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PRINCETON ALUMNIWEEKLY MAY 2025





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A view of campus from above Nassau Street shows the new art museum in its historic neighborhood. Photograph by Kyle Kielinski.



COURTESY OF THE PRINCETON UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM / JOSEPH HU

Princeton Pre-read, 2025: 'On the Fringe'

With every year's Princeton Pre-read, I introduce incoming first-year students to the intellectual life of the University through the experience of reading and discussing a book together. The Class of 2029's book is Dean of the College Michael D. Gordin's On the Fringe: Where Science Meets Pseudoscience. This is my foreword to the Pre-read edition, which the incoming class will receive this summer. I encourage all alumni to read along with us!

ear Members of the GREAT Class of 2029, Warm greetings from Princeton! My colleagues and I look forward to welcoming you to campus later this year. Your talents, interests, and perspectives will add tremendously to this community, and I am confident that you in turn will develop and grow through the experiences, interactions, challenges, and opportunities that await you here.

I am delighted to share with you this copy of the Princeton Pre-read selection for 2025, Michael D. Gordin's *On the Fringe: Where Science Meets Pseudoscience*. The Pre-read is one of many traditions you will encounter at Princeton and is part of a series of activities that will introduce you to the scholarly and communal life of the University. I like to think of it as a scholarly counterpart to the Pre-rade, a joyous ceremony in which incoming undergraduates mark their arrival at Princeton by parading out from Opening Exercises.

I had many reasons for choosing *On the Fringe* as this year's Pre-read. One is that it is a fun way to acquaint you with Princeton's Dean of the College—the senior administrator responsible for our undergraduate academic program. Michael Gordin began his deanship in 2024 after more than twenty years on the faculty. He is the Rosengarten Professor of Modern and Contemporary History and has authored, co-authored, or edited more than a dozen books.

Another reason that I like *On the Fringe* is that it grew out of a class that Dean Gordin taught to Princeton undergraduates. Perhaps for that reason, the book is a marvelous introduction to a wide range of topics—from logical positivism to quantum mechanics to the shameful history of eugenics—that will provide useful background for courses you might take at this University. (*On the Fringe* also discusses subjects less likely to recur in your studies, such as the Abominable Snowman and the Loch Ness Monster.) Dean Gordin, moreover, writes clearly and with flashes of dry humor that may have you laughing aloud as you read.

I also like *On the Fringe* because, though it is neither partisan nor overtly political, it bears upon some public controversies much in the news, including issues about vaccine safety and climate change. Denouncing views as "pseudoscientific" can affect—justifiably or not—how they fare in political as well as scholarly debate.

Most importantly, I chose *On the Fringe* as our Pre-read because it invites conversation about the purposes of the liberal arts curriculum that awaits you at Princeton. Our admission website says that Princeton's liberal arts education aims to give you an "expansive intellectual grounding in all kinds of humanistic inquiry." Yet, the University interprets "all kinds" in strikingly limited fashion. We not only distinguish science from pseudoscience, but, more broadly, we count some arguments, investigations, and fields as "scholarly" and others as not. Thinking about how and why we draw these distinctions will help you to benefit fully from your time studying here.



Professor Gordin will take the stage during Orientation Week to talk with us about *On the Fringe*. Over the course of the fall semester, we will offer Pre-read discussions in the residential colleges that will provide opportunities to discuss the book and the broader issues it raises. I anticipate that these conversations will range over many topics, but here are three you might consider as you read the book this summer:

1. What is the "demarcation problem?" (p. 1). Does it generalize beyond science? For example, does it make sense to ask how to tell what is "literature" and what is not? (Can we say definitively that Shakespeare's "Hamlet" is "in" but that Charles Schulz's "Peanuts" is not?) What if we ask what counts as a liberal arts discipline and what does not—or, to put the question more specifically, why Princeton offers a major in Economics but not Business?

2. What is the appropriate response to fringe theories or projects such as the Princeton Engineering Anomalies Research Lab that operated from 1979 to 2007 (pp. 70-71) or other parapsychology experiments? Should we ignore them, actively debunk them, or engage respectfully with them? More generally, how do we decide what theories and ideas deserve our engagement, attention, and respect?

3. Dean Gordin distinguishes between "politicized" and "hyperpoliticized" science (p. 29). What do you think of these categories? Can you apply them to the controversies that erupted during the COVID pandemic? For example, in a provocative new book, Princeton politics professors Frances Lee and Stephen Macedo argue that the scientific establishment suppressed debate by stigmatizing dissenters as unethical. Lee and Macedo, *In Covid's Wake: How Our Politics Failed Us* (Princeton University Press, 2025) p. 105. How would you go about assessing that claim?

I look forward to examining these topics and others with you, and to welcoming you when you arrive on campus later this year. In the meantime, I hope that you enjoy *On the Fringe*, and I hope, too, that you have a wonderful and refreshing summer.

With very best wishes,



CLIMATE WARNINGS

For the most part, the article about Princeton's investments in petroleum speaks for itself ("Princeton's Slow Burn," March issue). Unfortunately, the



article leaves ambiguous what was known about climate change and when. In 1978-82 it was very far from true that "only Exxon inside scientists" knew about the dangers of CO₂ emissions, as former trustee E. Philip Cannon '63 claims. Leaving aside decades of scientific papers, even public policy documents had been warning for years:

- In 1965, President Lyndon Johnson's Science Advisory Committee warned "an increase of atmospheric carbon dioxide could act, much like the glass in a greenhouse, to raise the temperature of the lower air."
- In a 1977 memorandum, Frank Press, President Jimmy Carter's chief science adviser, warned that "the potential effect on the environment of a climatic fluctuation of such rapidity could be catastrophic."
- A 1979 National Research Council report concluded "the more realistic of the modeling efforts predict a global surface warming of between 2 degrees Celsius and 3.5 degrees Celsius."

Exxon's scientists never knew anything qualitatively different from the rest of the scientific community — and many other companies knew the same. Thanks to the efforts of Exxon and others, much of the public might not have understood the path we were on, but anyone at Princeton who wanted to understand the climate could have walked over to the geosciences department and gotten a full explanation.

MITCH GOLDEN '81

New York, N.Y.

INTERNATIONAL AID

Leaders in China, more than anywhere else, must be delighted to see the collapse of USAID (Princetonians, April issue). Countries from around the world will conclude that America is not a reliable partner and will seek aid from China instead. China, like the U.S., will provide aid with some strings attached - strings that will bind these countries more tightly to China.

People who think that our international aid is a waste have no idea of the consequences of eliminating it — especially the geopolitical consequences.

> JAY TYSON '76 Mercerville, N.J.

Charity begins at home. A new commuter rail tunnel between northern New Jersey and Penn Station, New York, is desperately needed. There is a hierarchy of needs, and money isn't unlimited. The nation is \$35 trillion in debt. Projects like the Gateway Tunnel should be prioritized over USAID.

GAETANO P. CIPRIANO '78

Vero Beach, Fla.

ENDOWMENT TAX

Tax-exempt status is not a right, it is a privilege reserved for entities that society believes are serving the public good ("Another Cash Grab," March issue).

Entrenched leftists don't get to decide what the "public good" is — society gets to decide that, and society (which yes, does

unfortunately include those peons) is now about to make very clear how they currently value Princeton's recent contributions to societal division and dysfunction.

Anybody who is shocked by an endowment tax has had their head purposely buried in the sand. Princeton was clearly warned by the first 1.4% endowment tax and did not reverse track one iota over the last eight years. Leadership hubris did this to Princeton.

BLAIR PEROT '87

Milton Mills, N.H.

You can see why people would be skeptical of college endowments. What some of these journalists should do together with their routine rankings is to investigate schools' service to their communities and to the country: things like research, George Will *68's idea of training leadership, and Princeton's very aggressive approach to financial aid. Yes, and also the fact that Princeton has almost doubled its undergraduate headcount since my undergraduate days. (Alumni like to complain about too many buildings on campus. Well, this is one reason.) Harvard has maintained the same graduating class size that it had 55 years ago, but it has a vast array of institutes serving the public interest, with as many employees as on the academic side. Stories like these need to be told before anyone jumps to too many conclusions about whether the taxadvantaged status of educational finance is well-deserved or not.

ROB SLOCUM '71

Ocean View, Del.

ACADEMIC FREEDOM

President Christopher Eisgruber '83's spirited defense of academic freedom and the unique contributions made by our leading research universities is an inspiring and brave response to the Trump Administration's extortion ("As Eisgruber Speaks Out for Higher Ed, Princeton Community Digs In," published online March 26). I hope more of his colleagues in the world of higher education follow

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his lead, rather than engage in the preemptive capitulation that makes Neville Chamberlain look resolute by comparison. I've never been prouder to be a Princeton alumnus.

JIM LYTLE '74

Jamaica Plain, Mass.

Since graduation, I have directed my modest charitable giving toward direct humanitarian causes, rather than to Princeton. This decision was shaped by an ethical framework I developed while taking Peter Singer's introductory ethics class at Princeton. But as we witness government funding being weaponized against academic freedom, I recognize that educational institutions face unprecedented threats. When this administration threatens to withhold research funding from universities that don't comply with political demands, they strike at the heart of higher education, and democracy.

Princeton taught us to think critically and to stand firm in defense of truth.

Now is the time for us to help Princeton embody these values by lending our collective power as alumni.

I've made a personal commitment: If Princeton demonstrates courage in defending academic freedom, I will give financially to my alma mater for the first time. While my contribution may be modest, I believe thousands of alumni feel similarly. Together, our collective response could make a difference.

I urge you to make a similar commitment. Write to the administration expressing your concern and your willingness to provide first time or continued financial support should Princeton take a principled stand. Princeton gave us the tools to recognize what matters. Will you join me in letting our alma mater know that its alumni stand ready to support academic freedom with both our voices and our resources?

ZOË BUCK BRACEY '08

Colorado Springs, Colo.

MAYA HISTORY

The article about Professor Garry Sparks (Research, March issue) refers to Princeton's collection of historical documents written in Maya languages but does not specify whether these documents are originals, copies, on loan, or owned by the University. Any such original documents are historical artifacts of the Maya people. Those pieces as well as any rare or difficult to reproduce copies should be in the hands of the people whose history they carry.

This situation begs some questions: 1. How did those documents come into Princeton's possession? and 2. Why do they continue to be in Princeton's possession when historians worldwide are calling for historical artifacts to be returned to their homelands? Princeton's own Chika Okeke-Agulu, Nigerian art historian and African art professor, made exactly that case in a 2021 interview with the CBC. However, the PAW article doesn't even mention the problem of cultural artifacts maintained by others. Instead, the article seems to brag that Princeton has "one of the largest collections in the world" of these Maya Native language documents, including "nine of the 20 known versions" of one particular tome from the 1550s.

It is admittedly a nontrivial challenge to figure out who exactly should take possession of documents from so long ago. Nevertheless, governments and museums around the world are making the effort to identify more rightful owners and repatriate artifacts. If Princeton's collection contains anything which cannot be readily found in the Maya's own repositories, the University needs to step up and return the documents to the Maya people.

LINDA BONDER '85

Sedona, Ariz.

The Catholic theology referenced in the letter above was written by Spanish Dominican priest Domingo de Vico, one of the first Christian missionaries to the Highland Maya. As there are no surviving copies as written by Vico, Professor Sparks' research is based on the examination of second- or thirdgeneration copies from the late 1500s and beyond.

Princeton University Library (PUL) received these copies, along with most of its Mesoamerican collection, as a gift in



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PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY

What's Orange and Black and Read All Over?

PAW Newsletters.



PAW NEWSLETTERS

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1946 from Robert S. Garrett, Class of 1897, who had purchased them in 1930 from early Mayanist William E. Gates.

PUL works closely with campus leadership to review, on an ongoing basis, issues of provenance and repatriation inherent to its stewardship of numerous significant historical artifacts. The library also endeavors to empower scholars and students to work closely with these materials. One example of this includes the co-sponsorship of up to eight Mexican and Guatemalan scholars, led by Professor Sparks, for a weeklong on-campus workshop to study, understand, and promote the scholarship of this collection.

DANIEL J. LINKE

Acting Associate University Librarian for Special Collections

GABRIEL SWIFT

Librarian for Early American Collections Princeton, N.J.

IN THE NATION'S SERVICE

Stories and letters in the March issue of PAW invoked "Princeton in the nation's service" to support partisan versions of what Princeton and Princetonians should be doing (SPIA should be emphasizing left-wing policies, students should avoid careers in finance, etc.). I believe that this misunderstands the motto and its place within Princeton's broader mission.

Princeton's stated mission is to advance learning and prepare students for meaningful lives and careers. Both Princeton and Princetonians should flourish (*Dei sub numine viget*). This can be accomplished by building a company; pursuing a professional career; or taking on roles in teaching, research, or other areas. Princeton is not a school dedicated to producing civil servants or extreme altruists.

Within this context, Princeton hopes its graduates will pursue their careers with integrity and consideration for all, considering perspectives broader than their own and hopefully returning some of their surplus to benefit others, just as notables of ancient Greece were expected to support civic needs.

I believe that our country is undercut

less by the views of those on the left or the right than by the animosity between them, and the consequent division into increasingly polar tribes driven to extremes by their disdain for each other. If Princeton wants to act in the nation's service, it should help build the nation by teaching its graduates to understand and respect all views, including those that they don't agree with, and to strive for consensus.

Partisan views, however well intended, are seldom in the nation's service.

DANIEL MYTELKA '87

Bellevue, Wash.

INDEPENDENT STUDY

Regarding the suggestion to honor Robert Goheen '40 *48 at the School of Public and International Affairs (Inbox, March issue): In December 1985, I was a junior who had an idea for a potential senior thesis comparing China's Sun Yat-sen and India's Mahatma Gandhi. but I knew I needed to know much more about Indian history in order to develop it. I went to talk to the then-chair of the history department, Robert Tignor, about whether there was a professor who could supervise an independent study for me. Professor Tignor said that he didn't currently have a faculty member in history to suggest, but perhaps I could talk to President Goheen, who had served as ambassador to India. I did, and President Goheen agreed to supervise a reading course.

It was an extraordinary experience to learn about India from someone who loved and knew India so well, and such a privilege to take the time of such a prominent member of the faculty. It is still one of my favorite stories to tell about Princeton's commitment to undergraduate students. I would love to see President Goheen's name on the building where I met with him, every two weeks in the spring of 1986.

ANN LIN'87

Ann Arbor, Mich.

LATE MEAL ANALOG

James Swinehart '27's nourishing article on the culinary phenomenon of the Frist Campus Center "Late Meal" was a thoroughly appetizing read (Student Dispatch, February issue). To my surprise, the essay brought forth a flashback, not of any undergraduate episodes, but of later experience in service with the U.S. Navy. This is something I might have forgotten completely but for the memory poke provided by PAW.

The Navy (at one time) had a similar mess option, referred to in that standard lingual military shorthand as "Mid Rats" (meaning "midnight rations"). Like Late Meal, Mid Rats were always well-attended and popular.

This absent-minded, gray-haired knucklehead had lost track of that long-ago lost dining detail, until joyously reminded of it by his treasured good old reliable PAW. The Princeton Alumni Weekly, why it's sort of like Navy chow; it just doesn't get any better. And did I mention the splendidly exquisite illustration accompanying the Student Dispatch piece? How can you beat all of that?

ROCKY SEMMES '79

Alexandria, Va.

YOUR PERSPECTIVE

Let us know what you think

PAW@princeton.edu

PAW, 194 Nassau St., Ste. 38 Princeton, NJ 08542

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





EXCLUSIVES

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SUPREME COURT

The case of **P.G. Sittenfeld '07,** a former Cincinnati City Council member convicted on bribery charges, may be headed to the Supreme Court.

Legal experts across the political spectrum say the case raises historic constitutional questions, and when an appeals court in February upheld the conviction, all three judges wrote separate opinions inviting the highest court to step in and clarify the murky points of law on which Sittenfeld's legal fate rests. Sittenfeld's pro bono lawyers are preparing to formally ask



the Supreme Court to do just that; their petition is expected by early June, and the court could decide whether to take the case by the fall.



TIGER OF THE WEEK

Kaitlyn Chen '24, the 2023 Ivy League player of the year, won the Women's Basketball National Championship with the University of Connecticut. Chen graduated from Princeton and then used her extra year of NCAA eligibility to play this year as a graduate transfer at UConn — a decision that paid off April 6 when the Huskies beat the South Carolina Gamecocks 82-59.

PAW BOOK CLUB

Thanks to the book club members who sent in terrific questions about our latest read, *Sweet Fury*, our podcast with author **Sash Bischoff '09** is now online. Sash explained the gray areas she built around her characters, her many parallels to the work of F. Scott Fitzgerald 1917, and how the #MeToo movement and her personal experience in the film industry influenced her plot decisions. Listen at paw.princeton.edu or wherever you get your podcasts.

Next up, we're reading Society of Lies by Lauren Ling Brown '12.

It's a chilling suspense novel set at Princeton about two sisters, a murder, and the dynamics of privilege that was a Reese Witherspoon Book Club pick in



October. PAW will send signed copies to 25 book club members chosen at random, so sign up to read with us at paw.princeton.edu/paw-book-club!

Barbara Wallace '80

hen Barbara Wallace would go to sleep as a child, her father often would still be seated in front of his easel with his paints and brushes. A public-school art teacher and administrator, he was also a talented artist whose oil and acrylic paintings covered the walls of their Philadelphia home. On the backs of his works, he would sometimes pen an original poem that he would memorize and recite. Wallace inherited his passion and creativity and was tempted to follow in his footsteps, but when she was accepted at Princeton University, she turned down an art scholarship to Bryn Mawr College and chose to study psychology. "My parents told me that being an artist was not a viable career, as they did not thrive economically," Wallace said. "They knew I would always be able to fit art into my life."

They were prophetic about fitting art into her life. In addition to coursework in psychology and African American studies, in which Wallace earned a certificate, she took Princeton classes in sculpture and lithography. Her mother, also an educator, had taught her embroidery, and Wallace soon became recognized on campus for her "wearable art" in the form of jean jackets with elaborately embroidered back panels. "After my first Princeton winter, I made a warm winter coat sewn from recycled jean patches in various hues of blue," she said.

When Wallace was at Princeton, a Philadelphia friend told her that "you are an artist trying to be a scientist." But Wallace did more than try to be a scientist. She achieved prominence. After graduating with a master's and Ph.D. from the City University of New York, Wallace went on to teach health education at Teachers College, Columbia University for 33 years and founded its Center for Health Equity and Urban Science Education. She published nine academic books, and her research focused on health disparities from HIV/AIDS prevention in Africa to cancer prevention, diabetes, hypertension and heart disease, and on healthy eating and physical activity. "I made history by graduating 168 doctoral students - setting a record at the college for the largest number and most diverse graduates from around the world," said Wallace, who retired from Teachers College in 2023 but maintains a private practice as a clinical psychologist.



Her "burning desire to engage in art" never subsided. The day after she defended her dissertation in clinical psychology, she went to Central Park in Manhattan and painted a landscape in oil. At Columbia, she decorated the ceiling, walls and floor of her office with abstract designs in purple, gold and green hues to create a peaceful, meditative refuge for her students. Over the years, she created the logos and letterheads for her academic units; she designed the covers for conference programs and books. "Art is my passion, something I feel compelled to do," she said.

In 2019, Wallace displayed some of her artwork at the "Thrive" alumni affinity conference on the Princeton campus — leading to an invitation to paint an image for the cover of the events program for Reunions 2025, her class's milestone 45th Reunion. For her cover art, she made Nassau Hall's cupola the focal point, with its clock hands pointing to 2 p.m. — the hour when the P-rade begins. The giant elms remind her of her own graduation ceremony in 1980, when her determined mother was able to spot her amidst other students seated behind one of the large trees. To Wallace, the bald eagle, inspired by two sculptures atop columns flanking the University's FitzRandolph Gate, suggests "the human journey to rise above obstacles, soar free and develop a consciousness that connects with the highest sacred spiritual realms."

As a tribute to her father, Wallace penned a poem to accompany her painting that closes with: "As you process in celebration with classmates, nod to the giant elm trees surrounding Nassau Hall and feel the wisdom and love they emanate as you walk along your way!"









We can't wait to see you back on campus for Reunions 2025, May 22-25!

Here are a few things to keep in mind as you plan your trip back to the Best Old Place of All!

- ✓ Registration is open and required prior to check-in!
 Reminder: Satellite class alumni can register only one guest.
- ✓ Plan to attend the **Annual Meeting of the Alumni Council** at 11 a.m. Friday, May 23, in Richardson Auditorium. Celebrate your fellow alumni, learn more about the Alumni Association and escape the elements. (There's air conditioning!)
- ✓ New! Wheelchair-accessible **trolley service** will operate on Elm Drive to Chapel Drive Circle with multiple stops for your convenience.
- ✓ Sign up your kids for **Tiger Camp**, administered by YWCA Princeton, on May 23 and 24. Spaces are filling up quickly, so don't delay.
- ✓ The Stadium Parking Garage is a great option for parking and offers electric vehicle charging stations. Tiger Transit electric buses will be transporting alumni and friends to locations around the perimeter of the campus.
- Alumni with accessibility needs can indicate them on the Reunions registration form. Questions? Contact pureunions@princeton.edu
- ✓ Be Green. Bring your own water bottle to campus and place compostable cups in the proper collection bins.
- ✓ While we love your furry friends, please keep them at home.
 No pets are allowed at Reunions.
- ✓ Visit reunions.princeton.edu to learn more and read the latest updates!



Photos: Andrea Kane; Sameer A. Khan/Fotobuddy











Dear Princetonians,

n my role, I have the honor of meeting alumni all around the world, and in March, I traveled to Denver to thank some of our incredible alumni volunteers over a lunch. Though each is dedicated to the University community, the volunteers came from a wide range of backgrounds and some of them had never met before. Yet in



Jennifer Caputo







Photos: Steven Freeman; Sameer Khan/Fotobuddy

the two hours we spent together, the speed in which tentative small talk became warm and substantial conversation was indicative of the connections that Princeton promotes. I think all of us left lunch that day feeling supported by our Princeton family and grateful for those relationships — new and old.

That sense of community support is particularly important in the current moment. As universities like ours face multiple headwinds, including cuts to research funding and potential increases to the endowment tax, I have been encouraged by your groundswell for Princeton. Please make your voices heard in support of higher education! And please be assured that President Eisgruber will maintain his strong defense of the University's values of free expression, academic freedom, diversity and inclusion, and teaching and research excellence. Thank you for all the letters and emails that you've sent, indicating that alumni stand together in supporting these values as well as the public benefits of research and creative inquiry.

