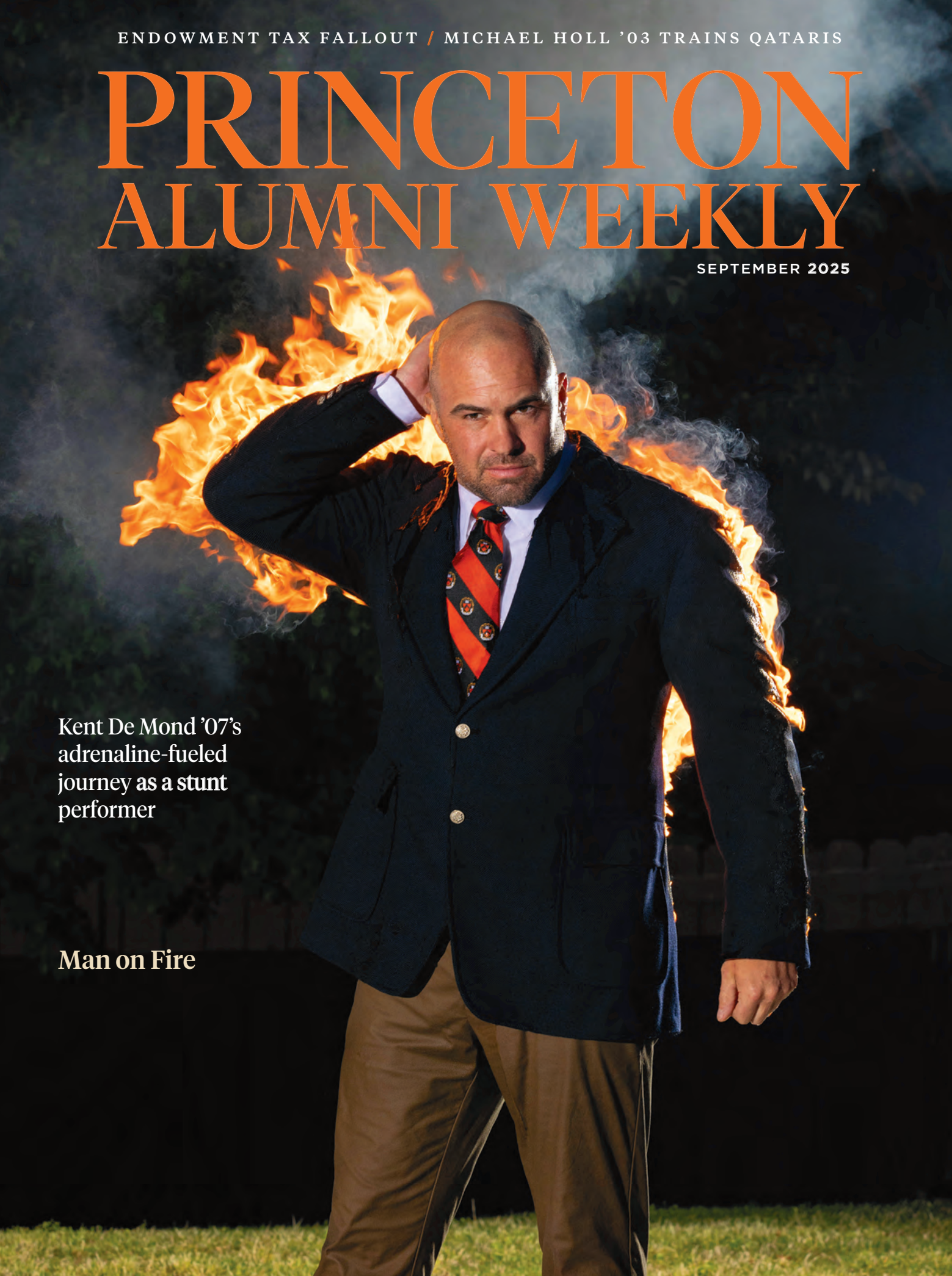


ENDOWMENT TAX FALLOUT / MICHAEL HOLL '03 TRAINS QATARIS

PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY

SEPTEMBER 2025

A full-page photograph of Kent De Mond '07, a man with a shaved head and a beard, wearing a dark blue blazer, a white shirt, and a red and black patterned tie. He is standing outdoors at night, with his right hand raised to his head. Behind him is a large, intense fire that appears to be coming from his back, creating a dramatic silhouette effect. The background is dark with some foliage visible.

Kent De Mond '07's
adrenaline-fueled
journey as a stunt
performer

Man on Fire

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An editorially independent magazine by alumni for alumni since 1900



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Kent De Mond '07 did not hesitate when asked if PAW could set him on fire for a photograph. Watch a video of the making of these pictures at paw.princeton.edu.
Photograph by Kendrick Brinson.

KENDRICK BRINSON



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SEPTEMBER 2025 PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY

1

The 'Encyclopedic' Museum, Reimagined at Princeton

As we look forward to next month's reopening of the Princeton University Art Museum, I asked museum director James Steward to share his insights on the magnificent new building and the museum's role as a center for Princeton scholarship and community life. I look forward to seeing you there. — C.L.E.

The art world's affection for the "encyclopedic museum" — one encompassing much or even the whole of the world in its scope — has fluctuated over time, with some arguing that the pursuit of universality was both false and doomed to fail. Suddenly, the encyclopedic museum is finding renewed favor in the profession, made useful and necessary once again in the face of social fissures and factions.

The dazzling new Princeton University Art Museum, opening next month thanks to the generosity of so many alumni past and present, will serve as a timely reimagining of the museum as both "encyclopedic" in scope and attentive to the concerns that ambitions of comprehensiveness have in the past aroused.

Princeton's museum, ten years in the making, builds on one of the most durable collecting histories in North America. Our roots go back to the acquisition of the first work of art by the College of New Jersey in 1755 — a year before the college itself settled in Princeton.

From early on, our museum looked beyond Europe in defining its reach. We were among the first museums to consider Asian art as a focus for serious collecting, in the 1860s. By the 1930s, African art became a dedicated pursuit. And by 1969 photography was emerging as a serious focus, even as Princeton became the continent's first university to create a professorship in the history of photography.

The result is what I sometimes term the most expansive set of art collections under a single roof on any college campus in this country. Other university museums have many strengths, but ours is the one that most seriously seeks to contend with the whole of the world's cultural heritage.

Collections that were once shaped for different intellectual purposes have been reconsidered at Princeton as they have entered our care, affording encounters of remarkable quality and range. Our campus community and visitors have the opportunity to explore cultural contact and exchange in ways usually possible only in our greatest national museums.

With the new building, architecture is at last enabling this set of virtues rather than throwing up obstacles. Designed from the inside out, the new building places 95 percent of its galleries on a single level, where works of art from disparate places and moments can talk with each other. The building it replaces had no fewer than twenty-one floor levels, thanks to different moments



James Steward and the new museum. Photos by Joseph Hu

of building and expansion, disrupting the movement of both art objects and visitors.

We have nearly tripled the number of objects on public view while shaping a more varied visitor experience. Gone are the hierarchies of display that led to Asian art and the art of the ancient Americas, two of our richest collections, being relegated to a basement level to which many past visitors never made their way.

Assigning the museum a central piece of University real estate, then as now, is a powerful affirmation of the value we place at Princeton on a humanistic education. It remains a short walk from all of the University's humanities programs and its residence halls, and from the heart of our town, conferring both symbolic resonance and practical benefit as a center for campus and community life.

Free admission — a hallmark of our museum from its inception — ensures that anyone can seek out a moment of communion with a favorite object on a visit of five minutes or five hours. More expansive hours ensure that people can come to us for challenge or comfort even late into the evening.

As the construction fences have come down and landscaping and numerous works of public art have arrived, the nine pavilions of our new facility — including the one housing Marquand Library, retained from the past but now transformed — begin to nestle into their setting. Dynamic setbacks from McCosh Walk and Prospect Garden, as well as newly shaped outdoor terraces for both art and people, surprise in their generosity.

Occupying the site identified in 1911 by then-University architect Ralph Adams Cram as the ideal location for a new and larger museum, today's museum frames vital vistas just as it creates views onto the campus that have never before existed. I hope the result is as engagingly transformational for Princeton, its students, faculty, staff, alumni, neighbors, and visitors as it already is for the museum itself.



INBOX

YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE LATEST ISSUES

DINNER AND A CD

I loved the article in the June PAW about PREX (“Vinyl Exam”). It took me right back to a first date I had during the fall of our senior year.

We had just finished dinner at Mediterra, and I think it was his idea to take a walk over to the Princeton Record Exchange. We were probably both eager to share our extremely cool, very underground music taste. We decided to each blindly pick out a CD to purchase. That night, in the family’s white Toyota Sienna minivan that he had on campus, we blasted one of



the albums: *Berlin Serengeti* by Radio Citizen. It became the soundtrack of our early relationship. Eighteen years later, we’re still together, now vibing to new music with our two sons — minus the minivan.

ERICA DUKE FORSYTH '08

Los Angeles, Calif.

QUESTIONING ORTHODOXY

I was delighted to read the article on Monica Harris ’88 and the work of the Foundation Against Intolerance and Racism (“Going Against the Current,” June issue). I had not heard of this organization until now, and I applaud its attempts to balance the state of political discourse in this country. It struck me that this organization has in certain ways stepped into the void left by the recent politicization of the ACLU. There was once a time when the ACLU steadfastly held to that centrist, and resolutely American, position of protecting free speech and civil liberties for all, even when that speech and those liberties made people uncomfortable. Sadly, it seems that the ACLU lost its way in the tumult that followed the tragic death of George Floyd, succumbing to the siren songs of identity and economic injustice politics. It was not lost on me that FAIR’s board includes Nadine Strossen, former president of the ACLU. Doubters: That has to count for something.

My best wishes to FAIR and to all who peacefully question orthodoxy.

AGUSTIN E. RODRIGUEZ '90

Richmond, Va.

I read with great interest the article about Monica Harris’ attempt to bring moderation to our political discourse.

There is much to be said about progressives and conservatives taking each other’s opinions seriously and with respect. If we were to compare the two sides’ opinions on contentious issues — vaccination, transgender athletes, antisemitism at Harvard, immigrants, the federal bureaucracy, Medicaid, tariffs, and so on — we would find that each side makes some important points and needs to learn from the other. As Ms. Harris points out, we need moderation in place of shrill partisanship.

In order to achieve that result, however, both sides have to agree on a common framework of respect for the law, the Constitution, and the judiciary. In the past, whatever their differences, traditional Democrats and pre-Trump Republicans at least agreed on that common framework.

Where Ms. Harris’ argument fails is that this is no longer the case! The Trump administration has repeatedly shown its willingness to ignore the Constitution and the law and its contempt for the judiciary. When one side uses the power of the government to impose its policies,

what hope is there for moderates to bridge the gap between progressives and conservatives on contentious issues?

Ms. Harris’ argument makes sense for traditional political times. In the face of raw power, however, it is blowing in the wind.

DANIEL R. HEADRICK '71

New Haven, Conn.

I’m so happy to hear about this organization, FAIR, and Monica Harris’ leadership of it. I too am a moderate who is dispirited by the extremes of our particular historical moment. I would love to contribute to the cause of rebuilding (or simply revitalizing) the vital center. I will check FAIR’s website to see how I could be involved.

I am a professor of American history at Pepperdine University. At Princeton I took classes from both Robert George and Cornel West ’80, James McPherson and Nell Painter. Now I teach classes on both the American Revolution (supposedly conservative) and Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition (supposedly progressive). America is both and so am I.

STEWART DAVENPORT '94

South Pasadena, Calif.

FREE SPEECH PROTECTIONS

I enjoyed Harrison Blackman ’17’s article about Princetonians for Free Speech (Princetonians, June issue) but respectfully disagree with Stuart Taylor Jr. ’70 that protected speech should include advocating for “the destruction of Israel, if it’s just advocacy.” Just as we need to understand systemic racism to define, say, racist lending practices, so antisemitism requires understanding. Calling for Israel’s destruction is never “just advocacy,” because it incites violence. Sen. Chuck Schumer has stated that attacks on Jews in Colorado, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania all “cited anti-Israel sentiment as a justification for their violence ...” Schumer explained that “collective blame is traditionally one of the most nasty, dangerous forms

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INBOX

of antisemitism” and is different from peaceful protest of the Israeli government. In his words, “there’s a profound and dangerous difference between criticizing a government and condemning an entire people” (*Jewish Insider*, June 6, 2025).

Please reflect on what the “destruction of Israel” actually means. Hamas’ 2017 charter states, “Hamas rejects any alternative to the full and complete liberation of Palestine, from the river to the sea” (“Doctrine of Hamas,” Wilson Center, Oct. 20, 2023). “Liberation” here means Israel’s total nationwide massacre, as Yahya Sinwar implied when he announced that Oct. 7 was “just a rehearsal” (*JNS*, Nov. 30, 2023). The FBI and DHS have warned that American Jews like me are facing an “elevated threat.”

When I marched against South African apartheid at Princeton in the ’70s, we chanted “End apartheid now!” We did not chant “Kill the Boer!”

SHARONA MUIR '78

Perrysburg, Ohio

DOTTIE WERNER

Dottie Werner (“Happy To Solve a Problem,” July/August issue) is a living saint, as generations of Tigers can attest. I am undoubtedly not alone in believing her primary role was to assist *only* me as our class prepared for major Reunions. How she does it with such grace, style, and integrity is beyond my ken; congratulations and thanks to one of the finest human beings I have ever worked with.

ROBERT BURKHARDT '62

Estes Park, Colo.

Dottie is someone whose presence not only organizes the world around but elevates everyone within it. We have always experienced her seamless orchestration that is filled with grace. Her tireless dedication and boundless energy are matched only by the warmth and respect she inspires, responding to questions asked of her with alacrity and clarity.

As noted in this article, her work is admired and cherished. All who have had contact with her are endlessly grateful!

RUBY HUTTNER '72

Flemington, N.J.

STAND UP FOR ALL

Much has been written in PAW about the need for our community to “stand up” for our cherished University (On the Campus, June issue). Ensuring our nation’s global preeminence in higher education and institutional independence are causes that have never been more urgent. However, I feel that there has been insufficient recognition in the media and elsewhere of the plight of other private colleges and universities — and, more importantly, their students — that possess far fewer of the resources necessary to survive the challenges they are facing. My nonprofit association, the Independent Colleges and Universities of New Jersey, supports the presidents of the 13 private/independent universities in New Jersey, including Princeton.

A significant part of our efforts involves raising funds to support Pell-eligible and/or first-generation students who face financial challenges as they pursue their degrees. While our alma mater provides unprecedented assistance, most of our schools do not have endowments or alumni support sufficient to deal with recent cuts in student aid and institutional support. I should note that while Princeton contributes a significant amount of financial and other assistance to our association, it receives relatively little from our efforts when compared to the other 12 — which makes me even more proud to be an alum.

We all absolutely must “stand up” for Princeton, but I would ask that we also consider what we can do to support other institutions in our state and in the nation that are now facing potentially debilitating state and federal cuts, along with reduced institutional support and harmful regulation.

STEVE REYNOLDS '80

President & CEO, Independent Colleges
and Universities of New Jersey
Trenton, N.J.

DEVOID OF DELIGHT

Regarding the new Art Museum building (“Where Old and New Meet,” May issue): According to Vitruvius, the aspects of architecture are three: firmness, commodity, and delight. I will

stipulate as to the museum's firmness and commodity, but can somebody tell me, please, where is the delight in this hulking brute? And if there is none, would Vitruvius have considered it architecture? Or, more likely, just construction?

JAMES G. MCCULLOH '56 *65

Princeton, N.J.

QUOTING EINSTEIN

Evidently, the only things that propagate faster than "Einstein's Begonia" (June issue) are light and misattributions of quotations to Einstein. According to the article, Einstein once said, "Play is the highest form of research." But *The Ultimate Quotable Einstein* (Princeton University Press, 2011) classifies this remark with many others under the heading "Probably Not By Einstein." Einstein might have agreed with what Yogi Berra supposedly said: "I really didn't say everything I said."

MARC LANGE '85

Pittsboro, N.C.

YOUR PERSPECTIVE

Let us know what you think



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SHORT STORY

Through the Wormhole

What if six brilliant physicists could reach through a wormhole to another world and talk with their mentor, physics titan John A. Wheeler? **Robert Fuller '61**, who studied under Wheeler at Princeton and sadly died July 15, wrote a sci-fi short story that plays with some of the biggest questions and "what-ifs" in science.

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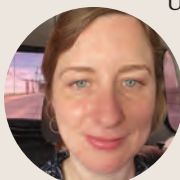
After the Trump administration announced plans to close the

U.S. Agency for International Development, **Caitlin Tulloch '15** and **Rob**

Rosenbaum '13 helped create Project Resource Optimization to find donors and save the agency's most cost-effective and life-saving projects.

"We knew how to read the

institutional data and say, 'These are the things that, if killed, would cause the most loss of life,'" Tulloch says, "or, conversely, if funded with private money, would save the most lives per dollar spent."



TULLOCH '15



ROSENBAUM '13



TIGER OF THE WEEK

Unifying Theory

Adam Mizel '91 is on a mission to unify America. With US United, the nonprofit he founded after a successful career in finance and business, he took a road trip this summer to spread the word about his organization's work and its belief that we aren't as divided a nation as we think.

"We have to go big," he says. "We have to take on culture, take on politics and media to say, 'We can change this. It doesn't have to be this way.'"

WE'RE BACK WITH A NEW FELLOW AND OTHER CHANGES

As the new academic year begins, there are several updates to share. First, we're excited to welcome Lia Opperman '25 as PAW's reporting fellow. Lia joined us in July, just weeks after graduating with an A.B. from the School of Public and International Affairs and a minor in journalism.

She succeeds Hope Perry '24, who served as PAW's inaugural fellow in a one-year position created to give a graduating student or recent Princeton graduate who is interested in journalism the opportunity to contribute to PAW while helping us better cover the Princeton community and student body. After a successful year, Hope is now working as an education reporter at the *Evanston RoundTable* in Illinois.

Lia, who grew up in southern New Jersey, is off to a fast start, with several articles appearing in this issue and at

paw.princeton.edu. As a student, she worked at *The Daily Princetonian*, where she served as director of outreach and as an editor for the investigations and news sections. She also interned at C-SPAN, *Washington City Paper*, and the Princeton Summer Journalism Program.

"I hope to produce stories that reflect the depth and diversity of the Princeton community while continuing to grow as a reporter and storyteller," she said. "I really

want to build trust with different campus communities and strengthen my ability to cover complex issues empathetically and with nuance."

In other news, the financial crunch facing the University has reached PAW.

In May, the University announced that departments should prepare for budget cuts of 5% to 10%, to be phased in over three years, in response to reduced federal research funding and an expected increase of the endowment tax.

Since our memorandum of understanding with the University was signed in October 2021, the University has set and funded PAW's operating budget. Revenue from non-University advertising has been used to fund special projects, such as

the reporting fellowship, and may be tapped to offset some of the budget cuts.

To adapt, we're making several changes, including:

- Returning to non-recycled paper this November. We made the switch to fully recycled stock two years ago, but the higher costs and uncertainty surrounding tariffs



OPPERMAN '25

make it difficult to continue for now.

- Asking alumni outside of North America to opt in to receive the print edition. The policy was implemented in the spring, and we will make updates as readers respond.
- Reducing duplicate mailings. Starting with this issue, we'll send one copy to households where we believe both spouses are alumni. We know this isn't an exact science, so we've set up a page at paw.princeton.edu where readers — married, international, or otherwise — can update their preferences.

These changes to print distribution are not mandatory. If you prefer to continue receiving multiple copies, just let us know.

SCAN the QR code to update your address or circulation preferences



We are also making smaller, more subtle changes that will hopefully go unnoticed by readers. Rest assured that our mission remains the same: to produce high-quality journalism that informs, educates, and entertains the Princeton community. ■



Peter Barzilai s'97

EDITOR

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ON THE CAMPUS

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SPRUCING UP

University crews repair and restore the façade of 1901 Hall, one of several projects completed during the summer recess.



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ADMINISTRATION

University Contends with Steep Increase in Endowment Tax

BY CHRISTOPHER CONNELL '71

NOTHING IS CERTAIN EXCEPT death and taxes, and yet Princeton faces a big question: Can it avoid paying nearly a quarter-billion dollars a year in taxes on its endowment earnings by spending more on financial aid?

The answer wasn't clear after President Donald Trump's tax and spending bill steamrolled to passage in July, raising the existing 1.4% tax on the largest endowments to as high as 8% starting in 2026. The stiffest levy was reserved for the wealthiest private institutions, and only Princeton, Harvard, Yale, Stanford, and MIT appeared to fit that category with endowments above \$2 million per student.

But Princeton arguably boasts the most generous financial aid packages in the land and, in August, announced a significant expansion, including free tuition for most undergraduates with family incomes up to \$250,000, increasing what it spends on financial aid to \$327 million from \$283 million in 2024-25 (see page 12).

That has raised the question of whether Princeton will be hit with the tax. The statute stipulates it applies to private institutions with "at least 3,000 tuition-paying students," and by offering this new aid, Princeton could land below that number.

The University declined to comment on the endowment tax or on how many tuition-paying students it expects to have under the new financial aid policy.

Princeton's estimated cost of attendance for 2025-26 is \$90,718, including \$65,210 for tuition. In 2024, nearly half its 5,700 undergraduates received aid that covered the full cost of tuition, according to the University. It also enrolled 3,280 graduate students, 88% of whom are Ph.D. students who are fully funded by the University. Graduate students are also eligible for aid.

Economist Eugene Steuerle co-authored a white paper for the Tax Policy Center of the Urban Institute and Brookings Institution that laid out

some of the complicated maneuvers universities could take to shelter endowment earnings. "I think they'll proceed cautiously," he said referring to all schools when interviewed by PAW. "The tax is clearly an attack upon elite institutions If your objection is that there aren't enough conservatives being hired, the excise tax has nothing to do with that."

Writing in *The Daily Princetonian* in July, Isaac Barsoum '28 observed: "This all means that by expanding financial aid for about 850 undergraduate students, Princeton could put itself below the small-college threshold for the tax."

The gyrations in the proposed new tax on endowment earnings this spring were head spinning. The House passed one that topped out at 21% and exempted religious-affiliated institutions. The Senate substituted the tiered tax that was enacted: 1.4% for endowments of \$500,000 to \$750,000 per student, 4% for those up to \$2 million, and 8% above \$2 million. (Princeton's \$34.1 billion endowment is \$3.7 million per student.)

But the Senate parliamentarian ruled that letting religious colleges with large endowments off the hook violated the so-called Byrd rule for fast-tracked budget reconciliation bills, and that was stricken. Notre Dame was a big loser, going from zero tax to a liability of \$54 million, according to Wellesley College economist Phillip Levine '90. He projected Princeton's tax bill will jump from \$39 million to \$223 million a year.

Garrett Watson, director of policy analysis for the nonpartisan Tax Foundation, called it "weird" that the tax varies depending on endowment per student. "Maybe there's an opportunity to rethink the treatment of [all] tax-exempt organizations, but ideally that would be done in a broader way rather than just narrowly going after universities in the context of an escalating culture war."

The Internal Revenue Service doesn't reveal how much individual schools pay but says it collected \$380 million from 58 institutions in the 2023 fiscal year.

With dozens of liberal arts colleges now excluded, the yield from the higher tax

ADOBE

on the wealthiest research universities will be picayune, only \$761 million more over 10 years, according to the Joint Committee on Taxation.

