amount of preparation that would have prevented most of this damage.”

**PAW spoke with several alumni** who lost their homes in the Palisades and Altadena, including NASA scientists Daniel Stern ’91, Deborah Padgett ’84,

and Karl Stapelfeldt ’84, as well as alumni whose houses miraculously survived, such as Caltech astronomer Mike Brown ’87. “Nobody could believe it,” Brown says, explaining that his Altadena home and the surrounding houses survived, despite the flames reaching 30 feet from their residences. “There’s just no reason these houses are here.”

For those who have lost their homes, the fallout has been defined by filing insurance claims and the painful task of remembering every possession they had and trying to estimate their value. “You just kind of close your eyes and picture room by room by room, what was in this drawer, what was on this shelf, and then try and figure out what everything’s worth,” says Vonnie Cameron, an artist married to Gene Cameron ’67. They lost their house in the Palisades.

In terms of treasured personal items, Braveman was able to evacuate with a recommendation letter Albert Einstein wrote for his father’s application to medical school, but he regrets losing his correspondence with nonfiction writer John McPhee ’53 and his thesis adviser,

English professor William Howarth. Padgett and Stapelfeldt lost their copy of the Nassau Herald, among other Princeton memorabilia. Schoenberg also noted that printed music of his grandfather Arnold Schoenberg, a seminal Austrian American composer, was destroyed in the fire in the Palisades.

Despite this particularly painful loss, Schoenberg says most of the losses were “just stuff,” a sentiment that many alumni shared. For John Frelinghuysen ’87, whose house in the Palisades was destroyed, the loss of the community in the village was one of the biggest tragedies in the fire.

“Many people that I’ve known and neighbors on my street who have been

in the Palisades for many, many years are advanced in age and probably won’t be able to ever live there again,” Frelinghuysen says.

Many survivors have spent the days since the fires in a frenzy looking for housing in a market flooded with displaced people. Unlike many of the displaced, Padgett and Stapelfeldt were quick to land rental housing in the area. Padgett says her job prepared her to get through a crisis. “Working for NASA, especially in operations, we’re used to planning for worst-case scenarios,” Padgett says. “When the bad stuff happens, my tendency is to try to focus on ‘What’s the next step?’”

And for others, the next step is to rebuild. “We’ve already spoken with the original architect of our home,” Frelinghuysen says, adding that he’s

been studying how rebuilding took place after the 2017 fires in Santa Rosa, California, for lessons learned. “It’s going to be very dependent upon our ability to move quickly.”

Since the fires, some commentators have argued that rebuilding in wildfire-prone areas should be reconsidered, often

**“We live in a dangerous area, but most of California, like 40 million people, live in a dangerous area, right? Wherever you go, there’s going to be threats of natural disasters. And this was a natural disaster. It was a perfect storm.”**

— E. RANDOL SCHOENBERG ’88  
lost home in Malibu fire

citing “The Case for Letting Malibu Burn,” a 1995 essay by Los Angeles writer Mike Davis, who argued that the Santa Monica Mountains caught fire regularly enough during the 20th century that living there was inherently perilous.

Schoenberg suggests that such arguments lack perspective. “We live in a dangerous area, but most of California, like 40 million people, live in a dangerous area, right?” Schoenberg says. “Wherever you go, there’s going to be threats of natural disasters. And this was a natural disaster. It was a perfect storm.” ■

**LOOKING TO HELP?** Reach out to the Princeton Club of Southern California at [webmaster@princetonsocal.org](mailto:webmaster@princetonsocal.org).

## PAW BOOK CLUB

# On Shakespeare, Jodi Picoult '87 Just Doesn't Buy It

BY ELISABETH H. DAUGHERTY

**O**N THE LATEST PAW Book Club podcast, author and playwright Jodi Picoult '87 answered members' questions about *By Any Other Name*, her novel



PICOULT '87

introducing us to Emilia Bassano, a woman who lived in Tudor England and plausibly could have written some of the most famous works attributed to William Shakespeare. The following excerpt has been edited and condensed.

**Michael Behrman '87 asks, "What brought Jodi to think about this? Could a man have written the Shakespeare female characters as well as a woman?"**

I took all my Shakespeare classes with Professor Michael Cadden at Princeton, loved them. I loved the beauty of the writing in the plays, but I also loved the characterization of the females. You had these incredibly complex, three-dimensional characters like Portia, and Kate, and Rosalind, and Beatrice.

I think Michael Cadden said to us once for maybe four seconds of a seminar that there was a question about Shakespeare's authorship. Honestly, I was like, "Oh, yeah, OK, whatever," but I was a good little English major and I laughed it all off. I didn't think about it for years until I read an article in *The Atlantic* by Elizabeth Winkler [11]. In it, she mentioned something that just stopped me in my tracks: Shakespeare had two daughters that survived infancy, and he taught neither of them to read or write.

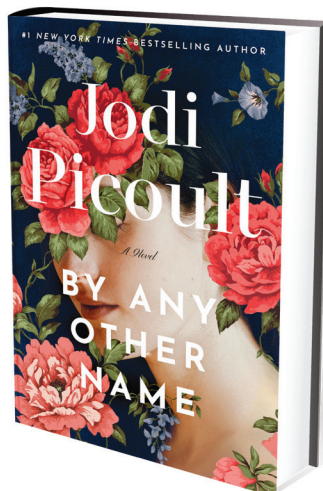
I was like, "Yeah, no, I just don't buy it." I don't believe that the same person who created those incredibly complex female characters in the plays would not have taught his own daughters to read or write. It made me fall into this rabbit hole about authorship and about what we actually know, the actual facts that we have about Shakespeare, who he was, and what, if anything, he wrote.

I had never heard of Emilia Bassano. I had heard lots of authorship stories before. I'd heard about the Earl of Oxford being the forerunner of the anti-Stratfordian movement, but I had never heard a woman's name mentioned. When I started to learn more about Emilia Bassano, I couldn't believe how seamlessly her life plugged in all of the question marks and gaps that exist in Shakespeare's that allow us to wonder if he actually wrote these works.

**Sue Rhoades '92 saw your author's note about expecting hate mail and antagonism to be off the charts for this book, and asks, "Has it been? Is there any particular area of criticism that has surprised you?"**

Interestingly, I was getting pushback for this book before it was even published, which blew me away. I did an event at the Hay Festival in England, and

I had some guy, some older academic white male, who published a piece about how I am a crackpot conspiracy theorist. All I could think was, "You haven't even read the book. How could you know?" That kind of continued after the book was published. Every criticism that I have received has been from



someone in academia who has studied Shakespeare. Most are men; there was one woman.

Look, I get it. When you have crafted an entire career and persona around studying Shakespeare, it's scary to think that maybe what you've learned all those years, what you've upheld all those years, may not be accurate or true. I think questioning Shakespeare's authorship doesn't take away from the plays in any way. I think it brings more people to them. The reality is I have heard from far more people who've said to me, "I never really got into Shakespeare. I didn't understand it, but man, now after this, I'm reading it again, and it suddenly makes sense," which I think is really interesting.

**Ann Mongoven '84 and Shani Moore '02 asked about your writing routine, whether and how you battle writer's block, and how you researched this book.**

I don't believe in writer's block. I've been very vocal about that. I think writer's block is the luxury of time. I actually think back to my days at Princeton. You had writer's block, you couldn't write that essay that was due, until miraculously, it always cleared up the night before it was due, right? Suddenly, you were able to produce a draft.

I started writing professionally when I had a newborn, and then very quickly, two more kids. I was the primary caregiver and I was a novelist, and I would write anytime they were napping, or at nursery school, or not hitting each other over the head with a sippy cup. I got to the point where, honestly, I wrote in 15 minute bursts, because that was all I had.

How did I do the research for this book? Interestingly, like I said, there are such limited amounts of primary source documents that they're pretty easy to get your hands on, and to read, and to see for yourself. **P**



**FIND** the full transcript and listen at [paw.princeton.edu/podcasts](http://paw.princeton.edu/podcasts).



# CLASS NOTES

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# MEMORIALS



## LISTEN TO OUR NEW MEMORIALS PAWCAST

Visit [paw.princeton.edu/podcasts](http://paw.princeton.edu/podcasts) to hear a podcast discussion where we reminisce about someone who recently died.

