

PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY

JULY/AUGUST 2026

The Public Architect

Plus
Rain and
Revelry
at Reunions

Tod Williams '65 *'67 reflects
on the Obama Presidential
Center and a lifetime of
shaping shared spaces



Willem de Kooning:
The Breakthrough Years,
1945–50

Through
July 26, 2026

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

Through
September 7, 2026



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An editorially independent magazine by alumni for alumni since 1900



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For architect Tod Williams '65 *67, the Obama Presidential Center is not just a monument to a presidency, but the latest chapter in a lifetime of designing for the public good.

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It took more than April-like showers and March-like temperatures to slow a Memorial Day weekend Reunions. More on the P-rade, panels, and parties.

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ON THE COVER

Tod Williams '65 *67 near one of his recent projects, the Brooklyn Bridge Park Pavilion.
Photograph by Stephen Voss

KEVIN BIRCH

Commencement 2026: 'Learning, Citizenship, and the Courage to Be Unpopular'

On May 26, I had the honor of presiding over Princeton's 279th Commencement. I used the occasion to urge graduates to cultivate civic and personal courage, including the courage to assert dissenting opinions and the courage to change their minds. Here are my remarks. — C.L.E.

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

I hope that your journeys will contain many moments of brightness, celebration, and joy, but they begin in troubled times when our world is struggling to cope with partisan divisions, political violence, and rapid technological change.

We are, of course, not the first Princetonians to confront such challenges. As I seek perspective on today's problems, I often find it useful to consult the wisdom of our predecessors from the 1960s, another period when America, and its college campuses, experienced social upheaval.

Princeton's leader during that decade was Robert F. Goheen. Goheen was both an undergraduate and a graduate alumnus of this University, earning his bachelor's degree in 1940 and his doctorate in 1948, both in classics.

He became Princeton's president in 1957, when he was 37 years old and still an assistant professor.

I do not know how the University trustees recognized that a young untenured classicist was ready to lead a great university, but they chose brilliantly. When Goheen died in 2008, two other former Princeton presidents, William Bowen and Harold Shapiro, praised him as the "architect of the modern Princeton."¹

Robert Goheen oversaw the long overdue admission of women to Princeton's graduate and undergraduate programs. He increased the number of underrepresented minorities on campus. He reformed the University's governance processes and guided the University through roiling conflicts over the Vietnam War. During his fifteen-year tenure, Princeton constructed or acquired thirty-eight new buildings and the faculty grew by forty percent.²

Those who knew Robert Goheen describe him with admiration, as a man of integrity, humility, compassion, and courage.

Goheen collected his thoughts about Princeton and higher education in a book titled *The Human Nature of a University*.³

In the closing paragraphs to that book, Goheen reflected "on th[e] word 'courage'" and its connection to the mission

of the American university. He observed that, and these are his words:

"Hostile forces anchoring on selfish interests, or the *status quo*, have in every century opposed those institutions dedicated to the advancement of learning and the betterment of human life, and we would be rash indeed to underestimate these forces."⁴

He ended his book with these words:

"Courage, with temperance, is always needed to hold the university to its role and mission: courage on the part of men and women of good will who cherish the spirit of liberal learning and seek a better day for [humanity]. So girded, the university as a human institution can be confident not only of its past but of its present and future, ready to stand up for its aims and basic commitments, bold to make its voice heard in the land."⁵

We often think of "courage" as a heroic virtue and associate it with risks to life or limb. On this view, its antonyms are timidity, weakness, or fear.

Goheen, however, contrasted courage with insecurity and vanity, or, more precisely, with the desire to be popular.

Here is what he says about why courage is essential to the university and its members:

"Perhaps the highest and most difficult function of the university, its most irreplaceable form of service in a free society, [is] to be willing to stand up as a judge of society's tastes and actions. The critic and the judge are not always popular, but the greatest teachers in all ages have preferred hard truth to comfortable fiction and self-respect to popular esteem."⁶

The Nobel Prize-winning novelist Toni Morrison, who taught at Princeton as the Robert F. Goheen Professor in the Humanities, struck similar themes in her brilliant address titled "The Place of the Idea; The Idea of the Place," which she delivered at Princeton's 250th anniversary convocation in 1996.

Morrison said that Princeton was founded by religious dissenters who prized "conscience ... above orthodoxy," a position she said was "so unpopular among colonial educators [that it] must have seemed reckless."⁷

Near the end of her speech, Morrison, like Goheen, called for courage. She hoped that Princeton's origins in unpopular dissent would inspire Princetonians to maintain

¹ Bowen said Goheen was "the architect of the modern Princeton"; Shapiro called Goheen "the first architect of today's Princeton." Ruth Stevens, "Robert F. Goheen, 16th president of Princeton, dies at age 88; service set for April 27," *Princeton University*, March 31, 2008, <https://www.princeton.edu/news/2008/03/31/robert-f-goheen-16th-president-princeton-dies-age-88-service-set-april-27>.

² "Former University President Robert Goheen '40 dies" *The Daily Princetonian*, March 2008, <https://www.dailyprincetonian.com/article/2008/03/former-university-president-robert-goheen-40-dies>; Douglas Martin, "Robert F. Goheen, Innovative Princeton President, Is Dead at 88," April 1, 2008, <https://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/01/nyregion/01goheen.html>.

³ Robert F. Goheen, *The Human Nature of a University* (Princeton University Press, 1969).

⁴ Goheen, *The Human Nature of a University*, 115.

⁵ Goheen, *The Human Nature of a University*, 116.

⁶ Goheen, *The Human Nature of a University*, 116.

⁷ Toni Morrison, "The Place of the Idea; The Idea of the Place," as delivered at Princeton's 250th anniversary convocation, October 25, 1996, <https://pr.princeton.edu/news/96/q4/1025spch.htm>.

⁸ Morrison, "The Place of the Idea; The Idea of the Place."

⁹ Whitney v. California, 274 U.S. 357, 377 (1927) (Brandeis, J., concurring).

¹⁰ Goheen, *The Human Nature of a University*, 52.



On a sunny spring morning in Princeton Stadium, the University awarded degrees to 1,469 undergraduates and 668 graduate students. The Class of 2026 is the largest undergraduate class in Princeton history. Photo by Denise Applewhite, Office of Communications

“a fierce commitment to ... virtues such as integrity and honor and fair play and courage.”⁸

In a famous Supreme Court opinion, Justice Louis Brandeis defended the American people’s right to free speech by arguing that:

“To courageous, self-reliant [people], with confidence in the power of free and fearless reasoning applied through the processes of popular government, no danger flowing from speech can be deemed clear and present unless the incidence of the evil apprehended is so imminent that it may befall before there is opportunity for full discussion.”⁹

For many years when I taught this passage to my students, I treated its reference to courage as a mere rhetorical flourish. I regarded it as patriotic praise that flattered readers but was largely irrelevant to the point that Brandeis was making.

Only as our society became more turbulent did I perceive what Brandeis meant, and what Robert Goheen recognized amidst the tumult of the 1960s: namely, that civic and personal courage are essential if we are to have the “full discussion” that is required to rebut dangerous tendencies and corrosive ideas.

Dissenting from popular opinion—in politics, in a committee meeting, or in a discussion among friends—will often feel uncomfortable. There is an inevitable temptation to remain silent so as not to hurt other people’s feelings, forfeit their affection, or risk retribution.

If we are to live up to the ideals of citizenship and scholarship, we must sometimes speak anyway. We must be faithful to the standards of truth-seeking inquiry and civic responsibility even when they lead us down difficult paths.

As Louis Brandeis, Robert Goheen, and Toni Morrison all emphasized, self-government, freedom, and learning cannot always be comfortable. They require independence,

and independence by definition entails the strength to stand alone, to be respectfully and when possible politely, but nevertheless unabashedly, unpopular.

Courage is necessary not only to assert dissenting opinions but also, and equally importantly, to admit error or change one’s mind. That, too, is an essential part of learning, in life generally and especially on a college campus.

To quote again from Robert Goheen’s book, students and faculty “should be constantly in the process of making up their minds and then unmaking them.”¹⁰ On a healthy college campus, he wrote, “there should be controversy and arguing and a great deal of churning of matters of mind and spirit.”¹¹

I know that all of you who receive your degrees today have earned them fully by working hard, deepening your knowledge, and acquiring new skills.

I hope that you have also not only experienced but enjoyed and been formed by what President Robert Goheen called the “millrace of jostling and tumbling ideas.”¹²

Our world needs not only your knowledge and your skills but also your courage. I accordingly hope that in the days and years to come you will, in Goheen’s words, prefer “hard truth to comfortable fiction and self-respect to popular esteem.”¹³

I wish, in short, that you will always carry with you the spirit of this place as Robert Goheen and Toni Morrison have exemplified and described it.

I hope, too, that as you venture forth to meet the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead, you will always consider this campus one of your homes and that you will return to it often.

Those of us on this platform will greet you then as we cheer you today, wishing you every success as Princeton University’s Great Class of 2026! Congratulations!

¹¹ Goheen, *The Human Nature of a University*, 59.

¹² Goheen, *The Human Nature of a University*, 59.

¹³ Goheen, *The Human Nature of a University*, 116.



INBOX

YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE LATEST ISSUES

GHOSTWRITER AND THE MACHINES

I was fascinated by Elyse Graham '07's reminiscence about Theodore George Lanning, the ghostwriter extraordinaire who



THEODORE GEORGE LANNING

captivated the campus in the late 1930s (Princeton Portrait, May issue). The notion that he wrote four senior theses in a year is mind-boggling for most of us who struggled to finish one. Of course, he had a mercenary interest in maximizing his output.

The idea that he prided himself on being able to mimic any style — quite a talent in itself — made me realize that in his own way, Lanning was almost a century ahead of himself. He was a precursor of AI — and just as feared and unpopular with those who expect students to create something that is uniquely theirs.

JEFFREY MARSHALL '71
Scottsdale, Ariz.

LOSS OF HONOR

My reaction to the decision to begin proctoring exams (On the Campus, June issue) is one of resignation and sadness. The Honor Code bound us together in shared trust for more than a century. During my undergraduate days, I felt a tiny surge of pride each time I “signed the pledge” on an exam or assignment. Abandoning the central role of the pledge will diminish that trust and that pride. Technological advance almost always comes with a price. I imagine that the Honor Code will not be the last valued institution that AI will be responsible for demolishing.

JAMES F. WRIGHT '58
Winston-Salem, N.C.

I was raised in a southern U.S. culture in which honor mattered. It should still matter at Princeton regardless of how learning is evaluated. It strikes me that

deciding to proctor exams confronts the wrong problem. Cheating is not really about AI or small electronic devices.

Assuming every Princeton undergraduate is academically capable, why cheat? I submit the issue is stress. Nearly all of us were near the top of secondary school classes but very quickly discovered that our college classmates are as smart or smarter than we are. I had to apply myself as hard as I could just to keep up with peers who were doing likewise. Peer pressure was relentless, and each of us dealt with it in our own way. I was relieved to achieve at least the median.

I learned during 40 years teaching at public universities that the demand to excel created by classmates is a factor that sets Princeton and institutions like it apart. If the objective is to achieve the highest standards of learning and reducing motivation to take shortcuts, then the solution lies in the design of

assessments, not proctoring.

I also noticed that students have become increasingly concerned with grades themselves rather than the learning they allege to represent. Perhaps the faculty could help undergraduates understand the difference between education and training. It might also help to get rid of grades of A to F and return to the inscrutable 1 to 7 grade system that existed decades ago.

MURPHY SEWALL '64
Windham, Conn.

Count me as one of many horrified old alumni when I read about Princeton abandoning its century-old practice of unproctored exams. While it is actually the case that these exams were effectively proctored by the students themselves, this was true as long as the students reported violations. Now it appears that a culture of fear of social ostracism has developed, akin to self-censoring in classroom discussions.

AI has certainly contributed new methods of cheating, but one would have expected that our astute faculty could provide clever countermeasures on a course-by-course basis, rather than broadly dispensing with a well-regarded tradition. When I was a professor of aerospace engineering, for large classes I used to give exams as open book/open note. Students with a better memory for complicated formulas no longer had an advantage, and surreptitious access no longer mattered. I would imagine that history courses, for example, do not depend on rote recall of dates. Demonstration of mastery of material in problem solving or learned essays in exams may be replaced by AI. Has this reduced students to stenographers? Is repeating what a professor said different from transcribing from a chatbot? The challenge is faced now by faculty to teach beyond AI, and should not require a loss of honor by students.

PETER J. TURCHI '67 *70
Santa Fe, N.M.

DANIEL HERTZBERG

PRIORITIZING CHARACTER

In Kirtland Peterson '82's analysis of the problems of his lying student and dealing with increasing AI fraud in schools (Essay, May issue), character development was his last stated concern. This disturbs me. Is the lower quality writing of this future lying adult or the lack of trustworthiness the greater loss to himself and society — never mind scholarship? Poor, undereducated people with character always have more wealth than liars and cheats who get to rule over them. Some people still teach this. So what should we be protecting young minds from?

A cheating student is reacting to his teachers' (including parents') unspoken prioritization of values: material advancement, status, expediency, over immaterial goods that never used to need explanation, such as his soul. When the Honor Code was developed, Mark 8:36 was part of the fabric of society even if only as an ideal. Now, nothing not quantifiable has meaning. If that's the case, does anything?

We have tried a great social experiment claiming that moral development can advance in a secular-materialist-quantifiable paradigm. I think this testifies otherwise. To truly combat illicit AI encroachment in the classroom, we must *begin* with renewing character formation in our kids. And our adults?

DORINA AMENDOLA '02
Waverly, Pa.

TIGER TWIRLS

I fully related to Mark Bernstein '83's piece "Behind the Stripes" (March issue), but was I the only Tiger who braved the ice during hockey games? I spent my undergrad winters figure skating at Baker Rink and remember agreeing only once to suiting up and sharing the ice with the Zamboni. Skating backward tamed my blind ambition. The weight of the head made jumping a heavy task, and the tail loved to whip me off course as I spun or changed direction. It was a fun and wild ride. I regret not lacing up hockey skates instead and joining the fledgling women's team.

WIZ LIPPINCOTT '82
Manhattan Beach, Calif.

SCRUBBED LAUNCH

I may have been one of the last students to use the rocket test cells at Forrestal (Princeton Portrait, April issue). For my senior independent work in the MAE department, I designed and built a gaseous oxygen-hydrogen rocket engine. My adviser, professor Irv Glassman, directed me to use one of the remaining cells at Forrestal for testing.

My guess is that he had not actually visited the site in many years, as in the winter/spring of 1987 I found the area long abandoned and overgrown with plants and debris. It took me several weeks to clean up one cell for use. In the end, and after I had mounted my rocket engine to a test structure and installed its supporting equipment and systems, I was told by the University to cease work while they reviewed their insurance and liability. I never got to test fire my rocket engine; I was told another student was interested in picking up where I left off, but I never heard if this ever happened.

EDWARD GRONENTHAL '87
Renton, Wash.

ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Reading the April President's Page ("Standing Strong for Academic Freedom"), I was struck by President Chris Eisgruber '83's tone-deafness to the needs of the moment and the demands of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. A century ago, many considered Germany the global center of academia. It is thanks to the insistence of German academics that hatred for Jews was meritorious, if couched as "antisemitism," that its institutions no longer carry the same cachet.

If America's elite universities wish to demand "academic freedom" to teach that hatred for Jews is meritorious if couched as "anti-Zionism," they will fare no better in the eyes of history. And per both Title VI and basic fairness, they deserve nothing from the federal government or from alumni until they undertake needed reforms.

RABBI YAAKOV (KEN) MENKEN '86
Baltimore, Md.

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MILITARY FELLOWS

Regarding the elimination of the Senior Service College Fellowship (On the Campus, May issue), Pete Hegseth '03 is an absolute embarrassment to our beloved institution. His disgraceful American "crusade" (his telling word) and shameless support of an authoritarian would-be dictator will leave a permanent stain on our long tradition of being truly in the nation's service. While nobody in her right mind thinks Iran, Cuba, Russia, etc. have been admirable or friendly to us for quite some time now, putting one's considerable political (and war) power, as Pete has, behind an out of control, mostly incompetent regime run by a convicted felon is calamitous for those who still believe in truth and the law.

STAMOS METZIDAKIS '74
New York, N.Y.

Pete Hegseth and the second anonymous quotee applauding him must be right about Princeton promoting weakness. After all, these two illustrious alums are so afraid of the battlefield of ideas they and others might encounter on this hostile campus of ours, I fear how they'd fare against actual bullets on an actual, you know, battlefield.

As for being corrupted by wokeness, however, apparently we still have little to fear there, if these two are any example. Phew!

RONNIE RAVIV '95
Chicago, Ill.

STUDENT BANDS

A live band playing '80s-to-early-2000s rock covers at TI (Student Dispatch, May issue)? That is awesome. As a drummer with eclectic taste in music, that warms my heart and soothes my soul. Rock on!

JOHN VINE '86
Lawrence Township, N.J.

In 1969 I was struck that among my friends were many musicians yet few bands. The clubs seemed to only hire NYC or Philly bands.

I took my summer earnings and bought a public address system. I offered my friends the use of it to play gigs in exchange for some playing time at my disposal. Seventeen bands coalesced around that PA system. By November I could host a 12-hour music festival in Alexander Hall with my bands! No one made any money on this — we just made a lot more music. I called it Louie Motherball Productions. Lots of potential is lying around waiting for a catalyst to appear which releases a lot of energy. Invent that catalyst.

ALEX RANDALL '73
Princeton, N.J.

A CHANCE TO ROW

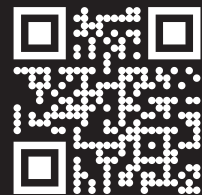
I'm a little behind on my PAW issues, but I wanted to respond to the request for



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memories of crew at Princeton (From the Archives, April issue).

After getting an undergraduate degree from Princeton and working a couple of years, I returned to get a master's in MAE. One of my fellow students was a senior who rowed lightweight crew and made it sound like fun. This would have been spring of 1987 (or possibly 1988).

I am not much of an athlete, but I found out there was a graduate student rowing club and joined for a few months. We practiced in the boathouse and on the lake, and had a couple of fun races.

After that I got too busy with my thesis to continue (and OK, those practices were really hard work!). But I really enjoyed it — I was glad there was a club level where I could try out the sport without embarrassment.

Thanks for reminding me of that time.

BETH MCKENNEY KISER '84 *89
Richmond, Va.

YOUR PERSPECTIVE

Let us know what you think

✉ PAW@princeton.edu

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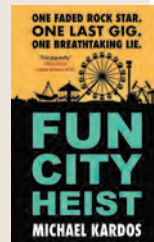
PAW BOOK CLUB

Michael Kardos '92



KARDOS '92

Kardos answered questions from PAW Book Club readers about his comedic crime novel, *Fun City Heist*, describing how he drew on his post-Princeton career as a drummer, his creative writing expertise, and heaps of Jersey Shore nostalgia. He also discussed that twist at the end and why he never meant to become a crime writer — but is glad he did. Listen at paw.princeton.edu or wherever you get your podcasts.



ESSAY

How We Remember

As Reunions memorial chair for her class, Martha Pitts '01 got to work honoring the 10 classmates and one honorary member she was told had died. Then a friend texted with a discovery: Mona Mahboubi '01 didn't appear on the spreadsheet Princeton had provided even though she had been gone for three years. "I found myself thinking about how institutions remember and how they forget," Pitts writes.



STUDENT DISPATCH

Rural Undergrads

A year after coming to Princeton from Edgefield, South Carolina, Drew Sloan '28 found himself wondering, where are all the small-town folks? After speaking with students, alumni, and faculty about the barriers faced by students from rural high schools, he makes a case for why more "small-townness" could make the University a better place.

CLASS CLOSE-UP

Raving for Credit

In the course *Raving: Encounters & Collisions in Night/Life*, taught by Princeton arts fellow Niall Jones, students spent their evenings exploring rave culture not simply as nightlife, but as an aesthetic, political, and social network. And they danced.





YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Award for Service to Princeton

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

Anthony Noble *01, chair of the Committee on Awards for Service to Princeton, announced the 2026 honorees at the annual meeting of the Alumni Council that was held in Richardson Auditorium during Reunions on May 22.



Anthony John Strahs Pappenfus '13

With spirited enthusiasm for Princeton's alumni traditions, Anthony "Ant" Pappenfus demonstrates how joyful Princeton engagement can be for recent alumni. He has served on the Annual Giving Committee since 2018, and as president

of his class, he finds creative ways to engage more classmates. He became a member of the Alumni Council in 2020 and now chairs its Class Affairs Committee. Ant volunteered on the Task Force on Recent Alumni Engagement and is president of the Princeton Sailing alumni board. In 2023, he received Annual Giving's Jim Lebenthal '49 Young Alumni Service Award.

Thomas J. Reed *71

Tom Reed earned his Master of Public Administration at what is now the School of Public and International Affairs. Tom's time at Princeton was pivotal to his career in urban affairs, and in gratitude, he has devoted thousands of volunteer hours to the Association of Princeton Graduate Alumni (APGA). A talented illustrator and computer graphics designer, Tom has created Reunions logos for APGA banners and T-shirts for more than 20 years, bringing each year's theme to life with wit and warmth. His Princeton-inspired artwork is archived at the Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library.



Lily Chung Partridge '82

For Lily Partridge, service to Princeton means creating long-lasting relationships, whether she is encouraging prospective students, crafting personalized emails to volunteers or connecting fellow alumni with service leadership roles. She joined the Alumni Schools

Committee (ASC) 36 years ago and has served as president of her region for 16 years. Lily became a chair for ASC leaders globally when she joined the Princeton Schools Committee 12 years ago. She co-founded the Northern New Jersey chapter of the Princeton Women's Network (PWN) in 2017 and serves as vice chair of PWN's global advisory council.

Thomas M. Swift '76

When Tom Swift became president of the Alumni Council's Princetoniana Committee in 2017, he began co-creating the virtual Princetoniana Museum, which now houses more than 5,000 artifacts and entries, all of which Tom, as chief curator, has edited and formatted. Tom has also served as president of the Princeton Area Alumni Association since 2019, engaging Tigers regionally through cultural and educational programs and a reimagined annual dinner that draws multigenerational alumni. Tom led his class to scale Mount Princeton for their 40th Reunion and has served as a P-grade marshal since 2012.



2026 Alumni Trustee Election

On May 22, the Alumni Council announced the results of the annual alumni trustee election. Trustees elected by Princeton's alumni comprise nearly one-third of the University's Board of Trustees.

The alumni elected by their peers to serve as University trustees from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2030, are:



Katharine O. Strunk '99
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**Young Alumni Trustee
from the Class of 2026**

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations for recipients of the **Alumni Council's Award for Service to Princeton** and recommendations for **Alumni Trustee** candidates all come from the alumni body at large.

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

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



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Can't wait to see you, Tigers!





YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



DEAR TIGERS,

Happy 200th anniversary, Princeton alumni! The Alumni Association's bicentennial was a key theme of this year's Reunions, embraced and celebrated by Tigers of all stripes throughout the weekend, including the proud display of 200th pins and sunglasses during the P-rade.

This year we continued to welcome back classes whose last major had been disrupted by the pandemic. While rain and cool temps tried to dampen our spirits, records continued to be set, including an all-time record of 730 classmates on campus for the 25th Reunion of the Great Class of 2001.

Bicentennial events and activities are planned around the world through the official anniversary party during Orange & Black Day on Oct. 22, when we'll also celebrate the University's 280th birthday. To engage in the 200+ days of celebration, please visit the 200th website to find events, share a "Tiger Tale" memory from your time on campus and record your volunteer service hours to show our collective impact "in the nation's service and in the service of humanity."

There is also one more round of Spark Funds available to support innovative events to engage more alumni; Aug. 2 is the final day to request Spark funding. And don't forget to log in to the new TigerNet to update your profile. All of the above can be accessed at 200.alumni.princeton.edu.

My theme — Our Princeton. Our time. — was also a throughline of Reunions. Princeton truly belongs to all of us and in Princeton we all belong. The Old Guard, led for the first time by Dick Judge '46, proudly kicked off the P-rade, while the senior class turned out in force. Alumni from all professions and industries spoke to huge crowds to share their insights, perspectives and research. We granted the Award for Service to Princeton to four incredible undergraduate and graduate alumni, ranging from the classes of 1971 through 2013.

Thank you all who give so much to Princeton — to your classes, regions, affinity groups, sports teams, arts groups, clubs and each other. Together with our amazing professional staff, we continue one of Princeton's most cherished traditions — spectacular, valuable and unmatched alumni engagement — which started 200 years ago and is stronger than ever today.

With every heart and every voice,

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



Ryan Ruskin '90

Photo: Andrea Kane



Photos: Sameer Khan and Tori Repp of Fotobuddy



ON THE CAMPUS

NEWS, SPORTS, AND STUDENT LIFE

HURRAH! HURRAH! HURRAH!
*Princeton's 1,469 Class of 2026 graduates,
the largest undergraduate class to date,
bid farewell by singing "Old Nassau" at
Commencement May 26.*



TORI REPP 4/26 / FOTOBUDDY



GRADS AND JAZZ

President Christopher Eisgruber '83 conferred degrees on more than 2,000 students and six honorary Princetonians, including musician Herbie Hancock, right.

COMMENCEMENT

Largest Ever Undergraduate Class Joins the Alumni Ranks

BY JULIE BONETTE

TRANSFORMATIVE. MAGICAL. Perfect. Those are some of the words that graduating Princeton students used to describe their time at the University shortly following the 279th Commencement at Princeton Stadium on May 26.

Princeton “allows everyone to grow and learn new things, and explore things they never thought they were interested in, and discover things about themselves too,” said Kayla Waitman '25 *26, an electrical and computer engineering student.

Under sunny skies and surrounded by family and friends, 1,469 undergraduates — the largest class in Princeton history — and 668 master’s and Ph.D. graduates received their degrees. The Graduate School also honored its degree recipients a day earlier at the annual hooding ceremony on Cannon Green.

President Christopher Eisgruber '83 presided over Commencement, and in a speech emphasizing the importance of courage, he told the graduates that he hopes their “journeys will contain many

moments of brightness, celebration, and joy,” but he also cautioned that “they begin in troubled times, when our world is struggling to cope with partisan divisions, political violence, and rapid technological change.”

Valedictorian Daniel Yu '26, an African American studies major, also touched upon this “moment defined by social, financial, and political precarity,” but encouraged his classmates to “reshape this world and imagine new ones oriented toward justice, peace, and freedom. I am so excited to see what you all dream up.”

Kimberly Richard, who traveled from Alabama to watch her son Aaron Richard '26 graduate with a bachelor’s degree in architecture, pointed to obstacles the Class of 2026 had already had to face, like isolation in their formative years during the pandemic. “So to see them still be able to grow and to see what y’all have done with my son and his legacy, that’s everything,” she said.

Her son, Aaron, said that “you really

learn the true definition of gratitude when you graduate,” because when challenges arise at Princeton, “you grow from those challenges.”

“Even the darkest of times in Firestone Library made me who I am today, and I’m proud to have endured through that, and [I’ve] enjoyed the great times with friends, too,” said Luke Krongard '26, a computer science major.

Princeton awarded six honorary degrees this year, recognizing the contributions of former CIA director William J. Burns, physicist Steven Chu, Princeton Slavic languages and literatures professor emerita Caryl Emerson, jazz musician Herbie Hancock, former New Jersey Supreme Court Justice Jaynee LaVecchia, and global tech entrepreneur Strive Masiyiwa.

In the afternoon of Commencement day in Nassau Hall’s Faculty Room, nine graduating ROTC students became commissioned officers in a ceremony during which they took the oath of office, received ranking pins, and performed the traditional Silver Dollar Salute. According to the University, two of the graduating students became the first from Princeton’s ROTC program to be commissioned as officers in the U.S. Space Force. Brig. Gen. Grant S. Fawcett '96, deputy director for politico-military affairs in the J-5 Directorate of the Joint Staff, led the celebration. In his remarks, he told the graduates that “navigating this future requires leaders of character.” **P**

SAMEER A. KHAN '21 / FOTOBUDDY

CLASS OF 2026

Affinity Celebrations Persist Amid Nationwide Scrutiny

BY JULIE BONETTE

IN A CROWD OF MORE THAN 2,000 graduates who marched onto the field of Princeton Stadium for Commencement this year, economics student Gabe Ennin '26 stood out. Over his robes he donned a glittery red, green, and yellow stole with a black star — evoking the Ghanaian flag — that sparkled brightly in the sunlight.

Ennin told PAW he bought the stole because “my family is from Ghana, so [I’m] just repping my heritage.”

In the days and weeks leading up to Commencement, the University holds many events that recognize smaller groups of graduates, and at some, cords and stoles imbued with meaning are distributed. Cords and stoles are the primary way Princeton graduates represent their identities on the big day.

In mid-May, more than two dozen graduating students had their names read aloud at the Gender and Sexuality Resource Center’s (GSRC) Rose Celebration, where they walked in front of a podium and across Prospect House’s Garden Room to receive their choice of a red cord or stole. The celebration has been

held in some form since 2017 to honor Princeton women and fem graduates (those who have a feminine gender identity or expression).

“These celebrations have been and continue to be an important recognition of women and fem,” particularly since Princeton was founded as a space for men, said April Callis, assistant dean of diversity and inclusion and director of the GSRC, during the event. “This ceremony is a chance not just to celebrate your achievements, but to celebrate the legacy of those who came before you and reflect on the spaces that you’re carving out for the generations that follow.”

“I think it’s very important that they celebrate our accomplishments, and I think just inclusivity is important, especially with our society of today. So I think that’s something that Princeton

REGALIA REIMAGINED

Graduation stoles and tassels celebrate affinity groups, academic programs, eating clubs, extracurriculars, and other points of pride.

really does a great job of,” said Bethany Villa '26, a molecular biology major.

In addition to the Rose Celebration, the GSRC has held a Lavender Celebration, which celebrates queer and trans graduates, since 2002. The Fields Center has held Commencement activities for Pan-African graduates since 2005, for Latinx/e students since 1990, and, since 2018, separate events for Middle Eastern, North African, and Arab; Asian Pacific Islander Desi American; and Native American and Indigenous graduating students. The Emma Bloomberg Center honors first-generation lower-income graduates (held in varying formats since 2015) and transfer and veteran graduates (since 2023).

In early 2025, the U.S. Department of Education published a Dear Colleague letter threatening to rescind funding to institutions with policies or programming that treat people differently based on race, and specifically mentioned graduation ceremonies. This year, the Department of Education dropped an appeal to a federal judge’s ruling that blocked the enforcement of that letter. However, in 2025, schools such as NYU canceled affinity graduation ceremonies, and this year, schools such as Harvard and Notre Dame no longer supported the events, though alumni associations and other sponsors have taken up the charge.

