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PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY

JULY/AUGUST 2025

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An editorially independent magazine by alumni for alumni since 1900



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Wilton Virgo '00 and his classmates celebrate during the P-rade.

Photograph by Beverly Schaefer

KEVIN BIRCH



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JULY/AUGUST 2025 PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY

Commencement 2025: 'A Fierce Independence of Mind'

On May 27, I had the honor of presiding over Princeton's 278th Commencement. I used the occasion to urge our 2025 graduates to maintain the traditions of daring inquiry and independence that have shaped America's great colleges and universities. Here are my remarks. — C.L.E.

In a few minutes, all of you will walk out of this stadium as newly minted graduates of this University. Before you do, however, long-standing tradition permits the University president to offer a few remarks about the path that lies ahead.

As I began drafting this year's speech, I found myself reflecting on what I recall from my own graduation — which, alas, is very little: after more than forty years, the day is mostly a blur.

I do remember leaving campus with a new, hard-shell Samsonite briefcase, a gift from my beloved grandmother, intended to mark my transition from backpack-toting undergraduate to office-going adult.

The briefcase would soon yield again to the backpacks that I favored for most of my professorial career.

During that post-graduation summer, though, I proudly carried my books and papers in the briefcase, feeling suitably professional and accomplished. One of the books I was reading at the time, on the recommendation of a Princeton mentor, was Alexis de Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*.

The book, but not the briefcase, accompanied me to England where I began my graduate studies. Living outside the United States for the first time since my childhood, I marveled at the 19th century Frenchman's ability to make perceptive and durable observations about a culture different from his own.

Tocqueville admired some of what he saw during his visits to America in the 1830s, but he was deeply skeptical about the country's ability to produce humanistic and scientific achievements of the kind that distinguish this University.

For example, he reported that "there is almost no one in the United States who gives himself over to the essentially theoretical and abstract portion of human knowledge."¹

He opined that the United States "still does not have a literature, properly speaking," and he predicted a future dominated by books that could be "procured without trouble" and "quickly read."²

Tocqueville, despite all his truly magnificent insights, did not anticipate the rise of universities like the one from which you graduate today.

He did note that Americans had a "very high and often much exaggerated idea of human reason" and were prone to "conclude that everything in the world is explicable and that nothing exceeds the bounds of intelligence."³

Tocqueville also observed that Americans "constantly unite," forming organizations and associations "to give fetes, ... found seminaries, ... build inns, ... raise churches, ... distribute books [and] create hospitals, prisons, [or] schools."⁴

If Tocqueville had put together these observations—about Americans' zealous faith in reason and their incessant associative activity—he might perhaps have predicted the network of research universities that we know today.

Be that as it may, America's colleges and universities have changed the country for the better. The nation that Tocqueville thought ill-suited to the "theoretical and abstract portion of human knowledge" has become a magnet for the world's leading mathematicians and scientists.⁵

The country that Tocqueville thought might never produce a literature of its own cultivates brilliant writers and critics not only at this university but at many others, including, for example, at the famous University of Iowa Writers' Workshop.

Tocqueville wrote that "there is no country in the civilized world where [people] are less occupied with philosophy than the United States," but New Jersey by itself boasts two of the world's greatest philosophy departments, at Princeton and Rutgers.⁶

Yet, if Tocqueville did not foresee the rise of America's universities, his observations about democratic sentiments should alert us to a persistent tension between our scholarly institutions and the broader society upon which they depend.

The creativity that universities cultivate, the idiosyncrasies that we tolerate, and the speculative or esoteric research that we cherish: all of these can put universities at odds with the more pragmatic culture around us and thereby jeopardize the academic freedom on which our institutions vitally depend.

Tensions between the academy, public opinion, and government policy have ebbed and flowed over the course of American history. They are now at an unprecedented high point.

In this tender and pivotal moment, we must stand boldly for the freedoms and principles that define this and other great universities.

We must also, at the same time, find ways to listen to thoughtful critics and steward our relationship with the broader society upon which we depend.

Universities risk losing public support if they deviate from their core mission of teaching and research, or if they appear to become organs of partisan advocacy rather than impartial forums for the pursuit of truth and the dissemination of knowledge.

¹ Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, trans. and ed. Harvey C. Mansfield and Delba Winthrop (University of Chicago Press, 2000), 434.

² Id. at 446, 448.

³ Id. at 408, 404.

⁴ Id. at 489.

⁵ Id. at 434.

⁶ Id. at 403.

⁷ "Neutral," in *vocabulary.com*, accessed May 22, 2025, <https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/neutral>.

⁸ Kalven Committee, *Report on the University's Role in Political and Social Action* (University of Chicago, November 11, 1967), https://provost.uchicago.edu/sites/default/files/documents/reports/KalvenRprt_0.pdf.



The Commencement ceremony at Princeton Stadium capped off days of campus events for students graduating in 2025.
Photo by Matthew Raspanti, Office of Communications

People sometimes make this point by recommending that universities adopt a posture of “institutional neutrality,” a concept that they take from a report issued in 1967 by the Kalven Committee at the University of Chicago.

Though I agree with much that is said in the Kalven Report, I have never liked the language of “neutrality,” partly because “neutral” has multiple meanings.

“Neutral” can mean “impartial,” which is a more precise way to capture what the Kalven Committee had in mind.

Another meaning of “neutral,” however, is “lacking distinguishing quality or characteristics.”⁷

Synonyms for “neutral” include: “innocuous,” “unobjectionable,” “harmless,” “bland,” and “colorless.”

Some current-day proponents of the neutrality standard seem to relish the term’s double meaning. They want university faculties and students to produce useful inventions, illuminate poetic beauty, and study the virtues of successful leaders, but they appear to become uneasy when, for example, scholars expose and analyze the role of race, sexuality, or prejudice in society and politics.

The actual Kalven Committee was under no such illusion. It described universities this way:

“A university faithful to its mission will provide enduring challenges to social values, policies, practices, and institutions. By design and by effect, [a university] creates discontent with the existing social arrangements and proposes new ones. In brief, a good university, like Socrates, will be upsetting.”⁸

Like Socrates! The reference is telling. As the Kalven Committee certainly knew, Socrates was so upsetting—so colorful, so provocative, so decidedly not neutral—that the Athenians sentenced him to death for disrespecting their most sacred beliefs.

Universities might be less vulnerable to criticism and attack if they were bland, innocuous, and neutral—

but then they would not be true universities.

Great universities must have a Socratic spirit.

We aim to encourage and elevate what Tocqueville depicted as the sometimes irritating tendency of Americans, and democratic citizens more generally, to believe that human intelligence can explain, critique, and improve the world.

At the heart of Princeton’s undergraduate and graduate degree programs is a commitment to inculcate a fierce independence of mind. We want you to have the skill and the courage to ask questions that are unsettling and uncomfortable to the world, and, indeed, to you.

I hope you have embraced this independence during your time here, and that you have also learned how to speak up for what you believe even when it may be uncomfortable to do so.

I hope, too, that these habits will stay with you as you venture forth into a world that needs your creativity, your learning, and your valor.

The paths that you follow from this stadium today lead into a world more fraught, turbulent, and uncertain than the one that I entered with my brand-new briefcase four decades ago. Yet, whether you depart carrying backpacks or briefcases or neither of the two, you should know, as my classmates and I did, that you will always be welcome back on this campus.

Indeed, all of us on this platform hope that you will return often to Old Nassau. We will greet you then as we cheer you today, wishing you every success as Princeton University’s Great Class of 2025! Congratulations!



INBOX

YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE LATEST ISSUES

THE EXPANDING CAMPUS

As a graduate alum who spent most of his time at Princeton going up and down Washington Road between Jadwin, Fine, and old Frick, my recent trip to the campus to visit the Andlinger Center next to the E-Quad brought both a sense of nostalgia and a feeling of claustrophobia (“Where Old and New Meet,” May issue). Practically all of the open spaces that I remember are gone, replaced with doubtlessly necessary structures but with spatial arrangements that would drive Escher mad. And some, especially new Frick, are not aging well. I don’t doubt the windows in the Old Grad College still let in the winter winds, but the courtyard is still as welcoming and pleasant as it was decades ago.

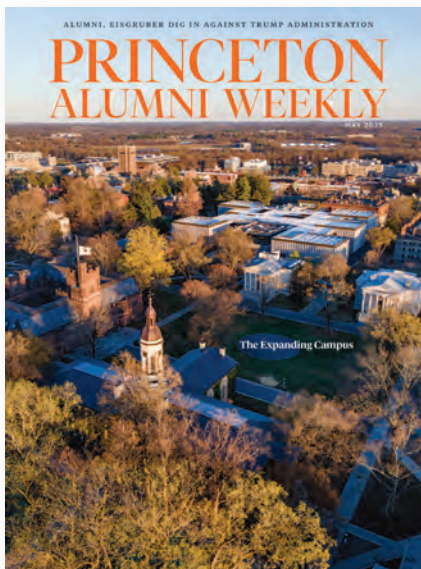
Tempora mutantur, nos et mutamur in illis. But I hope the University manages those changes in ways more evocative of the Princeton style.

MARK BANASH *92
Bedford, N.H.

Having been a student as construction for these projects began, I am eager to see them finally come to fruition. I sympathize with community members who are critical of changes; watching many spaces that were essential aspects of my first two years be blocked off and demolished was dismal, to say the least. But I can’t agree with the sentiment that campus is somehow irreparably marred by these changes.

For one, judgments at this moment seem based on an external perspective, removed from the experience of navigating, working, and living in these spaces. From a similar aerial view, Dillon Gym and Little Hall (with all their Gothic charms) form a vast divide between campus areas. But for the seasoned community member, their hallways and arches give safe passage, and with time become part of a natural flow.

I am optimistic at the potential of



these new spaces. Even ignoring the benefits that more modern facilities lend to the University’s goals in accessibility, sustainability, and research, these are places where people will learn, grow, collaborate, and change, forming the intangible yet unshakable attachments which serve as the foundation of the lifelong interest in and dedication to the Princeton community.

So I say: Give people time to break them in. And when you next return to campus, give yourself a chance to get lost and explore them, just like when you arrived for your first year. It’s a rare magic that I can’t wait to try again.

CHRIS LEAHY *22
New York, N.Y.

No need to see the film *The Brutalist* to understand the anguish and hostility expressed by that school of architecture. A walk around the Princeton campus will be sufficient.

Access to the fields and forest beyond Poe and Pardee fields has been replaced by the prison blocks of Yeh College.

The green space and walkways between Edwards-Brown-Clio and Prospect Gardens are now dominated

by a monster of interior space — an art museum that could have been built by U.S. 1 with the proximate parking needed for its visitors.

And the spatial connection between the athletic fields and the eating clubs, where 75% of upper-class students (and a higher percentage of athletes) dine and socialize has been blocked by the Berlin/Gaza wall of the ES and SEAS complex.

Yes, Ron McCoy *80 has made his mark on the Princeton campus.

DOUGLAS B. RUBIN *81
Princeton, N.J.

Regarding the new Princeton University Art Museum (May issue), I’m truly glad that former professors Robert Clark *74 and David Billington *50 never had to gaze upon this monstrosity. It would break their hearts. As a former Orange Key historian, architecture student, and civil engineering major, I find this complex appalling. History will not be kind to those who decided to place a flat-roofed, blank-sided Costco-sized facility in the middle of the historic campus rather than out on the undefined periphery. This is not even a chiefly academic building but rather one that will need many school buses full of visiting high school students each day to fill it. It could have been a very interesting building on Washington Road or Alexander Road or Nassau Street defining a new street-front presence. But next to Cannon Green this is a disaster.

DAVID THOM *96
New York, N.Y.

As one of Princeton’s few professional artists (painting, sculpture, and music) and an erstwhile architecture design professor, I confess to being thrilled, in advance, by this anticipated new art museum building and its visionary approaches.

The campus-centric placement, boldly perceptive by traditional academic standards yet overdue from a cultural

LÉNI PAQUET-MORANTE

EXTRACT/ABSTRACT

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Léni Paquet-Morante, *Winter Sky on a Shallow*, 2021. © Léni Paquette-Morante. Courtesy of the artist.

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Alumni and Donor Records

100 Overlook Center, Suite 300

Princeton, NJ 08540

alumreccs@princeton.edu, 609-258-3114

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perspective, rings true for me. It feels like the fine arts, as the creative face of our comprehensive liberal arts curriculum, is coming home to roost. Smack dab into the core, the heart, of campus life.

Like the words creation and composition, we can appreciate that design is both noun and verb. It represents both product and process. As such, this refreshingly circulatory museum design springs from a thoughtful and innovative thinking process that imagines and presents a living, breathing product. It's an engaging spatial composition that will serve us beautifully through the inspired integration of its program and edifice, and its well-informed assimilation of interior and exterior characters.

Artists learn the importance of reserving judgment on a work in progress until it is finished. We wisely resist the premature reveal. Incomplete formulations, like an inspired senior thesis near the due date, need the synthesis of a final chapter and summary; ideally reviewed forthrightly with intellectual curiosity, interest, rigor, and respect.

Once handed in, I encourage us to read this dissertation all the way through before grading. Meanwhile, I am reminded of the old sculptors' maxim: "Every pigeon is a critic."

DAVID CHAMBERLAIN '71

Sodus Point, N.Y.

ALUMNI RESISTANCE

I am coming up on the completion of my junior year at Princeton University, and after reading "Alumni in the Nation's Resistance" (May issue), I have never been more proud to be a Tiger! Thank you to all those who are fighting back — you are inspiring the entire community to get involved in any way we can. The students are standing up with you.

LUCIA SCALAMANDRE '26

Princeton, N.J.

While PAW has long sung from the lefty hymnal, "Alumni in the Nation's Resistance" summons forth the whole brass band. "Tyrant," "intimidation tactics," "attacks on free speech,"

and "rampage against our republic" are but a few of many slurs that go unchallenged in this paean to President Trump's opponents. You would think his adversaries were *résistants* in occupied France rather than foes of a democratically elected government. If I want this kind of one-sided commentary, I can read *The New Yorker*, listen to NPR, or watch CNN and MSNBC. I don't need it from my alumni magazine.

ALLAN DEMAREE '58

Rocky River, Ohio

When can we expect to see an article featuring alumni who support the Trump administration's agenda? I realize President Eisgruber only communicates via far-left media, but I would like to believe PAW recognizes an obligation to reach across a wide spectrum of its readership. Each topic presented by E.B. Boyd '89 has important counterarguments. For example, consider the "threat to free speech" against colleges.

A "private" university should not depend on federal tax/debt revenue to fund almost one-fifth of its operating expenses. It's unacceptable for federal funds to be explicitly or implicitly tethered to support of any nonacademic cause or activity — liberal, conservative, or otherwise. Long-term trends which have driven colleges overwhelmingly to the left must be reversed to achieve a noninterventionist balance. That means cutting federal funding. That means eliminating pointless, nonproductive overhead positions and "research projects" that run for years without output of any value. Maybe it means ultra-wealthy institutions paying their "fair share" of taxes. A multitude of dramatic changes to academia are overdue and welcomed by a majority of Americans. "Free speech" is not, in my view, at risk.

Princeton alumni should welcome an informed debate and balanced journalism on all topics. But I suppose it's easier and maybe just safer to stick to one-sided portrayals of political advocates such as the story by Ms. Boyd.

JAMES MATHEWSON '81

Fulton, Mo.

LABELING LEANINGS

I read the article titled “As Eisgruber Speaks Out, Campus Community Digs In” (May issue). In it, *The Daily Caller* is referred to as a “right-wing news and opinion site” and *Campus Reform* as a “conservative website.” Yet, *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times*, and *Bloomberg* do not benefit from adjectives, like left-leaning or left-wing. Did you leave those out purposefully? As a reader of *The New York Times* and *The Atlantic*, I can attest that they certainly have “left leanings.”

STANLEY GOLDFARB '65
Bryn Mawr, Pa.

STANDING UP FOR HIGHER ED

Princeton has a long history of service in the national interest (On the Campus, June issue). This contribution needs to be reinforced and continued. Funding, both public and private, must be continued and increased to allow the University to continue and to increase its service in the national interest. The University should continue to publicly announce its areas of service and specifics regarding the particular services and their results.

BRUCE M. RAMER '55
Los Angeles, Calif.

Education has been the strongest equalizer to right the wrongs of the founding and history of America through the enslavement of African people and their descendants. The administration's attacks on higher education, and public education generally, appear to be designed to rewrite a dishonest history and erase the rich culture of all nonwhite Americans. Regardless of politics, our history is what it is and is only remedied by truth, understanding, and atonement. The scholarship, research, and learning at Princeton and other institutions is needed to continue our country's path forward. Subversion cannot be the way our government leaders respond to things they don't like.

TIZGEL HIGH '00
Brentwood, Tenn.

Note to the Princeton administration: I suggest that the dismantlement of all infrastructure and dismissal of dedicated personnel created to support the DEI mandates of previous administrations in Washington is low-hanging fruit to achieve cost reduction. It would also find favor with the current White House occupant.

GERD H. KEUFFEL '59
Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

LEWIS THOMAS '33

Thank you for the Princeton Portrait of Dr. Lewis Thomas '33 (May issue). When I began my service as CEO of a large hospital in the Los Angeles area, I thought it would be helpful when discussing hospital matters with members of the medical staff if I had an understanding of what was taking place in the fields of surgery and medicine. So I began reading the lead articles in *The Lancet* and *JAMA*.

Sometime along that way I came across an article by Dr. Thomas. To me he was saying, “I understand the science but there is something else going on out there.” He never mentioned a supreme being and certainly not God, just something else.

As soon as I could, I bought a boxed set of *The Lives of a Cell* and *The Medusa and the Snail* and read them. I still have the set and occasionally read a part of one or the other. I still hear there's something else going on out there.

I have no quarrel with the lists of Princeton alumni who earn well deserved accolades for their post-Princeton achievements. Nevertheless, if I were compiling such a list, I would place Lewis Thomas '33, M.D., at the very top.

BILL PARENTE '64
Atascadero, Calif.

BASKETBALL TRANSFERS

I understand and respect Xaivian Lee '26's decision to leave Princeton for Florida (Sports, June issue) but am still disappointed. If the opportunity had existed in 1964, could anyone imagine Bill Bradley '65 doing the same? On the other hand, Lee's probable

status as Florida's starting point guard will give me another team to follow closely.

JIM MERRITT '66
Pennington, N.J.

TUNE EVERY VOICE

Thank you for memorializing our campus songs (“After a Golden Age for College Songs, Their Popularity Declined,” PAW Reunions Guide, published online May 16). As the undergrad president of the Nassoons, I'd be remiss not to add that we still sing many of the songs mentioned here. We love singing “Old Nassau,” “The Orange and the Black,” “Our Lofty Elms,” “Drawn By Allegiance,” “Going Back to Nassau Hall,” and “Come Ye Men of Princeton” each year. We have a copy of the 1890 *Carmina Princetonia* that you referenced, and our active repertoire regularly draws from it. This isn't meant to be self-promotional in the slightest, but I thought it was worth noting that current undergrads are passionate about the tradition of collegiate singing, and Princeton's a cappella scene keeps the legacy alive today.

ROBERT MOHAN '26
Princeton, N.J.



BLOW PONG

I have long wondered what became of the tradition of blow pong, though not surprised by its slow demise (“Among 1970s and '80s Drinking Games, Blow Pong Was King,” PAW Reunions Guide, published online May 16).

Tower had a longstanding tradition of the annual Juniors vs. Seniors game, filled with all the ceremony, fun player
continues on page 11



YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Award for Service to Princeton

The Alumni Council Award for Service to Princeton recognizes outstanding contributions to the University by volunteers in the Princeton community, with particular emphasis on those who serve significantly but inconspicuously.

Arati Johnston '84, chair of the Committee on Awards for Service to Princeton, announced the 2025 honorees at the Annual Meeting of the Alumni Council that was held in Richardson Auditorium during Reunions on Friday, May 23.



Daryl English '72

Daryl English '72 has found myriad creative ways to use her passion for storytelling and community in service to her class. As one of just 63 women in her graduating class, she's boosted the alumnae engagement of the "Women of '72" by amplifying their personal stories.

Thanks to her efforts, the women's remembrances of their time at Princeton were formally accepted into the University's archives, giving their voices a permanent place in Princeton's history. Daryl is also a force in the class's Annual Giving participation, calling scores of classmates each year to build meaningful new Tiger ties among classmates.



Mozelle W. Thompson *80

Mozelle Thompson *80 has mentored countless Princeton students and alums across multiple generations, providing career advice, networking opportunities and emotional support. For almost 40 years, his participation in and dedication to the School of Public and

International Affairs' (SPIA) annual symposium for Students and Alumni of Color has helped make it a cornerstone of student empowerment. Mozelle has also served on the board of the Association of Black Princeton Alumni and is a member of the Dean's Advisory Council at SPIA. With a storied career in public service, Mozelle holds the door open for the next generations of Tiger leaders.

Yung Bong Lim '87 P24 P25

With his signature kindness and compassion, Yung Bong Lim '87 has jumped into countless opportunities to unite Tigers through his roles as president of the Princeton Club of Chicago, as a board member of the Asian American Alumni Association of Princeton (A4P), as a member of the Dean's Advisory Council and on the Annual Giving Committee. Serving the Alumni Council's Committee on Regional Associations, the Faith & Work Initiative and the Princeton Internships in Civic Service program, for which he has mentored many students, Yung joyfully brings together Tigers from the classes of the '50s to current undergraduates.



Margaret M.B. Sena *17

When Margaret Sena *17 joined the board of the Association of Latino Princeton Alumni (ALPA), she found a meaningful home in the alumni community. The hallmarks of her leadership as president of ALPA for two years were inclusivity and creativity. She eagerly undertook collaborations with other affinity groups and with regional associations and helped increase ALPA engagement both demographically and geographically. Margaret's own engagement expanded into volunteer roles with the Association of Princeton Graduate Alumni and the Alumni Council's Committee to Nominate Alumni Trustees, where she continues to make our alumni community a stronger, more inclusive and more fun place.



2025 Alumni Trustee Elections

On May 23, the Alumni Council announced the results of the annual alumni trustee election. Trustees elected by Princeton's alumni represent nearly one-third of the University's Board of Trustees.

The alumni elected by their peers to serve as University trustees from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2029, are:



Jim Lee '86
President and Publisher
DC Comics
LOS ANGELES, CA
At-Large Alumni Trustee



Anthony D. So *86
Distinguished Professor of the Practice
Director, Innovation+ Design Enabling Access (IDEA) Initiative
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PEACHTREE CORNERS, GA
Region II Alumni Trustee



Gil Joseph '25
2025 Knight-Hennessy Scholar
Graduate Student
Stanford University
PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI
Young Alumni Trustee from the Class of 2025

▶ CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the **Alumni Council Award for Service to Princeton** are welcome from the entire Princeton community, and recommendations for **alumni trustee candidates** are made by the alumni body at large.

TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS for the Award for Service to Princeton, visit alumni.princeton.edu/form/awards-service-princeton-nom or send a brief letter of support to alumnicouncil@princeton.edu or to Alumni Engagement, John Maclean House, 73 Nassau Street, Princeton, NJ 08540.

TO SUBMIT RECOMMENDATIONS for alumni trustees, visit alumni.princeton.edu/ctnat or send a brief letter of support to tigerrls@princeton.edu or to Volunteer Engagement, John Maclean House, 73 Nassau Street, Princeton, NJ 08540.

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YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Photos: Sameer Khan and Tori Repp of Fotobuddy



DEAR TIGERS,

No one does reunions like Princeton! This could not have been more true this year as Princeton welcomed back the great 5 and 10 classes for their first on-campus major reunion in 10 years (including my own 35th with the Great Class of 1990). We experienced one of the chilliest Reunions in recent memory, culminating in a refreshingly cool yet sunny P-rade.

One of my personal highlights was seeing so many alumni proudly displaying their “Stand Up for Princeton” pins, often bursting into spontaneous locomotive cheers and offering vocal support for President Eisgruber ’83 and the University. Please check out the Stand Up website (standup.princeton.edu) for information and resources, and to sign up for a newsletter that will keep you up-to-date, informed and aware of opportunities to get involved.

As individuals, we often hold differing views, perspectives and opinions — all signs of a healthy community. As alumni, we stand strong and united in our shared commitment to higher education, in general, and to Princeton, in particular.

As a family, we are living the theme of inclusion and belonging that Monica Moore Thompson ’89 placed at the heart of her term as chair of the Alumni Council. For the past two years, Monica rallied alumni on campus and around the world with the timeless and timely theme “I am Princeton; you are Princeton; and together, we are Princeton.”

Thank you, Monica, for continuing to raise the leadership bar for the benefit of Princeton’s 100,000 alumni. In the upcoming term, I welcome April Chou ’96 (vice chair), Eric Plummer ’10 (treasurer) and Marisa Goldenberg ’98 (assistant treasurer) to join me in further strengthening our community, our connections and our continuity with all past, present and future alumni of the Best Old Place of All.

With every heart and every voice,

Ryan Ruskin ’90
Chair, Alumni Council
President, Alumni Association



Ryan Ruskin ’90

Photo: Andrea Kane

continued from page 7

names, and cheering crowds. I am proud to have been part of the Tower '88 team that was one of the few class years to win both years. Though I am not sure anyone really won. Adding in beers from timeouts and challenges, it wasn't uncommon to surpass 30 beers and a trip to McCosh.

The game was fun in its time, but probably best that the students of today have a bit more common sense.

CHARLIE SWIFT '88

Armonk, N.Y.

PRINCETON INN, THEN AND NOW

Regarding the Student Dispatch on Forbes College (June issue), I spent the first night of my honeymoon in 1959 at the Princeton Inn. Now I stay at Forbes as a member of the Old Guard. The upstairs rooms have changed a lot, but the first floor is still great. It was too cold at this reunion to eat outside!

ROBERT D. BOLGARD '57

Rock Hill, N.Y.

YOUR PERSPECTIVE

Let us know what you think

✉ PAW@princeton.edu

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

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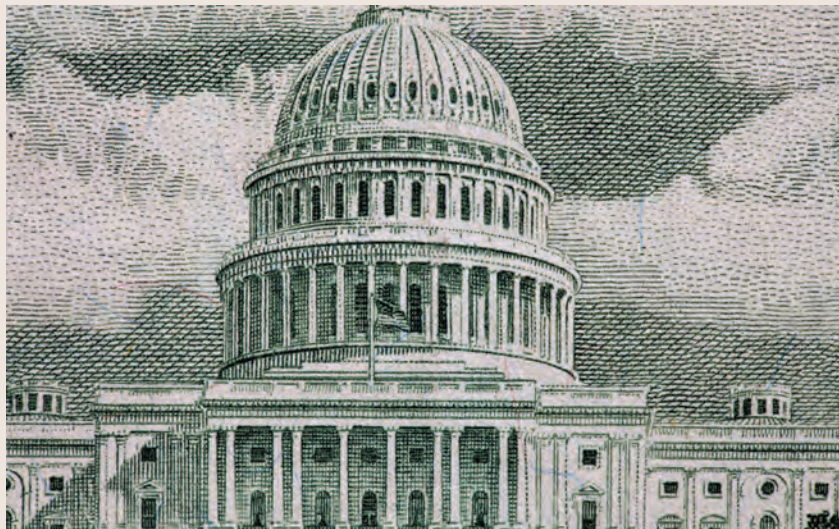
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ONLINE

EXCLUSIVES

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Q&A: CUTTING HIGHER ED

How are the Trump administration's cuts to higher education affecting the people at universities — including at Princeton? As an organizational sociologist, associate professor **Adam Goldstein** said confusion over funding and hiring freezes is already creating paralysis, and academics are "concerned about whether their area of research is going to be blacklisted in some capacity."



REMEMBERING AN ICON

In a farewell elegy, **Benjamin Bernard '22** recalls his friendship with **Edmund White**, a Princeton professor and pioneering writer of gay literature who died in early June at age 85. "As impish a gossip as he was studied and highbrow: this éminence sleaze served as a transatlantic apostle of libertinism for the age of gay liberation."