### THE CLASS OF 1939

#### ROBERT R. HOLT '39

"I have been a psychologist from the day I took Professor Hadley Cantril's course, Social



Psychology, in our sophomore year," Bob wrote for our 50th-reunion yearbook. He got his advanced degrees at Harvard and went on to teach and do research in

Washington, D.C.; Topeka, Kan.; and then to New York University for 35 years, with many guest fellowships along the way. He authored and co-authored hundreds of articles and 17 books, including his 1989 *Freud Reappraised* and his 2017 book of letters with his mentor at the Menninger Institute, *The Rapaport-Holt Correspondence*.

Bob was a loyal, though sometimes critical, member of our class. About Professor Cantril, he shared: "He taught me what an exciting and original way to look at the world psychology could be, a psychology that dealt with real, whole, ordinary human beings, not lab animals or isolated functions." About Princeton in 1989, he observed, "Coeducation and broadening the base through bringing in gifted people from disadvantaged backgrounds have been very welcome. In retrospect, I can see how justified our reputation as a country club was."

Bob died April 10, 2024, at home in Truro, Mass., where he summered since 1963 and lived year-round since 1989. He was 106. He is survived by his wife, Joan; sons Michael and Daniel; daughters Dorothy and Catherine; three grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. To them and to the countless others touched by Bob's many deep interests and commitments our class expresses our pride that he was one of us.

### THE CLASS OF 1951

#### JOHN B. LAMBERT '51

John was born in Billings, Mont., and graduated from Lakeside School in Seattle.



At Princeton, he majored in chemical engineering, was a member of Campus Club and the Phi Beta Kappa Society, and was a cheerleader. He roomed with Lee McCormick,

Scott Reed '50, and Harvey Robbins '50.

After graduation, John earned a Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the University of Wisconsin in Madison. He began as a research assistant with DuPont and then shifted his focus to metallurgy, occupying various executive positions at Fansteel's metals division. He was a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and the American Chemical Society and held 13 patents.

John died June 13, 2024, at his home in Lake Forest, Ill. He was predeceased by his first wife, Jean Bullard Lambert; his former wife, Marlene; his third wife, Ilse; and son Thomas. He is survived by his longtime friend, Martha Lewis; and four children, William, Patricia, Catherine, and Karen.

#### J. HARDEN ROSE '51

Jerry was born in Springfield, Ill., and graduated from Lockport School. At



Princeton, he majored in SPIA, was in Triangle Club and ROTC, and was a member of Tower Club. He roomed with Craig Brush, Arthur Fawcett, and Robert Vivian.

After serving in the Navy, he earned a master's degree in public law and government from Columbia University. He was a foreign service officer who went on to a career as a private investor.

Jerry died Sept. 30, 2023. He is survived by his wife, Georgia; sons Andrew '82 and James; and daughter Georgia.

#### CHARLES L. TAGGART '51

Charlie graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy before coming to Princeton. He



majored in architecture, was secretary-treasurer of Colonial Club, and roomed with William Grady, Hamilton McKay, and William Waldron.

Upon graduation, Charlie worked in New York City for a year in architecture. He then moved back to his hometown of Oklahoma City and joined his family's real estate investment and management firm. In 1959, with his wife, Sydney, Charlie returned to Princeton and began a 25-year career at the University. He

served as director of the Alumni Council, assistant dean of the Graduate College, and director of development. Over the decades he served our class, holding the roles of treasurer, vice president, and president, leading Annual Giving efforts and organizing Reunions. He went on to lead development at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, the Dallas Museum of Art, and the Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology. Charlie retired first to Rhode Island and then returned to Princeton. He was an active resident in his community at Stonebridge in Montgomery.

Charlie died Aug. 15, 2024, in Princeton. He is survived by his wife, Sydney; and his three sons, Peter, Ward, and Carl.

### THE CLASS OF 1953

#### GORDON L. MARSHALL '53

Gordon died Sept. 8, 2024, in New London, N.H.



He was born in Yonkers, N.Y., and came to Princeton after graduating from Horace Mann School.

Gordon joined Cottage Club, majored in sociology,

and wrote his thesis on "An Analysis of Executive Development and Training." After graduation, he spent two years as a lieutenant in an artillery unit of the Army. He went on to obtain an MBA and DBA from Harvard Business School, serving in the admissions office and then as a faculty member for several years.

He was dean of the faculty at IMEDE in Lausanne, Switzerland, from 1971 to 1973, where he developed an MBA program with a multinational faculty, expanding a business management program originally developed for Nestle executives. From 1973 to 1983, Gordon served as president of Wheelock College in Boston. He was proud of helping reinvigorate an institution that had been struggling. Later, he worked with an entrepreneurial startup company, Enerchip, for two years; became director of a small federal grant for the N.H. Association of School Principals for two years; and joined the faculty of Colby-Sawyer College, where he was chair of the department of business administration and taught undergraduates.

Gordon was predeceased by his first wife, Carolyn. He is survived by his second wife, Betty Herrick; his four children; nine grandchildren; and two great-grandsons.

#### WALLACE H. ROWE III '53

Wally died Sept. 21, 2024.

He was born in Pittsburgh, moved to Pasadena, and came to Princeton after graduating from Fountain Valley School in Colorado. He was a member of Elm Club and majored in English, writing his thesis on "Three Elizabethan Dramatists: Webster,





Tourneur, and Forel.”

After graduation he spent two years working with the foreign intelligence branch of the Sixth Army, stationed in San Francisco. At the end of that time, he enrolled in the Harvard Advanced Management Program and, after graduating a year later, began a career as an English teacher at the Gunnery School in Connecticut. He taught there and at Gov. Dummer Academy until retirement. Students said of him, “He inspired generations of us to think, speak, and laugh. He reveled in the ribald, the malaprop, the incongruous. He transformed Shakespeare from boring to pure joy.”

Wally retired from teaching after 41 years and moved to Rockport, Mass., where he sang in choral groups and volunteered teaching and tutoring. He and his wife, Carol, enjoyed many cycling tours in Europe.

Wally is survived by his wife of 67 years, Carol; two sons; one daughter; three granddaughters; and three step-grandsons.

#### THE CLASS OF 1956

##### CHARLES B. GRAY '56

Charley died Sept. 29, 2024, in Pittsburgh, where he was legendary in the arts and music community.



Charley followed his father, Gilson B. Gray 1920, and brother Gilson III '53 to Princeton after Phillips Exeter. He majored in

English and sang in the Glee Club while playing sports for Colonial Club. After Army service, Charley began a distinguished career in musical theater, first as a Broadway production manager and then on to directing. He eventually was named general manager of the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera, where from 1982 to 1996 he produced 85 musicals. Charley was especially devoted to excellence in high school musicals, founding the Gene Kelly Awards now given out in more than 40 cities. Many groups honored his work including the NJ Music Critics, the National Council of Children, the Pittsburgh New Works Festival, and the Phoenix award in Buenos Aires.

Charley was just as creative in private life. A friend said, “A night around the table with Charley was magic.” He enjoyed telling stories about his escapades and reciting poems and lyrics he wrote for special occasions.

Charley is survived by his wife, Patricia Palermo Gray; his brother Gilson; two brothers-in-law and one sister-in-law; and 18 nieces and nephews.

#### WAYNE W. MILLER '56

Wayne died Sept. 30, 2024, in Leawood, Kan.

He came to Princeton from the McCallie School in Chattanooga, Tenn., where he



was active in sports and government. At Princeton, Wayne joined Cottage Club and majored in modern languages and literature.

Wayne served as an officer in the Marine Corps before starting a peripatetic career with IBM in Louisville, Ky. (where he met his wife Martha), followed by Chicago and New York City. After 12 years, he left IBM for a more settled life with the Kansas City Investment Corp., where he served as secretary, treasurer, and president.

Wayne loved a challenge. He changed his career five times and for our 50th reunion wrote, “Am I the only Princeton entrepreneur to have owned and operated simultaneously a chain of 12 hair salons and two clothing boutiques?” For 19 years, he and his wife operated Miller Asset Management.

Wayne loved to talk football, especially the Kansas City Chiefs and Tennessee Volunteers. He belonged to the Village Presbyterian Church, where he served as a director, teacher, and food pantry driver.

