

SUBTLE SHIFTS TO DEI INITIATIVES / NIGHT AT THE ART MUSEUM

PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY

DECEMBER 2025

From high-stakes cases to the Second Circuit, Michael Park '98's steady rise could take him to the Supreme Court

**How High
Will He
Go?**



FORWARD

AND BEYOND

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December 3, 2025 

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*Managing Director,
Fremont Group*

April 16, 2026

NEW YORK

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“Terms of Respect: How Colleges Get Free Speech Right,”
President Eisgruber’s new book, will be available for purchase at the events.

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PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

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An editorially independent magazine by alumni for alumni since 1900



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Michael Park '98 in his New York office, where he serves as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, a position he assumed following confirmation in May 2019.
Photograph by Stephen Voss

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Speaking Up for Princeton and Higher Education

Among supporters of higher education, the conventional wisdom these days is that university presidents should keep their heads down rather than attract attention. Our detractors, meanwhile, insist that if we must speak, it should be mainly to ask for forgiveness.

I am taking a different approach: accepting more interviews with a wide variety of journalists and podcasters, and speaking up for American higher education, not apologizing for it.

This approach is risky and the conventional wisdom is understandable. Some fellow presidents have told me that they not only avoid interviews but also insist on taking only pre-screened questions when they appear in public, including at their own alumni gatherings.

Ambivalence about presidential speech is not new. Clark Kerr, who led the University of California system through a tumultuous period in the 1960s, wrote decades later that he regretted publishing a much-discussed book about university governance while still in office. "I have concluded that it is a disservice to the presidency to speak" other than in "laudatory platitudes" that arouse little interest, he said.¹

Kerr's comments were probably tongue-in-cheek. He spoke intrepidly and effectively throughout his career. Whether Kerr's comments were serious or not, there are good reasons for university presidents to be judicious about politically sensitive topics.

The main job of a university administration is to enhance the capacity of students and faculty to study, learn, research, speak, and publish. Presidents who unnecessarily attract political fire may thereby jeopardize the academic freedom and financial support upon which their institutions depend.

The advent of online media made it tempting and easy for presidents to blog, tweet, or comment on public events—and for our various constituencies to pressure us to do so. Many of us (myself included) did so too often, as critics have rightly pointed out.

I now caution our entering undergraduates each year that if they ask me for a statement "endorsing some position that [they] cherish or condemning some practice that [they] abhor ..., I will almost certainly refuse." My job is to ensure that they and others can speak for themselves, not to tell them what they should think.

Yet, even as I am issuing fewer online statements about current events, I am also taking more interviews about higher education and the policies affecting it. American colleges and universities are in the political crosshairs, and we can either tell our story or let others define our narrative.

In the first two months of this academic year, I gave more than 20 on-the-record interviews, including with *The Financial Times*, NPR, PBS, Fareed Zakaria on CNN, the editorial boards of *The New York Times* and *USA Today*, *Fox News Chicago*, Kara Swisher, Harry Litman's *Talking Feds*, *BBC World News*,



Engaging seriously with journalists like CNN's Fareed Zakaria helps set the record straight about America's great research universities. Still image from broadcast

The New Yorker, and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. More appearances lie ahead.

Answering the same questions over and over can be a slog, but persistence is essential because those of us speaking up for higher education are fighting an uphill battle. Accusations and outrage generate clicks, but good news excites less attention. When Patrick Smith, co-host of WBEZ in Chicago's "Say More," welcomed me onto his show to discuss my book *Terms of Respect: How Colleges Get Free Speech Right*, he joked that I could have sold more copies if I had attacked colleges and young people instead of defending them.

America's colleges and universities can always be better, of course. We should engage seriously with thoughtful criticism. I am grateful for the many tough questions put to me recently by journalists. I don't accept the premise of every critique, but I always appreciate the opportunity to provide context or set the record straight.

I also think it is my duty to be clear, confident, and forthright about the strengths of our institutions. America's great research universities are magnets for talent from throughout our country and the world. They deliver outstanding educations, along with research that improves the prosperity, health, and security of the American people. They are the best the world has ever seen—and I believe they are better today than they have ever been. We weaken them at our peril.

I am heartened by the many Princetonians who have joined me in telling the story of the university that we love and of higher education more broadly. Others who are interested in making the case for America's colleges and universities can find information about the "Stand Up for Princeton and Higher Education" initiative at standup.princeton.edu.

Kerr may have been right that, when it comes to presidential rhetoric, "discretion is the better part of valor." But discretion is not the same thing as reticence or silence. All our voices are essential in this moment when academic freedom, federal research funding, and the future of American universities hang in the balance.

¹ Clark Kerr, *The Uses of the University*, 5th ed. (Harvard University Press, 2001), 160.



INBOX

YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE LATEST ISSUES

MACKENZIE SCOTT '92'S PHILANTHROPY

Just when the world has become so dark, mean, and nasty, here comes this astonishing, transformative lady philanthropist, MacKenzie Scott '92 ("Give 'til It Helps," October issue). She is such an inspiration! Thank you, PAW, for the wonderful article. Now I just have to figure out how to do more, better, to help mend the terrible tears in what used to be America's social safety net.

TOM HIRST '64
Alexandria, Va.



Good for MacKenzie Scott '92 and her billions! Rather than add my voice to an unseemly chorus of sycophants falling over themselves to praise her largesse, I would like to offer an alternative view, expressed so elegantly and thoughtfully by Helen Keller more than 80 years ago. She wrote, "I regard philanthropy as a tragic apology for [the] wrong conditions under which human beings live."

NATHANIEL NORMAN '03
New York, N.Y.

While MacKenzie Scott '92's generosity is often celebrated, I must note a troubling place her wealth was given. She gave \$275 million to Planned Parenthood, the nation's leading abortion provider, which was the largest donation in that organization's history. This donation aims to advance reproductive equity, primarily expanding abortion access in the Black community. Black women constitute just 7% of the U.S. population, yet represent 39% of abortions, highlighting stark racial disparities.

As a Black man, this deeply concerns me. Promoting abortion disproportionately in one community sends a harmful message that some lives

are less valuable — the essence of racism.

This issue is personal. When I was a junior at Princeton, my girlfriend, a sophomore, became pregnant. The nurse who confirmed the pregnancy at McCosh immediately urged her to abort. She was told she would never graduate or achieve her dream of becoming a doctor if she kept the baby.

She didn't listen. We chose life. We married, raised our child — who attended my graduation — and welcomed our second child shortly before her graduation. She went on to become a doctor, serving patients with compassion for over 30 years. The baby the nurse thought would "ruin" her life strengthened her resolve and purpose.

Now, I lead Care Net, a network of over 1,200 pregnancy centers offering life-affirming support to women facing unplanned pregnancies. True philanthropy uplifts vulnerable lives. Unfortunately, Scott's gift funds death disguised as empowerment. What good is charity that excludes the most vulnerable — the unborn baby denied a chance to live?

ROLAND C. WARREN '83
Middletown, Md.

Thank you PAW for your fascinating article on MacKenzie Scott '92! As a 99-year-old alumnus determined to donate almost all my assets to the cause of system change, Scott's example confirms my relatively miniscule efforts. Though she gives her billions to established organizations, however small, I think she'd excuse me for negotiating a new research project jointly with two burgeoning low-budget organizations: the Albert Einstein Institution on nonviolent conflict and Next System Studies at George Mason University.

I hope Princeton will excuse me for diverting this legacy to those small programs, which might otherwise have gone in part to our exceedingly better-funded university whose president, Christopher Eisgruber '83, leads academia against authoritarian bullying.

DAVE LEWIT '47
Boston, Mass.

I loved seeing Jim Lee '86's portrait of MacKenzie Scott '92 on the cover of the October issue.

It prompted me to rediscover my own, drawn in November 1983 and, since



then, tucked in my *Nassau Herald*. Jim, a sophomore when I was a freshman in Wilson College, was a huge support during my — very wobbly — first year. He made me laugh and reminded

me not to take things too seriously. I'm grateful for the memento and for the friendship. Thanks, Jim!

FAITH YERKES-SHORT '87
London, England

STUDENT DINING CHANGES

Regarding the changes to upperclass dining plans (On the Campus, November issue): I have fond memories of cooking for friends during my upperclassman years. As a picky eater I often found myself limited to cereal or salad in the dining halls. As an

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INBOX

independent I learned to be creative, to budget, to make mealtime a warm and inviting space for friends. I loved those intimate gatherings that were not possible in a noisy dining hall. I am sad to see the University making options more limited.

STEPHANIE TAYLOR '92

Raleigh, N.C.

FUNDING FROM BP

Regarding the end of BP's funding for Princeton's Carbon Mitigation Initiative ("Princeton's Carbon Mitigation Initiative and BP End 25-Year Partnership," published online Sept. 16), it's odd to me that:

- 1.) The initiative is considered important and is continuing.
- 2.) BP was giving money to it with Princeton able to decide how it was spent.
- 3.) The collaboration was terminated "by mutual consent."

Sounds from the article like Princeton was bowing to pressure from a vocal set of individuals to make a statement, which is not consistent with the needs of an important initiative at a time of tight funding or how Princeton generally acts with regard to vetting donations.

What's next? Refusing donations from "bad sources" like Wall Street financiers or individuals who made money from monopolistic e-businesses?

DANIEL MYTELKA '87

Bryn Mawr, Pa.

RETURN OF THE SAT

From the online story about Princeton admissions requiring standardized tests again, starting in 2027 (published online, Oct. 9): "The University reviewed data from five years of test-optional admissions and 'found that academic performance at Princeton was stronger for students who chose to submit test scores than for students who did not,' the announcement said."

Wow, what a stunning development! Who could have predicted such a thing? Thank heavens the grandees at this great university finally figured out what pretty much everyone else knew years ago.

GREG SCHWED '73

New York, N.Y.

AUTHOR'S PERSEVERANCE

Congrats to Lindsey Goldstein '97, on her fine essay (Princetonians, October issue), but also on the publication of *Gap Year*, which I look forward to reading. When I graduated, way back in 1974, the writing life beckoned (it was the only thing that I was halfway good at), and though I didn't earn what my friends were making at Morgan Stanley, etc., I have never regretted it. Lindsey, that you persevered is indeed to your credit — and maybe you should take another look at those earlier novels that you set aside.

ROBERT MASELLO '74

Santa Monica, Calif.

THE ENCYCLOPEDIC MUSEUM

While I understand the problems some might have with the new art museum's architecture, I like the fact that the Princeton University Art Museum is taking an encyclopedic approach in the first place (President's Page, September issue). I am a docent with the Museum of Fine Arts in St. Petersburg, Florida — perhaps the only truly encyclopedic art museum in the state. While there are at least two other terrific art museums in our city, both worth visiting, I can attest to the value of one that is truly encyclopedic. Any undergraduate would appreciate the ability to "compare and contrast" offered by an art museum with a global range in its collection.

Perhaps a bit more of the "beaux arts" or the Gothic would have been appreciated by some with respect to the building, but it's what's inside that counts, no?

RICHARD PEREA '72

St. Petersburg, Fla.

The photo of the new art museum in the September issue of PAW brings great news. But the exterior design is vastly disappointing to say the least. Princeton seems to substitute an architectural vision for campus buildings borrowed from that of an industrial park for its magnificent architectural heritage. The exterior is shocking and off-putting and surely offers no promise of "art," whatever the interior may hold. It is truly terrible, particularly given the University's School of Architecture

located nearby. I am quite dismayed.

This structure and other recent additions of new campus buildings not only make me disinclined to visit my alma mater but to make contributions to the University as well.

STEPHEN WILLIAM FOSTER '77
Portland, Ore.

Regarding “10 Things to Know About Princeton’s Impressive New Art Museum” (published online Oct. 28): I can’t wait to see the new museum during my 60th in 2026! I’m thinking of going to the campus early for the opportunity.

SEYMOUR PRESTON JR. '66
Rhinebeck, N.Y.

FOR THE RECORD

Sarah Nagy '14’s graduate department was listed incorrectly in a story about the “Many Minds, Many Stripes” conference (November issue). She received her master’s degree in finance.

The memorial for Christopher “Kit” Bond '60 (October issue) misidentified one of his roles in Missouri’s state government. Before he was elected governor, Bond served as the state auditor.

YOUR PERSPECTIVE

Let us know what you think



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ONLINE

EXCLUSIVES

CONTENT AVAILABLE ONLY AT PAW.PRINCETON.EDU

PAW BOOK CLUB
Todd Purdum '82

For the latest PAW Book Club podcast, Purdum answered members’ questions about his new biography, *Desi Arnaz: The Man Who Invented Television*. Is Arnaz’s story a classic tragedy? Perhaps, as the Cuban star’s trauma “gave him this enormous drive to succeed,” Purdum said. “So we might not have had his achievements without his losses. And it is a terribly sad story even underneath the enormous success.” Listen wherever you get your podcasts.



ESSAY
Pranking Picasso

It was 1971. Student volunteers were needed to help install Pablo Picasso’s “Head of a Woman” on the Princeton University Art Museum lawn, and having a student job there, **Jay Paris '71** simply couldn’t resist: He would have to prank one of history’s greatest artists.



ESSAY
Growing Apart

In September, **Bill Eville '87** drove home with his 17-year-old daughter after taking a college tour of Princeton. It was, he writes, a reminder of the empty nesting to come, the songs “portals to our shared time together rather than markers of when we will separate.” Over the drive, he learned a bit about letting go.



TIGER TRAVELS
The Real Tokyo

Japan has become *the* place to find the best food, drinks, craft, and culture, writes **Tom Downey '95**. So, of course, it’s flooded with tourists. But Downey, a Tokyo expert, knows how to escape the crowds, and in Tiger Travels he outlines five surefire strategies.



ON THE CAMPUS

NEWS, SPORTS, AND STUDENT LIFE

LEAF PEEPING

Princeton's autumn colors peaked in October, just in time for homecoming weekend. Online, we turned this photo into an interactive digital jigsaw puzzle. Think you can put it back together? Give it a try at paw.princeton.edu/games.



JOHN EMERSON



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CARL A. FIELDS CENTER

ADMINISTRATION

Princeton Stays Committed to Diversity and Inclusion Amid Subtle Changes

BY LIA OPPERMAN '25

MORE THAN 400 COLLEGES across the United States have eliminated or rebranded their diversity, equity, and inclusion programs since January 2023, according to *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, responding to President Donald Trump's executive orders and actions by the U.S. Department of Education. Princeton has taken a more measured approach, adopting subtle changes while saying it remains committed to diversity initiatives.

Michele Minter, the vice provost for institutional equity and diversity, told PAW that the Office of Diversity and Inclusion is trying "to keep moving forward in a sensible, responsible, thoughtful way."

"But everything is interpreted, so we have to do a better job of communicating about how our values are unchanged, but also why things might seem to be shifting in small ways," she said.

While Princeton has not laid off any personnel in diversity and inclusion roles, other universities, such as Florida State and nearly all public institutions in North Carolina, have eliminated or reassigned jobs. Many have also made changes to or dismantled offices or departments and

ended diversity training for employees. Princeton removed a diversity and inclusion question from its annual employee evaluation form.

One visible change at Princeton was the removal or alteration of several tabs on the "Inclusive Princeton" website. Pages such as "Our Commitment to Diversity," "Transgender and Non-Binary Inclusivity," "HBCU/MCI Partnerships," and "Resources" have been taken down.

According to Minter, the update was meant to move away from a "maximalist" approach, where she said that many pages were outdated or had broken links. "We were overdue [for website revisions], and have now switched to a much more minimalist approach, which is a lot easier to maintain for us." She said some of the eliminated pages are being redesigned to make resources more accessible and easier to navigate. Many University sites have added a statement on diversity and nondiscrimination, which explains that diversity and inclusion programs are "voluntary and open to all" and "comply with federal and state non-discrimination laws."

Minter also discussed the doxxing that

members of the University community and students on campuses across the country have faced, particularly during the war in Gaza and since Trump returned to office. In 2023, names and titles of employees in Minter's office were shared on X, and several received threatening messages. The University recently moved campus directory information behind login credentials.

"We have definitely seen doxxing and social media harassment of people on our campus, of employees in some cases, also of activists," Minter said. She added that her office provides a cyber harassment toolkit and monitors cases in real time to help those targeted.

Since Minter assumed her role in 2011, she said, Princeton has "made much deeper commitments and investments" in diversity and inclusion, adding staff positions, expanding educational programming, and strengthening compliance offices that enforce anti-discrimination and accessibility policies under federal and state laws.

Minter highlighted the work of the Gender and Sexuality Resource Center (GSRC) and the Carl A. Fields Center, as they promote a sense of belonging on campus while navigating the shifting political pressure as well as budget cuts affecting all areas of the University. Schools across the country, including the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Alabama, have shut down their LGBTQ+ centers.

Travis Tucker, assistant dean and director of the Fields Center, and April Callis, assistant dean and director of the GSRC, emphasized the importance of creating an affirming campus community along with building meaningful partnerships. They explained that while some events have had less boba and snacks due to budget restrictions, the missions of their offices have not changed. "The last few months have made our work much more intentional," Tucker said, in relation to where the offices are allocating their funds.

Callis said it's essential that students feel welcomed and know that the campus is open to everyone. "When I

VICTORIA YU

think about the work that we do, I go back to this framing that I've used for maybe the last 20 years of my life, that all of our initiatives ... and programs are providing windows and mirrors," she said. "They provide mirrors for individuals to see themselves reflected in our community ... and windows that they can look out to see other ways of life. You have to be doing both."

Tucker has been working with a group led by him, the Undergraduate Student Government (USG), and Shawn Maxam, associate provost for institutional diversity and inclusion, to provide "support and care for students and their understandings around what it looks like to work alongside students or work alongside staff members to build change."

Brian Mhando '26, the diversity, equity, and inclusion chair for USG, told PAW that the group consists of about 20 representatives, including students, staff from the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and other administrators, who discuss issues such as the impact of campus expansion.

"I realized the best way to really improve student and administrator relationships was through working together" and brainstorming with Tucker and Maxam, Mhando said.

Mhando collaborated with the Center for Jewish Life and Rochelle Calhoun, vice president for campus life, to provide free meals during Passover for students in need of financial assistance and is currently working to make prayer mats more accessible and expand representation in the McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning. Throughout his term, he has prioritized connecting with affinity group leaders across campus.

"Diversity, equity, and inclusion is diversity, equity, and inclusion for everyone," Mhando said. "I've met with everyone, including people I don't agree with, and I still try my best to help those people, and I'll continue to always do that."

Callis said that although the GSRC and the Fields Center are sometimes perceived as apart from the University, "we are here because of the University."

"I would love for the community to know how supported we are," Callis said. ■

INVESTMENTS

Princeton Endowment Earns 11% Return, Reaches \$36.4 Billion

P RINCETON UNIVERSITY'S endowment reported an 11% return on investments for the 2025 fiscal year, its best performance in four years.

"These returns will enable Princeton's ongoing support for groundbreaking research, innovative scholarship, and leadership on student access and affordability," Princeton spokesperson Michael Hotchkiss said in an Oct. 24 statement to PAW.

The endowment totaled \$36.4 billion when the fiscal year ended in June. It remains the third largest in the Ivy League behind Harvard (\$56.9 billion) and Yale (\$44.1 billion).

Peer schools had similar endowment gains in 2025, with MIT, Stanford, and Harvard announcing returns of 14.8%, 14.3%, and 11.9%, respectively. Columbia led the Ivy League with a 12.4% return. *Pensions & Investments* reported that the median for the 44 college and university endowments it tracked was 10.9% as of Oct. 28; seven of the eight Ivy institutions announced returns that exceeded the median, while Dartmouth was just below at 10.8%.

The Princeton University Investment Co. (Princo) reported a historic 46.9% return on endowment investments in 2021; since then, Princo reported losses of 1.5% and 1.7% in 2022 and 2023 and a 3.9% gain in 2024. The average annual return on the endowment has been 9% for the last 10 years and 9.5% over the last 20 years.

The endowment provides about two-thirds of Princeton's net annual operating revenues. Endowment payouts also cover almost 70% of undergraduate financial aid and 53% of the overall student aid program, which benefits about 70% of undergraduates and virtually all graduate students, according to the University.

In future years, the impact of Princeton's gains may be tempered further by taxes. Princeton is subject to a 1.4% tax applied to the largest university endowments, and Congress passed an increase in that tax rate in July. Starting in the 2026-27 fiscal year, institutions with endowments above \$2 million per student and with "at least 3,000 tuition-paying students" will be subject to an 8% tax on endowment returns, according to the statute. ■ By B.T.

GRADUATE SCHOOL

University Reports Death of First-Year Graduate Student in History

M ARIA BOWLING, A FIRST-YEAR graduate student in the history department, died on Nov. 9, Princeton announced in an email. The cause of death was not disclosed.

"It is with great sadness that we write to inform you about a tragic loss to our community," Rodney Priestley, dean of the Graduate School, and Rochelle Calhoun, vice president for campus life, said in an email to the campus community. "Maria was a beloved member of the history department and the Graduate School community."

Bowling attended Sorbonne University



BOWLING

in Paris. She held an M.A. in political science and B.A. in international studies. According to Beyond Borders, which funds doctoral students,

Bowling was a 2023 fellow whose work centered on Angolan history.

"We know that every member of our community joins us in sending our condolences to Maria's family and friends during this most difficult time," Priestley and Calhoun said. ■ By P.B.



ADMINISTRATION

Undergrads Undergo Hazing Prevention Training

BY JULIE BONETTE

FOR THE FIRST TIME, all undergraduates were required to take a hazing prevention course this summer as part of Princeton's new partnership with StopHazing, an anti-hazing organization, and several peer institutions.