That unity will be on full display at Reunions, where approximately 25,000 alumni and friends embrace around Old Nassau later this month. They come from every state and scores of countries, from every background and generation, to celebrate the impact of Princeton on their lives and communities. For two years, our alumni community has been led by Monica Moore Thompson '89, president of the Alumni Association and chair of the Alumni Council. Her term ends on June 30, but her guiding principle, "I am Princeton, you are Princeton — together, we are Princeton," will resonate in the future. Thank you for your service, Monica, and thank you to all Tigers who find unity in the orange and black.

Tiger cheers,

Jen

Jennifer Caputo Deputy Vice President, Alumni Engagement



NEWS, SPORTS, AND STUDENT LIFE





FUNDING UNDER THREAT

As Eisgruber Speaks Out, Campus Community Digs In

BY MARK F. BERNSTEIN '83

Princeton received notice on April 1 that the federal government plans to suspend dozens of its research grants. According to an email to the University community from President Christopher Eisgruber '83, the notifications came from the Department of Energy, NASA, the Department of Defense, and other agencies. However, many key details remained unknown, including when the suspension would

take effect, how much money would be suspended, and why.

Although the Trump administration has not explained its action, a reporter for the right-wing news and opinion site *The Daily Caller* posted on X that \$210 million in federal funds were being paused pending an investigation into campus antisemitism. The post quoted an unidentified administration official alleging, "Princeton has perpetuated racist and antisemitic policies,"

DEFENDING HIGHER ED

President Christopher Eisgruber '83, pictured at a 2024 orientation event devoted to free expression on campus, has been outspoken in his defense of academic freedom.

allegations the University vehemently denies.

Weeks earlier, on March 10, the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights announced that it was considering "enforcement actions" against Princeton and 59 other universities for violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. Princeton is under investigation because of a complaint filed a year ago by Zachary Marschall, editor of the conservative website Campus Reform. Marschall, who is not affiliated with the University, alleged that the administration failed to respond to violent words uttered at a pro-Palestinian demonstration in 2023. The University has denied any wrongdoing.

In his April 1 email, Eisgruber wrote that Princeton was "committed to fighting antisemitism and all forms of discrimination" on campus but would also "vigorously defend academic freedom and the due process rights of the University."

The Trump administration's notification was the latest in a series of moves to cut funding to Ivy League universities. Columbia, Harvard, Penn, Brown, and Cornell have also received notices that federal funds would be suspended for various alleged offenses.

Amid these attacks, Eisgruber has emerged as a leading voice in higher education defending academic freedom. In a March 19 essay in *The Atlantic*, the Princeton president called the Trump administration's cancellation of \$400 million in federal aid to Columbia "a radical threat to scholarly excellence and to America's leadership in research." Expressing his belief that the administration would be emboldened to target other institutions, Eisgruber added, "Universities and their leaders should speak up and litigate forcefully to protect their rights."

In the days following Princeton's notification, Eisgruber made several media appearances in which he reiterated his defense of higher education and support for the long-standing partnership between the federal government and American universities. Speaking on *The Big Take* podcast on *Bloomberg*, Eisgruber said, "What we're seeing now is the use of research and funding as a lever to try to change what [universities] teach. And that threatens to disrupt the quality of our universities and the principles that are fundamental to them."

Few of Eisgruber's Ivy League peers have been as vocal. Brown president Christina Paxson, former dean of Princeton's School of Public and International Affairs, wrote that her university "would be compelled to vigorously exercise our legal rights to defend [academic] freedoms, and ... would do so with integrity and respect." The board of directors of the Association of American Universities, which Eisgruber chairs, has also issued a statement. Dartmouth announced that it was hiring as its new general counsel a former chief counsel for the Republican National Committee who has questioned the constitutionality of birthright citizenship under the 14th Amendment.

In response to funding cuts to government-sponsored scientific research, Penn, Harvard, and MIT have announced hiring freezes, while Johns Hopkins laid off more than 200 employees. Princeton has not gone that far, with Eisgruber calling it a "soft hiring freeze" on *The Daily*, a *New York Times* podcast. But administrators have begun to batten down the hatches.

In a March 19 memo, Provost
Jennifer Rexford '91 and Executive Vice
President Katie Callow-Wright cited the
administration's attacks, restrictions
on research funding, and a proposed
increase in the endowment tax to urge
faculty and staff to "exercise holistic
spending restraint." It announced that
the University will temporarily curtail
hiring searches, reduce annual raises for
employees, and reconsider some early-

stage capital projects while warning that "more serious actions" might become necessary. An April 2 University release about the budget for the coming academic year reiterated Princeton's commitment to financial aid, saying that the undergraduate aid budget is projected to increase 8% to \$306 million. The overall budget "may change due to

"These are extraordinarily difficult circumstances.
But we're going to stand strong for our values at Princeton, and I think we have a community that is united behind those values."

PRESIDENT CHRISTOPHER EISGRUBER '83

In an April 6 interview for NPR's All Things Considered

uncertainty about federally sponsored research funding, which represents almost one-fifth of Princeton's overall annual spending," the release said.

As Eisgruber acknowledged on the *Bloomberg* podcast, deep and continuing cuts to federal funding would present Princeton with wrenching choices. "We would look for things we could stop doing," he said. "We would try to raise other funds. We would look at ways to potentially reallocate endowment funding But at the end of the day, what would happen here and elsewhere is that less research would get done."

On April 1, the University announced that it is considering selling up to \$320 million in taxable bonds to make up part of any funding loss. The move was first reported by *Bloomberg*. Princeton has sold such bonds twice before within the last five years: \$500 million worth of bonds during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and another \$300 million in 2022. Princeton University bonds carry a AAA rating.

Beyond the budget, the University has taken other steps to protect

students and to clarify its policies. The Davis International Center advised international students and scholars to carry their federally issued Arrival/ Departure Record card, which is given to all visa holders, with them "at all times," both their own and those of their dependents. Even so, Eisgruber acknowledged on the Bloomberg podcast, the administration's aggressive actions have put international students at risk of deportation, even those with valid visas. "I think [international] students have to make a judgment about how and when they speak up" on public issues, he counseled.

Many of the Trump administration's actions have been directed against programs in higher education and elsewhere that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). The University insists that its commitment to DEI remains unwavering and has added a new statement appearing on several of its web pages explaining that campus DEI initiatives are "voluntary and open to all" and comply with federal and state anti-discrimination laws.

"To maximize excellence, we seek talent from all segments of American society and the world, and we take steps to ensure everyone at Princeton can thrive while they are here," the statement reads in part. "That is the sole rationale and purpose of our diversity and inclusion programs."

Meanwhile, the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students has asked leaders of student organizations to insert language in their websites and social media posts reiterating that programs are "open to all Princeton University students regardless of identity, such as race, sex, ethnicity, national origin, or other protected characteristics."

Amid challenges that sometimes seemed to mount almost daily, Eisgruber promised to fight on. "These are extraordinarily difficult circumstances," he said in an appearance on NPR's *All Things Considered* on April 6. "But we're going to stand strong for our values at Princeton, and I think we have a community that is united behind those values."





ADMINISTRATION

Princeton Opens Investigation After Protests Disrupt Former Israeli PM

CHAOTIC EVENT featuring former Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett April 7 is under investigation by Princeton after protesters disrupted the discussion.

The conversation was cut short when a fire alarm was set off, but attendees responded by joining in a pro-Israel singalong. Before leaving McCosh 10, Bennett said, "This was a lecture none of us are ever going to forget."

President Christopher Eisgruber '83 issued a statement the following afternoon saying he was "appalled at reports of antisemitic language directed by demonstrators at members of our community after" the event. He added that "the University is investigating and will pursue disciplinary measures as appropriate, to the extent any members of the Princeton University community are implicated."

"I am also sorry the event was periodically disrupted by protesters inside McCosh Hall. We know that at least one disruptor inside the event was not a member of our community and we are taking action against him."

Eisgruber said he contacted Bennett to apologize.

Bennett, who served as prime minister in 2021-22, leads the coalition that is considered the favorite to unseat current prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu in 2026.

Before Bennett and Center for Jewish Life (CJL) executive director Rabbi Gil Steinlauf '91 took the stage, protesters, led by Princeton's chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), marched to McCosh Courtyard.

About 15 minutes after the event began, a group of about 20 people, mostly students, stood up and shouted Bennett down, accusing him of genocide. The protesters left relatively quickly, escorted by several Public Safety officers. No one was placed under arrest.

A few minutes later, pro-Palestinian activist Sayel Kayed, who is not affiliated with the University, stood up and started yelling at Bennett, asking him how he could explain the deaths of thousands of Palestinian children in Gaza.

During the outburst, multiple University employees told Kayed he was in violation of policy. It is unclear how he was able to enter the event, which was only open to staff, faculty, and students.

About 10 minutes later, the fire alarm went off, causing the speakers' microphones to turn off. Event organizers scrambled. Rabbi Eitan Webb, co-director of the Scharf Family Chabad House, stood up and began singing. Students rushed the stage with an American flag and an Israeli flag, dancing and singing. The alarm finally subsided and the crowd stood and sang "Hatikvah," Israel's national anthem.

Outside, the crowd of protesters had grown to closer to 250, with a white fence separating them from event attendees. "Go back to Europe!" yelled one of the protesters.

Princeton's chapter of SJP issued a statement the following day condemning Bennett's appearance, saying he "has repeatedly antagonized protestors on college campuses, joking that he would give exploding pagers to disruptors of Bennett's earlier event at Harvard."

By H.P.

SHORT

Princeton will collaborate with The Rockefeller University, Weill Cornell Medicine, and Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research on the new Weill Cancer Hub East, a research initiative "dedicated to making immunotherapy more effective for cancer patients," the University announced in late March. The hub is backed by \$125 million of philanthropic funding, including a \$50 million gift from the Weill Family Foundation and contributions from the four partner institutions. Chemistry professor Joshua Rabinowitz will direct Princeton's role in the hub.

MEMÖRIAM

Gananath Obeyesekere, an anthropologist whose teaching at Princeton spanned from



Buddhism to Freud, died March 25 at his home in Sri Lanka. He was 95. Obeyesekere spent two decades on the faculty, beginning in 1980, and twice chaired the Department of Anthropology, which

described him in an online memorial as "luminous and always daring." His 1992 book, The Apotheosis of Captain Cook: European Mythmaking in the Pacific, used history and anthropology to challenge the notion that Cook was initially received as a god by Hawaiian islanders, only to be murdered on a return visit.

Jeremiah P. Ostriker, an influential astrophysicist and former Princeton provost,



died April 6 at age 87. Ostriker joined the faculty in 1965 and made lasting contributions in several areas, including dark matter, galaxy formation, black holes, and the interstellar medium. He received

the National Medal of Science in 2000. In his time as provost from 1995 to 2000, Ostriker worked on Princeton's transition to a no-loan, grant-based financial aid program — the first of its kind in American higher education. In 2017, five years after transferring to emeritus status, Ostriker received an honorary doctorate at Princeton's Commencement.

SOTOMAYOR HALL

Sotomayor Talks Rule of Law, Honored with Building Dedication

BY BRETT TOMLINSON

and the rule of law require active participation and "an investment of time and energy and passion," Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor '76 told an audience of nearly 900 Princeton students at Richardson Auditorium April 11.

"Laws are made by people," she said.
"People change laws. Voting changes
laws. It requires effort. If there's a law you
don't like, it's there because a group of
people wanted that law and worked hard
at getting it passed. If you don't like it,
you have to band together and work at
getting it overthrown."

She also made a brief nod to current events, saying, "Right now we're in a tumultuous state and one that's going to require a great effort from us as a nation to figure out what path we're going down, and is it the path that we want, as a collective."

Sotomayor, in an hour-long conversation with President Christopher Eisgruber '83, spoke about her time at Princeton, the role of the courts, and her advice for aspiring lawyers in response to questions submitted in advance by undergraduate students. Each time a student's question was read, she invited them to the stage to shake hands and pose for a photo.

The justice was on campus for the dedication of Sonia Sotomayor Hall (formerly 36 University Place) and the unveiling of a new portrait of the justice that has been added to the University's permanent art collection.

The previous evening, Sotomayor featured prominently in the Supreme Court's ruling on the wrongful deportation of Kilmar Armando Abrego Garcia, a migrant living in Maryland whose removal to a prison in El Salvador in violation of a 2019 immigration judge's order was termed an "administrative error" by Solicitor General D. John Sauer.

While the court ruled in Abrego Garcia's favor, requiring the government to facilitate his release, Sotomayor

TELL IT TO THE JUDGE

Sonia Sotomayor '76, right, unveils the new portrait of her as President Christopher Eisgruber '83 looks on at Chancellor Green Hall.



criticized the government's actions in an additional statement, joined by Justices Elena Kagan '81 and Ketanji Brown Jackson. "To this day, the government has cited no basis in law for Abrego Garcia's warrantless arrest, his removal to El Salvador, or his confinement in a Salvadoran prison," Sotomayor wrote. "Nor could it."

Sotomayor told the Princeton audience that she does not speak about cases that are before the court or are likely to come before the court, because it is important to show that she keeps an open mind. But she did share a recent vignette about her fellow alumni justices.

"Sam Alito ['72] and I and Elena were walking out of the robing room together," Sotomayor said. "And Sam said, 'Do you know, Elena? They're honoring her with a building.' And he walked out and looked at her and said, 'Do you think they'll ever do that for us?""

Sotomayor was the second Supreme Court justice to speak on campus in less than two months, following Kagan, this year's Woodrow Wilson Award recipient, who visited on Alumni Day Feb. 22.

Sotomayor graduated from Princeton with highest honors, received the Pyne Honor Prize as a senior, and served on the University's Board of Trustees from 2007 to 2011. After 17 years as a federal judge in the Southern District of New York and the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, she was confirmed as a Supreme Court justice in 2009, becoming the first Latina on the nation's highest court.

Five years later, Sotomayor received the Woodrow Wilson Award, and in her Alumni Day speech, she issued a call for Princeton to act "in the service of humanity, one person and one act at a time."

Sotomayor Hall houses the Emma Bloomberg Center for Access and Opportunity, the Center for Career Development, the Admission Information Center, and a U-Store location. Princeton first announced the Board of Trustees' approval for the renaming in March, completing a process that began in 2019 when the Committee on Naming first sought suggestions from alumni and the campus community.





PROFILE: MAX WEISS

Outspoken Advocate for Palestinians Takes Unusual Path to Professorship

BY JULIE BONETTE

AX WEISS, a professor of history who specializes in cultural and intellectual history in 20th- and 21st-century Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, and Israel, has been getting mixed messages from Princeton administrators.

According to Weiss, he first received word last fall from Dean of the Faculty Gene Jarrett '97 that he was on probation for his involvement in the spring 2024 pro-Palestinian encampment on Princeton's campus. Around the same time, he was promoted to full professor by the Board of Trustees.

Weiss appealed his probation, and this spring, he said he was told that his appeal had been denied and would hold until the end of the academic year. According to Weiss, he found out within a week of conversations he had with Princeton President Christopher Eisgruber '83 affirming that Princeton "seriously"



WEISS

defends the rights of faculty members to free speech and academic freedom," Weiss said.

Weiss, who joined Princeton's faculty in 2010, found the

communications "rather bizarre" and "quite unusual." "It was in both cases as though one hand did not know what the other was doing," he said.

Jarrett told PAW he does not comment on personnel matters.

PAW has not seen the probation notification or appeal, but according to Weiss, he was told he "had engaged in unprofessional conduct, which was coercive ... [and] intimidatory" and that further unprofessional conduct would result in additional discipline up to and including dismissal.

Weiss said his probation was the result

COURTING CONTROVERSY

History professor Max Weiss teaches a class in McCosh Courtyard during the pro-Palestinian encampment in April 2024, a move that he says landed him on probation with the University.

of a student complaint after he held his last class of the 2024 spring semester, which he said was optional, at the encampment in McCosh Courtyard on April 25, the day it was established. His class, History of Palestine/Israel, was the first to be held there, though other faculty followed.

Gyan Prakash, also a professor of history, told PAW he was issued a written warning by Jarrett for holding class at the encampment. Both Weiss and Prakash said the Committee on Conference and Faculty Appeal recommended their discipline be retracted but ultimately were overruled.

The University did not have a policy specifically about holding class at a protest at the time of the encampment but clarified its position in September on the University's protest FAQs, writing that classes at or near protest sites are impermissible and the classroom "is a place of trust, respect, and inclusivenes."

Weiss has long been unabashedly supportive of Palestinian rights, which "outweighs my fear of academic repression on campus, political repression outside of campus, and even worse forms of coercion, intimidation, and violence that are being deployed against Palestinians and those who support them the world over."

He was an undergraduate at the University of California, Berkeley, majoring in molecular and cell biology when he took a trip to Jerusalem that changed his life. He spent a summer there in an intensive language program, which sparked an interest in the Middle East, leading him to double major in history. After further study, Weiss "realized that I had less interest in continuing to work in the chlamydia research laboratory" at Berkeley, "and increasingly got involved in Middle East politics and academia."

He was one of a handful of faculty

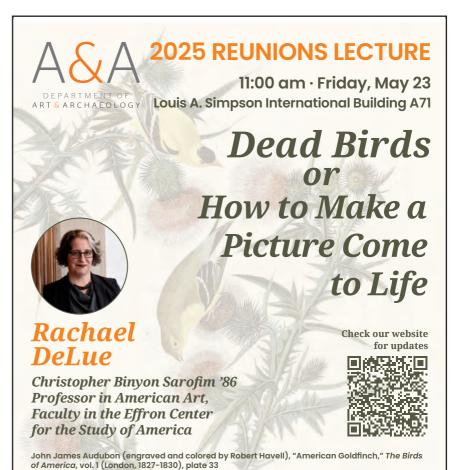
He was one of a handful of faculty members who, in 2014, called on the University to divest from companies they alleged "contribute to or profit from" Israel's occupation of the West Bank. As PAW reported at the time, the Council of the Princeton University Community's Resources Committee "decided that the faculty petition did not meet guidelines for consideration because there was no consensus and sustained interest had not been demonstrated."

The Resources Committee again cited failed consensus when ruling on a similar student-led divestment petition in March, though it acknowledged sustained interest in the issue, particularly after Hamas' attack on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, and the ensuing war. "I've been teaching at Princeton for over 15 years now," Weiss said. "I think even if I had been here for 50 years, I might say that I have not seen the kind of mobilization and activism on campus that I've seen. It has been a dramatically transformed situation."

Weiss said he believes it's his role as an educator to speak to the broader community. He is a member of the Princeton chapter of Faculty and Staff for Justice in Palestine and is a co-convener of Princeton's Palestinian Studies Colloquium, which began hosting events this fall.

In addition to writing a follow-up to his 2022 book on the cultural history of Ba'thist Syria, Weiss is translating several modern Arabic novels, as well as pursuing "my own individual research on ... the policing of speech and action that is deemed anti-Zionist." He has coorganized two conferences on the history, theory, and politics of anti-Zionism, including "The Anti-Zionist Idea V.2," which was held in Princeton this April.

And of course, he's still teaching. This spring, he taught The Modern Middle East in McCosh Hall, next to the first site of last spring's encampment. Weiss said he sincerely hopes that one day he'll walk by "a plaque on McCosh Courtyard marking the occasion of the first encampment, and ... not a sign banning us from accessing Cannon Green."





for more great finds! Items not claimed by a new owner by

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INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

Who's Asking? It's Survey Season for Princeton Students

BY HOPE PERRY '24

T'S SPRING ON CAMPUS, and that means it's survey season. From last minute thesis research and course evaluations to a behemoth exit questionnaire for seniors, there's no shortage of surveys trying to capture the opinions of Princeton students.

The end-of-year surveys from the Office of Institutional Research have been assembled over a period of more than 20 years. The questionnaire covers broad ground, from asking about alcohol and drug use to mental health screening questions.

"This has really evolved over time," Jed Marsh, the vice provost for institutional research, told PAW. Initially, Princeton used surveys written by outside groups. But these surveys didn't gel well with the University — questions from outside surveys, for instance, focused heavily on fraternities and sororities rather than eating clubs. Gradually, Marsh said, they began to change things up and handle the surveys themselves.

"So we support Campus Life with their strategic indicators and things of that nature," Marsh said, adding that they also include questions to assist faculty members with their research.

One section at the end of each year-end survey asked students to list the names of their friends and select a ranking for how close the relationship was. This section, added in 2018, Marsh said, was part of a faculty research project about how students form campus relationships.

The survey is also a valuable tool for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and increasingly, Marsh said, that his office has tried to gather more information on belonging.

In the 2024 senior survey, Muslims at Princeton reported the lowest belonging score among all religious groups (8.42 on a scale of 0 to 12, with 12 as the strongest sense of belonging) and Jewish students reported the highest score (9.39). In the

End-of-year surveys cover broad ground, from asking about alcohol and drug use to mental health screening questions. same survey, students identifying as Native American, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander had the lowest belonging score (6.9) among racial groups, followed by Black students (7.95). White students had the highest belonging score (9.02).

Marsh's survey group also has to be cognizant of current events. He said his office tries to think ahead so they can ask students about issues as quickly as possible, rather than having to wait until the next year's survey cycle.

"My group keeps an eye on what's going on on campus," Marsh said. Last spring, Marsh said, he looked out his window in Nassau Hall and saw demonstrators. "So we added a bunch of questions around demonstrations [to the survey], and the University supported that," he said.

The vast majority of students agreed that they felt safe on campus. When broken down by religious identity, Muslim students in 2024 had the lowest percentage of students who either agreed or strongly agreed that they felt safe on campus, with 79%. Among Jewish students, 88% felt safe — for Christians, the number was 90%.

"I am proud of Princeton's commitment to voluntarily disclose some climate data of another kind that universities rarely share," Princeton President Christoper Eisgruber '83 wrote in his annual State of the University letter.

"The risks [of sharing the data] are real, but the data inform the work that we and other universities do to enhance the inclusivity of our campuses. I am proud of the quality of the campus life that Princeton offers to all its students, but I want to see all our students thrive," Eisgruber wrote. "The disparities in satisfaction levels show where we have opportunities to improve what we do."

Marsh emphasized that the surveys are constantly subject to change and told PAW that his office is launching a new survey measuring student outcomes. The survey will be sent to alumni every three years for the first 21 years after graduation.

"How essential are those skills [from Princeton] in what you're doing today?" Marsh explained. "And then following that up, how well has Princeton prepared you in these domains?"













ANNUAL 1746 SOCIETY REUNIONS BREAKFAST SEMINAR

Saturday, May 24

Frick Chemistry Laboratory atrium 8-10 a.m.



