

UNIVERSITY 'PAUSES' TRENTON PROGRAM / INSIDE THE DATING SCENE

# PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY

Vol. CXXVI • JUNE 2026 • No. 10



## BRING IT BACK

Ivy Style finds new life  
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# Education Through Athletics

*I was honored to contribute the foreword, reprinted here, to "Princeton Basketball: A Tradition of Excellence," the recently published book edited by Tom Chestnut '70, which includes essays from many Princetonians including John McPhee '53, Bill Bradley '65, Alexander Wolff '79, and Mitch Henderson '98. I'm grateful to Tom for the opportunity to make the case for preserving the Ivy League model at a time of pernicious professionalization in collegiate athletics. Visit [princetonbasketballbook.com](http://princetonbasketballbook.com) to learn more about the book. — C.L.E.*

Princeton basketball has long been a point of pride and a source of joy for me. During my undergraduate years, I was a regular in the student section at Jadwin and made a road trip to root for the Tigers at the Palestra. I enthusiastically returned to the Jadwin stands when my family and I moved to Princeton in 1998. During my time as Princeton's president, my wife Lori and I have attended both men's and women's games as often as we can.

I celebrate our teams' competitive spirit and athletic achievements, but I am most proud of the way that our players and alumni exemplify the Ivy League's educational ideals. As much as I enjoy seeing the Tigers succeed on the hardwood, I am even happier when Princeton's basketball alumni tell me about their professional and personal accomplishments after leaving the University.

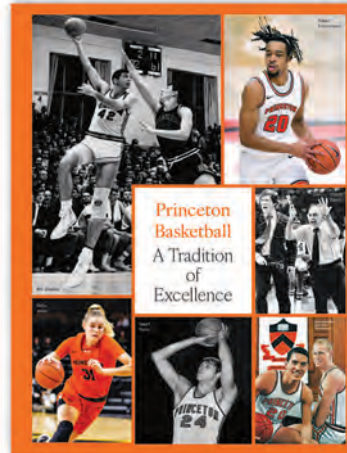
At a time when many other universities increasingly treat varsity basketball teams as professional entertainment franchises, Princeton and its Ivy peers continue to insist that student-athletes should be students first and foremost.

We value intercollegiate athletics because of its ability to contribute to the lives and educations of the students who participate in our varsity programs. We know that the skills and habits essential to athletic competition—such as teamwork, leadership, persistence, time management, and the ability to take constructive criticism and overcome setbacks—can be an important complement to other lessons learned at Princeton.

To quote from the guiding principles approved by the Ivy League Council of Presidents in 2022, intercollegiate athletic programs at our universities must operate "within a perspective that holds paramount the academic programs of the institution and the academic and personal growth of the student-athlete."

Those same principles conclude by affirming that "we embrace the exceptional learning experience inherent in striving for excellence in athletics, and we regard winning an Ivy League championship as the principal priority and a high honor for our teams; we celebrate national success when it occurs, although not at the expense of ensuring the full integrity of student-athletes' academic experiences."

With these student-centric goals in mind, Princeton and its Ivy peers award no athletic scholarships. We grant scholarships only on the basis of financial need, and we meet that need fully for both athletes and non-athletes. Unlike in other leagues, students are free to leave teams



A new book edited by alumnus Tom Chestnut '70 features essays by celebrated Princetonians. Book cover courtesy of the publisher

without forfeiting the scholarships they require to support their studies. They participate in varsity programs for their own benefit, not the University's.

Our need-based scholarship policy is perhaps the best-known way that the Ivy League reinforces its educational model of intercollegiate athletics, but it is far from the only one. We insist that student-athletes have academic credentials comparable to those of other admitted

students, and the Ivy Council of Presidents reviews relevant data every year.

While other schools ask teams to crisscross the country in leagues that stretch from coast to coast, the Ivy League remains geographically compact, which reduces travel time and allows student-athletes to spend more time on campus and in class. At Princeton, teams practice during an activity period that runs from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. No classes for any students are scheduled during that interval. This arrangement enables varsity athletes to take any course, and pursue any major, that interests them.

Perhaps most importantly, we hire top-notch coaches who care about team members as students and as people, and who both understand and value the demanding character of an Ivy League education.

The Ivy League's educational model is manifest at the Princeton Varsity Club's annual banquet honoring our graduating seniors. The array of trophies on display is always dazzling, but even more impressive are the student-athletes who speak at the event: their remarks invariably demonstrate the commitments to achievement, learning, and service that Princeton expects of all its students.

As I listen to their comments, I always find myself reflecting upon how important it is for the Ivy League to remain focused on student success and academic standards, even as—indeed, especially as—the highest-profile intercollegiate athletic conferences move in directions that put those standards at risk.

Princeton's men's and women's basketball teams have helped show the world what Ivy League athletics is all about. It is therefore both an honor and a pleasure to participate in this tribute to those programs, to thank the players for the excitement and thrills they have provided to generations of students and alumni, and to wish future teams well as they extend Princeton basketball's 125-year tradition of excellence into the future.

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An editorially independent magazine by alumni for alumni since 1900

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From left, James Swinehart '27, Hallie Graham '27, and Simon Xiao '26 are looking sharp as they strut through East Pyne courtyard. *Clothing provided by J. Press.*  
*Photograph by Sameer A. Khan h'21 / Fotobuddy*

SAMEER A. KHAN h'21 / FOTOBUDDY



# INBOX

YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE LATEST ISSUES

## ROWING MEMORIES

Responding to your “From the Archives” photo in the April issue, I provide the following memory of my rowing days:

“Way enough! Dig in!”

The shouted frantic commands to stop rowing came from the speeding coaching launch as coach Dutch Schock tried to prevent catastrophe.



It was sometime in 1948 or '49, dusk — almost dark — on Lake Carnegie. The space between the bridges. The end of that day's crew practice, two heavyweight eights side by side, neck and neck, at full speed racing for home and hot showers, the varsity and JV. I was there in the JV boat in the seven seat that day.

We dug in, “stood on our oars.” Our shells came dead in the water quickly, and we all wondered why before seeing it with shock and relief: There lay between the now-quiet eights a becalmed 8-foot sailing dinghy, sitting unharmed. In the dinghy were Albert Einstein and a friend, smiling.

I have found no record of this incident to back up my memory, but my memory of it has been and still is (at my 97 years) intense, sharp, and “fine,” as my kids say. Perhaps another oarsman can

contribute here. There is record on the net of “Albert Einstein, sailor” — Google it.

**ALLEN HOUGH '50**  
*Fort Worth, Texas*

This poster features the Class of 1976 heavyweight freshman crew: Tom Craig, Rick Jensen, Ray Batten, Tom Mitchell, and Howard Brickman, bow to stern. (Two other '76 freshmen would also sometimes row as a pair: Bill Katen-Narvell, later president of Princeton University Rowing Association, and Jan Stoeckenius.) The recruiting poster went up all over campus in the fall of '73 but became notorious after the heavyweight rowing coach put one on the front of the Alexander Hall podium just before President Bowen '58's address to the incoming freshmen, where unbeknownst to the president it hung prominently throughout his remarks. Bowen apparently was furious when he found out!

The final competition for this crew was the Dad Vail Regatta in Philadelphia, where (despite being freshmen) they raced in the varsity competition and won their preliminary race handily. Unfortunately, catastrophe struck in the finals: They got tangled with a stake boat anchor rope at the start, which ultimately broke their rudder. Despite not being able to steer, the crew only lost by 0.2 seconds, while an announcer could be heard saying that a stake boat was drifting loose downstream. Rick recalls, “It was sort of a tragedy for us, because we were so focused on doing our best, and our crew was so good. We could beat the varsity crew in 500 meters.”

Rick explains that his intense expression in the photo stems from having gotten a leg cramp at the exact moment the photograph was taken. The poster is now a Jensen family treasure.



**KATE JENSEN '04**  
*Williamstown, Mass.*  
**RICK JENSEN '76 \*81**  
*Brevard, N.C.*

## CURBING AI TOOLS

Regarding the article about AI use in the classroom (Research, April issue), I am pleased to report that, after bringing it to the attention of the Princeton University Library, the library staff has turned off the “JSTOR AI Research Assistant Tool.” JSTOR is a database for all sorts of scholarly articles. I noticed that when I accessed certain articles, this tool popped up, offering, essentially, to summarize the article. This directly undercuts what we are trying to do in the classroom, which is to have students actually read what we assign them. The library is now going to review this and other AI tools, and I hope they will keep them turned off. Princeton University should not be sending the message that you don't have to do the reading.

**MOLLY GREENE '93**  
Professor of history and Hellenic studies  
*Princeton, N.J.*

## WHAT GRADES MEAN

I wholeheartedly agree with English professor William Gleason's take on even using the word “inflation” to describe the change in grading (On the Campus, April issue). To put it succinctly, an A should show mastery of the material, and an A+ represents going above and beyond.

**STEWART A. LEVIN '75**  
*Aurora, Colo.*

Sofia Cipriano '27's article on grade inflation brings limited insight to a problem that leaps into view in her opening sentence: “Two-thirds of Princeton course grades are in the A range.” Nor is that problem better addressed by professor Clarence Rowley '95's concern that grade inflation “blurs the distinction between work that is adequate and work that is exceptional.”

The real issue has nothing to do with “adequate.” It has to do with the distinction between “very good” and “exceptional.” The grade of B+ addresses precisely that distinction.

Professor William Gleason's response is likewise disheartening: “If you set out clear

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INBOX

guidelines, give students clear feedback, and show them how to achieve what you've asked them to achieve, then they'll get the grades they deserve." Presumably an A.

As one who taught excellent students at a first-rate college for 45 years, I never thought my A's were a reward for paying attention to guidelines, feedback, and what I was asking for. What is "exceptional" in that? An A is for being surprised — perhaps moved or even disturbed — by a student's fresh, compelling, and (in some measure) unanticipated approach to the challenges the course has posed.

But the most disheartening note is struck by the Undergraduate Student Government president, who simply says today's students are "more prepared to handle Princeton's level of rigor." This claim — blithely assuming that what's past is prologue and that true superiority has now arrived — is "whig history" at its finest. I'd give it at least a B+.

**PHILIP WEINSTEIN '62**

*Aquinnah, Mass.*

**PINELANDS LEGACIES**

I read with interest the excellent article by PAW intern Hannah Floyd '27 on the New Jersey Pinelands and Princeton student and alumni involvement (Student Dispatch, April issue). She quotes John McPhee '53 expressing concern that "some semblance" of the region will still exist in the future. It will, thanks to another Princeton alumnus, Brendan Byrne '49.

I went to work in his first gubernatorial campaign when I graduated (as did classmates Henry Furst and Tony Tolles) and spent two years as an assistant in his governor's office. (Disclaimer: I later

married his niece.) At the beginning of his second term he signed an executive order halting all development in the Pinelands, which was immediately challenged. I was by then a law clerk to the chief justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court, which immediately heard the appeal, with Byrne arguing the case himself as I got to watch.

The state legislature passed the comprehensive preservation legislation and so the court never issued any opinion. In 2004, a considerable portion was renamed the Brendan Byrne State Forest in his honor. But continued preservation still requires attention and advocacy. Thank you, Hannah and classmate professor Tom Givnish, for your preservation work.

**PETER DICKSON '73**

*Pennington, N.J.*

I loved reading Hannah Floyd '27's article about the Pine Barrens. She left out one important Princeton connection.

I went to the Pine Barrens on my freshman year Outdoor Action trip in 1988. I believe we were not the first or the last group of Princeton students to have the opportunity to explore the beautiful region while learning just how strong, brave, and self-sufficient we could be.

This trip cemented a lifelong love of nature and hiking. I hike on the Appalachian Trail every summer, with the eventual goal of section hiking the whole thing!

Thanks for highlighting this beautiful part of New Jersey.

**KARI KOHL '92**

*White Plains, N.Y.*

**FEEL-GOOD FINANCE**

Thank you, Brad Swanson '76, for so clearly laying out the false promise of

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# ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

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socially responsible investing (Essay, published online March 11). This is exactly what I've found in attempting to invest in a way which would have a positive impact on our earth and society. All the environmental, social, and governance (ESG) funds are supporting the same major corporate players as other funds. I was trying to find a way to invest in small businesses owned by people who have typically been marginalized by our culture. I agree that "we need regulatory tools to bend the arc of business activity toward greater social responsibility."

**BETH BROCKMAN MILLER '89**  
*Chautauqua, N.Y.*

## MICROBIOME HISTORY

I enjoyed the account of Rob Knight '01 and his work studying the microbiome ("Microbes for the Masses," March issue). There's a backstory for people interested in the topic. Ilya Mechnikov (German spelling: Élie Metchnikoff) shared the 1908 Nobel Prize in Medicine and Physiology with Paul Ehrlich for their separate contributions to immunology. Ehrlich believed in medical "magic bullets" and even is credited with coining the term. He, along with the German dye and chemical industry, gave us our modern pharmaceutical model.

Mechnikov was the first to describe phagocytosis, the process by which immune cells engulf and destroy pathogens. He was also the first scientist to write a popular book on the influence of the gut on health. It's called *The Prolongation of Life: Optimistic Studies* and was published in 1908. One of the informants for the article commenting on the current state of microbiome studies stated, "[W]e're at a point where we know a lot, but we don't know what to tell people to do." Mechnikov had no such problem. He advised people on the health benefits of consuming yogurt. People who aren't satisfied with just marveling at the research studies piling up might do well to acquaint themselves with the virtues of traditionally fermented foods, which "modern" diets are lacking. In addition to providing the fundamental insight that unlocked our understanding of immune system mechanics and writing about the influence of the gut on health, Mechnikov

## VALEDICTORIAN Daniel Yu '26

The latest PAWcast features a conversation with valedictorian **Daniel Yu '26**, an African American studies major with minors in English and gender and sexuality studies who will spend next year as a Marshall Scholar, working toward a master's degree in race and gender studies at SOAS University of London. He discussed his research and his path to Princeton, which included a gap year helping community organizers protest a major jail project planned in the Chinatown



YU '26

neighborhood of his native New York City. He said the experience made him realize that "I want to be doing community-focused work,

and I want to be thinking about these big questions about race and gender and power." Listen at [paw.princeton.edu/pawcast](http://paw.princeton.edu/pawcast).

## TIGER TRAVELS Remote Work

In 2020, **Kalle Kamal Eko '07** wondered, "What was keeping me in Chicago? With no partner, no children, no pets, and not even a plant in my small apartment, could I be one of those people to work remotely ... anywhere?"

He bought a one-way ticket to Medellin, Colombia, kicking off a series of global adventures that has continued ever since. For PAW's Tiger Travels readers he agreed to share five tips for how to work remotely from anywhere in the world. Read them at [paw.princeton.edu/tiger-travels](http://paw.princeton.edu/tiger-travels).



KALLE KAMAL EKO '07

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL New Coach

**Lauren Gosselin**, the new head coach of Princeton women's basketball, realizes that she is succeeding one of the country's most successful coaches, her friend and mentor Carla Berube, who departed for Northwestern in late March. "I know I have big shoes to fill, but luckily Carla and I are the same size," Gosselin quipped during a news conference.

Kidding aside, Gosselin said she envisioned maintaining a championship program that is "transformational" in an era of college sports that is "increasingly transactional." Read more at [paw.princeton.edu/sports](http://paw.princeton.edu/sports).



LAUREN GOSSELIN

RYAN CAMPBELL / PRINCETON UNIVERSITY; COURTESY OF KALLE KAMAL EKO '07; SHELLEY SZWAST

had a lifelong interest in promoting health throughout the lifespan and helped pioneer the study of aging.

**KEN MCCARTHY '81**  
*Tivoli, N.Y.*

### EFFICIENT COMMUTE

The article on electric motorboat company Flux Marine (Research, April issue) reports that CEO Ben Sorkin '17, “who lives in East Greenwich, Rhode Island, bought a 22-foot Scout boat equipped with a Flux Marine outboard motor. He uses it for a 10-mile commute to the Bristol Marina, half a mile from the Flux facility.” Ten miles across Narragansett Bay, but 30 miles by car through Providence — an hour trip at rush hour. At 20 mph, the time is cut in half.

**GREG ARZOOMANIAN '79**  
*Providence, R.I.*

### WITHERSPOON IN THE REVOLUTION

Curiously, the April PAW treats Princeton as an observer rather than an active participant in our Revolutionary War. In the “250 Years and Counting” article, the Declaration of Independence is highlighted, with no mention that the only college president who actually signed it was the president of what was at that time the College of New Jersey. Controversy swirls around him because of slave ownership allegations, but many of us believe we should be honoring the Rev. John Witherspoon, president of the College of New Jersey from 1768 to 1794, for the moral courage it took to be a patriotic hero and a remarkable leader during our Revolutionary War fight for independence. Sadly, not everyone agrees.

**WILLIAM C. LIBBY '71**  
*Las Vegas, Nev.*

### MICROPLASTICS CONCERNS

On the topic of removing microplastics from waterways (Research, March issue), PAW readers may not know that the Alexander J. Nihart et al. *Nature Medicine* paper about a year ago which made all the headlines about microplastics in the brain was followed up by a November 2025 “matters arising” response by an international group led by Fazel Monikh which very politely called BS on the methodology. In a nutshell the authors

used pyrolysis gas chromatography and mass spectrometry (Py-GC-MS), which is notoriously finicky when applied to complex organic materials with significant amounts of long-chain fatty acids (like the brain) whose pyrolysis products can mimic polyethylene. I have no expertise in Py-GC-MS, but I spent a career in scientific instruments and watched as marketing pressure steered product development toward greater ease of use, which meant users did not need a deep, specialized understanding of the technique to get results. I could tell some very funny horror stories about some of the questions we got from our users with odd results but will refrain out of respect for the guilty. Let’s just say extraordinary claims demand extraordinarily accurate evidence, and you can probably stop worrying now about having a head full of microplastic.

**RICK MOTT '73**  
*Ringoes, N.J.*

### PROFESSOR KURT WEITZMANN

Thanks to Harrison Blackman '17 for his informative profile of Kurt Weitzmann in the March issue (Princeton Portrait). I knew very little about the man and hardly exchanged a word with him, but he and his department played a pivotal role in my own scholarly development.

I came to Princeton in the fall of 1963 intending to major in chemistry, but in my sophomore year I registered for Medieval Art, thinking that maybe I would learn something about the stained-glass windows of Chartres. I did in time learn about those windows; but the entire first half of the spring semester was devoted to Byzantine art, about which I had never even heard, and the course was taught by professor Weitzmann, probably the greatest Byzantine art historian of the 20th century. What a stroke of good fortune for me! He was thoroughly Teutonic, with a rather thick accent and a formal manner, but his lectures were clear and lusciously illustrated with color slides — of the Rabbula Gospels, icons, cloisonne enamels, carved ivories, and above all, glorious Byzantine mosaics. I fell in love with it and it helped nudge me toward study of the Near East, which became the focus of my own academic career. His course was one of the best I

ever took, at Princeton or anywhere else, and I have remained ever since grateful to have experienced it.

**FRED M. DONNER '68 \*75**  
*Chicago, Ill.*

### PRESIDENTIAL POACHING?

In 2000, former dean of the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University and then president of Northwestern University Henry Bienen hired away Bill Carmody from the Tigers as head coach of the men’s basketball team for a similar but much higher paying position with the Wildcats. In 2026, interim president of Northwestern Henry Bienen does a repeat performance with Carla Berube (Sports, May issue). Coincidence? I don’t think so.

**CHARLES PLOHN JR. '66**  
*Princeton, N.J.*

### FOR THE RECORD

An article in the May 2026 issue about a trio of alumni leading a movement to resist “attention fracking” misattributed the origin of the group’s newsletter title. “The Empty Cup” is named after a quote by novelist Henry James.

#### YOUR PERSPECTIVE

#### Let us know what you think

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# ON THE CAMPUS

NEWS, SPORTS, AND STUDENT LIFE

## DASHING TOWARD FINALS

*Students flock to Blair courtyard for food trucks and festivities on May 5, the last day of reading period.*



SAMIR A. KHAN/P21/PHOTOBUFFY



## ADMINISTRATION

# University 'Pauses' Trenton Arts Programming That Brought Local Teens to Campus

BY JULIE BONETTE

**F**OR THE FIRST TIME SINCE founding Trenton Arts at Princeton (TAP) as an undergraduate, Lou Chen '19 played violin alongside local middle and high schoolers and Princeton students on stage at this year's annual showcase. "It was really special," said Chen, who until last year conducted the group's orchestra.

In the days following the April show, TAP staff were told that Saturday Morning Arts, TAP's signature program that brings approximately 40 middle and high school Trenton-area students to the University every Saturday during the school year, will be "paused."

Earlier this academic year, TAP staff were told the program was facing cuts as part of the University's new austere financial strategy. In response, they tried to brainstorm different program models and ways to raise additional funding. They also surveyed the Trenton-area students, asking what is most important about the program. Responses strongly indicated that being at Princeton as a community was vital.

But according to Anabel Guerreiro '28,

a physics major and TAP student leader, despite months of optimism, it became clear the University "didn't want to hear any ideas" from TAP, which she finds "pretty disheartening."

"In this time of careful budgeting, we are taking a step back to evaluate the best way to continue our engagement work with the Trenton schools," University spokesperson Jennifer Morrill told PAW. "We hope to use the next year to test out new ideas, experiment with new programming models, and develop new partnerships with the goal of creating sustainable programming moving forward."

The University maintains other connections to the Trenton community such as the Princeton University Preparatory Program for high school students, the Program for Community-Engaged Scholarship, and Pace Center volunteering opportunities.

Chen, who stepped down from TAP last year and now leads a music nonprofit in Connecticut, was particularly emotional at this year's showcase because participants "knew that TAP [is] on the

## FINAL BOW?

*Trenton Youth Theater completes its performance at the Trenton Arts at Princeton showcase in April. The decision to pause the Saturday arts program was made in the days after the show.*

ropes and they tried to give their all," he said. "I think they saw it as their last chance to make a case for their existence. And then a week later, they're finding out that actually that wasn't enough."

TAP was heavily featured in Princeton's Venture Forward capital campaign, which concluded in 2025 and was dubbed the University's most successful campaign ever. (A campaign video about TAP that Chen said was scripted by the University asked the question, "What if access to the arts was no longer left to chance?") Chen also shared with PAW a 2023 letter from President Christopher Eisgruber '83 in which Eisgruber wrote, "Your program enhances the lives of the students who participate, and meaningfully contributes to the cultural vibrancy of our community and our University. I appreciate all you do and look forward to the program's continued success."

Chen called the decision to pause Saturday Morning Arts "icky" because, in his mind, "the University used TAP and therefore Trenton when it benefited their reputation (and their pocketbook), and discarded us when we were no longer of use."

"I think, in hindsight, many of us feel quite manipulated — dare I say exploited," added Chen.

Princeton administrators asked TAP staff not to tell the Trenton students about the pause, as the University planned to make an announcement this summer. But TAP staff informed students at their last session before graduation and the summer lull, to allow for a proper goodbye.