Princeton President Christopher Eisgruber '83, who drew national attention and acclaim speaking out in the spring in defense of academic freedom, made few public comments this summer. But the University had been preparing austerity measures well before the endowment tax became law, with departments being told in May to draw up plans for 5% to 10% “permanent” budget cuts for the new fiscal year and to freeze hires.

Owen Zidar, Princeton professor of economics and public affairs, argues that personnel and budget cuts are the wrong moves to make now. Without a medical school, Princeton is less vulnerable to cuts in federal research support than its peers. (Princeton’s 2023-24 Report of the Treasurer said government grants and contracts accounted for \$456 million of its \$3 billion operating budget.)

“I am a bit dismayed and confused about why the administration is not taking advantage of this, given that a lot of our peers are relatively worse off,” Zidar said. “You’d think that this would be a good time to try to expand and recruit some of the top scientists in the world.

“We might be in a position to make Princeton even better than it already is.”

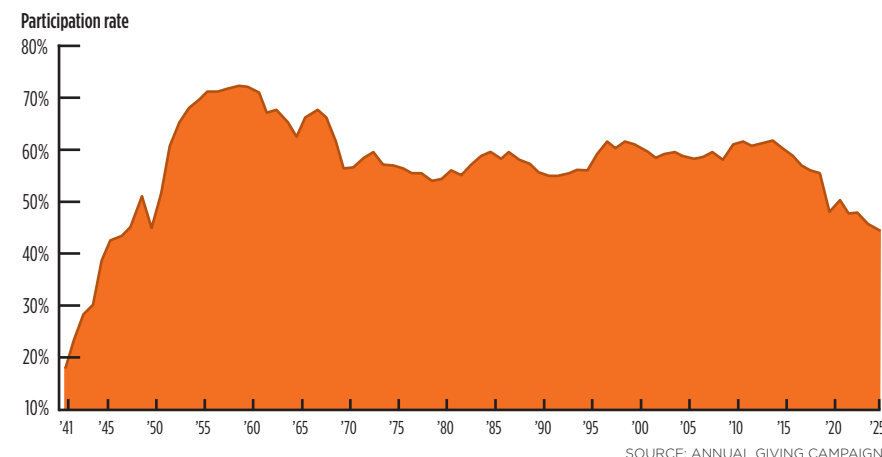
Princeton’s endowment gained 3.9% in the 2024 fiscal year, considerably lower than its 20-year average return of 9.9%. The University withdrew \$1.7 billion, or 5%, to cover almost two-thirds of its operating budget, including nearly three-quarters of the financial aid it awarded in 2024-25.

Princeton, like other nonprofits, aims to spend between 4% to 6.25% of its endowment each year, which typically allows it to keep growing.

Princeton University Investment Company (Princo) manages the endowment but engages a global network of investment firms to shape and grow its diversified portfolio. Given its size and stature, it can afford the best tax and investment advice that money can buy — and it needs that now more than ever. **■**

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FUNDRAISING

Annual Giving Raises \$68.4 Million But Participation Continues Decline

IN A TUMULTUOUS TIME for higher education nationwide, Princeton’s Annual Giving campaign raised \$68.4 million, its seventh-highest total ever. Yet, despite the strong outcome in total dollars raised, the undergraduate alumni participation rate dropped to 43.9%, the lowest in almost 80 years.

The campaign’s final months overlapped with the University’s “Stand Up” campaign, which invited alumni, faculty, students, members of the Princeton community, and friends to support the University financially and to advocate for it in response to the Trump administration’s unprecedented attacks on endowments, research funding, financial aid, and academic freedom in higher education.

In a June 18 email, Stand Up organizers wrote to the more than 10,000 Princetonians and supporters who joined the initiative that with “many of our grants suspended or under threat, the University will need to draw even more heavily on Annual Giving and other sources.”

While the amount raised exceeded last year’s total of \$66.7 million, the continued decline in alumni participation reflects a broader trend. From 2010 through 2015, the participation rate hovered just above 60%; in the decade since, it has dropped by 16 percentage points. Princeton has consistently ranked as a top university for alumni giving, leading the nation in participation rates and total dollars raised, well above the national average of 7.7%, according to *U.S. News and World Report*.

Sue Walsh, the associate vice president for Annual Giving, wrote to PAW that the Stand Up campaign “energized many new

donors to give, and inspired consistent donors to reaffirm their support and gratitude for Princeton during a challenging time for higher ed.”

President Christopher Eisgruber '83 echoed this sentiment in a press release sharing the Annual Giving totals, and called the results “especially meaningful during this challenging time for Princeton.”

“Unrestricted funds are critical to sustaining the University’s excellence in teaching and research and to meeting the full financial needs of our talented students,” he wrote.

According to the press release, unrestricted gifts to Princeton through Annual Giving directly support the University’s educational mission, impacting financial aid and research. The recently passed federal budget act includes a revised endowment tax on investment income (see page 10).

Despite the overall decline in participation, multiple classes set individual giving records. The Class of 2000 raised the largest amount for a 25th reunion class (\$6,502,600), and 62.9% of the class participated. The Class of 1975 raised \$5,358,175 for its 50th reunion, and 62.7% of the class participated. Graduate alumni raised \$2,482,922. The Class of 1960 set a 65th reunion record and raised \$2,282,578. Princeton parents contributed \$1,519,930.

“We were inspired and encouraged to see the extraordinary response of so many alumni, parents, and friends who made it possible to realize a \$1.7 million increase in Annual Giving over last year’s results,” Deb Yu '98, the Annual Giving chair, wrote in a message to PAW. **■ By L.O.**

FINANCIAL AID

Princeton Expands Aid Across Income Spectrum

BY LIA OPPERMAN '25

TWO WEEKS BEFORE the arrival of the Class of 2029, Princeton announced that undergraduates from most families earning up to \$150,000 a year will not have to pay for tuition or room and board at the University, most families earning up to \$250,000 will pay no tuition, and many United States-based families earning up to \$350,000 will receive grant aid, including higher-income families with multiple children in college.

This marks the largest financial aid increase since 2022, when the University announced it would be free for families that make under \$100,000, increasing from \$65,000. The Class of 2029 has the highest share of students eligible for federal Pell grants in the University's history, with approximately 25% qualifying as lower-income, up from 21.7% in the Class of 2028.

"Through our increased investment in financial aid, we are making the transformative experience of a Princeton education more affordable for more students than ever," Provost Jennifer

Rexford '91 said in an Aug. 7 press release.

As of July 29, 69% of the 1,409 incoming freshmen qualified for financial aid. According to the University announcement, endowment payouts dedicated to financial aid cover almost 70% of the undergraduate financial aid budget.

In April, the University planned for an 8% increase in the financial aid budget to \$306 million for the 2025-26 academic year. With the new policy, the University is projected to spend \$327 million on financial aid, an approximately 15.5% increase.

Every Ivy League school offers full tuition to students from low-income families, though the income thresholds vary from Cornell (\$75,000) to Harvard, which expanded its financial aid in March to be free for students from families earning up to \$100,000 and tuition-free up to \$200,000. With the recent changes, Princeton's policy is the most generous in the Ivy League. In 2001, the University was the first in

the country to eliminate loans from its financial aid packages.

The University's release announcing the financial aid changes also provided demographics for the incoming freshman class. The percentage of incoming students who chose not to identify their race or ethnicity grew to 8.2%, up from 7% for the Class of 2027 and 5.5% for the Class of 2026, consistent with national trends following the Supreme Court's 2023 decision that limited consideration of race in admissions decisions.

The percentage of incoming students self-identifying as Black or African American dropped to 5%, down from 8.9% for the Class of 2028. The percentage who self-identify as white dropped to 28.5% from 31.3%. The percentage of students who identify as Asian American rose to 27.1% from 23.8%. Among freshmen, 16.7% are first-generation college students and 12.4% are children of alumni.

Thirty-two transfer students will also join the undergraduate student body, including 22 who have served in the U.S. military and 27 who are matriculating from community colleges, mostly in New Jersey. **P**

BY THE NUMBERS

UNDERGRADUATE CLASS OF 2029

First-time, first-year enrollment: **1,409**

Asian American: **27.1%**

(23.8% in Class of 2028)

Black or African American: **5.0%**

(8.9% in 2028)

Hispanic or Latino: **9.2%** (9.0% in 2028)

Multiracial: **7.7%** (7.2% in 2028)

American Indian or Alaska Native: **0.1%**
(0.1% in 2028)

Native Hawaiian American or Other
Pacific Islander: **0%** (0% in 2028)

White: **28.5%** (31.3% in 2028)

Race/ethnicity unknown: **8.2%**
(7.7% in 2028)

International students: **14.1%**
(12.1% in 2028)

Ethnic and racial self-identification data is for U.S. citizens and permanent residents only.



THE CLASS OF 2028 AT ORIENTATION IN 2024.

KEVIN BIRCH



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STUDENT LIFE

Along Prospect, Clubs Expand To Meet Growing Demand

BY ADAM SANDERS '25

THE IVY HALL EATING CLUB began when 13 students rented the west room of a building on Mercer Street in fall of 1878. In 1879, when 11 new members joined those seniors to dine at Ivy, the club expanded — by renting the eastern room, across the hall.

Today, three of the 11 eating clubs — Charter, Cannon Dial Elm, and Tower — are expanding, and a fourth, Cloister Inn, has paused operations as it plans major renovations. Nowadays, the process involves more than setting another table.

Prospect Avenue hasn't seen such construction since renovations at Ivy, Cap and Gown, and Tiger Inn in the early 2010s. These changes come near the end of a four-year expansion of the student body that began in 2022, and they coincide with rising levels of interest in the eating clubs. In February, the Interclub Council reported that 83% of the Class of 2027 had participated in Street

Week, up from 80% the year before, and the 1,263 students offered spots in bicker and sign-in clubs was a new record.

This demand isn't equal across the board — and as clubs compete for relevancy and student interest, they often take a long look at their clubhouses.

At Charter, alumni leaders are responding to demand: After years of stagnation, the club has taken in more than 100 students each year since 2020 through its selective sign-in process that tracks prospective members' interest. Though Charter has a large clubhouse, its facilities have struggled to keep up.

"With 200 members, our dining room is not sufficient," said Bob Klein '78, a member of Charter's board of governors. Members often eat in the club's great room, and to maximize space, serve themselves at a buffet in the foyer.

Charter's board began planning

renovations to its 1913 clubhouse soon after the boom in membership. In 2022, it commissioned Ford 3 Architects — whose work includes renovations of historic buildings at Rutgers and Penn — to design an expansion. Fundraising began in October 2023. As of August, Charter had raised \$5.95 million of its \$6.35 million goal, Klein said.

With the campaign, dubbed "Project 79," Charter will enclose its patio to create a second dining room. A back patio, second-floor roof deck, and outdoor pavilion will increase leisure space. Behind the scenes, the club will modernize its kitchen and offices and automate an aging hand-powered dumbwaiter.

The project will also improve accessibility. Today, only Charter's basement kitchen, office, and recreation spaces are wheelchair-accessible. Soon, pathways will lead to an accessible side entrance with an elevator connecting the basement to the first and second floors. The club also added an accessible restroom on the first floor and will renovate a basement bedroom that will have ADA-compliant access to all floors via the elevator.

Construction began after Reunions this past May. Klein said builders finished

BRETT TOMLINSON

the new restroom in July, while the rest of the expansion should be completed by Reunions next year. As the bulk of the expansion is at the house's rear, impacts to club life this year should be minor.

Down the Street, Cannon Dial Elm will also expand its footprint. The "Thrive in '25" plan aims to improve quality of life in the crowded house.

The club reopened in the renovated Cannon clubhouse in 2011 after a previous incarnation closed in 1998. Despite recent updates, Cannon faces strains when hosting large events like formals or parents' weekend, according to board of governors chairman Charles Freyer '69.

"Our facilities accommodate our current members well but are taxed when a large number of guests are present," Freyer wrote in an email to PAW. The club's plans include an addition to dining space alongside renovations to kitchen and servery equipment.

Freyer told PAW that a priority of the expansion project is increasing Cannon's appeal for studying and socializing beyond mealtimes. As Briger Hall and the new engineering buildings on Ivy Lane bring academics closer to the Street, Freyer said Cannon's leaders want the clubhouse to sit at the center of students' life at Princeton and compete with other clubs.

A \$1.5 million campaign began in November to fund the expansions. Freyer said construction will begin in late spring 2026, with completion intended by August 2026.

Next door, Tower Club is beginning its own small yet long-awaited addition: an elevator.

While the club's first floor is wheelchair-accessible, Tower's dining room is on its lower level. For Naomi Hess '22, this made club life a challenge. While she could enter Tower's front door in her wheelchair, Hess had to exit the club and re-enter through the kitchen on the lower level to eat meals.

"The door was not always open," Hess said. "The path was very cramped ... but I dealt with it to be part of the club." As a student and alumna, Hess worked with Tower's board of governors to develop plans for an accessibility overhaul.

"These structural improvements like elevators will certainly go a long way. But there's also just cultural issues to work on as well."

— NAOMI HESS '22

Tower Club alumna

The COVID pandemic and designation of most of Prospect Avenue as a historic district in 2021 delayed the project, requiring Tower's graduate board to develop plans that met historic preservation requirements.

"It's been a long process," Tower board member Patrick Yun '92 wrote in an email to PAW.

Princeton's municipal planning board approved plans this past March, alongside improvements to the club's driveway. Construction should begin next June.

Hess is happy that Prospect clubs are improving accessibility but stressed they will need to educate members and staff on the needs of members with mobility challenges.

"These structural improvements like elevators will certainly go a long way," Hess said. "But there's also just cultural issues to work on as well."

Even with growing interest in the

eating clubs, demand is not even. Among sign-in clubs, Quadrangle, Colonial, and Cloister Inn remain under capacity, while Terrace and Charter have long wait-lists for membership. In January's most recent round of bicker, Tiger Inn and Cap and Gown each turned away three-quarters of interested students, while Cannon Dial Elm admitted 60% of bickerees.

At Cloister Inn, concerns over recruitment go hand in hand with renovations. The club's board of governors announced in June that Cloister would shut for the next two to three years pending a reimagining of the club's identity and spaces.

Mike Jackman '92, chairman of Cloister's board of governors, told PAW in June that the club's struggles to recruit members

despite record interest in the Street necessitated serious action. Jackman aims to produce a plan for Cloister's reimagining by the end of 2025.

Amid the boom in club interest and undergraduate class size, even clubs without current expansion plans acknowledge the need to consider potential action.

Terrace Club has decided against expansion twice in the past 15 years, even as membership has grown. In 2013, tentative plans were mothballed due to fiscal uncertainty. In 2018, the club released architectural renderings of an expansion and announced a \$3.5 million campaign, with plans to kick off fundraising at Reunions 2020. But the pandemic and its complications froze the "Terrace Future Campaign" indefinitely.

Since then, the club has completed smaller renovations — an expanded dining patio and renovated gender-neutral bathrooms — and focused on maintenance.

"Our club probably has a higher rate of entropy, I think, than some others," said Andrew Kinaci '10, chairman of Terrace's board of governors. "It undergoes some pretty heavy usage."

That doesn't mean the club is ignoring changes on campus: As interest has grown, Terrace is considering new ways to engage students or envision future physical renovations.

These decisions aren't made in a vacuum but rather coincide with other goings-on on the Street: Leaders at Terrace, Charter, Cannon, and Cloister all spoke to the importance of knowledge-sharing among the clubs through the Graduate Inter-Club Council.

"The GICC creates space for board leadership, undergraduate officers, and club managers and staff to learn about best practices," the organization wrote in a statement to PAW. "The GICC doesn't coordinate these projects, but rather brings together leaders from across the club community to share knowledge, experience, and expertise."

"Each club does things a little bit differently," Kinaci said. "But I think there's a lot of ... opportunity for us to learn more from one another." ■

STUDENT PROJECTS

Soaking Up Summer

BY JULIE BONETTE

WITH THE MANY opportunities Princeton provides, summer is a chance for students to truly choose their own adventure. They conduct experiments across the globe, intern in their chosen fields, or support their hometown community through service. PAW talked to five Princeton students to find out how they spent their summer.

Hilal Akman '27

Projects for Peace winner

After spending last summer in Ecuador working at a hospital through Princeton's International Internship Program, Akman, a molecular biology major, was compelled to revisit. With Projects for Peace funding, this year Akman was a leading force in the creation and management of a mobile clinic focused on screening and treatment of cervical cancer, a preventable disease that is the second-most commonly diagnosed cancer in women in the country. She spoke with doctors, drafted a culturally sensitive educational video to be played in waiting rooms, and helped prep nearly 500 patients. Akman, a Turkish native with no previous connection to Ecuador, said she appreciated the chance to improve her Spanish and build a strong bond with "a country that's so different from my own home."

Joseph Roberts '27

Martin A. Dale '53 Summer Award winner

Roberts, a mechanical and aerospace engineering major, has been blacksmithing with his dad in his backyard since he was young, but this summer, he worked at two historical sites near his hometown of Roanoke,



TAKING STOCK

Bradley Nilson '28's summer internship included studying farm animals in rural Kenya.

North Carolina. His blacksmithing demonstrations forging items such as belt buckles and nails entertained visitors, particularly when he dressed in period-accurate clothing, circa 1585. With the funds from the Dale award, Roberts also traveled to Germany to meet other blacksmiths and view historic ironwork, and alongside his father, he learned how to make Damascus steel — which produces tough, patterned pieces — through a class at the Virginia Institute of Blacksmithing. It's "nice to hit something with a hammer and get something out of it," Roberts said.

Bradley Nilson '28

Global Health intern

With a desire to spend his summer in nature helping others, Nilson decided to travel to Kenya for 10 weeks and study the health of animals (both pets and livestock) in pastoralist communities. Through an internship with Princeton's Center for Health and Wellbeing at the Mpala Research Centre, Nilson interviewed locals and collected tick and fecal samples to study gut parasites, milk yields, and more. "Being able to work both internationally and in health, as I am interested in going into medicine, was a really valuable opportunity," Nilson said — not to mention his sightings of zebras, hippos, giraffes, elephants, and a melanistic leopard.

COURTESY OF BRADLEY NILSON '28



PALANIK '28

Patricia Palanik '28
Summer Social Impact intern

Palanik knew she wanted to work with animals, and after hearing about the Summer Social Impact Internship program through Princeton's Center for Career Development, she crafted her own experience working with a low-cost clinic in Philadelphia close to her home. At first, Palanik shadowed veterinarians at the Dutton Road Veterinary Clinic, but by the end of the summer, she was taking X-rays, performing exams, and educating owners about their pets. "I'm super grateful that I can actually be so hands-on," said Palanik. The work cemented her desire to become a vet and "definitely is giving me more motivation to keep going with all of the hard classes."

Luke Carroll '26
Stone/Davis Prize winner

In addition to an internship at Goldman Sachs in New York City, Carroll "moonlight[ed] as a historian" this summer by researching his thesis topic: the notion of originalism when it comes to interpreting the U.S. Constitution. Even just a decade or so after the drafting of the document, it was "an open question as to what 'original' actually meant," according to Carroll. He used Stone/Davis funding to request documents and visit archives in Philadelphia and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where he reviewed historical materials such as appeals court records. Carroll, who hopes to become a lawyer, wants to "be able to carry my senior thesis with me throughout my life." ■

Friends, Teammates Remember Kerry Grundlingh '27, a Leader by Example

KERRY GRUNDLINGH '27, an economics major, accomplished rower, proud Mathey Moose, and self-proclaimed cinephile, died after a cycling accident in which she was stuck by a car in her hometown of Johannesburg, according to a July 27 campus email from Regan Crotty '00, dean of undergraduate students.

Grundlingh's closest friends and rowing teammates, Rachel Mark '27, Jess Mabey '27, Ellie Smith '27, and Joely Cherniss '27, described her as the definition of leading by example. They characterized her as impressively driven and hardworking, both on and off the water, yet also humble and wise.

The five met on their first day at Princeton as members of the same rowing class and quickly became inseparable. They spent their time scheming rowing strategies, watching *The White Lotus*, having dinner at Yeh dining hall, visiting The Bent Spoon for ice cream, traveling to Washington, D.C., and sharing hot takes on films.

Lori Dauphiny, head coach of women's open rowing, recalled meeting Grundlingh for the first time after hearing about her success as a junior rower representing South Africa at the World Championships. When they met, Dauphiny was struck by Grundlingh's smile, which she said lit up the world around her.

"It's very telling of her presence on our team because she was such a bright light for us," she said.

Grundlingh rowed in the varsity eight boat that won the Ivy League championship this year.

Mark spoke about the impact Grundlingh had on the team, not just as a boatmate, but as a role model and friend. "She cared so much about her teammates. I think obviously that had a big impact on all of us," she said.

Grundlingh was in the top 1% of students at her high school — St. Mary's School, Waverley — and at



GRUNDLINGH '27

Princeton served as an economics tutor at the McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning.

"I just remember me getting literally every single question wrong, and her spending so much time just out of the kindness of her heart explaining it to me, and going through all the steps," Cherniss said. "She had other work to do. She had so much other stuff. And she was like, 'I want to do this.'"

"She was so hardworking, and everyone knew it," Smith added.

Grundlingh was also known among her friends for her sharp sense of humor and passionate opinions. "She had things that she loved and everyone knew she loved. She wasn't shy on that either," Mabey said.

"Everyone knew she loved Taylor Swift, but she hated the 'So High School' song," she said. "She loved *The Office* [and] had the USB drive that she carried everywhere with her with all the seasons to watch it at any time."

Grundlingh was also a member of Princeton Pictures, Princeton in Hollywood, and Terrace Club.

Grundlingh is survived by her parents, Debbie and Francois, and her brother, James. ■ *By L.O.*

STUDENT ARRESTS

Clio Hall Protesters' Charges Dismissed

ALL CHARGES AGAINST THE 13 pro-Palestinian protesters who occupied Clio Hall for a few hours in April 2024 were dismissed after the defendants performed community service and wrote an apology letter.

At a hearing in municipal court on July 7, Judge John McCarthy III '69 dismissed the trespassing charges with prejudice, meaning they cannot be refiled, and ordered automatic expungements of the defendants' records.

The charges were initially dismissed without prejudice at a June 17 hearing following a motion by municipal prosecutor Christopher Koutsouris, who offered the deal in exchange for six hours each of community service, which the defendants had already completed. However, when an apology letter was read in court, McCarthy objected to certain language — comparing it to a “political manifesto” — and asked that the letter be revised.

According to the version of the letter read in court in June, it was written “to

extend our apology to the staff at Clio Hall for anxiety and stress caused by our acts of protest against the ongoing war and genocide in Gaza. We had hoped that our actions would unify students, faculty, and staff in this cause.”

In July, McCarthy indicated he was satisfied with the revised letter, but did not make it public.

The 13 protesters occupied Clio Hall, which houses the offices of the Graduate School, on April 29, 2024, amid heightened tension on campus following the October 2023 attack on Israel by Hamas and the ensuing war.

At the time, the group consisted of five University undergraduates, six graduate students, one postdoctoral researcher, and a Princeton Theological Seminary student.

Koutsouris and the defendants' attorney Aymen Aboushi did not respond to requests for comment, and University spokesperson Jennifer Morrill referred PAW to a 2024 statement about the case.

■ By J.B.

IN SHORT

Sadie Schreiner, a transgender woman and track and field athlete, **is suing Princeton University**, alleging discrimination after she was removed from the start list of the women's 200-meter run at the Larry Ellis Invitational in May.