Jennifer Rexford '91 Provost and Gordon Y.S. Wu Professor in Engineering

FEATURED SPEAKER:

Jennifer Rexford '91

Provost and Gordon Y.S. Wu Professor in Engineering

Please join us for the annual 1746 Society Reunions Breakfast seminar, with an address by Jennifer Rexford '91, University provost and the Gordon Y.S. Wu Professor in Engineering. The event will be held in the atrium of the Frick Chemistry Laboratory. All 1746 Society members are welcome to register, as are those who are considering making a planned gift to Princeton.

The 1746 Society gratefully acknowledges alumni and friends whose estate and life income gifts support Princeton's future. All members and select Reunions classes will receive an emailed invitation with a registration link.

Not yet a 1746 Society member? There are many ways to support Princeton and join the 1746 Society with an estate gift, beneficiary designation or life income gift. Please call 609.258.6318 to learn how.



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STUDENT DISPATCH

Independent Students Find Community Away from 'The Street'

BY CECILE McWILLIAMS '26



OR HER BIRTHDAY, Vanessa
Rivkin '25 invited seven friends
to her spacious common room
in Spelman Hall. She placed orders for
her guests at Alfalfa, a Nassau Street
restaurant, and brought the salads back
to her room. Guests came with food from
their co-ops or kitchens, others brought
gifts, and they all gathered for a potluckstyle dinner. "That is the perfect way to
spend my birthday," she said.

Spelman is on the opposite side of campus from Prospect Avenue, where, this February, sophomores flocked in record numbers to join one of the 11 eating clubs on "The Street."

Those who opt out of "Street Week" may choose to eat in the dining hall as upperclassmen, or, like Rivkin and her three roommates, go independent. This academic year, 325 students pledged independent, while 500 juniors

and seniors stayed on the University meal plan, according to the Office of Communications. (The numbers have been fairly consistent over time, though they fluctuate during the year.) Independent students take on the challenge of budgeting, planning, and preparing meals for themselves, not to mention finding community away from Princeton's dominant social scene.

Alexa Marsh '25 decided to go independent after she spent her sophomore spring in Italy, missing out on Street Week. She was indifferent to the social scene on The Street, and the limited University dining plan seemed to offer little social benefit for its price, \$3,234 per semester. Calm and straightforward, Marsh explained that "when your friends are mostly in eating clubs or in a co-op, you can't really dine with them."

Dining is a central part of the social experience at Princeton. For many independent students, co-ops offer a way to maintain the routine of eating with friends. At Princeton's four main co-ops, with membership ranging from 10 to 50 students, members build community through cooking and sharing meals. "It definitely is a bonding experience," said Rivkin, who was part of International

Food Co-op for a year and a half.

Marsh ultimately preferred the flexibility of eating what she wants, when she wants. But cooking for herself, along with maintaining friendships as an independent student, required creativity. As a junior, Marsh lived in Patton Hall with a kitchen that was shared, illequipped, and — her word — grimy. "No one would go down there," she said. She made do with canned soup and microwaveable food. She bought meals from the Food Gallery at Frist Campus Center, occasionally found snacks through Princeton's Free Food Listsery, and made use of the two weekly dining hall swipes allotted to all upperclassmen. "There were workarounds," she said.

After deciding to move into Spelman this fall, Marsh's experience as an independent student transformed. Spelman's apartment-style dorms are designed to accommodate independent students. More than 200 students currently reside at Spelman, and the vast majority — over 150 — are independent. Marsh and her three roommates share a typical Spelman kitchen with a full-sized fridge, a stove, an oven, a microwave, and ample pantry space. As Marsh opened the fridge to reveal last night's pizza box, her roommate stood at the stove with headphones on, spooning a dollop of soy paste into a small pot of noodles and bok choy. "We have a table, so it feels like an apartment," Marsh said, "whereas that fall it was just me trying to get by."

Still, life as an independent student can feel isolating. Marsh knows she is missing out on the daily gatherings around meals that eating clubs make routine. The dining hall had made it easy to maintain friendships, and after going independent, Marsh lost touch with some people she used to catch up with over meals.

But she has learned to become more intentional about socializing, often planning to study with friends before having dinner alone. "While I recognize that I did miss out on something that is very valuable to a lot of people's experiences, I think I just went through Princeton in a little bit of a different way," Marsh said. "That was the way that was right for me."

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COMMUNITY SERVICE

Princeton Athletes Pal Around with Elementary Students

BY JULIE BONETTE

RINCETON STUDENTS' schedules are notoriously packed. But on any given weekday over the past year, you might have found varsity athletes at Johnson Park School, about two miles from campus, playing with Legos, folding paper airplanes, eating in the cafeteria, or running around outside. A new mentorship program, Tiger Pals, is pairing local second-through-fifth-graders who need extra attention with some of the University's athletes.

More than 60 athletes representing a dozen varsity teams volunteer to spend an hour or two per month with their pals, either individually or in small groups. The 20 elementary pals in the program were selected for a variety of reasons such as needing help with confidence, homework, or school attendance; three sixth-graders who participated last academic year also continue to see their pals.

Fadima Tall '27, an anthropology major on the women's basketball team, said "it's not easy" to find time to visit her pal, but "we all enjoy doing it. I don't know a single person that isn't happy visiting their kid."

Tiger Pals kicked off in May 2024 with a

pizza and cupcake party at Johnson Park for 12 young students and 25 Princeton athletes, and it quickly grew by word-of-mouth. The entire group gathers once a semester — in December there was a scavenger hunt on Princeton's campus, and they were planning an awards ceremony for late April — but usually, the athletes coordinate directly with the elementary school to arrange visits on their own time.

"Pretty much any time that we've ever asked to come, [Johnson Park staff is] welcoming with open arms," said Maile Organek '26, a sociology major on the men's heavyweight rowing team.

Every athlete PAW spoke with praised administrators for the easy logistics. For example, Princeton students are provided Lyft passes to get to and from the school.

Along with two of her teammates, softball player Abby Hornberger '26, a School of Public and International Affairs major, has attended gym class and discussed sports with her pal, and they also talk about makeup and TikTok trends over lunch. In October, Hornberger

BACK TO SCHOOL

Baseball players, from left, Grant Werdesheim '28, Jake Kernodle '27, and Andrew D'Alessio '25 catch up with Joseph Mangone, a fourth-grader at Johnson Park Elementary.

attended the school's Halloween parade.

"We're not bending over backwards and doing these historic things, we're just going and hanging out with her for an hour," said Hornberger. "But to her, that means so much."

For over a decade, Princeton athletes have visited local elementary schools, including Johnson Park, to read aloud as part of Reading with the Tigers.

When Kristin Whitmore was hired by Johnson Park as school counselor last year, she began seeking additional opportunities. She connected with Melissa Stephens, assistant manager in athletics advancement at Princeton, who told her University students had been asking about mentorship opportunities, and Tiger Pals was born.

According to Whitmore, the Johnson Park staff has been very supportive because they've seen positive results: Elementary students with pals have become more excited to come to school, grown in confidence, and are taking on new leadership roles.

The Princeton athletes have also "really, really enjoyed it so far, and I think it's honestly been just as impactful for them as it has been for the younger students," said Stephens.

For hockey players Jayden Sison '26, a SPIA major, and Kevin Anderson '26, an economics major, one memory that stands out is when their two young pals, both hockey players themselves, attended a Princeton game. The secondand fifth-grade brothers came early to make signs and watch warm-ups from the bench, then toured the locker room and attended a post-game workout.

"When I look at [my pals], I can see how much they love hockey, and I remember when I was that age. So, it's kind of nice just to give back to a little kid like that," said Sison.

"They just light up, and that makes my day," said Anderson.

Class of

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WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

Finishing Speed

After a historic mile, Mena Scatchard '25 looks to lead her team to an Ivy League triple crown

BY BRETT TOMLINSON

remaining in the women's mile at the NCAA Indoor
Track and Field Championships in
March, Mena Scatchard '25 was running comfortably in last place. Comfortably, because that was the plan: Hang back on the inside rail, avoid jostling with the tight pack of runners, and then burst to the front with the closing speed that helped her place second in her preliminary heat the day before.

"Don't get nervous that you're not leading or right behind the leader, because when it comes down to it, you know you have that kick," Scatchard said, remembering the prerace conversation she had with Princeton coach Brad Hunt.

Right on cue, Scatchard made her move, shifting outside and dashing from 10th place to third in a span of about 14 seconds. Coming around the final turn, she chased down the second-place runner, Northern Arizona's Maggi Congdon, leaning like a sprinter at the finish line to earn runner-up honors by a 0.01-second margin.

"As wiry and as unassuming as she looks, the kid is crazy fast," Hunt said. "Her superpower was revealed." Scatchard, from the tiny village of Hutton Conyers (population 240) in North Yorkshire, England, made history as the Princeton women's program's top finisher at an NCAA Indoor meet, adding to a stellar year that's also included Ivy Heptagonal team championships in cross country and indoor track, a second-place individual finish at the cross country Heps, a berth in the NCAA Cross Country Championships, and indoor Heps wins in the mile and 4x800 meter relay. She holds school records in the indoor mile, indoor 3,000 meters, and outdoor 1,500 meters.

Scatchard's journey to Princeton began with the cross country races that she and her high school classmates had to run once a year. "Everybody would hate doing it," she said, "but I was like one of the only people who was looking forward to it. ... I would just win by a mile."

She joined a local running club, started working with a coach, and learned about track programs at American colleges through a friend who'd committed to run at Temple University. During the COVID pandemic, Princeton's coaches did not have a chance to see Scatchard run in person, but they were impressed by her times and the video clips she sent to

RUNNER UP

Mena Scatchard '25, left, begins her preliminary heat in the mile at the NCAA Indoor Championships. She placed second in the final, the best finish by a Princeton woman in meet history.

show her training and mechanics.

While national track audiences were introduced to Scatchard through her lightning lap at the NCAA meet, her teammates and coaches have witnessed a longer progression, from an unsung freshman earning valuable team points in her first Heps meet to an admired senior who was chosen as a captain by her teammates. "She's just improved over the course of her entire experience," Hunt said.

Scatchard said she has valued the way Princeton opened new doors academically. She came to college planning to study geosciences but found herself drawn to policy topics in the School of Public and International Affairs. Last summer, she traveled to India for a public health internship and later spent time doing research for the World Health Organization. She combined the two interests for her thesis project, which explores health action plans to help India deal with extreme heat caused by climate change.

Scatchard opened the outdoor track season with her first 5,000 meter race at the Sam Howell Invitational ("to explore her range," Hunt said) and broke the school record by more than five seconds. She plans to shift back to the 1,500, with her eyes on another NCAA title bid. But her near-term goal is to help the Tigers win the Ivy League triple crown (team titles in cross country, indoor track, and outdoor track in the same academic year), a feat that the Princeton women last achieved in 2010-11.

After graduation, Scatchard will use a remaining year of cross country and outdoor track eligibility to compete as a graduate transfer at Stanford, where she will be studying education policy. While she hopes to eventually work in the U.K. government, she plans to keep competing on the track after college.

"I'm pretty focused on running right now," she said. "I really want to see how far I can go with it."

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Class of

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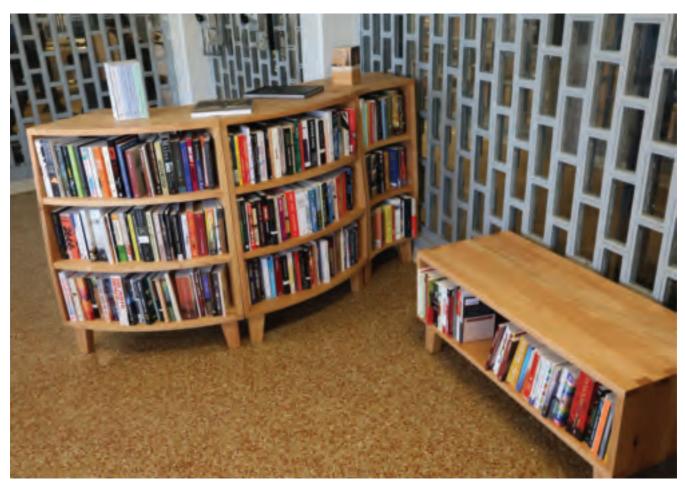


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FREEDOM LIBRARIES

Delivering Books to Incarcerated Readers

BY ALISON BOWEN

WO YEARS AGO, Dean of
Libraries Anne Jarvis saw a oneman performance at Princeton
that revealed the power of books to her in
a new way.

That show was Felon: An American Washi Tale, which Reginald Dwayne Betts performs in correctional centers and also performed at Princeton in 2023. Betts, a poet and lawyer and MacArthur fellow, is also founder and CEO of the group Freedom Reads, which puts libraries in prisons.

Along with his own books, including a memoir and poetry collections, he created the theater piece about his time



JARVIS

in prison and the role books played during his incarceration.

"I was moved by Dwyane's story and how access to books changed the trajectory of his life," Jarvis says.

"It was clear to me that the library and the University should support this initiative."

OPEN ACCESS

Nine Freedom Libraries have been created at the Garden State Correctional Facility in Chesterfield Township, to allow incarcerated individuals access to books.

Last year, in a collaboration with the Princeton University Library, the University's Lewis Center for the Arts, and its Prison Teaching Initiative, nine Freedom Libraries were placed in the Garden State Correctional Facility, a New Jersey Department of Corrections state prison. These were the first libraries opened in the New Jersey correctional system. Betts notes that not every prison has a central library; having multiple libraries within a system ensures access as well as community building around the books. Their hope is to create a library in every cell block in every prison in the U.S.

"It felt important to underscore how books can have such a positive impact on a person's life — stimulating imagination, improving communication skills, expanding knowledge, and supporting continuous learning and growth," Jarvis says.

She adds, "Being able to play a small part in transforming the lives of incarcerated



BETTS

persons in New Jersey through increased access to books reflects both the library's and the University's missions."

Jarvis believes Princeton is the first academic library to support Freedom Reads, adding, "and I am hopeful that we won't be the last."

Freedom Reads is inspired by Betts' own experience serving a nine-year sentence in prison as a teenager after pleading guilty to carjacking. When he was sent to solitary confinement, he says, he could not have books.

But the men there had created a way to read anyway, through dropping books by rope in a pillowcase.

Through this, Betts learned how powerful storytelling can be. Books help people tell a story to themselves and to the people they love, "not just about the content of the books, but about why books matter," he says, "and why they connect you to strangers."

Betts' Princeton connections include being in residence as a guest artist in 2021 at the Lewis Center for the Arts, where he created his one-man theater piece, which was adapted from his poetry collection *Felon*. The play touches on a handful of topics like

fatherhood and experiencing life with a criminal record. Like much of Betts' work, which spans multiple artistic endeavors, this play uses a variety of methods to get themes across, including theater, poetry, and Japanese paper making.

Jarvis said the Freedom Library books are selected by Freedom Reads and include poetry, novels, essay collections, and classic works like Homer's *The Odyssey* and *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*.

The New Jersey libraries were placed in housing units with a 500-book collection.

The nonprofit has opened more than 413 Freedom Libraries in 44 adult and youth prisons across 12 states, according to the group. The purpose is to give incarcerated people some freedom of mind to imagine new possibilities for their lives, and to empower people through literature.

For the New Jersey libraries, Princeton's contributions were "vital," Betts says. Through their support, especially at the Garden State Youth Correctional Facility, "We brought Freedom Libraries to the lives of young people, some who may read their first book from the library."

Freedom Reads brings not only books into prisons but also handcrafted bookcases, designed to stand in opposition to chaos. They are made out of maple, cherry, oak, or walnut and curved to be able to be in the middle of the space, to inspire conversation and community building.

According to the group's website, "The library is a physical intervention into the landscape of plastic and steel and loneliness that characterizes incarceration."

"Beauty and care matter in the same ways that it matters to all of us," Betts says. "Aesthetic beauty is healing, is a relief against the extreme pressures of our lives, [and] allows us to discover ourselves."

The bookshelves' design, he says, "gave us a pathway toward what we consider a profound physical disruption of the harshness of prison."

BOOKS

WOMEN IN MARTIAL

Ilaria Marchesi

Women in Martial (Oxford University Press) is the first detailed study of the



portrayals of women in Martial's Epigrams. Marchesi, who is director of Princeton's Classics Language Program, proposes a novel method of

examining femininity in the Flavian age through the combination of close readings of the poems with legal, historical, and rhetorical discussions. Marchesi explores how Roman women were expected to represent their fathers and reproduce for their husbands, while also being important figures in Martial's work. This book gives readers an understanding of how Roman society constructed and regulated female identity.

IN COVID'S WAKE

Stephen Macedo *87 & Frances Lee

In COVID's Wake: How Our Politics Failed Us (Princeton University Press) is a comprehensive assessment of the



political responses to the COVID pandemic. The politics professors question why pre-COVID plans were largely ignored, if dissenting voices were

treated with fairness, and if the adopted policies actually worked. They examine how governments abandoned existing strategies in global pandemics and how these policies disproportionately harmed essential workers and vulnerable, underprivileged families. Science was suddenly caught up in a web of political polarization. They underline the importance of openmindedness, democracy, and evidence in future crises.

Understanding the Roots of Opportunity

BY MICHAEL BLANDING

ROWING UP IN CHILE during Augusto Pinochet's military dictatorship, Florencia Torche was acutely aware of the inequities in society around her. Though her family was middle-class she was confronted daily with reminders of how deeply opportunity depended on the circumstances of people's birth. "If you were born poor, you were extremely constrained," Torche says. This awareness led her to study sociology at the Catholic University of Chile in Santiago and later pursue a master's and Ph.D. at Columbia.

"My scholarship is driven by an attempt to understand the factors that shape people's opportunities to succeed and achieve what matters to them," she explains. In

her early research, she was a pioneer in studying social mobility in Latin America — particularly Chile, Mexico, and Brazil — where patterns of opportunity differed starkly from those in the U.S. and Europe. She found that mobility was lower in countries with greater inequality and shaped by the structure of educational systems. Later, she leveraged natural experiments in innovative ways to examine how social circumstances early in life — including before birth — affect an individual's ability to achieve.

Quick Facts

TITLE

Professor of Public and International Affairs and Sociology

TIME AT PRINCETON
1 year

TORCHE'S RESEARCH

A SAMPLING



NOT ALL DEGREES ARE EQUAL

For decades, a college degree has been the "great equalizer" in American society, providing opportunity to achieve regardless of where a person comes from. As college has become more and more expensive, however, some have questioned how valuable those degrees really are. In research combining a variety of datasets, Torche found that undergraduate degrees still matter, granting "a reasonably high level of income regardless of social origins," she says.

Graduate degrees, however, offer a different story: While many from affluent backgrounds became doctors and lawyers, those from poorer backgrounds gravitate toward less lucrative careers as teachers or social workers. "In that case," she says, "where you come from really shapes where you end up."



INTERGENERATIONAL IMPACTS OF TRAUMA

In more recent research,
Torche has examined how
differences in a person's early
social environment — such as

exposure to an earthquake or hurricane, neighborhood violence, or armed conflict - determine their later progression in life "I look for events in the world where the exposure is as random as possible," she says, "so I can then claim any consequence was caused by that exposure, not the characteristics of the people." In a range of studies, she has shown how those environmental stressors affect not only those directly exposed, but also the next generation, leading to higher risk of preterm birth and subsequent impacts on cognitive development, education, and even income later in life. "This suggests that protecting the health of pregnant mothers is particularly relevant for longterm population health," she concludes.

VACCINES AND THE NEXT GENERATION

In one particularly novel study, Torche looked at the impact of COVID-19 vaccinations on births in California. Using



data from 40 million births, she found maternal COVID infection during pregnancy was a strong predictor of preterm birth, which in turn can increase risk of problems later in life including health issues. However, when Torche correlated those births with vaccination rates by ZIP codes, she found that the negative impact almost entirely disappeared in ZIP codes with high vaccination rates. "Vaccination really reduced the negative impact of having COVID on the health of the next generation," Torche says, adding these findings offer more support for the importance of vaccination for societal health not only for the current generation, but also for those that follow. P

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



Many Minds Many Stripes

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WHERE OLD AND AND NEW MEET

As part of its biggest expansion ever,
Princeton is transforming its campus
while attempting to balance tradition and change

BY DEBORAH YAFFE
PHOTOGRAPHS BY KYLE KIELINSKI



Seventeen years ago, as she interviewed a candidate for the job of University architect, then-Princeton President Shirley M. Tilghman posed a blunt question: "How can you be sure you're not going to mess up the campus?"

"That's the core question that I live with," says Ronald J.

McCoy *80, who got the job in 2008 and has held it ever since.

"It is a balance of history — being a good steward of the campus — and then also reflecting our time, letting the buildings be a reflection of our current culture."

Striking that balance has never been more complex than it is right now, as Princeton approaches the end of the largest construction program in its history (and the most expensive, McCoy says, although he declines to specify a dollar figure). The decade-plus sprint, much of it laid out in a 10-year plan developed in 2014-17, is growing the campus by nearly 3 million square feet of enclosed space — an increase of 25% — and, for the first time, expanding the University's footprint to the south side of Lake Carnegie.

Among the new projects — some already complete and others slated for completion over the next year or two — are three new residential colleges; stadiums, playing fields, and locker rooms for sports ranging from softball to rugby; an expanded health center; four interconnected science, engineering, and environmental studies buildings that, at 670,000 square feet, constitute the largest structure ever built at the University; and a controversial new art museum in the heart of the campus's historic core.

The work is intended to support a roughly 10% increase in the size of the undergraduate student body, to the current level of 5,727; to facilitate new directions in interdisciplinary research; to upgrade graduate student housing; and to make Princeton's art collection more accessible. Threaded through the initiative is an intensive focus on environmental sustainability, in service to Princeton's goal of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2046.

McCoy, whose office guides the outside planners, architects, and landscape designers hired to remake the campus, predicts that Princetonians will ultimately embrace the transformation.

"I think people will see a generation of massive growth, thoughtfully done — where good planning, landscape, and a memory of the campus is combined along with a kind of contemporary expression of space," McCoy says. "These will be sensitive additions to the traditions of the Princeton campus."

But not everyone agrees. The sweep and nature of recent changes have convinced some alumni that the University is losing touch with what makes Princeton's physical spaces unique.

"The humanistic architectural heritage of the University is gradually drowning in a sea of architectural mediocrity — or, actually, worse," says Catesby Leigh '79, an architecture critic who co-founded the National Civic Art Society, which promotes the classical tradition in architecture. "I think any normal person would walk through the old Princeton campus and be struck by its

beauty. I think a lot of normal people these days walking through the campus would say, 'What on earth went wrong here?'"

