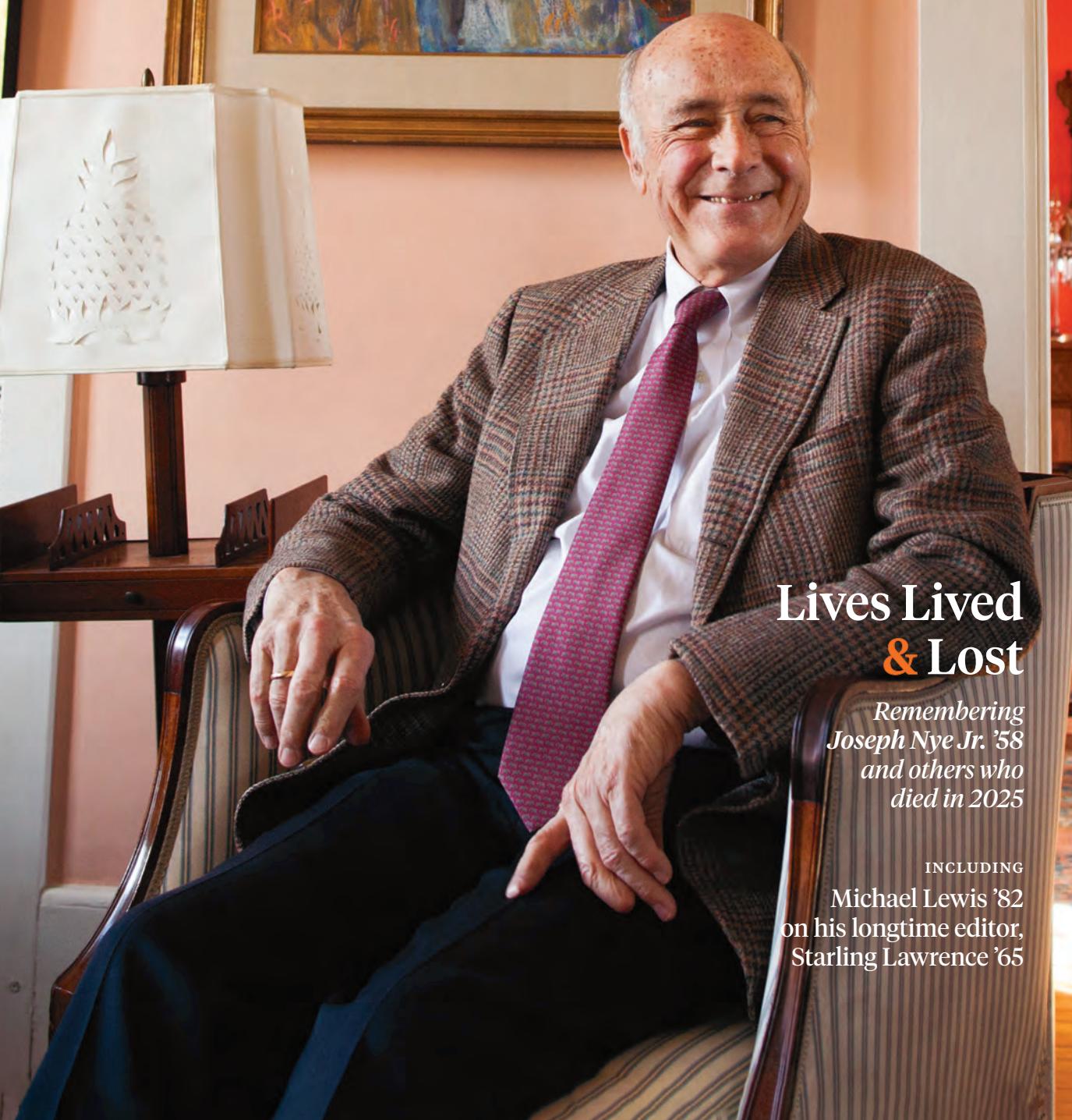


SAYING 'YES' TO MORE HOUSING / AI STARTUP STARS

PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY

FEBRUARY 2026



Lives Lived & Lost

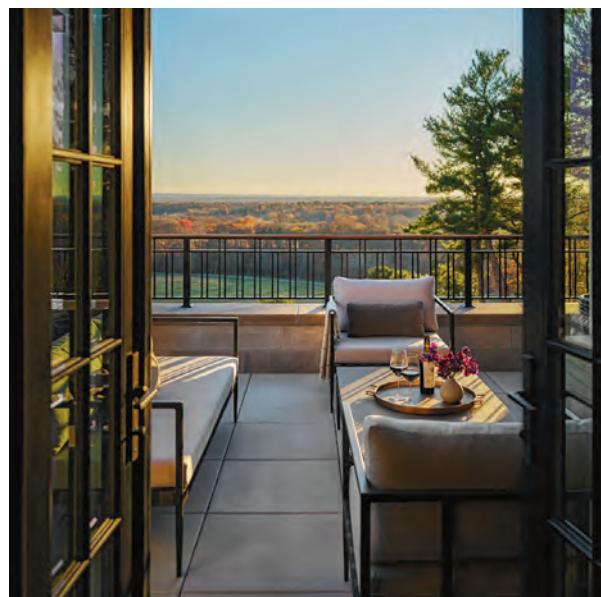
*Remembering
Joseph Nye Jr. '58
and others who
died in 2025*

INCLUDING

Michael Lewis '82
on his longtime editor,
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An editorially independent magazine by alumni for alumni since 1900



A LIFE IN THE ARTS

Richard Greenberg '80 was an award-winning playwright, with more than 30 of his plays appearing on and off Broadway. He died in July.

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PAW pays tribute to 14 alumni who died in 2025. Their lives and careers influenced fields ranging from ophthalmology and public health to publishing, higher education, and the arts.

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Joseph Nye Jr. '58 as shown in a 2017 feature in the *Harvard Gazette*.
Photograph by Stephanie Mitchell/Harvard staff photographer.

GLENN KOENIG / LOS ANGELES TIMES / GETTY IMAGES

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Princetonians lead the YIMBY movement to expand supply nationwide.

BY PHILIP WALZER '81

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The Humanities at Princeton: Our Future Is Bright

For this month's column, I asked Rachael DeLue, the Christopher Binyon Sarofim '86 Professor in American Art, to share some reflections on the state of the humanities at Princeton and on the ambitious Humanities Initiative she has been leading since late 2024. — C.L.E.



Rachael DeLue
Photo by Steven Freeman

rowing up in Portland, Oregon, I did not have my sights set on a career in higher education, let alone imagine myself as a scholar of the history of art. Only one person in my extended family had earned a Ph.D., in agricultural science, and my parents were civil servants. But art was always a part of my life. My dad had originally trained as a painter and ceramicist, and he and my mom enrolled my twin brother and me in art classes from an early age and took us to

museums whenever they could. And I was lucky enough to be able to enroll in an art history class at my public high school, unusual for the time.

None of this made me decide to become a professor of art history, but I know that having the arts in my life as a young person helped me see their value for humanity: as a mode of expression, a medium that gives people voice, a form of knowledge, a source of joy, a healing practice, and a way to bring people together and build community.

Art history, like many of the humanities fields, is a gathering and connecting discipline. By this I mean that the study of art opens onto the study of everything else. Any given work of art, crucible-like, contains, condenses, and configures anew the forces and formations of its historical moment: literature, music, theater, dance, philosophy, politics, economics, law, religion, science. Any understanding of that work of art, then, pulls the art historian into the thick of the social and historical fabric of which that work was a part. In turn, the work reveals modes of understanding the world—forms of seeing, thinking, knowing, and being—particular to a specific historical moment and from which we might learn a great deal about peoples of the past, ourselves in the present, and our possible futures.

During my time at Princeton, which began in 2005 and included four years as chair of the Art and Archaeology Department, I have had the privilege of working with some of the finest students and scholars from a range of disciplines. All of them have been willing to tackle with me the kinds of questions to which humanists are drawn—big questions that require big answers and thus call for a deep and wide disciplinary net and a cohort of open and curious minds.

Today, I am leading a different kind of “gathering and connecting” project: the establishment of a major research and teaching initiative for the humanities on campus, one that supercharges and forges new directions for the humanistic disciplines while also engaging them in closer and more impactful conversation with the social sciences, sciences, and engineering. For this reason, I have spent a

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Professor Sandra Bermann in Comparative Literature visits the library's Special Collections with a class. Photo by Ryan Campbell, Office of Communications

great deal of time thinking about and planning for the future at Princeton of the humanities, those disciplines that study human culture and expression, including literatures and languages, philosophy, religion, classics, history, art history, film and media studies, and the fine and performing arts.

I am happy to report that despite rumbles and hand-wringing in the media about crisis in the humanities, the future is bright at Princeton because the humanities are as essential as ever to our mission. Indeed, they are necessary for envisioning and addressing some of the most urgent and bracing questions and concerns of our current historical moment—from social justice to artificial intelligence—and for figuring out how to create and sustain the conditions for all people to thrive.

The study of human culture and history cultivates in our students the capacities essential for navigating the world today: evidence-based reasoning; historical perspective; cross-cultural understanding; the analysis of ideas in context; making connections among different fields of study; communicating across difference; creativity and imagination; media literacy; ethical thought; and empathy.

Today technology presents dazzling new possibilities, and cultures collide in ways both promising and perilous. The humanities respond by inviting essential insight about what matters in life, how to sustain civic culture and safeguard democracy, and what it will take to build a secure, free, and prosperous future for the planet.

As we build on Princeton's storied accomplishments in the humanities, I am grateful for the enthusiasm and generosity of alumni and friends of our University. Your support recognizes the vitality of the humanities in ensuring Princeton is a place that fosters scholarship, research, and teaching of unsurpassed excellence—and is also a training ground for how to live a meaningful life. Thank you for taking this journey with us.



INBOX

YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE LATEST ISSUES

MEAL PLAN CHANGES

As an alum who was an “independent” my junior and senior years at Princeton without benefit of any room draw preference (I lived in the no-longer-existent 1941 Hall and Witherspoon and used the common area kitchens), I think the University’s decision to require independents to buy a meal plan is unfortunate (On the Campus, December issue).



CHOI DINING HALL

reduces the cost savings and completely eliminates the beneficial learning experience. Once a student is required to pay for at least one meal a day, the incentive to use that for the most complete and expensive meal is enormous. Thus, independents forced to pay for eight meals a week will probably not cook for themselves at all and simply eat food that requires little or no preparation (such as yogurts, cereals, sandwiches, or snack foods) for those meals that they provide themselves.

I’m glad that Princeton did not have this policy when I was there.

V. LYNN HOBGEN '77

Philadelphia, Pa.

“Princeton Responds to Criticism by Changing Course on Meal Plan Policy,” reads one headline in the December PAW, and the article notes, “The University said that the policy aimed to prioritize student well-being and was partially due to budget constraints.” But another article in the same issue is headlined “Princeton Endowment Earns 11% Return, Reaches \$36.4 Billion.” I’m still trying to understand the budget issue.

DAVID GALEF '81
Montclair, N.J.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

People deserve a second chance, and I suppose there is nothing wrong with having P.G. Sittenfeld '07 write for his alumni magazine. What is wrong is

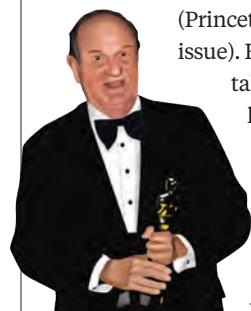
having him write a sycophantic profile of Michael Park '98 (“The Contender,” December issue) focusing on Park’s chances of being nominated to the U.S. Supreme Court presumably by Donald Trump — the man who just happened to pardon Sittenfeld of federal corruption charges six months ago. I know the case against Sittenfeld drew much criticism, but that is hardly the point. At the very least, Sittenfeld’s pardon by Trump should have been disclosed. I am disappointed.

LAUREL LEFF '78
Newton, Mass.

Editor’s note: The writer is a professor of journalism, emerita, at Northeastern University.

BO GOLDMAN '53

I was in the Triangle show the year after Bo Goldman '53 brought down the house (Princeton Portrait, December issue). He was a fabulous talent, and it showed in his screenplays, which were terrific. Bo was part of the Princeton I adored. Forget his academic record and those outsiders who did not see his talents right off: Bo had it all — and then some. Luckily, he went to Princeton, not New Haven, where Cole Porter mistakenly went instead of my and Bo’s alma mater. And Bo was the equal of Cole in writing talent.



LAURENCE C. DAY '55

Wildwood, Mo.

HOW, NOT WHAT, TO THINK

Universities have two main missions: create new knowledge and prepare the next generation with the skills needed to confront future problems. To achieve the latter requires that faculty teach students to assess information, weigh arguments, and identify cognitive biases.

A recent Princeton course description illustrates how academic freedom can be undermined by omission. The course description for Gender, Reproduction, and Genocide (spring 2026) does not challenge students to think about complicated religious and geopolitical issues. Rather, it inverts the truth by omission, making the claim, as a statement of fact rather than a disputed accusation, that there is an “ongoing genocide in Gaza.” It omits any mention of Hamas’ terrorism and repression, its use of civilians as human shields, as well as the genocidal Hamas charter.

Academic freedom means a professor may research, publish, and speak publicly about what they wish. As Louis Menand wrote in a recent *New Yorker* article, it does not mean they can say whatever they want in the classroom to indoctrinate students. Our job as faculty is to teach students “how to think,” not “what to think,” particularly

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INBOX

at a time when access to information (and misinformation) is so prevalent. The mischaracterization of the conflict in the Middle East, failure to address the role of Hamas, and misuse of the term genocide indicate the goals of the course: brainwashing Princeton students against Jews and Israel. Princeton needs to act to prevent the foreseeable harm this course creates in its censorship by omission of inconvenient truths.

RICHARD M. SCHWARTZSTEIN '75

Brookline, Mass.

HAROLD J. BURSZTAJN '72

Cambridge, Mass.

Editor's note: The writers are professors at Harvard Medical School.

IN COVID'S WAKE

As a hard-core member of the progressive, educated elite, I fully subscribed to the



efforts to suppress “fake conspiracy theories” about the COVID virus, its origins, and the necessary shutdown of U.S. society, excluding of course essential workers. I read in *The New York Times* the

disdain within the scientific community for “crack” academics who challenged this thinking. And then I read *In COVID's Wake* by Princeton professors Stephen Macedo and Frances Lee, recently recommended by President Eisgruber (President's Page, November issue). It was a sobering realization of the dangers of groupthink, class biases, and vested interests to which we are all subject. Next year's freshman Pre-read?

RALPH J. BULLE '72

Garden City, N.Y.

ANNUAL GIVING

In the October Inbox, Frank Williams '78 makes a comment about how Annual Giving dropped to its lowest rate in almost 80 years and credits the decline to the Stand Up campaign. While many conservative alumni may disagree with the campaign, the facts hardly support Mr. Williams' theory. While the Stand Up campaign started in early 2025, the decline in participation unfortunately

started in the mid-2010s. While I don't have any answers for alumni looking to reverse the somewhat recent trend, I can assure readers that Stand Up is not the primary culprit.

DAVID GILBERT '06

Villanova, Pa.

CPUC TRANSPARENCY

President Eisgruber's rush to pass the new recording ban was a clear case of rule-making-by-ambush (On the Campus, January issue). The CPUC meeting agenda provided no notice of the intended vote, nor the text of the proposed policy. Worse, as reported in *The Daily Princetonian*, the administration admitted that FAQs explaining the policy were not even ready for the meeting — yet the president drove the surprise measure to a vote.

This inevitably leads to flawed governance. As Isaac Barsoum '28 noted, such policies “reduce the access of students, faculty, and staff to University policymaking.” It causes the breakdowns of transparency and accountability that Alex Norbrook '26 presciently warned of in April 2024.

Scandalously, this opacity and brazen misconduct fit a deplorable pattern. For seven years, the CPUC has failed to meet its charter's mandates to publish meeting minutes. Similarly, President Eisgruber has not been listed on the CPUC Executive Committee roster and has not chaired its meetings, in open dereliction of duties outlined in the charter. I have formally brought these violations to the attention of Princeton's Board of Trustees. The board must fulfill its fiduciary duties regarding President Eisgruber's wrongdoing.

Meanwhile, the CPUC must demand that President Eisgruber obey the charter. Further, it should commence live webcasts of its meetings — a practice successfully used during COVID — to provide needed transparency to all Princetonians.

BILL HEWITT '74

London, Ky.

Editor's note: The University published an FAQ page about the recording policy in early January. Read more at bit.ly/recording-faq.

SCIENCE AND FAITH

“Despite his spiritual upbringing, Russell came from a mathematical family,” writes Harrison Blackman ’17 in the Princeton Portrait (November issue) about astronomer and astrophysicist Henry Norris Russell 1897 *1900.

Many of the great mathematicians and physicists in history were devout. One of the greatest mathematicians of all time, Augustin-Louis Cauchy (1789-1857), wrote, “I am a Christian, that is to say, I believe in the divinity of Jesus Christ as did Tycho Brahe, Copernicus, Descartes, Newton, Fermat, Leibniz, Pascal, Grimaldi, Euler, Guldin, Boscovich, Gerdil; as did all the great astronomers, physicists, and geometers of past ages.”

One could add to that list many more recent names, such as Father Angelo Secchi, one of the founders of astrophysics; Father Georges Lemaître, founder of the Big Bang theory; and Kurt Gödel, whose work in mathematics was epoch-making (and who spent most of his career in Princeton).

STEPHEN M. BARR *78

KATHY WHITNEY BARR S*78

Newark, Del.

YOUR PERSPECTIVE

Let us know what you think

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TIGER TRAVELS We Go Together

Since 2004, the Class of ’72 has been scheduling excursions and mini-reunions. It started with a 2004 trip to Gettysburg led by Civil War expert professor James McPherson — 60 people attended! — and has continued with treks to Quebec City in Canada, Mount Princeton in Colorado, the Galápagos Islands, and much more.

How do they do it? Credit goes to **Jim “Robby” Robinson ’72** and his wife, Chris, among other organizers, but also to some smart lessons the class learned along the way. Read the primer by class secretary **Ruby Huttner ’72** on PAW’s website, at paw.princeton.edu/tiger-travels.



CARL BARISCH '73, LEFT

SPORTS NFL Ironman

In nine seasons of pro football, **Carl Barisch ’73** played more games than any other Princeton alumnus. An essay by classmate **Jim DiOrio ’73** chronicles the former defensive lineman’s career and his recent choice to volunteer for a study by researchers hoping to learn more about CTE (chronic traumatic encephalopathy), a brain disease that has been linked to contact sports. Read it at paw.princeton.edu/latest-news/sports.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE Orange and Black History Month

How much do you know about famous Black Princetonians? For February, **Stella Daily Zawistowski ’00** built a crossword around some you may or may not know. Find the interactive puzzle on PAW’s website — and try this month’s jigsaw while you’re at it! — at paw.princeton.edu/games.



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ON THE CAMPUS

NEWS, SPORTS, AND STUDENT LIFE

READY TO ROLL

From left, Lucas Denault '27, Arthur Balva '27, and Ani Kozak '27, students in MAE 322: Mechanical Design, prepare their autonomous vehicle to navigate a “search-and-rescue” course during the class’s final presentations Dec. 15.





EXPANDING ACCESS

Prison Teaching Initiative Marks 20 Years Amid Funding Hurdles

BY LIA OPPERMANN '25

NATIONWIDE, ONLY A SMALL fraction of incarcerated individuals have access to college-level education — in some estimates, as few as 6%. For the past 20 years, the Prison Teaching Initiative (PTI) has sought to expand that access, offering higher education courses and mentorship to incarcerated and formerly incarcerated students across New Jersey.

The anniversary comes as PTI navigates a changing federal funding landscape, including the loss of support tied to the National Science Foundation's INCLUDES initiative, which aimed to increase participation and accessibility in STEM fields and was eliminated following federal actions cutting diversity, equity, and inclusion programs. INCLUDES funded STEM internship opportunities for students at PTI for nearly a decade.

The group initially hoped to expand and build new programs across the country; however, funding scarcities have brought that to a pause. "I think our approach right now is to do the things that are within our control," said Brandon Kronstat, PTI's associate director.

Chris Etienne, PTI's student engagement coordinator, connected with Princeton initially through New Jersey's

prison education network. While enrolled at Rutgers through the NJ-STEP (Scholarship and Transformative Education in Prisons) program, he attended events held by Students for Prison Education, Abolition, and Reform, an advocacy group founded by Princeton undergraduates, and engaged with volunteers in the Petey Greene Program, a national tutoring network for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people that was founded by Princeton alumnus Charlie Puttkammer '58 and his wife, Cordie.

While working on Rikers Island, he learned that PTI was hiring someone to create the STEM internship program, a position funded by INCLUDES. He said that he initially didn't think that he was ready to take on the role, but in the position, Etienne created a toolkit of what such internships should look like in post-secondary education. He's worked with schools including Howard, Stanford, and Rutgers universities.

Despite current uncertainties, Etienne said the blueprint he created remains available. "I'm just hoping that we'll be able to start allocating research funds to minoritized communities and to nontraditional students, so we could once again pick this initiative up, and continue to carry this work forward," he said.

NEW PATHWAYS

Eric Harbinson participated in the Prison Teaching Initiative's Aspiring Scholars and Professionals internship program in 2024.

To co-founder Jenny Greene, a professor of astrophysics, it is uncertain what other sources of funding will look like in the future or if INCLUDES funding is gone forever. "It's not completely clear how our funding profile will change from a Princeton perspective. I think that's all, at least from our perspective, still in flux," she said. She explained that the initiative has been trying to pivot to private sources of funding, but nothing's come through yet. "We're just doing everything we can think of," she said.

Founded in 2005, PTI is now in five state prisons and has partnered with local colleges as part of NJ-STEP, a statewide collaboration launched in 2013. The association works with New Jersey's Department of Corrections and the State Parole Board to provide courses to incarcerated students. Princeton, through PTI, provides faculty instructors.

"When we think about what our work is, it is expanding access to education ... to students who have been historically left out of that conversation in many, many ways," Kronstat said.

In addition to in-prison coursework, PTI has also brought formerly incarcerated students to Princeton's campus for summer internships in the sciences and humanities. The initiative has partnered with the Federal Bureau of Prisons at Fort Dix and Mercer County Community College. Princeton's Class of 1994, since its 25th reunion, has established a mentorship program with PTI, pairing incarcerated students with professionals in relevant fields and offering professional development workshops. In 2025, the University donated 52 laptops and other technology for use by PTI students in two New Jersey prisons.

Much of PTI's early expansion was driven by astrophysics professor Jill Knapp, who was largely responsible for coordinating volunteers, schedules, grades, and university partnerships during the program's formative years. Graduate students were also critical

to building PTI, serving as volunteer instructors for courses in math, science, social sciences, and the humanities.

"I don't think I anticipated how satisfying ... or how kind of addictive a teaching experience it would be," Greene said. She received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring from President Joe Biden in January 2025 for her work with PTI.

One early volunteer was Jill Stockwell '17, who began teaching with PTI while completing her Ph.D. in comparative literature. She later became a PTI postdoctoral fellow through the INCLUDES grant and served as PTI's director from 2018 to 2025 after the program's first director unexpectedly passed away.

During Stockwell's tenure, PTI expanded its summer internship programs and mentorship initiatives. Some formerly incarcerated students who began in the NJ-STEP program and participated in PTI courses and internships have returned as mentors to support the next generation of students. Stockwell described this model as "recognizing the potential and incredible skills of students and empowering them to use them."

To Greene and Stockwell, these programs transform both students and instructors. "I do think it's changed people's trajectories," Greene said.

Marion Alberty is one of those people. She began volunteering with PTI in 2019 while a postdoctoral researcher in the atmospheric and oceanic sciences program. She realized PTI was an organization that she "would love to put myself into more and more" and joined the staff as the STEM instructional specialist when the position was instituted in 2023.

Dena Lane-Bonds, who joined PTI last year as an instructional specialist, said the program is "a huge testament to what's possible in higher-education prison programming."

Looking ahead, Greene said her long-term goal is for a Princeton degree to be offered through PTI. "Step zero is being able to offer Princeton credit," she said. □

STUDENT LIFE

After AI Allegations, Class of 2026 Chooses a New Jacket Design

THE CLASS OF 2026'S class jacket design competition was thrown into controversy in December after the creator of the winning design was accused of using generative artificial intelligence, prompting student backlash, an online petition, and the selection of a new winner.

Class jackets, also known as senior jackets or beer jackets, are a staple of the Princeton experience, worn at Class Day and Reunions for years to come. Each year, the graduating class votes on designs created by members of the class, and this year, approximately 50 designs were submitted.

Following two rounds of voting, a Dec. 8 email announced Samuel Henriques '26 as the winner of the competition. It asked the Class of 2026 to

vote between two versions: the initial jacket by Henriques that won and an additional version that the committee and Henriques collaborated on. Less than an hour later, Derek Geng '26 sent an email to the FreeFood listserv, alleging that the winning design was AI-generated. The next day, a Change.org petition created by Margaret Miao '26 began to circulate, calling for clear evidence that the jacket was designed by a human rather than an algorithm.

In the petition, Miao emphasized that the jacket should reflect the values of the Honor Code, as well as integrity and honesty. "Princeton's vitality as an academic institution rests upon the ability of each student to create their own

individual contribution," she wrote. "Our class jacket, an enduring symbol of our time at Princeton, should reflect these values and our values as a class."

The petition quickly gained traction, with 615 signatures before it closed. One student comment argued that discarding human submissions in favor of AI-generated designs would undermine the tradition of the class jacket, setting a troubling precedent. Students also

took to Fizz, an anonymous social networking app for college students, to express their frustration with the jacket.

Less than a week later, on Dec. 13, the class announced a new winner of the competition: Zavier Foster '26. Foster's design features ivy on the front of the jacket, ivy and a tiger on the back, and the Princeton shield with the Class of 2026's year on the sleeve.

"The final design was elected through a ranked-choice vote by the class, and reflects the highest-ranked eligible jacket design based on the results," read the email announcement. When asked whether the initially selected design was AI-generated, Sol Choi '26, a class officer and jacket committee member, referred PAW to the Dec. 13 announcement. Henriques did not respond to a request for comment.

This is the first year the class jacket contest had rules governing AI use. Finalists had been asked to confirm that their designs did not incorporate any AI-generated content. Class jackets will be distributed during Senior Checkout in late April. □



THE WINNING DESIGN BY ZAVIER FOSTER '26



STUDENT DISPATCH

With Screens in the Classroom, What Does 'Class Time' Mean?

BY MIA MANN-SHAFIR '27



LAST WEEK, a friend said to me, “Now that I’ve memorized your class schedule, I know when to text you to actually get a reply — the only time you respond is when you’re in class.”

True, I thought. Otherwise, I’m busy living life.

Now, this may be counterintuitive, seeing as I am a student and class should, in theory, be the thing with which I mainly busy myself.

