MENTAL HEALTH: RESOURCES VS. CULTURE / WHEN PRINCETON BECAME ONE

PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY

NOVEMBER 2026

Old Fight, New Stakes

Rep. Terri Sewell '86 confronts mounting threats to Black representation

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An editorially independent magazine by alumni for alumni since 1900

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Terri Sewell '86 at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, standing next to a portrait of civil rights leader John Lewis. *Photograph by Julie Bennett*

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Princeton Alumni Weekly (I.S.S.N. 0149-9270) is an editorially independent, nonprofit magazine supported by Princeton University and paid advertising. Its purpose is to report with impartiality news of the alumni, the administration, the faculty, and the student body of Princeton University. The views expressed in the *Princeton Alumni Weekly* do not necessarily represent official positions of the University. The magazine is published monthly with combined issues for January/February and July/August. *Princeton Alumni Weekly*, 194 Nassau Street, Suite 38, Princeton, NJ 08542. Tel 609-258-4885; email paw@princeton.edu; website paw.princeton.edu. Printed by Fry Communications Inc., Mechanicsburg, Pa. Annual subscription: $30 ($34 outside the U.S.), single issue: $2. Copyright © 2026 the Trustees of Princeton University. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. Periodicals postage paid at Princeton, N.J., and at additional mailing offices. **Postmaster:** Send Form 3579 (address changes) to PAW Address Changes, 194 Nassau Street, Suite 38, Princeton, NJ 08542.

September 11 Service of Remembrance

Princetonians gathered at the campus 9/11 Memorial Garden on Friday, September 11, for our annual 9/11 Service of Remembrance honoring the fourteen Princeton alumni who perished. These are the remarks I delivered as our community marked the solemn twenty-fifth anniversary of the terrorist attacks. The service included readings and prayers from campus faith leaders, a bell-ringing to honor the dead, and a stirring oboe solo before our gathering dispersed. — C.L.E.

Linda Knights '77 rings the Memorial Garden bell to honor Princeton alumni who tragically lost their lives in the terrorist attacks that targeted New York City and Washington, D.C., in 2001. *Photo by Denise Applewhite, Office of Communications*

Twenty-five years ago, on September 11, 2001, we lost nearly three thousand innocent lives, including those of fourteen Princetonians. We gather in this garden each year to remember them and to reflect on the lasting significance of that terrifying and terrible day.

Perhaps there are poets and orators who can craft words adequate to the greatest human tragedies, but I find the task impossible. What can I add to what has already been said this afternoon and in years past? How can words do justice to those who perished or to the grief we endured?

As I searched for inspiration, I reread the memorials published in the *Alumni Weekly* to honor the Princetonians killed in the attacks. Written by family members and friends, the tributes sparkle with humanity and charm and love. In brief strokes they paint beautiful portraits of the people we lost.

They are more eloquent and moving than anything I could possibly say today, and I commend them to you.

If you read, or reread, those memorials, you will find stories about athletes, scientists, executives, actors, teachers, and students; about new grandfathers and newlyweds; about the foods that they loved to cook, the ideas that inspired them, the jokes they told, the brilliance they exhibited, the talents they cultivated, and the care they gave to friends, families, classmates, neighbors, and strangers.

You will learn, too, about the people who loved them, who mourned them, who lost them, and who have missed and will miss them profoundly for the rest of their lives.

Some lines from the memorials, written about an individual by a friend or a family member, resonate more broadly, applicable to all who perished and indeed to all of us.

"It is impossible to accept that this is all we will know of him," wrote Thaddeus Huetteman *80 about his friend Joshua Rosenthal *81.

Robert Klitzman '80 wrote about the nearly incomprehensible fact that he lost his beloved sister, Karen Klitzman '84, when she literally "disappeared in a cloud of smoke," later adding that he envisioned her among a "long stream of spirits flying off to a better place."

The late Douglas McGrath '80 praised his friend Robert Deraney '80 and concluded with these reflections:

> "In a world as full of fury and ignorance as this one, it takes strength to be loving, to stay cheerful, to widen one's focus beyond the tiny piece of property to which each of us so anxiously clings. It takes courage to choose compassion over passion, dancing over kicking."

McGrath wrote those words a quarter century ago. I wish that I could add to them some grand lesson, or deep wisdom, or reassuring solace drawn from the intervening twenty-five years, but the tragedy remains ineffable even after the passage of so much time.

I hope you will permit me to close simply by repeating Doug McGrath's words about his classmate and friend, reframed and adapted as a wish for us all.

In a world still full of fury and ignorance, may we find the strength to be loving, to widen our focus beyond selfish interests, and to recognize and appreciate and celebrate the miraculous particularities that make every human life so precious.

May we find the time for dancing and joy.

Today, as we observe this annual ritual, and every day, as we go through our lives, may we remember those whom we have lost, and may we cherish those whom we love.

INBOX

YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE LATEST ISSUES

LISA SHEEHAN

MINDS AT PLAY

I first started solving crosswords with my dad back in high school. Now, my teenage son and I solve the crossword together. He has also introduced me to Wordle, Connections, and Strands. We really enjoyed reading about Princetonians' passion for games ("Puzzle People," September issue)!

MAHA QASIM '08
Karachi, Pakistan

Great article! I cut my teeth on writing a puzzle column for the Rockefeller newsletter back in the day, and it has ultimately led to a great sideline of getting to write puzzles for TV and movies, including most recently as puzzle designer and producer for the Netflix show *The Puzzle Room*. Anyone with an interest in puzzles, follow that instinct! It will serve you well in countless ways throughout your life, and you'll encounter such wonderful and engaging people. Happy solving!

DAVE SHUKAN '86
San Marino, Calif.

Thanks for a very entertaining article. I like to think that my years as a Princeton computer science grad student prepped me perfectly for building a Calcudoku puzzle site (but I've been into number puzzles all my life really).

PATRICK MIN *04
Bergen, Netherlands

It was during a Princeton summer program at the Mpala Research Centre in Kenya that I first began playing the *New York Times* crossword. Internet service was limited, so I'd download the puzzle, and a group of six of us would huddle around the breakfast table, working through the clues. Three years after, my basketball teammate and I celebrated the completion of the Saturday puzzle on the bus after an autumn scrimmage. Fast forward to the present, and most workdays end with a team game of Wordle or Connections.

Puzzles and games are a big part of my life. So much so that I was inspired to create my own daily word game, Word Game Gaps. Princeton instilled in me both a love of games and the self-possession needed to create new things in this world, so it's been fulfilling getting to combine those two aspects of myself in this process. Furthermore, it's great to read about my fellow Princeton gamers excelling across a wide spectrum of games themselves!

CHARLIE BAGIN '22
Palo Alto, Calif.

I realize that the list of Princeton *Jeopardy!* champions in "Puzzle People" was intended as a sampling rather than a comprehensive list, but I'd like to add one more name: Gilbert Collins *99, who is both an alumnus and a longtime member of the University staff. Gilbert serves as executive director of the Center for Health and Wellbeing in SPIA. He won five consecutive games of *Jeopardy!* and later advanced to the semifinals of the Tournament of Champions.

ALY KASSAM-REMTULLA
Vice provost for international affairs and operations
Princeton, N.J.

Interesting article, but you left out some Princeton history. Jim Nourse, a postdoc in the mid to late 1970s who worked for Kurt Mislow, published a book in 1981 on solving the Rubik's Cube. He made a lot of money on it.