According to a complaint filed July 15 in Mercer County civil court, Schreiner was qualified to compete as an unattached athlete (not representing any school or club) based on her previous official times. But 15 minutes before the race, she was removed from the list of participants and, according to the complaint, told by officials that she could not run because she was transgender. The complaint argues that the University violated a New Jersey law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of several protected characteristics, including gender identity and expression. University spokesman Michael Hotchkiss declined to comment on the lawsuit.

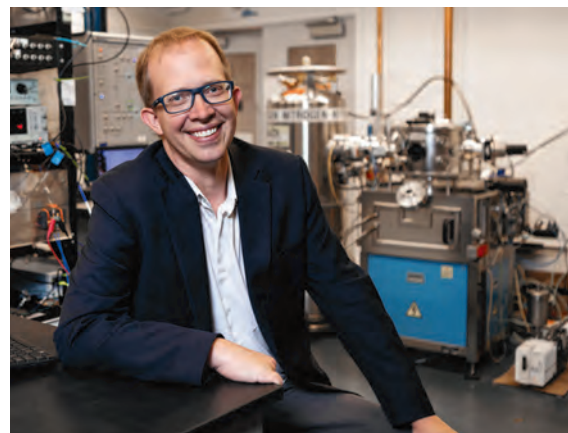
David Piegario '25 is **alleging in a lawsuit** that Princeton's assistant vice president for public safety, Kenneth Strother Jr., “deliberately used excessive force” in picking up and dropping Piegario down the stairs at Whig Hall during the Clio Hall protest in April 2024, leaving Piegario with a concussion and post-traumatic stress disorder.

The lawsuit against Strother and Princeton's Board of Trustees says Strother and other unnamed Princeton employees knowingly lied when they said Piegario assaulted Strother, leading to criminal charges of which Piegario was cleared in April.

“The University believes the complaint to be entirely without merit and plans to mount a vigorous defense,” University spokesperson Jennifer Morrill told PAW.

During Piegario's trial, Strother said he extended his arm to prevent Piegario's entry into Whig, then found it “hard to control” Piegario and let go, leading Piegario to fall.

The lawsuit compares the milder treatment of the 13 pro-Palestinian demonstrators to that of Piegario, who is Jewish. ■



HOUCK '00

ENGINEERING

Andrew Houck '00 Named New Dean

ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER engineering professor Andrew Houck '00 became dean of Princeton's School of Engineering and Applied Science on Aug. 1, according to a University announcement.

Houck, co-director of the Princeton Quantum Initiative, has been a member of Princeton's faculty since 2008 and was the valedictorian of his graduating class at the University. He succeeds Dean Andrea Goldsmith, who recently became president of Stony Brook University.

President Christopher Eisgruber '83 said in the announcement that Houck “understands the soul of the school, and he has the exceptional vision and skills required to lead it forward at a time of both turbulence and opportunity.”

During his time at Princeton, Houck has been honored for his research with awards that include the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, the National Science Foundation Early Career Award, the Packard Fellowship, and the Sloan Research Fellowship. He also received one of the engineering school's Excellence in Teaching Awards in 2021. He was part of a team of faculty that developed a new first-year course sequence, launched in 2017, to teach math and physics within the context of solving engineering problems. ■ By B.T.

IN MEMORIAM

DANIELLE ALIO / PRINCETON UNIVERSITY; DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL
ENGINEERING / PRINCETON UNIVERSITY; ROBERT MATTHEWS / PRINCETON UNIVERSITY;
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING / PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Frank P. Calaprice, a leading nuclear and particle physicist whose experimental work



provided insights about fusion reactions inside the sun, died June 30 at age 85. Calaprice was a member of the Princeton faculty from 1970 to 2018, and for nearly three decades, he was a principal investigator of the Borexino experiment, based in Italy, which studied solar neutrinos, subatomic particles produced by nuclear reactions in the core of the sun. In an online tribute, Gianpaolo Bellini of the Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare in Milan wrote that Calaprice and his colleagues “shared the courage, determination, and effort needed to carry forward an endeavor which was deemed almost impossible.”

Morton D. Kostin, a chemical engineer who taught thermodynamics and applied



mathematics to generations of Princeton students, died May 23 at age 89. Kostin was the longest serving regular faculty member in the chemical and biological engineering department’s history when he retired in 2013 after 49 years as a professor. His research interests included chemical kinetics, “hot atoms” (atoms with high internal or kinetic energy), and transition state theory.

P. Adams Sitney, a groundbreaking historian of avant-garde film and valued mentor to students of the arts, died June 8 at age 80. Sitney traced his love of experimental film to his teenage years, when he wandered into a screening of Luis Buñuel and Salvador Dalí’s *Un Chien*



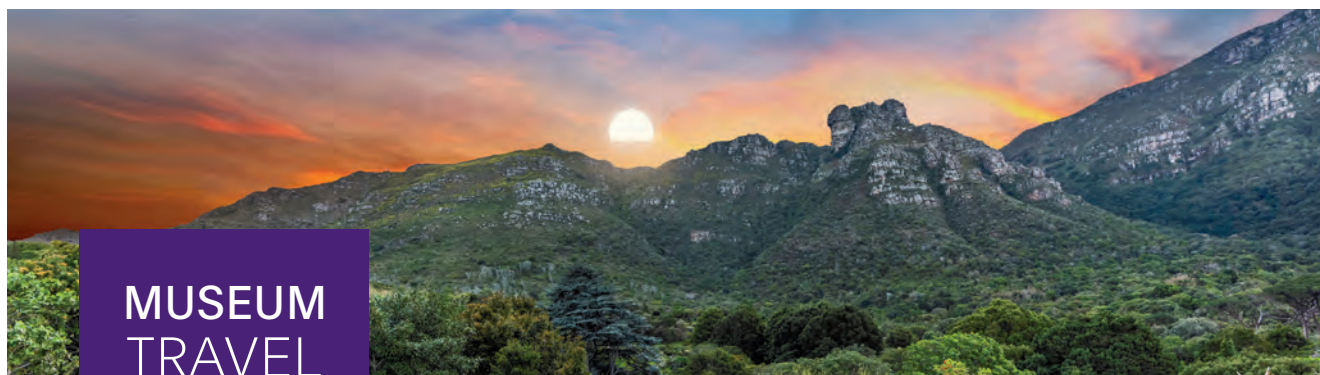
Andalou. His 1974 book *Visionary Film: The American Avant-Garde*, updated in 1979 and 2002, remains “the leading study

of the genre,” according to a *New York Times* obituary. At Princeton, Sitney taught courses in the humanities sequence and advised senior theses that covered topics in film. He spent 36 years on the faculty and transferred to emeritus status in 2016.

Erik H. VanMarcke, an engineer whose work in risk assessment helped researchers prepare for earthquakes, hurricanes, and coastal flooding, died July 7 at age 83. In nearly three decades at Princeton as a professor of civil and environmental engineering,



VanMarcke pursued a range of research topics, from dam safety to cosmology. He earned several honors from the American Society of Civil Engineers and was elected a member of the Royal Academies for Science and the Arts of Belgium, the country of his birth. VanMarcke’s deep expertise in flood risk was in demand after Hurricane Sandy; he joined several Princeton colleagues on a New York City advisory panel on climate change. ¹²



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STUDENT DISPATCH

From Fireflies to Flash Floods, Pondering the Local Environment

BY ALLISON JIANG '26



HAD NEVER SEEN SO MANY FIREFLIES in my life. One June evening, strolling past FitzRandolph Gate, I witnessed a sea of lime-green lights flickering across the lawn of Nassau Hall. The sight was surreal — a scene where fairytale meets college brochure.

Growing up in downtown Chicago and later Shanghai, I rarely saw fireflies. I'd tried to catch them but was always too slow. That evening though, the opportunities were endless. I reached out, cupped my hands, and felt one's tiny legs moving against my palms.

This summer, I found myself paying more attention to my environment. I was working as a policy intern at The Watershed Institute in Pennington, New Jersey, a 20-minute drive from campus. The organization advocates for clean water and a healthy environment through education, science, and policy efforts.

While the fireflies reminded me of

nature's beauty, my work at the Watershed revealed something more urgent. The environment isn't just something to admire. It deeply affects people's lives.

Floods devastated communities around the country this summer, from the 27 campers and counselors who died at Camp Mystic in Texas to two women who lost their lives in Plainfield, New Jersey. At the Watershed, I've joined press conferences and strategy meetings with groups supporting NJ PACT REAL, a statewide rule proposal that would modernize land-use laws to address chronic flooding and sea-level rise. Despite its urgency, the rule was not only stalled but weakened amid misinformation and resistance. Developers, for example, have balked at the cost of elevating new buildings in flood-prone areas and falsely claimed the rule creates "no-build" zones.

"Environmentalism used to be about saving things before we lost them," said Jim Waltman '86, executive director of The Watershed Institute. "That environmentalism is still there, but now there's also this sense of peril and danger that I don't remember as a kid, and flooding is a huge part of that."

As I've learned more about flood mitigation, my surroundings have started to look different. For the first time

in my three years on campus, I noticed the green infrastructure built into the sidewalks of New College West, porous pavement and native plants designed to better absorb stormwater.

Other Princetonians at the Watershed also attested to the impact of environmental work on their daily lives. "So much of environmental work is place-based," said Sophie Glovier '87, chief of strategy and programs at The Watershed Institute. "Once you see the environmental aspects, you can't unsee them. ... Once you see the ditch by the side of the road, you know that's where the stormwater is running."

Waltman described a similar shift in perspective. "When I look at the world now, it's a little bit bifurcated. I see the built environment and can tell if it's an older development, and my brain starts thinking, 'Where would I put rain gardens? This downspout should go here instead of there.' It's a different way of looking at things."

That perspective echoes a question ever-present during my internship: What systems can we use to protect people from environmental harm? During Hurricane Ida in 2021, residents of affordable housing were among the 30 people killed in New Jersey. In discussions with families from Trenton, I heard how flooding regularly prevents people from getting to work.

These experiences have made environmental justice feel less abstract and more personal. Hearing these stories has pushed me to think more deeply about the forces, natural and human, that shape our neighborhoods, waterways, and lives.

That night in front of Nassau Hall, I held the firefly for a moment before letting it go. Later, I learned that this year's surge in fireflies was linked to especially warm and wet spring conditions, ideal for firefly larvae to thrive.

As it rejoined the crowd, the firefly became a glowing reminder of those very forces — that the changing climate that nurtures fireflies can also fuel deadly storms. These past months have made it clear to me that environmentalism isn't just about wildlife, it's also about people and the choices we make to protect our future communities. ■



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WOMEN'S SOCCER

Tordin '26 Shines After Leaving Early for Pros

BY BRETT TOMLINSON

IN MAY, TWO MONTHS INTO HER first season as a pro soccer player, Pietra Tordin '26 reached a milestone when she was selected to play forward in Portland Thorns FC's starting lineup for an away game against the Houston Dash.

"The night before the game, I called my parents and I was like, 'Guys, I'm starting — I'm so nervous, I don't know what to do,'" Tordin said.

Her mom and dad, Maria Cristina and Fabio Tordin, did what parents do, reassuring their daughter that she was ready for the challenge, and when Tordin made an offhand remark about not having them there with her, they made a snap decision to book a flight from Miami to Houston the next morning.

Tordin made sure their trip was memorable: Midway through the game's first half, she settled a pass just inside the 18-yard box, deftly turned to her right, and fired a left-footed shot past the keeper and into the corner of the net for her first professional goal.

"When I scored, the only thing I could think about was them," said Tordin, who spotted her parents in the stands

and curled her hands into the shape of a heart. "That was just such a special game for me."

A year ago, Tordin was just beginning to build a reputation in international soccer. She'd trained with Brazil's youth national team (both of her parents are Brazilian) but ultimately chose to compete for the United States — a move that paid off in late August and early September when she represented the U.S. in the FIFA Under-20 Women's World Cup and scored a team-high four goals.

The scoring was a familiar sight for Princeton head coach Sean Driscoll, who recruited Tordin during the COVID pandemic and marveled at her club team highlights — "goal upon goal, each one a little bit more spectacular than the last." Her technical skills and ability to spot open space quickly translated to the college level, where she was named Ivy Rookie of the Year. When Tordin returned from the U.S. team, she scored 10 goals in the last 10 games of her junior season, helping the Tigers reach the NCAA Tournament for the second year

RISING ROOKIE

Pietra Tordin '26 launches a shot during warmups for the Portland Thorns' March 21 game against Angel City FC. Six Princetonians have appeared on National Women's Soccer League rosters this season. Tordin was the first Tiger to go pro in her junior year.

in a row. She also began hearing about opportunities to play in the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL).

Princeton has sent several players to the NWSL, including veteran Tyler Lussi '17 (now in her ninth season) and recent grads Madison Curry '24, Aria Nagai '24, Heather MacNab '25, and Tyler McCamey '25. But Tordin was the first Tiger to leave for the pros as a junior.

While Driscoll said he had high hopes for Tordin's senior season, he also respected her drive and ambition. She signed with the Thorns in January and appeared in her first league game in mid-March, two weeks shy of her 21st birthday.

Adjusting to the speed of play and physicality of professional soccer has taken time, and Tordin played limited minutes as a substitute striker during the first two months of the season. But after earning that first start in May, she hit her stride, scoring three goals in four matches. She was named NWSL Rookie of the Month for June before the league took a five-week break for international play.

"You're going to see a progression of even more confidence and self-belief," Driscoll said. "The more opportunities she gets, the more she flourishes."

After three years of juggling soccer and classes at Princeton, Tordin joked that she sometimes doesn't know what to do with her free time (recent hobbies include origami and assembling Lego sets). She aims to finish her bachelor's degree eventually, but with a season that spans nearly 11 months, she doesn't know when that will be. For now, her focus is on improving as a pro player.

"It's something I love doing," she said. "I never have ... gone to training and been like, 'I don't want to be here.' I've never felt that once. And that's just such a reassuring feeling for me, that I have made the right choice." ■



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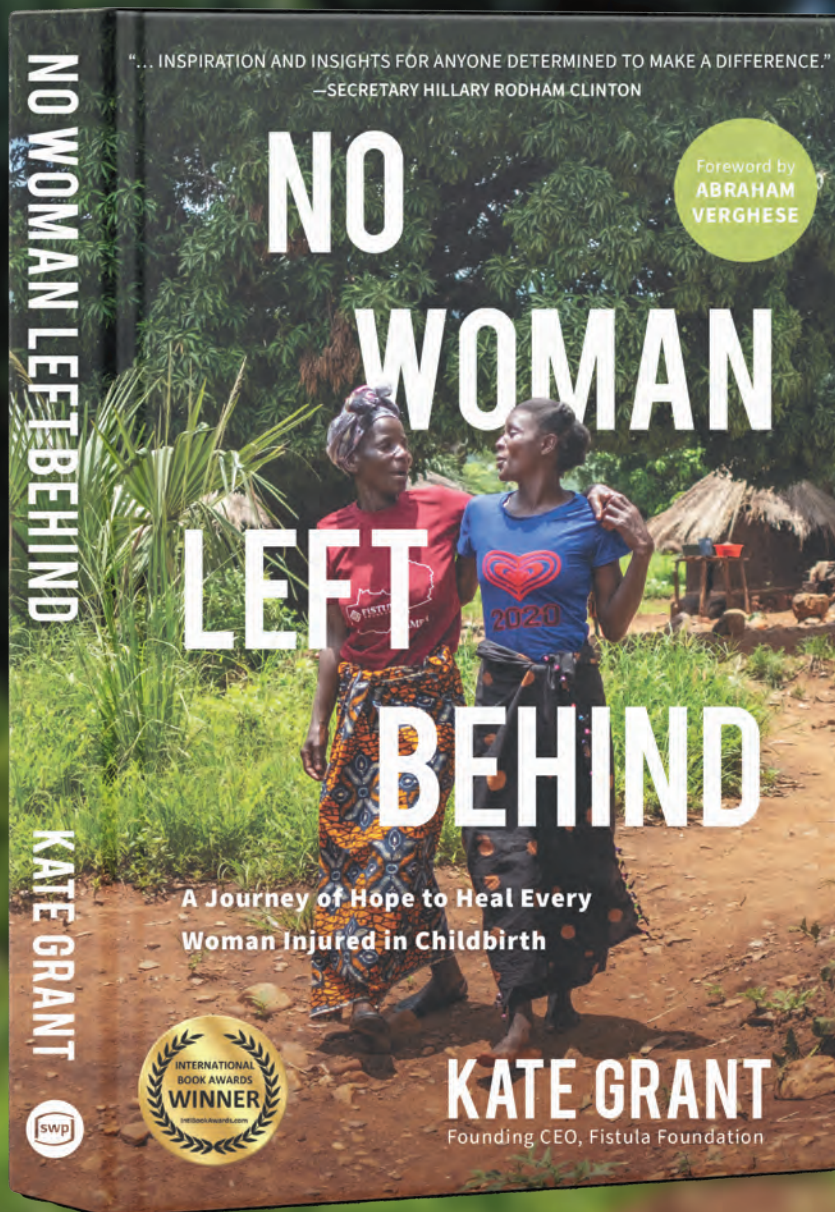
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With a moving foreword by Abraham Verghese, author Kate Grant *94 chronicles her journey building Silicon Valley-based Fistula Foundation from a scrappy start-up to the global leader in the treatment of childbirth injuries.

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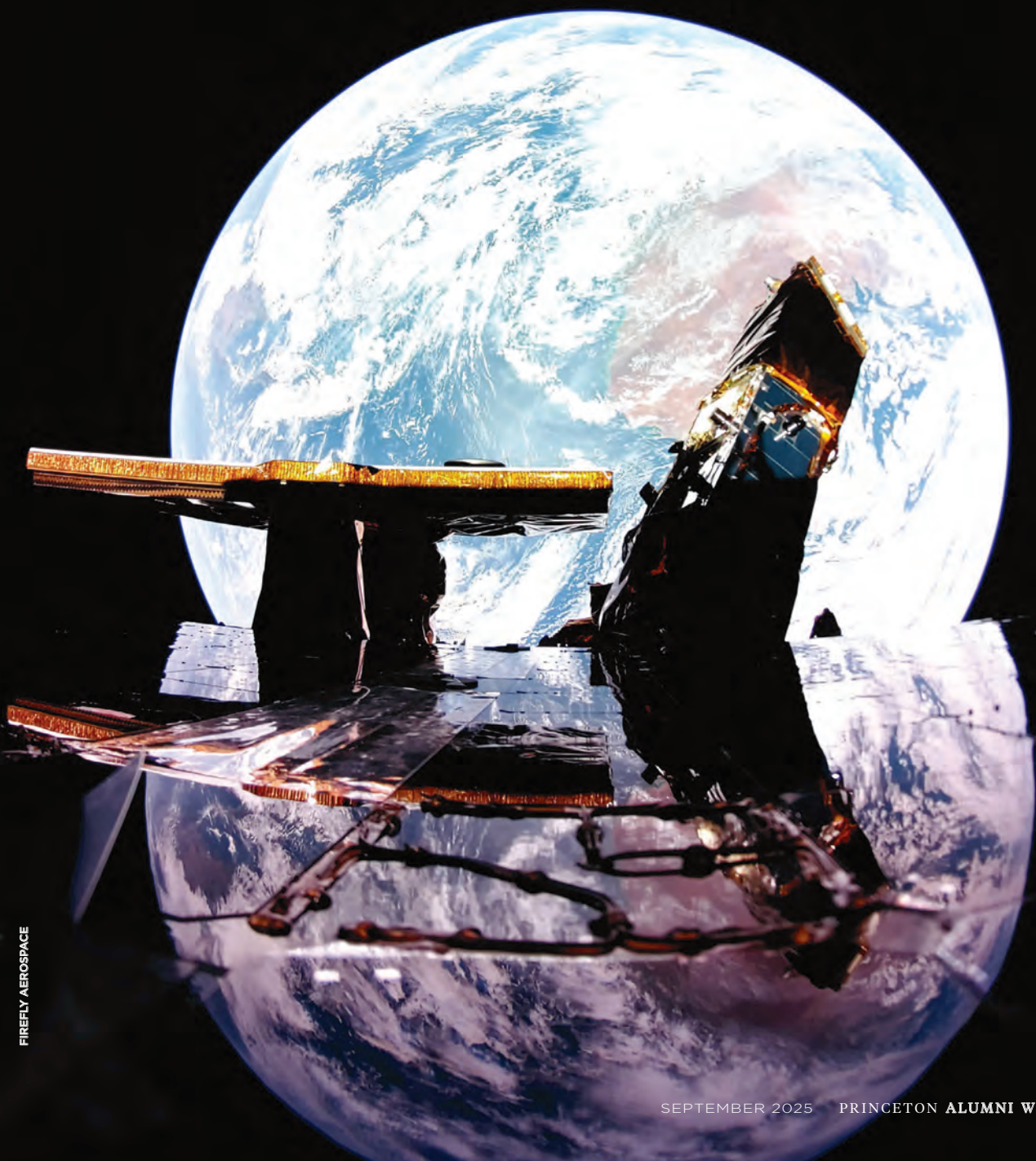


RESEARCH

ADVANCING THE FRONTIERS OF KNOWLEDGE

MOON MISSION

After nearly four years of work, Blue Ghost Mission 1, a lunar lander designed by Firefly Aerospace, successfully landed on the moon in March. Firefly co-founder Tom Markusic '02 and several other Princeton alums who work for the company played key roles in the project. The picture here, captured by Blue Ghost, is a reflection of Earth from a solar panel. Read more about the mission on page 28.



FIREFLY AEROSPACE



FIRST FLIGHT

Blue Ghost casts a shadow across the moon after landing on the surface. Opposite: The Lunar PlanetVac instrument, developed by Honeybee Robotics, was deployed to the lunar surface and is shown at the end of Blue Ghost's surface access arm. A protective cone is placed to shield items in the lander.

MECHANICAL AND AEROSPACE ENGINEERING

Over the Moon

Princeton-powered aerospace firm sticks the landing

BY POORNIMA APTE

KEVIN TONG '22 WAS understandably delighted as his team prepared for the March launch of the lunar lander Blue Ghost. Just a few years out of Princeton and now working for Firefly Aerospace, he was one of two propulsion systems engineers at Cape Canaveral in Florida who completed the final checks on the lunar lander.

"It was pretty cool that I was one of the last people to touch it before it went to space," he says.

Tong is one of several alumni of Princeton's Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at Firefly, co-founded by Tom Markusic '02. Will

Coogan '18 is Blue Ghost's chief engineer; Mike Hepler '20 helped the team meet NASA requirements for contracts; and Candace Do '24 contributed to the Blue Ghost lander through an internship at Firefly.

Blue Ghost completed more than 14 days of surface operations (346 hours of daylight) and just over five hours of operations into the lunar night. The lander carried 10 payloads that conducted experiments for the length of a lunar day. Among the payloads: a drill looking at thermal gradients below the surface and tests for a sample collection mechanism. Though several moon-landing attempts have been made by commercial

companies, only Firefly's Blue Ghost stuck the landing without tipping over on the first attempt.

This is no small feat because while simulations can give engineers a close approximation of what to expect, testing lunar landing technologies on Earth does not cover every eventuality. For example, the shadows cast by the lander weren't as crisp as the team expected because it's hard to predict how shadows play across the lunar surface and difficult to test behavior accurately. Fortunately, this didn't trick Blue Ghost's navigation system.

Preparing for their first successful lunar landing took close to four years of work, and the last few minutes of descent were especially suspenseful, Coogan says. "Once you start coming down, there's not really a whole lot you can do to successfully intervene if anything goes wrong because there's about a three-second delay between getting data and issuing a new command to the vehicle," he says. Most of his job was to make sure



everything's well balanced so one system is not over-optimizing to the detriment of the overall vehicle. For example, adding materials to the lander's structure can make it stronger, but also adds to the weight. "We can make a structure that's almost invincible, but which is too heavy to land," Coogan says. "One of my responsibilities is to make sure that no one system is so good that it hurts another."