“We are proud that Princeton continues to celebrate the diversity and excellence of our graduating students through several events,” said University spokesperson Jennifer Morrill, noting that these “are open to all graduating students and their families regardless of identity and complement the University’s Commencement exercises.”

Student groups and eating clubs also give members special regalia for graduation. Alongside her Commencement robes, Anna Ferris '26, who graduated with a degree in English, wore a stole from Tower Club and a climbing rope given to Outdoor Action leaders. A Princeton education, she said, “gives you the ability to stand from every perspective and learn something interesting about yourself and the world.” 



SAMEER A. KHAN '21 / FOTOBUFFY



A CLIMATE CHANGE DIVESTMENT PROTEST AT PRINCETON IN 2023.

ENDOWMENT

Princeton Reverses Course on Fossil Fuel Divestment

BY BRETT TOMLINSON AND JULIE BONETTE

P RINCETON HAS REVERSED ITS stance on fossil fuel investments, saying that its long-term goal of a net-zero endowment may include



TUOHEY

engaging with energy companies that “will necessarily play a significant role in the clean-energy transition we want for our nation and for the Earth.” Vincent

Tuohey, president of the Princeton University Investment Co. (Princo), announced the change in a June 1 letter on Princo’s website.

The letter also announced Princo’s goal to achieve a net-zero endowment portfolio by 2046, the year Princeton has targeted for reaching net zero in campus greenhouse gas emissions. A committee of experts will work to measure the endowment’s greenhouse gas impact, Tuohey wrote. The University did not say who would be part of the committee.

Divestment from fossil fuel stocks, a cause championed by students and alumni for nearly a decade, gained formal footing in May 2021 when the Board of Trustees began a process to dissociate from companies active in the

thermal coal and tar sands segments of the fossil fuel industry. Dissociation, according to the University, includes divesting from direct and indirect holdings of a company as well as reevaluating purchases, partnerships, and employer recruitment activities.

In September 2022, Princeton’s trustees announced dissociation from 90 companies and asked Princo to take steps to make its portfolio net-zero over time. The same announcement said that Princo would “eliminate all holdings in publicly traded fossil fuel companies ... [and] ensure that the endowment does not benefit from any future exposure to those companies.”

Andrew Golden, Princo’s president at the time, confirmed in a November 2023 interview with PAW that the divestment process was completed in the year following the dissociation announcement. “If the University community says that this is a moral obligation that we have, we should do it, even if it costs money,” Golden said. “In other words, our principles should not be for sale.”

Tuohey, who succeeded Golden in July 2024, said in his letter that the divestment from publicly traded fossil fuel companies was a voluntary choice by Princo.

“It’s not obvious that Princo’s initial approach has moved the endowment meaningfully closer to net-zero, nor is it obvious that major energy companies will be out of bounds for a net-zero endowment,” he wrote.

Tuohey said that the new approach to fossil fuel investments will provide “greater flexibility in managing an endowment whose resources are critical for financial aid and scientific research — including climate research — at a time when our sector is under financial strain.” President Christopher Eisgruber ’83, in his February 2026 State of the University letter, cited declining long-term rates of return in university endowments as a key factor in budget cuts and operational changes at Princeton.

“I believe our revised approach toward a net-zero endowment will enhance both the resources available to faculty and students and our potential to positively contribute to a more sustainable climate and environment,” Tuohey wrote.

Princo’s announcement was met with dismay and skepticism by alumni who were part of Divest Princeton and its campaign to end fossil fuel investments. “We still have not seen fossil fuel companies actually be the leaders on clean energy,” said Hannah Reynolds Martinez ’22. “And the people who are leaders on clean energy are researchers and students and professors who are doing the work on the ground at Princeton, but their interests are often overridden by corporate interests.”

Lynne Archibald ’87 added that “fossil fuel companies have knowingly deceived Americans and the world for decades in order to turn a profit for their shareholders.” The Princeton trustees initially included companies that have “engaged in climate disinformation campaigns” in their May 2021 dissociation call but ultimately did not identify any companies in that category.

Alex Norbrook ’26, co-founder of the climate advocacy group Sunrise Princeton, said that Princeton’s announcement “may be a signal for other universities” that have committed to fossil fuel divestment. “So in the same way that

Princeton acts as a leader when it does do divestment and encourages other universities to follow suit, its walk back and reversal of that might potentially signal a similar trend in the reverse direction,” Norbrook said. “Hopefully other universities take this as a sign to double down on commitments to sustainability and climate action rather than walk those commitments back.”

John Tyler '76, formerly the managing director of foundations and endowments at Fiduciary Trust International, viewed the announcement in a more positive light. “Balancing worthy ideals with economic reality can be difficult, but circumstances are different today than when the divestment policy was enacted,” Tyler said in an email to PAW. “Personally, I believe the University is being responsible to prioritize returns ... when one considers the many principled ways in which Princeton leads in our global society, including its continued aversion to coal and tar sand investing.”

Brad Swanson '76, a sustainable fund manager and author of the book *Profit vs. Progress: Why Socially Responsible Investment Doesn't Work and How to Fix It*, critiqued what he sees as a mismatch of investment strategy and institutional values. “If Princeton wants to be in the service of humanity, it needs to back away from fossil fuel companies whose emissions are the largest contributor to global warming,” Swanson wrote in an email to PAW. “An endowment as large as Princeton’s can achieve market-level, or better, results even without oil company stocks by astute diversification and nimble allocation.”

The Princo news is not the first change of direction Princeton has made since announcing the trustees’ September 2022 dissociation vote. Dissociation originally included a ban on accepting any research funding from a list of companies that has grown from 90 to more than 1,700, as of January 2026. But in October 2024, the University opened the possibility of accepting support for “research projects aimed toward the amelioration of the environmental harms of carbon emissions,” among other guidelines. **P**

CLASS DAY AND BACCALAUREATE

Speakers Urge Students to Pursue Purpose Over Prestige

BY LIA OPPERMAN '25

AS GRADUATES ENTERED ONE of the toughest job markets in recent years, Princeton’s Class Day and Baccalaureate speakers delivered a steady drumbeat to the Class of 2026: The path ahead should not be driven by prestige, competition, or a predetermined plan, and graduates should do what they love to use their Princeton education in the service of others.

At Class Day, Wendy Kopp '89, founder of Teach For America and Teach For All, told graduates that they are “free from running this race” that led them to Princeton.

“There is no application portal opening tonight. There will be no committee ranking you. And you don’t have to do what other people think is cool,” she said. “You can decide.”

Kopp urged graduates to think of how their choices would shape both their lives and the broader world, arguing that meaningful change requires people to be close to society’s most pressing challenges.

A day earlier at Baccalaureate, Craig Robinson '83, executive director of the National Association of Basketball Coaches and a former University trustee, shared a similar message.

Robinson encouraged graduates to embrace “the swerve,” a term he learned from his sister, former first lady Michelle Obama '85, to describe life’s unexpected changes of direction. Reflecting on his own career, which has included professional basketball, investment banking, college coaching, and sports administration, he urged graduates to pursue success based on fulfillment, growth, relationships, and impact.

“We spend years climbing ladders only to discover the ladder was leaning against the wrong wall,” Robinson said. “The paycheck may look good. The title



CRAIG ROBINSON '83

may impress people at Reunions. But if you wake up every day disconnected from your purpose, eventually success starts to feel surprisingly empty.”

Class Day also featured recognition of students with outstanding leadership, service, academic, and athletic records. Alvan Flanders, detective sergeant in the Department of Public Safety, and police service dog Coach were among the 10 honorary members who joined the Class of 2026.

Class heralds Allen Shen '26 and Tyler Wilson '26 delivered humorous remarks that balanced celebration with sarcasm and self-deprecation.

Wilson joked that Princeton students, despite their intelligence and accomplishments, are “generally quite stupid,” citing everything from clicking on spam email job offers (“No one is paying \$400 an hour for a remote research assistant!”) to not knowing where the towpath is.

Yet, he explained his pride to be in what he described as a long line of idiots: “People who are stupid enough to think that they can actually change the world for the better. People who chase down problems in need of solving, glass ceilings in need of smashing, and status quos that demand disruption.” **P**

ACADEMICS

Return to Proctored Exams Reflects Changing Times

BY JULIE BONETTE

SINCE FACULTY VOTED IN MAY to proctor in-person exams, national news outlets and some alumni have decried the end of Princeton's 133-year-old tradition of unsupervised testing, but students, faculty, and recent graduates say the conversation within the campus community has been mild.

"I believe there is a consensus that with changing times we need to adapt," said Minh Truong '27, chair of the Honor Committee, a body of 18 students responsible for upholding the University's Honor Code, via email.

The code was established in 1893 and requires students to pledge not to "gain an unfair advantage" or to "attempt to give assistance" to others. Princeton's Honor Code and the Honor Committee will remain in place with the addition of proctored exams.

Details about proctoring will be published before the fall term, the University said. Claire Whiting, who is seeking her Ph.D. in psychology, doesn't foresee substantial additional effort for teaching assistants. "In many cases, it may simply mean that TAs who would already have been nearby during the exam are now sitting in the room," she said via email.

The proposal specifically cited increased instances of cheating using AI as a reason for the new policy, but that seems to be only part of the problem.

Nadia Makuc '26, former chair of the Honor Committee, said via email that cheating has "been building" in recent years. "I would attribute it more so to the transition away from take-home exams and device use in general," she said.

William Aepli '26, chair emeritus of Peer Reps, a student

organization that supports those accused of cheating, mourned what he described in an email as "a substantive and negative change to the faculty-student relationship," but acknowledged "rising levels of academic dishonesty, social stigma of reporting suspicions, and lack of quality evidence" in cases where students are accused of cheating.

Patrick Park, who is seeking his Ph.D. in mechanical engineering, said "students are careful about getting doxed or getting canceled on social media for reporting other students."

Stanford University also voted this spring to begin proctoring exams, and about half of Princeton's Ivy League peers require proctors. For the rest, instructors set their own rules.

"I don't think there is as strong of a

commitment to honor and/or integrity ... in the academic sense, that there seemed to be in, pick your early 1900s year," said Ian Rosenzweig '29, a member of the Honor Committee. Rosenzweig said he believes students today would rather obfuscate the truth than throw a classmate under the bus.

Eduardo Bhatia '86, a visiting professor in public and international affairs at Princeton, spoke about the importance of the Honor Code in his Baccalaureate address in 2018. He wrote to PAW in June that he supports the new policy "as a temporary measure" while students and faculty "rethink how honor and academic integrity should function" in current times.

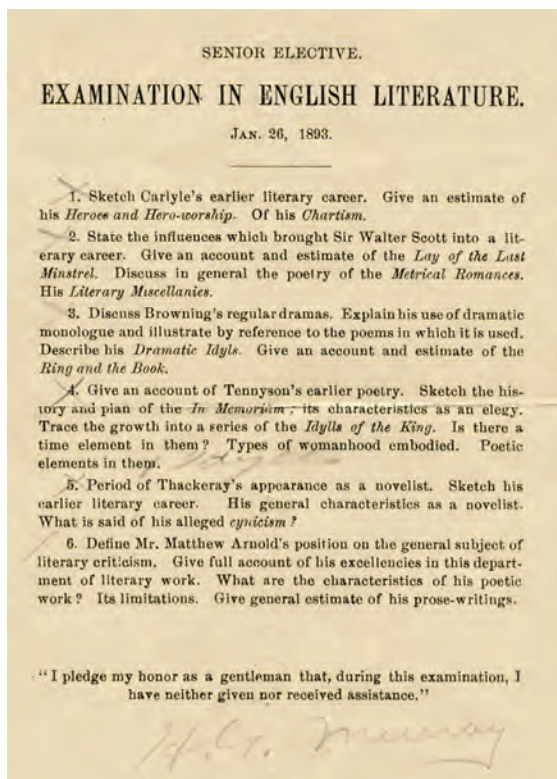
Julian Mišút '28, clerk of the Honor Committee, said "it's my impression that the student sentiment is that there's quite a bit of cheating that's slipping through the cracks."

A *Daily Princetonian* survey of more than 500 seniors conducted earlier this year showed that 29.9% of respondents have cheated at Princeton, and 44.6% knew of an Honor Code violation but didn't report it. According to the most

recent statistics from the Honor Committee, from fall 2020 through spring 2025, there were 71 reports of violations, which led to 25 findings of responsibility. Penalties included suspension and expulsion.

Alex Kontorovich '02, professor at Rutgers and visiting fellow at Princeton in fall 2024, called the move "very sad indeed," on X, but in an interview with PAW conceded he would have made the same decision. "It's just too easy and hence too tempting to cheat, and we're at the point where if you're one of the few kids who's not cheating, then you're putting yourself at a distinct disadvantage," he said.

Whether proctors will deter Honor Code violations remains to be seen. Martin Day, a former postdoctoral researcher at Princeton and current associate professor at Memorial University of Newfoundland, said via email it could lead "to more accurate reporting, [and] then that could look like an increase in suspected cheating." **P**



HAROLD GRIFFITH MURRAY 1893'S SENIOR ENGLISH EXAMINATIONS, TAKEN AT THE DAWN OF THE HONOR SYSTEM.

Physics Professor Explores AI Grading for Exams

BY LIA OPPERMAN '25

AS UNIVERSITIES NATIONWIDE grapple with how artificial intelligence could reshape education, one Princeton physics professor is testing whether AI can reliably grade exams.

The experiment, conducted in the spring 2026 semester in PHY 104: General Physics II, taught by professor Lyman Page, compared Page's grades of exams with grades generated by Google's Gemini Pro AI model. The AI-generated scores did not affect students' grades, which were determined manually, and students were allowed to opt out of the experiment.

"Grading exams is an enormous time sink, and there's always some subjectivity in it," Page said. He explained that with more than 230 exams to grade by hand, AI could make grading more efficient and consistent. The experiment was still in progress when this issue went to press.

Page added that physics exams are often hard to read, as people frequently start over, scratch out problems, or put arrows over their work, so it will take some training for the AI model to understand that. Ultimately, it may not work.

"The goal of creating any problem is to figure out what someone knows, not necessarily if they have the exact right answer," he said.

But if the technology performs well, he said the class will probably start using it on small assignments before considering it for other projects.

Google's terms of service say the enterprise version of Gemini Pro does not share uploaded content with outside organizations without permission. Before launching the experiment, the physics department worked with University administrators and the Office of Information Technology.



"The goal of creating any problem is to figure out what someone knows, not necessarily if they have the exact right answer."

— LYMAN PAGE

professor of PHY 104: General Physics II

Page said the system uses Princeton's firewall protections, and no one will be able to scrape the exam from public AI platforms.

Beyond efficiency, Page explained that AI could help instructors provide more detailed feedback to students. He explained that especially in large courses, there are not enough hours in the day to annotate on exams where students missed a vector sign or put a direction in the wrong way.

Arav Gupta '29 said he initially thought that it was a joke when he received Page's Canvas announcement that Gemini Pro would be used to grade his exam. Once he learned that the exams would be graded manually first, he felt more comfortable participating.

After receiving his official grade, he ran his exam into Gemini and saw that he received a score roughly 10% lower than the score he received from the hand grader.

Gupta didn't have an answer key, so it was not a direct parallel to Page's experiment, but Gemini did compare its answers with his responses. "It wasn't giving me a lot of partial credit the same way the hand grader would," he said.

Andrew Addo '29 said he was surprised by the department's decision but grasps the reasoning behind it. "I think I understand, going forward, the trend is that generative AI is going to be used in all aspects of life for efficiency," he said. Still, he said that he wished the department was more transparent about how the experiment would work.

Princeton is adapting its broader policies surrounding AI. This spring, the University faculty voted to use proctors for in-person exams beginning in the fall semester, citing concerns about AI and electronic devices.

When informed of the decision, Page questioned whether human proctors were the most effective response. "If the purpose is to detect cheating, why not use a camera?" he asked.

For Page, his experiment reflects what he sees as a larger shift in higher education.

AI is "part of all of our lives ... [We have to] figure out how to take advantage of it," he said. "It's a powerful tool. We can use it to our benefit."

Still, he argued that while AI may become increasingly embedded in STEM education, it will not replace the human element of teaching.

"If you could watch a computer and learn everything you need ... people would," he said. "But they don't, because it doesn't work. ... Humans are important for communicating to humans." ■



STUDENT DISPATCH

Inspired by Revolutionary Archives, Students Bring an Artifact Home

BY HALLIE GRAHAM '27



NEW YORK'S PARK AVENUE

Armory is a vast space in an infamously cramped city, and jammed into the armory every spring is the New York Antiquarian Book Fair. Exhibitors from all over the world present a trove of materials including rare books, maps, illuminated manuscripts, fine bindings, illustrations, historical documents, photographs, prints, memorabilia, and ephemera.

I joined my classmates from Revolution in the Archives, a spring seminar that highlighted Princeton's Americana collections during the nation's semiquincentennial year, on a train ride into the city for an early May afternoon at the fair, charged with one final assignment: Find a treasure to bring home.

History professor Michael Blaakman and Gabriel Swift, the University's librarian for early American collections, had held our hands through a semester of 18th-century handwriting, watermarks, contradictory historical accounts, and

research hurdles. Adding one piece to the more than 300,000 items in Princeton's Special Collections would prove to be a wonderful challenge.

The armory was chaotic as exhibitors, dealers, curators, publishers, private collectors, and librarians buzzed in their hive, creating a hum of conversations between old friends and negotiations between sellers and buyers.

Available items sat regally in lighted cases and could be brought out at the request of any passerby. While wares were reasonably protected, the aisles between booths were teeming with blazed bibliophiles, bumping into each other constantly with a greeting, inquiry, or simple apology on the rare occasion the two were not acquainted. The Republic of Books is small but wonderful, and I was happy to bump into Scott Clemons '90, former president of the Grolier Club, chairman of the Morgan Library, and member of the New York Public Library's Board of Trustees.

Clemons started going to the fair when he was an undergraduate. At Princeton, reading classics, he became fascinated with the transmission of texts. Now, he collects the works of Aldus Manutius, a famous scholar-printer of the Italian Renaissance.

"I started collecting when I was in college, and I had no money, which was to my benefit. However, I could invest

time," Clemons said. He learned trade standards and built relationships with dealers. During our conversation at the fair, he stood before me with a bag full of books.

Clemons advised undergraduates to invest time looking at items and building relationships with dealers. "Ask 'What brings you here?' and 'What do you collect?' You're guaranteed a good conversation."

Armed with this advice, we stopped at McBride Rare Books, co-founded by James McBride '08, where we had several items on hold as a courtesy for likely buyers. Though he studied classics at Princeton, McBride now deals in Americana, and he brought some items in his fair catalog out onto the lighted case for us to investigate.

We then ambled over to the opposite wall of the armory — which occupies a full city block in midtown — pointing and shrieking at discoveries along the way. We unfashionably gawked at F. Scott Fitzgerald 1917's topcoat and James Wilson's annotated copy of the first printed draft of the Constitution.

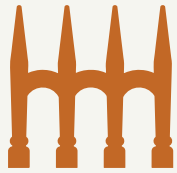
Finally, on our last stop at William Reese Co., we found something to purchase.

Backlit, the newspaper was glowing. *The Pennsylvania Evening Post* from July 13, 1776, announced the news of the Declaration of Independence being read in New York and a statue of King George III being razed. The issue included much other Revolutionary news, including an excerpt from a "letter from Princetown" about the reading of the declaration, dated July 10: "Last night Nassawhall was grandly illuminated and Independancy proclaimed under a triple volly of musketry and universal acclamation for the prosperity of the United States. The ceremony was conducted with the greatest decorum."

In perfect closing to our course, we brought the item home to Firestone Library, where it will sit among items gifted by centuries of alumni. Our hope is that future Princetonians will view the newspaper for thesis research or in a Special Collections class or just because they want a glimpse of 18th-century Princeton. ■



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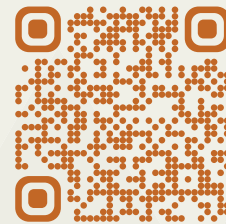
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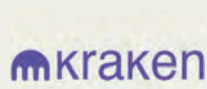
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STUDENTS PERFORM THEIR SONGS DURING THE CLASS CONCERT.

MUSIC

Students Create New Songs, One Week at a Time

BY LILY WILLIAMS-AMEEN '29

SOULFUL LYRICS, MELODIES, and harmonies from performers bathed in blue light filled Frist Theater on April 21. The concert presented a range of songs, from the soft indie acoustic guitar picking of “It’s You” to a heavy rock accusation of “Devil’s at Your Door” to prerecorded electronic tunes backing a tax day rap with the catchline “sign and repeat.” The student performers, representing all four class years and ranging from beginner musicians to artists with albums released on Spotify, were part of a robust Princeton Atelier tradition, ATL 496: How to Write a Song.

Students are randomly assigned to groups and expected to bring a fully written song to their next class based on a one-word prompt. They spend an hour learning about basic music theory and songwriting from instructors Bridget Kearney of the band Lake Street Dive and musician/producer Barteas Strange and then move into individual workshops. Each week, with a new song and new groups, students have the opportunity to perform and workshop with Kearney and Strange, getting a taste of what it’s like to be a working musician.

Practice and repetition make up the backbone of the class. Laura Hwa ’26 estimated that she and her classmates

collectively wrote around 70 songs.

Kate Short ’23 took the class her sophomore spring and returned the next year as a teaching assistant. “It was really helpful just to be listening to new songs every week [and] listening to what Bridget had to say, and I ran the sound, which was good practice,” she said. “This is a very ‘only happens at Princeton’ kind of thing.”

For Short, now a professional songwriter, the class was perfect motivation, bringing her closer to songwriting idols such as Paul McCartney, who joined the class via Zoom in February 2021. “When he said, ‘I really don’t know what I’m doing,’ I was like wow, I can do it too,” she said.

“When I initially went into the class, I thought that I would mostly be with other people who had written a lot. [Instead] it brought me back to the root of why I do music in the first place, which is because I love it and because it’s fun.”

— BELLA RIOS ’25
Now working full time as a songwriter in Nashville


“If the greatest songwriter says that, there’s hope.” Short’s band, Kate Short & the Long Haul, was featured at Terrace Reunions in May.

The class brings in two or three guest artists each year. This semester, Lawrence the Band, producer Cautious Clay, and Haley Dahl of Sloppy Jane were featured.

“I definitely learned about music and about songwriting and how I like to write myself ... but if you didn’t write a great song, nobody’s going to punish you for it,” said Andrew Chou-Belden ’29. His approach to the class, that “you get out what you put in,” was a common theme for students — and being Princeton students, most seemed to be all in.

For Bella Rios ’25, now working full time as a songwriter in Nashville, the class’s diversity of musical experience provided a different approach to how she thinks about songwriting. “When I initially went into the class, I thought that I would mostly be with other people who had written a lot. [Instead] it brought me back to the root of why I do music in the first place, which is because I love it and because it’s fun,” she said.

In the second-to-last class before the concert, students lounged on a couch placed in the center of the Whitman Theater stage that doubled as their classroom. Equipped with microphones, drums, and guitar, peering at lyrics on phones, one of the groups rocked out to “Devil’s at Your Door.” Strange, in a Deftones shirt and baseball cap, walked from the audience, picked up a guitar, and began improvising alongside the students. He looked at the other guitar player. “I hear some harmonies here. Do you hear harmonies?” and started singing.

No rubrics are in sight, just constant communication and changes made on scrambled notes apps. Strange tries to bring the atmosphere of a real writers’ room to the class. “It always is just me in a room with someone and then we’re picking up a guitar or getting on a piano and just trying to see what feels good, so really not that different,” he said. “I’m just kind of fishing with my instrument, playing things and going with whatever energy I receive.” 

HEALTH SERVICES

Princeton Cuts Pay for Some Mental Health Providers

BY JULIE BONETTE

DUE TO FINANCIAL PRESSURES, Princeton is decreasing pay by as much as 51% for the providers of some psychotherapy and psychiatry sessions beginning Aug. 1, according to a mid-May email from the University’s Office of Finance and Treasury. The changes impact 228 people in Princeton’s Exclusive Provider Network (EPN) of “local and community mental health providers who ... are contracted to accept the Student Health Plan,” according to the University Health Services website.

Of the 13 services offered by the EPN, chargeable rates decreased for all but two. The biggest reduction, from \$334 per session to \$173, is for psychiatric diagnostic evaluations with no copay. The most common visits, according to the University, are follow-ups with a clinician, with rates decreasing from \$180 to \$167.

Princeton spokesperson Jennifer Morrill said a comprehensive evaluation of the Student Health Plan compared to “the local market and national benchmarks” led to the finding that EPN rates “were above prevailing benchmarks.” She added that the decreases in pay are also in response to University-wide budget cuts.

According to 2023 University data, that fiscal year the EPN saw about 69% of the students who sought outpatient mental health care — more than 1,100 claimants.

PAW spoke with six EPN practitioners, most of whom requested not to be identified for fear of retaliation. All six expressed frustration at the decision, and two were not sure if they would remain in the EPN.

Upon seeing the notice, one provider told PAW they thought the University was “finally going to pay us a little closer to the going rate around here [in Princeton], but that was the complete opposite of what we got.” Another assumed the new



FRIST HEALTH CENTER

rates were “a mistake ... because there wasn’t really an acknowledgement that they were doing something really awful.”

Around 120 EPN providers signed a letter, which was also sent to PAW, saying they were concerned that students’ access to in-network mental health care providers will be limited and could lead to an increase in intense treatment, such as emergency hospitalization.

Calvin Chin, director of Counseling and Psychological Services, responded to the providers that “off-campus clinicians play an essential and valued role,” but recognized the changes “may affect your ability or willingness to continue participating in the EPN or the number of students you are able to see.”

“We are confident that the changes to the fee structure will not compromise the quality or availability of care to our students,” said Morrill.

Tiffanie Cheng Wu ’24, founder of the Princeton Alumni Mental Health Coalition, said because Princeton “has consistently stated that student mental health is a priority,” she hopes the University will be transparent “about how these changes align with that commitment and what steps will be taken to ensure that access to care is not diminished.”



RESIDENTIAL LIFE

New College West Renamed for Huo

PRINCETON’S EIGHTH RESIDENTIAL college, known as New College West for the last four years, will be renamed Huo College in recognition of a



HUO ’94

major gift by investor and philanthropist Yan Huo ’94, the University announced in June.

Huo’s gift, which supports the recently completed expansion of

Princeton’s undergraduate student body, “has enabled us to say ‘yes!’ to more of the talented young people who aspire to study at Princeton,” President Christopher Eisgruber ’83 said in a release from Advancement Communications. Huo College houses 850 undergraduates and is adjacent to Yeh College, south of Poe Field.

Huo earned a Ph.D. in electrical engineering and has served as a University trustee for two terms. He is managing partner, co-founder, and chief investment officer of Capula Investment Management LLP. He also has made gifts to support faculty and graduate students and a pavilion in the Princeton University Art Museum that houses three galleries of Asian art. Huo was co-chair of the Many Minds, Many Stripes conference for graduate alumni in 2025. **P** By B.T.

TORI REPP '26 / FOTOBUDDY; MATT RASPANTI / PRINCETON UNIVERSITY; HUO FAMILY FOUNDATION

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PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY

IN SHORT

Sixteen professors and advanced lecturers transferred to **emeritus status** at the end of the 2025-26 academic year after serving on the faculty for a combined 485 years. They are: Andrew Appel '81, computer science; Charles Beitz *78, politics; Elizabeth Bogan, economics; Jill Dolan, English and theater; Harriet Flower, classics; Michael Flower, classics; Aaron Friedberg, politics and international affairs; Diana Fuss, English; Noreen Goldman, School of Public and International Affairs; Claudia Johnson *81, English; Derek Lidow '73, Keller Center for Innovation in Engineering Education; Steven Mackey, music; Anne McClintock, gender and sexuality studies; Peter Ramadge, electrical and computer engineering; Helmut Reimitz, history; and Stephen Teiser *86, religion.

The **postdoctoral researchers union** is continuing to bargain with the University for an initial contract nearly two years after meetings between the parties began. On May 1, about 40 people rallied at Nassau Hall and delivered a letter, signed by more than 500 Princeton postdocs, denouncing the administration's inaction. University spokesperson Jennifer Morrill said negotiations have "taken longer than usual" and attributed that in part to a delay in the postdocs' first wage proposal. As of early June, tentative agreements had been reached on 14 of 45 negotiation points. "These are real issues that postdocs care about, that will make a difference in our lives," postdoc Zara Albright told PAW.

Katharine Strunk '99, the dean of the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education; John Dabiri '01, an engineering professor at Caltech; and Enzo Kho '26, a Young Alumni Trustee, were elected to four-year terms on Princeton's **Board of Trustees**, according to the Alumni Association. **P**

IN MEMORIAM

John V. Fleming *63, a scholar of medieval literature who taught generations of students and served as a longtime head of what was then known as Wilson College, died May 30 at age 90. Fleming's popular Chaucer courses for undergraduates and graduate students followed the tradition of his mentor, D.W. Robertson. Fleming also chaired the English department and was the chief marshal at Commencement. He received the Alumni Council Award for Service to Princeton for his contributions to alumni education in 2004 and delivered the Class of 2007's Baccalaureate address. After retirement, he refashioned his *Daily Princetonian* column, "Gladly Lerne, Gladly Teche," into a witty and wide-ranging blog that published more than 850 posts.



Bede Liu, an innovator in digital signal processing and longtime professor of electrical engineering, died May 7 at age 91. He joined the faculty in 1962 after a brief career in industry research labs and remained until 2015, when he transferred to emeritus status (though he continued to



teach undergraduates for three more years). Liu's wide-ranging research included signal processing, video coding, digital watermarking, and multimedia technology and led to 12 U.S. patents, according to a bio on the Dean of the Faculty's website. He also supervised or co-supervised 53 Ph.D. recipients at Princeton.

Jorge Sarmiento, a geoscientist who made lasting contributions to climate studies and oceanography, died May 5 at age 80. Sarmiento came to Princeton in 1978 as a research assistant in the Program in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences (AOS), which he later directed, joined the faculty in 1980, and retired in 2019. He explored the interconnections between biology, geology, and chemistry in the world's oceans and also played a central role in Princeton's collaboration with the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory. "Jorge took great pride in mentorship," colleague and Nobel laureate Syukuro "Suki" Manabe said in a University obituary, "and he trained many talented students who are now leaders in the field." **P**





MEN'S LACROSSE

Tigers Back on Top

A 'forever team' earns program's first title in 25 years

BY DAVID MARCUS '92 AND BRETT TOMLINSON

PLAYING FOR A HISTORICALLY successful program comes with high expectations, and this year's Princeton men's lacrosse team lived up to its lofty legacy, capping a dominant postseason run with an astonishing 16-9 win over Notre Dame in the NCAA title game May 25.