The University's renewed focus on hazing prevention is framed by a 2022 case in which fraternity pledges pushed "cinder blocks across a field using their bare chest and then [had] hot sauce poured on their open wounds," among other cruelties, according to an August 2025 email to undergraduates from Dean of Undergraduate Students Regan Crotty '00.

As administrators investigated, "there was a sense that there was a lot more than we were aware of happening on our campus," said Rochelle Calhoun, vice president for campus life, in an interview with PAW.

According to Calhoun, the University made details public about the 2022 case because "we wanted to really give some concrete examples so that students could understand ... that these things are happening on our campus."

The lack of awareness prompted Calhoun to convene a Hazing Prevention

and Response Task Force composed of about 15 staff members that has met regularly since 2023. Around the same time, the University joined a three-year StopHazing program — the Hazing Prevention Consortium — alongside 10 other higher education institutions, including Harvard. Four liaisons from Princeton's task force meet monthly with StopHazing, and the cohort participates in monthly webinars.

Elizabeth Allan, principal of StopHazing and a professor at the University of Maine, said that institutions "can not only learn from the experts who are providing guidance and technical assistance, but they can learn from each other."

Hazing is against federal and state law. The Stop Campus Hazing Act, which went into effect this year, requires Princeton to disclose the names of individuals or student organizations involved if incidents are reported in the future; a 2021 state law instructed institutions not to "include the personal identifying information of an individual." Disciplinary measures by the University range from warnings to withholding degrees; student groups may be sanctioned or unrecognized.

The webpage outlining Princeton's hazing policy includes a list of nearly two dozen acts of hazing that have occurred at the University primarily over the past decade. State-mandated biannual updates since 2022 give more detailed snapshots, implicating members of a varsity athletics team and students in a fraternity, for example. The University will complete its next five-year hazing report in 2027.

In 2023, Princeton focused on

assessing the current climate and level of awareness through end-of-year surveys and a StopHazing two-day site visit.

As a result, "we really saw that there was a big knowledge gap ... in terms of students understanding what hazing really is," said Calhoun.

Calhoun cited being sent on an errand run as an example of hazing that may not seem malicious but can inflict psychological, social, and emotional damage.

Last year, the University analyzed the acquired data. This year, the task force is reviewing training opportunities, such as the online course undergraduates took this year. Pre- and post-tests showed a "huge knowledge increase," Calhoun said. Previously, the University conducted training with certain student leaders, but going forward, all first-year students will take part.

The task force will continue beyond 2026, with the goal of expanding to include students and faculty, according to Calhoun.

One future indication that the message is sinking in may be an increase in the number of reported incidents, according to Anne Laurita, director of TigerWell and a StopHazing liaison. Now that all students have been educated on hazing, incidents that may previously have been considered not serious enough to warrant action could be reported.

"This is not work that really will be finished," said Kathy Wagner, associate director for TigerWell and a StopHazing liaison. "We are going to be ... constantly improving it and really making sure that the entire community here knows that it's something that we all play a role in." ■

CLASS CLOSE-UP

Animal Music Course Strikes a New Chord with Students

BY JULIE BONETTE

WHEN GAVIN STEINGO, a professor of music, and Asif Ghazanfar, a professor of neuroscience and psychology, met three years ago, they realized they had a lot in common — namely, a shared passion for music and an interest in exploring the concept of animal music. The two regularly walked around campus



STEINGO

contributing their respective expertise to jointly examine if animals have the ability to produce music, and if so, what that means biologically and culturally.



GHAZANFAR

The pair eventually applied for and received a Magic Grant for Innovation from the Humanities Council, which jump-started their research, and this

fall, they are co-teaching a new course, Animal Music, on the emerging field.

The 15 students in the class are a mix of majors — from economics to engineering — adding to the diverse perspectives.

On Tuesday afternoons in a cozy Chancellor Green classroom, the group tackles interdisciplinary questions like, if a musician plays near a singing bird, is that a duet? What impact do animal vocalizations have on humans, for example, in terms of conservation? How has the way humans interpret animal sounds changed over the years, and why?

“Part of the course is the history,” said Ghazanfar. At one point, “people thought that their pet mice could sing ... and were writing standard notation of their mouse’s song.” Minister Samuel Lockwood even wrote an article on the topic for *The American Naturalist* in 1871.

Readings touch on hard and social



WILLIAM KENTRIDGE'S *LEARNING THE FLUTE*

sciences, and according to music major Morgan Taylor '27, “You can see a lot how the ideas are evolving ... as we’ve been looking at more and more readings and getting deeper into the course.”

Fellow music major Jason Kim '27 said the course has “been a really great blend of interdisciplinary sources, and I think that has been honestly more beneficial to me” than if it was focused on a single discipline.

Steingo and Ghazanfar have also written a peer-reviewed paper on the subject, which was published in May in *Music & Science*, and created the Animal Song Collective, which has hosted related events.

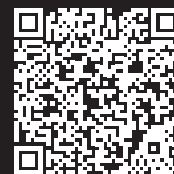
“We’re really, I think, always just trying to find a way to synthesize these two approaches and create and produce new ways of thinking,” said Steingo.

For the final, students are working in groups to explore a related topic of their choice in a creative format. As of early November, Taylor’s group was working on creating a game show that plays sounds without context and asks participants to consider how their interpretations of the sounds change after learning the origin.

“I think [animal music is] definitely a subject that is new and awesome and will be important in like 20 years, and we’re getting an early crack at it,” said Taylor. ■

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HIBA SIDDIKI '25



KIMBERLY CROSS '25

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

New Graduates Tend to Garden State Policy

BY JULIE BONETTE

IT WAS A COINCIDENCE that Princeton created a public affairs fellowship based in New Jersey the year before similar opportunities in the federal government disappeared with the Trump administration's cuts.

"People who normally would have pursued opportunities at the federal level are looking homeward," said Anastasia Mann, founding director of SPIA in New Jersey, which launched in 2023 and focuses on policy innovation in the state.

SPIA in NJ established the Garden State Fellowship as a competitive program for graduating seniors interested in public policy who want to stay in New Jersey.

Hiba Siddiki '25, a SPIA major and one of two Garden State Fellows this year, said turmoil in the federal government "definitely" impacted her post-graduation employment and made for "a really difficult time for us, career-search-wise." She originally wanted to work at the United States Agency for International Development, but it was dismantled earlier this year.

Siddiki, a New Jersey native with a passion for education policy, hadn't really considered employment in her home state, "just because I thought that wasn't the most ideal place to be working on policy. But then when I started looking at the fellowship ... I realized that everyone needs help everywhere," she said.

The program's goal is to connect new Princeton alumni with "the institutions and individuals in the Garden State who are doing pathbreaking work," according to Mann. In addition to coordinating with prospective candidates and local organizations, Princeton pays each fellow's salary and benefits.

Fellowship candidates have to impress the selection committee and the SPIA in NJ advisory board, and they also must be hired by the organization for which they want to work.

The job security Siddiki has for the next year as a fellow at the Education Law Center in Newark, about 20 minutes from her home, is "lovely," she said. In her first few weeks there, she began tracking school voucher bills nationwide and

researching the current state of students' rights in the state for activist campaigns.

This year's other fellow, Kimberly Cross '25, is working at the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice.

According to Mann, "A lot of the conversation that's happening now in policy circles is about the pipeline and how to make sure that there are talented, knowledgeable young people coming up who see that public policy is an important and rewarding career path."

The Garden State Fellowship is open to all graduating seniors, regardless of major, and is meant to illuminate professional opportunities outside of popular paths like consulting, which Mann acknowledged SPIA has been criticized for emphasizing too heavily.

After graduation, Lauren Aung '24, a politics major, wanted to stay close to friends and find work that would help make the world a better place. But with no direct policy experience, "I didn't really know what that entail[ed]," she said, as she had never "really been able to get down into the nitty gritty, from beginning to end."

She now feels confident leading projects after being given complete ownership of a campaign, from strategy to outreach to drafting testimony, as a fellow with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of New Jersey.

Aung "did an amazing work plan and timeline that we all want to replicate," said Alejandra Sorto, the group's associate director of civic engagement. "She's wonderful. I never want her to leave."

"Most of these organizations are relatively constrained in terms of resources," said Mann. "So, for them, this is on the one hand a windfall, a terrific boon to their potential capacity, but on the other hand, they want to be responsible about it."

Aung and the two other inaugural Garden State Fellows received offers from their employers to continue working beyond the fellowship, which ended this summer. Due to University budget cuts, there are only two fellows in the current cohort, even though SPIA in NJ received more applications. **P**

STUDENT LIFE

Princeton Responds to Criticism, Changes Course on Meal Plans

BY LIA OPPERMAN '25

P RINCETON WILL COVER THE COST of the required two-meals-per-week dining plan for all students next year, effectively removing a controversial new requirement for students not on financial aid who are in eating clubs and co-ops to pay for a dining plan in addition to their club or co-op meals. Students not in an eating club or co-op will now be required to purchase a meal plan with eight meals per week, plus they'll receive two weekly meals covered by the University, replacing the previous requirement to purchase a 10-meals-per-week plan.

The changes, announced in early November, follow a Sept. 29 announcement mandating that all students in University housing select a Campus Dining meal plan and eliminating the independent option for upperclass students. The University said that the policy aimed to prioritize student well-being and was partially due to budget constraints. Prior to this, upperclassmen had received two free meals per week in the dining halls from the University.

Chad Klaus, vice president for university services, explained the changes at a Nov. 2 Undergraduate Student Government (USG) meeting and

shared them with the student body in an email the following day. According to Klaus, input from USG and students at two feedback sessions last month was crucial in refining the plan. The proposal for a no-cost "Block 32" (two-meals-per-week) plan originated with USG at an April 21 University Student Life Committee meeting.

For students not in an eating club or co-op, the change lowers annual meal costs to \$3,600 from \$4,500 per year, leaving students on full aid with about \$10,000 to cover other food, books, and personal expenses. Combined with the Block 32 plan, the students will still have 10 meals per week. For all students, meals can be used over fall and spring break, in addition to Late Meal.

Following the initial September announcement, students and alumni criticized the proposed dining plan on social media, in op-eds, and through sustained activism. The Graduate Interclub Council (GICC) flew a plane over the Oct. 25 homecoming football game as part of its "Don't Harvard Our Princeton" campaign and distributed T-shirts protesting the changes. (Harvard requires students in undergraduate

housing to purchase a meal plan.) Members of eating clubs and co-ops raised concerns about financing the two meal plans, while co-op leaders stressed about capacity. Independent students cited worries over financial constraints, kitchen access, and social reasons.

"It was great to see the overwhelming support for the Street from students and alumni and we appreciate that the University was willing to listen and amend their policy," Hap Cooper '82, the president of the GICC, told PAW. "We look forward to continuing to work closely with University administrators to continually improve the student experience." The Interclub Council did not respond to a request for comment by the time of publication.

The University and USG leadership are working together to determine how Spelman Hall rooms, previously prioritized for independent students, will be allocated in the future. As of now, each student will receive a single draw time with all eligible rooms listed, rather than separate draws at multiple times. Klaus said that a final decision will be made by Thanksgiving break, in consultation with students. According to Enzo Kho '26, the president of USG, more than 20 people are currently reviewing that proposal.

Changes to the dining and housing plan followed recommendations from the Huron Consulting Group's 2024 report, which advised that the University require Campus Dining meal plans for all upperclassmen and review the independent status. According to a pamphlet from Klaus, Rochelle Calhoun, the vice president of campus life, and Michael Gordin, the dean of the college, the Block 32 plan will provide students the ability to build community over a meal, regardless of their dining plan, and will ensure that students have access to healthy, convenient food throughout the academic year.

"We're incredibly grateful to the University administration for being committed to taking in student engagement and utilizing that. Moving forward, we'll continue to be persistent about matters that are important to students," Aishwarya Swamidurai '26, the USG vice president, said during the meeting. ■



CHOI DINING HALL AT YEH COLLEGE



PETER MCDONOUGH

Q&A: PETER MCDONOUGH

Former Princeton General Counsel on Funding Cuts, Legal Actions

BY DAVID WEISENFELD

PETER MCDONOUGH HAS HAD a bird's-eye view of the Trump administration's funding freezes for several universities — both real and threatened — in his role as general counsel of the American Council on Education (ACE). Prior to joining ACE in 2015, McDonough served as Princeton's general counsel from 2002-14.

PAW spoke with McDonough about President Donald Trump's impact on higher education, what it means for Princeton, and how current issues compare with those he worked on while at Old Nassau.

We're seeing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act being used more than ever before to target universities in lawsuits and to drive settlements. What's your view of these actions?

I guess we could put it in context, because objectively speaking, one might say we've seen something like this from prior administrations, indeed prior Democratic administrations, relating to Title IX. Title IX, of course, relates to gender equality. And we had plenty of

efforts during the Obama era and again during the Biden era.

Some would say they were efforts to strong-arm universities into settlements under the threat that if the settlements weren't entered into with the Department of Education, there could be a referral to the Department of Justice, and the

Department of Justice might or might not undertake action that could result in the future of some level of federal funding being reduced or withdrawn.

The difference between then and now is then — certainly at Princeton and probably at every other institution in America — there was a presumption that the rules of the road would be followed by the government. In other words, there wouldn't be an actual stripping or reduction of federal funds without going through a process, without the Justice Department following the rules.

These days, the threats are being made primarily, but not exclusively, in the area of Title VI without a level of confidence at institutions that the rules of road will apply or be respected. And the fact that

we're even talking about it is a crisis.

When you have unilateral threats from an executive branch ... you can't have any reasonable planning because you can't be comfortable about whether what you thought you would be receiving from the federal government will indeed be forthcoming. Colleges, including Princeton, need predictability in order to function.

We've seen several settlements in recent months, including at Columbia, Cornell, Brown, and Penn. Should universities be fighting back in the courts if they believe cuts are politically motivated?

ACE has been around for 100 years, and we've never been a plaintiff on behalf of our members until this year. We have done that now multiple times in the area of research dollars where the executive branch literally late on a Friday announced it would cut research dollars that universities not only are entitled to under the law and under their agreements with the executive branch, but rely upon in order to pay their employees, to make sure the research continues unabated.

And we needed to step in and call out what was without a doubt unprecedented and illegal action by the executive branch. Each and every judge that has encountered these issues has agreed that the executive branch is proceeding in these cases outside the bounds of the rule of law.

These are very, very hard cases for individual institutions to contemplate bringing themselves. You and I can count on one hand and frankly on one finger the number of schools [doing that], and that's Harvard.

Princeton has announced budget cuts over the next three years ranging from 5% to 10% due in part to the potential of federal funding cuts. How might these cuts impact the University?

The idea of doing something over three years and recognizing that there is logic to doing it is certainly something that ... any sensible institution in this era of uncertainty would undertake at least as a consideration.

For different reasons, 15 to 20 years ago we had various financial challenges in the country that affected higher education. Princeton made some cuts in that context that probably, if one looks back, served Princeton quite well. And so, looked at through another lens, these are responsible actions.

Princeton has been and remains better situated than most institutions to exalt principle over pragmatism. But at the end of the day, you need to be both principled and pragmatic.

How do you imagine the general counsel job at Princeton has changed since you left more than a decade ago?

On so many levels. Almost every piece of legislation carries with it these days some sort of reporting obligation. There's just so much more to be aware of not only on the federal level but also on the state level. It's just a bigger set of responsibilities and a bigger job.

But also, and we're seeing this right now, it's a more politicized environment not only in terms of the national political environment, but the campus constituencies. Social media and other vehicles having a lens into what's being discussed everywhere creates a whole set of challenges as well as opportunities. And so there's this expectation that there's an answer to everything, and, jeez, maybe we'll get that answer from the lawyer.

Also, we're seeing a sea change in what intercollegiate athletics means, how it's being delivered, and that's going to continue to be a challenge. Unfortunately, on a lot of levels, there are legal inputs. ... Happily Princeton is not as worried about [antitrust issues or conference realignment], but it's still impacted by that in terms of some of the teams it competes against, the resources that those teams will bring to bear. That's made the job of a lawyer more complex at Princeton and elsewhere.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity. 



READ MORE in an expanded version at paw.princeton.edu.



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IN SHORT

Isam Mina '26, a molecular biology major from Amman, Jordan, was selected as a **2026 Rhodes scholar** in October. Mina is one of two students from Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, or Palestine chosen for the Rhodes scholarship to pursue graduate studies at the University of Oxford. He will seek master of science degrees in applied cancer science and health services improvement and evaluation. U.S. Rhodes scholars had not been announced at press time. **P**

IN MEMORIAM

David Bellos, a distinguished translator and scholar of French literature, died Oct. 26



at age 80. A bachelor's and doctoral alumnus of the University of Oxford, he taught in the United Kingdom before joining the Princeton faculty in 1997. Bellos

was a biographer and translator of French novelists Romain Gary and Georges Perec. He won the Man Booker International Prize in 2005 for his translations of works by Albanian author Ismail Kadare and the American Library in Paris Book Award in 2017 for *The Novel of the Century*, about Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables*. Bellos was the founding director of Princeton's Program in Translation and Intercultural Communication.

Alison Isenberg, a historian of urban America and commended mentor, died Oct.



23 at age 63. Isenberg's work included research into the life and death of Harlan Bruce Joseph, a college student shot and killed by a police officer in Trenton, New Jersey, during the unrest

following the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968. She also taught courses devoted to telling overlooked stories from Trenton's history. Isenberg joined the Princeton faculty in 2010 after nearly a decade at Rutgers University, and in 2014, she and Stan Allen '88 co-founded the Princeton Mellon Initiative in Architecture, Urbanism, and the Humanities. Isenberg was a recipient of Princeton's Graduate Mentoring Award in 2024. **P**



Photo by
Andrea Kane

1746 Society members Ellen Kratzer '84, Skip Fox '75 and Randy Harris '72

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1746 SOCIETY PRINCETON UNIVERSITY



SWIMMING

Alumni Maintain Competitive Spirit in Masters Meets

And yes, beating Harvard still matters

BY URVIJA BANERJI '15

AT THE U.S. MASTERS SWIMMING National Championships this summer, Jim Tuchler '87 took to the starting block alongside a group of other men in their mid-50s. Tuchler bent low, shook out his long arms, and gracefully dove into the pool alongside his fellow competitors. But they were not by his side for long. Within moments, Tuchler had left his peers far behind, cutting through the water with both power and prowess — and winning the 50-meter breaststroke heat with a nearly four-second lead.

Winning a swim meet is hardly a new experience for Tuchler, who took home Ivy League championships back when he was on the Princeton swimming and diving team. Collegiate swimmers dedicate a sizable chunk of their lives to the sport: workouts at DeNunzio Pool, sessions in the weight room, and lengthy competition seasons each year — not to mention the high school seasons that preceded them.

When Tuchler graduated, he lost this competitive outlet. Though he'd qualified for the next Olympic trials, he decided he didn't want to dedicate another year of his life to that level of intense training. But his love of racing endured. Nearly two decades later, he discovered masters swimming, and in doing so, found a sustainable way to fuel his competitive spark.

"It's fun to race," Tuchler said. "You're racing other competitors, you're racing benchmarks like records, and you're racing your own best time or expectation."

U.S. Masters Swimming is a national nonprofit organization where members pay a fee to swim at a local chapter, usually on a team with a coach. Though many former pros and college athletes are drawn to masters swimming, that experience is not necessary. "A lot of people who do masters swimming aren't that focused on the competitive aspect of it," said Kaspar Raigla '13, who swam on

READY TO RACE

Alumni active in masters swimming include, back row from left, Juan Valdivieso '04, Julian Mackrel '17, Bob Anderson '77, Chris McPherson '89, and Greg Oxley '81; and front row from left, Liz McDonald '16 and Nikki Larson '16.

the Estonian national team. "It's [similar to] how people go to a run club or a biking group; it's a social activity."

Some members do decide to compete in U.S. Masters Swimming regional and national meets, if they qualify. Chris McPherson '89 regularly attends Nationals. "It's interesting to me that we have a lot of Princeton alums who want to compete still," she said. "I think part of that is that maybe we didn't have a lot of burnout in college. I mean, that speaks a lot to the Princeton swimming program, right? That you're leaving and still feeling great about the sport."

Competitors are split by age group,

so a swimmer in their mid-50s wouldn't be racing against a swimmer in their mid-20s. Former athletes often gravitate toward masters as they notice their times creeping up with age, taking comfort in the fact they'll be up against swimmers that match their physical abilities.

"Masters has a good sense of humor. Like, the team I swim for is called Fossil Fish," Tuchler said with a chuckle. "And we have a little emblem of a skeleton fish eating another little skeleton fish. There's a team out of D.C. called the Ancient Mariners."

Beyond chasing records, former college swimmers look to masters swimming for a community built around longevity in the sport. Of all the sports, swimming is a good one to dedicate lifelong passion to. Swimmers can manage the intensity of their workouts, and the activity itself is low impact, allowing older adults to continue to swim even as bones and joints weaken. What's more, studies find that swimming can help with cognitive aging and boost physical health overall.

Rusty Miller '92, a Nashville-based former Princeton swimmer, remembers a story from the locker room after a masters meet, where he asked a gentleman in

his 90s how his races went. The man responded, “You know, I don’t really think about the results anymore, but this is the best way I know to slow the slowing.”

“That really stuck with me,” Miller said. “I’m doing these things not because I want to be an elite swimmer. I’m doing these things because when I’m 80, I still want to be able to pick up my grandchildren.”

But finding a lifelong rhythm with swimming takes time. Swimming can be “a very exacting sport,” Miller said, demanding “a certain attention to perfection over time” that can wear participants thin. “There’s a great deal of time and effort invested in getting to the level of a Division I program and being able to contribute at that level — and that intensity builds on itself.” When college swimmers graduate and leave that day-to-day intensity behind, many feel the need to step away from the pool for a while.