Before the Blue Ghost missions could even get going, the Firefly team had to go through the long, complex, and difficult process of submitting proposals to NASA. "We needed to show what the vision was and that we were technically credible to carry out the mission," Hepler says. The mission was one of three that Firefly was awarded through NASA's Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) initiative. The others are scheduled to launch in 2026 and 2028.

The challenge of synchronization might have been massive, but Firefly team members solved it with a very human-centric approach, Hepler says. A weekly "Moon Walk" update about the various pieces of the project broke up the pace of what was otherwise a very intense and demanding technical and organizational challenge. "You really

"If done right, there's a beautiful synergy between the government and the private sector and neither can really do well without the other."

— TOM MARKUSIC *02
Blue Ghost's co-founder

feel like, when you're in the middle of a team who are all building something ambitious, there is a sense of wonder and an idea of service that are integral to building something big," Hepler says.

Markusic, who was CTO at Firefly, is a SpaceX alumnus. He says space ambitions can't find velocity until you actually go to space. The key is to make the process more economical and reliable, which is Firefly's primary focus. Markusic has moved on to found Frontera, where he hopes to work on the next generation of aircraft, transitioning away from conventional vertical rockets.

The CLPS program helps NASA by providing some near-term capability to return to the moon ahead of the more ambitious human space flight mission. "It allowed us, as a nation, to get some early data that would be supportive of

human missions," Markusic says. The program is about incubating the next Boeing or Lockheed Martin.

Hepler says CLPS is a great example of public-private partnerships done well. Since NASA wants to focus on new knowledge from lunar experiments, it can contract companies to do the work of sending a lunar lander and piggyback on such missions. In turn, small companies get a seat at the table. They can raise money, build a team and hardware, and prove that they are not a startup company anymore.

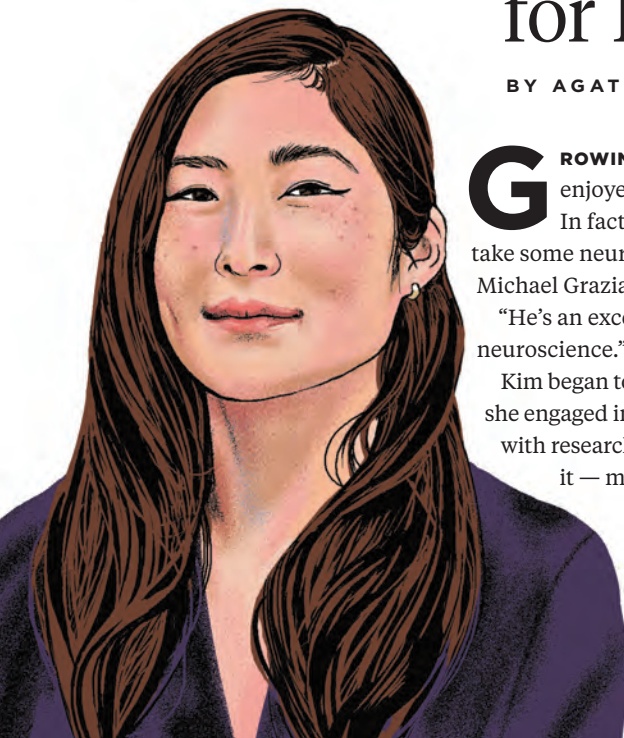
"If done right, there's a beautiful synergy between the government and the private sector, and neither can really do well without the other," Markusic says. "The government excels in establishing the fundamental research and development projects that undergird the next generation of technology."

In the meantime, Tong and Coogan are looking forward to Firefly's next mission, which will be a two-stage spacecraft configuration. One component, the Blue Ghost lander, will touch down on the far side of the moon and operate government and commercial payloads for more than 10 days on the surface. The other module will function as a lunar satellite relaying communications from the lander back to Earth. ■

BEHIND THE RESEARCH: CHRISTINA KIM '11

Mapping the Brain for Better Therapies

BY AGATHA BORDONARO '04



GROWING UP IN HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA, Christina Kim '11 was a creative kid: She enjoyed reading fantasy novels, playing cello and piano, and doing arts and crafts. In fact, Kim assumed she'd pursue a career as a musician until she happened to take some neuroscience classes at Princeton, including one taught by psychology professor Michael Graziano '89 *'96, who is also a novelist and musical composer.

"He's an excellent storyteller," explains Kim. "His lectures got me really interested in neuroscience."

Kim began to consider neuroscience as a potential major, a choice that was cemented once she engaged in lab work for her junior paper. "I just fell in love with research," she says. "I really enjoyed the creative parts of it — making figures, writing up your results in a lab."

Kim returned to Princeton this spring as an assistant professor with a dual appointment at the Princeton Neuroscience Institute and the Omenn-Darling Bioengineering Institute. Her research focuses on creating new tools to better understand the brain's circuitry and applying the insights gleaned to develop more effective therapies for disorders like anxiety and addiction.

Quick Facts

TITLE

Assistant professor of neuroscience and bioengineering

TIME AT PRINCETON

8 months

UPCOMING CLASS

Organic Chemistry II

KIM'S RESEARCH

A SAMPLING

MARRYING FIELDS

The delicate nature of the brain makes it difficult to gather research information like neural signals and released molecules; data-collection techniques can be invasive. That's where bioengineering comes in. "We design technologies that actually allow us to gain access to that type of information," Kim explains. Her lab has developed new techniques in protein engineering and optical imaging, which Kim says her team then applied "to learn more about how neural circuits encode things like animal emotion, reward processing, addiction." By linking neuroscience with bioengineering, Kim says, researchers can "discover the basic building blocks of the neural circuits that we are interested in."

PSYCHEDELIC STUDIES

It's known that psychedelic drugs can reduce anxiety, but they also produce hallucinations, making their clinical use tricky. Using a new kind of molecular technology, Kim and her lab genetically tagged neurons in the prefrontal cortex of mouse brains, allowing the team to monitor which neurons are activated when psychedelics are administered. They then successfully reactivated these neurons to replicate the anxiety-reducing effects of the drugs without the unwanted side effects. By identifying exactly which parts of the brain respond to the drugs and how, Kim's lab has paved the way for the creation of better, more targeted psychiatric medications.



ELIMINATING DOWNSIDES

Certain antipsychotic drugs are used to treat mood and behavioral disorders but often cause side effects like feeling unwell or unmotivated. "The negative side effects are a major reason that many patients stop taking these medications, despite the therapeutic benefits," Kim says. In a forthcoming study,

she and colleagues at both Princeton and the University of California, Davis, were able to pinpoint a precise biological cause for these negative side effects: the silencing of a specific neuron output in the brain. This insight "may help researchers design new treatments that reduce unwanted side effects of these medications, improving patient outcomes," Kim says. **P**

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

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**FROM DENUNZIO
POOL TO THE
BIG SCREEN,
KENT DE MOND '07
HAS CARVED OUT
A CAREER AS A
STUNT PERFORMER
AND BROUGHT HIS
SISTER, MICHELLE '07,
ALONG FOR THE RIDE**

BY ERIC OLSON

PHOTOGRAPH BY KENDRICK BRINSON



THE FALL GUY

IN THE SUMMER OF 2004, KENT DE MOND '07 WAS DRIVING THROUGH THE CORNFIELDS OF INDIANA WHEN HIS FATHER TURNED TO HIM AND SAID, “ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO DO THIS?”

De Mond, a diver recruited to Princeton from the suburbs of Washington, D.C., had just competed in St. Louis at the U.S. Olympic Trials, finishing seventh on the synchronized 10-meter platform. The 10-meter is as high as a three-story building — divers hit the water at 31 mph. The platform hadn't worried his parents one bit. What came next did.

Again: “Are you *sure* you want to do this?”

The De Mond family — including younger sister Michelle De Mond '07 — was headed from St. Louis to the paradoxically-named Indiana Beach, an amusement park built on a triangular spit of land in the dammed Tippecanoe River. Through the extended network of an old diving coach, De Mond had been hired as a performer in the park's summer diving show. He'd just left the biggest competitive meet of his life, but his adrenaline was primed for the Tippecanoe, because the Indiana Beach divers didn't just jump from 10 meters; they jumped from 20 meters.

“There wasn't really YouTube at that time,” says De Mond. “So I just had to imagine it. I loved 10-meter, and I always loved doing stunts, so the idea of jumping off something twice or three times as high just seemed like the coolest thing to me.”

The intuition proved correct. That summer — “the most fun ever,” says De Mond — formed an inflection that would steer him from Princeton's DeNunzio Pool to one of the world's most fabled vocations. He'd even bring his sister into the business.

The De Monds were going into stunt work.

TWELVE YEARS LATER, WITH MANUFACTURED FEAR in his eyes, De Mond is fiddling with the control unit on an overheating quantum research machine when it self-destructs, bursting into technicolor shrapnel. Or rather, Marvel's CGI team will add the shrapnel in postproduction. There's no combustion on the movie set, but a stunt harness running from De Mond's costume to the soundstage roof snaps taut and flings him some 20 feet backward — “with a half-turn,” he specifies — heading for a patch of high-density foam that's been painted to look like concrete.

Unfortunately, De Mond flies so fast that he overshoots the fake concrete and lands on the next thing over. *Actual* concrete. He's wearing elbow and knee pads beneath his costume, “just the standard rollerblade ones,” but when he hits the deck, one of them shifts and his elbow thuds jarringly. Worse, he's rocketing toward a camera, behind which an anxious stunt rigger sees his career flashing before his eyes. Just before the rigger steps into the frame and ruins the shot — to stop De Mond from bowling over a piece of six-figure hardware — friction does its job. De Mond comes to an excruciating halt less than a foot from the lens.

“I could feel it in my teeth how bad it hurt,” says De Mond.

“And right away my bursa sac broke.”

Bursa sacs are liquid pouches that shield vulnerable body parts like the knees and elbows. Their integrity runs short at concrete collisions. “My elbow is filling with fluid,” De Mond remembers. “But I didn't want to tell anyone because you don't want to have the reputation of being hurt on set.” He compressed his arm with a neoprene sleeve and tried to shake it off, putting on a strained smile. “I'm pretty sure I also chipped my elbow. I had a floating bone in there for a long time.”

When the team announced they got the shot, De Mond (and his arm) nearly burst with relief. He wouldn't have been able to give the fall another go, but he'd never have to admit it. Not to anyone who paid his salary.

As of 2023's strikes, unionized SAG-AFTRA stunt performers earn an eight-hour day rate of \$1,204. With long shoots being the norm, overtime can easily double that wage. The risk level of a sequence also adds a premultiplier “stunt adjustment.” De Mond's example: “Doing a stair fall five times.”

The rig pull would've netted De Mond a hearty adjustment indeed, not just for its difficulty, but because it happened on the resource-rich set of *Ant-Man and the Wasp*, a 2018 film that went on to gross over \$600 million worldwide. “It's an incentive to do hard stunt work,” De Mond says of the added pay. “But honestly, even if the adjustment had nothing to do with it, anyone that's gotten into stunts would rather do something fun.”

Three years into his stunt career, De Mond was having quite a lot of fun, and stringing together a salary to boot. Along with *Ant-Man and the Wasp*, his 2018 IMDb credits include blockbusters such as *Black Panther*, *The Front Runner*, and *Rampage*. Living with his wife and two kids in suburban Atlanta, he provided for his family by taking falls and punches, being set on fire, and speeding around in old French cars (he swears the stunt coordinator mistook “diving” for “driving”). His success has even inspired a couple former diving buddies, including his Los Angeles-based sister Michelle, to explore stunt careers of their own.

It took years — difficult, dispiriting years — for De Mond to get his foot in the door. But here he was. And rather than set him back, his grapefruit-size bursa sac merely provided a lesson. Always wear soft elbow pads beneath the hard ones.

YOU CAN LIMIT PHYSICAL PAIN IN THE STUNT WORLD but never avoid it entirely. Thankfully, De Mond had over a decade of pertinent experience. Heading to Indiana Beach in 2004, he hadn't realized how it would feel to jump from 20 meters. “Obviously it hurts when you crash from 10,” he says. “But it never hurt [from 10] as much as it hurt to high dive, even when you did it right.”

On one of his reverse takeoffs that summer — jumping forward, flipping backward — De Mond crouched too low and smacked his backside on the 20-meter tower. Plummeting toward the distant lake, approaching the 44-mph mark, “I was trying to roll down the windows [waving his arms in small, frantic circles] to get the dive around. I hit the water pretty loose and got really bad whiplash, to the point where I couldn't move my neck at all for a few days. I was freaked out about that.”

Deservedly. But that was the worst of the summer's blunders,

and De Mond returned to school in the fall with nerves of steel. DeNunzio Pool is the only aquatic facility with a 10-meter in the Ivy League. Training for national tower meets, De Mond swiftly became an outlier. This made sense. In high school he'd been "dead set on the University of Southern California or University of Michigan," where he could specialize in platform instead of 1- and 3-meter springboard. But longtime Princeton diving coach Greg Gunn — who retired in 2016 — approached the high school daredevil in 2000 and told him that Princeton had a full set of towers, not to mention a decent educational reputation. Maybe De Mond would come take a look?

"I really wrote it off," says De Mond. "But I went on the recruiting trip and had the best time. The swim team makes a huge production out of it." De Mond wound up taking two years off after his sophomore year to "get his head straight" but earned All-American status in 2005 and 2006 after he returned, focusing his studies on visual arts, specifically film and video production.

Merging passions after his junior year, De Mond traveled to Beijing and performed in a new aquatic production called *Atlantis*. He filmed the experience front to back, including the hectic, last-minute construction of

the park prior to the show's grand opening. That documentary became his senior thesis. But De Mond was more interested in high diving than film. He performed in Korea and South Africa after graduation and then hitched onto a state fair circuit across America, where he mounted slim peg ladders to reach one-foot-by-one-foot perches about 70 feet high. "Bugs Bunny style," he calls it. "The tiny tank is 10 feet deep, full to the brim, held up by guy wires. Climbing to the very top perch and just turning around was really scary because on either side of you was about an 80-foot drop to concrete or grass."

As for performing in the wind and rain, he says, "Yeah, it's scary. Luckily you don't get blown off your trajectory very easily."

De Mond sent a video résumé to Red Bull and got called up to

its professional high diving ranks in 2009. For the first two years, he was the only American on Red Bull's international tour, jet setting around the world to specially made 27-meter platforms (52 mph impact). He dove from the treetop canopy through a cave opening into a Mexican cenote. He dove from the mast of an old clipper ship in Hamburg Harbor. He dove — head first! — from the 24-meter clifftops at Acapulco's La Quebrada. "I've gotten seriously knocked out once," he says. "Two other times, I wasn't able to move for a little while I was getting my breath."

But this was what De Mond signed up for, and he loved it. Search YouTube for "Red Bull cliff diving" in those years and you might see him cackling on the finals podium, spraying champagne

in a frothy ode to survival. After winning the 2011 Red Bull competition at Acapulco, De Mond was hired by General Electric to film a commercial featuring the famous Mexican plunge. He flew down for the shoot but finished the harness and green screen work in LA. This earned him a SAG card along with a measly \$1,000 payout. "I didn't negotiate rates for myself. I just assumed they would pay me more."

But then, the unexpected happened. "A few months later, I started getting random checks for \$5,000, \$6,000, \$10,000, from

residuals of the commercial." De Mond had just married his high school sweetheart. He was surfing every day, working in San Diego's Sea World diving show, but not saving much money. "I had kind of forgotten about working in film and TV," he says. But the checks changed his mind. De Mond had his SAG card. He had backbone. Maybe he should give this movie stuff a shot.

F HIGH DIVING HAD BEEN PHYSICALLY RIGOROUS, searching for stunt work was just exhausting. De Mond convinced his wife, Annabelle Everarts de Velp, to relocate to Atlanta in 2013 after hearing that LA was too crowded for a greenhorn stuntman, and that New Orleans, the next best thing, was fast on its heels. Atlanta was the true up-and-



TAKING THE PLUNGE

Formerly on the dive team at Princeton, Kent De Mond '07 graduated to the Red Bull Cliff Diving World Series, where he made this leap from more than 26 meters in Polignano a Mare, Italy, in 2010.

comer, with a limited stunt community and new tax incentives encouraging major shoots.

Everarts de Velp drew some consolation from her husband's career change. "The stunts didn't worry me as much as the cliff diving," she says. "The most extreme stuff he did was the Red Bull World Series. Looking back, I was scared. But when you're younger, you don't think of consequences." With the tightly controlled nature of Hollywood productions, she figured her husband's physical risk would be improbably lowered upon entering the stunt world. "I don't get those feelings anymore," she says of the old fear reflex. "And if it's really scary, what he's doing, he knows not to tell me the details."

During their first year in Atlanta, De Mond wasn't doing many stunts at all. He spent 2013 circling the city in fruitless eight-hour driving shifts, tracking film-related road closures that were often just setups or teardowns. This was a rite of passage in the stunt world, "hustling the set," where hopefuls crash filming locations and force their résumé into the hands of a stunt coordinator. If it sounds difficult, it is. De Mond worked in an Indian restaurant to make ends meet, hustling on off-days. "I don't think I've ever been so miserable in my life." Finally, he got his business card to someone on the set of *The*



BLOWN AWAY

Inspired by brother Kent, Michelle De Mond '07 got in the stunt performing business more than 10 years ago, including appearances (bottom photo, right) on the TV series Scorpion.

Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 2. The coordinator noticed De Mond diving on the card and said, "Oh. How high is that?"

"Almost 95 feet," De Mond replied.

"And what was this for?"

"Red Bull."

De Mond got called up for rehearsals and then for two straight weeks of *Hunger Games* work, where he made a full day of restaurant wages every hour. It wasn't his only break that involved diving. In 2015, Red Bull diver Andy Jones heard that actor Jason Statham was looking for a stunt double to do a 60-foot headfirst dive from a cliff in Australia. Statham, himself a former diver, didn't want to fake it. Jones thought De Mond looked similar enough to send in a résumé.

"I remember doing a crazy pull up, push up, and ab workout to get as swole as possible," says De Mond. "I buzzed my head, trimmed my beard, and got my wife to take shirtless headshots." He was in "diver shape," not action-star shape. But with a bit of flexing, De Mond got the part and flew out to Australia's Jervis Bay, where he stomped off the cliffs into an elegant swan dive. "That was a very concrete turning point," he says, "from barely working at all to starting to make it a full-time job."

De Mond followed the cliff dive (*Mechanic: Resurrection*) by doubling for Ed Harris in *The Last Full Measure*. Then he fought as a henchman in *Black Panther* and, as mentioned, got yanked onto a patch of bare concrete in *Ant-Man and the Wasp*. Thanks to his hairline, receding since high school, De Mond was primarily cast as one of three roles: "old guys, military guys, or henchmen." But he was thankful for the work. No more restaurants. He'd do whatever it took.

AFTER THE *HUNGER GAMES* OPPORTUNITY, De Mond persuaded a former Sea World co-worker and LSU diver, Niko Dalman, to come live with him in Atlanta. When the two weren't hustling sets, they filmed homemade fight scenes and taught themselves new action skills. One of these skills was rappelling, and it so happened that in 2016 a coordinator for the sitcom *Still the King* was looking for two stuntmen to jump backward off the roof of a brick building, swing down its side, and break, feet-first, SWAT-style, through its lower windows.

"That was pretty over my head," says De Mond. He and Dalman had only taken up rappelling a few months before the call went out, but in classic freelancer spirit they said yes and learned later, training at a ruined factory. "We started on a cliff face," says Dalman, "drew some chalk on the rock, and tried hitting the mark. The ruin actually had windows, so we went through those."

"When we got to Nashville for the shoot," says Dalman, "the adrenaline kicked into gear." Dalman and De Mond rigged up the entire stunt themselves in subfreezing weather. Because the production team brought a single set of explosives to break the two tempered glass windows, there would be just one chance to get it right. Furthermore, it would only work if De Mond and Dalman smashed through at exactly the same time. They hadn't practiced that — but they'd done plenty of synchronized dives back at

Sea World. “We actually said, ‘Ready, *set*. Ready, *dive*,’” recalls De Mond. “We were spot on. It was awesome.”

“It’s always something different when you get to set,” says Dalman. “It’s really about figuring out the safest way to do something. It’s less chasing adrenaline and more doing something cool, safely.”

Even so, adrenaline had more of a presence in De Mond’s life than in most of his Princeton classmates’. And Dalman wasn’t the only one drawn to its flame. While the two were working at Sea World, Kent’s younger sister, Michelle, middle child of the family, had been working a desk job and having sibling envy. She and her younger sister, like Kent, had been standout divers in the D.C. suburbs. Michelle followed her older brother to Princeton, diving all the while, albeit with more traditional plans for her degree. “Kent always had ambition to be a stunt person,” she says. “I didn’t even know it was a job.”

Michelle moved to New York and then LA after graduation, spending her early 20s in advertising. Three years into her career, she found desk work cumbersome and the market crashing. “Kent was doing these dive shows and I was like, man, his life seems so awesome. He travels around. He’s active.” Michelle got in touch with Kent’s boss, was hired by a Royal Caribbean diving production, and never looked back. A few years later, she joined Kent and Dalman on the set of ABC’s *Splash*, a 2013 reality diving show where she and Dalman earned SAG cards. Instead of hustling sets — “I’m too shy for that,” she says — Michelle joined a database of on-call performers and received a major break in the television show *Sleepy Hollow*. Then came the action-drama *Scorpion*, where she doubled for Katharine McPhee and met fellow stuntman Shaun Vickers, who became her husband. They moved to Atlanta after the pandemic, citing cost of living, and had their first child in 2024.

“Compared to Kent, I’m more of a cautious adrenaline junky,” says Michelle, whose 47 IMDb credits include *NCIS*, *Young Sheldon*, and *Grey’s Anatomy*. “Sometimes I don’t really want to do things if I might get hurt. Kent is like, ‘Eh, I’m just gonna try this.’”

But make no mistake: Michelle is also in it for the thrill. “It’s the same as when you get up to do your dive,” she says of being on set. “You have that pressure. That heartbeat. That’s where the drive comes from. The excitement.”

ACTION!

Watch video of how the PAW cover photo was shot and of Kent De Mond ’07 in action.



Scan to watch

A **FIRST IN THEIR RESPECTIVE CAREERS**, the De Mond siblings and Dalman found themselves working on the same set in 2021, Marvel’s *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*. One of the film’s early action sequences required 12 divers to jump simultaneously from a cargo ship anchored in the nighttime waters of Brunswick, Georgia. Some were stationed at 20 feet, others at 40. Michelle and Kent were both at 65, Kent with a titanium rod still in his shin from an off-road rollerblading stunt. Dalman was above them, at 75.

“We were supposed to be in a trance,” says Michelle. “One person went on count one, another on count two.”

The divers wore wet suits so that they’d float if they went unconscious. A perimeter of safety Jet Skis surrounded the impact zone, keeping out of the camera shot but ready to rush in afterward. It was 3 in the morning.

“That was one of the few times,” says Michelle, “when I was like, OK, I’m really scared.”

Dalman’s adherence to character — remember, the trance — caused him to hit the water loose, wrenching his legs apart and doing a number on his knees. He hopped on a Jet Ski, hobbled over to tape his legs in the trailer, and limped on board for three more takes. It turned out he’d torn both menisci. “It was ... fine,” he says with a chuckle. “Just took a bit to rehab.”