While classes themselves vary — the room, the professor, the classmates, the material — class time, on the whole, is consistent in its distinctiveness from the rest of our days. Class time represents a set period during which we are not just doing *whatever it is we want* — instead, we are in class, following the guidelines

set by an instructor. Or so it used to go.

Enter laptops. They’ve waltzed in, permeating that precious bubble, creating a common thread between class and not-class. Being in class is *way less different* from not being in class now that the two experiences share the core element of screens.

For most college students, laptops exist at the center of academic life. Kamila Isaieva ’27 said that “there has not been a single day this academic year” where she has not opened her laptop at least once. “And it’s not even like I have a specific purpose when I do,” she added. “It’s instinct at this point.”

Gayle Salomon, a professor of English, echoed Isaieva’s sentiment, saying that “our phones [and devices in general] are a habit,” and she believes “using the space of the seminar to break that habit is immensely valuable.”

In a similar vein, sociology professor Matthew Desmond opens his first Poverty, by America lecture with a slide titled “No Screens,” featuring screenshots of articles titled “A Learning Secret: Don’t Take Notes with a Laptop” and “The Pen is Mightier Than the Keyboard.”

Screens, in addition to taking students’

attention away from the course material, “can surface social divisions in the classroom in ways that go unrecognized,” Desmond said. He referenced a *New York Times* article from his “pre-screen-ban days” in which a student in his class describes watching as a classmate “planned a multicountry spring break trip to Europe” during class. By allowing screens to permeate class time, the differences among students enter an environment that otherwise might temporarily quiet these differences.

Spending less time on our screens is a noble pursuit, most agree. But despite the problems with tech, not everyone is so keen on kicking it out. As one senior who requested anonymity put it, if the class is not very interesting, better to use the time getting things done.

My father, Eldar Shafir, is a professor in the School of Public and International Affairs. At the start of each semester I’ve suggested he implement a tech ban in his class to keep my distraction-prone classmates focused. He is resistant. “I’m hesitant to infantilize my students,” he said. Instead, he tells them, “I know you’re watching videos or buying shoes on Amazon. I assure you, there’s plenty of research showing that either you won’t know what I say, or you’ll buy the wrong shoes.” He’s concluded that “ultimately, it’s their loss if they don’t pay attention.”

Otto Trueman ’27, an anthropology major, is one of these self-disciplined students my father still believes in. He takes his notes on paper. “I don’t trust myself not to get distracted,” he said. “I’m trying not to let myself go down that road. I worry that if I start using screens, I will lose the ability to sit through a lecture fully focused.”

As Princeton students navigate class time with screens — and faculty members struggle alongside them — not everyone agrees on whether a total screen ban is the only, or even the best, solution. But in interviews, there is a consensus that class time, as we once understood it, must be reexamined to keep face-to-face instruction productive and gratifying for all parties — and to ensure that “face-to-face” preserves any meaning at all. ■

MUSIC

Princetonian Grammys Exhibit Sounds Like a Winner

AFTER THE 68TH ANNUAL Grammy Awards on Feb. 1, keep the sounds of music alive by heading in person to the Mendel Music Library or online to the Princeton University Library website to check out an exhibit highlighting dozens of Grammy nominees and winners who have studied or taught at Princeton.

Princeton at the Grammys runs through June 30 and spans from music professor Roger Sessions' 1961 nomination for best contemporary classical composition at the third annual show through the handful of Princetonians nominated for awards in 2025. The exhibit features students, alumni, and faculty in composition and

KAIT MORENO



CAROLINE SHAW '14

performance, and includes music genres such as classical, opera, jazz, pop, and alternative. Composer Caroline Shaw '14 and longtime performers-in-residence

Sō Percussion received the 2025 award for Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance. Nine faculty members are also among those featured.

"Aside from celebrating the achievements of some of Princeton's most well-known musicians, this exhibition is also a snapshot of the last 60 years of composers and performers from our music department," said Lisa Read, music librarian, in a promotional video. Read co-curated the exhibit alongside Brittany Nielson, coordinator for digital projects and collection management.

In December, the physical exhibit in the Mendel Music Library at the Woolworth Center showcased album covers, scores, and booklets, though items were expected to rotate in January and April. Online at princeton-grammys.library.princeton.edu, viewers can listen to the corresponding works. A Princeton NetID is required to access some of the music due to licensing agreements.  By J.B.

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THOMAS EMENS '25 BEING SWORN IN

STUDENT LIFE

'Mr. Mayor' Goes to Class

Thomas Emens '25 balances graduate studies at SPIA with the top job at a nearby borough hall

BY LIA OPPERMANN '25

ON A TYPICAL WEEKNIGHT, graduate student Thomas Emens '25 might finish one of his classes at the School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA), close his laptop, and shift into another role: mayor of Jamesburg, New Jersey. As the town's chief elected official, he fields calls from constituents and attends meetings of the borough council, which he served on during his last two years as an undergraduate.

Emens, 23, a master's in public affairs student in the Scholars in the Nation's Service Initiative, is one of the youngest elected officials in New Jersey and likely one of the few college students in the country simultaneously running a municipality. In a recent special election for mayor, he won with 57% of the vote and more than 1,000 votes total. Almost 6,000 people live in Jamesburg, which is about a half hour east of Princeton, and 52% turned out to vote. He was sworn in on Dec. 3.

Emens' family goes back around eight

generations in Jamesburg, and the community "is sort of a way of life for me," he said. "I got involved because I felt that I could help make things better."

That involvement began in middle school with community theater and raising money for different charities and causes, followed by volunteer work with a community green team, cleaning up different areas in the town. At 17, Emens joined the board of trustees at the library, leading a revitalization project.

His experience, especially learning from his community members throughout his job as a trustee when he was a senior in high school, led Emens to run for borough council in 2022, amid infighting in the town's Democratic Party. "I think everyone approaches with good intentions; we just had different approaches to it," he said. He won the race and later was selected by the council as council president in 2024 and 2025.

"Getting involved in politics wasn't something that I intended to do, but kind of seemed like a vehicle to help us move

things forward in town and address some of the big problems that we had," Emens said.

In his time as council president, Emens briefly served as acting mayor before ceding the role. (The law required a Republican to serve as interim mayor until the special election was held last fall.)

Emens has focused on stabilizing Jamesburg's finances. The borough was on the state's transitional aid program, "effectively a state bailout," so he worked to balance the budget. His priorities include controlling costs, especially health insurance and labor contracts, and expanding the tax base through economic development.

At the same time, Emens has been building an academic career shaped by many of the same concerns. After graduating with high honors from Middlesex College, he transferred to Princeton, where he graduated magna cum laude with a degree in politics. His senior thesis, advised by Professor Nolan McCarty, examined how mayoral election cycles affect tax levies in New Jersey.

Emens said that his schedule is very busy, as the role of a mayor is "24/7, 365 days a year," but he has found a way to manage his time.

On campus, students often call him "Mr. Mayor." As an undergraduate, he served as the president of the Princeton Transfer Association and worked at the Emma Bloomberg Center for Access and Opportunity, supporting first-generation and low-income community college students and military veterans. These experiences reinforced his belief in upward mobility and government and politics as a vehicle to expand it.

In the classroom, Emens' dual roles often intersect. His professors ask him to weigh in on topics with his perspective working in politics, specifically in SPIA classes, and are generally supportive of his work. "I feel that I'm serving some purpose with the background and perspective that I have, and I didn't have to put on an act to do it," he said.

"Only in a place like Princeton am I able to do something like this." □



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VISUAL ARTS

Inaugural Museum Exhibit Honors Toshiko Takaezu's Princeton Legacy

THE INAUGURAL EXHIBITION in the new Princeton University Art Museum's Welcome Gallery centers on a longtime faculty member in Princeton's Program in Visual Arts whose work pushed the boundaries of 20th-century American art and helped shape the next generation of artists. *Toshiko Takaezu: Dialogues in Clay* features Takaezu's ceramics in conversation with works by her contemporaries, and many of the pieces featured were made while she taught at the University.

"Takaezu taught at Princeton for nearly three decades [from 1967 to 1992], shaping generations of alumni makers and thinkers through a pedagogy grounded in discipline, honesty, and respect for one's materials," curators Juliana Ochs Dweck and Samuel Shapiro wrote in an email to PAW. Princeton awarded Takaezu an honorary doctorate in 1996, four years after she retired from teaching. She died in 2011 at age 88.

At the University, Takaezu often brought students to her home and studio in Quakertown, New Jersey, where

a select few worked as apprentices. Former students contributed labels in the exhibition that reflect her impact as a teacher. "The show situates her practice both in mid-century artistic experimentation and in the intellectual life of the University, foregrounding her studio — through voices from past students — as a site of exchange and community," Dweck and Shapiro wrote.

The exhibition follows Takaezu's

experiments across half a century with what she called "closed forms," ceramic bowls that are enclosed and create nonfunctional spheres or cylinders. Through incorporating the work of other artists at the time, the exhibition traces experimental ceramics and explores parallels throughout their practices, centering on Takaezu.

A short walk away from the museum, Takaezu's bronze bell *Remembrance* sits in a garden between Nassau Hall and East Pyne, and honors Princeton alumni who died in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Takaezu's work has also been displayed at the Philadelphia Art Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of



IN SHORT

Following the cancellation of Winteression, the University is deciding whether to begin the spring semester earlier in future years, which would likely move up Reunions and Commencement. Dean of the College Michael Gordin announced the potential **changes to the academic calendar** at the December meeting of the Council of the Princeton University Community on behalf of the Faculty Committee on Classrooms and Schedules, which he chairs. Faculty are expected to vote on the measure in the spring, but the calendar would not change until 2028 at the earliest.

Under the proposal being considered, the spring semester would begin every year on the Tuesday after Jan. 16. Erika



2025 COMMENCEMENT

Knudson, associate vice president of advancement communications, told PAW via email: "The Office of Alumni Engagement has informed alumni volunteer leaders of the potential for a 2028 Reunions calendar change, and we look forward to working with the Committee on Reunions volunteers on communications and planning in 2027 if the faculty approves the new schedule."

By J.B.

IN MEMORIAM

Kate Ho, an economist who specialized in the industrial organization of health care, died Dec. 8 at age 53. Ho joined the Princeton faculty from Columbia University in 2018 and served as co-director of the University's Center for Health and Wellbeing for six years. Her recent publications focused on prescription drug pricing and market competition among health insurance companies. Ho was editor or co-editor of two journals, *RAND Journal of Economics* and *Econometrica*, during her time at Princeton and received departmental awards for undergraduate



Art, and the Smithsonian American Art Museum, among other places.

To Dweck and Shapiro, the exhibition was chosen as the first in the new museum “because Takaezu’s work (both her practice and her objects) so powerfully embody the values that underlie the building and the institution, with its commitments to encounter with original objects, close looking, and wide-ranging dialogue.” According to them, the exhibition signals that it is a teaching museum, where one can learn artistic legacy not just through Takaezu’s objects, but through their transmission and influence.

Museum director James Steward expressed a similar sentiment: “Our inaugural exhibitions demonstrate how our new building gives us space and architecture that is worthy of and amplifies the brilliance of the collections,” he wrote.

Seen through the Welcome Gallery’s expansive ground-floor windows, Takaezu’s ceramics catch the natural light and invite visitors inside.

“We hope visitors come away with a sense of the radical quiet of her work, its insistence on slowness and presence, and an appreciation for how profoundly an artist-teacher can shape an institution’s culture and collections,” Dweck and Shapiro wrote. The exhibition is on view through July 5. **P** By L.O.

teaching and graduate advising. “Her mentorship of students and junior faculty will have a lasting impact on the field, as will her contributions to the research community,” the Department of Economics wrote in an online tribute.

Rand Mirante '70, who served more than three decades in University Advancement,



most recently as senior associate director of Annual Giving, died Nov. 28 at age 77. A devoted explorer of history, he lectured for Princeton Journeys tours, taught undergraduates

through the Princeton Writing Program, and led Wintersession classes about the Battle of Princeton. He was an honorary member of 10 alumni classes in addition to his own. **P**

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Tiger Notes!

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TO YOUR
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CLASSMATES

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Does a Sitting Star Signal Trouble for the Ivy League?

BY BRETT TOMLINSON

IN EARLY DECEMBER, the Princeton men's basketball Class of 2026 was together under one roof, but the venue was Duke's Cameron Indoor Stadium, not Jadwin Gym.

Xaivian Lee, the former All-Ivy point guard, was playing for visiting Florida; guard Jack Scott was on the sidelines as a reserve for Duke; and behind the home bench, Caden Pierce, the former Tigers forward and Ivy League Player of the Year who is sitting out his senior season as he prepares to play one more year of college basketball as a graduate transfer, was there for a recruiting visit with Duke's coaches.

"I was going to go to that game regardless," Pierce said, "and it just so happened that they had interest in me."

It has been an odd year for Pierce, who made his decision to leave the basketball team in July, after Lee and Scott transferred. Without the structured schedule of a varsity athlete, he has more control over what he does and when, from workouts to meals to studying. Even with a senior thesis in the works and occasional road trips to the schools that are recruiting him (including Purdue, UConn, and Duke), he has more free time than he's ever had. Meanwhile, with no

seniors on the roster, Princeton struggled to a 4-11 nonconference record before opening the Ivy schedule with wins over Penn and Yale.

Pierce has one year of athletic eligibility remaining and could earn a significant amount of money through name, image, and likeness (NIL) deals and revenue sharing, which was adopted following the *House v. NCAA* settlement last year. (The Ivy League does not participate in revenue sharing.) His priority, he said, is developing as a player in hopes of building a pro career in the NBA or overseas.

"I'm making this more of a basketball decision rather than an immediate, one-year financial decision," he said. "I'm trying to find the situation that lifts

"There's so many opportunities financially elsewhere that it's difficult for an 18-year-old brain to kind of comprehend, you know, the money versus the degree."

— CADEN PIERCE '26
Former Tigers forward and
Ivy League Player of the Year

up my basketball potential as best as possible."

Under the framework set by the *House* settlement, any NIL deal worth \$600 or more must be cleared by the new College Sports Commission (CSC). The commission's CEO, Bryan Seeley '00, said in a July 2025 statement that "every NIL deal done with a student-athlete must be a legitimate NIL deal, not pay-for-play in disguise." Through Nov. 1, the CSC approved 12,175 deals totaling \$87.5 million.

Since transferring to Florida, Lee's sponsorships have included a national fast-food chain, a major wireless carrier, skincare products, and a sports drink. By comparison, Pierce, in his time playing for Princeton, had a partnership with P.J.'s Pancake House — and was thrilled for that opportunity.

The NIL landscape at Princeton's peers might be changing: In November, Penn men's basketball coach Fran McCaffery made headlines in *The Daily Pennsylvanian* and *The Philadelphia Inquirer* after suggesting in a Zoom call with fans and media that his program was using a "collective" run by alumni to provide paid internships for its players. The Ivy League has not publicly addressed the issue. Princeton athletic director John Mack '00 declined to be interviewed for this story, but in one of the alumni office's TigerSide Chats last year, he spoke out against collectives and the use of NIL as a recruiting inducement.

"We believe completely that student athletes should benefit from the legitimate use of their name, image, and likeness," Mack said. "But what we won't do is engage in pay-for-play."

Pierce said he understands that stance "because it's kind of a slippery slope and you would never want to change something that has made the Ivy League so different and so prestigious in the past." But a stronger emphasis on NIL, he added, could make Ivies more competitive in recruiting.

"There's so many opportunities financially elsewhere that it's difficult for an 18-year-old brain to kind of comprehend, you know, the money versus the degree," Pierce said. "So a lot of kids are choosing to go elsewhere." □



RESEARCH

ADVANCING THE FRONTIERS OF KNOWLEDGE





CLOSTRIDIODES DIFFICILE

CHEMISTRY

Uncovering the Cure For a Common, Deadly Illness

BY EMILY GOLD BOUTILIER

SPEND TIME IN A HOSPITAL or nursing home and you're likely to hear about the dangers of *Clostridioides difficile*, or *C. diff*. This bacterium causes gut infections that transmit easily and recur often. Especially in older people and those with weakened immunity, it can be deadly. Part of what makes it so tricky is that the cure — antibiotics — is also the culprit. It's as if using a fire extinguisher started a new fire while putting a different one out.

Most *C. diff* infections occur after taking antibiotics for another illness. Many of these drugs kill protective "good" bacteria in the gut, and this disruption of the gut microbiome makes it easier for *C. diff* spores that enter the body to grow and produce toxins. While antibiotics can clear *C. diff*, in the process, they further disrupt an already weakened microbiome. It's one reason why recurrence and reinfection are common.



SEYEDSAYAMDOST

In November, preclinical trials in mice showed a potential fix. The tests found that a novel antibiotic called KCB, discovered in the lab of Princeton biological chemist Mohammad Seyed-Sayam-dost, is safe and effective against *C. diff* and preserves the microbiome.

"It's much more potent than what's currently used clinically, and

it's also much more specific," says Seyed-Sayam-dost, meaning that it attacks its target and nothing else.

C. diff is the leading cause of death from gastroenteritis in the U.S., with about 500,000 illnesses and more than 29,000 deaths each year, according to the CDC. That's one reason the preclinical trial results matter.

Even more important is how KCB, which is produced by a soil bacteria, was discovered. Seyed-Sayam-dost invented an entirely new way to find antibiotics and other molecules — a breakthrough that has implications far beyond *C. diff*.

In 2020, his method won him a genius grant from the MacArthur Foundation, which praised his research for "opening up access to a new trove of previously unknown and potentially therapeutic biochemical compounds."

Of the 100 or so medical antibiotics in use today, most originated in the natural world — from bacteria that make these molecules as part of their normal metabolism. Called secondary metabolites, "they're essentially a chemical language" that bacteria use to communicate and compete with each other, Seyed-Sayam-dost says. For people, they can cure infection. But decades

ago, traditional methods for finding them ran dry.

Seyedsayamdst's approach is to activate hidden secondary metabolites by turning on otherwise dormant pathways in the bacteria. He calls the method HiTES (High-Throughput Elicitor Screening).

"Somewhat ironically, what we figured out is that the best way to turn on these dormant pathways is through the addition of antibiotics," he says. "If you supply a high dose, obviously the bacteria will die, but with a low dose, they feel threatened, like there's a competitor. And so they turn on all this biosynthetic potential in an effort to protect themselves. That was the major discovery — that low-dose antibiotics are inducers for dormant pathways."

Seyedsayamdst's lab has now found more than 200 novel secondary metabolites, including antibiotics. "These are metabolites that you wouldn't

"If you supply a high dose, obviously the bacteria will die, but with a low dose, they feel threatened, like there's a competitor. And so they turn on all this biosynthetic potential in an effort to protect themselves. That was the major discovery — that low-dose antibiotics are inducers for dormant pathways."

— MOHAMMAD SEYEDSAYAMDOST

see with conventional discovery methods," he says. "Some are completely new structural classes of molecules."

In addition to his lab work,

Seyedsayamdst is co-founder and CEO of Cryptyx Bioscience, a startup focused on developing new medicines. *C. diff* infection is one of many illnesses in its sightline. Another is melioidosis, which can cause pneumonia and is resistant to many commonly used antibiotics. In a November preclinical trial, the novel antibiotic TMMC proved effective against melioidosis, Seyedsayamdst says. In both cases, the molecules discovered in Seyedsayamdst's lab were licensed from Princeton to Cryptyx, and all subsequent work has been conducted at Cryptyx, he says.

"Developing a drug is really expensive," Seyedsayamdst says. "The average cost is well over \$1 billion." A small startup can't take that on. With the preclinical *C. diff* results in hand, Seyedsayamdst hopes to find a pharmaceutical company to either partner with Cryptyx or license its work. If either happens, human clinical trials may be on the way. □

Tiger Notes!

Reserve your chance to add a shout out to fellow alumni in PAW's 2026 Reunions Guide. Choose between a sticky note or photo message. Space is limited. Leave your mark, spread the joy, and help us fill the board with Orange & Black love!

Shoutout to Tiffany! See you at Reunions next year!!

The Best Roommates:
Jane & Catherine

After the fireworks show, the 13-piece band Philly's Finest will blow the roof off of our main stage! Don't Miss it! — Class of '96

MISS YOU, Sara!
Saving you a spot at the beer tent.
- Heather '91



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BEHIND THE RESEARCH: DANIELA VALDÉS

Highlighting the History of LGBTQ+ People of Color

BY AGATHA BORDONARO '04



DANIELA VALDÉS FELL IN LOVE WITH HISTORY FROM AN EARLY AGE, gravitating to the communities that mirrored her reality as a young queer person of color. At the time, the LGBTQ+ world was influenced by Black feminism and Chicana, Latina, and Indigenous feminisms, and the community was involved with anti-carceral and prison abolition politics. Valdés herself was born to Colombian and Cuban immigrants and identifies as gender nonconforming — a person whose gender expression, behavior, and/or presentation doesn't align with societal expectations or stereotypes for their sex assigned at birth. "I wanted to understand more about the origins of the world that shaped me," she explains.

Valdés earned her bachelor's degree from Dartmouth and her Ph.D. in history from Rutgers University. Her work blends carceral, labor, migration, and gender and sexuality studies with community engagement and intergenerational dialogue to better understand LGBTQ+ history in the context of U.S. history more broadly. In the fall, Valdés joined Princeton as a Cotsen Fellow in LGBTQ+ Studies, where over the course of her three-year appointment, she hopes to deepen her research into the history of queer and trans people of color and work toward publishing her first book.

Quick Facts

TITLE

Associate research scholar in the Council of the Humanities and lecturer in history

TIME AT PRINCETON

6 months

RECENT CLASS

'Spare change for a starving queen?' Race and Gender Nonconformity in U.S. History

VALDÉS' RESEARCH A SAMPLING

MASS INCARCERATION THROUGH AN LGBTQ+ LENS

In the latter part of the 20th century as U.S. incarceration rates dramatically rose, studies show LGBTQ+ people of color were disproportionately jailed. In her current book project *Clocked and Locked: Race, Gender Nonconformity, and the Making of the Carceral-Psychiatric State, 1945-1995*, Valdés pulls from extensive municipal and state archives of data to probe how a gender-nonconforming experience "shapes social and economic outcomes, and may or may not bring someone in close contact with the criminal legal system." She adds that citing official government records helps dispel the harmful myth that the history

of this community has been erased. "That's not true, and it does a disservice to us."

PUTTING HISTORIES IN CONTEXT

In her new course, 'Spare change for a starving queen?' Race and Gender Nonconformity in U.S. History, Valdés positions LGBTQ+ history in the broader context of U.S. history to ask deep questions about how we conceptualize the country. "Do we think about it as a colonial-settler nation state? Do we think about it as a multiracial democracy with a promise fulfilled? How do we think about policing in this country, inequality, fairness, justice, democracy, the fight to defend democracy?" In the future, Valdés hopes to expand



this line of study into multiple course offerings to enable deeper dives into each angle.

PRESERVING STORIES

A believer in blending academic study with community engagement for deeper impact, Valdés is particularly interested in storytelling and dialogue. She conducts oral histories for the Rikers Public Memory Project (RPMP), which showcases the stories of those most impacted

by the New York City jail Rikers Island and serves as the largest public archive of the jail's legacy. "Most people confined at Rikers are not convicted of crimes. They're only there because they cannot pay bail," she explains. "Fundamental to policing and incarceration in this country is this class- and race-based issue." Valdés edited and directed RPMP's documentary *Story by Story: Building a People's History of Rikers Island*. □



Top row (left to right): Tina Sung '71 and David Chamberlain '71; Beth Kunze S77 and Gerald Kunze '77; Willy Landigan '76 and Cindy Albert Link '76.

Bottom row (left to right): Regina Lee '85; Adriene Bailey '85 and Susan Dawson '85; Beth Gilson '82.

New 1746 Society Members CARRY OUR BANNER FORWARD

A hearty welcome to the newest 1746 Society members who have added Princeton as a beneficiary in their estate plans with one of the many options available, from bequest intentions to making an Annual Giving Legacy gift for a 50th Reunion or beyond.

Thank you for linking your future intentions with Princeton's mission!

Jesse M. Abraham '83
Merrick G. Andlinger '80
Charles H. Avery '68
Marjorie Hoblitzell Baldwin '85
Stephen P. Ban '84
Wendy Otis Ban '88
Christopher S. Bender '85
John R. Berger '74
Nathalie Berger S74
James H. Bernstein '75
Linda Bell Blackburn '71
Mrs. Leo J. Brannick W*57
James T. Burghardt '73
Evan M. Bush '60
C. Louise Carlson '73
Christopher A. Chambers '82
Kay W. Chen S66
Douglas D. Choo P01
John J. Collins '71
Kathleen Wooley Collins S71
Virginia L. Corson '74
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Allan E. Curlee '71

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Anna Domb S97
Benjamin G. Domb '97
Duke Duguay *00
Mark R. Dukas '76
Alexander R. Edlich *99
Gouri Orekondy Edlich S*99
M. Idette Elizondo '96
Benjamin Eng '75
Derek C. Finkle '90
Julie Michell Finkle S90
Laura Meek Foote '77
Laura M. Gaffney '03
Benedict Gedaminski S*00
M. Tyson Gilpin Jr. '65
Sara D. Greenwood S74
Shelly D. Guyer '82
Naomi I. Hayashi '97
Ingrid M. Herrera '96
Barbara C. Hewson '73
Janice F. Hill '73

Karen V. Hobbins S60
Richard R. Hobbins Jr. '60
J. Williams Holt III '67
Ling Hu-Kramer '01
Jesse B. Jalazo '75
Tim James '78
Louis Joris W*68
Gary M. King '79
Stanley G. Korenman '54
Jared G. Kramer '01
Marc Andrew Landis '84
Evelyn A. Landigan S76
William F. Landigan '76
Richard D. Larabee '73
Jacqueline M. Latina '08
Brian R. Lessing '76
Lawrence J. Link S76
Allen S. Y. Liu '69
Mark A. Mahan '98
Henry Newman Maimon '59
Catherine E. Mallette '84
Karol Marcin S96
Marnie Sigler Marcin '96

Baldwin Maull '53
Paul E. Mendis '69
Jethro O. Miller '92
Renata Kobetts Miller '93
Edward R. Mills '59
Debra Mitts S66
Philip Moylan F
Marian T. Ott '76
Craig E. Philip '75
Ann Pollack S54
Nancy D. Pontone K41
Joseph Rauch-Smoke '87
Tina A. Ravitz '76
Albert S. Richardson III '76
Monique Rinere *00
Lavonda I. Rowe '95
Michael E. Schiffres '75
Roni R. Schiffres S75
Edward M. Seliga '75
Eugene M. Shelby '73
Mark J. Sherman '83
Edith M. Shine S83
David A. Sigman '83

Steven M. Sliwa '77
David Alton Smith '73
James P. Smith Jr. '65
Marschall I. Smith '66
Maria T. Spears S60
William G. Spears '60
Kathleen L. Strother '75
Patrick H. Swearingen III '84
Judy Ann Taft S64
Timothy N. Taft '64
Kevin J. Toner '74
Margaret Ughetta '82
William C. Ughetta Jr. '82
Francis L. Van Dusen Jr. '72
Pamela Smith Viscione '83
Henry Wei S97
David P. Willard '06
Jordan M. Winter '97
Chuen L. Yee '75
Christina S. Young '98
Anonymous (7)
Affiliations: F/friend; K/kin; P/parent;
S/spouse; W/widow, widower



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Photo credits: Andrea Kane; courtesy of Beth Gilson '82



LIVES LIVED & LOST

PAW published memorials for 537 alumni in 2025. In this issue, we reflect on 14 of those lives and the impact they had on Princeton, their families, and the world. We also remind readers that the University will pay tribute to students, alumni, faculty, and staff members whose deaths were recorded last year at the Service of Remembrance on Alumni Day, Feb. 21.