After staff broke the bad news, "students were speaking up about what TAP means to them and why this is so awful that it's being stopped in this way," said Guerreiro.

"The impact for the students is clearly quite huge," said Diego Solorio '25, a TAP student leader, sixth-grade teacher, and fellow in Princeton's Teacher

Preparation Program. He said he believes TAP exemplifies Princeton's unofficial motto — in the nation's service and the service of humanity — and that defunding the program "is more than a mistake, it's an intentional action by the University destroying existing support for communities of color."

**Rachel Schwartz '18, director of** Trenton Youth Dancers, said that TAP will have some funding next academic year, although it will be roughly halved, and what form its programming will take is yet to be determined. According to TAP staff, TAP's four core components — orchestra, singing, theater, and dance — may be housed under different University units or end entirely. Funding might be used to send Trenton students to concerts at Princeton, or to transport some Princeton students to Trenton; currently, more than 60 Princeton students participate as arts instructors.

"What I understand is that next year will be a year of piloting different programmatic options," said Schwartz. After that, "there's no guarantee and a likelihood that there will be no more funding at all," because administrators are questioning "how the whole program aligns with Princeton's mission as a research university."

The provost's office has historically served as TAP's point of contact for centralized funding. TAP is a collaboration between Princeton's Department of Music, the Lewis Center for the Arts, and the Pace Center for Civic Engagement.



DENISE APPELWHITE / PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

## SATURDAY MORNING ARTS

# In Their Own Words

**After PAW reported on the pause in the Saturday Morning Arts program** online in April, several participants shared their experiences. The following are excerpts from comments published at [paw.princeton.edu](http://paw.princeton.edu).

"My journey began in middle school when I was first introduced to this program by my music teacher. As a member of [Trenton Youth Singers], it quickly became the highlight of my week. The people and welcoming environment stayed with me so strongly that I knew I had to return after the pandemic."  
— **Marie Jules, 2025 graduate**

"Seeing all the kids line up outside the Trenton public schools as they awaited the Princeton bus was always exciting for me. I love music and more importantly making music with others. I would never have grown so much on the violin if I was not offered free private lessons by this program, which I believed to be an absolute blessing."  
— **Collin Thompson, 2020 graduate**

Hans Jean Gilles, a fifth-year cellist and 2025 Trenton Central High School graduate, thinks of TAP as a second home. He called the decision "very shallow minded," because TAP allows students to decompress and provides

access to "resources that are way more than what Trenton itself could give students."

Gilles also said separating the disciplines would go against the

## MAKING MUSIC

*Lou Chen '19 conducts the Trenton Youth Orchestra in 2023.*

"This year was my second, and all I can say is ever since I joined I gained more confidence in myself and [my] singing. The teachers, students, directors, and friends all believed in me when nobody else did. The Princeton community made me feel like I could do anything if I worked hard for it, so when I found out the news about the temporary closure, it broke me a little."  
— **Maurice Cobbs, 10th grade**

"Only we Trenton kids know what kind of resources we have, and it ain't much. TAP was a helping hand to us all. The resources we lacked in school they would have there for us on Saturdays."  
— **Jennifer Hernandez Alvarez, 2024 graduate**

"This is a program to be proud of and to support. ... Princeton's status as a prestigious, leading institution means its choices set an example for what is valuable and what isn't. If Princeton University discards art education for students when it is no longer profitable for them, it legitimizes others to do the same."  
— **Natalia Arbelaez Solano '22, former TAP program assistant**

idea of the program since the ensembles do not view themselves as divisions of TAP.

Xander Constantine '27, a history major and TAP fellow, said TAP is his "favorite thing" he does at Princeton and it "gives to me more than I can give to it."

"I recognize limitation, I recognize logistics, I recognize that maybe it's easier to shut it down," he said, "but I think there's a particular value to Trenton students coming to Princeton" that can't be easily replicated.

Chen expressed frustration about what he sees as a lack of transparency. "The University refuses to openly acknowledge that their priorities have shifted away from meaningful community engagement," he said, adding that he feels "they're just hoping that TAP and a few other similar programs die a quiet death." ■



SUMMER ABROAD

# Iran War Shifts Plans for Study in the Middle East

BY LIA OPPERMAN '25 AND RACHEL BROOKS '28

**U**RIEL LIN '28, A STUDENT from the small agricultural town Beit El'azari, Israel, and president of the Princeton Israeli Community, is the youngest of five siblings and an aunt to eight nephews and nieces under age 8, all of whom live in Israel.

The war in Iran profoundly changed her experience at Princeton during the spring semester, she said. Her parents spent long hours in a small pantry shelter with their grandchildren while rockets landed close to their home, and Lin felt the strain of balancing coursework with concerns for her family's safety.

"It renders whatever computer science algorithm you're learning less significant," she said.

Lin was planning to fly home after completing a Princeton summer course in Toledo, Spain, that ends June 30. Now, those plans are uncertain. As of May, many flights to and from Israel have been canceled or suspended.

"It's very volatile," she said. "When you evaluate whether to go back home, you're

also evaluating, what are the chances that I won't be able to go out?"

Travel throughout the Middle East has been disrupted, impacting how some Princeton students approach their summer plans. In late March, the Office of International Programs canceled all undergraduate International Internship Programs (IIPs) in Jordan and Qatar, including at the Al Quds Center for Political Studies in Jordan, the Amman Institute of Performing Arts, the Collateral Repair Project in Jordan,

**"We actually had more people enrolling [in Arabic], but at the same time, the opportunities are fewer, because ... programs in some of these places just aren't running."**

— GREGORY BELL  
summer Arabic study adviser

## CULTURAL EXCHANGE

*Students learn about traditional Arab foods at the Qasid Arabic Institute in Amman, Jordan, a host of Princeton summer students in past years.*

Engicon in Jordan, Medical Aid for Palestinians in Jordan, and the Qatar Computing Research Institute.

According to University spokesperson Jennifer Morrill, the office notified affected students immediately and provided next steps and information about seeking support from their internship advisers.

"While IIP advisers do their best to point students whose internships have been canceled by Princeton to other opportunities, each student's circumstances and goals are specific to them and IIP cannot provide an alternative placement," Morrill said in an email to PAW.

According to Chris Holmes, director of Global Safety and Security (GS&S), risk varies across the region, even within individual countries, and assessments often involve close coordination with individual travelers.

"We work directly with [students] to understand the purpose of travel, walk through their plans, identify where things could break down, and put reasonable mitigation measures in place," Holmes said in an email to PAW.

In active conflict zones, conditions can shift rapidly, impacting airspace, transportation routes, and overall stability in parts of the region. GS&S monitors these changes in real time and adjusts internal assessments and guidance as needed, adding additional precautions, closer engagement with travelers, or changes to how certain trips are reviewed.

For higher-risk destinations, students are required to complete a formal exception process. During major geopolitical events, GS&S sees an increase in outreach from students about travel risks and contingency plans.

**Some students are moving forward** with opportunities in regions deemed safer. Eitan Gelb '28 said he still

plans to be in Israel from the end of June through early August for a biotechnology internship at the Hadassah Cancer Research Institute in Jerusalem. Although GS&S initially classified Gelb's destination as a Category C (higher-risk international destinations) based on factors including the political, security, and economic environment, it was upgraded to Category B (medium-risk international destinations) on April 10.

PAW reached out to seven academic departments, all of which either had no information to share about students traveling to the region or did not respond to a request for comment.

Emily Phillips '28 had planned to travel to Israel on a Birthright Israel trip but instead decided to remain in the United States and interview for internships domestically. Rabbi Eitan Webb, co-founder of Princeton's Chabad House, said these decisions often come down to personal risk tolerance. "Be curious, be smart, be safe," he said.

According to Gregory Bell, a lecturer in the Department of Near Eastern Studies and the summer Arabic study adviser, requests for recommendations to Arabic programs in the region are "way down" this year, even as Princeton's first-year Arabic cohort has grown to more than 30 students.

"We actually had more people enrolling, but at the same time, the opportunities are fewer, because ... programs in some of these places just aren't running," he said.

He pointed to the Critical Language Scholarship Program as one example: Last year, summer Arabic programs were offered in Oman, Morocco, and Jordan, with a virtual option connected to Egypt. This year, the summer program is only in Morocco. Bell said he has heard of a few students traveling to Morocco, Egypt, and Jordan outside the Critical Language program.

Without traveling to the region, he said, "you're not going to experience the culture firsthand, and you're not going to see things that you'll never see again in your life. ... We teach dialects to a certain extent, but that's hard to replicate." ■

## CLASS CLOSE-UP

# Redesigned Seminar Turns Museum into a Classroom

**F**OR DECADES PRINCETON HAS offered a freshman seminar that takes students behind the scenes at the Princeton University Art Museum, but holding it in the new building for the first time this spring added new dimensions to the class.

"Compared to teaching in the previous building, it's just phenomenal having all of the collections, galleries on the same floor," said Veronica White '98, the museum's curator of teaching and learning. "And if one wants to draw a comparison in another pavilion, you just walk over and you can traverse those time periods and cultures, and do that very, very easily."

Caroline Harris, the museum's senior associate director for education, created the course 20 years ago, and since 2020 she and White have taught the class together.

Harris said it's been exciting to see the "way the class has changed over time as the galleries and exhibitions have changed. With the opening of the building, everything feels fresh, and objects I have been sharing with students for decades have taken on new associations and nuances of meaning."

Over the years, during the pandemic and while the new museum was under construction, they taught on Zoom, in the two galleries in town, and across campus using outdoor art.

This spring, White said the course was redesigned "very much with the idea of welcoming

students into" the new building.

Every Wednesday afternoon, students spent three hours of class time in the galleries getting an in-depth look at everything that goes into running the museum, from the arrangement and lighting of art to the written material displayed alongside it to questions about provenance. Guest speakers included curators, lighting designers, and conservators. The class of 13 students even got a tour by museum director James Steward.

For the midterm, students wrote papers on repatriation, and for the final, they wrote papers critiquing an exhibition of their choosing.

"In this digital age, I feel like students appreciate even more the thinking about material, thinking about texture, seeing an artist, thinking about an artist's hand," said White. "You see the students light up, and that's very rewarding."

For Caroline Naughton '29, the best part was intimate informal time with

staff. One highlight was when Joanne Baron, curator and lecturer of art of the ancient Americas, spoke about a Maya

drinking cup from the 600s known as the Princeton Vase. "She talked for maybe an hour straight, and ... you could see how passionate she was about it," said Naughton.

Naughton enrolled hoping "to find out everything that I could" about the museum, and she finished the semester feeling like "I've gotten that and more." ■ *By J.B.*

**GETTING THEIR FILL**  
*Students took a deeper look at objects in the Princeton University Art Museum, including this seventh-century Maya drinking cup.*





## GRADUATE SCHOOL

# Panels Examine the Future of Graduate Education

BY JULIE BONETTE

**A**S THE FIRST PANELISTS at an April symposium on graduate education held by the Graduate School spoke in the newly opened Briger Hall, attendees could hear the unmistakable sounds of construction — presumably buzzsaws — nearby. In a moment of unexpected harmony, both the speakers and the setting spoke to signs of transformation.

“We’re facing serious challenges coming from Washington that also affect how we think about the investments we make in graduate education,” said Provost Jennifer Rexford ’91 to an audience of about 160, including administrators from Princeton and other higher education institutions as well as professional societies.

The April 28 and 29 conference was part of the Graduate School’s 125th anniversary celebrations and took place entirely in brand new buildings on campus; in addition to Briger Hall, events were held in the Frist Health Center and the Princeton University Art Museum.

Through sessions on alternative graduate education funding models,

labor market changes, and civic-minded scholarship, one theme continued to reemerge: the need for innovation and change given uncertainty at the federal level and increased skepticism by the public about higher education.

A few speakers encouraged turning this time of “crisis” — a nod to actions taken by the Trump administration, such as pausing or canceling research funding and international student visas — into an opportunity.

“I think we’re at a time when things are changing so quickly that the tendency can be to put a Band-Aid over a gaping wound that’s only going to spurt out blood on the other side,” said Suzanne Barbour, dean of the graduate school and vice provost of graduate education at Duke University.

Hendrik Lorenz, vice dean for strategic initiatives at Princeton’s Graduate School, advocated for using “the current moment of crisis to examine our practices” and to “recommit ourselves to our core values.”

Several speakers raised for discussion the amount of time it takes graduate

students to earn a degree and if it can be shortened. Conference attendees also brainstormed how the capstone — traditionally a dissertation and oral exam — might change to better suit both students’ and their future employers’ needs given that many graduates now enter industry as opposed to remaining in higher education. Panelists debated the importance of internships and other work experiences outside of academia and whether industry should be more involved in education, for example by allowing students to work on real-world projects for their capstones.

Panelists also covered topics such as the importance of storytelling, networks of mentors, professional development opportunities, and partnerships with other institutions, the government, and industry.

Regarding how AI may factor into graduate education, Lisa García Bedolla, vice provost for graduate studies and dean of the graduate division at the University of California, Berkeley, said, “Doctoral education is about teaching people to be knowledge producers” and in this moment, “that is actually the skill we need,” because while AI has answers, society needs to know how to ask important questions.

Amid the debates, everyone seemingly agreed on one thing: the transformational impact of graduate education itself, including to the benefit of society. However, how to best get that information out to the public was less clear.

“How do we ensure that people understand that pure and basic research actually matters, and it can then be applied to come up with vaccines, to create better water systems, create better health care systems?” asked Chevelle Newsome, president of the Council of Graduate Schools. “All of those things that support the prosperity of our lives come through graduate education.”

As for how the symposia will impact Princeton going forward, Dean of the Graduate School Rodney Priestley said he “walked away with a tremendous amount of ideas that will give me things to think about throughout the summer as we think about how to innovate.” ■



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## STUDENT DISPATCH

## East Pyne After Dark: Celebrating Culture at TASA's Night Market

BY ABBY LEONARDI '29



**O**N THE NIGHT OF APRIL 11, hundreds of students and community members lined up outside East Pyne. The sound of K-pop music blared while blue and pink strobe lights spilled over the top of the building, creating a sheen of turquoise and magenta that beckoned from within. Entering through the archway, visitors were hit by the rich, savory aroma of spicy Korean *tteokbokki* (cylindrical rice cakes in chili sauce) and the tangy, citrus smell of Hong Kong-style pineapple buns. Amid the sea of arrivals, a University dance group took the stage while students played stall-style games for prizes and lined up to try the food at the annual Princeton Taiwanese American Student Association (TASA) Night Market.

The Night Market is modeled after a Taiwanese tradition in which food stalls

come out at sundown, filling streets with thousands of people and an array of popular street food. “In Taiwan, the night markets are very casual,” TASA co-president Alton Young '28 explained. “Some people go after work. It is a very come-as-you please place, and that’s what we’re trying to capture here.”

But creating that casual feel for one night takes months of planning: With 65 volunteers, the event is a large community effort with many moving parts. “We have a P-Safe officer, we registered the space ahead of time, we have family and friends going off campus to pick up food, and we had to get a noise permit from the Municipality of Princeton,” Young said. “For composting, we even worked with EcoReps to make sure we’re being sustainable, considering there’s so much food.”

While Night Market is a Taiwanese

**“In Chinese the term for Night Market is *rénao*, which translates roughly into ‘loud noise,’ but in a good chaos way.”**

— JOSHUA JEN '28

tradition, TASA’s version incorporates a dozen Asian cultural organizations from across campus, including the Thai Students Association, Chinese Students Association, Hong Kong Students Association, and Vietnamese Students Association. TASA, which receives funding from several University sources, subsidizes the food selections, allowing organizers to choose the cuisine that feels most authentic to each ethnicity. This year’s offerings included food from restaurants as far away as Edison, New Jersey.

Favorites included braised pork, *paneer tikka*, sushi, bubble tea, and *lechon baboy*, an entire roasted pig brought by the Princeton Filipino Community student group. “There are so many foods here that I didn’t even know existed, and I wouldn’t have tried otherwise,” said Audrey Damis '29. “I feel like it really allows me to get a good glimpse into all of the different cultures that exist here at Princeton.”

Attendees crowded together to watch performances from campus groups such as Koko Pops, a K-pop dance company, and VTone, an East Asian a cappella ensemble, as well as a yo-yo dance performance by Jaydon Sun '29.

Joshua Jen '28, the other TASA co-president, saw the large crowd as a reflection of the Night Market tradition, explaining, “In Chinese the term for Night Market is *rénao*, which translates roughly into ‘loud noise,’ but in a good chaos way ... . It allows people to engage in Taiwanese culture in a way that feels authentic in the Princeton community.”

TASA began hosting its Night Market in 2022, and this year’s was the largest one yet, drawing more than 1,000 people, including volunteers and club members. Standing in the East Pyne courtyard, surrounded by colorful lights and an energetic crowd, there was a strong sense of community that TASA worked for months to achieve — authentic to the Taiwanese Night Market tradition, while also distinctly flavored by Princeton’s bustling campus culture. “Everyone does different things before and after,” Young said, “but we all come together for the in-between.” ■

HONOR CODE

# Breaking Tradition, Exams To Be Proctored Beginning This Fall

**F**OLLOWING A NEARLY UNANIMOUS faculty vote on May 11, all in-class examinations will be proctored for the first time since Princeton introduced the Honor Code in 1893.

According to the policy proposal, which was prepared by Michael Gordin, dean of the college, on behalf of the Faculty Committee on Examinations and Standing, the dean's office has received requests over the past few years "and with increasing frequency over the last six months" for the change from undergraduates and faculty "given their perception that cheating on in-class exams has become widespread." Particularly, the use of generative AI tools has made cheating easier, yet, given the

small size of most devices, it is also more difficult for other students to observe and report, as required by the Honor Code.

The policy goes into effect on July 1. The University aims to develop and distribute a guide for faculty by the start of fall term.

After receiving unanimous votes of support from the Committee on Examinations and Standing and the Faculty Advisory Committee on Policy, the full faculty voted in May, with one opposing vote. The proposal said the change has also been endorsed by current and former student chairs of the Honor Committee, staff at the McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning, and the Faculty-Student Committee on Discipline.

Isaac Bernstein '28, the Undergraduate Student Government Academics Committee chair, told PAW that a survey he conducted earlier in the spring semester of 806 Princeton students showed that 50.1% were in favor of proctored examinations, while 44.9% were opposed. Bernstein said in speaking with students and faculty, he "did gain the impression that there was a majority consensus that did support proctoring."

Some who don't support the policy are concerned with how it will be implemented and enforced across departments, according to Bernstein, who also noted that further clarification is needed such as the required number of proctors based on class size. However, he appreciates the communication thus far and said he looked "forward to working with Dean Gordin and administration to develop the best ideas on such a matter in any way that I can." **By J.B.**



Maria Carreras Kourepenos

'85 P '23 '28

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# IN SHORT

Professor Beth Lew-Williams received the **Bancroft Prize** in American history and diplomacy on April 23 for her 2025 book *John Doe Chinaman: A Forgotten History of Chinese Life Under American Racial Law*. Lew-Williams, the director of Princeton's Program in Asian American Studies, was one of two honorees this year, along with historian Emilie Connolly of Brandeis University. The Bancroft judges called *John Doe Chinaman* a "timely, humane, and necessary book" that "gives a new face to the story of Chinese immigrants, exposing the vast scale of legal limitations they endured." The book, based largely on research at local courthouses, archives, and historical societies in the western U.S., covers a period of 70 years (1850-1920) during which thousands of laws were used to discriminate against and marginalize Chinese laborers.

Alumnus Albert Maguire '82 and professor emeritus David Gross were honored with **Breakthrough Prizes** in life sciences and fundamental physics, respectively, at an April 26 ceremony in Los Angeles. Maguire, an ophthalmologist and professor at the University of Pennsylvania, was recognized "for developing a therapy for inherited retinal degeneration that became the first FDA-approved gene therapy for a genetic disease." The award citation for Gross, a 2004 Nobel laureate in physics, highlighted "a lifetime of groundbreaking contributions to theoretical physics, from the strong force to string theory," along with his advocacy for scientific research.

Additional honors for Princetonians included New Frontiers prizes for mathematics instructor Mingjia Zhang, physics graduate student Carolina Figueiredo, former astrophysics postdoc Mathew Madhavacheril (University of Pennsylvania), mathematician Anna Skorobogatova \*24 (ETH Zürich), and physicists Thomas Dumitrescu \*13 (UCLA), J. Colin Hill \*14 (Columbia University), and Benjamin Safdi \*14 (University of California, Berkeley). **P**

# IN MEMORIAM

**Kay B. Warren \*74**, an anthropology professor who served as founding director of



the Program in Women's Studies, died April 16 at age 79. Warren was among the University's early doctoral students in anthropology and returned to Princeton to join the faculty in 1982. Women's studies

(now gender and sexuality studies) was a much-anticipated addition, created partly in response to student advocacy, and her appointment to head the program was front-page news in *The Daily Princetonian*. In addition to leading women's studies for six years, Warren conducted ethnographic field work in South America and published several books about Indigenous communities. She chaired the Department of Anthropology from 1994 until her departure from Princeton in 1998 and continued teaching at Harvard and Brown before retiring in 2017. **P**

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MITCHELL SCHOTT '26

## SWIMMING

# After Starring for Princeton, Schott Chases an Olympic Spot

BY LIA OPPERMAN '25

**M**ITCHELL SCHOTT '26 arrived at Princeton looking for something more than a powerhouse swimming program. After being recruited by top schools across the country, including the University of California, Berkeley, he ultimately settled on Princeton because of the people.

"I very much got the energy and the vibe from the guys that everybody on the team was just driven," he said. "If they weren't the most elite guy in the water, they were super elite in the classroom or in some other facet."

Now, after establishing himself as one of the top swimmers in Ivy League history, Schott is headed to the University of Texas at Austin to train under coach Bob Bowman following graduation. Bowman, best known for coaching 23-time Olympic gold medalist Michael Phelps, is widely regarded as one of the most influential swimming coaches in history. Schott made his goal clear: qualify for the 2028 Olympics. Princeton hasn't had a swimmer compete for the U.S. team since Nelson Diebel '96 won two gold medals in 1992.

Schott's journey began at Culver Academies, the military boarding school

in Indiana that he said gave him the necessary discipline for the "pressure cooker" that is Princeton. During the recruiting process, he searched for a place that was "Culver on steroids," and focused on balancing academics, athletics, leadership, and community.

"By coming here, you're accepting the challenge that is Princeton," he said.

Over the past four years, Schott embraced that challenge fully. He became one of the most decorated swimmers in the program's history: a 10-time Ivy League champion, a three-time Ivy League runner-up, and an NCAA Championships qualifier in six different events. He broke the Ivy League record in the 200-yard butterfly and finished seventh in the NCAA meet while also emerging as one of the top freestyle swimmers in the country.

But when he reflects on Princeton, his focus is less on records and more on his personal growth.