Architectural changes, and the disagreements they ignite, are nothing new at Princeton. "The campus has been a continuous 'work-in-progress' since its inception," notes a 2006 campus plan. "The Princeton campus is not a pristine artifact frozen in time."

Indeed, debates over how to accommodate present needs while honoring old traditions occur at colleges and universities across the country. "Campus landscapes are, just like any cultural landscape, contested terrain," says landscape architect Charles Birnbaum, who heads the nonprofit The Cultural Landscape Foundation. "The real question at a campus like Princeton is to understand its carrying capacity and understand what the metrics are for managing change."

RINCETON'S CAMPUS HAS ALWAYS MATTERED, and not just to Princetonians.

Historians say that Princeton was the first college whose grounds were called a "campus," a word derived from the Latin for "field." Four of the University's buildings — Nassau Hall, Maclean House, Joseph Henry House, and Prospect House — are designated as National Historic Landmarks, properties that illuminate the heritage of the nation, not just of the local community.

"Princeton would be an important campus in the United States with any set of criteria you can think of," says Carla Yanni, a Rutgers University architectural historian whose 2019 book *Living on Campus* explores the history of American college dormitories. "It's one of the oldest. It's one of the best preserved. It's very diverse — there are really fine examples of every decade of American architecture."

And, she adds, its beauties have been meticulously — and expensively — maintained. On an autumn walk through campus, as she strolled up Elm Drive past the fenced-off construction site of the new Hobson College, Yanni paused outside Cuyler Hall to admire the way its roof slates gracefully diminish in size as they ascend toward the peak. "There was no point later on when someone came along and said, 'These slates are sure a pain to replace. Let's take them all down and replace them with asphalt," Yanni said. "They could have easily gotten rid of all that leaded glass, because I'm sure it leaks. But they didn't."

Beginning with the completion of Nassau Hall in 1756, the campus grew in concentric semicircles, expanding outward. A growing student body required additional dorms, classrooms, and gyms; the post-World War II explosion in government

funding for scientific research helped seed clusters of buildings devoted to STEM disciplines. Over the generations, the original Colonial buildings were joined by new ones in an array of architectural styles - Richardsonian Romanesque, collegiate Gothic, brutalist, modernist, postmodern — a total of "29 different architectural styles on campus, before this current generation," McCoy says. Princeton's architects make up a roster of famous names, from Benjamin Henry Latrobe, an early architect of the U.S. Capitol, to 20th- and 21st-century "starchitects" like Frank Gehry, I.M. Pei, and Robert Venturi '47.

The stylistic development sometimes entailed a jostling between past and present. Nineteenth-century alumni bemoaned "The Crime of '96" — the razing of an austere 60-year-old building to make way for the collegiate Gothic East Pyne Hall — and 50 years later, the decision to build Dillon Gymnasium in Gothic style appalled proponents of modernism. In the early 2000s, a new traditionalist movement applauded the Gothic design of Whitman College, while critics deplored it as pastiche.

"The architects of the collegiate Gothic did not appreciate the architecture of the Victorians. The architects of the Victorians did not appreciate the Colonial architecture," McCoy says. "So there are always these lively debates about style."

Historically, Princeton has paid close attention not just to buildings

but to the relationships among them. "The historic buildings generally take a bow toward each other," says Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk '72, a University of Miami architecture professor who is a leading contemporary proponent of architectural classicism. "Their architects had the understanding that they were going to be an ensemble, even if they were different — the Gothic next to Romanesque, Richardson Hall next to the Holder complex."

That care for context endures, says architect Adam Yarinsky *87, whose Brooklyn-based firm, Architecture Research Office, designed the 2007 addition to the Princeton School of Architecture. "There's a reciprocity between buildings and spaces, buildings and quads," Yarinsky says. "And one of the things that's remarkable about the Princeton campus, from earliest buildings to many of the more recent ones, is the way in which there's this weaving together of space and buildings."



Crucial to that interweaving is the natural landscape, notably the pedestrian-friendly, parklike setting of the campus's historic core. "When you stand on McCosh Walk, you see a lot of what makes Princeton special, which is buildings of

HOME AWAY FROM HOME

The Meadows Apartments opened in 2024 across from Lake Carnegie and include 379 apartments for graduate students.

modest scale grouped in an intriguing way amidst trees, grass, winding paths," says art historian W. Barksdale Maynard '88, the author of *Princeton: America's Campus*, a 2012 history of the University's architectural development. "And that's what we gave to the world."

For more than a century, the beauty of the campus was seen as essential to Princeton's educational mission, Maynard says.





Generations of campus architects and planners, and the Princeton officials who hired them, shared "the conviction that aesthetic surroundings deeply impress the young and help shape their character and outlook," Maynard writes in his book. "There is deep pedagogical purpose to the Princeton campus and its architecture."

Collegiate Gothic came to inspire particularly deep devotion. First introduced to campus at the end of the 19th century and embraced by the University's supervising architect, Ralph Adams Cram, in the first decades of the 20th, collegiate Gothic is embodied in stone buildings — the likes of Blair Hall, Holder Hall, and the Graduate College — whose soaring towers and hushed

cloisters recall England's medieval universities. Cram considered collegiate Gothic *the* Princeton style — in part, Maynard notes, because of its associations with a WASP tradition that Cram felt was under siege from immigrants.

But collegiate Gothic was also seen as embodying an ideal vision of the life of the mind. The protagonist of the quintessential Princeton novel, F. Scott Fitzgerald 1917's *This Side of Paradise*, feels "a deep and reverent devotion to the grey walls and Gothic peaks and all they symbolized as warehouses of dead ages," concluding that "Gothic architecture, with its upward trend, was peculiarly appropriate to universities."

LTHOUGH THE IDEA THAT THE BUILT environment shapes character may have fallen out of fashion in the past century, Princeton's architectural planning process remains focused on transmitting Princeton's values, McCoy says. "A city is a cacophony of different competing voices. The University is a single institution and has one throughline of its history," McCoy says. "So the campus is a record of all those different values over time. It's not the same values. The values change."

Among those new values is environmental sustainability, a key element of the current building program. Much of the latest construction uses mass timber — beams made from layers of sustainably sourced wood — in place of steel and concrete, whose production consumes more energy. The campus's century-old steam-powered heating and cooling system is also being converted to a far more energy-efficient geo-exchange system: Wells drilled deep beneath buildings and playing fields will function like giant batteries, storing the heat removed from campus spaces during hot weather and releasing it back during cold weather. The exchange occurs via two newly constructed heat pump facilities known as TIGER (thermally integrated geo-exchange resource) and CUB (central utility building).



But newer buildings also embody changing values in less tangible ways, McCoy says. To illustrate that, he juxtaposes slides of two exteriors: the Rockefeller College common room, inside the collegiate Gothic cloister of Madison Hall,

RESIDENTIAL INN

The Yeh and New College West residential colleges, which opened in 2022, are on a 12-acre site and include housing for about 1,000 undergrads.

completed in 1917; and the New College West common room, a glass-and-wood rectangle completed in 2022. The Gothic cloister is closed off and private, McCoy notes, while the newer space, with its wall of windows, is transparent and open to the world.

The older structure is "one of the most beautiful spaces on campus," while the new one "is not going to be in the history books as the most beautiful space," McCoy says. "But we're not trying to create the most beautiful space. We're trying to create the most inviting and welcoming and inclusive space."

At Princeton, finding ways to embody contemporary values in new spaces involves multiple stakeholders — trustees, administrators, faculty, staff, and students — in a lengthy and detailed consultative process. A new project's objectives are developed and refined internally, including in discussions with the President's Advisory Committee on Architecture, a body whose members include faculty, staff, undergraduates, and graduate students. "We treat them as a kind of focus group of the University community," McCoy says. "I'll present to them what the goals of the project are and get their feedback."

Eventually, a committee chaired by the University president chooses an architect. Then come months of work fine-tuning proposed designs, choosing building materials, and finalizing the budget. "We have hundreds of meetings in which design is discussed, or programmatic issues are discussed, or sustainability is discussed," McCoy says. On a major project, construction typically doesn't start until two to three years after an architect is chosen.

ART MUSEUM REACTION

'EVERYBODY NEEDS TO KIND OF PAUSE, GIVE IT A CHANCE'

T'S BEEN COMPARED TO AN Amazon warehouse, a monster truck, and a shower-curtain liner. Its placement in the historic center of Princeton's campus, steps away from Prospect House, has been likened to the destructiveness of a nuclear explosion. At last year's Reunions, one attendee claimed, "It appalled every human being who looked at it."

It's fair to say that the new Princeton University Art Museum, scheduled to open Oct. 31, is not a universally beloved building.

Designed by the eminent Ghanaian-British architect David Adjaye, the new building replaces a sprawling 77,000-square-foot museum, library, and academic complex that had progressed through five rounds of construction, demolition, renovation, and rethinking since the 1880s. In its final iteration, the complex dated largely from the 1960s and 1980s but also incorporated part of McCormick Hall, a 1923 building designed in Italian Gothic style by Ralph Adams Cram, the acrhitect who spearheaded Princeton's early 20th-century commitment to collegiate Gothic architecture.

The old building's piecemeal evolution "left us with a very problematic facility," museum director James Steward said during a September 2020 online presentation: The building's galleries accommodated only 2% of the 110,000 objects in the collection, and space for study and social events was inadequate. The building's layout also meant that European and American art was displayed in upper galleries while much non-Western art was displayed below, a configuration that implied "a value placed on European and North American cultures at the expense of the rest of the world," Steward said.

The new museum is designed in a modern architectural idiom, with an exterior composed largely of stone and bronze panels. With 146,000 square feet spread across three floors, the new building will expand exhibition space by 38%, allow most art to be displayed on a single floor, and include a new education center.

Like the old complex, the new one will also house Princeton's Department of Art and Archaeology and the Marquand Library of Art and Archaeology, the only part of the old building that remains

THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

The Princeton University Art Museum, set to open on Oct. 31, has already sparked strong reactions from alumni.

intact. The goal is a warm, inviting public space that welcomes "people who don't see themselves as traditionally being museum-goers," Steward said.

(Most of Adjaye's work on the project had been completed before mid-2023, when three women accused him of sexual assault and harassment, Steward said at the time. Adjaye denies the charges.)

University architect Ronald J. McCoy *80 calls the new museum "contemporary, functional, and incredibly sensitive to the traditions of the campus." Alumni dissenters call it a monstrosity — ugly, hulking, and too large for its site.

"A great prison," says architecture critic Catesby Leigh '79, who visited last summer.

"A giant Jersey barrier factory," says architectural historian Sean Sawyer '88, who has seen pictures.

"You're losing green space that's been there since Victorian times or beyond," says art historian W. Barksdale Maynard '88, who saw the work in progress — and reported fellow Princetonians' unfavorable reactions — during last year's Reunions.

Critics of the new museum also regret losing what remained of Cram's centuryold building, one of three he designed on campus.

"They just decided to put a nuclear bomb and blow it up and put this massive, big, brutalist thing in the center of campus," says Sawyer, who heads the nonprofit that operates Olana, a historic estate in upstate New York. "I'm literally terrified to go back to campus. I feel like I will be in tears."

Not every Princetonian shares those fears.

In a March op-ed in The Daily Princetonian, architecture major Kayleen Gowers '25 called the new museum "undeniably compelling," despite some

reservations about its design. "Whether it will integrate seamlessly or stand apart as an object to be admired from a distance remains to be seen," Gowers concluded.

McCoy insists that when visitors step back and see the completed museum's seven interconnected pavilions in the context of the larger campus fabric, they will be able to appreciate how the new structure fits into the landscape and resonates with its neighbors.

"Everybody needs to kind of pause, give it a chance," he says. "See the museum in its finished state. See how it relates to campus, see how it hosts events, see how it frames the art. And then have an opinion." *By D.Y.*

BUILDING BOOM

A building-by-building look at the largest expansion of campus in Princeton history

STADIUM DRIVE GARAGE

Opened: 2022

Home to: 1,560 parking spaces Location: Northwest corner of Faculty and FitzRandolph roads

ROBERTS SOCCER STADIUM

Opened: 2022

Home to: 2,100-seat athletic facility

Location: East campus, near Jadwin Gym and Stadium Drive Garage

YEH COLLEGE AND NEW COLLEGE WEST

Opened: 2022

Home to: Princeton's seventh and eighth residential colleges Location: South of Poe Field and east of Elm Drive

MEADOWS DRIVE GARAGE

Opened: 2022 Home to: 612 parking spaces Location: Off Washington Road

CUB

in West Windsor

Opened: 2023
Home to: Geo-exchange
facility servicing Meadows
Neighborhood
Location: Meadows
Neighborhood, south of Lake
Carnegie

TIGER

Opened: 2024
Home to: Geo-exchange
operations and utilities
Location: Northeast corner of
Faculty and FitzRandolph roads

MEADOWS APARTMENTS

Opened: 2024

Home to: 379 apartments for grad students

Location: Off Washington Road

in West Windsor

RACQUET AND RECREATION FIELDHOUSE

Opened: 2024

Home to: Squash and tennis courts, fitness center, and offices Location: Off Washington Road, behind grad housing, in West Windsor

CYNTHIA PAUL FIELD

Opened: 2025

Home to: 300-seat softball

stadium

Location: Off Washington Road

in West Windsor

FRIST HEALTH CENTER

Opened: 2025

Home to: Outpatient medical care and counseling services Location: Between Guyot Hall and the Hobson College site

CLASS OF 1986 FITNESS AND WELLNESS CENTER

Opened: Partially in 2024. Due to be completed summer 2025

Home to: Fitness center, Dillon pool, and offices

Located: Addition to the south of Dillon Gym

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM

Scheduled to open: Fall 2025
Home to: Museum and
Department of Art and
Archaeology
Location: South of McCosh
Walk, between Dod Hall and
Prospect House

ES & SEAS

Scheduled to open: Fall 2025
Home to: School of Engineering
and Applied Science,
environmental studies
departments, and the High
Meadows Environmental
Institute
Location: On Ivy Lane, across
from Lewis Library, Peyton Hall,
and Princeton Stadium

HOBSON COLLEGE

Scheduled to open: Spring 2027 Home to: Residential college complex of more than 270,000 square feet, housing about 500 students

Location: On the site of First College (formerly Wilson College)

Except for those graduates who serve as trustees, University alumni have no formal role in the process, but McCoy says their voices don't go unheard. "Alumni love the campus, and we have conversations with them all the time," he says.

The process strives to produce buildings that are characteristic but not faddish. "We don't want the architecture to be the kind of architecture you'd see anywhere in the world," McCoy says. "We want the architecture to belong to Princeton." University officials aim "to commission serious architecture that is substantial and weighty and designed by important people," says Meredith Arms Bzdak, an architectural historian whose Princeton-based architecture firm, Mills + Schnoering Architects, has worked on renovation and restoration projects at the University for decades. "Innovation has not been their goal, necessarily. They're concerned more with function, permanence, beauty — something that will endure."

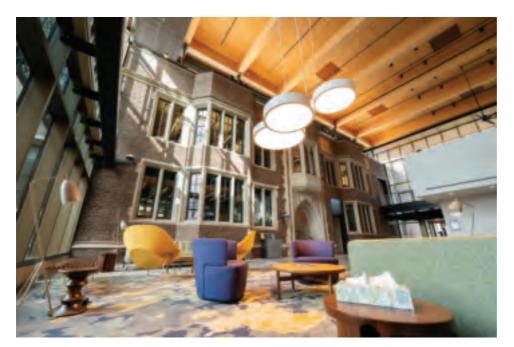
Of course, which architectural styles embody enduring beauty can be a contentious question. Some experts argue that architecture, like other art forms, must evolve. "You can't build a collegiate Gothic museum. It would look ridiculous," says Brian Allen, the art critic for *National Review* magazine. "It's not of our time."

But that position may not seem obvious to laypeople. "During the time when we were doing mostly modern buildings, all of my architect friends were very happy. All of my alumni friends who were not architects weren't as happy," says Jon D. Hlafter '61 *63, McCoy's predecessor as University architect. "Then, of course, when we did Whitman College, it was just the reverse. The architect friends just couldn't understand what we were doing, whereas the alumni were very pleased."

Critics of Princeton's recent architectural choices say the University has failed to achieve its stated objectives. Instead of making buildings that are distinctive, it has replicated soulless corporate spaces, says Maynard, the art historian. "Sometimes when I lecture, I'll show four slides together, and I'll say, 'Three of these are pharmaceutical headquarters across the world, and one of these is the Princeton neuroscience building. Which is which?'" says Maynard, who teaches at the University of Delaware. "No one can guess."

In the past, the Princeton campus "offered an education in civilized architecture for students who, in any number of cases, did not come from high-quality architectural environments," says Leigh, the architecture critic. "The newer work is just more extravagant renditions of modernist dysfunction they can see everywhere else."

Especially galling to some is the sacrifice of older buildings. The 1892 Osborn Clubhouse, on the corner of Olden Street and Prospect Avenue, was torn down to accommodate the Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment, completed in 2016; the last vestiges of Cram's 1923 McCormick Hall were demolished to make way for the new art museum. "What's next? Why not tear down Murray-



Dodge?" Maynard asks sarcastically. "Things that would have seemed like madness 25 years ago I'm beginning to think now are entirely possible."

As the campus expands, "the historic quarter is shrinking by comparison to the new growth," Plater-Zyberk says. "The more it grows, the smaller that gets in terms of the experience."

HE PASSION, PRO AND CON, that Princeton's architectural choices evoke reflects the strength of the ties that bind Princetonians to the University, says Kim Yao *97, Yarinsky's partner at Architecture Research Office. "It's a good problem to have, that so many people actually care enough to voice an opinion, for or against, about some of these newer buildings," she says. "Having the conversation actually helps push these ideas forward."

At times, the debate over the architectural direction of the campus comes with an implication that aesthetic decisions have political dimensions, that the eternal Princeton jostling between old and new correlates with a conservative-progressive divide. "Princeton's Gothic towers point to something other than, and greater than, ourselves; they point to a higher truth," Kari Jenson Gold, the parent of a Princeton alumna, wrote in a 2023 critique of the University's recent architectural choices. "But the creed of diversity, equity, and inclusion cannot permit spires. There can be no pointing upward, no transcendence of self because there is nothing higher or greater than the autonomous self." Yarinsky, the Brooklyn architect, says the preference for older architectural forms sometimes accompanies "a social agenda or a political agenda of returning to simpler times, or returning to a time when everything was organized and ordered in a certain way."

But Leigh insists that aesthetic issues can — and should — be separated from political ones. "At the end of the day, architecture is pre-political. It responds to our basic sensory response to form," he says. "It's not about a political narrative tacked on to that form."

TO YOUR HEALTH

The Frist Health Center opened in January, replacing the McCosh Health Center, and includes Eno Hall.

Defenders of the campus's current direction say there's room for both old and new. "What's wonderful about the character of Princeton's campus, and that it has all this diversity in types of buildings and ages of buildings and scale, is that I think it has the bandwidth and the room to absorb and support very different kinds of buildings," Yao says.

Just steps from Nassau Hall stand Whig and Clio halls, twin

19th-century marble temples in Greek revival style. In the 1970s, after Whig was gutted by fire, the modernist architect and sometime Princeton lecturer Charles Gwathmey partially rebuilt it in a daringly new idiom; decades later, when Clio was renovated, the work stuck close to the century-old original.

That eclecticism pleases Hlafter, the former University architect. Renovating twin buildings in two completely different ways, he says, "for me is representative of what Princeton University ought to be: willing to do different kinds of things in a disciplined way."

The passionate responses that Princeton's architecture evokes surely also owe something to the ways in which alumni perceive campus spaces as bound up with their own lives — with memories of early adulthood, and with a sense of how those years shaped all that came after. "You always think the very best time that the campus existed is when you were an undergraduate," Hlafter says. "I feel that too, I really do. I can show you some pictures."

In the 1980s, a Vermont teenager shopping for a college toured Princeton and fell in love with its architecture. "It's what drew me to Princeton," says Sean Sawyer '88, who went on to earn a Ph.D. in architectural history. "It was like walking through those layers of history." That bond only strengthened once Sawyer settled in on campus. "I loved looking up at my dorm room in the top of one of the Gothic buildings, saying, 'That's my light up there,'" recalls Sawyer, who now heads a nonprofit that operates a historic New York estate. "You were part of a fabric of a place that had this history."

Architecture is woven especially tightly into that fabric. "Architecture tends to hold its history. You can feel the weight of the people who have come before you and the learning that's gone on in that place," says Bzdak, the architectural historian. "That's why the alums feel so protective of it. It's the vessel for their own history."

DEBORAH YAFFE is a freelance writer based in Princeton Junction, New Jersey.





F YOU THINK IT'S A PAIN TO MOVE, just picture rehoming tens of thousands of priceless objects, and then moving them back. Not only that, the Princeton University Art Museum had to contend with COVID restrictions, fragile research, and sleeping students. But the end is near and so is the opening of a new multimillion-dollar facility that has been years in the making.

The new museum is hard to miss, smack dab in the center of campus between Prospect House and Dod Hall. At 146,000 square feet, it doubles the gallery and education space of the previous museum, and that's not including the gift shop and restaurant. In addition, to support this massive expansion, the Princeton University Art Museum (PUAM) is hiring 65 staff members.

Museum officials are sure the result will be worth the wait, and come Oct. 31, the community will be welcomed in to see for themselves (for free, as always) for a 24-hour open house and during regular business hours afterward.

But one thing that won't be on display — or at least made obvious — is the planning and meticulous work that went into building the museum and curating it in a way that is just right. The project broke ground in the summer of 2021 and created a virtual black hole in the middle of campus, and even now that most of the fences have come down, the enormous and somewhat imposing stone, bronze, and aluminum walls don't give much away. With a 117,000-piece collection, including items that date back 5,000 years, it's still a mystery as to what exactly viewers will see when they step inside.

PAW was given two sneak peeks, first in early February and then in late March, to see how the museum is coming together and understand the work of moving in. Let's go behind those daunting walls.

HEN PUAM'S DIRECTOR James Steward found out a new building was planned, he was given two primary goals by Princeton's administration: to build a museum that would meet the University's needs for "at least the next generation," and "function well for a hundred years," he says.

It was an intimidating task, for which the University hired Adjaye Associates, designers of the Smithsonian Museum of African American History, among other notable projects, and Cooper Robertson, who served as executive architect, and who a PUAM press release stated is "acknowledged as among the foremost museum planning and design firms in the country."