AUG. 16, 1930 — APRIL 3, 2025

DAVID PATON '52

BY BRETT TOMLINSON

IN THE LATE 1960s, ophthalmologist David Paton '52 developed a sense of professional wanderlust. He traveled widely as an instructor in Central and South America and visited colleagues in Russia, Thailand, and South Africa to study surgical techniques, all the while thinking about ways to improve eye care in places with the greatest need.

Drawing inspiration from the SS Hope hospital ship that brought medical care to patients in developing countries, Paton envisioned a more nimble solution: a flying teaching hospital for ophthalmology. It could operate on any commercial runway, and the hands-on instruction would have a “multiplier effect” as local doctors learned the newest methods of eye surgery and passed on the knowledge, Paton explained in his 2011 memoir, *Second Sight: Views from an Eye Doctor’s Odyssey*.

It would take more than a dozen years for Paton’s “Project Orbis” to take flight. Facing fundraising challenges and skepticism from his peers in the medical community, he relied on a board of business leaders, lawyers, and philanthropists, including a handful of

Princetonians and longtime friend Betsy Wainwright, the daughter of Pan Am CEO Juan Trippe. Their collective work produced a custom-fitted DC-8, equipped with an operating room, recovery room, and classroom with state-of-the-art audio-visual tools.

From its maiden voyage to Panama City in 1982, Project Orbis was a global sensation, attracting an enthusiastic corps of volunteer faculty who traveled to 20 countries and trained more than 1,000 doctors in its first year of operation.

“The plane is really the best example of functional diplomacy I’ve ever seen,” says Dr. Hunter Cherwek, vice president of clinical services and technologies for what is now known as Orbis International. “We have team members from over a dozen countries, all of them trained in different systems and different cultures and different languages. But when we come together, the mission is so clear, the purpose is so clear. It’s all about patient care and skills exchange.”

After more than four decades, Orbis International remains a vibrant provider of education and care, through its flying eye hospital (now in an MD-10) as well

as virtual training programs. In 2024, the organization provided more than 2.2 million eye screenings and exams, 53,000 surgeries, and 38,000 trainings for eye care professionals and community health workers, according to its annual report.

PATON LEFT PROJECT ORBIS IN 1987 but eventually returned in an advisory role and was on hand to witness its expansion into telemedicine and distance learning. “I think what he was the happiest about was how far we’ve come, how much we’ve grown, but we kept that genetic code of innovation,” Cherwek says.

Paton’s philanthropic instincts and knack for bringing people together were evident during his time as an undergraduate biology major at Princeton, according to longtime friend James A. Baker III '52.

“What struck me about David — from the first time I met him at The Hill School through our days as roommates at Princeton to the very end — was that he was a gentle human being who always wanted to do the right thing,” Baker told PAW in an email. “At Princeton, that meant being the best and most engaged student that he could be. It also meant showing interest in others rather than being solely focused on himself.”

Paton’s father, R. Townley Paton 1925, was an innovative eye surgeon who founded the first eye bank to collect donated eye tissue in the United States. David was drawn more toward teaching than private practice, serving much of his career in medical school faculty and administrator roles. Academia suited his personality, he wrote, allowing him to consider big ideas.

According to his son, D. Townley Paton, he loved to talk about the changes reshaping medicine today, such as remote surgery and the use of artificial intelligence, even as he began to deal with dementia in the final years of his life.

“He was a sweetheart until the moment he died,” Townley Paton says. “His whole passion was to change the world and help people.” □

BRETT TOMLINSON is PAW’s managing editor.



MARCH 11, 1943 — AUG. 21, 2025

STARLING LAWRENCE '65

BY MICHAEL LEWIS '82

IMET STARLING LAWRENCE '65 38 YEARS AGO IN HIS OFFICE at W.W. Norton, where he'd soon become the editor-in-chief. Norton was, and is, the last great book publishing firm owned by its employees. The people who run it are less inclined to spend money as it's their money they'd be spending. The offices were less 1980s New York than Third Age shire — really just a bunch of hobbit holes filled with people still getting used to the invention of electricity. I was 26 years old and still working at the Wall Street firm Salomon Brothers. I'd arrived at Star's office with sweaty palms and a strong desire to write some kind of book but very little evidence that I could actually do it. The offices calmed me down a bit. I mean, if people in these conditions could publish books, maybe I could write one. But what really put me at ease was Star. Because he was himself so at ease.

Later I'd often hear people describe Star Lawrence as an aristocrat. This was mainly because he'd gone to Princeton and had a courtly manner and wore bow ties and had inherited half of Connecticut. But what was genuinely aristocratic about him was his total indifference to conventional opinion. He could afford to ignore what other people thought, and he did. Talking to him — even when you'd just met him — you sensed that you weren't being listened to by someone sizing you up in any conventional way. You were being listened to in some original way.

What I pitched to him in the winter of 1987 was basically a history of American finance. I had no real characters. I had no real story. I didn't mention strippers on trading desks or swan farts or fat mortgage traders eating 20-gallon drums of guacamole or million-dollar hands of liar's poker or really anything about my own experiences, except at the very end, as a kind of coda to the entire history of American finance. When I was done Star Lawrence — and Star Lawrence alone among U.S. publishers — bought my book idea.

Over the next year he then teased out of me a book that bore no relation to the book I'd pitched him. The history of American finance wound up on the cutting room floor. In its place appeared this bizarre hero's journey crammed with all the funniest stuff I'd seen and heard while working at Salomon Brothers along

ALL EARS

Michael Lewis '82, second from left, and Starling Lawrence '65, second from right, in discussion with Rev. Timothy S. Healy in the 1980s.

with an explanation of what was going on just then on Wall Street. The editor had taken the end of

my pitch and made it the beginning of a story.

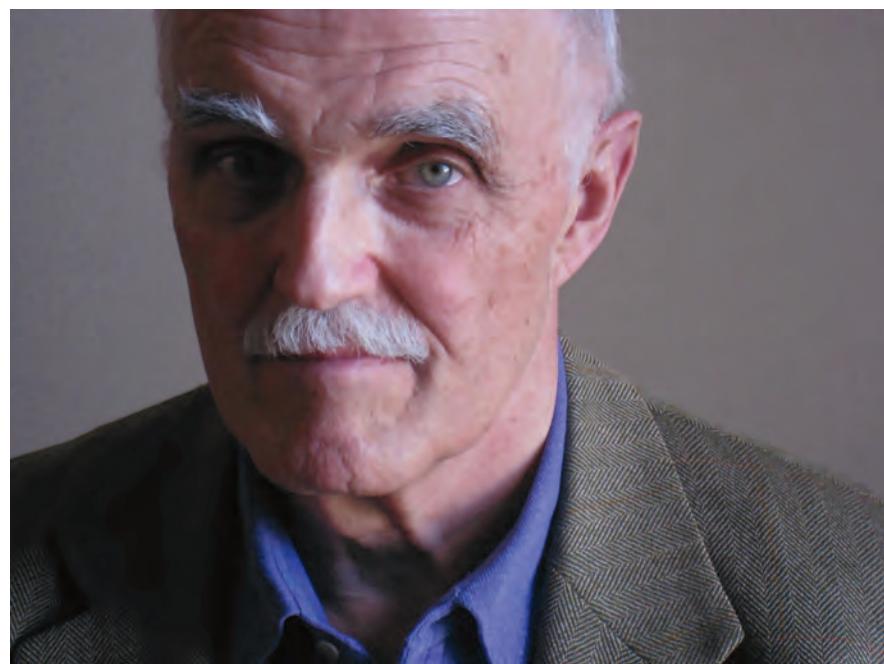
Then the story was published. *Liar's Poker*, it was called. Other people who were not Star Lawrence read it. The reaction shocked me. I know this might be hard to believe now, but I'd actually *liked* the characters I'd worked for at Salomon Brothers. But when my former employers read what Star had coaxed from me, they didn't feel liked. They hired publicists to go after me. The CEO photocopied the book and handed it out to all employees so they wouldn't go out and boost its sales. A week after publication I was so radioactive on Wall Street that I basically assumed no one who worked there would ever speak to me again. But in the bargain — a bargain Star Lawrence had somehow struck on my behalf — my name was on the cover of the country's bestselling book.

There's a mystery here. I don't go through life looking to upset other people. But the minute I began to write a book for Star Lawrence I somehow acquired this fantastic ability to piss people off. Over the next 35 years this kind of thing happened again and again and again with us. Star would create this calm and measured mental space in which he'd tease a book out of me. (He teased out 17 in all.) The book would then be published and all hell would break loose. Eventually I came to understand what was happening: the Star Lawrence effect.

I THINK PEOPLE HAVE A HARD TIME being themselves, especially when they are putting words on the page. They write in a defensive crouch. They worry about how others will react. They imagine their subjects' feelings. At the pro level, they worry about reviewers and sales. Without even realizing that they are doing it, they censor themselves. I might have done that too — had I never met Star. But once I'd met him his voice silenced all the others. His voice said in so many words, "Don't worry what anyone else thinks. If it pleases me, the rest will take care of itself." And in the most amazing ways it did.

What was it about that voice — that it had this power? Well, for a start, it

DAN DOUGLAS



But he had something else. Whatever it is that allows a child to curl up with a book and become wholly absorbed in it — without the slightest concern of what he is supposed to think of it, or what other people think of it — Star still had that in him.

was totally sure of itself. Star could be impatient. He didn't have time for jargon and complicated explanations that made the writer seem smart but made the reader feel stupid. He didn't like it when you used more words than were necessary. And if you didn't have interesting characters to describe, or a compelling story to tell, he felt a kind of pity for you. But if you could grab his interest, he had endless patience. Writing for him you felt that. That once you grabbed his interest, he'd let you take him anywhere.

That's why, as an editor, he wound up in so many different places. True crime (Vincent Bugliosi's *Helter Skelter*). Literary fiction (David McCloskey's *The Persian*). Diet books (Martin Katahn's

The T-Factor Diet). The 20 volumes of Patrick O'Brian's Aubrey-Maturin historical fiction series. I don't think he ever once looked over his shoulder to see where other people were going so he could follow. He had none of that kind of fear in him. That's why as a very young editor he was able to fish James Grady's *Six Days of the Condor* out of the Norton slush pile. And see the power of Burton Malkiel '64's *A Random Walk Down Wall Street*. And be the only editor in the United States willing to pay money for Sebastian Junger's *The Perfect Storm* — and for my own *Liar's Poker*.

But he had something else. Whatever it is that allows a child to curl up with a book and become wholly absorbed in it — without the slightest concern of what he is supposed to think of it, or what other people think of it — Star still had that in him. He somehow got through boarding school and Princeton and rose to the top of American publishing without ever losing his capacity for simple delight. Sort of like he'd never really learned to clean his room. And the sound of his pleasure in my head was so much fun to write for that it's the only voice I wanted to hear. □

MICHAEL LEWIS '82 is an author of New York Times bestselling books, including his most recent, *Going Infinite*.



MAY 25, 1958 – OCT. 27, 2025

ALICE GAST *84

BY JULIE BONETTE

ALICE GAST *84 WAS THE first female president of Lehigh University and both the first female and first foreign president of Imperial College London. She was the first person to have led universities in both the United States and the United Kingdom. Along with an investor partner, Gast was the first to launch an entrepreneurship competition for women at a university in the U.K.

And Gast was the first to discover, back in her Princeton days, when she lived at Hunter's Glen with her husband, Brad Askins, that their escape-artist cat responded to the theme song of the TV show *M*A*S*H*. If you ever saw a group of people scouring the adjoining golf course whistling that familiar tune, it was because of Gast.

"She put a lot of energy into everything she did," says Askins, who had inadvertently made a habit of whistling the theme song whenever he fed Stumpy

dinner, usually after he and Gast finished watching *M*A*S*H* reruns.

Born in Houston, Texas, Gast largely grew up in California, where she developed a lifelong love of the outdoors. In 1980, she graduated with her bachelor's degree in chemical engineering as valedictorian from USC, where she and Askins met. They came to Princeton so Gast could pursue her Ph.D. in chemical engineering. Aside from tracking down their runaway cat, at Princeton, Gast and Askins liked to play tennis and have dinner with her classmates. They were married in the University Chapel.

Gast spent a year in France as a postdoc and then 16 years as a professor at Stanford, during which time she co-authored a textbook on colloid and surface phenomena and received a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Gast then moved to the administrative side of higher education. She spent five

years as vice president for research, associate provost, and chair of chemical engineering at MIT before taking the helm of Lehigh in 2006. While there, she was named a global science envoy by the U.S. Department of State.

IN 2014, SHE BECAME president of Imperial College London, and she and Askins moved to the U.K.

"We had this expression — we're happy wherever we go," says Askins.

At Imperial, one of Gast's most enduring legacies is WE Innovate, a six-month competitive program for female entrepreneurs that she co-launched with Alexis de Raadt St. James.

"I don't think 500 women would've gone through the program, and I don't think over 80 companies would've been created, had she not stepped up and said, 'You know what? I want to put my name, my time, my energy, and this university behind [WE Innovate]. So, for that, I'm just eternally grateful,'" says de Raadt St. James.

Gast stepped down from Imperial in 2022, after she was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, but she didn't stop working; she and de Raadt St. James were writing an article weeks before her death.

According to Askins, Gast was proudest of both "her academic children — her Ph.D. students" and their two children, David and Rebecca.

Despite her intense career, she was an extremely supportive mother. Rebecca says Gast came to nearly all her cross country and track meets while she was growing up, yet somehow Gast also made time to attend "almost every sport you can imagine" at the universities where she worked.

"How amazing is that, that the president of your university shows up to your cross country meet when like nobody comes to cross country?" Rebecca asks.

As president of Lehigh, Gast once said, "There is really nothing more important to our future and to our success than our children." □

JULIE BONETTE is PAW's writer/assistant editor.



SKVIR AND HIS WIFE, TASSIE '70

APRIL 25, 1945 — MARCH 23, 2025

DAN SKVIR '66

BY ELISABETH H. DAUGHERTY

BY THE TIME John Pouschine '79 left for college, he was fairly fed up with church.

Longtime close friends had been "at each other's throats" over a sort of schism happening in the Russian Orthodox faith. "It really got me down on religion," Pouschine says, and he didn't plan to participate at Princeton.

But then at freshman orientation he discovered Princeton's Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF), and that led him to Father Dan Skvir '66, the Orthodox chaplain. Chatting with him and the other clergy turned Pouschine around. Before long, services at Murray Dodge Hall on Sundays led to dinners at Skvir's house and choir rehearsals with his wife, Tamara "Tassie" Skvir '70, and before Pouschine knew it, he was saying the same thing that everyone who joined and loved the OCF under Skvir's leadership says: These people have become family.

Tassie Skvir described a little community of townspeople, professors, and students who come for four years — sometimes 10 if they're in grad school — and stay in touch. Years down the road many asked Dan Skvir to officiate their weddings and baptize their children.

"You end up having this core of incredible — I don't even know what to call it," Tassie Skvir says. "I just call 'em family."

Dan Skvir served as chaplain for 36 years; Princeton does have staff chaplains, but he was always a volunteer. He was born Orthodox — his father was a priest — and he married into it as well: His father-in-law, John Turkevich '34, was a Princeton chemistry professor and the previous Orthodox chaplain.

Skvir grew up in Jersey City, New Jersey, and at Princeton he studied religion and waited outside classrooms for Tassie, trying to win her over. Tassie's mother, Ludmilla B. Turkevich, was the first

woman to teach at Princeton, and Tassie was studying Slavic languages. They married in 1967 and had two daughters.

"He had very few faults," Tassie says of her husband, pausing for a moment and then laughing. "I would say the main fault was sneaking doughnuts."

They stayed local, and Dan Skvir found work at Princeton Day School, about two miles from Nassau Hall. There he served in various teaching and administrative roles over 41 years, including counseling; an obituary by the Orthodox Church in America called him "the spiritual father of the school."

They stayed local, and Dan Skvir found work at Princeton Day School, about two miles from Nassau Hall. There he served in various teaching and administrative roles over 41 years, including counseling; an obituary by the Orthodox Church in America called him "the spiritual father of the school."

He earned that title at the OCF, too. Alumni describe a quiet but incredibly knowledgeable chaplain, the kind who gently tugs you deeper into your faith. Above all, they remember him as a terrific listener. Sarah Graham '03 says he'd patiently hear everything you had to say, then sum it up for you and offer a bit of advice.

"He was a person that it was very easy to speak with, about anything," Pouschine says.

EMOTION FILLS Cynthia Michalak '09's voice when she describes a health issue she had at age 38. Frightened, she went to see Dan and Tassie Skvir, who listened and gave her an icon of a saint known for healing. She left feeling much better, that everything would be OK and she could lean on God and her faith.

"I don't know that many people can say that about their priest from college," she says.

A crew of alumni is now trying to raise an endowment — hopefully \$1 million — to fund a part-time Orthodox chaplain. "Because Dan did this for nothing," Tassie Skvir says, "but you can't ask a priest or chaplain to come in and do it for nothing."

"I think it's incredibly important that this exists for students," Michalak says. "Thinking about my own formation, thinking about the legacy that is there, it feels like a duty to have that continue on." □

ELISABETH H. DAUGHERTY is PAW's digital editor.



JAN. 16, 1939 — JAN. 18, 2025

WALTER LIPPINCOTT '60

BY MARK F. BERNSTEIN '83

THE MOST DANGEROUS place to be on nights when the Metropolitan Opera was performing was between Walter Lippincott '60 and his seats.

Lippincott, the longtime director of the Princeton University Press, was also a serious opera buff. Although he eventually became a Met season ticket holder, in younger days he had to settle for standing room tickets and knew that prime spots went quickly. One night, he brought a date. As soon as the doors opened, Lippincott bounded up the stairs. His date tripped. With a glance over his shoulder, Lippincott kept going.

"[A]s everyone knew, the sound wasn't nearly as good at the back," his

son, Hugh Lippincott '03, wrote in an obituary, by way of justification. The date eventually caught up, and they enjoyed the opera from a good listening spot. There is no record of whether there was a second date.

As a boy growing up in Philadelphia, Lippincott listened to Gilbert & Sullivan records in his room, but a music class he took as a Princeton sophomore accelerated his enthusiasms. He once attended four performances of the ballet *Giselle* in a single weekend and was at the Met on the night of March 4, 1960, when baritone Leonard Warren died on stage in the middle of a performance of Verdi's *La Forza del Destino*. (Maybe that was the most dangerous place to be?)

Lippincott so loved Richard Strauss' *Der Rosenkavalier* that he named his daughter, Sophie Lippincott Ferrer '00, after the female lead. Hard to believe, but that was not his only eccentric attachment to the opera. When his friend Rudolph Rauch '65 told him that he greatly admired soprano Claire Watson in the role of the Marschallin, Lippincott asked, "How are her yah-yahs?" Briefly flummoxed, Rauch suddenly understood. At the end of the opera's third act, Sophie is caught "canoodling" (Rauch's word) with Octavian when her father and the Marschallin walk in on them. Rather than scold the lovers, the father sings, "*Sind halt aso, die jungen Leut*" ("Tis ever so, youth will be youth") and the Marschallin replies, "Ja ... ja" ("Yes ... yes").

"For those who love *Rosenkavalier*, the way she exhales those two notes is not just a gauge of the singer's understanding of the role, it sums up the whole opera," Rauch explained at Lippincott's memorial service. To demonstrate, Lippincott had played for

Rauch a mixtape of four sopranos singing just those two “yah-yahs” on different recordings.

IN LATER YEARS, LIPPINCOTT

would gather a group of 15 to 20 friends to attend opening night of each new performance at the Met. During the intermission, he would poll everyone for their assessments and did not stint in giving his own. The most damning review he could give a conductor was to say, “There’s just no tension!” Friends and family recall seeing Lippincott listening to opera at home, silently waving a baton. He wasn’t keeping the beat, Rauch says. “I think he was drawing a picture of what he was hearing.”

Of course, there was also the world of work. Graduating with a degree in history, Lippincott spent a few unsatisfying years as a banker before turning to publishing. After stints at Harper & Row and Cambridge University Press, he became director of the Cornell University Press. In 1986, Lippincott took over the PUP and remained there until his retirement in 2005. For three decades, the most dangerous place to be in academic publishing was between Walter Lippincott and a good manuscript.

Under his leadership, the PUP published many important works, such as *The Shape of the River: Long-Term Consequences of Considering Race in College and University Admissions* by former Princeton president William Bowen ’58 and Derek Bok. PUP even published several bestsellers, including *Irrational Exuberance* by Robert J. Shiller and *On Bullshit* by Princeton philosophy professor Harry Frankfurt. Lippincott doubled the PUP’s output to 200 titles a year, guided its move into digital and on-demand publishing, and opened the press’s first European office, in Oxford.

“Walter Lippincott was the modern Press’s great builder,” former director Peter Dougherty said in a statement on the PUP website. As Lippincott expressed his own philosophy in a 2001 profile in PAW, “If you don’t grow, you shrink.” ▀

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

COURTESY OF THE IMOISILI FAMILY



OCT. 5, 1987 — NOV. 17, 2025

OMOYE IMOISILI '08

BY P.G. SITTENFELD '07

BEFORE GETTING DEGREES from Princeton, Columbia, Johns Hopkins, and Yale; before becoming a physician and official with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and before earning the rank of commander in the U.S. Public Health Service, Omoye Imoisili '08 was the eldest of her Nigerian immigrant parents’ four children, and she noticed that her mother seemed stretched quite thin caring for her brood.

And so Imoisili, at 8 years old, huddled up with her next oldest sibling, Mabo, 6, about how they could do more to help lighten their mother’s load, including picking up after themselves and being a little less loud.

That intuitive spirit of service to others shaped and animated the rest of Imoisili’s life, right up until she died of colon cancer at 38.

Imoisili, whose friends called her Oye (pronounced Oy-ay) and whose first name translates to “beloved child,” is remembered by a wide range of admirers as a brilliant mind, a caring clinician, and a generous mentor.

Elizabeth Gould, a Princeton professor of neuroscience, served as Imoisili’s senior thesis adviser, and noted that her death is not just a tragedy for those who knew and loved her but “a huge loss to humanity.”

Imoisili’s interest in medicine and public health took root early as she watched her father, Dr. Menfo

Imoisili, work as a pediatrician with a subspecialization in infectious disease. Imoisili and her siblings would visit their dad during his long hospital shifts and see how he earned the trust of patients and their families.

As a high school junior growing up in Ellicott City, Maryland, Imoisili joined the Physician Scientist Training Program (PSTP), a national initiative to create a pipeline for underrepresented students through early exposure to scientific research and clinical environments.

Imoisili matriculated at Princeton at the precocious age of 16, but her youth did not prevent other students from looking up to her. "She had an unusual ability to reach out to others while staying focused on her own research," Gould says.

After graduating in 2008, Imoisili went on to earn her medical degree from Columbia and a master of public health from Johns Hopkins. She completed her medical residency at Yale.

From there, Imoisili decided to put her prestigious training toward the cause of public health, making institutions such as the CDC and U.S. Public Health Service a natural fit.

"Their missions aligned perfectly with how she saw her calling, combining evidence-driven science with interpersonal compassion to help protect and improve the health of entire communities," her sister Zoddy says in an email.

As Imoisili ascended in her own career, she put a particular emphasis on mentoring, especially aspiring minority female physicians. One of them was Dr. Ntiense Inyang, who first met Imoisili through the PSTP network. Inyang recalls being so taken with this smart, poised, accomplished woman that she soon asked if Imoisili would be her mentor and surrogate older sister.

Imoisili "changed the trajectory of my career and my life," says Inyang, helping her navigate medical school and leading her to follow in Imoisili's footsteps. She now serves as a CDC epidemic intelligence service officer.

INYANG AND IMOISILI WENT OUT FOR
Korean barbecue in September 2024 and Imoisili seemed like her typical radiant,



FAMILY TIES

Clockwise from left: Omoye Imoisili '08 with her family, including brother Mabo, sisters Sowa and Zoddy, mother Bim, and father Menfo.

upbeat self. She'd never in her life been seriously ill or spent the night in a hospital as a patient.

But just one month later, Imoisili received a cancer diagnosis.

Over the next year, even as her body succumbed to cancer — and as she transitioned from doctor to patient — Imoisili sought to reframe her circumstance as another opportunity for learning.

"She would tell us how interesting, and eye-opening, it was to experience the medical system from the patient side," says her brother, Mabo, now an internist in Washington, D.C. "She often emphasized how important it is for medical professionals to stay present

with patients and their families because so many people that they encounter each day are living through the hardest moments of their lives."

When a remarkable young person so dedicated to helping others dies, it is understandable to view it as a cruel and senseless outcome, and feelings of sadness and anger are equally understandable.

But the rebuttal to that despair, as Imoisili saw it, is faith. Imoisili's Christian faith, Zoddy says, "shaped how she loved, served, and carried herself."

"Even to the end, even though she knew things were probably not getting any better," Inyang says, "she still trusted that things were going to be OK." □

P.G. SITTENFELD '07 is a freelance writer based in Cincinnati. His recent work has been published in The Washington Post, Esquire, Slate, and Outside.



JULY 7, 1934 — MARCH 30, 2025

MARCO GRASSI '56

BY DEBORAH YAFFE

MARCO GRASSI '56 SPENT his life in intimate contact with great art, as an admired restorer specializing in Old Masters, especially Italian painters of the 14th and 15th centuries. But he never aspired to make art of his own.

Artists "have to have a talent of creating. You paint a tree, but you have to find *your* tree," says Cristina Sanpaolesi Grassi, Grassi's wife of nearly 56 years, herself an artist who works in pastels. "Marco didn't want to do this. Marco simply wanted to understand what the artist wanted."

Grassi's 60-year career took him from an ornate villa in Switzerland to a waterlogged church in Florence, Italy, to a sunny studio in Manhattan. His work required a scholar's understanding of art history, a scientist's familiarity with the properties of varnish and paint, and a monk's calm patience.

The work "transported him back in time," says his daughter, Irene Grassi Osborne. "He could sit at his easel for

the whole day and be perfectly happy. And he just loved being surrounded by beautiful things."