"My framework for approaching any problem now is much more methodological," he said, explaining that Princeton has changed the way he does everything from finding post-grad housing to marketing himself in his professional life.

To him, growth also involves embracing "the Princeton identity" beyond athletics and becoming an active member of campus life. He said the welcoming nature of campus and the relationships that he built with professors and peers gave him a strong connection to the University.

**An East Asian studies concentrator,** Schott began studying China in high school and immediately fell in love with Princeton's Chinese department. Anna Shields, the former head of the East Asian studies department and his academic adviser, became his mentor and thesis adviser; for Schott, this was a "full circle" experience.

In the pool, Schott also emerged as a leader, serving as captain in both his junior and senior years. He described trying to serve as an older brother figure to younger swimmers while fostering a culture of improvement, elite training, and closeness within the program.

That culture, along with Princeton's alumni network, helped shape Schott's next steps. After competing at the World University Games last summer in Berlin, conversations with coaches, mentors, and alumni guided his decision to pursue training with Bowman.

The process moved quickly. He met the assistant coach at Texas in Berlin back in the summer, and in December, Princeton head coach Matt Crispino reached out to Bowman. Schott then spoke with him directly, and within two weeks the plan was in motion.

While Schott's sights are set on the Olympics, he hopes to bring something new to swimming along the way. "I want to be myself in the sport," he said.

"Swimming is a buttoned-up sport and often doesn't reward people who are kind of going against the grain," he said. "There's very few, if not any, very elite swimmers that ... allow themselves to be accessible to the swimming market. So my goal is to try to create that."

As Schott prepared to leave campus, he explained that he'll miss walking through Princeton's campus and feeling a part of something larger than himself. "It's home," he said. ■



# Photography as a Way of Life: Minor White, Aaron Siskind, and Harry Callahan

Through September 7, 2026

Aaron Siskind, *Pleasures and Terrors of Levitation 37* (detail), 1953. Princeton University Art Museum. Gift of Robert A. Wayne, Class of 1960. © Aaron Siskind/Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

Minor White, *Jan Davis, vicinity of Pescadero, California* (detail), June 30, 1951. The Minor White Archive, Princeton University Art Museum, bequest of Minor White. © Trustees of Princeton University

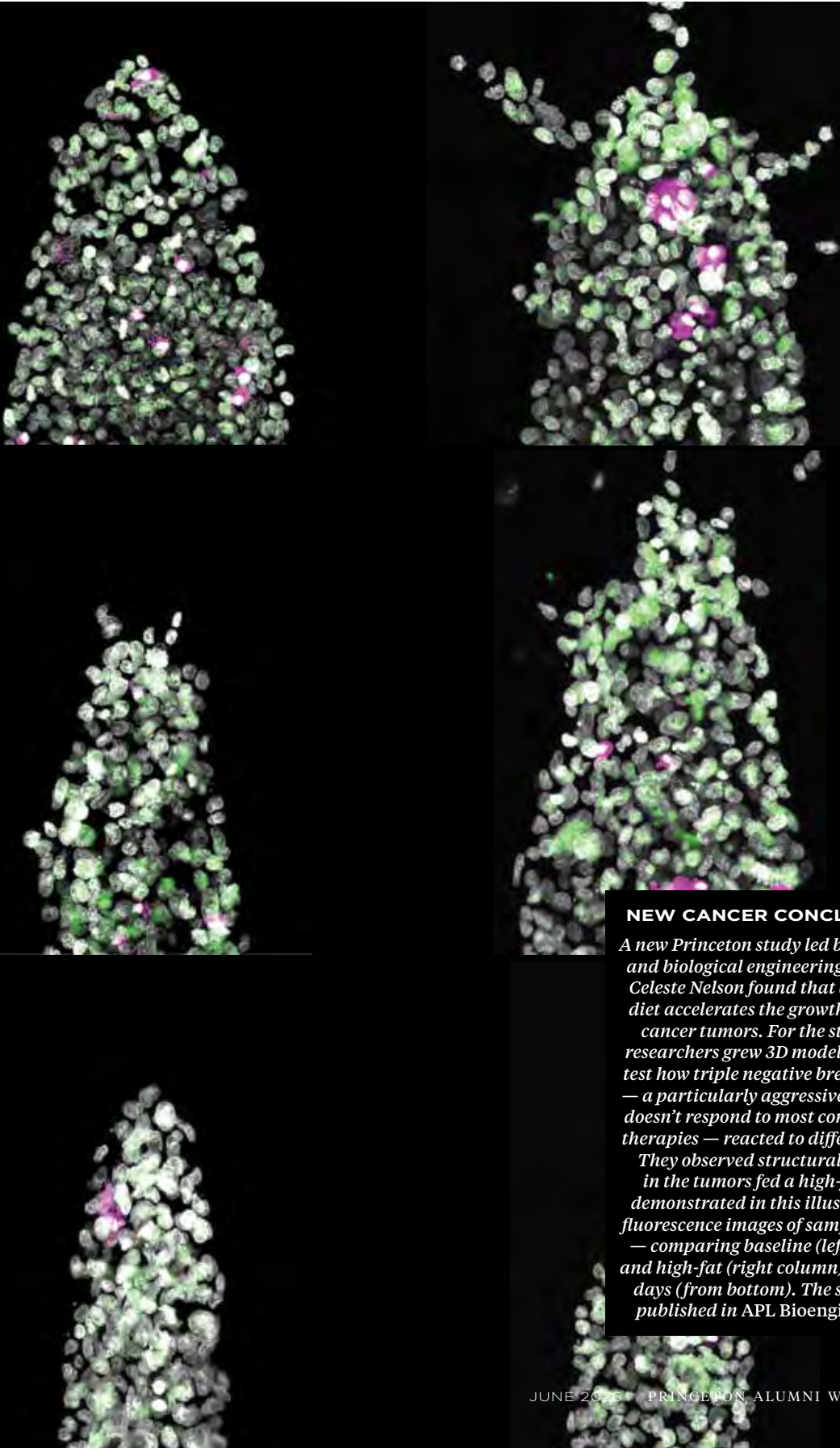
Harry Callahan, *Eleanor, Chicago* (detail), 1952. Princeton University Art Museum. Gift of Jane Teller. © The Estate of Harry Callahan, Courtesy Pace Gallery





# RESEARCH

ADVANCING THE FRONTIERS OF KNOWLEDGE



## NEW CANCER CONCLUSIONS

*A new Princeton study led by chemical and biological engineering professor Celeste Nelson found that a high-fat diet accelerates the growth of breast cancer tumors. For the study, the researchers grew 3D model tumors to test how triple negative breast cancer — a particularly aggressive form that doesn't respond to most conventional therapies — reacted to different diets. They observed structural changes in the tumors fed a high-fat diet, demonstrated in this illustration of fluorescence images of sample tumors — comparing baseline (left column) and high-fat (right column) over three days (from bottom). The study was published in APL Bioengineering.*

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PRINCETON UNIVERSITY



GÁSPÁR BAKOS WITH THE MILKY WAY AT THE SOUTH SHORE OF LAKE BALATON, HUNGARY.

## ASTROPHYSICAL SCIENCES

# The Race To Save the Night

A Princeton astrophysicist joins a global community in opposition to a startup offering ‘sunlight on demand’

BY CAROLYN JONES

**G**ÁSPÁR BAKOS EXPLORES the universe for a living. As a professor in Princeton’s Department of Astrophysical Sciences, he studies planets outside the solar system. He also looks for exploding stars, near-Earth asteroids, and anything changing in the sky.

This work keeps Bakos up at night, but it’s not the only thing. He is also an advocate for night sky conservation in the United States, Chile, and Namibia. Bakos has tracked Princeton’s growing light pollution problem for years. In his spare time, he works with both the University and the Municipality of Princeton to limit excess artificial light at night.

But a new development threatens to obliterate his dark-sky advocacy work. A California-based startup, Reflect Orbital, plans to launch more than 50,000 satellites into orbit by 2035. Using space mirrors, the company offers “sunlight on demand” by reflecting sunshine back to the Earth at night. Reflect Orbital says it will provide beams of light at least 5 kilometers wide to replace streetlights,

boost crop yields, and extend solar panel use. The company submitted an application in January to the Federal Communications Commission, which licenses communications satellites in the U.S., to launch one test satellite.

Bakos is alarmed. He points to established research showing that artificial light at night interrupts the sleep-wake cycles of all living things. In humans, this disruption is associated with an increased risk of breast cancer. Light pollution also affects wildlife by interfering with nighttime activities such as foraging and migration. A 5-kilometer-wide beam would be even more polluting than a similar-sized town lit by streetlights, he warns. While streetlights

**“It will light up my roof,  
it will light up the meadow  
where the fox is hunting.  
It’s a terrible thing.”**

— GÁSPÁR BAKOS

focus on only roads and walkways, an orbital shaft would be indiscriminate.

“They will light up things we don’t need to light up,” he says. “It will light up the nest of an owl, it will light up my roof, it will light up the meadow where the fox is hunting. It’s a terrible thing.”

Environmental impacts are not the only concern. Bakos also questions the science. Reflect Orbital claims to offer precise sunbeams, yet this is impossible, he notes. Light particles scatter in the atmosphere and are also reflected upward from the ground and clouds, creating skyglow. The consequences are profound. The more light diffused across the sky, the greater the ecological harms and the fainter our view of the stars.

**Bakos was born in Hungary but spent** his childhood in Nigeria. It was on a remote farm on the Cameroonian border that he developed his love for the night skies. Now, he relies on darkness to conduct astrophysical research. Using ground-based telescopes located in four countries, his research group has found 144 exoplanets so far. He also introduces astronomy students to the marvels of the constellations, yet light pollution is already degrading their experience. He worries their celestial view could soon vanish.

Reflect Orbital says that won’t happen.

“Conventional skyglow analysis assumes light sources that emit in all directions, including sideways and upwards,” said in an email statement to PAW. “That analysis does not take into account a directed downward light source from orbit, which several pre-eminent academics have found to significantly reduce light scatter.”

Bakos disagrees. Photons are redirected by atmospheric particles before they even reach the ground, he explains, as established by the Rayleigh and Mie scattering processes.

“There is no peer-reviewed scientific paper proving the claim that downward-scattered light will be scattered less,” Bakos says.

Reflect Orbital also points to the overall vision. “We are striving to harness space technology for the benefit of humanity,”

the company says by email. “Energy poverty affects billions of people, and humans are struggling to meet our energy demands without harming the planet. Asking how space-based technology can help solve that dilemma is, in our view, a worthwhile endeavor.”

Yet this position has attracted widespread skepticism. A global community of scientists raised concerns with the FCC, among them the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS), which represents 28 scientific bodies across disciplines including astronomy, biology, and meteorology. In its FCC comments, the organization registered grave concerns about the plan. It notes that redirecting sunlight could affect human health and ecosystems and have significant impacts on the atmosphere and on astronomical observations.

“For these reasons, we believe that the proposal does not serve the public interest, and urge the Commission to deny the application, or at least require a thorough environmental impact assessment before any license is granted,” AIBS wrote.

Reflect Orbital says it welcomes regulation and will conduct environmental impact assessments, including with independent third parties.

Yet for Bakos, the concept raises an even larger question: Who has access to the cosmos, and who has the right to commercialize it? Space is inseparable from our environment, he notes. To treat it as distinct is shortsighted. In addition, natural darkness is part of the global public commons, while our view of the constellations belongs to culture and heritage, not to private corporations.

For this reason, even while scanning the galaxy for his own research, Bakos feels compelled toward advocacy closer to home. “The view of the night sky is our treasure,” he wrote in his comments to the FCC. “It does not belong to Reflect Orbital.” ■

# Princetonians Named Pulitzer Prize Winners and Finalists

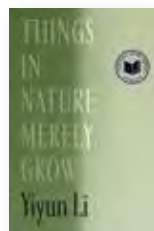
**T**HREE FACULTY MEMBERS AND one alumna were recognized as winners or finalists in the Pulitzer Prize book categories. Natalie Obiko Pearson '99, a senior investigative reporter for Bloomberg News, also won for her reporting for the graphic novel “trAPPed.”

## MEMOIR WINNER

### Things in Nature Merely Grow

Yiyun Li, professor of creative writing

In this searing memoir, Li writes about survival and loss after both of her sons died



by suicide. Instead of focusing on conventional grief, she traces how activities like writing, music, and the natural world became ways for her to carry on in the aftermath of immense

tragedy. *Things In Nature Merely Grow* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux) redefines grief as something experienced and lived alongside reality itself.

## ILLUSTRATED REPORTING AND COMMENTARY WINNER

### trAPPed

Natalie Obiko Pearson '99

This investigative graphic novel documents the experience of a neurologist in India who is held under “digital arrest” by her



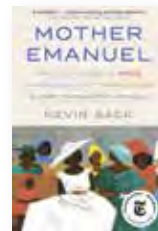
phone for eight days. Pearson and Suparna Sharma traveled thousands of miles across India to conduct interviews, collect documents, and gather photos and videos. The graphic was illustrated by Anand RK based on their reporting to depict the havoc this widespread scam is causing to hundreds of thousands of people in India.

## NONFICTION FINALIST

### Mother Emanuel

Kevin Sack, visiting lecturer

On June 17, 2015, a 21-year-old white supremacist killed nine people during a Bible study at Emanuel African



Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina. The church received national attention in the aftermath of the shooting, but as Sack explains in *Mother Emanuel*

(Crown), the church has a longer, lesser known history.

## POETRY FINALIST

### The Intentions of Thunder

Patricia Smith, professor of creative writing

This collection encompasses essential works from Smith’s distinguished career. Highlighting



the powerful clarity and originality of her voice, *The Intentions of Thunder* (Scribner) moves through grief, history, and hope for the future. Smith’s language crackles with precision and intensity, revealing

the breadth of her emotional and imaginative range.

## FICTION FINALIST

### Audition

Katie Kitamura '99

Do we ever really know the people that we love? That is the question at the heart



of Kitamura’s thrilling novel *Audition* (Riverhead Books). It follows a middle-aged actor who meets a younger man at a restaurant in Manhattan. From there, readers see the struggles the woman faces

as she continues to get to know the younger man. Kitamura unpacks the various roles people play in life and multiple versions of a person that can exist. ■

BEHIND THE RESEARCH: DONNACHA M. DENNEHY

# Making Music By Experimenting With Contrasting Sounds

BY MARK SYP '05



**W**HEN APPROACHING HIS COMPOSITIONS, Grammy-winning composer and Princeton music professor Donnacha Dennehy takes elements that seem like they shouldn't go together and creates something new, making patterns out of sounds that inspire him.

"I'm obsessed with structure in music even if it feels free," says Dennehy.

"I kind of try to make a puzzle out of it."

Dennehy has applied this approach to several musical endeavors over the years, including founding the Crash Ensemble that, as the name implies, strives to combine various musical elements to find a tangible sound. His recent work, the orchestral piece *Land of Winter*, numbers among its inspirations the quality of light and the passage of the seasons in his native Ireland. In February, *Land of Winter* won the Grammy for Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance.

## Quick Facts

### TITLE

*Professor of music*

### TIME AT PRINCETON

13 years

### RECENT CLASS

*Process and Intuition in Music*

## DENNEHY'S RESEARCH

# A SAMPLING

### LAND OF WINTER

*Land of Winter* is named for the English translation of "Hibernia," the name the Romans gave to Ireland. The piece emphasizes how the quality of the light demarcates each season. It is structured around the months of the year, with each track feeling like the month it represents. For example, "June" has a warm sound, while "March" explodes to life like the beginning of spring. While distinct, each track leads into the next and the final song leads back into the first song, like the calendar itself. Dennehy created *Land of Winter* with Alarm Will Sound, a touring ensemble and frequent collaborators of his. Dennehy's wife, a founding member of Alarm Will Sound, serves as first violin for the piece. The group rehearsed at Princeton and previewed the piece in Richardson Auditorium in September 2022 before its grand premiere in Germany

that November. "The piece is about both the comfort of recurring time and how we use these temporal recurrences to anchor ourselves and then the kind of terror of linear time, our move towards death," Dennehy says.

### VOCAL WORK

Dennehy also composes vocal work and considers it the other half of his musical pursuits alongside his instrumental work. He says that while text and music might seem like very different disciplines, the combination can create something entirely distinct and rich. "A text can mean one thing when you read it, but music has a whole emotional structure under it, a way of parsing the text that can be a surprise even to the composer," he says, comparing it to the heightened emotions one might feel when an acclaimed actor performs a written



piece aloud. Dennehy's vocal collaborations have included a piece with Iarla Ó Lionáird in the traditional Sean-nós style of singing, an opera with playwright Enda Walsh, and an upcoming oratorio with author Colm Tóibín.

### PRINCETON SOUND KITCHEN

Dennehy also encourages his composition students to seek varied inspirations and find excitement in the act of making music. He directs the Princeton Sound Kitchen, a program offering students the opportunity to write

music for various professional ensembles, which then perform the students' work in a series of shows at Princeton. The shows are eclectic affairs, with the content determined by the students themselves. Dennehy notes that writing for different ensembles allows students to experience what it's like to be a professional composer. He also encourages them to take advantage of the opportunity they have as students to try approaches and techniques they wouldn't normally pursue with their music, since "that's where the really interesting stuff comes in." **P**

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

GOOD READS

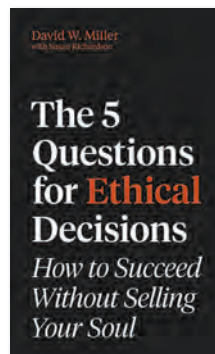
# The Princeton Bookshelf

2026 Summer Guide to Princeton University Authors



Creating Better Boats

A practical guide by David W. Miller for professionals, corporate executives, entrepreneurs, and college students who want to achieve personal success without compromising their morals



“A vital book.”

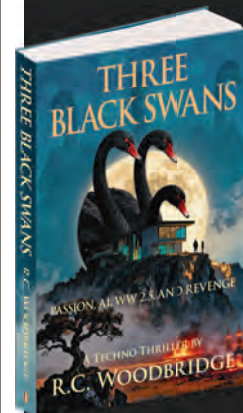
—Jeffrey Sonnenfeld, Founder and CEO of the Chief Executive Leadership Institute at Yale University



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# legacy on the line

by Andrea Baumann Lustig '80 \*81

U.S. families are entering the largest wealth transfer in history, with \$124 trillion expected to move across generations by 2048. Yet even affluent, financially savvy households often remain unprepared. Many assume they have the right advisers, a solid plan, or shared family intentions. But often the greatest threats to a family's legacy aren't just obvious ones like investment risk and taxes—they're blind spots people don't realize they have. These often-incorrect beliefs about money, advisers, investments, heirs, and philanthropy quietly derail plans, restrict growth, heighten hidden risks, and can fracture families at pivotal moments. The book offers a clear, practical guide to recognizing and overcoming assumptions that silently undermine long-term success.



“With the largest wealth transfer in history underway, this book could not be more timely. My former student, Andrea Baumann Lustig, draws on decades of experience to illuminate the blind spots that derail even the most sophisticated families. This is a very useful resource for anyone determined to build and transfer their legacy.”

—BURTON G. MALKIEL, PHD \*64, AUTHOR OF A RANDOM WALK DOWN WALL STREET

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Andrea Baumann Lustig '80 \*81, a sixth-generation wealth adviser from a family whose legacy in finance dates back to 1810, draws on 30 years of experience advising high-net-worth and multigenerational families to show readers how to evaluate their adviser relationships, strengthen their planning, communicate effectively with heirs, and build legacies rooted in clarity, intention, and resilience.



Hightower Advisors, LLC is an SEC registered investment adviser. Registration as an investment advisor does not imply a certain level of skill or training. Securities are offered through Hightower Securities, LLC member FINRA and SIPC. Hightower Advisors, LLC or any of its affiliates do not provide tax or legal advice. This material is not intended or written to provide and should not be relied upon or used as a substitute for tax or legal advice. Information contained herein does not consider an individual's or entity's specific circumstances or applicable governing law, which may vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction and be subject to change. Clients are urged to consult their tax or legal advisor for related questions.

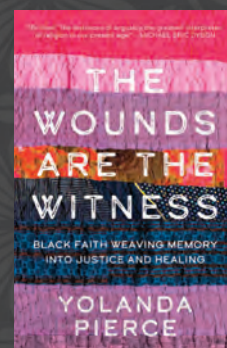
## DR. YOLANDA PIERCE '94

SCHOLAR WRITER WOMANIST THEOLOGIAN



### *In My Grandmother's House*

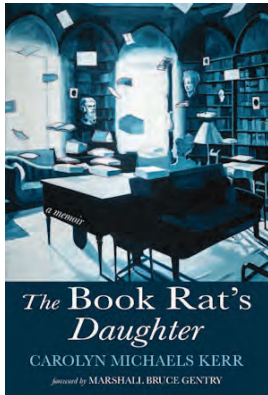
A grandmother's theology carries wisdom strong enough for future generations. In the pages of *In My Grandmother's House*, Yolanda Pierce builds an everyday womanist theology rooted in liberating scriptures, stories from the Black church, and truths from Black women's lives. The Divine has been showing up at the kitchen tables of Black women for a long time.



### *The Wounds are the Witness*

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

[yolandapierce.com](http://yolandapierce.com)

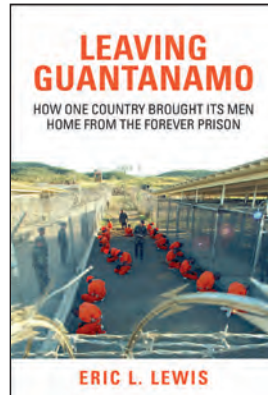


### THE BOOK RAT'S DAUGHTER

CAROLYN MICHAELS KERR K'52

J. Ramsey Michaels, New Testament scholar, theologian, self-proclaimed “book rat” (Princeton '52) is the subject of this winsome memoir. Kerr's tribute, chock full of esoteric facts about some of Ramsey's more arcane volumes, and stories of their acquisition, is a testament to the affection between a father and a daughter.

Available at Amazon and wipfandstock.com.



### LEAVING GUANTANAMO

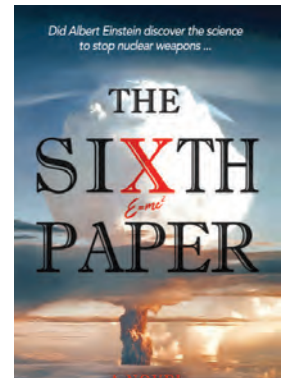
HOW ONE COUNTRY BROUGHT ITS MEN

HOME FROM THE FOREVER PRISON

ERIC L. LEWIS '79

Eric L. Lewis conducted the hearings that gained the release of the last two Kuwaiti ‘forever prisoners.’ As well as telling the story of the Guantanamo detainees, Lewis analyzes the legal and cultural legacy of Guantanamo.

Named a “Best Book of 2026 So Far” by *The New Yorker*, his book can be bought online at Amazon or cambridge.com.