For Morgan Casper ’16, the break came as a result of the demands of her medical residency program at the University of California, Davis. “My schedule was so hectic and haywire that I didn’t even know the days from the nights, let alone where the pool was,” Casper said. But eventually, Casper found her way back via masters swimming. “I wanted to find something that got me back to my roots,” she said. “I feel like swimming is just always who I am and where I feel back to myself.”

Returning to the pool can also mean rediscovering a sense of belonging. On a masters swimming team, “there’s so much great camaraderie with people that you’re swimming with,” said Craig Petersen ’82. “And maybe misery loves company, too,” he added dryly.

Swimming might seem like an individual pursuit, but Petersen knows a thing or two about the shared bond between swimmers. He met his wife, Charlotte Petersen ’82, when they were on the swim team together at Princeton. They got married the day after they graduated and “still swim together all the time,” Craig said. The couple now swim on the same masters team in Denver, doing laps in adjacent lanes at their weekly practices. “[Swimming is] a language that not everyone understands,” said Charlotte, “and we

“It’s interesting to me that we have a lot of Princeton alums who want to compete still. ... I mean, that speaks a lot to the Princeton swimming program, right? That you’re leaving and still feeling great about the sport.”

— CHRIS MCPHERSON ’89

can just go into the shorthand of it.”

For many other Tigers, the pull of the pool is also a pull toward one another. Princetonians get together at Nationals every year, thanks in large part to McPherson, who was captain of the team during her time at Princeton. Now, she coaches the masters team she founded, Ensworth Aquatics Masters, in Nashville, and organizes annual dinners for Tigers who attend the national masters meet.

“It’s fun to have that shared bond [with other Tigers],” said Tuchler, who regularly attends the dinners. “In many

cases, we had the same coach over the years, but in any event, we certainly had the same tradition — and the same desire to kick Harvard’s ass.”

And the dinners aren’t just open to former swim team members. McPherson describes walking around the pool at Nationals, searching for and spotting Princeton caps and T-shirts on the deck. “I was disheartened to see a couple Harvard swimming ones,” she deadpanned. Each year, her list grows as more grads introduce themselves.

Bob Anderson ’77, a former walk-on to the crew team, is another regular attendee at these dinners. At first, Anderson admitted, he felt a little out of place. “The conversation would be all sorts of things about the [swim] coaches,” he said, smiling. “That didn’t really mean a lot to me.” But the dynamic shifted over time. “As we’ve gotten to know each other over the years, the conversation branches out. It’s become one of the larger sets of people I know at Nationals,” he said. “I know the breaststrokers, I know the people that do the 200 fly — and I know the Princeton swimmers.” 



BASKETBALL OUTLOOK

Shooting Stars

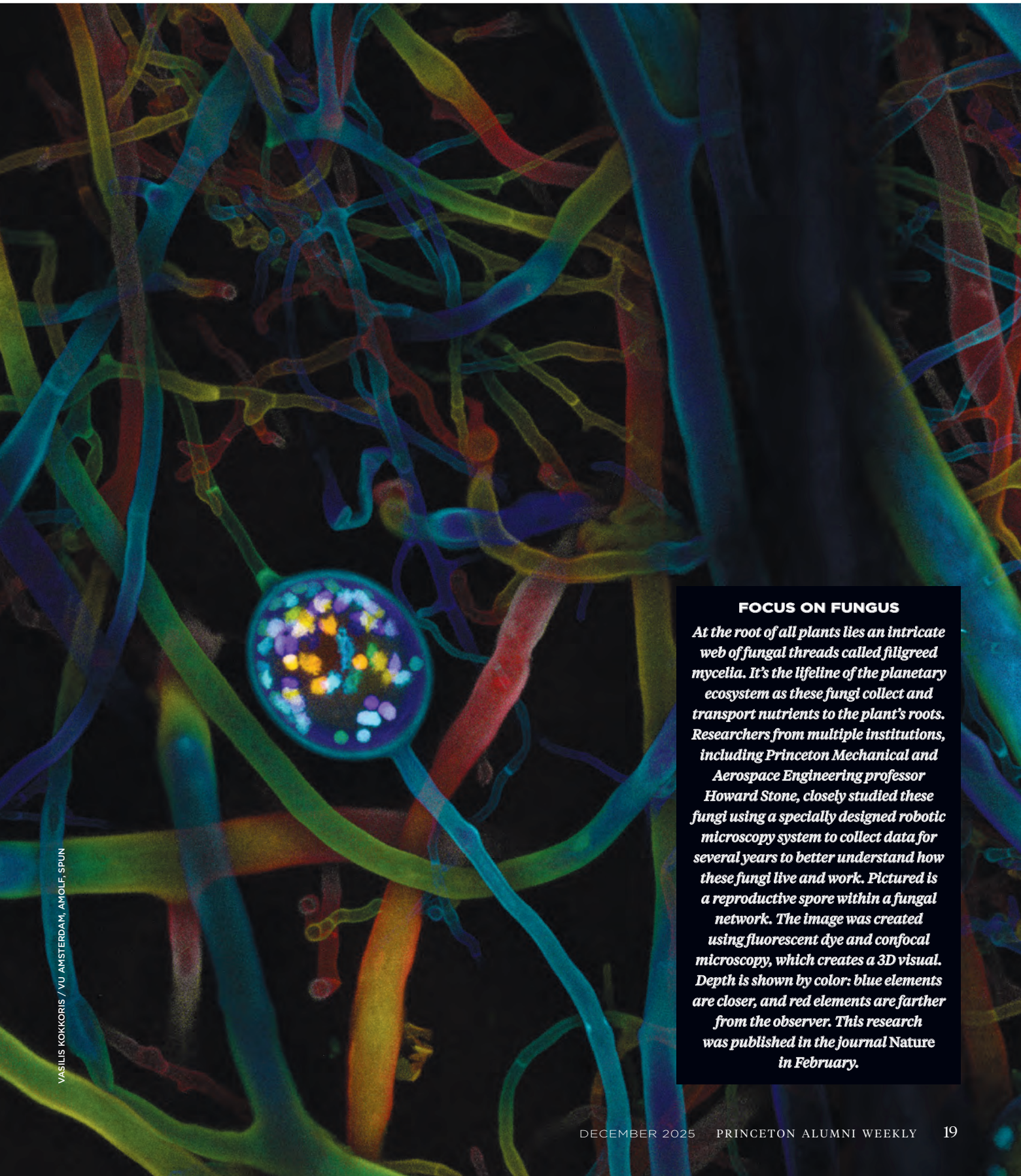
Princeton men’s basketball will look to guard **Dalen Davis ’27** and his junior classmates for leadership as the Tigers’ roster has no seniors for the first time in 40 years. For the women’s team, **Skye Belker ’27** aims to lead a stellar backcourt after gaining international experience in the summer playing for Germany in the World University Games.

Read more about the new season at paw.princeton.edu/sports.



RESEARCH

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FOCUS ON FUNGUS

At the root of all plants lies an intricate web of fungal threads called filigreed mycelia. It's the lifeline of the planetary ecosystem as these fungi collect and transport nutrients to the plant's roots. Researchers from multiple institutions, including Princeton Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering professor Howard Stone, closely studied these fungi using a specially designed robotic microscopy system to collect data for several years to better understand how these fungi live and work. Pictured is a reproductive spore within a fungal network. The image was created using fluorescent dye and confocal microscopy, which creates a 3D visual. Depth is shown by color: blue elements are closer, and red elements are farther from the observer. This research was published in the journal Nature in February.

VASILIS KOKKORIS / VU AMSTERDAM, AMOLF, SPUN



GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAM

Revealing Inequalities in Medicaid Recovery

BY CARLETT SPIKE

AS A HEALTH-CARE POLICY expert, Heather Howard was excited to dive into the impacts of Medicaid estate recovery once it was clear some states were considering reforming the law. Created in 1993, this federal law gave states the right to recoup some of the costs of Medicaid benefits used for long-term care, beginning at age 55, from an individual's assets once he or she dies. Nursing home costs, for example, were on average more than \$116,000 annually in 2023, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Howard, a professor in Princeton's School of Public and International Affairs and co-director of the Global Health Program, worked with Rutgers assistant professor Amanda Spishak-Thomas and Emma Sandoe, director of Oregon's Medicaid Division, to research the



HEATHER HOWARD

benefits and drawbacks of the program.

"Our hypothesis was that it has created deep inequities because we know people of color are overrepresented in the Medicaid program and have historic wealth gaps, and so we were sort of testing this," says Howard. "We also knew there were some policy proposals in Congress and at the state level to revisit it now that we're

30-plus years in and there's been too little research done on the impact."

To test their ideas, the trio began their research by comparing the estate recovery policies of Georgia, North Carolina, and Massachusetts and assessing how the policies changed over time. They then analyzed public data to figure out how much states were paid back over the years and by whom.

Their instincts were correct: While wealthier families are often able to circumvent medical debts for their deceased relatives through estate planning, they found low-income families faced greater burdens. This has resulted in Black and Hispanic families losing out on opportunities to build intergenerational wealth from inherited properties.

They also found states ultimately recovered a miniscule amount. "It actually is not cost-effective," says Howard, due to administrative costs, including investigating after a person dies and placing a lien on their home. While the intention of Medicaid estate recovery was to ensure fairness, it hasn't worked, she adds. Their findings were published in August in the *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law* in a paper titled "Lot of Pain for Little Gain: Three Decades of Medicaid Estate Recovery."

"We're hoping [our findings] will spur more research and give more oxygen to these reform efforts," says Howard. She adds this is a perfect moment for states to consider reforming their Medicaid estate recovery policies to address these inequities as health-care costs are rising and the future of the Affordable Care Act under the Trump administration is up in the air.

The U.S. population is also rapidly aging. Due to increasing life expectancy and declining birth rates, 82 million Americans are projected to be 65 and older by 2050, accounting for 23% of the population. This means more families may need to turn to Medicaid for support services as they age.

Howard adds, "I hope this sheds a light on the failure of our policymakers to address long-term care needs." ■

ADOBE, COURTESY OF HEATHER HOWARD

ALUMNI RESEARCH

Understanding Why We Delegate Decision-Making to Others

BY YUCHEN ZHANG '10

MARY STEFFEL '09, a professor of marketing at Northeastern University, often reflects on a pivotal moment from her time as a graduate student at Princeton. It wasn't in a classroom or a lecture hall, but rather on the stage, playing Cinderella in *Into the Woods*.

In one of the defining scenes, Cinderella is torn between two worlds: one where she lives a life of freedom and independence, and another where she chooses a life with the prince. Night after night, she attends the royal ball, but each time, she runs away before the prince can learn who she really is. Eventually, he grows wise to her routine and spreads sticky tar on the palace steps to trap her. The next time Cinderella tries to flee, her golden slipper gets stuck in the tar. Now confronted with the reality that she cannot move forward, Cinderella opts to leave her slipper behind. By doing so, she delegates the responsibility of deciding whether to pursue her to the prince.

The scene, says Steffel, who leads the Choice and Thought Lab, encapsulates what so many experience in real life:



STEFFEL '09

decision paralysis. "We've all been there," Steffel says, "caught in a moment where we feel overwhelmed by a decision, unsure of the best choice to make. It's the mental tar that prevents us from moving forward." And like Cinderella, she points out, we sometimes delegate that responsibility to someone else — a friend, a family member, a doctor, or even a salesperson — anyone really, as long as it's not ourselves.

Through her research, Steffel has uncovered just how common it is for people to pass off tough decisions to others. "It's a coping mechanism," she

"The key is to help people feel empowered to make decisions, instead of feeling trapped by them."

— MARY STEFFEL '09
Professor of marketing at
Northeastern University

explains. "When people are faced with the weight of making a decision, it can feel easier to put that responsibility on someone else." And often, it's not just because of convenience, but rather the fear of making the wrong choice. This is especially true in situations where there are trade-offs involved, or when the stakes are high.

People also delegate decisions to avoid bad outcomes. Passing the buck is "a way of protecting themselves from potential fallout," she says. "If the decision goes wrong, they can say, 'I didn't make that choice.'"

Complexity also plays a role. When choices are difficult to process or understand, people are more likely to delegate. "This is especially common in medical contexts," Steffel says. "When treatment options are presented in a confusing or overly complicated way, patients are more likely to defer to their doctors." Steffel's studies show that when the information is too complex, people lose confidence in their ability to make the right decision. "It's not that they don't want to make the decision — it's that they feel they can't," she says.

Delegating isn't always bad. "Sometimes, delegation can prevent people from walking away with no decision made," Steffel says. She cites her work with businesses as an example. When making important retail decisions where customers find themselves feeling uncertain or overwhelmed, having a salesperson step in at the right moment can help them make a purchase.

Steffel, who teaches courses in consumer behavior, marketing and society, and business and social impact, finds people feel more confident about their decisions when the information is clear and accessible. Her work aims to show how an understanding of consumer insights can help solve society's challenges.

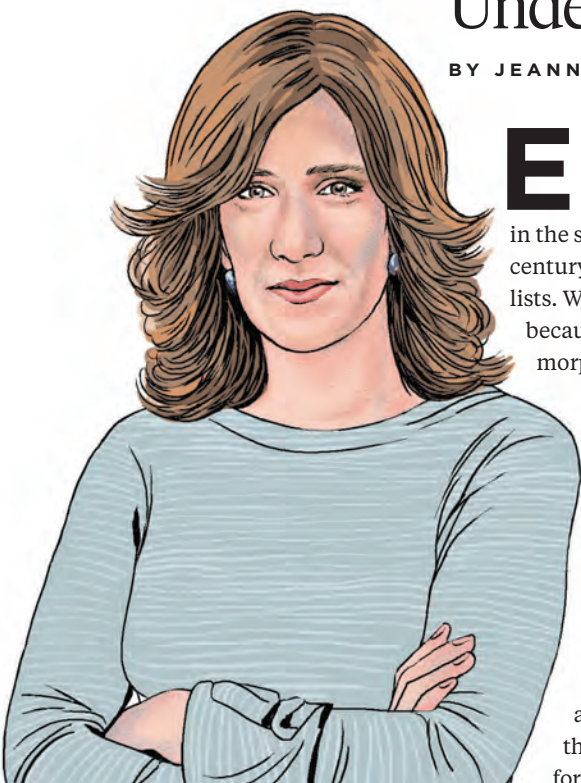
"I think what my research highlights is that we all face these moments of paralysis," she says. "But with the right tools and support, we can move past them. The key is to help people feel empowered to make decisions, instead of feeling trapped by them." ■



BEHIND THE RESEARCH: EVE KRAKOWSKI

Mining Ancient Documents to Understand Medieval Jewish Society

BY JEANNE JACKSON DEVOE



EVE KRAKOWSKI WAS A GRADUATE STUDENT at the University of Chicago when she learned about the Cairo Geniza, a collection of 400,000 Jewish documents from the 10th to 13th centuries. This treasure trove was discovered in the storeroom of the Ben Ezra Synagogue in Fustat or Old Cairo in Egypt in the 19th century. It includes religious texts and legal papers, as well as letters and even grocery lists. What no doubt began with a practice of storing sacred documents at the synagogue because of a rabbinic prohibition against destroying texts with God's name apparently morphed into storing writings of all kinds, Krakowski says.

Krakowski was drawn to the documents' potential to illuminate Jewish history and the everyday lives of people. "I just absolutely fell in love with it," she says.

Krakowski grew up as a secular Jew in Chicago. She learned Hebrew after becoming an Orthodox Jew as an undergraduate at the University of Chicago. She later learned Arabic to decipher the Geniza's Judeo-Arabic language. "What I love about this kind of work is you can see both things that seem so familiar and natural and then other things that are so different that it really unsettles your expectations of what you take for granted about the world," Krakowski says.

Quick Facts

TITLE

Associate Professor of Near Eastern Studies and the Program in Judaic Studies

TIME AT PRINCETON

10 years

UPCOMING CLASS

Marriage and Monotheism

KRAKOWSKI'S RESEARCH

A SAMPLING

THE ROLE OF WOMEN

Krakowski explored the role of women in medieval society in her book *Coming of Age in Medieval Egypt: Female Adolescence, Jewish Law, and Ordinary Culture*. She was surprised at the high divorce rate among medieval Jewish couples in Cairo. That meant women depended on fathers, uncles, or adult sons for their social and economic standing. Male relatives could advocate for women in court to allow them to retain their dowries and receive or inherit property and financial support if their husbands died or divorced them.

TRACING THE HISTORY OF JEWISH LAW

Krakowski's research took a "deep dive into antiquity" to

uncover the history of Jewish legal documents from the 10th to 12th centuries. By the 10th century, when the Geniza documents begin, a standard way of writing legal documents was widely used from Iran to North Africa and later Western Europe. The documents didn't originate in the Torah or the Talmud, the primary source of Jewish law, so she wondered where they came from and how they spread so quickly. To find the answer, which she is focusing on for her second book, Krakowski learned about the legal systems of various cultures of antiquity. She found the legal documents stem from ancient Aramaic documents and "crystallized" as Jewish law in the ninth century.



MARRIAGE CONTRACT OF ZEIN, DAUGHTER OF R. AARON HA-MUMHEH (THE EXPERT), FUSTAT, EGYPT, 1080-1114

EXPLORING A SOCIETY'S REACTION TO DEATH

Krakowski looks at "everyday human life" in medieval Cairo in her current research on the social history of death during

this period, which will be the subject of her third book. The Geniza contains hundreds of letters from people who lost a loved one. Krakowski says she was struck by how "intensely powerful" these letters were and how they followed a "culturally specific script." Grieving people expressed "resignation to God's will," a strong theme in Islamic thought about death. At the same time, they poured out their grief.

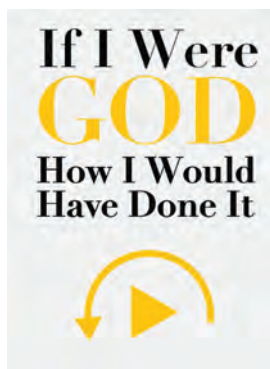
"What's really fascinating," Krakowski says, "is that they toggle back and forth between complete resignation to God's will and an absolute unbearable grief that will never end." ■

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

GOOD READS

The Princeton Bookshelf

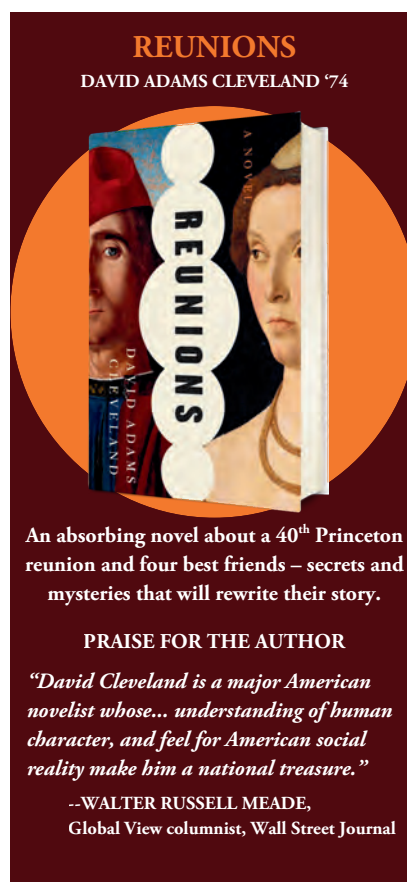
*2025 Winter Guide to
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BOB MAGUIRE '72
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Global View columnist, Wall Street Journal



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**DR. NICHOLAS CARNES *11
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The Journey of Aeneas



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HOW SCHOLARS AND LIBRARIANS
BECAME THE UNLIKELY SPIES OF
WORLD WAR II

BOOK AND DAGGER

ELYSE GRAHAM

ELYSE GRAHAM '07'S

BOOK AND DAGGER

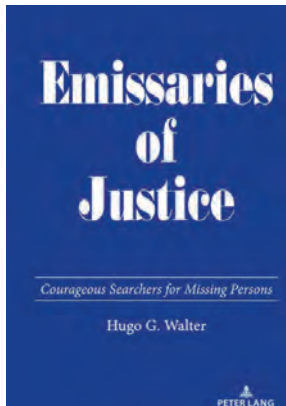
The untold story of the academics who became OSS spies, invented modern spycraft, and helped turn the tide of the war.

At the start of WWII, the U.S. found itself in desperate need of an intelligence agency. The Office of Strategic Services (OSS), a precursor to today's CIA, was quickly formed—and, in an effort to fill its ranks with experts, the OSS turned to academia for recruits.

In *Book and Dagger*, Elyse Graham draws on personal histories, letters, and declassified OSS files to tell the story of a small but connected group of humanities scholars turned spies. Among them are Joseph Curtiss, a literature professor who hunted down German spies and turned them into double agents; Sherman Kent, a smart-mouthed history professor who rose to become the head of analysis for all of Europe and Africa; and Adele Kibre, an archivist who was sent to Stockholm to secretly acquire documents for the OSS.

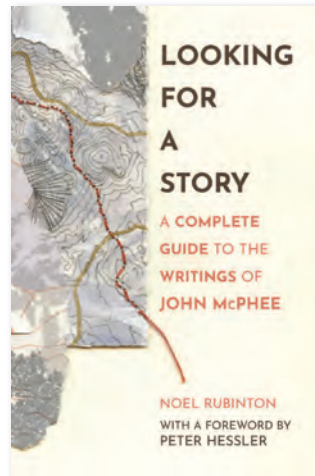
Thrillingly paced and rigorously researched, *Book and Dagger* is an inspiring and gripping true story about a group of academics who helped beat the Nazis—a tale that reveals the indelible power of the humanities to change the world.