Fortunately, Dalman’s next stunt opportunity came on *The Walking Dead*, where he played a stumbling

zombie who got stabbed in the head by Norman Reedus. He knew the game by now: Getting dinged up was occasionally part of the pay check, the continuation of a trajectory that began in 2012 when he wandered downstairs in his San Diego home and found De Mond and their housemate Andy Jones “beating the crap out of each other in the backyard.”

“We’re gonna be stunt guys!” they cried, to which Dalman replied, “I’m in!”

“All right,” said De Mond. “Let’s fall down the stairs next.”

Thirteen years later, the stunt world remains a bumpy ride, physically and financially. But there’s an inimitable dynamism to this line of work, an old-fashioned adventurousness that, for some, is a lodestone.

“I’ve got to give it to Kent,” says Dalman, sounding a bit wistful. “His fearlessness is infectious. The guy’s not afraid of anything.” 

ERIC OLSON is a Seattle-based writer whose work appears in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *Slate*. He dove for four years at Yale, competing frequently at DeNunzio Pool. He’s working on a novel about Timothy Leary.



DEAD MAN WALKING

De Mond ’07 was in six episodes of the TV series *The Walking Dead*, including playing a zombie.



*Theodore von Laue '39 *44*

THE VON LAUE LETTERS

*'He did not want me growing up
in a country run by gangsters'*

Why a father in Nazi Germany sent his son to Princeton

BY ELYSE GRAHAM '07

NASSAU HERALD 1939

I

IN 1937, MAX VON LAUE, a German physicist who had won the Nobel Prize in 1914, wrote his first letter to his son, Theodore von Laue '39 *44, at Princeton. It was a time of rising authoritarianism in Germany; in the academy alone, Hitler and his government had fired Jewish professors, purged libraries, forced universities to adhere to the "Führer principle" (the supremacy of Hitler's will above all laws and institutions), and defunded research in fields deemed not sufficiently "Aryan," like theoretical physics and the social sciences.

Von Laue, a friend of Albert Einstein, had visited Princeton the previous year to give a series of lectures. His biographer, Jost Lemmerich, suggests that Princeton offered him a professorship — he would have had to keep this quiet, because Germany might not have let him leave if they thought he was a flight risk — but he turned them down because he wanted to help his country resist its takeover by the Nazi Party. ("I hate them so much I must be close to them," he told Einstein. "I have to go back.") But he sent his son to attend college at Princeton, because, Theo later said, "He did not want me growing up in a country run by gangsters."

Throughout Theo's time at Princeton as an undergraduate and then a graduate student, he and his father exchanged letters — often weekly or more. Their correspondence is a remarkable record of two models of the university in collision: the collapse of German universities under authoritarian control and the American alternative. For von Laue, Princeton was the promised land, a place where he sent his son while he remained in hell, determined to make it better.

PAW combed through archives at the Universitätsarchiv Frankfurt am Main and elsewhere to reunite their dialogue across an abyss.

MAX VON LAUE WAS, in some ways, a quintessential German. A man with large melancholy eyes who wore soft professorial suits with the crispest of white collars, he had the broad humanistic education typical of the German *gymnasium*, which gave him, later on, a deep fund of history and letters to sustain him through turmoil, including an indelible love of the German writer Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. He studied physics at a time when many saw it as a dilettantish science because, he later wrote, its formal rigor appealed to his sense of beauty: "[A] beautiful, consistently mathematical proof was one of my greatest joys already at school," he wrote in a memoir in 1961.

After Einstein fled Germany in 1933, von Laue found himself fighting an increasingly lonely battle against the madness that was taking over his country. As the director of the Institute for Theoretical Physics at the University of Berlin, where he also taught, he used his influence to do good wherever he could. He fought against the erasure of Jewish scholars from curricula. He protected Lise Meitner, a colleague of Jewish descent, from the purges targeting Jewish scientists. His colleagues later recalled (in Lemmerich's biography) that he rarely walked outside "without carrying a parcel under each arm, since that gave him an excuse not to give the obligatory Hitler salute in greeting."

Before putting his son on a ship to America, von Laue sat down and wrote him a letter, to be sent, apparently, to a friend at Princeton to pass along. "You should receive this letter immediately upon your arrival at Princeton, so that you don't feel abandoned there," he wrote. "Because that's the feeling I have gotten from my own experiences when first arriving in a new place, where one only gradually finds their footing." (The letters, written in German, are translated here.)

For his part, Theo reacted to Americans as any German would, alternately

delighted with the friendly confidence he received as a stranger and “horrified” by the casual liberties of “these naughty, undisciplined children.”

“I have to say,” he said, “you can get along very well with these Americans. They are amazingly natural, childish, naïve, and unbiased.”

THEO DECORATED HIS DORM ROOM (taking great pride in his “sophisticated chair”), made friends with local Quakers, and marveled at the chumminess of American teaching: “Instead of the students climbing up to the professors, the professors climb down.” He joined a student tutoring agency and tutored students in German. (He reported that an older Jewish woman on the ship to America had helped him with his conversational English.)

In Germany, meanwhile, the situation at universities grew steadily worse. The Nazis installed their own appointees in university administrations. They expanded their purge of the professoriate to include political dissidents. Having made it legally and socially acceptable to torment a class of people — Jews — they kept everyone else in terror by threatening to include them in that class. Von Laue’s opponents called him, and others who criticized the regime, “white Jews.”

Knowing his letters might be read by censors, von Laue often used abbreviations when mentioning colleagues at Princeton who had fled Nazi Germany — for instance, “P.” for Erwin Panofsky, “J. Fr.” for James Franck, and “We.” for Hermann Weyl. The most important events necessitated the vaguest phrasing. In July 1938, he wrote, “In Berlin, a rather painful change has occurred. Someone is leaving the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Chemistry, and I don’t even know where that person currently is.” He was referring to Meitner, whom he had warned of impending danger, and who managed to escape Germany in a terrifying secret train ride.

Literature became part of the code. Von Laue couched some of what he couldn’t say in obscure allusions for Theo to look up in Princeton’s library. In 1940, he asked casually, “Do you remember the little poem by Fr[iedrich] Rückert about Pharaoh, which I once recited at home and which you found very outdated at the time? It might seem quite modern

BEFORE THE WAR

Max von Laue, far right, hosts a dinner for German and American physicists, including Albert Einstein, second from left, in November 1931 in Berlin. Several years later, von Laue looked to Einstein to watch over his son, Theo, at Princeton.



now. You surely have Rückert’s works in your university library.” Had the censors looked up the poem he was referring to, Lemmerich notes, von Laue could have paid dearly for it:

*To the evil spirit Pharaoh spake:
Help me and do thy part,
That in the eyes of my people
I seem godlike.
The demon said: Not yet
Has the time come for that;
First thou must needs do much evil,
Before it come to that.*

Theo graduated as a history major — his senior thesis was on 19th-century Germany — then started a history Ph.D. at Princeton. He didn’t want to be forced to join the German military.

Then, in December 1941, after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States declared war on Germany. Now the father and son were stranded in enemy nations.

THEY FOUND WAYS TO CONTINUE their correspondence. Whenever possible, they sent letters or messages to Meitner, now in Sweden, who forwarded them on.

Theo was now an enemy alien: an international student from a nation the U.S. government was fighting against. His sympathy was with the Allies, but that didn’t save him from political reprisal. In July 1942, the FBI arrested him and put him in detention — not for committing a crime, but for having once been compelled, like all German students, to join Nazi youth groups. Einstein, the history department, and other Princeton representatives intervened on his behalf and got him released.

As his fellow graduate students left, one by one, to join the war, Theo ran a newsletter to keep them updated on the campus and its former denizens. “Once more the History Club intends to meet regularly, in spirit at least, however scattered through the world its members may be,” he wrote in the inaugural issue.

As a freshman, he’d seen American higher education as something to be endured: “I wish you had to live in a dormitory for a day to cool down your

American enthusiasm,” he wrote to his father early on. Now, on his way to becoming a professor himself, he made his newsletter a tribute to the American university — as a symbol of the free society they were fighting for. (It was also a venue for occasionally heckling Harvard, but even at its most heroic, Princeton has never been above that.)

IN 1943, AFTER VON LAUE persisted in criticizing the Reich while lecturing abroad in Stockholm, the ministry of education pressured him to stop teaching at the University of Berlin. He reluctantly assented. (In a speech at his funeral decades later, Meitner said she’d cautioned him back then that his actions during his visit might put him at risk. He said, “All the more reason to do it.”)

Ultimately, von Laue spent the war doing nonmilitary research and undermining the regime as best he could. On April 17, 1945, as Russian troops advanced toward Berlin, he wrote a fearful, moving goodbye letter to Theo. In it, he quoted Goethe twice, wrote of his wife’s strength and suffering, described the locations of friends and family members as well as his scientific papers, and told Theo that he loved him.

“If I survive this catastrophe, then my main task for the rest of my life will probably consist of contributing to the intellectual rebuilding of Germany,” he wrote. “I know how great a mountain of hatred will have to be overcome.”

As it turned out, he was captured by the Americans, in a mission, Operation Alsos, that aimed to secure the German atomic scientists before the Russians could get to them. They included von Laue, who wasn’t an atomic scientist, because they wanted him to help lead German science after the war. (He kept writing to his son during his captivity, though he didn’t know when he would be allowed to send the letters. “I may not say where I am writing from,” he wrote. “I have ‘disappeared,’ as Dr. Martin Luther once did at the Wartburg.”)

He wound up with the German atomic scientists at Farm Hall, a manor house in England that was set up as a genteel prison. It was thoroughly bugged, which allowed

FBI OFFICERS ARREST THEODORE VON LAUE, PRINCETON ALUMNUS

Member of Graduate College Here
Being Detained in Ellis Is.
For Special Hearing.

OUTCOME NOT YET REVEALED

No Charges Preferred at Arrest, But
German-Born Scholar Reported
as Former Storm Trooper.

Officers of the Federal Bureau of Investigation are holding at Ellis Island pending investigation Theodore H. von Laue, graduate of Princeton in 1939 and now a member of the Graduate School. Von Laue was arrested Tuesday and detained in the Borough Hall over night before being transported to New York.

No additional information on his hearing had been received last night. No charges were preferred at the time of his arrest.

The 26-year-old student, who lives in Berlin-Zehlendorf, Germany, has admitted that he belongs to the German Storm Troopers Organization, the German Navy, the National Socialist Student Movement and the German Labor Organization, it was learned last night from an unimpeachable source.

Von Laue transferred to Princeton from the University of Freiburg in September, 1937, and was graduated two years later with high honors in the History Department. A member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, he has continued his studies in history at the Graduate School for the last two years. He would have received a degree of doctor of philosophy in this subject next June.

While a Princeton undergraduate von Laue was a member of the University Orchestra, the Choir, the Student Tutoring Association and the German Club. He ate at Gateway, and formulated the plan for distributing leftover food from Prospect St. eating clubs among the needy families of Princeton and Trenton.

their minders to note the scientists’ shock on Aug. 6, 1945, when they learned the Allies had dropped an atomic bomb; they’d thought they were years *ahead* in atomic science, whereas Nazi science was so bad that they were years *behind*.

The minders also noted that von Laue was the only prisoner who wasn’t desperately trying to rewrite his personal

history: “He is rather enjoying the discomfort of the others as he feels he is in no way involved.”

Upon his release, he asked immediately, “Do you think it is possible for me and my wife to go to our son at Princeton?”

AFTER THE WAR, VON LAUE DID indeed become a scientific leader in helping Germany move past the destruction of Nazism. Much of the damage wasn’t repairable; German universities, which had previously been revered as the best in the world, fell far behind the United States, which benefited from the talents of scientific refugees and gained a reputation for tolerant generosity that attracted the best scholars.

For his part, Theo became a professor in the American model, wearing Ivy-style suits and bow ties. In an essay on teaching, he said he preferred to climb down and meet students where they were — to “win them by kindness.” He became a historian, he said, because history is a civic trust, a way to ensure horrors like the Holocaust aren’t repeated: “Salvation, then, lies in remembering properly, so that the living can survive and prosper.” He taught at Swarthmore College and elsewhere, specializing in the conditions that give rise to authoritarianism.

Today, their story serves as a reminder of not just the sacrifices that parents and children make to do right by each other, but also the power a university can have as a stronghold of ideals. Princeton meant something to von Laue, who referred constantly to the University even in letters to others, since so many refugees and dissidents wound up there, and von Laue, in turn, meant something to his countrymen.

“To all of us minor figures,” Paul Ewald, a physicist who left Germany in protest against the Nazi regime, later wrote, “the very existence of a man of [von] Laue’s stature and bearing was an enormous comfort.” ■

ELYSE GRAHAM ’07 is a professor at Stony Brook University and author of *Book and Dagger: How Scholars and Librarians Became the Unlikely Spies of World War II*.

Longtime U.S. F-15 pilot Michael Holl '03
reenters the Middle East tinder box
working with the Qatari air force

TURBULENCE TIMES

BY MARK F. BERNSTEIN '83

WILD BLUE YONDER

*An F-15QA, right, flies in formation
with a U.S. plane during exercises
over Qatar in January.*

ALIREZA BOEINI / ALAMY



On the night of June 23, Michael Holl '03 stood outside his apartment in Doha, Qatar, and watched Iranian missiles streak across the sky. Holl had seen missiles in flight before. Lots of them. Some even aimed at him.

But nothing like this.

Holl is a retired lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force, with 20 years of combat experience flying F-15 fighter jets, including four combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan and two more in Eastern Europe. For the past two years, he has been sharing that knowledge with the Qatari air force. He is employed by the Delaware Resource Group, a private U.S.-based firm that provides operational support, training, and maintenance to militaries around the world. Holl's job is to teach Qatari pilots how to fly the three-dozen F-15QAs that Boeing recently sold them.

Qatar is a staunch American ally — President Donald Trump

had just visited Doha in May, with Holl flying alongside Air Force One as part of the ceremonial fighter escort — but the small nation situated on the Arabian Peninsula sometimes appears to work both sides of the geopolitical street. Qatar hosts more than 10,000 U.S. military personnel, for example, but the Taliban and Hamas also have offices there. Like most of the oil-rich states bordering the Persian Gulf, Qatar has been an eager buyer of Western weaponry, serving as a forward line of defense against encroachments by America's principal adversary in the region, the country that was now raining missiles over Holl's head.

Iran launched its attack in retaliation for an American strike on Iranian nuclear facilities the day before. It had warned the U.S. and the Qataris that an attack was coming, giving them time to evacuate Al Udeid Air Base, headquarters of the Qatari air force and the largest American military outpost in the region. According to multiple news media outlets, the Iranian response was choreographed to make a statement without actually hurting anyone and escalating the crisis. Nevertheless, “statements” sometimes go awry. Thirteen of 14 Iranian missiles were destroyed by Patriot missiles, but their debris fell on populated neighborhoods, although no one was hurt. One Iranian missile, which was not destroyed, missed its target and exploded harmlessly in the desert.

As a civilian technician, Holl had no role in either the American or Qatari response. Training sessions at Al Udeid had been canceled, and Americans in Doha had received a warning from the State Department to shelter in place. By 7 p.m., Holl and his wife, Carolyn Johnson, were in their townhouse complex, about five miles from the base, their three young children asleep upstairs. Though the atmosphere was tense, it seemed like they might enjoy a quiet evening.

“I’ve been in the defense business for a while, and I had some guesses [about] what Iran would do as a response,” Holl says. He was predicting some sort of naval attack. He was wrong.

As the first Iranian missiles reached Doha around 7:30 p.m., the Americans and Qataris launched a battery of Patriots to shoot them out of the sky. Several loud booms shook the

Holls’ home like a thunderstorm overhead. Holl and his wife raced up to the third floor, roused their kids, and hustled them downstairs and away from the windows. More muffled explosions followed, probably sonic booms from the missiles, he says. A friend texted Holl photos of the sky streaked with orange contrails.

Then silence, except for the faint whine of air raid sirens in the distance. Believing that the attack was over, Holl and some neighbors wandered out to the courtyard of their complex, comparing notes. Less than 15 minutes later, a second wave of streaks appeared in the sky and another battery of Patriots soared up to intercept them, each kill punctuated by a throbbing orange glow. For all his years of combat experience, Holl had never seen a Patriot intercept before. He was amazed at how high the missiles reached, how fast they moved, how perfectly they struck their targets. For several long minutes, he stood in the courtyard, neck craned upward, awestruck at the explosions above him.

Until Carolyn stuck her head out the door and yelled for her husband to get his rear end back inside.

“Professionally, it was pretty interesting,” Holl says now, a little sheepishly. “It was kind of incredible to watch the Patriot systems do their work. But not a super bright thing for a husband and dad to do at the time.”

WITHIN AN HOUR, IT WAS ALL OVER. Families distracted their kids with cartoons before putting them back in bed. School was canceled the next day, and the base remained closed.

“It was like a cross between a tornado and a snow day,” Holl recounts. By the end of the week, life in Doha was back to normal. One of Holl’s assignments before he and his family left for a preplanned vacation was to fly one of the F-15s back to Al Udeid from where it had been moved for safety. It was the shortest sortie he had ever flown, just six minutes.

Luckily for Holl, flying fighter jets is all he has ever wanted to do. He was 5 when the original *Top Gun* movie came out in 1986, and he set his young sights on being the next Maverick. Though Holl long aspired to attend the U.S. Naval Academy, a visit to campus convinced him to attend Princeton instead. He joined the Air Force ROTC because the Navy didn’t have a program at Princeton. (U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth ’03 was in Princeton’s Army ROTC program at the same time, but Holl says they didn’t know each other.)

On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, at the beginning of his junior year, Holl was doing ROTC training at Rutgers when the Twin Towers were struck. Suddenly, his commitment to active-duty military service became a much more serious proposition. Holl, who says he was inspired to serve his country, was not deterred. Upon graduation, he went to Air Force flight school in Columbus, Mississippi, and began training on F-15s. He has flown only variations of that plane ever since.

As a class, fighter pilots are laconic. Of course they have a stash of good stories, which they will tell if prodded, but they

HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Michael Holl ’03 and his wife, Carolyn Johnson, moved to Doha in 2023 when she got a job resettling Afghan refugees.



tend to understate them and pepper them with acronyms and nicknames. Allied forces, for example, are “friendlies.” The person flying in the backseat of the F-15E Strike Eagle (which Holl calls “the family version” because it has two seats), technically known as the weapons systems officer, is referred to as the “wizzo.”

One night in Afghanistan, he was called to provide air support for a team of coalition soldiers on top of a mountain in the Korangal Valley, known as the “Valley of Death.” Someone had breached the electronic perimeter they had strung around their camp, but they couldn’t tell where and couldn’t see anything. Buzzing around the Afghan mountains at several hundred miles an hour in pitch darkness, Holl and his wizzo located the infiltrators using heat sensors, then laid down some very unfriendly fire.

“It’s a crazy night when you’re dropping 500-pound bombs and friendlies are 100 meters away,” Holl says. “That gets your attention.” It also instills a quiet pride. Speaking of his colleagues on the mountaintop, Holl says modestly, “I think those guys would have had a bad day if we hadn’t been able to find them.”

As the war on terror wound down, Holl was reassigned to new conflicts. In his last deployment, as a squadron commander based in the U.K., Holl flew NATO reconnaissance missions across eastern Poland hoping to ensure, as he puts it, “that nothing from the Russia-Ukraine war strayed across the border.” On the morning of Feb. 20, 2023, when President Joe Biden rode a train across the Polish frontier to meet Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv, Holl was one of four F-15 pilots in “alert posture” a few miles from the border, their planes gassed up, loaded, and ready to move if anything went sideways.

“Thank God, nothing was needed,” he says.

By that time, Holl was approaching 20 years of active service and ready, in his words, to “hit the retirement button.” Though he still dreams of teaching middle school math and science someday, Carolyn, a physician, got a job in Doha helping the U.S. State Department resettle Afghan refugees. (The office has since been shut down by the Trump administration.) Holl signed on with Delaware Resource Group and kept flying.

He is one of 16 instructors working with the Qataris. Holl’s students already know how to fly before he instructs them on the finer points of aerial strategy in the F-15QA. They work in English, both in a simulator and hands-on in flight. Holl spends at least part of every workday in the place he loves best — the sky.

THOUGH 2.6 MILLION PEOPLE LIVE IN QATAR, barely a tenth of them are citizens; the rest, like Holl, are guest workers. It is an immensely rich autocracy, and Iran is not the only enemy in the neighborhood.

In 2017, a group led by Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain cut diplomatic ties with Qatar and imposed a land blockade, accusing it of harboring terrorists and cozying up to Iran. (Sea and air routes into Qatar remained open, though severely restricted.) The blockade, which eventually expanded to include 14 countries, was not lifted until 2021.

Opinions differ on where Qatar fits in the global order. “They play all sides,” says Bernard Haykel, a Princeton professor of Near Eastern studies who studies regional politics. “They’re very

close to the Americans, but they also have deep connections to the Muslim Brotherhood.” Qatar has tried to use those ties to its advantage, serving as a sort of Arabian Switzerland, providing a venue for mediations between Israel and Hamas or the U.S. and the Taliban. Qatar uses its oil wealth to boost its international profile, turning Doha’s Hamad International Airport into a global hub, hosting the 2022 World Cup, and bidding for the 2036 summer Olympics. The news network Al Jazeera is headquartered there, as well. F-15s and other advanced Western military technology, Haykel adds, are the ultimate luxury goods for the petrostate that has everything.

“Qatar punches well above its weight through money and offering patronage to different ideological groups, some of whom are very shady,” Haykel says. That patronage extends to the U.S., as well. Attorney

General Pam Bondi and FBI director Kash Patel have both been lobbyists on the Qatari payroll, and members of the Trump family have extensive business dealings there. During President Trump’s visit this summer, the Qatari royal family gave him a Boeing 747 to serve as the new Air Force One, a gesture that many American commentators criticized as suggesting a quid pro quo.

Holl is quick to emphasize that this is just his own opinion — he’s an expat, after all, not an expert — but he believes that close U.S. ties with Qatar benefit both countries, as well as the region.

“I see a lot of value in our role here,” he says. “The better we represent America, the U.S. military, and the general Western system, the more likely it is for Qatar to continue to have regional influence that provides stability here.”

Right now, there is again clear flying weather over Doha. But as Holl knows as well as anyone, the skies in that part of the world can change quickly, and with little warning. ■

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



RARE AIR

Holl and other fighter planes escort Air Force One on President Trump’s trip to Qatar in May.



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PRINCETONIANS

ALUMNI STORIES AND PERSPECTIVES



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PASSION PIVOT

In June, the Princeton alumna who goes by Andrea Hulamyhoop set a world record for hula hooping “around the bum” for an hour and 15 minutes on the TV show America’s Got Talent. It’s a far cry from the science career she left after earning her Ph.D. from Princeton in chemical engineering, but Andrea has fallen in love with hula hooping and performing. “The hula hoop has changed everything in my life,” says Andrea, who is pictured here with five hula hoops in motion. Read more about Andrea’s record-breaking achievement at paw.princeton.edu.



RUPERT ELDERKIN *14

Continuing the Fight For Victims of Rwanda Genocide

BY MARK F. BERNSTEIN '83

ALTHOUGH THE RWANDAN genocide lasted 100 days during the spring and summer of 1994, its horrors have lingered for generations. Every day, from a small office in Arusha, Tanzania, Rupert Elderkin *14 still attempts to bring the remaining offenders to justice.

Elderkin is a senior trial attorney for the United Nations International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals. The unit was formed in 2010 to merge the tribunals investigating war crimes in the former Yugoslavia and in Rwanda. Elderkin, who previously prosecuted war crimes committed in Serbia and Kosovo, has worked in Arusha since 2021.