Grassi was born in Florence to an American mother and an Italian father who was a second-generation art dealer. After World War II, when Grassi was 11, the family moved to the United States. Grassi attended a Catholic boys' boarding school in New Jersey and went on to Princeton, where he majored in art history and, despite speaking unaccented English, cut a memorably European figure.

"He was much more elegant than me and all my other roommates," says John Doyle '56, who roomed with Grassi in Holder Hall. "The rest of us wore khakis and blue button-down shirts, virtually a uniform, but he was much more formal."

That sartorial taste persisted into adulthood: Grassi had many of his suits made by a Florentine tailor his family had long patronized. "He always loved black-tie, or even white-tie, parties, because it was his chance to dress up," his daughter says.

After training in Italy and Switzerland, Grassi established a restoration studio in Florence where, through a mutual friend, he met Baron Hans Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza, a famed collector whose villa in Lugano, Switzerland, was filled with important works of European art. The baron asked Grassi to evaluate a Renaissance sculpture, which Grassi recognized instantly as a 19th-century copy.

Whether the request was genuine or a test of skill, it soon landed Grassi a plum appointment as Thyssen's visiting conservator. Until the 1990s, when the collection moved into its own museum in Madrid, Grassi had "the pleasure of strolling at will, often entirely alone and undisturbed, through Thyssen's incomparable anthology of European art," he wrote in a 2018 essay for *The New Criterion* magazine. "After a year or two, I was on intimate terms with virtually every centimeter of those painted surfaces."

GRASSI WAS IN LUGANO IN NOVEMBER

1966 when a devastating river flood threatened Florence's priceless cultural heritage. The usual five-hour drive home took 12, but he arrived in time to help administer first aid to Vasari's monumental *Last Supper*, which hung in the Santa Croce complex, in a room where water had risen to the ceiling.

Grassi met his Florentine wife when he bought a painting from her booth during a city antiques fair, and his deep affection for Florence never waned. But by the 1970s, Italian political instability persuaded him to move his freelance restoration business to New York, and for the next 50 years he divided his time between the two cities.

Near the end of his life, Grassi stopped working on important restoration projects — "his hands were not the same," his wife says — but he continued to do small jobs for friends.

"In conservation, there is a kind of aesthetic democracy, kind of like a hospital," Grassi once told an interviewer. "Everything gets the same basic treatment. Grandma's portrait ... needs to be looked after just like a great painting." □

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



DEC. 16, 1949 — OCT. 13, 2025

RANDE BROWN '71

BY CARLETT SPIKE

ACHIEVING ENLIGHTENMENT was the guiding force behind much of Rande Brown '71's life. The daughter of a Jewish lawyer and a homemaker, Brown was the oldest of four children and grew up in Westfield, New Jersey. She was smart and developed interests in Japanese culture and Buddhist philosophy at an early age.

Those passions bloomed throughout her teenage years as she learned more and traveled to Kyoto, Japan, with her grandmother. By that point, Brown was certain she had experienced Japan in a previous life and dedicated the rest of this life to understanding consciousness, both for herself and for others.

Brown first attended American University but transferred to Princeton in 1969 as an East Asian

studies major, joining one of the first classes of women to graduate from the University. She explained to PAW in 2006 why she chose Princeton: "I was trying to legitimize my quest for enlightenment to my family," she said. "It would have been totally weird if I'd dropped out and gone right to a monastery in Japan."

She said she enjoyed her time at Princeton and formed close bonds with her roommate Tina Sung '71, Arthur Thornhill '74, and professor Karen Brazell, who became a mentor to Brown. "I had never experienced anybody like Rande," says Sung, noting her boundless energy.

After Princeton, Brown spent the next decade in Japan studying Zen Buddhism and working for the Institute of Religion

and Psychology, where she helped research the relationship

PIONEERS
Tina Sung '71, left, and Rande Brown '71 were photographed for a 1969 *Life* magazine article about coeducation.

between the mind and the body. She completed her first translation — the book *Science and the Evolution of Consciousness* — and would go on to become a prominent translator, publishing several other works. Most notably, she also co-authored *Geisha, A Life* with Mineko Iwasaki in 2002. While in Japan, she was also briefly married.

THESE THREADS CONTINUED TO SHAPE her life when she returned to the U.S. In the 1980s, she founded East West Communications to promote a cultural exchange between the U.S. and Japan and worked with many artists, including Philip Glass, Laurie Anderson, and Cindy Sherman, to host events in Japan. She also helped found the magazine *Tricycle: The Buddhist Review*, volunteered in the pastoral care department of Beth Israel Medical Center, and went back to school in 2009 to study social work and psychoanalysis.

"I had always been interested in ways that Buddhist practice can be used to alleviate suffering in the real world," Brown wrote, explaining her choice to become a therapist.

"Her spiritual life was important to her," Brown's sister, Sharon Gamsby, says. Brown continued to write and educate about Buddhism, karma, consciousness, and related topics up until she died from complications from esophageal cancer.

Her connection to Princeton over the years was limited, but she attended lunches, starting with her 35th reunion, hosted by Sung. Though frail from her illness, she was in attendance in May, and classmates recall her vibrancy.

Brown's final book, *Live, Die, Repeat: One Woman's Wild Ride on the Cycle of Life and Death*, is scheduled to be published in the summer. It explores what she learned throughout several lifetimes about reincarnation, karma, and finding peace with death.

"Her years of meditation really were so evident in the way that she died," says Gamsby, who spent Brown's final month with her in the hospital. "I really feel she's free." □

CARLETT SPIKE is PAW's associate editor.



MAY 25, 1924 — JUNE 27, 2025

DAVID FEINMAN *62

BY CECILE MCWILLIAMS '26

IN DAVID FEINMAN *62's telling of the story, the admiral leaned over the boat edge and asked Feinman if he'd like to serve in Antarctica. Feinman invoked his motto: "Service, travel, adventure." The choice was easy.

A Navy commander, civil engineer, expert pistol shot, and lover of penguins, puzzles, and chocolate ice cream, Feinman lived many lives in his 101 years and touched many more. "He wouldn't talk that much," says Elizabeth (Feinman) London, the younger of his two daughters. "If he said something, it was like a pearl of wisdom."

Growing up an only child in Philadelphia, Feinman enjoyed seeing musicals in New York with his mother. He joined the Navy at 18 — despite not knowing how to swim — and began a lifelong commitment to service around the world.

After attending Yale on the GI Bill, Feinman supervised public works in the Canal Zone and guarded the Panama Canal, where he learned to clear a pool table from his only company, a priest. After studying civil engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, he helped with the construction of new air bases in the Pacific Northwest. In

Newfoundland and Bermuda, he oversaw detachments of Seabees, the Navy's Construction Battalions. In Morocco, he managed 40 construction projects and directed about 300 men. In 1959, his service — and engineering expertise — took him to the bottom of the Earth.

Over three summers, Feinman oversaw construction at McMurdo Station, the logistics hub for the U.S. Antarctic Program. The station opened in 1956 in anticipation of the International Geophysical Year, a global scientific cooperation that kicked off the Space Age. Penguins, seals, and skuas populate the area surrounding McMurdo, where temperatures drop as low as minus-58 degrees and snow piles meters high.

The weather made construction a challenge. The only civil engineer on staff at McMurdo, Feinman got creative, adapting traditional engineering techniques to the cold. He designed runways over icy surfaces and oversaw construction projects below the snow. In free moments, Feinman enjoyed taking color photographs of his surroundings. In an old picture, he wears a simple Navy peacoat, hammer in hand, his camera slung around his neck.

The Seabees in Antarctica had a motto: "Construction for peace." Feinman

advanced this mission, witnessing and informing key developments in international scientific collaboration. He planned construction at research facilities not only in the South Pole, but also in New Zealand. He collaborated with Russian exchange scientists and chose the site for the only nuclear power plant that ever operated in Antarctica. Penguins came to symbolize these laurels, and over time, Feinman amassed a trove of penguin-themed gifts and cards.

IN 1962, FEINMAN PURSUED A master's in civil engineering at Princeton, leaving the South Pole for good. "Once you smell the guano," London recalls him saying, "you don't need to go back."

After graduating from Princeton, Feinman moved to London with his wife, Laura London Feinman, a mathematician. Abigail Stocks, who took after her father and became an engineer, was born soon after. Family was Feinman's next adventure.

Feinman was as committed to family as he was to service. When his youngest, Elizabeth, was at summer camp, he sent her a piece of mail every day, whether it was a note or the comics she'd missed. He'd also fill out his favorite puzzles — quote acrostics — in pencil so he could erase the answers and leave hints for her.

These quiet acts of care defined Feinman's character. He did the family's taxes, and when two cousins became widows, Feinman managed their trusts. In 1967, he left the Navy to care for Laura, who died two years later of cancer. When his second wife, the prominent microbiologist Susan Ellmann Feinman, became sick with cancer, he assumed the same role.

Feinman's joy, like his kindness, was unshakable. When London and her partner were caring for him during the COVID-19 shutdown, the trio developed the routine of singing show tunes, sometimes for hours, after dinner. Late in life, Feinman enjoyed watching the world go by from a chair outside, clad in a U.S. Navy hat, a penguin blanket on his lap. □

CECILE MCWILLIAMS '26 is a Spanish major from Austin, Texas.



JONES AND HIS WIFE, LYN SIMMONS

JULY 22, 1954 — MAY 31, 2025

JERRAULD JONES '76

BY PHILIP WALZER '81

JERRAULD C. JONES '76 BURST through barriers from the age of 7. He was among the first Black students to integrate Ingleside Elementary School in Norfolk, Virginia, and later, Virginia Episcopal School in Lynchburg.

Jones faced a brutal welcome at both schools. He heard the N-word at Ingleside and found it written with shaving cream on the mirror of his room at Virginia Episcopal, where he also got beat up.

He didn't back away. "He knew why he was there," says Walter H. Riddick Jr., a friend since childhood. "Once he went across the threshold, there was nothing you could do to get him out of there."

Jones didn't talk about the abuse publicly — until Jan. 25, 1999. A Democratic member of Virginia's House of Delegates, he rose to speak against a bill that would have authorized a Sons of Confederate Veterans license plate with an image of the Confederate flag.

He'd encountered the flag at both

schools, but he first saw it at age 6, passing a Ku Klux Klan rally where people waved it next to a burning cross. "The fear in that bus was so great, you could smell it," Jones told his fellow legislators. "All we could do was hope and pray that we would not be molested because of that symbol of hate and violence ... And now, some want to put that symbol of pain on the cars of Virginia."

The House voted to drop the flag from the license plate.

"It was simply a mesmerizing speech," says Kenneth Melvin, a former House member and retired judge. "He painted a picture so vivid that anyone could understand it."

That moment illustrated Jones' oratorical prowess and ability to build diverse coalitions. "Just about every member of the General Assembly thought they were personal friends of Jerrauld," says Melvin.

Jones served in all three branches of Virginia government: After 14 years as

a delegate, he became director of the state's Department of Juvenile Justice and then sat as a judge for 19 years in Norfolk, first in Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court and later in Circuit Court.

But his first love — and first source of income — was music.

His upper-class suite, 33 Blair, became known as "Club 33." Charles Davis '76, one of Jones' roommates, recalls parties packing the place and music blaring out the windows, from Miles Davis to Funkadelic. Sometimes, there'd be impromptu performances with Jones on trumpet.

The Daily Princetonian called him "a joyful jazzman." Jones, a sociology major, played in the group Anubis and belonged to the glee club, marching band, and gospel choir. The year after he graduated, he played at clubs in New York and New Jersey with Montage, a band made up mostly of alumni.

Though Jones stopped playing professionally, he retained his fervor for jazz. In his sitting room, surrounded by prints and photos of musicians, he once more blasted his music. "I have never seen him so happy as when he got to play or listen to jazz," his wife, Lyn Simmons, says.

Jones' father, Hilary, a civil rights lawyer who was the first Black member of

Norfolk's school board, died when Jones was at Princeton. "I do think he wanted to continue his father's legacy and build upon his good name," says Jones' former law partner, Randy Carlson.

He attended Washington & Lee University's law school and became the first Black law clerk at the Virginia Supreme Court. Jones worked in the

Office of the Norfolk Commonwealth's Attorney and then went into private practice. "We didn't have corporate clients," Carlson says. "We represented a lot of people who were really down and out."

JONES WAS ELECTED TO THE HOUSE in 1987 and served as chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus. Melvin

remembers Jones' push to appoint more Black judges. "Because of his leadership, all of a sudden the judiciary became more reflective of Virginia. And he did it without a whole lot of friction."

In 2001, he lost the Democratic primary for lieutenant governor. It could have been worse. Jones had decided to pass up Reunions, which was the weekend before the primary. "He was moping around, and I said, 'Jerrauld, just go,'" Simmons says. He didn't regret it.

The next year, then-Gov. Mark Warner appointed Jones director of juvenile justice. Shauna Epps, a colleague in the department, says Jones supported her efforts to seek alternatives to detention for some juveniles. "He understood that family and environmental circumstances, how you were supported by your community or not, had an influence. But he was honest to the fact that you just weren't going to be able to help some people. He wasn't naïve."

As a judge, Simmons says, "he made sure he had all the information he needed before he made that all-important decision. Lawyers would complain to me, 'Your husband takes too long.'" When Jones did rule, he often displeased both attorneys, opting for neither the maximum nor minimum sentence.

"He was as good in private life as he was in public life," Simmons says. After she was appointed as a juvenile and domestic relations judge in 2015, Jones sat in the back row her first day on the bench. "He was so happy I finally realized that dream."

His son, Jay, says, "He was there for every basketball and soccer game, despite having a ton of demands from his legal and political career. He was a fantastic listener and gave great advice."

Like his father, Jay Jones has become a racial pioneer, set to take office in January as Virginia's first Black attorney general. "I think my father would be beaming with pride about that, given he was the first to do so many things himself over the course of his remarkable career." □



THE MUSIC MAN

Top: Jerrauld Jones '76 with fellow bandmates in the summer of 1976, including, clockwise from left, Alejandro Gomez '78, Jones, Thomas Carabasi '77, Glenn McClelland, Rob Cooper, and Adolph Mares '76. Bottom: A younger Jones is shown with his parents, left, meeting the legendary musician Louis Armstrong and his wife, Lucille Wilson.

COURTESY OF THE JONES FAMILY

PHILIP WALZER '81 is a retired journalist and magazine editor in Norfolk, Virginia.



JAN. 19, 1937 — MAY 6, 2025

JOSEPH NYE JR. '58

BY ELYSE GRAHAM '07

THE MAN WHO COINED the term “soft power” was a Princetonian. When he came up with the idea, he had long since left Princeton — but he also *hadn’t* left, in the sense that he stayed all his life near the seminar room and used those experiences to inform his guidance to the war room. Often called “the dean of American political science,” Joseph Nye Jr. ’58 advised governments, steered U.S. intelligence, and worked for the White House and the Pentagon, but he was also

an academic leader who thought long and hard about what it is, exactly, that universities export to the world — and argued that universities, in their quiet way, can project power just as forcefully as armies.

Nye grew up in New Jersey, the son of a Wall Street trader and a Smith College graduate. At Princeton, he was a big man on campus, serving as vice president of Colonial Club and writing columns for *The Daily Princetonian*. (In his columns, he practiced the Princeton style of

This is what Nye called soft power: The ability to achieve your goals ... because people in other countries find your ideas attractive, identify with your culture, and follow your example.

overwriting, as we all do: “Princeton in the fall. Fitzgerald-like leaves of crimson and vermillion take the final plunge of their subastral existence. Bold figures in orange and black march upon fields of green — fighting fiercely for every precious yard.”)

After his graduation — his classmates elected him Class Day speaker — Nye went to Oxford as a Rhodes scholar, choosing to study politics, philosophy, and economics. Next, he went to Harvard for a Ph.D. in political science. His dissertation adviser was Henry Kissinger, which must have been interesting.

Nye stayed at Harvard to join the faculty and rose through a series of powerful directorships and deanships, ultimately becoming dean of the John F. Kennedy School of Government. The U.S. government also tapped him for senior roles in intelligence and national security.

HE COINED THE IDEA THAT BECAME a global phenomenon at the end of the Cold War. In a 1990 book titled *Bound to Lead*, he pointed out that policy wonks usually defined power as control over resources. This definition made power measurable, but it also made that measurement misleading because time and again countries with fewer resources managed to win over countries with more: “Some countries are better than others at converting their resources into effective influence, just as some skilled card players win despite being dealt weak hands.”

Nye argued that, thanks to mutually assured destruction, the power countries derived from the threat of force often proved to be blunted in the age of nuclear weapons — but opposing sides still won

or lost contests of power, often for reasons that had nothing to do with weapons. Ordinary East Germans tore down the Berlin Wall, not because the democratic West had control over resources in East Germany, but because the East Germans found its vision for the future attractive.

This is what Nye called soft power: The ability to achieve your goals, not with carrots or sticks, but because people in other countries find your ideas attractive, identify with your culture, and follow your example. The United States had, during the second half of the 20th century, the immense advantage of a popular culture that dominated the globe, as well as a reputation for audacious tolerance and generosity, immigration policies that made other countries lament their “brain drain” to the U.S., and universities that attracted bright students from around the world.

The concept of soft power changed how states all over the world approached diplomacy. Nye often talked about how universities, in particular, supply a formidable form of soft power: “For example,” he wrote in *The New York Times* in 2000, “at a time when Chinese government propaganda was lambasting us, a former student in this country who was the son of a high Chinese official published a book widely read in Beijing that described the United States positively.”

Nye worried at the end of his life that America’s standing was diminishing, and he warned that soft power, once lost, is difficult to restore.

But he also believed in America’s resilience, and in the “American idea”—which is, at bottom, the power of America as an idea. For him, America’s reputation for optimism, generosity, and plain old decency wasn’t propaganda; it was a gift and a duty, and the nation’s best hope for survival. In his memoir, he recalled a message he shared as Class Day speaker: “I can remember standing in Alexander Hall and telling my classmates that, while we could not alone save the world, we could each do our small bit to improve it.” ▀

ELYSE GRAHAM ’07 is an English professor at Stony Brook University.

DAVE ALLOCCA / AP



DEC. 5, 1969 — JUNE 3, 2025

JASON CONSTANTINE '92

BY LIA OPPERMANN '25

JASON CONSTANTINE '92 almost always had a film camera in hand. He knew how to capture life's special moments, and he did it with a childlike enthusiasm.

“He was just the most authentic storyteller that anyone will ever meet,” says Chad Muir '92, one of several Princeton friends with whom Constantine remained close for decades.

To one of his three sons, Xander '27, this way of seeing the world was who Constantine was. “Every person was this incredible, dramatic, amazing, fantastic tale that he wanted to know more about,” he says.

Long before he became the co-president of Lionsgate Motion Pictures, Constantine was a kid in Southern

California who spent most of his weekends in the movie theater with his parents and brother. His father insisted on staying until the last credit rolled, a lesson in respecting all the people who helped bring a story to life.

The moment that changed everything came when Constantine was 7. After seeing *Star Wars* for the first time, he walked out of the theater knowing he couldn’t just watch movies anymore; he had to be a part of the magic behind them. When each of his children turned 7, he threw a birthday screening of *Star Wars* in their honor.

Constantine’s camera followed him throughout his time at Princeton, where he became the unofficial documentarian of his friends. “I knew from that

TOUGH GUYS

Jason Constantine '92, right, and Keanu Reeves at the New York premiere of *John Wick: Chapter 4* in March 2023.

moment Jason was going to be involved in movies," Michael Zampardi '92 says.

Constantine loved to perform as well. At a talent show at then-Wilson College, he debuted an original song, "Wawa Girl," an ode to a central part of the Princeton experience. He also participated in the Princeton Out-a-Tunes a cappella group, Theatre Intime, and Wilson open-mic nights, rowed crew, and was a member of the Princeton Evangelical Fellowship and Charter Club. A man of deep faith, Constantine wrote his senior thesis as a play titled *Passionate*, retelling Gospel narratives entirely through the voices of supporting characters.

AT LIONSGATE, CONSTANTINE BECAME one of the studio's most influential leaders. He was an executive since its inception over 25 years ago and played a key role in some of the studio's most successful films, including the *John Wick*, *Expendables*, and *Saw* franchises, as well as *Crash*, *Knives Out*, and *I Can Only Imagine*. He was involved in every stage of the filmmaking process, leading acquisitions, sitting in on script development, and collaborating and working with people at various levels of the industry. He always made sure to share his success with his wife, Kristin '91, his children, and his friends, bringing them to sets and premieres.

When *Crash* won the Academy Award for Best Picture in 2006, Constantine called Darren Kennedy '93 from the limousine to share the moment with him. "I'm like, out of all the people in the world, he's calling his doctoral student friend in Edinburgh. That's the kind of friend he was," he says.

Peter Safran '87, the co-chairperson and co-CEO of DC Studios, says Constantine brought authentic enthusiasm to the industry and never became jaded. He calls him "one of the warmest and most delightful guys; not just in the business, but everywhere."

Despite his career success, "he downplayed his role in the industry," according to Kristin.

Constantine and Kristin met on campus during her sophomore year. "He was just so friendly [to everyone]



FAMILY TIME

Clockwise from top left, Jason Constantine '92 with sons Xander '27 and Lucas, wife Kristin '91, and youngest son Nicholas shown in 2021 before Constantine had his first brain surgery.

that I didn't understand that I was being distinguished for a long time," Kristin says.

Xander says he and his father shared a lot of similarities, as "outgoing, extraverted, gregarious" individuals. "It wasn't like he knew everything and understood everyone, but it was that he was so outgoing and so supportive of people's existence in all different spaces," he says.

Joel Smallbone, friend and member of the Christian pop duo For King & Country, says Constantine had "relentless optimism" for the world and people. That belief sustained him throughout his treatment for

glioblastoma. Kennedy, a minister, noted at Constantine's funeral how Constantine made friends with many of the doctors and nurses who cared for him.

Even as his career soared, he stayed connected to Princeton. Muir remembers one visit when Constantine spent his days with a crew led by Sylvester Stallone, and his nights with a team led by filmmaker Chad Stahelski and Keanu Reeves and then made time to get back to Princeton in time to speak with the professors who invited him to campus. He was particularly fond of Reunions, which he called "people Christmas."

Film dedications have been made in honor of Constantine, including *Ballerina*, *Wick Is Pain*, and the upcoming *I Can Only Imagine* sequel. "He loved people, he loved life, and clearly loved movies," Zampardi says. ■

LIA OPPERMANN '25 is PAW's reporting fellow.

MAY 29, 1941 — APRIL 12, 2025

ROBERT SCHIRN '63

BY HARRISON BLACKMAN '17

IN 1988, when Jim Falco '77 interviewed for a law clerk position at the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, Robert Schirn '63, the longtime head deputy in the Major Narcotics Department, asked him two questions: Where did he go to school, and did he play softball?

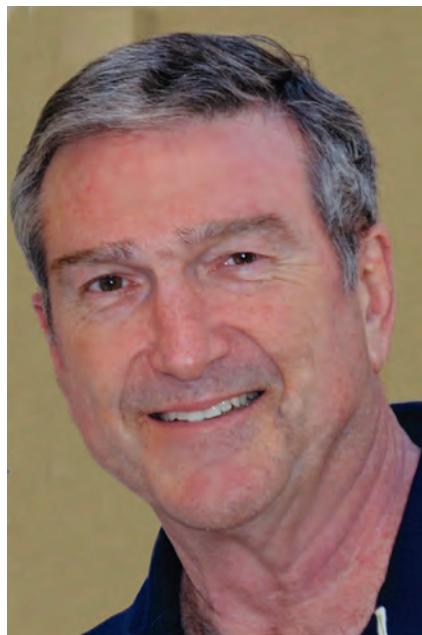
"As soon as he found out I played sports at Princeton, he said, 'OK, you're hired,'" Falco says, explaining that Schirn, the pitcher on the L.A. D.A. office's softball team, was looking for another outfielder.

"He didn't care about anything other than those three things: family, sports, and the D.A.'s office," says Brian Schirn, who followed in his father's footsteps as an L.A. prosecutor.

The longest-serving head deputy in the L.A. D.A.'s office, Robert Schirn, nicknamed "Big Guy" thanks to his imposing height, had an outsize influence in the department as a brilliant prosecutor and policymaker in constitutional policing in Southern California. "No one, at least in my lifetime and involvement with the justice system, which is 50 years, has contributed more to public safety and criminal justice than Bob Schirn," says Steve Cooley, a former L.A. County district attorney.

In addition to his work as a prosecutor, Barbara Turner, a former deputy district attorney for L.A. County, says Schirn was known as the search warrant "guru," having co-authored the search warrant and wiretapping manuals for Los Angeles, texts used as law enforcement bibles across the rest of the state. "The L.A. County D.A.'s office became essentially the 'wiretap college' for all law enforcement and other prosecutors in California," Cooley says. "Bob was the seed of that."

Though he was known for many contributions to the D.A. office — from



serving as the office historian to the avid creator of the department newsletter's crossword — Schirn's career often intersected with historic moments in criminal justice.

Schirn described Charles Manson as possessing "a tattoo of a woman's head on each arm, and a one-inch scar over his left eye" when drafting the August 1969 search warrant for Spahn Ranch, the Manson family's home base. Shortly after it was issued, police conducted a 100-person raid that author Tom O'Neill called "the biggest in the history of Los Angeles law enforcement at that time."

The year prior, Schirn had contributed to the prosecution of Sirhan Sirhan, Robert Kennedy's assassin, and later wrote the search warrant for the O.J. Simpson case.

SCHIRN'S LIFE BEGAN AT SEA IN 1941 on the Spanish passenger ship the Ciudad de Sevilla, where he was born to Jewish parents fleeing the Holocaust. In Schirn's eventual U.S. passport, his birthplace was listed as "High Seas."

"No one [at customs] had ever seen that before," says his youngest son, Jason Schirn.

The family settled in Los Angeles, where Schirn attended Beverly Hills High School and earned varsity letters in three sports.

At Princeton, he wanted to study engineering and play football; unfortunately, he found the major too difficult and injured his knee as a freshman. Instead, he chose political science and still managed an unusual athletic accomplishment. According to Falco, one of Schirn's proudest moments was scoring a bucket off Princeton basketball legend Bill Bradley '65 in a one-on-one game at Dillon Gym.

Over his summer breaks, Schirn funded his Princeton education by driving a produce truck at 4 a.m. to supply markets and restaurants in Los Angeles.

And though the image of a hardworking attorney is one of long hours at the expense of family, Schirn was completely dedicated to his wife, children, and grandchildren, making a point to attend every sporting event or recital on their calendar. "He would play basketball in the backyard with my brother, myself, and all our friends," Brian Schirn says. "He was like the dad [for] everybody [who] came to our house."