BETH VOLPE *76
Hopewell, N.J.

FOSSIL FUEL INVESTMENTS

In the heart of campus in Frist Campus Center, on the primary staircase leading into the lower-level dining area/food gallery, the "steps" of the Sustainability Action Plan are outlined, and at the top, the step reads, "2046 net zero campus carbon emissions achieved." It's disheartening to hear that Princeton has reversed course on fossil fuel divestment (On the Campus, July/August issue) and turned it into a goal of a net-zero endowment portfolio by 2046. The highly visible campus commitment is celebrated, yet behind the scenes investment policy is replaced with a distant and somewhat ambiguous promise regarding a committee of experts set to measure the endowment's greenhouse gas impact.

ANDREW DIAZ '28
Princeton, N.J.

As a recent Princeton graduate who cares deeply about the environment, I hope we remain ambitious about reducing our investment in fossil fuels. I understand the argument for engaging with energy companies as part of the clean-energy transition, but engagement does not necessarily require investment. Princeton has already shown that divestment is possible, and I hope we continue to use our resources and influence to push for meaningful climate action now, rather than allowing a 2046 target to lessen the urgency of what we can do today.

ELLA BWONYA '26
Nairobi, Kenya

This news is incredibly disappointing to hear. As an academic institution, a large part of Princeton's role is to imagine and

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actively create a brighter future for all people. Divestment is an essential part of doing so. All of us are already seeing and experiencing firsthand the impacts of climate change, from increasingly violent winter storms to the sweltering heat waves many of us have felt this summer. Without radical action to curb the effects of climate change, we have no meaningful future to dream about and build toward.

Instead of being a leader, Princeton is rolling back its divestment promises and is reinvesting in the destruction of people and the planet. This goes directly against the interests of Princeton's motto "in the service of humanity." These moments make me embarrassed to be an alumna of an institution that would sell out for the greed of growing its already absurdly large endowment. Princeton needs to do better.

JESSICA LAMBERT '22
Chapel Hill, N.C.

It is honestly even hard to understand and to know how to react to this walk-back on fossil fuel divestment by Princeton. The northern summer in 2026 has shattered temperature records, claimed dozens of thousands of lives and caused severe damage to the economy, to crops and to water and energy supplies, already making life harder for everyone. I am currently based in Germany, and even here I have experienced shocking levels of heat that I have never experienced before — and I originally come from Brazil.

How can Princeton, a world-class leader in science and education, go back to partnering with the companies who have caused this state of affairs, right when people the world over can feel quite literally the effects of this in their abilities to survive? If Princeton wants to lead on climate progress and not be a source of shame to its community, it must do what science has known for several decades now to be what really works: support immediate transition away from fossil fuels toward renewable energy. This cannot be done by investing in fossil fuel companies nor taking their research money. We know what to do to fix this, and Princeton is doing the opposite. Shameful.

MAURO ORSINI WINDHOLZ *25
Würzburg, Germany

Princeton's endowment management has one purpose, to maximize return to the University, representing all alumni who created the endowment sums, commensurate with appropriate risk management. You would expect no different from someone managing your portfolio.

Divestment is nothing more than a political statement and makes no difference to the industries because Princeton's investment is minute in the scheme of things.

Hydrocarbons are intertwined in almost all economic activity (estimated at 96% in a CNBC on-air report), required for all mining (including materials for EVs, solar panels, cellphones, computers, and so much more), most shipping and trucking (of all goods), most power, heating, industrial, etc. World demand for hydrocarbons is still growing, so don't close your eyes to our world. You literally can't live, clothe, eat, or travel without hydrocarbons. So do it better and as responsibly as possible.

And focus environment concern and dollars on the far more important near-term issues of water quality and quantity.

LARRY ROSENBLATT '75
The Woodlands, Texas

Fossil fuel investments gave us little advantage over peers who did divest, so where's the logic in reversing course and publicly embarrassing ourselves?

We impose an artificial standard by saying engagement with these companies needs to come with investment. We can recognize the need to work with bad actors while not financially implicating ourselves in their here-and-now destruction of our environment.

And Princo's last divestment shows how quickly it can be done. There is no need to wait until 2046 — another contrivance, significant only as Princeton's 300th birthday. Why not act now, with the knowledge we have?

RYAN WARSING *21
Hendersonville, N.C.

This reversal is completely contradictory to the University's purported goals. Justifying this as a way to earn research funding

for climate change and environmental science research is such a flimsy and insulting argument — these companies are not incentivized to actually provide the sustained infusion of resources that if successful would be misaligned with their aims. Moreover, companies that once had "corporate responsibility" portfolios no longer find these in vogue and have cut these under current political pressures. These too are dwindling avenues.

I'm disappointed and frustrated by the fact that so much effort has been spent to ensure that Princeton could be an example of this movement toward aligning its principles with its portfolio. Now it's an example of buckling when it actually might mean something to be a leader of change.

CHARLOTTE WILLIAMS '17
Princeton, N.J.

PROCTORED EXAMS

Rather than screening for and nurturing integrity in the young men and women for whom they are responsible, faculty and staff are opting out and choosing to enforce it by surveillance instead (On the Campus, July/August issue). Moreover, since exams likely will be administered, in part at least, by graduate students, this will be peer-on-peer surveillance.

That does sound regressive.

STEVE SPEAR '86
Brookline, Mass.

I love the breast beating and tooth gnashing over the demise of the honor system (Inbox, September issue). I say restore open exams, allow them to be taken wherever and with all the tools — AI, internet, whatever — and grade the product. That's the way life is outside the ivy walls. The students who thought and listened probably will do best.

MIKE DEVINE '62
Sarasota Springs, N.Y.

RESEARCH ON RESOURCES

In the article on the operations research and financial engineering department ("Calculating Fortune," September issue), you write that "students use software called Vatic to model electricity usage and pricing on the Texas grid,

COURTESY OF HENRY VON KOHORN '66; COURTESY OF MIKE PINSKY '15

ONLINE
EXCLUSIVES

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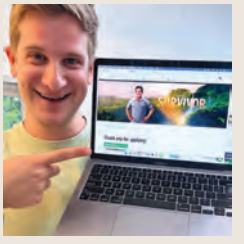
BASEBALL
World Series

Henry Von Kohorn '66 collects World Series tickets. Not only does he have tickets from every World Series ever played, from 1903 until 2021 or so (when they stopped making printed tickets), he has tickets from all but a handful of World Series *games* ever played.



TIGER OF THE WEEK
Survivor

There's a tiger on this season of *Survivor*: **Mike Pinsky '15** is a longtime fan whose dream of competing on the reality show that pits stranded castaways against each other has come true. Pinsky couldn't say when in the season he gets eliminated when he spoke with PAW, but he did say filming the show was "brutal and the real deal."

FILM
A Wonderful Life

A new biopic, *Jimmy,* explores how **Jimmy Stewart '32's** experiences as a World War II bomber pilot shaped his life and Hollywood career, including his struggles with trauma and self-doubt. Stewart remains one of Princeton's most beloved alumni, and as the film is released, PAW asked faculty and students to examine how much of his cultural relevance endures.