"We walk into an office with six national championship trophies every day," head coach Matt Madalon said after the game. "It reminds us we're at a place where it can absolutely be done. So it's extremely motivating. You see those teams, especially the 2001 team here today, we've always termed it 'forever teams.' Those teams that win championships stay together forever, 25-year reunions and so on. So, that's what these guys get to do now."

The 2001 team — Princeton's last national champion — won its title in a 10-9 overtime thriller against Syracuse and gathered at the Final Four in Charlottesville, Virginia, to celebrate its 25th anniversary. This year's team earned the same prize with a very different performance.

The Irish, who were national champs

in 2023 and 2024, scored three goals in the game's first five minutes, but the Tigers settled down after a timeout by Madalon, who shifted into a zone defense from man-to-man. "We prepared all year to go into the zone," goalie Ryan Croddick '26 said. "We haven't had to use it much lately, but we had to trust in our guys. Zone sort of slows them down a bit, and they're a super athletic team. The game started to move a little slower, and it was very helpful for us." Notre Dame didn't score again until early in the third quarter.

The No. 1-seeded Tigers picked up

29 ground balls to the No. 2 Irish's 11 in the first half. That translated into a considerable advantage in possessions and scoring chances. Princeton outshot Notre Dame 33-15 in the half.

Princeton tied the game on two goals and an assist by starting attacker Chad Palumbo '26. Palumbo would score all of his team-high four goals during the Tigers' 11-0 run before halftime. The Irish didn't get closer than five goals in the second half.

Croddick made 13 saves while allowing nine goals. He also excelled in the Tigers'

CELEBRATION TIME

Princeton charges the field after a convincing 16-9 win over Notre Dame in the NCAA final.

14-7 semifinal win over Duke, making 20 saves in that game. He was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player.

"He's always in a good head space going to the game, and he's holding it down there for us," Palumbo said. "When Ryan's seeing the ball, this team feels unstoppable. I think he's the energy and the pulse of our entire defense."

Princeton won its last 12 games, a streak that spanned more than two full months. Prior to this year's championship, the Tigers won six NCAA titles, all between 1992 and 2001, and all with Hall of Fame coach Bill Tierney at the helm.

The championship is a defining moment for Madalon, who came to Princeton as an assistant coach in the fall of 2013 and was named interim head coach with five games left in the 2016 season. The team went 3-2, and Madalon got the job. He took the Tigers to the NCAA semifinals in 2022 and won the Ivy League Tournament in 2023, 2024, and 2026.

Beating Notre Dame was also a momentous ending for Princeton's seniors, whose previous three NCAA trips included two heartbreaking one-goal losses. A day after the game, they donned their caps and gowns and carried the national championship trophy into Princeton Stadium for Commencement. **P**



SPRING SPORTS

Lightweight Crew Wins Again, Varsity Club Honors Seniors

P RINCETON WOMEN'S lightweight crew won a record sixth consecutive national championship at the Intercollegiate Rowing Association regatta in Gold River, California, May 31, adding to a spectacular spring that also included the men's

lacrosse team's NCAA title (see page 23) and Ivy League team championships in men's lacrosse, women's open crew, softball, women's tennis, and men's and women's track and field.

The women's lightweight program won gold in the varsity eight and varsity

four, along with the Commissioner's Cup for the most team points. The Princeton men's heavyweights had three IRA podium finishes, including a gold medal in the second varsity eight, and the men's lightweights placed second in the varsity eight. Women's open rowing finished sixth overall at the NCAA Championships, held the same weekend.

Seventeen Princeton track and field athletes qualified for the NCAA Championships. Greg Foster '26 (men's long jump), Connor McCormick '26 (men's 1,500 meters), Shea Greene '26 (women's javelin), Layla Giordano '28 (women's discus), and Georgina Scoot '26 (women's triple jump) earned first-team All-America honors.

In women's golf, freshman Thanana Kotchasanmanee made a historic individual run, winning the Ivy League title and an NCAA regional title before tying for 12th at the NCAA Championships, the best-ever finish by an Ivy athlete in the tournament.

At the Princeton Varsity Club awards

banquet in May, the year's stellar seniors were in the spotlight. All-Americans Beth Yeager '26 (field hockey) and Mitchell Schott '26 (men's swimming) won the top honors for women's and men's athletics, the Von Kienbusch Award and Roper Trophy, respectively.

Civil and environmental engineering major Braeden Carroll '26 (men's lightweight rowing) received the Class of 1916 Cup, given to the senior letter-winner with the highest academic standing. Jaden Wedderburn '26 (football) won the Art Lane Award for "selfless contribution to sport and society," and Shea Greene '26 (women's track) was selected as the Chris Sailer Leadership Award honoree. The men's hockey team won the Ford Tiger Game Changers Award for its community service.

Former Princeton director of athletics Mollie Marcoux Samaan '91, the CEO of U.S. Squash and a hockey and soccer star as an undergraduate, was the Class of 1967 PVC Citizen-Athlete Award winner. Bert Kerstetter '66, a football alumnus and longtime supporter of athletics department initiatives, received the Marvin Bressler Award. **■** By B.T.

INSIDE INNOVATION

Princeton researchers are pursuing life-changing discoveries every day. **Inside Innovation** is a new report from the Office of Innovation that showcases the latest breakthroughs and the people driving them.

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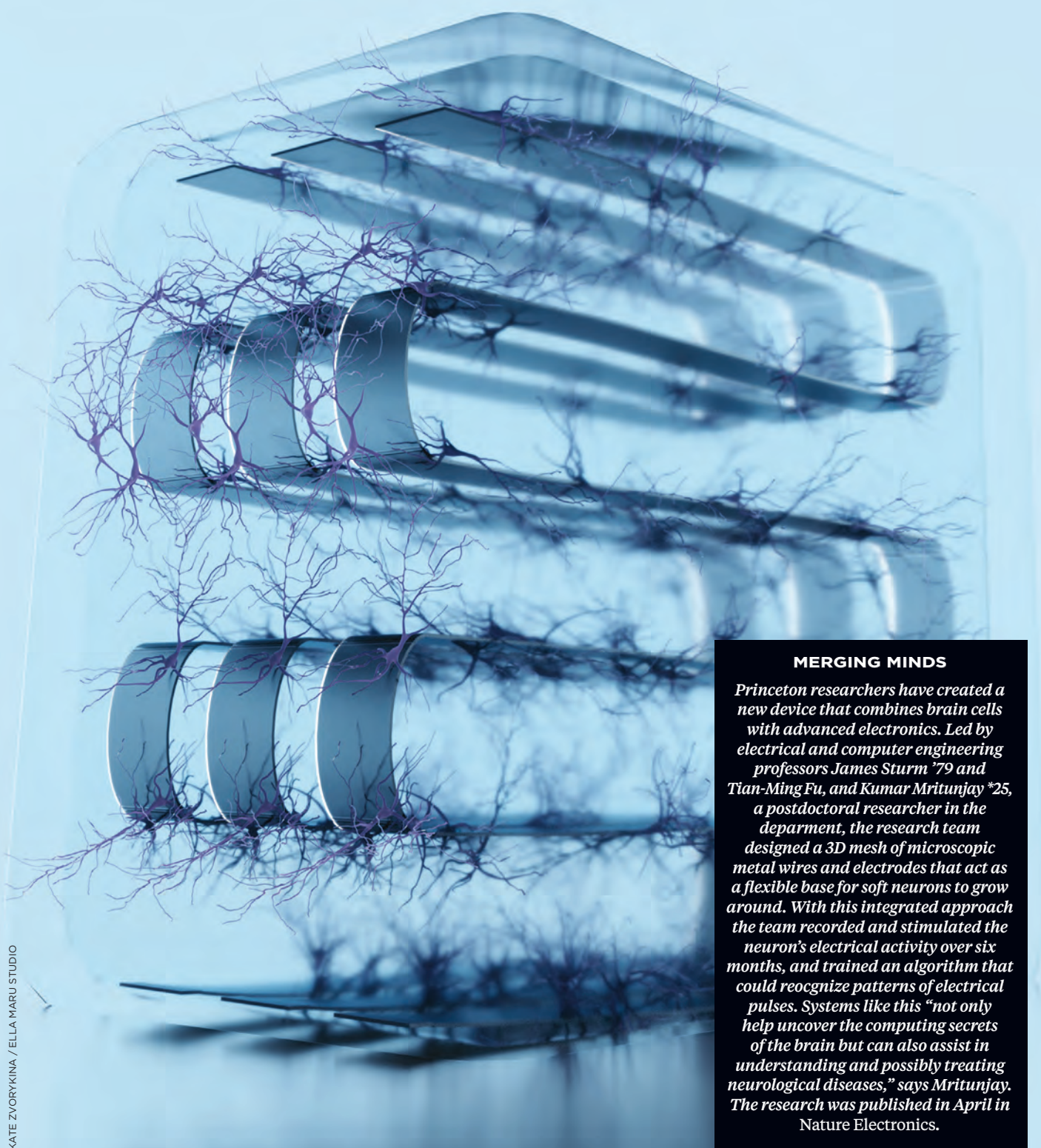
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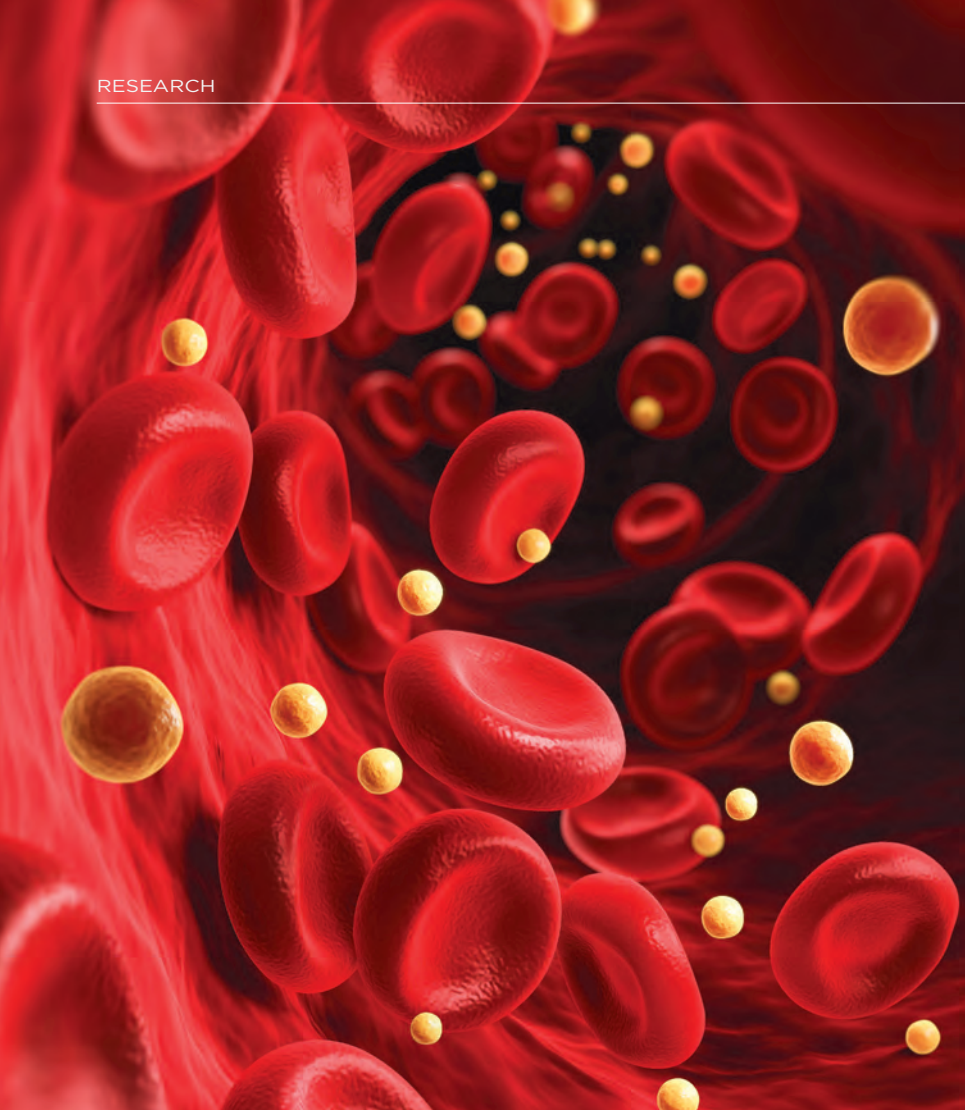
ADVANCING THE FRONTIERS OF KNOWLEDGE



MERGING MINDS

*Princeton researchers have created a new device that combines brain cells with advanced electronics. Led by electrical and computer engineering professors James Sturm '79 and Tian-Ming Fu, and Kumar Mritunjay *25, a postdoctoral researcher in the department, the research team designed a 3D mesh of microscopic metal wires and electrodes that act as a flexible base for soft neurons to grow around. With this integrated approach the team recorded and stimulated the neuron's electrical activity over six months, and trained an algorithm that could recognize patterns of electrical pulses. Systems like this "not only help uncover the computing secrets of the brain but can also assist in understanding and possibly treating neurological diseases," says Mritunjay. The research was published in April in Nature Electronics.*

KATE ZVORYKINA / ELLA MARU STUDIO



HEART HEALTH

A New Front in the Battle Against Heart Disease

Princetonians explain how new cholesterol testing guidelines are changing how we think about cardiovascular risk

BY SUSAN RESLEWIC KEATLEY '99

ON MARCH 13, THE AMERICAN Heart Association released new cholesterol guidelines for the first time since 2018. And for the first time ever, the guidelines included a recommendation that everyone get tested for something called lipoprotein(a), also known as Lp(a) (and pronounced “L-P-little-A”). According to Dr. Dennis Leahy '69, a retired cardiologist living with elevated Lp(a), the recommendation to test is long overdue. Elevated Lp(a) has been associated with cardiovascular disease for decades, yet it does not

respond to diet and exercise, and no drugs are specifically approved to target it. “It got this reputation as an unmodifiable risk factor,” Leahy says. That may be about to change.

Like HDL and LDL, terms readers may be familiar with from standard blood tests, Lp(a) is a molecule that ferries cholesterol around in the blood. LDL is the more recognized villain (commonly known as the “bad” cholesterol reading). Lp(a) deposits cholesterol on the artery walls as well, but it carries an extra protein that makes



“You have the people who do the right things — they’re running and they eat right, yet they come in with aggressive coronary disease, and we think, this person may have elevated Lp(a).”

— DR. AJAY KIRTANE '94

Professor of medicine at Columbia University

it a true supervillain: The complex molecule promotes inflammation and interferes with the body’s own blood-clot-dissolving response. As Leahy describes, “This creates a perfect storm setup for heart attacks and most strokes: the sudden disruption of a plaque and clot formation in an inflamed artery.” In addition, unlike LDL, one’s Lp(a) level is impervious to healthy practices like diet and exercise and instead is almost entirely genetically determined — “your Lp(a) level will be roughly the same at ages 5 and 50,” says Leahy.

“With LDL, we see this classic bell curve of numbers in the population,” says Dr. Karen Joynt Maddox '00, a cardiologist and professor of medicine and public health at Washington University in St. Louis, “but with Lp(a), most people have values around 10 or 15 and then there is a long tail where

people can have numbers 10 or 20 times that.” Global epidemiological studies have shown that 20% of the world’s population has high enough Lp(a) levels to double their risks for heart attacks, strokes, and a dangerous narrowing of the aortic valve.

People often discover they are in that 20% after a heart problem that seems to come out of nowhere. “You have the people who do the right things — they’re running and they eat right, yet they come in with aggressive coronary disease,” says Dr. Ajay Kirtane ’94, professor of medicine at Columbia University, “and we think, this person may have elevated Lp(a).”

Long family histories of vascular disease are also suggestive. “I always knew heart problems were in my deck of cards,” says Alison Meloni *95, since both her mother and grandmother suffered aortic valve narrowing, and her father died of a heart attack, “but there was no thought in my mind I would have this.” Meloni is a clinical research medical director at Amgen, one of the pharmaceutical companies with an Lp(a) drug in trials. Though she does not work on the program, hearing people at work talk about it prompted her to get an Lp(a) test. Despite being on a different heart medication that can lower Lp(a) slightly, hers was elevated.

With no FDA-approved medications to lower Lp(a), there’s been no emphasis on testing in the United States — until now. “The testing numbers have been abysmal,” says Dr. Taher Modarressi ’09, a lipid specialist at Advocare Princeton Cardiometabolic Health. “In New Jersey, it’s 2%, and it’s not like every doctor is testing 2% of patients, but more like a few doctors are doing all of the testing.” Nationally, studies suggest less than 1% of the eligible population has been tested. As Meloni says, “There’s the question of, ‘did you want to know if there’s nothing you can do?’”

But Leahy, who has suffered from cardiac issues since 2007, argues there are some things one can do while waiting for drug approvals. “If one has an elevated Lp(a) level, achieving ultra-low LDL levels can offset or delay its potentially devastating consequences,”

“The fact that Lp(a) levels are genetically determined opened up an entirely new line of research. Now the question is, does reducing Lp(a) actually reduce heart attacks and other events?”

— DR. GREGORY CURFMAN ’68

Executive editor, *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*, *JAMA Cardiology*



he says. Joynt Maddox, who also has elevated Lp(a), says she told her doctor she wanted to go on a statin, even though her LDL was not especially high. The medication has cut her LDL in half.

“Everyone has some risk,” she says. “There is the risk you cannot control,” like Lp(a), “and the risk you can control.”

The ability to control Lp(a) may be on the horizon with several drugs in the pivotal, final-stage trials required for FDA approval. Four of the five drugs in development use a novel genomic technology that silences the gene that codes for the protein that makes Lp(a) so dangerous. “The fact that Lp(a) levels are genetically determined opened up an entirely new line of research,” says Dr. Gregory Curfman ’68, executive editor of the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* and *JAMA Cardiology*. “Now the question is, does reducing Lp(a) actually reduce heart attacks and other events?”

While a “yes” from the trials may seem likely given the strong association between Lp(a) and heart disease, Curfman urges caution. “I’ve seen a lot of promising things not pan out,” he says, like drugs that raised HDL, thought to be cardio protective, but turned out not to decrease heart attacks. And as Rachel Sachs ’09, a professor of law at Washington University in St. Louis specializing in health law and food and drug regulation, points out, the FDA may be intending to learn whether there is a 1-to-1 relationship between Lp(a) lowering and the actual prevention of

heart disease. “If one drug lowers Lp(a) by 95% and the other by 85%, how does that difference translate to reducing heart attacks?”

If one or more of the new drugs are approved, questions abound. “The new paradigm in cholesterol treatment is factoring in years of exposure to an elevated number,” says Joynt Maddox. “Since people with elevated Lp(a) are born with it, one question is, would you put an adolescent on it for the rest of their life? What will be the risk-benefit tradeoff?” How quickly will secondary trials for people like Meloni, who have elevated Lp(a) but are otherwise healthy, get underway? “As the FDA learns more,” says Sachs, “they might in the future accept trials in which Lp(a) lowering itself is accepted,” because the link between Lp(a) and events like heart attacks and strokes will have already been established, in the same way that blood glucose lowering is accepted to lower the risk for blindness and amputations in diabetes.

These questions, however, do not cast doubt on the value of testing for Lp(a). “I fell in love with lipids because of the promise of prevention,” says Modarressi. “Testing gives us an opportunity to refine cardiovascular risk assessment and personalize treatment approaches.”

“We all know people who just suddenly had a heart attack,” Kirtane says. “If there is testing that can be done to identify these people at an earlier age and perhaps institute preventative therapies, that is beneficial.” ■

ANTHROPOLOGY

Uncovering the Inner Workings of U.S. Immigration Courts

Professor Amelia Frank-Vitale and her students have spent hundreds of hours observing and documenting proceedings

BY KATHARINE GAMMON '03

IMMIGRATION COURTS ARE OPEN to the public — but they are often overlooked. Amelia Frank-Vitale, assistant professor of anthropology and the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs, wants to change that.

Frank-Vitale is helping lead a project to conduct ethnographic research inside immigration courts across the country.

Starting in 2024 and working with professors from Barnard College and California State University, Long Beach, she has been training students to observe and document courts in New York City; Philadelphia; Newark, New Jersey; and Santa Ana, California. By pairing classroom preparation with on-site observation, the project tries to decode the black box of the courts — where similar cases can have vastly different outcomes. As of May 2026, her students have observed more than 1,200 hours in 19 immigration courts, documenting how deportation decisions are made — rulings that often happen in minutes, without the respondent even present.

Their goal is to explain what happens from start to finish, and use the observations to understand outcomes. Students document how judges, attorneys, and interpreters interact off the official record. The researchers then analyze the student data to uncover patterns. Frank-Vitale says she's not just studying the final decisions in the cases, but the process. "We are interested in all of the things that happen before an outcome is even made possible."

Anthropology is uniquely poised to help understand the courts. "Students can be brought into research in a really direct and relatively simple way," says Frank-Vitale, "because you don't have



AMELIA FRANK-VITALE

to be an expert in immigration law to do ethnographic observations there."

Immigration courts aren't criminal — they are more administrative. Frank-Vitale and her colleagues say that they can best be understood not only as legal institutions, but as places where judges, agents, respondents, and interpreters are all part of an elaborate performance — often under the constraints of politics and bureaucracy. Because respondents aren't guaranteed a lawyer, a judge often walks them through what they need to do. That can look very different in different places — and is often obscured from the public eye, she says. "Although proceedings are technically open to the public, it is a part of our legal system and our immigration bureaucracy that just hasn't gotten that much attention for a long time."

The project was planned before 2024, but with the start of the second Trump administration the researchers have documented vast changes. The administration weaponizes due process against the people it is supposed to protect, Frank-Vitale says — including looking for ways to detain or remove people before they get to their proverbial day in court. "They're trying to clear an enormous backlog of cases by avoiding the possibility of people actually having their cases heard."

Although the researchers are interested in the outcomes of cases, they aren't doing a study of the immigrants who are adjudicated by the court themselves. Frank-Vitale teaches students that there's a clear line between ethnographic observations — which she says are a long-term contribution to a broader project of making the court as fair and just as possible — and the immediate interventions that legal aid organizations and community groups can do.

Students have told her that the research has changed their life trajectory. Some who planned to become lawyers decided not to, while others shifted their future plans to work with asylum-seekers. "Being in court is a very surprising, frustrating, fascinating experience that really changes what a lot of students think they want to do."

The immigration court system only started in 1983, after all, and it is malleable — which means it can change in the future. One of the ways that Frank-Vitale could see it changing for the better is to have guaranteed representation for the asylum-seekers. "The differences are enormous," she says, "when they have someone who's on their side, who knows the legal system."

No matter what the outcome, Frank-Vitale warns that all Americans should be watching immigration courts more closely, as she believes they are a bellwether for the rest of the judicial system. "We should all be paying attention to what is being done in immigration court because I do think it's the canary in the coal mine for the kinds of changes that the Trump administration might imagine making elsewhere." ■



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Luke Palder, Yale College Class of 2009
Founder, MemoirGhostwriting.com

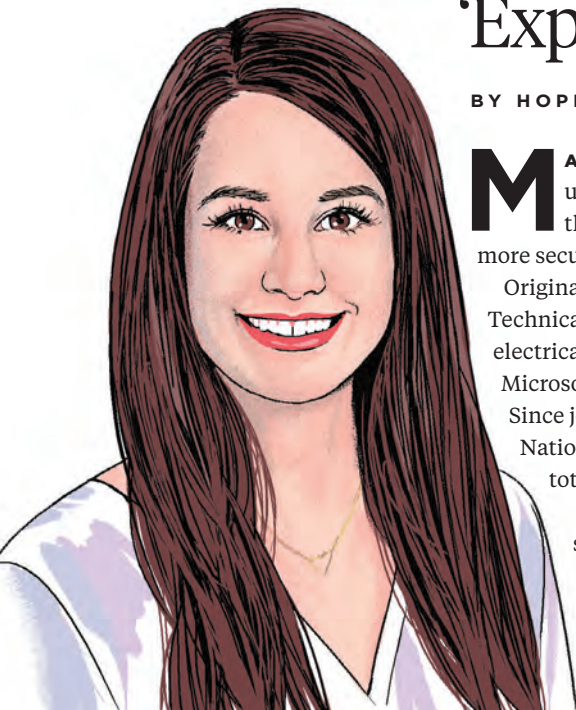
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BEHIND THE RESEARCH: MARIA APOSTOLAKI

Understanding the Internet — the ‘Experiment That Escaped the Lab’

BY HOPE PERRY '24



MARIA APOSTOLAKI'S RESEARCH FOCUSES ON SOMETHING BILLIONS OF PEOPLE use every day, but few fully understand: internet networks. Despite their ubiquity, these systems largely operate out of public view. Apostolaki's work to make networks more secure helps protect everyone who uses the internet.

Originally from Greece, she studied electrical and computer engineering at the National Technical University of Athens. While pursuing her Ph.D. in information technology and electrical engineering at ETH Zurich, Apostolaki worked at Microsoft and Google in research and software engineering. Since joining the Princeton faculty, Apostolaki has won a National Science Foundation award and a Sloan fellowship, totaling \$675,000 in funding for her research.

Apostolaki's lab focuses on making internet networks secure, drawing on multiple disciplines, including machine learning, data processing, and hardware. "Just understanding that there is this issue, there is this risk, I can make multiple different choices to reduce my risk and also push toward a more universal solution that would make the internet more secure," Apostolaki says.

Quick Facts

TITLE

Assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering

TIME AT PRINCETON

4 years

RECENT CLASS

Computer Networks

APOSTOLAKI'S RESEARCH A SAMPLING

DATA CENTER TRAFFIC

Researchers such as Apostolaki talk about internet networks in terms of their topology or graphs, which show how devices like phones and TVs on a network are connected with one another. The internet is made up of thousands of interconnected networks. Data centers host websites, artificial intelligence models, and games, and act as the "cloud" where information is stored.

Apostolaki recently co-authored a paper exploring ways for smaller data centers to process traffic. Most studies about data center efficiency have focused on large-scale producers, such as Google and Microsoft. But it's important for data centers of every size to perform efficiently in order to route information appropriately.

"Improving the efficiency and connectivity of smaller data centers is important because many of them rely on the public internet rather than

private backbone networks," Apostolaki says. "If we can help these data centers communicate more efficiently over the internet, typical users may see better performance for the services hosted there."

MIDDLE MONITORING

Another recent paper Apostolaki co-authored focuses on routing attacks on networks. Apostolaki compared it to someone reading the exterior of envelopes in the mail. "They may not see the message inside, but they can see who is sending mail to whom, how often, and how large each envelope is. That information can still reveal a lot," she says.

Her work aims to reduce this exposure by preventing any single intermediate network from seeing the full communication pattern. Instead of sending all traffic over one path, we can split traffic across multiple internet paths, making it harder for one network to


infer what the user is doing.

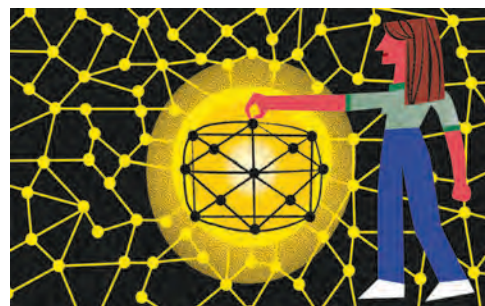
This issue is "fundamentally hard to solve," Apostolaki says, in part because it is difficult even to know that there's a middleman there, and it can take significant time to identify an attack. The one thing attackers can't hide is latency, Apostolaki says, which is the time delay for data to travel. Deploying a latency monitor at the border of a network could allow a network to stop traffic if it senses latency. Apostolaki said that many networks already have such a monitor in place.

SECURITY SOLUTIONS

Apostolaki's lab is currently working toward the creation of what's known as a neurosymbolic network. The term "neurosymbolic" combines two concepts: "neural" referring to machine learning, and "symbolic" referring to the creation of math equations that logically run the network. Apostolaki

says that right now it is difficult to have a good model of an internet network, meaning that it is more difficult to solve security issues and create efficiencies.

The internet, Apostolaki says, was not designed to be secure — it's "an experiment that escaped the lab." Creating a mathematical model for internet networks that would collaborate with machine learning combines what she calls the "creativity and power" of machine learning with the "guarantees and the trustworthiness" of mathematical models. "Networks are actually critical infrastructure," she explains. "So we cannot afford [to be] making mistakes." 



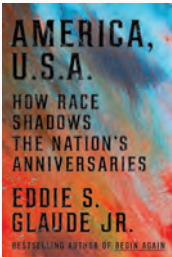
ILLUSTRATIONS: AGATA NOWICKA (TOP); MIKEL CASAL (BOTTOM)

FACULTY BOOKS

AMERICA, U.S.A.: HOW RACE SHADOWS THE NATION'S ANNIVERSARIES

By Eddie Glaude Jr. *97, professor of African American studies

As the U.S. approaches its 250th anniversary, Glaude offers an analysis of the country's stated values of liberty, equality, and freedom for all against its long history of racism. While revisiting the words of W.E.B. DuBois, John Dos Passos, Herman Melville, Martin Luther King Jr., and others, Glaude addresses the cycle of contradictions that become especially evident around celebrations of the nation's anniversaries. In *America, U.S.A.* (Crown), Glaude doesn't mince words

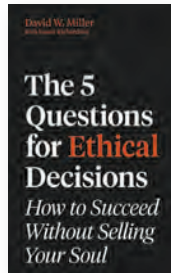


as he calls for an acknowledgement and reckoning of the country's past, noting this is key to create a better future for all.

THE 5 QUESTIONS FOR ETHICAL DECISIONS

By David W. Miller, director of the Faith & Work Initiative

Miller sets out to help people discover their "true north." Using five key principles, the book guides readers to help them understand the meaning of ethics, establish their why, design an ethical framework that can be clearly articulated, and learn how to apply it when making tough decisions. Based on Miller's two decades of experience teaching professional responsibility and ethics, *The 5 Questions for Ethical Decisions* (Princeton University Press) offers practical tips to help readers build their "ethical fitness" and avoid costly



mistakes that don't align with their morals.