Sources vary widely in their numbers, but it is estimated that between 800,000 and 1 million Rwandans were killed during the three-and-a-half-month civil war, mostly members of the Tutsi and Hutu tribes, making it one of the worst genocides in history. “This was

not mechanized killing,” Elderkin says. “Everyone was killed by someone, and that’s a lot of someones to prosecute.”

But with many of the most notorious figures in both the Yugoslavian and Rwandan genocides already prosecuted, and stable national governments now established to pursue most of the remaining cases, the U.N. decided to wind down its own tribunals. It has since turned its attention to supporting ongoing local investigations and prosecutions. However, Elderkin’s unit may, and still does, manage some larger cases on its own.

One of those cases was the first one Elderkin handled after arriving in Tanzania. He served as co-lead counsel in the prosecution of Félicien Kabuga, who was believed to be the richest man in Rwanda at the time of the genocide. Accused of funding groups that killed thousands of people, and of importing many of the machetes used in those killings, Kabuga was arrested in 2020 after 26 years on the run. He was charged

with six counts of genocide, incitement to genocide, and crimes against humanity. However, the U.N. judged that Kabuga was no longer mentally competent to stand trial, and he remains in custody in the Netherlands.

Perhaps the most prominent case Elderkin is currently working on is the prosecution of Fulgence Kayishema, who allegedly ordered the massacre of hundreds of Tutsis seeking sanctuary inside a church in the region of Nyange. Although he was indicted in absentia decades ago by a Rwandan tribunal, Kayishema remained at large until he was arrested in South Africa in 2023. Facing 54 charges of genocide, he remains in South Africa until he can be extradited. Elderkin is working to gather documentary evidence that he hopes will someday support a Rwandan prosecution.

The job may at times be tedious, but it is still critical. Elderkin characterizes his current work as a mix of investigation, advising, and a small amount of trial preparation. He spends most of his days in front of a screen, sorting through reams of digitized paperwork, including prison records, government archives, and private communications, where they exist.

“You’re not doing the classic detective work as in a TV courtroom show,” Elderkin explains. “You’re looking at material that is decades old. Maybe someone hasn’t spoken or they’re dead now. There are a lot more historical steps to the process compared to just being on trial.”

Born in the United Kingdom, Elderkin studied politics, philosophy, and economics in college but was unsure of his career plans. “It was one of these classic, go to Oxford and then do something without knowing what you wanted to do,” he says now. Elderkin eventually decided to get a law degree, in part to overcome a fear of public speaking. He began his legal career as an associate in the Brussels office of the law firm Cleary Gottlieb doing banking and insurance work, but it was clear he had an eye on something more engaging.

While still a law firm associate, Elderkin took two leaves of absence. During the first, in 2003, he and a team

unsuccessfully attempted to climb Mt. Everest. Two years later, Elderkin and another group of British amateurs participated in a BBC reality series seeking to recreate Roald Amundsen's 1911 race to the South Pole, using replica equipment and supplies, such as a sextant for navigation and pemmican for food.

"I disappeared for a few months [to Antarctica] to wear reindeer fur and get pulled around on the ice," Elderkin laughs. "It was a wonderful experience, but I clearly wasn't marking my card in the way you'd expect if you wanted to stay in a law firm."

Fortunately, a very different challenge presented itself. A friend working in The Hague, on the U.N. tribunal investigating war crimes in the former Yugoslavia, told Elderkin about a job opening there. Elderkin spent the next seven years, from 2006 to 2013, at The Hague investigating and prosecuting Bosnian war crimes, including the 1995 Srebrenica massacre in which 8,000 Muslims were killed.

"Even if you're not going after the biggest fish, what you're doing at this stage is trying to show that there is a system, there is justice, and you can't evade it simply by going on the run."

— **RUPERT ELDERKIN *14**
Senior trial attorney, United Nations
International Residual Mechanism
for Criminal Tribunals

After spending a semester at the Harvard Kennedy School's Carr-Ryan Center for Human Rights, Elderkin earned a master's degree in public policy at Princeton's School of Public and International Affairs. In 2015, he spent a year as part of a U.N. peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Elderkin then returned to

The Hague to join a European Union task force investigating crimes committed by the Kosovo Liberation Army.

Although the Rwandan genocide has long since disappeared from the front pages, the work of bringing the offenders to justice will continue for decades, much as former Nazis continued to be prosecuted long after the end of World War II. "There are many, many more still who, if we can find them, or if the Rwandans or any third country could find them, would justifiably go on trial," Elderkin says. How many will face justice remains to be seen, but the process, he believes, serves its own purpose.

"Even if you're not going after the biggest fish, what you're doing at this stage is trying to show that there is a system, there is justice, and you can't evade it simply by going on the run," Elderkin says. "The messaging and the act of doing justice are as important as the retribution toward whichever individual you're going after." ■

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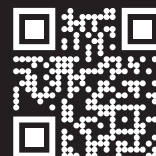
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VEDA SUNASSEE '10

Empowering Africa's Youth Through Education

BY CARLETT SPIKE

DURING HIS TIME as a student, Veda Sunassee '10 completed a Princeton in Africa Fellowship where he worked for the African Leadership Academy (ALA) in Johannesburg. Though he is a native of the tiny African island of Mauritius, it was his first time on the mainland. The ALA is a pre-college program focused on empowering and developing Africa's youth leaders, but often these students seek higher education outside the country. Sunassee wondered what it would take to keep these talented students in Africa.

"Why not start a world class university by Africans for Africans that is proudly African, but also has a very global relevance and presence?" he asks.

He did just that, staying on with the ALA past his one-year fellowship and serving as part of the founding team of the African Leadership University

(ALU) in 2015. The ALU is an expansion of the African Leadership Academy, and both were founded by Fred Swaniker. Sunassee is now the chief executive officer of the ALU, which has campuses in Mauritius and Rwanda.

Its goal is to educate the next generation of job seekers and creators in Africa with a focus on entrepreneurship. The curriculum "has a huge emphasis on leadership, ethical leadership, learning human-centered design thinking, [and]

"Why not start a world class university by Africans for Africans that is proudly African, but also has a very global relevance and presence?"

— VEDA SUNASSEE '10

really thinking about problem solving," he says. Every student must declare both a major and a mission — such as tackling climate change or inequality.

Sunassee didn't see himself ending up in education. When he first came to Princeton, he wanted to be an engineer but realized that was not his true passion, ultimately graduating with a degree in politics. He also discovered that his interest lies in social entrepreneurship, where he could promote positive social change. "I want to have an impact," he says. "I want to do something to work with people in communities."

That's why he said yes to this opportunity. "It was not difficult for me to rally behind this mission precisely because I saw what education did for me," he adds.

More than 5,000 students representing 59 nationalities have enrolled at the ALU since it opened a decade ago and more than 2,000 have graduated. Of those graduates, 75% secured a job within six months of graduation and earned on average a starting salary of \$10,405, which is five times higher than the salary of other college graduates in the region, according to the ALU's 2024 Impact Report. Students have gone on to work for major companies including Google and Facebook and launch their own companies, and a few have returned to work for the ALU.

As Sunassee looks to the future, he'd like to expand access so more students can enroll. Currently, less than 10% of Africans who are college-aged are enrolled in a higher education institution. Affordability is also top of mind, so he hopes to create an endowment to secure the school's future.

Tracing the path from his humble beginnings to leading the ALU, the impact of education on his life cannot be overstated. Through his work with the ALU, Sunassee would like to give the transformative gift of education to students in Africa. He adds, "There's nothing more rewarding." **P**

NOMINATE OTHER INSPIRING ALUMNI

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

COURTESY OF VEDA SUNASSEE '10

VIRGINIA MALONEY '10

Pushing for Affordability in a Campaign for New York City Council

BY HOPE PERRY '24

IN JUNE, Virginia Maloney '10, a product manager at Meta, won the New York City Democratic primary for the city council district representing Manhattan's East Side. Maloney, who majored in the School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) with a minor in environmental studies, is likely to lock in a victory in the deep blue district in November's general election.

She says she's had a longstanding interest in public service.

She called her enrollment in SPIA's policy task force — when she traveled to Washington, D.C., with 12 other students to present research to legislators — a “high impact moment.” Her senior thesis focused on green job creation in the 2009 stimulus bill, using Kansas City as a case study.

“I have a shining example of what public sector leadership looks like through my mother, who served in public office for 40 years,” Maloney says. Carolyn Maloney sat on the New York City Council for a decade before making a successful run for the House of Representatives, where she served New York districts for 30 years until 2023.

In addition to her Princeton degree, Virginia Maloney holds a master's in public administration from Harvard and a business degree from MIT. After graduating from SPIA, she worked in Washington, D.C., on building high speed rail before returning home to work for Mayor Michael Bloomberg's New York City Economic Development Corp.

“I didn't know that I would run for office, but New York is at a critical juncture where we need strong leaders,” Maloney says. “I'm a native New Yorker. I'm a New York or nowhere person. I think it's the best city in the world.”

But Maloney says New York no longer feels like the city she grew up in.

“People are being priced out of their



MALONEY '10

homes. We're seeing basic services like sanitation [and] health care falling short, and my friends and neighbors don't feel safe,” Maloney says.

Maloney lists “reining in out-of-control e-bikes” as one of her priorities, citing the increase in delivery services in the city as part of the reason for the vehicles' increased presence. Maloney received funding from a DoorDash-funded PAC that supported former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo in the recent heated mayoral primary, but says she received “a broad coalition of support” in the election. She won with 53.2% of the vote in the final round of ranked-choice voting.

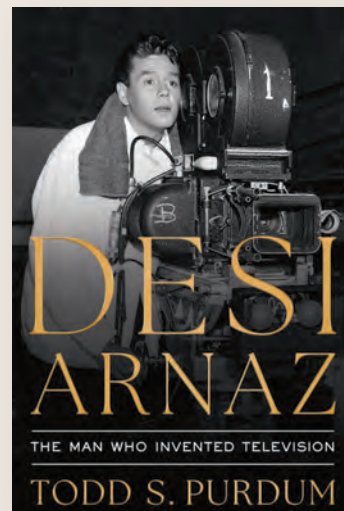
Although safety and affordability are the top issues Maloney hopes to address if elected in November, she also says she wants to improve accessibility across the city from “web platforms to subway platforms,” and address mental health.

She notes that members of the Princeton community showed up to support her during the electoral process, including serving as her campaign's treasurer (Jaimeson Rice '10) and volunteering to canvass. She even made it back for her 15th reunion P-rade just weeks before the primary, and she says one of her campaign colors is orange.

“I'm a proud Tiger.” **P**

PRINCETON
ALUMNI WEEKLY

Read with us!



Our next book club read is journalist Todd Purdum '82's new biography, ***Desi Arnaz: The Man Who Invented Television***. It tells the story of how Arnaz, best known for his role on *I Love Lucy*, was born in Cuba, immigrated to the U.S. as a teenager, and became a trailblazer in the television industry. Read the book with PAW and then send us your questions for Todd!

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THE CLASS OF 1939

DONALD R. FLETCHER '39

Don died June 7, 2025, at the age of 106. He carried all those associated with the Class



of 1939 far into our 11th decade. He led the P-rade at our 85th reunion in May 2024, carrying the Class of 1923 Cane with its silver tiger on top. He brought his firm,

gracious, and creative self to all the many places he ministered and taught: from Chile to Mexico, from Austin, Texas to Tuscaloosa, Ala., from Cherry Hill to Rossmoor, N.J. And finally to Voorhees, N.J., just under 50 miles from where he was born in Ventnor City Jan. 7, 1919.

When responding to the question for our 50th reunion in 1989, "What has been your most memorable Princeton experience since graduating?" Don replied, "It was the total surprise of being called up to receive the '39 award as a teacher at our class dinner in Procter Hall in 1979." Also, in 1989 he shared his fondest undergraduate memory: "Freshman year, standing in Blair Arch at night, looking down on all the dormitory lights and feeling the excitement that the whole new Princeton experience was opening up to me."

September 1936 is now 89 years distant from us. But with these words — and with his poetry, short stories, and paintings over the last 35 years — Don has connected us and continues to connect us with deep, universal emotions. We express gratitude for his long life.

We extend our sympathy to his children, Donna Poole, Sylvia Fletcher *75, Thomas Fletcher, Marilyn Keith, Alan Fletcher '78, Lawrence Fletcher-Hill '80; to his 10 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1949

LEWIS A. MILLER '49

Lew died Dec. 28, 2024, at his home in New York City on the 75th anniversary of his wedding to his wife, Jean, who died in 2015. He was 96.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., Lew attended Brooklyn Polytechnic Preparatory School. At Princeton, he graduated with honors from the School of Public and International



Affairs, was the managing editor of *The Daily Princetonian*, and a member of Dial Lodge.

Lew started out in journalism, which included founding a weekly newspaper, *The Glastonbury Citizen*. He shifted to medical publishing as executive editor of *Medical Economics*, a business magazine for doctors. In 1966, he co-founded *Patient Care*, an innovative clinical journal for primary care physicians, and he later became a leader in the continuing medical education field. He co-founded WentzMiller Global Services in 2004, advising pharmaceutical and medical education company clients on global and U.S. continuing medical education and business strategy.

A longtime resident of Darien, Conn., before moving back to New York, Lew leaves a legacy of service to others. He led efforts advocating for employment and training for disadvantaged people and started several nonprofits in affordable housing. In 2022, he started an organization that provides essential services for new immigrants.

Lew was a devoted Princetonian, serving two terms as president of the Class of '49 and as class agent at the time of his death. He is survived by his daughter, Kathryn '77; son David and daughter-in-law Nina; two grandsons; two great-grandchildren; and the three children and two grandchildren of his late twin brother Sandy.

THE CLASS OF 1952

PETER COWLES '52

Pete came from Lawrenceville, majored in politics, and ate at Colonial. He joined the Republican Club and the Pre-Law Society. He left us for Northwestern and graduated there in 1956. Then he got a CPA certificate at the University of Illinois and a law degree at Loyola University in 1964.

Pete worked in Chicago at a law firm and then at several public corporations there as a financial or legal officer.

He and his wife, Pat, operated a franchise center for remedial tutoring of children in primary and secondary schools

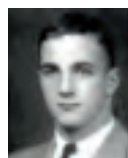


around Chicago.

Pete died Jan. 24, 2025. He is survived by his wife, Pat, and his children, Katherine, Miles, and William, to whom the class sends its best wishes.

HOWARD S. MacAYEAL '52

Howard came to us from Durfee High School in Massachusetts, majored in English, and



joined Dial Lodge. He was on the editorial board of the *Nassau Sovereign*, a member of Whig-Clio, and roomed with Frank Harvey.

Howard went on to Harvard Law School and practiced as a trial lawyer in Chicago. In 1960, he began a remarkable career in international business with Eaton Corp., Global Consulting, World Alliance Merchant Finance Co., and China Trade Corp., most notably for the financing of the Great Wall Hotel in Beijing. He retired in 2015 to Cape Cod and wrote novels and short stories.

Howard died Feb. 22, 2025. He is survived by his wife, Patricia; and their children, Douglas, Jean, and Heather. His son, Berry, died before him.

EDWARD A. TIRYAKIAN '52

Ed, a devoted member of the class, frequently at Reunions, and member of the class executive committee, died Feb. 1, 2025.



A sociology major, he joined Court Club and roomed with David Siegel, J. Marshall Osborn, and

James Kritzeck '54. He went on to get a Ph.D. in sociology at Harvard. Ed taught in the department at Princeton for several years, then several years at Harvard, before joining the sociology department at Duke for the rest of his career.

Ed's research dwelt on the theory of societal change, sociology of religion, and of development. His research took him to many countries — including lower Africa, Cameroon, and Kosovo.

Ed is survived by sons Edmund '78 and Edwyn and his wife, Josefina, whom many of us have met at Reunions. The class sends a blessing to them, with good memories of Ed.

THE CLASS OF 1953

EDWARD JOSEPH DUFFY III '53

Ed died Feb. 8, 2025.

He was born in New Rochelle, N.Y., and grew up in Essex Fells, N.J. He graduated from the Canterbury School before coming to Princeton. Ed joined Cap and Gown, majored in economics, and wrote his thesis on "Defense Plant Corporation." He played on the Ivy League Championship hockey team in his senior year.



Drafted into the Army, he spent about a year in Southern camps and then nine months near Bordeaux, France. Returning to the United States, Ed worked

as a public accountant with Haskins and Sells while earning an MBA from New York University's Graduate School of Business Administration at night. He made a career in data processing and systems analysis with a parallel career in volunteering. In his 80s he was named "Citizen of the Year" by the mayor of Essex Fells.

Ed is survived by his wife of almost 68 years, Marjorie; their seven children; 17 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1954

H. FURLONG BALDWIN '54

Baldy died Dec. 7, 2024, in his ancestral home, Eyre Hall, on Virginia's Eastern shore.



He prepared at Gilman School and was active in football, basketball, and lacrosse. At Princeton, he majored in history, joined Ivy Club, and participated in the Advisee Project and the Platoon Leader Class. He was an All-American lacrosse player in 1954. His interests included sailing and farming.

Baldy served in the Marine Corps for two years before joining the Mercantile Safe Deposit and Trust Co. as a teller and attending the Stonier Graduate School of Banking at Rutgers University. In 1968, he became a director of Mercantile Safe, then president of the bank, and he retired as president and chief executive of Mercantile Bankshares Corp. in 2001. He also served as chair of NASDAQ for 10 years.

Named to *The Baltimore Sun's* Business and Civic Hall of Fame in 2020, Baldy was deeply engaged in the Baltimore community and elsewhere, serving as chair of Johns Hopkins Medicine's board of trustees and on the boards of the Virginia Museum of History and Culture, George Washington's Mount Vernon, and Stratford Hall. He helped raise funds for the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and the Walters Art Museum.

He is survived by his companion of 37 years, Louise Hayman; son Severn Eyre; daughter Mary; and one granddaughter.

SCOTT B. PARRY '54

Scott died Oct. 15, 2024.

He prepared at Easton (Pa.) High School and was active in dramatics, debating, and glee club. At Princeton, he majored in psychology, joined Terrace Club, sang in the Chapel Choir, and was Undergraduate Carillonneur.

Scott was a man of great energy and many talents and interests including



music-making, architecture, printing, and collection of antiques. His professional career focused on emerging technologies of communication, education,

and training.

Upon graduating, he taught for a year at York (Pa.) Junior College and produced programs on WSBA-TV. He returned to Princeton to study architecture for a year and then served two years in the Army, receiving a Commendation Medal for setting up an education center. He earned a master's degree in communication at Boston University in 1960, and in partnership with his thesis adviser established Training House, developing instructional materials for major publishing houses. While pursuing a Ph.D. in education at New York University, he was an account executive with Hill & Knowlton and edited textbooks at Harcourt, Brace and World. He married Joan Sant Antonio and was awarded his Ph.D. in 1969.

Scott was a consultant to UNESCO, the Ford Foundation, and Fortune 500 companies, and continued to develop training materials, write books, and teach at NYU and Mercer County (N.J.) Community College until retiring.

He and Joan built their 26-room dream house, The Castle (complete with turrets), on their farm near Princeton, where they provided hospitality to the community, sold their fruit, and tended Scott's antiques.

He was predeceased by Joan and is survived by his daughter Christiana and two grandchildren.

MALCOLM C. PEYTON '54 *56

Mac died Jan. 26, 2025.

At Exeter he was active in soccer,



dramatics, and debating.

At Princeton, he majored in music, where his primary interest was in composition. He participated in freshman soccer, joined Ivy Club, and earned an MFA in music in 1956.

In 1965, after study of music and composition abroad, Mac joined the faculty of the New England Conservatory in Boston, where he taught for more than 50 years and served as the longtime chair of the composition department. A revered and beloved teacher of composition and music theory, a skilled pianist and conductor, and the composer of exquisite pieces including vocal chamber music and two string quartets, he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the Conservatory in 2016.

Throughout his life Mac loved adventurous travel and the outdoors. He is remembered for his energy, curiosity, and irreverent sense of humor.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara

Winchester; their daughter, Laura Peyton; four daughters from his first marriage to Joan Timmerman Peyton: Susanna, Bettina, Emily, and Jessica; 14 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1955

RICHARD O. FUNSCH '55

Richard, whose sudden midlife disability failed to dent his exceedingly helpful good



nature, died at home in Princeton April 1, 2025. In 1983, he was leading his own law firm in St. Louis when he lost 96 percent of his eyesight within 24 hours

due to an unidentified virus. It changed the way he practiced law, but he soldiered on for the next 10 years with the help of a reader. In 1996, he and his wife, Mary, moved to Princeton and until his eyesight was completely gone, he walked home unaided along the streets of Princeton from the YMCA, where he worked out. He loved to audit University classes, noting happily that unlike his days as an undergraduate, he didn't need to take notes or stress out about exams.

Richard was born Sept. 6, 1932, in St. Louis and attended St. Louis Country Day School. At Princeton, he joined Cottage Club, majored in history, and was widely known as "Mo." He was a member of the 150-pound football team and played IAA football, squash, and club hockey. Senior year he roomed with Dan Lane, Dozier Gardner, Bob Hiden, and Albert Yort.

After Princeton Richard graduated from law school, first attending Columbia and then Washington University in St. Louis. After passing the Missouri Bar, he spent 34 months as a judge advocate in the Air Force. Returning to St. Louis, he practiced law and had an unsuccessful run for Congress before his eyesight vanished. Five years later he married Mary Sutter, whom he had known in St. Louis for 20 years. In 1996, they moved to Princeton, which he said fortified his belief that it was the "best old place of all." He was a welcome worker, attending many class meetings to help advise on arrangements while Mary took notes on what was decided.

He is survived by Mary and children Randolph, Ted, and Cynthia; and stepchildren John, Mary Beth, and Sarah; and seven grandchildren.

SIDNEY S. GORHAM III '55

Sid died March 14, 2025, in Newport, R.I., where he lived for much of his life.

He was born in Chicago Jan. 16, 1932. He attended Westminster School in Simsbury, Conn., where he was editor of the yearbook and literary magazine, varsity tennis captain, and participated in varsity football and hockey. At Princeton, he majored in



engineering, played freshman hockey, and was involved with the business department of a Triangle Club production. Sid split his college years between Princeton and the University of Illinois, from which he graduated in 1956.

After college, he worked at Marshall Field & Co. and traveled in Europe before teaching math at the Hun School in Princeton. In 1963, he married Jean Elizabeth Howell and they moved to Newport to co-head the Newport School for Girls. When the school closed in 1973 Sid transitioned into real estate, where he was active for the rest of his career.

Sid was also involved with Trinity Church and Newport County Child and Family Services, and he was the founder of the Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation. He also served on the Newport Comprehensive Planning Commission and various neighborhood planning associations. He was an active lawn and court tennis player and in 1990 won the U.S. national senior doubles court tennis championship. He was a member of the National Tennis Club, the Spouting Rock Beach Association, the Clambake Club, Sons of the Colonial Wars, Redwood Library, and the Preservation Society.

Sid is survived by his wife, Jean; son Sidney Gorham IV; and two grandsons.

JIMIE KUSEL '55

Jimie, whose career ranged from colonel in the Air Force and director of accounting



and finance for the Military Airlift Command to teaching advanced university courses in accounting and auditing at the University of Arkansas, Little Rock, died Feb. 26, 2025. Princeton classmates might remember him as Jimmy Kusel; he later adopted Jimie as his first name.