He was predeceased by his wife, Martha; and son Bryan Miller '80. Wayne is survived by daughter Pamela Miller and grandson Drake.

#### THE CLASS OF 1957

##### PAUL W. BEASLEY '57

Long-serving history professor and dean at many Christian universities in the South,



Paul died Oct. 11, 2024.

He came to Princeton from Kiser High School in Dayton, Ohio. At Princeton, he was the holder of the Class of 1889 Scholarship, majored in history, was a waiter in Commons, earned his letter as head manager of the 150-pound football team, and was in the Chapel Choir.

Paul left Princeton in 1955, attended the University of the Cumberland, graduated from Georgetown College in Kentucky, and earned a Ph.D. at the University of Kentucky. He was an Army veteran. Paul served in academia at Alice Lloyd College, Bluefield, Wingate, Oklahoma Baptist, Palm Beach Atlantic, Louisiana College, and Georgetown College.

He is survived by his wife, Jeanette; son Roger; daughter Paula; and their families.

#### HARRISON J. GOLDIN '57

A noted politician and attorney, Jay died Sept. 16, 2024, in his hometown of New York City. He came to Princeton from the Bronx High School of Science, where he was valedictorian. At Princeton, he majored in politics and spent the summers before sophomore and senior years in Europe and England on scholarships. He joined



Quadrangle Club, was president of the Hillel Foundation, and wrote political columns for *The Daily Princetonian*. Jay was also a varsity debater and parliamentarian for Whig-Clio and graduated Phi Beta Kappa. He roomed senior year with Sheldon Baskin '58 and Robert Hipp '58.

After college Jay earned an LL.B. degree at Yale, graduating as a member of the Order of the Coif, and was a Woodrow Wilson Fellow at Harvard. He served as a civil rights attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice, followed by a stint with the law firm of Davis Polk. In 1966, he married Diana C. Stern, a Vassar graduate, and was elected as a New York state senator. After having been re-elected four times, in 1973 he was elected comptroller of New York City. Along with Mayor Abraham Beame, Jay is credited with rescuing the city from a number of financial crises in the 1970s but lost a primary election for the mayor's job to David Dinkins, who went on to win the office.

Jay founded Goldin Associates, specializing in bankruptcy and public affairs. Some of his clients included Drexel Burnham Lambert, Rockefeller Center, and Enron. Jay also was an adjunct professor or lecturer at NYU, Columbia, Cardozo Law School, and NY Law School. He sold his firm to Teneo and retired in 2020.

Jay is survived by his wife, Diana; their three children, Daniel '93, Matthew, and Jonathan; and their families.

#### FRED B. GREEAR JR. '57

A caring internal medicine physician, Fred died Oct. 17, 2024.



He came to Princeton from the Woodberry Forest School near his home in Virginia. At Princeton, he majored in chemistry, won letters on the cross country team, and

was a member of the Glee Club. Fred took his meals at Quadrangle Club, served as a Keyceptor, and roomed with Jack Bittig, Bill Booker, Paul Geary, Ed Giles, Paul Gwyn, and Jim McCutchan.

After Princeton, Fred graduated from the University of Virginia Medical School, served two years as a captain in the Army Medical Corps, including time in Germany, and completed his medical training at the University of Cincinnati. While in Ohio, he married Ann Dora Wentworth, a Wheaton College graduate, and they had three children, Fred III, Priscilla Ann, and David. In 1967, they moved to Virginia, where he spent more than 50 years as a specialist in internal medicine at Bristol Memorial Hospital, Bristol Regional Medical Center, director of NHC HealthCare, and then at Crossroads Medical Mission. He also served patients across the border in Tennessee.

A regular attendee at Reunions, at our 25th reunion he returned to cross-country running with his son Fred III, and he later was a place-winner in numerous 5K and 10K races in the South and Washington, D.C.

Fred is survived by Ann, their three children, and their families.

#### **RALPH T. MELORO IV '57**

Ralph died June 7, 2024, at his home in Cedar Knolls, N.J.

He came to Princeton from Newark Academy. He attended Princeton only a short time and graduated from New Jersey Institute of Technology in 1957. Ralph married his childhood sweetheart, Jeanette DeVone, and they had four children. After college he worked for General Cable Corp., GK Technologies, and AT&T before becoming the Morris County, N.J. tax administrator.

Ralph authored numerous state tax publications, and as president of the New Jersey Tax Association he led the creation of the first internet-based state property tax system. He was an active member of the Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Roman Catholic Church, helping to raise the money and promoting the construction of the present church building. He was also a third-degree member of the Knights of Columbus.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Jeanette; their children; and their families.

#### **THE CLASS OF 1958**

##### **DOUGLAS DUNCAN FREETH '58**

Sandy died Oct. 6, 2024, in Ann Arbor, Mich. He was 89.



He came to Princeton from Amherst Central High School in Snyder, N.Y., where he was president of the student council, a member of the Honor Society, and participated in Hi-Y and Glee Club. At Princeton, he was a member of Orange Key and of Elm Club.

After graduation, Doug joined Marine Midland Bank in Buffalo, and he rose to the level of vice president. In 1969, he accepted a position with City National Bank in Detroit, and in 1983, he transferred within the company and moved to Ann Arbor. In 1990, he was named president and chief executive officer, a position he held until retirement in 1998.

Doug was active in many Ann Arbor organizations. He was a member of the Ann Arbor Public Schools Foundation for six years with two years as chairman and was a charter member of the Glacier Hills Foundation, where he served for five years.

Doug is survived by his wife, Lucia; sons Tim '95 and his wife Stephanie, and Andy and his wife Emily; and grandchildren Clara,

Dillon, Teddy, and Eloise. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.

##### **R. RENNIE MCQUILKIN '58**

Rennie died July 3, 2024, in Hartford, Conn. He was 88.



He came to Princeton from Allendale School in Rochester, N.Y. After matriculation at Princeton, he later attended Harvard Law School, before thinking better of it, and Columbia University, where he received a master's degree in English literature.

Rennie taught at several private secondary schools until 1992, when he became the founding artistic director of the Sunken Garden Poetry Festival. A few years later, he started the independent poetry press Antrim House. During his own career as a poet, Rennie was a frequent contributor to *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Poetry Magazine*, *The Yale Review*, and *The American Scholar*, and was the author of some 20 collections. He won grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Connecticut Commission on the Arts. Barack Obama's second inaugural poet wrote of some of Rennie's most recent work, that it "brilliantly and powerfully juxtaposes the intimacy of family life with the enmity of our troubled times."

He married Sarah Couch in 1961, and they had three children, seven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Sarah died in 2023. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.

##### **JUNIUS YORKE PEELER JR. '58**

Yorke, known as Buzz at Princeton, died Aug. 25, 2024, in Concord, N.H. He was 89.



He came to Princeton from Mercersburg Academy, was music director of the Tigertones, captain and All-American of the fencing team, a Chapel deacon, and member of the Student Christian Association.

After graduation, he met Lois Ingham at the Union Theological Seminary, and they married in 1961. They moved to Vermont, where Buzz became minister of a parish in Norwich. Ten years later they moved to Beverly, Mass., and in 1979, he became senior minister of Union Church in Upper Montclair, N.J.

Always ready to play a sport or sing a song, Yorke sang his entire life: before every meal, wherever there was a choir, in a quartet he joined in Norwich that endured for 40 years, and at Tigertone reunions each fall in Connecticut through 2022. Soon before a valve replacement in 2007, he bicycled cross country from Seattle to Sharon, Vt.

Ever a teacher, a pastor, a father, a

companion, and a friend, he was beloved of many, especially Lois, who died in 2015; his three children Susan (who predeceased him), Steve, and Scott '84; seven grandchildren; five great grandchildren; and his partner his last eight years, Judy. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.

##### **JAMES R. PETERS '58**

Jim died Aug. 11, 2024, in Portland, Maine. He was 87.



He came to Princeton from Brighton High in Rochester, N.Y. Jim started as an engineering student but switched to the psychology department. He was a member of Colonial Club, rowed freshman and JV crew, and was head manager for the heavyweight crew his junior year. He was also a member of Orange Key and the Rochester Club.