### THE SIXTH PAPER

JONATHAN BLANK S'93 P'26

A Princeton-themed *Da Vinci Code*.

Did Albert Einstein discover the science to stop nuclear weapons? If so, what's the science, where's the manuscript, and is it too dangerous to find out? *The Sixth Paper* is fast-paced and fun historical fiction that will keep you thinking.

Find out more at [jonathanblank.net](http://jonathanblank.net).

## Chains Across the River

*A Novel of the American Revolution*

BY BEVIS LONGSTRETH '56

[bevislongstreth.com](http://bevislongstreth.com)

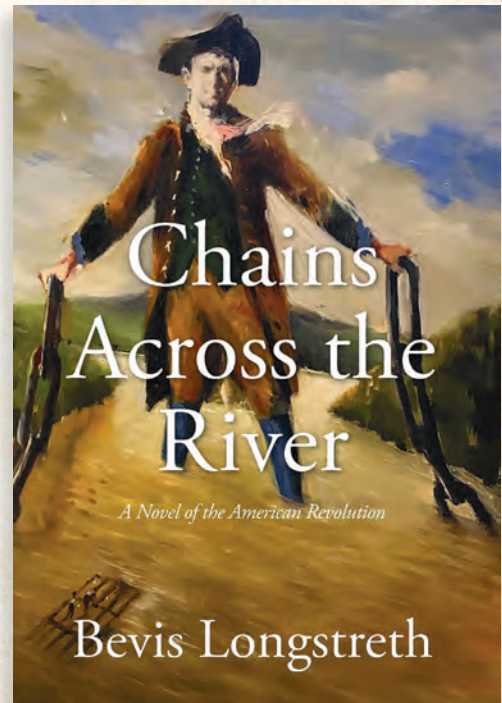
During the American Revolution, a British soldier deserts, defects and becomes a hero. *Chains Across the River* follows the true-life exploits of Captain Thomas Machin, a gifted yet flawed British-born engineer who joins the Continental Army after witnessing the Battle of Breed's Hill.

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

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

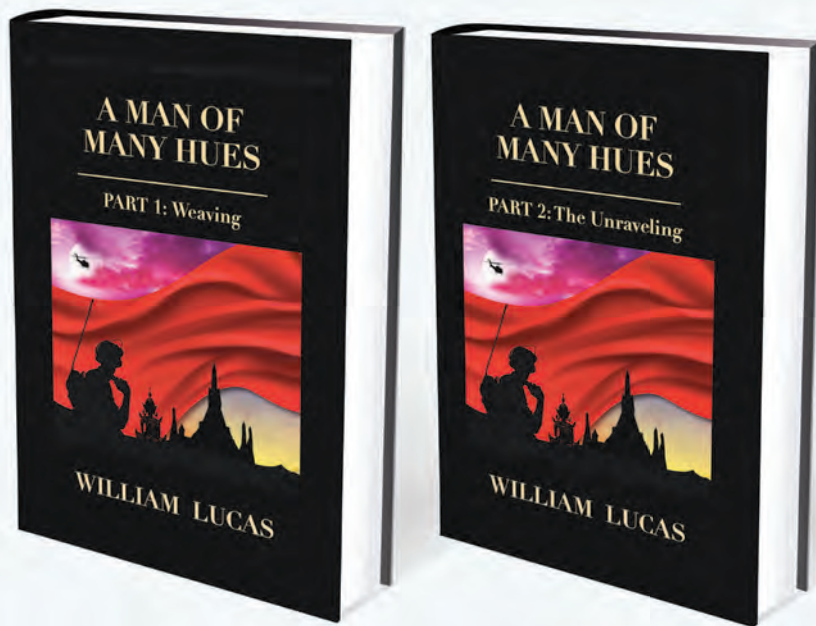
*“Longstreth's Chains Across the River turns history of the American Revolution into compelling fiction. It tells a new and remarkable story of the chains strung across the Hudson to stop the British fleet from sailing upstream. A rewarding read.”*

— TIMOTHY WIRTH, FORMER SENATOR, COLORADO



available at **amazon**

# Coups, counter coups, and assassinations vie with exquisite antiques and the fabled artistry of Thai silk.



IN THIS SWEEPING NOVEL, the American, Jim Thompson, Princeton graduate (Class of 1928), architect, OSS officer, military advisor, CIA operative, art collector and storied Thai silk entrepreneur, seeks to fashion a new life in post-World War II Thailand, a new life far from the familiar and comfortable routines of friends and family in New York City.

As a foreigner, a farange, Jim seeks to embrace the opportunities available to westerners who can adapt to their new home, while Thailand grapples with the roles of an unsettled democracy, a monarchy only recently absolute in power, rapid modernization and a succession of military strongmen. Thailand is magical and brutally murderous in equal measure.

And Thailand is not alone—it is surrounded by Southeast Asian countries seeking to overthrow decades of colonial rule, while America seeks to define its role in these faraway lands to thwart communist insurgencies in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and Malaysia.

Along the journey Jim meets American, Thai, British, Laotian and Malaysian soldiers, insurgents, diplomats, politicians, entrepreneurs, weavers, journalists, opium smugglers and warlords. Coups, counter coups, and assassinations vie with exquisite antiques and the fabled artistry of Thai silk. Silk that would grace the front cover of Vogue, explode in swirling color with the stage production of the King and I in NYC, and become the definition of elegant attire in the US and Europe.

Through all this, Jim displays great courage, daring, and resilience, experiences great success and great loss, suffers hubris and becomes blinded to the treacherous forces around him.

Join Jim in his journey from a murderous OSS ambush in the high mountain passes of Southern France to his mysterious disappearance in the Highlands of Malaysia. It is a journey very much worth taking.



**William Lucas.** A retired lawyer, William (Charlie) Lucas has enjoyed a lifelong penchant for historical fiction. While visiting Thailand in early 2020, he became intrigued by the story of the historical Jim Thompson who grew up in the same small Delaware town where the author resides. Educated at Phillips Academy, Andover, Princeton University (Class of 1971) and UVA Law School, the author served in the U.S. Army as an intelligence office from 1971 to 1974. He is an avid mountain hiker. This is his debut novel.

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# You Can't Always Win—The Good Loser

## You Can't Always Win

THE GOOD LOSER



Written by **Mark Nixon**  
Illustrated by **Bonnie Bright**

**M**ark Nixon '84 has had a lot of experience with losing over the years. Having won an Ivy League championship in Men's Volleyball, parented two daughters to NCAA Fencing Championships (Kasia '21 below and Karolina, Columbia '23), and making the 2025 U.S. National Fencing Team himself, Mark believes that what builds character, particularly in young children, is learning how to handle losing with poise and good sportsmanship.

This isn't a book that says it's okay to lose; it doesn't try to make kids feel good about losing. It simply attempts to define what is unacceptable behavior when you lose. It hopes to enable parents to open discussions with their young kids (ages 6 -10) about good sportsmanship as they begin playing competitive athletics.

*"Short, sweet, and to the point, on how we all strive to win and how important it is to lose with respect and dignity."*

– Cody Mattern, OLY 2024, Fencing

*"As a high-level athlete, coach, and father, Mark Nixon knows a thing or two about good sportsmanship. Now, he's sharing that knowledge through a unique children's book designed to help kids learn an important lesson."*

– Play Like A Champion Today™ Educational Series



Mark Nixon '84



Kasia Nixon '21



# *Shakespeare*

Davis  
McCallum '97  
and fellow  
Princetonians  
build  
a new home  
for theater,  
with a view

BY DAVID WALTER '11

An aerial photograph of a modern theater building at dusk. The building features a large, flat, grey roof and a circular, illuminated interior space visible through a glass facade. The theater is situated on a grassy hillside overlooking a valley with a river and mountains in the background. The sky is filled with dramatic, colorful clouds from the setting or rising sun.

# *Above the Hudson*

**AS YOU LIKE IT**

*In addition to a cozy setting, Hudson Valley Shakespeare's new theater includes stunning views of the Hudson River. The theater is scheduled to open June 10.*

## Place matters to Davis McCallum '97.

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### **Permanence, less so — at least until recently.**

That's perhaps to be expected of a theater director. In college, McCallum co-founded the Princeton Shakespeare Company. Its earliest ephemeral happenings included *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on the steps of Lockhart Hall and *Macbeth* in the East Pyne courtyard. Today, McCallum is best known for helming nine of Samuel D. Hunter's Idaho plays, a drama cycle exploring life across the Gem State. (One of these shows, *The Whale*, later became a film with Oscar winner Brendan Fraser.)

Twelve years ago, in 2014, McCallum became artistic director of Hudson Valley Shakespeare (HVS). HVS is a pillar of the Lower Hudson arts scene. It has many longtime patrons. Under McCallum's watch, it also has eclectic taste, presenting new and recent works alongside Shakespeare.

What HVS lacked, until this year, was a home to call its own. Instead, the group performed under tents on other people's lawns. Happily so, with stagings that cleverly merged theater and landscape: Picture battles fought on picnic lawns, and lovers hiding in trees.

Still, the lack of a permanent campus made it harder for HVS to accommodate out-of-town cast members. (Green rooms and showering facilities were makeshift; actors had to stay at roadside motels.) On the audience side, the tents posed challenges for wheelchair users and hearing-impaired guests.

All of that starts to change this summer, when Hudson Valley Shakespeare moves into the Samuel H. Scripps Theater Center in Garrison, New York. The first show on the schedule? *As You Like It*, which was also the first show performed at Shakespeare's Globe theater when it opened in London in 1599.

**As Jacques says in that play**, "All the world's a stage ... And one man in his time plays many parts." Sure enough, McCallum has juggled many roles to get this theater built: fundraiser, community board liaison, design partner, construction client, environmental steward.

It hasn't always been easy, and not just because McCallum is an introvert. There's also that matter of permanence.

"With theater," he says, "you put a lot of heart and effort into making something that lasts for a very short time, and that's part of what makes it beautiful. If you miss it, you've missed it. It goes away. Maybe we'll get that group of people back together again for something else, or maybe another theater will take on that show and give it 'more life,' as people say.

"But no matter how much 'more life' [a theater production] has, there's always an endpoint.

"It's been quite shocking to work on an artistic project that will outlast me. I hope this theater is around when I'm no longer around. That's a rare privilege in such an ephemeral art form.

"When you're doing a play, you go to the grocery store and buy milk and the expiration date says 'best by Aug. 25' and you think, 'Oh no, we've got a lot to do in the next 20 days, to get the play ready before the milk goes bad.' That's the tenure of the effort, typically.

"With architecture, it's so different. It's done in the time it takes for a *credit card* to expire. That occurred to me the other day, when I got a new card in the mail and saw the date on it. Thinking in years has taken some adjusting."

### **As it stands today — and should for decades — the Scripps**

Center does not resemble a bandshell, a tent, a bowl, or a covered amphitheater. Nor does it have much in common with the Globe. That's because the Globe was built for an urban setting, while Scripps sits on the former 11th-hole fairway of a "rewilded" golf course. In architecture, as in dramaturgy, context matters.

All of this is fitting for HVS, which often goes its own way creatively. Its presentations have an unfussy looseness to them: Jesters roam the risers muttering ad-libs and sometimes find themselves upstaged by skunks.

"The way we do Shakespeare, 7-, 8-, 9-year-olds adore it," says Frederic C. Rich '77, an HVS board member. "And it's interesting, isn't it? I've been attending shows with my nieces and nephews for years. Adults become afraid of Shakespeare because it's Elizabethan English. But kids just take it for what it is."

This straightforward, interactive quality is what brought McCallum to HVS. He's an intimist at heart, a champion of smaller-format shows that unite audiences and performers. The Scripps Center was built to fit this brief.

### **So what does an HVS-style theater look like, then?**

As designed by the architect Jeanne Gang, the Scripps is light and zoomorphic, with a floating grid-shell roof that evokes a Hudson River mussel. Inside, the space is intimate, warm, and accessible to a wider range of patrons than before.

Intimate, but also open. Most spectacularly, the Scripps' stage looks out onto the "Wind Gate," the narrows formed at the spot where the Hudson River passes between Breakneck Ridge and Storm King Mountain. It's a vista that no one on the project could deny, much as they might have wanted to, at times, given the challenges of building on a ridgeside lookout.

"It's not easy to do theater at the top of a hill, very far from every piece of infrastructure you would need," says Teo Quintana '08, project leader for the site and a member of Gang's architectural firm, Studio Gang. "But everyone quickly realized, this is where the theater would go.

"Landscape has always been extremely important to Hudson Valley Shakespeare's theater-making. They don't use stage flats. They don't use fly lofts. They don't use a lot of [built] scenery." Instead, their shows are in dialogue with the land. And so, too, is the theater Gang designed for them.

**Jeanne Gang is, to put it plainly,** one of the world’s most famous living architects. Collaborating with her was not something that McCallum could have anticipated when he took the job at HVS, back when his remit was to program summer theater under tents.

But then HVS received an unexpected windfall from a local donor named Chris Davis, and Gang decided she wanted to design a new performance space. The next the thing McCallum knew, he and Gang were in a local high school auditorium, moving chairs around to test out seating plans for the theater of his dreams.

This is not to say the Scripps was, or is, a two-person show. Building it has taken the work of many partners, including an outsized number of Princeton alumni on the HVS board. These include Rich, James Stanford ’98, Raoul Bhavnani ’93, and Chip Loewenson ’79. On the design side for the Tigers, there’s Quintana at Studio Gang and Eli Gottlieb ’96, a managing principal at the structural engineering firm Thornton Tomasetti.

Another major booster? New York Gov. Kathy Hochul, who threw her weight behind the project early on and never wavered. “There’s going to be nothing like it. It will be the most exceptional place for the experience of theater on Earth,” she said at the theater’s groundbreaking in 2024.

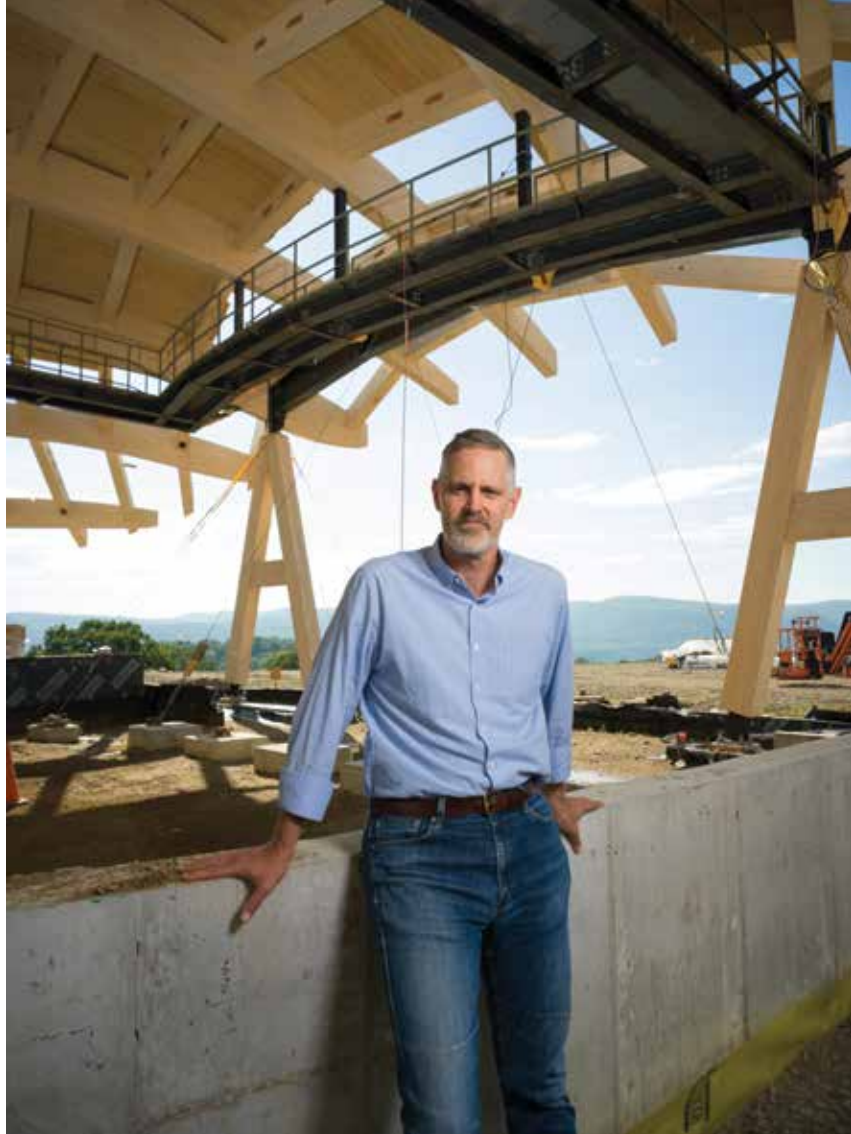
Quintana also sees the Scripps as special. “You don’t get to work a site like this, on the edge of the Hudson Valley, on this kind of rise, very often. So many sites like this are protected. And then if it’s not a protected site, you’re usually building a really expensive private house [on it]. And that’s a completely different project. But this program is public, so you’re engaging with the site differently. [Designing for] one person’s view from a mountaintop is very different than a view for 500 people.”

(The late Samuel H. Scripps, meanwhile, was a publishing heir, philanthropist, and lifelong theater lover. In the 1990s, he played a big role in reconstructing Shakespeare’s Globe in London. His family sees the Hudson project as a bookend to that work.)

**Now the time has come for summer theater ... in a theater!** In addition to *As You Like It*, the Scripps debut season includes *King Lear*, which McCallum is directing, and a production of the blockbuster musical *Les Misérables*.

And why not? Under McCallum’s directorship, HVS has ranged widely and ambitiously in its non-Shakespearean programming. For example, last summer’s musical revival was *Octet*, an underseen a cappella chamber piece about internet addiction. *Hamilton* creator Lin-Manuel Miranda made multiple trips to HVS to see it; this year, he announced plans to direct a movie version of the show.

*Les Misérables*, for its part, made its English-language debut at the Royal Shakespeare Company. But even if it hadn’t, McCallum says, he still would have chosen it.



*Les Mis* is a big musical — so big that an “arena spectacular” version will play at Radio City Music Hall this summer. But what happens to *Les Mis* when you scale down all its grandness?

“I’ve wanted to try [*Les Misérables*] with this particular director for a long time. It’s a musical that’s so beloved, and I think we can do it in a very particular, actor-driven way, without some of the spectacle that normally goes along with a production of *Les Mis*,” McCallum says. “At the same time, there’s still going to be that amazing score, and the epic sweep of a narrative that goes across generations. It really feels like a Shakespearean musical.”

McCallum is staying mum on director Jenn Thompson’s exact vision for the show. But what’s certain is that when Javert, Valjean, and company take the stage in August for HVS’ take on Victor Hugo, they’ll be doing so in an unusual context: in an open-air theater designed less for grand *tableaux*, and more for intimate thrills.

How intimate? After much deliberation and fine-tuning, Studio Gang managed to fit the Scripps’s 450 seats into just nine U-shaped rows. What this means is that all of its sightlines will be close ones. Close enough for audience members to fully take in actors’ faces.

**LEADING MAN**

*HVS artistic director Davis McCallum ’97, shown in July 2025, had to assume a variety of different roles to make the new theater a reality.*



Why does *that* matter? Here's how one of McCallum's favorite books on theater design explains it: Every theater has a "limit of presence," the threshold within which actors and crowds feel subconsciously "real" to each other.

When viewers sit close enough to see actors' eyes widen, dart, and droop — rather than having to read emotion through voice and gesture cues — it builds a special kind of empathy. Or so the theory goes, anyway; a theory developed at the intersection of optics, architecture, and neuroscience. The important lesson being: Seat the bulk of your audience *outside* this ocular limit, and your theater's energy will flatline. The drama will feel like it's happening elsewhere, to figures who might as well be acting behind glass, or in a diorama.

This is doubly true if your stage is fronted by a proscenium arch, a kind of interior window frame through which the public takes in scenes. (If a theater can raise and lower a curtain, it's got a proscenium arch. Most big ones do; the Scripps does not.)

Large houses, framed stagings. The problem with these features, McCallum says, is that they distance people, thus weakening theater's case for itself in an age of screens and streaming.

"You can get an infinite catalog of content on the couch," McCallum says. "What you can't get is the sense that a group of people are actually gathering in a place where an event is transpiring. That's real. That's what's actually happening in any active theater. The word theater gets used pejoratively, particularly in political discourse. 'Oh, that's just theater.' Meaning, superfluous fakery. But I think the word should suggest something else, which is, 'Here we are, together.'

"[Architecturally, that requires] theaters where the energy between stage and audience moves in a feedback loop that rolls and compounds over a performance. Not a model where the actors are in one room and the audience in another, with a cutout between the two. I think that's one of the things Shakespeare really understood. If you think of the theater as the hardware and the plays as the software, his plays are written to work in [a

certain] kind of hardware, in spaces that feel more organic.

"[Nowadays] when I see a Shakespeare play in a big proscenium theater, it feels more like I'm at a movie theater. It bums me out: Why am I sitting way back here, looking at people on a raised stage while we're all in the dark? Why are we pretending we're not in the same room together? Studio Gang understands this. It's such an intimate theater they've built for us."

#### So how *did* it all get built?

The story starts with Davis, a local Hudson Valley financier and environmentalist, who also happens to be the scion of two prominent Princeton alumni, Shelby Cullom Davis '30 and Shelby M.C. Davis '58.

Davis bought the Garrison Golf Course in the 1990s. His purpose, back then, was to protect its land from being developed into condominiums. To that end, he held onto the property for several decades, keeping it in business as a golf course while searching for a lower-impact purpose for the site.

*How about a LEED Platinum certified, eco-conscious summer theater?* Well, yes. So in 2019, Davis donated 98 acres to Hudson Valley Shakespeare. Crucially, his gift included ownership of the course's inn and wedding businesses.

"What's so smart about that," says Rich, the HVS board member, "is that the wedding venue can be a real economic engine. It's a great solution to the dilemma faced by non-profit theater organizations.

"Do you know the economics of the not-for-profit theater business? If you're at 50/50 — meaning you meet 50% of your expenses with ticket sales — you're well off. That means every year you have to raise the other 50% from philanthropy just to keep the lights on, which is a terrifying thing. ... Weddings [give HVS] a more diversified stream of revenue."

**SET THE SCENE**  
*The Scripps Center is designed for close connection with the audience and interplay with the natural surroundings.*

Of course, HVS' hope was always that the site could become more than just a revenue stream. Enter Hochul and Sen. Chuck Schumer, who helped HVS tap into millions of dollars in government arts funds.

Soon after Davis' donation, McCallum began polling friends about what architects they admired. Jeanne Gang came in at the top of the wishlist. HVS submitted a proposal, and McCallum crossed his fingers. Then, to his delight, he heard the firm was interested.