PAW BOOK CLUB
WWII Spies

We're excited to announce the next PAW Book Club read will be **Elyse Graham '07's** *Book and Dagger: How Scholars and Librarians Became the Unlikely Spies of World War II*. This bestseller follows a crew of unlikely heroes: literature professors, librarians, and historians who were tapped to fill the Office of Strategic Services at the start of World War II, when America didn't yet have an intelligence agency. Join and read with us at paw.princeton.edu/paw-book-club.

YOUR PERSPECTIVE

Let us know what you think

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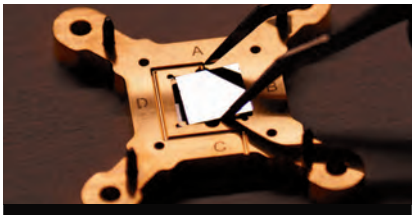

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OFFICE OF INNOVATION

particularly as demand soars with the growth of energy-sucking AI data centers."

There's a similar problem for which the same type of analysis is applicable. There are places in the Western U.S. where homeowners and farmers compete for groundwater. As demand increases, the water table decreases and wells must be drilled deeper and deeper to find water. Large agricultural businesses can afford to, and are willing to, drill deeper than households and even whole residential communities, resulting in further decrease in the water table. The operations research problem is how to balance the societal need for residential water with the profit-oriented demands of agribusiness.

MURPHY SEWALL '64
Windham, Conn.

COACH THE DOG

I've had the privilege of attending Puppies Behind Bars events at the Green Haven maximum security prison in Millbrook, New York. As the article about Princeton Public Safety's dog, Coach, indicates, the dogs are most impressive (On the Campus, September issue). But even more so are the 20 men who train them. All three visits were highly emotional for different reasons. The men made radical changes in their lives before they were accepted for the program. Thanks to Puppies Behind Bars and corrections personnel with vision, their progress continues.

PETER D. KINDER '70
Dorset, Vt.

BICYCLE PHOTOS

The September "From the Archives" photo of a student on a bicycle reminded me of a 1972 photo of me on my bike taken by my dear friend An-Lac Nguyen *74, who also lived at 15 Dickinson St. An-Lac and I often cooked together, and we rode our bikes to the Princeton Shopping Center to buy groceries at the Acme that was there long ago.

An-Lac is Vietnamese and returned to Vietnam after completing his Ph.D. in chemical engineering. Some time after An-Lac returned, Vietnam fell under harsh communist rule. He knew that there would be severe consequences if that photo of an American woman was found on him, so he trimmed it down so that he could safely hide it among the official papers that he was required to carry. He carried that photo throughout the repressive communist regime, during which time he married and worked in his family's business. An-Lac and I lost touch when he was in Vietnam, but we regained contact when he and his wife Annie moved to Canada.

I didn't know the story of the photograph until a few years ago. When I learned it, my friend's daring loyalty moved me to tears.

JANICE STULTZ RODDENBERY *77
Lawrenceville, N.J.

JANICE STULTZ RODDENBERY *77

AN-LAC NGUYEN *74

COURTESY OF JANICE STULTZ RODDENBERY *77 AND AN-LAC NGUYEN *74

ADVANCING PRINCETON

Inform › Involve › Inspire

The Princeton campus is beautiful 365 days a year, but autumn is its favorite outfit.

This month, as the foliage proudly reveals its Princeton colors and alumni bask in the aftermath of Homecoming and Orange & Black Day, we give thanks for our community. Advancing Princeton celebrates the myriad ways the extended Tiger family engages with the University, from **volunteering** to **giving** to **connecting** with fellow Princetonians.

In these pages, learn about next year's Alumni Day honorees, find out where President Eisgruber will be traveling next to meet with alumni and discover the many ways to give back to the University while you are finalizing your year-end financial checklists.

To find regional, affinity group, class, APGA and campus-based events, read alumni news and features, and discover opportunities to give back, visit the Princeton Alumni website and TigerNet, and follow @PrincetonAlumni on Instagram, Facebook and X.

alumni.princeton.edu

Upcoming Events

DEC. 1

Tiger Athletics Give Day (TAGD)
Push your favorite Tiger team to the top during the annual 24-hour fundraiser to support more than 1,000 student-athletes.

DEC. 16

TigerSide Chat '**The Wedge of Allegiance: Loyalties and the American Revolution**,' with Michael Blaakman, Associate Professor of History

FEB. 9

All-alumni event in Washington, D.C., with President Eisgruber

Join President Christopher L. Eisgruber '83 and learn what's next for Princeton.

FEB. 20

Alumni Day

Reconnect with friends, hear from the award winners and attend the Service of Remembrance.

Scan to view all the upcoming events.

Dear Tigers,

The Alumni Association capped its monthslong bicentennial celebration with Orange & Black Day on Oct. 22 — a fitting finale that also marked Princeton's 280th birthday. In partnership with Alumni Engagement, we sent more than 70 spirit kits to regional clubs, classes and affinity groups for Orange & Black Day events, and it was wonderful to see so much Princeton spirit as Tigers gathered together across the globe and shared their pride online.

Since launching the 200th anniversary festivities in February at Alumni Day, the Alumni Council has provided Spark Funds to alumni groups for initiatives that transcend traditional programming and ignite participation for alumni organizations worldwide. More than 30 grants provided support for events that ranged from a wine tasting in Northern Ohio, to a kickball gathering in D.C., to an all-European 200th celebration in Amsterdam. (For a full listing of events and more information about the anniversary, visit 200.alumni.princeton.edu.)

As we conclude the 200th celebration, we aim to continue to inspire new ways for alumni to engage with the University and with each other, and to focus on our priorities of connecting with current students and recent alumni, driving TigerNet use and measuring our progress in engaging all alumni.

In this season of gratitude, I want to express my appreciation to all of you in our Princeton community for the many ways you animate the Alumni Council's theme of "Our Princeton. Our time." as Princeton truly belongs to all of us. I wish you the happiest of holidays and invite you to make plans to join us on campus for Alumni Day on Feb. 20. For more information on this and other upcoming events, visit the Princeton Alumni website and follow @princetonalumni on social media.

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

The Princeton Club of Western Washington

Spark Funds give life to innovative alumni engagement

On a sparkling summer afternoon on Mercer Island, five miles from downtown Seattle, more than 225 members of the Princeton Club of Western Washington (PCWW) community came out for a Family Field Day to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Alumni Association. The event was boosted by a Spark Fund, an initiative launched by the Alumni Council in February to commemorate the Alumni Association's bicentennial celebration. Alumni organizations were invited to submit proposals for innovative events that transcend traditional programming, spark meaningful alumni connections and inspire creative engagement.

"The Spark Fund, as the name implies, definitely sparked a new chapter for our association," said Karthick Ramakrishnan *02, who became president of PCWW last October. "That's something that I hope can inspire other regional associations as well."

Overall, the Alumni Council approved 32 Spark Fund awards, ranging from $200 to $5,000, to help Princeton alumni organizations on four continents and in nine countries reach their potential. The Princeton Alumni Association of Singapore planned a scavenger hunt through the Asian Civilisations Museum, one of Singapore's premier cultural institutions, and a Tiger Beach Clean-Up as an opportunity to reach mid-career alumni with children — a traditionally elusive demographic for events. The Princeton Club of St. Louis (PCSTL) pitched a "StoryCorps meets Antiques Roadshow" project of oral histories, a digital museum and a keepsake booklet to celebrate the club's 150th anniversary. In Amsterdam on Oct. 3, Spark Funds helped to bring together alumni from 10 European countries for a gathering to celebrate the Alumni Association's 200th anniversary.