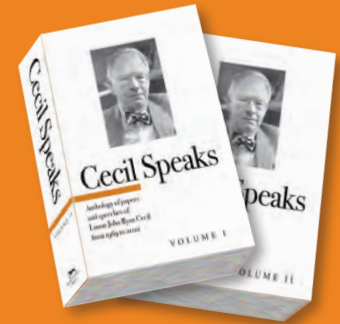


**EMISSARIES OF
JUSTICE**
HUGO WALTER '81

This book is a collection of great essays about courageous and exceptional detectives and investigators who search diligently, honestly, and thoroughly for missing persons in literary masterpieces by Agatha Christie, Dorothy Bowers, and E. C. R. Lorac.



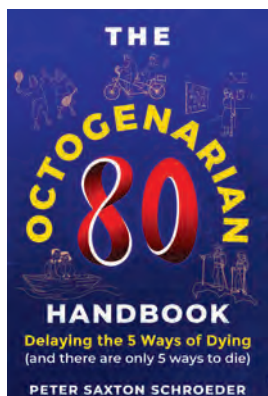
An annotated guide to the work of the Pulitzer Prize-winning writer, teacher, and pioneer of creative nonfiction



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PETER SCHROEDER '62

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Growing Costs of U.S. Health Care, Corporate Power vs. Human Rights

Dr. John Geyman '52

The high costs of affordable health care have been a driver of rhetoric for many elections in the U. S. However, it is such a complicated subject that it has received little attention. The fix—not-for-profit national health insurance, as demonstrated by all other high-income countries, continues to be the best solution.

Growing Costs of U.S. Health Care, Corporate Power vs. Human Rights - Is reform finally within reach? traces the history of health care in the U. S. over the last 60 years, and describes the ways whereby costs and other problems of health care can be resolved to the benefit of all U. S. residents.

This essential primer details the origins and contours of the current disastrous state of American healthcare, the added peril posed by Donald Trump, and the salutary alternative (national health insurance) that could save lives and money.

— David Himmelstein, M.D., and Steffie Woolhandler, M.D. are American primary care physicians and medical researchers, advocating for single-payer national health insurance in the United States.

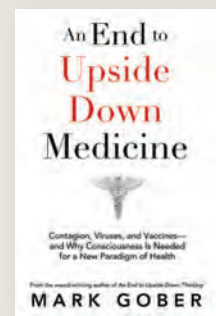
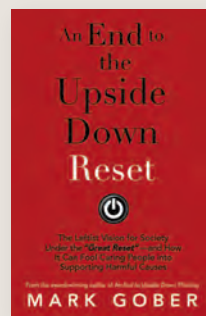
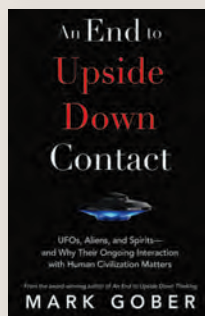
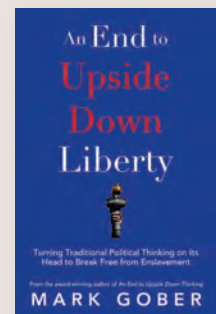
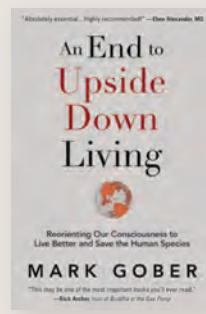
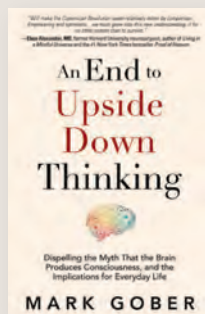
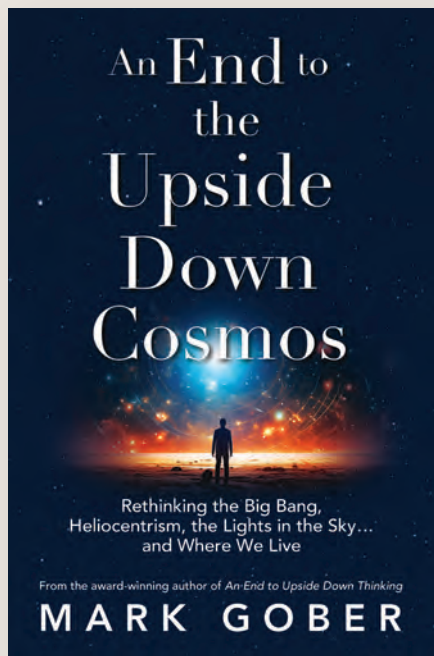
**GROWING COSTS
OF U.S. HEALTH CARE**
Corporate Power
vs. Human Rights



*Is Reform
Finally Within Reach?*

John Geyman, M.D.

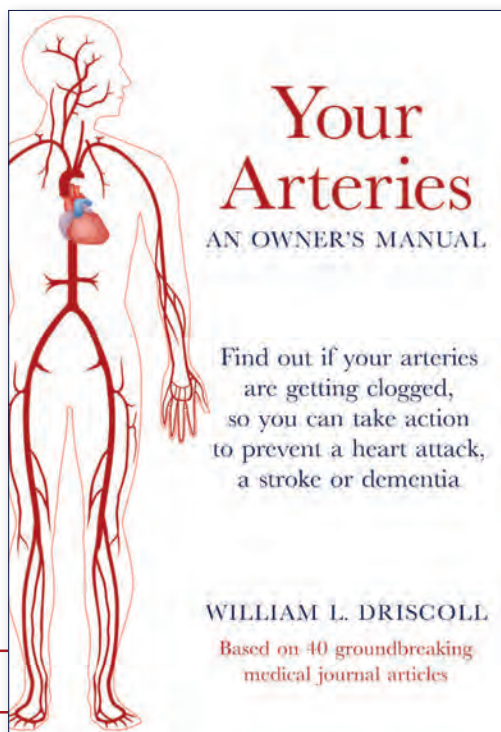




Mark Gober's latest book challenges everything we've been taught about Earth and its place in the cosmos.

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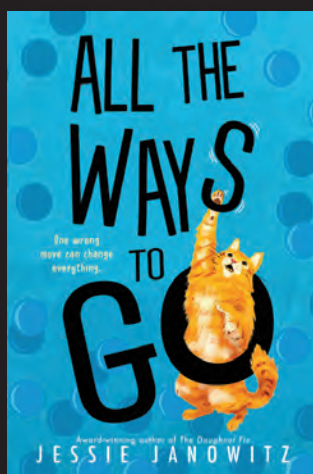
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WILLIAM DRISCOLL, MPA '91 is a journalist who was fortunate to learn that his arteries were getting clogged, so he could work with his doctor to protect his health. He wrote this book so others could have the same opportunity.

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— JESSIE JANOWITZ *95



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—Goodreads

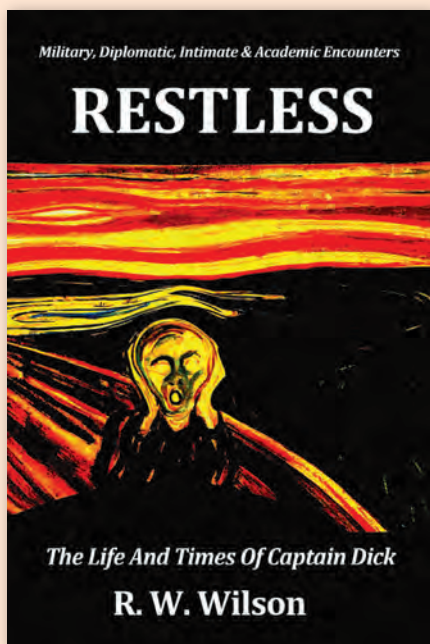
Original, readable, touching, and funny: give this one to all the middle grade readers in your life!
—Goodreads

All the Ways to Go was such a delightful story of friendship, finding oneself, having tough conversations, and being open to learn as we go.
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Restless

The Life and Times of Captain Dick

By R.W. Wilson

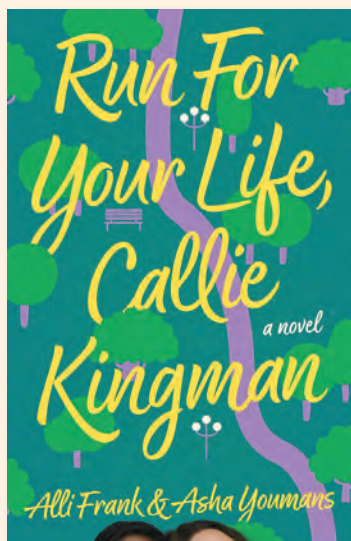
How in fact can we live honorable meaningful lives while also delving deeply into the all-too-human challenges of intimate relationships? Can we be of significant service to humankind while also exploring the full range of human emotions, desires, temptations and satisfactions?

This personal real-life tale takes place within the tumultuous background of 92 years of American history — and indeed of world history. The author served in the Navy at fairly high levels of responsibility, as well as in universities where his expertise in Asian affairs led to many insightful journeys into conflict zones.

While often delving into intense historic situations, the author tells his story with lightness and humor. Dick was an identical twin in a British-immigrant family, and throughout his long life he struggled to balance professional service with personal passions and friendships.

“Writing this memoir has been a literary journey, exposing many unexpected insights. I hope you enjoy reading this memoir as much as I’ve enjoyed writing it.”

RICHARD (DICK) WILSON graduated from Princeton and served in the Navy, while also pursuing his academic career as a professor at several universities. He served for many years as a Naval Reserve officer with high-up assignments in Asian military and political situations. Twice married with two children, he now lives happily with his wife Myoung near Princeton.



For a Hit of Princeton Nostalgia...

Two decades have passed since Callie Kingman begrudgingly followed her husband, Thomas, across the country in pursuit of his career at the expense of her own. Today, Callie is an empty nester with no job prospects, a declining mother, and a spouse who announces his intention to leave her—in Sacramento, the dullest city in America. His parting potshot: “It’s not me, it’s you.”

Taking to bed, Callie relies on delivery for food, her neighbor for booze, and her college best friend for commiseration. When an overdue annual exam leads to a health scare, Callie is forced to contend with her fractured and unfulfilled life by revisiting the vibrant, indomitable woman she used to be.

From her idyllic years at Princeton and an extraordinary first love to the pressures all women face to strive, serve, and be sexy as hell, once again she’s face-to-face with it all. Callie is running for her life, determined to forge a path ahead that is better than the one she’s leaving behind.

“Set against the vibrant backdrop of 90s Princeton, with sharp humor and tender insight, Frank and Youmans deftly explore the unexpected ways a woman’s life and identity evolve in the decades following college. A page-turning read!”

— Danielle Girard, best-selling author of *Pinky Swear*

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Chains Across the River

A Novel of the American Revolution

BY BEVIS LONGSTRETH '56
bevislongstreth.com

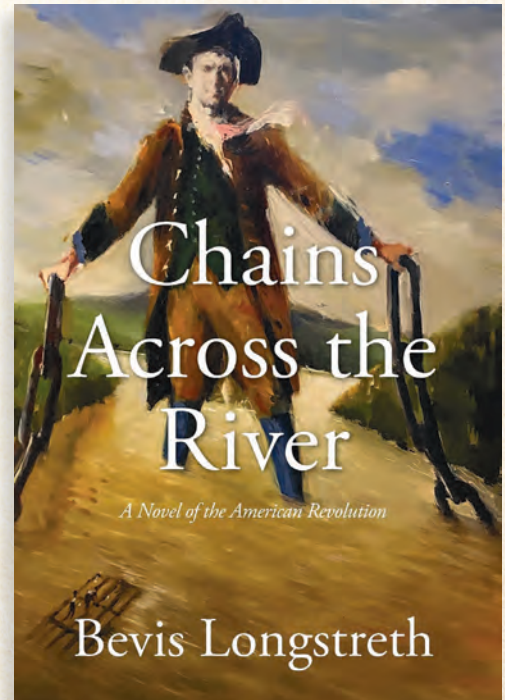
During the American Revolution, a British soldier deserts, defects and becomes a hero. *Chains Across the River* follows the true-life exploits of Captain Thomas Machin, a gifted yet flawed British-born engineer who joins the Continental Army after witnessing the Battle of Breed's Hill.

Recognized by General Washington for his brilliance, Machin is entrusted with a vital mission: to blockade the Hudson River against the British Navy's advance. What follows is a gripping tale of bold engineering, political intrigue, and personal redemption as Machin designs the legendary river chains—massive iron barriers meant to stop warships under full sail.

Rich with historical detail and unforgettable characters, *Chains Across the River* is an epic novel of courage, consequence, and a man history almost forgot.

"Longstreth's Chains Across the River turns history of the American Revolution into compelling fiction. It tells a new and remarkable story of the chains strung across the Hudson to stop the British fleet from sailing upstream. A rewarding read."

— TIMOTHY WIRTH, FORMER SENATOR, COLORADO



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The B-Side of Paradise



ALFRED D'ALESSANDRO



"Evocative, funny, introspective. By the end, I felt as if I'd gone to Princeton with the author!"

Fitzgerald meets Salinger in this 1970s coming-of-age romp that follows a spirited first gen crashing and burning the Ivy League like Holden Caulfield reborn. With an improbable bid from Ivy Club and an inspiring professor he learns to reconcile the Animal House and Dead Poet Society within himself.

"I heard Holden Caulfield. And Vonnegut. I heard an authentic new voice in American literature."
—Bram Lewis, The Schoolhouse Theater

"I found this book very amusing. But! There are some parts...that are hysterical."
—Minnie Krakowsky, my mother-in-law who has never forgiven me for not being Jewish

A full-page portrait of Michael Park '98, a man of East Asian descent, wearing a dark blue suit, white shirt, and a dark red tie. He is standing in an office setting, leaning against a wooden desk. His hands are clasped in front of him. The background features a beige wall and a window with light-colored, vertically striped curtains. A printer and a pen holder are visible on the desk to the left.

The Contender

Michael Park '98's rise in the judiciary has made him a leading candidate for a Supreme Court seat.



BY P.G. SITTENFELD '07

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEPHEN VOSS

Michael Park '98 can walk down the street in his Manhattan neighborhood and go unrecognized — even as his judicial rulings from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit touch and shape the lives, in ways both large and small, of the nearly 25 million people who reside in his three-state territory.

During his years as a lawyer before becoming a judge, Park led litigation to advance a conservative legal agenda on some of the country's most hotly contested culture war issues — from cutting off Medicaid funding to Planned Parenthood in Kansas to ending affirmative action at Harvard. He's also a longtime member of the Federalist Society, a conservative legal network — all of which can leave people surprised to learn that Park has been happily married for nearly two decades (and counting) to a prominent liberal legal scholar and criminal justice reformer, Sarah Seo '02 *16.

Park's personality is low-key, and he is unabashedly geeky when it comes to the law. Yet the same man who describes the lifestyle of a judge as "monastic" can also light up a stage with his dance moves.

In today's sharply divided political environment, where people like to paint public figures in black and white, Park is not so easily caricatured. But understanding who he is, how he thinks, and some of the seeming contradictions he embodies may soon be a matter of national interest. Because figures across the partisan spectrum agree that *Judge* Michael Park could well become Supreme Court *Justice* Michael Park.

"Were there a vacancy this administration, Judge Park's age [49] puts him in the sweet spot," says Mike Fragoso '06, who worked on Park's nomination to the Second Circuit in 2019 when Fragoso served as chief counsel for nominations for the Senate Judiciary Committee. "If the Republican lead in the Senate shrinks, in particular, he would be in a strong position as a nominee for whom one can count to 50 votes without compromising jurisprudence."

An article in *Bloomberg Law* put it plainly, saying Park is "likely to be on [President Donald] Trump's Supreme Court shortlist."

Even Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito '72 says Park, who clerked for him twice, has the right stuff. "Nomination to the Supreme Court is like being hit by lightning," Alito tells PAW in an email. "That said, Mike would make a superb choice."

Park's ascent to the upper echelons of American law and government began halfway around the world, more than half a century ago, in the poor, rural community of Geumsan, South Korea, about 100 miles from Seoul. Park's father, Ok-choon, grew up in Geumsan and lost his own father to a stomach ulcer when he was 10 years old. No one else in his family had ever gone to college, but Ok-choon knew education was his only way up.

In 1974, just 10 days after marrying his wife, Young-soon,

Ok-choon flew to America to begin a Ph.D. in instructional psychology and technology at the University of Minnesota, with a focus on how people learn from computers. Young-soon joined Ok-choon one year later, and Park was born a year after that, in 1976, in the St. Paul suburb of Roseville, Minnesota.

Ok-choon and Young-soon befriended a lifelong Minnesotan whom they called Mr. Michaelson, who lived nearby with the children he'd adopted from Korea. When Park was born, his first name, Michael, was in honor of one of their first American friends and a nod toward their belief that they could forge a lasting sense of home in their new country.

When Park was 10 years old and his sister Christine '04 was 4, the family moved to Springfield, Virginia, when his father took a job as a senior research psychologist at the U.S. Army Research Institute. Park excelled academically as a student at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, a nationally top-rated magnet school, and remembers "some tiger parenting stuff" from his parents. "The message was 'Do your best, but if you get an A-minus, then you didn't do your best,'" he says.

As freshmen at Princeton, Park and Arden Lee '98 were assigned to singles in Butler residential college. One day, Lee walked into Park's dorm room and spotted the self-help book *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People* prominently perched on Park's nightstand. Park's instinct was "to always seek out the most rigorous thing," Lee says, including being "that guy who freshman and sophomore year would take engineering classes knowing that he wasn't going to become an engineer."

The two friends got involved in Manna Christian Fellowship



HAPPY COUPLE

Ok-choon and Young-soon Park on their wedding day in 1974 before he left Korea to start a Ph.D. program in Minnesota.

COURTESY OF MICHAEL PARK '98

freshman year. The organization — which still has a robust presence on campus three decades later — had been founded one year prior. Members would gather for alcohol-free fellowship, singing, and a sermon on Saturday evenings in Murray-Dodge Hall, and by his junior year, Park was Manna's president. As for the party scene on Prospect Street, Park says, "It wasn't for me."

He had come to Princeton with conservative leanings and values, which cemented across his four years on campus.

"I think it was a combination of my parents' immigrant experience and seeing the importance of hard work, plus my faith background," Park says. "The last piece came in college studying economics and policy [especially Milton Friedman], which pushed me in a conservative direction."

Through his sophomore year, Park thought he would major in economics and pursue a Ph.D., but he increasingly felt economics was too theoretical and decided to major in what is now called the School of Public and International Affairs.

A formative moment came when Park was taking a seminar on health policy junior year with Dr. J. Michael McGinnis, an epidemiologist who had served as deputy assistant secretary across numerous presidential administrations for the Department of Health and Human Services. Park recalls McGinnis talking about how as a physician he had been able to help prevent infant mortality one patient at a time, but when McGinnis became a government official, he could implement policy changes that translated to thousands of lives saved. The impact was bigger, even if it felt less personal — a tradeoff that resonated with Park.

"I've always been a bit more of a head-over-heart person," Park says.

Park went straight from Princeton to Yale Law School.

There, his classmate Anjan Sahni, now managing partner of the law firm WilmerHale, remembers how students would sit in class and take notes at a feverish clip.

"I would then compare notes with Mike afterward and see that he would have taken notes by hand and after a two-hour class would have written down literally two sentences, boiling down the essence of what the class was about," Sahni says. "At first, I laughed at that but then thought there was a method to what he was doing. He was paying extremely close attention. To this day, I remain impressed by his remarkable ability to very quickly cut to the chase of what really matters in a case."

Though Park generally kept a low profile, he was in the spotlight at a banquet for law students in the lead-up to graduation. One of Park's friends nudged the DJ to call Park on stage and perform the dance that accompanied 'N Sync's "Bye Bye Bye."

"The song comes on and he just nails all the Justin Timberlake moves," Sahni remembers. "Everyone was speechless."

While living in New York the prior summer, Park and his roommates had repeatedly watched a video of how to do the dance. But Park admits he might have been graded on a curve.

"Compared to the world at large, it was probably a B performance," he says. "Relative to the dancing ability of my YLS classmates, it was an A-plus."



'BYE BYE BYE'

Michael Park '98, then a law student, does a Justin Timberlake impersonation during a party at Yale.

Unsure of exactly what he wanted to do following law school, Park pursued a clerkship with a federal judge, sending out several dozen applications, hoping to find a position in the New York City area. Park landed a clerkship with Alito, who was on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in Newark.

"He gave us a lot of independence in terms of working up cases and then wanted to talk through them with us," Park recalls of Alito, who also graduated from Yale Law School. "There was a lot of back and forth. I remember being surprised that he cared what I thought."

"I knew he was exceptional," Alito says, "very smart, hardworking, dedicated, and a delight to work with."

Following his clerkship, Park joined the New York office of WilmerHale as an associate, until he moved to Washington, D.C., in 2006 to spend two years working in the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel. In 2008, Park returned to Alito's chambers, this time at the Supreme Court.

"I reached out to him and asked him to clerk again because I knew I would be getting a gem," Alito says.

The line that famously and prophetically accompanied Alito's picture in the *Nassau Herald* his senior year at Princeton read, "Sam intends to go to law school and eventually to warm a seat on the Supreme Court."

Park, by contrast, had enjoyed his two clerkships, but upon completing the second one, had no intention of ending up on the bench.

In 2002, around the time he was completing his first Alito clerkship, Park attended a wedding in Princeton of two fellow Princetonians and was seen "going around the reception asking for a ride back to D.C.," according to Seo.

Seo had matriculated at Princeton just after Park graduated, and the two had never formally met. She was, however, aware of Park because he'd returned to campus to give a talk to Manna students, and she was a member.

“Sure, I’ll give you a ride,” Seo told Park at the wedding reception.

During the nearly four-hour drive, they discovered how much they had in common: Seo had immigrated to the United States from South Korea with her family when she was 5 years old. Both were raised in Christian homes. Both were interested in law and policy.