It was unclear at first whether the new museum would sit on the same site as the old one, which was important to Steward. "The symbolic value of having a museum of this magnitude and importance in the physical heart of our historic campus says a lot about, I think, what Princeton is and what it wants to be."

Steward promises he won't mind when someone passes through the hallways to get to class or stops to sit on a bench and use their phone, as both are still encounters with art that "perhaps then invites you, tricks you, to want to have a deeper experience."

Once the location was confirmed, the old museum, which opened in 1966, was scheduled to close in 2021. According to Steward, "moving collections of this scale is a herculean act in and of itself," not to mention additional difficulties that came along with the pandemic, which moved the timeline up. About 56,000 pieces of art had to be deinstalled while staff socially distanced. Roughly 245 shipments of 5,000 boxes and crates later, the art had left the building.

Demolition led to the twin discoveries of asbestos in the old museum — even more than had been anticipated — and that a vapor barrier meant to reduce water had failed in Marquand Library, which was given a facelift and is incorporated into the new museum. Meanwhile, all of this took place as PUAM still operated two galleries in town — Art@Bainbridge, which will continue to host special exhibitions, and Art on Hulfish, which closed this January.

Construction presented challenges. For example, trucks carrying 60-foot steel beams to the site could not navigate the turning radius on Faculty Road. "We had to basically remake that traffic circle and lower it into the ground ... in order to facilitate the movement of all this material into a landlocked environment," Steward said during this year's Wintersession.

Construction was completed last year, and in the fall, a few of the larger pieces were embedded into the floors and walls. In January, the move-in began in earnest with the museum welcoming the rest of the art, a reunion Steward admitted on Alumni Day this year led him to "shed more than a couple of tears"

Just transporting art back into the building from storage required years of planning and the utmost care.

In addition to space onsite, PUAM operates two storage facilities — for a total of about 27,500 square feet of storage space — that have humidity and temperature controls (which generally match conditions at the museum), dim lighting, a fire suppression system, and human and systems security.

At Wintersession, Steward told the audience that PUAM "will be more dependent" on off-site storage "than we ever were prior to construction." That's in part due to the growth of the collection; the museum acquires more than 1,000 objects per year. Only about 5% of PUAM's collection will be on display at any given time in the new building, but in the old museum, that number hovered around 2%.

In storage, items are selected for display and then packed one gallery at a time according to size, sometimes in customized crates, sometimes in boxes lined with Tyvek or Volara, synthetic coverings that protect the exterior of a house during construction.

"We don't pack anything in peanuts or tissue," says Virginia Pifko, senior collections manager. "Everything is secured inside the container so it won't move, but it's not being touched by anything that can degrade it or deteriorate it."

PUAM staff work in tandem with an unnamed (for security reasons) fine arts art shipper based in the tristate area. The trucks are required to have air ride — a smooth suspension system that uses air-filled bags — a lift gate, and a climate-control system. And

there are always two drivers for safety reasons.

"We're always making sure art is comfortable and safe no matter where it is, if it's in a truck, if it's on a shelf, if it's in a gallery," says Alexia Hughes, chief registrar and manager of collections services.

Items in transit are checked by registrars a minimum of six times, sometimes up to 10.

"This is basically how art moves anyway for exhibitions or loans. ... The quantity is on steroids, but it's a part of what you do," said Hughes.

The largest painting in PUAM's collection, Ellen Gallagher's *Blubber*, was a special challenge. It was 12 ½ feet tall by 16 ½ feet long once crated and required a special truck.

Remarkably, as of late March, no objects had been lost or damaged during the move, and about half of the art that will be on display was already packed up in storage, awaiting delivery.

Even once the art is installed, staff still have to manage empty crates and boxes so they can be reused. For Pifko, that

turned out to be "the biggest surprise \dots because it's almost the same amount of work as moving the artwork."

URING MY TWO VISITS, I was greeted by temporary flooring (to protect the new construction underneath), rows of paint cans lined up along bare walls, large trash bins scattered among hallways, and lots and lots and lots of boxes. There was some art too, though most of it was not display-ready. I observed one sculpture divided into three boxes.

It felt intrusive to see the museum this way — a rare sight, as the staff said more than a few times. When visiting for the second time, about 20% to 25% of the art that will be displayed on opening day had been installed.

We started on the first floor, which is home to the gift shop; the Grand Hall, which can be transformed to suit a variety of purposes; and the Welcome Gallery, which will rotate exhibitions annually. The rest of the galleries are on the second floor and will rotate more frequently. Steward says the new layout will help avoid the "upstairs-downstairs" problem the last building had.

"We used to estimate that probably something like 40% of our

visitors never even made their way to those lower-level galleries because it wasn't necessarily obvious to them that they were there," he says.

Determining the placement of art in the new building was a collaborative effort that took into account the building's design, curatorial vision and values, and PUAM's teaching and research mission. The museum had to contend with "a very small number" of works with stipulations attached — gifts received on the condition that they had to be installed — so

according to Steward, when choosing what to display, "the key considerations have been what is needed for teaching and research."

At the top of the Grand Stair, viewers will find a somewhat unexpected selection of pieces from different regions and time periods in a space known informally as the orientation gallery. "We wanted there to be a moment in the building early in the sequence of galleries where a visitor would be introduced to the sheer range of what's to be found in our collections.



PACK YOUR BAGS

Crates shown in the museum last year are used to transport pieces from storage. "We're always making sure art is comfortable and safe no matter where it is," says Alexia Hughes, chief registrar and manager of collections services.

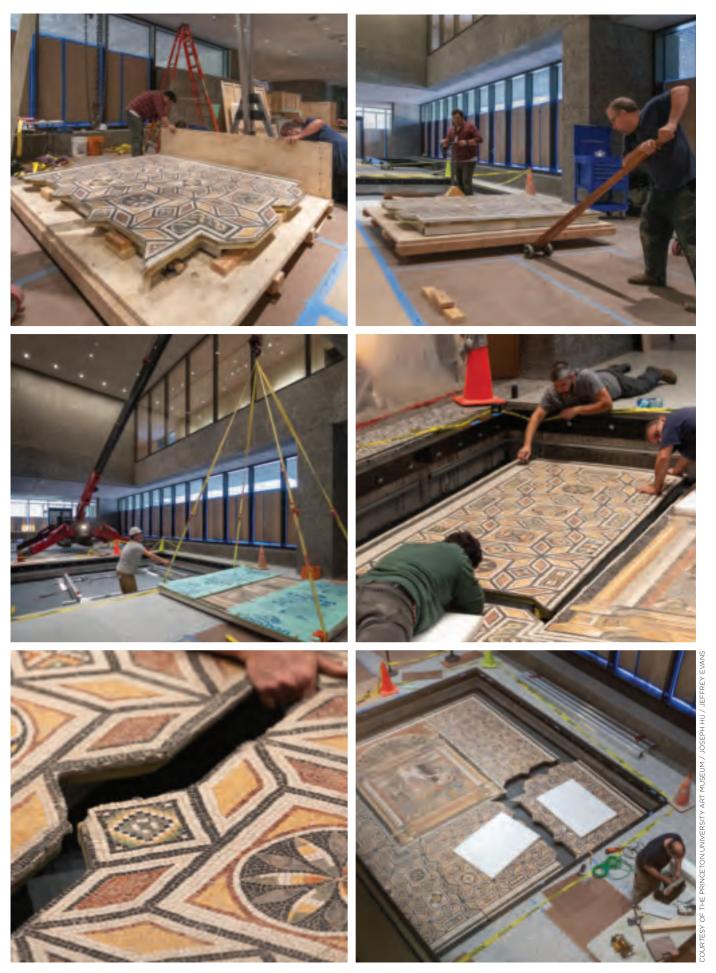
So, rather than thinking we were only a museum of x, y, or z, you're provoked to realize it's all of the above," says Steward.

That's part of PUAM's mission to create dialogue within the collection in ways that might be surprising.

The allocation of gallery space was also rebalanced from the old museum to respond to "teaching needs and the growth of the collections, and a variety of other considerations," according to Steward's remarks at Wintersession. For example, African art will occupy seven times the space it had in the old building, while the ancient Mediterranean section will be smaller than before.

Several pieces were commissioned for the new museum, according to a press release, including a monumental wall relief by Nick Cave incorporated into the entrance court. A sculpture by Diana Al-Hadid and another by Tuan Andrew Nguyen will be displayed, as well as a painting by Jane Irish that will grace the ceiling of an intimate viewing room.

Two additional pieces out of the 7,000 that will be on display were acquired for specific museum sites. A bronze sculpture by Rose B. Simpson on the south terrace that can be seen from the ground overlooking campus was installed in March. A glazed ceramic piece by Jun Kaneko was selected for "an area in the northeast of the building," according to a press release.



The museum will also display several pieces for the first time that were acquired during the five-year closure, including El Manto Negro by Teresa Margolles, exciting staff who have "just seen it in storage in boxes on the shelf," says Pifko.

"With its 1,600 burnished ceramic tiles, that will be a feat of installation," Juliana Ochs Dweck, chief curator, wrote via email.

New special exhibitions are planned every three to four months, and Steward says after six months, the rest of the collection will be changed frequently too.

OR THE FIRST time, PUAM will offer food and beverages thanks to a new restaurant, Mosaic, which will share the third floor with offices. Although some details are still in flux, Steward expects Mosaic to serve coffee and pastries in the morning, lunch and snacks in the afternoon. and around 80 annual prebooked dinners with themes correlating to the museum's collections.

Steward picked the name Mosaic because "I kind of love the way the word, in a

sense, captures the idea of making something whole out of its parts," he says with a laugh. "Because I think you could think of that as a metaphor for what a chef puts on a plate, as well as for the kind of art we collect in the building."

Another feature of the new museum is a larger education center. The more than 12,000-square-foot space includes two creativity labs for hands-on learning, six object study classrooms, an auditorium, and two seminar rooms. There is also a two-level conservation studio for preserving and investigating art.

"A set of conservation studios is a complete game changer at Princeton in that we'll finally be able to care for the whole of our collections on site," Steward said at Alumni Day.

There will also be familiar favorites on display. The portrait of George Washington by Charles Willson Peale was the "first work of art installed in our new museum, which seemed remarkably fitting," Steward said at Alumni Day. It has been in the museum's collections for longer than any other work of art, having been commissioned by the University's Board of Trustees in 1783.

The Spanish staircase with sections dating back to 1549 that was displayed in the old museum was cleaned, and staff "repositioned some of the elements" after reviewing archival research and photographs that provided additional insight. Visitors may also recognize three mosaics that previously were installed in the ground, though viewers could not stand on them. Now, thanks to protective glass flooring and specially made cavities, that's no longer the case, bringing together the concepts of "preservation and close looking," according to Chris Newth, senior associate director for collections and exhibitions.

Steward tells PAW that materials of the building itself should also be reminiscent of the previous museum, including timber in the floors, ceiling, and roofing system that are a nod to the teak featured in the old building. The exposed beams, which

> act as load bearers, were also selected for timber's relatively low carbon footprint.

Another of Steward's happening."

though at Wintersession,

goals was to replicate tucked away spots and corners. "In the old museum, there was a space that we used to refer to as the atrium where we anecdotally have the evidence that any number of couples got engaged. And so, I ... said to the architects, give us spaces where you can imagine that

Steward wouldn't say how much this all cost,

FINE TOUCH

Courtney Kenny, above, examines the installation plan for a case of objects. To the left, conservators install a Roman mosaic pavement from the third century depicting a drinking contest between Hercules and Dionysus.

he gave a hint: "Museum construction is among the most expensive forms of construction in the world, not least because of climate and security systems. Museum construction often goes somewhere between a thousand and two thousand [per] square foot. I'll let you ponder." He also said the cost of the roughly 35 cases that display art reached eight figures on its own.

"If any of you are asked how many people does it take to construct a case, it is a lot," joked Newth at the same event.

The reopening of the museum will coincide with PUAM's publication of a book about its history and mission, with essays contributed by Steward and others. Steward is also working on his own book about what he believes a museum should be that he hopes to complete after a long-overdue sabbatical.

But Steward and the rest of PUAM's staff are now entirely focused on the months ahead, with daunting tasks still yet to be completed before visitors first step inside.

"Just to get to the point where it's becoming very real again is much more exciting than it is nerve-wracking," says Steward.

Though many likely won't know the story of how the new museum came to be, Ochs Dweck believes "the most exciting stories will be those that visitors come to on their own, as they encounter objects and find their own meanings." P

JULIE BONETTE is PAW's writer/assistant editor.



ALUMNI IN THE NATION'S RESISTANCE

These 12 Princetonians are among those refusing to let Trump prevail without a fight

BY E.B. BOYD '89

OST AMERICANS ANTICIPATED that President Donald Trump's second term wouldn't be a simple repeat of his first. But few anticipated the speed with which he'd tear into government, or the extent to which he'd challenge laws, norms, and the Constitutional separation of powers.

Still, many have been pushing back against the Trump administration. PAW spoke to a dozen alumni - and one Princeton senior — who are filing lawsuits to block Trump's orders, mobilizing opposition, or simply trying to lead their communities through these turbulent times. In the pages that follow, these Princetonians describe what they've observed and share the strategies they're following.

To a person, however, they say formal institutions alone won't prevent the country from tipping into autocracy. "What ended up making a difference during the first Trump administration was [ordinary people] who got involved in local organizing," says Josh Marshall '91, the editor in chief of Talking Points Memo.

Kate Huddleston '11, an attorney with the Campaign Legal Center, says she learned from her undergraduate studies at Princeton that history "is contingent, always changing.

"What happens next is not yet written. It's up to all of us to decide what direction we want the country to go in."



THE LAWYERS

THE PRIMARY BATTLES against Trump's policies have taken place in the courts, with civil rights lawyers filing lawsuits on everything from free speech to immigration enforcement to Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) activities.

The American Civil Liberties Union started drafting playbooks for potential second Trump and Biden terms a couple of years ago, says Emerson Sykes *11, a senior staff attorney in the group's speech, privacy, and technology practice. Still, the pace and volume of the first months was unprecedented. "In the last two weeks, my team has filed five new cases, which is extraordinary for us," Sykes said in mid-March.

The administration's attacks on speech have been numerous, from canceling federal grants that use words related to diversity, equity, and inclusion, to threatening to deport legal residents and naturalized citizens for their political views and pressuring universities and corporations to end DEI programs.

"This is not the first administration that's tried to regulate speech based on viewpoint," Sykes says. "But the brazenness They're not hiding it behind some other justification. They're making it very clear that they're cracking down on people because they don't like what they're saying."

As an ACLU immigration lawyer, Maribel Hernández Rivera *10 has been inundated with questions. "Family members call me and say, 'We heard ICE [U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement] is in the subway. What do we do?" she says. "Mothers in Venezuela reach out to me saying, 'I just saw my son is in Guantanamo.' ... They're desperate."

Sarah Xiyi Chen '13, an attorney with the Texas Civil Rights Project, has long anticipated the new policies. "What we've experienced in Texas has been a lot of what Trump is starting to do at the federal level: the criminalization of immigrants, the crackdown on the border, the attorney general using state resources to target immigration and voting nonprofits," she says.

Chen works on voting rights and says she's watched Texas use investigations into alleged ballot harvesting or election fraud to intimidate civil rights organizations. "Demanding documents or other ways of getting inside a nonprofit makes it more difficult for them to operate," she says. "It also scares other nonprofits from doing similar work."

While many planned for immigration crackdowns and the Heritage Foundation's Project 2025 agenda, Elon Musk's DOGE initiative took them by surprise. Numerous organizations, including the Campaign Legal Center where Huddleston is an attorney, have filed suit to stop the group from gutting the federal government.

"Government is not the private sector," says Huddleston. The center has sued DOGE on the grounds that federal statutes don't permit "seizing power over large swaths of federal spending, dismantling federal agencies, [and] reducing the federal workforce dramatically" by someone who's not Senateconfirmed, she says, and by an organization "that does not have any powers from Congress."

In addition to filing lawsuits, the ACLU is also ramping up its storytelling to awaken the general population to the erosion of civil rights. "Not everybody needs to be on the front lines with federal officials, but there's so much we can do to support each other and make sure that the folks in our communities who are most under attack know we have their backs," Sykes says. "Even dropping a note to friends who might be struggling — these very small things are not going to necessarily change the world, but they can help in concrete ways."

Chen says Trump's actions have revealed how much of American democracy rests purely on norms. "We need to rebuild those norms of respect and trust," she says. Ordinary people need to start "doing the uncomfortable thing of talking to random people in their communities, face to face, and building the kinds of connections that can actually lead to trust and then to power."



THE REPRESENTATIVES

BEFORE HIS CONFIRMATION HEARINGS to lead the Office of Management and Budget, Project 2025 architect Russell Vought met with senators on Capitol Hill, including **Jeff Merkley *82,** a Democrat from Oregon, who says Vought anticipated lawsuits would challenge the president's agenda, but didn't seem bothered.

"He told me ... his goal is to send it to the Supreme Court in the conviction that the court is prepared to hand the executive [branch] far more power than anyone could have ever envisioned," Merkley says.

That confidence derived from the court's ruling in *Trump v. United States* last year that presidential acts are immune from prosecution, Merkley says. "They found invisible ink in the Constitution, totally contrary to the philosophy of the founders, that said the president is more a king than the leader of the executive branch."

Merkley was among the first in Congress to begin speaking in stark terms, telling CNN in March before the Senate voted on the six-month budget extension, "The best time to take on a tyrant is as early as possible."

"Folks will say, 'We can't push back now, because we fear the power they have," says Merkley, who as a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee watched democracies collapse around the world. "But when [the] next moment comes, the executive has even more power, and people are even more reluctant."

At the town halls Merkley holds in Oregon's 36 counties every year, residents have started asking what they can do. He's told them to keep talking to their representatives and to join local groups. "It's tempting to curl up in a fetal position and hope all of this bad news just goes away," Merkley says. "If people do not respond, then Trump will be empowered to continue this rampage against our republic, and we'll be forever damaged."

As a representative from the Chicago area, Democrat Raja Krishnamoorthi '95 says this, his fifth term in Congress, is "the most turbulent" ever. "My constituents feel a mixture of fear, anger, concern," he says. "Some people who are supporters of the president are happy with what they see, but even a lot of them are concerned about the unpredictability of certain issues."

The tension with Canada, one of Illinois' biggest trading

partners, has local businesses worried about their long-term future, and anticipating cuts to Medicaid has left others anxious about paying for health care.

In the short term, Krishnamoorthi says Democrats need to work on awakening their counterparts to how unpopular their policies are. "We need to flip some Republicans," he says. For the rest, "we need to hold them accountable at the polls."

But in the longer term, Krishnamoorthi says there needs to be a reckoning with the reality that many voters have lost so much faith in government that they're willing to "roll the dice" on someone new. "It could be a populist today," he says. "It could be a demagogue tomorrow."

Middle-class Americans have long struggled to buy homes, secure affordable health care, and educate their children. "If we can get to the point where government really makes a positive difference in everyone's lives, and they feel it," Krishnamoorthi says, "I think, in the future, we'll be able to resist these attempts to erode our institutions."



THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DEMOCRATIC ATTORNEYS GENERAL have been collaborating to jointly file a series of lawsuits against the president's executive orders, including those revoking birthright citizenship, cutting National Institutes of Health funding, and shuttering federal agencies — as well as DOGE's handling of citizens' private information.

Andrea Campbell '04, the first Black woman to hold statewide office in Massachusetts, helped lead the charge, prompting the *Boston Herald* to call her "one of Donald Trump's most dogged foes."

"I didn't come into 2025 looking to fight a federal administration," says Campbell. "I would have preferred to have an administration willing to work with us on the challenges facing our residents."

So far, she's been encouraged by the speed with which courts are responding. "I'm seeing judges, appointed by both Democratic and Republican presidents, who are thoughtful and who are pushing this administration not only to follow the law, but to follow the orders that they produce."

The changes at the top will ripple down to all Americans, she says. "At some point they may feel it in their utility bills, or if they're trying to get their child in a pediatric cancer trial that they're unable to access, or if they're trying to ensure there's

adequate numbers of teachers in their school district."

Campbell says voters need to get to know their attorneys general, including in red states. "We can't do it by ourselves," she says. "We need a public and an electorate that is paying attention."



THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

A SERIES OF ICE RAIDS in Newark in late January reverberated 35 miles away in Jamesburg, New Jersey, where Princeton senior **Thomas Emens '25** is president of the borough council. "We've seen people hesitant to go out or even go to work," he says.

Emens' hometown doesn't track how many of its 6,000 residents are undocumented, but about 35% are Latino. "I grew up with classmates whose parents immigrated from Mexico, Central America, and South America," Emens says. "When one portion of our residents is singled out, it affects everybody."

Emens traces his Jamesburg roots to the 1860s. In high school, he led a revitalization project at the local library after joining its board of trustees. Over time, he became concerned about how the borough was being managed. "Instead of complaining, I felt I should put some of the skills I had learned to the test and help the people who have made a huge difference in my life," he says.

Emens, a politics major and former summer intern with Princeton's Scholars in the Nation's Service Initiative, was elected to the borough council in 2022 and became its president last year. He says federal funding cuts will be felt directly in small communities. The borough had been counting on federal money for infrastructure improvements to combat flooding and relocate the police department. But now it might have to turn to the state, along with every other strapped community in New Jersey.

"We don't have wealthy [political] donors, and we don't have a large voting base, so it's already very difficult for us to try to get our needs heard at higher levels," Emens says.

The cuts to federal personnel will also ripple outward. "It's going to be very difficult for our communities to navigate [loan and grant] applications without there being a sufficient workforce to accommodate it," Emens says. "When we start to see the real-world effects, people will learn very quickly just how important the federal government really is."



THE PRESIDENT OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD

CUTS TO MEDICAID, the removal of public health information from government websites, and even immigration policies are all affecting Planned Parenthood's ability to deliver care to the 2 million people who seek it annually. "Fifty percent of Planned Parenthood patients are Medicaid patients," says Alexis McGill Johnson '93, who's led the organization since 2019.

Planned Parenthood's 600 clinics have been flooded with calls from people looking for information about what services are permitted in their states, how to travel to other states, and whether they're even permitted to make those trips. "One of the strategies of this administration has been to sow a lot of chaos and confusion and misinformation," McGill Johnson says.

Abortion only constitutes about 4% of Planned Parenthood's services. The rest deal with health screenings, contraception, and STDs. Still, Planned Parenthood is looking to build out more virtual care options, not the least because Trump pardoned 23 people who'd been convicted of blocking clinics, along with some of the rioters from the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol who McGill Johnson says are known abortion clinic protesters.