Schirn was also something of a true crime communicator, and TV producers frequently picked his brain on historic local cases such as the Black Dahlia murder. He loved giving popular lectures about notorious criminal cases on cruises across the globe. He further explored his passion as the co-author, with Steve Cooley, of two books on police shootouts, *Blue Lives Matter* (2017) and *Blue Lives in Jeopardy* (2019), titled before the "Blue Lives Matter" phrase had taken on a political valence. "I would read them, and I'm like, 'Oh my God, Dad, you've taken this incredibly fascinating stuff here and somehow you've found a way to make it boring,'" Brian Schirn says, attributing his father's dry writing style to his devotion to "integrity and honesty." □

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

FEB. 22, 1958 — JULY 4, 2025

RICHARD GREENBERG '80

BY MARC FISHER '80

IN THE SPRING OF 1979, in the waning weeks of Richard Greenberg '80's junior year, he spent long evenings in rehearsals for Theatre Intime's production of *The Children's Hour*, the Lillian Hellman play about a malicious, destructive, and false allegation that two leaders at a private school were engaged in a lesbian relationship. In that era at Princeton, still in the first decade of coeducation, shortly after the founding of the University's first gay student organization, long before most gay students felt free to come out, nobody in the cast of *The Children's Hour* spoke openly about their sexuality.

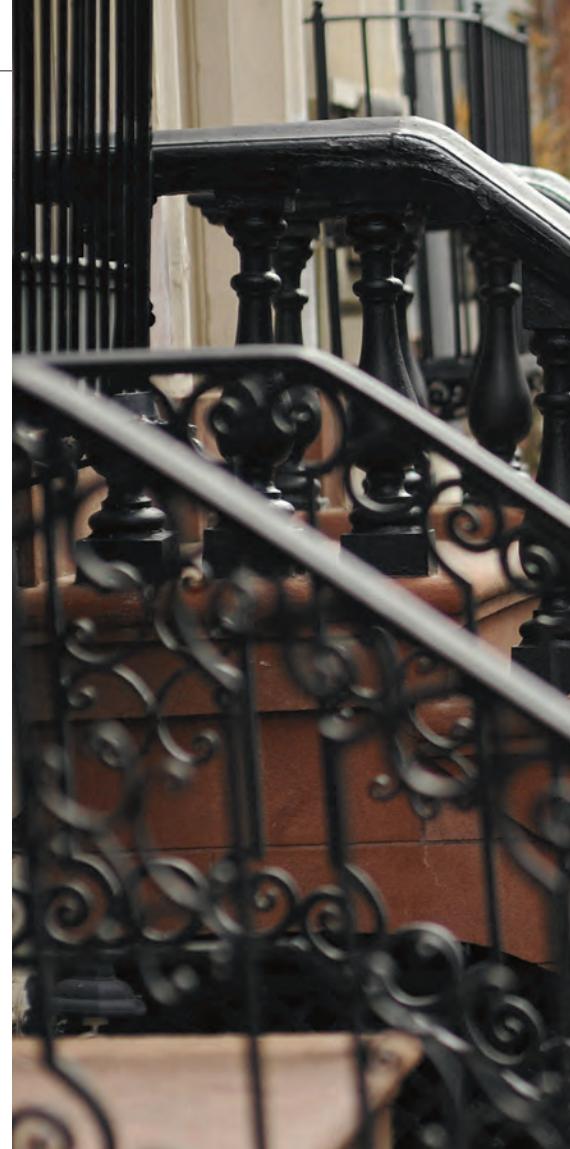
"Rich didn't come out till later, I didn't, the others didn't," recalls the show's director, Kate Raisz '80. "Yet somehow, we found each other, all *sotto voce*. The play explored the shame and the punishment of being gay or lesbian, and we talked about our characters, but not about ourselves. Princeton wasn't yet a comfortable place for that; we were all experimenting, confused."

Greenberg, who died July 4 of cancer at age 67, struck his fellow students then — and many of his colleagues in theater in later years — as deeply private, an intense, serious, yet warmhearted friend. His fellow actors and even his roommates had hardly a notion that Greenberg wanted to spend his life writing, let alone any expectation that he would become one of the most celebrated playwrights of the latter half of the 20th century, writing more than 30 plays and winning the Tony Award for Best Play in 2003 for *Take Me Out*, the story of a Major League Baseball player who comes out as gay. Yet even at that early stage in Greenberg's development, his fellow actors could see him blossoming in the theater, where he would spend his life turning his observations of people into revelatory dialogue about the struggle to find and keep love.

Greenberg's senior thesis, a 430-page novel called *A Romantic Career*, took place at a Princeton "re-imagined," as he put it, as "Liberty University." Elements of Greenberg's life are sprinkled through the novel's characters, one of whom comes to college from "a marginal section of a fashionable Long Island town." Greenberg grew up in not-so-fashionable Mineola. On their first day together, that character's freshman-year roommate asks him, "What are you?" The reply is like something out of a Richard Greenberg play: "Well, actually, I've been having some problems with that question lately."

In the novel, Greenberg describes the college as "the richest, sweetest, most profoundly affecting university in the country. It does not so much excite romantic expectations as fulfill them, and by fulfilling them, inspire a life-long, head-long devotion." Although Greenberg never wrote a play specifically about Princeton, the university he experienced as a student shows up again and again in his work — in the biting literary wit of his characters' repartee, in the affluent settings of his family dramas, and in what former *New York Times* theater critic Ben Brantley calls Greenberg's "lyrical blend of hope and fatalism."

His empathy bursts through in many of his characters: It's what allows them to face the mysteries in their lives. They tend to do so with sadness, but with hope, too.



THE TIMES ONCE CALLED GREENBERG

the "bard of American privilege," and Brantley tells PAW that Greenberg "had a very poignant sense of history, that we could never escape the past. Like Tennessee Williams and F. Scott Fitzgerald [1917], he was very aware that people could never really know where they came from." Greenberg's plays were often about time, about what inexorably happens to people no matter how they fight against it.

His characters speak in carefully structured paragraphs that, as Brantley says, "you associate with another era of playwriting." In plays such as *Eastern Standard* (1988), a comedy about yuppies and wealth inequalities, or *Three Days of Rain* (2006), about the anguish of grown children uncovering their late parents' secret pasts, Greenberg's language allowed his characters to transcend their real-life vocabulary and reach



for a romantic ideal. His people could aim wonderfully wicked insults and quips at each other (Greenberg honed that skill in his theater reviews in *The Daily Princetonian* — “the emotional temperature of” Harold Pinter’s *Betrayal* was “arctic,” he wrote, adding that the playwright suffered from “utter horror at the thought of committing an insight.”) But Greenberg was at his most affecting when his characters painfully spoke past one another.

“I don’t think his people ultimately can connect,” Brantley says. “Even the people you’re closest to are ultimately very remote.”

Profiles of Greenberg through the years picked up on that distance his characters often displayed. Reporters tended to describe him as “reclusive” or “a shut-in,” but friends say he was eager to engage, delighted in the play of their children, and loved to gossip with theater buddies. His

empathy bursts through in many of his characters: It’s what allows them to face the mysteries in their lives. They tend to do so with sadness, but with hope, too. At the end of *The Assembled Parties*, his 2013 play that traces the path of an upper-class Jewish family from one Christmas party to another, two decades later, the dying protagonist’s last words are “Everything’s so ... promising, isn’t it?”

Greenberg majored in English at Princeton and studied creative writing with Joyce Carol Oates. He went on to Yale’s drama school and spent the early years of his career churning out one-act plays for small theaters in New York and Los Angeles. His breakthrough came in 1988, when then-*Times* theater critic Frank Rich gave him a rave review for *Eastern Standard*, which the critic praised for being at once a throwback to the screwball comedies of the pre-World War II era and an of-the-moment reckoning with the

scourges of AIDS and Wall Street greed.

Critics sometimes complained that Greenberg was too prolific, perhaps diluting his impact. But among actors, he won near-universal praise for the words he put in their mouths. “He wrote magnificently for actors,” as *Los Angeles Times* critic Charles McNulty put it, “endowing them with powers of speech that surpass the capacities of most mere mortals.”

Those words could be witty and sharp, but the most powerful of Greenberg’s lines often swept aside the curtains of defensiveness and performance that people hide behind, revealing a raw longing, a gnawing loneliness at the heart of a life spent chasing meaning. □

MARC FISHER ’80 is a freelance magazine writer who spent four decades at The Washington Post.



SAYING 'YES' TO HOUSING

Princetonians lead the YIMBY movement to expand supply nationwide

BY PHILIP WALZER '81

PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEPHEN VOSS

WHEN GILLIAN PRESSMAN '08 WAS WORKING at a nonprofit in the late 2010s, she lived in a 400-square-foot studio apartment. "By San Francisco standards, I had it good," she says. On Pressman's four-block walk to the subway, she would pass at least five homeless groups in tents as well as people sleeping in the train station. "You couldn't escape it," she recalls.

The problem got personal when she asked a date where he lived. "He was dodgy," she remembers. He then acknowledged he had a job but was living in his car. He'd shower at his gym.

"You wouldn't have known he was homeless," she says.

Pressman, then in a job providing mental health and sex education in schools, wanted to learn more. She attended a one-day introduction to YIMBY (Yes In My Back Yard), a

movement that advocates for a mix of regulatory relaxations across the nation to encourage more housing construction. The event was sponsored by YIMBY Action, the major umbrella organization, and showed her "San Francisco was one of the hardest places to build housing."

In 2019, Pressman began volunteering for YIMBY Action and later that year joined full time as director of development. In 2022, she became managing director, coordinating operations, fundraising, and strategy. Pressman left her position in December but remains involved as a YIMBY Action board member.

"We need to shift our mindset," says Pressman, who moved last year from Norfolk, Virginia, to Washington, D.C. "Allowing housing in your neighborhood is what we do for a good society."



HOME FRONT

From left, Gillian Pressman '08, Joshua Seawell '22, and Jessica Sarriot '18 are working locally and nationally to address housing shortages.

Recent studies point to an ever-tightening housing market. Zillow last year estimated that the U.S. housing shortage grew to a record 4.7 million units. In a report titled “Priced Out: When a good job isn’t enough,” the National Housing Conference said even dentists and civil engineers could not afford typically priced houses in some cities.

By most accounts, the YIMBY acronym — aiming to counter the NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) mindset — dates to the 1980s. But the movement began gathering strength in the 2010s, particularly in California, which ranks among the states with the largest housing shortages. There, “the grassroots movement is really pushing it,” Pressman says. Of YIMBY Action’s 83 local chapters, 20 are in California.

Activists scored a major victory last year when the state revised the California Environmental Quality Act to provide exemptions to high-density housing projects not lying in environmentally sensitive areas, streamline the approval process, and reduce the litigation timeline.

Affordable-housing advocates also won in November with the elections of governors Mikie Sherrill in New Jersey and Abigail Spanberger in Virginia and New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani. Both governors said they would expedite the review and permitting processes for new housing, and Mamdani vowed to freeze rents for tenants in rent-stabilized apartments.

Some municipalities have made dramatic gains. In Falls Church, Virginia, outside Washington, the number of housing units has jumped 46% since 2020. Residents are happy, Mayor

Letty Hardi says: 94% described life in Falls Church as “good or great” in a survey last year.

“We always end up having people vote for good things to happen because they have seen the results,” she says.

But construction projects in two nearby suburbs, Arlington and Alexandria, have been tangled in lawsuits. And in Connecticut, Gov. Ned Lamont last year vetoed a bill seeking to expand housing, saying it hamstrung municipalities.

Carl Gershenson is the managing director of Princeton’s Eviction Lab, which studies the nation’s housing crisis. He says YIMBY advocates “have been successful in getting political bodies to embrace policies that should increase the housing stock.” However, the increase hasn’t been substantial. “You would never expect policy reforms to create sufficient housing in a matter of a few years,” he says.

Princetonians are lobbying for YIMBY goals in a variety of locations and positions.

Jessica Sarriot '18 is co-executive director of VOICE — Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement. She sees “status quo bias” as a major challenge: Local politicians who become state legislators often give deference to municipalities, particularly on land-use issues.

Sarriot supports a YIMBY offshoot called YIGBY, or Yes In God’s Back Yard, which permits faith organizations to build housing on their properties. YIGBY bills were introduced in the U.S. Senate and House in September. Virginia legislators tabled a similar bill, but Sarriot is working to revive it this year.

“If I didn’t think we could win,” she says, “I wouldn’t be doing this.”

Joshua Seawell '22 serves as head of policy at Inclusive Abundance, engaging federal lawmakers on issues such as housing and energy. The organization follows the abundance philosophy, championed by political commentator Ezra Klein, which believes society has adequate resources to solve its toughest problems.

“With all the focus on deportations or Palestine or Trump’s

appointments, it's hard to get floor time for other things of importance," says Seawell, who is based in Los Angeles.

In a big win for YIMBY, the Senate last year tucked the provisions of the ROAD to Housing Act, including initiatives to increase housing supply and affordability, into its version of the National Defense Authorization Act. The House, however, deleted the housing language in December. Seawell hopes Congress can reach a compromise this year.

YIMBY LEADERS SAY THE MOVEMENT DRAWS bipartisan support. "We have socialist members and libertarian members," Pressman says.

The recent election winners are Democrats, but Montana's Republican Gov. Greg Gianforte has won passage of a series of housing reforms, known as "the Montana Miracle." Sarah Rogers '94 also sees a range of philosophies among the members of D9 Neighbors for Housing, an organization she helped revive to lobby for new housing in San Francisco's District 9.

"We want more neighbors," says Rogers, who works as a chief operating officer for an investment fund. "More neighbors makes for a better and more resilient community."

The YIMBY playbook goes beyond new buildings. Smaller strategies include:

- Less parking. Montana substantially reduced parking requirements for housing. "They add a ton of expense and take up a lot of space," Pressman says.
- More accessory dwelling units (ADUs), once known as in-law suites. These account for one in five new units in California. Norfolk recently joined the list of cities easing restrictions on ADUs.
- Fewer stairways. Cities such as New York and Seattle now require only one stairway in six-story buildings, freeing space for more units. A Pew Charitable Trusts study last year found no increased safety risk, but the International Association of Fire Fighters and the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association say "lives will be endangered" in single-stairway buildings.

YIMBY groups also support major construction projects, and not just subsidized housing. "We have to build housing at all levels," including luxury condos, says Pressman, now head of development for Inclusive Abundance.

That creates a domino effect in moves, and "it only takes a few chains in the sequence to open new housing options for lower-income people," says Zack Subin, associate research director for Berkeley's Terner Center for Housing Innovation.

"By making housing more affordable," he says, "you stop the flow into homelessness."

In 2023, the Urban Institute saw "no statistically significant evidence that additional lower-cost units became available or less expensive in the years following reforms." But a 2023 article in the *Journal of Urban Economics* and a Pew study last year found an increase in availability of affordable housing.

Low-income residents don't always side with YIMBY.

Town of Princeton adds housing with aim of being 'welcoming'

UNDER A SERIES OF DECISIONS known as the "Mount Laurel Doctrine," the New Jersey Supreme Court ordered the state's municipalities to expand affordable housing beginning in 1975. The new governor, Mikie Sherrill, and the state legislature have supported that effort.

The town of Princeton has constructed nearly 1,000 units, exceeding its requirement, since 2021, council president Mia Sacks says. "But it's not about numbers. We're looking at it as an opportunity, not an obligation."

The developments are situated to minimize the loss of green space and "to put people within walkable, bike-able distance to schools, jobs, and shopping," Sacks says.

She also championed a 2021 ordinance, which *The New York Times* called "one of the most progressive in the region," allowing accessory dwelling units (ADUs), also known as in-law suites. Princeton's unusual because it permits an ADU to be sold separately from a primary residence.

Sacks received the Distinguished Leadership Award from the New Jersey chapter of the American Planning Association in 2022.

Not everyone is a fan. "There is real pushback in the town," Sacks says. "We have multiple lawsuits."

In December, the group Save Jugtown successfully pushed for a scaled-down redevelopment project at Nassau and Harrison streets. And Defend Historic Princeton is trying to block a planned 238-unit mixed-income apartment complex on land that used to be part of Princeton Theological Seminary's campus.

Sacks sees multiple benefits from the growth: increased housing for University employees, revitalized business for the commercial center, and greater opportunity to benefit from Princeton's public school system.

"We talk about being a welcoming town," she says. "We are working to make it a reality."

Norfolk's City Council in March overwhelmingly approved a 154-unit apartment complex over the objections of the neighborhood's civic league president, Jamie Pickens, who complained it would deepen pockets of poverty.

The revisions to California's law also drew opposition from environmental groups. But Subin, who did postdoctoral work at what is now known as Princeton's High Meadows Environmental Institute, says YIMBY's objectives help reduce car use and carbon emissions.

"Our job," Pressman says, "is not convincing NIMBYs; our job is convincing people who are 'yes' to get more active. You can be one person who decides to show up and totally shift the atmosphere in the room." □

PHILIP WALZER '81 is a retired journalist and magazine editor in Norfolk, Virginia.



PRINCETONIANS

ALUMNI STORIES AND PERSPECTIVES



COURTESY OF JENNIFER ROOSTH '02

HOWDY HOUSTON

As a fourth-generation Texan, Jennifer Roosth '02 shared her recommendations for alumni hoping to visit the Lone Star State for PAW's Tiger Travels section. Top of the list is the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, happening this year from March 2 to 22. It's a celebration of "Texas heritage on an almost surreal scale," writes Roosth, who is pictured here at the Cattle Baron's Ball in 2024. For her full rundown of places to see and things to do in Houston, visit paw.princeton.edu/tiger-travels.



JOHN WILLETT '20

STARTUPS

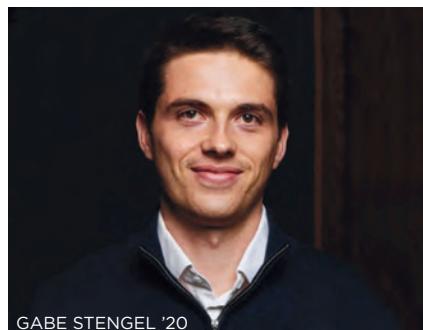
Building Big Businesses With Artificial Intelligence

These young alumni are leveraging generative AI and impacting long-standing industries

BY JAKE CADDEAU '20

GENERATIVE AI TOOLS HAVE changed what's possible for young startup founders looking to build disruptive businesses. Tasks that previously would have taken significant time and resources can now be largely automated using large language models trained on massive datasets. Recent Princeton alumni are behind two companies at the center of this shift.

For their senior thesis, Gabe Stengel '20 and John Willett '20 built a chatbot for econometrics, a field that uses statistical models to quantify economic theories and forecast economic trends. Users could ask it questions such as how a country's GDP correlated with the likelihood it would host an Olympics. After graduating, they started jobs in finance at J.P. Morgan



GABE STENGEL '20

and Lazard. Later that summer, OpenAI released GPT-3 for developers. "I was playing around with it and I pinged John and said, 'This could make that crummy, slow thing we built before kind of great,'" says Stengel. In January 2022, they quit their jobs to start Rogo, a generative AI platform for finance.

Rogo is like a specialized version of ChatGPT for investment professionals, designed to help them analyze vast amounts of data with speed and precision. At first, finding traction with customers was difficult. "For the first 24 months nobody wanted to talk to us," says Stengel. "They were like, 'What do you mean you have AI for my data? You're two 23-year-old kids.'" In late 2023, they signed their first paying customer, and today, Rogo is used at many of the top firms on Wall Street. They've raised \$150 million in funding and are valued at \$750 million. The Rogo founders were selected for *Forbes*' 2026 30 Under 30 class for finance, which was announced in December.

Around the same time, a parallel journey was emerging in the world of software engineering. Matan Grinberg '20 graduated with Stengel and Willett and was pursuing a Ph.D. in physics at the University of California, Berkeley when he realized his heart was no longer in string theory. He cold emailed Shaun Maguire, a partner at Sequoia Capital who also earned a Ph.D. in physics, asking for advice. Their meeting turned into a three-hour walk, during which Maguire recommended that Grinberg join Twitter, join one of his portfolio companies, or found a startup. Grinberg had recently attended a hackathon in San Francisco where he spotted Eno Reyes '21, a machine learning engineer. Despite having many mutual friends at Princeton, the pair had never actually spoken, but Grinberg describes the meeting as "intellectual love at first sight." The day after his walk with Maguire, Grinberg met Reyes for a coffee and decided to start a company.

Over the next 72 hours, they built a demo of Factory, a software development platform that uses AI agents called "droids" to automate parts of the coding process. Grinberg emailed the demo to Maguire, who asked him if he was serious about pursuing the project. When Grinberg said yes, Maguire told him to drop out of his Ph.D. program and then send a screenshot as confirmation, which he did. Maguire set up a meeting for

the next day where Grinberg and Reyes pitched their idea to Sequoia, which invested.

Much like what Rogo does for finance, Factory enables software engineers to use AI to handle parts of their work — from writing and debugging code to automating the repetitive tasks that slow projects down. Grinberg says this “raises the leverage” that each individual software engineer has, allowing them to tackle increasingly complex problems. Grinberg remembers being on the verge of tears on the call when Factory closed its first paying customer. Today, it is used by large enterprise customers and has raised \$50 million at a \$300 million valuation. Grinberg and Reyes were named to the *Forbes*’ 2025 30 Under 30 class for AI.

This early success is an indicator of the way the day-to-day work of investors and engineers may change in the years ahead. Stengel says that in the near future Rogo will be akin to a “fully autonomous analyst” that understands how its users think, what kind of questions they ask, what investments they like, and can independently surface insights and prepare materials in their style. Grinberg says that AI tools like Factory will raise the bar for software. “Things which we previously thought were too complicated to be solved with software are now going to be in play,” he says.

The rapid growth of both startups is a testament to the speed at which the current landscape is changing. Stengel says the rate is so fast that every few weeks the notion of what will be possible with these technologies evolves. “The best way to stay apprised is just being very open-minded and nondogmatic about what it can do,” he says.

For many, the societal impacts this rapid change may bring are threatening. But Grinberg says that while certain jobs will likely be automated away, software engineering isn’t one of them. He believes that tools like Factory, by bringing new problems into play, will increase the demand for developers to solve them. “The number of developers working is going to be strictly increasing,” he says. ▀

Alums Recognized for Impactful Work

IN ADDITION TO Rogo founders Gabe Stengel ’20 and John Willett ’20, several other young alumni were named to one of *Forbes*’ 30 Under 30 lists for 2026, which recognizes 600 honorees across 20 industries (30 for each list) who are making an impact on the world. They include:

JAMES TRALIE '19

Creative director at NASA

Since joining the team in 2019, the geosciences major has produced TV shows, films, and other digital content. Tralie is known for “making the science of space palatable to more than 10 million who watch his coverage,” according to the *Forbes* announcement. “It’s so much fun, communicating this stuff,” Tralie told PAW in a 2023 profile. “You start to feel a deep connection with the far reaches of the cosmos.”



TRALIE '19

JONATHAN LORD '18

CTO and co-founder of Flux Marine

The idea to develop an electric boat first took shape at Princeton, and eventually co-founders Lord, Ben Sorkin ’17, and Daylin Frantin made it a reality when they launched Flux Marine in 2018. The Bristol, Rhode Island-based company builds high-performance electric outboard motors and battery systems. Lord’s disdain for gas engines in boats turned out to be a shared pet peeve as Flux Marine has raised more than \$30 million in funding.



LORD '18

NICK CALLEGARI '20

Founder & CEO of Verustruct

Housing insecurity was the issue Callegari wanted to address when he left SpaceX and moved into the social entrepreneurship space. His startup, Verustruct, is developing 3D printers to create more affordable and sustainable

housing materials. Among Verustruct’s innovations is that the walls its printers produce are smooth — unlike other 3D printed homes that have a layered look. “Housing is a human right,” Callegari wrote in a LinkedIn post announcing the *Forbes* recognition. “The real milestone will be when families everywhere have access to safe, affordable, sustainable places to live.”



CALLEGARI '20

ROMAN PAPADEMETRIOU '18

COO of Mutuals Media

In collaboration with co-founders Amelia Montooth and Emmet Sandberg, Papademetriou launched Mutuals Media, a digital media network and production studio that produces video series for social media. Since its launch in February 2024, Mutuals Media’s flagship show *Gaydar*, hosted by content creator Anania Williams, has dropped more than 140 episodes, reaching more than 1.7 million viewers per show, and has had partnerships with many major brands including Hinge and Apple TV.



PAPADEMETRIOU '18

HASSAN CHAUDHRY '18

Vice president at BlackRock

After graduating from Princeton with a degree in operations research and financial engineering, Chaudhry jumped straight into the world of finance by joining the investment firm BlackRock. He spent two years at Morgan Stanley before returning to BlackRock’s Private Equity Partners team in 2023. Chaudhry was recognized in *Forbes*’ Venture Capital category for his role in helping to launch the firm’s Growth Equity platform. Under his direction, BlackRock has invested more than \$800 million in various projects including AI companies Gorq and Applied Intuition. ▀ By C.S.



CHAUDHRY '18



GORDON WALMSLEY '71

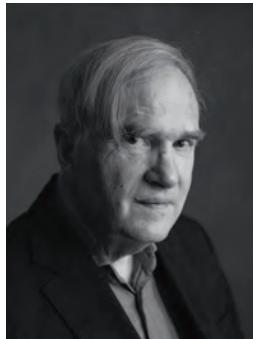
Dreams of a Lifetime

BY JAKE CADDEAU '20

ON A QUIET BLOCK IN ØSTERBRO, a neighborhood in the northern part of Copenhagen, lives an unlikely resident. I biked there to meet him through the quiet, orderly streets, past buildings painted with soft reds and ochres and children trailing their parents on cargo bikes. In this part of the world, it can feel as if the whole universe has taken a deep breath.

The resident in question, Gordon Walmsley '71, shook my hand and greeted me with a thick Louisiana accent. Walmsley is a poet, the author of 11 books, and he's lived in Copenhagen for close to 40 years. He grew up in New Orleans, a city of jazz, decadence, and sweltering heat, and where, as Walmsley puts it, "if you can trace your family back more than five generations, stop. You don't want to know where they came from."

Walmsley chose Princeton because his father and brother had gone there, but really because he was "in love with F. Scott Fitzgerald [1917] at the time." He wrote for *The Daily Princetonian* and majored in German, and remembers when, in his junior year, Bob Dylan came to campus to receive an honorary degree, an event the musician referenced



WALMSLEY '71

in his song, "The Day of Locusts." "They wanted me to be in the creative writing course," Walmsley says, "but I didn't have anything to

write about. I mean, what was my life at the age of 19?"

In an unconventional act of rebellion, Walmsley went to law school next. "My parents tried to talk me out of it," he says. "They said, 'This is not you.' And I said, 'You don't know what you're talking about.'" Once he graduated, he decided it was time to grow up and start writing poetry.