"Old friends and roommates reconnected, alums from all different generations talked and laughed for hours, and future European meetups were planned," said Elizabeth Brennan '23, the organizer who submitted the Amsterdam event for Spark Funds. "It was a testament to how incredible the Princeton community is and how much it means to all of us."

Tigers together in Amsterdam

200.alumni.princeton.edu

Nobel laureates Frances Arnold '79 and Mary Brunkow *91 to receive top alumni awards

Princeton University will present its top awards for alumni to Frances Arnold '79, engineering professor at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), and Mary Brunkow *91, distinguished investigator at the Institute for Systems Biology (ISB) in Seattle. Arnold, who graduated from Princeton with a bachelor's degree in mechanical and aerospace engineering, will receive the Woodrow Wilson Award. Brunkow, who earned a Ph.D. in molecular biology, will receive the James Madison Medal. These awards will be presented at the 112th Alumni Day, to be held on campus Feb. 20, 2027.

Arnold is a pioneer in the field of "directed evolution" of enzymes. In 2018, she became the first Princeton alumna to win a Nobel Prize, receiving the honor in chemistry for research that produced enzymes capable of manufacturing cleaner biofuels and pharmaceuticals.

At Caltech since 1987, Arnold serves as the Linus Pauling Professor of Chemical Engineering, Bioengineering and Biochemistry and is the director of its Donna and Benjamin M. Rosen Bioengineering Center. There, the Arnold Lab's efforts to genetically engineer biological systems have become industrially relevant foundations for what became known as synthetic biology. Her lab developed a revolutionary approach by introducing random mutations to specific protein genes and screening libraries of the mutated proteins for enhanced properties, accumulating mutations over multiple generations to engineer useful enzymes. Arnold's evolutionary approach to design became the gold standard for enzyme engineering, which led to her winning the 2018 Nobel Prize.

After earning a degree in cell and molecular biology from the University of Washington, Mary Brunkow became one of the first graduate students to join Princeton's new Department of Molecular Biology. In 2001, while working at a gene-discovery biotechnology startup, Brunkow and her colleagues identified a single mutated mouse gene — known as FOXP3 — linked to an autoimmune disease, a discovery that proved illuminating to the function of human immune systems.

Their research helped launch the field of peripheral immune tolerance — how the body prevents its own immune system from attacking healthy tissues and organs — and spurred new medical advances to treat autoimmune disease, enable transplantation and advance immuno-oncology. For this breakthrough, in 2025, Brunkow became the Princeton Graduate School's first alum to win the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine.

The University bestows the Wilson Award annually upon an undergraduate alum whose career embodies Wilson's 1896 speech, "Princeton in the Nation's Service." The Madison Medal, established by the Association of Princeton Graduate Alumni (APGA), is presented each year to celebrate a graduate alum who has had a distinguished career, advanced the cause of graduate education or achieved an outstanding record of public service.

Photo: Christopher Michel

Photo: Alex Garland for ISB

Top: Frances Arnold '79,
bottom: Mary Brunkow *91

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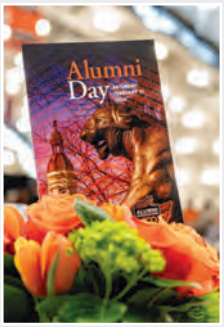
Saturday, Feb. 20, 2027



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"Richard was eternally grateful for the scholarship assistance he received from the University," said Lois Dallow W62, who established a scholarship fund with her daughter, Katherine Dallow '94, in honor of Richard Dallow '62. "He would be humbled to know that he and our family are now in a legacy position of affording similar opportunities to deserving students."

Inspired by members of the Class of 1943, friend of the University Gary Forlini established the James R. Stack Scholarship Fund and made a bequest commitment to the Maurice Kirby Collette Scholarship, honoring two alumni whose lives were cut short during World War II.

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Courtesy of Katherine Dallow

Left to right: Richard Dallow '62, Katherine Dallow '94 and Lois Dallow W62

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alumni.princeton.edu/give/gift-planning

Photos: Denise Applewhite; Steven Freeman; Andrea Kane; Sameer A. Khan; Tori Repp

KEVIN BIRCH

Windy Winners

A nor'easter brought wind gusts and light rain to Princeton Stadium during the football team's home opener against the University at Albany Sept. 26, but the weather did not muffle the hearty fans — or slow down the Tigers. Running back Kai Honda '28 scored two touchdowns to lead Princeton to a 22-0 win, the program's first shutout in nearly five years.

STUDENT LIFE

Turning Mental Health Awareness Into Action

Students push for changes to campus culture while a new task force highlights resources

BY JULIE BONETTE

CAITLIN STEIN '30 ATTENDED the University's third annual Community Care Day on Sept. 25 specifically to pet therapy dogs, but she couldn't miss the dozen or so tables staffed primarily by University employees offering information about wellness resources at Princeton.

"I know that Princeton has a lot of mental health resources," said Stein, in large part because new students heard about them at "every single one" of the start-of-the-year events for freshmen and transfer students.

Dave Achonu '28 volunteered for Community Care Day to help inform students about the University's resources because he believes his generation faces significant mental health challenges, especially at elite universities.

"Everything here is hard, and everyone pretends that it's not hard," said Achonu, adding that it's up to the entire Princeton community to spur positive changes.

The multitude of resources offered coupled with a campus culture that can make well-being difficult to prioritize has become a point of tension for student leaders and University administrators.

SHARING AND CARING
Students anonymously shared secrets at one of the tents set up for Community Care Day in September.

John Kolligian, executive director of University Health Services, and Calvin Chin, director of Counseling and Psychological Services (CPS), recently co-chaired a Mental Health Task Force composed of 45 staff, students, and faculty "from many different parts of Princeton" who examined how different areas of the University contribute to well-being, Chin told PAW in an email.

"Support for well-being is woven across campus," Kolligian said via email. "In that respect, Princeton's resources and overall approach are comparable to, and in some areas distinctive among, our Ivy Plus peers."

In May, the task force published a report outlining the University's progress on 79 recommendations intended to improve student mental health and well-being. It reported that 89% of the recommended steps had been completed, including peer mentoring programs, a plan to help identify isolated students, and other administrative actions related to mental health.

SAMEER A. KHAN h'21 / FOTOBUDDY

Aakansh Yerpude ’27, chair of the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) Mental Health Committee, is one of many students who said that making resources available is not enough. “We can create all the policies and have all the structures and have all the resources that we want, but our metric should not be whether we have them, it should be whether students are using them and if students are finding value in them,” he said.

Yerpude co-led a student and alumni mental health campaign last academic year titled One Too Many, a reference to the campaign’s message that even one student death by suicide is too many. According to the One Too Many website, seven Princeton students have died by suicide in the last five years, “the highest known Ivy League rate.”

The campaign culminated in the spring with a letter to administrators signed by nearly 300 undergraduates demanding more action. The letter included a dozen recommendations, such as workload audits across the University and providing anonymous pathways to support.

The letter, which was adopted by the USG Senate, also detailed findings from a survey of about 330 undergraduates. Nearly 70% of respondents reported being “always or often stressed about academics” and four out of five said they “sacrifice sleep to keep up with coursework.” Only 13.7% reported having enough time to prioritize their own well-being.