It helped that Gang began her career with a theater commission: the Bengt Sjostrom Starlight in Rockford, Illinois. Every 10 years or so, she designs another one. This makes each new theater an important milestone in her practice.

For this 2020s iteration of a Jeanne Gang theater, she was inspired by new possibilities in mass timber. These laminated-wood beams are budget-friendly, sustainable, and increasingly customizable at scale. They make up the majority of the Scripps' overall frame, with additional detailing in Western red cedar, black locust, and charred wood.

"You go their offices and you're just like, 'Oh, so they're the wood savants,'" McCallum says. "It's just the most wonderful thing."

The main departure from all that carpentry is the theater's steel-beam central catwalk. As devised by Quintana and Gottlieb, it pulls double duty as a tension ring. This prevents the theater's shallow dome from pancaking flat when it snows.

**Blizzards aside, McCallum is excited for the cold seasons** to come. The plan is to host year-round workshops and readings in the center's off-stage spaces.

That's good news for New York's performing arts community, which has struggled since the COVID pandemic. Nonprofit theaters sell fewer tickets these days, which means they have less money to invest back into artists. Major foundations have also pulled back. The result? A fragile creative pipeline, with many important theater labs, rehearsal spaces, and writing retreats either closing or on the brink.

HVS has been lucky to escape the worst of this downturn, McCallum knows. And so he wants to pay things forward. To that end, phase two of HVS' construction master plan calls for building on-site housing for its summer company, spaces that could then be used for offseason residencies.

*"If a theater is a house, the green room is the living room. Everyone's there before their entrance, playing cards, telling stories, drinking throat-coat tea before going on stage. I liked the idea of his spirit animating that room."*

— DAVIS MCCALLUM '97

on naming the Samuel H. Scripps Theater Center's green room after Thomas P. Roche

The challenge is that back-of-house infrastructure can be a harder sell to would-be donors, as the money's not on stage. Given this, can McCallum speak frankly? "We are actively looking for donors to complete this phase-two capital campaign, where the remaining gap is around \$6 million," he says.

**Ultimately, McCallum's contention is that if company** members cannot gather while in season — if they can't commute on foot to each rehearsal, or bond in green rooms between shows — then there's something missing from the mix.

McCallum learned this back at Princeton. What made theater so rewarding then, he says, were all those moments in between. The late summer weeks when Princeton Shakespeare Company would arrive on campus early for rehearsal. The nights after a show when they'd all celebrate at the house of professor Thomas P. Roche.

Enter Roche. An eminent don in the English department, he joined Princeton Shakespeare's acting ensemble at McCallum's request.

"He'd had this relatively quiet life on campus," recalls Stanford, a company alum. "And then, through Davis, Roche got into the theater scene. And he just became this whole kind of larger-than-life person, completely unexpectedly, to him and everyone else."

Off stage, Roche dressed formally, often wearing an ascot and a fedora. On stage, he cut loose, playing a nun, a king, a servant, and anything else the students needed.

"His house was on Regatta Row, and he would host us all for dinner," Stanford says. "So many of us crammed into this little space. That became our community." In the years after graduation, McCallum and his friends returned to campus to celebrate Roche's birthdays, as well as his retirement in 2003.

When Roche died in 2020, it was at the height of the pandemic. There were no in-person funerals, only Zoom. McCallum rued this twist of fate. "He was just the greatest," McCallum says, with a "very funny, dry, withering sense of humor. We became really close friends."

In the months after Roche's death, McCallum and his college friends kept talking about how to honor their mentor in some more lasting fashion. "Because there wasn't that occasion to get together and celebrate him and grieve him," McCallum says. "And I began to think, 'Oh, he loved being among actors, the way actors congregate in a green room.'"

When it opens this month, thanks to contributions from his friends, Scripps' new green room will be named in Roche's honor. McCallum is also raising funds for a directing fellowship in his honor.

"If a theater is a house, the green room is the living room," McCallum says. "Everyone's there before their entrance, playing cards, telling stories, drinking throat-coat tea before going on stage. I liked the idea of his spirit animating that room."

Theaters *are* houses — not just metaphorically, but in plain reference: house lights, house seats, a sold-out house. You can build them big and walled, or you can build them small and open. McCallum knows the kind of house that he prefers, and built it. Even when the summers end, he won't be there alone. ■

DAVID WALTER '11 is a writer in New York.

# Dating at Princeton

## It's Complicated

BY LIA OPPERMAN '25  
ILLUSTRATIONS BY PAUL ZWOLAK

ONCE UPON A TIME, a boy and a girl at Princeton liked each other. They shared a friend group, but a fear of complicating things kept them from making a move. That changed when Marriage Pact, a matchmaking tool that pairs students based on a questionnaire, declared they were a fit.

The boy texted her the news. “Well, if the algorithm says it, it must be true,” she replied. He sent a Google Calendar invite for a date from 6 to 7 p.m. at the New College West/Yeh dining hall, one of their two meals each week outside of their eating club. She clicked “Yes,” and they lived happily ever after ... or at least for the rest of the semester.

Dating at Princeton has always been tricky, but somehow today's students have found new ways to complicate it. The hypothetical romance above demonstrates the shift toward algorithm-driven matches, blurred definitions — ever been in a situationship? — and courtship managed down to the calendar invite. Still, some things haven't changed: the intimacy of a small campus, shared living spaces, and the inevitability of awkward breakups.

PAW explored the dating scene with three seniors on the latest PAWcast: Roberto Lachner, who wrote a 2025 opinion piece in *The Daily Princetonian* urging students to date across ideological differences; Suthi Navaratnam-Tomayko, who said she has tried all of the algorithms, apps, and traditional methods; and Lianne Chapin, who is in a relationship that she credits in part to the Terrace F. Club.

This interview has been edited and condensed. Listen to the podcast online and read the full transcript at [paw.princeton.edu](http://paw.princeton.edu).

**Lia Opperman '25: What's dating culture like at Princeton these days?**

**Lianne Chapin '26:** Princeton is a unique campus in that we're all sort of packed into the same area of land, and we all see each other all the time.

**Roberto Lachner '26:** Because of that, it's very rare for people to ask out strangers, just because there aren't so many strangers. Usually how it happens is you already have a nice friendship with the person, and then eventually one day you decide to take it a step further. But rarely do you just see a cute girl at the café, and then you go up and ask for her number.

**Lia: Are there certain circles within the campus community where people are meeting each other? Sports teams, residential colleges?**

**Roberto:** It's wherever you're making your friends on campus. I'm a very active member of the Aquinas Institute, which is our Catholic campus ministry. There's between 50 and 100 very active students. And so those are the people that I'm seeing basically every day. And eventually those are the people I'm going to become friends with and maybe ask out.

And I think this phenomenon kind of extrapolates to other campus subgroups. Certainly religious groups, also for clubs, especially your eating clubs, and, especially at the start, your residential colleges.

**Lia: There are a lot of new dating apps that use algorithms**



to match people. Datamatch attempts to match you with your top romantic partners and friendships based on a survey you fill out. With Marriage Pact, you get matched with your optimal match, and with Date Drop, each week you opt in, you get a new match. And then there are the traditional dating apps, such as Hinge, Bumble, Grindr, and Tinder. Are students using these apps instead of meeting each other in person?

**Lianne:** A lot of Princeton students are very busy. And our minds are often occupied with our coursework and our jobs and all sorts of things that we're doing. I can see a world in which people would prefer the convenience of, or at least the false confidence of knowing, that this person is algorithmically the best person for me. And I can stop searching and worrying, and that can be one thing off my plate because I know that this person, through some measure, is compatible with me. And I think Datamatch and even Date Drop appeal to that mentality where you can just fill out a form and some computer science majors who had some extra time on their hands will magically facilitate something for you.

Then you can talk to the person that you've matched with and be like, "So we've matched on this kooky little thing, maybe we can go get coffee together." That also takes away the need to have any sort of boldness or confidence because your hands are tied by this digital thing.

**Suthi Navaratnam-Tomayko '26:** There is now a fourth one, it's called Crush. The idea is everyone puts their crush's email in, and then if the person you have a crush on has a crush on you, you get notified. But if you don't, if there's no match, no one ever has to know. So that's sort of the big selling point here: You're able to figure out if your crush likes you back without any kind of friction, without having to do anything scary, without any sort of fear of rejection. I think this is wimping out.

I don't really think people use these very much. At least in my experience, people will fill out Marriage Pact and stuff, but you're not actually going to go get married to that person. I know very few people who have actually gone on dates off these things. It's mostly just to look at it, and you're like, "LOL, I know that person," and that's it.



**Lianne:** The fun is in the fact that it is not that serious.

**Lia: What do you think students are looking for? Love, marriage, a hookup?**

**Lianne:** It depends. I know a lot of people who are in very wholesome and fulfilling relationships and have been for a long time. But I also know a lot of people who are very sure that they do not want that, and that they are going to take college as a time to explore and to have hookups and to figure out who they are as a person, as a partner, just see the landscape.

Then there are also, of course, situationships. There's poor communication, there are people who have a mismatch where one of them is still in the exploration era and then another one is maybe wanting to lock something down. But I think that is a tale as old as time.

**Roberto:** As we've progressed through being freshmen to seniors, you see more people looking for longer-term relationships. Maybe because we have had more experience and know what we're looking for.

Another advantage I think of dating within communities you're familiar with and your friends is that typically you do know what the other person wants, especially if you are within communities where there are shared values, shared understandings of what dating is.

**Suthi:** I also think it changes when you join an eating club. That environment is just more conducive to relationships than it is to hooking up. It can be kind of awkward after a hookup. Maybe you wouldn't want to do that if you have to see that person all the time.

**Lia: What do breakups look like on campus?**

**Roberto:** It's certainly harder than perhaps it would be outside Princeton, because the community is so tight-knit. Especially if you started dating because you have a shared community. You might even be in the same eating club, in which case you'll see each other at almost every meal.

And this makes the Princeton breakup a little different. When I talk to my parents or even my friends at other schools, a breakup is really synonymous with "you never see this person again." I think in some respects, it's probably a good experience to still be around your ex on campus, just because it hopefully teaches you how to remain both friendly and respectful with that other person who you did and probably do still care a whole lot about.

**Lia:** Lianne, I remember you mentioning that Princetonians put everything on their Google Calendars, including dates, hookups, anything along those lines. *The Wall Street Journal* published an article about students dropping calendar invites instead of asking someone out. Can you speak about that?

**Lianne:** I am a big Google Calendar user and so is everybody I know. The first time I thought about GCal-ing a date, it did give me pause, but then I realized that is a thing that people do here.

And now I think it can be a very romantic thing because then you — I'm just sort of laughing at myself right now — you can make a separate color for your dates. You can put nice heart emojis in the calendar invitations. You can keep a record also of your time together, which is also a very nice thing.

**Roberto:** GCal is such a ubiquitous part of Princeton that I almost wonder how alumni in the Stone Age before Google worked and functioned. The first date I ever asked someone out on here, I was like, "Oh, do you want to go on a date?" and she said, "Yes." I pulled out my Google Calendar and looked for an open spot, and then right there sent her the invite. And that night I got a little email in my inbox that she had accepted the invite to lunch at Say Cheez Cafe. It was just such a great moment, such a romantic moment.

**Suthi:** There's something that's kind of sweet and romantic about saying, "And I have blocked off this two-hour window just for you. There's so much going on in my life, but I'm telling you from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, I'm all yours."

**Lia:** In 2013, Susan Patton '77 wrote an op-ed encouraging women to find a husband at Princeton. According to *The Daily Princetonian* senior survey from 2025, 40% of people said two months before graduation that they were in a relationship with someone from Princeton. Do people still think about the op-ed? And is there this pressure to find a life partner while you're here?

**Suthi:** People definitely still think about Susan Patton's op-ed. My mom talked about it before I came to Princeton. Let me be very clear, my mother is a very progressive person. She has a career, a really cool career. She's not telling me to lock it down and be a trad wife. But she was also like, "This is probably one



of the best dating pools you'll ever have in your entire life. So maybe think about that." And I was like, "OK." I didn't really know how to respond.

Now coming out of Princeton, my thoughts on it are, one, that's definitely true. The people here are, on the whole, fantastic. But also, I don't know if I want to be necessarily looking to commit myself to someone for life right now. I have my own ambitions. I want to go to grad school. That requires me moving somewhere. I didn't know where I was going to be moving as of two months ago, and it could have been anywhere in the country. It feels like maybe a lot to ask someone to hitch themselves to that.

**Roberto:** From what I gathered, the initial response to this op-ed was quite negative. Today it's more of, she lowkey was right. Being here for four years changes you a lot, and so ideally you would maybe want someone who understands that part of you. But there's always grad school and there's always Reunions, too.

**Lia:** What are the successes with Princeton's dating culture and what are the frustrations? What has worked and hasn't worked over your four years?

**Lianne:** I do think a lot about the gift that it is to live together with all of my friends within five minutes of walking distance from one another and to be able to see them every day. And to live also in a walkable place and in a place where the environment is designed for social flourishing and for connection. So that is definitely a success. But also the fast pace of the semester, 12 weeks, and the amount of work that everybody is doing means that there are fewer opportunities to take a breath and to meet a person and to really see a person. That's a barrier.

I think that's one of the reasons why a lot of people prefer more casual relationships or situationships or hookups, because they know that they can't fully dedicate themselves to a very wholesome and fulfilling relationship, because they have so much to do. But then also on the flip side, I've seen ways that it has worked. I think it's working for me right now. ■

LIA OPPPERMAN '25 is PAW's reporting fellow.





**GOING GREEN**

*PAW interns James Swinehart '27 and Simon Xiao '26 and student writer Hallie Graham '27 model Ivy Style while reading a copy of The Best of PAW.*

**CLOTHING PROVIDED BY J. PRESS**



# IVY ABROAD

How a Princeton-born style  
has found new life in Japan

*By Simon Xiao '26*

*Photograph by Sameer A. Khan b'21 / Fotobuddy*

**C**OLLEGIATE LOGO SWEATSHIRTS are a common sight in thrift stores in Japan. In Niigata-shi, a medium-sized Japanese port city known for its rice fields, Yamazaki-san worked a clothing store on a humid August afternoon. He's never visited the U.S., let alone Princeton — fair enough, he lives 6,600 miles away — but he wore a white Champion tee with orange letters that read “Yale Sucks.”

When asked about the shirt, he knew exactly what it meant. He knows about Ivy League rivalries. He knows what the orange refers to. He knows that his tee is a vintage single-stitched, a discontinued manufacturing technique from the 1980s and '90s. Whether Yamazaki-san and his thrift store shoppers realize it, they are among the latest generation to embrace a form of Ivy Style.

In a bygone era, Princeton stood at the forefront of fashion. The three-button navy blazer, brushed Shetland sweater, and beer jacket were among Old Nassau's contributions to what became known as Ivy Style, a look that developed on northeastern college campuses in the 1920s and gained popularity in the 1950s.

Fashion at Princeton has since departed from its once

dominant cultural status. But as navy blazers, oxford button-downs, and penny loafers fell out of favor on campus, Ivy Style found an unlikely home across the Pacific and continues to thrive there. As *Tokyo Weekender* put it last year, Japan has witnessed “the rise, fall and revival of Ivy Style fashion.”

**IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY, ELITE COLLEGE CAMPUSES WERE FILLED** with young men from prep schools who sought to blend the formality of traditional British tailoring with more casual attitudes. Ivy Style might feel like dressing up today, when hoodies and sweatpants are perfectly acceptable classroom attire, but it began as a way of dressing down. Suit jackets became blazers. Broadcloth shirts became oxford shirts. Pleated wool trousers became chinos. It was the “hoodies and sweatpants” of its day. An air of nonchalance is vital to Ivy Style.

Princeton, like most Ivy League schools during the early 20th century, was restricted to male students. So while Ivy Style has since become a unisex genre of fashion, its roots come from traditional menswear garments.

Ivy Style began to draw national attention in the 1930s. A *Saturday Evening Post* article read, “The fashions in clothing

worn by our male population, between the ages of 14 and perhaps 25, usually get their start at Princeton. ... Harvard is a very large university, in a great city which influences the students' styles heavily. [But] it holds to a tradition of careless dress — well-made clothes seldom dry-cleaned and never pressed. Yale is more compact and more finicky, but New Haven is also a large city. Princeton is in a smaller town, off by itself where it can incubate a style effectively. Practically every Princeton student is well dressed, whereas only one-third or so of the Yale men can qualify by our standards."

A 2012-13 exhibition at the Fashion Institute of Technology pointed to Princeton's "relatively rural location, the homogeneity of its student population — nearly 85% white, Protestant men, graduates of elite private schools from wealthy families — and its reliance on a unique student-regulated society" in the mid-1900s.

In 1938, *Life Magazine* wrote that "Harvard and Yale men like to say that Princeton undergraduates are the prototype for Hollywood's conception of how the well-dressed college boy should look. The fact of the matter is that tailors and haberdashers watch Princeton students closely, [and] admit they are style leaders."

**DAVID W. MARX, A TOKYO-BASED AUTHOR** and cultural critic, explained to PAW that a persistent feminine connotation was attached to fashion for the majority of Japanese history. Men were discouraged from expressing interest in fashion. From the *gakuran* uniform of his school days to the corporate business attire of his working life, a man's wardrobe was just cycles of drab outfits. Opting for a striped button-down shirt instead of a white one was enough to cop a stern talking to by his superiors at work.

This made life difficult for people like Kensuke Ishizu, who struggled for years to sell ready-to-wear suits with his brand Van Jacket. In postwar Japan, tailor-made, British-style formal wear was the industry standard. Many consumers and clothing manufacturers alike scoffed at Van Jacket.

Not only were clothes that strayed too far from the Japanese conformity deemed delinquent, spending too much money on "unnecessaries" like fashion was also taboo in the rebuilding economy of 1950s Japan.

On a trip in 1959, Ishizu took the train from New York City to Princeton University. What awaited him behind FitzRandolph Gate was the answer he was looking for. Students walked around dressed in tweed blazers, knitted ties, oxford shirts, khakis, and blue jeans. It was fresh yet sensible. The signature Ivy Style. As Marx wrote in *The New Yorker* in 2015, "Ivy clothing was also a good investment for the impoverished Japanese postwar consumer: durable, functional, traditional, and in easy-to-clean natural materials." Japan's love affair with Ivy Style began.

Ishizu gave up on the older demographic skeptical of ready-to-wear garments and switched his focus to the younger generation.



#### THE INFLUENCER

*Kensuke Ishizu transformed fashion in Japan in the late 1950s by promoting Ivy Style to the readers of his magazine, Men's Club. Opposite: In 1965, he published Take Ivy, a fashion photography book based on his travels to Princeton and other Ivy League schools.*

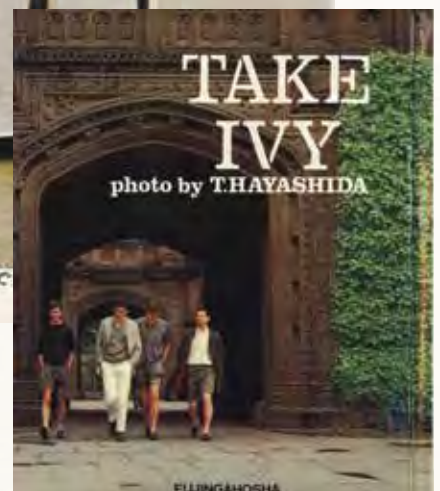
**ISHIZU HAD MADE GOOD PROGRESS**, figuring out what to sell and who to sell to. He just needed young men to start buying. His other job, as an editor at the menswear magazine *Men's Club*, gave him the perfect opportunity.

In a pre-internet age when few Japanese people traveled abroad, *Men's Club* became the definitive authority on what was and wasn't trendy. In many ways, Ishizu was ahead of his time, a precursor to today's social media influencer. He wrote articles on the Ivy League, the rules of Ivy Style, the lifestyle of Ivy League students, and more. "Readers understood the imagery in *Men's Club* — a world where everyone lived surrounded by Ivy suits, Coca-Cola bottles, and jazz records — as a pleasant fantasy," Marx wrote in *Lapham's Quarterly*.

To convince the domestic audience that Japanese people adopt the Ivy Style, *Men's Club* also launched a column named "Ivy Leaguers on the Street (*Machi no Aibii Riigasu*)."*Men's Club* photographed young Japanese men wearing blazers, chinos, and loafers in trendy areas like Tokyo's Ginza district. This style of street photography remains a key component of Japan's



買物 学校の売店（コープ）にくらべると少し高いのは確かでも、たまに街で



thriving fashion magazine scene today.

While Ivy Style was passed down through parents, peers, and professors in the U.S., Japan lacked this crucial context. People were familiar with Waseda not Princeton, Todai not Yale, and Keio not Harvard. No such culture surrounding collegiate clothing existed. *Men's Club* had to entice people to dress like an American when most had never even met one. *Men's Club's* persistent focus on Ivy Style became equal parts education and advertisement.

One of the most popular sections of *Men's Club* was a “Dear

Editor” column where Ishizu sternly answered readers’ questions on Ivy Style,

describing the concrete dos and don’ts with a good dose of bluffing. For instance, pocket squares must be worn in the “Ivy fold,” neckties ought to be exactly 7 centimeters wide, and button-down shirts must have a center-box pleat. One must not stray and fashion any “anti-Ivy” techniques.

Conveniently, readers of *Men's Club* could get the Ivy Style look through Van Jacket. Ishizu's two-pronged retail/editorial strategy worked. Maybe even a bit too well. By 1964, Van Jacket became the most in-demand brand for upper- and middle-class Japanese youth. Van Jacket's "Ivy Model" suit, a replica of Brooks Brothers' No. 1 Sack Suit, became one of the label's bestsellers.

The Van Jacket shopping bag alone became a status symbol. Those who had one flaunted it on the streets of Ginza. Those who didn't have one had to compromise with Van Jacket stickers on old rice bags.

In a 2016 interview, Ishizu's secretary Takeyoshi Hayashida admitted that the articles in *Men's Club* were all written by Van Jacket employees. "It wasn't like we wanted Ivy [Style] to be like a religious cult. But we needed to build the clothing base for people in the 1960s up until the mid-1970s. And we succeeded." Even during the early days of Ivy Style in Japan, this was an open secret in the industry.