Contrary to Park’s conservative worldview, Seo had completed a certificate in women’s studies and spent a lot of time thinking about, as she puts it, the intersection of her “faith and growing feminism.”

“Navigating those two ideas was a big part of my Princeton experience,” she says.

On the road they talked about both the moral and legal facets of abortion. Seo recalls that it was “not a debate” but rather “a very thoughtful conversation What I remember from that car ride is that Mike was not scared off when I said I was a feminist. He took me seriously and [engaged] respectfully.”

As they approached Park’s destination in Springfield, they realized their parents lived just 10 minutes apart.

The two hung out that summer until Seo left to teach in China as part of Princeton in Asia. The SARS outbreak forced her to return early, and a little over a year after that car ride, Seo started at Columbia Law School, by which time Park was working in Manhattan as an associate at WilmerHale. They began dating in 2003 and got married in 2008. Seo is now a professor at NYU School of Law.

While Seo remains steadfast in her liberal worldview, she acknowledges and appreciates how Park’s “traditional family values means that he is a hands-on dad, which makes it easier for me to pursue my career.”

She frequently gets asked about how a liberal woman working in academia and a conservative Trump-appointed judge can sustain a happy marriage.

“I always say that we never doubt the other person’s goodness, and the policy differences come from the same values,” she says.

In 2015, after a decade at top law firms, two years at the DOJ, and two clerkships, Park became a partner at the new boutique firm Consovoy McCarthy Park, which went on to be at the forefront of several high-profile cases, including litigation seeking to end affirmative action in college admissions.

As counsel for the organization Students for Fair Admissions, Park helped develop the case and craft the legal argument that race-conscious admissions policies at Harvard discriminated against Asian American applicants. In 2023, when Park was already on the bench, the Supreme Court ruled 6-3 in a landmark decision that the use of race as a criterion in college admissions violated the 14th Amendment’s Equal Protection Clause.

Park was gaining notoriety in conservative legal circles when, in 2018, Jed Doty in the White House Counsel office called him out of the blue. “Part of me wondered if it was a prank,” Park



LEGAL EXPERT

*Sarah Seo ’02 *16, married to Park since 2008, is a legal historian of 20th-century U.S. criminal justice and recently left Columbia to join the faculty at NYU School of Law.*

remembers. The White House was gathering names for various judicial vacancies, including a U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals seat. When Doty asked Park if he’d be interested, Park said, “Sure!” but also understood the process to be at a very preliminary and uncertain stage.

At the time, the U.S. Senate tradition known as “the blue slip” remained in full effect, allowing home-state senators to decline to return their so-called blue slip in support of a nominee, effectively dooming the nominee’s chances of confirmation.

When Park met with Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., as part of the process, he remembers “going in thinking I could persuade him that I’m conservative, but fair,” Park says. Instead, the then-Senate minority leader “arrived late, left early, was grumpy the whole time, and spent most of it railing on the Federalist Society,” says Park.

After Schumer and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., both declined to return their blue slip in support of Park, he moved on from thinking he was going to become a judge. Then he got another surprise call from the White House: President Trump and the Republican-led Senate Judiciary Committee were proceeding anyway with nominating Park.

Park says he likes that “I’m never recognized in public except maybe if I’m at a law school,” which made the day of his Senate confirmation hearing “daunting.”

Pushed by Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., on whether he would advance a partisan agenda from the bench, Park said, “I just don’t see the party of the president who nominated the judge being a factor in any decision that the court renders.”

When Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., pressed Park on his views on abortion — still then several years before the Supreme Court’s 2022 *Dobbs* decision — Park said, “*Roe v. Wade* is a landmark decision of the Supreme Court. I would follow it faithfully.”

Park’s parents, as well as Seo, were in Senate chambers for the confirmation hearing. Ok-choon recalls of the hearing, “I never experienced that much stress.” When it was over, Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, came over to Park’s family and told them it had gone fine.

Three months later, the Senate convened for the vote. Schumer called Park “an ideologue” and said that Park’s “principal qualification seems to be that he’s a card-carrying member of the Federalist Society.” Park was confirmed by a 52-41 vote along party lines. He had just turned 43 years old, making him one of the youngest federal appeals judges in the country.

Initially, Park says of his transition from lawyer to judge,

“I missed the action of private practice: helping clients, working with a team, going to court, negotiating things,” as opposed to the “pretty monastic” life of an appeals judge where “reading and writing is the vast majority of what we do.”

Second Circuit Chief Judge Debra Livingston ’80 — nominated by President George W. Bush and confirmed in 2007 — did not know Park until the two became colleagues. Her observation has been that Park “prepares for cases with extraordinary diligence,” and that if “I’ve missed anything, he’s probably going to bring it to my attention.”

Six years into his lifetime tenure, Park says the opinion he’s most proud of is a 2020 dissent in *Agudath Israel v. Cuomo*. Park wrote that then-Gov. Andrew Cuomo violated the Constitution by issuing COVID-era capacity limits on houses of worship while deeming establishments such as pet shops and liquor stores “essential” and “free from any capacity limits.”

“By singling out ‘houses of worship’ for unfavorable treatment, the executive order specifically and intentionally burdens the free exercise of religion in violation of the First Amendment,” Park wrote. (The U.S. Supreme Court subsequently agreed with Park’s dissent in *Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn v. Cuomo*.)

Park says that in writing his opinions, “clarity is the most important thing for me ... I don’t try for eloquence or clever turns of phrase. I loved reading [Justice Antonin] Scalia dissents in law school, but that’s not something I can imitate.”

Park is well aware of the political and cultural tumult of the present era.

“I’d have to agree that the judiciary is becoming more polarized politically, like everything else in society,” he says. “One of the things I ask my law clerks is ‘Where do you get your news?’ Everyone today gets their information from different sources ... Maybe I’m getting old and talking about days that never were, but it used to be we were basically taking in the world from a common starting point. But now what we think is happening or is important are just wildly different. I think that can seep into our work.”

Park says he hopes history’s assessment of the judiciary a half-century from now will be that it “remained independent.” And he hopes his fellow judges will take the approach of “viewing politically charged cases with a longer perspective. Otherwise, we risk becoming part of the problem as participants in lawfare.”

In October, Park participated in an event hosted by the

Manhattan Institute, a center-right think tank focused on urban policy. One-hundred-fifty people gathered in a high-ceilinged, wood-paneled room in Midtown’s Harmonie Club for a panel discussion previewing the Supreme Court term.

Despite being the person on the panel whose position bestows on him by far the most power, Park spoke the least, preferring to ask short, pointed questions rather than giving long-winded answers. While he speaks eloquently and naturally, Park does not come off as someone who is enamored with hearing his own voice, nor does he project being someone who craves or covets the spotlight.

It is perhaps unsurprising then that Park is quick to dismiss the notion that he might someday sit on the Supreme Court and become the first Asian American to reach the nation’s high court.

“It’s not something I really think about because the possibility seems pretty remote and I’m happy where I am,” he says.

But many high-profile and influential people from across the political spectrum see Park’s Supreme Court prospects quite differently than he does.

Sahni, a Democrat, says, “I would be surprised if he *weren’t* being considered if there were a vacancy ... He’s a well-known judge. He comes from a significant circuit that resolves and presides over a number of very important kinds of cases. And he’s been involved in a number of cases as a lawyer that have attracted considerable attention.”

“He’s young enough and he’s surely qualified,” says Park’s Second Circuit colleague, Judge Denny Chin ’75, who was originally tapped for the judiciary by President Bill Clinton and later elevated to the appeals court by President Barack Obama. “He would need to be in the right place at the right time, but I certainly think it could happen.”

Twelve Princetonians have served on the Supreme Court, including three over the past 15 years — Alito, Sonia Sotomayor ’76, and Elena Kagan ’81.

Chin recalls that when he was nominated to the trial court in the Southern District of New York in 1994, he could count the number of Asian American federal judges on one hand, and when he was elevated to the appeals court in 2010, he was the only Asian American circuit court judge on active status in the country.

If Park reached the Supreme Court, “it would really show,” Chin says, “that we’ve come a long way.” ■

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NIGHT AT THE ART MUSEUM

Nearly 22,000 people — many in costume —
turned out for a 24-hour open house
at Princeton's long-awaited new museum

BY MARK F. BERNSTEIN '83

PHOTOGRAPHS BY TORI REPP / FOTOBUDDY





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EARLY 22,000 PEOPLE ATTENDED

the 24-hour open house for the new Princeton University Art Museum from Oct. 31 to Nov. 1, but let history record that local resident Tatiana Kennedy was first in line. She and her husband, Scott, arrived nearly an hour and a half before the doors opened to the public at 5 p.m. on Halloween, with a few hundred others patiently waiting behind them. Why did they get there so early?

“We just wanted to see what’s going on,” Kennedy explained.

So did a lot of people. The new museum has been widely reviewed in publications across the country and around the world. Opening night drew a crowd of the curious: undergraduates and grad students, faculty and staff, Princeton residents and not an inconsiderable number of art lovers from farther away.

The new museum is double the size of the old one, but by 7:30 p.m., it was so crowded that there was a line to go up the main staircase. Upstairs in the galleries, thousands milled around — looking, discussing, contemplating, appreciating. Two young men in banana suits leaned in to read the identification card on a John Singer Sargent painting. Their attire made me feel better about wearing my own gaudy class Reunions jacket. At Princeton, Halloween is just another night when orange and black is the perfect color combination.

Many had gotten into the dress-up spirit, none more so than entrants in the collections costume contest, which the museum sponsored. Participants were asked to design a costume based on one of 15 objects in the collection. Dozens entered, including three generations of the Kolodzei family: grandmother Tatiana (dressed as an Andy Warhol’s *Flowers*), daughter Natalia (Mary Cassatt’s *Young Woman in a Black and Green Bonnet, Looking Down*), and granddaughter Anna (Victor Schreckengost’s *Jazz Bowl*). After a long discussion, the judges awarded first prize in the adult division to Teddy Knox, a grad student in the School of Public and International Affairs, and his friend Tess Teodoro, for their depiction of Leonora Carrington’s painting *Twins*.



Contestants were hardly the only ones decked out. There were crayons, witches, Hogwarts students, *Toy Story* characters, and many who tried to get by donning minimal-effort cat ears. Some wore art-themed costumes such as the farm couple (with pitchfork) from *American Gothic*, a Jackson Pollock splatter painting, Georgia O’Keefe carrying a cow skull, Frida Kahlo with painted-on eyebrows, and several Vincent Van Goghs, all with bandaged ears. Perhaps the most popular costume choice — I saw at least half a dozen groups of these — were people wearing masks and fluorescent yellow vests: Louvre robbers, playing off the recent French art heist. Although, as PAW editor Peter Barzilai s’97 observed, attending a museum opening dressed as an art thief is sort of like making a bomb joke to the TSA officers at the airport.

Twenty-four hours is a long time to look at art, even in a collection as big as Princeton’s. To help fill the hours, there were also a variety of other events: face painting and coloring for the kids, movie screenings and a production of *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, stargazing outside, and morning yoga and Tai Chi classes. Mosaic, a restaurant on the museum’s third floor, offered a selection of Halloween-themed “mocktails,” although



LOOK AROUND

Clockwise from left: A museum-goer brings René Magritte's The Son of Man to life. A pair of tigers pause to ponder Bertha Wegmann's Interior. Even before entering, visitors are greeted by Nick Cave's massive mosaic Let me kindly introduce myself. They call me MC Prince Brighton. Inside, glass cases filled with eclectic objects form the museum's centerpiece.

that was probably not the prefix this crowd wanted.

Downstairs in the Great Hall, a silent disco drew a dancing crowd. Participants received headphones that could be programmed to three different channels. Another Van Gogh, waving a paintbrush, bounced in complete silence with two Morticia Addamses and a guy wrapped in a Puerto Rico flag. Nearby, a man dressed as George Washington grooved to his own beat, while someone in a full cat suit crouched in the corner, licking his paw. If you have heard the adage “dance as if no one is watching,” now imagine dancing as if no one else can hear.



Even after midnight, the crowds thinned only slightly. Still, it was finally possible to study some of the great works with at least a little solitude. I noticed Stefano D'Agostino '29, wearing a pirate bandana and tricorne hat, standing by himself, contemplating Andy Warhol's *Blue Marilyn*. From a distance, the scene had the vibe of an Edward Hopper painting, if not exactly the look. I wandered over and asked what he thought of it.

“I’m doing some soul searching,” D’Agostino said. He had planned to go out with a group of friends, but they left without him. I left him to ruminate in peace.



In another gallery, twins Brian '27 and Collin Boler '27, dressed in zip-up tiger suits, were examining ceramic figurines from the Ilkhanid dynasty (1256-1353 A.D.) They had come from the Ivy cross country championships that afternoon, they told me. With nationals coming up, they decided to feed their souls rather than break training.

What could keep such a party going late into the evening? At Princeton, it would be a dramatic reading from French playwright Jean Racine's 1669 tragedy, *Britannicus*. As I waited for the program to begin, half a dozen people took seats in my row. I asked the young woman sitting next to me why so many would turn out for Racine late on a Friday night.

"I'm in the French program," she explained. And your friends? "We're *all* in the French program."

Nevertheless, by showtime the lecture hall was full, and with people who didn't all appear to be in the French program.

While *Britannicus* was performed entirely in Classical French, the 1 a.m. movie, *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, was performed entirely in Wes Anderson, which can be equally hard to understand. Princeton's grand opening extravaganza still had another 15 hours to go. But for this reporter, it was time to go home.

On my way out, I ran into art museum director James Steward, who seemed enthusiastic about the evening as well as exhausted. The event was such a success, I suggested, the museum should hold a 24-hour Halloween open house every year. "Absolutely not," Steward declared. He had put his entire staff through this once, and once was enough.

ADDING TO THE ART

Clockwise from left: A George Washington doppelganger examines one of Roberto Lugo's vases. Andy Warhol's Flowers goes from canvas to costume. And what better painting to strike a pose with than Claude Monet's Water Lilies and Japanese Bridge?

Over the course of the evening, I noticed the composition of the crowd change. Older visitors left and were replaced by more students in costume, who continued to arrive in groups of four or five as parties on the Street let out. Shortly after 1 a.m., one such group came into the Great Hall, several of them dressed as police officers. What had made them come to the museum so late?

"I wanted to check it out," one of the student-cops explained. "It's the first day."

Just then, their leader rushed over. "The art is upstairs! The art is upstairs!" he announced.

And so, in the wee hours of the morning, they went off to see it. **P**

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

8 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE NEW ART MUSEUM

BY ELISABETH H. DAUGHERTY

AFTER FOUR YEARS OF CONSTRUCTION and all the worry, awe, and excitement that goes along with a massive project, it has finally happened: The new Princeton University Art Museum is open.

The buzz has been incredible. By all measures, this is a project that's meant to put Princeton on the map — not that Princeton wasn't already on the map.

It's located on the same spot as the old museum, with a much, much larger footprint. Museum director James Steward said at a press event in October that it would indeed have been easier to move to the edge of campus. But that would defeat the purpose.

"Building at the heart of things," he said, "signals the importance this University continues to place on the arts and humanities, as well as on making the experience of art part of everyday life."

He called it "a kind of town square in which we can all find ourselves in pursuit of knowledge, comfort, joy, and even provocation." At a time when the humanities are being questioned, polarization sows distrust, and AI makes it even more difficult to tell fact from fiction, he said, the museum is an act of faith.

Here are eight things to know about the new facility:

1. Much more of the collection is on display.

At 140,000 square feet, the new building doubles the size of the old one — and that space gets used. The collection of more than 117,000 objects spanning 5,000 years of human history rivals that of the Getty in Los Angeles, according to *The New York Times*, and about 5% of it is on display, compared with 2% in the old museum. Since the collection has grown with both freshly commissioned works and new donations — about 2,000 — visitors are really seeing a larger percentage of a larger number.

Steward said it all leads to "what is, in my view, one of our most potent characteristics, and that is our under-one-roofness — the possibilities that emerge when so many diverse cultural traditions are placed into dialogue with each other."

Note, about 40% of the collection is housed within the museum. Then there's that 5% on display. The rest? It's at a remote art storage building constructed eight years ago "at an undisclosed location," Steward said.

2. The design is supposed to combat "museum fatigue."

You know how you can get so tired after wandering a museum for hours that you start racing through? That's called "museum fatigue," and the new art museum was specifically designed to fight it. According to the museum's fall magazine (pick one up at the entrance), there are a few strategies at work: varying the size and feel of spaces to keep your eye engaged is one; strategically placing windows is another. The wood floors are meant to be forgiving on the legs and feet, and there's lots of places to sit.

3. Two "artwalks" encourage students to cut through the building.

Busy students hustling to class aren't supposed to navigate around the massive museum but stroll right through. On the first floor, one "artwalk" runs north-south and the other runs east-west. Both are flanked by glass cases full of pieces to be rotated regularly; QR codes take the interested onlooker to a list of what's what.

4. Walls inside and outside are made of sandblasted concrete.

What looks like dark granite in photos is actually concrete filled with charcoal-gray pebbles. It was cast in place, meaning molds were built right in the museum and the concrete was poured in. Then it was sandblasted to make the rough pebbles stand out. Steward said to him the effect is rough and fundamental, ancient and eroded, creating duality with the smooth, light-colored wood ceilings. (That wood is actually sustainable, laminated "glulam"; many of the floors are terrazzo.)

5. You can now walk over the floor mosaics, as the Romans intended.

The old museum had a few ancient mosaics installed on walls; one was on the floor but roped off. Now they have been installed in the floors, about a foot beneath heavy glass, so visitors can walk over and see them from the same perspective the Romans did.

6. A third-floor restaurant will replace lunches at Prospect House's Garden Room.

The restaurant, Mosaic, is effectively replacing the Garden Room at nearby Prospect House. Not only is some of the cooking done at Prospect (no open flames in the art museum!), but the Garden Room is now open only to private events, not daytime diners.

Mosaic has both indoor and outdoor dining spaces and is open Thursday through Monday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on weekends. Reservations can be made through Resy.com.

7. There are three conservation labs and six object study classrooms.

The old museum had one conservation studio mostly for paintings; this one has three, and they're meant for the many different media housed in the museum, like objects and paper. Six classrooms let students across disciplines incorporate art and artifacts into their coursework. Associate objects conservator Elena Torok said she herself had to learn art history from slides. "Bringing out objects is very exciting," she said.

8. Museum admission is free to all.

Just in case that wasn't clear. 



PRINCETONIANS

ALUMNI STORIES AND PERSPECTIVES



CAPPADOCIA SUNRISE

Jennifer Mickel '07 and her husband, CJ, are photographed at sunrise on the roof of a cave hotel in Cappadocia, Turkey, where each morning hundreds of hot air balloons rise over the iconic rock formations. The couple took this trip in 2019 and now call it their "honeymoon in hindsight" as their 2020 plans were canceled due to COVID. Browse PAW's Tiger Travels section for destination photos and stories about alumni adventures at paw.princeton.edu/tiger-travels. Want to contribute? Reach out to cspike@princeton.edu with your terrific travel photos or story ideas.

COURTESY OF JENNIFER MICKEL '07

SOLOMON TESFAYE *20

Finding New Footing, and a Novel, in the United States

BY JEN A. MILLER

WHEN SOLOMON TESFAYE *20, a refugee from Yemen, arrived in the U.S. as a teenager, he didn't know where his life would take him. What he did realize, as he grew and entered adulthood, was that he wanted to do work that would inspire others, whether that was through nonprofits and NGOs, or being named a PEN America Emerging Voices Fellow for a novel in progress about the refugee experience.

"I'm the only one in my community to get this far," he says. "What should I do with this to give back in whatever way I can?"

Tesfaye was born and raised in a refugee camp in Yemen, to parents who had fled Ethiopia. The family moved to Buffalo, New York, with the help of the U.N. Refugee Agency when he was 13 years old.

It was more than a bit of a culture — and climate — shock. His first fall in Buffalo was in 2006, when a rare October



lake-effect storm dumped nearly 2 feet of snow on the city. "I got stuck in a bodega," he says.

His parents opened a restaurant, Abyssinia Ethiopian Cuisine, which is now located in the food court at the Downtown Buffalo Bazaar, as a way to support the family. The restaurant became a valued meeting place and community spot for fellow refugees, which stuck in Tesfaye's mind as he graduated high school and then earned a bachelor's in behavioral neuroscience at Colgate University. By then, Princeton was on his radar because of potential neuroscience internships.

"Princeton and the likes of the Ivy League was unimaginable for a refugee because I didn't know of any refugees or anybody in my community that went to an Ivy League school or even applied to an Ivy League school," he says.

But instead of pursuing that path after graduating, he moved to Boston to work for a consulting firm, which is where the idea of getting an advanced degree in public policy took hold.

So had the idea of writing. While working on his master's in public affairs at Princeton, he was also thinking about sharing his story, so that fellow refugees would see themselves and others could learn more about what it's like to be one.

After Princeton, he took six months off to work on what has become the novel *In-Between Worlds*. While he continued to sharpen the book he also worked for nonprofit organizations and consulting groups to support the World Bank USA, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, among others. Tesfaye doesn't see his work in public policy and his work as a fiction writer as separate ambitions, or as having different goals.

This summer, he was selected as a 2025 PEN America Emerging Voices Fellow, which is for early-career writers from communities that are typically underrepresented in publishing. His novel is a dual-timeline story about Hana, a Christian Ethiopian girl raised in a Yemen refugee camp who becomes a successful attorney in the U.S. When an asylum seeker dredges up secrets about Hana, she must confront her past and reckon with what freedom, home, and justice really mean.