“Meaningful change is long overdue” when it comes to mental health at Princeton, the letter said, and “this crisis deserves attention, respect, and most importantly, urgency.”

Yerpude said over the summer that the USG Mental Health Committee met several times with administrators, leaving him optimistic about the University’s response. He anticipates an update from either USG or the University’s Office of the Vice President for Campus Life by the end of this semester. “Things are underway, I think, generally, with most all of the recommendations that we had outlined in the letter,” he said.

“From a student perspective, the culture is what directs and influences student well-being. So, conversations about mental health that don’t implicate campus culture are missing the mark.”

— CHIOMA UGWONALI ’24
Member of the Mental Health Task Force

That outlook seems like an improvement from the beginning of the summer, when the University made cuts to reimbursement rates for therapists and psychiatrists within Princeton’s Exclusive Provider Network (EPN) without warning — a decision that Yerpude said “felt like a slap in the face” to the student body.

“That was just really disappointing for us because we’ve done this letter, this campaign, and then they take literally the opposite step. And part of me understands this whole budget cut thing, but I also don’t understand because health is not something that they should be cutting back on,” said Yerpude.

Chin told PAW in September that 82% of EPN providers remain in the network.

Noah Luch ’24 co-founded the USG Mental Health Committee in 2023 because he felt “something really needed to be done” at Princeton. As a student representative on the Mental Health Task Force, Luch said he “felt like I was fighting almost against the task force in sometimes trying to really make sure the student voices were actually heard.” But overall, he’s happy with what he sees as positive shifts in policy over the past few years, leading to “real substantive change.”

The task force was convened as part of the University’s second partnership in a decade with The Jed Foundation, a national nonprofit focused on college student mental health. During the latest 18-month collaboration, which ran from 2023 to 2025, the task force reviewed existing resources and support, formed subcommittees, hosted a Jed Foundation site visit in spring 2024, and developed a strategic plan with 79 action items. By the time the plan was created, work had begun on all but one of those items.

The task force’s report, released on May 1, included an important caveat, namely that “broader dimensions of campus culture or climate” had not been fully captured and “remain important areas for ongoing institutional attention.”

“A single report cannot change culture,” Kolligian said. “Culture evolves through sustained efforts, shared values, policies, programs, leadership, and everyday interactions across the community.”

Tiffanie Cheng Wu ’24, founder of the Princeton Alumni Mental Health Coalition and a member of the task force, said the community has a responsibility not only to make resources accessible and digestible but to ensure “that students have room and space within their everyday life of being a student here” to take advantage of them. In response to those who say Princeton has tons of great resources, she responds, “Yes, love that. We need these. But on top of that, there is an underlying issue of why students are not doing great.”

“From a student perspective, the culture is what directs and influences student well-being,” said Chioma Ugwonali ’24, a member of the task force. “So, conversations about mental health that don’t implicate campus culture are missing the mark.”

Addressing that culture — and helping to reshape it — could become a focus of the task force’s next iteration: a standing Mental Health Advisory Committee that Kolligian said will form this academic year. Vice President for Campus Life W. Rochelle Calhoun will decide its membership and what they will do.

Yerpude said he knows that neither the One Too Many campaign nor the Mental Health Task Force are the “solution,” but he hopes Princeton continues to try different approaches. “We need to be trying more, harder, and we need to be less afraid of having the right answer, because I don’t think that anyone does,” he said. P

FROM LEFT, DWAINE WILLIAMSON, JACK CIPAS '27, TALON FLORES '28, AND ELLIOT WATT '28.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Student Veterans Are Restoring a Historic American Legion Post

BY NGAN CHIEM '23

AS A KID, JACK CIPAS '27 spent time grinding rust off dumpsters for his family's trash removal business.

"Eventually, I got a commercial driver's license [to] drive the garbage trucks," he said. It's something he still does in his spare time.

After serving five years in the U.S. Army, including three years in Special Forces, Cipas enrolled at Princeton in 2023. Between studying and going to classes, work has looked a lot different to him, and he sometimes misses working with his hands.

Then last year at a Princeton Student Veterans meeting, he heard from visiting American Legion members about an old Legion post near campus in dire need of repair.

It was the kind of project Cipas needed. He and the student veterans group president, Elliot Watt '28, got to work.

The Charles W. Robinson American Legion Post 218 at 26 Lytle St., a 12-minute walk from campus, was chartered in 1922 and named after the first Black Princeton resident to die in combat in World War I. It was among the nation's first racially integrated gathering places for Black veterans during segregation, serving as a social club, wedding reception hall, and venue for other community events, according to the Legion.

But the property, owned by the Legion, has since fallen into disrepair. For more than 15 years, its doors have remained closed as membership continued to shrink following a national decline in the veteran population and shifting generational interests.

"We saw it as, like, if we don't do it, then it's probably not going to get done," said Watt, who served in the U.S. Navy for two years before matriculating at Princeton in 2024.

In early February, he and Cipas began removing old furniture, appliances, garbage, and rotting drywall from the building. They devoted whatever time they could between classes to the renovation, usually on Wednesdays and Fridays when their schedules were lighter.

Then spring break rolled around and they were at the post every day for five to eight hours at a time. Six volunteers from Princeton Student Veterans and one from ROTC came to help, and Cipas' family also joined in. "All my brothers have been there, my dad, my uncle, my whole family's kind of been there," he said.

With the company garbage truck, Cipas said, he drove four full 30-yard dumpsters from the site.

Cipas and Watt finished the initial cleanup in the spring and are now working to raise funds to insure the building before new construction can take place. Cipas and Watt said in an email that they expect the project to cost $185,000, with additional insurance costs of $1,000 to $3,000 annually.

With an ambitious target of completing the work before Watt's graduation in 2028, the two worry that the state and federal grants they're currently applying for might not materialize in time. They're also actively looking for private funding sources.

When asked how much money they've personally invested in the project, Watt said they haven't been counting the dollars. "It was just something that we both wanted to do."