Walmsley moved to Guatemala; his friends said he'd love it since it was "exotic and cheap." It was 1980, and the country was in the throes of a 36-year civil war. "It was this paradox of it being a very beautiful place, and also a horrible place where they were torturing people and eradicating the Indigenous population," he remembers. "It was

really Guatemala that made me a poet." Walmsley's first book of poems, *Kinesis*, written during his time in Guatemala, was published in 1983.

The artwork for *Kinesis* is a series of woodcut prints of the Indigenous Guatemalan population by Jørn Bie, a Danish artist who was living in Antigua at the time. When Walmsley approached Bie, asking him to illustrate the book, Bie agreed on the condition that Walmsley accompany him to Denmark to put the project together. After they published the book, Walmsley was back and forth to Denmark for a couple years before he settled there full time. "I think all Americans have a thing about Europe," he says. "But it's particularly enchanting when you fall in love with a place and then meet your wife."

In Copenhagen, Walmsley had

been taking classes in Eurythmy, a movement art that combines elements of dance, rhythm, and speech, when he met his wife, Annie. "I think she felt sorry for me," he says, "I wasn't a very nimble dancer." She invited him to visit her family's home on Bornholm, a picturesque Danish island in the Baltic Sea. The rest was history.

Walmsley's nine other books touch on varying themes. *Daisy: The Alchemical Adventures of a New Orleans Hermaphrodite* reaches back to memories of New Orleans, while others, including *The Braille of the Sea*, are much more connected to Scandinavia.

Though Walmsley is not a native of Denmark, the city is part of him, and he feels organically part of it. "Denmark is where I feel most at home," he says.

Authenticity is at the heart of who Walmsley is, and he defines it as a sense of moving toward the truth. "Some people will say, 'There is no truth.' But if there's no truth, there's no bullshit, and we know that's not true," he says. Walmsley is full of wisdom like this.

When asked what he's writing about now, he says, "I won't know until it's finished. I never sit down and say I'm going to write a poem about war or whatever. It develops as you do it. A process of becoming." □

INSPIRING PRINCETONIANS: JAHMAL LAKE '98

Mentorship Program Encourages Kids to Read

BY TONYA RUSSELL

IN 2019, OBIAGLE LAKE FOUNDED the nonprofit Our Kids Read to help tackle one of the nation's most urgent challenges: closing the literacy gap. The next year, as her mesothelioma progressed, she had a tough conversation with her son to ask if he would continue the nonprofit when she died.



LAKE '98

"My mom said, 'Jahmal, I know you're an IT guy. This is not your space, but I want you to take your inheritance and start this foundation and really get our babies reading,'" says Jahmal Lake '98. He took over as the executive director and co-founder of the nonprofit in 2020 and continues to carry its mission forward with the support of many Princetonians.

The program consists of meeting children where their interests are and pairing them with a reading buddy mentor. He compares it to Big Brothers Big Sisters, but with a literary focus. "We're really seeing changes in behavior and in attitudes about reading, which is different from

reading programs that are strictly about tutoring, where they become better readers but still don't like to read."

Data shows by fourth grade, 80% of children in underserved areas struggle to read, Lake says. "That's why our mission targets children between 6 and 12 in these communities." Our Kids Read has worked with more than 400 students and has donated 150,000 books to underserved children.

Lake acknowledges his lack of experience when he first took over and committed \$50,000 of his inheritance

"We're really seeing changes in behavior and in attitudes about reading, which is different from reading programs that are strictly about tutoring, where they become better readers but still don't like to read."

— JAHMAL LAKE '98



COURTESY OF JAHMAL LAKE '98; ADOBE

to bolster the organization. He turned to people in his network — many of whom are Princeton alumni — to really help it thrive. "It's been a tremendous learning curve for me, so I've had to surround myself with people that are deep in the literacy and education space, as well as the nonprofit space."

This year, Lake was able to retire after 18 years at the U.S. Treasury Department and work for Our Kids Read full time. His wife supported his endeavors, as long as he could figure out a "practical" way forward. He recalls, "It wasn't until this year when my job offered a package along with voluntary retirement. That's when she said, 'Clearly, this is the work that God has called you to do.'"

To date, more than 300 alumni have volunteered; their donations have totaled more than \$1 million worth of books. Many alumni also play active roles in the organization including Karen Ali '78, Kamil Ali-Jackson '81, and Marquis Parker '99, who serve on its board of directors. "It's really a Tiger-led project," Lake says.

Our Kids Read also receives support from the Pace Center for Civic Engagement, Princeton Internships in Civic Service (PICS), and the Princeternship program. Additionally, several classes have partnered with the nonprofit during Reunions to create a service project. Last year, members of the classes of 1975 and 2010 and the Association of Princeton Graduate Alumni hosted 50 fifth grade students on campus from Thomas Jefferson Intermediate School in Trenton. Students toured Princeton, participated in a storytelling event, and received free books to take home.

Without the support of fellow Tigers, Lake is not sure his vision for OKR would have been realized. "That's really what gave me the confidence to step out on faith — not only the package from my former employer, but people rallying around and making me feel like I'm not in this by myself." ■

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.

FORWARD

AND BEYOND

SAVE THE DATES

Join **President Christopher L. Eisgruber '83** in conversation with alumni leaders at upcoming gatherings around the country to celebrate the Venture Forward campaign and learn what's next for Princeton.



December 3, 2025
BOSTON

Melissa Wu '99

*Chief Executive Officer,
Education Pioneers*



January 21
CHICAGO

John Rogers '80

*Founder, Chairman & Co-CEO,
Ariel Investments*



March 10
SAN FRANCISCO

Bob Peck '88

*Managing Director,
Fremont Group*



March 12
LOS ANGELES

Mason Morfit '97

*Co-Chief Executive Officer,
ValueAct Capital*



April 16
NEW YORK

Louise Sams '79

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PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

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THE CLASS OF 1949

THEODORE S. RAPHAEL '49

Ted died May 6, 2025, at home in Dedham, Mass. He was 96.



He was born in Boston, raised with two brothers, and graduated from Brookline High School. At Princeton, he majored in economics, played the clarinet in the Band and University Orchestra, and was a member of Key & Seal Club. He earned a law degree from Harvard and served in the Army for two years, in Fort Jackson, S.C.

In 1956, after studying accounting, Ted was the second son to join the family accounting firm, Raphael & Raphael, founded by his father in 1941 and still going. When Ted started his career as a CPA and tax attorney, adding machines were used to calculate taxes and returns were paper filed and hand delivered to the IRS or Massachusetts Department of Revenue. He worked at the firm until he was 88; his son joined the firm in 1985; a grandson in 2014; and another grandson in 2021, representing the third and fourth generations.

Ted was an avid golfer and known for his universal friendliness and wry sense of humor.

In 1958, Ted married Roberta; she died in 1982. He is survived by son Harry; daughter Laurie Raphael Samuels; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. His second wife, Laura Silin, died in 2016.

THE CLASS OF 1951

JOHN W. ADDISON JR. '51

John was born in Ann Arbor, Mich. He came to Princeton after graduating from



Phillips Academy. He majored in mathematics, was a member of Court Club and Whig-Clio, served on the senior board of *The Daily Princetonian*, and graduated with military honors. He roomed with Ted Holmes.

After college, John obtained his M.S. and Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Wisconsin. He was also a member of the Institute for Advanced Study and a guest of the Mathematical Institute of the Polish

Academy of Sciences in Warsaw. Ultimately John went to UC Berkeley, where he taught for more than 30 years and was the chair of the mathematics department. His research focused on theory of definability, descriptive set theory, model theory, and recursive function theory.

John died March 7, 2025. He was predeceased by his wife, Mary Ann; and is survived by his four sons West '84, Thomas, Alonzo '87, and Samuel.

MARTIN C. AGNEW '51

Marty graduated from Brighton High School in Rochester, N.Y., before coming to Princeton and majoring in mechanical engineering. He belonged to Quadrangle Club and was active in the Band, the Presbyterian Student Council, and the Undergraduate Employment Agency.

After graduation, Marty studied Presbyterian ministry for a year at Princeton Theological Seminary and transferred to Colgate Rochester Divinity School. He then worked for Xerox as research vice president and at Wetterings & Agnew, a human-resource company in Rochester.

Marty died March 3, 2025. His wife, Helen died Dec. 18, 2025. They are survived by daughters Cynthia, JoAnne, Kathryn, and Pamela.

KNOX MARQUAND MITCHELL '51

Marq was born in Hartford, Conn., and graduated from the Choate School. After two years at Princeton, he transferred to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and majored in management engineering.

After graduation, Marq moved to Wisconsin and worked at A.H. Kelch Corp., a manufacturer of vinyl plastic. He retired along the Florida Gulf Coast in Sarasota.

Marq died April 2, 2025. His wife of 65 years, Edna, predeceased him. He is survived by his children Beth, Christina, and Mike.

WILLIAM G. PAXTON '51

Bill graduated from New Trier High School in Illinois. He majored in chemical engineering, was a member of the Tigertones, Glee Club, and Key & Seal Club.



He roomed with Bill Heaton, Karl Rauschert, and Dick Zahn.

After graduation Bill began a career at American Cyanamid, ascended the ranks and ultimately became president of the international chemical division. His responsibilities encompassed the marketing, research, and production of commodities and specialty chemicals. He retired to East Lansing, Mich., and stayed active in his choir and the community.

Bill served as class president from 2001 to 2006, organized mini-reunions, and was an executive committee member from 2006 to 2021.

Bill died at his family lake home in Shelby, Mich., Sept. 15, 2024. He is survived by his wife, Shirley, and his four daughters: Marty '77, Anne '81, Jane, and Suzanne.

THE CLASS OF 1953

THOMAS F. BRANDT JR. '53

Tom died Aug. 13, 2025, in Madison, Ohio.

He came to Princeton after graduating from J.R. Buchtel High School in Akron, Ohio. He majored in electrical engineering and was a member of Tower Club. He was also active in Theatre Intime, working as general electrician and technical director.

Going to work for General Electric in the Philadelphia area, Tom became involved in the design and development of electrical gadgets hardly anyone knew existed until energy became a national concern. Later, he moved to the Chicago area and then to Edina, Minn., still designing electrical gadgets and serving as director of electrical products technology for Onan Corp. In retirement, he moved to San Jose and became senior warden of his Episcopal Church.

Predeceased by his wife, Claire, Tom is survived by their four children and two grandchildren.

JOSEPH A. CARRAGHER JR. '53

Red died Jan. 29, 2025, in Pawleys Island, S.C.



He was born in Newark, and grew up in Colonia, N.J., attending The Pingry School prior to coming to Princeton. He was a cheerleader and member of Charter Club. He majored in English in the Special Program in American Civilization and wrote his senior thesis on "Twilight in California: A Study of John Steinbeck."

He treasured his lifelong Princeton friends and through the years was in regular touch with Dodds Buchanan, Hugh Richardson, Jim Green, Ian MacFarlane, and others who

also settled in Atlanta.

Red followed in his father's footsteps founding Carragher Home Improvement in Colonia. He was a general contractor and became a licensed real estate broker. He went on to earn his law degree from Seton Hall Law School in 1960 and moved to Atlanta in 1963, working in real estate and law. He and his wife, Paulette, moved to Pawleys Island in 2018.

Red is survived by his wife of 63 years, Paulette; his son, Geoffrey; daughters Rena and Sassy; and six grandchildren.

HENRY P. ERWIN JR. '53

Henry died June 11, 2025, in Davis, Calif.

Born in Washington, D.C., He came to Princeton after attending Culver Military Academy and Lawrenceville School. He joined Charter Club and majored in electrical engineering. After graduation, he spent two years serving on a destroyer escort in the Atlantic Fleet and then earned an MBA from Harvard.

After working for several small aerospace companies, Henry bought a small electrical coil manufacturing company and built it up to about 100 employees before selling it and retiring. This gave him time to expand his role as a soccer referee and singing in church and choral groups. The latter activity took him and his wife, Martha, to the Berkshire Choral Festival and to Salzburg and touring Hungary, singing medieval and Renaissance music.

Henry is survived by Martha and their son and daughter.

WILLIAM HENRY PLAUTH JR. '53

Bill was born in Amityville, N.Y., and attended Amityville High School and the Choate School before coming to Princeton. He was a member of Dial Lodge and majored in history, writing his thesis on "The American Medical Association and its Public Health Policy."

After graduating, he went to Cornell Medical School for four years and then to Johns Hopkins, where he became chief resident in pediatrics. He then became professor of pediatrics and director of the division of pediatric cardiology at Emory University School of Medicine, retiring as professor emeritus in 1999. In 2003, he was honored with a lifetime achievement award by the Georgia Chapter of the American College of Cardiology to recognize his contributions to pediatric cardiology and leadership in training the next generation of pediatric cardiologists.

Bill moved to Santa Fe, N.M., in 2004 and died Sept. 21, 2025. Predeceased by his wife,

Barbara, after 57 years of marriage, he is survived by his two children, Nancy and Bill III, and four grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1954

ROBERT W. HARDY '54

Bob died June 26, 2025.

He prepared at the Morristown School. At Princeton, he majored in art, joined Cottage Club, and rowed bow in the freshman and varsity crew eights all four years.

Bob served as a lieutenant in the Army in Korea in 1955-56. After joining the family textile firm, he discovered a talent for helping people launch new enterprises. He then established his own firm, Americas International Consultants, that promoted new technologies, primarily from Switzerland, some of which were ahead of their time in the U.S. marketplace. Bob attributed his eventual success to a conviction that "the critical aspect of life (as in rowing at Princeton) is that when you have been knocked down, get up and go risk again," hence his favorite saying later in life: "Up the creek and around the bend." Bob was known for his word, respected in business, and never lost his sense of humor.

He married Karin Stockar of Switzerland in New York in 1962 while she was attending the Parsons School of Design. She subsequently ran a design firm where they lived in New Vernon, N.J. They moved their family of three to Vermont in 1989.

Bob is survived by Karin; their children Andrea, Donita, and Scott; and six grandchildren. He was predeceased by his father, Charles 1925, and brother Doug '52.

THE CLASS OF 1955

JAMES ROSE CARTER JR. '55

Jim died Sept. 17, 2025, at home in York, Maine.

He attended Andover and was involved with debating, glee club, and publication of a literary magazine. At Princeton, he majored in English in the Special Program in the Humanities and became a member of Cloister Inn. He joined the Pre-Med Society, where he was a senior assistant to the board of advisers, took part in freshman fencing, and graduated as the class valedictorian.

Jim began his medical education at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and his residency at Massachusetts General Hospital, where he became chief resident. After a few years on the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania he moved to the faculty at Case Western Reserve University, where he remained until retirement. His specialty was endocrinology

and he developed a special interest in medical education at multiple levels, becoming known for his diagnostic skills and ability to engage young doctors.

Jim had two children, Christopher and Victoria, with his first wife, Betty Chamberlain, with whom he remained friends after a divorce. In 1971, he married Susan Gear and they shared a 54-year marriage.

Jim loved the outdoors, climbing in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, biking back roads, golfing, and downhill skiing. He and Susan loved collecting art and getting to know the artists, and they enjoyed symphonic music, ballet, and theater. He was an avid reader of the classics as well as a fan of all Boston sports teams.

Jim is survived by his wife, Susan; his two children; and four grandchildren.

EDWIN M. CLAYTON '55

Ed, a pathologist whose classmates knew him as Ed Cieresko, died July 28, 2025.

The name confusion arises because through high school and Princeton Ed used Cieresko, his family name, then at Yale Medical School he changed his name (and his Princeton diploma) to Clayton.

Ed was born June 8, 1933, in Trenton and attended Trenton High School, where he was active in debate and the forum club. At Princeton, he majored in chemistry and joined Court Club, the Pre-Medical Society, and the Chemistry Club, and was active in Whig-Clio. His senior roommates were John Eleuteri, Don Kline, and Larry Mitnick.

Ed and his wife, Fran, loved living on the shore, first in New Jersey and then for most of his life in Old Lyme, Conn. In addition to shore living they loved to travel, which they took up when Fran switched her profession from nursing to becoming a travel agent. When the switch was made, says Fran, "We didn't know how much we would enjoy it. But we sure did," and they traveled nearly everywhere: "China, Australia, New Zealand, French Polynesia, Fiji, Egypt, Tunisia, most of Europe and Scandinavia. It was a lot more fun than nursing."

Ed is survived by Fran; son Richard; daughter Nancy '84 *88; and four granddaughters.

DAVID W. SHEARER '55

Dave died July 27, 2025, surrounded by members of his family.

He was born Nov. 15, 1933, in Tarentum, Pa. He attended East Deer-Frazer High School in Creighton, Pa., where he was active in football and student government. At Princeton, Dave majored in religion and was a member of Elm Club. He participated in freshman heavyweight crew and won



numerals in junior varsity football. He also played IAA club softball.

After Princeton Dave worked for the Travelers Insurance Co. as an executive with the group department until his retirement in 1992. He enjoyed trout fishing as well as bird watching, reading poetry, and cooking. As a father he made sure his four children went skating, exploring the woods, rowing, and sledding. He was active for 10 years in the Boy Scouts and was a lifelong blood donor for the Red Cross.

Dave was married to Drucilla Waltenbaugh, who survives him. They would have celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary Aug. 28, 2025. Dave is also survived by their four children, Bridgit, David Jr., Michael, and Deidre; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1956

DONALD M. BLUE '56

Don died June 4, 2025.

He came to Princeton from Curtis High School on Staten Island, N.Y., where he played football, basketball, and baseball. He joined Cannon Club, for which he played ice hockey and softball. He also served on the staff of the Baker hockey rink. Majoring in geology, he wrote his thesis on "Belt Rocks in Western Montana."

The interest in rocks led to an M.S. in geology from the University of Utah in 1960. Employment in Houston with the Western Geophysical Co. followed, where Don became manager of facilities. In 1977, he joined Occidental Petroleum in California, where he held a position in facility and property management.

In retirement, Don owned and operated the Trinidad Bay Bed and Breakfast in Trinidad, Calif., for several years before moving to Rogue Valley Manor in Medford, Ore. Periodically, he and wife Elizabeth would visit their condo in St. George, Utah.

Don is survived by Elizabeth; children Anne Hayward and Dana Lockhart; stepchildren Michael Seltzer and Rebecca Antonio; and grandchildren Joseph and Megan Lockhart.

ROBERT P. WATSON '56

Known to friends and family as "Wats" and "Big Wats," Bob died June 13, 2025.

Born in Brussels and raised in Toronto, he graduated from Lower Merion (Pa.) High School. At Princeton, Bob played lacrosse, joined Quadrangle, majored in politics, and made lifelong friends like senior year roommates: Freund, Bacher, Doyle, and Gatch.



Bob served in the Air Force before life took him across Latin America, where he had managerial roles with Colgate-Palmolive. It was in St. Thomas, VI, where he met his future wife, Katharine "Kit" Mohlman, followed by a wedding three months later. They were married for 47 joyful years before her passing.

After several entrepreneurial endeavors, Bob founded the Managers Funds, a pioneering mutual fund company. An avid skier and outdoor enthusiast, Bob continued to seek out challenges well into his later years — including climbing Mount Kilimanjaro with his daughter Whitney at age 70. He was a devoted family man, a lover of Labradors, and had a deep passion for both the mountains and the Caribbean.

Bob is survived by daughters Daphne Watson Ely and husband Clute, Amanda Watson Marmer '97 and her husband Craig, and Whitney Watson Littman '99 and her husband Will; and eight grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1957

DAVID P. BRUTON '57

Dave died July 25, 2025, of pneumonia at Cathedral Village Retirement Center in Philadelphia.



He came to Princeton from the George School in Newtown, Pa.. At Princeton, he majored in the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. Dave played on the freshman soccer team, participated in Whig Clio as treasurer, and was a member of the S.C.A. and Orange Key. He joined Dial Lodge, where he participated in IAA sports. Senior year Dave roomed at the club with Blair McMillin and Norm Rousseau.

Following Princeton, he earned a law degree at Harvard and then joined Drinker, Biddle & Reath in Philadelphia. Working primarily on litigation and appeals to higher courts, Dave became head of the litigation department and then chairman of the firm.

In 1959, he married Peggy Ann Brumfield, a Mount Holyoke graduate who did graduate work at Temple. They had two children, Keith and Kathryn. Dave's legal training was interrupted by six months of active duty in the Army; he served for the balance of his service commitment in the National Guard, attaining the rank of sergeant. He became a board member of several organizations and was an arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association and a mediator for the U.S. District Court of Pennsylvania.

Dave is survived by his wife of 66 years, Peggy; his two children and their families; and sister Jane Batista. He was predeceased by sister Laura Coelen.

WILLIAM C. RIDGWAY III '57

Bill died Sept. 14, 2025, of cancer in Connecticut.



He came to Princeton from Short Hills (N.J.) Country Day School and Andover. He was the son of William C. Ridgway Jr. 1929. At college he majored in electrical engineering and graduated Phi Beta Kappa. Like his father and his Andover classmate and Princeton roommate, Gordon Mackenzie, he joined Charter Club. Bill was an officer for WPRB and nurtured a lifelong interest in radio. His senior roommates included Gordon and 14 others in the Rockefeller Suite.

Following graduation, Bill joined Bell Laboratories, which sent him for his M.E.E. degree at NYU and his Ph.D. at Stanford. While in California he married Cornelia C. Rogers, and they had three children, Elizabeth, Ashley, and Stuart. At Bell Labs he worked on the Nike-Zeus project and the Telstar project; he became head of the computer sciences department and eventually a corporate vice president. After a divorce, Bill married Carol Oco and welcomed three stepchildren, Leslie, Cynthia, and Eve.

After retiring from AT&T/Bell he worked for the State of New Jersey and then became president of his own company, R3 Information Systems. Leaving Short Hills, Bill settled in Old Lyme, Conn., and had a vacation home on Fishers Island, N.Y. He became a board member of Mystic Seaport and of Amistad America, which operates a replica of the ship captured by slaves who subsequently were freed by an American Court. He was also active in Fishers Island affairs, an accomplished model railroad enthusiast, and "an occasional golfer."

Bill is survived by his wife, Carol; his three children and three stepchildren; and their families.

THE CLASS OF 1959

HARTWELL H. GARY III '59

Hart died Oct. 18, 2024.

A Virginian through and through, Hart was born in Norfolk, raised in Lynchburg, prepped at Virginia Episcopal, earned a bachelor's degree from Virginia Tech, and a J.D. and MBA from the University of Virginia. He strayed only briefly taking two years at Princeton, where he rowed on the freshman crew and joined Campus Club in his sophomore year.

Hart lived much of his adult life in Charlottesville, near the University of Virginia. He had a small private law practice in Charlottesville and oversaw a commercial real estate business in Norfolk with his brother, Wiley, who predeceased him, and his two sons, Hart IV and Fitz. He loved

bicycling on the many country roads around Charlottesville. An avid history reader, he started a book club that is still going strong after 35 years. A foodie and cooking connoisseur, he loved traveling to Europe for both the biking and the cuisine.

Hart is survived by his two sons; his daughter-in-law, Piper Rae; and his grandchildren, Alden and Alia.

ROBERT E. HILL '59

Bob came to Princeton from the Taft School, where he was active on the football and



baseball teams and in student government, dramatics, and singing. At Princeton, he served on the Freshman Council staff, the Campus Fund Drive, and Orange Key.

Majoring in history, he ate at Cannon Club, played IAA football, hockey, and softball, and senior year he roomed with Henderson, Helfenstein, H. Hudson, Warwick, and Waters.

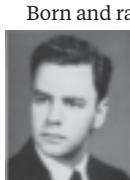
After he married Marcia Ann Hoag in 1960, the Hills moved to California, where Bob obtained an M.A. in government and economics from Claremont Graduate University. They soon returned East, where Bob worked as VP of procurement for Jay-Vee Brands in Wake Forest and then, in 1982, as VP of procurement for Shadowline, a clothing manufacturer in Morganton, N.C., until retirement. He helped each community in which he lived, co-founding a soccer league and serving on a planning commission an arts council, and with two Catholic churches.

Bob's talents as a storyteller and fiddler flourished in Morganton. He published and was honored with awards from the Charlotte Writers Club. He played old-time music with various bands in Boone, Morganton, and Asheville, notably with the Haw Creek String Band. When not writing or playing, he enjoyed hiking and biking through the mountains.

Bob died May 10, 2024, at home in Morganton. He is survived by his wife, Marcia; a daughter; a son; and four grandchildren.

ALLAN LAVETTER '59

Allan died in California April 21, 2025.



Born and raised in Cleveland, he graduated from Glenville High School, where he served as president of the student council, played in the band, and was on the bowling team. At Princeton, he majored in biology, served as an Orange Key guide, and played on the 150-pound football team. He was a member of Court Club and his roommates were Ian Mueller and Rhett Pinsky.

Upon graduation Allan attended the Pritzker School of Medicine at the University of Chicago's Division of Biological Sciences,

receiving his medical degree in 1963. He interned in Boston at the U.S. Public Health Service, then did his residency in pediatrics at Columbia Presbyterian, followed by two years at the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital in New Orleans and a fellowship in infectious diseases at the University of Southern California.

In 1971, now married, Allan and Judith moved to Santa Clara, where he joined the Permanente Medical Group, serving as the chief of pediatrics while specializing in infectious diseases. He was also on the faculty of Stanford as associate professor of medicine and pediatrics. After retirement from Permanente, he worked with the nonprofit School Health Clinics of Santa Clara County, providing health care to underserved children.

Allan is survived by his wife of 66 years, Judith; sons Michael and Daniel; grandson Jacob; and his brother.

FRANCIS R. STRAWBRIDGE III '59

Fran, of Bryn Mawr, Pa., died April 22, 2024.

He prepared for Princeton at the Haverford School, where he was active in football and baseball. At Princeton, his senior year roommates were Bill Butler, Bob MacNeill, Ash Miller, and Dave Ober. He majored in psychology, was in Cannon Club, and played freshman baseball. Later in life, he played doubles tennis and traveled widely.

Fran's family had four generations of management involvement in Strawbridge & Clothier, a leading retailer in the Delaware Valley since its founding in 1861. He worked in the firm for 35 years, was chairman of the board from 1984 to 1996, and had the challenging job of convincing family members and store associates to sell the firm to The May Co. in 1996. In Fran's opinion this turned out to be the right decision at the right time.

Over the years, Fran was an active board member in his region and industry: hospitals, health systems, Mellon Bank, Temple University, Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, retailing organizations, and even chairmanship of the board of the Princeton University Store.

Fran was survived by his wife, Mary Jo Beatty Strawbridge, whom he married in 1969; four daughters; and four grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1960 RICHARD W. GRIEVES '60

Our beloved secretary, Dick, or "Griever," died of heart failure Sept. 10, 2025, a day after a fine trip to Yellowstone National Park with Carol, his wife of 61 years.

A New Jersey native, Dick prepared at Blair Academy. At Princeton, he joined

the Nassoons, majored in politics, dined at Quadrangle, and served Orange Key, the Campus Fund Drive, and *Bric-a-Brac*.