Through the fellowship, Tesfaye will receive five months of one-on-one mentorship in both writing and the practicalities of how the publishing industry works, including how to market and create a platform. It will also provide introductions to editors, agents, and publishers.

"This book feels like a calling from my faith," he says, adding that he also believes it's important to put refugee experiences, even fictionalized ones, into written form. While the oral tradition of storytelling is powerful in his community, it often keeps stories contained within circles that already know them. Writing his story ensures it travels farther, reaches people who need to hear it, and takes its rightful place alongside the narratives that shape history and culture.

"For people like me who are both African American and Arab, we contain multiple identities that I think showcase that our existence as a refugee is not a monolith. We're a stew of so many different things," he says, which he hopes will show through in this novel. **P**



SOLOMON TESFAYE *20



LOU CHEN '19

Teaching Music to Immigrant Children

BY ALISON BOWEN

WHEN LOU CHEN '19 JOINED INTEMPO, he was surprised by a whirlwind of Princeton connections ensuring the nonprofit thrives.

INTEMPO, a Stamford, Connecticut-based nonprofit, teaches multicultural and classical music to children predominantly from immigrant backgrounds. By connecting students with music, it hopes to engage them in the field as well as use music as a way to build socioemotional and interpersonal skills.

Since joining as CEO in November 2024, Chen has worked with many fellow Princeton alums who have supported the program in various ways.

For example, Lisa Petno '84, whose

twin sons were in the same class as Chen at Princeton and were both involved in INTEMPO, was a founding board chair. Advisory council member Yousun Chung is a lecturer in the Princeton music department and has organized several benefit concerts.

And Juanita James '74, a former Princeton trustee, was an early supporter of INTEMPO; as CEO of Fairfield County's Community Foundation, she was instrumental in helping INTEMPO receive grants for arts and education nonprofits.

MAKING MUSIC

Lou Chen '19 conducts students from INTEMPO and the Norwalk Youth Symphony at the Cultural Crossover Concert in April.

"INTEMPO matters because it builds an emotional connection and facilitates understanding between the Latino culture and Western American culture through musical expression," James says. "Experiencing an INTEMPO performance uplifts the spirit."

The Princeton connections make sense, Chen adds, as he feels the University encourages students to go forward into the world, during school and after graduation, with a service-minded curiosity.

"I think INTEMPO is in practice what I studied in theory at Princeton," he says. "The commitment to service, it feels very intentionally baked into every aspect of the student experience."

He adds, "There is a curiosity that Princeton embeds in students that leads to students asking the right questions that inevitably leads to wanting to answer them."

Chen himself created multiple arts programs before INTEMPO, including the Trenton Youth Orchestra while he was at Princeton, for which he was recognized with the A. James Fisher Jr.

COURTESY OF INTEMPO

Memorial Award from the Pace Center for Civic Engagement. He also launched the Saturday Morning Arts program, which connects University mentors with high school students who are invited to dance, sing, act, and play instruments on Saturday mornings.

As for INTEMPO, the group began in 2011, when violinist Angélica Durrell, an immigrant from Ecuador, founded INTAKE Music, now known as INTEMPO.

It teaches students between 6 and 17 years old, providing instruments like the violin, viola, cello, piano, and guitar; no music experience is needed. The group recruits students from all over Fairfield County with social media and tables at community events. Many come to them simply through parent word-of-mouth.

More than 700 students annually participate across all programs, including not only the music school but also the Summer Music Session and school and partnership programs. The organization celebrated its 15th anniversary in November with a quinceañera.

At INTEMPO's music school, more than 140 students receive private and small-group instruction in instruments such as violin, piano, and guitar. They also receive lessons, Chen says, in voice and audio production.

INTEMPO also offers music classes through the after-school programs of local public schools and partners with Stamford Public Schools to teach music in its New Arrivals classes for children who migrated very recently, in some cases days earlier.

Often, just because, families will stay to chat in the lobby, or students will show up on days they don't even have lessons, simply to do homework. Being located downtown helps foster these connections, Chen says. "We are in the community, which enables a level of deep relationship-building that I enjoy so much."

The group also teaches Latin American instruments such as the charango, a 10-string instrument native to the Andean region. Chen says their program is the only one he knows of teaching this on the East Coast.

"That culturally responsive focus is crucial to our work," says Chen.



Princeton RISE (Recognizing Inequities and Standing for Equality) — a fellowship program that connects students with social justice organizations for summer internships — placed four interns with INTEMPO for its summer programming. Formerly, the nonprofit could only provide two weeks of classes, Chen says, but this year with that help, it was able to offer programming throughout the summer.

Princeton sophomore Anabel Guerreiro worked as a RISE intern this past summer, teaching violin, viola, and cello. She loved connecting with teachers, students, and family members, she says,

STUDENT SERVICE

Above: Princeton sophomore and RISE intern Anabel Guerreiro works with an INTEMPO student during a summer music session. Left: Lou Chen '19 created multiple arts programs before INTEMPO, including the Trenton Youth Orchestra.

as well as embracing how INTEMPO and music can bring people together.

"I think my favorite part about interning at INTEMPO was getting to be integrated into such a welcoming and vibrant community," she says, "particularly in how the organization values being responsive to the needs of its community."

Guerreiro grew up in nearby Fairfield, Connecticut, and as a string player, she knew about its music programs.

"To have the opportunity to be part of a group whose mission — about music and education as a means for holistic community support — I've always admired was one I did not want to pass up," she says.

Of the RISE interns, Chen adds, "They really are a testament to the impact that bright, motivated Princeton students can have on a nonprofit."

And for the INTEMPO students, as well as the Princeton students, these classes can offer a lens into something that may or may not become a career. "Even if it's not their career path of choice, there's always something to be learned from a different experience," he says. ■



INSPIRING PRINCETONIANS: SHARON GAMSON DANKS '93

Building Safe, Environmentally Friendly Playgrounds

BY MEAGAN JORDAN

WHEN IT COMES TO FIGHTING climate change in everyday life, most people think of solutions like recycling or riding bikes to save on energy. But Sharon Gamson Danks '93 is finding ways to improve the environment by reforming playgrounds for children. Danks founded the Berkeley, California-based nonprofit Green Schoolyards America in 2013 to make playgrounds safer and greener for children by replacing asphalt while also teaching them environmental policy through age-appropriate play.

"We're an organization that aims to remake the standard for outdoor infrastructure at schools," says Danks. "We're trying to shift the paradigm from pavement and grass into ecologically rich park-scapes."

Her goal is to create eco-friendly playgrounds where children not only play, but also learn the value of contributing to their outdoor environments. As part of the process, Danks and her team find locations that have "the least nature" and repurpose these areas by planting trees. This

led Danks to also form the statewide initiative California Schoolyard Forest System in 2022 to increase tree canopy and shade on school grounds.

"We think kids should go to school in ecologically rich park areas that will help their city's ecological systems absorb stormwater, cool heat islands with shade trees, and bring wildlife habitat," she says. The other part of the job involves meeting with local and federal governments on developing environmental policies for schoolyards. "A lot of it is policy work," says Danks. "If all your policies and systems point toward making pavement and indoor learning, how do we reshape that into green space?"

Danks' passion for environmental reform began during her time on Princeton's campus. She majored in religion but found her environmental studies and governmental policy classes fascinating. "It sparked my interest," she says.

Eager to learn, Danks upped her reading, getting familiar with titles like *The Control of Nature* by John McPhee '53,

GOING GREEN

Sharon Gamson Danks '93 founded Green Schoolyards America to make playgrounds safer and more environmentally friendly.

which details nature's complex yet beautiful systems.

"That book was really interesting and sticks in my head 30 years later," Danks says. She also had a friend whose father worked within the environmental field and was a mentor of sorts, providing guidance on tangible ways to enter the discipline. "He gave me great advice. He said, 'Try out three different career paths in the environmental fields, pick one, and go to grad school,' and that's what I did." She earned her master's in city planning and landscape architecture from the University of California, Berkeley.

After several jobs — including interning with Princeton Project 55, which places interns at nonprofits working toward systemic change — Danks co-founded a group called the International School Grounds Alliance. Its mission is to improve playgrounds. This laid the foundation for the work she does now through Green Schoolyards America and the California Schoolyard Forest System. Given the success of the nonprofits in California, her team is now working to expand and create similar programs in New Mexico and Nevada.

She hopes her work helps change the trajectory of kids' relationship to their environment. There are numerous benefits to greener playgrounds, including better test scores, as studies show trees benefit children's mental and physical health. In collaboration with several other nonprofits focused on greening playgrounds, Green Schoolyards America has helped renovate more than 300 playgrounds.

Danks adds, "School is the place where I think we have an obligation to provide [kids] with environments that they need to build their skills, confidence, and operations." 

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.

CLASS NOTES

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



MEMORIALS



LISTEN TO OUR NEW MEMORIALS PAWCAST

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

THE CLASS OF 1947

BRUCE L. DOUGLAS '47

Bruce died May 4, 2025, at his home in Riverwoods, Ill.

He was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1925. After graduating from Princeton, he earned his doctor in dental surgery at NYU with specialty training in maxillofacial surgery at Columbia University. He later earned an MPH from the University of California, Berkeley.

Bruce served in the Navy with deployment to Japan during the Korean War. He practiced oral surgery and taught until 2025 at the University of Illinois Chicago, where he was a founding faculty member of UIC's School of Public Health. He provided consultation on dental and public health for the World Health Organization and participated in multiple medical aid missions. Bruce later developed expertise regarding the older worker and senescence. He was honored in 2024 with the launch of the Douglas Award at UIC.

Bruce served two terms in the Illinois state legislature in the 1970s and later was a Fulbright ambassador to the Soviet Union and Russia. He published extensively, and his zeal for life and learning continued into his 100th year.

Bruce is survived by his wife, Veronica; children; and grandchildren. The class sends its deepest sympathies.

THE CLASS OF 1949

JAMES D. McNAIR '49

Jim died Feb. 8, 2025, in Mystic, Conn. He was 96. Prior to his death he lived in Stonington, Conn.

Jim was born in Spokane, Wash., and at Princeton majored in English and was a member of Elm Club. He received a bachelor's degree in architecture from the Yale University School of Fine Arts in 1956.

His professional life in Manhattan included work at the offices of architect Philip Johnson and at Designs for Business, known for its work in mid-century modern style, where he worked on interior design installations for corporate offices and private homes.

In 1971, Jim and his life partner Sewell Sillman, painter and art teacher, moved

from Manhattan to Grassy Hill Road in Lyme, Conn., where he continued his work with renovations to buildings in the area. Sewell died in 1992. In 2015, Jim oversaw the exhibition, the Modern Art of Sewell Sillman, at the Florence Griswold Museum's Kriebel Gallery in Old Lyme.

Jim was known for his good nature and generosity, and for giving memorable dinner parties with his partner at their home. A classmate at Princeton recalled that he learned all about Beethoven sonatas from Jim, who played those records frequently.

He is survived by his sister Catherine Jensen, four nieces, one nephew, and his extended family.

THE CLASS OF 1952

NEIL CARLTON CLEMENTS '52

Neil came to us from Oakwood High in Dayton, Ohio, and was a member of Quadrangle Club.



In 1956, he earned a medical degree from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and practiced general surgery

in Tucson, Ariz., until 1994. He volunteered his surgical skills in Kenya and was active in his church.

Neil died April 18, 2025. He is survived by his wife, Virginia; and their children Lisa, Beth, Robert, and Neil Jr., to whom the class sends its good wishes.

SPENCER GORDON JR. '52

Spence came to Princeton from St. Paul's School, roomed with Land and was a member of Quadrangle Club.



After graduating *magna cum laude*, he attended Harvard Medical School, graduating *cum laude* in 1956, and had a psychiatry

residency in 1963 at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester.

His career-long practice of psychiatry and psychoanalysis in Washington, D.C., was accompanied by service at the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home and concluded by consulting at Langley.

Spence was associate clinical professor at George Washington University School

of Medicine, president of the American Society of Physician Analysts, and led or served in other roles at other professional organizations.

Spence died June 2, 2024. He is survived by his wife, Mary Truxton; and their children, Spencer III, Thomas, and Helen '84. The class sends them its best wishes and respect for Spence's remarkable career.

THE CLASS OF 1953

HOWARD I. LeVINE '53

Howard died June 1, 2025, in Aventura, Fla.

He was born in Paterson, N.J., and



graduated from Blair Academy before coming to Princeton. He was a member of Court Club and majored in the Special Program in European Civilization and

Culture. His thesis was titled "The European Middle Classes As Viewed by Thomas Mann and André Gide."

After graduation, Howard went to work for the Metropolitan Insurance Co. Four years later he assisted in the start of Citadel Life of New York and in 1977 he joined the Prudential, training agents in almost every state in the sale of qualified pension products. Taking early retirement in 1986, he established his own pension actuarial company that ultimately operated in 20 states. He sold the company and retired in 2001.

Howard is survived by a stepson and four grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1954

RICHARD STEVENS III '54

Dick died July 3, 2025, his 93rd birthday.

He came to Princeton from Youngstown,



Ohio, where he earned the Associated Press All-Ohio honors in football at Boardman High School. At Princeton, Dick majored in economics, joined Cottage

Club, and played varsity football all four years, which included the undefeated 1951 season. He later served as a Division I head linesman in the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference for 30 years.

Following service as an Army officer in Germany, Dick earned an MBA from Wharton and married Nalda Van Brunt. He joined IBM in 1958. After 29 years, he took early retirement and joined Computer Aid in Bethlehem, Pa., retiring Jan. 1, 2000. He also served on several corporate boards.

Dick loved golf, fly-fishing, skeet shooting, skiing, and world travel. A dedicated Princetonian, he served as our class secretary (1989–94) and president (2004–09). He treasured his lifelong friendships with his roommates — Joe Castle, Peter Gall, Derek Price, Donald Rumsfeld, Somers

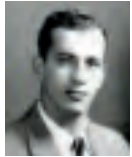
Steelman, Mike Weatherly, Sid Wentz, and Prewitt Turner.

Nalda, Dick's wife of 67 years, predeceased him in May. He is survived by daughters Leslie Stevens '81, Page, and Tip '86, and seven grandsons.

THE CLASS OF 1955

JOHN H. COLLINS III '55

John died April 8, 2025, in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., after a successful advertising career.



Before Princeton, he graduated from Rocky River (Ohio) High School, where he played basketball, baseball, and football and participated

in student government. At Princeton, he joined Cannon Club and the Cleveland Club. He played freshman basketball and two years of varsity basketball. He was also active in IAA football, golf, and basketball. John majored in economics but later said he found it "a bloody bore" and wished he had majored in English. His senior-year roommates were Bob Schofield and Paul Wythes. After Princeton, John served as a lieutenant in the Army, then graduated from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business.

John had a long career in advertising and lived for many years in New York City. Following retirement in 2005, he and his wife Francine moved to North Palm Beach, Fla. Francine died in 2021.

HARRY F. ESTILL III '55

Harry died May 18, 2025.

He was born Feb. 8, 1934, in St. Louis and attended St. Louis Country Day School. At Princeton, he majored in economics and joined Key and Seal Club, where he served as its sports manager and played IAA touch football, basketball, and softball. He was vice president of the Westminster Fellowship, special events chairman of the S.C.A., and a senior assistant to the Board of Advisers. He was also a member of the Triangle Club stage crew. Senior year he roomed with Jim McGough and John Cruikshank.

After Princeton Harry began a career in the Army, serving on active duty for two years and in the Reserve for 10 years, retiring as a captain. He met Sue Washbond at a dance; they were married in 1958 and were one of 12 couples featured in a popular book on successful marriages *Thirty Lessons for Loving*. He received an MBA from Harvard and began a 34-year career in management with Pet Inc., including time as director of European operations.

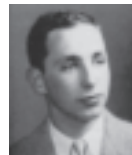
Harry was active in many charitable and civic organizations. He was a lifelong

volunteer for Princeton, president of the Princeton Alumni Association of St. Louis for many years, and in 1985 he received the Jerry Horton Award for volunteer service. He loved agriculture and farm management, especially at his Power Farms in Illinois. In 2000, that farm was selected as the site for the Farm Progress Show, the nation's largest outdoor farm show.

Harry is survived by his wife of 66 years, Sue; sons Craig and Matt '87; and three grandchildren.

OWEN A. SHTEIR '55

Owen, a physician known also for his devotion to gardening and literature, died



Feb. 9, 2025. He was born May 30, 1933, in Philadelphia and attended Princeton High School, where he participated in publication of the student newspaper and band. He

excelled in science, having been a finalist in what was then the Westinghouse Science Talent Search.

At Princeton, he majored in biology and joined Prospect Club and the Outing Club. His interests included music, travel, and camping. After Princeton he attended Yale Medical School, enrolled in a dermatology residency at the Skin and Cancer Hospital in Philadelphia, then settled in Princeton and joined the Princeton Medical Group, where he practiced for the rest of his career. He had a strong interest in tropical skin diseases and donated time as a medical volunteer in the U.S. Indian Service as well as in clinics in Brazil and the Caribbean.

Owen and his wife, Marilyn, loved their time in Princeton. She taught in the public schools and they both found much to do. As he noted in our 50th-reunion yearbook, "Princeton is no longer an isolated university town in the midst of New Jersey fields. It is still an exceptional community and a very pleasant one to reside in. Marilyn and I have enjoyed auditing many classes and attending various seminars over the years. I'm impressed that Princeton University is a better place now than it was in the years celebrated by the Class of '55. It's gratifying to see that institutions as well as people can grow and mature."

Owen is survived by Marilyn and their two children, Rachel and Seth.

THE CLASS OF 1956

DAVID C. SCHALL '56

Dave died April 4, 2025, in Upper Marlboro, Md.

He came to Princeton from John Marshall High in Cleveland, where he was an active participant in drama and choir. He joined Cloister, majored in chemical engineering, sang in the Chapel Choir, rowed with the 150-pound crew as the coxswain, and was



awarded the Hildrup-Bardwell Memorial award. As a result of a successful senior rowing season, he traveled to England and participated in the Henley Regatta.

Dave's professional career focused on the design and operation of oil refineries for Standard Oil of Ohio and BP America, serving as manager of refining projects in Cleveland. He played a major role in the 1960s in developing a commercial process for producing oil from oil shale.

Dave and Carol Ault were married in June 1959 and raised two daughters, Jennifer Schall Baldwin and Onni Schall Chan.

Carol died in 2019. Dave is survived by his daughters; grandchildren Christopher, Jillian, Gwendolyn, and Benjamin; step-grandchildren Felicia, Michelle, Kevin Jr., and Erica; and step-great-granddaughter Carolyn.

THE CLASS OF 1957

BRUCE A. MARTIN '57

Bruce died Jan. 8, 2025. He came to Princeton from Walpole (N.H.) High School.



He majored in English, was a Commons captain for three years, and a library assistant for four years. He joined Cloister Inn and played intramural basketball. His senior-year roommate was Bill Johns.

Bruce married his childhood sweetheart, Janet Prentiss, shortly after graduation. Having participated in Army ROTC, he served as an artillery officer at various bases in the United States and Europe, including SHAPE headquarters in Belgium; had two deployments to Vietnam; and was a battalion commander. He completed the Army Command and General Staff College and Army War College courses and then taught at both. He retired from the Army in 1985 as a full colonel.

Bruce joined Cambridge International in Virginia, serving until 1993, when he moved back home to Walpole. He was active in the First Congregational Church there, as well as in the American Legion and Walpole Grange. He spearheaded a group that created and raised funds for the veterans memorial in Walpole. He also relaxed at his family cottage on Lake Warren, collected coins, was an avid card player, and tended a noteworthy garden.

Bruce is survived by his wife of 67 years, Jan; their children, Gregory, Steven, and Tracey; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

BARTON VERET '57

One of the few classmates from Nebraska, Barry moved to Bethesda, Md., where he died June 6, 2025.



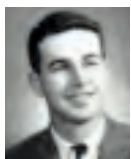
He came to Princeton from Omaha Central High School, receiving the Donald Neil Campbell Ross 1917 Scholarship. To obtain additional funds, Barry sold ties for the Student Tie Agency. He majored in philosophy and joined Key & Seal Club, for which he played intramural hockey. Barry was a member of the Undergraduate Council, the Pre-Law Society, and the Outing Club, and he worked on the class memorial fund. Senior year he roomed with Mac Seymour.

Following graduation Barry went to Harvard Law School, earned an LL.B. degree, and then served in the Army. He became an antitrust lawyer with the Department of Justice, followed by a long career as a legal adviser with the Agency for International Development. During this period, he got married and worked mostly in Washington, but also served in Nigeria. In retirement he wrote and published three novels, and as he said in our 50th-reunion yearbook, he enjoyed traveling on foot and on watercraft that "don't much use motors."

He is survived by his wife, Nancy; stepdaughters Leslie Strittmatter and Linda Kobrin and their families; and sisters Linda Rindler and Judy Hoberman and their families.

LEX R. WINANS '57

A lifelong resident of the Pittsburgh area, Lex died there July 7, 2025.



He came to Princeton from Wilkesburg High School, where he was captain of the golf team. He majored in the Special Program in Latin American Civilization and took his meals at Tower Club, for which he played numerous intramural sports. He was on the freshman swimming team and continued his golfing activities, but not as a team member. He was a member of the Spanish Club and the Schools Committee. Lex roomed with Barry Caskey, Jim Herr, and Dave Vannatta senior year.

Lex served in the Army following graduation, attended the University of Pittsburgh School of Business Administration, and held many different jobs, such as selling encyclopedias, safety equipment, and life insurance. In 1963, he married Bonnie Lee Wyman, and they had two children, Lex and Molly. He settled into a job as vice president and sales manager for W.E. Zimmie, a specialty chemical business, saying that among our classmates, he was probably "the only guy in the mud removal business." Eventually he went into the coal brokerage business and became president of Coal Hill Mining Co., selling to steel mills, utilities, and other companies, and retiring

at 86 years old.