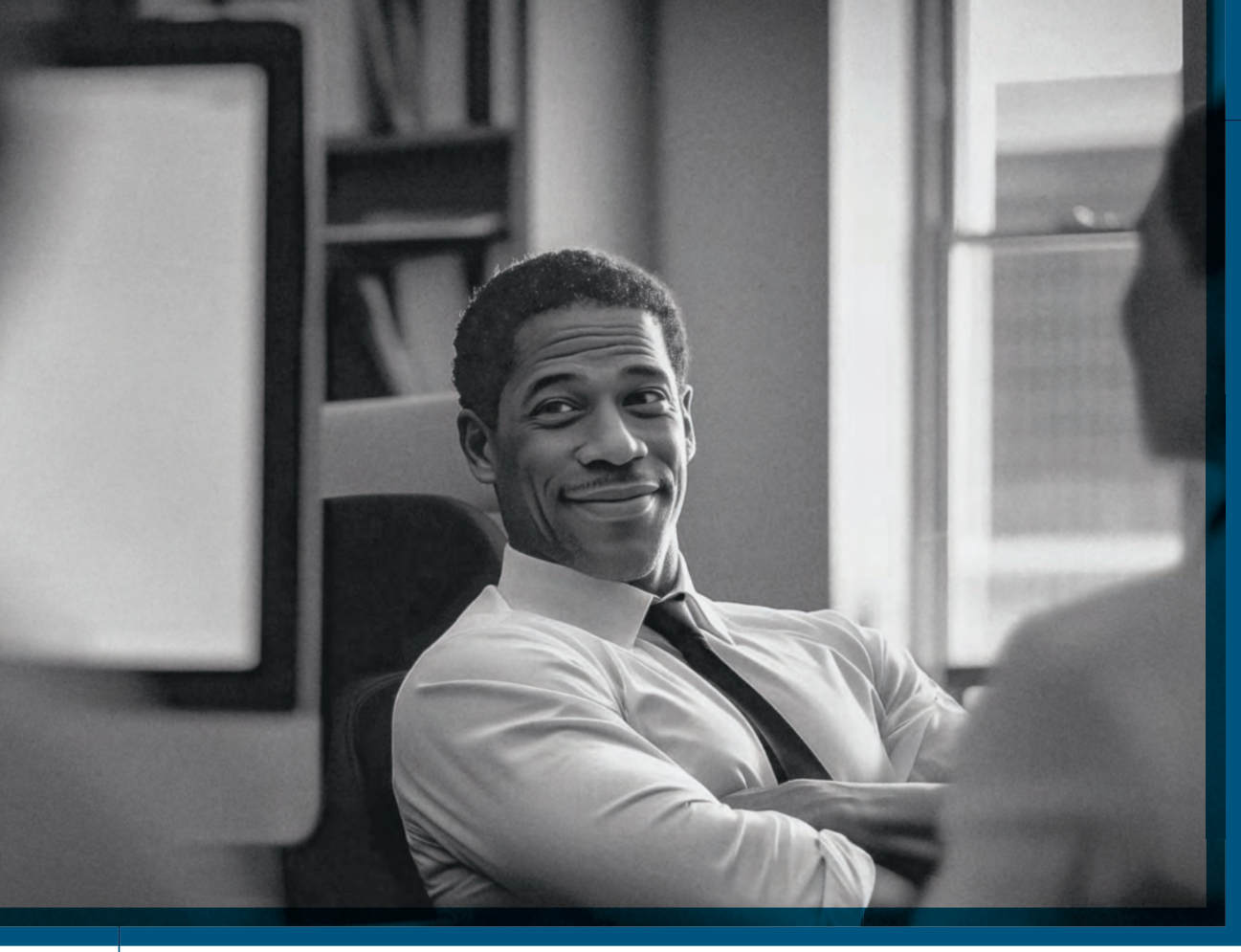
"I just want to efficiently fix this place and have it functioning as fast as possible," Cipas said.

Cipas and Watt envision the renovated Legion post as a safe space away from campus where the growing veteran and military-affiliated community on campus — now around 100 members — can discuss difficult topics such as culture shock and mental health and help newcomers identify and enroll in benefits. While the Department of Veterans Affairs has taken on some of these responsibilities in the past, Cipas said their customer service can sometimes feel impersonal.

Spencer Reynolds '92, a board member of the Princeton Veteran Alumni Association and a University staff member, tried for years to recruit students to the Legion restoration project without success, until Cipas and Watt got involved. He's impressed with the work the duo has accomplished and has consulted with them about external funding options.

"It's really quite a challenge," Reynolds said, "and if nothing else, they're not shy about taking on a challenge." P

COURTESY OF ELLIOT WATT '28



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CHRISTOPHER JANNEY '72 INSIDE HIS ART INSTALLATION AT MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

ROBIN HILL

ACADEMICS

Grads Recall Unconventional Paths as Princeton Pauses Independent Major

BY JULIE BONETTE

SINCE 1980, Christopher Janney '72 has directed his own multimedia studio, where projects bridge architecture and performance. But his work really began at Princeton, where he was among the first of a small group of students who have pursued an independent course of study.

"I care deeply about the independent major program, even after 50 years," Janney said, adding that he cannot imagine what his life would be like if he hadn't created his own major in architecture and visual arts. For the last few decades, Janney's artistic creations, which are often musical, have been installed throughout the U.S. and Europe in spots ranging from a private residence to popular music festivals.

Students from the Class of 2029 may be the last to have the chance to choose an independent major, according to the Office of the Dean of the College, which reported online that the option "will be paused for subsequent classes until further notice, pending a review of the program."

Rebekah Peeples *09, deputy dean of the college, told PAW via email that the review will be presented to the faculty Committee on the Course of Study and that a decision is expected by the end of the academic year.

Peeples pointed to an increase in departments' "structured, credit-bearing pathways" that lead up to junior and senior independent work and new available minors as reasons behind the pause. Also, an independent major "may represent a student's interest in a particular moment in time, which can then be difficult to translate in the future," such as for further education. "The College has a responsibility to ensure that students' studies are legible externally for an extended period of time," Peeples said.

In addition, should a faculty adviser become unable to fulfill their responsibilities, the student would face a lack of fallback options, according to Peeples.

A database of Princeton senior theses lists 205 students who have successfully completed an independent major since 1972, when the first program participants graduated. Students who wanted to major in linguistics previously had to become independent majors, but after a unanimous vote at the faculty meeting this February, the Program in Linguistics, then housed within the Council of Humanities, became an independent academic unit and now offers its own major.

This year, a single student graduated with an independent major that was not in linguistics; most recently before that was a member of the Class of 2023. According to data from the University, excluding linguistics, only eight students have graduated with an independent major since 2019.

For this year's sophomore class, interested students must meet with their residential dean and submit a proposal outlining their intended course of study

and why it cannot be achieved within an existing department. They must have at least a 3.0 GPA and the support of two or more faculty members. Proposals are reviewed by the deputy dean of the college and a faculty committee.

Alumni who graduated with independent majors mourned the program's pause, saying that while it can be challenging to chart your own path as a young adult, the results are often rewarding.

Austin Mejia '21, who earned a degree in computer science and public policy, said he "became convinced that this was the best path for me because it didn't force me to compromise or choose one being more important than the other. I wanted to approach and study both equally."

"The thing that was so special to me was that I got to really look at what I wanted to do and not be forced to take various fairly difficult classes that I had literally no interest in whatsoever," said Gab Duguay '22, an Indigenous studies major. "And that would've probably had a negative impact on my mental health and my Princeton experience."

On the other hand, Duguay said, the lack of community and structure of an established department made him feel left out on graduation day. "I was lucky enough to get a certificate in humanities, and my family and I just treated that like it was my little reception, because otherwise I would've been a bit out of luck," he said.

Dan Morris '72, an independent major in education, said that charting his own path made him more productive. "I wasn't [just] getting by, I was driven to do the things that I was doing," he said.

Glenn Shepard '87, an independent concentrator in ethnobiology who was recently a visiting professor of anthropology at Princeton, said he understands why the University wants students to follow established tracks, but those tracks may not be for everyone.

"There's always going to be students who don't fit into the standard boxes," Shepard said. "To take that opportunity away forever seems very sad." P

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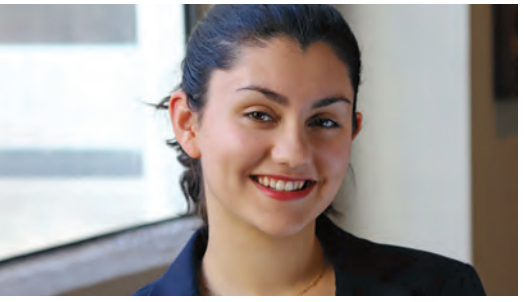
STUDENT DISPATCH

Getting the Scoop on Princeton's Ice Cream Obsession

BY LILY WILLIAMS-AMEEN '29



WALKING AROUND PRINCETON on an early fall night, I heard the constant hum of chatter along the sidewalks, cobbled streets, and manicured grass of Palmer Square. Fairy lights strung through the trees provided ambient light for groups clustered around doorways. In any other college town, you might think those lines lead to a pub. At Princeton, they lead to ice cream shops.

