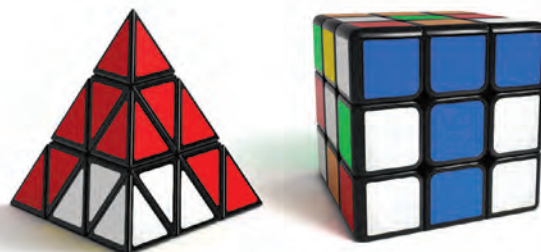
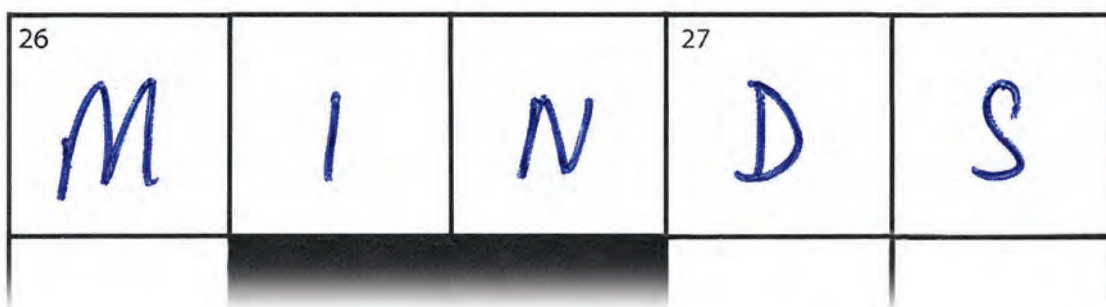


PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY

SEPTEMBER 2026



What is the common thread among
crossword champs, cubers,
and quiz whizzes?

A photograph of Janet Foutty, a woman with long brown hair, wearing a green blazer and a pearl necklace. She is smiling and gesturing with her hands while holding a small black device. The background is blurred, showing other people in a professional setting.

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Janet Foutty

UChicago LSI Fellow '25
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An editorially independent magazine by alumni for alumni since 1900



SUPPLY AND DEMAND

In addition to serving as a professor, Amir Ali Ahmadi chairs the ORFE department and is tasked with recruiting more faculty to support the program's growing popularity. See page 42.

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Meet some alumni and students turning games into art, competition, and community.

BY MARK F. BERNSTEIN '83

42 Calculating Fortune

Why ORFE, or operations research and financial engineering, has become one of Princeton's most sought-after majors.

BY HARRISON BLACKMAN '17

ON THE COVER

Crosswords, Pyraminx, Rubik's Cube, and Scrabble are among the puzzles and word games at which Princetonians excel. *Illustration by Lisa Sheehan.*

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KYLE KIELINSKI

Princeton's Focus on Faculty Excellence

When Princeton's trustees in 2016 enumerated a list of priorities for the University's strategic framework, they put "faculty quality" at the top. "No university can be great without a great faculty," the trustees said, observing that the "professoriate not only conducts its teaching and research programs but also plays an indispensable role in the governance of the University."

The trustees' recognition that scholarly excellence is the essence of our University—reaffirmed every three years since—has been an important reminder to keep our eyes on the ball amid a period of potentially distracting culture war brouhahas.

Last year was an especially successful one for our faculty, even by Princeton's high standards. In the accompanying box are some highlights of scholarly honors our faculty received, which testify to their high standing in the eyes of other leading experts in their fields.

These examples are merely a subset of a much longer list. The professors mentioned nevertheless span nearly half of Princeton's academic departments and all four of its divisions (the arts and humanities, the social sciences, the natural sciences, and engineering).

A pervasive spirit of excellence matters for many reasons, and not least because the faculty defines the scholarly ethos of a university. A great faculty is driven by a quest for truth and scholarly achievement, not by political agendas or a thirst for celebrity. Its members should be constantly curious and unsatisfied with conventional thinking and their own opinions. They should prod, poke at, and challenge ideas in a never-ending effort to discover error and improve understanding.

Lee Bollinger, the president of Columbia University from 2002 to 2023, captures this attitude with a story from early in his teaching career. He recounts being told by a senior colleague that "he had passed by a student speaking privately to a professor who, listening carefully, finally said: 'But have you considered ...?' That, [the colleague] said ... is the essence of a great education."¹

This model—in its emphasis on both careful listening and insistent questioning—is different from the commonly invoked (but conceptually imprecise) formula of "viewpoint diversity." That phrase embraces competition between entrenched advocates who might have little interest in considering the deficiencies of their own positions. Debate has its value and its place at a university, but a truth-seeking university must be very different from a debating society.

An excellent faculty with strong scholarly values is the bedrock for the achievement of other academic ideals, such as civil discussion and robust inquiry. With such a faculty, difficult episodes can be weathered and errors in policy overcome; without such a faculty, the best policies will be insufficient to achieve the university's aims. Culture war uproars are often distractions from what matters most, which is scholarly quality.

My predecessor Bill Bowen liked to quote the Nobel Prize-winning physicist Val Fitch, who once declared, in the course of pleading with Nassau Hall to retain another of our eminent scientists, "excellence cannot be bought but it must be paid for."

Indeed, attracting and retaining top-quality academic talent is an expensive proposition. The Venture Forward campaign reinforced the University's capacity to do so by raising critical gifts for sixty-nine new professorships, multiple state-of-the-art buildings and facilities, and initiatives in fields such as quantum science, artificial intelligence, and cancer research.

I am grateful to my fellow alumni for the gifts that make possible the hiring and support of a faculty such as ours, and I hope you take enormous pride, as I do, in the national and international honors they receive.



Stanhope Hall, home to the Office of the Dean of the Faculty
Photo by Matthew Raspanti, Office of Communications

At Princeton, of course, these world-class scholars are not only great researchers but also engaged teachers of both undergraduates and graduate students. The honors that our faculty received this year are evidence of this University's defining commitments to scholarly excellence and to ensuring that our students learn from extraordinary minds in the fields that they study.

¹ Lee C. Bollinger, *University: A Reckoning* (W.W. Norton, 2026), 43.

Some recent scholarly honors

- Eight faculty members were inducted into the National Academy of Sciences, which we believe is the highest single-year total in Princeton's history: **Cliff Brangwynne** in chemical and biological engineering, **Chris Chang** in chemistry, **Maria Chudnovsky** in mathematics, **Jianqing Fan** in operations research and financial engineering, **Sabine Kastner** in psychology and neuroscience, **Sebastian Seung** in neuroscience and computer science, **Daniel Sigmán** in geosciences, and **Christopher Skinner** in mathematics.
- Seven faculty members were elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, which is among Princeton's best single-year records but not an all-time high: **Mark Aguiar** in economics, **Adele Goldberg** in psychology, **Noreen Goldman** in SPIA, **Jenny Greene** in astrophysical sciences, **Melissa Lane** in politics, **Atif Mian** in SPIA and economics, and **Mansour Shayegan** in electrical and computer engineering.
- **Yiyun Li** in creative writing at the Lewis Center won a Pulitzer Prize, **Patricia Smith** in creative writing received a National Book Award, and **Beth Lew-Williams** in history and Asian American studies earned the Bancroft Prize (among the highest prizes awarded in the field of American history).
- Nine Princeton faculty members and lecturers won Guggenheim Fellowships: **Nathan Arrington** in art and archaeology, **Matias Cattaneo** in economics, **Christopher Harris** in visual arts at the Lewis Center, **Kristina Olson** in psychology, **Alexander Ploss** in molecular biology, **Silas Riener** in dance at the Lewis Center, **Bridgett vonHoldt** in ecology and evolutionary biology, and Lewis Center visiting artists **Suji Kwock Kim** and **Kyle Abraham**. Eleven alumni also won fellowships, meaning that one small university in central New Jersey could claim at least partial credit for 9 percent of this year's 223 total awards.
- Two Princeton faculty members were elected permanent fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science: Dean of the Graduate School **Rodney Priestley** in chemical and biological engineering and **Z. Jason Ren** in civil and environmental engineering.



YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE LATEST ISSUES

DATING AT PRINCETON

Dating was much simpler when I was a student (“Dating at Princeton. It’s complicated,” June issue).

I arrived on campus my sophomore year, before the dining halls opened, to learn how to operate new typesetting equipment at *The Daily Princetonian*. I bumped into a student who had lived next door to me the previous year and we headed for Nassau Street to find something to eat for dinner. He spotted an attractive young woman sitting on the grass along a path in front of Nassau Hall and stopped to say hello. He introduced her as Cathy. She was reading a science fiction novel. I told her some of us watched *Star Trek* reruns in my dorm room every night at 6 and invited her to join us some night.

A night or two later, she was reading the novel in front of the closed door to my room, waiting for me. We watched the show, after which I walked her back to her dorm and up to her room. Then we talked until dawn.

With a few bumps along the way, we were together from then on. She moved into my dorm room at the start of my junior year, and the following spring, in May of 1974, we married, so we could qualify for extremely rare married student housing as seniors and cook for ourselves.

Some of our friends said the marriage wouldn’t last a year. Our joke was they didn’t say *which* year. It turned out to be 2020, when she died, at age 68.

JOHN WILHEIM ’75

Wichita, Kan.

PROCTORED EXAMS

What makes Princeton University special? When asked, one of my first responses has always been the Honor Code. So I was saddened and disappointed to learn that students will now have proctored exams (On the Campus, June and July/August issues).

In my years at Princeton, I never saw anyone cheat or heard of anyone cheating. I took great pride in being part of a learning community with such integrity. My Princeton classmates were not only smart and hardworking, they were people of good character.

I taught social studies at two middle schools in Niskayuna, New York, for 30 years. Before the first test each year, I told my students about my experience with the Honor Code while at Princeton. They were surprised to hear that professors would leave the room during examinations, even final exams.

There are so many positive life lessons associated with the Princeton Honor Code. Take responsibility for your own learning. Do your best. Work hard and prepare. Be honest. If you don’t do well on an assignment, learn from it and try to do better the next time.

I consider it an honor to have attended Princeton. It will always be one of my greatest accomplishments. My hope is that our school will continue to be a special place, unlike any other. If our newest Princetonians commit to the Honor Code, I’m confident the University will continue to thrive. Living with integrity is incredibly rewarding.

R.A. LEBEL ’86

Charlton, N.Y.

If cheating is the problem, then the student body needs to take a hard look at itself. Meanwhile, how about checking in all electronic devices at the door, just as a precaution, and keep the honor system and our code alive?

The classes of 2027 and beyond need to fight back to get their honor system rebooted and pledge to themselves and to their peers (that includes us alumni) that cheating will not be tolerated.

JASON SALGANICK ’91

Phoenix, Ariz.

I recall sitting against a tree at the E-Quad taking my final exam in Fluid Dynamics. I sat there with paper, pen, and privilege. The

privilege of being trusted by the University. I didn’t earn that trust, but I would not have considered violating it. It was part of the privilege of being admitted to Princeton. It was part of my education, along with our daily Princeton-out-of-South-Africa marches and our April 1978 Nassau Hall sit-in, tutoring in Trenton, and other outside-the-classroom education. It has had a lasting impact.

The University officially no longer trusts students. Without that trust, there is no Honor Code. Princeton is less.

(This is my first letter to PAW in 47 years since graduation.)

JOHN D. VANDENBERG ’79

Sherwood, Ore.

I can state with certainty that I never “gave nor received assistance” or cheated in any other way while at Princeton. However, this does not mean that I have not witnessed others doing it. And, no, I would not report them. In any event, cheating had a limited impact back then, especially since exams were often open book and/or open notes.

However, times have changed. My wife is a teacher at a German school, and while cell phones are banned during tests, people manage to sneak in cell phones or have someone in the bathroom with those same phones. And quite often a student whose English is atrocious comes up with a composition that is nothing less than perfect. There are sites which detect AI use, but that evidence is not admissible in a German school. The only recourse a teacher has is to ask the student to come for an oral examination.

Thus, there needs to be a way to make sure those things do not happen, or at least make it much more difficult to do so. And, as much as I hate the idea of proctors at a Princeton exam, I see that there now might be a need for it — and also the need for a way to deal with AI use if it has been detected.

MAXIM DYNIN ’84

Stuttgart, Germany

Pining for a past golden age may be misguided, reflecting a failure to recall the problems of that (and every) time. Failing

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INBOX

to remember the lessons of the past is another matter, reflecting a failure to appreciate danger.

The Honor Code might be viewed as a bit of quaint anachronism carried over to the present, but its failure to function should be viewed as a warning.

Education should serve to do more than help us get jobs. It should help prepare us to meet the challenges of life, to craft a compass to navigate a world in which we must make difficult choices.

Today, as in the past, we confront efforts around the globe to tear down institutions and ridicule norms developed in the knowledge that we are far from perfect, to help protect us from ourselves. The Honor Code represents an expectation of integrity and ethical behavior. If it has not been functional in the face of AI, seeking a way to enable it to be functional would be appropriate.

We need more people in our society who don't cheat, not because they can't but because they shouldn't, and who have the strength to take action when the ethics of others fail. At a time when many question the value of the Ivy League and look in dismay at actions of its graduates, Princeton should be doing all it can to strengthen rather than dismantle such an institution and the essential norms it has fostered.

BARR WEINER '91

Washington, D.C.

I read with great sorrow, some frustration, and a touch of anger, that exams will be proctored beginning this fall. The article said that "cheating on in-class exams has become widespread,"

which necessitated this action.

Since graduating in 1958, significant changes have occurred, virtually all of which have been necessary and positive. For someone who thought that the Honor Code was something that set Princeton apart, it is a disappointing step backward.

I watched the TigerSide Chat broadcast about Bob Dylan and could not help but think about perhaps his most famous song, "The Times They Are A-Changin'." One of the lines that has long stayed with me goes, "And don't criticize what you can't understand."

I would have to admit that I fall reluctantly into this category. Very reluctantly.

What a shame.

DAVE FULCOMER '58

Naples, Fla.

AI GRADING

Regarding physics professor Lyman Page's experiment using AI for grading (On the Campus, July/August issue):

Bravo! Great idea, but it does not go far enough. Let's have students stay at home with their families, watch canned lectures on their computers (if they feel like it), and create papers and take exams using AI. The endowment will grow and we will eliminate messy youthful romances, the need to provide meal services, the logistics of trash pickup, and the perennial headaches of town-gown relations.

(Has Princeton University lost its ever-loving mind?)

ANITA KESTIN '76

Providence, R.I.

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TOD WILLIAMS '65 *67

It is hard to understand two omissions in the excellent article about Tod Williams '65 *67, "Legacy Building" (July/August issue):

The first listed commission in the public record for him and his partner Billie Tsien is for Feinberg Hall on the Princeton campus (1986). At the time, I was tangentially involved in such commissions at the University, and I remember well the pride and expectations of all of us then participating in this one: We were confident that we were present at an early launch stage of major architectural talent and vision.

In the year 2000, an acclaimed entrance frontispiece and interior for the new location of the American Folk Art Museum next door to MoMA, by Tod Williams and Billie Tsien, was welcomed in New York. In 2014, MoMA shamefully destroyed that architecture as part of its expansion into the space of the folk art museum, to widespread dismay.

THOMAS H. WRIGHT '62
Princeton, N.J.

Editor's note: The author is a vice president and secretary, emeritus, at the University.

FOSSIL FUEL INVESTMENTS

Do what we say, not what we do.

How ironic that the PAW article "Princeton Reverses Course on Fossil Fuel Divestment" appears directly across the page from "Speakers Urge Students to Pursue Purpose Over Prestige" (July/August issue). It seems that Princeton is comfortable talking about purpose more than acting on it.

Princo president Vince Tuohey's June 1 letter announcing the reversal suggests that "Princeton in the nation's service and the service of humanity" is true as long as it doesn't slow endowment growth — or be *perceived* as affecting the endowment since, as Brad Swanson '76 points out, "An endowment as large as Princeton's can achieve market-level, or better, results even without oil company stocks ..."

At Baccalaureate, Craig Robinson '83 warned graduates that pursuing prestige and profit as a career can distract from one's deepest commitments. Talking about careers misaligned with one's values, Robinson said, "The paycheck may look good. The title may impress

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

In the early 2020s, Princeton thought carefully about climate change and wisely and courageously decided to use its intellectual and financial leadership to steer the world toward a sustainable future. It did so in the service of the nation and humanity. Climate change has not gone away; it's upon us with terrifying intensity. With Tuohey's announcement, suddenly Princeton's deepest commitments feel surprisingly empty.

PAUL WAPNER *91
Taos, N.M.

Seriously, Princeton and Princo? Is Princeton committed to being "in the service of humanity" or not? According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), clean energy investments now outpace fossil fuel investments, drawing roughly \$2 trillion annually compared to \$1 trillion for fossil fuels. Over time, renewable power portfolios are generating higher total financial returns and lower price swings than fossil fuel portfolios in many global markets. In their World Energy Outlook, the IEA named solar power the cheapest electricity in human history. So why is Princeton backtracking on its leadership on divesting in fossil fuels? There is no excuse or reasonable rationale for it. Step up and be the leader you claim to be.

TOM LEYDEN '77
Princeton, N.J.

I was appalled to read that Princeton is rolling back its commitment to divest from fossil fuel companies. It is well established that the rampant burning of fossil fuels is radically changing our planet and will cause tremendous human suffering if it is not stopped. Sadly, gaining from human misery is not new to our alma mater. Princeton also received considerable financial benefit from slavery. Let's choose a better path.

GREGORY FARIS '80
Menlo Park, Calif.

Alas, has Project 2025 now taken over Princeton, too? That was all I could imagine as I read Vincent Tuohey's

betrayal not just of Princeton's past promises but also of the service to humanity for which the University claims to stand. Since when has the president of Princo been empowered to speak for the University, let alone you and me? His blatant disregard for the peril our planet faces along with his patently false representation that profitability requires us to invest in Big Oil should disqualify him for the position he holds. Do we dare to hope that his views do not reflect those of President Eisgruber and the trustees?

FRANK STRASBURGER '67
Topsham, Maine

'SUNLIGHT ON DEMAND'?

I am shaken by reading "The Race to Save the Night" (Research, June issue), on the controversy about a U.S. company's plan to offer "sunlight on demand" via space mirrors on 50,000 satellites. Other sources, and elementary logic, confirm professor Gáspár Bakos' concerns about the qualitative increase in light pollution: detriment to ecosystems, harmful health effects on people and other living beings, and humanity's scientific, aesthetic, and spiritual needs to gaze at the night sky.

But what has knocked me off-kilter is the degree to which the ideological paradigm that accompanies advanced corporate capitalism permits such absolutely insane ideas to be treated seriously and to have a good shot at being implemented. How in the world can anyone think that geoengineering on this scale will not have unanticipated consequences to a planet already reeling from the effects of industrial growth societies? How can anyone think that the desire of wealthy investors to find more profits can trump the night sky's being part of what Bakos rightly sees as the global public commons?

I almost can't blame the promoters of this venture or any regulators who would allow it to happen, any more than I blame anyone else who suffers from cognitive delusions and spiritual sickness. But it's excruciating to watch.

MICHAEL GOLDSTEIN '69
Oakland, Calif.

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WILLIAM SHELLMAN JR. *41

The article about William Shellman in the June PAW kindled memories of his teaching me and others how to see and then remember the buildings and the places that made the Princeton campus so uniquely beautiful — a campus that he first experienced as a graduate student in the early 1940s, before the needs of a great University demanded more growth. For some, that ability to see and remember has created exceptional buildings and places that express changing needs. For others, it has preserved exceptional buildings and places in the face of changing needs. What Professor Shellman taught us encouraged both.

JON D. HLAFTER '61 *63

Princeton, N.J.

Editor's note: The author is a university architect, emeritus.

Your article on professor Billy Shellman was a great overview (Princeton Portrait, June issue). I was one of his very last

students and would love to share a couple of memories that hold valuable lessons for future architects.

Professor Shellman depended on reason and observation, eschewing ego and whim. He taught extremely detailed three-point perspective — all by hand — as a way to train the mind. He started by sharing 7-foot-long sections through French Baroque gardens to demonstrate how surprises unfold as one walks through.

My final project was a 3-foot-by-5-foot three-point perspective of an arched, vaulted gazebo interior. The vertical vanishing point was even further down, requiring gymnastics and a very long straightedge to draw. We worked lovingly on all the small details as well as getting every curve correct.

Professor Shellman was a scholar of landscape as well as architecture and craft. His modesty and insistence on a whole design free of artistic whim soothes the soul.

SANDRA VITZTHUM '86

Montpelier, Vt.

IVY STYLE

READE BEN '22
AT THE J. PRESS
RUNWAY SHOW
IN FEBRUARY

I wore and walked the East Pyne look ("Ivy Abroad," June issue) in the 2026 J. Press Take Ivy New York Fashion Week Show!

READE BEN '22

New York, N.Y.

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The tradition of *Men's Club* going back to Princeton described in the June cover story extended at least until the '80s. I as well as some of my fellow Colonial Club members were recruited to be in an on-campus photo shoot they took in the summer of 1986. We blended in with the Japanese models they had brought with them and had a wonderful experience. Our pay was a dinner at Lahiere's afterward. We were told that we would get copies of the issue when it came out, but we held out little hope that we would actually see it. Amazingly, they were sent to us via FedEx, arriving the same day the magazine hit the newsstands in Tokyo. Looking back, it was one of the more random and wonderful of my Princeton experiences.

PETER BAUM '87
Mill Valley, Calif.

Madras and J. Press — what delightful nostalgia!

I got my first sport coat from J. Press when I was 16. The senior salesman was huffing and puffing: "Paul Press' son is

going to Dartmouth!"

Three decades later, when I was in the New York store, one of the salesmen put his hand out and said, "I'm Dick Press." Judging his age to be about mine, I asked, "Are you the one who defected and went to Dartmouth?"

He laughed and said, "I had to get out of New Haven."

Dartmouth seemed a safe haven. Princeton would have made his heresy too obvious.

JOHN MILTON COOPER JR. '61
Washington, D.C.

I earned my second doctorate, one in Public and International Affairs, at Princeton and receive PAW at my University of Maryland faculty mailbox. I found the June cover, crediting



PAW'S JUNE 2026 COVER

Princeton for its contributions to "Ivy Style," remarkable both for artful nostalgia and for innocent error. I understand from the J. Press website that their 1902 sweater "pays homage to the boatneck sweaters seen on several Dartmouth men from the era emblazoned with their graduation year. Our version bears the year of our

founding, 1902." More particularly, to me and to thousands of others, it calls to mind the 1902 Room, a 24-hour study venue in Baker Library at Dartmouth.

ROB SPRINKLE '90
College Park, Md.

While pleased to see an effort to move back from T-shirts and jeans to a clearly "preppy" look, I was shocked to see J. Press

150

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as the article's standard bearer. J. Press is a Yale brand, with its flagship store in New Haven. Aficionados who do not get enough at Brooks Brothers and L.L. Bean should take a shopping trip to the Andover Shop in Andover or its Harvard branch in Cambridge. When in doubt, please refer to *The Preppy Handbook*.

JAMES CUNNINGHAM '73

Dornach, Switzerland

YOUR PERSPECTIVE

Let us know what you think

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Care for Health

Family physician **Lucy McBride '95** came on the PAWcast to discuss her new book, *Beyond the Prescription*. It's for anyone who's struggled to get enough of their doctor's attention, anyone who's felt caught in a whirl of wellness influencers, and anyone who wants to define and care for their own health — on their own terms. Listen at paw.princeton.edu or wherever you get your podcasts.