After divorcing Bonnie, in 1978 he married Karen Stone; that marriage also ended in divorce. His third wife, Jacqueline "Jackie" Hamilton, brought four children, Bruce, Brian, Hilary, and D.H., into the marriage. Lex served on the Class of 1957 Caring Committee, for which we are grateful, and he spent time before and after retirement on golf, skiing, and world travels.

He is survived by Jackie, his two children, four stepchildren, and their families.

THE CLASS OF 1959

HOWARD G. HUDSON '59

Howie grew up in Syracuse and Fayetteville, N.Y. He graduated from Loomis School,



where he played football and baseball, and received the Batchelder Art Prize upon graduation. At Princeton, he majored in sociology and economics, graduating *cum laude*. A member of Cannon Club and a varsity football player, he roomed with Helfenstein, Henderson, R. Hill, Waters, and Warwick.

Early on at Princeton he met the boxing coach/sculpture professor Joe Brown, who became his mentor, first in boxing and then in sculpting. Following graduation, Howie served his 90-day military commitment as an ambulance driver in the Marine Corps Reserve. He then moved to New York City, where he met Harriet Corvo; they were married two years later.

Howie started a business career at Morgan Guaranty, becoming head of fixed income in the trust investment division. After 20 years there, he moved on to a partnership at BEA Associates, then his own firm that underwent a series of mergers. He retired in 2000 and turned to an initial love: sculpture.

The Hudsons lived most of their married life in Waccabuc, N.Y., where Howie served as president of the Waccabuc Country Club. They moved to North Palm Beach as he approached retirement.

Howie died Aug. 29, 2024, at his home in North Palm Beach. He is survived by his wife, Harriet; daughters Elizabeth and Amy; and three grandchildren.

EUGENE J. KRAUS '59

Gene died Jan. 11, 2024.



Soon after he was born in Syracuse, N.Y., his family moved to Albany. Gene graduated from Albany High School, where he played basketball and ran cross-country. Entering Princeton, where he held the Frank Gannett Foundation Scholarship, Gene worked in the student center and took his meals at Prospect Club. He played club basketball and volleyball, but his main

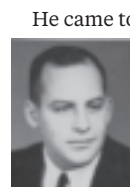
interest and his major course of study was in the field of mathematics, and he served as president of the Mathematics Club. Following Princeton, Gene earned a master's degree in mathematics from the University of Chicago and a Ph.D. from the University of Tampere in Finland.

Unfortunately, we do not have many details about Gene's postgraduate career. He married in 1967 and together with his wife, Sherry, enjoyed hiking in his beloved White Mountains of New Hampshire, swimming, rock climbing, cross-country skiing, and other outdoor activities. He was known to have been teaching at Monroe Community College in Rochester, N.Y., from 1998 to 2003. He was living in the Syracuse area at the time of his death.

Gene is survived by Sherry and an older brother.

ROBERT W. MANDELL '59

Bob died Nov. 5, 2023, in Pittsburgh.



He came to Princeton after attending Taylor Allderice High School in Pittsburgh, where he was on the football and track teams, president of the senior class, and interfraternity chairman. He was preceded at Princeton by his brother, Stanley '57, and an uncle, Joseph, in the Class of 1922.

At Princeton, Bob majored in politics, took his meals at Elm Club, served as its president, and played on its IAA football and hockey teams. He roomed with Carl Rapp. After graduation he attended the University of Pittsburgh Law School, graduating with a law degree in 1962.

He practiced law briefly in Pittsburgh but left to join his family business, Reinhold Ice Cream Co., where he served as president for 50 years. At Reinhold he developed its flagship product, "Nancy Grey Shakes," a niche product favored by dieticians to boost appetites of cancer patients.

Married to Diane Beckerman, Bob was survived by her, their three children, 13 grandchildren, and his brother Stanley, to whom the class sends its condolences.

GILBERT A. RATCLIFF JR. '59

Gil, a retired pediatric physician, died Nov. 11, 2023, at home in Proctorville, Ohio.



He was born in Huntington, W.Va., Jan. 7, 1938. He graduated from Huntington High School, where he played the trombone in the band and was a member of the honor society. Enrolled as a pre-med at Princeton, he majored in biology and was a member of the Marching Band, Whig-Clio, and Court Club. His senior-year roommates were Peter Burch, Bill Beim,

John Cook, and Bob Baker.

Following Princeton, Gil attended Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, graduating in 1963. He did his two-year residency work in Cleveland, then two more years in the Army at Fort Knox. He married Betsy White in 1964 after she graduated from Johns Hopkins School of Nursing.

Gil returned to Huntington in solo practice for 15 years, then co-founded a neonatal intensive care unit at Huntington Hospital and served as a professor of pediatrics at Marshall University School of Medicine.

Predeceased by his wife of 53 years, Gil is survived by his three children and six grandchildren.

DENNIS A. SNIDER '59

Denny, of Chicago, died Jan. 26, 2024. Survivors include his wife, Marilyn; their five children; and six grandchildren.

Denny was born in the small town of Walnut, Ill., Jan. 3, 1937. He was valedictorian of his class at Walnut High School, where his father was the principal, and he earned all-conference recognition in football and basketball. He was awarded a National Merit for Illinois and Indiana to attend Princeton. For his junior year, he transferred to Northwestern University, where he obtained his undergraduate degree, married Marilyn in 1960, and earned an M.A. in history. Because of his transfer to Northwestern there is no information on Denny's undergraduate career in the *Nassau Herald*.

Denny's obituary describes a varied career. He was a high school teacher and a track and football coach from 1959 to 1970. He then became a systems analyst at Allstate and CNA until his retirement in 2005, with a two-year break in between when he and Marilyn moved to Canada. He was a strong proponent of higher education and encouraged his children and grandchildren to pursue their dreams.

A long battle with Alzheimer's closed out Denny's life. He maintained his love of family and sense of humor to the end.

THOMAS B. TOWERS '59

Tom died Feb. 3, 2024, in New Canaan, Conn. Predeceased by his wife, he is survived by his



sons, Thomas and Andrew, and his five grandchildren.

Tom was born in New York City and attended St. Marks School and Manhasset (N.Y.) High School his junior and senior years. At Manhasset, he excelled in football, wrestling, and lacrosse and was a member of the National Honor Society and the student congress. At Princeton, he majored in the Woodrow Wilson School and played lacrosse and 150-pound football for four years. He was a member of Cannon Club and roomed in the Rockefeller suite with

nine classmates.

Following graduation, Tom served three years as an officer in the Marines. Upon separation, he attended Harvard Business School, graduating in 1964. His first job was with IBM. After five years there, he decided he was more of an entrepreneur, and his career included several startups and smaller companies in the high technology/computer industries, most of which were successful.

Tom was involved in local community activities. He played golf and tennis, was on the board of the U.S. Lacrosse Foundation, and was the co-founder of the New Canaan Lacrosse Association. He also served on the board of the New Canaan Congregation Church and was the first president of New Canaan Staying Put, which enables mature residents to age in place.

THE CLASS OF 1960

JEFFREY T. BEAVER '60

Jeff prepared for Princeton at Albany Academy, N.Y., where he served as class



president, captain of the track team, and played basketball and football. With us, he majored in English, wrote for the *Princeton Tiger*, worked on the Campus Fund Drive, joined Cap and Gown, and played rugby.

On graduation Jeff moved directly to Wall Street. He began his career with Schroeder's and pursued his further education with an MBA in 1965 from New York University and a CFA from the Institute of Certified Financial Analysis. He spent the greater part of his career with what became J. Henry Schroeder Inc., working mostly in mergers and acquisitions. In later years, he moved to CoView Capital in the same work and then to directorships in several pharmaceutical companies.

Proximity (living in Brooklyn, N.Y.), two Princeton daughters (Julia '01 and Annabelle '09), keen interest in sports, and the comforts of Cap and old friends worked over time to produce a record of more than 100 postgrad visits to the Best Old Place of All.

Jeff died just after our 65th, on June 5, 2025. He is survived by his wife of more than 45 years, Vicki; Julia and Annabelle; and two grandchildren, to all of whom we send our condolences.

KENNEDY W. GILCHRIST '60

Ken graduated from Evanston Township (Ill.) High School, where he participated in student government and ran track. With us, he majored in biology, joined the Student Christian Society and Whig-Clio, and worked for the Campus Fund Drive and the *Nassau Herald*. Senior year he shared the Henry Towers executive suite with five others and



took his meals at Wilson Lodge.

Ken earned a medical degree at University of Pennsylvania Medical School in 1964 and did his residency in anatomic pathology at Rush Medical College, Chicago, in 1966. He served two years in the Army Medical Corps, including a year in South Korea. After further studies in pathology at the University of Wisconsin Hospital, Madison, he joined the staff as a surgical pathologist for a career of more than 30 years. Ken co-published numerous pathology and oncology papers and expanded the school's pathology program. He retired in 2003 as professor emeritus of the School of Medicine and Public Health.

Ken shared a lifetime — "since 1948!" — of frustration with fellow Chicago Bears fans, assuaged in part by his love of early classical music and Wagner's operas. He was an enthusiastic traveler, frequently to seaside birding sites. He was "a craniac" and longtime supporter of the International Crane Foundation.

Ken died June 22, 2025. He is survived by his wife, Heidi; a son and daughter from his first marriage; Heidi's son and daughter; three grandchildren; and their families.

WALTER G. SMYTH '60

A U.S. diplomat's son, Walt was educated in several places. He graduated from Bedford



Modern School in Bedford, U.K., before a prep year at the University of Grenoble, France. With us, he became captain of the freshman crew and rowed varsity for two

years. He majored in politics and joined Cottage Club, the French Club, and the Marine Corps Semper Fi Society.

Walt served three years as an officer in the Marines before joining Armco Steel in Middleton, Ohio. He enjoyed advancement and a promising career until the time of our 25th reunion, when the rapid decline of the U.S. steel industry brought down Armco and almost all of the industry in short order. As other Rust Belt industries withered, Walt ruefully described himself as a poster boy for America's industrial decline.

He then began a second career in commercial real estate in Florida. That industry suffered its own travails in the 1980s and '90s, but Walt carried on and made a good career of it until gradual retirement after our 50th. Always a good citizen, he was active in civic works through both his careers and was a lifelong avid angler.

Walt died May 22, 2025, of complications of a stroke. He was predeceased by his wife, Madeline. He is survived by five children and six grandchildren. Our sympathies to all the family.

THE CLASS OF 1961**SIDNEY J. FRIEDMAN '61**

Sid died April 3, 2025, in Wellesley, Mass.



Born in Des Moines, Iowa, he came to us from Roosevelt High School. At Princeton, he majored in English under the Special Program in the Humanities, graduating *summa cum laude*. He was in Theatre Intime and

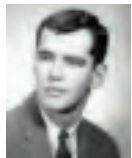
Triangle and wrote movie reviews for *The Daily Princetonian*. A member of Terrace Club, he roomed with John Kremer, Nick MacNeil, Dave Hulett, Ben Bassett, Irwin Kuntz, Jim Raybin, Walt Schroeder, and John Brothers.

Sid earned a master's degree and a Ph.D. at the University of Iowa in directing and dramatic theory respectively, then became a professor in the arts at Washington University in St. Louis, where he collaborated with classmate Richard Palmer in creating a new performing arts curriculum. In 1981, Sid joined Boston University's School of Theater, where he not only taught and directed myriad plays but also was engaged in many other theater arts activities in Boston and nationally, retiring in 2018.

Sid is survived by his wife of 63 years, Margo; daughter Lisa; son Mark; and their families, which include five grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1962**CHARLES M. CARROLL '62**

Chick died June 1, 2025, at home in Topsham, Maine.



He came to us from Governor Dummer Academy in Newbury, Mass. At Princeton, he was a history major and dined at Tiger Inn.

After graduation he worked for Uniroyal for six years, followed by employment in the Johnson administration in the Bureau of the Budget and Department of Transportation. Following his federal service, he joined DGA International, a Washington lobbying firm. In 1976, Chick and his first wife, Connie, moved to Maine, where he started a lobster business. Selling this, he founded Realty Development Group, which had projects in Maine, New Hampshire, and Florida. In 1991, Chick and his second wife, Ann, created Whitetail Resort, a ski area on the Pa./Md. border about 100 miles west of both Washington and Baltimore. They went on to open a sea kayaking guiding business in Freeport, Maine, but later sold their home to live on their sailboat for five years. In 2001, they returned ashore and built a home in Topsham.

After enrolling in seminary, Chick was ordained an Episcopal deacon, serving in his parish and as a part-time hospital chaplain.

Chick is survived by his wife, Ann; children Allison, John, Marcus, and Melany; eight grandchildren; and his first wife, Connie. The class extends its sympathy to all.

KENNETH WHITHAM '62

Ken grew up in Ridgefield, Conn., graduating from St. Luke's School in New Canaan. At Princeton, he majored in electrical engineering, was a research assistant in the Elementary Particles Laboratory, was active at WPRB, and dined at Campus Club.



Ken received a master's degree in physics from the University of Southern California in 1964 and remained a California resident the rest of his life. From 1979 to 1999, he served as a project leader at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. From then until 2016, he held several positions at Siemens Corp., including as a principal engineer. During his years at Siemens, sometimes with a partner, he was awarded 16 patents for advances in the linear accelerators used for radiation treatment of cancer.

Ken married Judie Fulton in 1962. They had five children and shared a deep Christian faith. For pleasure, Ken played the piano and the trombone. Together they enjoyed bluegrass music, boating, camping, golf, gardening, and gathering with friends and family.

Judie died in December 2024. Ken died May 29, 2025. They were preceded in death by two of their children, David and Wendy, and are survived by children Chris, Karen, and Ken and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1963**ALLEN D. BLACK '63**

Allen, a distinguished Philadelphia lawyer with a long record of service to pro bono



and nonprofit organizations, died June 18, 2025, with his husband, Randy Appgar, at his side at their home in Point Pleasant, Pa.

At Princeton, Allen majored in history, belonged to Cloister Inn, and was news editor of *The Daily Princetonian* in senior year. He graduated *magna cum laude* from Penn law and was third in his class.

Allen's legal career included more than 40 years of antitrust and professional liability litigation with the firm of Fine, Kaplan & Black, which he founded. He served on the faculties of the University of North Dakota Law School, Rutgers-Camden Law School, Temple University Law School, and the University of Pennsylvania School of Law. He was vice president of the American Law Institute for 10 years.

A pilot for most of his life, Allen served for 20 years on the Bucks County Airport Authority, 10 of them as chairman. He learned to fly at Princeton after writing a feature story in the *Prince* on the Princeton Flying Club, which flew three little planes from the grass Princeton Airport just north of town. He interviewed classmate John Stubbs, the club president, who took him on a flight and even let him fly the plane. "I was hooked!" Allen wrote for our 50th-reunion yearbook.

In addition to Randy, Allen is survived by many cousins and their spouses and children.

LAURENCE M. LASATER '63

Laurie, a fourth-generation rancher and an international force in the cattle-breeding industry, died July 2, 2025. Annette, his wife of 60 years and his business partner, died just 11 days before him. They lived in San Angelo, Texas.



A native of San Antonio, Texas, Laurie grew up in eastern Colorado, attended Fountain Valley School near Colorado Springs, and came to Princeton from Lawrenceville School.

He majored in the Special Program in Latin American Civilization, played 150-pound football, and took his meals at Tiger Inn. He was a Chapel deacon and served on the executive committee of the Campus Fund Drive.

Laurie married Annette Nixon in 1964. They moved to Coahuila, Mexico, where they introduced the Beefmaster breed of cattle that his parents founded. Both of their children, Laurence M. "Lorenzo" Jr., and Annette Isabel were born in Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Mexico.

In 1972, the family moved to San Angelo, where Laurie founded and was chairman of Isa Cattle Co., which markets Beefmaster genetics worldwide. He described the business for our 50th-reunion yearbook: "We have a 'one-of-a-kind' ranching business emphasizing genetics and marketing. The most interesting part is our international business. ... Lorenzo and I have traveled to Panama, Brazil, South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, and Thailand, as well as continued business in Mexico. We have developed markets for L Bar Beefmaster genetics in each of these countries. It has been a pleasure for our whole family."

Laurie wrote four books. *The Lasater Philosophy of Cattle Raising*, published in 1972, is now in its 17th printing and translated into Spanish and Russian.

Annette and Laurie are survived by their son Lorenzo and his wife, Leslie; their daughter Isabel and her husband, J.C. Hernandez; and five grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1965

DAMON V. GIOVANELLI '65

Damon died July 6, 2025. He was a happy, loving man who always had a sparkle in his eyes.



Born May 8, 1943, in Teaneck, N.J., at Princeton Damon was treasurer of Terrace Club. He earned a Ph.D. from Dartmouth, taught mathematics at Yale, then spent the majority of his scientific career at Los Alamos National Lab. He became leader of the physics division, participating in many boards and committees and serving as a mentor to many.

We remember Damon for his love of children and masterful storytelling, and for encouraging those of all ages to fly to overcome challenges. He always credited his wife with "doing most of the work."

Damon is survived by his wife of 56 years, Ellie; daughters Kira '96 and Tina '01; five grandchildren; and two sons-in-law.

RUSH T. HAINES II '65

Rusty died June 22, 2024, at his Ocean City, N.J., home surrounded by family.



Born April 2, 1943, in Lansdowne, Pa., he attended the Episcopal Academy, excelling in academics and playing varsity basketball and football. At Princeton, where he majored in English, he was a member of Cottage Club. In 1968, he obtained his J.D. from Northwestern University Law School.

Rusty, 15 other '65ers and friends, lived in one entry of Lockhart known as "Lockhart Lair," where he was nicknamed "Hostile Man" in direct opposition to his personality and behavior. Rusty married Susie in 1966; daughter Jennifer was born four years later and graduated from Princeton in 1992. The first grandchild arrived in 2006, followed by two more. The family spent every summer at their Ocean City home, soaking up all the beach town could offer.

At Drinker Biddle, & Reath, Rusty specialized in trusts, banking, and real estate as a partner, spending his entire career there until retiring in 2019. He also served as trustee at the Episcopal Academy for 20 years and as chairman of the board from 1999 to 2005, receiving the distinguished alumnus award in 2005 and named emeritus trustee thereafter.

Rusty is survived by Susie; daughter Jennifer Haines Butler; grandchildren Monty, Annabelle, and Madeline; sister Helen Haines Thieler; and numerous family members.

FREDERICK A. STUART JR. '65

Fred died June 30, 2025.

He was born Feb. 24, 1942, the only child

of Eleanor Widmer and Frederick Stuart Sr. He attended Germantown Academy. At Princeton, he served as associate editor of *The Daily Princetonian*.

Fred was director of employment and training for Aramark for 10 years, executive recruiter and consultant to the Millard Group, and president of Stuart Recruiting until his retirement.

Fred loved writing, travel, and the theater. He was very proud of his Philadelphia roots. He was a big supporter of women's equality and animal rights. His friends remember him for his sense of humor, erudition, and wit. Fred served on the board of the Delaware River Port Authority as a community representative and on the board of his condo association.

He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Karen Beth Davis; his sister-in-law Stephanie Davis; and his brother-in-law Gordon Davis.

THE CLASS OF 1966

DAVID ALLAN HORWICH '66

Allan died July 1, 2025, after a five-month battle with pancreatic cancer.



He came to Princeton from Westside High School in Omaha, Neb., where he won the Brandeis Award and was a member of the state mathematics championship team. At Princeton, he majored in philosophy and wrote his senior thesis on religious language. He was a member of the Woodrow Wilson Society. Roommates included John Godich, Ken Boudwin, and Dave Garlow.

After graduation, Allan enrolled in the University of Chicago Law School, earning a law degree in 1969. He then joined the Chicago law firm Schiff Hardin & Waite (now ArentFox Schiff), where he worked until retiring in 2024.

Allan had an outstanding career at Schiff Hardin, concentrating in securities regulation and serving on the firm's management committee. In addition to practicing law, he taught securities law and was professor of practice at Northwestern-Pritzker Law School. He published numerous articles on securities law and related subjects.

Allan resided in Old Town in Chicago with his wife, Carolyn, whom he met at Schiff Hardin. In addition to Carolyn, he is survived by son Benjamin '99 and daughters Diana, Eleanor, and Flannery. The class sends heartfelt condolences to them all.

THE CLASS OF 1969

ROBERT D. DRENNAN '69

Dick, anthropologist and member of the National Academy of Sciences, died April 18, 2025, in Olympia, Wash., where he and his wife, Jeanne, had a second home.



Dick went to high school in Louisville, Ky., and was president of the National Honor Society and an active thespian. His extracurricular time at Princeton was focused

on Triangle, where he was technical director and vice president. Triangle classmates recall traveling with Dick on the annual holiday tour, tearing down the set after each show, heading out to a late-night deb party, then getting up early the next morning to start over. Dedicated to Triangle, Dick spent much of his time at McCarter, where he first met Jeanne, who was working in the box office.

An art and archaeology major, Dick later got his Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Michigan. He joined the University of Pittsburgh's anthropology department in 1977 and worked there for the rest of his career, becoming Distinguished Professor of Anthropology and founding director of the Center for Comparative Archaeology.

Dick was proud of the more than 50 doctoral candidates he mentored who are now teaching others and pursuing research, both here and abroad. His final book, co-authored with two former graduate students, will be published by Cambridge University Press in 2026.

Dick is survived by his wife of 50 years, Jeanne; his daughter, Margaret Drennan; his son-in-law, Krishna Chowdary; and his granddaughter Mina. The class joins them in mourning Dick's passing.