FOOD JUSTICE UNDONE

By Hanna Garth, assistant professor of anthropology



At face value, the food justice system revolves around the desire to help others, but a closer look reveals many problems that exist within the ways activists try to achieve this. In *Food Justice Undone* (University of California Press), Garth draws on 12 years of ethnographic research to call out food justice activists for the stereotypes and racially coded language that plagues the movement. She argues that these misconceptions — like the belief that healthy eating is determined by individual choice — lead to more harm to communities of color. Her goal in illuminating these issues is to encourage building toward a better movement. **E**

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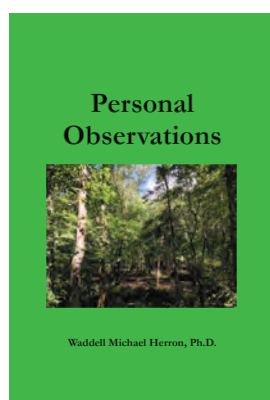
PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY

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The Princeton Bookshelf

2026 Summer Guide to Princeton University Authors





PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS

DR. WADDELL M. HERRON '73

Personal Observations is a collection of poetry, prose, and lyrics reflecting the author's firsthand accounts or perceptions of events, experiences, situations, and other life issues over the past 50 years. The book is published in paperback and is currently available for purchase on Amazon at the website, www.amazon.com.

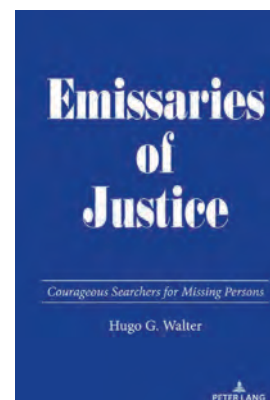
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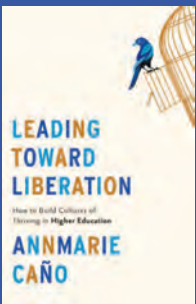
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EMISSARIES OF JUSTICE

HUGO WALTER '81

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



Drawing on liberation psychology and her experiences as a Latina, first-generation college student, and academic administrator, Caño shows how leaders can foster cultures where everyone thrives.

LEADING TOWARD LIBERATION
Annmarie Caño '93

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PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY



Astonished to learn that her tax-dodging daddy has left her a fortune stashed in a secret account at a Zurich bank, righteous Lynn Hazeltine faces a wrenching moral dilemma. Should she keep the toxic treasure so she and her family can live in luxury ever after (but in constant peril of being nabbed as a bigtime chiseler by IRS agents and tossed behind bars for many long years)? Or, as a conscientious citizen, should she surrender Pop's booty to the US Treasury, likely to confiscate her pot of gold and say "Thanks a bunch"?

The SWISS ACCOUNT

a novel by
PHYLLIS & RICHARD KLUGER

RARE BIRD BOOKS
Distributed by Simon & Schuster

Dick Kluger '56 met Phyllis, his wife-to-be, during sophomore year at Princeton, where he majored in English lit and chaired *The Daily Princetonian*. This is their third co-authored novel.

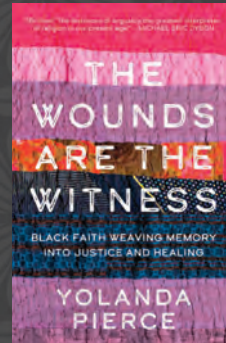
DR. YOLANDA PIERCE '94

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

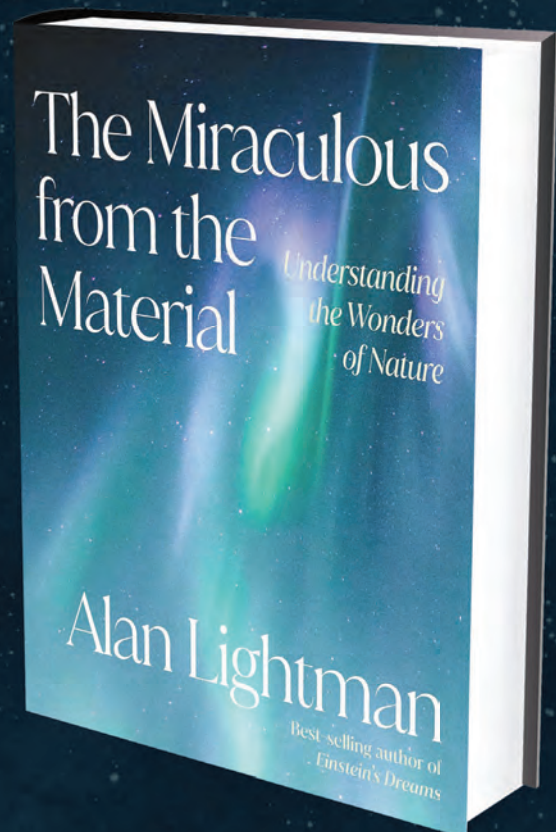
The Wounds Are the Witness uses Black theology, in conversation with the wounds of Black life in America, to argue that memory is a necessary theological tool for healing and justice. In this work, Yolanda Pierce argues that like the doubting disciple who longed to touch Jesus's side, we must intimately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

yolandapierce.com

The Science Behind the Wonder

Discover the science behind the universe's most stunning natural phenomena—from rainbows and snowflakes to spider webs and the rings of Saturn. Gorgeously illustrated with 40 full-page color photographs, *The Miraculous from the Material* makes a wonderful gift or coffee table book.

"The new book is deeply visual, with lovely photographs that pair with each essay. . . The real draw is Mr. Lightman's brightly expressive voice." – *The Wall Street Journal*



A Splendid Trove of Short Stories and Novellas with Deeply Human Characters

An elderly rural doctor comforts and counsels an even older dying patient; two French Quarter street musicians forge a lyrical cross-racial bond; a young Eastern banker mourns a lost teaching career, but discovers meaning and community in the Northwoods of Minnesota; and an Irish nurse becomes an American nun, but must find a way to honor her vows yet guard and guide the son she gave up for adoption. These characters and others step forward to amaze and entertain readers of this collection.

With their indelible words, Hardy Menees's stories tell of a passion for truth, independence of spirit, resolve in the face of challenges, faithful companionship, and bravery before death. His tales will capture the heart and engage the mind of readers. And a clearer grasp of the human experience — and its harvest — will unfold.

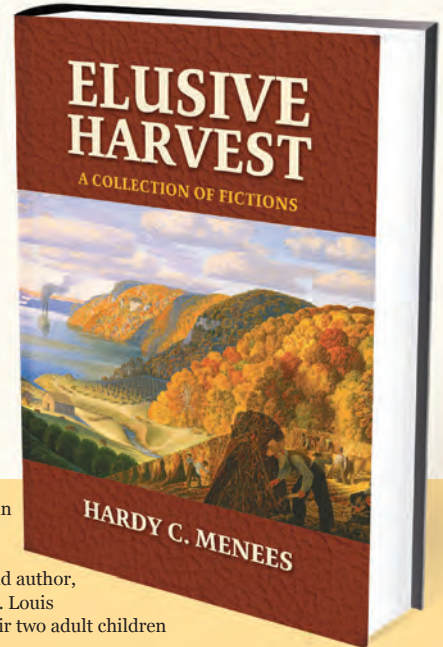
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Kindle/Amazon; online/local bookstores; or call 1-314-821-1111.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Hardy C. Menees '70 has been a raconteur for decades, spinning stories to entertain family, friends, clients and colleagues. With this fiction collection, the raconteur has become a writer, proudly following in the footsteps of his journalist father. Faculty at Princeton urged him to pursue a literary career as a college professor and author, but he chose law school instead. Menees has practiced as a civil trial attorney in St. Louis for 48 years. He and his wife, Kathy, live in Kirkwood, a St. Louis suburb, near their two adult children and four grandchildren.



Princeton Patriots of the Revolutionary Era

“A riveting account of the political and intellectual influence of the Presbyterians who founded Princeton University”

— *Helena Kane Finn, Main Representative, IFBPW, United Nations*

“A historical deep dive into the American Revolution.”

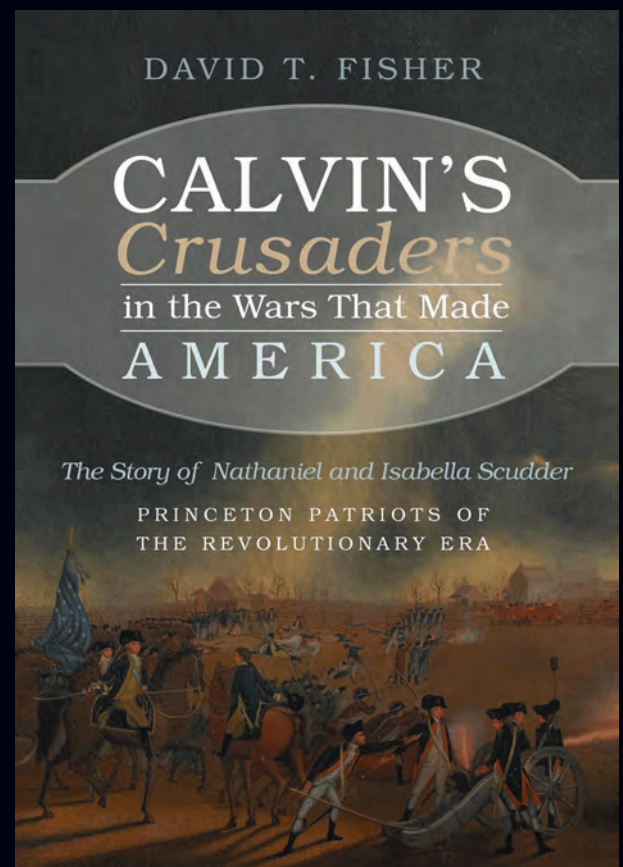
— *William S. Scudder, Communications Chair, The Scudder Association Foundation*

“Fisher has provided an important book, not only in terms of research but in his deep reflection on the meaning of the events recounted in the novel, which produce an enlightening and often times gripping read.”

— *Thomas Holman – Book review in Voegelin View*

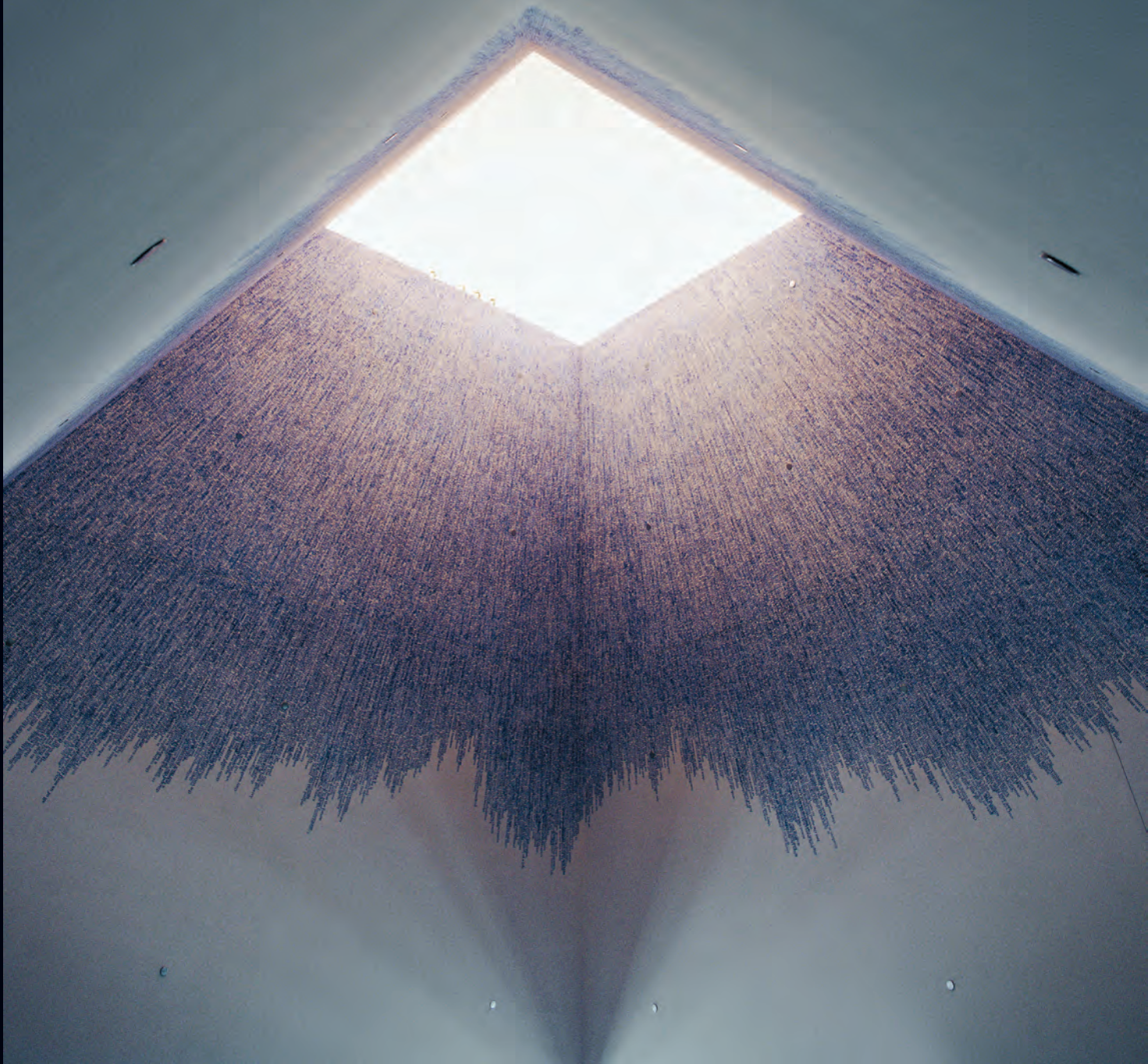


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LIGHT THE WAY

*Artist Idris Khan's
Sky of Hope is one of
28 commissioned artworks
at the Obama Presidential
Center.*





Legacy Building

**For architect Tod Williams '65 *67,
the Obama Presidential Center is not just a monument
to a presidency, but the latest chapter
in a lifetime of designing for the public good**

*By David Montgomery '83
Photographs by Kevin Serna*

Architect Tod Williams '65 *67 has experienced countless times the quiet miracle of roaming through a finished physical space that didn't exist until it sprang from a doodle and a word or two scribbled on his sketchpad — but never like this.

In early June, he finds himself exploring the Sky Room atop the imposing tower of the Obama Presidential Center on Chicago's South Side. It's near the end of another week of previews of the 19-acre campus of gardens threaded with winding paths and wetlands, and buildings that seem to emerge like bedrock from the landscape. What Williams wasn't prepared for was the reaction of those invited inside ahead of the scheduled June 19 opening. Not just friends of Barack and Michelle Obama '85, but schoolchildren from Nashville and regular Chicagoans of all ages, among others.

"This more than any other [project] is just a different thing because it affects so many people," Williams tells PAW as he admires vistas of the city that are accessible for the first time. "It's really their building. They see it as their building, not ours."

He adds: "It's shocking to see how many people are deeply moved by this place. Shocking, and unexpectedly moving. ... I never want to be in a position where I ever say, 'This is the project of a lifetime' — yes, it is."

Billie Tsien, Williams' close collaborator for more than 40 years, feels something similar. "What pleases me, and I think also probably pleases Tod the most, is standing back and watching people come in and use the space," she tells reporters earlier in the day. "They feel as if it belongs to them. It's unlike anything I've ever experienced."

The pair saved those initial doodles and free-associations from way back in 2015, when they were among seven finalists out of dozens of architecture firms vying for the commission. "Ennoble" and "Enable," they scribbled on the pad, along with three rectangles around a void — a plaza. They also jotted down "Story-telling" and "Story-making." This presidential library wouldn't be a building, it would be a campus. A place that looked back and ahead, that celebrated and inspired, that spoke and listened.

The Obamas met with each of the finalists before picking Williams and Tsien in 2016. "They struck up a great rapport with both Obamas," says Valerie Jarrett, former senior adviser to President Obama and now CEO of the Obama Foundation. "They got the point that the campus was to speak to the values that the Obamas have lived by."

As this privately-funded, \$850-million facility opens in a sometimes neglected part of town, Chicagoans can sound giddy groping for words to capture what they think of the center. It's "going to become the new living room for the world," says John Roberson, the city's former COO who oversees the Obama center's operations. "As long as you tell the history

of this country, you now have to tell the story of the Obama Presidential Center on the South Side of Chicago, located at [the corner of] 60th and Stony Island."

Most of the four buildings' interiors and all of the grounds are free and open to the public, with a museum, restaurant, basketball court, classrooms, lecture hall, public library, recording studios, and barbecue grills. Just the tower's four-floor museum section devoted to the Obama presidency requires a \$15-\$30 ticket for entry, while the lookout Sky Room at the top of the tower is free. If the center succeeds as the Obamas and their foundation intend, the campus will be adopted by everyone from picnickers to tourists to community organizers, anyone who might take what the Obama presidency means to them and put it to use in their own neighborhoods.

Not all reactions, however, have been appreciative. The 225-foot tower, in particular, has been called too big and blocky, earning the waggish moniker "Obamalisk." Architecture critics for *The Washington Post*, *The Guardian*, and *The New York Times* published favorable, harsh, and mixed reviews, respectively. "Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects knows how to create buildings that feel welcoming and open while also cool and contemplative, public space that pulls one out of the fray and into new forms of communion," wrote Philip Kennicott in the *Post*, while Oliver Wainwright of *The Guardian* begged to differ: "Behold the \$850M Obamalisk — or, as it sometimes feels morbidly like, the Obamausoleum."

Much of the criticism, though, has little to do with the architecture. The Obama Foundation's decision to place the project in Jackson Park, designed in 1871 by Frederick Law Olmsted close to Lake Michigan, and the city granting a 99-year, \$10 use agreement on public land, have been controversial. There are fears the project is sparking gentrification. And it's the first presidential library that isn't really a library, nor will it hold printed presidential archives. Since 95% of Obama's presidential records originated in digital form anyway, the foundation gave a grant to the National Archives to digitize the rest, which will be available anywhere, while the Archives will manage the physical papers elsewhere, according to Emily Bittner, the foundation's vice president of communications.

Williams and Tsien wince when they hear "Obamalisk." They didn't originally envision such a monumental tower. It was Obama who egged them on to go larger and louder, but they unapologetically own the finished design and are taking the gibes in stride. "To say it doesn't sting would be wrong," Williams

says. “But suddenly you realize you’re in the public eye, and the public has a right to speak. ... I think it’s just better to keep my nose to thinking about the building and the problem and the person and the assignment, in which case all of this chatter goes away.”

Tsien adds, “We’ve talked about this as a 500-year building. So nicknames will come and go, but I think what remains is a building that is a marker [of a] person and time in our history.”

Williams, 83, and Tsien, 77, are more accustomed to good reviews. Their body of work includes the Barnes Foundation art museum in Philadelphia; the rebuilt David Geffen Hall and the David Rubenstein Atrium, both at Lincoln Center in New York City; the Logan Center for the Arts at the University of Chicago; and the Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment at Princeton. In 2014, Obama presented the pair with the National Medal of Arts.

The last 14 months have been especially busy. In addition to the Obama center, two more projects have opened that, together with the Obama campus, show the range that characterizes Williams’ and Tsien’s work. Their U.S. Embassy complex in Mexico City stands as the largest State Department facility outside Washington, D.C., consolidating more than 1,500 employees under one roof, according to Ambassador Ronald Johnson. At a sprawling scale, the design calls back to the traditional courtyard style of Mexican houses, with interior patios and a large open-air courtyard lying at the center of the design.

Then there’s the humble but elegant Brooklyn Bridge Park Pavilion in New York City. It’s a bathroom stop designed with remarkable care. On a knoll beneath a curvy canopy overlooking the East River, you can order a sandwich and contemplate the bridge above and the flow of bikes, dogs, and humans on the riverside path below. “It could not have been a more important project for us,” Williams says. “This is a public building and it’s in a public place and it deserves to be honored and respected and loved.”

Civic, cultural, and educational constructions — whether a bathroom, an embassy, or a presidential library — are Williams’ and Tsien’s specialty. “We don’t do commercial work,” Williams says. “If someone asked me to do an office tower, I wouldn’t. ... Usually with commercial work, the dollar is the final arbiter. I want the emotional, the spiritual to be transcendent.”

What the projects have in common — and you can also see it in the Barnes, the Andlinger Center, and other work — is a preoccupation with the structures’ relationship to the land and



TOWER OF POWER

Words cast in concrete from Obama’s 2015 speech in Selma, Alabama, wrap around the top of the 225-foot tower, a distinctive architectural feature that is striking but challenging to read in full.

a heightened attention to how craft, materials, and the human experience of interior spaces drive the outward forms of the buildings. Williams calls it “designing from the inside out.”

“It’s an implicit critique of the international generic that was pretty rampant in global modernism, where you could do everything everywhere and make it all look the same, and therefore it lost its connection with the local, both in terms of materials, in terms of craft and even ... a sense that somebody did it,” says Paul Lewis, a professor of architecture at Princeton. “This isn’t to say that space and form wasn’t relevant in their work, but it wasn’t foregrounded to the detriment of the tectonic materials. ... That became a really rich and provocative and, frankly, influential way of working.”



WINDY CITY WONDER

Artist Mark Bradford's *City of the Big Shoulders* is a three-story painting in the museum that maps Chicago.

Contemplative rather than bombastic, their structures defined a quiet zone within the self-promotional din of contemporary architecture. “The seduction of their work is visible by inhabiting the buildings,” Lewis adds, “by going inside and walking around and touching things.”

The inside is what counts. For example, at Princeton, Williams compares the playful monolith of Bowen Hall to the ground-hugging, secret-garden vibe of the Andlinger Center next door. “Bowen Hall is a pretty good example of a building that sees itself as a series of materials that are arranged, I think, in a rather postmodern way,” he says. “But it’s sort of saying, ‘Look at me!’ And I’m saying, ‘Don’t look at me; *be in me.*’”

One morning in February, Williams leads PAW on a tour of the firm’s studio on the ground floor of a building constructed more than a century ago to house artists across the street from

the southern edge of Central Park in New York City. Tall and lanky, with a shaved head, he’s not hard to imagine as the former captain of the track team at Princeton who also played junior varsity and varsity football as an offensive and defensive tackle, until injuries led him to give up football. He claims he almost flunked out in his sophomore year. “One of the things that got me in trouble was the pleasure of coming to New York, and going to the Apollo Theater,” he says. “I remember seeing Little Stevie Wonder when he was like 15 years old.”

In a sense, architecture saved him. His three mentors, Peter Eisenman, Michael Graves, and Richard Meier, modernist young radicals who taught at Princeton, convinced Williams to focus on his studies. “They stirred something inside me,” Williams says.

His worktable on the broad studio floor sits alongside those of the firm’s architects, whose ranks can reach 40 depending on the number of active projects. Williams says he likes being in the middle of the action. His is the only table without a double computer monitor. He likes working on paper, and he and Tsien extoll the value of handwork — whether it’s the architect’s sketch, the stone

quarry worker’s chisel strokes, or the carpenter’s joinery — while the studio also employs the latest digital design tools. “His computer turns on about once a week,” says Cleo Berliner, the studio manager. “There are pens on his desk every day, though.”

Williams leads the way to a table with more than two dozen miniature paper models of the Obama tower. The array of miniatures was the response to a request from the president. In the middle of the design process, Obama wanted to see more options for the tower. Each is subtly different. Some chunky, some svelte. None of the facades is flat; the planes are sliced and shaped and angled in different configurations.

Obama turned out to be one of those clients who tells his architects that he might have been an architect, too, if he hadn’t become, well, the president. He definitely had opinions. “He listened to us plenty, and we listened to him plenty,” Williams says.

Williams pulls out a hand-drawn sketch he made of a version of the tower. He points to slashes in black marker where Obama scribbled out some of Williams’ lines and drew in others.

Another time, Obama added an appendage that, to Williams, “looked like a duck’s beak on the thing.” Williams got the president’s message. “He was just saying, you know, ‘Make it more interesting.’ It made me think, he’s very serious about this and we need to work harder.”

“It was very much a lively dialogue, so that was exciting,” Tsien says of interactions with Obama in a telephone interview with PAW. The former president has, “in terms of the larger building form, a very good eye.” Obama told the *Times* last October, “I’m sure there were times when I got on their nerves a little bit.”

The duck’s bill did not make it onto the tower, but the architects responded to Obama’s appraisals that earlier versions were “too quiet.” Ironically, though, the evolution of the tower inevitably prioritized making an exterior statement with the architecture, which isn’t how Williams and Tsien typically think about buildings.

“I think that was the biggest question,” Tsien says. “Can a building represent a vision? Buildings are containers for visions. Most of our buildings are containers for vision, containers like the Barnes for art,” or Andlinger for higher education and the environment, or the Brooklyn pavilion for a civic crossroads and comfort station. “We’ve not spent so much time on the container itself because, essentially, most of our buildings are fairly restrained, with an enriched experience when you are inside.” She adds, “It’s asking that a building be designed from the outside, and that’s not our normal process.”

Still, they saw Obama’s point. Initial designs of the campus lacked a signature piece, sort of the way the early Princeton campus needed a Nassau Hall, Williams says. Indeed, making the museum an uplifting tower enhanced their original architectural argument that the election of America’s first Black president had “ennobled” the office. And there were practical considerations: A horizontal museum building would take up too much space.

They conceived of the tower as four cupped hands coming together and as a beacon of hope on the land. To protect

“The idea of getting lost and finding yourself, which is what I certainly did and am still doing. The pleasure of not knowing and finding some truth about yourself and the world by entering into the conversation you can’t even understand, or a landscape you can’t understand, and it sorts itself out.”

*Tod Williams ’65 *67 on his architectural style, specifically Princeton’s Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment*



INAUGURATION DAY REMEMBERED

A 1,200-pound bronze statue of Barack and Michelle Obama ’85 was a popular spot for selfies even before the center opened.

museum artifacts inside, windows on most of the exterior were out of the question, so they found other ways to add texture and life to the facade. They chose granite from a New Hampshire quarry that displayed a moody “tapestry,” markings that adopt subtly different shades when wet with rain or bathed in varying intensities of sun. They made each of the tower’s four facets distinct, with unpredictable angular cuts in the granite, stained glass art screening the escalator, and a vertical light box glowing at night.

Wrapped around two sides of the top and cast in concrete are words from Obama’s 2015 speech on the 50th anniversary of the Selma-to-Montgomery Civil Rights march. Originally this linguistic screen outside the Sky Room was supposed to merely suggest the power of language without using actual words, but Obama chose to install an excerpt of the speech.

From inside the building, natural light filters through the words and glass, allowing visitors to peer between the letters. Outside, the speech can be read from the ground, but only by walking around the corner to follow the text, which frustrates some critics. Like a message aimed toward Chicago’s West and South Sides, not the corporate towers to the north, the passage begins and ends with words that might capture the stated individual and collective aspirations of the Obama presidency — and of the architecture itself: “You are America ...” and “... nation of ours.”

Williams was raised in suburban Detroit and educated through high school on the legendary Cranbrook Educational Community campus in Bloomfield Hills, a place saturated with ideas of art, architecture, and design. Finnish architect Eliel Saarinen designed many of the buildings in shades of the Arts and Crafts and Art Deco movements; Charles and Ray Eames, of Eames Chair fame, left his mark; and Saarinen's son Eero got his start there before going on to design airports and a symphony hall. As a teenager, Williams worked summers for an industrial design studio that made subway cars and jukeboxes. "I loved it, and I knew that I liked being around these people," he says.

When he got to Princeton, Williams remembers Eisenman asking him who was his favorite architect. "Of course I said Saarinen. He told me how wrong I was." By the time Williams reached graduate school, including a year in Cambridge, England, before completing his graduate degree back at Princeton, "it had been pounded into my head as to who the great architects were. It was very clear that Le Corbusier, particularly in his career from 1910 to '29, was the person I should be following."

Williams got a job in Meier's New York firm, then went out on his own. In 1977, he hired Tsien to work in his studio, and in 1986 they formed their joint architectural firm Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects. Together they found their own architectural voice and developed a modernism that was concerned with craft and connection to the land.

In 2012, the Barnes museum in Philadelphia, like the Obama center, generated headline-making controversy beyond Williams' and Tsien's control. The museum's relocation from the suburbs was fiercely opposed by some. The design had to replicate the original claustrophobic layout of galleries, but Williams and Tsien found ways to add relaxing interstitial spaces, an interior garden, and a monumental light court. The herringbone floor of the court was made of wood reclaimed from the boardwalk at Coney Island. For the walls of the Barnes, the architects chose limestone of a particular quality from the Negev Desert in Israel.

Vincent D'Antonio, senior director of operations and grounds for the Barnes, tells PAW that he'll never forget how Williams and Tsien mingled with the construction workers and craftspeople, exchanging minute details on the transformation of design idea into constructed reality. "Folks in the construction field aren't used to that. The architect usually walks through, writes down a list of things that they don't like, ships it to them in a couple weeks, and everybody looks at it and runs around and fixes things. Tod and Billie want to know, 'Why did that happen?' Or, 'This is the way I want it to look.' Or, 'Here's a sketch of what you're building, can you achieve this?' ... It was really the first time on a large project like this that I saw the head of an architecture firm come out and talk to the folks building the building."

Williams and Tsien had a plaque affixed to the Barnes with the names of every person who worked on the project. A similar "Worker Appreciation Wall" at the Obama center has nearly 4,500 names.

At Princeton, in discussions related to campus buildings, "Andlinger" has become an adjective, says Forrest Meggers, associate professor of architecture at the University's energy and environment research center, which opened in 2016. The "Andlinger Center move" refers to how the building drops into the land, and the land drops into the building via courtyards and roof gardens. According to Meggers, campus designers will say, "Don't build these really deep buildings that nobody can get outside, you have to do the Andlinger thing."

"It is my favorite building on campus," says Lewis, the architecture professor, and it "has probably the most interesting relationship to the notion of a campus. If the campus is usually seen as a lawn, and then buildings are plopped on, the Andlinger Center is fully embedded into the thickness of the campus. It goes down, it goes up, they build courtyards that bring light in. ... As a result, the building is actually quite discreet. ... It's a building you discover by going there."

That said, Andlinger is also notorious as a place where it's easy to get lost, Meggers says. During a recent visit, he and PAW briefly had trouble finding each other, misunderstanding which courtyard the other was in. The three main sections of the building don't connect on the ground floor; you have to go below ground or outside to pass from one to another. Meggers says some users of the building take the attitude of, "'Who cares that people get lost, it is really cool.' But the engineers are like, 'I'm sick of people getting lost in

PARTNERSHIP

Billie Tsien, Williams' collaborator since the 1970s, says of working with Obama, "It was very much a lively dialogue, so that was exciting."





COMMUNITY SPACES

Viewed from the museum tower, the center includes Home Court, the angular building at right, a 60,000-square-foot athletic facility with an NBA-size basketball court, as well as a playground, walking paths, and a central lawn.

the building, I'm a pragmatic thinker kind of person.”