HISTORY

Forgotten Pioneer

Iraqi poet **Nazik Sadek al-Malaika *51** came to study at the Graduate School a decade before Princeton began admitting women as degree candidates. Historian **April Armstrong *14** writes about al-Malaika's fellowship year, a brief stop in a long career in which she challenged patriarchy and reshaped Arabic poetry.



STUDENT DISPATCH

Summer in Costa Rica

As an intern splitting time between a daycare center and a nursing home, **Charlotte Zabel '29** sharpened her Spanish language skills, listened to her new centenarian friend Alicia (at right above) tell stories of life on the farm, and learned the proper way to eat mangas, fruits in the mango family.

TIGER TRAVELS

Estonia via Fulbright

During the first of her two years as a Fulbright grantee in Estonia, **Lucia Brown '25** writes, she explored islands and rural farm country, watched storks nest on telephone poles in the spring, danced barefoot at a Midsummer bonfire, and felt the unsettling thrill of driving on "ice highways."



LUCIA BROWN '25
AND HER MOM
AT KURESSAARE
CASTLE

JOSEPH D. TRAN; COURTESY OF PRINCETON UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES; COURTESY OF CHARLOTTE ZABEL '29; COURTESY OF LUCIA BROWN '25

A New Fellow, a New Partner, and a New Publishing Schedule

WITH THE START OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR, PAW welcomes not only a new reporting fellow, but also a new partner.

Ngan Chiem '23 joins the staff as the third young alum to serve in the yearlong fellowship, and we are pleased the Program in Journalism will sponsor what is now the JRN x PAW Reporting Fellowship.

This partnership not only secures the fellowship's future, but also creates a direct pathway for journalism students to gain experience with PAW as freelance writers and reporting fellows.

It is exactly the kind of professional pipeline that Eliza Griswold '95 has sought to expand since becoming director of the Program in Journalism in August 2024.



Peter Barzilai s'97

EDITOR

pbarzilai@princeton.edu

In that time, the number of students graduating with a journalism minor has doubled, reaching 24 this spring, while opportunities for those students have expanded as well. Griswold launched a mentorship program that allows students to work as research assistants for former Ferris Professors — accomplished journalists who spend a semester in residence at Princeton — and established internships with several

organizations, including nonprofit newsrooms in New Jersey.

It's a win-win: A project by Muck Rack and Rebuild Local News last year ranked New Jersey 49th in the country for journalists per capita, but now Princeton students are helping to fill the gap.

Likewise, the JRN-PAW partnership is a natural fit for both organizations, and we hope you'll see more journalism students contributing to PAW in the future.

"There is tremendous energy and enthusiasm among our students who would like to study journalism," Griswold said. "What's really exciting is that we can take their talent and enthusiasm into the world to meet some of the great challenges and needs facing journalism in our time."

Ngan ("Non," or "Ngân") did not minor in journalism, but she



NGAN CHIEM '23

attended the Princeton Summer Journalism Program (SJP) as a high school student from Pennsauken, New Jersey, served as SJP coordinator in 2020, and worked for *The Daily Princetonian* throughout her undergraduate studies.

Born in Sóc Trăng, Vietnam, Ngan majored in politics and earned a certificate in creative writing. Before joining PAW, she worked as program coordinator for

the Princeton in Africa fellowship.

"Writing has always been on my mind, and I wanted to return to that craft as a working professional," she said. "Not only as a student and alumna, but also as a former affiliate staff member, I have a nuanced understanding of Princeton."

"I'm hoping to write stories that resonate with my cohort, younger graduates of Princeton. I want to make PAW something they see ownership in."

There is also news about a change to our publishing schedule.

Beginning with this academic year, PAW will publish 10 print issues (plus a Reunions guide) instead of 11 by combining the January and February issues into a single edition that will arrive in mailboxes in mid-January.

The change comes in response to ongoing budget reductions from the University and rising production costs. While reducing the number of print issues was a difficult decision, we are confident this step will keep PAW on solid footing for the foreseeable future.

Even with one fewer issue, our commitment remains the same. We will continue to cover the University, campus life, and the alumni community with the same energy and ambition, including more articles online between issues. You can visit paw.princeton.edu or check out our email newsletters to keep up with our ongoing coverage. **P**



ON THE CAMPUS

NEWS, SPORTS, AND STUDENT LIFE



Building Bloom

Princeton's Meadows Neighborhood, south of Lake Carnegie, features innovative geo-exchange heating and cooling systems, managed at the central utility building (CUB), above, and new landscaping that incorporates native perennials, foreground. Read more about the challenges of rewilding campus grounds on page 22.

KYLE KIELINSKI



THE LEONARD L. MILBERG

First Jewish Americans CURRICULUM

A new online curriculum from The New York Historical for educators and students nationwide. Discover the stories of the Jewish men and women who contributed to the formation of the United States.

www.nyhistory.org/curriculum-library

Lead support for the First Jewish Americans curriculum is provided by Leonard L. Milberg, Class of 1953. Image: Thomas Sully, *Portrait of Rebecca Gratz* [detail], 1831. Courtesy of Rosenbach Museum and Library.



A RENDERING OF THE QUANTUM INSTITUTE

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Growth Enters New Phase

Projects include new science buildings and Hobson College

BY JULIE BONETTE

CONSTRUCTION IS SLOWING at Princeton after nearly a decade of expansion, but there are still plenty of workers in high-visibility vests around to complete major projects such as Hobson College, the Quantum Institute, the transformation of Guyot Hall into Schmidt Hall, and the campuswide switch to sustainable energy and water systems.

Hobson College, the newest residential college, is on track to be completed in the spring of 2027 and to house its first 510 occupants that fall. Named for Melody Hobson '91, co-CEO of Ariel Investments, the college is located on the site once occupied by First College (formerly Wilson), north of Poe Field.

"The interior finishes are happening, landscape is happening, pathways are happening," Ron McCoy *80, the University architect, said of Hobson during the summer. "It's completely coming together right now."

According to McCoy, Hobson's landscape includes seven distinct gardens, and the inside features mass timber and bright colors, with the intention of being warm and inviting.

Facilities incorporated feedback from the community into design plans, such as requests for abundant natural lighting, informal meeting spaces, and a space large enough to host the entire college.

Construction of the new Quantum

Institute, which will be situated south of Ivy Lane and north of Roberts Stadium, is still in the early stages. For the last few months, drilling has taken place to install 131 geo-exchange wells. The institute should be completed and occupied by the end of 2029.

McCoy described the building as a "Formula One racing car wrapped in the brick skin of a humanities building." It will house sophisticated laboratories, but the exterior will be inspired by classic

Ron McCoy *80 described the Quantum Institute building as a "Formula One racing car wrapped in the brick skin of a humanities building."

masonry and brick traditions. The most striking feature is likely to be the ivy. "I cannot tell you how much time we have spent on this project in order to design the locations for the vines in ways that our grounds crew can manage them," said McCoy with a laugh.

The conversion of Guyot Hall into Schmidt Hall symbolically started in May with a groundbreaking ceremony featuring President Christopher Eisgruber '83, Provost Jennifer Rexford '91, and Eric Schmidt '76 and his wife, Wendy, for whom the building is named. Eric was formerly CEO and executive chairman of Google, and then chairman of parent company Alphabet, and together with Wendy created the Schmidt Family Foundation in 2006.

Guyot Hall was built in 1909 to bring together the geology and biology departments, while Schmidt Hall will become a computational hub and be home to the Department of Computer Science. When originally announced in 2019, Schmidt Hall was slated for completion by 2026; PAW reported in 2024 that it was scheduled to open in 2029, but McCoy told PAW that occupancy isn't expected until the second quarter of 2030. Frances Hannan, facilities communications manager, said via email that the delay allowed "time for other projects to be completed and [to] move out Guyot Hall researchers."

Schmidt Hall is being “totally gutted,” according to McCoy, but will still look like Guyot from the north once complete. Laboratory additions from the 1960s and 1980s will be removed, and an addition of 136,000 square feet will more than double the footprint. The new building will feature mass timber and “a beautiful set of gardens on the inside courtyard,” McCoy said, similar to an original design that was never realized. Challenges include untangling the building systems from adjacent neighbors, as well as asbestos removal.

Pursuant to Princeton’s goal to achieve net-zero emissions by 2046, as of June about 32% of campus has switched to the new geo-exchange system — which uses pipes underneath the ground to capture and store heat that can be used to warm and cool buildings — as well as converted to a hot-water system rather than steam. The West Plant near Theater Drive Garage is also being converted from a gas-fired to a hybrid utility plant that will be part geo-exchange, like the TIGER facility that was completed in 2024, and part traditional energy.

Facilities is also just starting to create a roadmap for dormitory maintenance projects. McCoy said all dorms will be reviewed “holistically to see how we can calibrate our major maintenance investments over the next 15 years to tackle things that are most necessary in terms of current functionality and most desirable in terms of impact for the investment.” This includes Forbes College, which, following the opening of Hobson College, will be used as a swing space, though its long-term future is still being decided. “If a building has to come offline during the academic year, then we’ve got Forbes as a home for students,” said McCoy. Projects may be as short as a couple months, while others will take longer.

McCoy described most of the major work as on “the edges” of campus. Given the completion of buildings in the core of campus over the last couple years, such as the Princeton University Art Museum and Frist Health Center, he hopes “people are rediscovering the campus rebuilt and reconnected and refreshed, but also retained.” ■

FUNDRAISING

Annual Giving Raises \$79.6 Million, Second-Highest Total in History

THE 25TH AND 50TH REUNION CLASSES

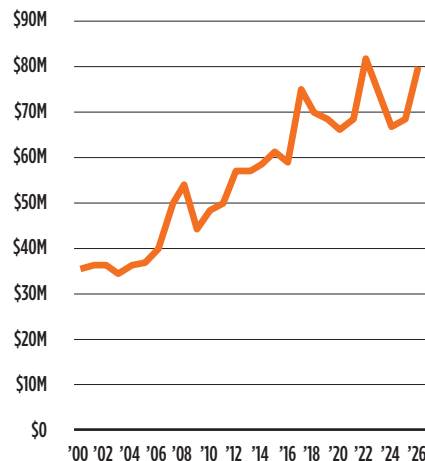
each donated more than \$9 million to Annual Giving in 2025-26, lifting the campaign to \$79.6 million, the second-highest total in Princeton’s history, trailing only the \$81.8 million raised in 2021-22.

The Class of 2001 (\$9.4 million, with 70.7% of classmates participating) and the Class of 1976 (\$9.2 million, with 64.9% of classmates participating) led a group of 10 major-reunion classes that each raised at least \$1 million, according to a July release from the Annual Giving office. Fourteen non-major-reunion classes raised at least \$500,000 each. Overall participation by undergraduate alumni declined slightly from 43.9% in 2024-25 to 43.7% this year.

Graduate alumni contributed \$2.1 million, and Princeton parents raised \$1.5 million for the campaign, which provides unrestricted support for University priorities such as teaching, research, and financial aid.

“The extraordinary outcome of this year’s Annual Giving campaign is a testament to the loyalty and generosity of our alumni, parents, and friends and to

Annual Giving Totals, 2000 to 2026



SOURCE: ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

the commitment and enthusiasm of our incredible volunteer team,” Annual Giving chair Deb Yu ’98 said in the release. ■

By B.T.

CAMPUS NEWS

Student Cyclist Sues Princeton Over April Accident on Campus

THE STUDENT BICYCLIST WHO was hospitalized after being struck by a vehicle on Elm Drive in April has filed a lawsuit against Princeton and the driver, who was a University employee at the time of the accident.

Aiden Shah ’29 is suing Princeton, vehicle driver Antonio Frink, vehicle owner Maxine Frink, and three unnamed persons for damages, attorneys’ fees, and the costs of the lawsuit.

In court documents, Shah said he was pinned under Frink’s vehicle “in excess of 25 minutes” on April 7 after the driver acknowledged he failed to obey a stop sign on Elm Drive. As a result, Shah was hospitalized for “a broken right arm, broken ribs, head injury, a tendon rupture in the right hand ... as well as various other injuries.”

The lawsuit, filed in Mercer County Superior Court in early June, said Antonio Frink had an “extensive” history of vehicle violations that Princeton should have been aware of. Frink is no longer listed in the University directory.

Princeton denied any wrongdoing in a response to the complaint filed by lawyers for the University.

Days after the initial incident, University spokesperson Jennifer Morrill told PAW via email that Public Safety “responded to a call of cyclist struck by a motor vehicle” and that the “18-year-old undergraduate student sustained non-life-threatening injuries in the crash and was transported to an area hospital. The driver, a University employee, was issued a motor vehicle citation.” ■ By J.B.

SUMMER ABROAD

Slavic Program Explores Language and Geopolitics

Princeton students are learning Russian in Estonia, a country with tensions between two ethnic communities

BY LUCIA BROWN '25

P RINCETON'S RUSSIAN SUMMER program in Tallinn, Estonia, immerses students in more than language. They learn to navigate complex regional politics.

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022 forced the Slavic department to quickly find a new host city for Princeton in St. Petersburg, its flagship summer language program since 2005. The Tallinn program launched in 2023 with four participants.

"Looking at the evolution of the program and its whereabouts, it reflects all the turmoil — historical turmoil, geopolitical drama — of Russia and us, the scholars of Russia," said Yuri Leving, a professor of Slavic languages and literatures.

About a fifth of Estonia's population — and a third of Tallinn's — is ethnically Russian. Since 2022, tensions that have historically run high between ethnic Estonian and Russian communities have continued to escalate.

Estonia first declared its independence in 1918. In 1940, the Soviet Union annexed Estonia. Nazi Germany occupied Estonia in 1941, and in 1944, the Soviet Army resealed the country. During

the ensuing Soviet occupation, which lasted until 1991, Estonian schools were Russified, and the Soviets conducted mass deportations, primarily to Siberia. Simultaneously, ethnic Russians and other Russian speakers from across the Soviet Union were relocated to Estonia for work.

Today, Estonia's only national language is Estonian, and the country is actively expanding Estonian-language requirements for both schools and the workplace. This has led to increased politicization of which languages are used where, and by whom, key points in two *Daily Princetonian* op-eds in 2025 arguing for and against the Russian-language program's presence in Estonia.

For Princeton students in Tallinn, these tensions manifest in their day-to-day usage of Russian. Students have learned strategies for when to approach someone with Russian and when to start with English.

"Sometimes the language and the place seem a bit at odds with each other, but sometimes they don't," said Olivia Nuzzo '29. The majority of students, like

Nuzzo, live with Russian-speaking host families and have most of their language practice at home.

Leving, hired to the Slavic department in 2022, had suggested Tallinn based on previous experience. A few years before

Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014, he had an instinct that something might go wrong. Then a professor at Dalhousie University in Canada, he began to scout the Baltic states as possible hosts for a Russian-language summer program. Tallinn University, about 230 miles from St. Petersburg, had a strong Russian course, to which Leving began sending Dalhousie students.

Princeton built on Leving's relationship with Tallinn University to help design a new, eight-week summer course, taught by Tallinn professors with the Princeton syllabus. The course is open to both undergraduate and graduate students.

Since moving its summer program to Tallinn, the Slavic department has aimed to connect students with the Baltic region's art, history, and cultures. PAW joined the program's June trip to Latvia, where students hiked through a Baltic coastal pine forest, toured Riga's Old Town, and learned about local maritime and military history. The Slavic department organizes similar engagements in Tallinn and in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Students this summer also took advantage of the opportunity to travel across Estonia on their own, venturing west to its islands and east to its border with Russia.

Studying in the Baltics has given Caroline Barton '29, a School of Public and International Affairs student who is researching the Russia-Ukraine war, a new perspective on her work. "Doing the research feels important. It feels like something worth doing because I see how Russian occupation affects people," Barton said.

The Russian Summer Program at Tallinn University was one of only three Princeton-led or supported summer language courses abroad open to beginners in 2026. This summer, seven of the eight students were new to the language.

The goal, Leving said, is "not even to study Russian language or culture, it's to come closer to this 'other,' that someone who is not sharing the same language with you, and who lives in a different environment, and to come closer to understanding how they live." ■



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SUMMER RESEARCH

High Meadows Sends Student Interns to Labs and Field Sites

BY BRETT TOMLINSON

THIS SUMMER, as the High Meadows Environmental Institute's environmental internship program marked its 20th year, 122 undergraduates did hands-on research in labs on campus or at far-flung field sites in more than a dozen countries, including Costa Rica, Australia, and Mozambique.

Working primarily with Princeton faculty in environmental studies and engineering, the students are helping to tackle some of the world's most innovative and vexing scientific topics, from climate modeling and renewable energy to water quality and "forever chemicals." They also gain valuable skills that they can apply at Princeton and beyond.

The life of a lab scientist relies on juggling multiple routines — taking measurements for an experiment, setting up cultures for the next week, and carving out time to run samples through a mass spectrometer. At least that's the

lab experience geosciences professor Bess Ward aims to create for her summer interns and the postdoctoral researchers and graduate students who serve as their mentors.

"You're doing three things at once, which is really fun," she said. "I really enjoy that sort of thing, and I think they do, too."

Ottillie Sykes '27, who has spent two summers working with Ward through the HMEI internship program, immersed herself in the lab, which focuses on the nitrogen cycle in the world's oceans. In 2025, the last four weeks of her internship were spent at sea, sailing from Rhode Island to Bermuda and back to collect water samples and run experiments. This summer, she continued that work at Briger Hall, where she tracked properties of seawater exposed to the sun's ultraviolet radiation. She plans to continue with the sunlight experiments as part of her senior thesis in geosciences.

"I got to collect all the water, and now I'm running the analysis," Sykes said. "So

OPEN WATER

Ottillie Sykes '27, second from left, collected seawater samples on a four-week Atlantic research cruise in 2025. She continued her work in the lab this summer.

I can see the full story, and I think that's really rewarding."

Elizabeth Niespolo, an assistant professor of geosciences, studies how geology and environments on Earth impact human evolution using samples that include biominerals such as eggshells. Last year, an intern was working with shell material from an elephant bird, the planet's largest flightless bird, which went extinct about 700 years ago. "So the students are getting access to really cool samples," she said. "But they're also getting really important data that's critical for the first steps of a lot of our research programs."

The internships also provide

uninterrupted lab experiences that prepare students for their junior and senior independent work. "They get a chance to really learn the skills by being around every day," said Jonathan Conway, an assistant professor of chemical and biological engineering. "They have a head start."

A summer or two of active research can go a long way toward helping a student decide on their path after Princeton. Celia Murphy-Braunstein '25 had two HMEI internships as an undergrad — one with geoscientist Daniel Sigman and another in Ward's lab. In the first, she said, she went from learning lab basics (how to hold a pipette) to presenting her findings at the internship program's symposium in September. In the second, with Ward, she was introduced to the oceanographic research that would become the focus of her senior thesis.

"Both internships were really good experiences for me and sort of pointed me in the direction I am going down right now," said Murphy-Braunstein, a Ph.D. student in earth and environmental sciences at Boston College. "Without them, I probably would be in a different position and maybe not even in a graduate program." ■



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STUDENT LIFE

Murray-Dodge Café Celebrates 50 Years of Free Cookies

BY JULIE BONETTE

THERE'S SOMETHING SPECIAL about the Murray-Dodge Café that goes beyond the enticing sweet scents of freshly baked cookies, though those certainly don't hurt.

The cozy, dimly lit space in the basement of the Office of Religious Life (ORL) building “felt like home” to Destiny Eisenhower '20 when she was a student supervisor, thanks to the welcoming community of student bakers and patrons.

Emmie Pickerill '25, another former supervisor, said it's “so clear when people walk into the café that they enjoy this space, and I feel like that energy would really just rub off on me.”

This fall, the café will celebrate 50 years of serving free cookies, coffee, tea, and conversation.

The night before it first opened in September 1976, Rick Chrisman '65 was emotional and worried that his two years of planning would be for naught. Chrisman, then assistant dean of the Chapel, intended to create a space that would welcome all people and foster

interaction at a personal level. At a time of political consciousness, campus was “electric and very divisive,” Chrisman said, and he found students “desperate for dialogue,” somewhat similar to today.

Immediately, it was clear to Chrisman that the café he had dreamed up out of a neglected basement was a success. After hosting its first patrons during a three-night freshman week preview, it officially opened a week later, on Sept. 16. It was open from 10 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., in hopes of enticing students leaving Firestone after late-night study sessions.

Today, the café is open during the academic year from noon to midnight. Student bakers make 1,000 cookies per shift, with the freedom to bake anything from classic chocolate chip cookies to whatever they can find in the pantry. Eisenhower experimented with double chocolate red pepper flake cookies. Brooklyn Fraser '27, a current supervisor, recalled one baker who made a delicious pumpkin, pretzel, and white chocolate chip creation.

BAKER SPACE

Former and current Murray-Dodge bakers and their families swapped stories at Reunions in May. Today, the café makes 1,000 cookies per shift.

The student bakers, who are paid, “come up with the most awesome recipes,” said Joanne Campagnoli-Sismondo, operations and events coordinator at the ORL. She has supervised the café for the past two decades. “I can't even tell you what they do. ... They're like little scientists down there.”

On Wednesdays, a vegan option is available, and on Sundays, a gluten-free option.

According to Ellen Sheehy '84, a student baker during the early 1980s, they didn't offer anything “too fancy” then — “chocolate chip was the norm.”

Since its humble beginnings, the café has undergone a major year-long renovation, during which it temporarily relocated to the Carl A. Fields Center in 2015-16. It's survived challenges, like mice that kept finding ways in during nearby construction and ORL's decision last year to staff most shifts with one baker instead of two due to budget cuts.

Over the years, the café has served as a late-night alternative to the Street and a meeting place for clubs. Sue Anne Morrow, a former associate dean of religious life, said that student meetings in the café helped the ORL make some of its first connections with the LGBTQ+ community. When she introduced herself to an LGBTQ+ group, the students seemed confused, “Like, really? Why are you here?” Morrow recalled with a laugh. Over time, though, “we cultivated a very strong relationship with that group of students, and it was really fun.”

At Reunions in May, the café opened an hour early for alumni and student bakers, with generations of workers and their families meeting for the first time. Attendees brought recipes for a new cookbook that Campagnoli-Sismondo and the alumni bakers hope to publish. On its Sept. 16 anniversary, the café plans to celebrate with special pins, a giveaway, and student group collaborations. **■**



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the Blue Ribbon Paintings, and the Art of Reproduction

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Jean-Michel Basquiat, *Blue Ribbon II* (detail), 1984. Private collection. Artwork: © Estate of Jean-Michel Basquiat. Licensed by Artestar, New York



PARTRIDGE PEA FLOWERS BEHIND THE OMENN-DARLING BIOENGINEERING INSTITUTE.

CAMPUS GROUNDS

Back to the Wild

Native plantings inspired by old landscapes give recent construction projects a distinctly different look

BY ARI I. WEINBERG '99

FOR DECADES, PRINCETON WAS defined by Collegiate Gothic architecture, manicured lawns, clean sightlines, and English ivy. With the raft of new buildings and the expansion of the campus across Lake Carnegie, however, the University has taken a different approach.