Dick went directly to the Air Force, served three years, and retired as a captain. He and Carol married in 1964. He earned his LL.B. at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1966 and returned to New Jersey to work for the state and enjoy frequent Princeton sporting events. He was also active in Schools Committee work.

Attracted again to California in 1973, Dick worked for the California state government in several capacities until 1985, when he joined Northrop Grumman Corp., in labor law and employee relations. In time he took charge of the company's environmental issues and retired in 2003 as its senior environmental lawyer.

Dick was active for many years in the Presbyterian church. He and Carol built their retirement home on the Olympic Peninsula of Washington in 2003 and enjoyed further travel, family and friend visits, and "a fairly quiet life" as he described it in our 65th book.

Dick is survived by Carol, their two children, and their families.

RANDOLPH B. REINHOLD '60

Randy came to Princeton from the McDonogh School near his Baltimore home.

Despite childhood polio, he excelled in swimming and was all-state in lacrosse. At Princeton, he majored in chemistry, played varsity lacrosse, was pre-med, and joined Tiger Inn. Randy earned a medical degree in 1964 and interned in 1965 at Johns Hopkins before residency in surgery at Brigham and Women's in Boston.

Early in his surgery practice Randy felt called to work with disadvantaged inner-city populations and became a conscientious objector to the Vietnam War. Along with community service, he also in time returned to his first love and continued in surgery for the rest of his career. He served as vice chair and professor of medicine at Tufts School of Medicine and completed his career as chief of surgery at St. Raphael Hospital in New Haven, Conn.

Randy was a mentor to young physicians. He served overseas with Doctors Without Borders with his second wife, Rita Berkson, and promoted hospice and at-home eldercare in Connecticut. He enjoyed international travel, especially in medicine; sailing; bridge; sculpture; cooking; and particularly his four children and four grandchildren.

Randy died Aug. 27, 2025. He is survived by Rita and their children and their families, to whom we extend our condolences.

ROBERT D. SCHROCK JR. '60

Bob came to Princeton via Phillips Exeter Academy. He joined the Chapel Choir and Glee Club, played rugby, ate at Cap and Gown, and majored in the Special Program in American Civilization, all while aiming toward medical school. He then earned a medical degree at Cornell Medical School in 1964 and married Carolyn Gorthy on graduation.

They embarked to Seattle, where Bob did his internship and rose to chief resident in orthopedics at Washington Medical School and Kings County Hospital in 1970. After Bob served two years with the Army Medical Corps, they settled in Rochester, N.Y. He began private practice in orthopedics and Carolyn resumed her youthful musical studies.

Bob taught at Rochester Medical School, was a leader in several medical associations, and was an active mentor to rising physicians. He continued in choral singing, often under Carolyn, who became director of a succession of church choirs. He remained active in tennis, sailing, and hiking. Retiring in 2004, they moved to Chapel Hill, N.C., and began to pursue art-related travel, Carolyn in pastels and Bob in photography.

Despite dealing with lymphoma from 2007 onward, Bob's lifetime of fitness enabled him to cope and carry on for almost 20 years. He died Aug. 11, 2025. He is survived by Carolyn, their two children and their spouses; and four grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1961**ROBERT DAVID ARMSTRONG '61**

David died June 20, 2025, in Texas after a long struggle with Parkinson's disease.

Born in Dallas, he came to us from Sugar Land High School. At Princeton, he majored in classics, writing his thesis on Sophocles and winning the Stinnecke Prize and the Robbins Prize. He was managing editor of the *Nassau Lit* and took his meals at Wilson Lodge. He roomed with Gordon Goodfellow and Michael McAshan.

After Princeton, David earned a Ph.D. in classics at the University of Texas, Austin, where he worked with renowned classicist William Arrowsmith. He then embarked on a teaching career in classics at that university, with several stints as a visiting professor at Princeton, where he relished teaching in some of the same rooms where he had been a student. He became friends with renowned ancient historian Peter Brown. He retired in 2006, remained in Austin, and continued his scholarly work even when gravely ill. His many publications ranged from Latin poetry to Hellenistic philosophy.



David is survived by his spouse, Marcos Jimenez; his sister, Peg; and his longtime friends in the class, Andras Hamori and John Cooper.

JAMES D. GILMORE '61

Jim died July 26, 2025, at his home on Bainbridge Island, Wash.



Born in Independence, Kan., he came to us from Independence High School. At Princeton, he majored at the Woodrow Wilson School, was president of Colonial Club, played 150-pound football, and joined Navy ROTC. He roomed with Ed Bartlett '62 and Dave Cole.

After Princeton Jim served in the Navy on the USS *Princeton*, then earned his LL.D. at Stanford before moving to Alaska, where he practiced law in solo practice and then with a partner for 40 years with notable distinction. Along the way he served on the Alaska Judicial Council, received the Alaska Bar Lifetime Professionalism Award, and joined the exclusive American Academy of Trial Lawyers. As his obituary reported, "Jim's exploits as a trial lawyer are legion." In 2005, he and his wife of 56 years, Katy, relocated to Port Townsend and then to Bainbridge Island, both in Washington, when he fully retired.

Jim is survived by Katy; sons Chester and William; and four grandchildren.

THOMAS N. KLUG '61

Tom, known to some of us as "Klugs," died peacefully at home July 28, 2025, in Mequon, Wis.



Born in Milwaukee, he came to us from Milwaukee Country Day School, where he met Janie Rice, his wife of 60 years. At Princeton, he majored in psychology, was in Whig-Clio and the Campus Fund Drive, and took his meals at Tower Club. His roommates were Tim Mygatt, Rob Walker, and Stu Tuffnell.

After earning a LL.D. at Marquette University, Tom went on to a 50-year career as a litigation attorney with Borgelt, Powell, Peterson & Frauen, serving the firm as president and arguing 26 cases before the Wisconsin Supreme Court. He was a member of Rotary International, an elder and usher at Fox Point Lutheran Church, and president of the Town Club and the Ozaukee Country Club. He was an avid golfer and was active in many outdoor and competitive sports and traveled nationally and internationally with Janie.

Tom was predeceased by Janie and son Frederick. He is survived by his children, Barbie, Heidi, and Peter '97; eight grandchildren — who loved his "Uber-Klug" rides; and four great-grandchildren.

JOHN HENRY LEWIN JR. '61

John died June 12, 2025, of pulmonary disease at his home in Bethany Beach, Del.



Born in Baltimore, he came to Princeton from Gilman School. He majored in English, ate at Colonial, and was a member of the *Prince* and Theatre Intime. His senior year roommates were Chris Perry, Ted Kurz, and Bill Wu.

After Princeton he earned a J.D. at the University of Maryland School of Law, then joined Venable, Baetjer & Howard, where he became a partner and then head of the litigation department. He was elected president of the Baltimore City Bar Association and was a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He belonged to the Elkridge Club, the Bachelors' Cotillion, and the Cripple Creek Club. After retiring to Bethany Beach, he worked as a mediator and wrote four books about his life and career. He loved jazz and was a founder of the Baltimore Chamber Jazz Society, and he had a lifelong commitment to civil rights.

John is survived by his wife of 58 years, Tolly; children Janet and Jack; and six grandchildren.

ARTHUR LOOMSTEIN '61

We recently learned that Art died July 16, 2020.

Born in St. Louis, where he lived nearly all his life, Art came to Princeton from Ladue High School, but he withdrew in 1958 and graduated in 1961 from Washington University, followed by a law degree at that university.

Described as a driving force in greater St. Louis commercial real estate, he founded Centerco Properties in 1961. He was a thoroughbred racehorse owner, avid golfer, and steadfast St. Louis Cardinals fan.

At the time of his death, he was survived by his wife of 50 years, Kay; son David; daughters Debi and Debra; and three grandchildren.

FRANK M. MIDGLEY '61

Frank died Sept. 6, 2025, at home in Potomac, Md.



Born in Yonkers, N.Y., he came to us from Riverdale Country School. At Princeton, he was pre-med, majored in engineering, and took his meals at Cap and Gown. He roomed in the Cap Suite with '61ers Rich Palmer, Rich Mandell, Doug Henley, and J.J. Keyser.

After Princeton Frank earned a medical degree at Albany Medical College, followed by nine years of surgical training at the University of Michigan and the Hospital

for Sick Children in London, U.K. In 1974, he joined Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C., to serve as chief of cardiovascular surgery for 28 years and later was executive director emeritus of the Center for Surgical Care. For three decades Frank and the teams he led helped transform surgical care for children with congenital heart defects. An avid runner, he competed in 28 marathons around the world.

Frank was predeceased by his son, Frank Jr. '94; and his brother, Charles '58. He is survived by his wife Sally; daughter Elizabeth; daughter-in-law Julie Simpson '95; four stepchildren; nine grandchildren and step-grandchildren; and his first wife, Jan.

THE CLASS OF 1962

ALBERT H. WUNDERLICH '62

Bert died July 29, 2025.

He graduated from the John Burroughs School in St. Louis. At Princeton, he majored in economics, was active as an announcer at WPRB, and performed as a member of the cast of the Triangle show. He was a member of Cloister Inn and served as vice president.

After graduation and a four-year stint as an officer in the Air Force, Bert returned to St. Louis and began a career in financial services. For the next 36 years, he served as an investment adviser and certified financial planner, mostly with Merrill Lynch, retiring in 2004 as vice president and senior financial consultant. In retirement he taught courses in economics at the Lifelong Learning Institute of Washington University.

Bert had a lifelong interest in live theater and took pleasure in performing nearly every year in productions of the Kirkwood Theatre Guild. He also enjoyed golf and worldwide travel with his wife, Bobbe. "We're still having fun," he wrote at the end of our 50th-reunion yearbook.

Bert is survived by his wife of 62 years, Bobbe; his daughter, Kristin; his sons, Kurt and Karl; and eight grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1963

DERQ HOWLETT '63

Derq died Aug. 17, 2025, in West Chester, Pa.

He was co-valedictorian of West Chester High School and came to Princeton on a full scholarship. He played trombone and tuba in the Band and was a member of Key & Seal. He recounted fond memories for our 60th-reunion yearbook:

"Learning secrets of music theory from professor Milton Babbitt; running freshman track and cross country; playing trombone and tuba in Princeton's Marching

and Concert Band; listening to greats like Louis Armstrong, Count Basie, and George Shearing; then playing piano at Key & Seal Club and Wilson Lodge; and participating, then watching Clark Gesner ['60] create an entire musical for Triangle Club [later *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* on Broadway]!"

Derq received a master's in music education from West Chester State College and a doctorate in music history from Ohio State University.

He was a music professor at Ursinus College, Widener University, Philadelphia University, and Shelton College. He taught at several other schools and was a musician and director of music at many churches. Derq went to many nursing homes and local prisons, acting as chaplain, singing, and playing the piano. He also was a census enumerator, assisted in many local government election polls, and was a longtime blood donor and supporter of the Red Cross.

Derq was predeceased by his wife, Beatrice, in 2010. He is survived by daughters Tara Perrien, Elizabeth Spies, and Tirzah Howlett; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

KENNETH G. PETZINGER '63

Ken died Aug. 26, 2025, in Williamsburg, Va.

He came to Princeton from Eastern Christian High School in North Haledon, N.J. He majored in physics, was a member of the Woodrow Wilson Society, and served as treasurer and then secretary of the Princeton Evangelical Fellowship (now known as the Princeton Christian Fellowship).

Ken earned a master's degree from Columbia in 1965 and a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1971. In 1968, he married Mary Vander Weit, whom he had known in high school. They had three children. Ken retired in 2008 but continued to teach as professor emeritus. He taught physics at William & Mary for 36 years.

Ken served on Williamsburg Community Chapel's prayer team, its group Bible studies, and as a Sunday School teacher and prison minister. He wrote of his experience in our 50th-reunion yearbook: "I still remember the disquieting sound of heavy steel doors as they first clanged shut behind me. I spent 25 years as a volunteer in a local jail ministry and still maintain contact with a number of former inmates. ... Arrival at Princeton initiated two tracks in my life, both of which have formed who I am today," he wrote.

"The first was an academic scientific track, specifically begun by the choice of a physics major. The second was a spiritual track, begun by my conversion to Christ, which has intertwined the science to this day."

Ken is survived by his wife of 57 years, Mary; children Karen Crayosky, Amy Hansen, and Steve; and three grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1964

BRUCE S. BURR '64

Bruce died April 21, 2025, in San Diego of complications associated with congestive heart failure.

 He was born in Elizabeth, N.J., and attended Arthur L. Johnson Regional School, where he was valedictorian, student president, and a multi-sport athlete. During high school he met Patricia Makowsky; their marriage in 1964 would last 61 years. At Princeton, Bruce majored in civil engineering and studied architecture. He graduated *cum laude* and dined at Charter Club.

Later, while ascending the executive ranks at the New Jersey utility PSEG, he received an MBA from Rutgers and an executive MBA from Harvard. During much of that time he and Patricia, along with their children Tracey and Geoffrey, lived in a historic farmhouse in Martinsville, N.J., which they had restored.

Soon after Bruce retired in 1998, he and Patricia moved to San Diego, where he loved the ocean and all things related to it. Bruce chaired his neighborhood's homeowners association architectural committee during the years of rebuilding following a devastating wildfire in 2003. He served in that role for 20 years.

Bruce was a true and generous gentleman, and a devoted husband and father. He hugged and laughed easily and often. The class extends its profound condolences to Patricia and Bruce's family.

HARLAND B. HORTON JR. '64

Hal died July 23, 2025, after a hard-fought yearlong treatment for acute myeloid leukemia.

 He entered Princeton from Buchtel High School in Akron, Ohio. At Princeton, he was a member of Tower Club and rowed varsity heavyweight crew for three years. He roomed with Dave Ray, David MacNeil, Jay Hughes, David Hixson, and Phil Craig. He majored in chemistry, then went to work for Firestone Tire and Rubber. He joined the Firestone racing evaluation team and traveled to many racing venues, like Daytona and Indianapolis, befriending several noted drivers such as Mario Andretti.

The year after graduation he married his high school sweetheart, Jacqueline Shaw. They had two children, Lisa and Scott, and four grandchildren.

Hal attended Akron School of Law at night, graduating in 1972 with a law degree,

and began working in Firestone's legal department, where he eventually rose to chief counsel of litigation.

He was involved in many civic organizations in Akron, was an active member of his church, and served on Princeton's Alumni Schools Committee for more than 50 years.

Hal's intelligence, humility and kindness were evident to all who knew him. He will be greatly missed. Our class extends its heartfelt condolences to Jackie and his family.

DENNIS F. KEELY '64

Dennis died March 21, 2022, surrounded by his wife, Evelyn, and his three children and their families.

He came to Princeton from Sanford H. Calhoun High School in Merrick, N.Y., where he played baseball and football, and he continued to play as a member of Princeton's freshman football team. After two years with the class, Dennis returned home to marry his high school sweetheart, Evelyn Lederle.

Dennis went to work first in New York City at Firmenich, one of the largest privately owned fragrance and taste companies in the world. Later in his career, he worked at Monex Precious Metals and Panasonic.

In 1979, Dennis and his family moved to Laguna Niguel, Calif., where they lived for more than 20 years before moving on to Peoria, Ariz., for a decade. Dennis and Evelyn then relocated back to Laguna Niguel to be closer to their children and grandchildren.

Dennis was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend. He loved sports, particularly football, and enjoyed boating, fishing, skiing, watching sports and movies on television, playing cards, and listening to all kinds of music, especially Bob Marley and Jimmy Buffett. Evelyn died May 27, 2025.

To his sons, Kevin and Scott, and his daughter, Lauren, and their families, the class offers its condolences.

ANTHONY H. SWEET '64

Tony died June 13, 2025, in Grand Rapids, Mich.



Born in New York City, he grew up in Washington, D.C. He attended the Landon School, where he was a member and senior-year president of the glee club, served on the school paper, and played varsity football and soccer. At Princeton, he majored in chemical engineering, played freshman soccer, sang in the Glee Club for two years, served as vice president of AIChE, and was treasurer of Cloister Inn. He earned an MBA from Harvard in 1966 and then

served in the U.S. Public Health Service for two years.

Tony's business career focused on sales and marketing in the semiconductor and electronic materials industries, initially with Monsanto, Allied Chemical, and other companies and eventually as a management and operations consultant. His work involved significant international travel and he and his wife, Pat, whom he married in 1967, both enjoyed traveling. Following Tony's retirement, they visited the South Pacific, Africa, Europe, and Asia.

Outside of work, Tony was a man of many passions: a gifted musician (piano, guitar, singer), golfer, skier, outdoorsman, and oenophile. In retirement, he and Pat lived in Avila Beach on the California coast, where they enjoyed morning beach walks with their dog, Tucker.

Pat died in 2022. The class extends its condolences to their son, Andy, and his family.

THE CLASS OF 1965

THOMAS M. BRAYTON '65

Tom died May 17, 2025, in Darien, Conn., where he lived for many years with his wife of 56 years, Friede, sister of classmate John Bliss.

Tom grew up in upstate New York, the son of Dorothy and Haswell Brayton '35.

Tom came to Princeton from Andover. He was a starting forward on the soccer team, a classics major, and a member of Cottage Club. He roomed with Pierre LaTour and Phil Covilleo.

Tom's career after graduation took him from teaching and coaching to public relations, on to the oil business, and finally back to teaching. He and Friede lived for more than 50 years in New Canaan and Darien, Conn. They were longtime members of the Country Club of New Canaan, where they both enjoyed playing tennis and paddle. Tom was renowned for his great sense of humor, his collection of armies of lead soldiers, and his love of New York sports teams, especially the Yankees and the Giants.

Tom is survived by his wife, Friede; daughters Lisa and Paige; and two grandchildren. The class extends its sympathy to the entire Brayton family.

THE CLASS OF 1966

JOHN ROBERT BEDELL '66

Bob died Sept. 18, 2025, on Hilton Head Island, S.C.

He came to Princeton from Western Reserve Academy in Hudson, Ohio, where he played baseball, basketball, and football. At Princeton, he majored in religion, belonged to Tiger Inn, and sang with the Tigertones. He was starting quarterback his



junior and senior years and holder all four years for placekicker Charlie Gogolak.

After Princeton, Bob earned an MBA at Wharton, followed by service as chief marketing officer at HBO, then co-founder and executive vice president of Viewer's Choice, guiding the cable industry's entry into pay-per-view television.

During his years in New York, Bob served as president, then chairman of the Wharton Business School Club of New York and established the Joseph P. Wharton Dinner. He served for many years as governor of the Rockaway Hunting Club.

Bob spent his last two decades on Hilton Head, with his partner Barbara Finer. He was executive director of a local prostate cancer organization and active in several community organizations.

Bob is survived by Barbara; son Robert; daughter Elisabeth Clive '01; six grandchildren; brother Jim '68; and sister Harriet Bolin. The class extends its condolences to them all.

JOHN W. BOWMAN JR. '66

John, known to classmates as "Bows," died Aug. 21, 2025, ending a long battle with Alzheimer's.



Bows came to Princeton from Choate, where he was on the football, swimming, wrestling, and track teams.

At Princeton, he majored in history, roomed in Patton, and was an NROTC platoon commander. He belonged to Cottage Club and played rugby, lacrosse, and football.

The son of a Marine colonel, Bows enlisted in the Corps upon graduation and served several decorated tours in Vietnam, flying helicopters. Ordered to destroy secret equipment at a U.S. airbase as Vietnamese soldiers and artillery approached Saigon, he was among the last Marines to leave the country. When U.S. recovery ships moved unexpectedly far off coast, he ran out of fuel on his return trip and was forced to ditch his Huey Cobra in the South China Sea. He was rescued by one of the ships.

After Vietnam, Bows was stationed at Camp Pendleton and Quantico, as part of a helicopter squadron. He retired from the Marines after 25 years. His final post-Marine assignment was as head of a civilian group providing logistical support to the Pentagon.

He is survived by his wife, Grace; stepsons Marshall and Elliot Schneider; and several grandchildren and cousins, including Griff Sexton '65. The class extends its condolences to them all.

ANOZIE A. OZUMBA '66

Ano died Aug. 25, 2025, in his native Nigeria. He joined our class as a sophomore in 1963 after graduating from the Government College in Umuahia, Nigeria, where he ran cross country and was house captain and president of the photography club.

At Princeton, he majored in electrical engineering, joined Dial Lodge, worked on *The Princeton Engineer*, belonged to the International Students Organization, and was vice president of the Pan African Students Organization.

Ano earned a Ph.D. in computer science at Rutgers, where he met Michele Ann Hudgins (Douglass '73), whom he married. He began his career in the IT department of First National Bank of Central Jersey. In 1982, he and his family moved to Nigeria, where he was appointed professor of computer science at Anambra State University of Technology. In 1985, the family returned to the U.S., where he rejoined First National Bank in Somerville, N.J. In 1991, he again returned to Nigeria and established Superior Computer Services.

Ano is survived by Michele; son Njikoka; and daughters Obiageli and Adora, to all of whom the class extends its condolences.

THE CLASS OF 1968**JOHN M. BOGERT '68**

John died Aug. 22, 2025, doing what he loved with the woman he loved. He and

his wife, Lorrie, were about to go crabbing in their boat when John experienced sudden cardiac arrest and died.

John attended Westwood (N.J.) High School, where he was president of the student council and on the track team. At Princeton, he majored in basic engineering and was active in heavyweight crew. He ate at Tower and roomed with Jack Keller, Steve Durant, J.B. Blackburn '69, and John Poggi his senior year. His father J.M. Bogert was Class of '31.

Following graduation, John accepted a teaching position in Caracas, Venezuela. Three years later he returned, attending RPI and receiving an M.S. in electrical power engineering. He made his career installing control systems for small hydroelectric plants in the U.S. and around the world.

In his early 20s, John took a class from master craftsman Tage Frid that launched his lifelong passion for woodworking. Upon retiring in 2003, he sailed solo across the Atlantic, then to the Caribbean, and finally to Panama, where he spent six years.

Returning to Shaw Island, Wash., in 2010, John became known for his ability to fix anything and everything, including



designing and operating the island's only desalination plant. The class extends its deepest sympathies to John's widow, Lorrie; his daughter, Phoebe; and grandchildren Severn, Lewes, Calvert, Cedar, and Robin.

STEPHEN M. CUSHMORE '68

Cush died June 4, 2025, in Philadelphia of complications due to Parkinson's disease.

He came to us from William Penn Charter School in Philadelphia, where he participated in student government and football. At Princeton, he was active in baseball. He majored in history, ate at Ivy, and roomed with Roger Hughes in Murray-Dodge Hall his senior year.

After graduating, he chose to become a teacher before shortly realizing he was not meant to be one. Instead, he joined the Army Reserve while playing minor league baseball for the Detroit Tigers for two years before realizing his fastball would be a "meatball" in the majors. He graduated from Villanova Law School with a J.D. and went into practice with a local law firm, before realizing he wasn't really cut out to be a lawyer either. He switched careers to selling life insurance products for Northwestern Mutual Life, and it turned out to be a match made in heaven. He was with the company until a major health scare forced him to reassess and he subsequently joined the development office at the Lawrenceville School, eventually becoming the planned giving director until retiring in 2017.

For nearly 30 years Steve played an active role supporting the Bethesda Project, a nonprofit providing shelter to the homeless. He secured major gifts to replace and install systems and appliances across several shelter sites, while convincing the Philadelphia Phillies to become long-term sponsors of the organization's mission.

The class extends its deepest sympathies to his sons Nick, Andrew, and Geo, and their families.

ERICK M. LEITHE JR. '68

Rick died Aug. 21, 2025, near Seattle of complications due to pulmonary fibrosis.

He came to us from Roosevelt High School in Seattle, where he was student body president, played varsity basketball and baseball, and sang in the glee club. At Princeton, Rick majored in biology and was active in the Orange Key Society. He ate at Quadrangle Club and lived at 314 Walker Hall his senior year.

After graduation, Rick received master of divinity and doctor of divinity degrees from San Francisco Theological Seminary. After considering becoming a minister, he chose instead to enter the financial services field

and remained there for the entirety of his professional life, working for Smith Barney and Wells Fargo for almost 40 years. Rick was a prodigious contributor to class activities, was active in the Princeton Club of Western Washington, Alumni Schools Committee, and Annual Giving.

After retiring he became a prolific author, writing three mystery novels as well as participating every year in a 30-week Bible Study Fellowship. He and his wife loved to attend family events and symphonic and popular music concerts, travel, reading, writing, historical research, and community outreach programs, including being honored with the John Spellman award for his help in renovating the VFW hall in his hometown.

The class extends its deepest sympathies to his widow, Judy; daughter Kathryn and her husband Chris; and granddaughter Marlow.

MICHAEL A. VOTICHENKO '68

Michael was born Oct. 8, 1946, the grandson of a Russian émigré and son of a philosopher father. He died of organ failure May 22, 2025, in a Berlin hospital.

Michael attended the Verde Valley School in Sedona, Ariz., and then went on to Princeton, majoring in philosophy and religion. He became a committed participant in the anti-Vietnam War movement, hosting an informal progressive "salon" in his dorm room to carry on discussions with Princetonians interested in the ideas and principles behind the anti-war protests.

After graduation he continued his studies of political thought in Europe, especially in Spain and Germany. Eventually, he returned to the U.S., settling in the Bay Area of California where he worked in journalism.

Michael became an active supporter of the labor movement. He worked for the Citizens Action League (CAL) in the Bay Area, where he rose to prominence. CAL organized poor people around bread-and-butter issues like utility rates, an effort at which Michael excelled. After his years at CAL, he moved on to work at the National Labor Relations Board.

Michael had two children from an earlier marriage, Fredrika and Jean-Luc, whom he cared for deeply when he married Brigitte in 2008. They lived in a suburb of Berlin, where they cultivated a lovely garden and tried to cope with Michael's serious health problems that hampered his mobility and ultimately contributed to his death. Despite his failing health, Michael loved his life in Berlin and maintained an upbeat attitude until the end.

ALBERT GALLATIN WARFIELD III '68

Gally died June 29, 2025, in Alpine, Calif., after a brief battle with cancer.



He came to us from the Gilman School, where he was active in lacrosse, wrestling, and student politics. At Princeton, he participated in freshman and junior varsity lacrosse, Triangle Club, and the Trenton Tutorial Project. He majored in politics and was a member of Cannon Club. Senior year he lived at 312 Walker with Jeff Baena, Rick Doyle, and Mike Hagerty.

After graduation, Gally entered the Air Force and trained as a fighter pilot. He then became a member of the Maryland Air National Guard. After earning a law degree from the University of Maryland, he joined the prosecutor's office of Howard County, Md., and tried felony cases. Later, he went into private practice. Tiring of the law, Gally became an author and published three novels through Time Warner Publishing. He also joined the Screen Writers Guild and contributed to the TV show *Pensacola: Wings of Gold*, among several others. In retirement, he reveled in the company of his eight grandchildren.

The class extends its deepest sympathies to his wife, Judy; his children, Erin and AG; daughter-in-law, Erin; stepson Jason; eight grandchildren; and his sister Missy.