STUDENT DISPATCH: FASHION FORWARD

Undergraduate theses have taken many forms over the years — but a fashion show? **Jeanie Chang '25** shared her story of how various Princeton people and departments helped her blend philosophical inquiry and cultural narrative into wearable art. "In the absence of a clear path, I was granted the freedom to forge my own," she writes, "and that is its own kind of education."

COLLECTED HISTORY

Jimmy Stewart '32, Richard Feynman '42, Toni Morrison — over 125 years, PAW covered them all. Now those stories are digitized and ready for your perusal in the Collections section of PAW's website. Read through coverage of a selection of historical figures as well as Princeton's honor code, PAW's own history, and more at paw.princeton.edu/collections.



ON THE CAMPUS

NEWS, SPORTS, AND STUDENT LIFE



THREE CHEERS

Members of the Class of 2025 celebrate at the end of the University's 278th Commencement, held May 27 at Princeton Stadium.





COMMENCEMENT 2025

Eisgruber Urges Departing Grads to ‘Stand Boldly’

BY BRETT TOMLINSON

PRESIDENT Christopher Eisgruber '83 spoke up for American higher education in his Commencement address to Princeton's graduates May 27, citing a “persistent tension” between scholarly institutions and our broader society, present today in both public opinion and government policies.

“The creativity that universities cultivate, the idiosyncrasies that we tolerate, and the speculative or esoteric research that we cherish — all of these can put universities at odds with the more pragmatic culture around us and thereby jeopardize the academic freedom on which our institutions vitally depend,” he said.

“In this tender and pivotal moment, we must stand boldly for the freedoms and principles that define this and other great universities.”

Though Eisgruber's references to policies were not specific, the context was clear enough for his audience, which responded with loud applause. The morning of the ceremony, the Trump



CHRIS PAIGE '25

administration announced its latest salvo of funding cuts to one of Princeton's peers, sending a letter to federal agencies that instructed them to cancel all contracts with Harvard. Princeton likewise has been subject to federal funding cuts in recent months.

Eisgruber also pushed back on calls for “institutional neutrality,” voicing his concern that it can be seen as a requirement for universities to be not merely impartial but also innocuous.

“Universities might be less vulnerable to criticism and attack if they were bland, innocuous, and neutral, but then they would not be true universities,” he said.

Princeton conferred degrees for 1,293 undergraduates in the Class of 2025, 463 Ph.D. recipients, and 200 master's degree recipients at the Commencement ceremony, held in Princeton Stadium. The University also awarded six honorary doctorates (see page 15).

Family and friends saluted their graduates with creative gestures, holding up baby photos, giant cardboard cutout faces, and, in one section, the periodic table blocks for phosphorus, gold, lithium, and sodium (P-Au-Li-Na).

In the second level of the west bleachers, Teodoro Blanco, the father of sociology major Gustavo Blanco Quiroga '25, blew into a *pututu*, an Indigenous wind instrument from Bolivia, projecting a low, resonant sound when each group of undergraduate degree recipients was announced. The instrument is used to announce special ceremonies, Blanco explained to PAW as his daughter, Tatiana, translated his words from Spanish to English. The family traveled to Princeton for the first time to see Gustavo's graduation.

The valedictorian, chemistry major Erik Medina '25, encouraged graduates

REGALIA RECEIVED

Ph.D. grads and recipients of final master's degrees were recognized at the Graduate School's hooding ceremony on Cannon Green May 26.

to thank their families, professors, and peers for the support that made their Commencement celebration possible. "Creativity and determination might be uniquely individual, but we find the will to struggle — and the will to succeed — because of the people around us," he said. "To think, how many success stories hinge on the passing encouragement of a teacher or mentor? How many great leaders stand on the shoulders of their parents' and grandparents' sacrifices? How much adversity has been overcome thanks to the kindness of a spouse or a friend? Simply put, the success of the human race is built on a mountain of small deeds."

Members of the Class of 2025 began their journey in the University Chapel in



September 2021, wearing masks as they gathered at Opening Exercises. As the year went on, salutatorian Rosie Eden '25 said, "we raised our spirits and lowered our masks," according to a translation of her Latin address, and "despite this tumultuous start to our college

education, we emerged victorious."

Eden namechecked Cicero and Jupiter before conjuring the words of Taylor Swift to send her classmates out into the world, advising them to "tenete memorias, vos tenebunt." (Yes, "Hold on to the memories. They will hold on to you.") **P**

Six Honorary Degrees Awarded

P RINCETON RECOGNIZED six individuals, including two emeritus faculty, with honorary doctorates at Commencement.

Joshua Boger, a leader in biotechnology, was recognized for the innovative research of the company he founded, Vertex Pharmaceuticals, which has developed treatments for cystic fibrosis and sickle cell anemia.



FRIEDEN

Lex Frieden, whose work as executive director of the National Council on Disability drove the development of the Americans with Disabilities Act, was honored in absentia for his ongoing contributions on behalf of disability rights.

Sherrilyn Ifill, a civil rights lawyer for the NAACP and founding director of Howard University's 14th Amendment Center for Law and Democracy, received a doctor of laws degree for legal and educational leadership.

Nancy Weiss Malkiel, the University's longest serving dean of the college and the first woman faculty member in the history department, was cited for wide-ranging contributions that "enriched the lives of generations of Princetonians."



FROM LEFT: YAGHI; TSUI, MALKIEL, EISGRUBER '83, BOGER, IFILL

Daniel Chee Tsui, a Nobel laureate and emeritus professor of electrical and computer engineering at Princeton, discovered a physical effect that "sparked technological innovations that have benefitted humanity," according to his degree citation.

Omar M. Yaghi, a pioneer in materials science currently teaching at the University of California, Berkeley, developed the field of reticular chemistry, helping scientists find new ways to address environmental problems such as water scarcity.

The Class of 2025 inducted five **honorary classmates** during its Class Day program: guest speaker Jay Shetty; Melanie Ibarra, student organization program coordinator in the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students; Julie Gereck-Sefa, undergraduate administrator in the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering; Catalina Maldonado-Lopez, food service worker for Campus Dining; and Chelsie Berg-Geist, assistant director of the Emma Bloomberg Center for Access and Opportunity. **P**



CLASS DAY AND BACCALAUREATE

Students, Guest Speakers Touch on Political Climate and Free Speech

BY HOPE PERRY '24

THE CLASS OF 2025's Class Day celebration on May 26 was met with an overwhelmingly positive response even after a movement to condemn the choice of wellness podcaster Jay Shetty as the keynote speaker.

Students had objected to Shetty because of allegations that he has engaged in plagiarism. *The New York Times* bestselling author and former monk told members of the class that they should focus on their own purpose and happiness rather than the opinions of others.

The ceremony also featured recognitions of several students with outstanding academic, athletic, and service records, as well as the presentation of class jackets to honorary class members.

One honorary class member, Catalina Esther Maldonado-Lopez, a dining hall worker, was the only person during the event to receive a standing ovation from the class.

"She is the reason the dining hall's culture has become warm and welcoming during our formative years here at Princeton," said Stephen Padlo '25.

Several speakers during the ceremony mentioned the current political climate in the United States, emphasizing the values of free speech and University research.



"When you look back in 50 years, you will want to know that you have done whatever it takes to preserve and strengthen our democracy."

— JEROME POWELL '75

Federal Reserve Chair

The day prior, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell '75 addressed the Class of 2025 in the Chapel at the Baccalaureate, praising the legacy of American universities and the power of public service.

"Our great universities are the envy of the world and a crucial national asset," Powell said. "Look around you. I urge you to take none of this for granted. When you look back in 50 years, you will want to know that you have done whatever it takes to preserve and strengthen our democracy, and bring us ever closer to the founders' timeless ideals."

Powell's comments about the importance of American higher education flew in the face of the Trump administration's crackdown on elite universities, including Princeton. Powell has also been under intense scrutiny from President Donald Trump, who has publicly criticized the central bank, and Powell personally, over its decision to leave a key interest rate unchanged.

During President Christopher Eisgruber '83's Class Day speech, a woman stood up with a Palestinian flag and yelled, "You have blood on your hands." Despite wearing what appeared to be a class jacket, the woman, who has not been publicly identified, was not a student, according to University spokesperson Jennifer Morrill.

The woman was escorted off Cannon Green, and her screams could be heard for several minutes during the ceremony as she was handcuffed and arrested. "She was charged with disorderly conduct, defiant trespassing, and resisting arrest, and has been banned from campus," Morrill said.

Eisgruber's Reunions talk in Richardson Auditorium, two days earlier, also included a protest by several students and alumni who unfurled banners with pro-Palestinian slogans from the balcony. They were escorted out quietly by Public Safety, and no further action was taken, according to Morrill.

On Class Day, student speakers touched on the political moment in lighter remarks. One of the class heralds, Jeffery Chen '25, reminded fellow grads of the power of saying "no," making a dig at another Ivy League school in the process.

"If you want to capitulate and say yes to everything that's demanded of you, that's OK," Chen said. "I'm sure Columbia University's administration has an open spot." ■

STUDENT DISPATCH

A Behind-the-Scenes View of Managing Princeton Reunions

BY JAMES SWINEHART '27



I WAS WRITING “TFI” with orange tape across a Tiger Inn alumnus’ golf cart when a member of the Alumni Association staff pulled me aside. A quiet whisper informed me that someone had tracked a dog’s ... droppings from the lawn outside Nassau Hall onto the floor of Maclean House (known colloquially as Reunions HQ). A PAW event was set to begin in the now-defiled room within minutes, and I, being the good intern that I am, took off in a sprint to find wet wipes. This is what it’s like working Princeton Reunions.

In May, I had the pleasure of serving as assistant manager for the Alumni Association’s student crew based at Reunions HQ. Working Reunions is an obvious choice for many students — great wages, a school-free week with friends, and a behind-the-scenes view of the biggest party in Central Jersey.

The job starts early for students, who

are up Tuesday and Wednesday mornings to make sure each major reunion site has all the things it needs — class logbooks, campus maps, kegs of beer, you name it. These first two days are relatively tame. You still get the luxury of a 15-minute meal break, and you aren’t dodging crowds when running errands in a golf cart. As I walked back to my dorm with my manager, Katie Daniels ’26, Wednesday night, we both snarked, “Wow, this is easier than we thought!”

Then there’s Thursday morning, when a strange energy permeates the campus, as if the impending arrival of tens of thousands of alumni and guests is sending electricity through the air along Elm Drive. As I arrived at Maclean at 7 a.m., I could sense everyone was a little more on edge. From there, the next three days were a blur — part job, part party, and part manic fever dream.

Looking back, I remember flashes of

Add in nights full of parties and severe sleep deprivation, and you begin to see people in the rawest, truest versions of themselves. It’s equal parts scary and beautiful.

the chaos: washing my hands after the dog poop incident as my manager was pulling her hair out, distraught about the hundreds of Class of 2025 pins that had gone missing; the helpless moments when our entire crew had been deployed to bartend overcrowded events; and when we were marooned at Maclean as all of our golf carts were either stuck in traffic on Elm or were useless because a group of children had stolen the keys.

By Friday night, things were finally starting to look up. All 983 pins had been located, and the floors of Maclean had never been cleaner. I met my manager at a table outside the 35th for a debrief, but all we could do was stare at each other and laugh in delirium. We were a case study for what 17-hour workdays could do to a person. Add in nights full of parties and severe sleep deprivation, and you begin to see people in the rawest, truest versions of themselves. It’s equal parts scary and beautiful.

The good news is that if you can make it through Saturday, you’ve pretty much made it through Reunions. Members of my crew were assigned tasks during the P-rade, from transporting the tiger mascot to delivering Gatorade to President Eisgruber. While the duties vary, they all allow you to be a part of the procession — a great perk of the job.

The best perk, however, came on Saturday night when we headed down to Princeton Stadium to work at the fireworks show. After dizzily inflating two dozen glowing beach balls with our lungs (our electric pump had burst into flames), we rushed out onto the field, punting the inflated balls into the crowd as “Sweet Caroline” blared. Sitting in the front row for the fireworks finale, we put our arms around each other, relishing the victory of a week well-worked.

On Sunday morning, staffing Reunions isn’t that different from attending it. Some of us are hungover, a few are crying, and all of us are struggling to stay awake. As we finished packing up, I began to grow emotional. Though I had to endure literal fire and dog poop, I realized that I’d probably just finished the coolest job I will ever work in my life. ■



ROBERT NEUBECKER; ANGEL KUO '24

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ARTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Storytelling Project Enlists Theater in Fight Against Climate Change

BY JULIE BONETTE

TWO YEARS AGO, Princeton University announced *The Next Forever*, an effort to tackle climate change by combining professional theater with the sciences and arts on campus. This spring, the first two public events of the three-year pilot project took place in Princeton.

The joint effort by the Lewis Center for the Arts, the High Meadows Environmental Institute (HMEI), and New York City-based theater company *The Civilians* aims to bring artists and hard and social scientists together to produce effective yet digestible environmental storytelling. Its name comes from a quote by a former Canadian mayor who said society will be dealing with climate change for “the next forever.”

As environmental research comes under attack, “creative storytelling ... will continue to be important ... for expanding human understanding and connection to environmental themes/issues,” HMEI Executive Director Katharine Hackett ’79 told PAW via email.

Marion Friedman Young ’00, executive director of the Lewis Center, added, “In the midst of cuts across the board within the sciences and humanities, finding bridges between the two, which I think this program does so well, also feels incredibly important.”

The Next Forever launched in June 2023, but the roots date back to 2009-10, when playwright Steve Cosson and the late composer Michael Friedman, both of whom were with *The Civilians*, came to what is now HMEI as Barron Visiting Professors in the environment and the humanities. Their environmentally

“When I pitched this project, I was like, ‘This is one of my crazier ideas.’ So, I am grateful for the investment and the risk-taking.”

— ARIDY NOX
2023-24 artist-in-residence

COMMON GROUND

Kareem Fahmy, left, and AriDy Nox take center stage to share details of their environmental works-in-progress on April 21 at the Lewis Center.

themed musical, *The Great Immensity*, which has a song titled “The Next Forever,” premiered in Princeton in 2009 and later ran in New York.

“We saw the potential. We saw the excitement. We saw what [*The Great Immensity*] brought to campus,” said Hackett. But those involved also realized “we could take it further.”

Cosson, now a visiting lecturer in theater and artistic director of *The Civilians*, is carrying forward what he and Friedman, who died in 2017, started. He works in tandem with Hackett and Friedman’s sister, Young, who previously was managing director of *The Civilians*.

“Personally, that I get to bring my brother’s voice back into the room ... to call back his memory is a very nice, unique thing,” said Young. “He’d really like that we’re doing this.”

Since the summer of 2023, two “theater makers,” in the University’s words, per year have been awarded commissions for original environmentally focused works; they also spend time on campus as artists-in-residence.

AriDy Nox, one of the first two artists selected, told PAW their two weeks at Princeton greatly influenced their work, *Why Y’all Hate Earth So Bad?* HMEI arranged conversations with environmental experts on campus, and those interactions led to more interviews with students, postdocs, and faculty, according to Nox. After every interview, their work evolved.

Nox also attended University events and said one breakthrough occurred after they saw a poster for a talk on participatory design, a topic that looked “vaguely related,” which ended up becoming “so baked into the piece.”

On April 21, Nox and Kareem Fahmy, the other 2023-24 artist-in-residence, spoke about their progress at a public presentation.

Rather than a staged production, Nox expects their end product will be a guidebook on how to organize hyper-locally focused workshops that ask attendees to imagine themselves as ancestors who must explain the state of the world to their future descendants. Nox hopes scientific experts will be included in each session.

"When I pitched this project, I was like, 'This is one of my crazier ideas,'" Nox told PAW of The Next Forever commission. "So, I am grateful for the investment and the risk-taking."

"I didn't just want to do the thing I could do without a commission; I wanted to do something that's very ambitious," Fahmy said at the event.

Eight actors read about 40 minutes of Fahmy's 140-page, fully drafted play, *Riparian Rights*, about water scarcity around the Nile River. He plans to continue researching and rewriting.

Nox, Fahmy, and the 2024-25 artists-in-residence — Kate Tarker and Kate Douglas — have also been guest speakers for an environmental storytelling course co-taught by Cosson that tasks students with writing environmental works.

Collin Guedel '26, a geosciences major who took the class when it was first offered in spring 2024, told PAW at the time that one of the biggest challenges is to "get people inspired to action, hoping your audience listens and feels like they can do something, while also ... not making it a blame game" of individuals.

"These are complicated, and in many ways, threatening topics," said Hackett.

Earlier in April, McCarter Theatre held a workshop for *The Gulf*, a play Cosson is writing using verbatim quotes from interviews he conducted with people affected by industrial pollution. Afterward, Cosson and Eric Tate, a professor of public affairs at the School of Public and International Affairs who studies water resources and disasters, discussed climate change and The Next Forever.

"Scientific terms ... don't resonate," Tate said. "This is why I think art is, storytelling is, so critical." ■

IN SHORT

McCarter Theatre Center was notified in early May that the **National Endowment for the Arts** (NEA) has rescinded thousands of dollars in grants from the performing arts center as a result of the Trump administration's cost-cutting initiatives. The news came on the heels of a reduction in state funding, and the combination of cuts totals more than \$200,000 this year. McCarter, a nonprofit organization independent of the University, has a \$16.5 million operating budget for fiscal year 2025. Martin Miller, McCarter's executive director, told PAW that the cuts might seem inconsequential in that context, "but when you're a performing arts organization ... your capacity to take risks and grow is always defined by the margins." The NEA also rescinded a grant to Princeton University

Concerts that had been awarded to support its "Healing with Music" series.

Alumni elected three **University trustees** to four-year terms, beginning July 1: James Lee '86 of Los Angeles, an artist and the president of DC Comics; Anthony D. So '86 of Baltimore, a professor at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; and Robert Long '79 of Peachtree Corners, Georgia, a former executive at Kimberly-Clark, Coca-Cola, and Procter & Gamble. Gil Joseph '25, a sociology major from Port-au-Prince, Haiti, was elected Young Alumni Trustee in a vote by the classes of '23, '24, '25, and '26.

First-year Princeton graduate student Albert Qin and incoming graduate student April Qiu Cheng were among 19 recipients of this year's **Hertz Fellowships** in applied science, mathematics, and engineering. Fellows receive a stipend and full tuition support valued at more than \$250,000. Qin is based in the physics department; Cheng is joining the astrophysics department in the fall. ■

IN MEMORIAM

Edmund White, a creative writing professor whose novels and memoirs earned him acclaim as a pioneer in gay literature, died June 3. He was 85. White published more than 30 books in a span of five decades and received the Visionary Award from Lambda



Literary in 2018. He also helped found the nonprofit Gay Men's Health Crisis in the early years of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. At Princeton, White joined the faculty in 1998, headed the creative writing program from 2002 to '06, and transferred to emeritus status in 2018. He delivered the keynote address at the 2013 Every Voice conference, the University's first affinity conference for LGBTQ+ alumni.

Lisa Brown-Miller, a championship women's hockey coach at Princeton who later won an Olympic gold medal playing for the United States, died May 2 at age 58. Brown-Miller coached the Tigers for five seasons, winning Ivy League



titles in 1991-92 and 1994-95. According to a release from the Concussion Legacy Foundation, Brown-Miller died by suicide and her family donated her brain to the Boston University Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy Center to aid the study of degenerative brain disease among female athletes in contact sports.

Joan Lippincott, a performer and teacher who served as the principal organist at the University Chapel from 1993 to 2000, died May 31 at age 89. Lippincott taught at nearby Westminster Choir College (her alma mater), performed more than 600 recitals in the U.S. and abroad, and recorded more than 20 albums of organ music.



Linda Mahler, a former residential college administrator and University fundraiser, died March 14 at age 73. Mahler, an honorary member of the Class of 1992, was well known to students at Butler College and later joined the Annual Giving office, where her work sometimes included reconnecting with alumni she'd first met as freshmen, according to a family obituary. ■





FACULTY

Not Just ‘Retired’

The varied and vibrant lives of emeritus professors

BY FAITH HO '27

IN THE LAB OR IN THE OFFICE from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. daily: This is what retirement looks like for Eric Wieschaus, Nobel laureate and emeritus professor of molecular biology. “I basically live in the lab,” he quipped.

Wieschaus is getting around to all the experiments he was interested in, without the administrative workload of running a lab. “I haven’t retired from who I am or what I want to do,” he said. “I haven’t retired from being a scientist.”

Contrary to the stereotypes of retirement, many of Princeton’s emeritus professors continue to keep up active engagement with their community, in or beyond the University. For them, retiring is merely an evolution and expansion of their interests.

Professors of science often continue their research work for years after retirement, though Wieschaus is more active than most. George Mellor, who transferred to emeritus in 1995, continued his research on physical

oceanography for years afterward, publishing his most recent journal article only five years ago — 25 years after retirement.

Beyond research, some emeritus professors engage in teaching. Former School of Public and International Affairs professor Frank von Hippel taught a task force on avoiding nuclear war in 2023, seven years after “retiring.” The

“Every human wants to be useful and wants to have an impact.

By retiring, I don’t feel necessarily that I give up the membership in that club [the Department of Molecular Biology].”

— ERIC WIESCHAUS

Nobel laureate and emeritus professor of molecular biology

LIFE IN THE LAB

Like many of Princeton’s emeritus faculty, biologist Eric Wieschaus maintains an active research presence.

collaborative nature of professors’ work often means extended engagement on projects, or wrapping up advising for graduate students. Von Hippel, always an activist, continues to work actively in the Physicists Coalition for Nuclear Threat Reduction.

Other retirees pursue personal projects. Rena Lederman, a professor of anthropology at Princeton until transferring to emeritus status in 2024, was most excited about getting to projects sitting on the shelf for almost 20 years. These include research and writing but also hobbies. She now pursues sewing and Talavera, a Mexican ceramic art, which she had learned but never fully delved into when busy working and raising her family. “I want to open up a space to pay attention to other parts of my life that were really pushed out of the scene for a very long time,” she said.

For other professors, intellectual interests have taken them into other communities. Deborah Nord, who retired in 2020 from the English department, was invited to join the lecture committee at the Princeton Adult School. She has recently completed an online literature lecture series. Mellor, who lives in a retirement community in Connecticut, has created a mini politics group where he discusses issues of the day with people from the whole spectrum of political beliefs.

Despite the perks of retirement, the transition isn’t always easy. Many of the professors who spoke with PAW said they miss certain parts of teaching, such as working with colleagues and students.

The psychological shift is often the hardest. “I was doing basically what I wanted to do when I was teaching [at Princeton],” Lederman said. While some people see retirement as the chance to finally do what they enjoy, professors often have already found that in their careers.

JOHN EMERSON

Emeritus Faculty

Fourteen professors and advanced lecturers transferred to emeritus status at the end of the 2024-25 academic year after serving on the faculty for more than 400 years combined:

Stanley Allen *88, architecture

Mark Beissinger, politics

Michael Cadden, theater

Michael Celia *83, civil and environmental engineering

Michael Cook, Near Eastern studies

Janet Currie *88, economics and public affairs

Anthony Grafton, history

Paul Muldoon, creative writing

Deborah Prentice, psychology and public affairs

Volker Schröder, French and Italian

Annabella Selloni, chemistry

Michael Smith, philosophy

Sankaran Sundaresan, chemical and biological engineering

Emily Thompson *92, history

"It's an overwhelming change to no longer have this particular professional identity," Nord said. "It affects the sense of what you are and your ego."

Still, many find renewed purpose as retired professors.

"I feel that if I have any role as a citizen or retired person, it is to defend the role of the humanities in university education," Nord said. "Now, even more urgently, to defend the role of universities in society."

"Every human wants to be useful and wants to have an impact," Wieschaus said. "By retiring, I don't feel necessarily that I give up the membership in that club [the Department of Molecular Biology]." Wieschaus hopes that by being in the laboratory, he's also able to give perspective, both scientifically and personally, as well as be a sounding board for ideas.

"I think that is the job of emeritus professors, is to just kind of be around." **P**

CLASS CLOSE-UP

Students Partner on Tech Projects Designed to Help Workers

NEWSTORIES EXPLORING "the future of work" often focus on the jobs that may be displaced as artificial intelligence plays a growing role in the economy. But Andrés Monroy-Hernández, an assistant professor of computer science and co-leader of Princeton's Human Computer Interaction Lab, is more interested in the way technology is shaping the experiences of low-income workers today. If you earn a living in the gig economy, he said, "you don't have a human boss — your boss is the algorithm."

Monroy-Hernández's seminar course, Designing the Future of Work, digs into some of the tech-related issues workers encounter and tries to address them through team projects with partner organizations. In the spring semester, the class drew 10 students, mostly from the social sciences and computer science, and they hit the ground running, learning about potential projects on the first day of classes and then completing a form to share their skills and interests, which Monroy-Hernández used to organize teams.

One group was paired with a workers' co-op in Africa that aims to improve conditions for the people who do data labeling and content moderation for tech giants such as OpenAI and Meta. When talking with tech executives about the co-op model, Monroy-Hernández said, the students learned that their best chance at success was to make a business case for their members (such as their experience, the quality of their work, or their familiarity with legal requirements like nondisclosure agreements).

Another group collaborated with Drivers Union in Washington state to decipher data from legal cases involving rideshare drivers who believe



MONROY-HERNÁNDEZ

they've been unfairly deactivated from platforms such as Uber and Lyft. Their insights could give union lawyers a better sense of which challenges are most likely to succeed. And a third group helped the nonprofit Workers Lab create tools to track changes on the websites of government agencies such as the Department of Labor, providing useful information for worker advocates.

Nadine Allache '26, a Near Eastern studies major who is interested in entrepreneurship, said she was attracted to the class by the idea of technology that is designed to empower. Guest speakers and readings gave her insight into the gig economy, and the group project turned her focus to design thinking and teamwork.

"It almost felt like two classes happening at once," Allache said. "But looking back on it, it really did go hand in hand."

Monroy-Hernández said the group projects give students real-world examples to carry with them as they begin their own job interviews. The course's aim, he said, is to get them thinking about "the ethical implications of ... existing platforms and also the kinds of work that you could do to mitigate those challenges." **P** By B.T.



ADMINISTRATION

How Does Princeton's Endowment Work?

An overview of the much-discussed funds that support two-thirds of the University's operating budget

BY HOPE PERRY '24 AND BRETT TOMLINSON

PRINCETON'S ENDOWMENT is back in the spotlight. Valued at \$34.1 billion at last count, about a year ago, it may soon be subject to a 21% tax on net investment returns being pushed by the Republican-led Congress.

Each time university endowments become a hot-button issue here or nationwide, misconceptions abound. This time, PAW is here to help by rounding up some common questions — and getting the answers.

How did Princeton's endowment get to be so big?

The first endowment at Princeton was established in the 18th century to provide student scholarships. Alumni have donated to the University ever since. But it wasn't until the presidency of Bill Bowen *58 (1972-88), when the endowment more than tripled, that it loomed so large. Bowen's term coincided with a revolution in University investing as schools across the country tried to diversify their portfolios. During this period the trustees

also established Princto in 1988 to manage the endowment.

Although Princeton is also known for its high donor participation rate — with 45% of undergraduate alumni donating to Annual Giving in 2024 — this isn't necessarily a metric that measures endowment growth. Gifts to the endowment — also known as capital gifts — are separate from the smaller donations that many alumni give.

Over the past decade, Princeton's endowment has had an average return of 9.2% per year, reaching \$34.1 billion last July. Harvard has the biggest endowment at \$51.9 billion, but Princeton ranks first in dollars per student at about \$4 million per undergrad.

How is the endowment used?

According to the University, about two-thirds of the University's \$2.9 billion operating budget in 2024-25 was covered by endowment funds. Within that budget are costs related to faculty, staff, construction, and facilities maintenance.

The endowment also pays for 70% of financial aid costs for undergraduate students.