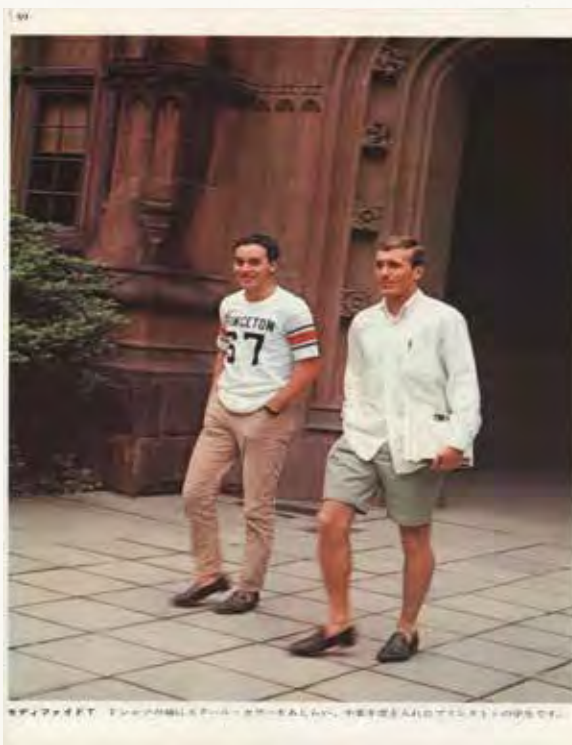
**TO SOLIDIFY IVY STYLE'S ROLE IN JAPANESE POP CULTURE**, Ishizu had to show that Americans legitimately embraced the style themselves. Reminiscing on his visit to Princeton in 1959, he decided to return on an Ivy Style pilgrimage in 1965. Along with some other Van Jacket employees, Ishizu and company set out to visit Ivy League campuses with the intention of producing a photobook titled *Take Ivy*.

Unfortunately, Ivy Style had largely fallen out of fashion by 1965. Even more unfortunately, Ishizu did not realize until he set foot on the campuses.

Nonetheless, Ishizu could not afford to admit defeat. As fashion commentator Derek Guy explained on the 99% *Invisible* podcast, "when [*Take*] *Ivy* was written, the majority of students were also not dressed like this." Desperate, Ishizu had to ask students to stage some scenes for the photobook and scoured campuses for more "watered-down" Ivy Style looks. Ishizu hardly saw students in three-piece Brooks Brothers suits, but he captured plenty in collegiate sweaters, chinos, and loafers. On the same podcast, Avery Truelman elaborated, "For the company [Van Jacket] that published this book, there were very high stakes to make the Japanese public think that Americans dress this way."

Intentionally or unintentionally, *Take Ivy* captured a more authentic, organic look. A look that departed from the rigid guidelines Ishizu wrote about in *Men's Club*. Authentic Ivy Style never followed those rules anyways — an air of nonchalance was crucial, after all.

*Take Ivy* described Princeton, the final destination on Ishizu's trip: "They arrived to find an intramural softball tournament and a wild party hosted at Nassau Hall, sponsored by a beer company, where grounds of drunken students sang fight songs in good spirits. Once they committed these events to celluloid,



**EAST PYNE PAIR**  
A photo in *Take Ivy* shows two Princeton undergrads "dressed in a relaxed, casual way." The text on the opposite pages goes on: "The university authority does not seem to be impressed with this."

the campus production was officially over."

What was originally intended as a photobook (and an accompanying short film) for in-

store promotions accidentally became an icon in modern fashion history. Or perhaps it wasn't so accidental. The crew behind *Take Ivy* did not care too much for clothes alone. They cared for the context, lifestyle, and romance of a style and an era. They didn't show consumers back home what to wear, but how to wear it.

*Take Ivy* became an unintentional ethnography that captured, and saved, a fading era of Americana.

Marx, the author of *Ametora: How Japan Saved American Style*, explains now that "saved" holds two meanings in the Ivy Style story. Japanese tastemakers saved Ivy Style from spiraling into obscurity when the genre lost its popularity in the U.S. Consider how the label J. Press, a quintessential Ivy Style brand founded in New Haven, Connecticut, recovered from bankruptcy when it was purchased by the Japanese label Onward Kashiya. In the process, Japanese industry insiders categorized, documented, and "saved" the style by preserving it.

Japanese fashion designer Nigō has a vast personal collection of vintage clothes and Americana memorabilia with a healthy dose of Ivy Style garments. An autumn/winter 2024 jacket from his brand Human Made references Princeton's Reunions jackets.

Japanese fashion's biggest and most mainstream export, Uniqlo, is rooted in Van Jacket lineage. The parents of Uniqlo's founder, Tadashi Yanai, owned a Van Jacket store in Ube city. In a 2019 interview with *Nikkei News*, Yanai said, "Van Jacket formed the basis for Uniqlo." In a full circle moment, Van Jacket founder Kensuke Ishizu told *Nikkei News* that Uniqlo is "what I wanted Van Jacket to be."

Ishizu took his fateful train ride from New York City to Princeton in 1959. Today, Princeton students can leave the Orange Bubble to find the legacies of that 1959 visit in Uniqlo, street fashion labels, and even quiet thrift stores in Niigata-shi. **P**

SIMON XIAO '26 is a UWC Davis scholar studying politics with a minor in East Asian studies. He is from Auckland, New Zealand.



# PRINCETONIANS

ALUMNI STORIES AND PERSPECTIVES



ARIELLE DONESON

## MUSICAL MILESTONES

*Hana Miyamoto Mundiya '20 began playing violin at age 3. Born and raised in New York's SoHo district, she made her solo debut a decade later with the New York Philharmonic at David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center. Mundiya has gone on to play hundreds of concerts both in the U.S. and around the world. Read more about her journey on page 46.*

THE RIGHT HONORABLE  
THE LORD TREFGARNE.

DAVID TREFGARNE '63

# Legislation Ends 64-Year Run in the House of Lords

BY MARK F. BERNSTEIN '83

**T**O ADDRESS DAVID TREFGARNE '63 by his proper title, one should call him Second Baron Trefgarne or the Right Honorable the Lord Trefgarne. For almost 64 years, he sat as a hereditary peer in the British House of Lords, a seat he inherited from his

father when he was still a Princeton undergraduate. But on March 27, in the wake of legislation passed by Parliament and given ceremonial assent by King Charles III, Trefgarne resigned his seat. In doing so, he helped close a chapter in British constitutional history that dated

## LONG REIGN

*David Trefgarne '63 held his hereditary position as the Second Baron Trefgarne in the House of Lords for almost 64 years.*

to the reign of Edward III in the 14th century.

Along with the House of Commons, the House of Lords constitutes the British Parliament. But the aristocratic Lords, whose seats passed down from generation to generation, have long been criticized as undemocratic and unnecessary. Gilbert and Sullivan mocked them in their opera, *Iolanthe*.

The Lords lost their power to veto legislation more than a century ago, although they can delay it for up to a year, issue critical reports, and offer amendments which sometimes force the government to change its policies.

Until this year, most of the 800-plus members of the House of Lords were known as life peers, holding their seats for their lifetimes in recognition of service to the country or financial support of the party in power. However, several dozen hereditary peers also served.

The Hereditary Peers Act of 2026 abolished those hereditary peerages. Facing imminent removal from Parliament, Trefgarne chose to retire. "I'm very sorry, obviously," he told *The Guardian* last December, when it became clear that the legislation would pass. "I was coming to the end of my time in the House anyway. ... But I think it was inevitable eventually, and therefore I'm fairly relaxed about it."

He has not always felt so relaxed. In recent years, Trefgarne has been one of the most ardent defenders of hereditary peerages, leading opposition against previous attempts to abolish them or water down their prerogatives. By stalling and introducing numerous time-consuming amendments, they prevented the measures from passing until this year.

His fancy title notwithstanding, Trefgarne comes from nonaristocratic stock. His father, George Garro-Jones, was a minister's son from Wales who served in the House of Commons as



#### ROYAL ROOTS

*Above: Members of the Lords, and judges, ambassadors, high commissioners, and guests listen to a speech in the House of Lords chamber. Right: Elizabeth Trefgarne, seated, is shown with her children in December 1948, including, from left, David, Mary Elizabeth, and Trevor.*



a member of the Liberal and Labour parties. When Prime Minister Clement Attlee made him a baron — and thus a Lord — in 1947, he became the first Lord Trefgarne, taking his name after the Trefgarne Rocks, a geological feature near his boyhood home.

It was his father, Trefgarne says, who decided to send him to Princeton. He had just finished his freshman year when his father died, making him the second Lord Trefgarne. He left Princeton and took his seat in the House of Lords in 1962, shortly after his 21st birthday. At the time of his resignation, Trefgarne was the longest continuously serving hereditary peer.

Despite inheriting his father's title and seat, Trefgarne did not inherit his father's politics. He became a conservative, serving first as an opposition whip and then as a junior minister under Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. When he stepped down from his last cabinet post in 1990, as minister of state for trade, Thatcher praised

**“She was the best prime minister we’ve had since Winston. She made the right decisions.”**

— DAVID TREFGARNE '63  
On Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher

Trefgarne for his service, writing that he had always done his work “staunchly and with characteristic vigour.”

Trefgarne returned Thatcher's praise in a recent interview with PAW. “She was the best prime minister we’ve had since Winston [Churchill],” he says. “She made the right decisions.”

**In 1999, a Labour government passed** legislation abolishing more than 600 hereditary peerages but was forced to accept a compromise, permitting 92 peers to be readmitted to the House of Lords if elected by the life peers. Trefgarne was one of those elected, thus serving somewhat incongruously as an elected hereditary peer. Until his resignation, he was one of relatively few hereditary peers who attended sessions regularly, also serving on committees and participating in debates.

Outside of Parliament, Trefgarne has had numerous business interests, some of which brought him controversy. For many years, the Trefgarne family owned Windermere Island in the Bahamas, where then-Prince Charles and Princess Diana spent their 1981 honeymoon. He also served as honorary president of the Libyan British Business Council. While in that role, it was disclosed that he had lobbied for the release of one of the Lockerbie airplane bombers from a Scottish prison and then written to the son of ousted Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi seeking to recoup more than £1 million in fees.

Although the House of Lords had long been neutered, Trefgarne believes the hereditary peers served as a useful check on the party controlling the House of Commons which, under the British system, usually gets its way legislatively. “If you have the government dominating one chamber [without opposition], who knows what will become law?” he asks PAW.

Nevertheless, when a reporter for *The Guardian* asked Trefgarne if he would miss sitting in the House of Lords, he was characteristically laconic.

“Yes,” he replied. “But one’s got to live in the real world.” ■



HANA MIYAMOTO MUNDIYA '20

HANA MIYAMOTO MUNDIYA '20

# She Picked Up the Violin at 3, and Has Kept Going

BY PETER JANOS KURZ '64

**I**N THE MUDD MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY at Princeton, there's a news article about Hana Miyamoto Mundiya '20 at age 11 and her brother Rohan, who was 9, playing their violins on stage during a benefit concert in New York City. The duo performed Bach's "Concerto for Two Violins in D Minor" for that 2009 performance.

Though she began playing violin at 3, that was likely the starting point of Mundiya's professional music career. Two years later, she made her solo debut with the New York Philharmonic at David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center, at age 13. By 2018, she began performing alongside the prize-winning Swedish classical pianist Per Tengstrand at concerts in Princeton.

Born and raised in the SoHo neighborhood of New York, Mundiya's impressive musical training accelerated during her four years at Princeton.

She studied comparative literature, specializing in Japanese and French literature, and earned a certificate in musical performance. She was also active in Opus 21 (now Opus), Princeton's student-led chamber music group, and served as the organization's president.

"I believe that studying at Princeton broadened my view of the world and gave me perspective on time, and time management," Mundiya said in a previous interview with Tengstrand

**"I believe that studying at Princeton broadened my view of the world and gave me perspective on time, and time management."**

—HANA MIYAMOTO MUNDIYA '20

about her choice to attend Princeton despite already being on track as a professional musician.

By graduation she'd achieved numerous honors including winning the Princeton University Concerto Competition, and prizes in the International Brahms Competition and the Aspen Music Festival Concerto Competition; played various benefit concerts including in schools and nursing homes; and had performed on many stages from New York to Sweden. She went on to receive a master's in music from Juilliard and spent one term at the Royal College of Music.

**In 2024, Tengstrand created the** Princeton Chamber Music Series, now in its third year, and invited Mundiya to perform at the first concert in January of that year. The pair have played together many times through the years, and Mundiya is featured in Tengstrand's two films, *Beethoven — Freedom of the Will* and *Piano Rivals*. Her memorable performance of Paganini's "Caprice No. 24" in *Piano Rivals* received high praise. "She attacks the famously difficult piece without trepidation and plays it like it was Paganini himself ... the octaves, thirds, and trills fly by in a breathtaking rendition, beautifully filmed in a red, fiery tone," Tengstrand says.

Mundiya says she finds being able to meet local musicians and students is one of the great benefits of her frequent travels.

While in Sweden for a number of concert performances, Mundiya met Erik Rydvall, a composer of music specifically for the nyckelharpa, a keyed harp that resembles a violin, but larger. The two ended up having an impromptu jam-rendition of "Sonata for Two Violins in E Minor," by Jean Marie Leclair.

"This kind of experience reminds me of why I play music," Mundiya says.

In December, Mundiya performed at Carnegie Hall for a concert in celebration of World Arabic Language Day with the United Nations Chamber Music Society, of which she is a member. In July, she plans to return to Japan for several performances. ■

INSPIRING PRINCETONIANS: JEREMY CHEN '11

# Cleaning up a Community While Offering Hope to Kids

BY JEPHIE BERNARD

**B**EFORE JEREMY CHEN '11 started an organization for teenagers to beautify the neighborhood of Kensington in



CHEN '11

Philadelphia, he learned early what it felt like to be an outsider. He was raised in a predominantly white suburb as part of a small Chinese American community, and was deeply involved with his church, which, like his parents, emphasized service. The church often took mission trips to places such as rural China and the Northern Cheyenne Indian reservation in Montana, which Chen says helped instill in him “intercultural sensitivity.”

Like his father, Steve '80, Chen attended Princeton and studied engineering and architecture. Chen found community in a predominantly Asian American Christian fellowship, but instead of settling into the center of that group, he gravitated toward the “edges.”

“Growing up in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, you’re already a minority,” he says. “It wasn’t ideal, but I think it made me able to identify with people who didn’t quite fit. Even within the Asian identity, there are people who don’t feel like they connect.”

By the time Chen was graduating, he observed a gap between Princeton’s stated value of service and the careers his peers chose to pursue, mostly in finance. So, he went in a different direction. After connecting with Matthew Lin '02, he moved to Kensington in 2013. He’s lived there since and has witnessed deep systemic poverty and a lack of opportunities, especially for young people.

In the summer of 2020, following the murder of George Floyd, the city diverted sanitation services to the areas downtown in response to protests. Garbage piled up for weeks. Chen decided to gather a few neighbors and started picking up trash every Sunday.

The simple act created unexpected connections and allies for Chen.

“Part of it is that I never really bothered to try to interact deeply with the drug dealers on the corner,” he says, adding he spent years looking past them. As he got to know these community members, they encouraged him. “You gotta keep this going ... so the kids don’t have to do what I’m doing,” one said to him.

That’s how the idea for Klean Kensington came to him. Chen secured an initial \$10,000 grant from the Kensington Community Resilience Fund and began paying teenagers to clean up, creating a real-world alternative to gang life.

The organization’s starting pay is \$18 per hour (Pennsylvania’s minimum wage is \$7.25). Chen believes the work of cleaning hazardous waste and transforming abandoned lots is hard and deserves fair pay. “This neighborhood has had so much suffering. ... Why should they not be paid well? You should make money so you can live.”

Klean Kensington has built a new social network where teens and their families become part of a “movement” that takes care of their neighborhood.

The biggest misconception, Chen says, is that young people in Kensington will inevitably become drug dealers. Instead, he sees that “these young people want to work. They want to hustle.” When given a real opportunity, they thrive.

Klean Kensington is also creating jobs for young adults who have graduated from the program. These former participants now serve as managers, teaching younger teens urban agriculture, carpentry, and project management.

Chen has no plans to go national or even citywide. His sole focus is to raise up leaders from within the community who understand the struggle firsthand.

“A 20-year-old who was once involved in gang activity started by being paid \$20 to move wood. He is now a leader, about to graduate from the leadership program, and has brought his younger brother into the organization,” Chen says. “He’s an example we hope to replicate.” ■



COURTESY OF KLEAN KENSINGTON

## 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](mailto:paw@princeton.edu).

# CLASS NOTES

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

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# MEMORIALS



## LISTEN TO OUR MEMORIALS PAWCAST



Visit [paw.princeton.edu/podcasts](http://paw.princeton.edu/podcasts) to hear a podcast discussion where we reminisce about an alum who recently died. This month's episode is about Charles Helms '80.

### THE CLASS OF 1949

#### JOHN O. BAXTER '49

Jack, a rancher and historian, died July 24, 2025, in Albuquerque, N.M. He was 97.



He was born in Chicago and, after the early death of his father, grew up in Philadelphia where the family moved after his mother remarried; he attended

Germantown Friends School there. He spent summers on his paternal grandfather's ranch in Montana branding cattle, irrigating, putting up hay, and participating in rodeos. He served in the Army prior to entering Princeton; at Princeton he majored in history and was a member of Cap and Gown.

After graduation, Jack returned to Montana, learning the cattle business and eventually forming the Baxter & Jones Livestock Co. with his uncle and cousin. He later moved to Colorado to work as a cattle buyer and livestock dealer, and in 1969 settled in Santa Fe, N.M., where his interest in the region led him to earn a doctorate in history from the University of New Mexico. As a historian of the American Southwest, he is most well-known for his books *Las Carneradas: Sheep Trade in New Mexico, 1700-1860*; *Dividing New Mexico's Waters, 1700-1912*; and *Cowboy Park: Steer-Roping Contests on the Border*.

Jack was a consultant for the New Mexico State Engineer and produced many reports on water rights and the history of irrigation.

His first marriage to Mary K. White ended in divorce. He was predeceased by his second wife, Lenore Schwartz Baxter, his brother, and his sister. Jack is survived by his wife, Elizabeth; two daughters; a grandson; and a large extended family of stepchildren, step-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

#### EDWARD C. BOOTH '49

Ed died May 21, 2024, at age 97.

He grew up in Southold, Long Island, and attended Phillips Exeter. He served in the Navy from 1945 to 1946, prior to entering Princeton, where he was a member of Quadrangle Club, majored in physics, and was elected to Sigma Xi. After graduation, he spent a year as a research assistant at the



Niels Bohr Institute in Copenhagen and then earned his doctorate in physics at Johns Hopkins.

In 1952, Ed married Patricia Shannon and in the mid-1950s, as he reported in a '49 class reunion publication, "we put up a Techbilt summer cottage on the Sound at Southold, where we spend as much of each summer as possible."

Ed joined the Boston University department of physics faculty in 1956 and spent his career there, retiring as professor in 1996. From 1996 to 2002, he did research at the MIT/Bates Linear Accelerator. After many years living and raising his family in Waban, Mass., he retired to Southold and was involved in the community of his hometown, serving on the board of the library and active in two churches. He was an avid ice skater, sailor, hiker, and dog lover.

Ed was predeceased by Pat, his wife of 57 years. He is survived by his four children, his grandchildren, and great-grandchild.

#### M. JAY GOODKIND '49

Jay died Oct. 23, 2019, at age 91. He lived for many years in New Hope, Pa.



He was born in New York City and graduated from Lawrenceville. At Princeton, he was on the track and soccer teams and was a member of Terrace Club; he graduated cum laude in biology and was elected to Sigma Xi. Jay earned his medical degree at Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons and spent two years doing research at the National Heart Institute in Bethesda. He taught medicine, cardiology, and physiology as a medical school faculty member at Yale and then the University of Pennsylvania. In 1974, he went into private practice and was on staff at Mercer Medical Center in Trenton for many years. He was the author of numerous articles in professional journals.

After retiring in 1994, Jay continued his passion for black and white photography, begun at summer camp in 1938. While a student at Princeton, his interest was encouraged by Elmer Adler, curator of graphic arts, and he won his first prize for one of his photographs as an undergraduate.

He began collecting in 1964 with his purchase of an Ansel Adams photograph, *Aspens, Northern New Mexico*. His collection of 20th century landscape photography was exhibited at the Princeton University Art Museum in 1999 in honor of the Class of '49's 50th reunion.

Jay's marriage to Penelope Manning Goodkind ended in divorce. He is survived by his spouse, Vincent; his children, Thomas and Julie; and four grandchildren.

#### EDWARDS F. LEIPER III '49

Tony died July 5, 2025, in Baton Rouge, La. He was 98.

Tony grew up in Wayne, Pa., and attended Haverford Prep. He enlisted in the Navy at the close of his senior year and served as a Seabee in the Philippines. He deferred entrance to Princeton while retaining his Class of '49 status, matriculating in the fall of 1948. He majored in electrical engineering, was a member of Tiger Inn, and was the "clapper napper" in 1948. He met his future wife, Betsy J. English (Goucher '51) at a Dillon mixer.

Tony left Princeton after their marriage in November 1949 and began his 25-year career at Bell Telephone of Pennsylvania. He took the golden parachute option when Ma Bell broke up, and retired to North Sandwich, N.H., where he and Betsy operated a successful bed and breakfast. He was a storyteller, a letter writer, an amateur actor, a master of pranks and pratfalls, a natural athlete, a dog whisperer, and a lobster chef.

He is survived by his wife and their five children.

#### RICHARD B. MARKUS '49

Dick died Oct. 29, 2025, in Rancho Mirage, Calif., at age 98.



Born in St. Paul, Minn., his family moved to Winnetka, Ill., and then Haverford, Pa., where he graduated from the Haverford School. Childhood summers were spent on Gull Lake in Minnesota. He served in the Navy as a combat air crewman from 1945 to 1946. At Princeton, he earned a degree in economics and was a member of Tiger Inn, sang with the Tigertones, and starred in Triangle Club shows.

Dick began his career at Merrill Lynch and then joined the investment firm Smith, Barney & Co., first in Philadelphia and then in San Francisco, where he spent most of his working life.

A sailor, tennis player, and skier, Dick once sailed as a crewman with friends across the Pacific to Tahiti. Throughout his life he performed in singing groups and was an influential member of San Francisco's Bohemian Club for many years.

Dick lived in the Palm Springs, Calif., area for over a decade in his later years and had a close group of friends, his "Bridge Buddies," who joined him for weekly bridge games. He was known for his positivity, humor, and optimism, and was always an inspiration for a good time.

Dick's brother, with whom he remained close, Norbert W. "Bill" Markus Jr. '47, predeceased him. He is survived by his niece and nephews, his grand nieces and nephews, and longtime close friends.

### THE CLASS OF 1951

#### DAVID REICHOW '51

Dave came to Princeton from University School in Shaker Heights, Ohio. He majored



in economics, was a member of Cleveland Club, served on the entertainment committee of Cannon Club, and participated in intramural athletics. He roomed with Richard Buck, Noble Carpenter, William Carpenter, and Stephen Parker.

After graduation, Dave served in the Army, then worked for American Machine and Foundry Co. (AMF). He moved from Manhattan to Greenwich, Conn., and then to York, Pa., where he remained for more than 60 years.

After AMF, Dave was a VP and general manager at P.A. & S. Small Co. and then became national sales manager of the hydronics division of Burnham Corp. Dave was a committed community member involved in the York Area Chamber of Commerce, the York Hospital Board, and a member of the Farm and Land Trust, to name a few. He actively participated in alumni services for decades as an ASC interviewer, class selection chair, regional secretary, and regional vice president.