Gone are seasonal plantings and ornamental exotics. In their place are native perennials — grasses, shrubs, and trees — with a focus on stormwater management, biodiversity, and even reforestation that will take years (or decades) to prove out.

What started with localized experiments has morphed into large-scale projects accompanying major campus changes, including the opening of the Environmental Studies and School of Engineering and Applied Science complex, the Princeton University Art Museum, Yeh and Huo colleges, and the Meadows Neighborhood.

Landscapes designed by Field Operations of New York City and installed by Sean's Landscaping of Hamilton, New Jersey, are vastly different than those established by landscape architect Beatrix Farrand more than a century ago.

Coneflowers and maple trees are nestled around Yeh College. Native grasses, coral bells, and hollies surround Briger Hall. Butterfly milkweed, black-eyed Susans, and honey locust trees dot the Meadows Neighborhood. But invasive plants — both nonnative species and noxious weeds — are already creeping in.

Giving land back to nature takes patience and the willingness to cooperate with an unruly environment.

"There's an assumption that a sustainable landscape is less work, that it's easier, but that's not the case," said Devin Livi, director of campus grounds. "One of our biggest challenges is

educating people on the amount of work to keep the invasives out and weeding. It's a lot, but we have an amazing group of people in campus grounds."

While aesthetically interesting, the school's fresh landscapes are designed to be more functional. For instance, native plants are highly skilled at absorbing stormwater. A composite metric known as the Princeton Index for Land-Use and Ecological Assessment (PILEA), built in 2015 to evaluate the wooded areas around Lake Carnegie, has been extended to measure impact for any natural area on campus. PILEA is overseen by the Office of Capital Projects, with campus departments and consultants collecting data on factors such as tree density, animal species, invasive plants, soundscape, and disturbance.

Princeton doesn't disclose land management costs, but it has said that the increased expenditures were funded by the capital plan and restricted gifts exclusive to landscaping needs.

Working as researchers in the Office of Sustainability's Campus as Lab program, civil and environmental engineering majors Elise Taylor '27 and Wunnyuriti Ziblim '28 have participated in the largest outstanding environmental project in the 2026 Campus Plan: the revitalization of the Elm Drive Woods.

Located south of Yeh and Huo, the parcel of land contains 300-year-old oaks that "haven't had a chance to reproduce in decades," according to Mike Van Clef, the project ecologist and stewardship director of Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space. "It will be a small example of what central New Jersey forests used to be."

The area was devoid of native shrubs and forbs — nonwoody, nongrassy flowering plants — due to the combination of deer and invasive plants that suffocated oak and other seedlings. Taylor and Ziblim recommended native plants for three different zones in the woods based on local availability and likelihood of success.

"I didn't realize how much work goes into actually completely clearing an area of invasives, replanting it, and protecting

it from deer,” said Taylor. “There is so much planning and thought that has to go into it ... and it’s been nice to have been along for the whole process.”

In another Campus as Lab project, Ziblim got a chance to understand the challenges that the grounds team faces in coaxing life from neglected dirt. He collected soil samples from eight campus locations and sent them to a lab at Rutgers to understand nutrient levels, compaction, and toxins, helping to determine what plants could be supported and where soil amendments might be needed.

The flurry of forward-thinking landscaping at Princeton has a hint of playing catch-up. The National Wildlife Federation published *Ecodemia* in 1995 to focus on campus environmental stewardship as well as a 2015 progress report, “The Campus Wild.”

“Campuses have a diversity of green space,” said Kristy Jones, wildlife and nature director in the National Wildlife Federation’s Education and Engagement Department, and “maintenance is the biggest challenge,” including proper care when native plants are introduced, consistency in removing invasive species, and education for the staff and community. Success can also be measured by changes in biodiversity on campus.

“Just dropping in native plants is not a panacea unless connected to a commitment to nature — it is a whole different way of thinking and caring,” said Edwina von Gal, founder and president of the Perfect Earth Project and an early adherent for more ecologically friendly landscape design. “Meadows need help getting established ... what is wanted and what needs to be weeded out,” she said.

According to Princeton’s facilities and grounds team, a new sustainability plan is forthcoming. The campus jewel that is Prospect Garden is shifting to a four-season approach, but it won’t take on a full meadowed landscape like the vast expanse across Lake Carnegie, Livi said. As for that invasive (but managed) English ivy that scales Nassau Hall and other parts of the traditional campus, there are no plans to change. **P**

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SGT. ALVAN FLANDERS
AND COACH AT CLASS DAY

SGT. ALVAN FLANDERS AND COACH

'You Couldn't Ask for a Better Partner'

BY JOEL LOO

PUBLIC SAFETY Sgt. Alvan Flanders, now in his 33rd year at Princeton, and his canine partner, Coach, were recently named honorary members of the Class of 2026. PAW sat down with the pair to learn more about how Coach came to campus and the impact she's had on Princeton's community over the past five years.

How did the idea of getting a canine partner come about?

I had always wanted to be a canine officer, and there was a lot going on at the time: COVID, the defund-the-police movement, George Floyd. I was trying to find a way to better bring our department in touch with our community. I thought no better vehicle for that would be a dog. So, I researched the idea of getting a dog on campus and reached out to a lot of police departments throughout the country, including university departments that

had dogs. Not many had dogs solely for community relations, so it was difficult finding departments to talk to about that side of things. But I found that Yale

University had started a program with their dog, Heidi, brought in for officer wellness and to bridge the community with their department.

I reached out to that officer, who told me about an organization in New York City called Puppies Behind Bars. They breed dogs specifically for officer wellness, therapy work, service work, and for people who need dogs for PTSD.

I reached out to them and explained my idea of bringing a dog to Princeton, not just for my officers, but for the community. They loved the idea. I wrote a proposal to my boss at the time, Paul Ominsky. He liked it and vetted it through the channels here at Princeton, and it was approved. I went to a prison in upstate New York, Bedford Hills, that summer and trained with the female inmates to learn how

to care for a service dog like Coach. I was awarded Coach and brought her back to campus 14 days later. It's been probably the best thing that's ever happened to me.

What kinds of events does Coach take part in?

We try to go to as many of the big campus events as we can: football games, basketball games, whatever's happening. We also get invited to different events, including ones other departments hold, or study breaks that student groups organize. Occasionally we get called to one-on-ones at the infirmary for someone in crisis who needs a dog. And sometimes people just walk into our building and ask, "Is Coach here? I need some time with Coach." She's always more than happy to come out.

How has having Coach by your side changed the way people interact with you?

I've been in a lot of positions in our department, in plainclothes, in a suit and tie, in uniform, and I've walked through these buildings many, many times over the years. Before Coach, people often didn't really recognize me. They'd wonder, "What's Public Safety doing here? Is something wrong?" But as soon as I walk out the door with Coach, I'm immediately greeted by people who recognize her and want to come pet her.

What's it like balancing having Coach at work with your everyday responsibilities?

It's twofold. I love having her at work, love her being there, but on the days she's not there, I really miss it. You get used to having somebody by your side. When she is there, I'm doing my normal job while also always keeping an eye on her, making sure she's safe. She stays in the office, but you've always got to watch out for her while still getting your own work done. But she's a remarkable dog. You couldn't ask for a better partner. **P**

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED by C.S. and condensed by J.L.



READ MORE in an expanded version of this interview and watch a video of Coach at paw.princeton.edu.

IN MEMORIAM

Hans Aarsleff, an English professor who explored the impact of language in philosophy and the sciences, died July 1 at age 100. Aarsleff taught courses on American, English, and European literatures for four decades before transferring to emeritus status



in 1997. He was a winner of the Howard T. Behrman Award for distinguished achievement in the humanities in 1994. In a University obituary, colleagues described him as a dedicated scholar and raconteur who shared memorable stories, including some from his time working for a traveling carnival in the Midwest during the summers of his graduate school days.

Roy Jackson, a chemical engineer who won honors for both teaching and



research, died July 20 at age 94. Jackson joined the Princeton faculty in 1982 after working in industry research and at universities in Scotland and the U.S. He transferred to emeritus status in 1998, three years after receiving the first School of Engineering and Applied Science Teaching Award. His research spanned several topics including optimization and process control, chemical reaction engineering, and fluid mechanics, according to the *Princeton Weekly Bulletin* in 1998.

Antony Jameson, whose innovative work in computational aerodynamics reshaped designs and made airplanes more efficient, died June 11 at age 91. Jameson taught in Princeton's mechanical and aerospace engineering



department from 1980 through 1997, and in the lab, he developed computer techniques for calculating airflow at transonic speeds, reducing the need for expensive and time-consuming wind tunnel testing of new aircraft. His research earned awards from NASA, the Royal Aeronautical Society, and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (the Spirit of St. Louis Medal), among others.

Brian Pethica, a senior scientist in the chemical and biological engineering department, died July 11, two days after his 100th birthday. Pethica came to Princeton following appointments at universities and industrial research

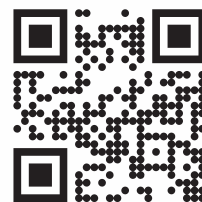


labs in the United Kingdom and the U.S., including a term as dean of arts and sciences at Clarkson University. He was an active researcher for more than seven decades, publishing his first paper in 1949 and his last in 2025, according to a family obituary. 

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STUDENT DISPATCH

New York City Tigers Feast on Food and Friendship

BY JAMES SWINEHART '27



THE PLAN WAS SIMPLE: I would wake up at around 7 a.m. to make the 4-mile trek from my Brooklyn sublet to the West Village. Once there, I'd buy a coffee and set up camp outside 4 Charles Prime Rib, one of New York City's most sought-after restaurants. According to internet foodies, a host would emerge shortly after 9 a.m. to begin taking names for the waitlist. If I was lucky, my friends and I might secure one of the most impossible reservations in the country.

So I sent a text to a group of fellow Princetonians spending the summer in the city: "Who's in?"

As my friends sent their responses,

I came to a realization. A year ago, I probably would've asked for a table for one. This summer, though, it seemed like nearly every classmate I knew was crossing boroughs, staying out late, and waking up early in search of the next great meal.

I'm probably more invested in food culture than most of my peers. During the school year, I run an Instagram account about Princeton's food scene with my best friend, Alistair Wright '27 (@the.hungry.tiger), and this summer I interned at Beli, a social app for restaurant-goers. By all means, I'm a foodie. But from my biased perspective, I noticed something interesting during my summer in New York: It's no longer just me obsessing over food. It's nearly every Princeton student I know.

In New York, dining out often requires a certain degree of obsession. As Princetonians flock to the city for internships, they discover that with great food comes great competition for reservations. Adventures must be embraced.

A few weeks before my meal at 4 Charles (yes, we did get in from the waitlist), I invited two friends, Hallie Graham '27 and Alberto Sciuto '27, to the last remaining 9:30 p.m. reservation at Theodora, a Mediterranean spot in Brooklyn. It was inconvenient — especially for Graham, who was coming in on New Jersey Transit. Neither is a self-proclaimed foodie, so I wasn't optimistic about them joining. To my surprise, both immediately said yes.

Why go to such lengths for dinner, anyway? Part of the answer is that dining has become a way to signal taste. People post photos from exclusive restaurants on social media, telling the world a little about who they are by how they dine. But after talking with Princetonians around the city, I don't think exclusivity alone is fueling the excitement around food.

For Graham, it's about trying something new. "I view eating as an activity, as an experience," she said. "It's a way of having fun without just drinking or going out. Plus, I get to try new things like crudo at Theodora!"

The crudo was, in fact, an experience. We all agreed it was one of the best bites we'd ever eaten. But what made the night memorable wasn't just the food.

Other Princetonians had similar experiences this summer. Kennedy Mattes '23 said she spent a Friday in June journeying to Brooklyn, attempting to secure the elusive Red Hook Tavern cheeseburger. While the dry-aged patty was delicious, it was also an experience she got to bond over with the Princeton alums who joined her.

Sometimes for a meal to be memorable, it doesn't have to be exclusive at all. Alice McCarthy '27 said she spent one evening with a classmate wandering Chinatown, hopping between cash-only spots. And as someone who has done similar Chinatown crawls, I can confirm that sharing a \$2.90 pineapple pork bun with a friend can be just as exciting as a \$34 cheeseburger.

Looking back, maybe waiting outside 4 Charles before 9 a.m. was less about the wagyu beef and more about the "who's in?" moment, chasing a shared experience with my friends. **P**



RYAN FORREST, CENTER, WITH
BOSTON COLLEGE AT FENWAY PARK

BASEBALL

New Coach Makes His Pitch for a ‘Sleeping Giant’

BY BRETT TOMLINSON

WHEN RYAN FORREST, Princeton baseball’s new head coach, was working at the U.S. Air Force Academy in the fall of 2020, he got his first look at the new cadets on his pitching staff. The academy’s grueling, six-week basic training course tends to wear out even the strongest athletes, Forrest said, taking 5 to 10 mph off a pitcher’s fastball. But one freshman — an incoming catcher who coaches also saw as a potential relief pitcher — seemed unfazed, zipping pitches across the plate at 92 mph.

“That’s honestly when I knew that there was something special there,” Forrest said.

Baseball fans may know where this is going: The pitcher/catcher was Paul Skenes, and within five years, he would win the National League Cy Young Award with the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Skenes’ rise from service academy recruit to elite major league ace was unique, but so was the way that Air Force coaches embraced his uncommon gifts. In his freshman spring, Skenes led the Falcons in home runs, batting average, and slugging percentage, threw out nine base stealers as a catcher, and made 18 relief appearances on the mound.

“There were multiple times in which it’d be the sixth inning and he would rip off his catcher’s gear and he would run down to the bullpen and then he would [pitch the last three innings] and close a game out,” Forrest said. “It definitely opened my eyes.”

Whether Forrest’s Princeton teams will find creative ways to employ two-way players like Skenes remains to be seen, but the new coach plans to push a style of play that values mixing pitch types, throwing strikes, playing great defense, and creating havoc on the basepaths. That’s part of the pitch he is already making to the Tigers’ next recruiting class.

“I do believe that if we continue to develop our kids in their time here, and we continue to bring in the right type of player ... we should be competing for Ivy League championships every year.”

— RYAN FORREST
Baseball head coach

“This is the only league in which you can come and get a world-class education — at Princeton specifically, the best education in the country — and then also, you get an unbelievable baseball experience,” he said. “I firmly believe that this place is a sleeping giant.”

Forrest replaces Scott Bradley, one of Princeton’s longest tenured head coaches, who won seven Ivy League championships in 28 seasons and sent seven alumni to the major leagues. Bradley’s 474 career wins trail only Bill Clarke, the namesake of the Tigers’ home field, but his last Ivy title came in 2016 and his teams finished 8-13 in league games in each of the last two seasons. On June 1, the athletic department announced “a change in leadership within the Princeton baseball program,” beginning a national search for Bradley’s successor.

Forrest, a college pitcher at Maine and Creighton, has been a pitching coach for more than a decade, most recently at Boston College, which won 37 games and earned a trip to the NCAA Tournament in the spring.

“He is a proven teacher of the game who year after year has developed his student-athletes into better versions of themselves on the field and off,” athletics director John Mack ’00 said in a release when Princeton hired Forrest on July 20. “Everywhere Ryan has coached, his teams have improved season to season, competing for championships at both the conference and national levels.”

As of late July, Forrest was working to add assistants to his coaching staff. He said the best piece of advice he had received was to stick with his strengths and hire complementary coaches who are “knowledgeable, trustworthy, and that you enjoy being around.” Forrest also said he was looking forward to building relationships with his new players, who were competing in summer leagues from California to Cape Cod.

“I do believe that if we continue to develop our kids in their time here, and we continue to bring in the right type of player ... we should be competing for Ivy League championships every year,” he said. ■



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RESEARCH

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Universal Understanding

Researchers from Princeton's Department of Astrophysical Sciences are among the 2,800 scientists involved in the decade-long survey of the Southern Hemisphere sky that launched in June. Known as the Legacy Survey of Space and Time (LSST), this time lapse of the universe will be recorded by the NSF-DOE Vera C. Rubin Observatory telescope in Chile. Princeton's team has helped develop software pipelines to process the 10 terabytes of images recorded each night. "The start of the LSST marks the culmination of over 25 years of work by researchers all over the world, including at Princeton, to build this magnificent observatory," said Michael Strauss, professor and chair of astrophysical sciences at Princeton. Pictured is a field of stars in the constellation Lupus captured by the observatory.

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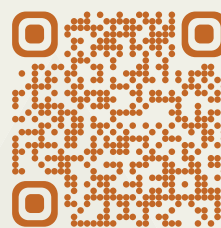
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PSYCHOLOGY

Understanding How People Learn and Decide

Award will further Molly Crockett's work exploring the influence of power systems on the world

BY ALISON BOWEN

IN MOLLY CROCKETT'S LAB, THE researchers examine big questions about society, power, and morality.

Crockett is a professor of psychology in Princeton's Center for Human Values and director of the Future Values Initiative, which studies topics including how advances in science and technology have outpaced careful inquiry into their ethical implications.

"I've always been interested in people and the social world and politics and ethics," Crockett says. "I was excited to apply scientific methods to studying these questions."

Now, Crockett, who uses the pronoun they, will be able to devote even more time and resources to this research. They recently were awarded the Troland Research Award, which offers \$75,000 "to further empirical research within the broad spectrum of experimental psychology." The National Academy

of Sciences recognized Crockett specifically for "their pioneering contributions to a mechanistic theory of moral cognition." Computer science professor Sebastian Seung also won the award.

"I just think this is a really exciting time to think about core practices in our

"I think it's just as important to support the interpretive, humanistic work alongside the science, because the two approaches really need each other and thrive when they're in conversation with one another."

— MOLLY CROCKETT
Psychology professor

field," Crockett says. "And the stakes feel really high."

Something Crockett has been thinking about — and studying — a great deal in recent years is how generative AI is changing the field. Many scientists are excited about AI's potential to streamline scientific processes, but Crockett and others worry about what that could mean for not only science but also how we understand and relate to human behavior.

Quantitative, computational approaches of course have value, Crockett notes.

"But my worry is that that part of our science might become the victim of its own success," Crockett says. "If we don't reserve more humanistic, qualitative, interpretive approaches to trouble and unsettle and challenge the quantitative approaches, we start to create really big risks for understanding over the long term."

For example, if an AI model has results that use only quantitative means to summarize human behavior, that would be leaving out the human part of it.

Crockett's lab explores these questions using a variety of methods, including behavioral experiments as well as computational modeling and machine learning.

"I think it's just as important to support the interpretive, humanistic work alongside the science, because the two approaches really need each other and

ADOBE STOCK

thrive when they're in conversation with one another," Crockett says. "The science and the technology are stronger when they are developed in a human-sensitive context."

Crockett adds, "I do think Princeton really has potential to be world-class in this effort because we have so much talent in the social sciences and the humanities. Our hope is that we can develop this over the next few years."

With the new award, Crockett has been thinking a great deal about the limitations of traditional methods, especially those that seek to quantify human behavior with mathematical models.

"The questions I'm interested in are how to understand the ways that knowledge production is changing now that there are tools that many people believe can replace knowledge," Crockett says. "I don't think that they can. I think those claims inspire us to get a lot clearer on what human knowledge-making actually entails."

New tools like AI models are powerful, but when researchers try to capture something as complicated as human morality with mathematical models, inevitably things will be left out, Crockett says.

"I've started to think a lot about what is getting left out, and what are the consequences of leaving those parts out?" Crockett says.

"I just see so many limitations in quantitative, mathematical approaches to capturing these qualities and capabilities of humans, and so I'm worried about what paths we might go down if we forget that models are models and not reality," Crockett adds. "How might human beings change if we take the mathematical model as the same thing as truth or reality?"

Another topic Crockett studies is social media. A decade ago, researchers studying social media and political behavior accurately predicted many of the ways the platforms are used today. For example, posts that cast someone as a clear villain generate the most engagement.



WORLD WISDOM

Molly Crockett, a professor of psychology, says they set out to understand "how might human beings change if we take the mathematical model as the same thing as truth or reality?"

"But of course, reality is way more complicated than the stories that we read about in books or watch in the movies," Crockett says. "I'm thinking a lot about how consuming media that portrays really complicated political events in terms of, 'There's a good guy, or a bad guy,' how that simplified frame can cause us to see our own lives through that simplified frame — and what are the consequences of that?"

It can be challenging to be a scientist working on social issues, requiring researchers to navigate a fine line between sticking to the science while upholding the culture of science and engaging with a culture that often discourages political involvement. "That is unfortunate, because often it is scientists and scholars who are the most qualified to weigh in on these kinds of issues because of our expertise," Crockett says.

All scientists, Crockett says, should value what is good about collaboration with other human beings in science or any scholarly pursuits. The goal of science is not simply producing facts about the world or creating new scientific papers but also training new scientists.

Crockett adds, "I am trying to facilitate thoughtful and critical conversations in this space." ■

AWARDS

Four Princetonians Win Fields Medals

IN JULY, three Princeton alumni and one former lecturer were awarded the Fields Medal, one of the highest honors in the field of mathematics. The International Mathematical Union recognizes several young mathematicians under the age of 40 every four years for "outstanding mathematical achievement in existing work and the promise of a future achievement," according to a release from the organization. Each winner receives \$15,000 in Canadian dollars (approximately \$10,600 USD) and a gold medal.

Yu Deng *15, a professor at the University of Chicago, whose work on several equations, including solving the Boltzmann equation, was cited.



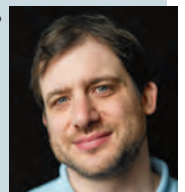
DENG '15

John Pardon '11, a professor at Stony Brook University and valedictorian of his Princeton class, was recognized in part for his research in symplectic geometry.



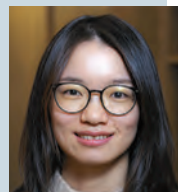
PARDON '11

Jacob Tsimerman *11, a professor at the University of Toronto whose work on the André-Oort conjecture was among the reasons he was honored.



TSIMERMAN *11

Hong Wang, a professor at New York University and the Institute for Advanced Scientific Studies in France and a former lecturer in Princeton's math department, was awarded in part for her work on the Kakeya conjecture. She is the third woman ever to win the Fields Medal. ■



WANG



JOHANNES HAUBOLD, LEFT,
AND MARK F. BERNSTEIN '83

PAW GOES TO THE MOVIES

Analyzing 'The Odyssey'

Classics professor Johannes Haubold dissects Christopher Nolan's summer blockbuster adapted from the Greek epic

BY MARK F. BERNSTEIN '83

HOMER'S EPIC POEM *The Odyssey* is one of the oldest works of Western literature and also this summer's blockbuster movie hit. Director Christopher Nolan's adaptation, starring Matt Damon as Odysseus, was shot entirely on IMAX and is one of the most expensive R-rated films ever made. So far, it has been one of the highest-grossing movies of recent years.

In our latest installment of PAW Goes to the Movies, senior writer Mark F. Bernstein '83 invited classics professor Johannes Haubold to see *The Odyssey* and discuss its themes.

How did you like the movie?

I liked it very much. This was the second time I have seen it, and I think I liked it even more the second time. It's a serious reading of the text. Nolan has his own agenda, and for that he does make sacrifices. But that's OK because what he gives us is really interesting.