Why doesn't Princeton withdraw more from the endowment?

More than half of the endowment is restricted, meaning gifts can't be spent but can be invested, and those returns are what the University taps. In addition, 70% is set aside to be used strictly for the donor's purpose, such as scholarships or a faculty chair.

In general, the endowment continues to grow because the University spends about the same percentage each year. According to the 2023-24 Report of the Treasurer, that amount equaled about 5% that year. If Princeton were to spend substantially more than that percentage over an extended period, the endowment would likely shrink. As the report notes, the trustees decide each year how much to spend — usually between 4% and 6.25%.

OK, but in times of need or extraordinary circumstances, can't Princeton take more money out of the endowment and use it to fill a shortfall?

The trustees can and have spent a greater percentage in a given year. For example, when the pandemic disrupted University operations in 2020-21, President Christopher Eisgruber '83 announced that the spending rate was likely to be more than 6% but that such spending over a longer period would not be sustainable. The University made similar spending adjustments in 2008-09 and 2009-10, during a period of global recession, while also enacting significant budget cuts.

The University could use endowment funds to pay for research impacted by the current federal funding pauses. Northwestern University announced in April that it would do just that. However, as Phillip Levine *90, an economics professor at Wellesley, points out, the endowment isn't a "piggy bank," and you can't simply take money out. A large part of the endowment isn't liquid.

The endowment is structured to be able to sustain large one-time losses,

such as in 2008. As Eisgruber explained to *The New York Times* in April:

“What we are looking at is how best we can use resources to preserve the core mission of the University We said we’re going to protect three things that are critical to what it is we do. That’s our teaching, our research, and our affordability and access to the University. And we’re going to find ways to change other parts of our operation, to draw upon other resources, to allow for temporary increases to our endowment spend rate in order to get us through this period We can do that kind of thing, again, with ‘temporary’ being an important word in there.”

What would happen if Congress passes an increase on the endowment tax?

In PAW’s March issue, Christopher Connell ’71 explored this question. The current endowment tax is 1.4% on endowment returns for colleges with more than 500 students and at least \$500,000 in endowment funds per student. Conservative politicians have proposed taxes ranging from 10% to 35%.

When PAW revisited the issue with Levine, he explained the possible consequences of such a measure. A university — even one like Princeton — doesn’t have an infinite budget. So when push comes to shove, in a situation with less financial certainty, the University will need to make decisions about the best choices to make with its money.

“If you think about the things that the college spends its money on, you’ve got lots of faculty and staff, right? You can lay off some of them, but a lot of them have contracts ... but you have to spend that money [on employees]. It’s a fixed expense. You have ongoing research labs that need to be funded. It’s very difficult to just cut those off cold turkey. They’re sort of fixed. Your facilities are your facilities. You have to maintain them, right?” The real tuition cost to students — often called access — is among the only “flexible” expenses.

Some universities have more to lose than others with a tax on endowments because of how much federal research funding they receive, as well as how

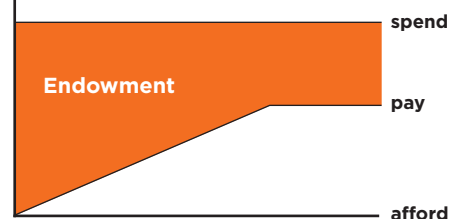
much money they spend per student. Princeton makes the top five, according to a ranking by Levine in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

How could access to Princeton change if the endowment shrinks?

Levine showed PAW a graph (see replica at right) and explained the function of the endowment in allowing students access to the University.

“You have, like, a pretty high sticker price But not everyone pays that. If you’re low income, you don’t pay anything,” he explained, indicating the point on the graph where the x and y axes meet.

“So if you can’t afford anything at Princeton, you pay almost nothing. Right as your financial resources increase, you pay more and more and more until eventually you get to full pay,” he said. It’s the endowment that fills in this gap and creates access for students from lower incomes.



In talking with *The Times*, Eisgruber suggested tough choices could have to be made, for example, between funding research and giving financial aid. “At some point, you get to really tough choices about, how good does your financial aid program have to be in order to be able to sustain the research that you do?”

In early April, Princeton’s trustees approved “preliminary budget parameters” for 2025-26, according to a news release, projecting increases in undergraduate financial aid (up 8% to \$306 million) and graduate stipends (up 7% to \$365 million). ■



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PUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

SPIA Undergraduates Advocate for Change in UN Presentations

BY JULIE BONETTE

FOR THE THIRD STRAIGHT YEAR, students in the School of Public and International Affairs were headed to Geneva, Switzerland, in late June to present original research and recommendations to the United Nations, developed in the school's yearlong Policy Advocacy Clinic (PAC) course.

Modeled after law school clinics, PAC is an alternative to the policy task force requirement for juniors majoring in public and international affairs. In the three years since the course launched, students have also developed bipartisan policy recommendations for partners such as the American Civil Liberties Union and members of Congress.

Though the fall semester is essentially a typical course — students study policymaking in a traditional classroom format — work is geared toward projects that students will dive into the following semester in small groups.

The goal is “not to simply engage in academic exercise” but rather to “support an ongoing advocacy campaign that will have real-world impact,” said Udi Ofer, PAC founder and director. Ofer is a Weinberg Visiting Professor and lecturer of public and international

affairs, as well as a former longtime attorney for the ACLU.

According to Ofer, “The clinic has developed a reputation now. People have heard of it. I get lobbied by outside organizations saying, ‘Hey, will your students work on this?’”

This year, two projects focused on criminal justice and two were technology-based; Mihir Kshirsagar, clinic lead for the Center for Information Technology Policy, helped advise the tech groups.

Ofer makes clear from the application process that an above average workload will be expected, but demand is so strong that the cohort has expanded from nine to 16 students.

Sophie Glaser '26 wasn't scared away.

“For all the work and all the tough times, I think it's an experience you're really not going to get elsewhere,” she said.

Glaser said PAC felt meaningful even during the fall. “I'm not taking notes just because I'm going to have some tests coming up; I'm taking notes because these are actual skills that I'm going to need when I'm working on my project in the spring,” she said.

During the spring, the class seldom

GLOBAL THINKING

SPIA students visited the U.N. in Geneva in 2024. A group from this year's class was slated to make the trip in late June.

met as a whole — groups mostly worked independently.

At the end of the semester, each group gave an in-class presentation and submitted a final paper. Glaser and her three groupmates produced a 268-page report on the U.S.'s compliance with the U.N. Convention Against Torture. The work continued after exams as they refined handouts, practiced their presentation, and kept abreast of related news in preparation for their meeting with the U.N. Office of the High Commissioner and the U.N. Human Rights Council this summer.

Aishwarya Swamidurai '26, a member of Glaser's group, said she felt the final presentations “sort of acted as a midpoint,” but said hearing “about our classmates' work and what they've been up to made me really proud to be a part of the class.”

A second group traveling to Geneva was set to present to the U.N. Refugees Agency recommendations on how the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees can safely utilize artificial intelligence.

Of last year's Geneva trip, Jennifer Melo '25, part of the 2023-24 cohort, said, “The rooms we were in, the places, the people — it was such a privilege and an honor.”

Bitu Jalalian '25, who presented in Geneva last summer after working with the ACLU, said one highlight of the course “was just how much power [the ACLU] gave us as the students. It was really like we were in the drivers' seats, and they were just there to guide us and support us.”

This year's other PAC groups focused on state and domestic policy. One group produced a 581-page research memo on Republican-led criminal justice reform efforts over the past 25 years in the Southern U.S. and presented at the Louisiana State Capitol to the House Republican Caucus and the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus. Another presented recommendations on online age verification methods to the New York Attorney General. ■



FROM LEFT: COENE '25, SELTZER '25, SCATCHARD '25, ROSINI '25, POZARIC '25, MUDASHIRU '25, ZHAO '25, AND JOHN MACK '00

SENIOR AWARDS

Record-Setters Mena Scatchard, Roko Pozaric Named Top Athletes

P RINCETON ATHLETICS had a landmark year in 2024-25, winning an unprecedented 17 Ivy League championships and capturing a national title in early June when the women's lightweight crew rowed to victory in Camden, New Jersey. The senior athletes honored at the Gary Walters '67 Princeton Varsity Club Awards Banquet on May 22 made major contributions to that run of success.

Mena Scatchard '25, who won the Von Kienbusch Award, presented to the top women's athlete, was part of three Ivy championship teams (cross country and indoor and outdoor track and field) and finished runner-up in the mile at the NCAA Indoor Championships. She completed her career as the Princeton record holder in five different distances.

Roko Pozaric '25, who won the Roper Trophy as the top men's athlete, set a Princeton water polo career record with 281 goals. He led the Tigers to the NCAA quarterfinals as a senior and won four straight Northeast Water Polo Conference titles.

The Chris Sailer Leadership Award, for

athletes who demonstrate exceptional leadership and a commitment to serving others, went to Mia Coene '25, a two-year captain of women's ice hockey, and Thomas Rosini '25, a two-year captain of men's squash.

Caroline Zhao '25, a coxswain for the men's lightweight crew and chemical and biological engineering major, won the Class of 1916 Cup, awarded to the senior letter-winner with the highest academic standing. Issa Mudashiru '25 (men's soccer) and Maddie Seltzer '25 (women's swimming and diving) shared the Art Lane '34 Award for selfless contribution to sport and society. The softball team received the Ford Tiger Game Changers Award for volunteer work in the local community.

Kara Nortman '97, a rowing alumna who invests in women's sports franchises as a managing partner of Monarch Collective, was this year's Class of 1967 PVC Citizen-Athlete Award honoree, and Momo Wolapaye, assistant dean for student life at Whitman College, was honored with the Marvin Bressler Award.

By B.T.



MOREY

COACHING CHANGES

Morey, Crotty '98 Step Down

VETERAN COACHES Cara Morey (women's ice hockey) and Marty Crotty '98 (men's lightweight rowing) resigned in late May and early June, respectively.

Morey, who will become general manager of the Professional Women's Hockey League's expansion franchise in Vancouver, spent 14 years on the Princeton women's hockey staff, serving as head coach for the last seven. Her 2019-20 team was the first in program history to win the ECAC Tournament, though its postseason was cut short when the NCAA Tournament was canceled due to COVID. The Tigers also received an NCAA berth in 2018-19.

Crotty has had a place in the Princeton boathouse for most of



CROTTY '98

the past three decades, first as a heavyweight rower, then as an assistant coach, and, for the last 15 years, as head coach of the

men's lightweights. His crews won two IRA national championships, in 2010 and 2023. Crotty plans to pursue other professional opportunities, according to a news release.

The University announced national searches to fill both roles. **P** By B.T.

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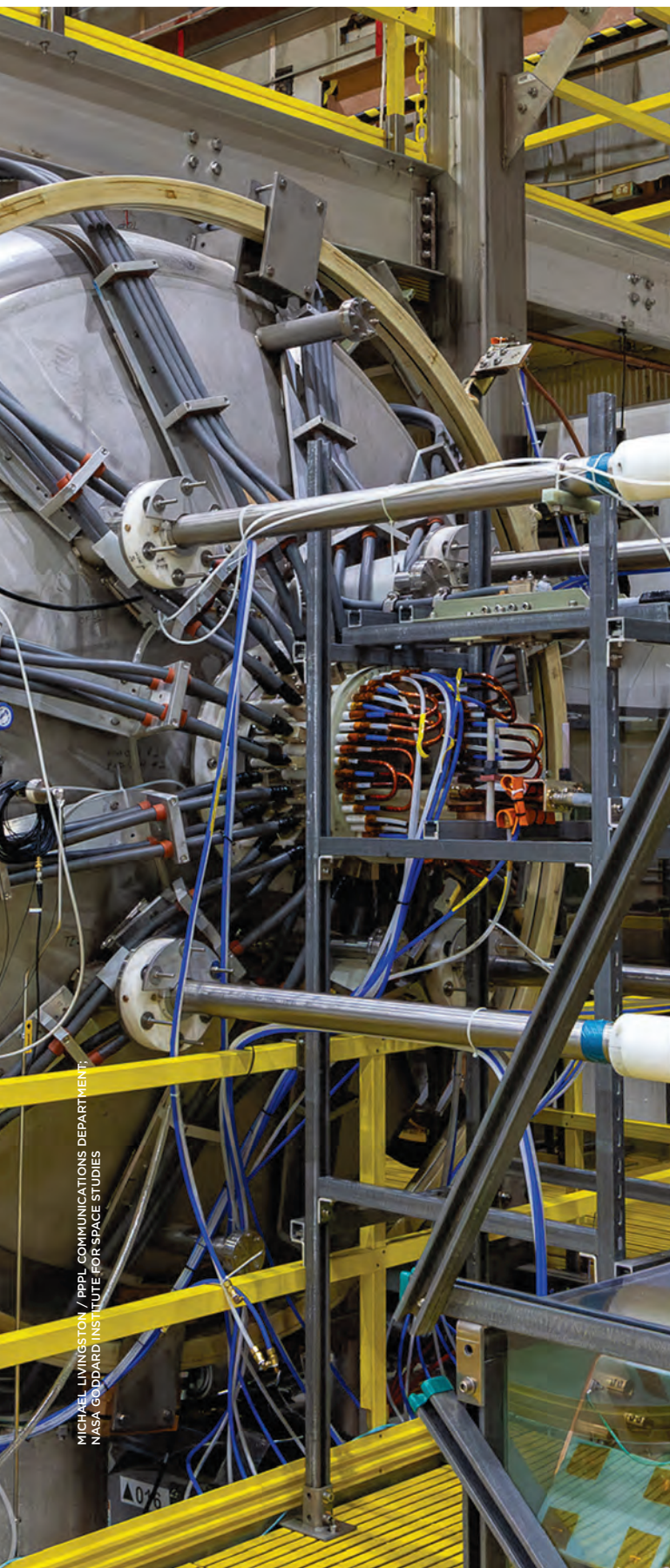
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RESEARCH

ADVANCING THE FRONTIERS OF KNOWLEDGE



FORWARD FUSION

*The Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory (PPPL) hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 12 to celebrate the start of operations of the Facility for Laboratory Reconnection Experiments (FLARE). FLARE, pictured left, is a large machine designed to explore the physics behind magnetic reconnection, one of the most fundamental processes in plasma, which causes solar flares, at right. Led by Principal Investigator Hantao Ji, FLARE was largely funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, Princeton, and a National Science Foundation Major Research Instrumentation grant. "I expect FLARE to produce important insights for plasma science in the coming years, and I just can't wait," PPPL Director Steve Cowley *85 said at the ceremony.*

MICHAEL LIVINGSTON / PPPL COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT,
NASA GODDARD INSTITUTE FOR SPACE STUDIES



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Grad Students Grapple with Fear and Frustration

BY CARLETT SPIKE

HALTS ON NEW VISA INTERVIEWS, expanded ICE raids, and travel bans are just a few of the Trump administration tactics that have created an environment of fear and frustration for international students on college campuses across the country. At Princeton, international graduate students have faced a semester of uncertainty as policies are frequently changing and their options to continue their studies and research work remain unclear.

"This year was a very difficult one, and everyone is expecting things to become much worse next year," says one graduate student who is from one of the countries restricted by the travel ban enacted in early June. The student says they've been left wondering "what will be the point where I won't feel safe anymore?" PAW spoke to three international graduate students who requested anonymity to avoid retribution.

All say they had to cancel travel plans abroad due to concerns about their abilities to reenter the country. And they all expressed concern about their topics of research making them targets — especially if their electronic devices were subject to search at an airport. In early June, two were also experiencing visa-related issues and were unsure if they would be able to obtain the proper forms to extend their student status.

Similar feelings were reported more broadly in a survey of 68 international students representing 22 countries conducted by Princeton's Graduate

Student Government. It found 97% reported feeling anxious, and 53% said the situation has impacted their academic progress and/or research activities.

This is "a really, really horrible and totally ridiculous situation where the administration is targeting the students really for no good reason whatsoever," says David Bell, a professor of history.

According to the Davis International Center's 2023-24 data, 2,318 international students were enrolled at Princeton, making up 23% of the student body. Nearly 50% of those international students are pursuing graduate degrees. Of the graduate student population, international students make up 42% and the top countries represented are China, Canada, India, and South Korea.

Students are grappling with a range of questions. Is international travel worth the risk? Should they self-deport? Could they continue their research remotely if they are stranded abroad? Is it more prudent to continue their studies elsewhere?

To address these concerns, the University has offered resources. "The Davis IC is connecting directly with those impacted by recent federal actions and providing personalized guidance, in addition to also engaging with the broader international community to share timely updates and insights as the situation develops. We recognize that these changes and the uncertainty they bring can be unsettling. We will continue to provide

updates as more information becomes available and encourage international students and scholars to reach out to their Davis IC adviser if they have any questions or concerns," University spokesperson Jennifer Morrill said in a statement to PAW.

Professors are also trying to offer

support but note the situation has taken its toll. "I think it's really unfair to [students], and it takes away from their research and takes time away from their studies, and it has a negative impact on the whole University enterprise," says Meredith Martin, a professor of English.

While she's observed great efforts by staff and faculty members, she feels the University system is overwhelmed. "We just simply do not have the boots on the ground to supply our students with an adequate kind of scaffolding or infrastructure for getting the right kind of legal counsel quickly, and that's been really hard to navigate," she says, adding that Princeton's alumni network could potentially offer some additional support.

Jeremy Zullo '17, an attorney who has been working with students, agrees. During Reunions, he moderated a panel discussion on the complicated climate for international students in the U.S. and the possible implications.

Given the recent attempts by the Trump administration to block international students from attending Harvard, Zullo says he believes universities will need to stand up and do more. "I think universities like Princeton, in anticipating similar actions being taken against them, need to start preparing to handle these matters on the university scale, rather than leaving them to this sort of case-by-case basis."

In the meantime, international graduate students are forced to wait and see what happens next. ■



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GRAHAM READ '15

GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Alums in Liquid Biopsy Cancer Research Face Funding Cuts

BY SUSAN RESLEWIC KEATLEY '99

IN LATE FEBRUARY, Graham Read '15 was looking forward to an article featuring his work on early prostate cancer detection coming out in the next Princeton Alumni Weekly. He did not expect that around the same time, the website for his post-doctoral program would disappear, and ultimately the program, funded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences — one of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) — would be cut.

What is happening to Read is happening to scientists all over the country, as more research grants are cut, funding renewals go unprocessed, and academic institutions embark on hiring freezes to cope with uncertainty. “What we can say today and has been true since [the Trump] administration started — the theme is uncertainty,” says Monica Bertagnolli '81, who resigned in January from her post as director of the NIH.

PAW spoke again with two of the

scientists — Read and Chloe Atreya '98 — whose work was highlighted in the March feature story about early cancer detection to find out how the new research funding landscape is affecting them. Both Read and Atreya work on liquid biopsy, a blood test that detects cancer-specific DNA and RNA.

After receiving his Ph.D. in 2023 in molecular biology at UCLA, Read took a position as postdoctoral fellow at the University of Illinois Cancer Center, sponsored by an Institutional Research and Academic Career Development Award (IRACDA). The IRACDA program specifically supports scientists who also strive to be outstanding teachers; Read's program was set up as a 75/25 research-to-teaching split. Until recently, the IRACDA program supported approximately 200 scientists at U.S. academic institutions. “We weren't given any reason behind the program cut beyond 'shifting institutional

priorities,” says Read, “though the program itself contained language about a diverse workforce.” Since the academic institution applies for an IRACDA award independent of what research the fellows work on, the people who cut Read's program likely didn't know they cut prostate cancer research.

Read happened to be near the end of two years as a postdoc, so he decided to job hunt. While he loves doing research and teaching, he focused his search on positions that prioritize teaching because, he says, “I don't feel like there's much research infrastructure left right now.” He is disappointed to have to move away from biology research. “You get to be the first person who sees something, and that is so exciting,” he says. But he says he hopes that in his new teaching-focused position, as a visiting assistant professor in the biology department at Macalester College, he can help his students learn as much as possible.

Will someone else continue with his prostate cancer early detection research? Read says he hopes so, but that this is not the only funding difficulty the lab faces. “When you have people who have built specialist expertise, you need them to keep moving things forward.” Beyond the lab, Read worries about the effects of the IRACDA cuts on teaching in the wider academic community. “Many of us fellows taught at community colleges or minority-serving institutions,” he says. His own teaching was at Governors State University, a nearby community college. “They ran courses that they wouldn't have been able to otherwise because IRACDA fellows came to teach one class per semester each for them.”

Atreya is a gastrointestinal oncologist

at the UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center and also the director of mentoring and faculty development for the Division of Hematology and Oncology. She says that while federal funding cuts impact research, the impacts are most felt by trainees and junior faculty. Grants have been terminated because someone is in an underrepresented group or because the project involves an international



CHLOE ATREYA '98

collaboration. “It would be one thing to change the priority of prospective grants, but the fact that they are terminating existing grants that are actively supporting people is pretty devastating,” she says.

Atreya worries most about the people who are at the end of years of training and are pivoting to industry or becoming clinicians without a research component. “I mentored a superstar whose dream job was to be a statistician at the FDA — she ended up getting that job but decided to move to Europe. Our graduating fellows are on the cusp of launching their careers, and we may lose excellent researchers.”

UCSF has responded to the uncertainty with a hiring freeze, which, among other things, affects clinical trial recruitment, including liquid biopsy trials. “We were in ‘growth mode,’” Atreya says, “and now we are in ‘we’re not sure’ mode.” In terms of her own group, she says it recently submitted a grant proposal to the American Cancer Society, rather than to the NIH. “We are also establishing new collaborations for liquid biopsy work with nongovernmental entities and joining international consortiums.”

“We have never before seen this kind of withdrawal from research funding,” says Bertagnolli. Most of the money goes to continuing grants that support five- or seven-year research programs, she says, and now researchers are seeing grants cut in the second, third, or fourth year. “When those cuts happen, you often lose

“It would be one thing to change the priority of prospective grants, but the fact that they are terminating existing grants that are actively supporting people is pretty devastating,”


— DR. CHLOE ATREYA '98

Gastrointestinal oncologist, UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

everything you have invested,” she says.

Long-term investment has resulted in the ability to use cell-free DNA to detect and guide the treatment of cancer. “Like so much that NIH funds, this kind of work [on liquid biopsy] is fundamental,” says Bertagnolli. “It’s been under development for a long time and is now really starting to show benefits that matter to patients.”

Atreya says she thinks about what is happening in the way she thinks about cancer itself. “We are losing the tumor suppressor genes safeguarding research funding,” she says. “It will take a long time to rebuild after this leveling.”

Bertagnolli adds, “I do have optimism. There are still people in this country who care and cherish the NIH. I hope that we go through this recalibration period quickly, and then we can move forward.” 

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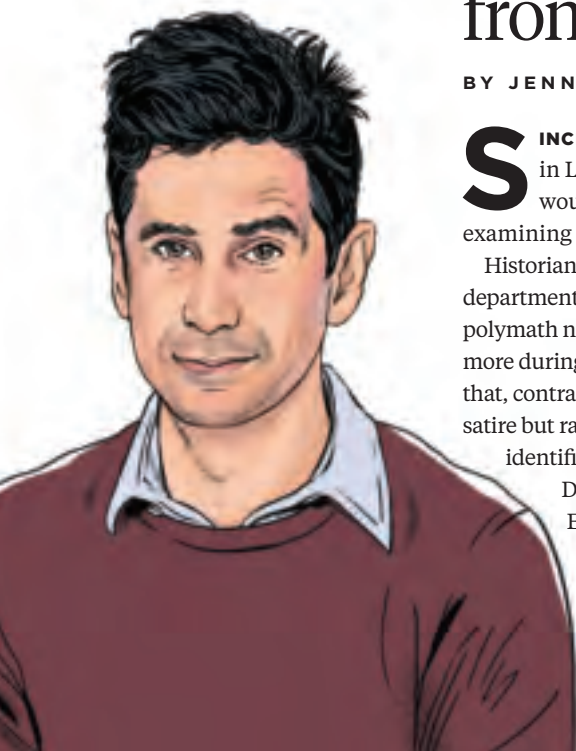
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BEHIND THE RESEARCH: FARA DABHOIWALA

Unraveling Historical Mysteries from the 18th Century

BY JENNIFER ALTMANN



SINCE 1928, AN 18TH-CENTURY PORTRAIT OF A BLACK MAN has been hanging in London's Victoria and Albert Museum, but its meaning puzzled scholars. Why would someone in the 1700s paint a Black man who is dressed as a gentleman and is examining a book related to Isaac Newton?

Historian Fara Dabhoiwala believes he has solved the mystery. A lecturer in Princeton's history department, Dabhoiwala became fascinated with the painting's subject, a Black Jamaican polymath named Francis Williams. Dabhoiwala's "single-minded, obsessive pursuit" of finding out more during the pandemic led him to figure out who painted the work and when, and conclude that, contrary to speculation by scholars, the painting was not a satire but rather "the earliest self-representation in Western art of an identifiable, named Black person as an intellectual."

Dabhoiwala, who is of Indian descent, was born in England and educated in Europe. He was a professor at Oxford for 20 years before moving to the United States in 2016, when he began teaching at Princeton. "Growing up in different cultures and having access to the way people think differently has always helped me remember that historical sources are never neutral; they are shaped by the outlook of those who wrote them."

Quick Facts

TITLE

Senior research scholar and lecturer with the rank of professor in the history department

TIME AT PRINCETON

9 years

UPCOMING CLASS

Histories of Language and Communication

DABHOIWALA'S RESEARCH A SAMPLING



INHERENT IRONY

Dabhoiwala's study of the 18th-century figure Francis Williams grew from an irony: The richest contemporary sources of information about Williams were penned by white supremacists, who wrote about him while arguing that Black people were inherently inferior. They took aim at Williams, a rich gentleman scholar who probably studied at the University of Cambridge, because he was "the most well-known Black

person in the Atlantic world in his lifetime," says Dabhoiwala, who is writing the first-ever biography of Williams. It is critical to study historical figures such as Williams, he points out, because they show us "why the world is how it is today, and the many blind spots and injustices in what we take for granted."



A STORY OF SPEECH


Dabhoiwala's forthcoming book, *What Is Free Speech? The History of a Dangerous*

Idea, explores why the concept of free speech is so fraught. "Free speech is a fundamental Western value. Nonetheless, we can never agree on what it means and where its limits should lie," he says. Examining the purpose of different kinds of speech, Dabhoiwala argues, is one essential question. While it's crucial for speech in the political sphere to not be debased by lies and misinformation, literal truth and accuracy are not the most important concern when defining freedom of expression for art or literature, he points out. "Free speech is often weaponized, and we need better tools for thinking about it," he says. *What Is Free Speech?* will be published in August.

INTIMATE INTERDICTIONS

For much of human history, Western societies enforced strict rules around sexual behavior. All sex outside of marriage was illegal. In New



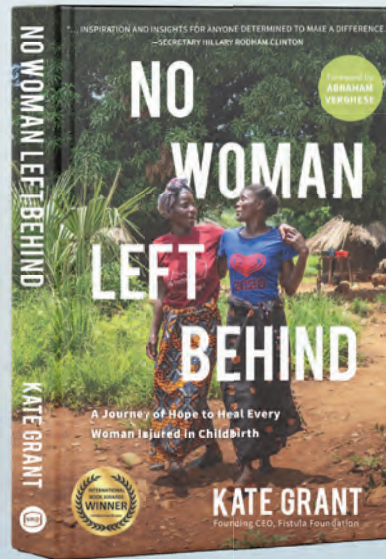
England in the 1650s, people were executed for adultery. But attitudes changed dramatically in the 18th century, Dabhoiwala points out in his 2012 book *The Origins of Sex: A History of the First Sexual Revolution*. "There is a huge change, and people begin believing that consenting adults have the right to do what they like with their bodies," he says. The book traces how these revolutionary ideas took shape, drawing from art, literature, philosophy, and the lives of individuals, and how these concepts continue to shape the world today. 