"There's an increased sense of fear for patients and the staff, watching them have to navigate their safety without the kind of legal mechanisms to hold people accountable," she says.

As her own daughter heads to college, McGill Johnson says she finds it sobering that Project 2025 is trying to "take back the progress that women and people of color have made over the last 60 years."

"Our generation was the first to be the direct beneficiaries of the feminist and civil rights movements," says McGill Johnson, who was born in 1972. "And now, depending on where she goes, she's going to have less rights than I did when I was at school some 30 years ago."

Still, there are signs of hope. "Just in this last week, I've been in big rooms, big rallies, small rooms, small dinners, schools, universities, and public and private institutions with an incredibly powerful, multigenerational, diverse leadership of women who are just quietly putting the pieces together to fight back."



THE ORGANIZER

IN DECEMBER, the progressive organization Indivisible had 1,000 local groups. When this article went to press, it had about 1,700. By the time you read this, there could be hundreds more. "We're seeing an absolute wave of grassroots energy," says **Ezra Levin *13,** who co-founded Indivisible after the 2016 election.

With chapter memberships ranging from just a handful of people to thousands, the locally led groups organize rallies, meetings in person and online, and phone banks. "They're started by a couple of friends, or a book club, or a community group," Levin says, adding that frustration with Democratic leadership at the national level is fueling some of the growth.

Local action is essential, says Levin, a former congressional staffer who received a master's in public affairs from Princeton's School of Public and International Affairs. "You can look around the world, and you can look for historical examples, and I don't know an answer to creeping authoritarianism that does not rely on normal, everyday citizens organizing together."

That's the goal for now: build "a broad-based, crossideological, pro-democracy movement," Levin says — one which will involve Trump voters as well, people who "didn't think they were going to get the Department of Education gutted or USAID gutted, or a fundamental attack on their freedoms."

The fact that the administration is using intimidation tactics is, counterintuitively perhaps, encouraging to Levin. "It comes from a sense of weakness. They know what they're doing is unpopular, [and] that if the people organize against it, [the administration] might be stopped."

Levin has been making the rounds on news shows and doing interviews with podcasters and Substack writers, as well as holding weekly online discussions and Q&As with Indivisible members. "The only real sense of security you can have in this kind of environment is strength in numbers," he says. "The more people who take that courageous step forward, [the more they're] seen by dozens or hundreds or thousands of other people, who then decide to take a step forward as well."



THE STRATEGIST

AROUND THE END OF TRUMP'S FIRST TERM, Barton Gellman '82 wrote a series of articles for *The Atlantic* about how difficult it would be for U.S. institutions to restrain an authoritarian president. Shortly afterward, the Pulitzer Prize winner, who spent most of his career at *The Washington Post*, decided to leave journalism, at least temporarily, to join NYU's Brennan Center for Justice and war-game how the country could withstand a determined power grab.

"I found myself repeatedly writing that we were at a hinge in history, and that the dangers were very real," says Gellman. "I felt more and more as though I were pointing a finger and saying, 'It looks really bad out there,' instead of seeing how I could pitch in more directly."

Among the Brennan Center's many projects is an effort to oppose proposed voter registration requirements that the center says are so restrictive they'd effectively disenfranchise tens of millions of Americans.

It's also reaching out to Republicans to persuade them that many of the things Trump is doing are not what they voted for.

"We know from polling that many of them are surprised by and distressed about what's happening," Gellman says.

He's also run a series of tabletop exercises with retired legislators, judges, military officers, business executives, union leaders, and heads of civil rights organizations to identify tools that could be used to restrain abuses from the executive branch.

"It was a little daunting," Gellman says. "When you have a president who controls all three branches of government and is prepared to break the law and violate long-standing norms, there's not tons of hard leverage that can be used to slow him down."

Still, the president, Congress, and the courts can all be influenced by grassroots efforts, Gellman says, like protests, boycotts, strikes, and local political organizing. "What Trump can get away with ... is going to depend on what the American people collectively allow," he says. "Trump, like every politician, cares about these things."

Gellman also warns that one shouldn't assume Trump and his supporters will consider anything out of bounds, including trying to secure a third term or attempting to skew upcoming elections. "Things are happening today that, when they were predicted during the campaign, people on the Right said, "Trump would never do that.' And he is doing that."

E.B. BOYD '89 writes about business for Fast Company and is working on a book about women entrepreneurs.

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PRINCETONIANS





TOM RASSWEILER '02 AND PAT TRUXES '02

Together They Adventure Race

BY MARK F. BERNSTEIN '83

s ANYONE WHO HAS BEEN ON a group road trip knows, nerves fray and tempers can get short hours in. One person is hungry, another is exhausted, and the navigator may have missed the last turn.

Tom Rassweiler '02 and Pat Truxes '02 experienced all of that at the Frozen Foot Challenge in Chester, Virginia, in early March, except they did it on mountain bikes and on foot. Rassweiler and Truxes love adventure racing, an extreme sport that combines grueling physical and mental challenges. Their goal was to find as many checkpoints as they could, hidden among the hills, streams, trails, and woods of Pocahontas State Park. And they had 12 hours to find them.

Adventure racing is having a moment. It was featured in the 2024 film *Arthur the King* starring Mark Wahlberg and was profiled in a *New York Times* story in March centered on the 30-hour United States Adventure Racing Association National Championships last fall. As

reporter Doug Bock Clark described it, adventure racing is "a mash-up of an Ironman triathlon and a wilderness treasure hunt." Cellphones and GPS devices are forbidden, so teams must find their way using only a map, a compass, and their wits.

As adventure races go, the Frozen Foot Challenge was not particularly hard, Rassweiler and Truxes say, even for a couple of guys entering middle age. Races vary from as few as six hours to as long as 36 hours, all without scheduled rest breaks. Longer races, like the national championships, may include a canoeing section, but Frozen Foot required only running and biking.

Rassweiler, who lives in Manhattan, is a games designer for Microsoft. Truxes, a career U.S. diplomat, lives in northern Virginia. They met during freshman week when they both went on an Outdoor Action trip, and it proved to be a pivotal moment. The following year, they drove the OA support van, carrying

equipment for that year's entering class. When it came time to choose their adventure racing team name, they chose "OA Support," their logo showing a van with canoes strapped to the roof.

The two roomed together for their final three years, and although they remained close after graduation, participating in each other's weddings and sharing family vacations, they could feel the centrifugal pull of life tugging them apart. Extreme sports seemed a way, unconventional perhaps, to resist that.

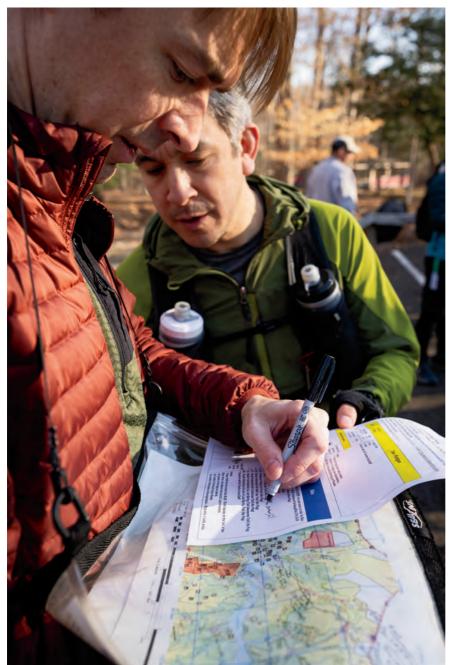
"Time is a precious resource, right?" Rassweiler says. "We're separated geographically, work is crazy for both of us, plus family. We're always looking for ways to maintain our friendship." Adds Truxes, "With adventure racing, there's a shared goal. And I get 12 hours to hang out with my best friend from college."

Rassweiler took up adventure racing first with a work colleague. When he told Truxes about it, his old friend wanted in. For their first race together in 2021, Truxes says he bought a cheap mountain bike that fell apart on the trail, but he wanted to do more. They have now completed 14 races of various lengths and degrees of difficulty and ended 2024 as the top-ranked two-person team in the country. (Teams can have up to four members.)

For Frozen Foot, each team was issued topographical maps for the course the night before the race and spent hours planning the most efficient route. This race was divided into five segments, alternating between running and biking. There were 58 checkpoints, small electronic sensors hidden in the woods. The goal was to find as many as possible within the time limit, checking them off on an electronic clicker.

If the endurance part of adventure racing is obvious, the strategic part is more subtle. In the first segment, for example, a two and a quarter mile run with three checkpoints, most teams turned right out of the starting gate to get the easy first checkpoint a few hundred yards away. Rassweiler and Truxes headed left, figuring that they







TREASURE HUNT

Tom Rassweiler '02, left, and
Pat Truxes '02 plot their course during
the Frozen Foot Challenge in Chester,
Virginia, in March. At left, one of the
many checkpoints the team needs to
locate is hidden in a tree.

would get that checkpoint last and avoid being stuck behind those who had found it right off the bat and were waiting to check it off.

In his role as navigator, Rassweiler pores over the maps, which he either mounts to

the front of his bike or carries around his neck, and announces where to go next. Truxes is the "punch monkey," the one who carries the clicker and records each checkpoint, many of which are devilishly hidden in trees, dense thickets, or the sides of hills. He handles all the team's logistics, such as arranging transportation and accommodations.

He is also responsible for ensuring that they have packed enough food and water to sustain them over a very tough day. They try to consume 200-300 calories of solid food and drink about a liter of water every hour, always while on the go. Over 12 hours or more, they can't subsist on trail bars alone, so they also carry whole foods to provide a quick burst of carbs and protein. Among their favorites, believe it or not, are cold McDonald's cheeseburgers bought the night before. Truxes carries a water purifier since there may not be fresh water sources out on the trail.

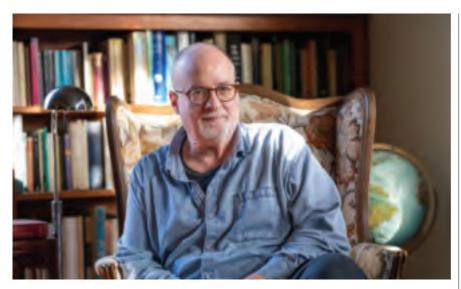
For a 12-hour race, there was no need for sleep, but in longer races, Rassweiler talks about the "4 a.m. dead zone" where they might nod off even while cycling. Truxes once woke himself by falling headfirst into a thorn bush. "You don't embarrass yourself because you're tired," says Rassweiler. "You embarrass yourself because you're lost." Late in the day, tempers can get short when trying to locate a checkpoint the map says ought to be right in front of them.

"This is where our long friendship comes into play," Truxes explains. "We've spent so much time together that we kind of know each other's personalities. But there definitely have been times when we will get a little testy."

The two finished seventh overall at Frozen Foot, second among two-person teams. They had a 15-hour race scheduled for late April in Williamsburg, Virginia, and the daunting 36-hour Cowboy Tough Adventure Race in Wyoming planned for August.

That's a challenge for anyone, let alone a couple of 44-year-olds, but the challenge is what makes it fun. Says Rassweiler: "The thing that just lights me up about adventure racing is that blend of thinking, strategy, and endurance, all happening at the same time."





GOVERNMENT CUTS

Princetonians Face the Impacts of Federal Layoffs

BY KATHARINE GAMMON '03

was a supervising attorney at the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education. He had a mission for the past dozen years: to ensure schools that received federal funding were complying with civil rights laws, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, color, sex, disability, and age. But on March 11, his office was told via email that it was being shut down. "This wasn't a careful review of efficiencies or of employee performance," Artz says. "This was a blanket elimination of seven of the 12 offices."

He immediately lost access to his work telephone or email and the ability to communicate with anyone external to the agency — putting his team's caseload of 225 in limbo. Earlier that day, Artz was busy working those cases, with some of them close to being closed. Now he wonders what will happen — it's not clear the cases will ever find a resolution, with just a handful of offices now responsible for processing all the cases.

"The most troubling part of this to me is that it appears the administration has decided that enforcing the civil rights laws is not something they intend to do," Artz says. "It's heartbreaking that it appears this administration is not interested in continuing that work."

He's not alone. Many Princeton alumni working in government service, from health officials to lawyers to diplomats working overseas, have lost jobs or are facing the threat of losing their jobs as a result of cuts by the Trump administration's new Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), led by Elon Musk. DOGE's stated goal of cutting spending and reducing the federal work force had resulted in more than 50,000 employees losing their jobs as of early April, alongside another estimated 75,000 who took buyouts. Some departments, including the U.S. Agency for International Development, have been gutted.

Cameron McKenzie '19 worked as a community engagement specialist and a presidential management fellow for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service as a probationary employee. When he opened his email on a Tuesday in late February, he found out his position had been terminated. "It was like a whirlwind," he says.

LET GO

Christian Crumlish '86 is one of many Princeton alumni working in government service who have lost their jobs due to cuts by the Trump administration.

McKenzie immediately thought of his husband, Eric Flora '19, currently in his second year of law school. They had been relying on McKenzie's steady government salary to make their mortgage payments.

A week later, he was back on the job when a court order reinstated probationary employees — but his future is still in flux. With the cuts, there is no longer a path to employment at the end of his fellowship. Work travel is restricted and in-person events canceled, so it's been challenging for him to continue his professional development.

He's also searching for jobs while tens of thousands of other former federal employees are flooding the job market, which makes his search more difficult. To help, McKenzie is putting his house up for sale and considering a move to Connecticut for a potential job opportunity — which would also come with a long-distance marriage for the near future.

McKenzie says the cuts to government agencies feel like indiscriminate slashing rather than efficiency. "If you want to know where the inefficiencies are, you need to talk to the people that are employed in the government, and we will tell you firsthand where they are," he says. "There's a right way to do it, and there's the way that it is happening."

Christian Crumlish '86 was already working in government efficiency. Last year, the Silicon Valley tech worker joined 18F, an agency founded during the Obama years to recruit experienced technologists to help make government IT systems work better. Five weeks after the Trump administration took over, his entire team was fired. He says he felt both grief, and in a way, relief.

"I was pretty happy with the idea of capping off my career at 18F. It was my 'Princeton in the nation's service' period, and that's been wrecked," Crumlish says. "But it's a mission, and I'm going to try to stay on that mission and find a way to further it."

Caroline Chang '95 had only been working at the Department of Education since December — her role was to help



keep some continuity as political appointees changed roles. She focused on services such as federal student aid and loan repayment.

CHANG '95

On the evening of

Feb. 5, she received an email that as of 6 p.m., she'd be placed on administrative leave. "Nobody came to talk to me," she says. She walked to her boss's office, but he had no idea.

Upset, but not completely surprised, Chang turned in her laptop and cellphone, and started to pack up her office. A security guard appeared at her door an hour later to tell her to leave. "It felt very unnecessary," she says. "I was just bewildered at the way it was being handled. There was zero explanation."

She has a theory about why DOGE was so interested in her office: They were setting up headquarters in the same suite and needed the space for their workers.

But in the end, she wants people to know that the impact of the cuts will be felt by everyone, eventually. "It's not partisan," she says. "It's really a capacity issue. I would urge alums to pay attention because the capacity of government is really being fundamentally changed."

Artz, the former Department of Education attorney, now spends his days attending continuing legal education courses, looking for jobs, and trying to keep up with his team. He still cares deeply about the work in civil rights and is actively looking into possibilities to continue.

"There is a lot of damage done to this country by portraying government workers in a light that assumes ineffectiveness," he says. "In my experience, nothing could be further from the truth, and it will be a shame for this country to lose out on thousands of dedicated, smart people who have been working for the benefit of all of us."

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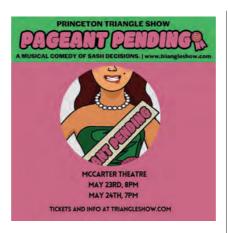
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THE CLASS OF 1948

GEORGE N. BEAUREGARD '48

George died June 4, 2024, in Holyoke, Mass., six weeks after his 99th birthday.



In 1942, George left South Hadley (Mass.) High School at age 17 to enlist in the Marines, who sent him to serve in the Pacific and then to study engineering at Princeton.

Discharged as a staff sergeant, he went on to earn a B.S. at the University of Massachusetts and a J.D. from Boston University.

After two years with the Lawyers
Cooperative Publishing Co. in Rochester,
N.Y., George returned to Massachusetts to
practice law with Samuel Resnic. Fifty-two
years later, he retired as the senior partner
of Resnic, Beauregard, Waite, and Driscoll
— leaving son Mark and others to carry on.
In 1958, he was appointed special justice
of the Holyoke District Court, becoming
the youngest judge in the state at 33. In
addition to sitting district courts in Western
Massachusetts, Worcester, Framingham,
Marlborough, and Nantucket, he served as
a Master in Hampden Superior and probate
courts.

George served as president of the Holyoke Boys Club, the Beavers Club, the local chapter of the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and as campaign chairman of the Holyoke Red Cross and United Way. He was a board member of Hampshire National Bank and Peoples Savings Bank.

George was married for 70 years to his "across-the-street neighbor in high school" (as he put it in the 25th-reunion yearbook), Doris Robitaille, who died in 2019. He is survived by their children, Beth Weaver, Mark, and Nancy Nastasi; six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and one brother.

CHARLTON R. PRICE '48

Charlie died Nov. 27, 2024, on Bainbridge Island, Wash., of advanced kidney disease



at age 97. Our longtime memorialist, Charlie literally wrote his own obituary — which we present here with minimal edits and maximum appreciation.

Born in Morristown, N.J., Aug. 14, 1927, Charlie attended Mount Hermon School. He matriculated at Princeton in the summer of 1944 and became an Army draftee the next year. Back at college from 1947 to 1949, he majored in American history, was on the *Prince* board, joined Quadrangle, and led a "society jazz" sextet for Prospect Street gigs. After brief stints as a reporter with *The Houston Post* and *The Denver Post*, he joined the management development staff at Boeing Co. and then the social science research staff at Columbia while in graduate school there.

Charlie became staff sociologist at the Menninger Foundation in Topeka, Kan., and later worked as an independent researcherconsultant and held business school adjunct professorships at the University of Kansas, Columbia, and the University of Puget Sound. In the 1960s, on the Stanford Research Institute staff, he was a consultant for several years on management development for an industry group in Portugal. In the 1990s, Charlie volunteered in the International Executive Service Corps, for assignments in Egypt, Morocco, Hungary, India, and South Africa. In 1998-99, he co-led a World Bank infrastructure redevelopment project in the Palestinian city of Hebron.

Charlie and Virginia (née Jones) were married in Seattle in 1952 and were together in New York City and Topeka until 1964. They are survived by sons Reed, Curtis, and Evan; and daughter Helen Price Johnson. Charlie and his wife Greta (née Meyer) were married in 1980 and lived in Kansas City, Mo., until her death in 2006. He then returned to live in Seattle, and later Bainbridge Island.

A dedicated Princetonian, Charlie served as our Annual Giving class agent from 1953 to 1958, an Alumni Schools Committee interviewer from 2001 to 2015, and as class memorialist from 2013 to 2021. The Class of 1948 sends heartfelt condolences as we bid our devoted friend a fond farewell.

ROBERT H. ROE '48

Bob died in his sleep Oct. 16, 2024, in Columbia, Mo. He was 98.

Born in Fond du Lac, Wis., Bob served in the Navy during the World War II as a $\mbox{\sc a}$



gunner aboard a destroyer.
Just before he was due
to sail to the Pacific, he
was transferred to Officer
Training School at Princeton.
He took meals at Tower Club

and majored in economics.

During his professional career, Bob worked in sales and marketing jobs with large corporations. "I traveled to every state east of the Mississippi while employed in a sales capacity," he reported in the 10th-reunion yearbook. In 1956, sales positions took him to the Midwest and by our 25th, he was living in Ojai, Calif. He started his own business, Whopper Inc., in 1976, and ran the company until his retirement in the 1990s.

Bob married Mary Geraldine "Gerry" Reese in 1953, and they had six children. During their 46 years in Ojai they were active in the community, especially the Ojai Tennis Tournament, Ojai Music Festival, and many school and church functions.

Bob was predeceased by Gerry, his son Bob Jr., and daughter Claudia. He is survived by son Charles and daughters Constance Roe Burtnett '77, Ellen Craig, and Jennifer Lovig; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Our class sends its sympathies on the loss of our fine classmate.

THE CLASS OF 1949

DAVID R. MCCARTHY '49

Dave died April 15, 2023, at his home in Claremont, Calif., at age 94.



Born in Chicago, he grew up in Southern California with four brothers and graduated from California Preparatory School. At Princeton, he majored in

history and was a member of Campus Club and president of the Spanish Club. He married Marilyn Maxwell, a student at Westminster Choir College, in 1949; she died in 2011.

Dave earned a master's degree in psychology at Claremont (Calif.) Graduate University and began working as a marketing executive and consultant. In 1973, he moved to a career in executive search, bringing candidates into senior positions for the U.S. Department of Transportation under the Nixon and Ford administrations, including key executives to manage the restructuring of the U.S. rail system and formation of Conrail. Dave then transitioned to senior executive recruiting, focusing on nonprofit entities in education, public broadcasting, and the arts. He recruited numerous presidents at universities and was deeply involved in bringing leadership to public broadcasting including NPR and several leading PBS broadcasting affiliates.

Dave was also active on the Alumni

Schools Committee, introducing Southern California high school students to Princeton and acting as a champion for their admission. He was described as a man of large talent and small ego and known for his big smile and sense of humor.

Dave is survived by his three sons, Kevin, David Jr. '77, and Stephen; seven grandsons; two great-grandchildren; and his companion Nancy Norris.

ALBERT S. RICHARDSON JR. '49

Al died at his home in Erie, Pa., Jan. 25, 2024, just weeks after celebrating his 97th birthday. Born and raised in the Cincinnati suburb of Wyoming, Ohio, he served in the Navy and then matriculated at Princeton, the third generation of his family to do so. He joined the Class of 1949, graduating with a degree in electrical engineering.

Al started with the General Electric Co. in Philadelphia as an electrical engineer. He attended Temple Law School, married Emily Meister, and raised four children: Albert S. III '76, Emily, Anne, and Lisa.

In 1975, recently divorced, Al transferred to the transportation division of GE in Erie as patent counsel. In 1989, he married Peggy Uhleman, adding two stepchildren, Carol and Bob, to his family.

Al was active in social, racial, and religious issues, notably creating the Frederick Douglass Scholarship Fund. He devoted countless hours supporting the Sierra Club, his Unitarian Universalist congregation, and other causes. He received a lifetime service award from the Erie Community Foundation.