The law of Zeus, of hospitality for the stranger, is a leitmotif that Nolan introduces very early, in the scene with the Trojan horse. The Trojans are going to destroy it, and then someone says, "We and the Greeks share common gods. We share common values." And so they take it in. But of course, the horse is a betrayal of

those values. Odysseus and his men come out later, kill everyone, and open the gates. Everything unravels from that.

In *The Odyssey*, the emphasis is very much on the man. That's the first word of the poem, *andros*. After the war, how do you know what it is to be a man in this world? Yes, you are a husband, a father, a king, and you are from somewhere. You need to get back there. But how do you know that you've arrived? You need to be recognized. What does it really mean to be recognized? Nolan is very interested in the bigger picture of this civilization collapsing and how the individual fits into all this.

There have been many translations of Homer over the centuries, including some by Princeton faculty. Did Nolan rely on any particular translations?

Nolan has said that he was inspired by [University of Pennsylvania professor]

"Nolan is very interested in the bigger picture of this civilization collapsing and how the individual fits into all this."

— JOHANNES HAUBOLD
Classics professor

Emily Wilson's translation, which came out in 2017. That's a translation that is deliberately for our time. [Former Princeton professor] Robert Fagles' translation in 1996 was also very influential and started a modern push toward oralizing Homer. *The Odyssey* was originally an epic poem, of course, and Fagles wanted a translation that could be read out loud rather than simply read.

Were there any parts of the movie that didn't work for you?

The denouement in the palace is always difficult to pull off. Uberto Pasolini's 2024 movie, *The Return*, covers the second half of *The Odyssey*. In Pasolini's telling, Odysseus' wife, Penelope, is genuinely appalled by the violence he unleashes when he returns. Nolan isn't much interested in that, but of course that leaves the whole final scene dangling. What do we do with this mountain of dead bodies? Nolan's solution is to have Odysseus and Penelope go into exile. He sends him west, which is also very suggestive in many ways.

The Odyssey is nearly 3,000 years old. Why does it still speak to us?

We go back to the classics as a way of interrogating ourselves and our culture. I am from Germany, and you saw this very clearly there during the 1990s. There was a massive revival of Homer after unification of the two German states, because Homer was in some sense a reference text for the entire society. Everything had changed. Where would this new Germany go? People went back to Homer to work through these questions.

In many ways, *The Odyssey* is a universal story. The struggle to return home when the home we return to never remains the same. The struggle for identity and belonging. There is something about *The Odyssey* that grips us very deeply, and not just for right-wing white males in the West. It is a funny and puzzling and glorious thing how these ancient texts just keep presenting themselves to help us answer these fundamental questions. **E**

BEHIND THE RESEARCH: MICHAEL THATE

A New Way of Thinking About Modern Problems

BY AGATHA BORDONARO '04



MICHAEL THATE'S REAL EDUCATION STARTED WITH LONG SUMMER DAYS ON A FARM in his hometown of rural Fairmont, Minnesota. Thate would wash hog barns in the morning, bale hay in the afternoon, and harvest with a combine at night. "The cool thing is that on the farm, everyone's a systems engineer, everyone's an ecologist, everyone's a mechanical engineer," Thate says. "You just learn how to fix things and how to assess problems."

This early lesson in the importance of addressing situations from multiple perspectives ultimately shaped Thate's diverse, interdisciplinary career. With degrees in religious studies, ethical philosophy, design, systems engineering, and law, Thate describes himself as a systems engineer focused on "designing with the whole human in mind."

Through his three academic appointments at Princeton — as a lecturer in the engineering department and at the Keller Center, and as a research scholar at the Faith & Work Initiative — Thate researches ways to infuse humanistic and ethical concerns into corporate strategy.

"I'm really interested in how it all comes together: the relationship between humans and the digital and computational," he says.

Quick Facts

TITLE

Lecturer and research scholar for responsible tech and innovation

TIME AT PRINCETON

12 years

RECENT CLASS

The History of Entrepreneurship

THATE'S RESEARCH A SAMPLING

EARTH AS SHAREHOLDER

In law school, Thate learned that legal "personhood" was being granted to rocks, hills, and streams to mitigate land disputes in countries such as New Zealand and Ecuador. He began to wonder whether a similar approach might work in a business context — deeming planet Earth a "shareholder" in corporate activities and thereby embedding environmental caretaking directly into governance. "Earth has these tangible assets and has to be accounted for in all operations," Thate says, noting that the risk corporations introduce to the planet is currently shouldered by Earth, not by the corporations themselves. In a 2025 essay published in *Sage Journals*, Thate proposes that as a shareholder, our planet is entitled to a voice for its resources and to compensation for this burden of risk — a framework that might require

legal, judicial, and corporate innovation to implement.

THE STACK APPROACH TO AI ETHICS

To better address our societal concerns about artificial intelligence, Thate suggests we reorient how we think about it. "Stop thinking about AI as a widget. Start thinking of it instead as a stack — a stack with five layers," he says. The layers include geopolitical and legal foundations; energy and materials; physical infrastructure; models and training applications; and governance and values. "How do our concerns then cohere across the stack?" For example, when considering the effect of AI on the mental health of our children, we should assess the full environmental impact on their wellbeing from the entire stack — not only at the user interface level ("Is the chatbot persuasive, addictive, or anthropomorphic?"),



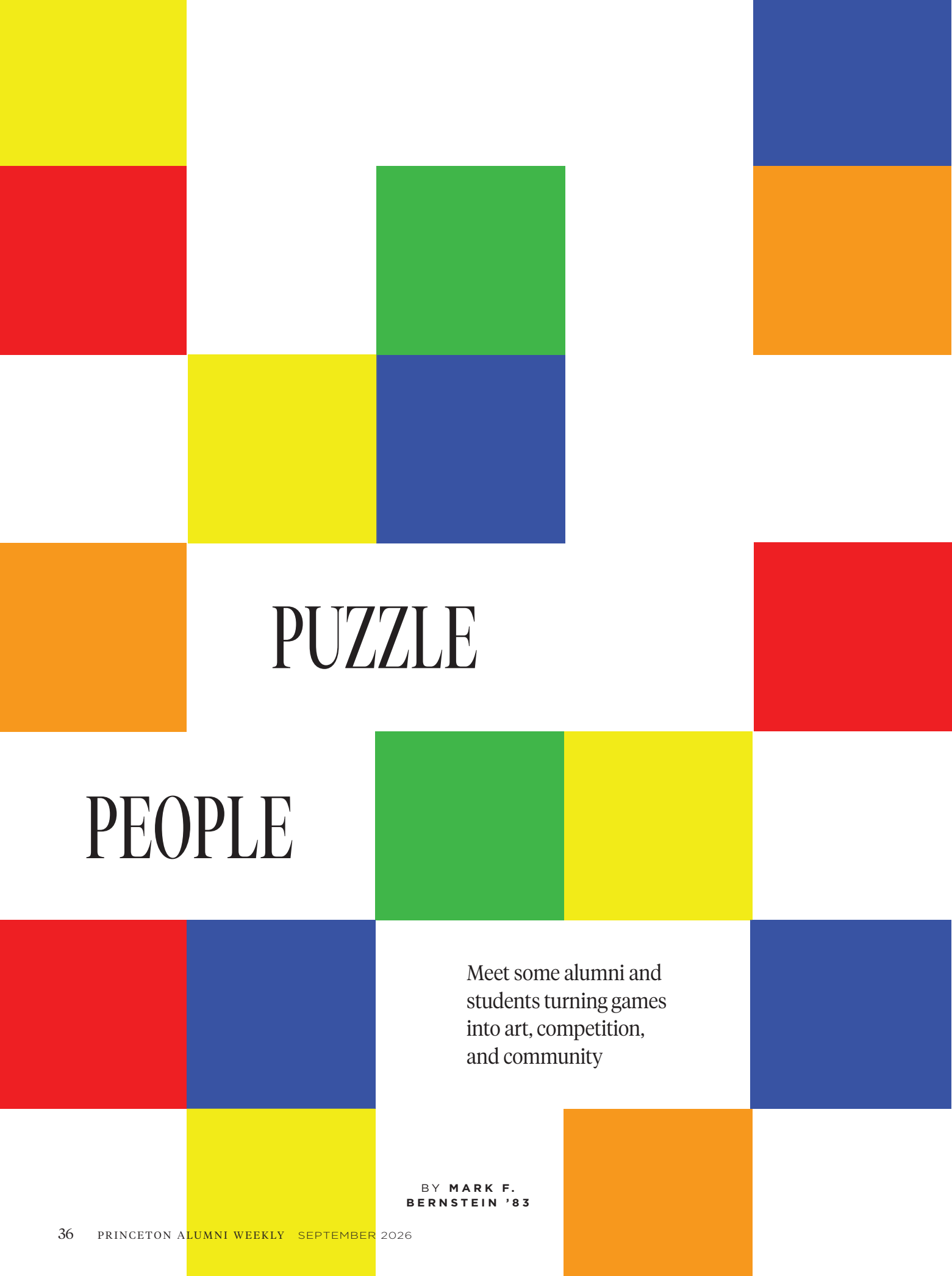
mount over our collective abilities to think, reason, and solve problems. "This is both a hardware problem and a software problem," Thate says — with the software being

but also at the model and training layer ("How is this chatbot trained? Does it reinforce harmful beliefs?") and geopolitical and legal layer ("Are there regulations protecting minors?"). Thate is currently working with the National Institute of Standards and Technology on what a metrology (study of measurements) of AI would look like. "To me, this is a shock of realism as opposed to the doomerism and hand-wringing."

TEACHING THINKING

As technology evolves, the demand for our attention skyrockets, cybersecurity issues grow, and concerns

humans. In his forthcoming book *Natural Prayers of the Soul*, Thate argues that society — parents, elected officials, and tech companies — should be helping people develop and sharpen their mental capacities and instincts rather than simply multiplying policies to reduce error. "You need to help [people] form habits to learn to love what is beautiful so that they can choose for themselves what is beautiful," he says, noting that he encourages this in his EGR301 class by inviting students to write a self-assessed values paper. "They can choose a future for themselves where they can flourish." **P**



PUZZLE

PEOPLE

Meet some alumni and
students turning games
into art, competition,
and community

BY MARK F.
BERNSTEIN '83

N

NEARLY EVERY NIGHT DURING THIS YEAR'S RUN TO THE national championship, the members of Princeton's men's lacrosse team gathered for a critical intellectual exercise to weave them together and sharpen their minds.

They solved the next day's *New York Times* crossword puzzle.

The *Times* posts a new puzzle every night at 10 p.m. Midfielder Wilder Burgin '27, who captained this effort, would go to the *Times* app, download the puzzle, and project it onto his dorm room TV screen where teammates could also access it across campus. The Tigers got so good that they could knock out even the most challenging puzzles in under an hour. Easy or hard, though, they tackled the crosswords religiously throughout the season.

"Being athletes, there were a lot of Friday and Saturday nights when everyone else was going out and we had to find our own way of having fun," says midfielder David Smythe '26.

Crossword puzzles have been a particular Princeton strength. Have you ever struggled to finish the *Times*' big Sunday puzzle? Dan Feyer '99, a nine-time American Crossword Puzzle Tournament champion, can blaze through it in less than three and a half minutes. As the saying goes: Don't hate the player, hate the game.



Far from hating the players, in fact, tip your hat to them. At the annual tournament in April, three alums finished in the top 25: Feyer, sixth; Stella Daily Zawistowski '00 (until recently the top-ranked woman in the world), 13th; and Tom Weisswange '94, 23rd. (Zawistowski constructs a monthly crossword for PAW.)

The men's lacrosse team members, who also held trivia contests after their weekly team dinners, were a puzzle- and game-loving group. Certainly, it promoted cohesion better than their previous obsession: poker. Burgin sheepishly describes his sophomore year dorm room as "a casino of sorts" and says the games sometimes produced hard feelings, even for low stakes. Looking for something a little more unifying, they switched to the crossword. They even took their new hobby on the road, gathering each night in their hotels during the NCAA Tournament in May.

Pulling together as a group would usually help them find the right answers, providing a sense of accomplishment or occasionally, a chance to rib each other unmercifully. Smythe recalls the puzzle the night before Princeton's quarterfinal match against Penn State. Each clue had a double meaning, and they were stumped by 65-across: "Yellow submarine?" The team had it down to "CHICKENSAND_I_." Someone, whose name is being withheld to shield him from further teasing, insisted that the phrase they were looking for was "Chickens and fish" and wouldn't let it go. But much as they would the next day against the Nittany Lions, the Tigers regrouped, found the answer — "Chicken sandwich" — and rallied to victory.

"There were a lot of things that went into that national championship run, but I'll give the crossword some small credit in that," Burgin says.

PRINCETONIANS OF ALL AGES SEEM OBSESSED with games and puzzles. Many play recreationally while others are champions. A few have even made some money at it. Indeed, there are more games and more competitors than can be covered in a single article. Here, though, is a sampling.

Jerry Price, senior communications adviser and historian for the athletics department, is partial to a different game on the *Times* website. Like thousands of Americans, he starts every

morning with Wordle, in which players must guess a five-letter word in no more than six tries. Price's strategy is often to start with a word that somehow reflects the coming day. Other times he might read a news story and use the first five-letter word he encounters. On days when a Princeton athletic team is competing, Price's first guess is always "Tiger."

"If I get it wrong, that's a bad omen," he says.

That doesn't happen often. Price has gone as many as 200 consecutive days solving Wordle. When he spoke with PAW in late June, Price was working on a 90-day streak, but he had recently come off a four-day run of solving the puzzle on his sixth and final attempt, which he admitted had him very nervous.

In addition to the crossword and Wordle, the *Times* offers several other popular games such as Spelling Bee (making as many words as possible from seven letters), Connections (grouping words with common threads), and Strands (finding hidden words sharing a theme). Price does several of those, as well. An independent company, Wordle Global, offers the game every day in 91 languages.

Not only is the *Times*' game site tremendously popular, with more than 10 million daily players, it has helped propel the Gray Lady to record profitability at a time when many of its journalistic rivals are struggling to survive. With a certain degree of justification, the paper has been called a puzzle and recipe company with a news division. Other news outlets and websites have also gotten into the games and puzzle space, including Apple, LinkedIn, *The Washington Post*, Vox Media — and PAW.

IF THE CROSSWORD SEEMS A LITTLE RETRO, so does Rubik's Cube. That puzzle, in which a block of squares (usually 3-by-3-by-3 but sometimes bigger) must be rearranged so that all the same colors are on the same side, became as much a part of 1980s culture as shoulder pads and Cabbage Patch Kids. It is currently enjoying a revival with the younger generation.

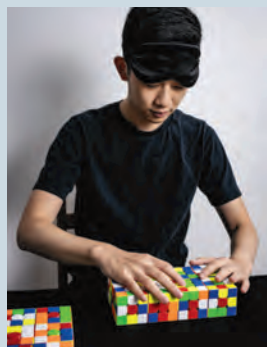
Not to brag, but Tigers have dominated. The Princeton Cube Club was founded in 2009 by Shotaro Makisumi '12, who has held world records in seven speedcubing disciplines. Daniel Goodman '22 invented a method for solving Rubik's Cube

HOW ANDREW TAO '24 DOES IT

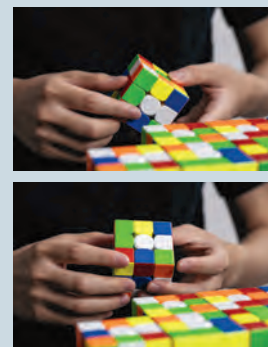
Follow the steps to solve multiple Rubik's Cubes while blindfolded



STEP 1. Gather 64 scrambled Rubik's Cubes.



STEP 2. Separate into groups of eight cubes.



STEP 3. Study the cubes for about 40 minutes.

KYLE KIELINSKI



THAT'S A RAP

Daniel Goodman '22, who began competing in Rubik's Cube and Pyraminx events at age 12, has since turned to performing as a rapper under the name DG the Artist.

known as CFinity, although if you move in those circles (squares?) you are more likely to know him by his nickname, DGCubes. His Rubik's Cube-themed YouTube channel offers 475 videos and has nearly 50,000 subscribers.

As Goodman remembers it, his parents had a Rubik's Cube lying around the house when he was little, but it seemed impossibly daunting. One day, Goodman found the instruction book, memorized it, and started solving. He got so good so fast that he began going to competitions at age 12.

Goodman's real specialty, though, is a cousin to Rubik's Cube known as Pyraminx. It's another three-dimensional puzzle, in the shape of a pyramid, and the goal again is to get all the colors on the same side. Competitors are allowed 15 seconds to look at the scrambled puzzle before they attempt to solve it.

In 2018, Goodman won the U.S. Pyraminx championship with an average score (across five pyramids) of 2.09 seconds. His personal record on a single pyramid is just 1.34 seconds.

"For me, cubing is such a relaxing thing," Goodman says, although given his scores, he doesn't seem to be relaxing for very long. "It's super satisfying to see your times go down."

One game often leads to another. This February, Goodman was a contestant on the TV game show *Wheel of Fortune*. He says he prepped for his appearance the same way he prepped for cubing competitions, by doing lots of practice rounds. The work paid off. Goodman solved the bonus round puzzle, "Giving You a Bear Hug," which won him a total of \$73,000 for the episode and a new Ford Bronco. He then gave host Ryan Seacrest a bear hug.

As an undergraduate, Goodman majored in computer science. Not surprisingly, he notes, many expert puzzle solvers have backgrounds in STEM fields. Adam Logan '95, for example, a two-time world Scrabble champion, majored in math. Music, another field that relies heavily on pattern recognition, also produces a lot of puzzle mavens. To cite just one example, Feyer, the crossword puzzle champ, is a pianist and music director for a theater company.

Goodman, too, has followed a musical path. Five years ago, he quit his job as a software engineer to become a rapper. The artist formerly known as DGCubes now goes by a new moniker, DG the Artist. He has released three albums and several EPs, including his most recent one titled, *I Quit My Day Job*. Of course, he also has a rap-themed YouTube channel.

Officially retired from the gaming world, Goodman still solves cubes and pyramids, but strictly for fun. "The late 2010s was kind of my peak competitively, when I was gunning for records," he says, looking back on his puzzling career. "Nowadays I'm just doing it for the love of the game."

ANDREW TAO '24 IS ALSO VERY GOOD AT Rubik's Cube. So good, in fact, that he can solve them blindfolded. Seriously. That's the game.

The name of this sub-sport, multi-blind Rubik's Cube, says it all: Contestants attempt to solve multiple cubes without looking at them. Tao has solved 60 cubes in one sitting,



STEP 4. Using a mnemonic trick, assign letters corresponding to a story to each cube.



STEP 5. Don a blindfold — and in competition, goggles and earmuffs — and get to work.



STEP 6. Solve as many as you can with the remaining time (a total of 60 minutes).



ANDREW IN ACTION
Watch a video of Tao on PAW's Instagram (@pawprinceton) or at paw.princeton.edu.



a feat that has helped him become the reigning world, North American, and U.S. champion.

Explaining the rules of multi-blind may make it understandable, but not much more fathomable. Contestants decide in advance how many cubes they think they can solve. Those cubes are then scrambled by hand using directions generated by a computer algorithm (there are 43 *quintillion* possible ways of mixing up a 3-by-3-by-3 Rubik's Cube). After that, they are covered and placed on a table. Once they are uncovered, the contestant has one hour to study them and, after putting on a blindfold, solve them. Tao says he typically spends about 41 minutes studying and 19 minutes solving. Contestants earn a point for each cube they solve correctly and lose a point for each one they miss. At his best, Tao solved 60 of 63 cubes.

How can anyone possibly memorize so many scrambled Rubik's Cubes? Here's the secret: Tao doesn't. The colored squares on every cube have the same relationship to each other, no matter how the cube is scrambled. There is only one edge piece, for example, that is blue on one side and red on the other, only one corner piece that has white, red, and green. That is what Tao focuses on, assigning each spot on the cube a letter.

The blue-red edge piece, in this case, gets the letter T. Tao will look to see where that T piece is on a scrambled cube and where it needs to go. Eventually, this produces a long string of letters that becomes the code for solving that cube. As Tao explains, the hypothetical string DGETPL means, "I need to solve piece D first, and since piece G is currently in that space, I'll need to solve that. Once I solve G, I'll go on to solve piece E." And so on.

Rather than try to cram all those letters into his memory, Tao turns them into a story. Here he relies on a mnemonic trick known as method of loci, sometimes called "Roman Rooms" because it dates to antiquity. In a nutshell, he associates each of the 60-plus cubes in a competition with a physical space, such as rooms in a house, and solves them by moving mentally through that space. Let's say DGETPL is the code for the cube in the first "room," although the codes are usually much longer, typically around 20



DING! DING! DING!

Jamie Ding '13, left with host Ken Jennings, has become a celebrity after winning 31 consecutive games on Jeopardy! and recently teamed up with actor Ben Affleck, right, on Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?

letters. He will convert it into words that include those letters, something like, "Dog [DG] eats [ET] plants [PL]." When he goes to solve that cube, he will imagine a dog eating plants in that room.

"Hopefully, when I'm blindfolded," Tao says, "I'll go into my [mental] room and remember that story, which will be enough for me to solve it."

For Tao, getting into the zone — the sensory deprivation zone — is important. He doesn't just wear a blindfold during competitions; he dons special goggles that block his peripheral vision, and industrial earmuffs to eliminate sound. He also brings his own table mat, so the friction when he slides the cubes around is the same as at home.

Like Batman, Spider-Man, and other superheroes, Tao wears a mask. Like them too, he becomes completely ordinary without one. At multi-blind, Tao is currently ranked third in the world; at standard 3-by-3-by-3 Rubik's Cube, he's ranked 6,500th. His memory isn't even that good, he insists. Like the rest of us, Tao regularly forgets people's names. Several times after competitions, he has had to go back to the venue because he left his phone charger behind.

NO ONE GOES INTO multi-blind Rubik's Cube to get rich. Tao says his payout for winning the world championship was just \$1,000. Given that he had to travel to the event in Seattle from his home in New York and pay for his own lodging, he lost money.

Jamie Ding '13 has a very different story. Earlier this year, he took home \$882,605 on the TV game show *Jeopardy!*, winning 31 consecutive games, the fifth-longest streak in the show's 62-year history. But it took him years to get on the show at all.

Ding says he starting applying to be on the *Jeopardy!* teen tournament when he was still in high school and estimates that he applied to the main show nearly a dozen times before making the cut. When Ding finally was selected, he had to pay his way to Los Angeles for the initial taping, along with his hotel. The show only pays expenses for returning champions.

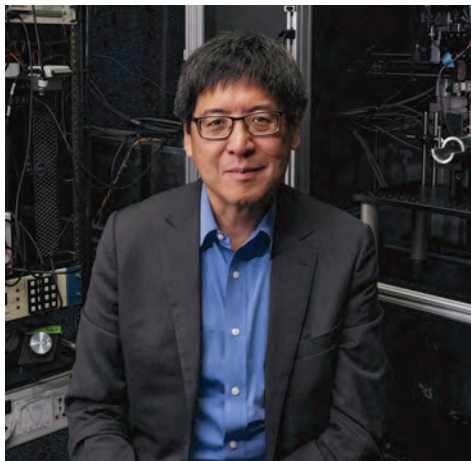
Ding is not the first Princetonian to appear on *Jeopardy!* or to do well on it. Dave Madden '03 won 19 consecutive games in 2005. Terry O'Shea '16 won the *Jeopardy!* College Championship in 2014, the first Ivy Leaguer to do so.