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

GOOD READS

The Princeton Bookshelf

*2025 Summer Guide to
Princeton University Authors*



"An inspiring and empowering story. Read it!"

—Peter Singer
Professor Emeritus,
Princeton University

"A guidebook to change the world, one woman at a time."

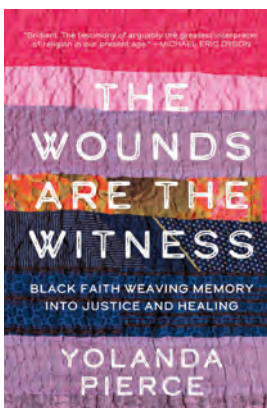
—Dr. Denis Mukwege
Winner of the Nobel Peace Prize

"Inspiration and insights for anyone determined to make a difference."

—Hillary Rodham Clinton
Former US Secretary of State

With a compelling foreword by Abraham Verghese, Kate Grant (*94) tackles the global maternal health crisis head on—helping transform the lives of women in 35 countries.

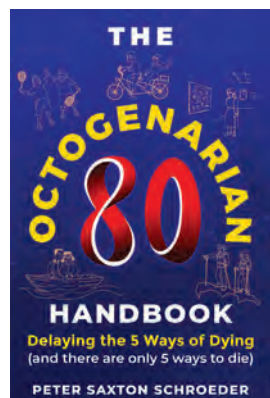
Distributed by Simon and Schuster and published by She Writes Press.



THE WOUNDS ARE THE WITNESS

YOLANDA PIERCE '94

The Wounds Are the Witness uses Black theology, in conversation with the wounds of Black life in America, to argue that memory is a necessary theological tool for healing and justice. Like the doubting disciple who longed to touch Jesus's side, we must intimately acquaint ourselves with each other's wounds.



THE OCTOGENARIAN HANDBOOK

**DELAYING THE 5 WAYS OF DYING
(AND THERE ARE ONLY 5 WAYS TO DIE)
PETER SCHROEDER '62**

How can you steer your life towards longevity? By adopting lifestyle changes and avoiding pitfalls that lead to five ways to die, each described as a single word beginning with "A." Written in a light-hearted style, the book describes how seniors can extend their lives, as well as this inevitable outcome we all face.

Available at Amazon.com.



WHAT HAD HAPPENED WAS

THERÍ PICKENS '05

Pickens's debut collection, *What Had Happened Was*, travels at the speed of thought flowing between what she knows and what she's heard, exploring the places where truth & fables kiss.

Out of the Whirlwind

BY BEVIS LONGSTRETH '56

OUT OF THE WHIRLWIND IS THE STORY OF A YOUNG MAN coming of age in the 1950's in the New York metropolitan area. He struggles with growing ambiguities about sexual identity and stern, unyielding expectations of a dominant father, braided together to form an apparent life of brilliance at law school, clerkship for a Justice of the Supreme Court and practice at a prominent New York City law firm. His life appears charmed, with professional success and a loyal and loving wife and child. In truth he is a man deeply tormented, hiding his homosexual longings in a closet of privilege. The book poignantly captures this torment, through its childhood whispers and growth, followed, ultimately, by the triumph of finally breaking out, falling in love and building a new life.



"The novel asks not only where we belong, but where we want to belong, and at its heart is the story of an aspirational father, the son who wants to please him, and the power they each hold over the other."

— Karen Shepard, author of *Kiss Me Sometime*

available at
amazon



ABOUT THE AUTHOR: The author of four compelling works of historical fiction, BEVIS LONGSTRETH combines his passion for history with a unique, contemporary perspective. His keen eye and incisive pen were honed during his years as a lawyer and his experience serving as a Commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

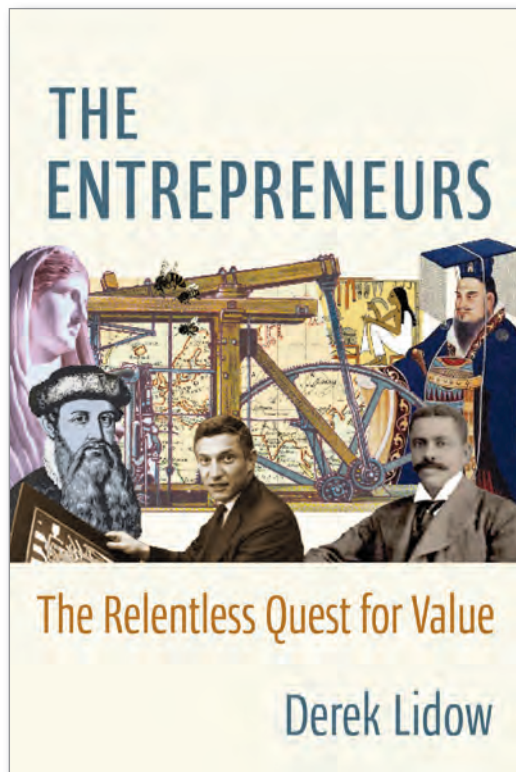


From TIME100 Philanthropy Honoree and Class of '89 Alumnus **HALI LEE**

"Through compelling and diverse stories about the power of giving circles, Hali Lee demonstrates that true philanthropic impact comes from collective action and community engagement."

— **JAMIA WILSON**, award-winning author of *Young, Gifted and Black*





The Entrepreneurs

The Relentless Quest for Value

DEREK LIDOW '73

**Finalist, 2023 George R. Terry Book Award,
Academy of Management**

As far back as we can trace human history, there have been entrepreneurs. Telling the captivating stories of people from many different cultures over thousands of years, he shows how entrepreneurs transform the world through relentless innovation.

"Derek Lidow's intellectual curiosity is infectious! I was dazzled." —Howard E. Aldrich, Kenan Professor of Sociology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill



DEREK LIDOW is a professor of the practice at the Keller Center for Innovation in Engineering Education at Princeton University, where he teaches four highly rated courses on entrepreneurship.

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RAY COLLINS
AUTHOR

raycollinsauthor.com

“With vivid characters, international intrigue, and heart-pounding action from DC to rural Virginia to Geneva, this page-turner will keep you guessing until the very end.”

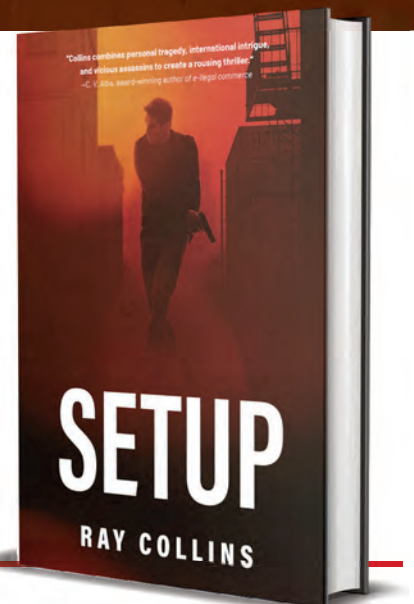
— Jeffrey K. Schmoll, award-winning author of *The Treasure of Tundavala Gap*

Detective Andrew “Book” Booker’s life is shattered after he’s framed for the murder of a Black teenager while pursuing a Most Wanted fugitive in Washington, D.C., leading to his forced resignation and the destruction of his career and family. With the support of Jeb Bronson, his former Special Forces Commander, Book finds work as a detective in rural Jefferson County, Virginia, where Bronson, now retired, leads a powerful military contracting firm. In this seemingly quiet town, Book discovers that the dangers lurking beneath the surface rival those he faced in the big city.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ray Collins grew up in the Midwest. An Army combat veteran, he attended Yale and the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs, earning an MPA, a mid-career fellowship, and a PhD. He was a Japanese language and East Asia specialist with the Department of State and later worked in the poverty program, with a focus on Head Start.



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A SHOUT-OUT FOR REUNIONS

From panels to performances to parties,
a look back at the best damn weekend

BY PETER BARZILAI S'97, MARK F. BERNSTEIN '83, CARLETT SPIKE & BRETT TOMLINSON
PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEVIN BIRCH & BEVERLY SCHAEFER



PANEL PALOOZA

Going to 19 forums in a single day is one thing, but absorbing information along the way is a whole other challenge

BY MARK F. BERNSTEIN '83

IF GETTING AN EDUCATION AT PRINCETON is like drinking from a fire hose, the many Reunions panels offered each year conjure up a different image. The educational opportunities available may seem just as overwhelming, but they can be approached a little more leisurely. Maybe more like taking a sip from a cup of cold beer.

Nearly everyone who has attended Reunions, though, has faced the problem of wanting to attend multiple interesting Alumni-Faculty Forums and panels that meet at the same time. Sensible people set priorities. I decided to try a different approach. By my count, there were 19 of these forums meeting throughout the day on Friday, each one full of highly credentialed experts covering nearly every topic imaginable. I set out to attend all of them. Why? For one thing, to see how much I could learn. I also wanted to see if it was possible.

So, with PAW publishing director Allison Sullivan riding shotgun and taking video, we saddled our trusty golf cart and set out Friday morning on my quest.

My first stop was McCosh 50 and an 8:45 a.m. panel titled, “High Stakes: The Legal, Medical, and Social Implications of Drugs in America.” It is an issue of national importance, and interesting insights from the panel of highly credentialed experts began almost immediately. Liz Bogel Ryan '00, with a long background treating opioid addiction, observed that “old school addictive care is punitive ... and it can be done better.” Her classmate and fellow panelist Nabarun Dasgupta '00, a professor at the University of North Carolina, noted that 42% of Americans know someone who has died of a drug overdose.

It was a fascinating discussion, and I wanted to learn more. But I had ground to cover, so I jaunted over to McCosh 10 and my second panel, “Oh the Places We Go! Travel Stories from Princeton Alumni.” Princeton alums, I learned, go everywhere. Rebecca Graves-Bayazitoglu '02, an associate dean in the Office of International Programs, discussed her journey to Antarctica,

while Carl Walter '70 added, “If we don’t have travel, misperceptions about our country will grow even greater than they are now.”

Sage advice, but speaking of travel, it was time to hop back into my golf cart and move on to the next panel and my first problem. Members of the Class of 1980 were discussing public service in what the Reunions app said was “Madison Hall, Mathey Common Room.” Those are two different locations. There is a Madison Hall, but it’s in Rockefeller College. My panel was nearby, in Mathey, but by the time I had straightened this out, I had missed most of the discussion. However, I am reliably informed that it too was filled with highly credentialed experts offering interesting insights about issues of national importance.

As the morning progressed, my losing streak continued. A conversation with retired Gen. Mark Milley '80 in one of the bowls at Robertson Hall was filled well beyond capacity by the time I arrived. There were five more panels in the 10:30 a.m. block — on journalism, urban design, cognitive health, space travel, and fiscal policy, again, all staffed by highly credentialed experts offering interesting insights about issues of national importance. More significantly from my standpoint, the venues now ranged between McCosh, Robertson, the Frist Campus Center, and the Lewis Thomas Laboratory farther down campus. I

was able to dip in to all of them briefly, but by the time I ventured over to McDonnell Hall for an 11 a.m. discussion between Professor Robert George and Cornel West '80, it too was packed, and I had no chance of getting in.

More unexpected challenges also began to arise. One was traffic. The paths around campus were filling up, which required some nimble driving, and the panels were growing more crowded, even the ones I could get into. Another challenge was registered by my quads. The golf cart was terrific, but all the lecture

WATCH ONLINE



Follow Mark F. Bernstein '83 as he races around campus on a quest to attend 19 Reunions panels.



Scan to watch





STANDING ROOM ONLY

Retired Gen. David Petraeus '85 '87 talks with Anne-Marie Slaughter '80 before a full house at McCosh 50.

halls were either upstairs or downstairs. I lost count of how many times I climbed up to McCosh 10 and McCosh 50 and back down again.

Over a slice of pizza at Frist, I planned my assault on the 2 p.m. panels, the busiest block of the day, again all filled with highly credentialed experts discussing — well, you get the point. Fortunately, I was able to get into what was probably the most highly attended event of the weekend, a conversation in McCosh 50 between retired Gen. David Petraeus '85 '87 and former SPIA dean Anne-Marie Slaughter '80. Petraeus had only begun to share his assessment of the strategic challenges facing the United States before I had to move on. There were five more discussions occurring simultaneously, covering reproductive health, storytelling, career transformation, sovereign debt, and the Indian economy, spread across campus. As I rambled around, I discovered something I hadn't expected: free food, including plates of cookies and sandwiches left over from numerous lunchtime events. Knowledge comes in all forms.

Nearly six hours after I began, I wrapped up with the final three panels of the day in the 3:45 p.m. block, covering affirmative action, comedy, and the pernicious effects of

technology on mental health. Notice that I am reporting them in much less detail than the morning panels because they were now blending together in my brain. The mental health panel wasn't very funny, and the comedy panel made me want to put my phone away — although perhaps I have gotten them mixed up. With more than enough food for thought, as well as some free food, I drove to the PAW class secretaries party at 4 o'clock, my experiment over.

The good news is that I made it to every panel on Friday, even if I couldn't actually get into a few of them. The bad news, I must admit, is that I was moving too fast to retain much from any of them. However, I did take away a few valuable lessons. The most important is that attending every Reunions panel can't be done. There are far too many, and the ones with big-name panelists will fill up quickly. It probably shouldn't even be attempted, either. Much better to pick an interesting topic — you really can't go wrong — sit back, and learn something.

But whatever you do, get a golf cart. For getting around campus, it's a game changer. Seriously, those old guys in the P-rade know what they're doing. [P](#)

Mark F. Bernstein '83 is PAW's senior writer.



1. Bob Seabring '60 takes his hat off to members of the Class of 2018. **2.** President Christopher Eisgruber '83 is flanked by his wife, Lori Martin, left, and P-rade marshal Tonya Miles '82. **3.** From left, Temitayo Umoren '10, Josh Grehan '10, and Faridat Arogundade take in the P-rade. **4.** It isn't the first rodeo for these members of the Class of 1985. **5.** From left, Bill Baumbach '75 *87, his wife Gail Baumbach, and Tom Cleveland '75 sport umbrellas, vests, and shorts matching their class jacket, all of which were designed by Gail Baumbach in 2000. **6.** Royce Flippin '80 has a message as he walks the long and winding road.



THERE'S A RIOT GOIN' ON
Callista Chong '27 shreds a solo during a rendition of "Sweet Child 'o Mine," as performed by Casual Riot. Other members include, from left, guitarist Rohan Sykora '27, lead singer Nina Weeldreyer '26, drummer Garrett McKenzie '28, and bassist Sam Berk '28.

with actress Tessa Albertson '20, a song by undergrad rock band Casual Riot, and a diSiac dance performance.

"It does get a little hectic," says executive producer Gia Musselwhite '25. "It's something that we do because we love it."

That was true from the start, says David Drew '14, *All-Nighter's* original host, who watched the Reunions show from a seat

along the center aisle. Drew and co-founders Amy Solomon '14 and Adam Mastroianni '14 launched the show on a shoestring budget and built an audience by bringing on star students (Olympic athletes, talented musicians) as well as notable "grown-up guests" (poet and professor Paul Muldoon, then-SPIA dean Anne-Marie Slaughter '80, the newly appointed President Christopher Eisgruber '83).

"There are so many cool people at this place," Solomon says. "I feel like that's what really endures."

When the founders graduated, they handed off the show in hopes that it would continue for at least another year. More than a decade later, it's had a dozen different hosts and continues to draw "sellout" crowds (tickets are free but need to be claimed in advance). This past academic year, they produced six episodes with a budget of about \$100 per show for props and costumes, according to Musselwhite.

According to Mastroianni, Drew's sidekick for two seasons, *All-Nighter* owes its longevity to the producers and showrunners.

"Of course people want to be on stage and do their thing, but every generation needs the person who's going to make the show happen," he says. "Like, our generation's was Amy. If you have one year where you don't have the successor to Amy, the show's gone forever. And I think the fact that there's been an unbroken chain of showrunners ... that's the most miraculous part."

The Reunions show serves as a transition between the departing cast and the incoming one, so this year, host and co-host Isis Arevalo '25 and Alison Silldorff '25 shared the stage with their successors, Tyler Wilson '26 and Sophia Shepherd '26.

In the final sketch, Arevalo and Silldorff come to grips with leaving Princeton, realizing that it's time to move on and the next group is going to be amazing. "And by amazing," Silldorff clarifies, "I mean vulgar, gross, and upsetting."

Cue the *Saturday Night Live*-style curtain call. As cast members gather on stage and take their bows, they wrap the show with the signoff that *All-Nighter* has been using since its debut episode: "Get some sleep!" 📺

THE LATE SHOW

Performers, producers from across the years remain all in on *All-Nighter*

BY BRETT TOMLINSON

AS JEROME POWELL '75 DELIVERS his Baccalaureate speech to the Class of 2025, a Federal Reserve fangirl gushes to her friends about the staid speaker's interest rate talking points, giddily anticipating each line like hits on a favorite band's setlist. But when the Fed chairman wanders off script, the stage goes dark and investors panic in real time. The seniors pull out their phones, desperately trying to sell off their stocks, but it's too late!

No, Powell did not crash the markets with his remarks to Princeton's graduating class. But the imagined doomsday scenario did draw roaring laughter from a standing-room-only audience at Frist Campus Center during the May 22 Reunions episode of *All-Nighter*, a student sketch comedy and talk show wrapping up its 13th season.

The show, a relatively new addition to the Reunions schedule, attracts a beer jacket crowd — mostly graduating seniors and alums of the past few years — and packs a lot into one hour, with high energy sketches and quick transitions. This year's episode, loosely built around the theme of reality TV, featured riffs on *The Bachelor*, *Love Island*, and *Shark Tank*, along with Princeton-specific humor, commercial spoofs, an interview



1. Basketball star and former Sen. Bill Bradley '65 waves to the crowd and signs autographs during the P-rade. **2.** This family is ready to celebrate as part of the Class of 2005's *It's '05 O'clock Somewhere* theme. **3.** From left, Amy Lehr '00, Lina Banker '00, and Cecilia "Sas" Silver '00 get their kicks (and steps) in. **4.** Harriet Kiwanuka '15, right, and her classmate are serving up good times with the Class of 2015's *WimbleTen!* theme. **5.** James Amick '49 *52, holding the Class of 1923 Cane, prepares for the P-rade, most of which he walked.



1. The Class of 1995 rides in style in celebrating *The Journey Refueled*. **2.** Santa Claus is either an alumnus or that's Doug Eberhardt '85. **3.** From left, Eleanor Tydings Gollob '90 and Becca Paoletti-Richardson '90 are enjoying their 35th reunion.





‘HAPPY TO SOLVE A PROBLEM’

How Dottie Werner has become an indispensable part of Reunions

BY CARLETT SPIKE

AS THE FIRST GOLF CART makes its way down Elm Drive to start the P-rade on Reunions Saturday, crowds of reuners cheer on the oldest alumni in attendance. Alongside them a familiar face, Dottie Werner, marches proudly and responds to the countless calls of her name.

Throughout her 45 years at Princeton, Werner has become the keeper of the Old Guard in her role as coordinator for alumni class affairs, Reunions, and communities as part of University Advancement. Her commitment to alumni is reflected throughout the week, but especially earlier Saturday when the smiles and hugs come from every direction as Werner works the room at Forbes College, headquarters to the Old Guard and the class celebrating its 65th. Team members are also nearby asking her advice and guidance every step of the way.

“You couldn’t be involved in Reunions at some level and not know Dottie,” says Fritz Cammerzell ’72, a friend of Werner who has long been a Reunions co-chair for his class. “You find somebody like [her], and you keep them, you cherish them, you honor them because you just know how important she can be to you.”

Preparing for Reunions is a year-round project for Werner and others at Advancement. Her Saturday starts shortly after 8 a.m. at Maclean House, where she checks her email for last-minute inquiries. “The calm before the storm,” Werner says. Within 10 minutes she grabs the Class of 1923 Cane, which will be presented to the oldest living alumnus from the oldest class at the Old Guard luncheon, hops in a golf cart, and makes her way to Forbes.

Once she enters Forbes, Werner checks in with the students on her crew, pops into the kitchen to take

a peek at the cupcakes, and sets up bowls of mints and orange, silver, and black beaded necklaces at the check-in table. People constantly stop to ask questions: “Do you want to assign seating?” “What time is lunch?” “Can I get a rover?” She answers them all, often saying, “Happy to solve a problem.”

“She’s a whirlwind,” Arthur Folli ’51 says.

At 11:40 a.m., Werner welcomes the Old Guard and their family members into the dining hall. As lunch winds down, President Christopher Eisgruber ’83 presents James Amick ’49 *52, 97, with the silver cane, followed by a performance from The Tigertones, which Werner pauses to take in.

“There’s a really strong connection between Princeton’s past, Princeton of the present, and the Princeton of the future, and Dottie really facilitates all of that,” says Henry Cammerzell ’25, who met Werner through his father and worked with her previously at Reunions.

Werner and her team get everyone on buses and headed to Nassau Hall for the start of the P-rade.

As the festivities begin, time seems to slow as Werner takes in the cheers, but once the golf carts pass the reviewing stand at the end of the route, Werner snaps back into action to help the Old Guard settle into their tent next to the stand.

Werner stays there until 4 p.m., when Amick and his family are ready to go. She retrieves the silver cane and gives them a ride back to headquarters. Her day isn’t over. There is still a reception and dinner and fireworks viewing on the front lawn of Forbes.

Werner started working for Alumni Records when she joined the University staff in the fall of 1980. She spent nine years there before transferring to the Alumni Council office. Back then, there was only lunch for the Old Guard, but over time the events for the group grew and so did the work. “I’m not sure how I was really tagged for this job, but it just sort of fell in my lap and I went with it,” Werner says.

In addition to arranging the Old Guard’s Reunions weekend, Werner organizes the annual Service of Remembrance on

Alumni Day in February and a reception for the families who lost loved ones. She also oversees a tailgate for alumni at Homecoming and handles mailing for alumni classes and printing projects such as programs and schedules for classes celebrating major reunions.


At the core of Werner's job is ensuring the best experience for alumni. During the weekend, some people staying in Forbes complained they were cold because the air conditioner was on even though outdoor temperatures were cool. Werner bought blankets to make sure people were comfortable. "It probably could have been easy for her to just kind of chalk it up and say, 'Oh well, I'm sorry,' but she was able to offer [her] own time and step away from everything to make sure that everyone was comfortable," says Arthur Smith '27, one of the students who worked with Werner.

Appreciation for the work Werner does seems to be universal. "You look at the role that Dottie has played and she's just beloved, especially in her work with our Old Guard," says Monica Moore Thompson '89, who concluded her term as president of the Alumni Association on June 30.

Werner holds a similar appreciation for all the alumni she has worked with throughout the years. "I've really met some fabulous people and made a lot of really good friends," Werner says. "I've been blessed to be adopted by some classes as an honorary member so that makes it even more special."

Werner is an honorary member of 41 alumni classes between the Class of 1922 and the Class of 1993.

Although the job does bring her a lot of joy, Werner acknowledges that there is also some sadness that naturally comes with the reality of working with elderly people. "It's hard for me when people who have been steady attendees over the years cannot come anymore because of health reasons, or we've lost them, but I try to focus on the upside, on the happiness of everybody," she says.

Asked if she's ready to retire, Werner says, "Not yet. At some point, yes. I haven't decided on a date yet. It's a problem because I really love what I do." 



GENERAL INTEREST

*Retired Gens. Mark Milley '80, left, and David Petraeus *85 *87 confer before Petraeus appears for a discussion on the future of Ukraine.*

LISTEN ONLINE



How is the news media covering the MAGA movement? Four journalists and a Princeton historian delved into the question at PAW's Reunions panel. "The press is doing its job, but Congress, there's no sign of vertebrate life up there," said Kathy Kiely '77, right, joined by Marc Fisher '80. "If Congress and the other institutions in our democracy aren't responding to those stories, then it is like the tree falling in the forest."

Scan the QR code to listen to the PAWcast or read the transcript.



Scan to listen



ANTHONY RUSSO, OR BONO?

PHOTO BY KEITH HOWSON '95

WITH OR WITHOUT BONO

Who was that performing U2 songs at the Class of 1995 party?

BY PETER BARZILAI S'97

WHEN ANDY STACK '95 is asked whether that was Bono belting out three U2 songs in succession at the Class of 1995's 30th Reunions party on Saturday, the class's entertainment chair gives a coy response:

"Well, booking Bono as Bono would be against University regulations, wouldn't it?"

Indeed it would. Several years ago, Princeton implemented a policy banning classes from hiring major musical acts — a response to previous performances by the likes of Creedence Clearwater Revisited, Jon Bon Jovi, Joan Jett, Flo Rida, and Duran Duran, which drew massive crowds.

"My goal as entertainment chair of the great Class of 1995 was to deliver magic moments throughout the three days. I told our internal leadership we wouldn't say in writing that Bono is here. People can speculate. We just said we had a special guest, which is absolutely true."

— ANDY STACK '95

Nonetheless, that really did look and sound like Bono — even to this reporter, who was in attendance.

Word spread quickly Saturday night and in the days that followed. The U2 set, backed by the '80s tribute band Jessie's Girl, even trended on Fizz, a social media platform used by college

students, where one user posted, "I can't believe the 30th got Bono and I missed it."

So, was it Bono, or was it Anthony Russo?

Russo, 58, is the longtime frontman of Unforgettable Fire, the longest-running U2 tribute band in the U.S., which recently celebrated its 30th anniversary. He lives just 25 minutes away in North Brunswick and spent 20 years working as a pharmaceutical researcher at Bristol Myers Squibb in nearby Lawrence before becoming Bono's full-time doppelgänger.

"I do resemble him a lot physically," says Russo, who adds that he has performed at previous Reunions and eating clubs. "If I put the sunglasses on and walk around Princeton or New York City, I'll get people turning their heads and following me. The thing is, I don't want to do that. I don't want to disrespect Bono."


Stack, an entertainment and tech executive with ties to major musicians, had booked talent for the class's 25th reunion in 2020 before it was canceled because of COVID. For the 30th, he came back determined to put on a memorable show.

"My goal as entertainment chair of the great Class of 1995 was to deliver magic moments throughout the three days," he says. "I told our internal leadership we wouldn't say in writing that Bono is here. People can speculate."

"We just said we had a special guest, which is absolutely true."

Speaking of the truth, let's just say a nosy reporter happened to spot the setlist on the stage that included the name "Anthony" next to the U2 songs. Just a coincidence, right?

But for Stack — and Russo — the identity question misses the point.

"Does it matter whether it was Bono?" Stack asks. "We had an epic moment, and folks came together." 

FIVE ALIVE

*Members of the Class of 2020 take
in the party on Saturday night.*





ON A 2018 UNITED FLIGHT TO SOUTH FLORIDA, ADAM SOHN, A BROAD-SHOULDERED BUSINESSMAN, FOUND HIMSELF SITTING NEXT TO A LANKY MAN TRANSFIXED TO HIS LAPTOP. SOHN'S EYES POPPED WHEN HE NOTICED WHAT WAS ON HIS NEIGHBOR'S SCREEN — INTRICATE WORD CLOUDS WITH RACIST AND ANTISEMITIC LANGUAGE. WORDS MOST PEOPLE NEVER THINK, MUCH LESS LEAVE VISIBLE ON THEIR COMPUTER.

Sohn was an open-minded guy. A former Wall Street trader who left that life after 9/11 and had since pursued an eclectic career working for the AARP, Jeb Bush, and Charles Koch, Sohn wasn't afraid of going against the grain to do work he thought could make a difference. And in this case, he was determined to figure out if his airplane neighbor was a terrorist. "You look like a pretty smart guy," Sohn recalls saying to the stranger. "But are you gonna crash the plane? Or maybe save the world?"

When Joel Finkelstein *18 told him what he was up to, Sohn was floored. Finkelstein was a neuroscientist whose research had led him to study how hate speech spreads on the internet. By tracking the proliferation of racial slurs and memes on far-right platforms such as 4chan and Gab, Finkelstein had discovered that hate speech activity spiked on social media before hate crimes and other attacks occurred, allowing him to anticipate events such as the 2017 Charlottesville "Unite the Right" rally.