Dave died Jan. 28, 2026. He was predeceased by his son David. Dave is survived by his wife of 66 years, Laurie; and his children, Melissa, Chris, and Gretchen.

### THE CLASS OF 1955

#### DONALD R. KLINE '55

Don died Nov. 29, 2025, in Yellville, Ark.

He was born in Missouri, July 17, 1933, and graduated from Maplewood-Richmond High School there. At Princeton, he majored in mechanical engineering, was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and graduated with high honors. He joined Court Club, of which he was social chairman, played IAA sports, was active in Theatre Intime, and was in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. His roommates were John Eleuteri, later Elliot and Ed Ceresco, later Clayton.

After graduation, Don served as an officer in the Air Force. Subsequently he worked for Bridgestone-Firestone Tire and Rubber

for 39 years. His work sent him to Bangkok, Thailand, for three years, which he loved. Later, he served in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he required bodyguards and armed gate guards. In the 1970s, he was in Akron, Ohio, working on worldwide audits on energy conservation matters. The last part of his career was working on the design and specifications of two new plants in Arkansas.

He was predeceased by his wife, Evalyn, and is survived by his son, Ross, and daughter, Teresa.

### HENRY FELIX KLOMAN II '55

Felix died Nov. 18, 2025, in Peabody, Mass.

He was born in New York City, the son and grandson of Episcopal bishops. Before coming to Princeton, he graduated from St Paul's School. He edited the newspaper there, was active in the literary society, student government and, most importantly, learned to play hockey. He continued as a hockey club player and club organizer for most of his life. At Princeton, joined Colonial Club, was in the Special Program in the Humanities, majored in English, graduated with honors, led the Yacht Club as commodore, and played interclub touch football and hockey. Sailing activities and rowing continued for the rest of his life as well, in Connecticut and Tenants Harbor, Maine, where he had a summer house. He roomed with Alexander McKinney, Peter Elliman, and Houston Landis.

After graduation, he was in the Navy in the Pacific and had considerable exposure to the South Pacific and Japan. His interest in Japan and its life and culture led to writing haikus. His final haiku is worth recording:

*Lonely leaf lingers  
Awaiting first icy frost.  
There! It's time to go.*

His literary activities included book reviewing for LymeLine, a community newspaper for Old Lyme, Conn. His professional career began in insurance brokerage then migrated to risk management. He founded a firm, Risk Planning Group, and a journal *Risk Management Reports*. He also published books on the subject.

Felix was predeceased in 2018 by his wife of 61 years, Ann. He is survived by his children, Edward, Alexis, Blair '86, and Sarah.

### DONALD C. POTE '55

Don was born Feb. 23, 1933, and died April 5, 2025, all in New Jersey, where he spent most of his life.

At Hackensack High School, from which he graduated, he was a class leader. At Princeton, he majored in mechanical



engineering, was editor of *The Princeton Engineer*, and joined Dial Lodge, where he was active in many IAA sports. He roomed with John Hastings and Phil Morrison.

After Princeton, he was an officer in the Air Force. Because of a dust allergy he was not allowed to go on with flight training but put his engineering skills to work overseeing aircraft maintenance.

His business career was with AT&T, Western Electric, and Bell Communications Research. His nonbusiness career was what really filled his life. When his and wife Joan's 7-year-old son, Jeffrey, was severely injured in an auto/bike accident and became disabled, they became involved in care for the handicapped. Don devised several assistive devices to help him at Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside, N.J. He also volunteered at the Union County Society for Handicapped Children and Adults. Don was active in many volunteer activities devoted to the environment, wildlife management, emergency response, roads, and Watchung's library.

His hands-on abilities led him to garden, build a lawnmower tractor, and construct and install solar panels before they were common. He helped students with high school science experiments related to growing vegetables.

Don is survived by his wife of 68 years, Joan; sons Jeffrey and Stephen '84; and daughter, Debbie.

### STANLEY N. RUBIN '55

Stan died Dec. 28, 2025, in Delray Beach, Fla.

Arriving at Princeton with the class, it took him very little time to create and establish his jazz band, The Tigertown Five, as the favorite musical entertainment on Prospect Street and many other places.



The original Five included classmate Rich Herbruck at the drums. While Stan was still an undergraduate, The Tigertown Five played a sellout at Carnegie Hall and later they played at the Newport Jazz Festival. A year after graduation, the band was invited to, and played at, the festivities around the wedding of Grace Kelly and Prince Rainier in Monaco.

Stan was born in New Rochelle, N.Y., and graduated from Blair Academy, where he captained the golf team and was valedictorian. At Princeton, he majored in English, wrote his thesis on Eugne O'Neill, joined Elm, and roomed with Bob Raymond. Music and travel took up most of his time at Princeton and later at Fordham Law School, but he graduated from both.

His career later included organizing and leading a swing band and a business

supplying musical groups for events such as weddings, proms, and the like. His personal involvement was cut short after 1984 by a tumor of the acoustic nerve and surgery for it that rendered him unable to play the clarinet. However, he continued to manage musical groups until shortly before his last illness.

Stan is survived by his wife of 55 years, Judy; children Barrie, Jonathan, and Jennifer; and several grandchildren, including Dylan Stevens '15.

#### **BENJAMIN L. ZELENKO '55**

Ben died Nov. 16, 2025.

Alphabetically near the last of the class, he was among the first in public service. He was involved in civil rights, voting rights, and anti-gun legislation. He represented the NFL Players Association in matters of pay and safety. He was proudest of his work as general counsel for the House Judiciary Committee, later arguing the historic case before the U.S. Supreme Court for Japanese American reparations.

Ben was born in New York City. Before Princeton he attended Forest Hills High School, was president of his class, and represented the school at the World Youth Forum in London. He described himself in a brochure for that as "idealistic, with a strong strain of realism; passionate internationalist." On a more local level, he worked as a ballboy for the tennis championships at the West Side Tennis Club in Forest Hills.

At Princeton, he majored in the Woodrow Wilson School and graduated with honors. Ben was active in Whig-Clio, WPRU, the Career Forum, and was president of the International Relations Club. He joined Prospect Club, for which he helped obtain outside speakers. His roommates were Frank Horowitz and Ed Gladstone.

After graduation he attended Harvard Law School and then served in the Coast Guard. Subsequently, he worked at the Federal Communications Commission. His career continued as an attorney in Washington, and he taught a sports law course at Catholic University.

Ben is survived by his wife for 64 years, Barbara; and his children, Brian, Carin, and Laura '86.

#### **THE CLASS OF 1956**

##### **JAMES G. McCULLOH '56 \*65**

Jim died Jan. 13, 2026, in his home in Princeton.

He grew up in Rye, N.Y., and came to Princeton from Kent School. He served in the NROTC, joined Colonial Club, majored in architecture, was captain of the Sailing



Team, and commodore of the Yacht Club. As a young officer, he served as the coach of the sailing team at the Naval Academy followed by assignment to the Pentagon and many years in the Reserves.

Jim returned to Princeton for an MFA followed by work with several noted firms, including I.M. Pei, creating award-winning designs for cultural, hospitality, government, and residential uses. He continued to pursue sailing, racing his Etchells 22 with great success and serving as a trustee of the American Yacht Club. In later life, Jim audited classes at Princeton well into his 80s to feed his curiosity and love for learning. He also made his daily walk for miles around the campus.

Jim was predeceased by wives Elizabeth Davidson and Diane Tisher. He is survived by his sons James, Hamilton, Davidson, and Christopher; daughter Amy; four grandsons; and one great-granddaughter.

#### **THE CLASS OF 1957**

##### **ALBERT J. BEVERIDGE III '57**

Al died Jan. 3, 2026.

He came to Princeton from St. Mark's School, majored in modern languages, played on the hockey team all four years, and joined Tiger Inn. He was a member of the Student Christian Association, the German Club, the Jamesburg Committee, and ROTC. His senior year roommates were Gerry Hackney, Fred Reynolds, Dave Robinson, and Ben Williams.

Following graduation he served in the Army, attaining the rank of first lieutenant, and then graduated from Harvard Law School. During this period, he met his wife, Madzy deKok, in Switzerland, and they were married in Holland in 1962. Al clerked for a Federal Court of Appeals judge, practiced law in Washington, D.C., and joined the Department of Justice as a tax specialist. He worked for Robert F. Kennedy's presidential campaign, and then for Hubert Humphrey after Kennedy's assassination. Al then joined his childhood friend from Indiana, Bill Ruckelshaus '55, the first administrator of the E.P.A., and Richard Fairbanks in an environmental law practice in Washington.

Al served as chair of the D.C. Board of Elections, sat on numerous boards, taught courses in history and law at American, Catholic, George Washington, and Johns Hopkins universities, and earned a master's degree and Ph.D. in American history from Johns Hopkins. He received the Troyer Steele Anderson Prize from the American Historical Association in 2005.

His wife, Madzy, died in 2020. Al is

survived by their three children, Alexandra, Albert IV '89, and Vanessa; and two grandchildren.

#### **ROBERT H. EDWARDS '57**

Scholar, oarsman, university president, and humanitarian, Bob died Nov. 30, 2025.



A native of London, England, he came to Princeton from Deerfield Academy. At Princeton, he majored in English and joined Colonial Club, where he served as secretary-treasurer and played IAA basketball, and rowed varsity crew. Senior year he roomed in adjacent single rooms with Don Baker, Farnie Collins, Irv Flinn, and Peter Paine. He also maintained a lifelong friendship with Kim Townsend.

Bob earned law degrees at Corpus Christie College of Cambridge University in England and at Harvard. He worked for the Ford Foundation, which sent him to Africa to help write legislation and development plans for the territory that became Botswana.

In 1966, he married Ellen Turnbull, a Wellesley graduate. In 1968, he and his wife and first child, Elizabeth, moved to Pakistan, where he again authored development plans in economics, education, and agriculture. There his second child, Daphne, was born. In 1972, he returned to New York as head of the African and Middle East programs for the Ford Foundation.

In 1977, Bob's third child, Nicholas, was born, and Bob became president of Carleton College in Minnesota. Later he married Blythe Bickel and became president of Bowdoin College in Maine. His thoughtful notes in our major Reunions yearbooks are well worth reading.

Bob's wives predeceased him. He is survived by his three children and their families, and his sister, Barbara, wife of Paul Hicks '58.

#### **THEODORE W. FOOT '57**

Ted died Nov. 14, 2025.

He came to Princeton from Glen Ridge (N.J.) High School, majored in religion, joined Cannon Club, and won letters as co-captain and rear commodore of the Sailing Team and varsity diver on the Swim Team.

Ted earned a master's degree and Ed.D. at Harvard. In 1959, he married Elizabeth S. Peck and they had three children. Sadly, she died of cancer at age 39. He then married Sara Sikes Prescott, the daughter of Gordon Sikes 1916. That marriage ended in divorce, and Ted then married Patricia Duffy, a widow, who died in 2024 after 40 years of marriage.

Ted served for many years as a superintendent of schools in Radnor,

Pa., Minnetonka, Minn., Wilton, Conn., Niskayuna, N.Y., and Tredyffrin/Easttown, Pa. From 1975 to 1979 he served as a Princeton trustee. During his life he sailed off the coasts of New England and the Mid-Atlantic States — most notably as commodore of the Bucks Harbor (Maine) Yacht Club, where he installed a junior sailing program and ran the race committee. His longtime boat after he retired to Orleans, Mass., was the *Tigress*, a Bristol 35. Ted was also a skier, a woodworker, a dog owner of black and yellow labs, and active in church and community affairs.

Ted is survived by his children Jonathan '84, Elizabeth, and Nancy '92; four stepchildren; his brother; and his ex-wife, Sara.

### THE CLASS OF 1958

#### KEVIN A. MALOY '58

Kevin died April 21, 2025, in McLean, Va. He was 88.



He came to Princeton from Aquinas Institute of Rochester (N.Y.), where he played football and was active in student government and publications.

At Princeton, Kevin had an NROTC scholarship and switched into the Marine program after sophomore year. He was a member of Ivy Club, the Right Wing Club, and the Aquinas Foundation, and was an Orange Key Keyceptor. He majored in history.

After graduation he joined the Marines and began training at Quantico and then Camp Pendleton, Calif. From there he served in Okinawa and the Philippines. Returning to the United States in 1961, he worked briefly for Bankers Trust in New York City before moving to Washington, D.C., with the Defense department and then the State department.

Kevin married Joan St. Peter in 1964, and they had three children and nine grandchildren.

The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.

### FREDERICK SILLMAN '58

Fred died Jan. 14, 2026. He was 89

Born in 1936, Fred grew up in New York



City and attended Deerfield Academy, Princeton, and then Harvard Medical School. He loved them all, yet he remained humble and informal throughout his life.

He appreciated what each school offered and built lasting friendships along the way.

Fred was a gynecological oncologist and worked at SUNY Downstate in Brooklyn, N.Y., and later at Mass General Brigham in Boston. He treated numerous patients while mentoring fellows, residents, and

medical students. His contributions to the field of women's health included research on cervical cancer, HPV, and pre-cancerous lesions.

Fred was a warm and kind person who had a great sense of humor. Beyond work, he had many interests. He loved sports of all kinds, especially cycling in multi-colored spandex outfits. He marched to the beat of his own drum, was a relentless optimist, and loved adventures.

Fred is survived by his wife, Jane; his children, Kathryn and her husband Ray, and Eric and his wife Rebecca; grandchildren, Sophie, Theo, Jules, Toby, and Lena; and sister, Anne.

### THE CLASS OF 1960

#### GORDON BATCHELLER '60

Gordy was born into a Navy family and devoted his professional career to the



military. But before joining the Marine Corps he flourished as an athlete, first at Portsmouth (N.H.) High School in football and baseball. At Princeton, he concentrated on football and earned recognition as a first-team All-Ivy guard. Gordy joined the NROTC and Tiger Inn and majored in economics.

After graduation he began Marine Corps officer training and was commissioned second lieutenant in 1961. Gordy advanced through the ranks, married Bette in 1964, went to Vietnam, and was promoted to command of a company. A month later his company was attacked near Hue City, initiating the bloody battle there. Gordy was badly wounded but was awarded the Navy Cross, the Navy's highest medal, for his bravery and leadership.

He retired from the Marines in 1991 as a full colonel and then began another career as a civilian at the Army War College, teaching the students how to effectively deal with the military.

Gordy died Sept. 22, 2025, still devoted to traditional values and convinced that the nation was declining from them, but always with a resigned air and good heart. He survived by his second wife, Amanda; his two children; and one granddaughter, to whom we express our sympathy.

### MICHAEL RICE '60

Mike came to Princeton from Georgetown Preparatory School in Bethesda, Md. With us



he majored in engineering, worked at WPRB, joined Cannon Club, and managed for the basketball team.

He left briefly and married Dorothy in 1959 and came back to graduate in 1961. He joined a mechanical engineering firm in Philadelphia and also began studying law at night at

Temple University, graduating in 1970.

He began his law career in New York with Cravath, Swain & Moore in 1970. Eventually he specialized in railroad equipment lease financing, which his engineering background complemented. He authored several books on the highly specialized field.

In retirement, Mike returned to his favorite pastime of working with his hands on cars and houses. No job was too large or small and some of them contributed to his repertory of travel, camping, and mechanical mishaps. Mike was active in public affairs, too. While living in Southport, N.C., he became a founder of the successful Save the Cape effort to protect the Cape Fear region from industrial development and a mega port there.

Mike was particularly proud of his seven daughters with Dot. She and one of the daughters predeceased him. He is survived by six daughters, 17 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Our sympathies to them all.

### THOMAS B. TRUMPY '60

Tom came to us from St. Paul's School, where he was active in dramatic activities



and chaired *The Record*. At Princeton, he studied in the Special Program in European Civilization (French) and wrote his thesis on French Renaissance Architecture.

He remarked on its manifestations in Princeton's Gothic architecture, beginning his identity as the class iconoclast. Tom was a keen and critical observer of Princeton's ways and often dwelled on aspects that others didn't care to.

Tom earned a law degree at Columbia, spent a year at The Hague Academy, Netherlands, and the Institute for Higher Studies (IUHEI) in Geneva, Switzerland, before returning to New York to begin his law career. He worked as legal counsel for several U.S.-based companies in New York, moved on to Paris and then Brussels in the 1970s and '80s, and established his own firm in the latter.

Tom and his wife, Flore Pol Roger, were avid travelers. He was keen to visit the Renaissance structures he had studied, but they visited more than a dozen countries outside Europe and most there, too. They collected art, visited exhibitions, attended concerts and the theater, and visited friends. His motto was "Never Under-Do."

Tom is survived by Flore; their son, Paul; daughter-in-law, Carolina; and three grandchildren.

### THE CLASS OF 1961

#### FREDERICK D. MARQUARDT '61

Fred died July 10, 2025, in Waxhaw, N.C., after a battle with cancer.



He came to Princeton from Monroeville, Pa., where he graduated from Turtle Creek High School. At Princeton, he took his meals at Wilson Lodge, majored in history, and was a member of the German Club and the Broken Arrow Club. He roomed with David Gay and David Kelly.

We are not sure about the next 10 or so years of his life, but in 1973 he earned a Ph.D. in history from the University of California, Berkeley, then teaching at the University of Michigan before joining the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. He taught there until his retirement, when he moved to North Carolina to be near his sister, Anita.

At Syracuse he was appointed a Maxwell Professor of Teaching Excellence and was known for strict grading, but comments abound extolling his undergraduate teaching, almost always coupled with a grudging appreciation for his refusal to compromise his standards. One former student described him as “the most difficult, yet fairest, teacher I have ever had.”

He is survived by his sister, Anita, and her spouse, Tom Toth.

#### THE CLASS OF 1964

##### GEORGE R. BLAIR JR. '64

George died Nov. 9, 2025.

He grew up in Elma, N.Y., graduating from Iroquois High School, where he was class president. At Princeton, he majored in politics, sang in the Chapel Choir, played JV football, and belonged to the Whig-Clio Society and Tower Club.

Following graduation, he married his high school sweetheart and the love of his life, June Reuther. He joined the Air Force and served in Thailand and Germany.

George earned a law degree from SUNY Buffalo. After working in the district attorney's office in Buffalo, he practiced law there with his father and then returned to Elma to practice.

In 1992, his beloved June died suddenly of a pulmonary embolism. Despite George's grief he continued to be active in his community, joining the Elma Republican Club, serving as president of both Elma Kiwanis and the Elma Cemetery Association and as Elma town board member for nine years. He sang in the Elma Methodist Church choir. He was particularly interested in serving youth, supporting local area Boys and Girls Clubs.

Later in life his activities centered around his family, including vacations and, invariably, hours-long Sunday phone calls with various family members.

He attended our 50th reunion and

prominently displayed at his funeral was a photo of George and his three roommates, John Machledt, Barry Fischer, and Bill Dowhan, decked out in their Princeton jackets.

Our sympathy goes out to his three children, seven grandchildren, three great-grandchildren (and a fourth on the way) and two sisters. He will be greatly missed.

#### RICHARD L. HENRY '64

Dick died Dec. 26, 2025, in Charleston, S.C., surrounded by his family.



Born and raised in Massachusetts, Dick came to Princeton from Governor Dummer Academy. He majored in architecture and ate at Quadrangle, where he was an avid bridge player.

Dick married Anne Marshall (Smith '66) and earned a master's degree in architecture at Harvard Graduate School of Design in 1967. After two years in the Peace Corps in Tunisia, Dick started his architectural career at Kneeder Mirick Zantzinger in Philadelphia, becoming a partner in 1976. In 1981, he moved to CUH2A in Princeton, ultimately becoming president and CEO, leading the firm's growth from 53 people in one office to 425 in five locations, including London.

Outside the office, Dick gave many hours to architectural review and planning boards in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. He was devoted to Princeton, chairing our 30th reunion and serving on Quadrangle's Graduate Board. Dick spent many hours behind the camera lens, passionately pursuing beautiful shots of Lowcountry birds and nature. Most importantly, he was a constant support to his children and grandchildren, attending sporting events and performances.

Dick is survived by his wife of 59 years, Anne; daughters Megan '91 and Marion '95; son John; four grandchildren; and his brother John and wife Kate. The class extends its deepest sympathy to his family.

#### THE CLASS 1966

##### GARY B. MOUNT '66

Gary died Dec. 29, 2025, the result of glioblastoma brain cancer.



Gary came to Princeton from Princeton (N.J.) High School, where he lettered in football and track. At Princeton, he majored in psychology, belonged to Tiger Inn, played rugby, and ran track.

The year after graduation, Gary married Pam Hazenhal. Together, they served for three years as Peace Corps volunteers in Micronesia. Returning to the Princeton area, they purchased a 55-acre farm, Terhune Orchards, which over the years grew into a

thriving enterprise of 250 acres.

Gary was a driving force in New Jersey for farming, farmland preservation, and conservation. He was recognized internationally as a leader in fruit tree farming. His 35 years of Terhune Orchards Newsletter articles were published in book form as *A Farmer's Life: Notes from Terhune Orchards*.

For years, Gary and Pam hosted class gatherings at Terhune Orchards. In 2025, his Tiger Talk outlined his life and work. Just weeks before his death, the class honored him with its Locomotive Award.

Gary is survived by Pam; daughters Reuwei '94 and Tannwen '98; son Mark, several grandchildren; and brothers Lee and Timothy. The class extends its condolences to them all.

#### MARTIN WINCH '66

Martin died Nov. 26, 2025, in Portland, Ore., after a battle with mesothelioma.



Born in Portland, Martin graduated from Portsmouth Priory, in Portsmouth, R.I., where he edited the literary magazine and yearbook, sang with the glee club and ran cross country.

At Princeton, he majored in history and was president of the Footnotes. After graduating, he joined VISTA and worked with migrant laborers in Texas.

In 1971, he earned a law degree and married Carolyn. The couple moved to Tumalo, Ore., where Martin worked for the Tumalo Irrigation District. In 1980, he wrote a history of the project, “Tumalo, Thirsty Land,” published in *Oregon Historical Quarterly*.

He and Carolyn founded the Deschutes Independent School, in Redmond, Ore. Working with the Deschutes Basin Land Trust, Martin dedicated himself to restoring Whychus Creek, in honor of which he wrote *Biography of a Place: Passages Through a Central Oregon Meadow*.

In the 1990s, he was executive director of Jesuit Volunteer Corps, Northwest, in Portland.

Diagnosed with mesothelioma in 2023, he survived long enough to care for Carolynn in her final year.

He is survived by his companion, Patricia Bradley; children, Paula and Peter; and three grandchildren. The class sends its condolences.

#### THE CLASS OF 1967

##### JOHN C. SCHMIDT '67

John died Sept. 19, 2025, from a heart attack in the Gulf Islands National Beaches Park near his family home.

He graduated from McDonough Military Academy near Baltimore.