One might say that Ding was born for this. He competed in spelling and geography bees as early as elementary school. At Princeton, he was on the Quiz Bowl team while majoring in molecular biology. A resident of Lawrence, he is also a Quizzo shark, now competing regularly on Tuesday nights at the Ivy Inn.

Success breeds success. This summer, Ding's long run on *Jeopardy!* got him on another TV game show, *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?*, which is produced by the same company. Again wearing something orange, his trademark, Ding and his partner, actor Ben Affleck, won the million-dollar prize for Affleck's charity, the Eastern Congo Initiative. A New Jersey civil servant now entering his third year at Seton Hall Law School, Ding has spent his *Jeopardy!* winnings conservatively, buying extra years on his state pension as well as an orange and black watch.

"Games are cool," he says. "There's a fixed challenge. There's a way to win, and it's nice to have some certainty. Life is so messy. Puzzles are not."

IF PRINCETONIANS LIKE PLAYING GAMES, they also like learning about them. More than 100 undergraduates have enrolled in a new course this semester, From Ur to Catan: Board Games in the Near East and Beyond (NES217), taught by associate professor Daniel Sheffield.



"I am not under any illusions that these games improve anything other than my ability to do the games themselves. Any promises that they have general effects for cognitive preservation are snake oil. However, if they bring people pleasure, then who would get in the way of that?"

— SAM WANG

Princeton neuroscience professor

The course traces the history of backgammon, chess, and other board games from ancient times to the present day. A game known as Ur was popular in Mesopotamia nearly 4,000 years ago, Sheffield says. Archaeologists have found Ur puzzle pieces at numerous excavation sites, along with cuneiform tablets explaining the rules.

As Sheffield — who is also the reigning Near Eastern studies departmental backgammon champion — explores in his course, the games people play tell us something about the society in which they live.

"I think there is a tremendous desire right now to experience what it means to be human," he says. "That is ultimately what board games are doing. If they illustrate anything about us, it's that fundamental need to be with other people, to have a shared experience, and maybe to unplug from the constant bombardment of the world."

More ambitious types might hope they can do even more. Given our culture's relentless drive for self-improvement, could puzzles and

games be restorative as well as recreational? By sharpening our brains, can they also stave off cognitive decline or even extend our lives?

Princeton neuroscience professor Sam Wang says no and, alas, numerous studies back him up. Wang, too, admits to being a Wordle and Connections fanatic, but he cautions that those who play games or puzzles in hopes of finding a neurological fountain of youth may be disappointed.

"I am not under any illusions that these games improve anything other than my ability to do the games themselves," he says. "Any promises that they have general effects for cognitive preservation are snake oil. However, if they bring people pleasure, then who would get in the way of that?"

In other words, don't get obsessive. Do them like Burgin does, to connect with friends, or even just for fun. Puzzlers may be perfectionists, they may be super smart, but even they have limits. Take Zawistowski. Although she lives in New York, she gave up doing Wordle on the *New York Times* app when it started to become a burden.

"I realized, why am I getting stressed out or angry over whether I have a streak?" she says. "This is silly." So she cut back.

For now, she only plays Wordle in German. **P**

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

Calculating Fortune

Why operations research and financial engineering has become one of Princeton's most sought-after majors

BY HARRISON BLACKMAN '17

ILLUSTRATION BY IRENE RINALDI



Katy Milkman '04 still remembers the opening lines of a lecture by Princeton probability professor Erhan Çinlar: "To understand the importance of this class, you first have to recognize that it's really about Tyche, the [Greek] goddess of chance, and the hand she holds and the role she plays in every aspect of our lives." With awe, Milkman recalls how Çinlar outlined the many outcomes in life guided by this "uncontrollable, but predictable to some degree, element of choice."

Today, Milkman is a professor of operations, information, and decisions at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School whose podcast *Choiceology* explores true stories about making high-stakes decisions. "Now I study judgment and decision-making," she says. "A huge aspect of this are the ways that people misunderstand Tyche."

The epicenter of Tyche-related research at Princeton takes place on a quiet corner of campus between the Friend Center and Mudd Library, home to Sherrerd Hall, a building that former Princeton communications officer Chris Emery once described as a "deceptively simple glass cube." Inside, you'll find quiet study spaces, screens displaying the names and photos of undergraduate and graduate students, chalkboards marked with long and mystifying equations, and above a stairwell, a painting of a lecturing Çinlar, who retired in 2015.

If Sherrerd Hall appears "deceptively simple," the academic department the building houses is anything but. Operations research and financial engineering, better known as ORFE (pronounced OR-fee), is one of the most in-demand majors at Princeton, but to outsiders, it may also be the least understood. "It's a slightly convoluted name, and it either means nothing or means many things to many people," professor and former ORFE chair Ronnie Sircar says.

To explain to loved ones or friends what they do, some students in the department say they study a more legible subject, offering recognizable terms such as "applied math" or "probability."

"Even now, I still struggle to explain really what ORFE is to someone who has no idea," says Christina Li '26, now an investment analyst at the Princeton University Investment Co. (Princo).

ORFE's instruction rests on the intersections of statistics, probability, and optimization, analytic skillsets that provide quantitative insight vital to many fields. Some ORFE graduates found startups in Silicon Valley, but others take their research into various niches — from predicting the probable path of a pollen particle in the wind, to automating the rating process for

diamonds, to evaluating trends in literary fiction published in *The New Yorker*.

And despite the awkward explanations ORFE students must endure at their Thanksgiving tables, ORFE has the highest student-to-faculty ratio of any Princeton department (22-to-1, compared to the University's overall 5-to-1 ratio), with packed lectures and enrollments that creep up every year. According to Sircar, a record 102 undergraduates in the Class of 2029 have chosen the major, and about 500 Ph.D. applicants vie for 25 spots in the department annually. What accounts for ORFE's enduring popularity?

"That's an easy answer," says emeritus professor Robert Vanderbei, one of the former chairs of the department. "It leads to a career of making billions of dollars."

Vanderbei is exaggerating, but only slightly. Though some ORFE grads pursue academic paths, a majority of the department's graduates leap into careers as analysts at elite asset management firms such as BlackRock, investment banks including Goldman Sachs, or hedge funds like Citadel.

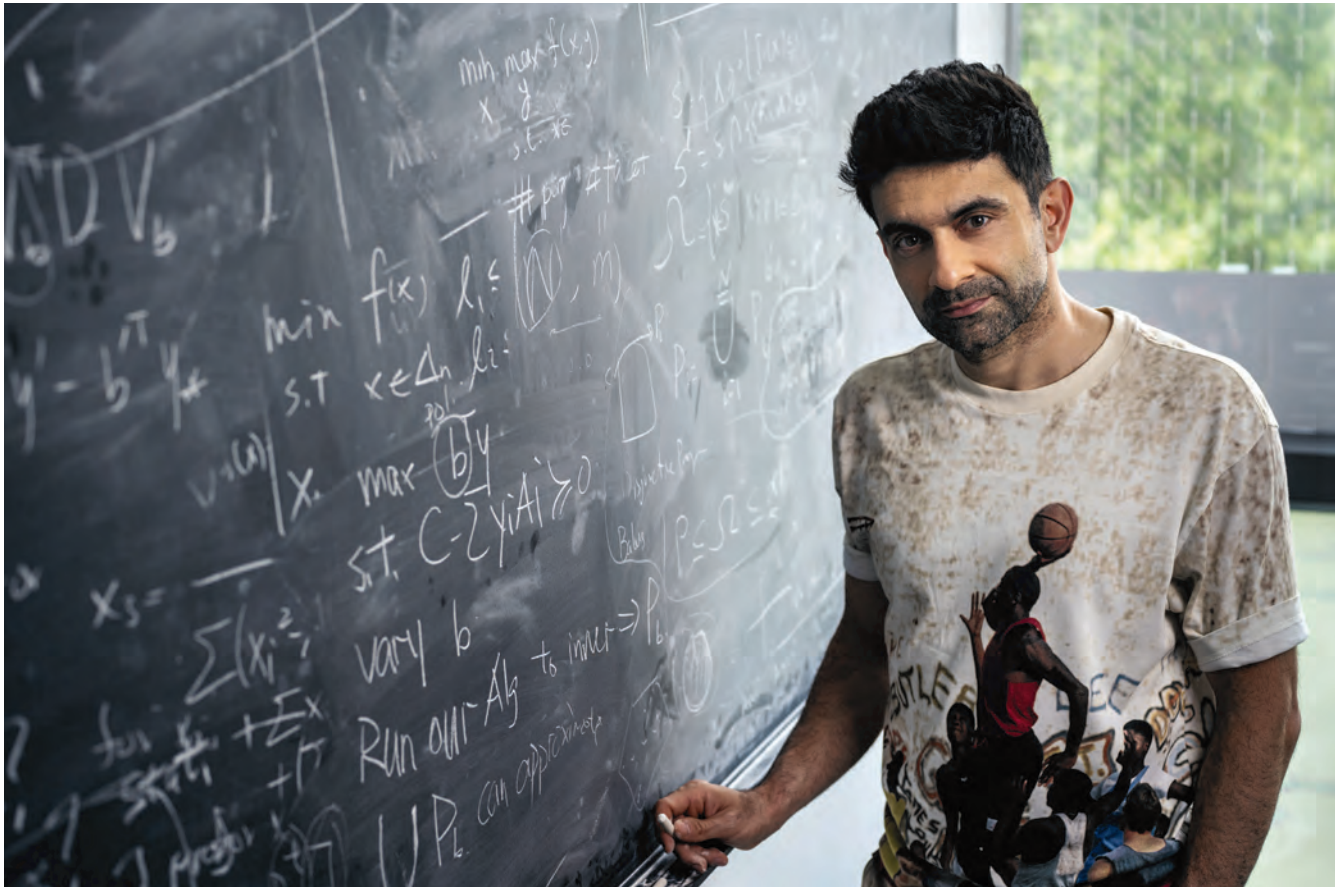
To understand what operations research entails, consider the predicament of a traveling salesperson. This professional wants to visit four cities before returning home to New York — say, London, Istanbul, Paris, and Frankfurt — and they want to do it in the most cost-effective way. To calculate that, one might have, as an input, the cost of a flight between any of the two cities: For example, the cost for a flight from Paris to London, London to Istanbul, and so forth, until one has priced out every point-to-point combination. Then, one might ask, what is the optimal order for visiting the cities to minimize the cost? Would it be cheaper to fly from London to Istanbul, then Istanbul to Frankfurt, followed by Frankfurt to Paris? Or is there a better combination that results in a lower total fare?

"It's a classic problem in operations research," ORFE professor and department chair Amir Ali Ahmadi says. "This is a hard problem to solve, and we teach our students different optimization tools to approximately solve it."

However, in real life, Ahmadi says, the traveling salesperson problem is even more complex. To truly find the most efficient route, one would have to consider the price of hotels on particular days, and whether there might be other constraints. Perhaps the salesperson needs to be in a specific city on a certain day to attend a conference, or he or she is required to spend at least two days in each city.

"This is no longer the problem they saw in my class," Ahmadi says, explaining that for his students, they must now determine if "the algorithm they had for the simple problem extends to the more complex problem," and if not, they'd have to try to design a new algorithm to address that more sophisticated question.

"We teach the right way of thinking about these problems in an application-agnostic way," Ahmadi explains. "The problem they're going to have in their first job is never going to be exactly what they saw in the classroom, so they need to be able to modify whatever they learned to [address] the problem that they now have at their company."



And the potential optimization problems are endless. Another example: An airline must decide how much to charge for a seat on a given flight. If the seat is too expensive, it may not be purchased. If it's too cheap, the airline may lose money. Then, imagine the flight is two weeks out, and only half the seats are purchased. Should the airline raise or lower its prices?

"These are all situations where a large-scale decision needs to be made," Ahmadi says. "We're talking about decisions on prices of thousands of flights. There is uncertainty of some sort — in this case, the demand for these flights. And there is an objective function. There is something you want to maximize. Maybe it's the satisfaction of customers; maybe it's revenue." (Hint: It's probably revenue.)

Put another way, ORFE, according to recent graduate AbdurRahman "AR" Bhatti '26, "is the study of how we apply order to chaos."

The field of operations research traces its origins to World War II, when mathematical models were applied to problems of logistics and management. Princeton mathematicians and professors played a starring role in the burgeoning discipline: John von Neumann contributing to the Manhattan Project; Albert Tucker *32 and Harold Kuhn *50 in advancing the theory of convex optimization; and John Nash *50, the inspiration for the 2001 film *A Beautiful Mind* and Sylvia Nasar's book of the same name, in developing game theory. In the field of probability, Gilbert Hunt conducted foundational work on Markov processes, a type of forecasting. Meanwhile, the

STRAIGHT A'S

ORFE professor and department chair Amir Ali Ahmadi, known to students as "Professor Triple A," specializes in optimization, dynamical systems, learning for dynamics and control, computational complexity, and, not least, filling chalkboards with complex equations.

development of early computing went hand in hand with Princeton's early forays in operations research, notably through the work of Alonzo Church 1924 *1927 and Alan Turing *38.

Though the University was influential in developing many of the quantitative principles that ORFE's scope would eventually encompass, its formation as a distinct department took longer to materialize. In 1965, a statistics department was spun out of the math department, only to be shuttered 20 years later with its statisticians embedded in other departments, including civil engineering, which in 1986 appended "operations research" to its title, reflecting its new duty of teaching statistics and probability.

The faculty teaching operations research then consisted of a small group, including John Mulvey, René Carmona, Vanderbei, and Çınlar. According to Carmona, their classes were immediately popular, exceeding demand for courses in traditional civil engineering. After founding a master's program in financial engineering, the operations research faculty increasingly found themselves a victim of their own success.

"Not only [did we have] this huge undergrad population and not enough faculty to teach all the courses," Carmona says,

“but we now had this master’s [program] we were creating classes for, and we didn’t have the personnel to teach them.” In Carmona’s telling, most finance master’s students were more keen on finding a job in industry than pursuing academic research, creating a mismatch between the theoretical basis of the department and what some of these graduate students were after — a preprofessional track.

In 1997, Ben Bernanke, chair of the economics department and future Federal Reserve chairman, spearheaded the creation of the Bendheim Center for Finance, which joined forces with operations research faculty to set up a master’s program in finance; this degree replaced the previously overwhelmed financial engineering master’s program.

In 1999, the disconnect between the civil engineering and operations research wings of the department became untenable, and the University decided to split the departments. “The faculty [in civil engineering] were nice people, but I still don’t know anything about what they do,” Vanderbei says. (Indeed, the “ancient” schism is memorialized by the ORFE summer softball team, coached by the department’s longtime professor Alain Kornhauser *71, nicknamed “Civil Disobedients.”)

“That was a very natural split,” concurs professor and former ORFE chair Mete Soner, adding that “it made sense for the school to have some activity in finance, given the fact that we do not have a business school.” In effect, Soner says, the new master’s program formed the Princeton alternative to a traditional MBA-style program in finance.

According to Carmona, it was Jerry Ostriker, provost at the time and an astronomer by training, who coined the name “operations research and financial engineering,” which was initially controversial among associated faculty.

“Some of us, including me, were very nervous of the idea of putting together ‘financial’ and ‘engineering,’” Carmona says, “because it sounded too much [like] we would teach [students] how to cook books.” On the other hand, the name presented intriguing symmetries with other departments. “After all, there is ‘chemical engineering,’ there is ‘civil engineering,’ there is ‘electrical engineering,’ why not ‘financial engineering?’” Carmona says.

Christened with its unusual acronym, ORFE was officially born, and like its antecedent programs in the civil engineering department, it quickly attracted a following. One of the department’s earliest graduates was Nate Faust ’02, who declared for ORFE as soon as it became a major. “It seemed to be this perfect intersection of math, finance, and economics,” Faust says. “It was a little bit more mathematically rigorous than econ, but less so than the other engineering [degrees] and more applicable, in my opinion, than many other engineering tracks.” Faust went on to co-found Jet.com in 2014, an e-commerce company that was acquired by Walmart in 2016; he was the senior vice president for Walmart’s domestic e-commerce supply chain and logistics department until 2020.

Faust says that he applied many aspects of the ORFE skillset to his e-commerce career, where he sought to optimize steps in the supply chain between inventory, fulfillment, and

“A lot of e-commerce players don’t look at it as a three-part optimization problem. The great thing that ORFE brings, as a mindset, is that ability to look at things from a more crosscutting lens — being able to dive in deep and get into the details when it does matter.”



— NATE FAUST ’02

transportation. According to Faust, within the e-commerce field these three aspects were typically siloed so that each one’s optimization came at the expense of the others. For example, a Walmart warehouse might be located in a rural area where workers could be paid less and facility costs were lower, but that might be very far from the urban area that the warehouse served, therefore driving up shipping costs.

Another factor was where companies inventoried different types of products. For example, apparel was lighter in weight and didn’t take up as much space relative to other product categories. And since clothing styles changed in demand by season, it made sense to put those products in a more centralized location, rather than rotate out supply at multiple warehouses continuously. On the flip side, because everyday consumable products such as toilet paper and soap were always in demand and tended to be heavier, one wouldn’t want to ship them far because of prohibitive costs; instead, these would ideally be stocked in warehouses closer to urban centers.

“A lot of e-commerce players don’t look at it as a three-part optimization problem,” Faust says. “The great thing that ORFE brings, as a mindset, is that ability to look at things from a more crosscutting lens — being able to dive in deep and get into the details when it does matter.”

That intersectional lens could even be brought to bear on subjects that were not traditionally connected to probability and logistics. Milkman was an ORFE major and an American studies minor, so her senior thesis needed to incorporate both fields. In a much-publicized project, she ended up using 1990s fiction published in *The New Yorker* to test an assumption made by humanists that contemporary literary fiction tended to be autobiographical. From a sample size of 250 short stories, she classified the texts by their protagonists’ race and gender, as well as other elements, like the perspective of the story (first or third person) and its themes, and then compared these data points with each author’s individual background. Milkman

discovered that, yes, people wrote about their own groups and experiences more than other perspectives. However, she also found that “women and minorities were much more likely to write about the dominant group [for example, straight white men] than the dominant group was likely to write about minorities.”

“We step out of our skin more if we’re more underrepresented, which was also really interesting,” Milkman says.

Milkman, who serves on the ORFE advisory council alongside Faust, touts ORFE’s interdisciplinary possibilities. “Being a quantitative, souped-up person is really useful in this day and age,” Milkman says. “I guess you can’t be a curator at a museum with an ORFE degree, though probably there is one.”

Other students have researched topics that are either more traditional to operations research or followed the yellow-brick road to Silicon Valley. Ben Budway, a graduate student in the department, conducts research on the probable route a grain of pollen takes through the air.

Meanwhile, Bhatti took a semester off from Princeton to sell Peloton his startup Ghost Pacer, which developed augmented-reality sunglasses for distance runners. Bhatti’s ORFE thesis, on methods for preventing large language model hallucinations in the patent-drafting process, was part of a Princeton startup called Paragon, formed with computer science majors Ethan Haque ’25 and Claire Shin ’25. Tradespace, an AI intellectual property management platform, acquired Paragon in a seven-figure deal in November; Bhatti is now a vice president at the company.

Occasionally, ORFE majors have brought their own backgrounds to research problems that surprised even their professors. Naman Jain ’17 grew up in a Dubai family in the diamond business, an industry that had been vexed by the process by which diamonds were rated in terms of quality. In his family’s experience, stones were sent to a central agency that charged a hefty fee and took weeks to evaluate an individual diamond in terms of the traditional “four C’s”: color, clarity, carat, and cut. Jain hypothesized that a facial recognition algorithm could be repurposed to rate the diamonds based on a dataset of high-resolution photos. With software based on this algorithm, he could cut out the middleman in the form of the rating agency, saving his parents’ business time and money. But it was only after Jain produced a dataset sourced from his family’s business that Ahmadi told Jain that the project was feasible. In the end, Jain’s algorithm “was almost as accurate as what the experts predicted,” says Ahmadi, Jain’s adviser. “So that was pretty cool.”

In 2020, IBM came out with its own product that superseded Jain’s prototype, but still Jain felt validated that he had anticipated a real need in the market. Now a partner at the investment firm Millennium, Jain has given back by setting up a travel fund named for his late grandfather to support ORFE students interested in pursuing summer internships abroad. “Sometimes it can be difficult while you’re a student to find summer roles or experiences where you can really apply what you’re learning,” Jain says, noting that securing out-of-industry

summer placements might be more challenging for ORFE majors, given that the department’s scope of study remains opaque to prospective employers who might never have heard of such a discipline.

In recent years, ORFE has also increased its visibility on campus, producing two valedictorians, Nicholas Johnson ’20, Princeton’s first Black valedictorian, and Taishi Nakase ’21.

Challenges remain, with demand often exceeding capacity. In 2023, *The Daily Princetonian* reported that over-enrollment in the graduate program had led to a shortage of advisers, leading *Prince* writer Olivia Sanchez ’26 to quip that it had been a “failure in a different optimization problem — the optimal number of students to accept.”

For ORFE faculty, resources remain a concern, particularly as the Trump administration’s cuts to research funding and grants trickle down to all corners of the University. “I personally hope that we can recruit more faculty just to keep up with the demand from the student side and keep our classes smaller,” Ahmadi says.

Despite the rapid leaps made by the AI boom, ORFE has

tried to keep up with the times. To build up its statistics offerings, Jianqing Fan joined the department in 2003 and helped establish the Center for Statistics and Machine Learning in 2012. “That is a testament [to the fact] that we are keeping ourselves modern,” Soner says.

While they mentor students, ORFE faculty have continued to engage with real-world problems. Sircar and Carmona’s research into the demand and performance of electric grids has culminated in the Princeton research group Operational Risk Financialization of Electricity Under Stochasticity, or ORFEUS — perhaps channeling another figure of Greek mythology, the musician who lost his love Eurydice to the underworld.

In Sircar’s course on energy and commodity markets, students use software called Vatic to model electricity usage and pricing on the Texas grid, particularly as demand soars with the growth of energy-sucking AI data centers. “As there is greater demand and prices are going through the roof, what’s going to happen to the grid?” Sircar asks. “Hyperscalers [giant cloud computing companies] would be willing to pay anything for electricity. You and I are not.”

This, Sircar argues, begins to generate troubling dilemmas. “Suppose there is a crunch, on a really hot day in August. Is a data center going to turn off their AI training so that air conditioning can run in homes? Or will they say, ‘No, the business is too important. But we’ll pay you \$1,000 per megawatt hour.’”