THE CLASS OF 1969

PETER J. STRAUS '69

Peter died July 13, 2025, in Redding, Calif. He was a lifelong activist for peace and fairness, fighting time and again for causes he believed in.

Peter came to Princeton from Trenton High School. His father was a German-Jewish physician who escaped the Nazis but lost much of his family in the Holocaust. His mother was the Irish-American granddaughter of the Trenton fire chief. The family was intense, musical, introspective, extroverted, serious, and raucous. Likely that's where Peter came by his profound insights and hilarious jokes.

At Princeton, Peter was regarded with wonder for his ability to get consistent A's on papers he wrote in a single draft. He swam for Princeton and had many friends on the team as well as at Cloister Inn.

As staid 1965 morphed into wild 1967, Peter's imaginative side blossomed. After a rollicking junior-year first semester in an infamous party suite, Peter joined the Army, playing clarinet in the Army band in Korea along the DMZ during mock "atomic bomb" detonations designed to impress North Korean officials. He returned to Princeton in 1970, graduating with the Class of '72.

Peter worked as a recreational therapist, and in addition to that and his political activities, played in several bands, including with his family. All five siblings were fine musicians.

The class joins Peter's brothers, John and Nick, and his sisters, Hedy and Marianne, in mourning the passing of this good man. Loyal to his family and friends, exceptionally open, generous and kind, Peter remained true to his beliefs and was a credit to his family, his alma mater, and his country.

THE CLASS OF 1970

ERIC J. SAUDA '70

Eric died June 1, 2025, in Charlotte, N.C.

He came to us from Syracuse, always fascinated by architecture. He did a case study for his thesis, "Architecture for the Blind," at a Trenton school.

Following a master's degree at UCLA, by 1977 Eric was hired to teach at an intended short stop at UNC Charlotte, which lasted 47 years. He and his wife, Georgette, raised their family while he practiced as an architect and enjoyed his teaching and research. He co-authored two books, teaching and lecturing at length regarding the intersection between architecture and computer science, including social media. Meanwhile, his concern for his students' lives and careers was almost as intense as his hugs for his grandchildren. The frozen yogurt stands of Charlotte were always in danger when he and the grandchildren were together. He retired in 2022 as the senior member of his department's faculty.

Eric is survived by his wife of 52 years, Georgette; their children Evan and Lauren Jones; four grandchildren; and his sisters Katie, Sue, and Jean. We join with them in recalling both his gentle humor and his insight into the structures of cities, environments, and those of us responsible for them.

THE CLASS OF 1972

PETER G. McALLEN '72

Peter was raised in Glencoe, Ill., and joined our class from New Trier East High School.



He was preceded at Princeton by his father, William McAllen '34. Peter majored in philosophy. As a member of Wilson College, he roomed with Duncan Grant, Tom

Reepmeyer, Terry Unterman, Robert Van Arsdale, Bill Wilcox, and Andy Wilson, all of whom enjoyed his wry wit, his sardonic view of the world, and his dedication to debating profound and irresolvable issues deep into the night.

After six years of philosophy graduate studies at UCLA, he enrolled in UCLA's law school. His most important achievement at UCLA was meeting his future wife, Maureen Morgan. They married in 1978 and had one daughter, Megan McAllen '07.

Peter's legal career included a year as a law clerk to a Ninth Circuit Court of

Appeals judge; two years in commercial litigation in Chicago; teaching law at Southern Illinois University and at Southwestern Law School; and antitrust and class-action litigation at two Los Angeles firms. He retired in 2014.

Facing a range of health issues in his later years, Peter reacted with strength and characteristic humor. He died Aug. 10, 2025. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him. The class sends its heartfelt condolences to Maureen and Megan.

THE CLASS OF 1974

CHRISTOPHER B. JOHNSON '74

Chris died Sept. 18, 2025, at home with his family by his side following a long illness. He was 72.



Born Oct. 3, 1952, in Brooklyn, N.Y., he was raised in Locust Valley, N.Y., and lived in Franklin, Mass. since 1984. At Princeton, Chris majored in economics and was an enthusiastic and active member of Charter Club, where he participated in various inter-club competitions. He roomed with Steve Walske, in a suite shared by Buzz Schadel and Larry Stevens.

After graduating, Chris became a consulting actuary for retirement plans, starting at Mutual Benefit Life, moving on to Towers Watson, and finishing his career at Fidelity Investments. More recently, he served on the board of directors of Walpole Co-Operative Bank.

Chris was well known to his many friends for his droll sense of humor and penchant for hooking his thumbs into his waistband while standing in conversation. He enjoyed doing *The New York Times* crossword puzzles, playing golf, rooting for the Red Sox, traveling with his wife, and spending time with his family.

Chris is survived by his wife of 42 years, Mary; sons Christopher, Timothy, and Gregory; their wives; and five grandchildren.

ELLEN CHRISTINE SCHULTZE '74

Chris died May 31, 2025, in Rochester, Minn., after facing pancreatic cancer with strength



and grace. She was 73.

Born May 3, 1952, in Portage, Wis., Chris grew up in a large, close-knit family and carried that deep sense of connection throughout her life. She was a loving mother to three children — Astrid, Marit, and Howard. Professionally, Chris was a talented and dedicated architect. She majored in architecture and urban design at Princeton and earned a master's degree from USC in 1985. Her work spanned from family homes and corporate buildings to zoo exhibits and

historic restorations. She also dedicated herself to civic planning in Rochester. She was known for her warmth, generosity, and genuine curiosity about others. Her deep love for the environment and her family guided much of how she lived.

Chris is survived by her children; her siblings James (Grace), Philip (Debra), Katherine (Timothy Heisel), Richard (Suzanne), Laura (Kevin Boehm), Michael, and Karl (Robin); 17 nieces and nephews; and 18 great-nieces and nephews.

WILLIAM F. SIMMS '74

Bill died July 23, 2025, at his home in Philadelphia, just a few days before his 73rd birthday.

 Born July 27, 1952, in Greensboro, N.C., Bill and his family moved to Bryn Mawr, Pa., where he spent most of his childhood. After graduating from Princeton, he went to the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where he earned his J.D. in May 1978. He practiced in Philadelphia for 45 years, specializing in personal injury and real estate law.

Bill was a man of many passions. He had a lifelong love of plants, a deep appreciation for classic horror films, and a fierce loyalty to the Philadelphia Eagles. Above all he was a devoted father and grandfather who also found deep companionship with his pets, Sheba and Noah.

Bill is survived by his three children: Tiffany, Schuyler, and Chandler; three grandchildren; and his father, William. A private memorial service was held by the family. The family asks that you remember Bill by spending time with your loved ones, nurturing something green, or watching a good scary movie.

THE CLASS OF 1976

G. ALEXANDER McALMON '76

Alex died Aug. 25, 2025.

Born and raised in Texas, he graduated from Coronado High School in El Paso. He followed his father George '46 to Princeton, where Alex majored in art and planned on submitting his thesis in photography and film. He was an avid photographer, creative artist, and contributor to the *Nassau Literary Review*. He roomed with Allen Furbeck for three years. Senior year, Alex transferred to NYU, where he majored in visual arts.

After graduation, he returned to Texas and enrolled at the University of Texas at Austin. He earned a master's degree in accounting and his CPA certification before beginning three decades in state government, culminating as audit director of the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services. He married Meredith

Wade and together they raised two children. Although the marriage ended in divorce, Alex and Meredith remained friends until his death.

Alex had a passion for photography and creative film. In his 25th-reunion essay, he wrote about the joy of working on a documentary video filmed in Ciudad Juárez and Chiapas, Mexico, produced by his father, titled *Maquila: A Tale of Two Mexicos*.

After retirement, Alex continued working on various film, photography, and painting projects and enjoyed the live music scene in Austin. He met his partner Barbara Ellis in 2010 and together they traveled the world. He kept up with his Princeton friends and participated in the 45th-reunion virtual art show.

Alex is survived by Barbara; his children, Raven Shakti Garuda and John; their mother Meredith Wade McAlmon; his mother, Elizabeth McAlmon; his brother John; and sisters Lisa Brown and Annie Zimmerman.

THE CLASS OF 1980

HELEN STEVENSON CIAMACCO '80

Helen died June 13, 2025, of cardiac arrest.

She was born May 9, 1958, and grew up in



Bethesda, Md., graduating from Winston Churchill High School in Potomac, Md. At Princeton, she enjoyed participating in the Band and developed lifelong friendships with roommates and classmates. She was one of only a few women who graduated with a mechanical and aerospace engineering degree in 1980. She earned a master's degree in mechanical engineering at San Diego State University. Always the thoughtful and thorough engineer with an innovative mind, Helen worked at DuPont upon graduation and eventually moved to San Diego, where she held engineering roles with a specialty in health-care devices and applications.

Helen is survived by her husband, Sam, and their two sons. We will miss her calm presence, deep thinking, intellectual curiosity, dry wit, and warm friendship. We send our heartfelt condolences to her family and friends.

THE CLASS OF 1982

ANDREW M. FORBES '82

The Class of 1982 mourns the loss of Drew, who came to us from faraway Edmonton,



Alberta, bringing with him a spirit of excellence in both academics, majoring in English literature, and ice hockey, the only three-year team captain in the history of Princeton men's hockey.

From college Drew went on to earn his master's degree in business at Yale, and

began his professional life at Goldman Sachs in New York City. He met his wife, Laura, there and they raised three boys, first in New York and then in Chatham, N.J. His demanding career on Wall Street took nothing from his devotion to family and friends.

Drew died Nov. 10, 2024. He is survived by Laura and their sons Scott, Mark, and Will. The class joins them in sadness at their loss and gratitude in having known him.

DONALD K. TOMASZEWSKI '82

Don died Jan. 23, 2025.

The class remembers with gratitude

 our time with Don, a lifelong Michigan native who returned home from Princeton, a freshly minted psychology major, to marry his high school sweetheart, Sandy. He embarked on a successful career in food manufacturing for household names such as Heinz and Pepperidge Farm, while raising three children with Sandy.

Don was a great outdoorsman who grew up hunting and fishing with his father and brothers, and passed this love to his son. His love for the natural world was of a piece of him with his strong and abiding Christian faith, which led him to care for those in need around him, and for which he will be well remembered.

To Sandy, daughters Jill and Holly, son Travis, and eight grandchildren who knew him as their Poppy, the class extends its deepest sympathies.

THE CLASS OF 1983

CLAUDETTE M. MAPP REED '83

Claudette died Jan. 1, 2025. She was 63.

Born in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, she was raised in Queens, N.Y., where she graduated as valedictorian at August Martin High School. A molecular biology major at Princeton, she participated in programming through the Third World Center.

After graduation Claudette earned a master's degree in city planning from MIT. She worked for the Environmental Protection Agency from 1993 until 2024, and she was recognized with two distinguished awards: the Glen Witmer Award in 2005, the most prestigious regional award; and the William T. Wisniewski Human Resources Award in 2020. For the last five years of her career, she served in her dream job as branch chief in the Superfund, managing the program support and cost recovery as part of the hazardous-waste clean-up initiative.

Active in the Church of Christ, Claudette was a mentor for many and teacher for young attendees, nurturing a legacy of compassion, dedication, kindness, and faith.

Claudette is survived by her husband, Larry Reed '84; their son, Loren; her mother; and four brothers. The class conveys its condolences to them all.

JOHN A. ROGERS '83

John died May 1, 2025, in Budapest, Hungary. He was 64 years old.



Having grown up in Connecticut, he came to Princeton from New Canaan High School and majored in history. He was a member of Tower Club, serving for a period as assistant kitchen manager. He also volunteered through Orange Key and participated in the Aquinas Institute and Outdoor Action.

John earned a master's degree in international management from the Graduate School of International Management in Arizona, followed by an MBA in accounting from Northeastern University in Boston. A CPA, John specialized in tax work for U.S. expatriates. His personal interests included music, family genealogy, and foreign travel.

John is survived by his son, Colin; four siblings, including a fraternal twin; and many nieces, nephews, and great-nephews. The class conveys its condolences to them all.

THE CLASS OF 1984

LEE ROBINSON HILL JR. '84

Rob died Sept. 5, 2025, at the age of 64, when the plane in which he was giving a flight lesson crashed near Denver.

Rob graduated from Denver's Manual High School, where he was a two-time Colorado state champion in tennis and the No. 2-ranked junior nationally in squash.

At Princeton, Rob was an officer at Cap & Gown and was captain of the men's squash team, winning two national intercollegiate team titles and being named first team All-American three times. After graduating with a B.S.E. in civil engineering, he played professional singles and doubles on tour with the World Professional Squash Association, which he served as president, and he continued playing competitive tennis and squash throughout his life.

His career included roles in the sports, telecom, and tech industries in the U.S. and in Madrid, Spain.

Rob was a loving father and husband whose family were also racquet sports champions: each of his four children was a state tennis champion, and he and his wife of 34 years Julie won multiple mixed doubles national championships during and subsequent to their time living in Spain.

Rob will be remembered as an energetic, thoughtful, adventurous, silly, and loving

friend whose presence reverberated in celebrated ways.

Rob is survived by Julie; children Robby, Drew, Eliza, and Nicole; brother Wayne; and mother Claudia. He was predeceased by his father Lee '45 and brother Andy.

THE CLASS OF 2003

ARIEL J. LAZIER '03

Ari died Sept. 26, 2025, in San Francisco, where he lived. He was 44.

He was born in Norfolk, Va., to Jay and Nancy Lazier. Ari was schooled at the Hebrew Academy of Tidewater and then at Ocean Lakes High School, where he was valedictorian. At Princeton, he majored in computer science and was a member of Terrace Club and the University Wind Ensemble. After graduation, he worked at Microsoft and several software startups. There he helped invent some of the first apps used to create and share music, including Smule, Magic Piano, and I Am T-Pain.

Over the last two decades, Ari became an avid outdoorsman. He enjoyed surfing, skiing, hiking, and climbing with his friends in some of the more challenging and beautiful venues around the world. To this end, he built a traveling home for himself. He was an artisan in the true sense of the word: a woodworker, mechanic, musician, and sculptor.

Ari is survived by his parents; his brother and sister; and extended family and friends. Our class extends its deepest sympathies to them all. He was a brilliant and voraciously energetic man who lived those years with intention and passion.

GRADUATE ALUMNI

RICHARD L. KLINE '56

Dick died in Kennett Square, Pa., June 21, 2025. He was 92.

Born in Manhasset, N.Y., April 12, 1933, Dick graduated from Yale in 1953 and earned an M.S.E. in mechanical engineering from Princeton in 1956.

He joined Grumman Aerospace in 1956. His work on the Orbiting Astronomical Observatory laid the foundation for innovations that culminated in the successful design and operation of the Apollo lunar module. As program manager for the lunar module's thermal shield, Dick helped develop methods to test spacecraft insulation in vacuum environments. He later managed full-scale vacuum chamber tests of the lunar module in Houston and was given NASA's Silver Snoopy Award. As program vice president in Grumman's space division, he led initiatives for the International Space Station, EVA systems, and robotic manipulators.

After leaving Grumman, Dick directed

a national facilities study at NASA and received the NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal for his contributions.

Dick served as chair and co-chair of the International Astronautical Federation's World Space Congress Technical Program Committee, Congress Committee, and International Program Committee. He also served on the advisory board of George Mason University's School of Computational Sciences.

Predeceased by his wife Molly, Dick is survived by children Eric, Barb, and Ann, and four grandchildren.

THOMAS N. BISSON '58

At age 94, Tom died at his home in Cambridge, Mass., June 28, 2025.

Born March 30, 1931, in New York, he graduated from Haverford in 1951 and earned a Ph.D. in history from Princeton in 1958.

He taught at Amherst, Brown, and Swarthmore before joining the faculty at Berkeley in 1967. From 1988 until his retirement in 2005, he was the Henry Charles Lea Professor of Medieval History at Harvard. Tom's primary focus was on institutional history, with a special interest in how power was exercised and how it was experienced. His *Crisis of the Twelfth Century* was an interpretation of the origins of European government, grounded in such topics as parliaments, fiscal regimes, and feudalism.

Tom had a particular interest in the history of Catalonia, about which he wrote *The Medieval Crown of Aragon: A Short History*, and *Tormented Voices*, about the experience of medieval peasants. Catalonia recognized his work in reconstructing the region's early history with election as a corresponding member of the Institut d'Estudis Catalans, an honorary doctorate from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, and the Cross of St. George.

Predeceased by his wife, Carroll, he is survived by two daughters and four grandchildren.

ROBERT W. FULLER '61

Bob died July 15, 2025, in Berkeley, Calif.

He was born Oct. 26, 1936, in Summit, N.J. Bob graduated from Oberlin in 1956 and earned his Ph.D. in physics at Princeton in 1961. With John Wheeler, Bob coauthored a paper on wormholes: "Causality and Multiply Connected Space-Time."

Bob taught physics and mathematics at Columbia, Barnard, and Wesleyan. With Fred Byron he co-authored *Mathematics of Classical and Quantum Physics*. After serving as dean of faculty at Trinity College, at age 33 Bob became the president of Oberlin. He supported the students' anti-

war demonstrations and feminist and gay liberation movements. During his tenure Oberlin reformed its curriculum, eliminated distribution requirements, and incorporated student representation into the decision-making structure of the college. He resigned in 1974.

Along with the civil rights movement, Bob focused on the nuclear arms race with the Soviet Union. He became active as a writer, citizen diplomat, and public speaker about arms control. His years of crossing social hierarchies led him to coin the term “rankism”: the systemic abuse of power inherent in social ranking, and its antidote: “Dignity for all.”

Bob is survived by his wife, Claire Sheridan; children Karen, Ben, Noah, and Adam; and four grandchildren.

JAMES F. HITCHCOCK *65

Jim died of Parkinson’s disease in St. Louis July 14, 2025. He was 87.

Born Feb. 13, 1938, in St. Louis, Jim graduated from St. Louis University in 1960 with a degree in philosophy and a minor in history. He earned a Ph.D. in history from Princeton in 1965. His dissertation topic was “Popular Religion in Elizabethan England.”

After Princeton, Jim taught at St. John’s University in New York for a year before joining the faculty of St. Louis University in 1966. He remained at St. Louis until his retirement in 2013.

The history of the Catholic Church was the principal focus of Jim’s research and teaching. He was the author of 12 books, including *The Supreme Court and Religion in American Life* and *History of the Catholic Church: From the Apostolic Age to the Third Millennium*. An expert on church history, his articles and syndicated columns were a fixture in Catholic magazines and newspapers.

He was predeceased by his wife Helen in 2014. Jim is survived by his daughters Alexandra, Consuelo, Hilary, and Louis; and six grandchildren.

CHARLES H. HELMETAG *68

Charles died Sept. 1, 2025, in Newtown Square, Pa.

Born April 7, 1935, in Camden, N.J., he earned a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1957, an M.A. in German literature from the University of Kentucky in 1959, and his Ph.D. in German language and literature from Princeton in 1968. He studied at the Georg August Universität in Göttingen on a Fulbright grant.

Charles taught at Purdue University for two years before joining the Villanova Modern Languages and Literatures faculty in 1964, retiring in 2011. He taught all levels from introductory German to graduate

courses in 19th- and 20th-century literature. He published essays on Brecht, Frisch, Hasenclever, Heyse, and Schnitzler, and presented papers at literature and film conferences in Europe, North America, Australia, and Japan.

Charles was involved in the American Association of Teachers of German, the Modern Language Association, and the Internationale Vereinigung für Germanistik. He served on the executive council of the Northeast Modern Language Association and as a reviewer for *Literature/Film Quarterly*. He performed in theatrical productions at Villanova and as an extra in Martin Scorsese’s film *The Age of Innocence*.

Predeceased by his wife Ruth, Charles is survived by children Steven and Diana, and four grandchildren.

ROBERT B. RIDEOUT *69

Rob died Nov. 21, 2024, in Columbus, Ohio.

Born in Ithaca, N.Y., May 14, 1941, after graduating from Wesleyan in 1963, Rob joined the CIA and served as an intelligence officer in the Air Force Strategic Air Command. He earned a master’s degree from the Woodrow Wilson School in 1969. Rob was one of the original “Nader’s Raiders,” undertaking with another “raider” the initial study of the Food and Drug Administration.

Rob’s government career included as a budget examiner in the federal Bureau of the Budget, part of the career staff to the president. His 28 years in the Office of Management and Budget spanned six presidencies and 14 budget directors. He examined budgets for the Strategic Air Command, the National Security Council, higher education, and unemployment insurance. He also served as OMB branch chief for federal civilian personnel programs and Executive Office of the President agencies.

After retiring from the government, Rob became a lay chaplaincy visitor in pediatrics at the Inova Fairfax Virginia Hospital. Ordained in the Episcopal Church in 2009, Rob served as deacon, first at St. Mark’s in Upper Arlington, then at St. Patrick’s in Dublin, Ohio.

Rob is survived by his wife, Marti; children Lissa and Brian; and six grandchildren.

MIRIAM K. SLATER *71

Miriam died June 25, 2025, in Northampton, Mass., at the age of 93.

Born in Brooklyn Aug. 22, 1931, she did her undergraduate work at Douglass College of Rutgers, graduating in 1963, and earned her Ph.D. in history from Princeton in 1971.

After Princeton, Miriam joined the faculty

of Hampshire College, where she was named the Harold F. Johnson Professor and was the first master of Dakin House. Her teaching and research focused on the history of the family and women’s studies. In 1984, she published *Family Life in the Seventeenth Century: The Verneys of Claydon House*, which had been the subject of her doctoral dissertation.

With her close friend, Penina Glazer, and their colleague, Gayle Hollander, Miriam created the first interdisciplinary course in Women’s Studies in the Five Colleges. With Glazer, in 1987 she published *Unequal Colleagues: The Entrance of Women into the Professions, 1890-1940*.

In 1985, after leaving Hampshire, where a faculty development fund was established in her honor, Miriam joined the faculty of Smith College, where she remained until retiring.

Predeceased by her husband Paul, Miriam is survived by her children Margaret and Leo *97, and siblings Irene and Carl.

HAROLD A. FEIVESON *72

Hal died in Princeton July 10, 2025, at age 90.

Born May 20, 1935, in Chicago, he completed undergraduate work at the Illinois Institute of Technology in 1957, earned a master’s degree in theoretical physics at UCLA in 1959 and an MPA from the Woodrow Wilson School in 1963. Joining the science bureau of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, he wrote the safeguards article for what became the 1968 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Hal returned to Princeton in 1967 and earned his Ph.D. in public affairs in 1972. His dissertation focused on the danger of weapons programs emerging from civilian nuclear energy technologies.

Hal remained at Princeton as a teacher, research scientist, and academic adviser to the men’s basketball team. His seminar, Scientists Against Time, explored contributions of scientists, engineers, and mathematicians during World War II. His collaborations on books and publications included *Nuclear Proliferation: Motivations, Capabilities and Strategies for Control*, with Ted Taylor, and *A Blueprint for Deep Cuts and De-Alerting of Nuclear Weapons*, with Bruce G. Blair and Frank von Hippel. Hal also wrote about the environmental impact of nuclear power.

Hal is survived by his wife of 51 years, Carol; children Dan, Peter, and Laura; four grandchildren; and brother Arthur.

Graduate memorials are prepared by the APGA.

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NICHOLAS BIDDLE 1801 (1786-1844)

A Banker Who Opposed Abolition and Facilitated the Slave Trade

BY HARRISON BLACKMAN '17

IN MAY 1806, a 20-year-old American military officer stepped onto the shore of Greece, then a part of the Ottoman Empire. The man's name was Capt. Nicholas Biddle 1801, and he was only the second American citizen to visit the Hellenic homeland. As a Turkish customs official greeted him with a lamb dinner, Biddle was stunned to find the modern Greek landscape so different from the ancient Greece he had read about during his studies at Princeton, writing, "I was alone in a foreign country distant from all that was dear to me, surrounded by barbarians who yet occupied a soil interesting from its former virtues and its present ruin."

Biddle was 13 when he entered the College of New Jersey, as Princeton was then known. A prodigy from a wealthy Philadelphia family, he graduated as valedictorian in 1801, destined for a prominent place in the leadership of the young republic. But Biddle had a dark side, and his rise to power helped perpetuate the suffering of millions of slaves.

As Joseph Yannielli of the Princeton & Slavery Project uncovered, at Princeton Biddle wrote an essay against the abolition of slavery, arguing that if slaves were freed, they would suffer without the

"support" of plantation owners, "as no nation is more lenient towards its slaves than America." Biddle also worried that freed slaves would rise up and form a "much more formidable enemy even than the Indians," threatening the violent overthrow of white society.

Biddle took those views with him as he ascended through the hierarchy of the new American aristocracy. Through a family connection to Vice President Aaron Burr Jr. 1772, after graduation Biddle took a job as an assistant to the ambassador to France. But Biddle didn't remain in the job for long, and instead decided to pursue a tour of the places he had studied at Princeton, including Italy and Greece.

On his way back to America, he made a stop in Cambridge, England, where his knowledge of the Greek situation impressed the U.S. ambassador, James Monroe. In 1819, two years after Monroe became president, he appointed Biddle to a position within the Second National Bank, and in 1823, Biddle became the bank's president, an office he occupied for 13 years. A forerunner of the modern Federal Reserve, the Second National Bank managed the national debt, issued currency, and lent to state banks.

Recent research by historian Stephen W. Campbell has revealed that Biddle's management of the Second National Bank was instrumental in facilitating the cotton trade and the institution of slavery. By enabling transactions between plantation owners and cotton merchants, the Second National Bank supported the slave trade and made plantations more profitable. And as the U.S. expanded, Biddle also helped increase the spread of slavery, signing off on a loan to the new Republic of Texas, which had declared independence from Mexico, to continue its plantation-based economy.

Meanwhile, Biddle saw himself as the inheritor of the classical world. He determined that Girard College, a prep school for orphans in Philadelphia, would be designed with neoclassical architecture; he also remodeled his Philadelphia mansion "Andalusia" on the Temple of Hephaestus he had visited in Athens.

But such heights were not to last. In 1832, Biddle's bank drew the ire of President Andrew Jackson, who distrusted all banks and refused to renew the bank's charter. During the ensuing "Bank War," Biddle engineered a financial crisis to prove the value of his institution, an effort that backfired and turned public opinion against him. In turn, Jackson's successful dissolution of the bank's federal charter in 1836 incited a recession.

Biddle's career ended in scandal, as a grand jury indicted him for illicitly borrowing bank funds. Though the charges were dropped, Biddle lost all his money when the bank, rechartered as a Pennsylvania institution, failed in 1841. In 1842, Charles Dickens, upon visiting the shuttered bank, described the building as "the Tomb of many fortunes; the Great Catacomb of investment; the memorable United States Bank." At present, Girard College, the institution Biddle supported in its mission to educate orphaned boys, continues to provide education and scholarships as a coeducational boarding school for underserved students. Today, 93% of those students are Black. □

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