Jim earned an MBA and worked for Exxon Mobil before becoming VP of a foreign car dealership. In Rochester, he volunteered with the St. Andrews Youth Group and found his true calling in youth ministry and counseling. He enrolled at Andover Newton Theological Seminary, where he received a master's in divinity and then enrolled in a doctor of psychology program at Boston University.

In 1984, while at BU, Jim had a near fatal car accident that changed the course of his life. His stubbornness and desire to begin restoring the antique car he was picking up when he had the accident proved the recipe to get him walking again after being told he'd likely be confined to a wheelchair. He consequently learned to manage a telephone hotline, developing a training program for phone volunteers, while continuing to volunteer on the St. Andrews vestry committee. And that '49 Lincoln he finished restoring was a beauty.

Jim was predeceased by his wife, Cindy, and is survived by their son and daughter and three grandchildren. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.

##### **PHILIP H. WALLACE '58**

Phil died July 18, 2024, in Richmond, Va. He was 87.



He came to Princeton from Christchurch (Va.) School, where he was active in football and basketball. He was also editor of the yearbook, a member of the student council and a class officer. At Princeton, Phil majored in English, played freshman and JV football, and was a member of Cannon Club and the Orange Key. He was in ROTC and after graduation was stationed at Fort Knox, Ky., and Fort Sill, Okla., on active duty, followed by seven years in the Army Reserve.



Phil had a long career at C&P Telephone Co. (Verizon) as a manager, retiring June 1, 1991. He was a model railroad enthusiast, jazz lover, amateur drummer, record dealer, platelet blood donor (over 12 gallons), genealogy and family history author, and lover of plaid (especially the Wallace tartan), poker, golf, darts, billiards, and winning team tournaments with the billiard club. He sang in the church choir and enjoyed the biannual choir tours.

Phil is survived by his wife, Jean; four children; four grandchildren; and two brothers. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.

### THE CLASS OF 1960

#### JOHN G. CARRAS '60

Born in Greece in 1938, John came to the United States at an early age with his parents and was raised in New York City. At Princeton, John majored in economics, joined Key and Seal, served in the Navy ROTC, and worked for the *Bric-a-Brac*.



After graduation John served two years with the Navy in marine transportation. As the son in an extended family in shipping, John continued in marine affairs in his civilian career. He worked in New York until 1975, when he relocated to London.

In 2015, John retired from shipping and moved with his second wife, Mary, to Geneva, Switzerland. They took full advantage of the arts scene in London and loved traveling the world together. John was an avid reader, dabbled in photography, and was a Scrabble aficionado for his whole life.

He died Sept. 21, 2024, in Geneva of complications of dementia. John is survived by Mary; his two daughters from his first marriage; four children with Mary; and eight grandchildren. The class sends sympathy to the entire family.

#### PAUL G. ROCHMIS '60

Paul captained the basketball team and played football and baseball for



White Plains (N.Y.) High School. At Princeton, he turned to searching for his calling. He majored in basic engineering and edited the *Princeton Engineer* but wrote his thesis in biology and considered law, too. He resolved the conundrum by earning a medical degree at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in 1964. During the following two years with the U.S. Public Health Service, he also studied parttime at Georgetown Law School but ultimately resolved on medicine and did his residency in rheumatology at Georgetown University Hospital.

Paul viewed the social scene at Princeton warily. He opted out of bicker and Wilson Lodge in favor of independent status, dining with like-minded classmates at the bargain end of town dining options. He was nevertheless a loyal and much-involved graduate member of the class.

He and his wife, Ann, a psychiatrist, settled in Fairfax, Va., where he became chief of rheumatology at Fairfax Hospital and was active in Greater Washington medical and civic organizations. Later on he went into private practice in Fairfax and semi-retired in 2005.

He enjoyed coaching his four children, gardening, sports, and especially working on vintage motorcycles and cars.

Paul died July 26, 2024, of cardiac amyloidosis. He is survived by Ann, their four children, seven grandchildren, and their families, with all of whom we share our condolences.

### THE CLASS OF 1961

#### FRANK G. CHILDERS '61

Frank, known to some of us as "Bushy," died June 6, 2024.



Born in Nashville, Tenn., he came to Princeton from Phillips Andover Academy. At Princeton, he majored in politics, wrote his thesis on Sen. Estes Kefauver, took his meals at Campus, was a member of the French, Spanish, and artillery clubs, and roomed with Randy Taylor.

After Princeton, Frank earned a J.D. at Vanderbilt Law School and lived and farmed as the owner and operator of Governor's Grant Farm in the Sango Community in Clarksville, Tenn., for most of his life. He was a member of the Tennessee Bar and a longtime member and president of the TN-KY Threshermen's Association. He was a founder of the East Montgomery Volunteer Fire Department and a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Cincinnati Society.

Frank is survived by his wife of 50 years, Virginia; children Glenn and Elizabeth Ross; and four grandchildren.

#### ALAN B. HOWARD '61

Alan died Aug. 26, 2024, at Greentree Farm in Albemarle County, Va.

Born in Denver, he grew up in nearby Littleton. Despite his dyslexia, he was accepted at Princeton, majoring in English. At Princeton, he ate at Cap and Gown, rowed on the heavies, and played rugby. He was one of two classmates who were allowed to get married while undergraduates and lived off campus. He went on to earn a Ph.D. in English at Stanford after teaching for two years at a private school

A dedicated teacher, Alan was a professor

of English at the University of Virginia for almost four decades, including a year teaching in Australia as a Fulbright scholar. His specialties were American literature and American studies. He tapped his Colorado roots by becoming a cattle farmer along the way. This from his obituary: "He felt equally at home with William Faulkner and John Deere."

Alan is survived by a sister, two ex-wives, two sons and two daughters-in-law, five grandchildren, and Sherree Tannen, who took great care of him in his last years.

#### WILLIAM H. ROUGH '61

Bill died May 27, 2024, in Charlottesville, Va., where he lived for many years.



Born in Washington, D.C., he came to us from the Landon School. At Princeton, he majored in English drama; was in the Glee Club, Triangle, and the Student Christian Association; and took his meals at Key & Seal. His senior-year roommates were Hal Lackey, Bill Buxton, Dave Palmer, Russ Tremaine, Mahlon Jones, Contee Seely, Dick Webster, and Chuck Watson. After a one-year hiatus, he graduated with the Class of 1962.

Then followed a master's degree in international education at Columbia and a career in teaching high school English, co-founding the Peacham School (an alternative school in Vermont), and then college teaching, with freelance work as a director, playwright, and actor in and around Charlottesville. Along the way, Bill acquired an MFA in drama at the University of Virginia. He was active in local theater groups and was president of the National Secondary School Theater Association.

Bill is survived by his wife of 59 years, Joan; son Mark; daughter Lisa; four grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

### THE CLASS OF 1962

#### STUART M. KOTLER '62

Stuart died of lung cancer Sept. 8, 2024, at home in Monroe Township, N.J., surrounded by his loving family.



He came to us from Highland Park (N.J.) High School, where he was a member of the track team, treasurer of the student council, and sports correspondent for the *New Brunswick Home News*. At Princeton, he was head manager of the track team, member of the Chemistry Club and Pre-Medical Society, and dined at Elm Club.

He married Sheila Berman in 1964, earned a medical degree from Yale in 1966, and served in the Army from 1968 to 1970. Stuart and Sheila had three daughters. Stuart entered the private practice of radiology,

joining the University Radiology group where he practiced for 39 years.

Beyond work, he was active in his synagogue and on the Schools Committee of the Princeton Alumni Association of Monmouth County for 25 years. He enjoyed travel, golf, and bridge.

For our 50th-reunion yearbook he wrote, "I will always be grateful for what Princeton has given to me and has meant to me."

Stuart is survived by Sheila; daughters Lisa '89, Meredith '92, and Sarah; their husbands; and six grandchildren. The class extends its condolences to all.

### THE CLASS OF 1963

#### CHRISTOPHER H. BRITTON '63

Kit died Sept. 27, 2024, in Falls Church, Va., following a stroke.



He came to us from Clarkstown Central Junior-Senior High School in New City, N.Y., where he captained the tennis team, was a member of the cross country team, served in student government, and was class salutatorian. At Princeton, he majored in English, wrote his thesis on D.H. Lawrence and was a member of Wilson Society, and business manager of Theatre Intime.