THE CLASS OF 1970

THOMAS AUER STEITLER '70

A leader in the redevelopment and renewal of his adopted state, Tom died surrounded by family in Durham, N.C., June 29, 2024.

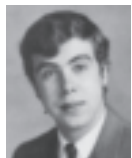


He came to us from DeWitt High School in Syracuse, N.Y. His strong athletic skills were part of our Ivy champion golf team, and he was sports chair at Charter. Tom majored in basic engineering, writing his *magna cum laude* thesis on "Air Conditioning" for Dean Howard Menand '36. He then went to UNC for his MBA and changed focus to the technical aspects of real estate appraisal. He became a singular expert in conservation easements, leading complex evaluations for trusts and government agencies that withstood court challenges and preserved land space. He and wife Linda purchased and rehabilitated old commercial buildings in their Asheville community, crucial to renewal there rather than the wrecking ball. In all this, he was regarded as the dog whisperer, with a golden retriever always in tow for his property outings.

Tom is survived by Linda; their daughters Katie and Kelly; three grandchildren; siblings Pat, Sue, and Bob; and extended family. He leaves them, and us, the beauty of North Carolina and the lessons of treating our environment with the intellect and creativity of an endlessly curious mind.

TERI NOEL TOWE '70

A unique character even in a unique class, our friend and abiding spirit Teri died in an accident at home Feb. 3, 2025.



Growing up in Connecticut, he came to us from Deerfield, where he had already undergone the epiphany of Bach. The textbook definition

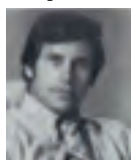
of an art major, his thesis on "The London Churches of Sir Christopher Wren" was written for professor David Coffin. Meanwhile, he exercised his vocal muscles with the Chapel Choir and obsessively in the bowels of WPRB. He expanded and immeasurably deepened the station's classical programming, notably including his own colossal library of 78s documenting the recorded history of classical music. His subsequent law studies at UVA allowed his radio reincarnation as The Laughing Cavalier, and that adventure continued through innumerable shows at WKCR and WBAI in New York, back at WPRB, and any other station he could grab. His knowledge complemented that of his friend Bill Scheide '36 h'70, the founder of the Bach Aria Group, and the two were a force in the music world.

In the alumni sphere, Teri carved out an equally singular role, that of Royal Governor Jonathan Belcher h'1748 h'70, in full colonial regalia at each year's P-rade, and especially at the Old Guard luncheon prior. He also worked long hours for Annual Giving, the Friends of the Princeton Library, and the radio station, pointed opinions always included.

Teri is survived by his sister-in-law, Neely; his law partner Jerietta Hollinger; and by the thousands who cheered the governor at each P-rade, his very bearing betraying both his classicism and love for his alma mater.

HENDRIX F. NIEMANN '73

Drix died March 27, 2025, due to complications from a medical procedure.



He went to the Choate School before attending Princeton, where he followed in the footsteps of his father, both grandfathers, and an uncle. He majored in political

science and performed with the Triangle Club, was active in *Business Today*, and dined at Quadrangle. His roommates in Blair included Chris Leach, Rob Mancuso, Nick Potter, Fred Dalzell, Tom Tate, and Andy Wilcox.

Drix married the love of his life, Judi Finegan, in 1975. After graduation, Drix founded *New Jersey Monthly* Magazine and later became the executive director of New Jersey Public Television.

In 1985, Drix and Judi settled in Annapolis, Md., where he was the president of Potomac Television. Drix went on to become a trainer of wealth management advisers and real estate brokers. A devoted father of four children, he was a driving force in youth sports, academics, and the performing arts. When he moved to Wilmington, N.C., in 2004, he founded the first women's lacrosse team in his county for his daughters.

Always upbeat and smiling, Drix was an active member of the F3 community, a brotherhood built on faith, fitness, and fellowship. He cherished the camaraderie and the bonds forged through prayer and perseverance.

His support for his children's passions — whether on the field or the stage — was legendary. He took multiple trips to New York City to see son JJ star in *Back to the Future: The Musical* on Broadway.

The class extends its sympathies for their loss to his wife, Judi; children Wesley, Eliza Dale, Cori, and JJ; and siblings Nemo, Nela, and Liza.

THE CLASS OF 1975

BRIAN A. KREMEN '75

Brian died of cancer Feb. 5, 2025, in Canada. There was no one more ebullient



and high-spirited than Brian, who brought a smile to everyone's face with his witty one-liners and comedic timing.

He came to us from Bergen Catholic High School in Oradell, N.J., where he developed a love of the arts, particularly the performing arts. At Princeton, he honed this passion for acting, along with his considerable talents as a dancer and singer. Primarily, Brian is remembered for his commitment to the Triangle Club, for which he performed every year and often encouraged his shy friends to "have a go" and audition. He was an English major and joined Tower Club.

Following graduation, Brian entered the world of the theater, relocating to Canada to be with his husband, Mike Plaus. There he became a director at Followspot Theatre and the Toronto Theatre Alliance. He eventually diversified his talents, becoming a development director for the Mississauga Symphony, the RiverBrink Art Museum, and the Pumphouse Arts Centre. He also served as president of the Princeton Association of Canada.

We mourn the loss of this keen Princetonian, devoted Triangle supporter, and blithe spirit.

GERALDINE A. TOLAND REGAN '75

Gerri died May 5, 2025, of cancer in Burlington, N.J.



Born in Philadelphia, she graduated from John F. Kennedy High School in Willingboro, N.J. At Princeton, she majored in geology. She worked for the Department

of Environmental Services in Boston and for Polaroid and Ohio Bell in Cleveland before transferring in 1991 to New Jersey with AT&T, from which she retired in 2005.

After retirement Gerri earned a certificate in gerontology from Rutgers University and a degree in nursing from Rowan University. She put both to good use in her positions as the administrator of the Home for Aged Women in the City of Burlington and as a registered nurse at the Masonic Village Nursing Home in Burlington Township.

Gerri said her life was made sublime by her Scotland-born husband, Jim Regan, who showed her he loved her every day of their 26 years together. Her life was also enriched by her pets and her many interests, ranging from antiques and Gilbert & Sullivan to Premier League football and classic R&B.

Gerri was preceded in death by her parents and her husband. In addition to her family, she is mourned by her many longtime friends from Princeton.

THE CLASS OF 1976

GUY K. NOURI '76

Guy died May 30, 2025, at home in Hudson, N.Y., of cancer. He was an artist and technology professional.

Born and raised in Alpine, N.J., Guy attended the Buckley School in Manhattan followed by St. Paul's School in New Hampshire, where he graduated in 1970. He spent his summers at his family's home in Amagansett, N.Y., and said his first understanding of light in painting came from his time there. After high school graduation, Guy took a gap year in Los Angeles before matriculating at college. At Princeton, he majored in art history. Guy was part of the visual arts program at 185 Nassau St., where he became friends with fellow artists: Carol-Ann Braun, Peter Wetzler, Charles Read '75, Allen Furbeck, and others. He took a second gap year to travel to India to follow the 14-year-old Guru Maharaji.

After college, Guy moved to New York, where he founded Interactive Picture Systems, exploring animation software. A serial entrepreneur, he sold that company and then set up another called Dragonfly in his barn in the Hudson Valley. He was a developer of visual software like Paint and Movie Maker for Atari and Microsoft. He lectured, taught, and showed art in the United States and Europe. In his later years, Guy's focus was simply painting pixels, and

his motto became “Saving the world, one pixel at a time.”

Guy is survived by his wife, Liane; sons Michael and Jake; and siblings Michael Nouri and Katherine Hughes Del Tufo.

EDWARD A. PURNELL '76

Ed died June 27, 2025, in Ohio, of cancer.

Born and raised in Cleveland, Ed



graduated as valedictorian from Euclid High School. He followed in the footsteps of his father, Edward W. Purnell '50, to Princeton. Ed

majored in English, worked on the *Nassau Literary Review*, and was a member of Stevenson Hall.

After graduation *cum laude*, he headed to Korea with the Peace Corps, where he met his wife, Inwoo Lee. Ed earned a master's degree from the American Graduate School of International Management and a law degree from Harvard Law School. He began his career at Manufacturers Hanover Trust, working in New York City and then back in Korea at the bank's Seoul office. Ed ended his time at MHT as vice president of the international division. His legal career culminated in his two decades at Jones Day, where as a partner he worked in Cleveland and Chicago from 1990 to 2010.

Korea then beckoned once again, and Ed and Inwoo moved to Pohang as he took up his final professional role as professor of law at Hangdong International Law School, where he won the teacher of the year award for four of his 14 years on the faculty.

Ed was a family man who cherished spending time with his wife and two daughters, especially on trips to Lake Erie, Hawaii, Florida, and of course South Korea. He was active in the Korean Central Presbyterian Church, leading Bible studies and mission trips to Africa, Asia, and Central and South America.

Ed is survived by Inwoo; daughters Zita and Rebecca and her husband Sean Lee; and granddaughter Tatum Lee.

AIDA RODRIGUEZ '76

Aida died April 4, 2024, in Boiling Springs, S.C., of cancer.



Born and raised in New York, she graduated from Long Island City High School. At Princeton, she majored

in sociology, rowed crew freshman year, joined Terrace Club, and roomed with Michele Naples and Pat Wang. She spent a junior-year semester in the Urban Studies program in Jersey City. Her senior thesis was titled “A Sociological Study of the Economic Situation of Puerto Rican Women in New York City.” Aida was involved with the Princeton University Women's Organization and the Third World Center.

After graduating *summa cum laude*,

Aida earned a Ph.D. at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in 1990. She married Joseph Pereira in 1978 and together they raised their son Joseph Ellis Pereira until his death at age 29 in 2020.

Aida accepted a position at the Equal Opportunity Division at the Rockefeller Foundation, working her way up from assistant director to deputy director. She traveled around the world for the foundation making grants. She was co-recipient of the Council on Foundations Robert W. Scriver Award for Creative Grantmaking in 2003. She became a professor of professional practice and the chair of management programs at the New School–Milano School of Policy, Management, and Environment, where she taught several graduate courses.

Aida served on the boards of many nonprofits, including the New York Regional Association of Grantmakers. She frequently lectured on philanthropy, Latinos in the United States, leadership in communities of color, community development, and not-for-profit management.

She also was a Princeton Alumni Schools Committee interviewer and was a member of the Association of Latino Princeton Alumni.

Aida is survived by her husband, Joseph Pereira; and sister Isabel Rodriguez de Deus '78.

LOUIS G. WERNER '76

Lou died of a heart attack May 28, 2025, at his summer home on Long Island. He was a travel writer and documentary film producer.

Born and raised in St. Louis, Lou graduated from St. Paul's School in New Hampshire. At Princeton, he majored in history and concentrated in Near Eastern studies.

After graduation from Princeton, Lou pursued studies at the American University in Cairo and later earned graduate degrees from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Study and Columbia. His lifelong interest in Arabic language and culture sparked his career as a travel writer. He visited more than 70 countries, traveling to Mount Ararat, the Pamir Mountains, Mauritania, Khartoum, and the sub-Saharan desert. He was a writer for *AramcoWorld*, *Scientific American*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, and *Americas Magazine*. Lou produced a BBC documentary, *Voice of the Whip*, about a 40-day camel drive across the Sahara, following the trek of Sudanese herders. He also produced a parallel documentary, *A Shepherd's Homecoming*, about the life of a Mexican herder in the Nevada desert, now in the permanent collection of MoMA.

The class officers extend sincere condolences to his wife, Elena; children Genevieve and Kennett '15; siblings Elise, Anne, and Peter; and extended family.

THE CLASS OF 1982

HANS E. FENSTERMACHER '82

Hans died Jan. 15, 2024.

Born in Munich, he came to Princeton



from Columbia High School in South Orange, N.J., and majored in Slavic languages and literature. His major, his graduate degree in law and diplomacy from the Fletcher

School at Tufts University, and his mastery of seven languages prefigured a long and distinguished career in the translation and localization industry, which underwent extraordinary transition during his working years.

Hans was an entrepreneur in several settings and participated in prominent organizations and companies in his industry. Notably, he co-founded the Globalization and Localization Association (GALA), which under his leadership became a critical resource in the professionalization of the industry.

Hans is survived by his wife, Janet; and their three children. The class mourns their loss.

KOBERT R. SMITH III '82

Kobert died Aug. 15, 2023.

He came from Los Altos, Calif., where he



ran track and cross-country and was a high school All-American, and continued to do so at Princeton, including as co-captain of the track team. He dined at Cottage

Club, majored in history, and managed the campus Student Delivery Agency. His lively humor and piano playing made him many friends.

After college, Kobert worked in finance, including as president of a technology leasing company in the Bay Area. When that company was sold, he moved on to create several internet companies, which continued to engage him. He contributed to his community, including coaching AYSO soccer for 15 years.

Kobert is survived by his wife Michelle; their children Remy and Malia; and his parents. The class shares their feeling of loss and remains grateful to have known Kobert.

GRADUATE ALUMNI

WHITNEY F. BOLTON *55

Whitney died in Granby, Conn., May 18, 2024, after a long illness. He was 93.

Whitney was born Oct. 15, 1930, in New York, and graduated from Bard College in 1951. He studied at University College London in 1953-54 and received his Ph.D. in English from Princeton in 1955. Whitney served in the Navy from 1955-57 aboard the USS *Olmstead*, where he was editor of the ship's newspaper.

Whitney was a medievalist, with special attention to Chaucer, Beowulf, and history of the English language. He was a research fellow at the University of Reading, England, from 1957 to 1959; assistant professor at the University of California, Berkeley from 1960 to 1961; lecturer at the University of Reading, England from 1961 to 1964; and senior lecturer at Simon Fraser University from 1964 to 1965. After serving as a visiting professor in 1971, Whitney became chair of the English department at Douglass College, N.J., and was a professor at Rutgers from 1973 until his retirement in 1996.

He is survived by his wife, Karen; daughter Sarah; stepchildren Eileen and Brian; and six grandchildren.

WILLIAM E. SCHIESSER *60

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

Born in Abington, Pa., Jan. 9, 1934, he earned a 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 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 his son, William Jr.; one grandson; and two great-grandchildren.

DAVID W. DEL TREDICI *64

A Pulitzer Prize-winning composer, David died in New York City, Nov. 18, 2023.

Born in Cloverdale, Calif., March 16, 1937, David began advanced piano lessons with Bernhard Abramovitch in 1953. At age 20, David played with the San Francisco Pops Symphony under conductor Arthur Fiedler and was a soloist with the San Francisco

Symphony. At the Aspen Musical Festival, he attended a composition seminar led by composer Darius Milhaud. He graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1959 and earned an MFA in music from Princeton in 1964.

Recognizing David's talent, Aaron Copland became a mentor and lifelong friend. David was commissioned for works by several major American and European orchestral ensembles. His composition "Final Alice," was commissioned in honor of the U.S. Bicentennial in 1976 and was performed by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, and Philadelphia Orchestra.

In 1980, David's composition, "In Memory of a Summer Day," won the Pulitzer Prize in Music.

David taught on the faculties of Harvard, Boston University, Manhattan School of Music, The Juilliard School, and the City University of New York.

David is survived by his siblings Ann, Robert, and Peter, and several nieces and nephews.

I.M. DESTLER *65 *71

Mac died March 27, 2025, in Woburn, Mass. He was 85.

Born in Statesboro, Ga., on Aug. 21, 1939, Mac graduated from Harvard in 1961 and served in the Peace Corps, teaching at the newly established University of Nigeria. After earning his MPA from Princeton in 1965, Mac worked for then-Sen. Walter Mondale, served on Lyndon Johnson's task force on government organization, then took a position at the Department of Agriculture focused on international development at the onset of the Green Revolution.

Mac's insider's view of policymaking laid the groundwork for his Woodrow Wilson School Ph.D., awarded in 1971, and the publication of his book *Presidents, Bureaucrats American Foreign Policy*.

Through work with the Brookings Institution, the Carnegie Endowment for Peace, and the Peterson Institute for International Economics, Mac became an expert on U.S.-Japan relations, U.S. trade politics, and White House decision-making. He authored or co-authored 14 books, including *American Trade Politics*, which the American Political Science Association named the 1987 best book on U.S. national policy.

Mac joined the University of Maryland's School of Public Policy faculty in 1987, serving twice as interim dean.

Mac is survived by his wife, Harriett; children Mark and Kate; brother William; and three grandchildren.

NICHOLAS J. XENOS *84

Nick died in Amherst, Mass., March 12, 2025, after a brief acute illness.

Born in New York May 13, 1948, Nick earned his bachelor's degree at NYU, studying political theory with Arno J. Mayer. After earning a master's degree at Michigan and studying at York University in Toronto, in 1984 Nick received his Ph.D. in politics from Princeton, under the direction of Sheldon Wolin.

After two years teaching at Columbia, where he was a member of the Society of Fellows in the Humanities, Nick joined the political science department at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where he specialized in political theory. Nick's books included *Scarcity and Modernity* and *Cloaked in Virtue: Leo Strauss and the Rhetoric of American Foreign Policy*. He contributed chapters to numerous books on subjects such as political ethics, politics and economy, refugees, and energy policy.

Nick held editorial positions on polity, democracy, and political theory. He was a member of the Social Science Research Council's Committee on the Politics of Expert Knowledge, and of the Hendrix College National Advisors on the Liberal Arts and the Future of Democracy in America.

Nick is survived by his wife of 51 years, Lynn Peterfreund; and sons Ezra and Sam.

NICOLAS VAN DE WALLE *90

Nic died July 15, 2024, of cancer in Rochester, N.Y.

Born June 25, 1957, in Brussels, Nic earned a B.A. at the University of Pennsylvania in 1979 and a master's degree at the London School of Economics in 1980. After working at the European Community in Brussels and with the U.N. in Tunisia, he received his Ph.D. from the Woodrow Wilson School in 1990.

Nic taught at Michigan State before joining Cornell's government department in 2004 and to direct the Einaudi Center. His expertise included political science, development studies, public policy, and African studies.

Nic wrote or co-edited seven books on African politics, elections, and the impact of foreign aid. His *African Economies and The Politics of Permanent Crisis, 1979-1999* won the American Political Science Association's 2001 G.M. Luebbert Prize for the best book in comparative politics. He wrote the Africa book review section of *Foreign Affairs* for 20 years.

A fellow at the Overseas Development Council and a nonresident fellow at the Center for Global Development, Nic consulted for the World Bank and USAID. Honors include the 2022 African Politics Conference Group/John Harbeson Distinguished Africanist Award.

Nic is survived by spouse Michèle; daughters Nadia and Juliette; and three grandchildren.

Graduate memorials are prepared by the APGA.

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ROBERT "BO" GOLDMAN '53 (1932-2023)

Failure Allowed Him to Find Success as a Screenwriter

BY ELYSE GRAHAM '07

WHAT DRIVES AN ARTIST? Bo Goldman '53 — a screenwriter who counted two Academy Awards among his honors and wrote the screenplay for the film *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* — chose to attend Princeton because of the Triangle Club, which had a reputation as a great incubator for talent on the stage and screen. He treated writing for Triangle as his true major and McCarter Theatre, Triangle's home, as his true university.

"I was a terrible student," he later said. "I spent my whole life there in McCarter Theatre in Princeton. I was asked to leave a number of times. But somehow, I muddled through."

When he graduated, he wrote to every established artist he could think of, trying to apprentice himself to one of them — which, as usually happens, led nowhere. You can't study your way into connections. "I wrote Oscar Hammerstein, asking if I could somehow be a kind of archivist for him or file his work or something like that," he said.

"And he said the place had already been taken by the son of a neighbor — his name was Stephen Sondheim."

Even at that young age, Goldman was intimately familiar with failure. The son of a retail baron who lost everything in the Great Depression, he grew up in the ruins of his father's former splendor — in a palatial apartment, broke — watching his father torment himself over his downfall. "I always had a bit too much of the street in me," he said on *The Dick Cavett Show* in 1981. "But in my case, that street was Park Avenue."

But he kept grinding along. He patched together one job after another in the basement of show business, including the CBS mailroom, while working at

"I always had a bit too much of the street in me. But in my case, that street was Park Avenue."

— ROBERT "BO" GOLDMAN '53

night on a musical based on *Pride and Prejudice*. The musical hit Broadway — and tanked. "I was lucky enough to get this show on, I was 26, on Broadway, that was a big thing to people, even though it wasn't successful," he said. "But then I was 10 years trying to put the next one on, and it was just impossible."

In 1975, the director Miloš Forman, who had read one of Goldman's scripts, asked him to take a swing at a project that several other writers had attempted without success: a screenplay of the novel *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Goldman remembered reading the novel when he was younger and not thinking much of it, but on a reread, he realized he now understood it in a new way. His Princeton classmates had risen to become executives and law partners, and he envied their place in the establishment while wanting nothing of their establishment lives.

He saw the merciless Nurse Ratched as, so to speak, what happens to Princetonians after graduation, and the rebellious Randle McMurphy as a wide-eyed freshman: "She stood for everything that every yearning person in high school or college wanted to do with their life, that's what blocks them."

Goldman earned \$8,000 for his screenplay. The film made \$163 million, won him his first Oscar, and brought a cascade of other writing projects, including *Scent of a Woman*, *The Rose*, and *Melvin and Howard*, which won him another Oscar. He later said of his screenplays, naming characters from these films, "They're always about outsiders, really. There's something, weirdly, a kind of kinship between McMurphy and Melvin and Slade and the Rose — they're all losers, to some degree, who somehow have the right idea about what life is."

We may never understand the artistic drive that kept Goldman going. But failure wound up being the best thing that could have happened to his art. Art gave him the urge to say something, but failure gave him something to say. All his life, Goldman remembered a line from the letter he received from Hammerstein: "If anything can stop you, Mr. Goldman, it will. And if nothing can stop you, it won't." ■

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