As Sohn heard this, he knew he and Finkelstein were going to be working together. A few months later, in May 2018, Sohn and Finkelstein co-founded the Network Contagion Research Institute (NCRI), a nonprofit research group based in Princeton, with Sohn its CEO and Finkelstein its chief scientist. Since then, the group has released white papers that have had an outsize impact on U.S. policy. A month before the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol, NCRI's December 2020 report on QAnon examined the conspiracy movement's role in amplifying the false narrative that Dominion voting machines had rigged the 2020 presidential election in President Joe Biden's favor. And when the dust settled on the Capitol riot, NCRI's follow-up research informed the ensuing House investigation.

NCRI's research interests range widely, from prompting the Apple app and Google Play stores to take down misbegotten dating apps for teens that served as the playground for Nigerian "sextortionists," to understanding the extent of social media posts supporting Luigi Mangione, charged with the December 2024 murder of United Healthcare CEO Brian Thompson. Perhaps most significantly, NCRI's work was invoked by Congressional leaders in the passage of the TikTok ban bill, entailing a forced sale or ban of the app that was affirmed by the Supreme Court and twice postponed by President Donald Trump — shortly after he took office in January and again in April, with a deadline of June 19 when this issue went to press.

NCRI is not without controversy. Some data researchers have criticized its methods and questioned why most of NCRI's work is not peer reviewed, all while the landscape of social media data research has shifted seismically in the past few years.

How did a neuroscientist studying addiction and

mind control in mice turn to researching how hate and misinformation metastasize across the internet? Despite Finkelstein's relatively recent transition to the field, the connection between the two subjects is clearer than one might expect. For Finkelstein, it all started with puppets.

Finkelstein grew up in Tyler, a city in east Texas of 100,000 known for producing the "Adopt-a-Highway" program, Hall of Fame running back Earl Campbell, and not much else. The son of an Orthodox rabbi, Finkelstein briefly played football for the "Rebels" at his high school, then named for Robert E. Lee, which belied the school's culture. Finkelstein found more joy in his side hustle — putting on puppet shows for birthday parties, making \$100 an event telling stories about superheroes like Spider-Man. "We'd always have characters that should never be interacting," Finkelstein says. "Mickey Mouse should never be talking to George Washington."

But if Finkelstein put on fantasies chronicling superhero origin stories, his own life had a way of mirroring the seminal formative moments in such tales. One afternoon, he and his brother got into a fight with a jock. When the bullying turned antisemitic — and the bully and his lackeys started throwing rocks — Finkelstein took cover behind a car. "I remember at that point developing this incredibly strong allergy to antisemitism," Finkelstein says.

As Finkelstein pursued his dream of becoming a scientist, he soon got involved in a different form of puppetry: studying the inner workings of the human brain.

After undergrad at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and a stint at Google, Finkelstein worked with a neuroscientist, James Doty, to start the Center for Compassion and Altruism Research and Education at Stanford University. The research center focuses on understanding the neural origins of compassion and altruism, and there Finkelstein became interested in the field of optogenetics, which examines how neurons can be genetically engineered with light switching to control the brain. He explains that using these processes, scientists can "turn on" anxiety and bonding behaviors. "You can activate all the machinery and get your hands on it," he says.

For Finkelstein, it was a familiar feeling — just like his childhood hobby. "As soon as I heard about optogenetics, I'm like, 'Oh, this is it,'" Finkelstein says. "This is the ultimate puppeteering."

After the Center for Compassion and Altruism Research and Education awarded a grant to Karl Deisseroth, the inventor of



the field of optogenetics, Finkelstein took a job in Deisseroth's Stanford lab and found a new mentor in Deisseroth's student, neuroscientist Ilana Witten '02. Then, when Witten joined the faculty of the Princeton Neuroscience Institute,

Finkelstein followed her to pursue his Ph.D. in the same field.

At Princeton, Finkelstein's dissertation involved understanding the neural mechanism to "unlearn bad habits" through an experiment to cause the extinction of a "cocaine memory." After mice were given cocaine, they formed a preference for the drug. Then Finkelstein studied the mechanisms in mice to erase that memory. By flashing light at neurons in the reward center of the brain, the memory could be weakened, and the addictive spell could be lifted.

As Finkelstein came closer to understanding the secrets of the brain, he stumbled across a startling discovery — just as flashing lights could manipulate the brain, social media could influence it, too.

After Trump's 2016 election victory, Finkelstein noticed that a lot of his friends and colleagues had become politically polarized. "People who I knew and respected were suddenly speaking with a kind of jargon that became increasingly more political," Finkelstein says, and he attributed this shift to social media. "A lot of what we do in terms of putting animals in a virtual environment, and then manipulating their brains with lasers, feels a lot like what we do on social media."

To his dissertation adviser's chagrin, Finkelstein started spending more time collecting data on extreme speech. "I wasn't too surprised that he found interests outside of

AN OPEN MIND

While studying cocaine addiction in mice at the Princeton Neuroscience Institute, Joel Finkelstein '18 realized the research could also be applied to understanding the impact of social media on people.

neuroscience," Witten says. "But of course, I wouldn't have predicted the exact thing he would find."

Finkelstein soon discovered that the antisemitic "Great Replacement" theory — that Jews and other minorities are conspiring to displace white people across society — had trended on far-right platforms before the 2017 Charlottesville "Unite the Right" rally. He says the spread of the discourse was "mirroring real-world activities," reminding him of popcorn about to burst from its kettle. He reached out to Craig Timberg at *The Washington Post*, who published his findings in September 2018.

A month later, a white supremacist named Robert Bowers shot and killed 11 members of the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh. At that point, Finkelstein realized that he needed to be doing this research full time.

In 2018 — with the help of a partnership forged with Sohn after that chance meeting on the plane — the Network Contagion Research Institute was born. Finkelstein explains that the term "network contagion" is often used in the context of financial markets. "It's where you have bad behaviors or mindless ideas that can freely replicate opportunistically across a gradient because there's nothing to stop them, and there's resources to benefit the replication."

NCRI began to grow in October 2019, when Finkelstein attended a Princeton dinner with John R. Allen, then head of the Brookings Institution and the former commander of NATO forces in Afghanistan. According to Finkelstein, Allen was impressed with his work. He introduced Finkelstein to NYU security analyst Alex Goldenberg and his father, Paul Goldenberg, a former adviser to the Department of Homeland Security and a fellow at the Miller Center on Policing and Community Resilience. Both became key figures in the burgeoning NCRI apparatus.

In the early days, NCRI was operated remotely, with analysts working from home and petabytes of data stored on servers in members' basements, but it quickly attracted an enthusiastic following. Key to that was the group's acquisition of Pushshift, an API tool that allowed moderators to search Reddit data. "The research community loved it," Sohn says. "We had well over 300 universities that had been [making] over 2,000 academic citations using Pushshift data."

NCRI's first big break came with its report on the rise of QAnon, which came out three weeks before the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. The report was co-authored by former Virginia Rep. Denver Riggleman, a castoff of the GOP who lost his 2020 reelection bid after officiating a gay wedding. As Riggleman and his co-writer Hunter Walker described in their 2022 memoir, *The Breach*, NCRI's initial report "had demonstrated how QAnon's myths fueled an insular online social group that was increasingly becoming a real-world threat."

When then Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., brought on Riggleman as a senior technical adviser for the House Select Committee investigating Jan. 6., NCRI faced a fork in the road, as the committee was interested in hiring it.

"We realized that we couldn't do it," Finkelstein says. Though the committee was bipartisan, Finkelstein says the NCRI team was concerned about the appearance of being involved in a political action, stressing that he views NCRI as apolitical.

“Everybody had mixed feelings, because everybody wanted to be part of it,” Finkelstein explains, but ultimately the team agreed that the risk of politicizing the organization was too high. “We really try to make it that the truth is our first client and everybody else is our second.”

Since then, NCRI has taken on a variety of research questions.

In 2023, NCRI’s research pointed to the previously undisclosed influence of Qatari money on university campuses, and the following year, the Chinese Communist Party’s influence, through the Neville Roy Singham network, on the “Shut It Down for Palestine” movement active in the pro-Palestinian protests on campuses after the Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel.

In 2024, it also raised the specter of the “Yahoo Boys,” a ring of Nigerian cybercriminals who extort teenagers by posing as attractive women (often using AI imagery), asking for nude photos and then demanding blackmail payment, leading to a string of teen suicides. In January 2024, that NCRI report motivated the Apple app and Google Play stores to remove Wizz, a Tinder-like dating app for teens. Another report, published in November 2024, argued that corporate DEI training pedagogy seemingly stoked racial resentment, rather than improving diversity in the workplace.

NCRI has also worked on behalf of corporate clients. In 2021, it assisted Walmart in efforts to increase COVID-19 vaccine uptake in regions where antivaccination views were common.

“It’s not that NCRI is unfocused, it’s that there are risks coming from the cyber-social domain from everywhere,” Sohn says. “There are so many ‘known unknowns,’ and NCRI’s mission is to try to discover them at as fast a cadence as possible and get them into the hands of the people that can do something about it.”

Through the NCRI Labs offered at the Rutgers Miller Center, where Finkelstein has an affiliation, NCRI also aims to train the next generation of internet intelligence analysts, some of whom, Finkelstein says, have gone on to work for institutions such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation. During her time as a Rutgers undergrad, Prasiddha Sudhakar worked for NCRI and co-authored a report on anti-Hindu hate speech on social media, and was later asked by a British government committee to advise its investigation on the subject following a 2022 attack on Hindus in Leicester, England. Today, Sudhakar is a senior analyst and board member at NCRI. “It was only after being really trained by NCRI,” Sudhakar says, “that I learned how to put this together in a formal paper to really understand the scope of how far the hatred had reached.”

Perhaps NCRI’s biggest moment has been its research surrounding TikTok. In December 2023, NCRI released a report arguing that there was a “strong possibility” TikTok was suppressing topics sensitive to the Chinese government, such as hashtags featuring Tibet, Taiwan, and the Uyghur ethnic group, on its platform as compared to Instagram.

Following TikTok’s methodology used in a November 2023 press release responding to accusations of bias in the Israel-Palestinian conflict, which compared the frequency of pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian hashtags on TikTok and Instagram, NCRI analyzed the volume of hashtagged posts of China-

**“THE KEY PROBLEM IS
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TO THE GLEAM OF
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
AND SHINY
CULTURAL ARTIFACTS.”**

— JOEL FINKELSTEIN *18
NCRI CO-FOUNDER

sensitive issues on TikTok using the app’s ads manager portal.

NCRI compared the frequency of those posts to those on Instagram using the app’s “explore” feature. For example, NCRI found that posts about Tibet were 37 times more frequent on Instagram than on TikTok, which NCRI argues is evidence of the suppression of the issue by the platform.

Two weeks after the report’s publication, TikTok’s parent company, ByteDance, removed the search tools that had facilitated NCRI’s research, making the study impossible to replicate.

During a January 2023 Senate debate over child online safety, Sen. Ted Cruz ’92, R-Texas, invoked NCRI’s research as he questioned ByteDance CEO Shou Zi Chew. “Why is it that on Instagram people can put a #HongKongProtest 174 times compared to TikTok?” Cruz asked Chew, adding, “What censorship is TikTok doing at the request of the Chinese government?”

In April 2024, Congress passed the TikTok ban bill, which forced a U.S. ban of the app or sale to a U.S. company by Jan. 19. After ByteDance’s lawsuit, the Supreme Court upheld the ban, and the app became unavailable for 16 hours, until the newly inaugurated President Trump issued an executive order delaying the ban for 75 days, a ban extended for an additional 75 days in April, making the deadline June 19.

But critics, such as Cato Institute scholar Paul Matzko, have argued that NCRI’s initial report featured flaws in data science that compromised the study, such as comparing Instagram and TikTok across different timespans, as well as the decision to use Instagram as a control variable.

Since Instagram is active in disparate markets and possesses its own distinct algorithm, Matzko argues, the report produced a skewed lens. And if the ban were to be enforced, Matzko says, “there’s the potential for the impairment of the speech of 170 million Americans. And one of the key evidentiary pillars for one of the largest acts of censorship in American history is a report that’s flawed.”

Matzko, who admits to enjoying a large TikTok following

of his own, was surprised when his blog post for Cato was cited by TikTok CEO Chew in the same confrontation with Cruz. However, Matzko suggests that for NCRI's reports to be taken seriously, they need to be peer-reviewed. "They are not academic, even if they can be scholarly," Matzko says. "You should have a grain of salt when it comes to this work."

And yet, white papers have become the norm in a field where the landscape — and access to data — changes drastically from moment to moment.

"One of the things that's really important to keep in mind about social media, disinformation, [and] censorship-type research is that it's all happening very quickly," says Jo Lukito, an assistant professor in communications at the University of Texas, Austin, who argues that a peer-reviewed paper would take years to publish. "It's fairly common to put together white papers or research reports that are not necessarily peer-reviewed but have a lot more of a timely relevance."

In the past year, social media platforms have made it harder for researchers to access their data.

In March 2023, under the leadership of Elon Musk, X, formerly Twitter, raised its fees for API access from "free" to packages that start at \$42,000 a month, pricing out most researchers. In August 2024, Meta terminated its misinformation tracking tool CrowdTangle and replaced it with the "Meta Content Library," only accessible to academic researchers, excluding most news organizations.

In 2023, NCRI's own Pushshift tool was rendered moot by Reddit's blockade of the tool, an action associated with higher fees for its own platform data.

"The key problem is that we aren't paying attention to who we're becoming, and we don't feel like we have any control in that," Finkelstein says. "We've given that over to the gleam of artificial intelligence and shiny cultural artifacts. That actually isn't a new problem. It's a very old one."

Finkelstein likens the rise and disruptive spread of social media to the media revolution that accompanied the arrival of the Gutenberg printing press in early modern Europe. Before the printing press, he argues, media was spread by monks to a population that was illiterate. But when the press came along, suddenly there was a lot more media, and many more people who were literate to ingest it. The first "bestsellers" in modern Europe, Finkelstein says, were the Gutenberg Bible, yes, but also the *Malleus Maleficarum*, a witch-hunting guide, and Martin Luther's 1543 antisemitic treatise, *On the Jews and Their Lies*.

"The network, which is used to a certain bandwidth, is now being saturated and breaking at the seams," Finkelstein says, arguing that the revolution that follows brings with it distrust in institutions and a response by authoritarian regimes to restore order (often by blaming witches and Jews). "Once you decide all these people are monsters," he adds, "there's no reaching out to them."

To make the comparison concrete, Finkelstein has directed NCRI to study how social media users appear to be more willing to violate civil norms and see people with opposing viewpoints

as the enemy. In December 2024, NCRI released a report stating that 78% of the users of Bluesky, a mostly progressive alternative to X, considered that Mangione's assassination of Thompson, the United Healthcare CEO, was justified, and "only extremist platforms such as Gab or 4chan evidenced similar levels of endorsement for the murder."

Finkelstein attributes much of his thinking on institutions and the health of American society to conversations held with Princeton politics professor Robert P. George, who is listed on NCRI's website as a "strategic adviser" and authored an introduction to the group's 2020 paper on antisemitism. In an email to PAW, George downplayed his involvement with Finkelstein and said he does not take an active role in NCRI's operations.

In describing NCRI's role going forward, Finkelstein says the group is not supposed to be like the precrime investigators in the 2002 science-fiction film *Minority Report*, in which a policeman played by Tom Cruise, privy to the oracular visions of psychics, arrests people who will commit murder in the future. Rather, to Finkelstein, NCRI is a cross between "an intelligence agency and a public trust" — and in a more colloquial reference to *Harry Potter*, "Defense Against the Dark Arts."

These investigations cost money, and in the past, NCRI relied on contributions from Rutgers University and philanthropist David Magerman, as well as several anonymous donors. At the end of 2024, Sohn stepped down as NCRI CEO to lead the organization's partner venture, Narravance, a for-profit research intelligence firm that has launched an investment tool called "ChatterFlow," which charts the risk landscape of the stock market in real time.

Sohn says that establishing Narravance was critical to keeping NCRI independent, as Narravance supports NCRI through shared resources and intellectual property. And because Narravance can hire talent at competitive salaries, these staff can also consult on NCRI projects.

"It's a wonderful story of being able to keep the mission of a nonprofit alive without having to rely on the gratuitous nature of just a few high-net-worth individuals," Sohn says, allowing "the private market [to] give [NCRI] a fighting chance."

That system has already led to new partnerships for NCRI. In May, NCRI announced a collaboration with the Ed Snider Center for Enterprise and Markets, part of the University of Maryland's Robert H. Smith School of Business. The new lab — facilitated by a financial donation from Narravance and access to its ChatterFlow tool — will analyze how social media can influence markets and trading behaviors.

For Finkelstein, who believes he can tease out the strings attempting to "puppeteer" the American public, there's a lot of work ahead, particularly in a second Trump administration that has spurred greater polarization.

"The greatest lie that's been told in the age of technology is the obsolescence of human beings," Finkelstein says. "We've never been more important." **P**

HARRISON BLACKMAN '17 is a freelance journalist and writer based in Los Angeles.



SAVE THE DATES

2025

AUGUST 31

Pre-rade, Barbecue and
Step Sing (Class of 2029)

OCTOBER 9-11

Many Minds, Many Stripes:
A Princeton University Conference
Celebrating Graduate Alumni

OCTOBER 22

Orange & Black Day

OCTOBER 25

Tiger Tailgate and Homecoming
(vs. Harvard)

DECEMBER 3

A Conversation With
President Christopher L. Eisgruber '83
BOSTON

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alumni.princeton.edu

2026

JANUARY 21

A Conversation With
President Christopher L. Eisgruber '83
CHICAGO

FEBRUARY 21

Alumni Day and
Service of Remembrance

MARCH 10

A Conversation With
President Christopher L. Eisgruber '83
SAN FRANCISCO

MARCH 12

A Conversation With
President Christopher L. Eisgruber '83
LOS ANGELES

APRIL 16

A Conversation With
President Christopher L. Eisgruber '83
NEW YORK CITY

MAY 21-24

Reunions 2026





PRINCETONIANS

ALUMNI STORIES AND PERSPECTIVES



NOVEL ROLLOUT

*In April, Morgan Jerkins '14 released her latest novel, **Zeal**, a Black love story that spans generations. As part of her book tour, Jerkins has held several special events, including a culinary meet and greet at Liz's Book Bar in Brooklyn, New York, in June. Jerkins, pictured here after the event, discussed the deep research on traditional food and drinks she did for the book to ensure the meals mentioned in her historical fiction are authentic. Attendees got to sample several dishes inspired by the book and created by Brigitte Malivert '14, a Haitian American pastry chef and food writer. Read more about Jerkins' novel approach to her book tour at paw.princeton.edu.*



MCPHEE '53

JOHN MCPHEE '53

New Book Chronicles Prolific Writer's Career

BY LOUIS JACOBSON '92

WHEN HE WAS A TEENAGER, Noel Rubinton's parents gave him a copy of *The Headmaster*, a 1966 book by John McPhee '53 that profiled Frank Boyden, who was head of Deerfield Academy in Massachusetts for 66 years. Not only did the book convince Rubinton to apply to the boarding school (he was accepted and finished high school there) it also cemented Rubinton's lifelong fascination with McPhee.

In May, the Princeton University Press published Rubinton's volume, *Looking for a Story: A Complete Guide to the Writings of John McPhee*. It offers the first comprehensive inventory of McPhee's writings, beginning with his high school and college works, through his career at *Time* magazine and then, for more than five decades, his writing for *The New Yorker*. All told, McPhee has published more than three dozen books, including individual works and compendiums.

"A lot of authors have a formula, and I don't look down on that," Rubinton says. "But McPhee doesn't follow a formula. He tries new things and succeeds. He presents

so much knowledge in an accessible way."

Beginning with his 1965 biography of Bill Bradley '65, *A Sense of Where You Are*, McPhee's writing has addressed a wide range of topics: oranges, New Jersey's Pine Barrens, Wimbledon tennis, nuclear energy, Alaska, Switzerland's Army, Russian art, shad (a type of fish), and the topic that has driven him for decades: continental geology. Recently, into his mid-90s, McPhee has been writing about the process of writing itself, as well as penning shorter vignettes on subjects such as the online puzzle Wordle.

Having digested most of McPhee's oeuvre, Rubinton concluded that his subject finds reporting and writing equally important. "He wants to watch his subjects in action," Rubinton says, even if that means taking paper notes in a canoe navigating through the wilderness, one bump away from getting his notebooks soaked. Once McPhee has finished his reporting, he turns exclusively to writing, using highly

structured organizational notes that code his material by subject matter. Rubinton says McPhee's respect for careful structure dates back to the lessons of Olive McKee, his English teacher at Princeton High School for three out of his four years.

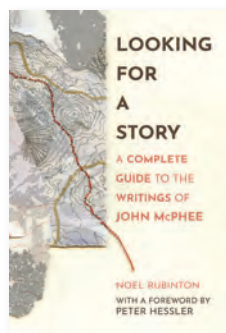
Rubinton, a Brown University graduate, spent most of the first four decades of his professional life as a journalist, most notably as a writer and editor at Long Island's *Newsday* between 1979 and 2008. After stints in the nonprofit world and working in communications for Brown, he moved to Washington, D.C., where he pursued his dream of writing a book. One day, Rubinton came up with the idea of writing about McPhee. He met with Princeton University Archivist Dan Linke (the pandemic had closed Firestone Library to visitors, so the two sat on a bench outside), and Linke agreed to present the idea to McPhee, who welcomed the proposal.

Rubinton finally met McPhee for the first time in November 2021; it would be the first of almost a dozen interviews at McPhee's home or in his office in Guyot Hall. Among the dozen or so research libraries Rubinton visited, two were especially notable.

One was the archives of *Time* magazine, now housed at the New York Historical; when McPhee wrote for *Time*, no story had a byline, but Rubinton discovered the existence of bound volumes where every issue was annotated in grease pencil with the initials of the writer, editor, and researcher who worked on each story. Rubinton found hundreds of occurrences of "JM," which he double-checked with McPhee to confirm authorship. The other treasure trove was the UCLA Film & Television Archive, where Rubinton was

able to watch one of several television episodes McPhee wrote the screenplay for in the mid-1950s, for an NBC drama show called *Robert Montgomery Presents*.

Princeton featured prominently in McPhee's mind, beginning with his writing for PAW and the *Princeton Tiger* as a



student; later on, it often provided him with ideas to write about. McPhee has had “an incredible connectedness,” Rubinton says. “Today, it would be called ‘networking.’ A lot of it was connected to Princeton.”

During visits to campus, Rubinton watched as the then-92-year-old McPhee “bounded up the stairs” to his turret office in Guyot. In a twist of fate, his office had once been occupied by the geologist Eldridge Moores *63, the featured character in McPhee’s 1993 volume, *Assembling California*. In the office, Rubinton saw shelves lined with books authored by some of the 544 students McPhee taught between 1975 and 2020.

“The heart of the course was that every other week, he would spend half an hour with each student,” Rubinton says. “He would go over their piece and give back this incredible marginalia. The notes could be cryptic and hard to read, but most students have saved every paper they wrote.” About a quarter of his students ended up publishing at least one book of their own.

One of those was Peter Hessler ’92, a *New Yorker* staff writer who contributed the foreword to Rubinton’s volume. Hessler recounts a favorite McPhee metaphor, that of a writer as a canoeist who has to decide which islands to stop at. “Poor decisions become costlier as the writer grows older,” Hessler wrote. “Lingering on the banks of one island might mean that you might skip another, and from a distance it’s hard to tell which of the two is barren.”

While McPhee is hailed as a writer’s writer, Rubinton says, he never had the “social cachet” of some of his writerly contemporaries, such as Tom Wolfe or Joan Didion, who became celebrities. To Rubinton, that suggests that McPhee devoted more effort to refining his craft and producing a prodigious amount of work than he did to ginning up publicity. “I hope the book will make people more interested and excited about him,” Rubinton says. **P**

LOUIS JACOBSON ’92 is chief correspondent for *PolitiFact* and chief author of *The Almanac of American Politics* 2026.



BEN WEISSENBACH '20 IN ALASKA IN 2019

ESSAY

Following McPhee to Alaska — and My First Book

BY BEN WEISSENBACH '20

I WAS READING THE FINAL PAGES OF John McPhee ’53’s *Coming into the Country*, on the second-to-last day of a rather wet camping trip on Washington state’s Olympic Peninsula, when the answer hit me. A fog of angst and uncertainty lifted, revealing with sudden, almost miraculous clarity my next step in life: I was going to Alaska.

That was June 2017, the summer after my freshman year at Princeton, and the idea wasn’t new. Growing up in Los Angeles, among the first generation to go through adolescence with front-facing cameras, I had come to view Alaska as a kind of antidote to screen-life, an escape from a cul-de-sac in human history. When I was 18, high on the literary fumes of Jack London and Jon Krakauer, I’d hatched a plan to take a car ferry to Alaska, park my car at the end of a road, and walk off into the bush — until my parents enlisted an older cousin, a skilled outdoorsman, to talk me out of it. (His winning argument: grizzly bears.) But now, as I savored McPhee’s portrait of Alaska in 1977, a more credible scheme occurred to me.

McPhee described the greatest wild on Earth: enormous bears, back-to-the-land bush-dwellers, and 10,000-year-old Native cultures. A land so vast and raw, so stirring indifference to the machinations of modern humankind, that none who encountered it could walk away unchanged. After four decades of economic growth, resource extraction, and climate change, I wondered: Could a place like that still exist? Might Princeton fund me to go find out?

Among the many problems with this plan, two were particularly glaring. The first was that I was not a seasoned adventurer, or a big-game hunter, or even — like McPhee — a skilled angler. By the time I’d graduated from high school, I had logged thousands of hours on Facebook but no more than a handful of nights in a tent. After high school, I’d taken a gap year to learn how to be outside, during which I’d backpacked in South America, hiked off-trail in Northern California, and figured out how to relieve myself in the woods — but I was still no match for the kind of wilderness McPhee had found his way into.

Read
the **book.**
Send your
questions.
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the **podcast.**



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The second problem was no less disheartening: I wasn't a writer. Having never published anything, I had no proof that I could report or tell a story. Why would a funding body — or anyone in Alaska — give me the time of day?

That fall, I applied to McPhee's famous seminar, Creative Nonfiction (originally called The Literature of Fact), telling him, "I want to follow in your footsteps — literally." I also applied to Rebecca Mead's course on writing profiles; the University Press Club; and the Martin A. Dale '53 award, which would provide a \$5,000 stipend for a summer spent reporting in Alaska. Miraculously, all four applications panned out. I spent the spring pinching myself while learning from the master, and in May 2018, I left for the 49th state.

That summer was full of embarrassments and blunders, but I nonetheless stumbled into a story grander than any I could have imagined. Since McPhee published *Coming into the Country* — which many locals told me remained the best book ever written about their state — Arctic Alaska had warmed more than five degrees, several times faster than the global average. That's roughly the difference in mean annual temperature between the redwood forests of Northern California and the scrubland deserts of northern Mexico. Millions of acres were burning. Landscapes the size of eastern states were thawing. Entire ecosystems were migrating poleward, with grave planetary implications. Yet Alaska — a behemoth larger than the next three largest U.S. states combined, with only 740,000 people and four interstate highways — was still so vast, so inaccessible, that the nature of these changes remained mysterious. Against this backdrop, a few intrepid scientists had emerged as key figures in a kind of scientific Wild West.