Jimie was born June 21, 1933, in Fort Smith, Ark., and attended Fort Smith Senior High School, where he was first in his class, student body president, and participated in basketball and key club. At Princeton, he majored in economics and was a research assistant, joined Dial Lodge, played IAA pingpong, joined the Air Force ROTC, and won a scholarship from the General Electric Co.

After graduation Jimie was commissioned as an officer in the Air Force, rising to the rank of colonel. After earning an MBA from Michigan State University, he went on to become a certified public accountant, certified internal auditor, and certified government financial manager. He was twice awarded the Legion of Merit and was selected to become comptroller for the Strategic Air Command. But after 24 years in the Air Force, he resigned his commission

and started a new career with a tenure track position at the University of Arkansas.

Jimie published more than 50 articles in professional journals and co-authored work used in graduate-level classes, winning awards for teaching and research in the College of Business.

His wife, Janet, died in 2020.

THE CLASS OF 1956

RUSSELL ARTHUR McNAIR '56

Mac died Feb. 23, 2025.

He came to Princeton from Grosse Pointe



(Mich.) High School South, in the city where he lived most of his life. He joined Tiger Inn, where he was chair of the party committee and played IAA football and tennis, and majored in economics and sociology. After earning his law degree at the University of Michigan, Mac took a position at the Dickinson Wright law firm in Detroit, where he remained for his professional life and was chair from 1994 to 1998. He was active in community activities and served on numerous boards including the Children's Home of Detroit, where he served as president.

Mac married Rosemary Chesbrough in 1957 at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, and they shared three children and seven grandchildren with whom he loved playing games including tennis, paddle tennis, golf, and card games — especially bridge, Pedro, and Oh Hell. Mac loved life, and everyone in his orbit knew it.

Rosemary died a year before him; they were predeceased by their son Douglas Stuart. Mac is survived by daughter Julie McNair Schwerin and her husband Michael, and son Rusty and his wife Jennifer Kohnen; seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

EDWARD F. MENEFFEE '56

Ed died Dec. 12, 2023, in Atlanta.

He came to Princeton from Woodberry



Forest School in Orange, Va., where he participated in football and track. Ed joined Cottage Club, majored in history, and rowed in lightweight crew while serving as a Chapel deacon and headwaiter at Commons. His senior year was "the best ever" because (with Dean Francis Godolphin's permission) Ed married his love, Paula Livingston Schulte in 1955.

Ed went on to earn an architecture degree at Carnegie Mellon University in 1959, followed by work as a principal at major Atlanta firms. In 1980, he formed his own architectural firm, EFM Architecture. Ed also served on the board of the Galloway School and as a director of the Atlanta Chapter of

the American Institute of Architects.

Ed was predeceased by his daughter Roxana. He is survived by his wife, Paula, who was a lifelong partner in art and design for his firm; and children Christopher, Reed '86, and Lansing Livingston Martinelli; 10 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. All will fondly remember deep ties and adventures with Ed's Princeton family.

JAMES R. MONAHAN '56

Jim died Jan. 26, 2025.

He came to Princeton from Phillips Exeter,



where he played soccer, which he continued as a Tiger starter for three years and was captain in his senior year. Jim majored in economics, joined Ivy Club, and played goalie for the ice hockey squad. As an Army ROTC graduate, he spent a year on active duty in Fort Sill, Okla., before marrying his first wife, Elizabeth Forgy; joining the insurance firm Marsh McLennan; and earning his CPCU designation. In 1960, the family moved to Atlanta, which became his permanent home and backyard tennis court venue for years of mixed doubles with his second wife, Elaine, an Emory and Arts Institute of Atlanta graduate who pursued a career in interior design.

Later years brought moves to the mountains of North Carolina, to Southern Vermont's hills, and back to Flat Rock, N.C.

After Elaine died in 2023, Jim moved down to Peachtree City, Ga., to be near his daughters Elizabeth Cowdery and Ann Baum along with stepchildren Leslie, Tinsley, and David and five grandchildren who survive him.

R. SIDNEY PINCH '56

Sid died March 6, 2025, in Bryn Mawr, Pa.

He came to Princeton from Media High



School, where he was class president and an all-around athlete in football, basketball, and baseball. He joined Cannon Club, majored in English, was active in the Westminster Foundation, and played football for four years including a critical stint as backup single-wing tailback in our senior year Ivy championship.

After graduating, Sid studied at Harvard Divinity School and earned theology degrees from Oxford (where he played on the rugby team) and Princeton Theological Seminary. He was ordained as a Presbyterian minister, leading churches in West Virginia, New Canaan, Conn., Baldwin, N.Y. (where he married Catherine Spelman), and Union, N.J., as pastor of the Connecticut Farms Church.

At once humble and dynamic in service to his vocation, Sid will be remembered for his love of learning, wise and empathetic counsel, and devotion to lifting up the lives of others.

He is survived by his wife, Cathy; his children Frederick, Philip and his wife Melissa, Merryn, and Susannah; four grandchildren; and brother Lewis.

CHRISTOPHER C. SMITH '56

Kit died Dec. 27, 2024, in Hawaii.

Born in Honolulu, he came to Princeton from Phillips Andover, following his brother Richard C. Smith '54. On campus he played trombone in the orchestra, Triangle Club, and Marching Band, for which he won the senior Osborn Award. He joined Colonial and wrote his music thesis on "American Military Bands."

After graduation, Kit served as an officer on a destroyer out of San Diego, Calif. In 1959, he earned an M.A. from Stanford and then worked as a financial writer for *The San Diego Union* followed by the *Honolulu Advertiser*. His writing was recognized with a 1978 media award for economic understanding.

Kit and his wife, Marjorie Nurse, also a Stanford graduate, were deeply devoted to their religious faith, which helped through the tragic death of their daughter Patty in 1981. Running the 1979 Honolulu Marathon with her was a highpoint of Kit's life. Many other marathons followed with 35 completed in less than three hours, including his finishing first in the 2005 Philadelphia Marathon among men aged 70 or older.

Kit is survived by Marjorie, their daughters Suzanne Smith and Sandra Bramhill, and grandchildren Ian and Mark Bramhill.

PRESTON L. SPRUANCE JR. '56

Preston died July 23, 2024, in Eureka, Calif.

Following his father, Preston Lea '33, he came to Princeton from Lawrenceville but soon transferred to Ithaca College, where he doubled-majored in mathematics and music while serving as editor of the literary magazine. He later earned an M.S. from the U.S. International University.

Preston brought his statistical skills to actuarial work at John Hancock and later as statistician in charge at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, Calif., which offered cherished opportunities to single-handedly sail his skipjack schooner to Catalina Island — a feat that would have pleased his grandfather, Fleet Adm. William F. Halsey Jr. Much of his later professional work included leading sophisticated defense contracts.

In retirement, Preston became an avid bird watcher, sighting more than 1,000 world species while enjoying numerous small boat and sailing ship cruises. He loved the joy of being on the water. On top of all this, he continued to play the trombone in various jazz groups on the West Coast.

Preston is survived by his wife of 60 years, Nancy; sons Halsey Brewster and his wife Alisha, and Preston III and his wife Fernanda; and grandson Jacob Logan Spruance.

JOEL J. WINTON '56

Joel died June 28, 2024, in Wyckoff, N.J.

He came to Princeton from Forest Hills (N.Y.) High School, where he was a varsity swimmer. At Princeton, he joined Court Club, majored in mathematics, and was awarded the Andrew Brown Award for Excellence in Mathematics. He participated in multiple IAA sports including football, basketball, softball, pool, and billiards. After earning an MBA from Harvard (and meeting his future wife who was then a senior at Wellesley), Joel held managerial positions at Union Carbide, Cyanamid, and U.S. Industries before starting his own import business, where he served as president of Joel Winton Associates and chief executive officer of Imtrac. The firms specialized in fine glassware and crystal from Eastern Europe. Joel was a proud Tiger and he hit a trifecta having sent three sons to Princeton!

He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Susan; sons Andrew '80, Jeffrey '82, and Gregory '86; five grandchildren; and four great grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1957

JOHN McVICKAR ROBINSON '57

We recently received word that John died Nov. 21, 2021, in San Mateo, Calif.



He came to Princeton from the Holderness School in New Hampshire and was the nephew of John Haight Jr. '40. John held numerous jobs to help pay for college, including stints as freshman newsboy, sophomore truck driver, and upper-class manager of the Stationery Agency. He ran on the freshman cross country team, majored in history, and joined Campus Club, where he participated in intramural sports and bridge. He was also a member of the Canterbury Club, the Chapel Choir, the Glee Club, and the Undergraduate Council. Senior year he roomed with Jerry Mulder and Don Stake.

Just after graduation, John married P. Elizabeth "Betsy" Weymouth, a nurse from Boston, and they enjoyed more than 64 years of marriage. They had four children, Elizabeth "Bambi," Phyllis "Pickle," John II "Rob," and Mike. Employed for 20 years in advertising and management at Procter & Gamble in Cincinnati, John moved to R.J. Reynolds (Tobacco) Industries in North Carolina with his family in 1977. After Reynolds acquired Del Monte Foods, John again moved with his family to the San Francisco area.

He enjoyed singing with various choral groups and managed to run four miles daily. He and his family also enjoyed hiking in the North Carolina and California forests and mountains.

John is survived by his wife, Betsy; and their four children and families.

THE CLASS OF 1960

C. MILLER BIDDLE IV '60 *61

Miller studied the more attractive customs of his pioneer New Jersey and Philadelphia ancestors. He chronicled their emigration to America in 1633, worshipped with their Quaker Society of Friends, and supported both the society's K-8 school and its Westfield, N.J., retirement community. In later years he maintained the Westfield Friends Cemetery in partnership with his wife, Joan, whom he married in 1995.

Before all that, Miller attended Phillips Andover, where he captained the soccer team and co-captained the winter track team. With us, he carried on both and earned All-Ivy soccer recognition. He majored in biology, won a National Science Foundation award, led Quadrangle's bicker committee, and joined the Pre-Med Society.

After a year's post-grad pause, Miller earned a medical degree at Temple University Medical School in 1965, interned at University Medical School in Madison, Wis., and completed a fellowship in endocrinology at Cooper Medical Center in Camden, N.J., in 1969. He then served two years at the Navy Hospital in Pensacola, Fla., before establishing a private practice in endocrinology in Camden, where he practiced for 45 years.

In retirement, Miller and Joan enjoyed traveling, fly fishing, gardening, and golf. Active until his last months, he died at home Oct. 13, 2024. His daughter Elizabeth predeceased him and he is survived by Joan; daughter Amy; and grandson Connor.

RONALD C. HILLEGASS '60

Ron was an enthusiastic athlete and outdoorsman. Baseball, basketball, and



football at Westmont High School in Johnstown, Pa., led to four years of varsity football at Princeton. He majored in economics, joined Cap and Gown, sang in the Glee Club, was a Chapel deacon, and joined the Pre-Med Society.

Ron earned a medical degree at the University of Pennsylvania in 1964, the year after he married Peggie May. They spent three happy years in Europe courtesy of the Army, serving in Germany and beginning their lifetime enthusiasm for hiking and trekking-related travel.

After a residency in orthopedics at the University of Pittsburgh Hospital, Ron began his more than 30-year practice in Providence, R.I., at Roger Williams Hospital. He served as an assistant professor at Brown University Hospital and was active in Rhode Island orthopedic medicine associations. He saved some time for golf, tennis, and squash.

Retiring in 1996 gave Ron and Peggie more latitude for international travel, challenging trekking (summiting Kilimanjaro and Mount Everest Base Camp for Ron), skiing Whiteface Mountain in New York, and sailing their Cal 24 *Tigress*.

Though planning to attend our 65th, Ron suffered a succession of health setbacks and died Jan. 27, 2025. Peggie and son Kent predeceased him. He is survived by two sons; three daughters-in-law; and eight grandchildren, to whom we send our condolences.

JOHN D. STEMPEL '60

John barely evaded the violent seizure of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran in 1979. Called home



to Washington just in time, he later published *Inside the Iranian Revolution* to tell the whole, fraught story.

After his youth in Bloomington, Ind., John set his course toward a diplomatic career at the Woodrow Wilson School. He ran cross country for three years, dined at Cloister Inn, and joined Whig-Clio and Navy ROTC. He then served two years on a destroyer in the Pacific, including a year training the nascent Vietnamese navy.

John earned his M.A. and Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1962 and 1965 and began his State career with assignments in several African countries and intervals in the U.S. before serving in Iran from 1975 to 1979. Back home, John served in his "dream job" as director of the State Department Operations Center before retiring in 1989.

He became professor and then director of the School of Diplomacy and International Commerce at the University of Kentucky, Lexington, until 2013. A member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a frequent lecturer at Oxford University, he applied his keen wit to his annual and amusing, but frank, "State of the World" talk in Lexington.

John died Jan. 8, 2025. He is survived by his second wife, Susan; three daughters; five grandchildren; and their families. The class sends sympathy to all.

THOMAS E. WING '60

At high school in Port Washington, Long Island, Tom played varsity football, joined the chess club, and sailed on the Sound. He brought the latter two enthusiasms to Princeton, where he majored in engineering



physics, joined Navy ROTC and Key and Seal, and played bridge.

After graduation, Tom took to the sea again, this time spending three years, mostly in the Mediterranean, on a Navy aircraft carrier. He earned a Ph.D. in physics at Columbia University and met and married Peggy Lester, daughter of Dean Richard Lester of Princeton. He began his professional career with Bell Laboratories, then preeminent in engineering physics. Tom spent his entire career with the company as it evolved gradually into Lucent Technologies with the breakup of the Bell System, a process he regretted.

Tom retired from Lucent in 2001. He remained active in the Episcopal Church and continued to enjoy chess, bridge, and especially his lifelong enthusiasm for sailing. He and Peggy had earlier adopted Waquoit Village on Cape Cod as their summer home and sailing port and enjoyed those pursuits, their two children, five grandchildren, and families there and in Mendham, N.J.

Tom died Feb. 19, 2025. The class sends its condolences to all the family.

THE CLASS OF 1961

STEPHEN ELY '61

Steve died March 15, 2025, in Locust Valley, N.Y., his home for 50 years.



Born in Washington, D.C., he came to us from St. Albans School, of which he was a lifelong, committed alumnus. At Princeton, he majored in history, took his meals at Charter, and swam for four years, winning a varsity letter. He was admired by his swimming teammates as the hardest worker on the team, even if not the fastest swimmer. His senior-year roommates were Fred Hyer and Bob Stanger.

After service in the Marine Corps as a sergeant, he went to work for Kuhn, Loeb & Co. in New York City, becoming a partner in 1971. In 1983, he co-founded Haven Capital Management, where he spent the rest of his working life. He commuted from Locust Valley for more than 40 years and was an active member of the Locust Valley community. He was a two-time black belt in tae kwon do. Per his obituary, "He may be remembered as the slowest driver in Locust Valley, as anyone who was stuck behind him can attest."

Predeceased by his first wife Susan in 1997, he is survived by his wife, Jennifer; four children; and six granddaughters.

PETER BURR LOOMIS IV '61

Burr died Sept. 13, 2024, in Chambersburg, Pa., while in home hospice for a chronic illness.



Born in Detroit, he came to us from Ernest Seaholm High School. At Princeton, he was a member of Whig-Clio, ate at Terrace, and majored in philosophy. His senior-year roommates were Steve Ryter, Ken Goldin, Dave Fitzgerald, and John Keller.

After Princeton, Burr joined the Navy as a seaman, followed by Officer Candidate School and five years on active duty. He then joined the Naval Reserve and retired in 1989 as a captain. Having earned a master of science degree in geological oceanography in 1969 from the University of Michigan, he then worked for the Naval Oceanographic Office for 25 years and lived in Long Beach, Miss. In 2002, he and his wife moved to Chambersburg to be near their grandchildren. In retirement he was an avid homebrewer of beer, spent time with the Society for Creative Anachronism, and researched his Scottish heritage.

He is survived by his wife, Ann; his sons, Rip and Austin; and grandsons Drew and Adam.

THE CLASS OF 1963

ROBERT W. ALLEN '63

Robert, president of a fuel corporation on the Delaware-Maryland Eastern Shore, died



March 17, 2025, in Fenwick Island, Del., close to Seaford where his business was located and he had lived most of his life.

Robert came to Princeton from Seaford High School, where he played football and was class salutatorian. He majored in politics, was a member of Tower Club and Navy ROTC, and played 150-pound football in his junior and senior years.

Following graduation, he served two years in the Navy as a lieutenant junior grade, stationed in Rhode Island and Florida, before serving aboard a destroyer at sea. After his discharge he worked for Shell Oil in New York City and Buffalo, N.Y., before returning to Seaford in 1967 to join his father at Allen Petroleum Corp., where he eventually became president.

In 1968, he married Jeanne Wootten. They welcomed their first daughter, Mary Kathleen, in 1970 and their second, Megan, in 1975.

Robert served as president of the Seaford Lions Club and the Seaford Chamber of Commerce. He also was on the Delaware state school board and the state pension board. He was an active member of Mt. Olivet Church and sang in the choir for several years. An avid lifelong golfer, he cherished playing at the Seaford Golf and Country Club, where he enjoyed countless chicken salad sandwiches in the clubhouse.

During retirement, he enjoyed reading,

watching golf, taking his grandchildren fishing, and walking his dog, Sally.

Robert is survived by his wife of 57 years, Jeanne; daughters Mary Kate Allen and Megan Holzer; and five grandchildren.

DONALD S. BRIGHT '63

Don died Feb. 16, 2025. He lived in Trent Woods, N.C., served patients for more than



55 years, and continued to volunteer until his death at a free local clinic for those without health insurance.

Don had endless energy. He was a fisherman, hiker, and mountain biker and continued until late in life to work out daily at the local Gold's Gym. For our 60th-reunion yearbook, he posted photos of himself kitesurfing in the Atlantic.

Don came to Princeton from Northwestern High School in Hyattsville, Md. He majored in politics, played 150-pound football, joined Cannon Club, was coordinator of the dining hall, and was a member of the flying and judo clubs. His senior-year roommates were Paul Lahti, Boa Maguire, Terry Conroy, and Mac Walker.

Don earned a medical degree from the University of Maryland and completed a general surgery residency at Duke University Medical Center. In 1969, he joined the Air Force, where he received a pilot's license and was stationed in Vietnam, gaining experience in orthopedic and general surgery.

Don's passion for orthopedics led him back to Duke. He contributed to numerous research projects on tendon grafts, nerve replantation, and rehabilitation. In 1975, he joined the faculty as assistant professor of orthopedic surgery. He also co-directed Duke's orthopedic replantation team, treating patients with traumatic amputations of fingers and hands.

In 1980, Don transitioned to private practice in New Bern, N.C., where his expertise in hand surgery and other orthopedic treatments made him a trusted figure in the orthopedic community.

Don is survived by his wife, Patricia; daughter Angela Hill; sons William Wiseman and Donald II; and six grandchildren. A daughter, Cheryl, predeceased him.

ANTHONY DIVINCENZO '63

Tony died of cancer March 28, 2025, surrounded by loved ones in a hospice near



Beverly, Mass., where he lived most of his life and became a beloved teacher, coach, and mentor to decades of kids.

Tony came to Princeton from Beverly High School where, a star athlete, he played football, basketball, and baseball and was class president for three years. He majored in

psychology, played football freshman, junior, and senior years and lacrosse as junior, and was a member of Tiger Inn.

Tony served as an officer in the Army from 1963 to 1965. He then returned to Beverly, married his longtime sweetheart, Georgianna Jason, and worked his entire career as a teacher and guidance counselor in the Swampscott public school system. He coached football and lacrosse at Beverly High School as well as at Swampscott. Following retirement in 2007, he continued as a substitute teacher at Beverly High until fall 2024.

Tony is survived by his wife of 59 years, Georgie; son Peter; daughter Leah Kimtis; and five grandchildren.

ALLEN D. PORTER '63

Allen died March 16, 2025, surrounded by family in Princeton.



He came to Princeton from Rahway (N.J.) High School. His parents were a hard-working couple with a small business — the family lived upstairs. They didn't attend college; his father didn't even graduate from the eighth grade. Allen graduated Princeton *magna cum laude* and then earned a law degree from the University of Virginia Law School, where he was on the Law Review all three years and a member of Order of the Coif, the school's highest honor. After serving one year as a judicial clerk in the federal District Court in Trenton, he was hired by attorney William Miller, a sole practitioner in Princeton. Allen was with the firm for the next 53 years. His fifth-floor corner office at 1 Palmer Square looked out at the turrets of Alexander Hall and Holder Tower.

In 1967, Allen met Rhona, a recent graduate of Douglass College and a first-year history teacher at Princeton High School. They were married the next year.

Allen's community commitments were extensive. He represented the Princeton Planning Board for 40 years and served on the boards of Friends of the Princeton Public Library and the Library Foundation. He was counsel to the Princeton Area Community Foundation, having served as a board member and treasurer for many years. Last fall, he was honored for his 50 years of legal counsel to the Jewish Community Center.

Allen is survived by his wife of 57 years, Rhona; daughters Shara and Julie; and grandson Charlie.

THE CLASS OF 1964

JACQUES LOUIS GALEF '64

Jack died Dec. 30, 2022, in Hoboken, N.J.

He was born in Westport, Conn., and attended Deerfield Academy before coming to Princeton, where his brother Bennett



was a member of the Class of '62. Little is known of his activities at Old Nassau or thereafter. According to his half-brother Jon, who discussed Jack's life with

other members of the family, he "seemed to want to keep his personal life personal."

After graduating from Princeton, Jack earned a master of fine arts degree from the University of Iowa's Writers Workshop. He later taught at the New York School of the Visual Arts and wrote poems that were published in *The New Yorker*, *Esquire*, *The Paris Review*, and other magazines. Here's a sample of his work, which often took a comic twist: the first six lines from "The Museum of Modern Art Isn't Hungry," which appeared in the Fall 1975 issue of *The Paris Review*:

The Museum of Modern Art isn't hungry

Each wall is perfection

Leger says hello to Picasso

Matisse defines red and green

The paintings are testaments to an achieved order of delights

There are no hot dogs here

The class extends profound condolences to Jack's family.

ANDREW THOMPSON JR. '64

Andy died Feb. 21, 2025, in Woodland, Calif., following a stroke.



He was raised in East Aurora, N.Y., and graduated from St. Mark's School. He followed his father, Andrew Thompson '37, to Princeton, where he majored in English and dined at Colonial.

After Navy OCS, Andy served three years, mostly as navigator on the USS *Guadalupe*, an oiler, with two deployments to Southeast Asia. While in the Navy, he met and married Marylin, a graduate of Mills College in Oakland.

Andy earned a law degree from the University of California Hastings Law; then the family settled in New Hampshire, where Andy had enjoyed summers in his youth. After a year, however, they moved to Woodland, Marylin's hometown, and Andy practiced law until retiring in 2023.

Andy particularly enjoyed Woodland's small-town atmosphere and his five-minute commute. He and Marylin raised a son and daughter, and Andy became active in the community, joining the Kiwanis Club, serving on the board of Yolo Employment Services, which helped developmentally disabled adults, and offering free legal advice to seniors.

Andy was an avid golfer and played on many city league basketball teams. With Marylin, he enjoyed travel, live theater, and attending sporting events and musical theater productions of their children and,

later, four grandchildren.

To Marylin, son Andrew III, daughter Elizabeth Palmeri, and their families, the class extends its condolences.

THE CLASS OF 1965

JOSEPH M. ANDERSON '65

Joe died Jan. 4, 2025, after dealing with cancer for several years.