Perhaps, contrary to Çınlar’s seminal lecture, in the age of AI we are no longer only under the spell of Tyche, the goddess of chance, but contending with a more troubling paradigm: Pandora, releasing unforeseen consequences from her deceptively simple box. ■

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



PRINCETONIANS

ALUMNI STORIES AND PERSPECTIVES



Memorial Milestone

This month marks the 25th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, when four hijacked airplanes were used to carry out the deadliest terror assault in U.S. history. Each year, the University holds a 9/11 Service of Remembrance to honor the 14 Princetonians who died that day. During the service at the 9/11 Memorial Garden, which has 14 stars, their names are read aloud while a bell is tolled. Their names are: William Caswell '75, Robert Cruikshank '58, Robert Deraney '80, Philip Guza '72, Christopher Ingrassia '95, Karen Klitzman '84, Charles McCrann '68, Catherine MacRae '00, Robert McIlvaine '97, Christopher Mello '98, Joshua Rosenthal '81, John Schroeder '92, Jeffrey Wiener '90, and Martin Wohlforth '76.

THOMAS LEONARD



SEPT. 11, 2001

The Impact of 9/11

Princetonians who were students or recent graduates during the attacks on how that day shaped their careers

BY CARLETT SPIKE

LIKE MANY AMERICANS who lived through the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, Bridget Nolan '02 remembers the day vividly. It was a beautiful sunny Tuesday on Princeton's campus with classes set to begin two days later.

Then a senior, Nolan was asleep in her room in 1901 Hall when two hijacked planes hit the World Trade Center, but it wasn't long before a classmate frantically knocked on her door to tell her about the terrorist attack that was unfolding. She joined several others in a friend's room in Foulke Hall, where they watched on TV along with Americans across the country and around the world, as news of another two hijacked planes emerged.

"I was panicked, obviously devastated, worried," Nolan recalls. "I had no idea what was happening." It reminded her of another experience four years earlier.

As a senior in high school, she represented the United States as an

Irish dancer at the 1998 World Scholar-Athlete Games in Belfast, Ireland. While there, a car bomb planted by the Real Irish Republican Army killed 29 people and injured more than 200 others. "In very important ways, my most formative experiences were bookended by terrorist attacks," Nolan says. Living through them led her to join the CIA as a counterterrorism analyst and later to become a professor of security studies.

Sept. 11 changed everyone's life to some degree, including in seemingly trivial ways such as making heightened airport security and long checkpoint lines the norm. Like Nolan, some Princetonians who were students or

SELFLESS SERVICE

Will Bardenwerper '98 in 2006 in Anbar Province, Iraq. Right: After working a few years in the office of the secretary of defense, Bardenwerper is now a writer.

recent graduates at the time found their careers profoundly shaped by the attacks. Now, 25 years later, they can see how that day altered their futures.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth '03 has cited 9/11 as a pivotal moment for him. It confirmed his choice, made four months earlier, to join Army ROTC while at Princeton. "From that day forward, I felt an unshakeable call to action, a duty to defend our sacred homeland with everything I had," he said during a 9/11 remembrance ceremony at the Pentagon in 2025.

After the attacks, war seemed inevitable and the military became an obvious choice for many. Will Bardenwerper '98 majored in English at Princeton and was working in finance in New York City the day the Twin Towers fell. About a week later he quit his job to join the military.

"It really was me observing the selfless service of the NYPD and the FDNY and even volunteer fire departments from all across America," he says. "I remember for days and weeks afterward, you'd see fire trucks coming from all over the place to go down to ground zero and help with the recovery efforts."

He spent about five years in the military serving as an Airborne Ranger-qualified infantry officer in Iraq. Bardenwerper saw his time in the

military as a duty, not a career. Once he was out, he returned to school to study international relations at Johns Hopkins, worked for a few years in the office of the secretary of defense, and is now a writer.

Jon di Cristina '08, who entered Princeton in 1998, recalls trying to donate blood the day of the attacks at a hospital near campus. He just wanted to feel "like I was taking some kind of action."

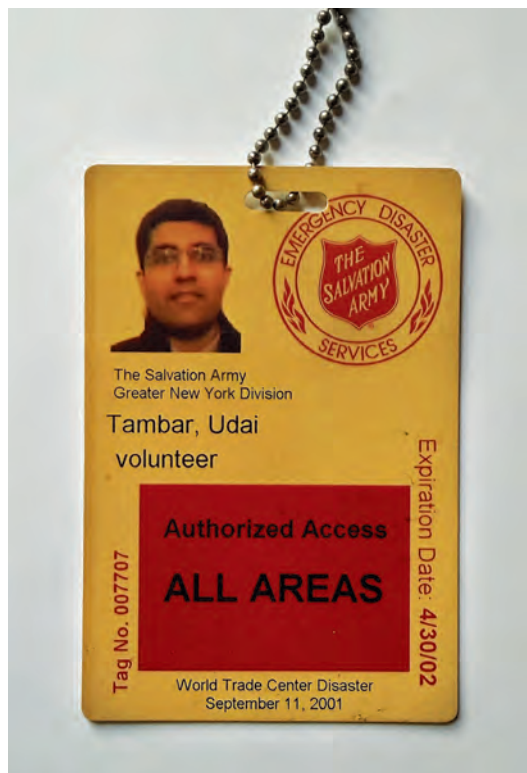
He had just returned from a gap year, but by December 2001 di Cristina left Princeton again and returned home to Modesto, California, to join the Air Force. He started basic training a few weeks later at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.

Fighting in the War on Terror was supposed to be a huge moment of importance and purpose, di Cristina says, but things didn't pan out. He served as a cryptologic linguist, translating intercepted communications from Latin America, stationed in San Antonio. The experience was humbling, and it forced him to grow up and realize what he ultimately wanted out of life. When he left the military in 2006, he returned to Princeton to finish his degree and is now a lawyer specializing in municipal law.

"I gave the military four and a half years of my life," he says. "I'm proud of what I did, but no, I did not see combat. I did not put my life on the line."

When Udai Tambar '02 started at Princeton's School of Public and International Affairs, he had planned a career in education and youth development. But after the attacks, he became determined to help New York City rebuild. He didn't know who to call or where to turn. "The infrastructure to respond was slowly getting built," he says.

He eventually connected with Jack Krauskopf '65, who was working with the 9/11 United Services Group, which was newly formed to coordinate services and relief efforts. Tambar started as an intern and joined full time when he graduated.



SURREAL SITUATION

Udai Tambar '02 visited ground zero as part of his work with the 9/11 United Services Group, formed in the aftermath of the attacks to support families of victims.

"The work still needed to get done," he says.

The team was small, so his responsibilities varied from connecting the families of victims with social services to advocating for an expansion of eligibility requirements for federal assistance programs. They also visited ground zero, to see the impact firsthand.

"I was part of something special," he says. Tambar worked there for about two years before returning to policy and education work. He's now president and CEO of New York Junior Tennis & Learning.

For some Princetonians, their careers were already set in motion, but 9/11 had an impact. Tunisia Owens '03 was recruited to join the State Department as a diplomat, and in exchange her education would be funded by the government. It was a fearful time, she recalls, but she never considered changing course. "I was so young at the time that it was just like this path was laid out for me," she says. As

a master of public affairs student, she took classes that covered torture warrants and terrorism tactics.

During her five years at the State Department, Owens worked with American Citizen Services and in Kuwait as a cultural attaché, among her various assignments. She says all her experiences were filtered through the lens of 9/11, as many policies and procedures were created in response. Once she completed her service commitment, she left the State Department. She is now a social justice lawyer at the Alameda County Community Food Bank.

Christian "C.J." Diegel '01's situation was similar in that he needed money for school, and he turned to an Air Force ROTC scholarship. He was preparing for an exam at Goodfellow Air Force

Base in Texas on the morning of 9/11. He recalls fellow soldiers trying to get out of the military when they realized the attack meant war, but it invigorated Diegel.

"I knew that I wanted to be involved in the fight," he says. "I knew that I wanted to contribute. I wanted to be part of the action, and I was." Diegel worked in special operations and was deployed five times. His active duty ended in 2005, and he stayed in the reserves for eight more years. After, he worked as a defense contractor and is now a financial adviser for Wilde Wealth.

When thinking back to that day 25 years ago, Diegel says Princeton prepared him to serve. "We were in the right place at the right time with the right attitudes," he says. But all these years later, he and the others who spoke for this story worry about where the country is headed and whether their sacrifices have truly made a difference. "Sept. 11 had a huge impact on us as a country, and unfortunately, I feel like we didn't fully learn the lesson," Owens says.

Diegel adds: "I do think it's only a matter of time before something else like that happens again." ■



LELAND KO '20 PERFORMS AT THE QUEEN ELISABETH COMPETITION.

LELAND KO '20

Earning a Top Spot in a Renowned Music Competition

'This is kind of like our Olympics,' Ko says

BY ANNA MAZARAKIS '16

WHILE SOME TENS OF thousands of Princetonians were making their final preparations to return to campus and see old friends at Reunions this year, Leland Ko '20 was preparing for something very different: to go off the grid for a week.

"I go on Friday into isolation, and then the very next time that we all appear in public is for the performance," Ko says. The show in Brussels was the final round of the Queen Elisabeth Competition, one of the most prestigious and rigorous competitions for musicians in the world. "This is kind of like our Olympics."

Ko began playing the cello when he was only 3 years old and grew up playing in Boston's robust youth orchestra scene. He made a deal with his parents to get

a liberal arts education, so he studied German literature and received a music performance certificate at Princeton before pursuing a career as a cellist by studying at The Juilliard School and New England Conservatory.

In the years since graduation, he has won first prize at the Concert Artists Guild Louis and Susan Meisel Competition, the Walter W. Naumburg International Cello Competition, and the Concours Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal, to name a few.

Next on the list was the Queen Elisabeth Competition, which celebrated its 75th anniversary this year, though the cello portion only marked its third iteration after being introduced in 2017. Ko knew this would be his last chance to compete given the 30-year-old age limit — he celebrated his 28th

birthday while preparing for the final round.

"I may never feel something like this ever again," Ko says of the competition atmosphere. "I get nervous regularly, but not like this. But also, I'm about as excited as I've ever been for something, as well, so two things can be true at once."

The competition attracted applications from 185 cellists, and 12 made it to the final round, which required the cellists to perform two concertos with the Belgian National Orchestra.

One of the concertos was written for the competition and had to be learned in isolation without the competitors ever hearing what it was meant to sound like and without the help of teachers or the internet. The last time Ko went so long without his phone, he says, was during Outdoor Action.

"It's going to be a special experience no matter what," Ko said leading into the final. "You bond with everyone. I guess you're competitors, so to speak, but you're all on the same sinking ship."

"There are people that I know who are also in this final who I would buy a ticket to see them anywhere in the world play concerts. If they win, then we all win. Everybody wins because there's just more music."

Ko was awarded the third place Count de Launoit Prize after playing for more than 50 minutes for both his final concerto performances. In the weeks after the competition final, he presented concerts across Belgium with the other top place finishers. Though he has already performed concerts in notable venues like Carnegie Hall in New York and Maison Symphonique in Montréal, the Queen Elisabeth Competition prize should lead to even more opportunities for Ko.

"You hope that this kind of result or this kind of visibility opens doors and that people will ask you to play in many different places, but that can take years to flesh out," Ko says. "My main duty is still only to keep trying to improve, bit by bit, every day in the practice room, and to keep consuming music so that I'm ready for anything." ■



MELAT BEKELE '24

INSPIRING PRINCETONIANS

Rebuilding an Ethiopian and Eritrean Community

Melat Bekele '24 wants kids in Rochester, New York, to experience the cultural connection of her childhood

BY SOPHIA STEELE '23

GROWING UP IN ROCHESTER, New York, Melat Bekele '24 looked forward to the Ethiopian and Eritrean community's annual picnics and New Year celebrations where youth and families gathered. Outside of those celebrations, however, opportunities for connection were limited.

"In Rochester, there's not one place to bring everyone together," Bekele says. "A lot of the parents' ideology is 'stay with their own ethnic group.' There are a lot of people here we would never ever talk to just because our parents are like, 'Don't do that,' or because they taught them one way."

To bridge these divides, Bekele founded the Habesha Association for Success and Beyond (HASAB), a nonprofit that empowers Ethiopian and Eritrean kids and young adults through mentorship, leadership development, and cultural programming. The organization uses the term "Habesha" to create a space for people who may identify more broadly with the Ethiopian and Eritrean diaspora.

The idea grew out of conversations with parents seeking advice on helping their children navigate applying to college admissions and growing up between cultures. After graduation, Bekele and several friends turned those conversations into a mentorship program.

Since then, HASAB has partnered with several local universities and organizations, including the Rochester Institute of Technology's Eritrean and Ethiopian Student Association, with whom it hosted its first Diaspora Dialogue, exploring what it means for Gen Z to navigate identity, family, and friendship as a diaspora.

"Not only Ethiopians and Eritreans have been coming to our events," Bekele says. "We always encourage people to bring a friend, and a lot of university students bring friends. That turns into some of the best discussions."

At Princeton, Bekele developed the leadership skills she would later bring back

to Rochester. She served on the executive boards of the Pan-African Student Association and the Dorobucci African dance group, helped revive the Ethiopian and Eritrean Student Association, and studied and worked abroad in Kenya, Ghana, and South Africa.

"Having studied African studies and politics, I learned the importance of infrastructure and community," says Bekele. "When I came home, I wanted to encourage and inspire the younger generations who didn't have access to the same resources and opportunities I had at Princeton."

"Princeton really opened my eyes to the world," Bekele says. "It showed me the importance of mentorship and alumni networks. When you come back for Reunions, you see how deeply people care about supporting one another. I thought, 'Why can't I bring that kind of spirit here?'"

"Being Black at Princeton is a unique experience, and especially being first-generation and low-income, there were so many things I wasn't aware of before I came," Bekele says. "I was able to build a community for myself and acquire skills to become a leader. I learned that leadership is also a learning process — bringing people together around a common goal."

HASAB is exploring creative programming as another way to help young people connect with their culture and one another. Most recently, the organization hosted its first public workshop at Elevate Dance Center in Rochester, where more than 20 young people registered to learn traditional Eritrean and Ethiopian dance.

Looking ahead, Bekele hopes to introduce additional programming, including art exhibitions and film screenings, while growing HASAB's reach throughout upstate New York.

"I'm proud that we've gotten people excited again," she says. "You can actually do something — you can go and make something of yourself." **P**

NOMINATE OTHER INSPIRING ALUMNI.

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

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MEMORIALS



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THE CLASS OF 1947 CALVIN TOMKINS II '47

Tad died March 20, 2026, in Middletown, R.I.



He grew up in West Orange, N.J., and prepped at Berkshire School in Sheffield, Mass. Following one semester at Princeton he joined the Navy and returned to major in English and graduate in 1948.

After a few years at *Newsweek*, he joined *The New Yorker* in 1960, working there the remainder of his life. Tad noted that he and *The New Yorker* both turned 100 in 1925. In the Class of '47 50th-reunion yearbook, Tad shared his love for Princeton, stating, "R.P. Blackmur's Creative Writing course at Princeton solidified my urge to be a writer."

Tad is survived by his wife, Dodie Kazanjian; a son, Spencer; three daughters, Anne Baffert, Susan Seidl, and Sarah Flohre '04; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. The class extends deepest sympathy to Tad's family, friends, and colleagues.

THE CLASS OF 1949 RICHARD G. LONG '49

Richard, a devoted public servant, scholar, and lifelong learner, died March 8, 2026, at his home. He was 98.



Born Dec. 30, 1927, in Chicago, Richard majored in political science at Princeton then earned an M.A. from

Johns Hopkins in 1954. He served as a crypto analyst for the Army from 1950 to 1952 in the U.S. and Japan. In 1955, Richard met and married Anne Priscilla Alling, enjoying 71 years of marriage; she died Jan. 11, 2026. In 1956, he joined the Foreign Service, serving nearly 25 years in Pakistan, Algeria, France, and Washington, D.C.

After retiring from the State Department in 1980, Richard worked at the Pentagon, then earned a Ph.D. in political science from George Washington University in 1995. He taught political science courses at several colleges before retiring to Myersville, Md.

Richard was an avid naturalist, hiker, and

golfer, enjoying the outdoors well into his 90s. He was also an avid reader and followed national and global politics throughout his life. He is survived by four children, Conrad Long, Kathryn Larson, Barbara Long-Bonadio, and Nathan Long; one grandchild, Harvee Bonadio; and two nephews, Craig Long and Steve Long.

THE CLASS OF 1950 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, graduating in 1952.

Roger then joined Motorola Inc. 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 Canaan, 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 1951 CHESTER S. LOGAN '51

Chet graduated from Chattanooga High School in Tennessee and was drafted into the Army on V-E Day (Victory in Europe). He served a year in Italy helping rebuild the phone system after the war and then came to Princeton, earning an AB in classics. He was a member of the Republican Club, the United World Federalists, and Court Club. He



roomed with J.F. Gardiner and J.H. Peters.

He had a successful career in the New York publishing industry, retiring as vice president of human resources for Harper and Row (predecessor to HarperCollins) in 1985. After "retiring," Chet consulted for several years and then became involved in numerous charitable boards, including Teatown Lake Reservation and Constitution Island Association, as well as remaining heavily involved in his church.

Chet died Feb. 19, 2026, one month shy of his 99th birthday. He was predeceased by his wife and kindergarten sweetheart, Auralie. Chet is survived by his three sons and their wives, James and Jean, Walter and Mary, and Andrew and Pam; 10 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren; and a nephew, Bobby.

THE CLASS OF 1953 DONALD R. CONNER '53

Don was born in Pittsburgh, Pa., and came to Princeton after attending Shady Side



Academy. He joined Charter Club and majored in history, writing his thesis on William Clark of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

After graduation, Don was drafted and spent the next two years in El Paso, Texas. Returning to civilian life, he worked briefly for a small electronics firm and then for 20 years for Penn Mutual Life Insurance, living for many years in Lawrenceville, N.J. He retired after serving for 37 years with AT&T.

Don is survived by three children, three stepdaughters, 13 grandchildren, and several great grandchildren.

GEORGE ALLAN FORSYTH '53 Allan died Feb. 5, 2026.

He was born Feb. 17, 1931, in Manhattan but grew up in Princeton. In high school at Phillips Exeter Academy, Allan discovered his passion for poetry. He wrote recently: "I can hear a song or a poem spoken aloud



two or three times and it's in my memory for good. It's wonderful. It gives me great joy. That has sustained me throughout my life." Allan's friends and family recall his exceptional ability to recite passages of Victorian poetry, Shakespeare plays, and other texts he'd read decades before.

After graduating from Princeton, Allan served in the Army for two years as a photographer of above-ground nuclear weapons tests in Nevada. He also worked as a radiation dosimetrist, conducting crucial measurements of soldiers' radiation exposure. Decades later, Allan helped form the National Association of Atomic Veterans to ensure that victims of radiation poisoning at the test site were admitted to

VA Hospitals.

After the Army, Allan moved to New York and began a professional career as an editor, first of popular magazines, including *Show*, later of college textbooks for McGraw-Hill and Worth Publishers, and finally as a freelance consultant.

Along with poetry and family, Allan loved aviation and dance. In the 1990s, with his cousin Adam Hochschild, Allan wrote and edited *Airplanes, Women, and Song: Memoirs of a Fighter Ace, Test Pilot, and Adventurer*, about the aviation pioneer Boris Sergievsky. For many years, Allan supported the New York City Ballet and served on the board of Groove With Me, a free dance school for girls in East Harlem.

Predeceased by his wife, Susan, Allan is survived by their daughter, Katherine; their son, Andrew; and their grandson, Aidan Gearey.

SAMUEL Y. GIBBON JR. '53

Sam was born in Philadelphia and came to Princeton after studying at Episcopal



Academy. He joined Cottage Club and majored in the Special Program in the Humanities. His thesis topic was "The Towneley Cycle of Mystery Plays Seen as the Culmination of the Development of the English Drama from its Origin in Medieval Church Ritual."

He became a producer, known for *The Electric Company* (1971), *Sesame Street* (1969), and *The Voyage of the Mimi* (1984). In 2006, Gibbon received the Corporation for Public Broadcasting's Fred Rogers Award for excellence in educational media.

Sam died Feb. 16, 2026. He is survived by his wife, Carol, and their two children.

IMMO F.H. STABREIT '53

Immo was born in Rathenow, Brandenburg, Prussia, Germany, and grew up in Berlin.



He came to Princeton at the beginning of his junior year after studying at the Realschule and the Schadowschule in Berlin.

He joined Charter Club, majored in history, and wrote his thesis on "The National Socialist Party and the German Internationals in the Years 1929-1933." He then studied law at the Free University of Berlin and Ruprecht Karls University of Heidelberg and earned a Ph.D. in 1963.

From 1964 to 1966, Stabreit was first secretary at the Foreign Office in Bonn. He then served as first secretary Department of the Soviet Union from 1966 to 1973 and served as deputy head of the Soviet Union office in Bonn, from 1974 to 1975. He studied at the Advanced Study Program at Harvard

University. Immo served in the International Energy Agency in Paris until 1978. He was West German and German ambassador to South Africa from 1987 to 1992, ambassador to the United States from 1992 to 1995, and ambassador to France from 1995 to 1998. He was a member of the Advisory Board of the Global Panel Foundation, a respected NGO that works behind the scenes in crisis areas around the world.

In 1983, Stabreit became head of department for Foreign Affairs. He retired in 2002 and died Nov. 1, 2025.

THE CLASS OF 1954

JULIEN ENGEL '54

Jules died Feb. 21, 2026.

A child survivor of the Holocaust, Jules



prepared at Collège de Garçons in Cannes, France, and at Eastside High School in Paterson, N.J., where he was active in publications.

He majored in the Woodrow Wilson School, served as a research assistant in the Center for Research in World Political Institutions, was a member of Whig-Clio and the Varsity Debate Panel, joined Terrace Club, and served on the sophomore and senior class councils.

After two years at Oxford and "a ridiculous two years in the U.S. Army," he embarked on a lifetime of work in international development, particularly in West Africa. He joined the National Academy of Sciences' Board on Science and Technology for International Development and served as a consultant to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and elsewhere. His later work focused on environmental policy across several African countries.

From 1966, Jules lived in Washington, D.C. In 2003, he married Anne-Marie Munzberg, a professor of French at Georgetown University. In his retirement, Jules preserved testimony in the Fortunoff Archive at Yale University about those who saved his life during the war. He also instigated and provided information for the book *The Marcel Network* by Fred Coleman '60.

Jules is survived by his wife, Anne-Marie; her two daughters, Miriam and Nathalie; his brother George; nephew David; and niece Kathy.

THE CLASS OF 1955

STANLEY N. RUBIN '55

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

Arriving at Princeton with the class, it took him very little time to create and establish his jazz band, The Tigertown Five, as the favorite musical entertainment on Prospect Street and many other places. The original Five included classmate Rich Herbruck at the drums. While Stan was



still an undergraduate, The Tigertown Five played a sellout at Carnegie Hall and later played at the Newport Jazz Festival. A year after graduation, the band was

invited to, and played at, the festivities around the wedding of Grace Kelly and Prince Rainier in Monaco.

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

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

Stan is survived by his wife of 55 years, Judy; their daughter, Jennifer; his children from a prior marriage, Deborah, Jonathan and his wife Ewelina, and Barrie; and grandson Dylan Stevens '15.

THE CLASS OF 1956

PETER GRIER FRECK '56

Peter died Sept. 15, 2025.