Williams is glad Andlinger has that quality: “It’s where I hope you can get lost and be delighted and find things.” It connects to a larger idea about earning an education, designing a building, living a life. “The idea of getting lost and finding yourself, which is what I certainly did and am still doing. The pleasure of not knowing and finding some truth about yourself and the world by entering into the conversation you can’t even understand, or a landscape you can’t understand, and it sorts itself out.”

Back in Chicago, the Obama center campus feels a bit like like an expanded Andlinger Center. The curving paths lead to striking views and surprising destinations — a vegetable garden, a hill for sledding in the Chicago winter, a playground. Williams and Tsien collaborated with landscape architect Michael Van Valkenburgh, who also worked on the Andlinger Center, the Mexico Embassy, and the Brooklyn Bridge Park Pavilion. Pushing back against criticism of this intensive use of a passive Olmsted park landscape, the architects point to a net gain of 3.7 acres of green space, counting the removal of a six-lane road and a two-lane road that had cut through the park.

The three buildings designed by Williams and Tsien — the tower, the Forum for programs and gatherings, and a new branch of the Chicago Public Library — are actually one

building connected underground. In aerial views of the campus, the Forum and the library are invisible because the paths and gardens have spilled over them. A fourth building — Home Court, designed by the architectural firm of Moody Nolan — contains a full-size basketball court.

The tower looms larger from a distance, muscling over a lower-scale landscape. Up close, though, it appears to shrink within its textures and moods. Step inside and there’s a zone of tranquility as one approaches the museum. Dramatic, multistory spaces and grand-scale commissioned artworks inflect the low-lit galleries with their interactive digital displays and murmur of curated music and speech. Rising four floors, the museum starts with the story of American

democracy and the struggle to extend it to all Americans, leading into an account of the Obama presidency and life in the Obama White House — Michelle’s dresses? Yes — including an exact replica of the Oval Office with no gold baubles on the mantle.

Above the museum, all the way at the top, is the Sky Room, where on that early June afternoon, Williams continues to roam the spectacular lookout. He scuffs his shoe on the floor made of a different type of granite from the facade, a cloudier stone, and this choice of material pleases him all over again. So too this rippled curtain along one wall — it looks like dark fabric, but it’s smooth and hard to his touch: carved walnut. Another wall, structural and load-bearing, purposefully reveals that it’s made of unfinished, reinforced concrete, which runs all the way down to the foundation, a reminder of the building’s fundamental groundedness, as tall as it is, which may be the architectural value that Williams reveres most. “The choice of materials, they’re quite thoughtfully done,” he says. “We’re trying to always show that it’s made by a person.”

In that sense, the tower is designed from the inside out, in spite of everything. Williams crosses the floor and peers out through the giant concrete letters of Obama’s Selma speech. He catches glimpses of the gardens, grills, and playground of the campus, and the rest of the South Side lying beyond. Up here, seen from the inside out, the words of Obama’s speech — “You are America ...” — appear in reverse, and Williams can imagine all those eyes gazing up in return from the outside in, the eyes of the city, the critics, the country, the world. And the future. **P**

DAVID MONTGOMERY '83 is a freelance journalist and former staff writer for The Washington Post Magazine.



KEVIN BIRCH

No Raining on



SOAKED BUT SPIRITED
Members of the Class of 2016 are well equipped for a wet P-rade.

This P-rade

BY MARK F. BERNSTEIN '83

Princeton loves superlatives, but when it comes to Reunions weather, they are usually associated with heat and tropical humidity.

This year, with temperatures on Saturday night hovering at 50 degrees and wind chills deep into the 40s, it was surely the coldest Reunions on the books. If anyone can point to a colder one, I'm all ears, although please recognize that those ears might still be a little blue around the edges.

Deciding to wander around and sample each major, I received some validation for this belief. It was only 9 p.m., but Ralph Davies '66 and his wife, Anne, were already walking out of the 60th headquarters in Holder Hall.

"Coldest Reunions you've seen?" I asked.

"Yes," Ralph replied.

"And you're leaving because of it?"

"Yes."

"We're old people!" Anne chimed in.

Theirs, though, turned out to be a minority view. For most alums, especially the younger ones, it takes more than April-like showers and March-like temperatures to slow a Memorial Day weekend Reunions. From one end of campus to the other, most people bundled up and partied on.

They had been partying most of the day Saturday. As usual, orange and black attire was everywhere, but reuners were often seen in hats and coats worn over class costumes. For this year, at least, short sleeves were out. The P-rade kicked off under gloomy skies, and when the precipitation did begin during the march, alternating between a light

mist and a steady drizzle, everyone simply popped open umbrellas, donned ponchos and slickers, and kept going. Even the evening fireworks went off as scheduled.

As Saturday night progressed, the campus was as bustling as always. Typical was the scene at the 25th reunion headquarters in Whitman College, which was packed with alumni and students from all classes. When asked if the weather was bothering them, a group of seniors from the football team shrugged it off like a would-be tackler.

1. Alumni Association president Ryan Ruskin '90, far left, and 13 past presidents mark the association's 200th anniversary at the start of the P-rade. **2.** Dick Judge '46 with the silver cane, a cold beer, and a warm blanket. **3.** Macol Stewart Cerda '91 and her class pick a good year to don trench coats in a nod to the movie *Say Anything*. **4.** Don't worry about the umbrellas, be happy.





BEVERLY SCHAEFER



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1. Mike Torre '17 knows how to keep rhythm and stay dry. 2. The 25th is a family affair for Hillary Chen '01, front, and husband Anders Chen '01. 3. From left in beer jackets, Elenoe "Crew" Smith '06, Patrice Ryce '06, Erica Jones '06, and family embrace the tennis theme. 4. Ouriel Ndalamba *26 has it made in the shades. 5. Ray Ollwerther '71 strolls the P-rade. 6. From left, Alysa Christmas Rollock '81, David Rollock '81, and Ira Starr '81 reunite at their 45th. 7. Guy Woelk '66 and Nancy Woelk are among the P-rade fashion leaders. 8. Morgan Taylor '27 and the Footnotes perform at a comedy show hosted in the East Pyne Arch by the Association of Jewish Princeton Alumni.

KEVIN BIRCH; BEVERLY SCHAEFER

“No effect,” said Charlie Lingon ’26. Having already made a round of all the tents on rainless Thursday night, he and his teammates were prepared to stay put.

“You make the best of it,” added Robert Longden ’01, standing nearby with his wife, Noel Longden ’02, who had made the trip from Hoboken, New Jersey, with their two young children.

For most of the evening, in fact, it was barely raining, although it was damp and raw. This was hardly the first wet Reunions, and the Facilities crews had done their best to make the headquarters habitable. A few courtyards had wooden boardwalks laid across the grass. Around most of the entrance gates, layers of straw had been put down to mop up the mud puddles.

Sounds may have been dampened by the wet weather, but strolling around the campus was like a rolling concert, as the band from one courtyard faded and the next one picked up. Billy Idol’s “Rebel Yell” was blasting at the 30th, Bruce Springsteen’s “Born to Run” at the 10th.



KEVIN BIRCH

Oddly, two different reunions, the 60th and the 45th, were both playing Frankie Valli's "Oh, What a Night." Even odder, perhaps, acclaimed jazz guitarist Stanley Jordan '81 and his band were entertaining the 45th reunion with Arlo Guthrie's folk classic "City of New Orleans."

At the 50th, back up in Blair-Joline courtyard, the always-popular Right On Band was trying to get the crowd moving for the *Animal House* banger "Shout."

"Come on," the lead singer exhorted, "this song was made for people who can't dance! Haven't you ever been to a bar mitzvah?" His words seemed to goad them into action. When it came time to get a little bit softer now, they swiveled as low as people in their 70s can go.

At the 40th, in 1879 courtyard, everyone who wasn't waiting for beer seemed to be dancing to Katrina and the Waves' "Walking on Sunshine." In a



truly genius move, a table under one of the side tents was piled high with dozens of hot pizzas delivered from a nearby pizzeria. It wasn't my class's reunion headquarters, but I took a piece anyway. And don't it feel — and taste — good?

The heart of any Reunions Saturday night, though, is always the fifth, held in Pyne-1901 courtyard. By the time I reached

it, it was getting late and the rain had picked up. Although a Public Safety officer, dressed in a yellow slicker and hood, ventured that the crowd was a little thinner than usual, it didn't look that way. There were the usual knots of old friends deep in conversation. Four lines at the beer

tent were each a dozen people deep.

Standing nearby, Andrew and Richard, both Class of 2024, gave only their first names but conceded nothing to the elements. Their clothes were soaked, Andrew's hair was plastered to his head, and Richard's glasses were speckled with raindrops. When I complimented them on defying the weather, Andrew was philosophical.

"Our time here is so short," he said. "We have to make the most of it."

Then the band started its next set, playing a song I won't even pretend to say that I recognized. But everyone else did. As the midnight hour passed, and the drops began to fall heavier than they had all night, the young people did what we are often told to do in the rain. They jumped up and down and danced. **P**

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





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1. ABBA tribute band Dancing Dream gets the party started at the Class of 1986's tent on Friday. **2.** From left, Lisa Melendez '96, Colin Livesey '96, Vená Jordan '96, and Allison Slater Tate '96 pay tribute to classmate Grant Wahl. **3.** A late-night stop at a food truck near Blair Arch hits the spot. **4.** From far left, Karol Moss '86, Alethea Batts '86, and Rose Catherine Pinkney '86 take a float down Elm Drive. **5.** Eric Doten '61 dances with his wife, Lynne Hunt Doten, while Jim Freund '56 plays the piano. **6.** An exhibit in Hamilton courtyard features portraits of the five Class of '66 alumni who died in military service during the Vietnam War era. **7.** Stacy Roth, director of Washington Crossing Fifes and Drums, accompanies the Class of 1976.

KEVIN BIRCH

The Only Reunions Event That Assigns Homework

BY SOFIA CIPRIANO '27

FOR NEARLY 50 YEARS, Princeton's annual Dante Reunions seminar has begun with a group recitation of the beginning of *Inferno* — from memory, in Italian. This year, in an East Pyne classroom, on professor Simone Marchesi '02's signal, a chorus erupted with the opening line: "*Nel mezzo del cammin di nostra vita ...*"

One student, Jacob Davis '26, kept going after the others stopped, earning himself a round of applause among the 40 or so attendees. Then Marchesi turned the group's attention to cantos 10-12 of *Paradiso*, and the 90-minute seminar had started.

Robert Hollander '55, a scholar of Dante and Princeton professor of French and Italian from 1962 to 2003, first held a Dante class at Reunions in 1977. He invited his former students to read the first three cantos of *The Divine Comedy* with him, then three more each year thereafter; 33 years later they had read all 100 cantos — and subsequently returned to the first page of *Inferno*. His devised reading schedule parallels the movement of Dante's epic: Across its three volumes, the protagonist, a fictionalized Dante, accumulates the knowledge necessary to author *The Divine Comedy*. The result is a loop, with the ending of *Paradiso* segueing back to the beginning of *Inferno*.

Forty-nine years later, the tradition is going strong. In 2002, Marchesi, who studied under Hollander and first attended the Reunions event in 1997, began co-teaching the seminar. After Hollander's death in 2021, Marchesi officially took up the mantle of Dante Reunions.

"It's academic, it's collaborative, like everything Dante at Princeton," Marchesi said of the event. Hollander's commentary on Dante frequently featured notes and

citations from students who took his class; Marchesi has kept this spirit alive. To read Dante together is to produce knowledge together, he said.

"Dante wrote a text that's like a score, a musical score. He knew that until and unless readers would engage with it to produce their own meaning to use the text for what they need it for, he would have not written a masterpiece," Marchesi said.

Throughout the seminar this year, Marchesi periodically ceded the stage to other scholars in the room, including Alejandro Cuadrado '16, a professor of Italian literature at Bowdoin College who specializes in Dante. And when the conversation broadened, more voices jumped in.

"There are some academics, but it's mostly a group of people who are not reading Dante on a regular basis anymore," said Susan Saltrick '78. "Even if you're engaged in a cerebral profession like law or medicine, it's a different side of your brain that you're using, and it's just wonderful to reconnect with that spirit of inquiry."

It's also the only Reunions event that

assigns homework, as attendees are asked to read the cantos that will be discussed.

"It's a very Princeton tradition, to have a carved out intellectual space at our alumni Reunions," Cuadrado said, underscoring that unlike panel events, the seminar "invites real participation from anyone."

Dante lovers young and old come together to produce meaning from the text.

Frequent attendees include Georgia Nugent '73, the former president of Kenyon College, and her husband, Thomas Scherer '84, as well as Saltrick and her husband, John Meyer '77. Several members of the Class of 2025 were in attendance — and those from many class years in between.

"Everyone in that room has been taught Dante by either Simone Marchesi or Bob Hollander, and that's just an incredible continuity," said Cuadrado.

Princeton Dante also hosts retreats in Tuscany. Every two years, the group gathers in a countryside castle for an immersive week of Dante. Saltrick, who helps organize the event, describes it as "an absolute joy and treasure to be a part of." The next retreat is scheduled for summer 2027.

Dante "was writing across time and across history," Cuadrado said. "He knew when he was writing *The Divine Comedy* that 1,000 years later people would be reading him. We're only at 700 right now, but in 300 years, if there's still a Princeton University and there's still a Reunions, my bet would be that there would still be a Dante reunion."

SOFIA CIPRIANO '27 is a PAW student writer.

JACOB DAVIS '26 SOAKS UP THE APPLAUSE.



BEVERLY SCHAEFER

SONIA SOTOMAYOR '76

On Service and SCOTUS Siblings

BY ELISABETH H. DAUGHERTY

ON SATURDAY MORNING of Reunions weekend, Jordan Thomas '18 asked Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor '76 a very Princeton question for the current political moment: When humanity, empathy, and decency seem lacking among people in power, what does it mean to be “in the service of humanity”?

Sotomayor famously added that bit to Princeton's unofficial motto, “In the nation's service,” in a 2016 Alumni Day speech. And through a winding story, she explained it to Thomas and the hundreds of other alumni who braved the cold and rain to see her speak at McCarter Theatre.

One day as an undergrad, she said, she stumbled across an article about a man who landed at a local psychiatric hospital and had to wait some time for a Spanish translator to be brought in to sort out his story. “How could this happen?” she thought, and she gathered a group of Spanish-speaking friends who began translating for patients at the hospital. At Christmas, the students cooked for them.

Sotomayor said that was her first experience with one-on-one community service, something she's tried to continue all her life. “We have to think about living as part of our community and taking personal responsibility for improving the human condition,” she said. It's what she meant when she gave that speech in 2016.

“Because we think of ‘in the nation's service’ as elected positions, but it's not just elected positions. It's individual activities of caring,” she said. The audience erupted in applause.

The event was organized by and for the Class of 1976 and later opened to others who registered for Reunions. Sotomayor spoke with Melanie Lawson '76, whose long career as a broadcast journalist in



**“Because we think of
‘in the nation's service’
as elected positions, but it's
not just elected positions.
It's individual activities
of caring.”**

— SONIA SOTOMAYOR '76
Supreme Court Justice

her hometown of Houston, Texas, was celebrated by the city when she retired this winter.

Caring for others became a thread that wound through Sotomayor's talk, as she described growing up in the Bronx with her Puerto Rican family, getting diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes when she was 7, and eventually picking Princeton partly because it wasn't far from home. It's taken her decades, she said, to fully understand how much some of her classmates at the time suffered being away from their families and struggling to fit in.

“We all suffer private pain,” Sotomayor said, “yet we rarely talk about it, and I think that's a mistake.” But eventually the class formed friendships, “and I come back to my 50th reunion, and it's pretty wonderful. We belong now.”

At Princeton, she said, she used her fear as a stimulant to learn, and she set small, achievable goals. In her first semester she aimed for three B's and one A and did it. Over time she upped

the goal until she got straight A's and eventually the prestigious Pyne Prize. When years later President Barack Obama called to say he was nominating her for the Supreme Court, she — a tough New Yorker — started crying.

“Judge, you don't have to cry. I've put together the most fabulous team to get you confirmed,” Sotomayor recalled the president saying.

“I may be one of the few people — and I hope this is true for a lot of you, for a lot of us — who has lived further than I ever dreamed,” she said.

Without touching on politics or pending cases — two topics the audience was warned she wouldn't discuss — Sotomayor described her fellow justices like siblings. They spend a great deal of time together, they argue and disagree, and “you sometimes wish your mother hadn't had them.” For example, Sotomayor said she very often disagrees with Justice Clarence Thomas but still appreciates how much he cares about those around him, learning the names and personal stories of everyone who works for the court.

“There's good in every one of my colleagues,” she said. “We all believe in the Constitution. We all believe in our system of government. We all care deeply about this country. The fact that they're misguided” — and here she paused while the audience laughed and applauded — “it doesn't mean they're bad people.” ■

ELISABETH H. DAUGHERTY is PAW's digital editor.

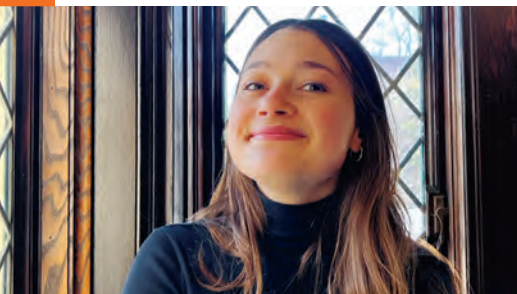


THEY WANT TO DANCE WITH ALL THEIR FRIENDS AT THE FIFTH REUNION TENT.

STUDENT DISPATCH

When Local Teens Crash Reunions

BY SOFIA CIPRIANO '27



THEY TRAVEL IN PACKS AND wear Brandy Melville clothing. They swivel their heads periodically, ever so slightly paranoid. Huddled over iPhones, they Snapchat their friends.

If you've seen such a group roaming the tents at Princeton Reunions, chances are you've spotted a group of high schoolers crashing the party.

Current students and alumni from the Princeton area think of Reunions crashing as a universal rite of passage. It's even a unifier: Students from both local public and private schools participate. Many link up with their older friends who attend the University, who can open some doors for them — literally.

This Reunions, I set out to understand how high-schoolers crash the festivities.

On the Thursday evening of Reunions, I approached a group of suspicious-looking teenagers as they clustered a respectful distance from the five-year tent, plotting their infiltration. The high-schoolers — a group of five who let me shadow them on the condition of anonymity — brought me into the loop, regaled me with tales of their bravery,

and shared their reflections on the Reunions experience.

QUICKLY, I LEARNED THAT THESE kids are crafty. Few have been able to attain wristbands — at least legitimate, functional ones; a girl proudly showed me her knock-off. Instead, they tried to sneak into the tents through dorm buildings. After conferring, the group dispatched one member to scout a way in, carefully avoiding attention. Another girl received a call from a classmate who had managed to catch an open door. She peeled away, followed by a few others, a school of fish swimming through the hallways.

In the meantime, I chatted with the group awaiting their signal. They told me that it's technically a school night — one girl confided that she has a quiz tomorrow — but tomorrow's a half day, anyway, and this is tradition. Reunions must go on.

Last year, they said, it was easier: fewer security guards, more open windows,

KEVIN BIRCH; COURTESY OF SOFIA CIPRIANO '27

and paper wristbands that were easy to copy and fake. But this year Princeton upped its game. Security guards cloaked in shadows lined the dorms and had all but eliminated the open-window route, and the return to cloth wristbands made forgery much more difficult.

According to Erika Knudson, associate vice president for Advancement communications, the wristband system was introduced in 1999. Before then, attendees wore buttons that identified them and distinguished adults from minors. Asked about high-schoolers sneaking into Reunions, Knudson said, “We generally do not discuss the specifics of campus security arrangements because doing so could reduce the effectiveness of our security program.”

The high-schoolers and alumni explained that windows have been the preferred method of sneaking onto the premises. One girl said that last year a security guard grabbed her shoe as she hurled herself through an open window. She managed to evade capture. Later, she returned to retrieve her shoe and found that it had been kindly left for her.

Creative methods for sneaking in abound, including pretending to be a pizza delivery driver or desperately needing to use a restroom.

As the high-schoolers navigated from one tent to another through the basement of a dorm building, a group of slim blondes emerged. They told us they had been hiding in the laundry room for an hour. It was unclear if this was necessary. They seemed giddy, delighted by the mere act of rebellion.

Out in the tents, the crew stuck together. I asked one girl to estimate how many of her classmates are in the vicinity, and she said about 50.

She pointed out a small, co-ed group and said, “Those guys are *soph*-mores.” She side-eyed her friend and they rolled their eyes in unison. Sneaking into Reunions is understood to be upperclassman territory.

“Aren’t you going to party?” one girl asked me, scrutinizing my gray rain jacket — she was wearing orange and black — and an under-21 wristband. She



seemed concerned for me.

“I’m working right now,” I replied, startled by her directness, “I’m talking to you guys. I’ll party later.”

She winked at me.

What’s the allure, I asked? The partying? The sneaking? The drinking?

Several girls said they come to Reunions to dance. There aren’t any clubs or discos in Princeton, and most nights there’s not much to do. Reunions are “Princeton’s way of giving back to the community,” as one girl, a head shorter than me, put it.

They don’t seem to be in it for the alcohol. At one point, one girl, who managed to acquire a beer, took a sip and scrunched her face. “Gross,” she said, launching the cup toward her friend. A group of taste-testers formed. They came to a consensus: *really* gross.

Reunions are “Princeton’s way of giving back to the community,” as one girl, a head shorter than me, put it.

Of the dozens of high-schoolers around — I became an expert in spotting them — almost none had drinks.

They seemed to be in it for the love of the game.

That said, a few high schoolers were ejected. I spotted one being led out, her beer confiscated. Her friends checked on her later. We found out that she got let off with a warning, and a friendly “better luck next time.” On the next few nights of Reunions, security measures seemed to increase; one of the girls from Thursday night said that she and her friends stuck to the 20th tent on Saturday night, as the fifth and 10th were effectively fortified.

The threat of exile makes the party all the more tantalizing.

On Thursday night I saw a cluster of them right by the DJ, forming a protective circle. They threw their hands up and their phones up even higher, documenting their bravery on social media. They belted out the words to the early 2000s pop songs; they danced, arms thrown around their friends.

I think they were having more fun than the rest of us. ■



BUSY HANDS

At left, Mario Moya '01, his wife, Rebecca Hoberg, and their daughter, Anastasia, pause for a selfie before getting back to making art at the museum during Reunions.

FIRST REUNIONS

The Art Museum Draws a Crowd

BY LIA OPPERMAN '25

FOR ALUMNI RETURNING to Princeton for Reunions, one of the biggest changes on campus was impossible to miss: the new Princeton University Art Museum.

The museum opened its doors with a variety of programming throughout the weekend, including a welcome celebration, tours, family activities, and, of course, a look at exhibitions.

“We are so delighted to be hosting our first Reunions in the new art museum, and I’m imagining that for some of you who are returning from afar, this is probably your first set of experiences of the new museum,” director James Steward told visitors gathered for a tour.

“Were it not for today’s students, I don’t think this museum would have a purpose. And if it weren’t for yesterday’s students, we probably wouldn’t be able to financially operate,” he said.

The museum has drawn critical acclaim and thousands of visitors since reopening Oct. 31. Steward noted that attendance surpassed 300,000 within the museum’s first six months. He attributed the sustained interest in part to the new building’s design and expanded exhibition space, which allows the museum to showcase more of Princeton’s collection of more than 117,000 works of art than in the previous museum.

Emily Kent '16 attended her first

Reunions since she graduated and reflected on all of the changes on campus. She and her friends explained how the old art museum was often used as a study space, and that the band would stop by to distract students doing their work on game days.

She appreciated all the activities in the new museum that allow visitors to engage with the artifacts and was eager to wander the galleries, especially work by the Impressionists.

Other alumni viewed the museum

through the eyes of the younger generation.

Mario Moya '01 sat with his wife as they watched their daughter take advantage of the museum’s new creativity labs. She, along with many other children and adults, was following a template to make tiger ears and tails using various materials.

He also recalled the old art museum during his time as a student, admitting that he had set foot inside on only two occasions.

The new building, he said, offered a very different experience. “I will definitely come back,” he said.

Ben Elias '05 also reflected on the open studio time and the open-ended nature



of the activities. “I mean, the kids are having an absolute blast. There’s a lot of creativity, and it’s mostly adults having just a lot of different materials, so you get to experiment and see what works,” he said.

In addition to making tiger ears and tails, alumni were invited to explore printmaking technology and create their own Reunions-inspired embossed bookmarks using a variety of materials and textures, guided by local artist Amanda Chesney.

Tours were led by museum staff, including Steward, chief curator Juliana Ochs Dweck, and senior curator of American art Karl E. Kusserow. Along with the tours, attendees were encouraged to check out the four museum exhibits: “Photography as a Way of Life: Minor White, Aaron Siskind, and Harry Callahan”; “What Photographs Look Like”; “Toshiko Takaezu: Dialogues in Clay”; and “Willem de Kooning: The Breakthrough Years, 1945–50.” Alexandra Foradas, curator of modern and contemporary art, also held a lecture on de Kooning.

During his tour, Steward emphasized that the museum’s success ultimately depends on the Princeton community.

“I hope everyone who has ties to Princeton will understand this as your museum,” he said. ■

LIA OPPERMAN ’25 is PAW’s reporting fellow.

JEFFREY EVANS / PRINCETON UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM; BEVERLY SCHAEFER



FROM LEFT, GABRIEL DEBENEDETTI ’12, MICHAEL CANNELL ’82, LAUREN CHRISTENSEN ’11, MELODY CHU ’01, CASSANDRA JAMES ’23, AND ALEX ULYETT ’11.

PAW PANEL

What It Takes to Turn an Idea Into a Book

MICHAEL CANNELL ’82, who has written narrative nonfiction books on subjects ranging from crooked cops to Formula One racing, said aspiring authors should consider one question before they write their first book: “Is there room in your life, is there energy in your life for obsession? If you’re going to write a book, you better be obsessed.”

Cannell and authors Lauren Christensen ’11, Melody Chu ’01, and Cassandra James ’23 joined publishing strategist Alex Ulyett ’11 to share experiences and tips in “How To Make Your Book a Reality,” PAW’s Reunions panel, at the Friend Center May 23. Freelance journalist and nonfiction author Gabriel Debenedetti ’12 moderated the discussion.

The panel covered early steps (writing a proposal, finding an agent) and advanced ones (marketing, handling criticism). Chu encouraged authors to find a writing group because

“writers will read your writing in a different way than readers will, and you can get a lot of helpful feedback that way.”

James, who landed a publishing deal for her young-adult novels while still an undergraduate, said it helps to be very specific when targeting outreach. For example, she aims for “parents who want their children to read classic fantasy adventure stories.” But Ulyett, who directs the strategy team at Penguin Random House, cautioned that “there’s no formula” for success in the marketplace. Even the savviest authors write books that don’t find an audience.

For Christensen, who published a memoir and reviews books for *The New York Times*, making “the best book you care about” is more important than shooting for a bestseller. “If you’re chasing trends and you try to write something that is meeting the moment, well, you’re going to be a little late on that moment three years later when it comes out,” she said. “I think you write the book you want to write, and you work with the editor who’s going to work with you toward that goal.” ■ *By Brett Tomlinson*

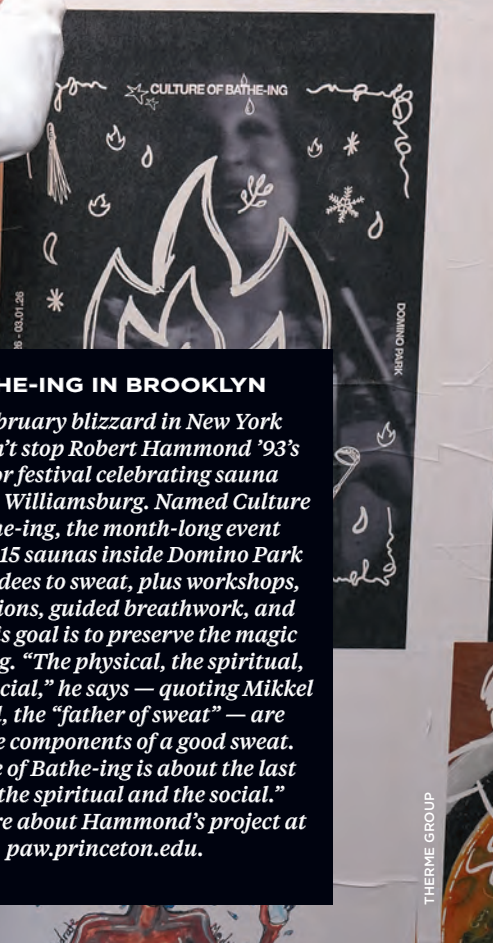
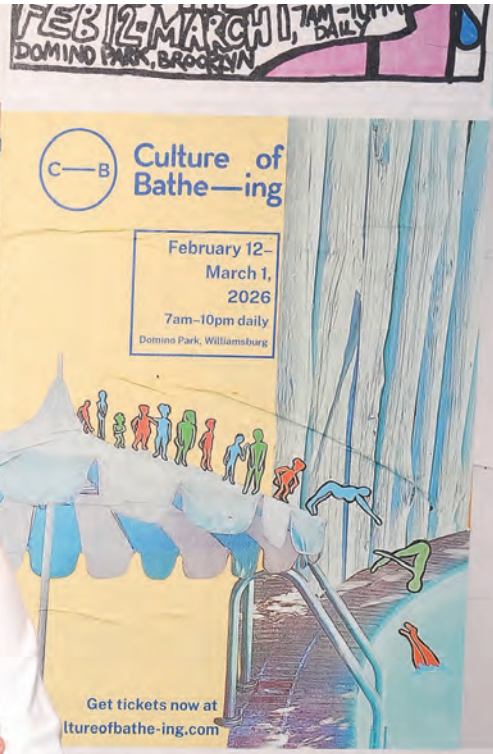
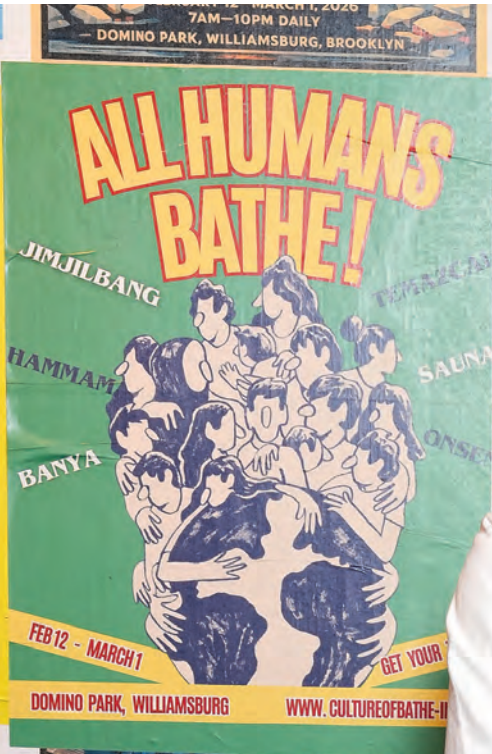
LISTEN to the full panel discussion by scanning the QR code or at paw.princeton.edu/pawcasts.