Al was a member of Cannon Club, an avid reunion-goer, and a lifetime Princeton supporter. He leaves an enduring legacy of wisdom and generosity.

THE CLASS OF 1951

ROBY HARRINGTON III '51

Roby died May 31, 2024, at his home in Manchester, Vt.



He graduated from St.
Luke's School in New Canaan,
Conn. He was an English
major, active in Orange Key,
the golf team, WPRU, the
Triangle Club, and a member

of Cottage Club. He roomed with Charles Beattie, William Iler, and Peter Fleming.

After graduation, Roby served as a captain in the Marines and then pursued an advertising career. He started at Procter & Gamble and then joined Young & Rubicam. He retired as chairman of the Y&R U.S. National Group after 31 years. He played an advisory role in the formation of Teach for America.

Roby was predeceased by his wife of 66 years, Carol Whitney (Whit) Harrington. He

is survived by his sons Roby IV, Scott, and Todd; and daughter Sue.

VERNON L. WISE JR. '51

Vern came to Princeton after graduating from The Hill School. He majored in



economics. He was a member of Tower Club, business manager of WPRU, and president of the Western Pennsylvania Club. He roomed with Jefferies Arrick,

Walter Braham, Lawrence Brown, Maurice Cohill, and Bruce Kennedy.

After a couple of years in Army intelligence, Vern spent his career — ultimately as owner and chairman — at the Pennsylvania daily newspaper the *Butler Eagle*, the first publication to use large offset printing presses. A respected horse breeder and showman, he demonstrated his equine skills at the annual World Championship Horse Show in Louisville.

Vern died Nov. 14, 2024. He was predeceased by his wife, Sarah; and is survived by children Jamie and Vernon III.

THE CLASS OF 1952

HALE VAN DORN BRADT '52

Hale came to us from Wilson High School in Washington, D.C. He majored in music



and ate at Prospect. He was a member of the St. Paul's Society, played in the orchestra, and roomed with Bob Chalmers and Jim Melcher. He is also

remembered by his classmates as leader of a group of those who captured the clapper in Nassau Hall. His time in the Navy was served as a deck officer and navigator on the USS *Diphda*.

In 1961, Hale earned a Ph.D. in physics from MIT. For 40 years he was an MIT professor of physics, retiring in 2001. During this time, he worked in X-ray astronomy with NASA rockets and satellites for multiple missions, and received accolades for both his research and teaching service. In his retirement, he continued to advise freshmen at MIT and published several textbooks.

Hale died Nov. 14, 2024. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy; and daughters Elizabeth and Dorothy. To them, the class sends its condolences and respect to Hale for his service to our nation.

THE CLASS OF 1953

HARRY S. WALKER '53

Harry was born in Chicago and grew up in Denver. After graduating from East High School he came to Princeton, where he joined Quadrangle Club and founded a jazz group that performed gigs to help fund his education. He majored in chemical engineering and wrote his thesis on



"Continuous Process for the Production and Purification of Potash Alum."

Following graduation, he spent two years in the Army Intelligence Corps and was

stationed, after training, in Dayton, Ohio. Harry then spent 35 years in management and product development with Procter & Gamble, developing new products, building facilities, and fostering a diverse workforce among other things. Retiring early from P&G, he earned a master's degree in theology and began a second career as a deacon in the Roman Catholic Church "teaching, counseling, baptizing, burying, and ministering to homeless families" for over two decades.

Harry died Dec. 11, 2024. He was predeceased by his wife, Peg;, and is survived by seven children, 19 grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1954

PETER HOPKINSON '54 *60

Pete died Aug. 31, 2024.

The son of Russell Hopkinson 1921,



Pete prepared at St. Paul's, where he was active in crew, publications, and glee club. He majored in architecture, joined Key and Seal Club, was active in the St. Paul's Society,

and participated on the varsity 150-pound

After graduation, he was commissioned in the Marines, received flight training, flew both daytime and nighttime missions while stationed in Japan, and became an instructor in the reserves until leaving the corps.

Pete completed an MFA in architecture at Princeton in 1960 and began to practice in San Francisco, finding clients in major cities in city planning, public housing, transportation, and design of apartments, houses, hotels, hospitals, and airports.

He married Natasha Radoonsoff in 1970. They lived for a time in Boston, where Natasha, trained as an architect, became a professional landscape designer.

Later in New York City, Pete led the architectural design of the New York MTA's \$5 billion East Side Access Project, doubling the capacity of the Long Island Railroad's Manhattan commuter rail

He and Natasha raised two sons and traveled widely with and without them. They enjoyed sailing, bicycling, and painting here and abroad. He maintained a lifelong obsession with eccentric, antique cars. In 2013, he retired, and they moved back to San Francisco.

Pete is survived by Natasha, their sons Peter and Ivan, three granddaughters, and a grandson.

WILLIAM W. SCHLAEPFER '54

Bill died June 20, 2024, one week after celebrating his 92nd birthday.



At Shorewood High School he was active in tennis, golf, and science. At Princeton, Bill majored in biology, joined Dial Club, and was active in intramural sports. After

earning a medical degree from Yale Medical School in 1958, he pursued a research career in neuropathology, beginning at the Max Planck Institute for Psychiatry in Munich. He moved on to Cornell University, became a tenured professor at Washington University Medical School in St. Louis in 1968, and professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in 1979. He retired in 2016.

Bill's research led to the discovery of the central role of RNA in neuron degeneration. He enjoyed an almost 50-year record of continuous grant funding, running an active laboratory that spawned such major discoveries while performing day-to-day surgical neuropathology and training scores of talented residents and fellows.

In 2011, he received a lifetime achievement award from the American Association of Neuropathologists, of which he was president in 1986-87. He served as a member of the NIH pathology and neurobiology study sections.

Bill married Joan French (Yale 1954) in 1960. They had three daughters.

Bill was a champion of lifelong learning, an avid tennis player, and an accomplished bridge player. He treasured classical music and opera. Above all, he loved spending time with his children and grandchildren.

He is survived by daughters Julie Spahn '86, Linda Werner, and Karen Rendulich; and seven grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1955

WILLIAM EDWIN MILLER '55

Bill died Nov. 30, 2024, in Arvada, Colo. He was a veteran geologist and petroleum



landman, well-known for years in vintage car racing circles for driving his Hertz Shelby Mustang B Production race car both in races and back and forth to events

hours away.

Bill was born Sept. 26, 1933, in Tenafly, N.J. He graduated from Tenafly High School, where he participated in publications. At Princeton, he majored in geology and joined Elm Club. He won minor numerals in freshman 150-pound crew and was a member of the German Club. After graduation he enlisted in the Marines and served for two years. He married Judith Ann Haselton, and they moved to the Denver area. He became a geologist and took up

what was to occupy his life: the restoration and racing of old cars.

Bill's most notable acquisition was his beloved 1966 Shelby Mustang GT 350H, a race car that Hertz, back then, would lease or sell you if you could demonstrate that you were able to drive it around the block. Bill eventually put 232,000 miles on it. He was a skilled racer on circuits and streets for 39 years, seldom missed a race, and is the only person to have raced all 15 of the Steamboat street races.

In addition to racing, Bill loved gardening, going to jazz clubs, and fishing. He taught his family to always persevere, never give up.

Bill was predeceased by his wife, Judith; and son, William Charles Miller III. He is survived by his long-term companion, Mary Sue Powell; daughters Pamela and Lynnda; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; brother Don; and sister Judith.

THE CLASS OF 1956

WILLIAM P. ALBRECHT '56

Bill died in Iowa City Oct. 30, 2024. Coming to Princeton from Albuquerque, N.M., Bill



joined Key and Seal, worked on *The Daily Princetonian*, and majored in philosophy. He served in the Navy as an engineering officer on a destroyer. He then earned a

Ph.D. in economics from Yale in 1965.

Bill pursued an illustrious career at the University of Iowa as a professor of international business and associate dean. He was particularly proud of his service in Washington, D.C., on the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission from 1988 to 1993, where he developed cooperative arrangements with financial regulators around the world. For our 50th-reunion yearbook, Bill shared how much he enjoyed his exciting time in D.C. But recognizing that "it distorts one's view of the world," he returned to the professorial life at Iowa, including writing two economics textbooks.

Bill married Fran Jaecques in 1976, and together they enjoyed 48 years playing tennis, raising a shared family, and traveling around the world. Fran survives him, along children with William "Ken" Albrecht, Alision Albrecht, Amy Stanbro, Jonathan Albrecht, Jeffrey Albrecht, Jay Bullard, and Jill Frantz; 10 grandchildren; and one greatgrandchild.

ROGER S. KAUFMAN '56

Roger came to Princeton via Brooklyn and the Peddie School. He marched in the band for three years, ate and played squash at Terrace, and majored in chemistry, graduating Phi Beta Kappa. He earned a medical degree from Columbia in 1960. As an otolaryngologist, Roger spent most of his career in private practice in Syracuse



while serving as a professor at SUNY Upstate Medical Center.

He had a lifelong passion for opera, ignited by Saturday afternoon radio broadcasts

from the Metropolitan Opera. He served as president of the Opera Society of Syracuse, as well as on the board of directors of the Sarasota Opera. For our 50th reunion, he praised Professor Edward Cone *39 *42 of the music department, saying Opera 101 was "the most fantastic class I have ever taken." An avid runner, Roger listened to much good music while participating in 11 marathons. During his retirement in Bradenton, Fla., he also found time for travel with his wife, Kristin, as well as "golf, adult education courses, wonderful beaches and great weather."

Roger died Dec. 17, 2024. He is survived by his wife; his three children Cynthia (Elizabeth Bendik), Holly Beth Kaufman Welsh (David), and Jason Kaufman *99; and four grandchildren.

WALTER K. STAPLETON '56

Walt died Nov. 23, 2024.

He came to Princeton from the



Wilmington (Del.) Friends School. He joined Tower Club, majored in English, and wrote his thesis on E.M. Forster. An LL.B. from Harvard followed and soon

after a master of laws degree from Virginia. The University of Delaware awarded Walt an honorary doctor of laws in 1988.

After Walt practiced corporate law and served as Delaware's assistant attorney general, President Nixon in 1970 appointed him at age 36 to the U.S. District Court. In 1985, President Reagan appointed Walt to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Among many accolades, in 2014 Walt received the American Inns of Court Professionalism Award for "an individual who demonstrates integrity and dedication to the highest standards of the legal profession."

Walt was similarly committed to service: on the Governor's Commission on the Code of Ethics for State Employees and as a director of the Big Brother's Association, a trustee of the Wilmington Friends School, and a Sunday School teacher at the Silverside Church in Wilmington.

Walt was predeceased by his wife, Georgianna. He is survived by children Russell (Sylvia), Theodore (Moni), and Teryl Stapleton Price; four stepchildren; and three grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1957

DUANE E. BANKS JR. '57

A urological surgeon in Florida, Duane died Oct. 18, 2024.



He came to Princeton from Western Reserve Academy in Ohio. He majored in chemistry and joined Tower Club, participating in intramural football and

basketball. Duane also ran the 440-yard dash and mile relay on the track team and was a member of the Akron, Cleveland, chemistry, and Pre-Med clubs. Senior year he roomed with John Strickland.

Duane earned a medical degree at Western Reserve School of Medicine, and while studying there he met and married Marguerite S. "Margo" Huss. After an internship and one year of residency at the University Hospitals of Cleveland, he entered the Air Force, serving for two years as a captain and chief of surgery at the hospital at Kincheloe Air Force Base in Michigan. He then returned to finish his internship and residency in Cleveland.

Choosing to leave their Midwestern roots, Duane and Margo moved to Florida, where he spent his career in the Coral Gables area. Margo, his wife of 64 years, predeceased him; Duane is survived by their three children, Jackie, Susie, and Allison, and their families.

ALBERT D. KISSLING '57

Described by his family and friends as "a man with a passion for social justice," Al died



of cancer Dec. 18, 2024, in San Antonio, Texas.

He came to Princeton from The Hill School. He majored in history and was on the fencing and lightweight

football teams for two years. He joined Cloister Inn and played intramural football, basketball, and softball. Al was a member of the Westminster Fellowship and the Student Christian Association, presaging his career as a Presbyterian minister. Senior year he roomed with Whitey Blume, Harry Bruen, Dave Isles, and Phil Woerner.

Al attended Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Va., earning a bachelor's in divinity, and then obtained a fellowship to study at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, where he graduated with a master's degree in theology. He worked and traveled in Germany, the Mideast, Scandinavia, and Eastern Europe, including Russia, which gave him a chance to study communism. After a brief period of teaching school in his native Jacksonville, Fla., he became a pastor at the First Presbyterian Church in Searcy, Ark. In 1966, Al married Lillian Beth Poe, and they had two children, Matthew and Allison.

Al became senior pastor at the Trinity Presbyterian Church in Hendersonville, N.C. There he spent 20 years, increasing the church membership, building a larger church home, and spearheading campaigns for a migrant housing complex and a Women's Crisis Ministry. Later he settled in San Antonio, where he sponsored a class mini-reunion to work with Habitat for Humanity. He was also a member of the class caring committee.

Al was divorced from Beth, who survives him. He is also survived by his second wife, Janice Shute Kissling; his two children; his stepson, Thomas Shute; and their families.

GUY G. WILLIAMSON '57 *61

In our 65th-reunion yearbook, Guy quoted Carole King's song, "Tapestry," which states:



"My life has been a tapestry of rich and royal hue, an everlasting vision of the everchanging view." Guy died Nov. 5, 2024, in Natick, Mass., and his family repeated these

words in his obituary, as Guy had some momentous changes in his life.

He came to Princeton from Hawthorne (N.J.) High School. He majored in aeronautical engineering, joined Prospect Club, participated in the club's hockey and bowling teams, and held a research assistantship in the Gas Dynamics Lab at Forrestal. Guy was also a member of the Institute of Aero Sciences, the Mountaineering Club, and captained the University rifle team. His senior-year roommates were Jerry Press and George Hartman.

Guy stayed at Princeton to earn his M.S. degree in 1961, he also married a Swedish woman, Ingela Svan, who worked in the University Health Services Department. They lived in Princeton or its suburbs for many years, with Guy having jobs in the firms of Aeronautical Research Associates and then Continuum Dynamics. Ingela and Guy had three children: Lars '84, Ian, and Lori. During this period, he became a member of Alcoholics Anonymous, rejoicing in its beliefs about a higher power.

Following a divorce, Guy accepted the teachings of Adi Da Samraj and moved to a community of similar devotees in Clinton, Mass. There he married Hilda Kolva, and they participated in many mission projects, including annual trips to Fiji. He also obtained a job at EG&G in Rhode Island, ending with a layoff and retirement in 2000.

Hilda died in August 2021. Guy is survived by his three children and their families, as well as numerous close friends in his spiritual community.

THE CLASS OF 1958

ANTHONY S. BRANDT '58

Tony died Nov. 14, 2024, in Quogue, Long Island, N.Y. He was 87.



He came to Princeton from Westfield (N.J.) High School. At Princeton, he was enrolled in ROTC and sang double bass in the choir. The choir director urged him to pursue

an opera career. He didn't pursue singing professionally, but would later serenade his second wife, Lorraine Dusky, with the Nat King Cole song "Sweet Lorraine" at their wedding in 1981 and each year on her birthday.

After graduation, while married to his first wife, Barbara Rescorla, he underwent military training to be a forward observer, a dangerous assignment. "He was very, very good at this," Lorraine recalled. "Once, when they were giving a demonstration to the higher brass, his commanding officer was very pissed off because Tony hadn't shaved that morning, but he made a perfect shot. After that, the commanding officer said he wanted to adopt him. He was quite proud of the fact that he could do this, but he was never in battle."

Tony is survived by Lorraine, two children, and two grandchildren. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all. A more complete essay about his life is at: https://www.easthamptonstar.com/obituaries/20241121/anthony-brandt-authorand-poet-87.

CHARLES J. WITTMANN JR. '58

Chuck died Nov. 26, 2024, in Vero Beach, Fla. He was 88.



He came to Princeton from Erie (Pa.) Cathedral Prep, where he played basketball and was on the student council.

At Princeton, Chuck was a

starter on the unbeaten freshman basketball team. He was a member of Ivy Club and majored in biology. His roommates were Joe Croft, Sarge Karch, Chris Clutz, and Thor Halvorson.

After graduation Chuck went to Penn Medical School, graduating in 1962, and eventually became a surgeon with the Summit (N.J.) Medical Group. He received the 2014 Vision & Legacy Award, and a video of those proceedings can be seen at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dYERfHGtMDY.

Chuck is survived by his wife, Jane, and by their three sons and nine grandchilren. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.

THE CLASS OF 1960

RICHARD E. BAITER JR. '60

Dick came to Princeton from the Kent School, where he played baseball, football, and hockey. He was preceded at Princeton by grandfathers 1906 and 1915, father '36, and succeeded by brother Peter '63. Dick



kept busy with economics, student-faculty discipline committee, USGC, and presidency of Tiger Inn. After graduation and six months of Army service,

Dick enrolled at New York University and joined First National City Bank, rising to vice president in 1970. Married to Lynn in 1962, they migrated to Cleveland and Union Commerce Bank in 1971, where Dick became a VP and worked, among other things, with George Steinbrenner in acquiring the New York Yankees.

In 1978, Dick realized his entrepreneurial instincts with a move to Spokane, Wash., to acquire Quarry Tile Co., which he led and expanded until retirement in favor of his children around 2000. He was deeply involved in civic affairs and loved gardening, golf, and family time at Lake Pend Oreille, Idaho, not far away, where he had enjoyed boyhood family summers. While the family spent four seasons there, Dick also founded the challenging Links Golf Club in Post Falls, Idaho, near Spokane.

Lynn died in 2004. Dick later reunited with his college years sweetheart, Anne North. He died Nov. 7, 2024, and is survived by his three children, five grandchildren, and their families.

WALTER E. BERGER III '60

Wally was treasurer and president of the student council at Garden City (N.Y.) High



School. At Princeton, he majored in engineering, was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, ate at Quadrangle, played 150-pound football and wrestled, and was in NROTC.

Wally then spent three years in the Navy in the Atlantic and touring Europe whenever he could. He earned a medical degree at Columbia in May 1967, then in June he and Nancy were married at Smith College's chapel and moved to San Francisco for his internship and cardiology residency at UCSF and Pacific Medical Center.

Wally joined the newly established Kaiser Hospital at Redwood City, soon became chief of cardiology, and with Nancy settled into their home in San Francisco. They enjoyed cultural and recreational charms of the city, especially the San Francisco Symphony, golf, and bird watching. Nancy also initiated the long succession of West Highland white terriers that became a Berger trademark down to the present day with Bijou and Winston.

Wally died Nov. 17, 2024, of complications of a series of strokes, only latterly losing his magnetic charm and many enthusiasms. Nancy, sister Betty, brother David, and friends near and far survive him, and have our sympathy.

EDWARD H. HEIN '60

Ed prepared for Princeton at All Hallows Institute, where he played in the orchestra



and wrote for the newspaper and yearbook. Preceded at Princeton by brother Robert '56, Ed became active in photography for *The Daily Princetonian*, as associate

editor for the *Princeton Tiger*, and was in the Yacht Club and Orange Key. He joined Key and Seal and majored in psychology but withdrew in June of 1958.

After a brief interval in retail work in New York, Ed reentered academia to earn a BS in accounting at New York University's Stern School in 1961 and an LL.B. at Harvard Law School in 1965. He then joined Breed Abbott and Morgan, New York City, as an associate and spent his career there, rising to partner before his semi-retirement to private practice near his home in Morristown. N.J., in 1996.

Ed was a devout Catholic from at least his prep school days and was active as a parishioner and volunteer in his own parish and several more New Jersey church institutions. He married Smith graduate Andrea Brauner in 1967. Ed died Oct. 12, 2024. He is survived by her, their four children, a son from his earlier marriage, and four grandchildren, to all of whom the class send sympathies.

JOHN P. TEDERSTROM '60 John died Sept. 2, 2024.

Born in Pittsburgh, he graduated from



Phillips Andover Academy. His keen interest in German language and literature there continued at Princeton, where he majored in Germanic languages and was

vice president of the German Club. He was also active in the St. Paul's Society and Whig-Clio and joined Tower Club.

On graduation, John went directly on to study German at Indiana University. However, he left after six months and began steps toward a career in the Episcopal Church. He served as a postulant in the church in 1961 on a South Dakota Sioux Reservation prior to entering the Church Divinity School of the Pacific. He spent summers in reservation activities while earning a bachelor of divinity degree in 1964.

John combined his language and ecclesiastical training in the late 1960s and '70s, serving in Episcopal churches in Italy, Germany, and France. From 1979, he was employed in several capacities with the Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky, from which he retired around 2000.

John married Sarah Eddy in 1966. They had five children and 10 grandchildren together, and divorced in 1983. In his later years, John had a devoted partner, Mark Cannon, in Louisville, who survives him along with his children and grandchildren. The class sends sympathy to all those he leaves behind.

THE CLASS OF 1961

EDWARD W. BROWN JR. '61

Eddie died Nov. 13, 2024, at Blakehurst, a retirement community in Towson, Md.



A lifetime Baltimorean, he came to us from Gilman School. At Princeton, he was captain of the lacrosse team, played 150-pound football, majored in art history, and

took his meals at Ivy. He roomed with George Barker, Rick Butt, Scott Driscoll, Tom Garrett, Tal Mack, Bill H. Miller, Toby Rankin, and Paul Sanger.

From the start Eddie anticipated a career in teaching. Having been in the ROTC, he served at Fort Sill and as an artillery officer in Germany. After leaving the Army, he taught math at Gilman School for 16 years, serving also as a revered wrestling, lacrosse, and football coach and mentor. After earning an MBA at Loyola University, he entered a second career with Investment Counselors of Maryland. While his avocational interests were many and varied, golf loomed large in his life. He was a longtime board member of the Maryland State Golf Association and served twice as president.

Eddie is survived by his wife of 62 years, Joyce; children Gwendolyn Brooks '86 and Edward III and their families, which include four grandchildren; and a sister, Jeannette Finney, widow of Redmond Finney '51.

ROBERT H. DIAZ JR. '61

Bob died July 16, 2024, in Alton, Ill. Born in Alton, he came to us from Alton



High School. At Princeton, he played freshman football, was a member of the Orange Key, a Keyceptor, and a midshipman in the Navy ROTC. He majored in the

Woodrow Wilson School and was a member of Cannon Club. His roommates were Jim Blair, Ron Goldman, Don Spangenberg, Gary Fields, John Boorn, and Gary Loftus. He and his wife, Alice, were regular reunion attendees.