Upon graduation, Kit spent two years in the Peace Corps, living and working in Legaspi, a small provincial city in southern Luzon, the Philippines. Returning to the States, he did graduate work at American University in Washington, D.C., first in South and Southeast Asian studies and then in economics.

Kit began a career in urban development, taking jobs in Trenton, N.J., and Philadelphia and returning to Washington to work 17 years for the DC government on planning and development issues. He then moved to the private sector, working 17 more years as a residential real estate agent.

Kit was an avid reader, a genealogist, community activist, poetry writer, and in his retirement years, dedicated to his work as a naturalist with the Arlington Regional Master Naturalists.

Kit's first marriage, to Bonnie Britton ended in divorce but produced two children, Matthew and Jessica. In 2001, he married Anne McKnight, who brought three children to the marriage: Molly Snyder, David McKnight, and Sidney McKnight. In addition to them, Kit is survived by 11 grandchildren.

#### HOWARD C. KATZ '63

Howie died Dec. 25, 2023, in Los Angeles following a years-long battle with cancer.

He came to Princeton from Kingswood Oxford School in West Hartford, Conn., took his meals at Court Club, and was manager of the soccer team. Howie originally planned

to study architecture but majored instead in religion and philosophy and went on to teach those subjects during a 40-year career in California's community college system.

Howie left Princeton in senior year and completed his degree at Whittier (Calif.) College. He went on to earn two post-graduate degrees in philosophy at Claremont Graduate University in Claremont, Calif. During this time, he met Eleanor, a fellow grad student who became his wife of 56 years and who survives him.

Eleanor also taught philosophy in California's Orange Coast community college system, and the two together led students five times on semesters abroad, based in Paris and Florence. Howie also joined 30 philosophy professors in a teaching mission to Chinese universities in Beijing, Shanghai, and Wuhan. These were happy, enriching times and came "before the illness really hit him," Eleanor said.

Stricken with a rare form of cancer, Howie fought the illness for 25 years. He retired in 2012 from Saddleback College in Mission Viejo, Calif., where they lived.

### THE CLASS OF 1967

#### VIRGIL M. CUMMINS '67

Marv died July 25, 2024, in New York City, where he had mostly resided since graduation.



He graduated from Delaware Valley Regional High School, was active in student council and the French club, and was a National Honor Society member. He played football, track, and gymnastics. He grew up on the family dairy farm in the Delaware Valley, N.J., countryside and was an Eagle Scout, active in his local church, and member of 4-H.

At Princeton, Marv majored in politics and wrote his thesis for Professor Glenn Paige '55. He lived at 141 1903 Hall and roomed with Lance Ito. He participated in Whig-Clio, the Outing Club, Triangle, and the Jamesburg volunteer program. He rowed freshman crew and worked with the Student Stock Analysis and Investment Club and the International Student Association. After graduation, Marv earned a master's degree from New York University and did additional graduate study at Cornell. He began his career with the Finance Ministry of Brazil in New York City before starting his own independent accounting practice in Manhattan, which he continued until retiring. He was fluent in Spanish and Portuguese and used his business and language expertise to teach for several educational institutions in the city with ESL programs, focusing on finance and writing skills for new American immigrants.

Marv lived in lower Manhattan but

kept the family farm in New Jersey for his weekend and holiday relaxation and rest. He often traveled abroad with his wife of 47 years, Marisue, reflecting his lifelong interest in international culture. He was one of the most loyal members of '67, attending Reunions almost every year and marching in the P-rade. His obituary requested any memorial contributions be sent to animal rescue organizations and the Class of 1967 Princeton Scholarship Fund.

#### LEE F. MERCIER '67

Lee died Aug. 7, 2024, in Jacksonville, Fla., after a three-year battle with Parkinson's and cardiovascular disease.



He graduated from Hamilton High School East in Hamilton Township, N.J. He was president of the student council and lieutenant governor of the New Jersey District of Key Club. He played soccer, baseball, and participated in school theater productions.

At Princeton, Lee majored in English and graduated *magna cum laude*. He was a member of Tiger Inn and roomed at 312 Walker Hall with George Wilgus and the late Lee Knauerhaze and Jim Clegg. Lee was president of Chapel deacons and chairman of the class memorial fund drive and the New Jersey Schools Committee. He was a member of Orange Key and Triangle.

Lee joined the Peace Corps after graduation, serving in Ghana, West Africa, for two years. He then attended the University of Virginia Law School for a year, got drafted, and went to OCS. He served in the Navy for three years as a lieutenant junior grade on the USS *Stribling* based in Jacksonville, Fla. After deployments to the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf, Lee went back to complete his law degree at the University of Virginia. Returning to Jacksonville, he began a 43-year legal career concentrating in wills, trusts, estates, and special-needs trusts.

As in college, Lee was prodigious in volunteer service, including 20 years as chairman of the Northeast Florida Princeton Alumni Schools Committee. He served on the boards of Pine Castle Inc., an organization for disabled persons; the Children's Home Society of Jacksonville; the Episcopal Cathedral Foundation; All Saints Episcopal Church; and the Jacksonville Marine Institute. He was an active Rotarian for 43 years and a volunteer soccer coach for 15 years.

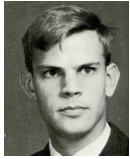
Lee is survived by his wife of 53 years, Roberta "Bobbie," whom he met at a mixer at Tiger Inn in February 1967.

### THE CLASS OF 1968

#### KENNETH E. HUBBARD '68

Ken died Sept. 21, 2024, in Tampa, Fla., of prostate cancer.





He came to us from Islip (N.Y.) High School. At Princeton, he was active as the layout editor for the 1967 *Bric-a-Brac*, vice president of Eta Kappa Nu honorary society, and was a member of IEEE. He majored in electrical engineering and ate at Elm Club. Senior year he roomed with Stephen Richer in 1903 Hall.

After graduating, Ken's first job was with Grumman Corp. in Bethpage, N.Y., where he worked on the lunar landing module and shortly thereafter married his high school sweetheart. In 1971, he earned a master's degree in engineering from UCLA on a fellowship from Hughes Aircraft. He then went to work for his father-in-law and built a 160-bed health-care facility in Fishkill, N.Y. He qualified as a New York State licensed nursing home administrator and later became CFO of that facility.

After living in Millbrook, N.Y., for 29 years, Ken and Betsy moved to Tampa in 2006, where he became the corporate controller of Greystone Healthcare Management, from which he retired in 2014. His hobbies centered around trout fishing and hiking.

Ken was predeceased by his daughter Amanda. The class extends its deepest sympathies to his widow, Betsy; daughter Laura; grandsons Chase, Colin, and Aiden; and his extended family.

### THE CLASS OF 1969

#### JOHN B. HANKS '69

John died Oct. 9, 2024, at home in North Garden, Va., of prostate cancer. He was surrounded by his wife of 48 years, Bonnie, and their daughters, Laura and Mary.

Born in Washington, D.C., John graduated *cum laude* from the Landon School. He followed brothers Jim '64 and Tom '66, and preceded niece Julia '01, to Princeton, where he majored in biology, ate at Cottage Club, and roomed with Jack McCarthy, Tom Weidner, and Bison Brown. He attended medical school at the University of Rochester and went on to complete his surgical training at Duke University.

John spent a surgical career at the University of Virginia, serving as chief of the newly formed Division of General Surgery from 1993 until his retirement in 2015. He served on the American Board of Surgery from 2005 to 2011 and was elected president of the Southern Surgical Association for the 2017-18 term.

Outside of work, John was a member of the Western Albemarle High School baseball coaching staff for nearly 20 years. In retirement, he volunteered for Hope's Legacy Equine Rescue and the Quebec-Labrador Foundation, got into CrossFit, and enjoyed

his role as "Goofy Grandpa" to grandchildren Alice and Jack. A frequent Reunions-attender, he kept in close touch with many of our classmates throughout his life.

John was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and friend. Of all his accomplishments, he was quick to say he was proudest of his family. His warmth, generosity, and humor will be missed by all who were fortunate enough to know him.

### THE CLASS OF 1971

#### JOHN A. LAWRIE '71

Remembered for his devotion to profession, patients, and family, John died at home in Newtown, Pa., July 3, 2022.