PRINCETONIANS

ALUMNI STORIES AND PERSPECTIVES



BATHE-ING IN BROOKLYN

The February blizzard in New York City didn't stop Robert Hammond '93's outdoor festival celebrating sauna culture in Williamsburg. Named Culture of Bathe-ing, the month-long event featured 15 saunas inside Domino Park for attendees to sweat, plus workshops, meditations, guided breathwork, and more. His goal is to preserve the magic of bathing. "The physical, the spiritual, and the social," he says — quoting Mikkel Aaland, the "father of sweat" — are the three components of a good sweat. "Culture of Bathe-ing is about the last two — the spiritual and the social." Read more about Hammond's project at paw.princeton.edu.

ESSAY

From Alaska to Argentina, I'll Ask: What Brings Us Together?

BY RYAN X. SUNG '22 *26

MY ULTIMATE LIFE GOAL? For my future grandkids to say I'm the coolest grandpa who's ever lived.

Of course, I also have professional ambitions, like becoming an accomplished diplomat "in the nation's service and the service of humanity." But first, my attempt to become the coolest *abuelo* or *Ye-Ye* (in Spanish and Mandarin, as I hope my future grandkids might call their Mexican-Taiwanese grandpa) will begin with one ambitious endeavor.

On June 10, I began a nine-month journey from Anchorage, Alaska, to Ushuaia, Argentina. I'm visiting every country in North, Central, and South America except for Venezuela, without taking a single flight. Traveling by cars, trains, buses, and boats, I plan to meet people where they are to ask one central question: In an age of division, what still brings us together? To share their perspectives with the world, I'll be creating a documentary and portrait series titled *People of the Americas* as an homage to the many faces, personalities, and stories I'll encounter.

This journey is a natural continuation of a life spent across many borders. I grew up along the U.S.-Mexico border in El Paso, Texas, a place that has always

existed in the "in-between." For me, that looked like rodeos and quinceñeras, Texas barbecues, and my *abuela's* most incredible *chilaquiles*.

When I was 11, my family moved to Taipei, Taiwan, for two years for me to attend a local school and learn Mandarin. Moving while having had *ling* (that's Chinese for "zero") experience in the language and leaving behind all things familiar was a daunting leap. But learning to adapt to a new environment and forming close friendships with my Taiwanese classmates imparted the curiosity, resilience, and cross-cultural understanding such a move demanded.

That openness to unconventional paths continued when I decided to defer my enrollment at Princeton to participate in the Novogratz Bridge Year Program, spending nine months volunteering in Kunming, China, at a local organization.

Once at Princeton, I found community through photography and film classes at 185 Nassau St. and began to learn the power of storytelling through the visual arts. My closest mentor, professor Moon Molson, had no problem giving me D's, but allowed me to learn from my mistakes and resubmit every assignment.

After quite a few D's turned into hard-


won A's, I became a stronger visual artist. I'm most proud of my 2020 photo series of Whitman dining hall workers during the pandemic, my six-year campaign *La Excelencia Latina*, featuring Princeton's Latino students with the flags of their heritage, and photos I took during my time as 2022 class historian.

My studies and career aspirations for the U.S. Foreign Service have also informed my ambitions. As a Scholars in the Nation's Service Initiative Fellow, I've been fortunate to work at the U.S. Institute of Peace, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the State Department in D.C., and the U.S. Embassy in Peru. While these experiences deepened my commitment to public service, they were a sobering exposure to immensely polarized political realities both in the U.S. and abroad. I saw families divided, friendships fractured over ideology, and leaders increasingly struggling to find common ground.

This project, *People of the Americas*, is my attempt, as an American, a Latino, and a believer in democracy, to demonstrate what unites us. I will visit the region's big cities, but I have an even greater desire to understand the places many travelers often overlook, from Andean highland villages to Amazonian river towns.

Even before beginning this journey, I have been deeply moved by the support of alumni who have offered funding, places to stay, and the comfort of a home-cooked meal after weeks on the road. I hope to learn from their journeys as well.

Others can support this project by donating at gofund.me/bb189a8b7, suggesting communities and individuals I can connect with along the way, or following my journey at people-of-the-americas.com.

Will I ever reach my goal of being the coolest grandpa who ever lived? Maybe. But on this trip, I at least hope to hear the most incredible stories from the coolest *abuelos* in México, *vovós* in Brazil, and *gammas* in Guyana. 

RYAN X. SUNG '22 *26 is a two-time graduate of the School of Public and International Affairs.



RYAN X. SUNG '22 *26 IN HANOI, VIETNAM

COURTESY OF RYAN X. SUNG '22 *26



THE FORTELL HEARING AID

MATTHEW DE JONGE '10 AND COLE MORRIS '10

Helping a Hoops Coach and Others Hear Clearly Again

BY MARK F. BERNSTEIN '83

FOR PRINCETON MEN'S BASKETBALL coach Mitch Henderson '98, the loss to Virginia Tech in the opening round of the 2016 National Invitation Tournament was not the worst part of the evening. He had played and coached in raucous arenas before, but something about the crowd noise that night at Cassell Coliseum in Blacksburg, Virginia, affected

him differently. It may have permanently damaged Henderson's hearing.

"Immediately after the game, I could tell that something was wrong," he recalls.

Henderson eventually saw an audiologist, but he struggled with hearing loss over the next decade. Noisy restaurants were hard, not to mention noisy arenas. Still, he resisted getting

hearing aids, saying he felt too young to need them and even a little too vain to be seen wearing them.

Last March, Henderson read about Fortell, a new AI-assisted hearing aid that had just come on the market. A lot of people seemed to be wearing them, so he decided to give them a try. They changed everything. "You can actually feel the difference," he says. Not until later did Henderson learn that the Fortell hearing aids had been developed by two other Princeton alums, Matthew de Jonge '10 and Cole Morris '10.

According to the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about one in seven Americans suffers from some degree of hearing loss. It is the third most prevalent chronic physical condition in the U.S. Nearly 29 million adults could benefit from wearing hearing aids, according to the Hearing Loss Association of America, but even among those who can afford them, many resist because of how ineffective they are.

De Jonge had seen this in his own family, and it provided him with the impetus to invent something better. His grandfather Alfred de Jonge '49 had enlisted in the U.S. Army after fleeing Nazi Germany. A loud explosion during the war permanently damaged his hearing, but he attended Princeton on the GI Bill and had the enviable campus job of serving as a translator and chauffeur for Albert Einstein at the Institute for Advanced Study.

Alfred de Jonge's hearing loss got worse as he aged, but hearing aids didn't help. His grandson noticed how isolated he became and believes that deafness adversely affected his cognitive health as well. He died in 2011.

"I felt like hearing aids and the audiologists failed him," de Jonge says, "so for the last 15 years or so I've been obsessed with the question of building a better hearing aid."

As de Jonge explains it, hearing loss is a problem of the brain as well as the ears. People with good hearing can sit in a noisy restaurant and focus on the voice of the person speaking to them while

filtering out background sounds and other voices. Conventional hearing aids struggle with this subtlety. Most try to address hearing loss by amplifying everything, which can create a cacophony of noise.

De Jonge and Morris, who majored in mechanical engineering and the School of Public and International Affairs, respectively, have been friends for most of their adult lives. Not only did they live together for four years as undergraduates in Butler College, they both joined the same hedge fund, Bridgewater Associates, after graduation. Several years later, de Jonge joined another startup, working on AI, while Morris ran a data science team for a small healthcare company. They founded Fortell in March 2021.

The Fortell hearing aids rely on an AI algorithm they developed. They trained it on millions of hours of audio, teaching it to distinguish between a conversation the wearer is likely engaged in and other noise in the room, amplifying the former and filtering the latter. That AI program has been downloaded onto a tiny chip that is implanted in the hearing aid.

Morris and de Jonge worked on their model for five years before they began testing it last fall at an audiology clinic in Manhattan. Working their connections in the New York finance and entertainment worlds, they had no trouble lining up volunteers.

“Among the age-related-hearing-loss set,” *Wired* wrote in a profile of the company in December, “getting into the Fortell beta test has become a weird status symbol, the aural-prosthetics version of a limited-edition Birkin bag.”

One of those first adapters was comedian Steve Martin. “I’ve tried different brands of hearing aids, and they’re good, but they’re not this good,” he told the magazine. “I used to dread going to a restaurant, and now I don’t.”

Another enthusiastic early adopter is venture capitalist Gordon Ritter ’86. As he aged, he noticed that he was having trouble keeping up during noisy meetings or found himself talking too much or too loudly to compensate for his inability to follow conversations. The change with Fortell,



COLE MORRIS '10, LEFT, AND MATTHEW DE JONGE '10

he says, has been “night and day,” and he emphasizes that he is not an investor in the company, just a satisfied customer.

Fortell sells its hearing aids, which are manufactured in Danbury, Connecticut, from a single audiology clinic on the Upper East Side, but de Jonge and Morris plan to add clinics in Boston; Greenwich, Connecticut; and Palm Beach, Florida. As their market choices suggest, Fortell hearing aids are expensive, selling for \$6,800 a pair, which de Jonge says is competitive in the current market. (According to the National Council on Aging, prices for some hearing aids can exceed \$7,000.) Hearing aids are not covered under Medicare, and other financial assistance is limited, which can limit the availability of high-end models to the well-to-do.

“Among the age-related-hearing-loss set, getting into the Fortell beta test has become a weird status symbol, the aural-prosthetics version of a limited-edition Birkin bag.”

— WIRED MAGAZINE

Still, it appears that building a better hearing aid, like a better mouse trap, can also lead the world to beat a path to your door. Morris says Fortell now has nine audiologists working six-day weeks to fit new patients and support existing ones.

Henderson, who has overcome his qualms about wearing hearing aids in his early 50s, wishes he had discovered Fortell sooner.

“I was nervous about what the guys on the team would think,” he admits. “But they have been completely normal, which says a lot about them, and it gave me the confidence I needed.” Not only is he wearing them full time, he is even working them into his recruiting pitches, using de Jonge and Morris, the two former roommates turned tech innovators, to illustrate the lasting value of a Princeton education.

Still, for the coach, one final beta test awaits. Henderson has worn his hearing aids at practice, but they have not yet been arena-tested. When the Princeton basketball season opens, he will be wearing them on the sidelines.

“Professionally, a big part of what I do is being a very good listener, paying attention to a lot of things,” he says. “It’s helping me do that, which makes me better at what I’m doing.” ■



ADAM LOGAN '95

Secrets of a Two-Time World Scrabble Champ

BY DAVID SILVERBERG

WHEN ADAM LOGAN '95 was 9 years old, he read a book that changed his life. It was *The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary*, and he was entranced from the first page. He knew this was a game he would love to play as much as he could.

A year later, when his mother heard about a Scrabble tournament in Ottawa, Ontario, where they lived at the time, she convinced organizers to allow Logan to compete despite his young age.

Logan, now a Montreal resident, recalls, "I didn't win the tournament, but I won three of my four games, and at that point, I was definitely hooked."

Around 2,700 games later, Logan is now one of the most celebrated Scrabble

champions. Last year, he won the World Scrabble Championship in Ghana, his second win after his 2005 WSC crowning in London.

He has won around 69% of the games he has played at official tournaments.

Logan, who majored in mathematics at Princeton, speaks in a clipped, perfunctory manner, never wasting a word, and sometimes peppering mathematical terms into conversation, such as "median," which isn't a

TILE TACTICS

Adam Logan '95, left, began playing Scrabble at an early age and entered his first tournament around age 10. Since then, he's played around 2,700 games.

surprise considering his profession. While he used to teach math at both the University of Waterloo and McGill University, he's now semi-retired and working for the Tutte Institute for Mathematics and Computing in "cryptography and secret stuff I can't really talk about."

What he's happy to discuss, though, is his love of Scrabble. "I've always loved words, loved reading the dictionary," he says. "And when it comes to my Scrabble wins, talent can only get you so far, but maybe talent produces early success, and early success motivates future hard work, which is necessary for later success."

He can wax poetic on being eagle-eyed to find the right place for a triple-letter score, or the strategy he employs to use rare words that catch him in a bind, such as a word with very few vowels. But he also gets introspective on the innate qualities a strong Scrabble player should hone.

The more confident you are, the better you'll be at winning at Scrabble, says

Logan. “There are times when I have to accept there are games I’m not going to win, when the tiles go against you,” he says, “but there are other games when you’re close and you have to believe in yourself, to make the necessary effort, and concentrate as well as you can, and if you don’t believe that, you really shouldn’t be playing.”

Logan says he’s also learned how to spot when a competitor is being more defensive with the placement of tiles, or is waiting for a seven-letter word and playing cautiously. He sharpened his ability to not be too paranoid about a closed board near the end of a game, where it’s difficult to place a word, “because there could be opportunities right until the end.”

His approach to Scrabble play may also benefit from his knowledge of certain areas of mathematics. “It is

“Adam’s brain is intrinsically ideal for playing Scrabble in its ability to store large quantities of abstract information and rapidly analyze them. And he has spent his life further optimizing it by playing the best players in the world.”

— JOHN CHEW

CEO, NASPA Games, the nonprofit governing body for Scrabble in the U.S. and Canada

helpful to have some basic ideas about probabilities,” he says, referring to figuring out the chances of pulling a certain letter from the tile bag based on what’s on the board already.

John Chew, the chief executive officer of NASPA Games, the nonprofit governing body for Scrabble in the U.S. and Canada, says he saw a star in the making when he began to watch Logan compete at tournaments. “Adam’s brain is intrinsically ideal for playing Scrabble in its ability to store large quantities of abstract information and rapidly analyze them,” he says. “And he has spent his life further optimizing it by playing the best players in the world.”

One of those players came in Logan’s final round of the 2025 WSC: five-time champion Nigel Richards. “You just have to expect that he will make the best move at all times, and you’re just constantly making as many of the best moves as you can,” says Logan, who ended up winning 4-2 in the best-of-seven series to take home his second WSC trophy.

A supportive community has blossomed from international and national Scrabble tournaments, Logan has found. “We’re rivals but not enemies, and we often socialize with each other after games,” he adds.

But come tournament time, Logan is training like any athlete would. He doesn’t pore over the dictionary so much as he uses a mobile app for Scrabble players that scrambles a word and asks users to find words amid the jumble of letters. He also ensures he gets enough sleep before a big game.

When Logan looks back on his years at Princeton, he values what he learned about himself. “As much as it really was a very good place to study mathematics, by the time I left I started to become someone who could have ideas of his own,” he says.

He also recalls the “colorful classroom” led by John Conway, who was on Princeton’s faculty from 1987 to 2013. Logan says he was intrigued by Conway’s “rigorous introduction to linear algebra, and I liked reading his very interesting books.”

Logan has competed in several tournaments this year, and won a few, but his attention is trained on the 2027 WSC, as it’s held every other year. “I feel a sense of moral obligation to defend my title,” Logan says with a grin. ■



SWEET SECONDS

Logan won his first World Scrabble Championship in 2005 and second, pictured here, in 2025. His lifetime earnings from tournaments total more than \$100,000.

COURTESY OF ADAM LOGAN '95

CLASS NOTES

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

MEMORIALS



LISTEN TO OUR MEMORIALS PAWCAST

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

THE CLASS OF 1942

WILLIAM P. MUNGER '42

Bill died March 18, 2026, in Falmouth, Maine. He was 106.



He was born Jan. 17, 1920, in Fanwood, N.J., graduated from the Hotchkiss School in 1938, and majored in aeronautical engineering at Princeton. He got his first lab bench while at Hotchkiss. The school discovered he had built an illicit radio, so they started an electronics club for him and his friends.

After Princeton, Bill worked at Wright Aeronautical, analyzing problems in military aircraft that were discovered by combat pilots, ground crews, and wreckage reviews. Bill married Jane Marshall in 1946. They lived in Morristown, N.J., and raised four children: Grace, Dorothy, Ray Thomas, and Burke. Bill became chief project engineer at Reaction Motors, in Mahwah, in charge of rocket pump development, and later worked with Abex Corp. on bar code train tracking.

After retirement and the death of his wife, Bill married Patricia Locke in 1990. They lived on Rackliff Island, in Spruce Head, Maine, and kept Bill's 31-foot Cape Dory Kestrel on a mooring in front of their house. Bill was an accomplished woodworker, crafting furniture and a 15-foot cedar strip dory in his basement. A skilled sailor, Bill cruised the Eastern seaboard from the Canadian Maritimes to Grenada, the Hebrides Islands of Scotland, and the western Norwegian coastline. Bill and Patsy, his wife of 35 years, loved to sit on their front deck to watch boats pass by in the Muscle Ridge Channel, listen to the foghorn on Whitehead Island, and enjoy the changing tides in Seal Harbor.

Bill is survived by Patsy, his four children, eight grandchildren, nine great grandchildren, and three stepchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1948

ROBERT B. MCDERMOTT '48

Bob died Aug. 9, 2024, at age 97, having lived a long, productive, and happy life.

A native of Illinois, Bob graduated from New Trier High School. At Princeton, he earned an undergraduate degree in English with honors in 1948 after serving in the Navy from 1945 to 1946. He was a member of



Cannon Club and was active with wrestling and track. Bob graduated from Harvard Law School in 1951.

Following Harvard, he served for three years in the Navy's Judge Advocate General's Corps, including time in Korea and on the USS *Iowa*.

Bob worked at the law firm that would become McDermott, Will, and Emery. His expertise was in corporate taxation and in corporate law. A distinguished attorney, he served as managing partner of the firm from 1986 through 1991.

In 1950, Bob married Julia Wood, and the couple had three children. After their divorce, Bob married Jane Whitman in 1973, and the couple remained married until Jane's death in 1992. Four years later, Bob married Sarah Jaicks.

His interests were broad. Bob read everything from physics to mountaineering and was a lover of music. He also appreciated the work of Edvard Munch, the Norwegian artist.

Bob is survived by his wife of 28 years, Sarah; his children John, Jeanne, and Charlie; six grandchildren; a step-grandson; and three great-grandchildren.

HENRY C. MEYER IV '48

Henry died Feb. 3, 2026, at his home in Delray Beach, Fla., just eight days short of his 99th birthday.



Born in New York City, Henry grew up in Montclair, N.J., and attended Phillips Andover before coming to Princeton in 1944. After serving in the Navy from 1945 to 1946 he received his AB in economics in June 1950. A member of Terrace Club, he had a regular seat at the nightly bridge game, along with lifelong friends Warren Nissley, Tom Wolf, Red Noland, and others.

After Princeton, Henry went to Wall Street to work at a bank, but he left in his early 30s to become an independent financial adviser. This enabled him to follow his two great passions: bridge and golf. Henry joined the Regency Whist Club — conveniently located next door to his Manhattan apartment building — and served as president for a time. Later, he joined the Vero Beach (Fla.)

Bridge Club, continuing to learn and master the game, as well as mentoring many players well into his 90s.

A lifelong student of golf as well, Henry became a member of Shinnecock Hills Golf Club in Southampton, N.Y. When he bought a winter home in Vero Beach in 1990, he became a member of Hawk's Nest and The Moorings golf clubs and played until age 95.

In the early 1990s, Henry met Linda Epstein. They began as bridge partners and became much more, building a life together for the next 35 years. Linda understood Henry. "More than anyone else I know, Henry decided he wanted a certain life for himself and he built it," she says.

Henry was predeceased by his siblings, including brother Anthony '52. He is survived by Linda, along with several nephews and nieces, to whom we extend our condolences.

THE CLASS OF 1949

JAMES ROSS MCGINNIS '49

Ross, a longtime resident of Fawn Grove, Pa., died Jan. 3, 2026, after a brief illness.



He was 97. He was raised on a farm and attended the then-York Junior College for one year prior to transferring to Princeton, where he graduated *summa cum laude*

in history and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. At Princeton, he was a member of Court Club and Whig-Clio, was in the band and glee club, and rowed 150-pound crew.

After earning a law degree at Harvard, Ross served in the Air Force for two years, where he completed active duty as a first lieutenant, and was subsequently promoted to captain in the reserves. In 1954, he joined the law firm Stock and Leader in York, Pa., and practiced there for 67 years, becoming the senior partner and holding the distinction of being the oldest practicing attorney in York County. Ross once observed that "retirement is something you only do as a last resort."

With his wife, Ross shared an interest in antiques and antiquarian book collecting, and international travel. He belonged to many civic and fraternal organizations and held leadership roles at Centre Presbyterian Church in New Park, Pa., where he was a lifetime member.

Ross is survived by his wife of more than 69 years, Norma; his sons, Jay and Doug; three grandchildren; and three great grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1950

CHARLES H. ROSE '50

Charlie died Feb. 9, 2025, in Newtown, Pa.

He was born Oct. 9, 1925, in Riverside, N.J., and grew up in Bordentown, N.J., son of Charles and Marion. Encouraged by teacher J. Paul Baldeagle '23, Charlie attended



Moorestown Friends School on scholarship. He was a geology major at Princeton, worked various jobs on campus, and was a proud member of Prospect Club.

He served in the artillery in Korea, then in the National Guard for 23 years, retiring as a lieutenant colonel.

Charlie married the love of his life, Beverly Claire Kramer (Syracuse '53), in 1953. Having worked at The Meyers List, a small advertising firm (and earning an NYU MBA), he and Bev bought the company in 1968, and moved the business to a purpose-built building that they named Nassau Hall in Oyster Bay, N.Y.

An ever-enthusiastic Princetonian, Charlie chaired the Long Island Schools Committee, pioneering the interviewing of 100% of the region's undergraduate applicants. He served the Class of 1950 in many roles — he was in his second term as class president at his death — and worked with the Alumni Council, sharing best practices developed while '50's treasurer. He received the Alumni Council Award for Service to Princeton in 2004.

Bev died in 1991. Charlie is survived by daughters Elizabeth Rose '77, Christine Parham '80, and Margaret Rose (Lafayette '84); and grandchildren Chris Owens, Robert Dyer, and William Dyer.

ROGER C. SMITH '50

Roger died July 13, 2025, in Darien, Conn.

At Princeton, he was on the crew and



swimming teams, sang in the Glee Club, and was a member of Quadrangle. After half of his sophomore year, he enlisted in the Army and served a year in Japan. Returning to Princeton,

he graduated with honors in 1950. Following a motorcycle trip around Europe that summer he went to Harvard Business School and graduated in 1952.

Roger then joined Motorola in Chicago, where he became vice president and treasurer. In 1971, he joined Phelps Dodge Corp. in New York City as vice president of finance.

He moved to New Canan, Conn., where he and his family were active in community life. He was a member of the town board of finances for 17 years, served as chair of the building committee for the middle school expansion and renovation, as well as other numerous leadership positions at clubs at his church.

Roger is survived by his wife of 70 years, Nell; their three children, Jeffrey, Jennifer, and Stuart; seven grandsons; and five great-grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1955

WILMOT G. GILLAND '55 *60

Bill, age 92, died Nov. 26, 2025, at his retirement home in Chapel Hill, N.C., near



his son's home.

At Princeton, which he came to after Andover, he played freshman football, varsity soccer and lacrosse, and IAA hockey. He also

served on the art board of the *Tiger*. He was a member of Tiger Inn and roomed with Barker, Dibbins, Porter, Shaughnessy, London, Kirkham, Wendt, Webster, and Swaby.

Bill majored in architecture while at Princeton, graduated with high honors, and was Phi Beta Kappa. After six months studying in Stockholm with a noted architect, and two years in the Army as a field artillery instructor, he worked for six months as a guide at the American Pavillion in the Brussels World's Fair. Then he returned to Princeton for an MFA degree in architecture.

Bill's career in architecture was varied and notable. He started in California, where he built and lived in a house, taught at Berkeley, and designed buildings there for the School of Veterinary Medicine and the chemistry department. He also designed a science library for the University of California, Davis. He was recruited by the University of Oregon, became head of the architecture department for six years and then for 10 years was dean of the School of Architecture and Allied Arts. After retirement he moved to Seattle, where he built a house, became a member of the Downtown Review Board, and continued to indulge in his love of sailing. He was a member and officer of major national architecture organizations.

Bill is survived by his wife, Mary, and sons Wendell and Stephen.

MAX D. HABERNICKEL III '55

Max — known to everyone as Duke — died Jan. 3, 2026, following a stroke, in Plainfield,



N.J., while visiting his daughter from his home in Vero Beach, Fla.

The Reunions jackets with the plaid that Don Altmaier designed were produced by Duke's family clothing company, Haband. It's nice to know that some of Duke will continue for as long as there are classmates to wear our distinctive jackets. His working career was in that business, an important manufacturer and seller of comfortable clothes via catalog. He was considered "The Man who Dressed America by Mail."

Duke graduated from Montclair Academy. At Princeton, he majored in economics, graduated with honors, joined Dial Lodge, and roomed with Richard Brown. He wrestled freshman year and was active in many IAA sports and bridge. After graduation, he was an officer in the Army stationed at Fort Bliss for missile duty. In

our 50th-reunion yearbook he said that the maturity gained in those military years made him think that he would have made much better use of his years at Princeton if he had first served in the Army.

Subsequently he was involved in many community activities and was an artist, creating sculpture and paintings, and was an avid photographer. Haband Oaks, a perpetually endowed scholarship program that Duke ran for Ramapo College, was for experiential learning.

Duke is survived by his wife of 67 years, Gael; and their four daughters, Gwenn Hauck, Lisa Baney, Dana Koenig, and Helen Bonzulak. To them we send our thoughts for a life well lived.

THE CLASS OF 1956

DAVID M. JORDAN '56

David died Jan. 24, 2026, in Bryn Mawr, Pa.

Putting words to such a prolific master of



words is a challenge. He did it all. He came to Princeton from Penn Charter School in Philadelphia, where he was president of the Literary Society and associate

editor of the magazine. He majored in history, joined Cloister Inn, participated in numerous sports, and was associate editor of the *Tiger*. David earned his law degree at Penn followed by the Army before becoming a partner at Wisler Pearlstine.

David was committed to every task: to Princeton as our class secretary and president; to Democratic politics as president of the Jenkintown Borough Council, chair of the Montgomery County party, and state committeeman. Perhaps his greatest commitment, however, was to historical scholarship as author of books on historical figures as varied as Winfield Scott Hancock, Robert Lovett, and Pete Rose, while also describing the mixed triumph and defeat that were the Philadelphia Athletics and Phillies.

David was predeceased by his first wife, Barbara James. He is survived by their daughters Diana (Matthew Born), Laura, and Sarah; grandchildren Augustus Born, and Charlie and Grace Weinstein; and Jean Liddell, whom he married in 2007.

ARNOLD J. KROLL '56

Arnie died Jan. 27, 2026, at home in Chestnut Hill, Mass.



He came to Princeton from Henry Snyder High in Jersey City, where he was valedictorian, editor of the newspaper, a champion gymnast, and all-state

trumpet player. He joined Terrace, majored in biology, played in the orchestra, and earned a varsity letter in fencing.

He then earned a medical degree at Columbia and did his residency in ophthalmology at Massachusetts Eye and Ear. He became a faculty member at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, where he pioneered cutting edge surgical techniques. He later served as a clinical professor at Tufts School of Medicine, where he was honored three times as Teacher of the Year.

Arnie met his wife, Carolyn Shamroth, on a blind date that led to marriage and two daughters, Cindy and Debra, which they raised in Weston and were active in Temple Beth Elohim. His favorite times were on Cape Cod, where he loved being on his boat with family and dogs along with swimming and cooking for everyone. He also sang with a group and was reported to sing love songs to Carolyn every day.

Arnie is survived by his wife, daughters Cindy and Debra, and grandsons Joshua and Samuel Mandel.

DAVID K. SHARRETT'S '56

David died Feb. 24, 2026, in Centreville, Md.

He came to Princeton from the Peddie School, where he was an outstanding athlete who played on a state championship soccer team and won a Babe Ruth Foundation Sportsmanship Award. At Princeton, he joined Tower Club and played baseball. Service in the Army in France followed. In 1960, he married Judith Lee Coleman and raised their two children on the Eastern Shore of Maryland — “God’s Country” as David called it.

David entered the road construction business with David A. Bramble Inc, which built many asphalt roads, winning several awards for their quality including the Sheldon Hayes Award for the Best Road in the United States. He served as president of the Maryland Asphalt Pavement Association for three terms and as president of the Kent School Parents and Friends Association. He was keenly interested in youth sports as a coach and president of the Church League, along with serving as president of the Chester River Yacht and Country Club and senior warden at the Emanuel Episcopal Church.

David is survived by his wife, Judith; daughter Wendy Sharretts Moore and her husband Michael; son Timothy David and his wife Andrea; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

RICHARD V. WOLFENDEN '56

Richard died Oct. 22, 2025, in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Born in Great Britain, Richard came to Princeton via Phillips Exeter, joined Campus Club, majored in chemistry, and was a major participant in Triangle Club and Theatre Intime. He was a tennis and squash player and a feared pool opponent. Another B.S.



and a M.S. from Oxford followed, crowned by a Ph.D. from Rockefeller University in 1964.

He initially returned to Princeton to teach, but in 1970 joined the faculty of the University of North Carolina, becoming a full professor in 1973, where he pursued a distinguished career in biochemistry in the medical school. He was elected a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2002.

Richard’s gentle manner, genuine kindness, and endless curiosity are fondly remembered by family and friends as well as the colleagues and students who collaborated with him over his long and productive career. They attest to his clarity of purpose and the sparkle of his mind.

Predeceased by his son John, Richard is survived by his wife of more than 60 years, Anita; son Peter; and grandchildren Shea, Maeve, Giovanna, and Corrado.

THE CLASS OF 1957

STEPHEN J. ASKIN '57

Steve died Jan. 7, 2025.



A native of Pittsburgh, Steve came to Princeton from the Kiski School. At Princeton, he played on the freshman golf squad, majored in biology, and joined Terrace Club, where he was IAA manager and participated in numerous intramural sports. He was also active in the Pre-Med Society. His senior year roommates were Dave Stixrude and several members of the Class of 1958.