Princeton students' demand for ice cream goes back more than 150 years. In May 1873, the *Princeton Press* reported that George A. Dohm's Ice Cream Saloon, "where the inhabitants of Princeton and vicinity can always refresh themselves," had opened on Nassau Street. The restaurant, a student favorite, closed at the turn of the 20th century, but the appetite for ice cream has remained.

Today, there are seven ice cream and frozen yogurt spots within half a mile of Nassau Hall. Thomas Sweet is the longest-running, having opened in 1979. Halo Pub followed in 1992, and several others popped up in the decades after. In the past year, two more have opened: The Baked Bear on Witherspoon Street and Reunion Sweet Parlor on Spring Street.

The shops are a magnet for a night out, drawing friend groups, couples, and families. I couldn't help but wonder how all seven survive, so I set out to visit each one.

I began in Palmer Square with the cozy Bent Spoon. Even in the chilly fall weather, a line that grew to around 20 people was beginning to form. The owners, Gab Carbone and Matt Errico, create seasonal desserts using local ingredients, inspired by "New Jersey as the Garden State," according to Carbone. This fall's flavors include a fuchsia raspberry apple cider sorbet and baked apple ice cream, reminiscent of apple pie à la mode.

A three-minute walk away, Halo offers around 50 flavors sourced from a local dairy. Its wood-paneled interior makes it the perfect place for delicious classics — cookies 'n' cream is a fan favorite.

> **"The ice cream market [here] is really saturated, and I wish that when a new store opened it would be for something different."**
>
> — TOM BRADEN '29
> First-time Baked Bear customer

Working my way east, I visited the new Baked Bear franchise, which specializes in ice cream sandwiches. Inside, I was greeted by rows of cookies, without ice cream in sight. Many students were trying out the new spot. Moose tracks was the recommended flavor.

First-time customer Tom Braden '29 wasn't sold on the large servings (and relatively high prices). "The ice cream market [here] is really saturated, and I wish that when a new store opened it would be for something different," he said.

Junbi, also on Witherspoon, specializes in matcha tea but offers soft serve alongside its drinks. Toppings include "dustings" of matcha and cocoa powders, fruit jellies, and chia seeds. Owner David Tsai describes it as a "mom and pop franchise" intended to create a "third space" for students. Even on a Friday night, a couple of students were hard at work on their computers, green soft serve cups in hand.

Reunion, the second new shop in town, has a sleek, modern feel, with metallic tables. Its flavors are innovative — horchata, basil strawberry, and banana, for example.

Visiting Thomas Sweet afterward felt like going back in time, with a funhouse mirror inside that evokes cotton candy and carnivals. Fittingly, one of its most popular flavors is called Jersey Shore (vanilla with salted caramel).

The frozen yogurt scene is also alive and well at Fruity Yogurt, which was packed until closing. "I don't think Fruity Yogurt is the best frozen yogurt, but frozen yogurt is simply the best," said Cadigan Perriello '29, a regular customer who always opts for plain tart yogurt with coconut, cookie dough, boba pearls, whipped cream, and sprinkles.

Operating a business in Princeton presents challenges like high rent and stiff competition, especially when you have six competitors selling similar products. Carbone, however, does not seem worried about the growing number of shops. When it comes to ice cream, she said, "The more, the merrier." P

ROBERT NEUBECKER; COURTESY OF LILY WILLIAMS-AMEEN '29

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PROTESTERS AND ICE OFFICERS FACE OFF IN NEWARK, NEW JERSEY, IN JUNE.

CLASS CLOSE-UP

New Course Examines Impact of ICE and Immigration

BY JULIE BONETTE

THE UNITED STATES HAS FOR decades been known as a nation of immigrants, yet in recent years, anti-immigrant sentiment has swelled and the tactics of ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement) have become a political flashpoint. Students in Daniela Valdés' newest course, Criminalizing Immigrants: From Border Patrol to Mass Incarceration, are attempting to examine the historical narrative and its evolution to contemporary times.

Valdés, a Cotsen Fellow in the Society of Fellows and an associate research scholar and history lecturer in the Council of the Humanities, said recent attention-grabbing incidents and policies inspired the course, which examines immigration and incarceration from the Colonial period to present day through an interdisciplinary lens. It is cross-listed in history, gender and sexuality studies, African American studies, and American studies.

Students are learning about the importance of language in the telling of history — for example, words like "Chicano" have deep roots and invoke specific political narratives — and how political and social movements spread across borders.

Nicole Ramirez '27 said she enrolled to better understand not only the current moment, but also "what kind of events have led up to the idea of criminals being inherently involved with immigration."

"I think that this is the most pertinent course that anybody can be taking right now," said Kenneth Simmons '27.

All 13 students, mostly juniors and seniors from a range of majors, are working with Cosecha New Jersey, a local immigrant rights organization, as part of the course. Throughout the semester, students must attend and observe at least one Cosecha NJ event, such as a weekly vigil held outside Newark's Delaney Hall Detention Facility.

For the final, the class will present a joint report of original research to Cosecha NJ on the intersection of race, immigration, and criminalization in the U.S. It will then be archived at the Hispanic Resource and Information Center at the Newark Public Library. Students can write papers or choose other formats, such as documentary film.

"The point is to contribute something of value, not just to historiography but to the communities that ... are affected the most by the issues that we're studying," said Valdés.

Students are encouraged to look beyond peer-reviewed academic papers by talking to those who have been impacted by immigrant detention or deportation and their lawyers, for example.

"Given the significance of this moment in U.S. immigration history, I think it's especially important to preserve firsthand accounts of how individuals are experiencing and responding to immigration policies," said Madeline Cannon '27. "I hope my project can contribute to documenting experiences that might otherwise go unrecorded." P

IN SHORT

U.S. News & World Report ranked Massachusetts Institute of Technology No. 1 on its annual list of Best National Universities, bumping Princeton to No. 2 after 15 consecutive years in the top spot. The 2027 methodology used a new "graduates' earnings by major" factor, *U.S. News* wrote, which replaced the median federal loan debt factor, historically a strength for Princeton. Ivy League peers Harvard and Yale ranked No. 3 and No. 4, respectively, on the list, while Caltech and Stanford tied for the No. 5 spot. P

IN MEMORIAM

Ulrich Knoepflmacher *61, whose study of Victorian fiction and poetry eventually led him to create a popular undergraduate course on children's literature, died Sept. 4 at age 95. Knoepflmacher joined the faculty in 1979 after teaching at the University of California, Berkeley, his undergraduate alma mater, and remained at Princeton for nearly three decades, studying, teaching, and writing about the works of Emily Brontë, George Eliot, and other Victorian giants. The era also was "the golden age of children's literature," he told PAW in 2006, which partly explained his interest in that often-overlooked genre. Knoepflmacher published his own children's book, *Franny, Randy, and the Over-the-Edge Cat Person*, in 2009.