He came to Princeton from Cathedral High School in Indianapolis. He played freshman football and IAA sports, majored in biology, belonged to Stevenson, and was close to Blundon and Mike Davis. Classmates remember him for his thoughtfulness, sense of humor, friendly outgoing demeanor, positive outlook, and memorably sharing a house in the summer of 1970 with eight classmates.

John graduated from medical school at Indiana University and completed a residency in internal medicine at Penn. He then began his career work in emergency medicine at three community hospital emergency rooms near Newtown. John was well-respected for his clinical acumen and compassionate patient care. After 36 years of practice (including 21 in administration), he gratefully left behind continuous life-and-limb decisions and night/weekend call to retire in 2014.

John then devoted his time to reading history, regular exercise, following politics, riding his motorcycle, and spending time with friends, children, and grandchildren. His enduring second marriage to nurse practitioner Randi in 1981 produced sons JT and Scot and daughter Perri. Family travel destinations included Italy, Vietnam, Egypt, South Africa, and many Midwestern states.

The class extends its deepest sympathies to Randi; their three children; four grandchildren; other family members; and many colleagues and friends.

#### ELLIOTT D. MOORMAN '71

Elliott died May 31, 2023, after living for many years with dementia.



He came to Princeton from a musical family (sister Melba Moore and father Clem Moorman) and Essex Catholic High School in Newark, N.J. He quickly involved himself in student government and became the first-ever Black president of a Princeton class for our sophomore year. He championed causes that

included non-bicker alternatives, divestment in South Africa, and racial justice. Elliott majored in SPIA and lived in Wilson College. He also participated in debate competitions, the Harambee House Players, and the Association of Black Collegians.

He graduated from Columbia Law School and eventually started a law practice with classmates McCarter, Rickerson, and Quay in Newark. Through the years, Elliott practiced law in different settings, before succumbing to a variety of physical ailments in the mid-2000s that required an assisted-living setting in Milwaukee, near his son Kaliq.

Elliott helped procure musical acts for the class, including the 5th Dimension for sophomore prom and other performers for our 10th and 25th reunions. He was also active in the Association of Black Princeton Alumni (ABPA) and Alumni Schools Committee interviewing.

To his children, Justin, Rafiq, and Kaliq, and to other family and friends, the class extends its belated, deepest sympathies.

#### ROGER M. POOR '71

Roger, one of our class's globe-trotting financial managers, died July 14, 2024, in



Laurel, Md.

Born in New York City, Roger came to Princeton with the Class of 1969 from Hopkins School in New Haven, Conn. He later joined 1971 and was a devoted class member thereafter. He belonged to Quad, where he "captained" the tube team, roomed with Meyerson '69, majored in English, and was remembered for being kind and thoughtful. Roger earned an MBA from Wharton and embarked on a career that took him to extended stays in Sri Lanka, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Hungary. He finished his career as CFO of the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments in Washington, D.C., building on decades of experience in financial management and operations in both the nonprofit world and in growth-oriented service enterprises.

Roger served Princeton as a Schools Committee interviewer. After two marriages ended in divorce, he met Joanne Dolgow in 2002, and they married in 2006. Roger and Joanne were devoted to each other until her death in early 2024. The couple had no dependents. To his friends and family, the class extends its sympathies.

### THE CLASS OF 1986

#### DAWN JIMENEZ-SALTA '86

Dawn, a New York State Supreme Court justice, died in a motorcycle accident on the Long Island Expressway Oct. 20, 2024.

She joined us from Oakdale, N.Y., and majored in history. She was a member of Elm Club, and her friendly disposition and



strong work ethic garnered her many Princeton friends for life. These friends share special memories of the fun times they had with Dawn throughout the campus, trips around the globe, and a sense of how their lives were bettered by knowing her.

Post Princeton, Dawn graduated from Temple Law School before returning to New York to practice law with Borah, Goldstein, Altschuler & Schwartz. After becoming a partner, she was appointed to the New York City Housing Court and later to the N.Y. Supreme Court, rendering verdicts in high-profile litigation. A colleague described Dawn beautifully: “Good lawyer. Good judge. Exceptional human.”

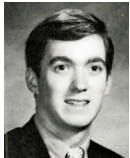
Above all, Dawn was a devoted mother, daughter, sister, and genuine friend. She is sorely missed.

The Class of 1986 extends our deepest condolences to her daughter, Olivia; parents Max Jiménez and Elena Iaconis; and the rest of her family, friends, and colleagues whom she touched with her grace.

#### THE CLASS OF 1987

##### MICHAEL A. KJELSBERG '87

Mike died August 21, 2022, of colon cancer, having already survived cancer before



coming to Princeton. His philosophy was “life is sweet,” and he lived that every day.

Mike came from Minneapolis. He played the French horn, fenced, and played wheelchair basketball. He won the Hirata Cup championship at Tower and the chemistry thesis prize. He attended Johns Hopkins Medical School, trained at Duke and Brigham and Women’s Hospital, and practiced at the Mayo Clinic. In 2002, Mike joined Mount Auburn Hospital as both chief of cardiology and an assistant professor at Harvard Medical School. He was a tremendous teacher, loved his practice, and saw patients up to his death. Mount Auburn has established an award for clinical and teaching excellence and an annual lecture in his memory.

Mike met his wife, Crystal, at Johns Hopkins. They married in 1993. Mike was devoted to his family and took photos of them that he meticulously cataloged. He was steady, upbeat, humorous, and observant. He made and kept good friends from all aspects of his life.

Mike is survived by Crystal; their children Hannah, Emory, Clara, and Henry; as well as his in-laws who loved him deeply.

#### THE CLASS OF 1988

##### JOHN D. BOSTON '88

John died Nov. 14, 2023. Known as “JB” to his classmates, he lived a life marked by



intellect, devotion to his family, and selfless service to his country.

Born Jan. 25, 1966, in Nashville, he grew up in Montgomery, Ala., excelling academically and graduating valedictorian from Montgomery Academy in 1984. At Princeton, he was a history major who graduated *cum laude* and was a treasured friend at Cloister Inn.

John’s distinguished career as an intelligence officer in the Air Force took him to Texas, South Korea, Germany, and Turkey. He provided critical analysis of operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm and the breakup of the former Yugoslavia, earning meritorious service awards and commendations. A skilled communicator, John’s colleagues and superiors often requested him by name.

After his military service, he earned a master’s in economics from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, then found his true calling in teaching, inspiring students with his deep understanding of history and mathematics.

John’s sister Betsy fondly recalls him as her “answer box” and best friend. His classmates remember him as a Southern gentleman — smart, kind, and always there when needed.

John is survived by two children and two siblings.

#### IVY HOROWITZ ELKINS '88

Ivy died June 23, 2024, after a battle with stage-four EGFR lung cancer.

Raised in Riverdale, N.Y., Ivy attended the Bronx High School of Science and graduated from Princeton with a degree in English. At Princeton, she was a proud member of Rockefeller College and the heart of Quadrangle Club. She is remembered for her vibrant personality, skill at organizing her friends, and infectious “Hiya!” greeting across campus.

After Princeton, Ivy worked in investment banking with Salomon Brothers and earned an MBA from Wharton in 1992. While working for American Airlines in Dallas, she met her husband, Ben Elkins. They married in 1996 surrounded by Quad friends and later settled in Chicago. Ivy was so proud of her two sons, Adam '23 and Jared (University of Michigan '25).

Diagnosed with lung cancer in 2013, Ivy became a dedicated advocate for lung cancer research, founding the EGFR Resisters Group (egfrcancer.org) and tirelessly raising awareness and funding for new treatments.

Ivy’s friends and family remember her as a rock star mother, a ferocious cancer fighter, and a loving wife and friend. Her husband, Ben, and their sons were by her side during her final days. Ivy’s legacy of love, laughter,

and advocacy will continue to inspire all who knew her.

#### THE CLASS OF 1995

##### CLAIRE V. CROOKS '95

Claire died June 28, 2024, in London, Ontario, Canada, surrounded by her family.



She grew up in Lethbridge, Alberta, and attended high school at Brentwood College School. At Princeton, Claire lived in Butler College, was a member of DEC, and was

active in SVC, the ski team, and rugby. She majored in psychology, beginning the path that eventually led to a career in that field, including a Ph.D. from Queen’s University. She taught at Western University, using a data-driven approach to improving youth mental health, with a focus on vulnerable populations.