Following in his father’s footsteps, Steve earned a medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh and served part of his internship at the Presbyterian Medical Center. He spent two summers at medical outposts in Europe and Thailand, followed by completion of his internship in San Francisco. Then Steve went to Madrid, Spain, as an Air Force officer at Torrejón Air Force Base. While in Spain he met his first wife, Maria Maestro-Terres, and they moved to San Francisco and were married in 1965.

Steve became a general surgeon in San Francisco and was affiliated with St. Luke’s Hospital. He and Maria divorced, and he then married Sandra Hernandez. Steve enjoyed playing golf. He also helped the class as a special gifts solicitor in the Annual Giving campaign leading up to our 60th reunion.

Steve is survived by his wife, Sandra.

CLAY HANGER '57

Clay died Dec. 11, 2025.

A native of Cleveland, he came to Princeton from the Hotchkiss School. He majored in biology, joined Colonial Club,



and was a member of the wrestling team. He also was in the Outing Club and secretary-treasurer of the Gun Club. Senior year he roomed with Rennie Miller and

Sandy Luke.

After serving in the Army in an intelligence unit in Berlin, he enrolled at Columbia University Medical School. Realizing that medicine was not the career for him, he left after two years and obtained a master’s degree in mathematics at New York University.

In 1964, he married Carol Marsh, and after living in New York, they moved to Hayden, Colo., and then to Steamboat Springs. He taught and tutored math and filled his life with activities such as sports car racing, skydiving, skiing, shooting sports, and tennis, which he played into his 80s. He also became president of Poseidon Inc., during this period.

Clay is survived by his wife of 62 years, Carol; their two children, Christopher (who did become a doctor), and Alexandra; and three grandchildren.

ROBERT H. O’GRADY '57

One of our most active and devoted classmates, Bob, or O’G as we knew him, died June 2, 2025.



He came to Princeton from Lawrenceville, majored in English, joined Colonial Club, and was active in intramural sports and the Campus Fund

Drive. Senior year he roomed with Fred Wiese Jr.

Following graduation he married Cornelia “Connie” Ladd, a graduate of Miss Porter’s School and Vassar College. He then served in the Army, attaining the rank of sergeant. O’G spent his entire career with investment firms on Wall Street or in Princeton, where he and his family lived for many years. He first was a principal at Greene & Ladd, representing the firm on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, and then was with Merrill Lynch and other firms, concluding with Gilford Inc. He retired only recently.

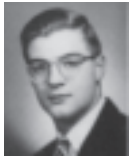
O’G was a national Annual Giving agent for the class and then served as vice president. He was active in organizing many reunions, especially in “off” years, and became a familiar face to all of us through the years.

His wife died in 2021, and he is survived by their three children, Standish ’82, Bradford, and Cornelia, as well as their families.

PAUL T. SCHNATZ '57

Paul died Jan. 11, 2026.

He came to Princeton from Nichols School, majored in biology, won his numerals and letters as a hockey player, and



joined Tiger Inn. There he was chairman of the House Committee and roomed at the club senior year with Ed Byers, Tony Gibbs, Charlie Hauser, Fritz Heyd, Frank Sparrow, and John Wert. He also participated in WPRB and the Campus Fund Drive.

Paul earned a medical degree at the University of Buffalo, married Diane Seitz, and they moved to Seattle, where he interned at University Hospital. They returned to Buffalo, where they had a daughter, Alyson. When Diane died of cancer, he married Rose Marie Kowalski. During this period, he served two years in the Army Medical Corps. Paul then became a professor at Case Western University in Cleveland and had a private practice in obstetrics and gynecology. He and Rose had two sons, Adam and Eric. Later the family moved to Brighton, Mich., where Paul had a private practice and served on the staff of Providence Hospital in Southfield, Mich.

Following a divorce, he married Elizabeth "Libby" Brough. Before and after retiring, they spent many vacations at their cottage in Northern Ontario, Canada. In our 60th-reunion yearbook, Paul opined that he had helped many persons attain their full potential, and that he considered himself "fortunate to have been able to develop my potential and be able to continue to do so."

He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Libby, and his three children and their families.

THOMAS V. VAN AUKEN '57

Tom died June 30, 2025.

He came to Princeton from Alpine High School in Texas. After his father died, he became the foster son of Warden John Newell '29. At Princeton, Tom was a waiter in Commons for two years, majored in chemistry, joined Court Club, and worked as a research assistant in the chemistry department. Senior year he roomed with John Bowers and Bill Mather.

Following graduation Tom earned a Ph.D. in chemistry at the University of Illinois and did postdoctoral work at MIT and the University of Texas. In 1966, he married Nancy E. Orton, a librarian, and they had two children, Newell Ann and Thomas. After two years as a teacher at Texas, he began a lifelong career as an industrial organic chemist. He worked for Union Carbide in West Virginia, becoming a project leader, and then completed his career at Philip Morris in Richmond, Va. After retirement he and Nancy moved to the Cedarfield Retirement Community in Henrico, Va.

Tom was active in Republican politics and is credited with persuading the Virginia Legislature to move the presidential primary

to an early date to impact national politics.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Nancy; their two children; two grandchildren; foster brother David Newell; and numerous in-laws and nieces and nephews.

THE CLASS OF 1959

JOHN I. FISHBURNE JR. '59

John died Aug. 7, 2025.

Charleston born, John's Foreign Service father introduced him to three languages and 13 schools before settling at Lawrenceville, from which he entered Princeton. A chemistry major and Pre-Med Society member, John dined at Tower and roomed with Tom Kerr, Don Frazer, and Harold Springer.

A doctorate from South Carolina Medical College, internship at Duke, and a two-year Air Force medical officer tour led John to the University of North Carolina and Wake Forest, culminating in 14 years at the University of Oklahoma. Who's Who in America listed John's many honors and the professional associations he chaired such as being board certified in obstetrics and gynecology, anesthesiology, and maternal and fetal medicine, and being OB/GYN department chairman for eight years in the same position at Arizona's Maricopa Medical Center. Esteemed both nationally and internationally, most remarkably a medical lecture in Moscow led to a Russian father giving John his Order of Lenin.

John loved people, golf, tennis, ice cream, stealing rides in Air Force jets, and worldwide travel (frequently with '59 Tigers), with his wife of 64 years, Jean.

To Jean; his children, John, Barron, and Virginia; and his four grandchildren, the class extends deepest sympathy.

PHILLIP T. MARKWOOD '59

Phil died Dec. 20, 2025, survived by his wife of 60 years, Joan; a son and a daughter; four grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.

As a freshman, Phil ran track, but his true talent shone forth starting in sophomore year when he used his artistic ability as a cartoonist for the *Tiger* magazine, of which he became associate art editor. And he left his trademark on the entire senior class, designing the laconic tiger appearing on the back of '59's senior year beer jackets and carried forth to this day as '59's ubiquitous Topsy Tiger. A member of Tower Club, Phil roomed in his senior year with Brock Evans and Rick Sarlin.

An architecture major, he went on to obtain a master's degree in architecture at both Ohio State and Columbia, then began an illustrious career, founding his own

firm — Phillip Markwood Architects — which he managed for 47 years. Among his professional honors were his election to a lifetime achievement award in the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects, and his receipt of the prestigious AIA Ohio Gold Medal.

His firm specialized in a wide range of projects. Phil, a man of deep faith, was particularly proud of his work for religious organizations, saying he felt the work he was doing was bigger than the project, the people for whom he was working, and himself.

ANTHONY P. MARSHALL '59

Born and raised in New York City, Tony died Nov. 16, 2024, in Pittsboro, N.C.



His academic tutelage began at Hunter College Elementary. At age 12, he sailed on the Queen Elizabeth to Europe, where he studied for five months in Italy,

France, and Switzerland. Returning home he attended Trinity School in New York City and finally, Andover. At Princeton, he majored in economics, joined Elm Club, sang with the Glee Club, managed the freshman crew, and roomed with Shively, Tweedale, and Steve Smith. He received a law degree from Columbia in 1962, and while there met Betsy Harbison at a nursing school mixer. They married in 1963.

After more than 40 years of practice, culminating as a partner in Kirlin, Campbell, & Keating, Tony served as senior vice president of U.S. Trust and Bankers Trust, the latter as managing director of estate planning. Following retirement, he and Betsy moved to Vero Beach, Fla. then to Pittsboro, N.C.

Professional associations included Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, the American Bar Association and the New York Bankers and Bar Associations. He was a lifelong member of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in New York City, serving as vestryman and warden, as well as president of the NYC Health Care Chaplaincy and the Episcopal Church deaconesses retirement fund.

Tony is survived by his wife, Betsy; two children; and five grandchildren.

JAMES C. MCCLYMONT JR. '59

Jim died Jan. 19, 2026.

He attended Hempstead (N.Y.) High School. At Princeton, he entered the engineering school, majoring in chemical engineering and joining the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

He took his meals at Key and Seal and devoted his free time to ice skating, squash, pool, and horseback riding. He spent the

summers of 1957 and 1958 doing research and development work in engineering. According to his obituary he furthered his engineering education by studies at MIT and Rutgers and worked as a chemical engineer.

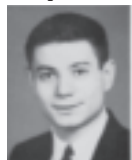
In 1970, Jim was transformed, formally committing his life to Jesus. Two years later he moved his family — his wife, Jean, and six sons — to Texas, where he studied at Dallas Theological Seminary. Upon Jim's ordination in 1977 the McClymonts moved to New Jersey, where Jim took on the role of pastor at Mendham Hills Chapel and later (according to our 35th-reunion yearbook), at Memorial Baptist Church in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Jean died in 2013. Jim is survived by six sons; 21 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

MARSHALL SWARTZBURG '59

Marsh died Aug. 8, 2023.

A proud, multi-talented New Englander from Marblehead, Mass., he edited the Marblehead High School newspaper, chaired the dramatics club, ran track, and was on the student council. At Princeton, he majored in history, joined Prospect Club, and was active in Whig-Clio and the Pre-Medical Society.



After earning his medical degree at Penn, he interned at the University of Michigan, followed by two years in the Navy. A psychiatry residency and ultimately a faculty position at Yale followed. In 1972, he left Yale for a professorship in psychiatry at Rutgers' Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. He settled in Princeton with his wife, Susy, a library professor at Rutgers and an internationally recognized library materials preservationist. While there they graciously hosted several of our off-year Reunions dinners.

At Rutgers, Marsh researched the right and left brain function implications in psychiatric disorders and was a frequently celebrated teacher. Off campus, he traveled between Europe and the western U.S., skied, and enjoyed the cultural life of Princeton. Sadly, Susy died in 1996.

After retiring in 2006, Marsh joined the volunteer clinical faculty at Rutgers and occasionally served as an expert witness. Later, he moved to Randleman, N.C., to be near his son, Mark, who survives him.

LAWRENCE WATERBURY III '59

Lawrence came to Princeton from San Marcos High School in San Marcos, Texas. He has no biography in the *Nassau Herald*, although his University records indicates that he was a member of Tower Club.

In the Dec. 31, 1981, class directory and 35th and 45th reunion yearbooks, he is

listed as "No Good Address since March 7, 1967." The 50th reunion yearbook carries his address as 5713 Visitation Way in Baltimore. A dues card sent to this address was returned with the notation "He died on Nov. 3, 2025." There was no attribution by the sender. TigerNet lists him as Capt. Lawrence Waterbury III with no indication of branch of service.

THE CLASS OF 1960

KEITH BARTON '60

Born and raised in Summit, N.J., Keith prepared for Princeton at Philips Exeter



Academy. There, he competed in swimming and debate. With us, he continued in freshman and varsity swimming, majored

in history, and joined Wilson Lodge. On graduation he enlisted in the Navy in 1960 and attended Officer Training Corps from 1961 to 1963.

Keith did graduate work in American history and diplomacy at Florida State University, earning a Ph.D. in 1974. He met and married Janice Sweeny, a chemistry major, at FSU in 1967. He then taught at Rollins College in Florida until 1980, when he left teaching to go into the life insurance business. He joined the Variable Life Insurance Co. in Overland, Kan., and specialized thereafter in working with academics to secure their futures. Janice became a chemistry professor at Washburn College in Topeka.

Keith and Janice shared an enthusiasm for distance running. Keith reported in our 25th-reunion yearbook that they had completed more than 20 marathons to date, four of them run with his dog, Rusty. He retired from his insurance practice in 2008. They moved to Rockingham, Va., where Keith died Dec. 9, 2025. He is survived by Janice.

WILLIAM A. JAMES JR. '60

Bill prepared for Princeton at the historic Webb School in Bell Buckle, Tenn. He served



as senior class president, was valedictorian, played football and track, and edited the school paper and yearbook, having earlier earned Eagle Scout honors. With us, Bill served on the Freshman Council, majored in English, joined Whig-Clio, and dined at Cottage.

On graduating, Bill earned a medical degree at Columbia Physicians and Surgeons in 1964 and spent a year in ophthalmology internship at North Carolina Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill. He then served two years with the Air Force in Florida.

Bill returned to Columbia Presbyterian Hospital for four years of specialization in ophthalmology, involved in the early

development of laser eye surgery. He then spent 18 years with the Harkness Eye Institute there, where he practiced, taught, wrote extensively on the new field, and authored a definitive textbook on it.

Bill married Sallie Barre, a political consultant, in 1984. In 1990, they moved to Spartanburg, S.C., where he conducted a private ophthalmology practice until his retirement in 2006. Sallie predeceased him in 2004. He married Frances McLanahan Nelson in 2006 and together enjoyed travel, music, and lifelong learning studies.

Bill died Dec. 16, 2025, after a short illness. He is survived by Frances, her son, daughter, and four grandchildren, whom Bill adored.

JOHN B. MULLIKEN '60

John's career was typical of the many Class of '60 doctors who gave more back



to medicine than they took from it. His contributions to medical science and commitment to the wellbeing of the disadvantaged defined his career, as it did that of

many of our medical classmates. John came from Edina High School near Minneapolis bringing his tennis racquet and National Honor Society recognition. Here, he played freshman tennis, added opera to his musical tastes, chose chemistry, joined Campus Club and graduated *magna cum laude*. At Columbia Physicians and Surgeons he earned a medical degree in 1964, then interned at Mass General Hospital, Boston, and did another year there as a research fellow. The Army then made him a major in the last M.A.S.H. hospital in Korea through 1972, which influenced his latter commitment to deformed and disabled patients in difficult circumstances.

John spent two years at a Johns Hopkins residency in reconstructive plastic surgery, preparing him for his tenure at Boston Children's Hospital studying and treating cranial facial deformities and related vascular issues, especially in children. He led many research and educational initiatives in both fields and received numerous honors for his efforts.

John died Jan. 20, 2026. He is survived by his wife, A. Portia Chiou, and daughter, Olivia.

THE CLASS OF 1961

JOHN KREMER III '61

John died Nov. 26, 2025, in Scarborough, Maine.

Born in Montclair, N.J., he came to us from St. George's School. At Princeton he majored in history, took his meals at Charter Club, was a cheerleader, and was assistant business manager of Triangle Club. During junior year he married Joan Lee.

Following service as an officer in the



Army, he worked for the Insurance Company of North America and Atlantic Richfield for 20 years, with overseas postings in Spain (six years) and the U.K.

Shifting professions he then became the business manager of Fryeberg Academy in Fryeberg, Maine, where he met his second wife, Leslie Russell.

Along the way they served as Peace Corps volunteers in Lithuania, traveled in New Zealand, and cooked professionally. A perpetual learner, he learned to cane chairs and took violin lessons well into his 70s — “The cat hates me and Leslie always manages to be elsewhere when I practice,” he observed.

John was predeceased by Leslie a few months before he died. He is survived by his children, Ellen and John, and four grandchildren, as well as three stepdaughters and their families.

ALAN MACKENZIE '61

Al died Oct. 27, 2025, at home in Hartford, Conn., after a fall that caused kidney failure.



The son of a Navy admiral, he was born at the naval base in Cavite in the Philippines and came to us from Bethesda-Chase High School in Maryland. At Princeton, he

majored in basic engineering, took his meals at Quad, and rowed lightweights all four years, serving as captain in our senior year. When asked his major, he would say, “crew.” His roommates were John Cooper, Larry Brennan, Pete Finch, and Walt Conrad.

Then he began a variegated career that included an MBA from Stanford followed by positions with Chevron, General Foods, and Otis domestically and internationally, and included a one-year fellowship at MIT. Not happy in the corporate world, he then acquired the Hitchcock Chair Co. in Winsted, Conn., which closed its doors in 1990. He then founded Our Piece of the Pie, a nonprofit that connected young people with small businesses and was involved with other civic and charitable organizations right up to his death.

Al is survived by his wife of 45 years, Carole; children Chas and Katherine; two stepchildren; and eight grandchildren and step-grandchildren.

GERALD P. NORTON '61

Jerry died Dec. 5, 2025, in Ipswich, Mass., after a bout with pneumonia and a long struggle with dementia.

Born in Boston, he came to us from Baldwin High School on Long Island, where he and Don Kornrumpf were opposing football captains and lifetime friends. At Princeton, he majored in economics, ate at



Cap and Gown, and was a varsity football letterman and wrestler. He roomed with Don Kornrumpf, Clark Woolley, John MacMurray, Stan Baldwin, and Bob Craft.

After earning his LL.D. at Columbia, Jerry spent his career practicing law in Washington, D.C., at Covington Burling, then as a partner at Pepper, Hamilton & Scheetz, and finally as a founding partner and ultimately senior counsel of Harkins Cunningham. He retired in 2018.

“Norts” cherished his Princeton friendships and missed very few major Reunions. He was a lifelong athlete, playing rugby for many years and tennis weekly, and took up windsurfing in his 40s.

Predeceased by his first wife, Judy, he is survived by Amanda, his wife of 54 years; sons Adam and Jeremy; daughter Liza '91; and their families, which include six grandchildren.

STEVEN E. RHOADS '61

Steve died Jan. 2, 2026, in Hartford, Conn. He moved to Hartford in his final months



to be nearer to his son Chris after living in Charlottesville, Va., for decades.

Born and raised in Abington Township, Pa., he came to us from Abington

Senior High School. At Princeton, he majored in history, played freshman and JV squash, was in NROTC, and was treasurer of Cottage Club. He roomed with Don Tucker.

After naval service he earned an MPA in public administration and a Ph.D. in government at Cornell, then embarking on a long professorial career in the politics department at the University of Virginia, retiring in 2014 as emeritus professor.

Along the way he authored multiple books. The two most prominent were *Taking Sex Differences Seriously* and *The Economist's View of the World*. He helped found the Network of Enlightened Women (NeW). In our 50th-reunion yearbook he observed, “Princeton’s requiring me to write a thesis altered the course of my life.”

Steve’s first wife, Diane, died of cancer in 2008. He is survived by his second wife, Peggy; sons Christopher, Nicholas, and John; and their families, including five grandchildren.

CHARLES N. WATSON JR. '61

Chuck died Nov. 15, 2025, at home in Westbrook, Conn.

He came to Princeton from Pelham High School. At Princeton, he was pre-med, majored in English, and ran cross-country. He briefly took his meals at Key and Seal, then joined friends Contee Seely and Bill Rough to “eat on the street.” From Princeton he went to Duke to earn a doctorate in American literature. He



taught at Washington State before moving east to join the faculty of Syracuse University, where he taught for 35 years.

Toward the end of his academic career, Chuck’s lifelong interest in the natural world and self-sufficiency moved him to buy an old farmhouse and surrounding land in Manlius, N.Y. There he planted a garden that fed himself and neighbors and often helped to stock a local food bank. In 2008, he and his life partner, Nance, moved to Connecticut to be closer to family.

After years of birding on his own, he joined the Audubon Society and traveled to the Carolina lowcountry, Africa, and Down East Maine in the company of old friends in search of “new” birds. He edited Audubon and Audubon Eco-Travel publications for a decade.

Chuck reveled in family life with the five children and eight grandchildren he and Nance shared. To all of them, the class offers its condolences.

THE CLASS OF 1962

CARL JUKKOLA '62

Carl died Jan. 31, 2026, in Menlo Park, Calif.

He came to us from Phillips Exeter



Academy, where he was active in the mathematics discussion group, science club, and lettered in cross-country and swimming.

At Princeton, he was the president of the Bridge Club, majored in mathematics, and a member of the Woodrow Wilson Society.

After graduation he pursued a Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin but left after two years to seek employment. He began at the Boeing and then moved to California to escape the gloomy and wet weather of the northwest. He worked for Philco-Ford and Lockheed Martin primarily in software development. Later he worked as an adviser monitoring the development by other contractors of large-scale computer systems for controlling satellites.

In 1975, he met Desmond Lee, registering as a domestic partner under California law. They remained together until his death.

Beyond work, his activities included supporting theatrical organizations and music performers, and traveling. His major hobby was raising orchids, and he won several awards. Thousands of orchids filled his backyard.

Carl is survived by his partner/husband, Desmond, and a large, extended family of in-laws, nephews, nieces, and friends.

ALLEN K. SHENK JR. '62

Allen, an insurance executive who throughout his life sang in church choirs and



nurtured friendships with classmates, died Dec. 31, 2025, at his home in Glastonbury, Conn.

Like his father and uncle before him, Allen came to us from the Lawrenceville School. He majored in politics at Princeton and was a member of Charter Club and the track team.

Allen spent two years in the Navy after graduation, working with SEAL teams and specialists in underwater demolition. He earned an MBA in finance from the Wharton School in 1971 and began a career as an institutional investor for insurance companies and banks, including Travelers Insurance Co., where he spent 14 years, retiring in 1993.

A love of music and group singing shaped Allen's life. After Princeton he sang in quartets, church choirs, and large choral societies in small churches, Carnegie Hall, and English cathedrals. His entries in our anniversary volumes describe lifelong adventures by land and by sea with his wife, Ann, and his PU classmates — fellow quarter-milers Whit Azoy and Bil Carr, and roommates Harry Battin and Jack Bissell.

Allen is survived by his wife of 50 years, Ann Wilder Shenk.

THE CLASS OF 1963

RONALD W. FURST '63

Ron, a biblical minister who served in Germany for nearly 60 years, died Jan. 10,



2026, in Wangen, a historic city in southern Germany. His missionary work was supported for its duration by Stone Hill Church in Princeton.

Ron was one of 16 classmates to come from The Hill School, where Ron played soccer, was in the classics club and won awards for excellence in Greek.

At Princeton, Ron majored in Classics, wrote his thesis on Thucydides, and took his meals at the Woodrow Wilson Society. His major activity was the Princeton Evangelical Fellowship, serving as secretary-treasurer senior year. As he recounted for our 50th-reunion yearbook, this was a pivotal experience: "I came into contact with a Christian student community and Dr. Fullerton, a single former missionary to Afghanistan, who founded this student organization in the fall of 1931. Through weekly discipleship with him and regular attendance at student Bible study groups, my faith was strengthened."

Ron earned a master's of divinity degree from Grace Theological Seminary. He then served as assistant pastor of Southfield Community Church outside of Detroit in conjunction with a year-long missionary internship program in Farmington, Mich.

In 1968, Ron left for Germany. Three years later, he "gained a God-fearing wife:" Hildegarde, eight years older, a native German, and a missionary. They served in five different locations, including a 10-year stint in Ulm, where Ron also served on the Princeton Schools Committee of Southern Germany.

Ron is survived by his wife of 54 years, Hildegarde.

ARTHUR W. SCHWARTZ '63 *65

Art died March 5, 2026, at home in Stockbridge, Mass., after a long illness, with family at his side.



He came to us from Lawrenceville, where he took an extra year after graduating from St. Mark's School. At Princeton, he majored in architecture, took his meals at Cottage Club, and played on the freshman and varsity hockey and golf teams. He earned a master's in architecture and urban planning from Princeton in 1965.

A career architect, Art's influence can be seen in buildings in New Jersey, Wisconsin, Massachusetts, and Florida. At times, his work dovetailed with his lifelong passion: golf. He wrote this for our 50th-reunion yearbook: "One of my first architectural commissions was a residential alteration at the famed Pine Valley Golf Club. This led to 10 appearances in their annual Crump Cup Singles Invitational tourney. The marriage of golf and business careers has endured for all these years."

Art won tournaments around the country and Europe, culminating with the Massachusetts Senior Amateur Championship in 1995 on his home course in Stockbridge. Together with his wife, Ginger, he co-founded and chaired the Library Golf Tournament that raises funds for both the Lenox and Stockbridge libraries.

Art was past president of numerous golf clubs. He was particularly proud to serve as president of the Otsego Golf Club, a course he had played on each summer for the past 80 years, and for which he still holds the course record.

Art was predeceased by Ginger. He is survived by son Arthur II; daughter Julie; and three grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1964

PETER E. HUBBARD '64

Peter died Dec. 28, 2025, of pancreatic cancer in Greenville, S.C.



He was born in Milwaukee and graduated from Milwaukee University School, where he played tennis and football. At Princeton, he majored in economics, joined Tiger Inn, and rowed with heavyweight crew. Following graduation, Peter graduated from Navy officer candidate school and then

sailed from San Diego on two six-month deployments to Southeast Asia aboard the USS Stoddard. While in San Diego, he met local schoolteacher Judy Glass, starting a 57-year love story.

Peter's career began in sales/marketing with Flying Tiger in Los Angeles, participating in their expansion worldwide, which led to his visiting most of the world's major commercial cities. In 1985, he shifted to Midland Enterprises in Cincinnati, a large barge transportation company.

Peter was curious and kind with a wry sense of humor and mischievous twinkle in his eye. His love for his family knew no bounds, and he was happiest at home with family, friends, and countless golden retrievers.

Peter and Judy retired to Seabrook Island, S.C., in 2005, where they enjoyed their grandchildren, golf, ocean, friends, travel, and volunteering with his church and Habitat for Humanity.

To his wife, Judy, their children, Chris and Hillary, and their families, the class extends its condolences.

CHARLES R. KENDRICK JR. '64

Charlie died Jan. 24, 2026, from complications related to Alzheimer's.



Born in Denver, he came to Princeton from Phillips Andover Academy. At Princeton, he majored in architecture, joined Cap & Gown, and was active in the Aquinas Foundation, *The Daily Princetonian*, and the Ski Club.

Charlie liked to say he was a lucky man, especially so because he met his wife to be, Suzy, on a blind date on House Parties weekend in 1963. They married in 1965 and both became teachers in Baltimore. After several years, Charlie shifted gears, received his MBA in 1970 from George Washington University and went to work with a real estate development firm. His job there led to a position with the federal government's Department of Housing and Urban Development working on a groundbreaking urban investment program.

In 1984, the family moved to Andover, Mass., where he continued his work in commercial real estate, helped start two investment partnerships, and assisted numerous businesses and community organizations in planning projects and achieving success.

Charlie is survived by his wife of more than 60 years, Suzy; their two daughters, Adair and Catherine; and five grandchildren. Our class offers them our sincere condolences for this friend who earned and deserved all his luck.

DAVID ANDREW ROTHROCK III '64

Drew died June 8, 2025, at home in Seattle.

Born in Philadelphia, he attended Episcopal Academy. His interests were



science and classical music, and he was organist for the daily chapel service.

He was attracted to Princeton by its academic/engineering strength and University organist, Bach specialist Carl Weinrich. Drew sang in the Chapel Choir and was the designated substitute organist/choirmaster for Weinrich. His Epilogues (evening “quiet” organ music in the Chapel) included the legendary “dial-a-hymn” service.

He took his meals at Campus Club and secured a mechanical engineering degree with highest honors and was awarded the Howard N. Samuel Prize. He completed his doctoral degree at Cambridge University through an NSF Fellowship. He married Joan in 1966, and, while abroad, they explored many European and Mideast destinations and later especially enjoyed many summers on their property in Vaison-la-Romaine.

Drew accepted a position at the University of Washington in 1970 with the Arctic Ice Dynamics Joint Experiment. He did polar ice research and climatology at the UW Applied Physics Lab and at IFREMER in Brest, France, including publications drawing international attention.

He continued his musical activities, learning to play cello for quartets with friends and playing in the Thalia Symphony.

Drew is survived by his wife, Joan; daughter Averil; son Kevin; four grandchildren; his brother, Ron; and sister Joan.

THOMAS C. TODD JR. '64

Tom died Sept. 13, 2025, due to complications from a stroke. He was born in



Charlottesville, Va., grew up in Bristol, Tenn., and came to Princeton from Phillips Andover Academy. He majored in psychology, wrote his thesis on “Creativity and Intelligence,” was active in the Chapel Choir, enjoyed windsurfing and playing bridge in his spare time, and ate at Terrace Club.

Following graduation, he earned a Ph.D. in clinical psychology at New York University in 1970 and spent most of his life in Connecticut and Illinois practicing as a clinical psychologist and family therapist. Positions included serving as director of marriage and family programs at the University of Chicago's Adler School of Professional Psychology and on the faculty of the Chicago Center for Family Health. He also authored many articles and several books on family therapy and substance abuse.

In retirement he found time to volunteer as a mental health provider for disaster relief as well as a mentor for other family therapists. He also loved to travel and sought opportunities not only to visit but also teach

and lecture in places like Brazil, Kosovo, Norway, Sweden, and Bulgaria.

Tom is survived by his wife, Tracy; children Kathryn, Richard, Sara, and Cameron; five grandchildren; and two brothers and their families. To this family Tom loved, our class offers our condolences.

THE CLASS OF 1966

ROBERT F. SEELY '66

Bob died Feb. 11, 2026, at home in Exeter, N.H.



He grew up in New York State's Mid-Hudson Valley and came to Princeton from the Mount Hermon School (now Northfield Mount Hermon), in Gill,

Massachusetts, where he worked on the library staff and the literary magazine. At Princeton, he studied history, belonged to Cloister Inn and Whig-Clio, and was on the debate team. Roommates included Jerry Sumida, Bill Childress, and Fred Forster.

After graduation, Bob served in the Army for two years, stationed in Korea. Following discharge, he earned a law degree from Cornell. He focused his law practice on customs and international trade law, first in the United States Department of Commerce, then in Chicago with the law firm now called Katten Muchin Rosenman, and later in New York with Grunfeld Desiderio Lebowitz Silverman & Klestadt. He retired in 2020.

Bob was an avid gardener and loved antiques. He and his wife, Rebecca, restored their 1868 Victorian home in New Jersey, leading to its listing on the National Register of Historic Homes.

Bob is survived by Rebecca, son Ted, and two grandsons, to whom the class extends its condolences.

DAVID S. SWAYZE '66

Dave died Jan. 23, 2026. The immediate cause was a concussion sustained in a fall. For several years, he had suffered from macular degeneration, robbing him of vision.

A lifelong Delaware resident, Dave came to Princeton from Wilmington's Mount Pleasant High School, where he was student council president and a member of the wrestling team. At Princeton, Dave majored in politics and belonged to Quadrangle Club. He was in Whig-Clio and the Pre-Law Society and on the UCC Academic Committee. Roommates included Dave Burnett, Jim Papa, and Paul Kepler.