Following two years as a naval officer, Bob earned his LL.D. at Harvard Law School and joined the Milwaukee firm of Quarles & Brady, where he spent his career until retirement. He worked primarily on regulatory matters and transitional projects in the energy, communications, and utility fields. A dedicated angler, he spent much time trout fishing and hunting at his "hideout" 185 miles north of Milwaukee and traveling to his ancestral home in western Ireland.

Predeceased by Alice in 2012, Bob is survived by sons Robert, Michael, and Tim; daughter Catherine; 12 grandchildren; and two sisters; as well as his longtime companion, Linda Nevlin.

THE CLASS OF 1962

PERRY K. NEUBAUER '62

Perry died Nov. 13, 2024.

He came to us from Washington-Lee



High School in Arlington, Va., where he was captain of the basketball team, played baseball, and sang in the choir. At Princeton, he majored in architecture,

managed the Banner Agency, was art editor of the *Bric-a-Brac*, and was in ROTC, serving as vice president of the Artillery Club. A member of Quadrangle, he chaired the club building committee.

Granted a four-year deferment, Perry earned master's degrees from Harvard in architecture and urban design. He joined the Architects Collaborative in 1965, ending his work career there as the president in 1993. In 1966, he went on active duty, spending a year in Vietnam commanding an engineer company. First handling construction work, his unit reverted to combat engineers during the Tet Offensive. He was awarded the Bronze Star and Commendation Medal with a Combat V.

Perry met his wife, Susie, in the Presbyterian Church's choir his senior year, later marrying in the Nassau Street church. He played the cello, enthusiastically served his church, and wrote his memories.

The class extends its condolences to Susie, son Ben, daughter Bethany, and granddaughter Phoebe.

THE CLASS OF 1963

RICHARD S. GOULD '63

Rick, a doctor and supporter of many institutions in Ojai, Calif., died there Nov.



6, 2024, surrounded by his children.

Rick came to Princeton from Horace Mann School. He majored in biology, was publicity manager of the

Band, took his meals at Terrace Club, and worked summers as a hospital orderly, a first step toward his chosen field of medicine.

Rick received his medical degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston in 1967. In 1964, while in medical school, he married Barbara Kaye. During their 14-year marriage, they had four children. Following service in the Army, Rick enrolled in a family-practice residency in the California coastal city of Ventura in 1970. Two years later, he moved 15 miles inland to Ojai. His marriage to Barbara ended.

For our 25th-reunion yearbook, Rick

wrote: "Since 1972 I've lived in Ojai. I started the Family Care Center at Ventura County Medical Center and serve on boards of the Ojai festivals, Medical Society, and Special Children's Foundation. I am president of the Ojai-West Rotary Club. I remarried in 1982 to Cindi Barr and we fill our time working together in my medical office, enjoying my three teenagers, or traveling."

Rick and Cindi enjoyed years of traveling, entertaining, and volunteering, splitting their time between homes in Ojai and Orcas Island, Wash. Cindi died in August 2014 of ALS.

Rick is survived by daughters Maile Gould D'Arcy and Tamara Gould; son David; and eight grandchildren. A third daughter died young of Tay Sachs, a rare and fatal genetic disease.

DONALD M. HADDOCK '63

Don, a lifelong resident of Alexandria, Va., and a pillar of the city's legal community,



died at his home Dec. 23. 2024, surrounded by family. He came to us from Episcopal High School in Alexandria. He majored in English, wrote his thesis on

Mark Twain, and belonged to Quadrangle. He was a member of the Pre-Law Society, an officer in Orange Key, and a cadet captain in

Don received his law degree from the University of Virginia and master of laws from George Washington University. After graduation from law school, he served in the Army as a captain in the Army Materiel Command.

He started his career as a sole practitioner and part-time assistant Commonwealth attorney. In 1984, he became a judge on the Alexandria Circuit Court, where he served for 27 years, the last 14 as chief judge. After retirement, he continued to sit frequently as a substitute judge. He also continued to produce hay and beef cattle on his 300-acre farm just outside of Alexandria.

For our 50th-reunion yearbook, Don offered this reflection: "My life has really been idyllic. I married my childhood sweetheart from church. We reared two fine sons, both lawyers, one now a corporate counsel, the other also a Virginia judge We have spent much of our time on our farm with the children and grandchildren learning ways not available in town Over the years I have served on numerous boards, committees, and commissions, many charitable, as I am certain most of our classmates have — Princeton in the nation's service, you know. All in all, though our lives are quiet, they are most enjoyable."

Don is survived by his wife of 59 years, Joyce; sons David II '91, and Donald Jr.; and three grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1964

JAMES A.S. LEACH JR. '64

Jim died Dec. 11, 2024.



He came to Princeton from Davenport (Iowa) High School, where he participated in football, golf, and wrestling, winning the 138-pound state championship. In 2003, he was inducted into

the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. At Princeton, Jim majored in politics, thrice lettered in wrestling, and captained the 150-pound football team senior year. A member of Ivy, he was a class officer, vice chair of the Undergraduate Council, Chapel deacon, and chair of the University's delegation to the 1963 National Student Association Congress.

After Princeton, Jim earned an M.A. from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, He did further graduate work at the London School of Economics before joining the foreign service, serving under Donald Rumsfeld '54. Elected to Congress from Iowa in 1976, he served for 30 years, chairing several committees, collaborating with Sen. Bill Bradley '65 of New Jersey on landmark banking reform legislation, and being one of the first senior politicians to bemoan the rise of ardent partisanship.

From 2002 to 2006, Jim was a Princeton trustee and in 2010 he received the Woodrow Wilson Award. After losing his 2006 reelection bid, he accepted appointments in the Woodrow Wilson School and at Harvard's Kennedy School. In 2009, President Obama nominated him as chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities. He led NEH until 2013, afterward appointed senior scholar at the University of Iowa's Center for Human Rights.

Jim's legacy is one of intellectual rigor, political courage, and deep love of country, fully embodying Old Nassau's motto, "Princeton in the nation's service and the service of humanity."

He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Deba; their son, Gallagher; daughter Jenny; and two grandchildren, to whom the class extends its condolences.

NEWTON B. SCHOTT JR. '64

Newt died Nov. 19, 2024, in Montclair, N.J. He grew up in New Jersey and came to



Princeton from Newark Academy, where he was a class and student council officer and the newspaper's business manager. At Princeton, Newt majored in economics, ate

at Tower, and wrote for the Bric-a-Brac, becoming executive editor junior year.

After Princeton, he earned a J.D. at Columbia Law School and practiced

corporate and securities law for 13 years with a small NYC law firm, followed by 26 years as general counsel and executive VP at Thomson McKinnon, Allianz Global Investors, and related entities.

Newt was active in Montclair, serving for 17 years on the boards of trustees of Montclair Kimberley Academy (seven as president) and the Montclair Art Museum (three as president). He was also an elder, and finance committee chair of the Presbyterian Church of Upper Montclair.

Newt and Toni, his wife of 58 years and "the love of his life," spent summers in Chautauqua, N.Y. The class extends its condolences to Toni and their two children.

THE CLASS OF 1966

ROBERT M. SIGLER JR. '66

Bob died Dec. 13, 2024, ending a decade-long struggle with Alzheimer's and Parkinson's

diseases.



Bob graduated from the Seaholm School in Birmingham, Mich. At Princeton, he majored in electrical engineering,

belonged to Dial Lodge, was manager of the student laundry, and held a position in the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church choir.

After graduation he enrolled in the University of Michigan Law School. Following admission to the Michigan bar, he joined General Motors as a patent attorney.

Drafted by the Army in 1970, he was stationed at Dugway Proving Grounds in Utah. Although titled electrical engineering assistant, he devoted most of his time to assisting JAG attorneys.

When his Army tour ended, Bob returned to the GM patent department. He worked there until GM spun off Delphi, where he completed his career as patent attorney.

Music was central to Bob's life. He began singing in a boy choir and sang in choirs for the rest of his life. Already proficient on the guitar, in the 1970s he mastered the lute and became active in the Lute Society of America.

The class extends is heartfelt condolences to Julie, Bob's wife of 53 years; and to sons Daniel, Mark, and Bill.

THE CLASS OF 1969

WILLIAM F GRAVES '69

Bill died in Franklinton, N.C., June 1, 2024. He came to Princeton from Fairfax (Va.) High School. He was a member of Dial Lodge. Bill left Princeton during our undergraduate years and in 1971 graduated from George Mason University in Virginia.

In his later professional life, Bill worked primarily as a software test engineer in the high-tech field. He was known for his strong technical skills and was considered a team player and good communicator. He worked for IBM for several years, and later in his career as a systems administrator for 3M.

Bill is survived by his wife, Vivienne, and we offer her our condolences.

THE CLASS OF 1971

MONTAGUE BLUNDON III '71

Tad died Oct. 5, 2024, in Florida, surrounded by his family after a 16-year battle with Parkinson's disease, marked by strength, resilience, love, and a sense of humor.

Tad grew up in Pennsylvania and the Washington, D.C., area. He followed his father, Montague '42, from Woodberry Forest School to Princeton, where he majored in biology. He ate at Colonial and independently and was close to John Lawrie. After two years of cancer research, he entered Georgetown Medical School, graduating in 1977. Tad completed his residency in orthopedic surgery at the University of Maryland in 1982, specializing in shock trauma, and then practiced orthopedics in the DC area.

In 1988, Tad married the love of his life, Nita, in whose company he delighted until the very end. They welcomed their daughter, Lucy, in April 1992.

Family was Tad's greatest treasure. Family members fondly remember their adventures — ski trips, summers in Wyoming, and teaching countless children to water ski. Tad was a true animal lover of dogs and horses. With Nita, he enjoyed golf. History and math problems/riddles were outlets for his broad intellect. Tad served Princeton as Alumni Schools Committee interviewer and 1971 as special gifts chair and solicitor.

The class extends its condolences to Nita; daughter Lucy; son-in-law Charles Schoenthaler; grandsons Brooks and Beau Schoenthaler; and the rest of his family.

THE CLASS OF 1973

NICHOLAS POTTER '73

Nick died Dec. 2, 2024, in Santa Fe, N.M., of ALS. In his own special way, Nick



exemplified "Princeton in the nation's service and in the service of humanity."

Nick came to us from Evanston Township (Ill.) High School, where he starred on

the soccer team and was awarded the school's highest scholarship prize. He was a stalwart on the Princeton varsity soccer team, lettering all three years, and his teammates remember his work ethic and sense of camaraderie. Among his roommates were Jim Shook '74, Rob Mancuso, Dave Martin, Tom Tate, Chris Leach, and Drix Neimann. He was briefly a member of Cannon. He majored in history and minored in English.

Nick was the proprietor of Nicholas Potter Booksellers, an independent used bookshop. The store was an essential part of the Santa Fe community for decades. After the shop closed due to his illness, many tributes noted his unfailing friendship to all who came into the shop. In a Jan. 18, 2012, PAW article headlined "Internet be damned: Nicholas Potter '73 sells books the old-fashioned way," he said: "Every day I have the pleasure of putting a book in the hands of someone who is going to appreciate it. I'm sort of the keeper of that book, until I find the right home for it." He also had leadership roles in Santa Fe's art and music communities.

Nick was devoted to his daughter, Aryana, who said in a letter to him: "When I count my blessings, having you as a father has always been at the top of my list. Not only are you my dad and hero, you are my best friend." He also leaves his former wife, and six brothers and their families. We give thanks for Nick's friendship and service and extend our condolences to his family.

THE CLASS OF 1976

J. PATRICK MCLAUGHLIN '76

Pat died in Dallas July 14, 2023, following an illness.



He graduated *cum laude* from Deerfield Academy, where he was active on the football, track, cross country, and chess teams. At Princeton, he majored in civil

engineering, rowed heavyweight crew, was a member of Ivy Club, and in his spare time worked on his paintings and sketches.

After graduating with a B.S.E., Pat accepted a job offer in construction engineering in Saudi Arabia for two years. Upon returning to the States, he settled in North Carolina, where he oversaw housing development projects in three states. He met and married Jennifer, and together they raised three sons during their 33 years of marriage.

Pat pursued a law degree at the University of North Carolina. He graduated *cum laude* in 1985 and moved his family to Dallas, where he began a legal career, working at several large firms before starting his private practice in 1995. He was known as an attorney dedicated to his clients.

Pat enjoyed travel with his family and learning languages: French, Spanish, and Japanese. He was a lifelong artist and sculptor, proudest of his bronze-cast sculpture of a samurai, which was shown in a Dallas gallery. He maintained his rowing skills with the Dallas Rowing Club until his death.

Pat was an active Princeton alum, serving as an interviewer in the Alumni Schools Committee and was delighted when his son Ian '12 followed in his footsteps to Princeton.

Pat is survived by sons Ian, Brendan and his wife Serina, and Aidan; and his sister, Meredith MacKenzie-Lamb.

THE CLASS OF 1977

PEARL SERIL PELL '77

Pearl died July 17, 2023, after battling cancer for a year.



At Princeton, she majored in English and sang with the Katzenjammers. She continued singing with Out of the Orange and the Decrepits (now Decrepitunes). They

sang at our 40th. Pearl gave up coffee to reach the high notes — true dedication. Classmates remember her great sense of humor, beautiful voice, strength of character, and generosity.

She was a principal of Longfellow Properties in New York and a power player in real estate whose modesty precluded her promoting her professional accomplishments. She was also on the board of Sanctuary for Families, which honored her in 2021 for her 20 years of service, part of her lifelong commitment to advancing social justice and building stronger communities.

She is survived by her husband, Owen; her sons Nathan '12 and Adam; big sister Barbara Seril; nieces Sheryl Carp and Laura Rosenblatt; and many cousins. Pearl's love of family, intelligence, humor, valor, good works, energy, and zest for life were apparent to all who knew her. Her family, many friends, and classmates will miss her deeply, remember her with love and affection, and cherish the way she touched and enriched their lives.

THE CLASS OF 1980

BRYAN W. MILLER '80

Bryan died Sept. 15, 2024, at home in Kansas City.



A natural athlete, he grew up in Kansas City. He graduated from Shawnee Mission East High School, where he played baseball, football, and hockey, but

his true talent and passion was golf. At Princeton, Bryan was an economics major and devoted member of Cottage Club. He also starred on the Princeton golf team, lettering all four years, twice earning All-Ivy honors, and serving as two-time captain of Ivy League champion teams.

Following Princeton, Bryan spent 15 years at the Chicago Board of Trade. Always active and always giving, in his spare time he sailed, played polo, and mentored kids in some of Chicago's worst neighborhoods.

He then returned to Kansas City and in his later years struggled valiantly and openly with mental health issues, but he was always there for his friends and family and devoted himself to caring for his Irish setters and his parents (Martha and Wayne '56). He is survived by his sister Pamela and nephew Drake.

Bryan loved and left his mark on Princeton,

Cottage Club and his fellow "Cheesers," his A Blair suitemates, "Nubs" teammates, and many more. Rest in peace, Brog.

GRADUATE ALUMNI

CHARLES W. LOCKYER JR. *71

Chuck died in Gwynedd, Pa., Dec. 9, 2024.
Born in Philadelphia April 6, 1944, Chuck received a B.A. in classical languages from Fordham in 1966 and a Ph.D. from Princeton in classical languages in 1971. As a Woodrow Wilson Foundation Fellow, he spent a year at the University of Heidelberg.

Chuck joined Fidelity Bank in Philadelphia as a credit analyst, becoming vice president of commercial credit operations. In 1980, he became CFO and treasurer of Pubco Corp., a holding company for printing companies and publishers founded by his father. Chuck moved to Perpetual American Bank, helping grow it into the largest savings and loan in the Washington, D.C. area.

In 1996, Chuck graduated from Georgetown Law School and joined the banking department of the Washington office of Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson. In 2003, he became vice president and general counsel at the Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas, retiring in 2012.

Chuck's nonprofit board service included the Menninger Foundation, Jeanes Hospital, the Anna T. Jeanes Foundation, Sidwell Friends School, the Temple University Health System, and the APGA from 1992 to 1995.

Predeceased by his wife, Karen, Chuck is survived by his children Charles III, Larissa, and Daphne, and seven grandchildren.

STEPHEN R. MARION *74

Steve died Aug. 5, 2024, of a rare lymphoma, in Hanover, N.H. He was 76.

Born June 7, 1948, in Bridgeport, Conn., Steve grew up in Louisville, graduated from Swarthmore in 1970, and served two years as a conscientious objector at Bryn Mawr Hospital and L'Hôpital Albert Schweitzer in Haiti

In 1974, he earned an MPA with a certificate in health-care policy from the Woodrow Wilson School. He worked at the College of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey before moving to Hanover in 1976. After working for Dartmouth Medical School's Department of Community Medicine, he became vice president of regional planning for Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital in 1981. He played a key role in Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center's move from Hanover to Lebanon in 1991. Steve retired in 2008 and continued as a part-time consultant for the medical center until 2015.

He served as a board member or board chair of several Upper Valley not-for-profit organizations, including United Way, Howe Library, Kendal at Hanover, the Hanover Zoning Board, and the Grafton County Senior Citizens Council.

Steve is survived by his wife of 49 years,

Nancy Peregrim Marion *77; sons Jeff and Patrick; and five grandchildren.

DAVID H. SHORE *76

David died Nov. 17, 2024, of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) at the age of 75.

He was born in New York April 4, 1949, and graduated from the City College of New York in 1969. At Princeton, he studied Chinese in the Critical Languages Program in 1968-69 and earned a Ph.D. in East Asian studies in 1976.

Joining the National Security Agency (NSA) in 1976, David served there for 40 years. In 2003, he became a senior executive and served as special assistant to the director for a highly complex operational and logistical assignment. He received NSA's Exceptional Civilian Service Award, the agency's highest honor, for its planning and architecture.

Subsequently, David led the Office of Strategic Intelligence Issues, where he was the principal NSA interface with the other intelligence community organizations, such as the National Intelligence Council and the Presidential Daily Briefing Steering Group. David then served as the NSA representative to the Central Intelligence Agency. He received the CIA Seal Medallion in recognition of his valued partnership with the agency.

David is survived by his wife of 53 years, Beatrice Eng Shore; along with his brothersin-law, nephews, nieces, and cousins.

EDGAR W. WILLIAMS JR. *82

Edgar died Nov. 14, 2024, in Maryland.

He was born in Winter Park, Fla., June 12, 1949. After graduating from Duke in 1971, Edgar completed his master's degree at Columbia before earning a Ph.D. in music at Princeton in 1982. Edgar studied under Iain Hamilton, Charles Wuorinen, Mario Davidovsky, and Milton Babbitt *92.

After briefly teaching at the University of California at Davis, he began a long tenure at the College of William & Mary, where he conducted the orchestra for many years.

A prolific composer, conductor, and music theorist, Edgar was described as having "a remarkable command of instrumental resources, imaginatively deploying sonorities within individual lines or in combinations to clarify and intensify the progressions of polyphonic voices."

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Christine; children Ann and Joel; grandchildren Noah and Kathryn; and siblings Penelope and Joel.

Graduate memorials are prepared by the APGA.

Undergraduate memorials appear for Peter Hopkinson '54 *60 and Guy G. Williamson '57 *61.

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LEWIS THOMAS '33 (1913-1993)

He Watched Biology from Up Close and Afar

BY EVAN DETURK '23

T'S DIFFICULT TO CAPTURE the spirit of Lewis Thomas '33's legacy through any single contribution, making it apt that his name adorns both annual prizes for science writing given by Rockefeller University and the lab housing Princeton's Department of Molecular Biology.

Thomas arrived at Princeton as a 15-year-old freshman in the fall of 1929 at almost the same moment that the Great Depression began. He spent his early years at the University largely uninterested in his studies, describing himself as a "moult of dullness and laziness." His more enjoyable moments came drinking bathtub gin at the now-defunct Key and Seal Club and writing humor pieces for the *Princeton Tiger* magazine.

It would not be long, however, before the seeds that would blossom into Thomas' career-defining interests were planted. Thomas first discovered his interest in biology while taking an advanced class in the subject with Professor Wilbur Swingle, who also introduced Thomas to Jacques Loeb's science writing. He ultimately graduated near the middle of his class, in what he humorously called the "gentlemen's third."

The Depression was in full force as Thomas neared the end of his time at Princeton, making the possibility of employment a central question in his imminent choice of career. Lewis' father, Joseph Thomas 1899, had maintained steady work as a physician throughout the Depression, and the younger Thomas accordingly decided that he too would pursue a career in medicine.

After graduating from Harvard Medical School and serving with the Naval Research Unit in World War II, however, Thomas shifted his focus from clinical practice to research. By the mid-1950s, Thomas' contributions to immunology had landed him a position as the chair of NYU's department of pathology.

While at NYU, Thomas noticed that treatment of rabbits with the enzyme papain led to ear drooping followed by recovery a few days later. Thomas deduced experimentally that the drooping was due to degradation of ear cartilage by the enzyme, and the recovery due to the subsequent formation of new tissue. Thomas' discovery that cartilage was able to quickly regenerate drew recognition, and pictures of his rabbits graced the pages of newspapers nationwide.

Thomas left NYU to become the dean of Yale Medical School and then president and chancellor of Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. It was during this period that Thomas' prowess as a scientific communicator developed into a full-on writing career. His speech at a 1970 conference on inflammation was so irreverent yet rigorous that it was printed and distributed, prompting *New England Journal of Medicine* editor Franz Ingelfinger to give Thomas a monthly column.

Thomas wrote "Notes of a Biology Watcher" for the next 10 years, showcasing his own philosophical style inspired by Loeb's work. Thomas frequently demonstrated his fascination with the organizational principles in biology; he wrote about cells as conglomerates and societies as organisms and compared the collective behaviors of humans and ants. Also evident were his interests in music and language, which would become the subjects of Thomas' later books. The essays were collected into two volumes that netted Thomas two National Book Awards. His new vocations gave him a degree of separation from the science that proved helpful in his philosophizing.

Thomas' professional service was not limited to the organizations that employed him, and he was noted as an important voice on the New York City Board of Health throughout the 1950s and '60s. Thomas also extended his commitments beyond medicine, serving on the advisory committee of the environmental organization Friends of the Earth during the '70s. The association was not to last, however, and Thomas passionately resigned from the committee in 1977 when the organization opposed recombinant DNA research, a position he found scientifically illogical.

Over the course of his life, Thomas' wide yet intimately connected set of interests established him as the type of thinker that liberal arts universities strive to produce. He died of cancer in 1993, but not before the Princeton lab bearing his name opened in 1987, erected thanks to a gift from Laurence Rockefeller '32, who asked for the building to be named after his friend.



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