Over the next several years, I followed three of these scientists: first for my senior thesis, and more recently for a book. Funded by Princeton grants



FULL CIRCLE

During Ben Weissenbach '20's Alaska adventure, he connected with several environmental scientists who ended up being key to his senior thesis. This month, that work will be published as part of his first book.

and mentored by McPhee and other professors — including Rob Nixon, Zahid Chaudhary, and Erika Milam — I would

fly to the largest glaciers in the American Arctic with maverick scientist Matt Nolan, the only person alive studying them *in situ*. I would live off the grid in the depths of winter with permafrost expert Kenji Yoshikawa to learn about the carbon-packed soil thawing beneath his feet. I would hike and raft a thousand miles

across the ultra-remote Brooks Range with legendary ecologist Roman Dial to study the migration of the world's largest biome, the boreal forest. I would also find myself stalked by hungry bears, trapped by forest fires, and alone in winter temperatures that plunged to minus 49. I would raft big rivers, howl with wolves, and reach the summit of the tallest mountain in North America.

This month, the story of this journey will be published under the title *North to the Future*. It is dedicated to McPhee, who inspired me to imagine my own path in life. Princeton gave me the tools to pursue it. **P**

BEN WEISSENBACH '20 is a Gates Cambridge Scholar in Polar Studies and author of *North to the Future*.



DAVID CAMPT '82

REFRAMING DEI

From Backlash to Business Imperative

BY WENDY GERBER '80

DAVID CAMPT '82 RECOGNIZES that initiatives tied to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) have been under fire since President Donald Trump took office in January but says it's nothing new.

"The backlash against DEI didn't start with President Trump. There's a long arc of resentment toward these efforts. Even in 1965, most white Americans thought Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was moving too fast," says Campt, a former adviser to the White House under President Bill Clinton and the founder and principal of The Dialogue Company, which helps people and organizations navigate conflict and improve collaboration through better conversations.

In the wake of George Floyd's murder in 2020, the corporate world moved swiftly, with brands pledging billions and organizations establishing new DEI departments. But beneath the momentum was a deep, pre-existing fault line. Once a rallying cry for social progress, DEI became a lightning rod for political division.

Now many executives are reluctant to even talk about their companies' views

on DEI, instead referring to press releases and corporate websites. "People are afraid of this issue now," Campt says. "People feel like they will somehow be subject to some level of government punishment."

PAW reached out to more than two dozen Princetonians who work in different capacities in corporate America, including those who advise corporations on leadership, to ask their thoughts about the evolution of DEI and where they see DEI heading. This included alumni who were both for and against DEI initiatives. Many did not respond or declined to comment, citing time constraints, differing priorities, or concerns about the current political environment. In addition to Campt, these four alumni agreed to share their insights:

- **Bernardo Ferdman '80**, principal and founder of Ferdman Consulting, an inclusive leadership, coaching, and organization development firm;
- **John Rogers '80**, founder, chairman, and co-CEO of Ariel Investments, a global asset management firm;
- **Kristen Leone '00**, corporate adviser and former head of industry for Google;

- **Russell Goldman '03**, owner and principal designer of More Wow, a design firm.

What's Happening Now

A survey of 1,000 companies released Jan. 21 by Resume.org found that one in eight organizations plans to scale back DEI commitments in 2025.

Several major corporations, including Target, Meta, IBM, Amazon, and Disney, announced they would be dialing down DEI initiatives in the weeks following President Trump's executive orders targeting DEI.

But Ferdman sees confusion arising from the lack of clarity in Trump's executive orders, noting that companies seem to be overreacting to avoid



FERDMAN '80

penalties or being singled out.

"We're witnessing anticipatory obedience," he says. "People are complying with restrictions that don't actually exist yet. It's fear, not law."

Despite political pressure, many other companies, including Apple, Costco, Microsoft, Patagonia, Ben & Jerry's, and Delta Airlines, have reaffirmed their commitment to DEI. Rogers emphasizes that this moment calls for profiles in courage. "The business leaders who stand firm on inclusion now — despite the noise — are the ones history will remember. They're choosing long-term value over short-term optics."

Rogers says Ariel Investments continues to partner with companies to train them about diversity and sustainability. He highlights the



ROGERS '80

importance of diverse board and management teams and how diversity helps businesses succeed.

He notes that Ariel Investments has "successfully encouraged over 55 portfolio companies to have their first diverse board member," noting that "CEOs call us to thank us, telling us how

much these new board members have enriched conversations and discussions within these companies ... some of which have outperformed expectations due to a broader range of insights and experiences.”

Rogers compares it to Major League Baseball before Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in 1947.

“After Jackie Robinson, baseball started recruiting more minorities like Hank Aaron and Ernie Banks. Teams that prioritized talent — no matter the background — started winning,” Rogers says. “By opening up opportunities to a diverse pool of talent, organizations can strengthen their teams and gain a competitive edge, just as basketball teams now recruit globally, leading to a stronger and more competitive league.”

‘Adapting the Vocabulary’

Despite the pullback, most corporate DEI programs are not vanishing, they’re reframing.

Faced with political landmines, many companies are using softer language and focusing on “inclusion” with similar terms such as “belonging” or “inclusive culture.” For example, JP Morgan Chase is changing “equity” to “opportunity” and renaming its diversity programs “diversity, opportunity, and inclusion.”

Some companies are also focusing on the business need, reframing diversity and inclusion as a strategy instead of a moral imperative.

“They’re not abandoning their values, they’re adapting the vocabulary,” Leone says. “Internally, the work continues.”



LEONE '00

“The challenge of using acronyms like DEI is that they can become flashpoints for criticism. Spelling out diversity, equity, and inclusion emphasizes its

meaning and importance for businesses. These principles drive better results and competitive advantage.”

Ferdman notes that such reframing can be appropriate when done thoughtfully: “When I’ve worked with some organizations that really wanted to address

issues of racial equity ... but weren’t ready to have the tough conversations, what we focused on was a more proactive, positive vision of inclusion.

“If reframing the conversation around belonging, inclusive culture, or leadership helps people stay engaged, great. But it shouldn’t be just a cosmetic change.”

Even Campt and Ferdman have had to change their consulting practices due to the DEI backlash.

“Because of the anti-DEI backlash, it is difficult to get work on issues related to race,” Campt says. “When people ask me what I do, I often say I consult around how to communicate to increase collaboration. This includes the DEI work but also is a broader umbrella.”

Ferdman adds that he emphasizes DEI less and focuses on executive coaching and leadership development, as well as the importance of inclusive leadership. “For me, it’s about continuing to highlight the broad appeal of and need for inclusion, as well as its benefits to teams and organizations — and society,” he says.

Or as Goldman puts it, “You can call it what you want. But if you want to solve real-world problems and reach customers where they are, inclusion has to be baked into the process.”



GOLDMAN '03

Criticism of DEI and Its Counterpoint

A leading criticism among those who oppose DEI programs is that DEI undermines meritocracy. In response to the Trump administration’s executive orders, some companies are shifting to DEI programs that focus on “leveling” over “lifting,” in other words, eliminating bias from hiring as opposed to giving preferential treatment to lift up marginalized groups.

But Campt, Ferdman, and Leone question whether meritocracy has ever existed, noting the longstanding reality of nepotism and the desire employers often have to hire individuals “like us.”

“In reality, well done DEI initiatives are designed to promote meritocracy and fairness, and to make sure that it’s really

happening,” Ferdman says. “They are geared to removing unfair barriers and bias that keep some people out and favor others.”

Rogers says he need not look any further than Princeton for an example.

As a volunteer for the Alumni Schools Committee, he would interview and recruit potential students in the Chicago area. Then, as vice chairman, he created a committee that recruited minority students in Chicago to apply to Princeton. Among the students he met in the 1980s was Mellody Hobson ’91, who went on to become co-CEO of Ariel Investments.

“Now she’s one of the most successful business leaders in the country,” he says. “She proved once she got the opportunity, she could do extraordinary work. If that program hadn’t been in place, she might not have gone to Princeton.”

Campt notes that some critics say DEI efforts make white people feel shame or guilt, emotions they should not have to feel. “Some DEI programs unintentionally alienate white employees,” he says. “That creates resistance instead of progress.”

Campt and Ferdman stress that shame and guilt are not productive ways to foster inclusion. Through his “White Ally Toolkit,” Campt teaches how to engage white audiences and help allies have more productive conversations with white people who look at racism very differently.

The toolkit focuses on strategies for generating more constructive discussion between white allies and those who downplay or deny racism, providing practical guidance for how to have effective conversations.

“If we offer tools for engagement — like the Ally Toolkit — we turn fear into curiosity,” Campt says. “Inclusion doesn’t mean exclusion. And we need more messaging that makes that clear.”

WENDY GERBER ’80 is a global brand strategist, freelance journalist, and CEO of the International Consulting Group.



READ an extended version of this story online at paw.princeton.edu.

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MEMORIALS



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Visit paw.princeton.edu/podcasts to hear a podcast discussion where we reminisce about an alum who recently died.

THE CLASS OF 1948

ROBERT W. AKERS '48

Bob died Jan. 13, 2025, at age 99.

Born in Cleveland, he prepped at nearby University School in Shaker Heights and was the first of three brothers to attend Princeton. He served in the Navy from 1944 to 1946 and then earned his A.B. with honors, in economics. He was a member of the varsity cross country and track teams and took his meals at Colonial.

Bob earned an MBA from Harvard Business School and had a long and distinguished career at the Burroughs Corp. (now Unisys), retiring as managing director. He and his wife, Elizabeth "Bee," moved four times in and out of Detroit and lived 10 years overseas during his career. While serving as managing director in the United Kingdom, Bob hosted Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip on a tour of the company's factory in Scotland.

After leaving Burroughs, Bob returned to Shaker Heights and purchased Bedford Lithograph. He also purchased a local fire- and water-damage restoration franchise. Active in many community activities and a lifelong athlete, at age 77, Bob ran, carrying the Olympic torch, into Shaker Square, when it was on its way to Salt Lake City in 2002.

Of Princeton, Bob wrote in '48's 50th-reunion yearbook: "It emphasized the importance of continuing study, making it a routine and pleasant part of my life. It established, in a way, a second permanent home, a place to come back to and enjoy anytime."

Bob was predeceased by Bee in 2017 and by his brother David '50. He is survived by his children, Beth '81, Jeannette D'Alessandro, and Scott; one grandchild; and brother Bruce '56.

RAYMOND E. FREDRICK JR. '48 *53

Ray died Oct. 12, 2024. He was a resident of Palm City, Fla., at the time of his passing.

At Princeton, he received a B.S.E. degree with high honors in electrical engineering, graduating in February 1949, and an M.S. in electrical engineering in 1953. He was a member of Campus Club and the marching band and served in the

Navy from 1944 to 1946.

Ray worked professionally as an electronics engineer, receiving two patents during his career. He worked for Adams Russell from 1963 until his retirement in 1985. Later, he went back to work as a fulltime consultant in electronics engineering at Assurance Technology Corp.

"The Princeton experience," Ray said in our 50th-reunion yearbook, "taught me the learning skills that have lasted my entire career. I treat life as a number of challenges to be conquered one by one with patience and tenacity."

Ray is survived by his wife of 47 years, Marilyn; and children Donna Ferguson and James Fredrick. His son Raymond III predeceased him, as did his brother, George '54.

EARL P. GALLEHER JR. '48

Earl died Dec. 7, 2024, at age 98 in Towson, Md., just eight days after the death of his wife, Martha.



Born in Baltimore and a graduate of Gilman School, Earl earned a B.A. in biology at Princeton, graduating in June 1949. He was a member of Cap and Gown and played tennis. In 1945-46, he served as a Navy medical corpsman at Bethesda Naval Hospital, alongside classmates Jim Neely and Bob Welch. "I shared his warm bedside manner treating the wounded sailors and Marines from Okinawa," recalls Jim.

Earl earned a medical degree from Johns Hopkins University in 1953, part of a large group of Princetonians who remained close for years. After interning at JHU, he completed his residency in general surgery and urology at Duke University.

From 1958 to 1980, Earl was an associate professor of urology at the University of Maryland Medical School Hospital, where he participated in the first kidney transplant at the university. He subsequently worked as a surgeon at the Greater Baltimore Medical Center and retired in 1991.

Earl married Martha in 1954. "A romance full of dancing and laughter that lasted the rest of their lives," said son Watson

in Earl's obituary. The pair were married for 70 years.

Earl is survived by daughter Gai Kyhos; sons Watson and Earl P. III, eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. Son Henry died in 2019.

In our 50th-reunion yearbook, Earl noted: "I have been blessed in every way with an extremely fortunate life," citing extremely close friendships with classmates Tom Langfitt, George Ferris, Dooner Wilson, and Bob Welch. "For over 50 years we have had happy times together and been of support to each other through some difficult days."

JOHN LOWRY JR. '48

John died at home Jan. 27, 2025, at age 98.

Born in New York City, he grew up in Mount Vernon, N.Y., and graduated from the Hotchkiss School in 1944. He then joined the Navy, where he was in the Navy V-12 program at Williams College and served aboard the USS *Belleau Wood*.

John entered Princeton in September 1946 and was a member of the Yacht Club. After one year in the engineering school, he left Princeton to join John Lowry Inc. the family construction business.

So began a 36-year career there, which included "a good number of additions to New York City," he wrote in our 50th-reunion yearbook. These included many hospitals; studios for CBS, ABC, and Channel 13; and the NYU Law School, among others. After the early-1980s recession, he worked with Walsh Construction and with Beth Israel Hospital, as an in-house construction consultant.

Married in 1950, John and Mary settled in New Canaan, Conn., where they raised three children and were active in the community. They were married for 55 years, until her death.

In the class's 50th-reunion yearbook, John noted, "Except for my long term, approximately 20 years, as treasurer of the Princeton Club of New Canaan and the most gratifying experience of seeing our son graduate with the Princeton Class of '84, I have not really kept in touch with Princeton. I am, however, grateful for the time I spent there and hold Princeton in the highest esteem."

John is survived by his wife of 18 years, Virginia Celaya; and children John III '84 and Jane. Another daughter, Meg, predeceased him.

WILLIAM H. REIFSNYDER III '48

Bill died April 15, 2024, in Wyomissing, Pa., at age 97.

Born Oct. 12, 1926, on his grandparents' farm in Bechtelsville, Pa., he graduated from Boyertown High School. On the recommendation of Thomas Leidy '34, Bill attended Princeton, where he served in the



V-12 officer training program, took meals at Dial Lodge, played tennis, and was a member of the Glee Club. Accelerating his studies, he graduated in June 1947, with a pre-med A.B. in English.

Bill earned a medical degree in 1951 from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. During his medical internship at Reading Hospital, he met his wife, Peggy Ann. The two were married in 1953 and remained so for 69 years, until her death in 2022.

Bill's long career practicing medicine was based in Berks County. He practiced at Berks Internal Medicine (which he helped establish) from 1958 to 1996, and served as president, internal medicine section chief, and electrocardiographer at Reading Hospital over the years. From 1987 until his retirement in 2006, he was medical director of the Highlands at Wyomissing, a continuing-care retirement community where he lived when he died.

Bill wrote in our 50th-reunion yearbook: "The Princeton experience helped me to speak and communicate effectively, which has helped me immensely as an internist. Also, I learned to write effectively. Majoring in English as a pre-med was a smart idea. Too many doctors have the science but not the humanities."

Bill is survived by daughters Joan L. Lundin and Anne M. Dean; six grandchildren; and many great-grandchildren. His son, Bruce; and daughter Diane, who died in infancy, predeceased him.

THE CLASS OF 1951

JAMES HEYWOOD ALEXANDER '51

Heywood came to Princeton after graduating from Deerfield Academy. He was a music



major, president of the Glee Club, and a member of *The Daily Princetonian* editorial board, Theatre Intime, and Campus Club. He roomed with David Colwell and

Chester Davis.

After graduating, Heywood earned an MBA from Harvard. Upon finishing three years of service in the Coast Guard, he decided to pursue a career in music and returned to Harvard for a second master's degree, and then a doctorate from the School of Sacred Music at Union Theological Seminary in New York. He joined the faculty at Cleveland State University and became professor emeritus and served several churches as director of music. He spent his summers in Randolph, N.H., where he was president of the Randolph Foundation and played the organ for 80 years.

Heywood died June 15, 2024, in Bloomfield, Conn. He is survived by his children Elizabeth, James, and Linda; and his companion Julie Fewster.

GEORGE C. GAINES '51

George was born in Fayetteville, W.Va., and graduated from Lawrenceville. At



Princeton, he majored in Modern Languages, was a member of Cottage Club, and was on the crew team. He roomed with Chuck DeVoe '52, Dick Kazmaier '52, John Laupheimer '52, Dean W. Mathey '50, John McGillicuddy '52, Ernest Montgomery, Henry Sailer '50, and George Stevens '52.

After graduation, George earned a law degree from the University of Virginia and was the fourth consecutive generation in his family to practice law. In time, he entered the business world and became VP and European manager for General Mills Corp. Ultimately, he founded his own management consulting firm, Executive Partners International Corp. (EPIC).

George died after a brief illness Feb. 3, 2025, at his home in Philo, Calif. He is survived by his wife of 73 years, Mary Moore; and children Caroline, George Jr., Meg, Mary '80, Jim, and Christian.

RICHARD A. HENDERSON '51

Dick graduated from the Episcopal Academy in Overbrook, Pa. At Princeton, he majored in electrical engineering.



He was a member of Terrace Club, the Glee Club, and president of the Camera Club. He roomed with Anthony Devereux, John Jessup Jr., Elmore Lewis, Gifford Malone, John Pratt '52, and Lucius Robinson.

After a three-year stint in the Navy, Dick spent his entire career at Philadelphia Electric Co. in systems planning. He was a member of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. He enjoyed hiking, traveling, art, and music. He sang in his church choir as well as in the Wayne Oratorio Society.

Dick died Oct. 2, 2023, in Keene, N.H. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Alisan; his daughter, Alice; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren

DONALD M. MARCUS '51

Don graduated from Horace Mann School in Riverdale, N.Y., before coming to Princeton



and majoring in biology. He was a member of Campus Club, the *Tiger* editorial board, and the Pre-Med Society. His roommates were Charlie Ilsley, Stu Krisel, Jim Rentschler, and Jay Schwamm.

After Princeton, Don earned a medical degree from the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University in internal medicine, continued training as a postdoctoral fellow at Columbia in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, then became

a professor of medicine and immunology and the director of the Division of Rheumatology at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. After nearly two decades in New York, he moved to Houston and joined the faculty of Baylor College of Medicine. Don pursued his interest across disciplinary boundaries in the fields of biochemistry and cell biology. Over his distinguished career, his research group produced more than 120 publications. He held the status of Master of the American College of Rheumatology.

Don died Oct. 10, 2024. He was predeceased by his wife, Marianne. He is survived by his children Laura, Susan, and James.

THE CLASS OF 1952

PAUL BENACERRAF '52 '60

Paul died Jan. 13, 2025.



An alumnus of the Peddie School, he came to Princeton and never left. He studied philosophy, stayed on for a Ph.D., and then joined the faculty. With his thesis adviser Hilary Putnam, he later edited the anthology, *Philosophy of Mathematics*, which shaped the course of the discipline for the rest of the century.

In 1979, Paul was named the Stuart Professor of Philosophy and in 1998, the James S. McConnell Distinguished University Professor of Philosophy. In the University administration he was associate dean of the Graduate School from 1960 to 1967 and then associate provost for special studies. From 1988 to 1991, he was provost of the University. Twice chairman of the philosophy department, he made it known worldwide. For many, it is said, he was the public face of analytic philosophy throughout the United States.

His honors are more than these. He was one of the most important of our class members. In person unassuming, he served for years on the class committee, helpful and much-liked.

Paul is survived by his children Marc, Tania, Andrea, Nicolas, and Natasha '11; grandchildren Sophie, Lucas, Audrey, Dillon, and Seth; and his friend and former wife, Suzanne.

DEWITT F. BOWMAN '52

DeWitt graduated from Lake Forest Academy and came for freshman year in



engineering, but then left for the University of Wisconsin. He went on to Northwestern, where he got a certified financial analyst award and was a member of Chi Psi fraternity.

DeWitt had a distinguished career in finance, capped by service as chief investment officer for CalPERS, the largest

pension investment company in the United States.

DeWitt died Jan. 20, 2025, in Corona Del Mar, Calif.

JOHN E. TODD '52

John came from the Wyoming Seminary and joined Court Club, majoring in English.



He transferred in junior year to Oberlin College, where he graduated in 1953. He earned an M.A. from Columbia University and a Ph.D. from Wisconsin.

After time as an assistant professor at Michigan, he went, in 1972, to Baruch College for 40 years, and became chair of the English department. He published books on Emily Dickinson and on Frederick Law Olmsted. John retired to Austin, Texas, where he died Sept. 16, 2024.

DONALD C. UPDIKE '52

Don, son of Oscar L. Updike 1925, came to us from Columbia High School to major in



mechanical engineering. After Army service, he settled in his old family home in Randolph, N.J., for 65 years. He worked in design engineering for McKiernan-Terry and Camoran Machine Co., in Dover, N.J.

His wife, Ann, died before him. Don died Jan. 16, 2025. He is survived by his daughters Nancy, Cathy, and Barbara, to whom the class offers its best, with a salute to Don for his Army service.

THE CLASS OF 1953

PETER A. BENOLIEL '53

Peter died Feb. 17, 2025, at home in St. Davids, Pa. He was 93.



He was born in Philadelphia and graduated from Penn Charter before coming to Princeton. He joined Cannon Club and majored in the Special Program in Humanities with a minor in chemistry. He wrote his thesis on "The Problem of Philosophical Expression in Music in the Light of Schopenhauer, Wagner, and *Tristan and Isolde*." After graduation, he served in the Navy for 3½ years, mostly on board the USS *Gatling*. Peter then joined Quaker Chemical Corp. — the family business — as a chemist, and from 1966 to 1992 was its president and CEO. During that time, Quaker expanded with subsidiaries and ventures in the Netherlands, the U.K., and Mexico, and moved into markets in France, China, Japan, and Brazil. The company launched an initial public offering in 1972 and began trading its shares on the New York Stock Exchange in 1996. It merged in 2019 in a \$1.6 billion deal to become Quaker Houghton.

Peter sat on no fewer than a dozen corporate and charity boards, including serving as chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia from 1989 to 1992. He was the Philadelphia Orchestra's board chairman for some of the ensemble's rockiest years, starting in 1995, as it endured a painful 64-day musicians' strike. He loved playing chamber music and participated in Philadelphia's "Unstrung Heroes" benefit concerts. "There's no shortage of corporate CEOs who get involved in nonprofit organizations because someone said that's what a corporate CEO does," said Joseph H. Kluger, the former chief of the Philadelphia Orchestra who is now an arts and culture consultant. "But Peter really walked the walk of the responsibility of those with resources to give back to the community and make those communities better places to live and work."

Peter also served as an officer for the Class of 1953 and was class president at the time of his death.

In addition to his wife, Willo Carey, he is survived by five children, three stepchildren, and 25 grandchildren.

EDWARD J. DUFFY III '53

Ed was born in New Rochelle, N.Y., and graduated from the Canterbury School



before coming to Princeton. He joined Cap and Gown, majored in economics, and wrote his thesis on "Defense Plant Corporation." In his senior year he played on the Ivy League Championship hockey team.

Immediately after graduation, Ed spent two years with the Marine Corps and then after earning an MBA from New York University, he began a career in writing and public relations. He was also an avid used car buff and an intrepid backyard mechanic.

Ed died Feb. 8, 2025, with his wife of 68 years, Marjorie, beside him. He is survived by Marjorie, their seven children, 17 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

FRANCIS JAMES MADDEN '53

Skip died March 11, 2025, in Stamford, Conn.

Born in Chelsea, Mass., he attended the Boston Latin School and graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy before continuing his education at Princeton. He joined Ivy Club and majored in English, writing his thesis on Graham Greene. He was vice president of his senior class. Following graduation, Skip served in the Marine Corps attaining the rank of first lieutenant.

He built a career in financial services, working in Chicago and New York for Smith Barney, White Weld, Drexel Burnham, and Lazard Frères & Co. Later, he transitioned

into executive recruiting, contributing his expertise to Russell Reynolds and Berndtson International before founding FJ Madden Inc. with a focus on executive leadership in the capital markets.

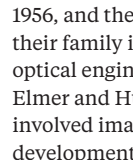
Beyond his career, Skip had a lifelong passion for sailing — a love that earned him the nickname "Skipper" at an early age. A longtime resident of Rye, N.Y., he was an enthusiastic tennis player into his 50s and even took on the challenge of running a marathon later in life.

Skip is survived by his former wife, Cornelia Robinson; two brothers; four children; and eight grandchildren.

WILLIAM F. MATTHEWS JR. '53

Bill died Nov. 5, 2023, in Scottsdale, Ariz.

He grew up in Upper Montclair, N.J., where he graduated from Montclair Academy. He attended Princeton but left in his sophomore year to enlist in the Navy. He married Ellen Robertson in



1956, and they lived, worked, and raised their family in Wilton, Conn. An electro-optical engineer, Bill worked for Perkin-Elmer and Hughes. Many of his projects involved imaging laser radar (ILR) systems development. He was awarded a patent for an ILR invention and authored numerous articles on the subject.

After taking early retirement, Bill and Ellen moved to Whispering Pines, N.C., in 1994. They later moved to Penick Village in Southern Pines, N.C. Bill was an active volunteer, leading the radio ministry for his church and serving in many roles, including president, of the Sandhills Photo Club. He was named volunteer of the year three times at Penick Village.

Bill's first job was taking photos for a real estate agent when he was 13. He photographed Broadway stars as a Princeton student and later was a medical photographer. In retirement, his photos frequently won awards in exhibits and competitions. He also loved travel, biking, classical music, house projects, and grilling steaks on Sunday evenings.

Bill and Ellen moved to Scottsdale in late 2021 to be near family. He is survived by his wife of 67 years; his daughters Susan and Mary Ellen; son William; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

PETER NOMIKOS '53

Peter was born in Athens, Greece, and came to Princeton after graduating from Taft School. He joined Key and Seal and majored in mechanical engineering. After graduating from Harvard Business School with an MBA in 1955, Peter co-founded the Thermo Electron Engineering



Corp. with MIT professor George Hatsopoulos. Thermo Electron grew by its technologies and by mergers and acquisitions and was renamed

Thermo Fisher. Thermo Fisher eventually became Zeiss Medical and its technology is used extensively in the treatment of breast cancer.

Peter was also active in the family business in maritime shipping and in archaeological excavations in Akrotiri, Santorini, Greece.

Peter died Sept. 1, 2024. He is survived by his wife, Theodora; their children Alexandra, Caroline, and Peter; and seven grandchildren.

CARL HENRY SHAFER III '53

Carl died March 5, 2025, in Chestnut Hill, Pa.

He was born April 15, 1932, in Newark, N.J., and came to Princeton after graduating from Phillips Academy. He was a member of Colonial Club and majored in history, writing his thesis on "Jefferson's Interest in Architecture."

After graduating, Carl went to the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, where he earned an MBA. Carl worked for IBM early in his career and then spent 33 years at the Winchell Company and concluded his career at the Hirshorn Co. in Chestnut Hill. Carl was a dedicated member of Summit Presbyterian Church, where he and his wife, Kathy, faithfully served in many roles, and he was an active member of the Chestnut Hill Rotary Club.

Carl was predeceased by his wife of 63 years, Kathryn Gloeckner Shafer. He is survived by sons Steve, John, Peter, and Andrew; daughters Katie and Mary; 13 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1955

WILLIAM P. BURKS '55

Bill, an accomplished surgeon, devoted golfer, and an awesome third baseman in high school, died Jan. 28, 2025, in Princeton.



He was born Feb. 28, 1933, in Elizabeth, N.J. and attended Pingry School, where he played football, basketball, and baseball and was involved in journalism. At Princeton, he majored in biology and joined Quadrangle Club. He was quarterback on the 150-pound football team that was undefeated his senior year. Bill won numerals on the freshman tennis team and was manager of the varsity team. He also played IAA squash and tennis. His senior-year roommates were Joe Myers and Cal Edgar.