After Princeton, he earned a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania. Upon graduation, he joined a corporate law firm in Wilmington. Most recently, he was a principal in the Parkowski, Guerke & Swayze law firm.

Dave was active in politics, serving as close adviser to leaders of both major parties, including governors and congressional representatives. For several years he was chief of staff for Gov. Pete DuPont '56. In 2022, Gov. John Carney awarded him The Order of the First State, described by The Delaware Bar Journal as the highest and most prestigious honor a governor can award.

Dave is survived by his wife, Carolyn De Pew-Swayze, and children, Lisa and Scott, to whom the class offers its condolences.

THE CLASS OF 1968

PETER J. KASHATUS '68

Pete died Feb. 3, 2026, in Charlottesville, Va., after suffering from vascular dementia and Alzheimer's disease.



Pete came to us from G.A.R. Memorial High School in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., where he was vice president of his class and played football.

At Princeton, he was active in varsity football, rugby, and freshman track. He was a co-recipient of the Charles W. Caldwell Memorial Trophy for most improved player. He majored in psychology and was a member of Cannon Club. Senior year he roomed with Stone, Andreini, Ashby, and Schroeder in 221 Walker.

Upon graduating, Pete began a 43-year career in the teaching field. He started at Millbrook School in Millbrook, N.Y., where he taught mathematics and was a coach and administrator. He then moved to the Brunswick School in Greenwich, Conn., where he continued to teach math and became the technology director after earning a master's degree in computers in education from Columbia. He spent the final phase of his career at Providence Day School in Charlotte, N.C., from which he retired.

In retirement, Pete took advantage of all that was available to him in Charlottesville. He worked and played at a local golf course, participated in Senior Olympics, took up drawing and watercolor painting, attended free classes at the university, and traveled domestically and internationally.

The class extends sympathies to his widow, Ann; children Beth Ann, Peter '93, and David '97; seven grandchildren; and eight surviving brothers and sisters.

EDWARD J. SARTON '68

Jay died Oct. 12, 2025, in Scarborough, Maine, after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease.

He came to us from Arlington (Mass.) High School, where he played ice hockey and baseball. At Princeton, Jay was active in Orange Key, IAA, and was a research assistant. He majored in mechanical and aerospace engineering and belonged to Dial



Lodge. Senior year he roomed with Benica, Cory, Gershon, and Drakos in Dodge-Osborne.

Following graduation, Jay earned a master's degree in teaching from the University of Southern California. He was an educator in every way; he spent the bulk of his professional career teaching math, physics, and astronomy with passion and humor to students of all ages, and his personal life coaching youth soccer, baseball, and softball. He conducted planetarium shows at Griffith Observatory in California, taught at Phillips Andover Academy, and in 1982 began his longtime work at Kopernik Observatory in Vestal, N.Y.

He later became a professor at University of Southern Maine and had his own science education consulting business. His love of all New England sports he passed down to his children. In retirement, he spent considerable time camping, hiking, kayaking, and gardening.

The class extends its deepest sympathies to his wife of 55 years, Cheri; his children Christopher, Matthew '98, Adam, and Katherine; and his four grandchildren.

LAWRENCE K. SPITZ '68

Larry —a Renaissance man, physician, fraud-busting entrepreneur, ceramicist, orchardist, adventurer, fisherman, epicurean, and above all a man generous with his time, resources, and love — died Dec. 6, 2025, peacefully at home in Philadelphia from complications associated with acute myeloid leukemia.



Larry came to us from Hawken High School in Cleveland, where he played football, wrestled, and ran track. At Princeton, he was active in freshman crew as a coxswain. He majored in biochemistry and was a member of Charter Club. He lived in Lourie-Love senior year.

After graduation, he earned a medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1972 and later an MBA from the Wharton School in 1976. He worked many years in the Penn Hospital system founding the Penn Executive Diagnostic Center. He went on to found and lead Pattern Analysis, a company focused on uncovering medical insurance fraud.

Later in life, his focus shifted from left brain to right brain as he gained renown for becoming an exhibiting artist in Philadelphia craft shows in the field of porcelain ceramics, having studied with Toshiko Takaezu, a famed ceramicist in residence at Princeton. In addition, he cultivated orchids in a self-built greenhouse and biked across several continents.

The class extends its deepest sympathies to his wife, Carol, also a ceramicist; children

Michael and Jenna; sister Cathy; and nephew Matthew.

HENRY WASZKOWSKI '68

Henry died Jan. 28, 2026, in Atlanta.



He came to us from the Loomis School, where he was active on the school newspaper and yearbook staffs. At Princeton, Henry majored in basic engineering and participated on the Ski Team, in Triangle Club, and the Jesters. He ate independently and lived in Patton Hall his senior year with Ledyard, Tundermann, and Larsen.

After graduation, he entered the Navy and graduated first in his class from Officer Supply School securing an assignment at the Newport Naval Base. Upon mustering out, he went to graduate school and received his MBA from MIT. He enjoyed a long and successful career at Wachovia Bank, following which he branched out on his own and founded his business, Treasury Performance Consulting. In retirement, his hobbies included photography, travel, cooking, wine club, windsurfing, and cycling.

The class extends its deepest sympathies to his widow, Patty; his children, Anna, Peter, Stephanie, and Emily; nine grandchildren; three great grandchildren; and his sister, Carol.

THE CLASS OF 1969

RICHARD BELDING '69

Rick died Jan. 16, 2026, at home in Tucson, Ariz. His death from mesothelioma came



just weeks shy of his 78th birthday.

Rick attended high school in Bridgewater, N.J., where he played football and baseball. At Princeton, he quarterbacked 150-pound football and ate at Tiger Inn. Rick was a basic engineering major and often expressed his appreciation for faculty members who were both scholars at the cutting edge of their disciplines and superb teachers.

An educator whose career spanned decades and geographies, Rick described his career in our 50th-reunion yearbook: "I have been paid as an employee or consultant by 23 entities. I have been CEO of five nonprofit organizations including head of two schools, president of a large independent school accrediting association, executive director for a teacher placement and search firm working with independent schools, and co-founder and president of an organization that sponsored an Advertising Council campaign to enhance the teaching profession and recruit new teachers."

Rick had many interests. At Princeton he was known for his love of automobiles,

and over his lifetime he owned 32 cars. His pride and joy was a Citroën 2CV. Rick was a devoted runner, covering more than 45,000 miles. He and his wife, Lucy, enjoyed traveling the globe and especially loved their time together at their cottage in Spruce Head, Maine.

Rick is survived by his wife, Lucy; two stepdaughters; one brother; and two sisters. The class offers its sincere condolences to them all.

THE CLASS OF 1971

PHILIP CONNELL '71

Flip died Jan. 9, 2026, in Melbourne, Australia.



He came to Princeton from Wardlaw Country Day in Plainfield, N.J., Flip was a religion major, belonged to Quad, immersed himself from day one in Theater

Intime and Triangle Club, and formed deep bonds with Phil Hawley, Pete Johnsen, Miles Reiter, Bob Duncan, Andres Duany, Ron Rubenstein, Hugh Cobb, Rich Ferrugio, and Nick Hammond.

Flip and Jennifer Doughty married in 1972, had two children, Justin and Gwyneth, but later divorced. He continued his creativity by producing comedy specials for HBO and then ran the Catch a Rising Star comedy club in New York City. The fast life in New York of the 1980s caught up with him, but he beat addiction. A clerical temp job at Salomon Brothers led to a 22-year career in investment banking.

Flip earned an MBA at NYU, had a work transfer to London, where he met and married Lisa Baker, and then moved to her native Australia in 2013 with their two children, Declan (born in 2008) and Griffin (2010). There Flip worked as a manager in the nonprofit sector and stayed physically active with marathon running and cricket (though he remained a lifelong Yankees fan) throughout a long battle with lung disease. He kept contact with classmates through monthly Zoom calls after COVID.

The class extends its condolences to his family and many friends and colleagues.

JOHN JEFFREY GOODWIN '71 *73

After a long battle with lung cancer, Jeff died Jan. 9, 2026.



He grew up in Oak Ridge, Tenn., where he became fiercely committed to social justice after witnessing the abuses of the segregated South. After his dad's work

took the family to Europe, Jeff graduated from Ecolint International School in Geneva before Princeton. He belonged to Wilson College and majored in SPIA (focusing on urban affairs) for his undergrad and master's

degrees. He also participated in the student chapter of the ACLU as president.

He worked at the New York City Bureau of the Budget during budget crises under Mayors Lindsay, Beame, and Koch, developing a process that became the most successful payment processing system of its time, saving \$300 million in one year.

Jeff was an executive at New York City Health and Hospitals until he joined the private sector at what became Ernst & Young. He was awarded a partnership in 1984 for his pioneering work in information systems practice. He would ultimately start InSys Technology, an IT systems consultancy. His hobbies were photography, raising Labradors, and gardening.

Jeff married Kimberlee Larson in 1972. After living in Brooklyn, they moved to Bucks County in 1984 and divorced in 1989. Jeff and Kim had two children, Jessica (1973) and John (1982) and four grandchildren. The class extends its condolences to his family and friends.

ROBERT S. ROTH '71

Bob died Dec. 15, 2025, in his adopted hometown of New Orleans after a long battle with cancer.



Like his father, Steve '41, and brother, Scott '75, Bob prepped at Middlesex School in Massachusetts. At Princeton, he majored in English,

belonged to Ivy Club, was active in the *Nassau Lit*, and roomed with Gordon Walmsley, including at Twin Brooks Farm senior year. Classmates remember him for his integrity and spirit of adventure.

Bob married Carroll Rogers in Milan, Italy, in 1972 and had two children, Carroll Livingston (1980) and Stephanie Schuyler (1988). After his time in Italy, he graduated from law school at Tulane in 1977. Bob spent his entire 45-year law career at Chaffe McCall in New Orleans, where he served as managing partner, legal counsel to the firm, and senior partner in the commercial litigation section. He focused his practice on securities, corporate finance, and commercial litigation and was proficient in Italian. Bob was a wise and steady presence whose generosity knew no bounds. He was always eager to guide younger attorneys, sharing his time, insight, brilliance, and deep legal knowledge with patience and enthusiasm.

After building a house there in 1973 with Amos Eno '72, Bob and Carroll effectively ran the iconic Moonhole community on the island of Bequia for more than 30 years. Bob helped lead the New Orleans American Heart Association Chapter and Southern Repertory Theatre.

The class extends its sympathies to his family, friends, and colleagues.

THE CLASS OF 1974

JOHN MARK CLAPP '74

Mark died Oct. 6, 2025, at Walter Reed National Military Hospital in Maryland of leukemia.



Born Sept. 17, 1952, in Jos, Nigeria, where his parents were missionaries, Mark grew up in Philadelphia and graduated from Abraham

Lincoln High School. At Princeton, he majored in biology and competed in rugby, lightweight football, and gymnastics. He lived in third entry Hamilton and sixth entry Patton and formed lifelong friendships with his roommates, who always remember Mark for driving to Kentucky over Christmas break to fill in for the Princeton cheerleaders at the University of Kentucky Invitational basketball tournament.

Through the Platoon Leaders Class program, Mark began his lifelong commitment to the Marine Corps. He retired as a colonel after three tours of service and multiple honors. In civilian life, he built a career in defense acquisition and consulting while continuing to support Marines.

Kind, loyal, and deeply patriotic, Mark was devoted to his country, friends, and family. He is survived by his wife, Malka "Mally;" daughter, Melissa; two grandchildren; and his siblings. Mark is buried at Arlington National Cemetery. The class extends its deepest condolences to the Clapp family and our gratitude to Mark for his service.

STEWART MITTNACHT JR. '74

Stewart died Jan. 23, 2026.

He came to Princeton from Chestnut Hill Academy and after graduation attended Duke Business School. He had a long career in the pharmaceutical industry, primarily working in regulatory compliance. His most recent job was with Rhone Poulenc. After retirement, Stewart threw himself into The Savoy Company, where he was on the board and quarterbacked the backstage operation. He gave classmates a lively tour of the backstage during a recent class trip at Longwood Gardens.

Stewart recently met a woman at a Super Bowl party who grew up very near him, but they had somehow never met. He and Anne O'Connell quickly realized they were in love and married last December. Prior, he had married Lisa Asche Mittnacht with whom he had two sons, Stewart III and Sanderson. He later married a high school sweetheart, Mary Shoemaker Mittnacht, who passed away after they lived in Santa Fe. Stewart was a frequent participant at class events and continued taking courses

at Princeton.

Stewart is survived by his wife, Anne; his two sons; grandchildren Charlotte, Madison, and Frederick; and his first wife, Lisa Anne. Services were held Feb. 28 at St. Paul's in Chestnut Hill with attendees asked to wear orange for his love of Princeton.

THE CLASS OF 1978

FARIBORZ HAMZEI '78

Fari died Oct. 7, 2025, in Naples, Fla.

He was a proud Persian, born in Iran and settling in the U.S. in 1972. Fari happily shared his culture and language at a time when Iran was beginning to rise in our national consciousness. He joined Cottage and was on the heavyweight crew team. He graduated with a BSE and a rich community of lifelong friends.

Fari earned an MBA at UCLA, spent some time at Northrop Corp. in strategic planning, then put his analytical skills to work in the stock market, becoming a respected, self-taught trader with honed expertise in risk management, market timing, derivatives, and other sophisticated instruments. He founded Hamzei Analytics, serving professional and institutional traders and hedge funds. His book *Master Traders* was a resource for those trying to navigate particularly volatile markets, and Fari was a familiar face and voice in the financial press and media.

Fari was a voracious reader, a lover of music, and an active hiker and scuba diver. Colleagues remember him as a generous teacher and mentor, a man of integrity and humility. And great good humor.

We join with all who loved and admired Fari in grieving a life well-lived and over too soon.

THE CLASS OF 1979

DANIEL E. FELDMAN '79

Dan died Nov. 21, 2024, from a rare liver disease while living in Northampton, Mass.



He was a visual artist and polymath.

Dan arrived at Princeton from Great Neck, N.Y. He studied math and majored in economics yet came to the realization that art was his true calling. He studied painting with professor Sean Scully, a close friend and mentor. Dan played squash and performed his own songs on guitar, before shifting his creative focus to painting. Gail Soffer '80 recalls him as "brilliant, yet gentle."

Dan earned a master's degree in painting from Hunter College, where he met his wife and love of his life, artist Nancy Diessner. He also received an MFA in painting from the New York Academy of Art.

He was an oil painter until mid-career, when he incorporated Photoshop into his artistic process, allowing him to digitally transform photos into new works of art. He exhibited widely in New York City and Boston. Dan also taught art and art history at the New York Academy of Art and Cedar Crest College in Pennsylvania.

The class extends warm condolences to his wife, Nancy.

THE CLASS OF 1985

JILLIAN COWAN SEGAL '85

Jill died Oct. 9, 2019.

She was a treasured class member, sorely missed by her close-knit group of roommates and friends. She is remembered for her intelligence, her unfaltering commitment to her academics, despite challenges, and her steadfast, caring nature.

She grew up in New Rochelle, N.Y., and followed her sister, Alison '82, to Princeton. Jill lived in Stevenson Hall, was a member of the Hillel Society, and worked at WPRB. She joined Tower Club sophomore year and majored in history. She was an engaged alumna who gave of her time by interviewing prospective students and soliciting special gifts.

After graduation Jill went on to Harvard Business School and became a management consultant in Greenwich, Conn. She married David Segal, also an HBS graduate, in 1991, and they eventually moved to Needham, Mass., where they raised three children.

Jill was a biker for the Pan-Mass Challenge and an avid knitter. She had recently begun her second year as a rabbinical student at Hebrew College in Newton. Through these studies, she was able to delve deeply into her life's passion.

Jill is survived by her husband, David; children Aaron, Chloe, and Jeremy; parents Martin and Dorrit; sister Alison; and brother David. The class extends its deepest condolences to them all.

THE CLASS OF 1986

REX LEE JIM '86

Rex, the politician and poet who led the Navajo nation in office and in words, died Feb. 24, 2026. He was 63.

After growing up in Chinle, Ariz., and graduating from the Colorado Rocky Mountain School, Jim came to Princeton, where he majored in English. His senior thesis, "Do Navajos Love as White People Do? A Study of the Role of White Romantic Love in Novels Written about Navajos by White Writers," explored just how the Diné people and their amorous relationships were portrayed in the general literature.

"There is no doubt," he wrote in the thesis, "that white writers who write about Navajos

will never achieve the level of thinking and feeling that Navajos have. Every time they try to deal with what makes a Navajo Navajo, they end up interpreting those qualities in their own terms. ... Instead of helping them out through their misinterpretations in the novels, these writers destroy the very people they try to help."

When he returned to Arizona, he pursued three paths: nurturing education on the Navajo reservation, writing his own poetry in his native tongue, Diné Bizaad, and serving in the Navajo leadership. He authored several collections of poetry and then passed them out on the campaign trail, a path that took him to several offices, including the vice president of the Navajo Nation from 2011 to 2015. When he died, he was finishing a Ph.D. at Arizona State University.

To all he served as a teacher and educator and to all he touched with his poetry, the Class of 1986 extends our deepest gratitude and appreciation.

THE CLASS OF 1992

CHRISTIAN HARTLEBEN '92

Unburdened by fear or the myth of an afterlife, Chris died peacefully Feb. 4, 2026, after a decades-long illness.



He was in relatively no pain, and he drifted off listening to Simon & Garfunkel as they called him home.

Chris was a visual arts major at Princeton and was active in 2D. He regretted that his illness kept him from completing his degree (unable to finish his thesis, he was not given a diploma). He often wondered what his life might have been like if things had gone differently.

Chris was a big *Twin Peaks* fan; he made many friends, and met his life partner, Karen Addison Craig, through the online community of fans. He was an administrator for a large *Twin Peaks* Facebook group and treasured the teachings of Fred Rogers and *Sesame Street*, well into his adult life. Chris wept often for the world and always wished for a *Star Trek*-like future for humanity. He had a large collection of films and music and solved every *New York Times* crossword since his Princeton days.

Chris is survived by his partner, Karen; her son, Jack; his parents, Margaret Hager and Hans-Henning Hartleben; and his sister, Lara Addiego, and her family.

THE CLASS OF 1994

ALEXANDER MARAVAS '94

Alex died Jan. 5th, 2026, in Thessaloniki, Greece, after a three-year struggle with cancer.

Born in Johannesburg, South Africa, Alex moved to Thessaloniki at 5, where he attended Anatolia High School. Known for being a brilliant student within the

mechanical and aerospace engineering major, Alex also loved history and literature. He dined at Terrace and served as president of the Greek Students Association. A talented intramural basketball player (he dunked in intramural basketball games), he was a key member of the legendary championship winning "Air Zorba" team of Greek undergraduate and graduate students in the mid-1990s.

Following Princeton, Alex earned a master's degree in mechanical engineering from Imperial College, London. After completing his military service, he worked for nearly two decades at Egnatia Odos, a project management company responsible for the construction of the Northern Greece highway of the same name. During this time, he also completed his Ph.D. in civil engineering at the National Technical University of Athens (Metsoveio). He later joined Elliniko Metro, where he was an integral designer of the recently constructed Thessaloniki Metro.

He will be remembered by his classmates for his generosity, kindness, and gentle demeanor.

Alex was a wonderful husband, father, and friend. He is survived by his wife, Vasiliki (Vilia) Polyzou, and their three children, Elena, Anthi, and Andronikos. The Class of 1994 extends its deepest sympathies to Alex's family.

IOANNIS MENTZAS '94

Yani died Feb. 17, 2026.

The son of a Greek father and Japanese mother, Yani came to Princeton from Kobe, Japan, where he attended the Marist Brothers International School. A quiet and gentle young man, Yani is remembered as a serene presence around Terrace Club, where his mind was recognized as freakishly special even amidst a sea of intelligent people. Known for enjoying reading, drinking coffee, and smoking, Yani majored in comparative literature. He embraced his love of books and followed them first to Columbia, where he earned a master's in English and then to Vertical, a company he founded with Micah Burch '95 that specialized in translating Japanese manga and novels into English. (There is an article about them in the May 2003 PAW.)

Kodansha USA acquired Vertical in 2020 and Yani continued his editorial work at the larger firm, where he served as a respected mentor and was recognized as a key figure "introducing and shaping the presence of Japanese literary and graphic works in the English-language publishing world."

Those fortunate enough to catch Yani between books discovered a remarkable conversationalist, a true polymath, and the type of person you only meet at a place like Princeton. He will be missed.

GRADUATE ALUMNI**JOHN G. CRAGG *65**

John died Nov. 5, 2025, of cancer in Delta, British Columbia.

He was born in Toronto May 3, 1937, and earned his undergraduate degree from McGill in 1958. He studied economics at Trinity College, Cambridge, and earned another undergraduate degree in 1960. John earned a Ph.D. in economics from Princeton in 1965. While in graduate school he married Olga, who was also studying for a Ph.D.

John's first academic position was as an assistant professor at the University of Chicago. After three years, he moved to the University of British Columbia (UBC), where he was appointed full professor in 1972. His scholarly interests and publications were in econometrics, financial economics, and social programs. Under John's tutelage as chair, the economics department grew. His desire to make a difference in society was fulfilled when he became director of research, prices, and income commission in Ottawa from 1969 to 1972.

During his time at UBC, John enjoyed sabbaticals in Oxford, London, Paris and Aix-en-Provence. He retired from UBC at 65 when retirement was mandatory, which he described as being "fired."

John is survived by his wife of 62 years, Olga; sons Michael '86 and Philip; and grandchildren Max, Nina, Kobe, Jack, and Reid.

JAMES F. HITCHCOCK *65

Jim died July 14, 2025, of Parkinson's disease in St. Louis. He was 87.

Born Feb. 13, 1938, in St. Louis, Jim graduated from St. Louis University in 1960 with a degree in philosophy and a minor in history. He earned a Ph.D. in history from Princeton in 1965. His dissertation topic was "Popular Religion in Elizabethan England."

After Princeton, Jim taught at St. John's University in New York for a year before joining the faculty of St. Louis University in 1966. He remained at St. Louis until his retirement in 2013.

The history of the Catholic Church was the principal focus of Jim's research and teaching. He was the author of 12 books, including *The Supreme Court and Religion in American Life* and *History of the Catholic Church: From the Apostolic Age to the Third Millennium*. An expert on church history, his articles and syndicated columns were a fixture in Catholic magazines and newspapers.

He was predeceased by his wife, Helen, in 2014. Jim is survived by his daughters, Alexandra, Consuela, Hilary, and Louisa; and six grandchildren.

THOMAS J. COURCHENE *67

Tom died Nov. 4, 2025, in Montreal.

Born Sept. 16, 1940, in Wakaw, Saskatchewan,

Tom completed undergraduate studies at the University of Saskatchewan in 1962 and earned a Ph.D. in economics from Princeton in 1967. He did postgraduate work at the University of Chicago.

From 1965 to 1988, Tom was professor of economics at the University of Western Ontario. His interests were monetary policy, financial institutions, fiscal policy, economic regionalism, energy policy, trade, and migration. He was chair of the Ontario Economic Council, senior fellow at the C.D. Howe Institute, and a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

Tom went to Queen's University in 1988 to serve as the inaugural director of the School of Policy Studies (SPS), a central hub in a national policy network of academics and policymakers. He was director of the John Deutsch Institute, director of the Institute of Intergovernmental Relations, and a senior scholar at the Institute for Research on Public Policy in Montreal.

Twice Tom won the Donner Prize for the best Canadian book on public policy. They were *The Social, Fiscal and Federal Evolution of Ontario* and *Indigenous Nationals, Canadian Citizens*.

Tom is survived by his wife, Margie; children Rob, Teri, and John; nine grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

RICHARD A. MACKEN *73

Dick died Aug. 12, 2025, at his home in Naples, Fla.

Born in Chicago in 1941, he graduated from Northwestern in 1963 and began law school at Harvard but after a year transferred to the Middle Eastern studies department. While developing his Arabic proficiency in Cairo, his adviser moved from Harvard to the Near Eastern studies department at Princeton and asked Dick to follow him. His dissertation was on late 19th Century Tunisian history. After Princeton, Dick became a professor of Middle Eastern studies in Penang, Malaysia.

Returning to the U.S., Dick worked in the international affairs department of Gulf Oil in Pittsburgh, advising company executives on political, economic, and oil developments in North Africa and the Middle East. When Gulf merged with Chevron in 1985, Dick joined USAID, working in embassies in Khartoum, Kinshasa, Bamako, Antananarivo, and other capitals in sub-Saharan Africa. His last AID posting was Bridgetown, Barbados, with responsibility for economic development in several Caribbean islands of the Lesser Antilles.

Dick retired to Naples, where he engaged in philanthropic and volunteer work, notably as a docent at the Naples Botanical Garden and a patron of Opera Sarasota, where he rarely missed a performance and sometimes served as a producer.

EHSAN AHMED *87

Ehsan died Nov. 13, 2025, in Palm Springs, Calif.

He was born in Washington, D.C., June 13, 1958, and completed his undergraduate studies at Columbia in 1980. He earned a Ph.D. in Romance languages and literature from Princeton in 1987. The title of his dissertation was "A Crisis of Lyric Identity: French Humanist Responses (1533-1552)."

Ehsan held faculty positions at Tulane, Stanford, and Louisiana State before embarking on a 23-year career at Michigan State University in 1995. At MSU he taught all levels of French language, culture, and literature, and supported the classics program by teaching Latin. His publications include "Clément Marot: The Mirror of the Prince," and "The Law and the Song: Hebraic, Christian, and Pagan Revivals in Sixteenth Century France." Before retiring from MSU in 2018, he focused on the French philosopher Michel de Montaigne.

Ehsan is survived by his brother, Omar; sisters Shirin and Nasim; niece Nancy; nephew Alexander; and long-term partner Dennis Hall.

KELLAM M. CONOVER *10

Kellam fell to his death on Nov. 24, 2025, while climbing Mount Cook, New Zealand's highest mountain. He was 44.

Born July 20, 1981, he earned a bachelor's degree from Swarthmore in 2003, then completed his Ph.D. in classics at Princeton in 2010. His dissertation was "Bribery in Classical Athens." In addition to knowledge of Greek and Latin, he was conversant in French, Italian, and German.

After Princeton, Kellam attended Stanford Law School, earning his J.D. degree in 2013. He clerked for Raymond C. Fisher in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in Pasadena. He was an associate at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher before joining the Washington, D.C., firm King & Spalding in 2023.

Kellam's legal expertise included defending securities actions, cases involving constitutional law, bankruptcy, patents and administrative procedure. He wrote briefs in cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and federal appeals courts. He was named one of the best lawyers to look out for in 2023.

At the time of his death, he was reworking his dissertation on corruption in Athens in the hope that lessons learned from that time might help in modern society.

Kellam is survived by his mother, Pam Conover, and her wife, Sue Estroff.

Graduate memorials are prepared by the APGA.

*Undergraduate memorials appear for Wilmot G. Gilland '55 *60, Arthur W. Schwartz '63 *65, and John Jeffrey Goodwin '71 *73.*

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KEN WANG 1915 (1895-1942)

From China to the US, a Life Only ‘Shakespeare’ Could Imagine

BY DONNI WANG

THE STORY OF **KEN WANG (王庚) 1915**, nicknamed “Shakespeare” by Princeton classmates for his love of the playwright, was as dramatic as one of the Bard’s own characters, marked by scholarly and military promise, romantic betrayal, public scandal, and even an ill-timed reported death.

Wang was born in China in 1895, the year the already crumbling Manchu dynasty suffered a humiliating defeat at the hands of Japan. At age 16, he competed for the highly selective Boxer scholarship to study in the United States. Out of thousands of candidates, Wang was among the 67 who made the cut. After a few months of intense preparation at Tsinghua College, he sailed for the U.S. in August 1911, attending the University of Michigan and then Columbia. Two years later, he transferred to Princeton along with three other Chinese students, bringing total Chinese enrollment to seven.

Wang fit in well. He won high praises from then-president John Hibben 1882 and developed close friendships on campus.

Upon graduating, he abandoned his dream of getting a Ph.D. in literature in favor of attending West Point. After the U.S. entered World War I, his class graduated a year early in 1918. Wang returned to China while classmates headed to France.

Soon afterward, he was appointed to the Chinese delegation at Versailles, where President Woodrow Wilson 1879 headed peace negotiations. Returning from Versailles, he married Lu Xiaoman, a socialite admired within elite circles. The marriage, however, ended when Lu fell in love with the poet Xu Zhimo. The ensuing divorce shocked high society, for at the time it was still rare for a woman to leave her husband, and even rarer for the husband to give his blessing.

In 1932, Wang made international headlines when Japanese forces detained him en route to the American embassy in Shanghai. Although he was released after three days under international pressure, local newspapers published sensational accounts portraying him as a traitor who had handed over critical military maps to

the enemy. The reports gained traction in a climate where China’s weak resistance had fueled a public appetite for recrimination and scapegoating.

Seeking to clear his name, Wang offered to submit to an investigation. Before he could stand trial, however, a newswire report reached the U.S. claiming he had been found guilty of treason and executed. Soon after, his supposed death appeared in the Class Notes section of PAW.

“Fate has rung down the curtain on the brief and colorful career of General Ken Wang, who was reported to have been executed in Shanghai as a spy,” class secretary Eberhard L. Faber 1915 wrote.

Two weeks later, Faber corrected the record, writing, “The lack of dependability upon newspapers particularly in time of war is illustrated in the case of the false rumor about our classmate General Ken Wang. ... Just how the situation stands now is, of course, still not entirely clear. The main point is that Ken is exonerated, and *living*.”

Wang was indeed living but was not exonerated. He was court-martialed and sentenced to two years in prison despite clear evidence that he did not carry any maps while traveling on official duty.

Wang was reinstated by the military after the outbreak of the Second Sino-Japanese War in 1937, when he was put in charge of supplies and logistics. In 1942, Wang was invited to a high-level meeting in the U.S., soon after the Lend-Lease Act enabled American military assistance to China. By then, his health had been weakened. Tragically, he never returned to the U.S. During a layover in Cairo, he died of kidney failure at age 47, leaving behind a young widow, two infants, and a nation ravaged by war.

Many years later, I, his granddaughter, sifted through Princeton’s archives for traces of him. His two years at the University generated a thick folder. There are notes and inquiries about his whereabouts across vast oceans; private letters preserved for his family as mementos against the depreciation of time; and most of all, multiple drafts of a 50th reunion essay composed with fond memories for “our dear classmate Lt. General Shakespeare.” ■

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