At Princeton, John majored in biology, was a member of the Woodrow Wilson Society, and roomed at 111 Dodge-Osborn Hall with Bruce Robinson, Conger Gabel, Gary Hudson, Dave Vidal, and Van Parunak. Assistant student manager at Wilcox Hall, a Souvenir Agency salesman, Student Art Agency manager, he played IAA sports. John was a devoted member of the Princeton Evangelical Fellowship.

He graduated from Grace Seminary in Winona Lake, Ind., then founded a faith-based ministry for troubled teenage youth and recovery from drug addiction. The ministry, "Camp Shiloh," was located on Lake Palestine in Marion, Ind.

Years later he moved to China, teaching English at the English Language Institute in Hunan Province. He then joined the faculty at Hengyang University and spent 12 years there representing Christianity and Western values. He helped finance poor students to obtain higher education and led the Heart of China Scholarship Fund, an affiliate of the Heritage Foundation. He was nominated by the Hunan CCP for a "Foreign Expert Award" presented in Tiananmen Square with heads of corporations like Ford and Proctor & Gamble, whose scholarship sent him to Princeton.

John returned to the United States as his heart issues worsened and lived in the home of his late parents on a slim Social Security pension and family assistance. A biography of John in Mandarin and English versions by former students is in the works.

John lived a life of service with an unshakable commitment to his religious faith.

#### JAMES C. THOMPSON '67

Jim died Oct. 21, 2025, age 80, in the Orkney Islands in Scotland.



He grew up in Appleton, Wis. His family moved to Haverford, Pa., when he was a teenager and he attended The Hill School. At Princeton, Jim majored in English and wrote his senior thesis on the Cantos of Ezra Pound. Chairman of the Mountaineering Club and secretary-treasurer of the Outing Club, he was a programmer for the Experimental Film Society. He belonged to the Woodrow Wilson Society, roomed with Tim and Tom Tulenko, ran freshman track, and played intramural hockey.

After Princeton, Jim went to the University of Wisconsin in the Ph.D. program in English literature. Before he finished, he realized he did not want to teach. So, he took his M.A. in the English department and earned an MLS degree in the library school.

Jim's career began at the University of

Pennsylvania library before moving to Johns Hopkins in 1977. He married Jean Swanson (also a librarian) in Baltimore in 1980. They moved to Houston, and Rice University and then the University of California, Riverside, where Jim was appointed the university librarian and co-founded the Riverside Film Festival.

In 2000, they bought an old farmhouse on a hill overlooking the sea and the green hills of the Orkney Islands, off the north coast of Scotland. In 2007, both retired, Jim and Jean obtained visas and went to live in Scotland.

Jim is survived by his wife, Jean, and nieces Grace Armes and Susan Thompson. Classmates remember Jim as one of their kindest and friendliest members.

#### THE CLASS OF 1969

##### CLIFFORD M. BAKER III '69

Joe died Sept. 24, 2025, in the log home that he and his wife built in Monterey, Mass., in the Berkshires. He fought a long battle with metastatic colon cancer.



Joe graduated from Deerfield and then followed in the steps of his grandfather, his father, and his brother, John '67, to Princeton. He majored in biology, played hockey, ate at Ivy, and roomed in 1940 with Boomer, Bob Brown, Crane, Culp, Tommy Douglas, and Dave Johnson. They knew him as "Joe Bear," and describe him as the glue that bonded them together as lifelong friends.

Following graduation, Joe worked on ranches in Wyoming, where he met his wife, Bonner McAllester. As Joe wrote in our 50th-reunion yearbook, "We committed to a simple, rural life of self-sufficiency and minimized carbon footprint." In 1974, they moved back to family land in western Massachusetts and put together a life juggling many forms of self-employment. He and Bonner grew most of their own food and cut and split all of their firewood.

Joe was a lifelong ornithologist and nature lover and an accomplished musician. He took graduate courses in Boston University's artisan program and became a respected maker of stringed instruments. He studied computer science and became an independent programmer and software designer. Joe was a talented painter, mainly in pastels, and was selected to the "Master Circle" in the Pastel Society of America. Shortly before his death, Joe sent a message to his former roommates which ended, appropriately, "Vita brevis, ars longa."

Joe is survived by his wife; their two daughters, Sudi and Cora; and two grandchildren. We join them in mourning the loss of this gifted, creative, and kind classmate.

#### ROBERT L. HERNANDEZ '69

Bob died April 10, 2025, while visiting his ancestral home in Belgium. He was a



passionate warrior for civil rights and social justice.

Bob was president of the Student Council at Toms River (N.J.) High School, editor of the yearbook, and a wrestler. At Princeton, he majored in Public and International Affairs, foreshadowing a life devoted to public service. He was president of Whig-Clio and once had dinner with Muhammad Ali before hosting Ali's appearance on campus. Bob was a member of Charter and active in the UGA. An exceptional student, his roommates still can't believe how quickly he turned out papers that got A grades. Bob graduated from both Princeton and Harvard Law with honors.

As a single practitioner, Bob litigated a host of cases resulting in significant decisions. Typical clients were workers who suffered discrimination, victims of police violence, and people with disabilities. Taking his litigation experience into classrooms, he taught law school and undergraduate courses with a focus on Hispanic people and the law. He was a proud recipient of the Soaring Eagles Award for lifetime achievements in civil rights; he founded and was president of the Massachusetts Association of Hispanic Attorneys; and he helped lead a successful effort to encourage Princeton to offer Latino studies.

Bob is survived by his wife of 14 years, Elena; daughters, Camille Clasby and Persephone Hernandez-Vogt; grandchildren, Thomas, Sam, and Josselyn Clasby; and stepchildren, Karla Mojica Perez and David Mojica Perez. The class offers them its sincere condolences.

#### STYLIANOS P. SCORDILIS '69

Stan, passionate biochemist, educator, lover of music, and person of faith, died on Dec.



29, 2025, in Whately, Mass. He graduated from Andrew Warde High School in Fairfield, Conn., where he was active in science programs and band. He continued those

interests at Princeton, majoring in biology and performing as a University organist and member of the Orchestra. He was a student of music professor Edward Cone '39, who was astonished when Stan chose biology over music. Stan especially enjoyed performing classic organ transcriptions, as well as works composed for him by a classmate, and he spent a memorable summer touring and playing the great organs of Europe.

Following Princeton, Stan headed to SUNY Albany, where he received his Ph.D. in neurophysiology. He did his postdoctoral

research at the National Institutes of Health, then joined the faculty at Smith College, where he taught for 48 years. His research focused on the molecular and biochemical bases of skeletal muscle function and development, especially the biochemistry of exercise and exercise-induced muscular damage.

At Smith, he was widely respected for his rigorous yet supportive teaching style and for his dedication to undergraduate research. As a teacher and researcher, he helped to shape many future careers in science, medicine, and education. Guided through his life by his Greek Orthodox faith, Stan approached his work and relationships with humility, integrity, and compassion.

Stan was the president of the parish council at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Holyoke, Mass., where his funeral was held. Stan is survived by his daughters, Eleni and Panagiotia; and his sister, Marina Brownlee \*78, a Princeton professor, and her husband, Kevin \*79.

#### **THEODORE E. WEBBER '69**

Ted died Nov. 3, 2025, in Anthem, Ariz., with his wife, Mary, and his son, Andrew, at his side.

At Hopkins (Minn.) High School, Ted took part in football, wrestling, and track and was senior class president. Ted continued playing football at Princeton and wrestled and played rugby. He was an active member of Tiger Inn and remained close to his teammates and clubmates throughout his life. His friends describe him as a “person of consequence,” and as a great storyteller with perfect comedic timing and a sharp memory.

After being pre-med for four years, it finally dawned on Ted that medicine really wasn't for him. Ted joined the Army, spending most of his time as an infantry platoon leader with the 82nd Airborne at Fort Benning. Three years later he left the service as a first lieutenant, realizing that his soldiering skills might have limited practical application outside the military.

Ted then took what he thought would be a temporary job with the Genuine Parts Co., better known as NAPA, because he heard that they had a good training program. He began as a service manager in Minneapolis and became a general manager in 1978. His work with NAPA took him all over the United States, and for three years to Paris; he worked for NAPA until his retirement in 2012.

In retirement, Ted enjoyed playing golf with Mary, whom he married in 2005, and spending time with his family. He is survived by Mary; his son, Andrew; daughter Carol, and her husband David; his grandchildren, Luke, Lane, Xander, Sofie, and Liam; and his brother, Jeff.

#### **THE CLASS OF 1977**

##### **MARIANNE STRZELECKI '77**

Marianne died peacefully in her sleep Feb. 7, 2025, after a year of health problems.



John Neelon described her as exceptionally kind, thoughtful, and down to earth. Marianne is survived by her husband, Stephen Boris Traicoff; and her

daughter Julianna Traicoff '12.

Marianne requested that she be cremated, and her urn has a picture of a cardinal, her favorite bird. Her family and close friends agree that her memory is a blessing to them all. She will be missed.

#### **THE CLASS OF 1978**

##### **DONNA BALDUINO PRITULA '78**

Donna died May 21, 2025, from her long journey with cancer and surrounded by her family at home in Scarsdale, N.Y.



She joined us from Bergenfield (N.J.) High School. She was the classmate with the

bright smile and an always-extended a helping hand. Living in Holder three of her four years, she was an RA senior year. As a junior she was the driving force with a small group of classmates that successfully lobbied for re-opening Cloister Inn, after it had been shuttered since the early 1970s, working with alumni and the University to add another social and dining option on campus.

Donna majored in English, and her thesis plumbed the depths of Mark Twain's novels. She also had the good fortune and wonderful experience to join Princeton's inaugural ultimate Frisbee team.

After Princeton, Donna worked in corporate communications. She settled in Westchester County in 1983, marrying classmate Mike Pritula '78, and then left her career to raise three beautiful children in Scarsdale, where she resided for more than 40 years as an active member of the community and her church.

We join with all who loved and admired Donna in celebrating a life well-lived.

#### **THE CLASS OF 1987**

##### **SEAN PATRICK O'SULLIVAN '87**

Sean died Dec. 28, 2025. He is remembered for his dry sense of humor, admiration of nature, and most importantly, his love for family.



He was born in Niskayuna, N.Y., and raised in Clifton Park. His family hiked and camped in the Adirondacks.

He excelled in sports. At Shenendehowa Central High School he had the first in-game dunk in school history.

Sean majored in chemical engineering, belonged to Cottage, wrote for *The Daily*

*Princetonian*, and played basketball. He loved Reunions. He was often photographed wearing his favorite Princeton basketball polo.

Sean spent 20 years at Colgate-Palmolive, where he patented a method for dispensing toothpaste. He earned his MBA at Cornell and then moved to Acton, Mass., to work at Welch's.

Sean met his wife, Deanne, at Colgate, flirting over exchanging a computer. They traveled extensively, often involving golf. His family lessons ranged from fixing the car to explaining parabolas to his fourth-grader. Sean loved playing and watching sports, reading, historical documentaries, and leading Bible studies.

Sean fought inclusion body myositis for 15 years, always saying he was blessed. Those around him knew he loved them and how lucky he felt.

Sean is survived by Deanne; children Caitlin, Sarah, Aidan, and Grace '29; and four siblings.

#### **THE CLASS OF 2008**

##### **OMOYE E. IMOISILI '08**

Oye died Nov. 17, 2025, after a yearlong battle with cancer. She was surrounded by her family at the time of her passing.

Oye enrolled at Princeton at the age of 16, majoring in psychology with a certificate in neuroscience. A resident of Wilson College and later an RCA, she was a member of Princeton Faith and Action, Community House, Akwaaba, the Black Student Union, and the Anime Club. She played club volleyball and was a member of Colonial Club.

After graduation, she pursued a research year at the NIH and later attended Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons. She then earned a master's in public health at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She returned to Columbia to complete her medical degree and was conferred the Gold Humanism Award for her compassionate, patient-centered approach to the practice of medicine. Oye continued her training at Yale-New Haven Medical Center. Oye furthered her training by completing a fellowship at the CDC. She was employed by the FDA and later returned to the CDC as a medical officer. Oye continued to work as a clinician, with credentials at multiple DC-area hospitals.

In 2017, Oye enlisted in the U.S. Public Health Service Corps, where she participated in multiple deployments, including at the very beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A follower of Christ, Oye was active in her many church families, no matter where she found herself. A world traveler and a lover of cultural heritage, she ventured to 67 countries and visited all 50 U.S. states (and multiple territories). She learned French, Spanish, and was in the process of improving her Yoruba towards the end of her life.

Oye is survived by her father, Menfo; her

mother, Bim; and her three siblings, Maboo, Zoddy, and Sowa.

### GRADUATE ALUMNI

#### KENNETH W. FORD \*53

Likely the last living scientist on Project Matterhorn to build the hydrogen bomb, Ken died Dec. 5, 2025, in Gwynedd, Pa. He was 99.

Born May 1, 1926, in West Palm Beach, Fla., Ken graduated from Harvard in 1948 and earned a Ph.D. in physics from Princeton in 1953. His principal research was in the theory of nuclear structure, with some work in particle and mathematical physics. He exploited the nuclear shell model and the collective, or unified, model, and worked extensively on muonic atoms.

Ken's work on the first calculations that showed the hydrogen bomb could be successful convinced Robert Oppenheimer that the bomb could be developed.

Ken's 11 books include *The World of Elementary Particles*; *Geons, Black Holes, and Quantum Foam: A Life in Physics*, written with John Wheeler, and textbooks *Basic Physics* and *Classical and Modern Physics*.

Influenced by his opposition to the Vietnam War, in 1968 Ken announced that he would no longer do weapons work or other secret work.

Ken's academic positions include faculty posts at Brandeis, the University of California, Irvine, and UMass Boston; executive vice president of the University of Maryland, and president of the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. He was CEO of the American Institute of Physics. He later taught high school physics at Germantown Academy and Germantown Friends School.

Predeceased by his wife, Joanne, Ken is survived by seven children, including Paul Ford '79; 13 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

#### JOHN A. REGALBUTO \*62

At the age of 92, John died in Georgetown, Mass., Oct. 8, 2025.

Born in Cleveland, Jan. 2, 1933, John completed his undergraduate degree at Case Institute of Technology in 1954 before earning a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from Princeton in 1962.

John began his career working on Sikorsky helicopters, and after his graduate degree, worked on F-16 fighter jets at General Dynamics in Fort Worth, Texas. He eventually applied his metallurgy expertise to develop explosives for the oil industry at the Jet Research Center in Arlington, Texas, and later for defense contractor Textron Systems in Wilmington, Mass.

In retirement, John continued to focus on aircraft by producing free flying and scale model airplanes and enjoyed flying sessions with friends in the Flying Aces Stealth Squadron #49 modeling club. At the

age of 85, his ingenious design of a contra-rotating propeller led to two patents and two technical publications.

Predeceased by his wife of 61 years, Carole, John is survived by children Mary, John, David and Michael; 11 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

#### IAN R. GRAHAM \*73

Ian died Dec. 13, 2025, of Parkinson's disease in Toronto, at the age of 77.

He was born May 3, 1948, in Oxford, England. Ian received his undergraduate education at the University of Toronto, graduating in 1970, and earned his doctorate in mathematics at Princeton in 1973. The topic of his dissertation was "Boundary behavior of the Carathéodory and Kobayashi metrics on strongly pseudoconvex domains in  $[p]n$  with smooth boundary." His adviser was Norberto Kerzman.

Ian completed a postdoctoral fellowship at MIT before returning to the University of Toronto, where he was a professor of mathematics until his retirement. His research was primarily in geometric function theory of several complex variables. He took research leaves at the University of California, Berkeley, and Stanford. His publications include the textbook *Geometric Function Theory in One and Higher Dimensions*.

Ian was predeceased by his wife, Chibek Mok, in 1998. He is survived by his siblings Gordon Graham, Miriam Monk, and Ross Graham \*82; and his nieces and nephews.

#### VIRGINIA LOUISE BOWER \*77

Virginia died in Princeton, Dec. 13, 2025, after an extended illness.

Born in Detroit, March 13, 1950, Virginia graduated from Michigan State in 1971 and earned a Ph.D. in art and archaeology from Princeton in 1977.

Virginia was an adjunct associate professor at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia and a visiting instructor at Bryn Mawr, Kean University, Rutgers, and Franklin and Marshall. Her special interests were Chinese ceramics and the arts and culture of the early Chinese imperial dynasties.

Virginia visited Asia as a student of Chinese in Taiwan, and to conduct research and serve as a tour lecturer in China for groups sponsored by The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the American Museum of Natural History, the Princeton University Art Museum, and the Smithsonian Institution. She contributed to several museum catalogs, including "Recarving China's Past: Art, Archaeology, and Architecture of the Wu Family Shrines" for the Princeton University Art Museum.

Virginia was the primary author of *From Court to Caravan: Chinese Tomb Sculptures from the Collection of Anthony M. Solomon*. She co-authored *Decorative Arts: Part II: Far*

*Eastern Ceramics and Paintings; Persian and Indian Rugs and Carpets*.

She is survived by her brother, Bruce.

#### LEONIDAS PALIOS \*92

Leonidas died Jan. 21, 2026, at the age of 60, after a brief illness.

He was born on the Greek island of Chios, Feb. 8, 1965. After earning a diplom-ingenieur degree in electrical engineering from the National Technical University of Athens in 1987, he entered Princeton's computer science department and earned his Ph.D. in 1992.

At Princeton, he worked with Bernard Chazelle on problems in computational geometry. During graduate school he was an active member of the Hellenic Association of Princeton and a regular host of Musical Odyssey, a weekly Greek music program on WPRB.

After graduating from Princeton, Leonidas worked at the Geometry Center in Minnesota and taught at the University of Minnesota. Following his service in the Hellenic Navy, he joined the University of Ioannina in 1997 as an assistant professor and later became a full professor. He taught and conducted research in theoretical computer science.

He is survived by his spouse, Marina.

#### CARRIE ROSEFSKY WICKHAM \*96

Carrie died Feb. 5, 2026, of breast cancer in Atlanta.

Born in 1962 in Binghamton, N.Y., she earned an undergraduate degree in social studies at Harvard in 1983 and a Ph.D. in politics from Princeton in 1996. Her dissertation was "Political mobilization under authoritarian rule: Explaining Islamic activism in Mubarak's Egypt".

Carrie taught Middle Eastern Studies at Emory University, specializing in political Islam and social movements, and developed an interest in social justice and women's rights. After joining the Emory faculty in 1994, Carrie taught 30 courses, 13 of which she created. She received the Emory Williams Award for Distinguished Teaching.

Carrie conducted research with government officials, scholars, and thought leaders across the Arab world. She was awarded a research fellowship at the Library of Congress, lectured at the State Department and the CIA, and appeared in a feature on CNN. She was the author of two books: *Mobilizing Islam: Religion, Activism, and Political Change in Egypt* and *The Muslim Brotherhood: Evolution of an Islamist Movement*.

She is survived by her daughters, Anna and Iris; three siblings; her parents, and her life partner Walter.

*Graduate memorials are prepared by the APGA.*

*An undergraduate memorial appears for James G. McCulloh '56 \*65.*

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WILLIAM "BILLY" SHELLMAN \*41 (1917–1987)

## He Practiced What He Preached and Influenced Architecture

BY HARRISON BLACKMAN '17

**W**ITHIN THE ARCHWAY between McCosh and Dickinson halls is an inscription attributed to classicist H.E. Mierow 1914: “Here we were taught by men and Gothic towers democracy and faith and love of unseen things that do not die.” To that, William Shellman Jr. \*41, an influential architect and professor in the School of Architecture for 45 years, apparently rejoined, “You cannot learn democracy from a building.”

But many Princetonians learned how to design buildings under Shellman, known to his students as “Billy,” whose instruction helped elevate the architecture department from a purely theoretical school devoted to the minimalist precepts of iconic Swiss modernist Le Corbusier with more practical curricula that helped students become actual working architects.

Hailing from Savannah, Georgia, Shellman was the consummate Southern gentleman. As his former student Nicholas Moffett Pyle \*71 wrote in a 1996 essay, Shellman “spoke in well-formed sentences spiced with Southern hyperbole” with a voice so gentle “that he had to emphasize his stronger sentiments with deeply furrowed frowns and belligerent juttings of the lower lip.”

Completing his undergraduate

education at the University of Virginia, Shellman received his MFA at Princeton in 1941. After a stint working for a Savannah shipbuilding firm during World War II, he returned to Old Nassau as an instructor, where he remained until his 1986 retirement. According to Pyle, Shellman’s strength as a teacher was twofold: Not only did he help students learn how to sketch, he also helped them improve their ability in assessing the hidden elements of a structure through keen observation. “He knew that being able to see acutely, to understand what we [were] seeing, and to file that information away with all its possible connections [were] key to creativity,” Pyle explained.

Critical to Shellman’s approach was his rejection of the modernist style then in vogue, which was preoccupied with attention to function. Rather, he espoused a more well-rounded architectural education that also considered how buildings might express the values of their users.

**These lessons resonated with his** students, some of whom paved the way for the next era of postmodern architecture. Shellman’s pupils included Hugh Hardy ’54 \*56, who supervised the renovation of Radio City Music Hall; Bartholomew Voorsanger ’60, architect

of the National World War II Museum in New Orleans; and influential postmodern architect Robert Venturi ’47 \*50, whose 1972 book *Learning from Las Vegas*, co-written with his design partner and wife Denise Scott Brown, radically transformed the field by relaxing the modernist architectural doctrine of stark glass and steel. “William Shellman possessed particular grace as a teacher,” said Venturi, who designed several Princeton buildings. “Many of us at Princeton learned from him about how to look at beautiful buildings with our eyes, hearts, and minds, and free of dogma.”

Shellman also practiced what he preached, designing several houses in Princeton, including his own on McCosh Circle near Lake Carnegie, to which he invited his students for lunch and often regaled them with his favorite recording of Gregorio Allegri’s hymn, “Miserere.” He also built houses as far afield as Georgia and South Carolina, and even built a garden in Spain for Princeton clients.

While Shellman asserted that Princeton’s Gothic revival buildings couldn’t instill democratic values, he believed that his alma mater, the University of Virginia, could foster democracy through Thomas Jefferson’s design for an “academical village” intended to facilitate discussion and community. Despite his reverence for Jefferson’s design, Shellman’s chief resource for his instruction, according to Pyle, was “the Princeton campus itself, a splendidly varied and eminently available trove of historical and historical-seeming architecture, landscape, and planning.”

To Shellman’s mind, one could only learn by experiencing as much architecture as possible, whether it was walking among the archways of Princeton or the grand boulevards of Paris and the Spanish Steps of Rome. “A man who can recover these and thousands of other images of previous sensory experience can select the tiny items that satisfy programmatic needs,” Shellman once argued in a lecture quoted by Pyle. “The sum or addition of these choices can add up to a new set of relationships, a new order.” By planting the seeds of postmodernism, he indeed created a new order. ■

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A fourth-year Ph.D. student in the Department of French and Italian, Ramsey is studying the social history of books, including the way that books are made, translated and received.

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