After Princeton, Bill graduated from

Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons and interned at St. Luke's Hospital in New York City, where he advanced to chief resident of general surgery. He served as a captain in the Army Medical Corps from 1964 to 1966, spending a year as a trauma surgeon in Vietnam. Bill joined Princeton Surgical Associates as a partner in 1966. An expert in vascular surgery, he was an attending surgeon at the Medical Center of Princeton and served for a time as chief of general surgery.

Bill served for many years as a leader of the Princeton Area Community Foundation, the Princeton Medical Center Foundation, Princeton Day School, and the Princeton Investors Club, as well as the Alumni Schools Committee, Varsity Club, and Annual Giving. Bill and his wife, Judy, were members of the 1746 Society.

Bill was predeceased in 2021 by his wife of 66 years, Judy, whom he met at a tea dance hosted by his mother when he was 17. He is survived by four children, Katharine, Elizabeth, Deborah, and William Jr.; 13 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

BARRY MILLER '55

Barry, whose career featured extensive accomplishments in the field of



electrochemistry, died Feb. 7, 2025, in Cleveland.

He was born in Passaic, N.J., Jan. 22, 1933, and attended Passaic High School, where he participated in basketball, student government, and was sports editor of the school paper.

At Princeton, he joined Terrace Club and majored in chemistry. He played IAA football, basketball, and softball and was a member of the Chemistry Club.

After graduating with honors from Princeton, he earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from MIT. He was an instructor in chemistry at Harvard and then a member of the technical staff of AT&T Bell Laboratories. In 1965, Barry married Sandra, then became a professor of chemistry at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland until his retirement in 2000.

He served terms as president of the Electrochemical Society, editor of *The Journal of the Electrochemical Society*, and chairman of its physical electrochemical division. He also served as president of the Society for Electrochemical Chemistry and national secretary of the International Society of Electrochemistry.

Barry's son Jeff remembers that his father was exceptionally fond of his days at Princeton, along with his memories of whitewater rafting down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon and traveling the world.

Barry is survived by Sandra; sons Jeff and David; and five grandchildren.

JAMES RICHARD WARD '55

Rick, a dedicated Penn State football fan known for his creativity and quick wit,



died Feb. 5, 2025, at his home in Hollidaysburg, Pa.

He was born in Altoona, Pa., Aug. 23, 1933, and attended Mercersburg Academy, where he was

active in dramatics, publications, and sports management. At Princeton, he majored in the Special Program in European Civilization, joined Campus Club, and served on its social committee, and was in the Hispanic Club and the Western Pennsylvania Club.

Rick married Alicia Evelyn Burns Aug. 3, 1957, and joined Ward Trucking Corp., a company founded by his father. For 40 years he served in leadership roles, primarily as treasurer and chief financial officer. Together with his brother he helped steer the company through the turbulent years following motor carrier deregulation in 1980. He received an honorary doctorate from St. Francis University.

Rick was a generous supporter and patron of the arts in Blair County, serving on boards for the Altoona Symphony Orchestras, Blair County Arts Foundation, Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art, and Mercy Hospital Corp. He was an avid reader, and his many hobbies included photography, woodworking, and crafts. In retirement he traveled the world with Alicia. They enjoyed spending winters in Tampa and summers at home in Hollidaysburg.

Rick was preceded in death by Alicia in 2023. He is survived by his son, Jeffrey; daughters Alicia Ward Miller and Julia Ward Held; nine grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

THE CLASS OF 1956

ALAN D. BERLIND '56

Al died Jan. 15, 2025, in Nicosia, Cyprus.

He followed two brothers, Bruce '47



and Roger '52, to Princeton after attending Woodmere Academy in New York, where he was newspaper editor and played multiple sports.

At Princeton, he joined Quadrangle, majored in sociology, acted in Theatre Intime, and played interclub basketball and football.

After three years in the Army, Al joined the Foreign Service, which led to duty in many countries including Greece, Ghana, Belgium, and Sudan, and at the State Department. Highlights included positions as chargé d'affaires in Khartoum, director of the Office of the Law of the Sea, and counselor at the U.S.

Mission to NATO. Along the way he attended the Columbia University's European Institute, earned an M.S. in education from the University of Southern California, and was awarded the Department of State's Superior Honor Award three times. Truly, a life in the nation's service and in the service of humanity.

In retirement, Al taught at colleges in Athens and Thessalonica before he and his wife, Adriana Louiza Ierodionou, settled first in France, where they enjoyed exploring with their canal boat, and later on Cyprus.

Al is survived by Adriana and children Samuel, Jennifer, Amelia, Marika '94, Andreas '95, and Michael.

TAD D. HAMMOND '56

Skip died Nov. 21, 2024, in Nebraska City.

He joined us at Princeton after graduating from Nebraska City High School in 1950 and the Lawrenceville School in 1952. An accomplished pilot (and legendary for his flights over campus) while at Princeton, Skip left early for service in the Air Force, including as a first lieutenant and private pilot for Gen. Curtis LeMay. He later graduated *cum laude* from the University of Nebraska with degrees in electrical and mechanical engineering.

Most of Skip's professional life was focused on acquiring, building, and merging banks eventually into the Valley Bank & Trust in Cherokee, Iowa, which he served as chair of the board and president.

In 1993, Skip married Jill Renee Dennis with whom he enjoyed 31 years, especially skiing, boating, golfing, scuba diving, and, of course, flying. His family knew him to be a voracious reader and a gifted writer, especially poetry.

Predeceased by son Val Whitaker, Skip is survived by his wife, Jill; and daughters Jay Courtney, Logan Lucile, Sage Dennis, and SeeDee Clark.

ROBERT HASELKORN '56

Bob died at home Feb. 10, 2025.



He came from Brooklyn and Madison High School, where he was newspaper editor. At Princeton, Bob joined Tower, majored in chemistry, and served as coxswain and captain of the varsity crew team. Bob went on to Harvard, where he met his wife, Margot Bloch, and earned a Ph.D. in biochemistry in 1959. A postdoctoral fellowship followed at Cambridge after which he joined the faculty of the University of Chicago, where he rose to become Pritzker Distinguished Service Professor. Bob's prolific research focused on molecular genetics, for which he received many honors including election to the National Academy

of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Mendel Medal in Biological Science. He was also active in pursuing applications of his work, founding two biotechnology companies.

In retirement, Bob remained active in his Chicago research lab but added a winter home in Newport Beach, Calif., where he enjoyed watching a new generation of crew teams practice. He is survived by Margot; their children Deborah and her husband Larry Fine and David and his wife Elizabeth; grandchildren Katherine and her husband Graham; Olivia and her husband Christopher; Robert and his wife Daniela; and Sarah and her husband Michael; and four great-grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1957

JOHN C. CHRISTENSEN '57

John died of Parkinson's disease Feb. 16, 2025, near his home in Raleigh, N.C.



He came to Princeton from Prospect Park (Pa.) High School, where he was class president. At Princeton, he majored in mechanical engineering, joined Cannon Club, and played freshman football and varsity baseball. He also worked on the *Nassau Herald*, was a member of the Glee Club, and worked on the Campus Fund Drive. He roomed with 10 classmates in the "Executive Suite" of Blair Hall.

John worked at Martin (later Martin Marietta and Lockheed Martin) on atomic aircraft, which gave him exemption from military service. He then worked at Westinghouse Electric, and finally switched to sales and marketing at IBM, moving his residence many times in the process. During this period, he married Jeanne McCreery, a graduate of Thiel College, and they had four children, Lori, John, Jill, and Tiffany. John and Jeanne were active in church affairs wherever they lived.

In our 50th-reunion yearbook he provided us with many humorous musings, plus notes about raising a chronically ill child. His daughter Tiffany died of cystic fibrosis in 2023. John is survived by his wife of 65 years, Jeanne; their three children; and their families.

GARRISON F. LANE '57

Garry died Feb. 23, 2025, of complications of lung cancer at his home in Stonington, Conn.



He came to Princeton from Tabor Academy. He majored in English, played freshman lacrosse, and participated in the Chapel Choir, the Nassoons, and the Triangle Show. He joined Tower Club, where he played on the squash and volleyball teams. His

senior-year roommates were Bill Wiegand and Jim Tappan.

After graduation Garry served in the Army Medical Corps, followed by law school at UC Berkeley. He left law school early to marry Marcia "Hi-Ho" Huhn, an editor for women's magazines in New York. They had three children, Garrison S. (who predeceased Garry), Marcia, and Madeleine. Garry worked briefly in the advertising business and then followed an investment sales career on Wall Street.

He enjoyed sailing, and was a member of the New York Yacht Club and the Stonington (Conn.) Yacht Club. Through family heritage he was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Society of the Cincinnati. He also had a role in the movie *Rollover* with Jane Fonda in 1981.

After Hi-Ho's death he formed a relationship with Susan Parker. Garry was a loyal alumnus, serving as chairman of our 25th reunion, a continuing performer with the Nassoons reunion group, and co-sponsor of the recent Mystic Seaport mini-reunion. He was also a supporter of the Blue Hill Troupe, which produces Gilbert & Sullivan operettas in New York and Blue Hill, Maine, and the Hanoverian Ensemble — both of which involve other Princeton classmates (Byron Bell and John Solum, respectively).

Garry is survived by Susan; daughters Marcia Lane Clair and Madeleine Lane-Duigan, and their families.

THE CLASS OF 1958

EDWARD FORD SHAW WILGIS '58

Shaw died Feb. 2, 2025, at the Blakehurst Retirement Community in Towson, Md. He was 88.



"He died in his sleep," said his wife, Betsy Kane Strobel Wilgis, a retired nurse. "We had 62 magical years together."

Shaw was recognized for his development of a method of treatment of small vessels of the hand. The procedure is known as the "Wilgis sympathectomy."

"Shaw was an accomplished hand surgeon who was nationally recognized as the best in the field," said Dr. James P. Higgins, chief of the Curtis National Hand Center. "Despite his incredible accomplishments he spent most of his efforts helping young surgeons become better physicians."

In 1987, Shaw became president of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand, and he was later named a "Pioneer of Hand Surgery" by the International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand.

Shaw is survived by his wife, Betsy; sons Randolph and Edward; daughter Elizabeth Claire Gonder; seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.

THE CLASS OF 1959**ROBERT F. TAYLOR '59**

Husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Bob died Sept. 27, 2024,



surrounded by loved ones.

He was born in Davenport, Iowa, and lived in Plainfield, N.J., and Gardner, Mass. before moving to Winnetka, Ill., where he graduated

from New Trier High School. A mechanical engineering major at Princeton, Bob ate at Colonial Club and swam with the freshmen before finding his home with the Nassoons and forging friendships with that group that lasted all his life.

While serving in the Navy, Bob met and married the love of his life, Beth Bradley, a marriage that lasted 54 years. After leaving the Navy, Bob and Beth moved to Wisconsin, living first in Milwaukee and then Racine. Bob held leadership positions at Rexnord, Enerpac, and Erie Manufacturing, and served on many corporate and nonprofit boards. Bob and Beth raised a family of three girls, were actively involved in the Episcopal Church and Prairie School, and in their spare time enjoyed tennis, golf, concerts, and relaxing at their second home in Tucson, Ariz. Throughout his life, Bob made and valued many friendships from all parts of his life.

Predeceased by his wife, Bob is survived by his daughters Margy, Mary, and Cathy; six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and his sisters Susan and Mary.

THE CLASS OF 1960**BRUCE E. BURNHAM '60**

Talk about work ethic! At our 50th reunion, Bruce proudly described the full services cosmetic Plastic Surgery Center he had just opened in Glastonbury, Conn. It replaced his first clinic there established in 1985. He continued practicing until 2024 and died on his 87th birthday Dec. 16, 2024.

Before all that, Bruce was raised in Williamsville, in western New York, and attended high school there. Coming to Princeton, he majored in biology, was on the swim team, ate at Charter, and was in the Outing Club and Pre-Med Society. He earned a medical degree at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School in 1964, interned at Yale in 1965, and completed residency in plastic surgery at Cornell Medical Center. In 1968 at Hartford (Conn.) Hospital, he served in the U.S. Army Reserve Medical Corps as a captain. He then practiced at Hartford Hospital until transitioning into private practice, which grew into the Plastic Surgery Clinic around 1985 and the center in 2010.

Bruce loved his family — wife Debi, four sons, two daughters, and six grandchildren — his thriving practice, and gentleman

farming on his Federalist era country estate in East Windsor, Conn., on the banks of the Connecticut River. The class's sympathies go to all the family.

ANTHONY L. CERVINO '60

Tony was born and raised in Jeannette, Pa., tucked in the Allegheny Mountains east



of Pittsburgh. He attended Shady Side Academy in his high school years. To Princeton, he brought football and wrestling credentials that he applied here. Tony

majored in biology, served as social chair of Tiger Inn, and was associate editor of the *Bric-a-Brac*.

Always aimed toward a career in medicine, Tony earned a medical degree at Columbia Medical School. He decided to specialize in hand and reconstructive surgery. After completing his internship, residency, and another fellowship, he served two years as a doctor in the Army, one in a field hospital in Vietnam. He then began private practice in Akron, Ohio, where he spent the rest of his life.

Tony was famous for his boundless energy, always directed toward his practice. He was a co-founder of the Crystal Clinic group, a multi-facility surgical system in northeast Ohio. He is especially remembered for his mentorship of young associates. In our 50th-reunion yearbook he said he hadn't even thought of retiring. We are not sure if he ever did.

Tony died Dec. 16, 2024. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Elizabeth; four daughters; one son; their spouses; and seven grandchildren to whom we send our sympathy and best wishes.

MARTIN H. GARRELL '60

Physicist, environmentalist, sportsman, Marty wore several hats over his interesting



lifetime. Born and raised in Brooklyn, he graduated from its Technical High School, where he edited the yearbook and swam. At Princeton, Marty majored in physics, played baseball for two years, managed the swimming team, and joined Key and Seal.

He earned a master's degree and a Ph.D. in physics at the University of Illinois, Urbana, where he married Janet Wendel and moved on to a 2 ½-year fellowship at the DESY Synchrotron in Hamburg, Germany, before returning to Illinois-Urbana. He later became associate professor of physics at Adelphi University in Garden City, Long Island. Marty added an early (2010) course on climate change to his regular physics and astronomy repertoire and expanded it to environmentalism more broadly, to great acclaim over time.

He maintained a full teaching schedule to the end, commuting weekly between his Adelphi apartment and their home in the North Country of New York between the Adirondacks and Lake Ontario.

Marty and Jan both loved the outdoors — sharing fishing, hunting, camping, and dog-training interests while both, especially Jan, wrote on those subjects for outdoor magazines and newspapers.

Marty died Oct. 2, 2024. He is survived by Jan, to whom we send the class's sympathies.

ALEXANDER R. IRVINE '60

Alex was always determined on medicine. Born and raised in greater Los Angeles,



he did take time at Beverly Hills High School to excel in football and wrestling. At Princeton, he remained dedicated to both pursuits and was honored at

graduation as the leading defensive lineman of the 150-pound football team over four years. Alex joined Quadrangle Club and majored in biology on his way toward medical school.

At Harvard Medical School, he met and married fellow student Florence "Chauncy" Cranston in 1962, and they went on to parallel professions for more than 40 years. Drawn to optical science, Alex pursued his residency in ophthalmology at UC Berkeley along with two fellowships in corneal and retinal studies until 1970. He then served at the Letterman Medical Center, San Francisco, before joining the UC San Francisco hospital staff in 1972. Alex's clinical expertise brought him wide recognition, while his devotion to teaching a generation of ophthalmology residents and international fellows extended his impact globally.

Dedicated to his work, Alex was equally so to his family, always finding time for hiking, camping, and fishing together. A serious horseback injury in 2008 led to full retirement and more time for all that.

Alex died Sept. 14, 2024. He is survived by Chauncy, their two children, and two grandchildren. Our sympathies to all the family.

WILLIAM M. THOMPSON JR. '60

An able poet and determined conservationist, Bill was born and raised



near Albany, N.Y., and prepared for Princeton at Phillips Exeter Academy. He majored in religion, was active in Triangle, and dined at Charter Club.

Determined on a career in writing, Bill began his working career in journalism with local presses in southern Connecticut. In time he took up poetry and spent many

years of his life in that work. He retired from that pursuit several times but returned to it as often as he felt he had more to say. His work is published in several anthologies of American poetry. He was active in the Academy of American Poets and the Poetry Society of America.

Attracted to the Long Island straits soon after his college years, Bill became active for more than three decades in efforts to conserve the West Haven shoreline and helped to preserve more than five miles of shoreline, the longest protected stretch on Long Island Sound. He loved travel, often to locations with a beach and an ocean in its destination.

Bill died July 13, 2024. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Ann Louise; four children; 10 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren, to whom the class sends its sympathies.

THE CLASS OF 1961

THOMAS CHAPIN BRAMAN '61

Tom died Jan. 18, 2025, in Palm Coast, Fla., his home for more than 20 years. Born in Princeton, he came to us from The Gunnery, which was founded by his great-great-grandfather in 1850. We know little about his life at Princeton, as he transferred to Franklin and Marshall College and went on to earn an M.A. and a Ph.D. at the University of Florida in Latin American studies and history.

Then ensued a remarkable 40-year career in the CIA that took him to more than 50 countries as an intelligence analyst and operations officer in the Middle East, Europe, and South Asia. Tom spoke of his career as "relatively inconsequential but eventful," which was a gross understatement. He had six assignments in Iraq, and he was captured by insurgents in Lebanon in 1979. There is so much more; among his many interesting experiences, he once slept in the bed of former KGB Chief Lavrentiy Beria in Moscow. He was also a loyal Florida Gator who served his alma mater in several capacities.

Tom is survived by Lillian, his wife of many years, whom he met in South America while writing his Ph.D. dissertation on post-coup Chile. He is also survived by a sister and a brother.

FRANK E. MICHENER '61

Known to us as "Mitch," Frank died Dec. 26, 2024.



Born in Des Moines, Iowa, he came to us from Passaic Valley High School in New Jersey. A person of deep faith, he majored in religion, graduated *cum laude*, took his meals at Campus Club, and roomed with Tom Sansone.

After Princeton, Mitch earned a medical degree at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School, spent four years of specialty training in child and adolescent psychiatry, and entered private practice in 1973 in Alexandria, Va. Before retiring in 2022, Mitch had a profound impact on countless lives through his compassionate approach and unwavering commitment to his patients, helping so many to deal with life challenges. He was a member, elder, and deacon of the Old Presbyterian Meeting House for 40 years. Avocationally he was an accomplished landscaper and stamp collector. He and his family spent many summers in Nags Head, N.C.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Olivia; daughters Robin '90 and Cheryl; son Todd; two grandsons; and one granddaughter.

JOHN L. RANDALL '61

John died Nov. 3, 2024, after a long journey with Parkinson's disease. He was 85.



After studying religion at Princeton, he earned his medical degree at McGill University, becoming board-certified in pediatrics, family medicine, and infectious disease. John completed training at the University of Vermont and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. From 1968 to 1970, he served as lieutenant commander in the Navy in Charleston, S.C. In 1973, he joined Lancaster General Hospital in Pennsylvania, where he led immunizations during the 1979 Amish polio epidemic and advised on the Three Mile Island cleanup. John then chaired family medicine at Maine Medical Center (1981) and at Thomas Jefferson University (1991-2002). In 2004, he became dean of clinical sciences at St. Matthew's University in the Cayman Islands. He also consulted for the Nova Institute and earned a master's degree in holistic spirituality.

John loved the arts, nature, and animals. Known for his optimism, humor, and family devotion, he maintained a lifelong friendship with Princeton roommate and classmate William D. Wu.

John is survived by his wife, Elizabeth; eight children (including Kate '87); nine grandchildren; and sister Susie MacBride.

LEONARD W. RICHES '61

Len died Dec. 29, 2024, in Doylestown, Pa.



Born in Philadelphia, he came to us from Audubon (N.J.) High School. At Princeton, he majored in English literature, sang in the Chapel Choir, played in the Band, and joined the Evangelical Fellowship, the Republican Club, and the *Nassau Herald*.

A member of Terrace Club, he roomed with John Frame and Raymond Chiao.

Following a master's degree in divinity at the Reformed Episcopal Church Seminary and additional studies at the Lutheran Theological Seminary, he served three REC parishes as rector. He then embarked on a remarkable life of service and leadership in several religious organizations and institutions. He was the presiding bishop of the Reformed Episcopal Church and had a leading role in the formation of the Anglican Church in North America, which he served as senior bishop. Along the way he was awarded honorary doctorates at the Reformed Episcopal Seminary in 1976 and at the Cranmer Theological House in 1997. In retirement he lived in Upper Bucks County, Pa.

Len is survived by his wife of 61 years, Barbara; sons Leonard Jr. and Jonathan; and their families, which include four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1962

MARVIN J. DIAMOND '62

Marv died Jan. 7, 2025, in Naples, Fla.

He came to us from Columbia Grammar



School in New York City, where he played soccer, basketball, and baseball, was editor of the school yearbook, and president of the senior council. At Princeton, he managed crew, belonged to Orange Key, was a sportscaster for WPRB, and ROTC cadet battalion commander, and majored in history. He ate at Elm, where he played IAA touch football, basketball, and softball.

Following graduation Marv served in the Army from 1963 to 1965 and graduated from Yale Law School in 1968. He joined the law firm of Hogan & Hartson, where he spent his career specializing in communications law.

He married Melynda Taylor in 1982, and they had one son, Joel. After his first marriage ended and he retired to Naples, Fla., Marv's second marriage many years later was to Susan Pauker in 2004; she died in 2009. He then met Jewell Harris, his devoted partner for the last 13 years of his life.

Marv is survived by Jewell; son Joel '05; and brother Richard '65. The class extends sympathy to all.

THE CLASS OF 1963

JOHN RUSSELL BALL '63

Russ died Jan. 25, 2025, surrounded by family in St. Petersburg, Fla., where he worked for 15 years at Canterbury School of Florida, retiring as head in 2006. Russ was an educator for 42 years: classroom teacher, coach, upper school head, director of development, and head of school.



A native of El Paso, Texas, Russ came to us from Highland High School in Albuquerque, N.M. He majored in economics, was a member of Dial Lodge, Triangle Club, and the Texas Club, and worked in the student center.

Just five days after graduation, Russ married Mary Morrison and they moved to Far Hills, N.J., where he began his career by teaching science to fifth through ninth graders at Far Hills Country Day School.

In 1980, Russ moved to St. Andrews School in Boca Raton, Fla., and 11 years later to Canterbury. Both schools are affiliated with the Episcopal Church; he was an active member. In an interview with the *Tampa Bay Times* upon his retirement, Russ was asked if he found it important to have a spiritual component to education. "Absolutely," he replied. "The philosophy of Episcopal schools breeds excellence in education." He also talked about his career: "If I have touched some lives, and these kids have succeeded because of it, then that, to me, is the legacy."

Russ is survived by his wife of 61 years, Mary; son Sean; daughters Jennifer and Carrie; nine grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

LEWIS M. COCO '63

Lew, a business entrepreneur, died Jan. 21, 2025, in a hospital near his home in



Georgetown, Texas.

A native of Pottsville, Pa., Lew came to Princeton from Muhlenberg Township High School in Reading, Pa. He majored in psychology, was vice president and social chairman of Terrace Club, and roomed in Walker basement with the rest of the C.L.A.N. (Coco, Laden, Adelman, and Nesbitt).

Lew received a certificate in management development from Harvard Business School in 1976. His career included a lengthy tenure at J.P. Stevens & Co., and culminated in his final position as CEO and owner of Julius Koch USA, based in New Bedford, Mass. While living in New Bedford, he chaired the board of the New Bedford Whaling Museum and he was inducted into the New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce Business Hall of Fame in 1999. Lew's success story was featured in an April 1996 article in Princeton Alumni Weekly titled "Six Princetonians Make Fresh Career Starts in Middle Age."

Lew loved to play golf and poker, listen to opera, and take part in outdoor sports activities. He enjoyed cooking for friends and family. For many years he maintained his pilot's license, crisscrossing the Northeast in his small prop planes with his

wife and family. He was an avid supporter of Princeton sports teams.

Lew is survived by his wife of 28 years, Nancy; daughter Elizabeth Bryda and her husband Karl; son Michael '87 and his wife Liz '87; and son Stephen; stepdaughter Emily Hodgson and her husband Jeff; stepson Will Hodgson and his wife Claudia; seven grandchildren; brother Charles '66; and former spouse Alice Coco.

DAVID M. LONG '63

David, a retired investment adviser, died Jan. 18, 2025, in Cedarfield, a retirement community just outside Richmond, Va., where he lived and worked most of his life.

David saw the end coming and wrote the following: "In October, I was told I'd be dying soon. It took a lot longer to die than I thought it would but, if you are reading this, that means it finally and thankfully happened. I recognize it is a bit unconventional to write my own obituary but here goes anyway.

"Born in Atlanta, moved to Richmond in 1956. My career was long and primarily as an investment adviser, blessed with very nice clients, co-workers, and lifelong friends. I was truly fortunate to have had a wonderful 58-year marriage with my wife, Anne. We traveled the world scuba diving, went to all seven continents, and visited all 50 states, mainly road trips on the back roads of the lower 48 and into Canada. When Anne came down with dementia and recently passed away, it left a gaping hole in my life. I'm not entirely sure what will happen to me when I die, but I truly hope that I will be reunited with Anne.

"What am I proud of? My daughters Kay and Diane, for sure. Great kids. Looks like the grandkids are going to be winners, too. Anne and I were fortunate enough to volunteer our time and donate anonymously to a wide variety of charities. We worked hard to find causes that had great need. It brought me a lot of joy to make a difference. I am pleased that our contributions will be part of our legacy for future generations. How lucky I am to be able to impact so many lives during my lifetime and beyond. It has been a good life and I'm ready to go."

In addition to his daughters, David is survived by four grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1964

CHARLES A. POWELL '64

Chuck died Feb. 3, 2025, of heart and lung complications.



He came to Princeton from New Trier High School. He majored in history, played baseball, basketball, and 150-pound football, was a member of the St. Paul's Society, and joined Cap & Gown.

After graduation, Chuck worked briefly for Rep. Donald Rumsfeld '54 in Washington, D.C., then returned to the Chicago area to attend Northwestern Law School, earning a law degree in 1967. Via OCS at Fort Dix, he joined the Army from 1967 to 1970 and served in Vietnam, where he earned a Bronze Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters.

Chuck survived, albeit with health issues, and returned to Chicago to start a 40-year law career. After working in the Circuit Court and State's Attorney Office of Cook County, he co-founded a tax law firm, Powell & Reilly, later joining Chicago's Neal Gerber law firm as senior counsel.

Chuck was involved with his St. Augustine Episcopal Church and in his sons' sports activities. Politically he was proud to have worked in early campaigns helping classmate Jim Leach launch his 30-year career in Congress.

Chuck is survived by his wife of 46 years, Promilla; their four sons; and four of his former Princeton roommates who remember his good nature, thoughtfulness, and wit. Our condolences to all.

WILLIAM M. SLOAN JR. '64

Bill died Jan. 2, 2025, in Peterborough, N.H., in the presence of his family.



Born in New York City, he came to Princeton from the Groton School. He majored in religion, joined Charter Club, and played varsity golf. Upon graduation he served in the Navy on the USS *Essex* from 1964 to 1969, then taught at Officer Candidate School in Newport, R.I., for two years.

After Newport, Bill worked at the Rhode Island Hospital Trust Bank (RIHT) in Providence and managed the U.S. equity portfolio of Sun Life of Canada. In 1988, he became president of HT Investors, a subsidiary of RIHT, then worked for several other firms as a portfolio manager before setting up his own investment firm in 2000.

Bill was devoted to family and active in church and community affairs. He was chair of Hallworth House, a nursing home owned by the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island, helping it achieve financial stability. He was also president of the YMCA and a member of several charitable clubs. He served as a trustee of the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island and was on the board of New London Hospital.

Bill is survived by his wife of 58 years, Wendy; daughter Susan Alsfield; son William III '94; their spouses; and five granddaughters. Our class offers our condolences to them.