Claire was devoted to her family and enjoyed spending time with them traveling, skiing, or in the family pool. She also stayed connected to Princeton as an Alumni Schools Committee interviewer. On June 21, Claire was admitted to the Order of Ontario, the province’s highest civilian honor, at an investiture ceremony in her hospital room.

Claire is survived by her husband, George Goodall; their children Finn, Sydney, Grady, and Tilly; her parents Art and Mary Jane; her brothers Morgan '98 and Hew; and many other relatives.

#### BRIAN J. WARTER '95

Brian and his fiancée, Erica Wishart, drowned in an accident June 20, 2024,



off the shore of Hutchinson Island, Fla. The two were pulled out to sea in a rip current while visiting on a family vacation with the six children they had from prior

relationships. Their children were returned to the care of their surviving biological parents.

At Princeton, Brian lived in Butler College, was a member of DEC, and played JV soccer. He majored in computer science engineering and worked his whole career for Accenture. At the time of his death, he was an associate partner managing the Merck account.

Brian’s friends remembered him as warm, considerate, a wonderful father, and a loyal person with a great sense of humor.

Brian is survived by his sons Colin and Ian; his parents Lawrence '67 and Susan; and two brothers. The class extends its condolences to Brian’s and Erica’s families.

#### GRADUATE ALUMNI

##### FREDRIK ARTHUR MULLER \*64

Fred died Sept. 22, 2024, in Albany, N.Y.

Born Dec. 15, 1934, in Fevik, Norway, he earned a bachelor of science degree at



Union College and a Ph.D. in chemistry from Princeton in 1964.

Fred started his professional life at General Electric's Knolls research and development laboratory. Later he transitioned to academia as an assistant professor at the University of Virginia, where he also operated a flight school. In the 1970s, he joined the family business, Spa City Cycle Center, as vice president, before moving into roles as a researcher for the New York State Department of Health, and as a software consultant for Digital Equipment Corp.

Fred served in the Navy Reserve. An avid aviator, he held several flight certifications, taught flying, and was a member of the Civil Air Patrol. Into his early 80s, he enjoyed driving a school bus for his local school district.

Predeceased by his first wife, Eleanor; son Walter; and daughter Ruth, Fred is survived by his wife, Mary; son John; seven grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

#### **RAFAEL RIVAS-POSADA \*67**

Colombian lawyer, educator, and diplomat, Rafael died Aug. 30, 2024, in Bogotá.

Born in Bogotá April 5, 1932, he studied law at the Universidad Nacional, served as a municipal judge, then entered the University of Paris, where he studied civil and comparative law.

After working in the public sector, Rafael earned a master's in public administration at the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, and an M.A. in politics from Princeton in 1967.

In Colombia, Rafael alternated between the law and academia. At the Universidad del Valle and Universidad de los Andes, he became dean of the departments of political science, economics and social sciences, and arts and sciences, and president of the university.

As minister of education, he oversaw a cultural and educational cooperation agreement between Colombia and Cuba. Rafael's diplomatic posts included deputy ambassador to the United Nations in New York; regional coordinator of UNESCO for Latin America and the Caribbean; delegate to the World Conference on Culture; and special representative of the secretary general of the United Nations for the study of the human-rights situation in Uruguay and Cuba.

Rafael was Colombia's Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg, the European Union, and the United Nations in Geneva.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Isabel; sons Rafael and Juan-Antonio '87; and five grandchildren.

#### **GEORGE A. RUFF \*67**

George died of cancer Sept. 26, 2024, in Lewiston, Maine.

Born in Bayshore, N.Y., May 10, 1941, he received a bachelor of science degree at Le Moyne College and earned a Ph.D. in physics from Princeton in 1967.

After postdoctoral work at Cornell, George taught at Bates College for 40 years, where he was a Charles A. Dana Professor of Physics and served as physics department chair and chair of the sciences division.

At Bates, George taught courses on quantum mechanics, laboratory physics, and laboratory electronics, among others. He conducted research on atomic and laser physics, including the study of ultracold atoms in magneto-optical atom traps.

While on sabbatical in 1975–76, George did research with Nobel Laureate Willis Lamb and others at the University of Arizona that yielded a co-authored paper in *Physical Review Letters* on the first observation of the infrared radiation spectrum of the hydrogen molecular ion.

He conducted summer research at the University of Rochester; MIT; the Stanford Research Institute; the Albert-Ludwig-Universität Freiburg in Germany; the University of Virginia; the University of Otago in New Zealand; and Technische Universität Innsbruck in Austria.

George is survived by his wife, Nancy; children Joseph, Daniel, Susan, and Arthur; and eight grandchildren.

#### **DAVID H. SMITH \*67**

David died Oct. 5, 2024, in Bloomington, Ind.

He was born in Evanston, Ill., April 28, 1939. After receiving his B.A. from Carleton College in 1960, he earned a bachelor of divinity degree from Yale in 1964 and a Ph.D. in religion from Princeton in 1967.

After Princeton, David joined the faculty at Indiana University, where he helped to launch the religious studies department.

David's intellectual work was in the area of religion and bioethics. He became director of Indiana's Poynter Center for the Study of Ethics and American Institutions, overseeing the teaching of ethics, care for the dying, genetic testing, research ethics, and the moral responsibilities of trustees, and the relationship of religion and ethics.

After retiring from Indiana in 2003, David became the Frederick Distinguished Visiting Professor at DePauw University, where he helped start the Janet Prindle Institute for Ethics. He was also a visitor at Yale's Institution for Social and Policy Studies and the Interdisciplinary Center for Bioethics. He served on the board of the Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities and conducted professional development training for the U.S. Navy Chaplain Corps.

David's wife, Marie-Louise; children Alexandra, Zachary, and Jacob; and five grandchildren survive him.

#### **KAREN R. DAUBERT \*98**

Karen died Sept. 12, 2024, of cancer in St. Louis. She was 63.

She earned a bachelor's degree in 1983

from Oklahoma City University and an M.A. in German from Duke in 1990.

After earning her Ph.D. in Germanic languages and literatures from Princeton in 1998, Karen took a part-time job as an executive assistant in Washington University's Office of Public Affairs. She rose to the position of assistant vice chancellor in University Marketing and Communications. A colleague said of Karen, "Could an 18th-century poetry scholar do accounting? Yes — and more."

Leading WashU's trademark-licensing program, Karen made sure that every vendor — whether of water bottles in the Philippines or sweatshirts in China — provided their workers a living wage and adhered to strict environmental standards. She represented the university at the Fair Labor Association, serving on the board of directors for 15 years. She chaired the FLA's manufacturing committee, university caucus and best-practices working group, and participated in factory inspections overseas.

As an independent scholar, Karen published essays on literary collaboration, including that between Robert Graves and Laura Riding, and on literary joint ventures in German culture.

Karen is survived by her husband, Bill Hubbard; her mother, Dorothea; and two sisters.

#### **HILAIRE A. KALLENDORF \*00**

Hilaire died in College Station, Texas, Oct. 15, 2024, after being struck by a city garbage truck. She was 50 years old.

Born June 13, 1974, Hilaire earned her undergraduate degree from Texas A&M in 1995 and a Ph.D. in comparative literature from Princeton in 2000.

Returning to her undergraduate alma mater, Hilaire joined the Texas A&M faculty as an assistant professor in September 2001 and became a full professor in September 2013. Her field of teaching and scholarship was Hispanic and religious studies. She was a Cornerstone Faculty Fellow in Liberal Arts. Alongside her research interests of the Spanish Golden Age and Renaissance cultural studies, Hilaire wrote about her father, tennis player Cliff Richey, and his struggles with depression. During her career, Hilaire wrote six volumes of collected essays and edited studies, more than 40 articles and book chapters, and numerous translations of works.

Her range of Spanish courses extended beyond her area of research specialty, and her ecumenical interests made her an active affiliate member of the faculties in religious studies and in Latino/a and Mexican American studies.

Predeceased by her former husband, Craig, Hilaire is survived by her sons Trevor and Barrett.