He came to Princeton from John Marshall High in Oklahoma City and roomed with a wealth of classmates. Joe rowed lightweight crew, participated in Whig-Clio, and was active in Tower Club. He spent a Fulbright year in Brazil after graduation before earning an M.A. in economics at the University of California, Berkeley, and a Ph.D. from Harvard.

Following two years of military service at the Pentagon and a stint teaching at Williams College, Joe settled in Washington, D.C., as VP of Lewin/ICF. He took a break to travel through the Eastern Bloc countries, including the USSR, and returned to D.C. in 1991 to found his own firm, Capital Research Associates, a consulting practice focused on health care, Social Security, retirement, and savings. The next 30 years involved work with governmental entities and major corporations in those areas, including the World Bank and IMF, and overseas contracts culminating with the design of a retirement system for the new government of South Sudan.

An individual of deep faith, Joe served Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church for 40 years in multiple capacities, sharing a special interest in the church's Kenyan mission with his wife, Carolyn. He enjoyed skiing and outdoor pursuits and was an ardent environmentalist.

Joe is survived by Carolyn; children Kathryn and Josh (Amy), grandsons Sam and Luke, and brothers Frank, David, and Peter.

The class celebrates the gifts Joe contributed through his intellect and energy.

RICHARD WILLIAM BLASDALE '65

Bill died Jan. 30, 2025, leaving a legacy of family values, committed service, generosity



and leadership. He grew up in Mattapoisett, Mass., and graduated from Tabor Academy. While at Princeton he served as the leader of the Debate Panel.

After graduation he married Mary Jean Schmidt, whom he had met when they were 15. They became residents of Mattapoisett, where Bill served as selectman and then town moderator over three decades. He was known for his diplomacy, wit, and ability to build consensus in these town roles. His generosity was well known, and he

helped to found the Southcoast Community Foundation and served on the board of several groups in the Southcoast Hospital System. He also served on the board of Tabor Academy for 25 years, including 15 as board chair.

Bill's professional career was divided into two acts. He served as president and CEO of Julius Koch USA, a Danish textile company in New Bedford. After 28 years he went back to school and became a certified financial planner. He co-founded Seamark Financial in 1996 and retired as president in June of 2024.

Bill is survived by his wife, Mary Jean; daughter Amy Blasdale-Cushing and spouse Brad Cushing; son Spencer Blasdale '90 and spouse Nell; and granddaughters Avery and Hadley.

THE CLASS OF 1966

ARTHUR E. OSBORNE III '66

Arthur, known as Bud, died Feb. 28, 2025, at his home in Boca Raton, Fla., after a 30-year battle with lymphoma.

Bud came to Princeton from New Trier High School in Winnetka, Ill., and joined Cannon Club. In his sophomore year, he withdrew from Princeton, later graduating from Northwestern University.

He went from Northwestern to a successful career in banking. He was a volunteer and a community leader, serving on the boards of Boca Raton Community Hospital, the United Way, and the Arc, and on the vestry of the Chapel of Saint Andrew. He was an avid diver, finding peace beneath the waves of the Florida Keys.

Bud is survived by his wife, Marilyn; daughter Hillary; son David; two grandchildren; and brother David.

DANIEL JOHN SKVIR '66

Dan died March 23, 2025, of cancer. He retired only three months earlier, after



36 years as chaplain of Princeton's Holy Transfiguration Chapel.

Dan grew up in Jersey City and graduated from Ferris High School, where he was in the band, played tennis, and was class valedictorian. At Princeton, he majored in religion, ate at Campus Club, played in the marching band, and helped establish the Orthodox Christian Fellowship chapter.

After graduating, Dan enrolled in the General Theological Seminary as a Rockefeller scholar and then studied at St. Vladimir's Seminary, graduating as valedictorian.

Dan began his ministry in Jersey City. In 1989 he was assigned as chaplain of Holy Transfiguration Chapel. He served as a teacher and administrator at Princeton Day School for 41 years. In recognition of his

contributions to liturgical music, he was awarded the Order of Saint Romanos by the Holy Synod of Bishops.

Everyone who met Dan was impressed by his warmth, understanding, and good humor.

Dan is survived by his wife, Tassie *70, whom he met when they were undergraduates; daughters Nika and Kyra; sister Natalea; and brother John. The class extends its condolences to them all.

THE CLASS OF 1968

WILLIAM A. DAVIS '68

Bill died Feb. 19, 2025, at home in Evanston, Ill., following a bout with cancer.



Bill was cheerful and never lost his sense of humor to the end. He was visited a few months before he died by Dwight Johnson and Charles Bethel, who were his

Princeton roommates. Bill came to us from Fern Creek High School in Louisville, Ky., where he was student council president and an all-state band member. At Princeton, he was active in the Glee Club and Young Republicans. He majored in politics, lived at 12 Blair Hall, and ate at Quadrangle Club. After graduation, he earned a law degree from Yale.

After Yale, Bill practiced regulatory law in several cities including Chicago, where he headed up AT&T's Midwest legal division before retiring a few years ago to teach regulatory law as an adjunct at Northwestern Law School.

In retirement, he was an accomplished pianist; he played for the Princeton Glee Club, and played until a few days before he died. As Dwight liked to recall, Bill grew up in Fern Creek, Ky., where he was "Mr. Fern Creek High."

The class extends its deepest sympathies to his widow, Regina Schwartz Davis; his son, Alexander; and to his extended family and friends.

MICHAEL D. DICKENS '68

Mike died Feb. 18, 2025, in Charlottesville, Va., of metastatic uveal melanoma.



He came to us from Henry Grady High School in Atlanta, where he was active in student council and ROTC. At Princeton, he majored in biology and ate at Cloister Inn.

He was active in the Undergraduate Schools Committee, the Trenton Tutorial Project, and the Wesley Foundation. He roomed with Dietz, Whitesides, Freeman, Cochran, Murphy, and Childs and lived in McCosh Infirmary his junior and senior years.

After graduation, Mike earned a medical degree from Columbia medical school. He did a postdoctoral residency at the

University of Virginia specializing in pediatrics before being commissioned into the Navy Medical Corps, where he served two years at Guantánamo Bay before mustering out as a lieutenant commander.

In private life, Mike joined a single-specialty pediatric practice where he worked for 35 years before retiring in 2013. During that period, he devoted volunteer hours to 16 Haiti medical missions, as well as serving his church and his state in multiple capacities. He was also a vital member of the Princeton community, doing Alumni Schools Committee work before dedicating innumerable hours to our class by serving as vice chair and then chair of the class board. In his spare time, he was an avid golfer and historian, having authored two books on James Madison 1771.

The class extends its deepest sympathies to Mike's widow, Melissa; his daughters Allison and Meredith; and to his extended family and friends.

MORTON H. LEVITT '68

Mort died March 7, 2025, in Wilmington, N.C., of metastatic renal cell carcinoma.



He came to us from Poly Prep in Brooklyn, N.Y., where he edited the yearbook, directed the band and orchestra, and captained the tennis team. At Princeton,

Mort majored in basic engineering. He was active in *The Princeton Engineer* and Hillel. He was an officer at Key and Seal and lived at 123 Walker his senior year.

After graduating, Mort received a medical degree from Duke Medical School, with postgraduate training in pathology at Duke Medical Hospital and the University of Chicago. He joined the U.S. Public Health Service, where he conducted research for eight years before being recruited to join the Air Force. He spent 14 years stationed at Andrews Air Force Base before retiring as a full colonel in 2003. After mustering out, he spent another 11 years in various teaching and administrative positions at Florida Atlantic University. He was an active member of the College of American Pathologists and eventually joined its Board of Governors. After retiring a third time to Wilmington, Mort joined the Cape Fear Men's Club, where he enjoyed the camaraderie of like-minded individuals and eventually became a board member.

The class extends its deepest sympathies to Mort's wife, Cindy; his three daughters; four grandchildren; and his extended family and friends.

THE CLASS OF 1975

JAMES J. MENNINGER '75

Jim died Feb. 15, 2025, after suffering a massive stroke.



He came to us from Fairfield (Ohio) High School, where he was selected the most outstanding citizen of his graduating class. At Princeton, he majored in history, played on the varsity lightweight football team, managed the Student Ring Agency, and joined Charter Club. He went on to serve as president of the Ohio Valley Princeton Association and to interview prospective students for the Alumni Schools Committee.

Jim was devoted to his Christian faith, and his career focused on ministry and teaching. After earning a Ph.D. in theology at Ashland University, he did postdoctoral work at several universities. He served Baptist churches in the Cincinnati area as a youth leader or senior pastor; was director of religious life at Ashland University; and held several adjunct college teaching positions.

Jim loved people and took the time to truly get to know them. He also thrived on competition, whether it was an alumni scrimmage with the 150s, a tennis game with a friend, or a backyard cornhole game with family.

Jim was predeceased by his parents and brother. He is survived by four sisters and many nieces and nephews. We join them in mourning this memorable man with an infectious smile and a genuine gift for friendship.

MICHAEL R. JONES '76

Michael died March 14, 2025, in Pittsburgh of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. He was retired after a long career in the telecommunications industry with Verizon Communications.

Raised in Moorestown, N.J., Michael was an active youth member of Second Baptist Church. He was a Boy Scout, soccer player, and all-state chorus singer, and served as class president at Moorestown High School. He entered Princeton with the Class of 1975, majored in economics, and concluded his studies with the Class of 1976. Michael's extracurricular activities included running, singing with the Gospel Ensemble, and working at *Business Today* magazine. He was a member of the Association of Black Princeton Alumni and participated in ABPA conferences. During college, he met his future wife, Janell Smith, and they were married in 1982. He was a loyal Philadelphia Eagles fan.

After college, Michael began his career in the telecommunications industry at Northern Telecom as a systems engineer. He later moved to Bell Atlantic and Verizon Communications and won numerous corporate awards for the sale of corporate telephony systems. Michael and Janell settled in the Pittsburgh area, where they

raised their daughter, Brittany. Michael enjoyed being an active member of Mt. Ararat Baptist Church, where he sang in the Male Chorus, traveling with them to regional gospel workshops, and especially enjoyed his time with the church fine arts ministry. Michael also was an avid runner, competing in Cleveland and Pittsburgh 5K and 10K races. Always a storyteller, he enjoyed regaling his family and friends with stories passed down from his elders.

Michael is survived by Janell; Brittany; mother Dora; brothers Gregory and Richard; and extended family.

THE CLASS OF 1977

GLENN W. KNOX SR. '77

Glenn died Jan. 9, 2025.

At Princeton, he majored in geology and geophysics, graduating *magna cum laude*. He then earned an M.A. in biochemistry at Bryn Mawr College and a medical degree at Rutgers Medical School. He did a postdoctoral fellowship in neurotology at Baylor College of Medicine and an otolaryngology residency at Vanderbilt University, where he met his wife, Alisa. Glenn later received a law degree from the Florida Coastal School of Law and was admitted to the Georgia Bar.

He led a career as a physician, surgeon, researcher, and medical inventor. Before retiring in 2022, Glenn served as associate professor and chief of the division of otolaryngology at University of Florida Health, Jacksonville and director of the University of Pennsylvania Balance Center. He was a NASA visiting researcher for more than 30 years and held three U.S. patents for medical devices. The self-crimping stapedectomy prosthesis became an industry standard.

Glenn authored more than 60 papers, winning multiple research grants. His sense of humor could be irreverent, goofy, intelligent, or all three at once. He will be dearly missed.

He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Alisa Kelsey Knox; children Will and his wife Audrey, and Sarah and her husband Connor; and numerous extended family members.

THE CLASS OF 1992

KELLY G. BAILER KRAUSS '92

Kelly died Feb. 27, 2025, surrounded by her family in Acton, Mass.



She was born in California July 12, 1970. Her formative years were spent in Detroit, where she graduated from University Liggett, a preparatory school in Metro Detroit. After completing her studies at Princeton in 1992, she went on to earn a law

degree from the University of Michigan, where she met and fell in love with her husband, Charlie.

Kelly was a chef savant who regularly created recipes that earned accolades such as Sutter Home's Build a Better Burger, in which her recipe for a shrimp burger won best alternative burger and is featured in the commemorative cookbook. She also spent years perfecting baked goods, authored a cookie cookbook, and founded the Blue Freckle Bakery.

Her true love was being a dedicated beagle mom to an enormous pack of beagles throughout her life.

Those who knew and loved Kelly will fondly recall her great sense of humor, infectious laugh, and quick wit — qualities she embodied up until her last breath.

The Class of 1992 extends its deepest sympathies to her husband of nearly 26 years, Charlie; her mother, Penny Bailer; her brother Ryan Bailer and his partner Tatiana Lascu; and her nieces and nephews.

GRADUATE ALUMNI

JOHN S. DRISCOLL *60

John died April 4, 2025, in Rockville, Md.

Born in Jamestown, N.Y., May 31, 1934, he received a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Michigan State University in 1955 and earned a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from Princeton in 1960.

After eight years as a research group leader at Monsanto Research Corp. in Boston, he joined the National Institutes of Health, where he spent 30 years in new drug research at the National Cancer Institute. John started an anticancer drug discovery laboratory and was the technical monitor for numerous chemistry contracts between the NCI and various universities. During his first 15 years at the institute, John's research emphasized finding new anticancer drugs for the treatment of brain tumors. He specialized in anti-AIDS drugs during his final 15 years, and this research introduced three additional anti-HIV drugs into clinical trials.

John's work generated approximately 150 publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals and more than 20 U.S. patents. He made technical presentations on anticancer and anti-AIDS drugs at numerous national and international meetings and organized international scientific symposia. After retiring in 1999, he wrote a textbook on antiviral drugs.

John is survived by his wife, Katherine; children John, Margaret, and Laura; and five grandchildren.

WILLIAM E. SCHIESSER *60

William died Aug. 22, 2024, in Bethlehem, Pa.

Born in Abington, Pa., Jan. 9, 1934, he received his bachelor's degree from Lehigh in 1955 and a Ph.D. in chemical engineering from Princeton in 1960.

William joined Lehigh's chemical engineering department in 1960 and was named R.L. McCann Professor of Engineering and Computer Science. He focused on numerical methods and software development for ordinary, differential-algebraic, and partial differential equations, and emphasized practical applications, particularly in biomedical engineering. He developed computer-based solutions to model real-life phenomena, such as the progression of Parkinson's disease and the dynamics of infectious diseases. He wrote *A Mathematical Modeling Approach to Infectious Diseases and ODE/PDE Models for Parkinson's Disease*.

After taking emeritus status in 2004, William joined teams at the medical schools of the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Michigan. At Penn, he collaborated with ophthalmologists to develop mathematical models for protein diffusion in the retina, contributing to a deeper understanding of conditions like macular degeneration. At Michigan, his work focused on modeling the diffusion of anesthesia in various tissues to enhance the precision of anesthetic administration.

Predeceased by his wife, Dolores, and son Daniel, William is survived by sons William Jr. and Nathan; and two grandchildren.

LARRY D. SHINN *72

Larry died April 2, 2025, in Berea, Ky.

Born Jan. 16, 1942, in Alliance, Ohio, Larry graduated from Baldwin-Wallace College in 1964, earned a master of divinity degree from Drew University Theological School in 1968, and completed his Ph.D. in religion at Princeton in 1972.

His focus centered on Eastern religions and philosophies, specifically the study of Hinduism, Buddhism, and new religious movements. Larry's works include *Two Sacred Worlds*, *The Dark Lord*, and *Lustful Maidens and Ascetic Kings*. He was co-editor of *The Perennial Dictionary of World Religions*.

Larry's academic career began at Oberlin, where he was named the William H. Danforth Professor of Religion. He later served as dean and vice president at Bucknell before becoming the eighth president of Berea College in 1994. During his 18-year tenure he launched the Being and Becoming strategic plan, expanded global learning opportunities, strengthened academic and labor programs, and guided Berea through the 2008 financial crisis while maintaining its historic commitment to tuition-free education. He founded the Sustainability and Environmental Studies program and led the development of Kentucky's first LEED-certified building and the pioneering Ecovillage residential complex.

Larry is survived by his wife, Nancy; daughters Christie and Robyn; five grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

PAUL B. COURTRIGHT *75

Paul died Dec. 9, 2024, at the age of 82 in Atlanta.

He was born Aug. 12, 1942, in Nashville. 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 College, Paul went to Emory University in 1989 as chair of its religion department.

He 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 and 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.

W. DAVID BOWMAN *81

Dave died March 28, 2025, at the age of 70 in Cincinnati.

He was born July 31, 1954, in Newport News, Va. Dave graduated from the University of Virginia with a B.S. degree in chemistry in 1976 before obtaining his Ph.D. in theoretical physical chemistry from Princeton in 1981.

Dave began his career in scientific research and development at Procter & Gamble. He worked for P&G in Cincinnati and London and retired as the senior director of global medical affairs for P&G Pharmaceuticals. He finished his career as senior director of global medical affairs in Memphis for the spinal division of Medtronic, a medical technology company.

Dave and his wife, Ellen, shared a deep commitment to philanthropic endeavors across Africa through their involvement in organizations including HEART, SOTENI, and SonLight Power.

Along with Ellen, his wife of 38 years, Dave is survived by his children, Josh, Matt, and Katie; grandchildren Vivian, JD, Lily, and Ella; and his brother, James Scarborough Bowman III.

Graduate memorials are prepared by the APGA.

*Undergraduate memorials appear for Malcolm C. Peyton '54 *56 and C. Miller Biddle IV '60 *61.*

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HENRY DEWOLF SMYTH *1921 (1898-1986)

How the First Historian of the A-Bomb Achieved a Misinformation Coup

BY ELYSE GRAHAM '07

EIGHTY YEARS AGO, on Sept. 15, 1945 — just weeks after atomic bombs fell on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing hundreds of thousands and bringing an end to World War II — Princeton University Press published a 280-page book that explained, in painstaking detail, how the bombs were made. This was the answer to exactly the question that everyone was asking, and the book, which was written by the chair of Princeton's physics department, Henry DeWolf Smyth *1921, became an instant bestseller.

The press was able to publish the book so astoundingly quickly for one reason, and one reason only: It was an intelligence operation, conceived by the U.S. government during the development of the bomb to shape how the public understood the bomb — and specifically, to make it harder for other countries to build one.

It succeeded. In fact, it was a

misinformation campaign so successful that we still tell its falsified story about the bomb today.

Smyth's adventure in wartime

intelligence started in early 1945, when Vannevar Bush, a top science official coordinating U.S. war research, called him into a meeting in Washington, D.C., and gave him an unusual assignment. Bush knew that work in Los Alamos was progressing so well that, before the year was out, the bomb would be ready to drop — and that when it did, the world would clamor to know everything about it. Which meant the U.S. had the opportunity to release an official version of that story before anyone else, a version that would serve U.S. interests. As the historian Rebecca Schwartz *08 has shown in a brilliant study, Bush asked Smyth to write the definitive book about the weapon that would end the war, while guarding the secret that such a

weapon was being developed in the first place. Smyth accepted.

Throughout that spring, Smyth spent his days writing the book in his office in Palmer Hall. While he worked, War Department guards sat in the hallway, reading detective magazines; when he left for the day, they made sure he locked his papers in a safe, then remained in his office to guard the safe. ("They *did* keep people from interrupting me, though," he later told *The New Yorker* wistfully. "Sometimes I wish I had them back.")

Smyth, a theoretician who wore tweed with elbow patches, was perfect for the job because he was working as a consultant for the Manhattan Project, which meant he had the requisite security classifications and understood the science. The son of a Princeton professor, he took three of his four degrees at the University, then returned as a professor who specialized in atomic physics. After the U.S. joined the war, he became the associate director for the Met Lab until it proved impossible to keep up his work as department chair while commuting to Chicago, whereupon he switched to the role of consultant. For some of the research projects he was involved in, security protocols prohibited any communication between the groups. "I was in the position of not being legally allowed to talk to myself," he quipped.

In June, Datus Smith Jr. 1929, the director of Princeton University Press, received a call from Smyth with a strange query. Would he rent the press's publishing plant to the U.S. government for two weeks? Just the plant, not the printers; the book the government wanted to print, in an edition of 5,000 copies, would have a Top Secret classification, and the printers didn't have clearance.

"Gosh, Harry, do you really mean that?" Smith asked. "It sounds crazy to print 5,000 copies of a Top Secret item."

Smyth replied, "Well, I suppose it might be one of those funny instances where something is Top Secret one day and in newspaper headlines the next."

Smith, deciding the logistics were too difficult, turned Smyth down. Then, on Aug. 12, while Smith was on a beach

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vacation with his family, he suddenly realized the professor's strange call must have been about the atomic bomb, which was now all over the headlines. He called Smyth from a phone booth in wet swimming trunks, got an agreement for a same-day meeting, thumbed a ride so his wife could keep their car, and was in Princeton talking to Smyth that evening.

When the press released the book in September, after the world's hastiest copy editing all-nighters, the edition it produced was 60,000 books, which sold out on the day of publication. Printing after printing, it kept selling out; it flew to the top of bestseller lists, with translations appearing in French, German, Italian, Japanese, Spanish, Russian, and other languages.

Smyth didn't make money from the book, since it was — formally speaking — written as a government report for the War Department. Princeton University Press, on the other hand, made more than \$25,000 within the year — almost half a million dollars today. The book actually cost Smyth money, since he paid \$2 as a copyright fee to allow anyone to reproduce the text in full — which was desirable, of course, because the goal was to get the text shared as widely as possible.

Titled *Atomic Energy for Military Purposes*, Smyth's book was brilliantly misleading for the following reason: It focused almost entirely on the work of physicists. In reality, the physics of building the bomb was relatively simple. The real challenge was to make the bomb detonate and sustain fission while doing so — which required chemistry, engineering, metallurgy, mining, and other specialties he largely left out of the narrative.

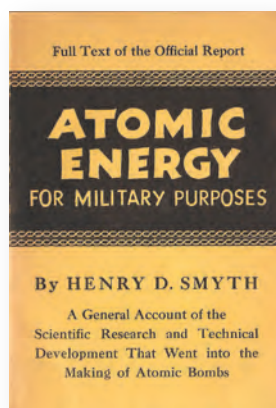
Few readers, if any, noticed that the book strategically withheld information. In fact, some accused Smyth of sharing so *much* information that he endangered national security. Perfect.

To this day, the story in the Smyth Report, as it was popularly called, is the story we tell about the bomb. We call World War II “the physicists’ war”; we watch films like *Oppenheimer*, in which a tiny clutch of wild-haired physicists seem to build the bomb simply by piecing together atoms. It's a story that leaves out most of the people whose skills

made that impossible weapon possible — from the metallurgists who refined plutonium to the women who worked as computers on the bomb's mathematical modeling to John Johnson Gutierrez — a “factotum and jack-of-all-trades,” according to mathematician Stanislaw Ulam — whose name, Los Alamos alums later recalled, was the one heard most frequently over the public address system. (Technicians know things about a research lab that the lab couldn't run without, but which the researchers themselves never need to know.)

“I suppose

Princeton can be given the dubious honor of being the birthplace of the Atomic Age,” the physicist Philip Anderson wrote in 1985. He was referring to the usual suspects — Albert Einstein, John von Neumann, Eugene Wigner, Oppenheimer himself — but also Smyth, who crafted the defining myth of the Atomic Age. That we don't think of it as a myth — that we think of it, simply, as what happened — is a testament to the power historians themselves have over history. In the right hands, a story can be as potent a weapon as a bomb. ■



**“Well, I suppose it might
be one of those funny
instances where something
is Top Secret one day
and in newspaper
headlines the next.”**

— HENRY DEWOLF
SMYTH *1921

On printing 5,000 copies of his book
about the first atomic bomb



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