The son of Stanley Grier Freck 1919, he



came to Princeton from Hastings High School in New York, joined Colonial Club, majored in aeronautical engineering, and served as a stalwart in the University

Marching Band — making it to the cover of *Sports Illustrated* in October 1955 as he led the band into Palmer Stadium. Pete earned an MSE at Princeton and an MBA from Harvard followed by a distinguished career, first as a designer at Douglas Aircraft, then as deputy director of the systems evaluation division at the Institute for Defense Analysis (IDA) and followed by director of Army programs for the MITRE Corp., which provided critical engineering support for the U.S. Army.

A man of deep faith, Peter served as a deacon at Burke (Va.) Presbyterian Church. Always adventurous, he checked off his last bucket list item with a trip to Africa with his sons for his 90th birthday.

Peter was predeceased by his wife of 54 years Joan Masin Freck in 2012. He is survived by sons Stanley '82 and his wife Christine, Rob, and John and his wife Amy; and seven grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1957**TOM JOEL FARER '57**

Although born in New York City, Tom came to Princeton from Manchester Central High School in New Hampshire.



At Princeton he majored in the Woodrow Wilson School, foreshadowing his later career accomplishments.

He joined Campus Club, for which he played touch football and golf, and was president of the Whig-Clio and Wilson School Debate Panels, and the Princeton Senate. He also participated in WPRU and the Speakers Bureau. Senior year he roomed with George Fedden, Bob Miles, and Ed Said.

Tom was a Fulbright Scholar at Glasgow University, U.K., and then received his LL.B. from Harvard Law School. He was a clerk for Judge Learned Hand of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in New York, followed by stints with the Agency for International Development, the Department of Defense, the government of Somalia, and the firm of Davis Polk. Then he became a professor at Columbia and Rutgers, followed by a period as president of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission and then president of the University of New Mexico. He served as a professor at American University in Washington, D.C., and then became dean of the University of Denver Law School.

Tom wrote several academic papers and books, including most recently *Migration and Integration: The Case for Liberalism with Borders*.

He married Mika Ignatieff, a graduate of McGill University. They had two children, Paola and Dima. Tom died March 3, 2025. His wife and children and their families survive him.

MORRIS C. KELLETT '57

Morris, the son of Roderick Kellett 1915 and Dorothy Clothier Kellett, came to



Princeton from Deerfield Academy. He majored in history, served in Naval ROTC, was president of the Right Wing Club, and vice president of the 21 Club. He

took his meals at Cottage Club, where he played several intramural sports and served as secretary of the club his senior year. That year he roomed with George Fowlkes and Mike Erdman and had a temporary expulsion due to parking his (illegal) car in Dean of the Chapel Gordon's garage.

Following graduation Morris served in the Marine Corps in Paris, Hong Kong, British North Borneo, Taiwan, and Okinawa, and attained the rank of captain. Ever mischievous and fun-loving, he and classmate and fellow Marine John Thomas commandeered an antique, but

serviceable, troop carrier and sank it off the coast of Taiwan in 1959. Leaving the Marines in 1960, he earned a law degree at Penn and joined Dechert, Price & Rhoads in Philadelphia. He specialized in real estate and corporate law, became a partner, and retired in 2000.

Morris was introduced to Anne O. Bacon on a cruise with Mike Erdman and later married her. They had two children, Whitney and Roderick. They established a home in Villanova, Pa., and summered at their home in Seal Harbor, Maine. He served on the Princeton Schools Committee, the Lower Merion (Pa.) planning and zoning boards, and as president of the Seal Harbor Club.

Anne, his wife of 64 years, died Feb. 10, 2026, and Morris died Feb. 20, 2026. He is survived by his two children and their families.

LAWRENCE C. WOOD '57

Larry died Jan. 30, 2026. The son of Francis C. Wood 1922, and nephew of



C. Tyler Wood Jr. 1921, he came to Princeton from the Haverford School. Larry majored in biology, and he was president of the Pre-

Medical Society. A numeral winner on the freshman squash team, he later joined Quadrangle Club, for which he played on numerous intramural sports teams, and he sang in the Chapel Choir and the Glee Club.

Following graduation he earned a medical degree at Penn, had an internship at the University of Penn Hospital, and a residency at University of Virginia Hospital. While in medical school he married Emma M. Hollingsworth, and they had two children, Lawrence Jr. and Clinton. Then came service as an internal medicine specialist at the U.S. Army Hospital in Landstuhl, Germany, where he attained the rank of captain.

After his military service, Larry completed training and performed research at Boston City Hospital. He left research to become a clinician in the thyroid unit at Mass General Hospital. After a divorce, he married Shirley Jacobsen and they had one child, Marianna. He founded the Thyroid Foundation of America, founded and served as president of the Thyroid Federation International, and helped to found Internal Medicine Associates.

Larry published two books, *Your Thyroid: A Home Reference*, and a biography of his father, *The Life and Legacy of Francis C. Wood, M.D.* For recreation and after retirement he loved fishing and sang with numerous church and secular choirs.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley; his former spouse, Emma; his sister, Elizabeth; and his three children and their families.

THE CLASS OF 1960**SIDNEY R. HOMAN JR. '60**

A South Philadelphia native, Sidney came to Princeton from Abingdon High School there,



keen to study Shakespeare and work in the theater. He attained both goals with us and continued working at them throughout his life.

Here, he added Glee Club, Chapel Choir, editing the *Bric-a-Brac* and *Princeton Tiger*, life at Terrace Club, theater activities, several sports, jazz piano, and majored in English.

Sidney earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in English at Harvard in 1965 and launched his academic career as assistant professor at the University of Illinois, producing his first book (on *Midsummer Night's Dream*) and numerous articles on Shakespeare and Renaissance drama. Moving to Boston University in 1969 as associate professor, he continued his dual track, then going on to the University of Florida as full professor in 1976. He continued writing, teaching, acting, and directing for more than 10 years after his formal retirement in 2000.

Sidney was named University of Florida's Teacher/Scholar of the Year. He was recognized for his teaching, his own books on Shakespeare, Beckett, comedy acting, writing comedy for the theater, editing many books and articles on the theater, and for his own work in comedy performance and directing.

Sidney is survived by his wife, Norma, four children, and their families.

ROY G. STOHLMAN II '60

Roy died March 14, 2026, in his old hometown of Appleton, Wis.



Roy was born in Lincoln, Neb., moved to Appleton in his early years, and graduated from Appleton Senior High School, where he was active in forensics, dramatics and sports.

At Princeton, Roy pursued American history and pre-law studies at the Woodrow Wilson School and joined Charter Club and Whig-Clio. He then earned an L.L.B. degree at Harvard in 1963 and went on to work in government with the Federal Home Loan Board in Washington, D.C., through the early 1970s.

Roy then returned to Appleton and in time established his own private law practice there. He served his country as a member of the Army National Guard. He was also an accomplished golfer, bridge player, world traveler, and an avid reader.

Roy is survived by his brother-in-law, Jack Gillespie.

THE CLASS OF 1961

ROBERT G. FULLER JR. '61

In a sad and tragic death, Bob was killed Feb. 14, 2026, in Cogir of Potomac, his



assisted living home in Maryland. A Cogir employee has been arrested and charged with first-degree murder.

Born in Boston, Bob came to us from Milton Academy. At Princeton, he majored in politics, ate at Elm Club, was a member of the Pre-Law Society, and roomed with Vern Close and Gardner Heidrick. Then followed a law degree at Penn and, returning to his family's roots, entering practice in Augusta, Maine, at Pierce Atwood.

After leaving the law he managed several family businesses and wrote several crime novels. He had a parallel career as a judge advocate general officer in the Navy Reserves, retiring as a captain. Bob is described in the news as a "quiet philanthropist" who made several million-dollar gifts to nonprofits in the Augusta region.

Bob lost his first wife to cancer, and he was predeceased by his second wife, Moira, in 2018. He and Moira had moved to Potomac earlier for healthcare reasons and to be near her daughter. He is survived by his lifelong friend Linda Buttrick, with whom he spent his final years; Linda's family; stepchildren from his second marriage and their families; and his brother, Randolph.

THE CLASS OF 1962

ROBERT F. LEE '62

Bob, a lifetime resident of Bermuda, died Dec. 13, 2025.



He came to Princeton from Ridley College, Ontario. At Princeton, Bob majored in English. Married after his sophomore year, he did not graduate with our class.

Instead, he returned to Bermuda, and after briefly working in banking, started his own business. In 1983, he returned to Princeton as a senior. He lived in town for nine months, attended lectures, studied in Firestone, and graduated in May 1984, just two weeks before his daughter Elizabeth finished her undergraduate degree at the University of Edinburgh.

For more than 30 years, Bob owned and ran Pegasus Antique Maps and Prints. He kept physically active his entire life, from ice hockey in high school and his first years at Princeton to rugby, tennis, and skiing in later years. He began rowing in his late 70s.

He and his second wife, Barbara, lived in an 18th century house in Bermuda, with a second home in South Carolina. They traveled widely both as a couple and with their children.

Bob is survived by his wife of 52 years, Barbara; his four children, Elizabeth, Sean, Timothy, and Christopher; and seven grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1963

JOHN H. HAWES '63

John died April 3, 2026. He was a foreign service officer with worldwide postings and senior roles in the U.S. State Department.



John came to Princeton from Glen Rock (N.J.) High School, where he graduated with highest honors and a National Merit Scholarship. He was managing editor of *The Daily Princetonian* and pursued international interests that would shape his life's work. His degree was in public and international affairs; he wrote his thesis on "Problems of Economic Development Planning in Ghana and the Ivory Coast"; and he received the DeWitt Clinton Poole Memorial Scholarship to support research in West Africa. He graduated *magna cum laude*.

John's three decades in the foreign service included postings in Naples, Addis Ababa, Calcutta, New Delhi, Brussels (NATO), Vienna, Rabat, and Washington, D.C. His roles included deputy assistant secretary of state for politico-military affairs, head of the U.S. delegation to U.S.-Soviet talks on chemical weapons nonproliferation, and leading the negotiations for the Open Skies Treaty to advance international cooperation on arms control during the George H.W. Bush administration.

Following retirement, John earned a master's of science degree in secondary education from George Mason University in 2001 and taught the international baccalaureate theory of knowledge and geography at Annandale (Va.) High School from 2000 to 2013.

John was named Teacher of the Year in 2010.

John is survived by former wives Marisa Lambiase Hawes and Wendy Jean Chamberlin; daughters Fabrizia Hawes, Alessia Hawes Kirkland, Christiana Hawes, Chynna Hawes, and Jade Hawes; and nine grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1963

CHARLES MARKELL III '63

Chip died March 13, 2026, at his home in Sparks, Md., with his wife, Bonnie, at his side.



He was one of eight to come from Gilman School, where he was on the lacrosse and debating teams. At Princeton, where his father was a member of the Class of 1931, he majored in history, took his meals at Colonial Club, and was on the lacrosse team

junior and senior years.

Chip earned a law degree from the University of Maryland in 1967 and then joined the Peace Corps. He was sent to Yap, a remote island group in Micronesia in the western Pacific, where he helped write the islands' constitution. At age 27, he returned to the U.S. and lived in San Francisco for the next seven years. He worked as a private investigator in the naval maritime industry and later for Wells Fargo in Sausalito and resumed playing lacrosse. "Chip's lifelong love of lacrosse brought him an enduring circle of friends who remained central to his life," Bonnie said. "The sport reflected his character — competitive, loyal, and spirited — and he was later inducted into the California Lacrosse Hall of Fame."

Returning east, Chip went to work for the Department of the Interior and settled in Bethesda, Md. He spent most of his professional career in Washington, D.C., working in both government and the private sector for 28 years.

Chip always kept his ties to Baltimore, and a friend there introduced him to Bonnie, who would become the love of his life. They married in 2000, lived first in Annapolis, and then settled in Baltimore.

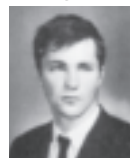
In addition to Bonnie, his wife of 26 years, Chip is survived by stepchildren Elizabeth Gredlein, Caroline Ruhl, and David Mark Jones II; and eight grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1964

JON H. SANDERS '64

Jon died Oct. 3, 2021, in Rome, N.Y.

He graduated from Metuchen (N.J.)



High School, where he played football, baseball, and basketball. He followed his brother David '59 to Princeton, entering with the Class of 1965. Majoring

in mathematics, he was recognized as a University Scholar and was able to skip his sophomore year, becoming a member of the Class of 1964. Following graduation with honors, he went on to earn his Ph.D. in mathematics from Yale in 1969.

He was an ardent enthusiast for mathematics and its applications to technology and served as chief scientist at PAR Technology before starting his own business, J.H.S. Consultants in Rome, N.Y. His primary focus in mathematical research was in discrete mathematics, specifically in the fields of Ramsey theory and matroid theory. As a teacher and tutor, he helped students at all levels: from assisting fifth graders to learn elementary arithmetic and algebra to coaching Ph.D. candidates.

Jon loved to sing and play guitar and even attended the original Woodstock festival in 1969. His other interests included "Golden Age" cinema, science-fiction literature, and

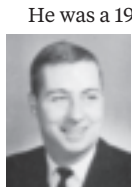
rooting for the Yankees.

Jon married Annette Vidzar in 1980, and they had three children, Matthew, Brian, and Jessica. To them and their wider family, the class offers its belated condolences.

THE CLASS OF 1965

JAMES F. CARD '65

Jim died March 16, 2026, in Endicott, N.Y.



He was a 1961 graduate of Vestal High School and the student government president.

At Princeton, he majored in chemical engineering, played varsity baseball, and was a member of the Key Club. He ate his meals Cannon Club. Jim roomed with Rudi Seitz, Karl Petersen, and Phil Erkenbrack. Upon graduation, Jim went to work at U.S. Steel in Pittsburgh followed by IBM, where he spent the remainder of his career.

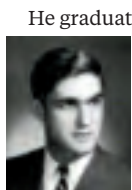
Jim was a brilliant professional, a tireless reader, consumer of knowledge, and he remained active in several organizations throughout the years. He truly enjoyed coaching the Vestal Stars girls travel soccer team for many years. He was a kind and wonderful father, grandfather, husband, brother, uncle, cousin, neighbor, and friend, blessed with many lifelong friendships. He was always steady and dependable, a role model and father-figure to so many throughout the years — a true class act.

Jim is survived by his wife of more than 60 years, Sandra; daughters Leslie (Peter), Cathrine, and Suzanne; seven grandchildren; and sister, Susan Pollock (John). The class extends our condolences to his family.

THE CLASS OF 1966

ROBERT S. MUELLER III '66

Bob died March 20, 2026.



He graduated from St. Paul's, where he was captain of the soccer, hockey, and lacrosse teams.

At Princeton, he majored in politics, belonged to Cottage Club, and played hockey and lacrosse. After graduation, he earned a master's in international law from New York University. He enlisted in the Marines and served in Vietnam, twice suffering gunshot wounds and earning a Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

After discharge, he earned a law degree at the University of Virginia. In 1976, he became a federal prosecutor in San Francisco, rising to criminal division chief for the Northern District of California. In 1982, he moved to Boston to prosecute serious crimes, including terrorism.

In 1989, after a stint as partner at the WilmerHale law firm, he joined the Justice Department, rising to criminal division chief. In 1993, he returned to WilmerHale

for two years, then volunteered to serve as a homicide prosecutor in Washington.

In 2001, he became director of the FBI, a position he held for 12 years. He is generally credited with transforming the bureau into a force equal to the counterterrorism challenges of the 21st century. He returned to WilmerHale until 2017, when the Justice Department appointed him special counsel for the matter now known as the Russia Investigation.

In 2012, Princeton awarded Bob its highest undergraduate alumnus honor, the Woodrow Wilson Award.

He is survived by his wife, Ann; daughters, Cynthia and Melissa; and five grandchildren, to all of whom the class extends its heartfelt condolences.

THE CLASS OF 1970

KURT R. FREDLAND '70

A shining example of those who made great use of a Princeton economics education in the real world, Kurt died at his Texas lake house Oct. 3, 2024.



He came to us on a naval scholarship from Annapolis High School. Immediately curious about economics, he worked with Uwe Reinhardt on his thesis about the burgeoning costs of medical care. He was a member of Elm Campus. Following four years of active service with the Navy in the Pacific, he earned an MBA at Wharton. He and wife Nina then laid down roots in Houston, where he was based the remainder of his life; he spent extended periods with both First City Texas Bank and Western National Life. Kurt always managed to show up for his kids' school and athletic activities, while carefully keeping himself in voice for the required cheering by singing enthusiastically from the pew each Sunday.

Kurt is survived by his wife of 51 years, Nina Fredland; their children, Mari, Nick, and Jon; 13 grandchildren; and his brothers, Eric, Robert, and Mark. All of us, with them, will miss his warmth and devotion to his family and community, and learn again from his exemplary application of the wisdom we found together all those years ago.

TIMOTHY GARVEN '70

Our multitalented classmate Tim died Nov. 30, 2025, after a long and courageous battle with lung cancer.

One of seven siblings, Tim came to Princeton from Edina-Morningside High School in Minnesota, where he had excelled athletically in hockey, baseball, and football. He was also an Olympic-qualified speedskater. Before leaving Princeton after sophomore year, he planned to major in psychology. After returning home, Tim

joined his family's stationery business. He combined artistic creativity — designing many of the company's products — with strong business acumen, managing relationships with Asian suppliers.

Tim's life was marked by profound personal loss. Of his four children, he lost daughter Britta at age 25 and son Cory to cancer in 2025. The children's mother, Deena, died of ALS.

Tim later married Alyona Mallayeva, who is Ukrainian. Their relationship bridged languages and cultures. Alyona did not speak English, and Tim did not speak Ukrainian. She spoke Italian; he spoke Spanish. They found ways to communicate — and made it work. Alyona remembers Tim for his intellect, curiosity, humor, remarkable memory, and his encouragement of others. We extend our deepest sympathies to her and to his surviving sons, Casey and Bryan.

DAVID L. HUBER '70

One of our most influential communicators, Dave died of prolonged cardiovascular disease Sept. 14, 2024.



He came to us from Belleville, Ill. (a lifelong Cardinals fan) and was an enthused history major. His thesis for professor Gaines Post addressed "American Communism and the Negro." Writing was his passion; he also wrote for *Princeton Alumni Weekly* and served with distinction as editor-in-chief of *The Daily Princetonian* in an explosive era when the paper heavily influenced the attitudes and student behavior on campus.

Following Navy ROTC, he served on submarines for four years. Then he went to law school at Case Western and immediately to White & Case, where he spent his legal career in corporate finance, principally in Tarrytown, N.Y.; he and his family developed deep roots, serving on library and historical society boards until his death. Always active with Princeton, he served as our class treasurer and with Annual Giving and the Alumni Schools Committee. His orderly mind made him a superb bridge partner and a fearsome fantasy baseball foe.

Dave is survived by his wife, Gwenn; and their son, Nathaniel. We hope they join us, rejoicing in the strength and judgment he brought to our years together, and its immense influence on all our lives.

THE CLASS OF 1973

STEELE W. FILIPEK '73

Steele died March 18, 2026, at home in Pittsburgh, Pa. He was 75.

Born in Pittsburgh, he attended Peabody High School. His junior year he transferred to Exeter, where he was in the computer club, played football and rugby, and ran



track. Steele took a gap year after Exeter and went to Utrecht, Netherlands, where he lived with a doctor and his family, became fluent in Dutch, learned to love raw herring, and traveled across Europe.

Steele came to Princeton, where he roomed for three years with John Stebbins '72 (his Exeter roommate) and Dennis Zagroba '72. He married his senior year and lived off campus. Steele majored in psychology and wrote both his junior paper and senior thesis under the direction of Professor Peter Orenstein. He was an assistant student manager at Commons.

He attended the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, followed by a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Magee-Womens Hospital. He joined Donald Mrvos in private practice.

This paints an incomplete picture of a man who enjoyed going to Penguins games — but complained about having to park. He loved to read, travel, tour Civil War battlefields, cook, and sing ancient advertising jingles.

Steele is survived by his wife of 43 years Carolyn Kubik; sons Andrew, Tyler, and Zach; daughter Amanda; and five grandchildren. The class sends its condolences.

THOMAS G. GALLATIN JR. '73

Tom was born in Manhasset, N.Y. He attended the Brooks School and then



followed his father, Thomas Gallatin Sr. '37 to Princeton.

At Princeton, Tom dined at Colonial Club and was active in the Student Volunteers Council. Sophomore year he roomed with Gary Scharff, Fred Larson, Howard Chatzinoff, Richard Dahab, Kevin Ashley, Bob Noto, Dave Elkind, Bruce Malashevich, and Michael Hammaker. He majored in religion and philosophy and wrote his thesis under the direction of professor Malcolm Diamond. It was also at Princeton that Tom met his future wife, Patricia McSweeney '72.

After graduation Tom and Patricia married in 1976, and Tom earned a law degree from Syracuse in 1977. Tom became a partner at Mudge, Rose, Guthrie, Alexander & Ferdon and then a partner at Latham & Watkins. He was last with Toshiba America as senior vice president and general counsel.

In his later years Tom was part of a Zoom group of former Dodge-Osborne classmates, including his freshman year roommate Rick Cagan.

Tom was an avid and skilled yachtsman and was a member of several yacht clubs, including the New York Yacht Club. He was a descendant of Albert Gallatin, secretary of the treasury under President Thomas

Jefferson, and of Elbridge Gerry, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and vice president of the United States under James Madison 1771.

Tom's intelligence, humor, warmth, and kindness touched all who knew him. The class extends its sympathy to his wife, Patricia, and his sister, Jean Scatuorchio.

PATRICK J. NIEDERMEYER '73

Pat died March 6, 2026, in Kansas City, Mo., following a brief illness. He was 75.



Born in St. Louis, Pat attended St. Louis Priory, where he took part in basketball, track, cross country, and baseball.

At Princeton, he roomed with Jeff Roberts, Tom Finney, Michael Mills, Chris Monroe, Bill Sampson, and Jim Isenberg in Patton Hall. Freshman year he ran track and cross country, and junior year he played on a team that won an intramural basketball championship. He loved playing his bongos and was known as a real prankster. He majored in chemical engineering and wrote his senior thesis under Professor Richard Toner.

Pat began his career teaching mathematics and coaching high school sports at the Forman School in Litchfield, Conn. He later became a computer programmer and was a systems analyst for MetLife.

Beyond his professional life, Pat was a master storyteller and a quintessential host who found great joy in gathering family and friends at his favorite restaurants, sharing good food and laughter even into his final days.

Pat was predeceased by his brother George. He is survived by sisters Anne Malinowski, Mary Mills, and Jeanne Layton; and brothers Michael Edward and Brian Gerard.

A man of sharp wit and immense kindness, Pat will be remembered for his dedication to education and his legendary sense of humor.

THE CLASS OF 1974

GORDON W. DOWDS '74

Gordon died Feb. 22, 2026, in Las Vegas at the age of 73.

After Princeton, he earned a medical degree from New York Medical College and completed a residency at County USC Medical Center in California. In his early career, Gordon was a partner in the West Valley Pulmonary and Sleep Disorder practice in California. He was known for taking his work seriously, showing up when people needed him most, and never shying away from difficult cases. In 2015, he began working as a *locum tenens* physician, traveling to whatever location needed his expertise. This continued through the

COVID pandemic, where his skills fulfilled a dire need. His Facebook posts showed a poignant mix of dedication to his profession and frustration at the overwhelming scale of the pandemic.