*Graduate memorials are prepared by the APGA.*

# CLASSIFIED



## For Rent

### EUROPE

**Italy/Todi:** Luxurious 8BR, 7.5BA villa, amazing views, infinity pool, olives, lavender, grapes, vegetable garden, housekeeper included, cook available, A/C, Wi-Fi. Discount for Princetonians. Photos/prices/availability: [www.luxuryvillatodi.com](http://www.luxuryvillatodi.com), p'11.

**France** [www.closdesrossignols.fr](http://www.closdesrossignols.fr) - Chambres d'Hôtes in the heart of the Perigord Noir south west France one hour from Bergerac airport.

**Paris 7th.** Fifth floor, quiet, studio sleeps 2 adults plus 1 child. Balcony. View of Eiffel Tower. [www.parisgrenelle.com](http://www.parisgrenelle.com). (207) 752-0285.

**PARIS, ILE SAINT-LOUIS:** Elegant, spacious top floor skylighted apartment, gorgeous view overlooking Seine, 2 bedrooms sleep 4, 2 baths, elevator, well-appointed, full kitchen, Wi-Fi. (678) 232-8444 or [triff@mindspring.com](mailto:triff@mindspring.com).

### UNITED STATES, NORTHEAST

**Deer Isle, Maine:** Stunning waterfront 5BR House and 3BR Cottage on Penobscot Bay. Each available weekly, June - Sept, 2025. <https://www.hitzpointmaine.com>. Contact Eliza 801.598.8689.

**Reunions 2025:** Nice hotel room available, for Thursday till Sunday, three-night package, May 22 till May 25. Hyatt Regency Princeton, 102 Carnegie Center. King Atrium Interior Balcony room, overlooking lobby. Marble bath. \$639.00/night base rate. Total with all taxes is \$2,197.00. Contact [BothwellLee@gmail.com](mailto:BothwellLee@gmail.com)

**NEW YORK APT FOR RENT** Harlem Brownstone Apartment For Rent. Air conditioned, 1BR, 1BA plus living room and kitchen. New stainless steel appliances. Furnished. Quiet, tree-lined street. Easy access to public transportation. Perfect for NYC-based locum tenens medical professionals or summer interns. For photos and other info text or call 321-599-7989.

**Wellfleet:** 4 bedroom beachfront cottage with spectacular views overlooking Cape Cod National Seashore. 646-387-5327 or [Richard.Thaler@icloud.com](mailto:Richard.Thaler@icloud.com), '73.

### UNITED STATES, WEST COAST

**Kolea** - 2 and 3 bedroom beachfront vacation rentals at Waikoloa Beach Resort on the Big Island of Hawaii. <https://www.waikoloavacationrentals.com/kolea-rentals/>

### UNITED STATES, ALASKA

**Anchorage, Alaska:** 2-story, 937' single-family 1BR mountain home on private 1/2 wooded acre 15 minutes to airport/downtown yet a world away. Spectacular panoramic inlet/mountain/city views. WiFi, full kitchen, W/D. Sleeps 3. (732) 720-7547 or [mikhaelmadello@gmail.com](mailto:mikhaelmadello@gmail.com).

### LOOKING TO RENT

**Co-Chair** of her 2025 40th Reunion seeks minimum 3BR home rental for 5/20/25 through 5/25/25. Walking distance to campus and a swimming pool are highly valued. No events will be held at the home. Email [martha@ehmannconte.com](mailto:martha@ehmannconte.com) with details and pricing.



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PRINCETON  
ALUMNI WEEKLY

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## Professional Services

**Ghostwriting Services:** Well-published author will assist with your writing projects, from shorter narratives — articles, speeches, etc. — to book-length ones, including memoirs. Recent clients include a quant investor, an essayist, and a noted Harvard environmentalist. [penelope8@alumni.stanford.edu](mailto:penelope8@alumni.stanford.edu)

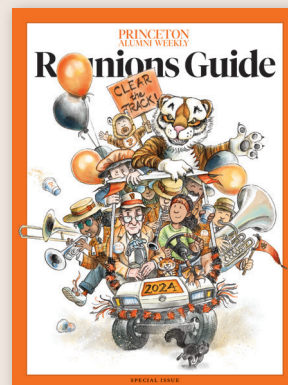
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## Personals

**WTB:** I collect Princeton beer jackets and other memorabilia. 1980s and earlier. [aidankelleyjr@gmail.com](mailto:aidankelleyjr@gmail.com) 973-980-7559.

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HENRY STRATER 1919 (1896-1987)

## He Inspired Hemingway Before Falling Out Over a Famous Fish

BY ELYSE GRAHAM '07

**A**FTER SERVING AS AN inspiration for Ernest Hemingway's stories, Henry Strater 1919 finally broke off his friendship with Hemingway over a fish. It was a great fish: a 14-foot, 1,000-pound marlin that Strater caught while fishing with Hemingway in the Bahamas. The problem was that Hemingway let the press believe he caught the fish, and also — this is why you can't trust novelists — immortalized the drama of catching it in a tale that won him the Pulitzer and Nobel prizes.

Born in Kentucky, Strater served as the editor of *The Daily Princetonian* and wavered, for a time, between choosing a career as a writer or an artist. Like many of his classmates, he took a break from his studies to serve in World War I, driving ambulances for the Red Cross in France — much the same experience that started Hemingway's career as a writer. "But after attending the Julian Academy for one month," he said, referring to a painting school in Paris, "I decided I would rather sit before a

beautiful woman than a typewriter."

In France, Strater moved with the most famous figures of the Lost Generation, including James Joyce, Gertrude Stein, Ezra Pound, Ford Madox Ford, William Carlos Williams, and fellow Princetonian F. Scott Fitzgerald 1917. (Fitzgerald used him as a model for the character Burne Holiday in his novel *This Side of Paradise*: humorous, eccentric, and, like Strater himself, a pacifist who campaigned for anti-war causes as a student.) He met Hemingway in "an impromptu boxing match on a Paris street corner," the Associated Press later reported, which, regrettably, was a very characteristic way to meet Hemingway.

"I had boxed in school, and I think I impressed Hemingway with my punch," Strater said. "That's the only way you could impress him."

When Hemingway learned that Strater was a former ambulance driver who enjoyed boxing and fishing, the two became fast friends. He sat for several portraits by Strater — who was a well-

known artist in his own right, with work that often appeared in prestigious salons — and used one of them for the frontispiece of the 1925 book *In Our Time*. He based some of his writing in that collection on Strater's accounts of the bullfighting scene in Spain.

The event that led to the end of the friendship happened in 1935, when the two were fishing on Hemingway's yacht off the coast of the Bahamas. "We fished for black marlin off Bimini for almost a month, and didn't even get a strike," the painter later said. "Then one day we decided to troll at a faster speed and I snagged a big one."

Hemingway was in the habit of using a sawed-off rifle to shoot at sharks. When Strater brought the fish alongside the ship, Hemingway grabbed his rifle and — standing behind Strater and shooting past his head — shot at the fish instead, yelling, "Sharks, sharks!" If jealousy over what might be a record catch was his motivation, he succeeded: The shots roiled the water so much they attracted sharks, which ate away much of the fish by the time Strater could reel it in.

Still, what remained of the fish was a beauty, and when they brought it to shore, a huge crowd gathered to applaud the catch. A photographer took pictures; "Hemingway sidled up close to the fish, stuck out his chest, and got his picture taken as if he had caught it," Strater said.

In 1952, Hemingway published the novella *The Old Man and the Sea*, which tells the story of a fisherman who struggles to land a record marlin, which is ultimately eaten by sharks before he can bring it in. A few years later, *Time* published a picture of Hemingway and the fish, Strater said: "The caption said something about this being the fish that Hemingway caught which inspired him to write *The Old Man and the Sea*." Hemingway declined to write in a correction — the last blow to their friendship, which had been on cool terms since the fishing trip.

"Hem was a fine sportsman, but in this case too competitive," Strater said. "Oh, he was very alive and more fun to be with than anyone I ever knew, but he could be a real S.O.B." ■





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Additional support for this exhibition is provided by the Curtis W. McGraw Foundation; the Edna W. Andrade Fund of the Philadelphia Foundation; and Princeton University's Humanities Council, Program in Latin American Studies, Seeger Center for Hellenic Studies (with the support of the Stanley J. Seeger Hellenic Fund), Department of African American Studies, Graduate School—Access, Diversity and Inclusion, Effron Center for the Study of America, and Program in Latino Studies.

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