RICHARD A. SPRINGS III '64

Dick died Sept. 9, 2024, after hospitalization for chronic lymphocytic leukemia. The third



Richard Springs to attend Princeton following his father (1940) and grandfather (1877), Dick majored in philosophy and ate at Tiger Inn.

He learned single-wing football as a blocking quarterback at Kent under Princeton's future offensive backs coach, Jake McCandless '51. In 1960, Dick joined 100 classmates for freshman football. By 1963, only 13 remained, helping earn the team's share of the Ivy title.

Dick loved blocking. His favorite memento was a 1963 *New York Times* photo showing his block on Columbia's end that sprang tailback Don McKay '65 for the Tigers' lone TD in a 7-6 victory. Dick's skills earned him inclusion in Jay Greenberg's compilation of "Best Princeton Football Players of the Ivy League Era: Offense."

His passion for Tiger football never abated. Among others, he stayed close to '64 teammates Bill Crano, John Clarkson, Pete Porietis, Hugh MacMillan, and Jim Rockenbach, even coordinating a visit during Rocky's final illness in 2021.

After Princeton, Dick's life was in the agricultural sector as a cattle breeder, organic farmer, and local food provider. Dick and Melinda's special joy was their summer home on Beaver Inlet, British Columbia, where they loved welcoming friends and passersby.

Dick was private about his own illness, selfless to the end. We will miss our good friend, a Princeton Tiger through and through. The class extends its sympathy to Melinda; children; grandchildren; brother Lanny '67; and sisters.

THE CLASS OF 1965

JOSEPH M. ANDERSON '65

Joe died Jan. 4, 2025.

He came to Princeton from John Marshall



High in Oklahoma City. He roomed with a wealth of classmates, participated in Whig-Clio, rowed lightweight crew, and was active in Tower Club.

Joe spent a Fulbright year in Brazil after graduation, earned a master's degree in economics at UC Berkeley and a Ph.D. from Harvard, and did two years of military service at the Pentagon. He taught at Williams, moving rapidly on as VP of Lewin/ICF, a consulting firm focused on health care, Social Security, retirement, and savings, followed by travel through the Eastern Bloc, including the USSR.

He returned to DC and founded his own firm, Capital Research Association. The next 30 years involved work with most governments and major corporations in that area, including the World Bank and IMF. Joe served Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church for

40 years as deacon and finance committee head with a special interest in the church's Kenyan mission, while finding time to ski and pursue his environmental and native American collecting interests.

Joe is survived by his wife, Carolyn Johnson; children Kathryn and Josh; grandsons Sam and Luke; and brothers Frank, David, and Peter. Congratulations on the remarkable life and gifts to humanity he created through his intellect and energy.

RICHARD A. BERTHOLD '65

Richard was born Sept. 18, 1943, in East Orange, N.J.



He graduated from Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. At Princeton, he majored in mathematics, graduating *summa cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, and Sigma XI, and took his meals at Terrace Club, where he was active in intramural sports and especially in volleyball. A quiet but highly accurate individual who was well-liked by his classmates and clubmates. Richard earned a master's degree from Harvard in 1966.

His entire career was devoted to software development. Since computers were just developing, he taught himself computer programming and worked for Multicomp, Cortex, Attunity, and VBOS.

Richard died Nov. 25, 2024. He is survived by his wife, Cindy; stepsons Brian Schlicher, David Schlicher, and Matthew Schlicher; nine grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

THE CLASS OF 1966

MITCHELL J. GOROSKI JR. '66

Mitch died Feb. 25, 2025, of a heart attack following a health emergency and surgery five days earlier.



He graduated from Eastside High School in Paterson, N.J. He entered Princeton with the Class of 1964, joined Dial Lodge, and majored in English, writing his senior thesis on the works of William Carlos Williams.

After graduation, Mitch joined the Peace Corps and served in Thailand as part of a malaria eradication program. Following his two-year term, he enrolled in New York University Law School.

After receiving his law degree, Mitch worked as an attorney for Bedford-Stuyvesant Community Legal Services, where he met and married co-worker Jane Schneider. The couple moved to Albany, where Mitch joined the N.Y. Department of Environmental Conservation and soon developed a reputation as a water law expert. He later moved from the DEC to the Adirondack Park Agency counsel's office, in Ray Brook, N.Y. He retired in 2017, and he and Jane acquired an

apartment in New York City.

Mitch was a regular and popular presence at class events on the East Coast. He will be missed. The class extends its condolences to Jane and the Goroski family.

EDWARD E. LEAMER '66

Ed died Feb. 25, 2025, after a brief battle with ALS.



He came to Princeton from Vestal (N.Y.) High School, where he was yearbook editor, class president, and member of the debate team.

At Princeton, he majored in mathematics, roomed with Henry Dwyer and Phil Hansen, belonged to Charter Club, and worked in the student center. After graduation, he earned a master's degree in mathematics and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Michigan.

Ed had an outstanding academic career, serving as associate professor at Harvard, then as economics professor at UCLA, and ultimately as professor of global economics and management at UCLA's Anderson School of Management and director of the UCLA Anderson Forecast. A prolific author, Ed published more than 100 academic articles and four books. The title of his best-known article, "Let's Take the Con Out of Econometrics," reflects both his wit and iconoclasm.

It is a measure of Ed's stature in the field of economics that the day before his death, nearly 200 colleagues and friends, including three Nobel laureates in economics, gathered by Zoom for a "Tribute to Edward Leamer's Contributions to Economics."

Ed is survived by his wife, Ama Neel; daughters Stephanie and Abby; son Michael; and brother Laurence, to all of whom the class extends its condolences.

HENRY M. RUTLEDGE V '66

Henry died Feb. 14, 2025, at his home in Salisbury, Md.



He grew up in Hagerstown, Md., and graduated from the nearby St. James School, where he played varsity soccer and ran track. He followed his father, Irvine H. Rutledge '33 and cousin Robert C. White '63 to Princeton.

He majored in English, submitting a senior thesis on the works of Charles Dickens. He took his meals at Terrace Club and worked on the *Bric-a-Brac*. Senior year he roomed with Tom Adams, Ken Boudwin, Jim Folts, and John Godich.

After graduation, Henry earned a law degree at the University of Maryland Law School and embarked on a lifelong career as an attorney, both in private practice and for the U.S. Department of Labor.

Throughout his life, he was committed to

volunteerism. He enjoyed golf and hunting, especially with his sons on Hampton, his family estate.

Henry is survived by his wife of 50 years, Mary Louisa; and sons Donald and Macon. The class extends its heartfelt condolences to them.

THE CLASS OF 1969

RODERICK A. FERGUSON III '69

Devoted husband and father, loyal Bermudian and Princetonian, Rod died Jan. 8, 2025, at his second home in Virginia.



Following his graduation from Saltus Grammar School, where he was head prefect, Rod came to Princeton,

majored in English, played soccer, and was a Keyceptor and Orange Key guide. His social life was centered at Campus Club. Clubmates Jimbo Alley, Dan Herrick, Al Pavilanis, Hayden Smith, and Jeff von Arx recall how he brought them into his circle of friends, and how he stayed in touch after graduation. In our 25th-reunion yearbook, Rod referred to our Princeton degrees as "today's equivalent of knighthood."

Martha Smart and Rod were married days after graduation and headed to the University of Michigan for Rod's MBA. In 1971, Rod was hired by Bermuda's Gorham Lumber Co. as assistant general manager, and five years later he was running the company. Under his leadership, Gorham's became the largest retail operation in Bermuda.

Rod and Martha spent part of each year in Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains, where they started Devils Backbone microbrewery. Devils Backbone became the featured beverage at our recent major reunions. In 2012, they hosted a Charlottesville-based mini-reunion, which included a memorable dinner at Devils Backbone.

We join Martha and their children, Emily and Roderick, in mourning Rod's passing. Quoting Bill Charrier, who spoke at Rod's memorial in Bermuda, "We say goodbye today to our dear friend, Knight of the Order of Old Nassau, extraordinary human being, a man of quiet dignity and generosity. We will miss him greatly."

THE CLASS OF 1973

FRANCIS J. BRICKLE JR. '73 *80

Frank died Feb. 9, 2025, of cancer in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

He was born in Wisconsin and later moved to the Bronx, N.Y., where he attended Fordham Preparatory School. At Princeton, he majored in music and belonged to the Chamber Choir and Glee Club. He continued his studies under the supervision of Milton Babbitt *92 and received an MFA in music in 1976 and a Ph.D. in 1980.

Frank composed music for the rest of his life and was awarded an NEA Artistic Excellence Award in 2010. He wrote music based on diatonic tune/harmonies. A critic once described his work as "neo-medieval psychedelia."

Frank worked for the Institute for Defense Analyses in Princeton for 25 years, where he was engaged in radio-related activities. He also played competitive golf and had a scratch handicap.

Frank was predeceased by his wife, Sandra Leiblum. He will be missed by many, including his close friends who were fortunate to enjoy his quick wit. His music will surely continue to be appreciated by his following.

THE CLASS OF 1976

MICHAEL G. MOLYNEUX '76

Mike died Feb. 18, 2025, at home in Massachusetts, of complications suffered from multiple falls.



Born and raised in Queens, N.Y., Mike graduated from Regis High School. At Princeton, he majored in history and was a member of Dial Lodge. Committed to a career in journalism, Mike served as editorial page editor of *The Daily Princetonian* and was an important voice on the paper's managing board. Mike's classmates and roommates remember him fondly as a kind, gentle soul, always self-effacing, modest, and unassuming.

After graduation, he obtained a master's degree in journalism at Stanford, where he roomed with his college friend Sandy McLanahan.

Mike worked for 23 years as a copy editor for *The New York Times* before shifting career direction to obtain a certificate in philanthropy from Boston University. He worked nine years as executive director of the Charity Guild in Brockton and volunteered at the Sharon Rotary Club.

Mike enjoyed Reunions. He wrote in his 25th-reunion essay, "I met my wife, Lisa Matthews, as a Princeton classmate. We crossed paths at our fifth reunion and at our 10th, marrying a year later. We have three terrific children, Paul, Thomas, and Emily." Mike and Lisa raised the children for 18 years in Darien, Conn., before moving the family in 2005 to Sharon, Mass. Mike retired in 2017, and he and Lisa moved to Fox Hill Village in Westwood.

Mike had a passion for running marathons, twice in New York City (1981 and 1989) and once in London (1982). Always a wordsmith, he was an avid crossword puzzle enthusiast, playing at tournament level. He enjoyed summers and ski holidays with his family in Sunapee, N.H.

The class officers extend sincere condolences to his wife, Lisa Matthews '76; children; and extended family.

THE CLASS OF 1978

TIMOTHY M. EARLEY '78

Tim died Oct. 11, 2023, in Scranton, Pa.

He came to us from Dunmore (Pa.) High School, where he captained the football and basketball teams. It was also where he met Margee Kearney, his lifelong sweetheart. Tim and Margee returned to Dunmore and raised their six children there.



At Princeton, Tim played football all four years, starting every varsity game senior year. He helped break the Tigers' eight-game losing streak with a memorable play, causing and recovering a fumble against Columbia. Tim majored in English, penning his thesis on John Updike. He could often be found at the Pub and Dial Lodge, sharing a few beers with friends and taking a contrarian position on the topic at hand. He was known to break out in song, favoring Irish ballads and numbers from *Camelot*.

For more than 40 years, Tim worked as a benefit consultant with the nation's top health insurance companies and ultimately owned his own firm, Earley and Co. He was a devoted family man and a loyal friend to many, especially Dick Pugh. We know that, wherever Tigers gather beyond this life, The Captain and Tim Earley are together again.

CHRISTOPHER P. HEANEY '78

Chris died Oct. 12, 2023, of complications of Marfan syndrome, a genetic condition that had challenged him throughout his life.

Chris entered Princeton with the Class of '77, joined our class, and later withdrew without a degree but with cherished friends and splendid memories. Eventually he landed in California and worked in technical management for Cadence Design Systems. After retiring from Cadence, he moved to Austin, Texas, and finally to Durham, N.C.

After losing his father to Marfan syndrome when he was quite young, Chris began his own consuming series of medical treatments and surgeries. Facing these challenges, he determined to live his life to the fullest and in service to others. Colleagues in the Marfan community said he shattered the boundaries of what was considered possible for them. This was never more evident than in his dedication to the Marfan Foundation, where he served on the board and as an adviser. He was particularly passionate about teens within the community and created the Chris Heaney Angel Fund to give their families

the means to attend the foundation's annual conferences. His love of bringing people together also wove into a long practice of hosting fabulous dinner parties.

We honor his life, well and richly lived.

BRADLEY M. LEONARD '78

Brad died in a highway accident Feb. 1, 2025. Our hearts go out to Brad's family, patients,



and friends. He had lived in Dallas for more than 40 years, practicing medicine and raising his family there.

After graduating *magna cum laude* in biology, he completed his medical degree and residency at UT Southwestern. He took an additional fellowship at Harvard/Beth Israel, then returned to Dallas to practice cardiology. In 2012, he completed an MBA at SMU.

Brad wrote honestly at our 25th reunion of mid-career burnout and stepping away from his practice for a few years. When he returned to medicine, he came back fully and passionately renewed. Brad's patients wrote of his care and attention, his singular combination of no-nonsense communication and deep compassion, and his willingness to spend the time necessary to take care of them as individuals, not just cases. He was voraciously curious about both medicine and people. Classmates and rugby teammates remember Brad as always all-in and usually up for an adventure.

Brad's family described him as "uniquely hilarious"; it was a humor of connection and deep knowing.

Brad was unwaveringly devoted to his family: his siblings, his two children, and Martha — who remained his best friend even when their marriage ended.

THE CLASS OF 1984

BENJAMIN F. MCKINLEY '84

Ben died March 30, 2025, in Seattle.

He was born and raised in Wayne, Pa., but spent nearly his entire adult life as a secondary school math teacher and outdoorsman in the western United States.

Ben came to Princeton from Episcopal Academy. He majored in economics, played on the squash team as a freshman, worked in the fitness center, played on an intramural basketball championship team, and graduated *cum laude*. His senior-year roommates were Larry Martinez, Paul Sidoti, and Chris Beaufort. Ben earned a master's degree in education from Stanford.

His love of the outdoors began in Maine as a summer camper but blossomed in the West. He was a veteran of Minnesota Outward Bound, several Alaska NOLS courses, and innumerable trips down various Western rivers. He met his wife, Jackie, on a Colorado River expedition. Ben was

an accomplished rock climber, mountain biker, skate skier, kayaker, canoeist, and photographer. Even though he did not think of himself as a runner, he nevertheless qualified for and ran in the 100th Boston Marathon. After a family trip down the Green River to celebrate his 60th birthday, he was diagnosed with T-cell lymphoma.

Ben treasured his long-term friendships, and thought nothing of driving around the country visiting friends and family even after his illness emerged.

He is survived by his wife Jackie; son Bryce '27; daughter Keira; mother Judith Rogers; brothers Adam Goldstein '81 and his wife Cheryl, and Dan Goldstein and his wife Yukari; sister Laura Hayes; stepmother Lili Goldstein; and 17 nieces and nephews. His father, William Goldstein '57, predeceased him.

ROBERT QUINN '84

Rob died Dec. 22, 2024, while relaxing at home in Aptos, Calif.



At Kipling Collegiate High School in Canada, Rob was a national champion track and cross-country runner. His running career at Princeton was impressive, including setting the school record in the steeplechase. He is best remembered by his teammates for his world-class sense of humour and ability to inspire others. He sang "Walking on the Moon" during his fastest cross-country race. His banter could make a hard workout seem like a stroll along a pretty brook.

At Princeton, he majored in biology. He graduated in 1988 from McGill Medical School, where he met Polly. They moved to California in 1995.

Rob worked as an acute stroke and spinal cord injury rehabilitation doctor for 30 years and spent the last four years as CEO of Dignity Health, a not-for-profit health group with 160 clinics in California. He dedicated his career to improving the lives of others, going above and beyond for his patients.

Rob is survived by his wife, Polly; and their children Emily, Olivia, and Matthew. The Class of '84 and his teammates from the classes of 1981-1987 mourn his loss.

GRADUATE ALUMNI

ROBERT T. DODD JR. '62

Bob died of pancreatic cancer in Copake, N.Y., Nov. 3, 2024. He was 88.

Born in the Bronx, July 11, 1936, he majored in geosciences at Cornell and earned a Ph.D. in geology from Princeton in 1962. For his dissertation, Bob mapped the geological structures of Bear Mountain in Harriman State Park, N.Y.

After earning his Ph.D., Bob served in the Air Force until 1965. He worked on a project for the Apollo 11 mission:

determining the geologic texture of the surface of the moon. Next, he entered academia as a founding member of the Earth and Space Sciences department at SUNY Stony Brook, where he was a professor for more than 35 years.

Bob taught courses that ranged from basic science requirements to graduate-level studies in geoscience. He infused his courses with humor and erudition. That humor carried over into his writing. He published several books on meteorites, his academic specialty, as well as fiction, his passion. He also published several short stories in national magazines such as *The Saturday Evening Post*.

Bob is survived by his wife of 66 years, Marya; children Robert, Melissa, and Amy; nine grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

JOHN E. GAUSTAD '62

John died in Northampton, Mass., Oct. 18, 2024, due to complications of Alzheimer's disease. He was 86.

He was born May 23, 1938, in Minneapolis. He received an A.B. from Harvard in 1959 and earned a Ph.D. in astronomy at Princeton in 1962.

Inspired by the idealism of John F. Kennedy and the idea of the Peace Corps — and having a taste for adventure — John began his career as a lecturer in mathematics at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. In his third year, John saw a military coup topple the civilian government.

The 1957 launch of Sputnik created a demand for astronomy professors and researchers, so entry into American academia was relatively easy. Beginning in 1967, John spent 15 years on the faculty at UC Berkeley, where he became a full professor and chair of the department of astronomy. He and his research team published many papers in the then-new field of observational infrared astronomy, and John co-authored the textbook *Astronomy: The Cosmic Perspective*.

In 1982, he took a professorship at Swarthmore, where he remained until retiring in 2000.

John is survived by his wife, Gail; daughters Maya and Carma; and five grandchildren.

ALFRED S. GOLDBABER '64

Fred died Sept. 30, 2024.

Born in Urbana, Ill., in 1940, he graduated from Harvard in 1961 and earned his Ph.D. in physics at Princeton in 1964.

After postdoctoral study at UC Berkeley, Fred joined Stony Brook's Institute for Theoretical Physics, now the C.N. Yang Institute, where he remained for 54 years.

Fred's research spanned elementary particle and nuclear physics. With Wit

Busza, he made a prediction about what could be learned from high-energy collisions of atomic nuclei at the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider at Brookhaven. Fred studied magnetic monopoles, particles that remain hypothetical, but many of whose properties can be predicted by careful quantum analysis, and how seemingly small changes to the accepted rules of the universe would disrupt familiar principles. Fred's observations set extremely tiny limits on the mass of the photon and the graviton which established that the photon mass, if nonzero, is at least a factor of 10^{-18} smaller than that of the electron.

Fred's interdisciplinary course with Stony Brook's philosophy department engaged undergraduates with the impact of quantum concepts on our culture, and became the basis of a book, *The Quantum Moment*.

Fred is survived by his wife, Suzan; children David and Sara; and five grandchildren.

LAWRENCE SKLAR *64

Larry died in Ann Arbor, Mich., Dec. 9, 2024, at age 86.

Born June 25, 1938, in Baltimore, he did his undergraduate work at Oberlin, graduating in 1958, and earned a Ph.D. in philosophy at Princeton in 1964, working under Hilary Putnam.

After teaching at Swarthmore for one year, Larry joined the University of Michigan philosophy department in 1968 and retired in 2016 as Carl G. Hempel and William K. Frankena Distinguished University Professor. He held visiting positions at the University of Pennsylvania, Harvard, UCLA, and Wayne State University.

Larry aimed to make progress in philosophy by clarifying the questions at hand, investigating the dialectical resources available to partisans of various positions, and highlighting the extent to which apparently compelling appeals to empirical and mathematical considerations usually also rely crucially on underlying philosophical commitments.

His six books include *Space, Time, and Spacetime* (Matchette Prize), *Physics and Chance* (Lakatos Award), and *Theory and Truth* (based on his Locke Lectures).

A fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Larry served as president of the American Philosophical Association and president of the Philosophy of Science Association.

He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth; and daughter Jessica.

FRED L. MORRISON *66

Fred died Aug. 16, 2024, in Minneapolis, at age 84.

Born in Salina, Kansas, Dec. 12, 1939, he graduated from the University of Kansas

in 1961 and earned an M.A. from Oxford in 1963 as a Rhodes scholar, a Ph.D. in political science from Princeton in 1966, and a J.D. from the University of Chicago in 1967.

In a 50-year career, Fred taught constitutional law, international law, local government, and comparative law, first at the University of Iowa and then at the University of Minnesota, where he was instrumental in developing the law school's LL.M and SJD degrees and its visiting scholars' program.

Fred served as visiting faculty at the University of Bonn and the University of Kiel in Germany, and Tsinghua University in the People's Republic of China. He served as counselor for international law at the U.S. Department of State, and helped represent the United States before the International Court in The Hague. He was involved in the process of creating the constitutions of Kosovo and South Sudan as they moved toward independence. His committee service included positions on institutions in Germany, Japan, and China.

Fred is survived by his wife, Charlotte; sons Charles, Theodore, George, and David; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

MOHAMMED ANSORI NAWAWI *68

Mohammed died May 21, 2024, in Wayland, Mass.

Born Sept. 22, 1937, in Lumpatan, South Sumatra, as a youth he experienced the Japanese occupation of his country and the subsequent independence rebellion. After studying at the Methodist English School in Palembang, he worked at Standard Oil and became active in the union movement.

Awarded a Wien Scholarship for international students, Mohammed attended Brandeis and graduated in 1963. At Princeton, he earned a Ph.D. in politics in 1968.

Mohammed began his academic career at Wellesley and went on to faculty positions at the University of Singapore, Silliman University in the Philippines, and the Universiti Sains Malaysia in Penang, where he was dean of social studies. He was also a research fellow at the Australian National University.

He founded the Yayasan Nawawi Foundation for the education of students from primary school to university.

Mohammed is survived by his wife, Anne; daughters Celia, Alys, and Peri; and grandson Alexander.

PAUL B. COURTRIGHT *75

Paul died Dec. 9, 2024, in Atlanta, at the age of 82.

He was born Aug. 12, 1942, in Nashville, Tenn. After graduating from Grinnell in 1964 with a B.A. in history, he spent a year

serving as assistant rector at Ahmednagar College in Maharashtra, India, which laid the foundation for his love and study of that country. Upon his return he earned his M.Div. from Yale and a Ph.D. in religion from Princeton in 1975.

After holding academic positions at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and Williams, in 1989, he joined Emory as chair of its religion department.

Paul published and taught on Hindu marriage, pilgrimage traditions, and the religious landscape of British colonial India. During his years as chair, he worked to expand Emory's faculty and diversify its Graduate Division of Religion. He helped to found Emory's Ph.D. program in West and South Asian religions. He was instrumental in strengthening the Emory-Tibet Partnership, which continues to flourish.

Paul is survived by his wife, Peggy; his children, Benjamin, Jonathan, Rachel, and David; eight grandchildren; and his brother Lee.

J. PATRICK DOBEL *76

Pat died of pancreatic cancer Jan. 29, 2025, in Seattle.

Born Sept. 15, 1948, in Kansas City, he graduated from Boston College in 1970. He left college early so that he could complete service in the Army Reserve, focusing on being an Army medic. He received his Ph.D. in political theory from Princeton in 1976.

Pat began his teaching career at the University of Michigan, Dearborn. He enjoyed teaching the foundational American Government course and Ancient and Medieval Political Theory. In 1984, Pat joined the faculty of the University of Washington's Evans School of Public Policy and Governance, where he taught ethics, leadership, and strategic management. He was appointed the John and Marguerite Corbally University Professor of Public Service in 2011. While serving as faculty athletic representative, Pat was committed to ensuring the academic integrity of the athletic program for student athletes.

Pat wrote scholarly articles for *The American Political Science Review* and general-interest pieces for *Christian Century* and *Commonweal*. His book *Compromise and Political Action: Political Morality in Liberal and Democratic Life* was published in 1990.

Pat is survived by his spouse, Lea Vaughn '75; children Hilary '08 and Matthew; and grandchildren Miriam and Ezra.

Graduate alumni memorials are prepared by the APGA.

*Undergraduate memorials appear for Raymond E. Fredrick Jr. '48 *53, Paul Benacerraf '52 *60, Francis J. Brickle Jr. '73 *80.*

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KENNETH SHERMAN CLARK 1905 (1882-1945)

He Wrote 'Going Back' But Always Looked Forward to Next Song

BY ELYSE GRAHAM '07

TRADITIONALLY, we associate music with the Greek god Dionysus: The god of beer pong, of wine, women, and song, of the revelry that once ruled Greek festivals and now rules college parties and football games. What we tend not to realize is that *writing* songs is the province of Apollo: the god of reason, of logic, of the laws that harmonize the music of the spheres. One must write with a cool head to sing with a hot one.

Few songwriters better exemplify this fact than Kenneth Clark 1905, a songwriter who rose from the University's Triangle Club to writing for stadiums, concert halls, and Broadway. He also wrote songs for the University, producing wildly popular college songs and football fight songs that included "Princeton Jungle March," "Princeton, Forward March," and "Going Back to Nassau Hall." He was the great theorist of college songs during their golden age, writing about their mechanics — and

how those mechanics got stadiums roaring — with the loving precision an engineer would use to describe the workings of a locomotive.

Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Clark attended Shady Side Academy, an all-male private school known for football. As an undergraduate, he had the honor of being named the "Class Prophet," a now-defunct tradition in which a waggish student would give a speech predicting the future of his classmates. In his prophecy, he described a dream in which he found himself on a Dinky-like train that took him to purgatory, where, he learned, all Princetonians must attend a mirror version of Princeton and learn to be the opposite kind of student they were in life. "If he learns to do this satisfactorily, he is given a certificate of admission to the graduate school presided over by St. Peter." Touring this underworld campus, he found his classmates playing reversed roles: swells in rags, teetotalers condemned to revelry,

and literary debaters forced to argue in pantomime.

After graduation, Clark joined the staff of *Musical America*, a music industry newsletter. During World War I, he served as a song leader at Camp Meade in Maryland. ("American song leaders stand next in popularity to the Salvation Army doughnut girls," he later wrote.) Afterward, he held a range of positions in the music industry, including editor at Paul Pioneer Music Corp., a music publishing company associated with Tin Pan Alley. All the while, he was churning out songs like a machine. He wrote songs for Broadway shows, operettas, radio. He also published books of music — including *Carmina Princtonia*, a collection of Princeton songs.

In 1934, he wrote an article for *The Saturday Evening Post* on how songwriters produce college songs. A songwriter must know the difference between an alma mater song, a glee-club song, and a football fight song, because they work in different ways. Alma mater songs, being slower, often cabbage their melodies from old ballads — for instance, the ballad "Annie Lisle," which provided the melody for more than a dozen alma mater songs. ("Old Nassau" was originally written to the melody of "Auld Lang Syne.") Fight songs, meanwhile, do best if they have a "stunt" to rouse the bleachers, like chanting or spelling out the name of the college. And songwriters do well, in general, to anticipate the singers having a poor memory. When Clark wrote "Going Back," he made every other line "exactly the same, so that, however convivial the after-the-game celebration might be, the performers would know what to sing half the time anyway."

In his own lifetime, Clark's most popular song wasn't "Going Back," but "Princeton Jungle March," which had a stunt in the form of chanting the word wow: "Wow, wow, wow-wow-wow! Hear the Tiger roar!" Once, he met a Princeton alum who — tired of hearing it — told him, "Say, you have a lot of influence down at Princeton. I wish you'd use your influence to get 'em to stop singing that wow, wow, wow song."

"But I wrote it," Clark replied. ■

DANIEL HERTZBERG

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