Outside of medicine, Gordon loved to cook with a particular skill at sourdough bread. He loved the quiet comforts and familiar rhythms of home. He was previously married to Mindy Dowds, the mother of his children. He is also survived by his current wife, Anat Shabo; his children, Andrew Patrick Dowds, Tracy Vitellaro, Jill Welshans, and Robin Dowds; seven grandchildren; and siblings Curtis Dowds and Mary Anne Amitin.

WILLIAM RANDALL MCDONNELL '74

Randy died Feb. 23, 2026.

He graduated from St. Louis Country



Day School and earned a bachelor of science degree in engineering with honors at Princeton. He later received an MBA from Washington University.

He worked at McDonnell Douglas for 17 years, starting on the assembly line and rising to senior roles in program management and advanced design. Randy played key roles in producing the TAV-8B Harrier. He also led a multi-company superteam while there and became the corporate director of advanced concepts.

In 1993, Randy founded Advanced Aerospace Technologies and Advanced Product Development, supporting Boeing's unmanned aircraft program. He also patented a sleeper seat design that was adopted by Air New Zealand. He is responsible for dozens of patents in aeronautics.

Randy was also deeply committed to character development, serving for many years as chairman of the executive advisory board of Character Plus. He was also active in the Boy Scouts and other character-building organizations. In 2018, he moved to Las Vegas, where he found great joy in hiking, climbing and camping in the surrounding mountains.

Randy is survived by his sister, Robbin MacVittie; his nephew, William MacVittie; and his three children.

THE CLASS OF 1977

BETSY LAMPERT MINKIN '77

Betsy died Dec. 23, 2025, of lymphoma at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City.



Born May 27, 1955, she majored in economics at Princeton and earned a master's in industrial labor relations at Cornell. After 27 years at the NYSE, she became a compliance consultant for KGS-Alpha, retiring in 2022.

Diagnosed with intractable hepatitis while in high school, it didn't stop her. She maintained a full social and academic schedule at Princeton, where she met her future husband, and pursued travel, a lifelong passion. Her career took a detour in 1981 when she became one of the first people in the world to receive a liver transplant, effectively serving as a beta tester for the immunosuppressant drugs that have saved so many lives. It was then that many of her friends realized the gravity of her illness. Post-surgery, she weathered many medical crises as doctors struggled to keep her from rejecting the new organ.

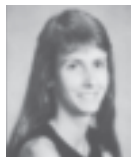
Two years later she married Josh Minkin '78. In 1999, they traveled to China to adopt an infant daughter, Emma. She died less than a year later of a sudden illness. Three years later, they returned to China and adopted a second daughter, Adina, now 24. Betsy stayed busy as a volunteer, serving for 10 years as a trustee of Brooklyn's Union Temple and a trustee of *The Daily Princetonian*, where she had worked as business staff, helping organize a successful fundraising effort to digitize the print archives.

The Minkins traveled ambitiously, despite continuing medical challenges. Betsy underwent two kidney transplants after her liver surgery. She is survived by her husband and daughter, and her brother, Billy, and his wife, Naomi.

THE CLASS OF 1988

WENDY HAWTHORNE '88

Wendy died May 10, 2025, in Denver after a brief battle with aggressive reproductive cancer.



Coming to Princeton from Ridgewood, N.J., Wendy majored in civil engineering and earned certificates in energy and environmental studies. She later earned a master's degree in building systems engineering from the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Committed to service through her career, Wendy helped achieve what Gov. Jared Polis '96 called "a generational shift in climate resilience for Coloradans." Wendy was a fierce advocate for environmental justice and equity while leading the Northeast Denver Housing Center and Groundwork Denver. She later served as deputy director of Colorado's division of housing and as senior project director for equity at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. In 2023, Wendy resumed a role in state government as director of strategic coordination of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act funding, leading a statewide strategy to maximize investments in Colorado.

Wendy is survived by her partner, Sina

Pierret; mother, Lisbeth Werhan; siblings, Christine and Tom; beloved nieces, nephews, and cousins; and dear friends, Carmen Robinson and Shivawni Kenney. The class extends its deepest sympathies to Wendy's family and friends.

GRADUATE ALUMNI

CARL H. BRANS '61

Carl died in New Orleans, Feb. 26, 2026.

Born in Dallas Dec. 13, 1935, Carl earned his undergraduate degree from Loyola University, New Orleans in 1957 and his Ph.D. in physics from Princeton in 1961. Under the guidance of Charles Misner and Robert H. Dicke, Carl's dissertation was "Mach's principle and a varying gravitational constant." His doctoral work led to the Brans-Dicke scalar-tensor theory of gravity, an extension of Einstein's general relativity that influences theoretical physics and cosmology.

Returning to Loyola in 1960, Carl became the J.C. Carter Professor of Theoretical Physics and remained there. Visiting positions included Princeton, the Institute for Advanced Study, and the University of Cologne.

Carl developed a complete invariant classification of four-dimensional Ricci flat geometries, a type of post-Petrov approach, developing early computer programs for symbolic manipulations. He summarized this work in terms of the complexification of the two-form fiber over space-time. He also considered certain developments in differential topology concerning the existence of exotic (nonstandard) global differential structures and their possible applications to physics.

Carl and Torsten Asselmeyer-Maluga proposed that exotic smoothness structures can resolve some of the problems in cosmology like dark matter or dark energy. Together they published a book, *Exotic Smoothness and Physics*.

Predeceased by his wife, Anna, and daughter, Mary Elizabeth, Carl is survived by children Thomas, Henry, Patrick, and John; nine grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren.

DANIEL L. MIGLIORE '64

Daniel died in Princeton, March 2, 2026.

Daniel's 70 years in Princeton began in 1956 when, after graduating with a B.A. from Westminster College, he entered Princeton Theological Seminary, earning his B.D. in 1959. Daniel was then admitted to Princeton, where he earned a Ph.D. in religion in 1964.

An ordained Presbyterian minister, Daniel began teaching at Princeton Theological Seminary in 1962 as Instructor in New Testament, was elected to the seminary faculty in 1966, and retired in 2009 as the

Charles Hodge Professor of Systematic Theology. His administrative responsibilities included serving as director of doctoral studies, chair of the theology department for three terms, and editor of the *Princeton Seminary Bulletin*.

Daniel was deeply grounded in Reformed theology, especially the theology of Karl Barth. His books include *Called to Freedom: Liberation Theology and the Future of Christian Doctrine*; *The Power of God and the Gods of Power*; *Philippians and Philemon*, and *Rachels' Cry: Prayer of Lament and Rebirth of Hope*. His introduction to theology, *Faith Seeking Understanding*, has been translated into several languages.

Predeceased by his spouse of 57 years, Margaret, Daniel is survived by his spouse Kathleen Billman; daughter Rebecca '85; son Mark; and grandsons Luca and Matteo.

JAMES H. TATUM '69

Jim died Feb. 6, 2026, in Hanover, N.H. He was 83.

Born in Longview, Texas, in 1942, Jim received a B.A. in English from the University of Texas, Austin in 1963 and earned a Ph.D. in classics from Princeton in 1969.

Jim began a 40-year teaching career at Dartmouth in 1969 and was the emeritus Aaron Lawrence Professor of Classics at his death. He was instrumental in developing the interdisciplinary humanities program at Dartmouth; he brought together academics from around the world to Hanover in 1989 for the International Conference on the Ancient Novel II. As two-time chair of the classics department, he participated in the integration of women scholars into the department and received the Huntington Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Jim's co-teaching with William W. Cook led to their book *African American Writers and Classical Tradition*. He was the author of *The Mourner's Song: War and Remembrance from the Iliad to Vietnam*.

A fellow at the Ligurian Study Center in Bogliasco, Italy, Jim had visiting appointments at Johns Hopkins, the University of Michigan, Princeton, and Drew University.

Jim is survived by his husband, Bill Noble, and brother Randy.

HERMANN WEISS '68

Hermann died March 18, 2026, in Dexter, Mich.

He was born June 17, 1937, in Beuel, Germany. He attended Bonn University as an undergraduate and spent time in England and a year of college in Aberdeen, Scotland. He taught German and German studies for a year at St. Andrews University.

Studying and teaching in English-

speaking countries inspired Herman to take a job as a lecturer at the University of Oregon. He earned a Ph.D. in Germanic languages and literature from Princeton in 1968.

Hermann spent his academic career at the University of Michigan. His teaching and research focused on German authors of the early 19th century, notably Heinrich von Kleist. He published a book *Funde und Studien zu Heinrich von Kleist*. He discovered five previously unknown letters by Kleist — a find that was published in the *Kleist-Jahrbuch* 2025.

Hermann developed an interest in German forced labor camps and wrote entries for an online encyclopedia of the Holocaust. He published a book that explored his family's wartime experiences when his father worked as a civil engineer at a factory in Silesia that employed forced labor.

He is survived by his wife, Rebecca Hoort; brothers Robert and Gebhardt; and several nieces and nephews.

LARRY V. MCINTIRE *70

Larry died in Stone Mountain, Ga., Jan. 23, 2026.

Larry was born June 28, 1943, in St. Paul, Minn. He earned his B.S. and M.A. in chemical engineering from Cornell and his Ph.D. in chemical engineering from Princeton in 1970.

He began his career at Rice in 1970 as an assistant professor and was eventually named the E.D. Butcher Professor of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering. In 2003, he joined the Georgia Institute of Technology faculty as the Wallace H. Coulter Professor of Biomedical Engineering, holding a joint appointment with Emory University. At Georgia Tech, he greatly expanded the biomedical engineering department.

Larry's research focused on biological transport phenomena and tissue engineering, particularly in the cardiovascular system, examining the dynamics of blood cells in the circulatory system and how fluid mechanical forces influence cellular metabolism and gene regulation. He fostered collaborative graduate education among Peking University, Georgia Tech, and Emory, and helped lay the groundwork for a joint Ph.D. program that strengthened scientific ties between the United States and China.

Predeceased by his wife, Suzie Eskin, Larry is survived by his sisters, Kay Lynn Dedrick and Marcia Lee; four nieces; one nephew; and seven great-nieces and nephews.

CHING-MAO CHENG *71

Ching-Mao died Sept. 3, 2025, in Taiwan.

He was born in 1933 in Minxiong Township, Taiwan. At National Taiwan

University (NTU) he earned his B.A. in Chinese literature in 1956 and an M.A. in 1959. After obtaining his M.A. in East Asian studies from Princeton in 1965, he served two years as a special research student at the University of Tokyo. He completed his Ph.D. in East Asian studies at Princeton in 1971. His dissertation examined the works of Japanese author Nagai Kafu in relation to Chinese literary traditions, incorporating influences from French literature to explore triangular cross-cultural dynamics.

He served as assistant professor of Chinese and Japanese at UC Berkeley during the early 1970s. Next, he joined the department of Asian languages and literature at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Under his involvement, the department expanded its offerings in East Asian humanities, contributing to interdisciplinary growth in area studies. He retired in 1996.

Ching-Mao returned to Taiwan to co-found the department of Chinese language and literature at National Dong Hwa University. Under his guidance, the department emphasized innovative approaches to literary translation and sinology, fostering an environment that integrated traditional scholarship with contemporary global perspectives.

He is survived by his wife and daughter. Ching-Mao's daughter reported that her father proudly wore his Princeton shirts almost to the end.

DENNIS H. SULLIVAN *75

Dennis died Feb. 14, 2026, in Oxford, Ohio, at the age of 80.

He was born in Modesto, Calif., July 26, 1945, and grew up in Cranford, N.J. Dennis received his B.A. from Williams in 1967. He served as a first lieutenant in the Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base before earning a Ph.D. in economics from Princeton in 1975. His dissertation subject was "An economic theory of religious contributions."

In 1973, Dennis joined the faculty of Miami University of Ohio, where he remained until he retired. His areas of specialization were poverty economics, public sector economics, and urban economics. At Miami, Dennis also served as director of international business programs. He held visiting positions at Vanderbilt, Syracuse, Semmering, Austria, and MUDEC in Luxembourg. He co-wrote two books: *Poorly Paid: Work and the Well-Being of Low-Income Families*, and a study guide *Concepts and Language of Economics*.

Predeceased by his daughter, Deirdre, Dennis is survived by his wife of 53 years, Helen, and his son, Paul.

MICHAEL L. MONHEIT *88

Mike died Feb. 6, 2026, of cancer in Chevy Chase, Md. He was 79.

Born Oct. 4, 1946, in Brooklyn, N.Y., he received his B.A. from UC Berkeley in 1976 and earned a Ph.D. in history from Princeton in 1988. His dissertation topic was "Passion and Order in the Formation of Calvin's Sense of Religious Authority." His adviser was Anthony T. Grafton.

A specialist in early modern European history, Mike taught at Michigan State University from 1989 to 1991, then joined the faculty of the University of South Alabama in Mobile, where he remained until retiring in 2014. He taught courses on the Reformation and Renaissance, and his research interests included the formative years of the Protestant reformer Jean Calvin, Eucharistic conflicts in the early Reformation, scriptural and legal interpretation in the Renaissance and early Reformation, and the emotional dimension in history.

Mike is survived by his wife of 40 years, Diane Garden; his daughter, Hannah Garden-Monheit; and grandsons, Jules and Dov Martyn.

CARRIE RUTH ROSEFSKY WICKHAM *96

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

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

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

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

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

Graduate memorials are prepared by the APGA.

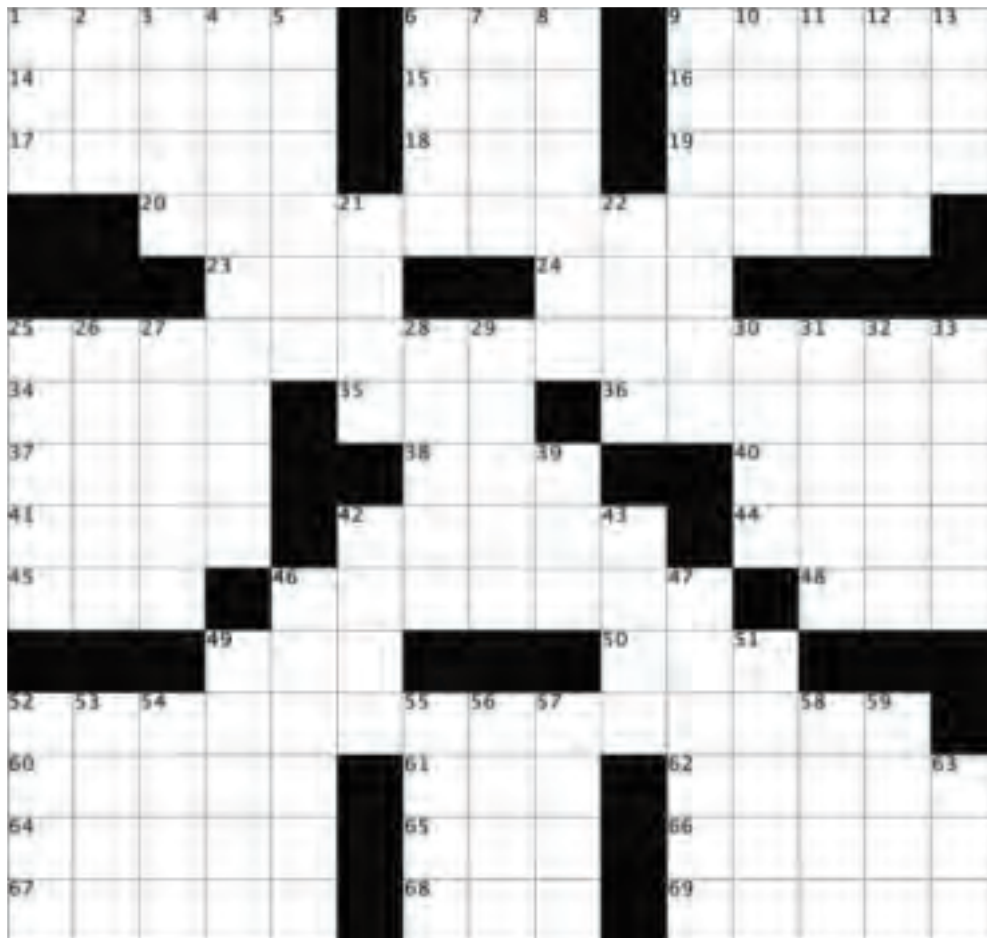


BY STELLA (DAILY) ZAWISTOWSKI '00

Your First Year Here

ACROSS

1. Way to get around Paris
6. Double Down seller
9. ___ and pains
14. Extraterrestrial visitor
15. Zero at the World Cup
16. Split in a sidewalk
17. Section of the Princeton University Orchestra
18. Mesozoic or Cenozoic, e.g.
19. Like a sinecure
20. Open house where freshmen can explore Princeton's many departments
23. Comedian Wong
24. All up in arms
25. Gathering for Princeton freshmen to discuss a book they were assigned over the summer
34. Flaw in a logical argument
35. "___ me have it!"
36. Slow sonata movement
37. Scary fairy-tale creature
38. Female in a flock
40. Wee
41. *Song of Myself* poet Whitman
42. Pixar film set in Scotland
44. Therefore
45. Full of guile
46. Processional event for Princeton freshmen since 2004
48. ___ Feliz (neighborhood near Hollywood)
49. Slim battery size
50. Banners and billboards, e.g.
52. Small-group course mandatory for all Princeton freshmen
60. "I pledge my ___ that I have not violated..."
61. Siegfried's partner in magic
62. Raptor's claw
64. Write an op-ed for the *Prince*, say
65. "Facts ___ facts"
66. Give an address
67. Doled (out)



68. Word associated with Dean Fred Hargadon
69. Button on some game consoles
- ### DOWN
1. Carnivore's mouth
 2. "We'll leave old ___ trailing in the dust as we go marching on"
 3. Rock legend Turner
 4. Where to see stars strutting
 5. Available for less
 6. Meniscus' spot
 7. Mattress option
 8. Insurance agent's workload
 9. Yielded to a demand
 10. Heart of a matter
 11. Door-securing hardware
 12. Nymph who loved Narcissus
 13. Swirly part of *The Starry Night*
 21. Control on an old TV

22. House in Mexico?
25. Vehicles seen in snowstorms
26. Fit for a queen
27. Single-choice ___ action (option for Princeton applicants)
28. Big name in farm equipment
29. Actively fighting
30. "G'day, ___!"
31. Certain hip-hop dancer
32. Subject-specific vocab
33. "Walk the dog" toys
39. Broadway star Noblezada
42. Muffin ingredient
43. Cheesy part of north Holland?
46. Coupled up
47. David Remnick '81, to *The New Yorker*
49. Make things right
51. Part of a drum kit
52. Underused objective pronoun

53. Catch with a lasso
54. Still competing
55. Color of an overcast 13-down
56. Feeling resentful
57. Body parts affected by conjunctivitis
58. "Too bad!"
59. Repetitive way to learn
63. Piece of equipment at Jadwin Gym

STUMPED?

Scan the QR code or go online to paw.princeton.edu to try an interactive version of the puzzle and reveal answers.



CLASSIFIED



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Books

Novel takes place on campus in 1977-78 and explains the meaning of life. Oops, no it doesn't. But it will make you laugh. *Divine Madness – The Quantum Mechanics of the Soul* (Amazon), by Joseph G Mazzilli '78.

Personals



DIRECTOR/MATCHMAKER
SANDY STERNBACH

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SETH RAYNOR 1898 (1874-1926)

A Meticulous Engineer Left His Mark on Golf

BY BRETT TOMLINSON

WHEN SETH RAYNOR LEFT Princeton in 1898 after studying civil engineering, he returned home to Southampton, New York, a small but growing village of about 10,000 people that included one of America's first golf courses, Shinnecock Hills. A decade later, golf course architect Charles Blair Macdonald came to town to begin work on the National Golf Links of America, perched on nearby Peconic Bay, and hired Raynor, Southampton's village engineer and streets commissioner, to be his surveyor.

"He scarcely knew a golf ball from a tennis ball when we first met," Macdonald recalled in his book *Scotland's Gift: Golf*, "and although he never became much of an expert in playing golf, yet the facility with which he absorbed the feeling which animates old and enthusiastic golfers to the manner born was truly amazing."

Raynor impressed with his attention to detail and was hired on for the course construction, becoming Macdonald's protégé at an ideal time. As automobiles made it easier for people in cities to reach nearby country clubs, a golf boom was starting to take hold. In a

little over a decade and a half, Raynor was involved in building or renovating between 100 and 150 courses, by Macdonald's count, spanning from his native Long Island to resorts in Hawaii and Bermuda. His work included a 1916 renovation of Shinnecock Hills, host of the U.S. Open earlier this year, as well as the creation of a highly regarded golf club for one of Princeton's athletic rivals, Yale. ("As seems to be usually the case," Roswell Easton 1898 quipped in *PAW*, "Yale has to turn to Princeton when she wants anything done well.")

Relatively little is known of Raynor's personal story — though frequently mentioned by the press, he rarely gave interviews — but in a 2002 biography of Macdonald, *The Evangelist of Golf*, author George Bahto describes a classic preparation-meets-luck narrative. Raynor was meticulous and frugal as an engineer, trustworthy as a contractor, and his Princeton pedigree put him at ease with the financiers and industrialists commissioning new courses.

Raynor also had a knack for working with the existing contours of the land and layering materials to keep rainwater from collecting on greens and

fairways. "Even today," Bahto wrote, "course superintendents marvel at the engineering and drainage of his courses, most of which still work beautifully."

Perhaps it followed naturally that the precise engineer would also value precision in the way players approached his courses. A long par-4 that doglegs to the right might easily be reached in two shots by those who place their drive on the right side of the fairway. But those who err with a drive toward the left are forced to either carry their second shot over a sprawling waste area or lay up and reach the green in three. Raynor himself was not an accomplished player, and there's some evidence that he avoided playing too much golf "for fear his course designs would tend to deteriorate to his level of play," Bahto wrote.

Postwar prosperity in the Roaring '20s gave golf another boost, and Raynor maintained an office on Madison Avenue in New York to manage his many projects. In 1925, he traveled from Georgia to California, on to Hawaii, and then back east to Florida, laying out new courses in each locale. *The New York Evening Post* dubbed him the "busiest golf architect" in January 1926. But the travels seem to have taken a toll on his health. Later that month, Raynor died of pneumonia at age 51.

A few years later, the Great Depression crippled many of the new courses, including one of Raynor and Macdonald's legendary collaborations, Lido Golf Club, built on top of 2 million cubic yards of dredged sand on Long Island. It was later bulldozed to make way for U.S. Navy barracks during World War II. But in 2023, the Sand Valley resort in Nekoosa, Wisconsin, opened a replica of the Lido course, built with the help of computer models and GPS-guided bulldozers. In an interview with *Golf Digest*, Tom Doak, the architect who led the project, called the layout "a much more intricate design than I had appreciated."

Later this month, the U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship will be contested at Sand Valley Lido, the first of four national tournaments to be hosted by the course through 2034, proving once again that Raynor's contributions to golf endure. **P**



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