Van Zandt Williams Jr. '65, who oversaw two successful capital campaigns during his 22 years as the University's vice president for development, died Aug. 7 at age 82. Williams led Princeton's first billion-dollar campaign, the Anniversary Campaign for Princeton (1995-2000), a major driver of the move to no-loan financial aid for undergraduates in 2001. Annual Giving more than tripled during his tenure, with the participation rate reaching 61%. P

MATTHEW HOEN / AP; DENISE APPLEWHITE / PRINCETON UNIVERSITY; COURTESY OF THE WILLIAMS FAMILY

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KAIYU GUAN *13

MACARTHUR FELLOWS

Alumnus and Two Professors Win 2026 'Genius Grants'

BY CARLETT SPIKE

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST Kaiyu Guan *13 and Princeton professors Ellora Derenoncourt and Elizabeth Ellis are among the recipients of 2026 MacArthur Fellowships, known informally as "Genius Grants."

They join 20 other scientists, artists, and scholars across the U.S. chosen for their exceptional creativity, promise for the future, and potential to create subsequent creative work with the funding, according to the MacArthur Foundation website. Each fellow will receive a "no strings attached" award of $800,000 distributed over the next five years.

"The 2026 Fellows continue that creative tradition — they explore the depths of our humanity; they reveal untold origins to modern challenges; they expand the edges of scientific inquiry and lifesaving research," Kristen Mack, a vice president of communications at the MacArthur Foundation, said in the announcement.

Ellis, an associate professor of history, is a scholar of North American and Native American history with a focus on diplomacy, borderlands, cross-cultural exchange, and Indigenous politics. The foundation said that her work focusing on "alternative conceptions of nationhood among small Indigenous tribes offers a corrective to colonial histories that emphasize war and subjugation of Native Americans."

ELLORA DERENONCOURT

ELIZABETH ELLIS

In her book *The Great Power of Small Nations*, she examined the formation of Native American nations in the Lower Mississippi Valley. She's also collaborating on several history projects including the Reclaiming Stories project, CRoyAN (Collections Royales d'Amérique du Nord), the Indigenous Borderlands of North America research project, and the Delaware History Project.

Ellis told *The New York Times* that this grant is particularly meaningful in light of ongoing cuts to federal research funds. "It's just really nice to have these opportunities to recognize and support work that can be very difficult in this moment," she said.

Derenoncourt, an associate professor of economics, was recognized "for her research on labor market standards, wage inequality, and economic policies," according to the foundation. "Derenoncourt builds innovative datasets and leverages real-world historical events as starting points of inquiry. She is identifying the key policies and drivers of ongoing gaps in earnings and accumulated wealth between Black and white Americans."

Derenoncourt is the founding director of Princeton's Program for Research on Inequality and has received several other awards including the 2024 Sloan Research Fellowship and the 2023 National Science Foundation CAREER award.

"There are many types of economic disparities that appear deeply entrenched," Derenoncourt said in a University press release. "I see much of my work as hunting through the historical record to see when there was a change in inequality and what drove the change."

Guan is a professor at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. MacArthur recognized him for his work "providing the technical and scientific foundations for a more environmentally sustainable and productive future for agriculture."

Guan, who earned his Ph.D. in civil and environmental engineering from Princeton, is the founding director of the Agroecosystem Sustainability Center at Illinois and chief scientist of the NASA Acres Consortium. His research focuses on advanced process models, satellite sensing technology, fieldwork, and AI to address climate change.

In the Princeton press release, Guan thanked his adviser, Eric Wood — a professor emeritus of civil and environmental engineering — whom he said "trained me to think: he demanded rigor, pushed me to ask my own questions, and gave me the freedom to develop my own scientific path and the belief that the best science should be both fundamental and consequential." P

JOHN D. AND CATHERINE T. MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

CLASSICS AND ECONOMICS

Past Princeton Professors Win Nobels in Literature, Economics

FORMER PRINCETON FACULTY members Anne Carson, a Canadian poet, translator, and essayist, and Michael Woodford, a macroeconomist, were named winners of the Nobel Prizes in literature and economics, respectively, in October.

Carson, an assistant professor of classics at Princeton from 1980 to 1987, has authored more than 20 books, including the 1998 verse novel *Autobiography of Red*, which drew from an ancient Greek poem, "Geryoneis." The Nobel Committee cited her "bold and inventive oeuvre that, in playful dialogue with the classical tradition, has created new forms for contemporary literature."

Jane Alison '83, a professor of creative writing at the University of Virginia, told PAW in an email that a class she took with Carson at Princeton transformed her. "What affects me most is how she brings to the modern world of letters a grand disinterest in conventional genre boundaries that are, after all, relatively new," Alison wrote. "A fictional essay in tangos; a novel in verse with scholarly introduction and glosses; an elegy made of photos, drawings, snips of poem, and dictionary entries, all on a single long bolt of paper (like a papyrus scroll? a winding cloth?): the ancient becomes endlessly new in Anne's hands."

CARSON

WOODFORD

PONTUS LUNDAHL / AP; COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Woodford, now a professor at Columbia, taught at Princeton from 1995 to 2004. He shared the economics prize with Stanford professor Robert E. Hall. The pair were honored for their "macroeconomic models that have significantly improved our ability to implement effective stabilization policy," according to the Nobel Foundation.

Thanks to their theoretical models, "we are better equipped to deal with shocks in the economy, such as energy crises or sudden changes in how much households consume," said John Hassler, the economics Nobel Committee chair.

At a press conference, Woodford said the Nobel news came as "a surprise, but I feel very good about it." P *By J.B.*

FOOTBALL

Lineman Tare Porbeni '27 Aims To Be Princeton's Next NFL Player

Athleticism and drive fuel the offensive tackle's rapid rise

BY BRETT TOMLINSON

PRINCETON FOOTBALL COACH Bob Surace '90 knew that Oyintare "Tare" Porbeni '27 was an outstanding athlete before he went to see the offensive line recruit play high school basketball in Minnesota. But watching Porbeni on the court gave Surace a new appreciation for just how agile and powerful he is.

"He throws down two dunks, two consecutive plays," Surace said. "And the second one — they had this crowd of students there, and the students ran on the court and started jumping up and down." The referees cleared the court and called a technical foul on the cheering section.

NEW ON THE BLOCK
Tare Porbeni '27, No. 67, began playing football as a high school junior. Now he's a pro prospect.

While protecting the quarterback or opening a running lane might not get the same kind of frenzied reaction, the 6-foot-7, 300-pound Porbeni is drawing considerable attention as a tackle for the Tigers. In the preseason, *Sports Illustrated* spotlighted him as one of seven NFL offensive line prospects to watch in FCS football, and Surace expects to see a parade of scouts visiting practice this fall.

Through the season's first three weeks, Princeton's offensive line has been one of its strengths. Led by Porbeni, All-Ivy second-team players Barrett Eddlemon '27 and Justin Selbert '27, returning starter Andrew Pedersen '28, and center Phil Eichelzer '27, the line allowed just four sacks in three games (tied for second-best in the Ivy League) and looked dominant opening lanes for running back Kai Honda '28, who ran for four touchdowns and 219 yards in a 35-7 win at Columbia on Oct. 3.

Porbeni's story has parallels to the path Indianapolis Colts tackle Jalen Travis '24 followed from high school to Princeton and eventually to the NFL. Both are from Minnesota, both played basketball before transitioning to football, and both grew into starting roles in their junior years of college.

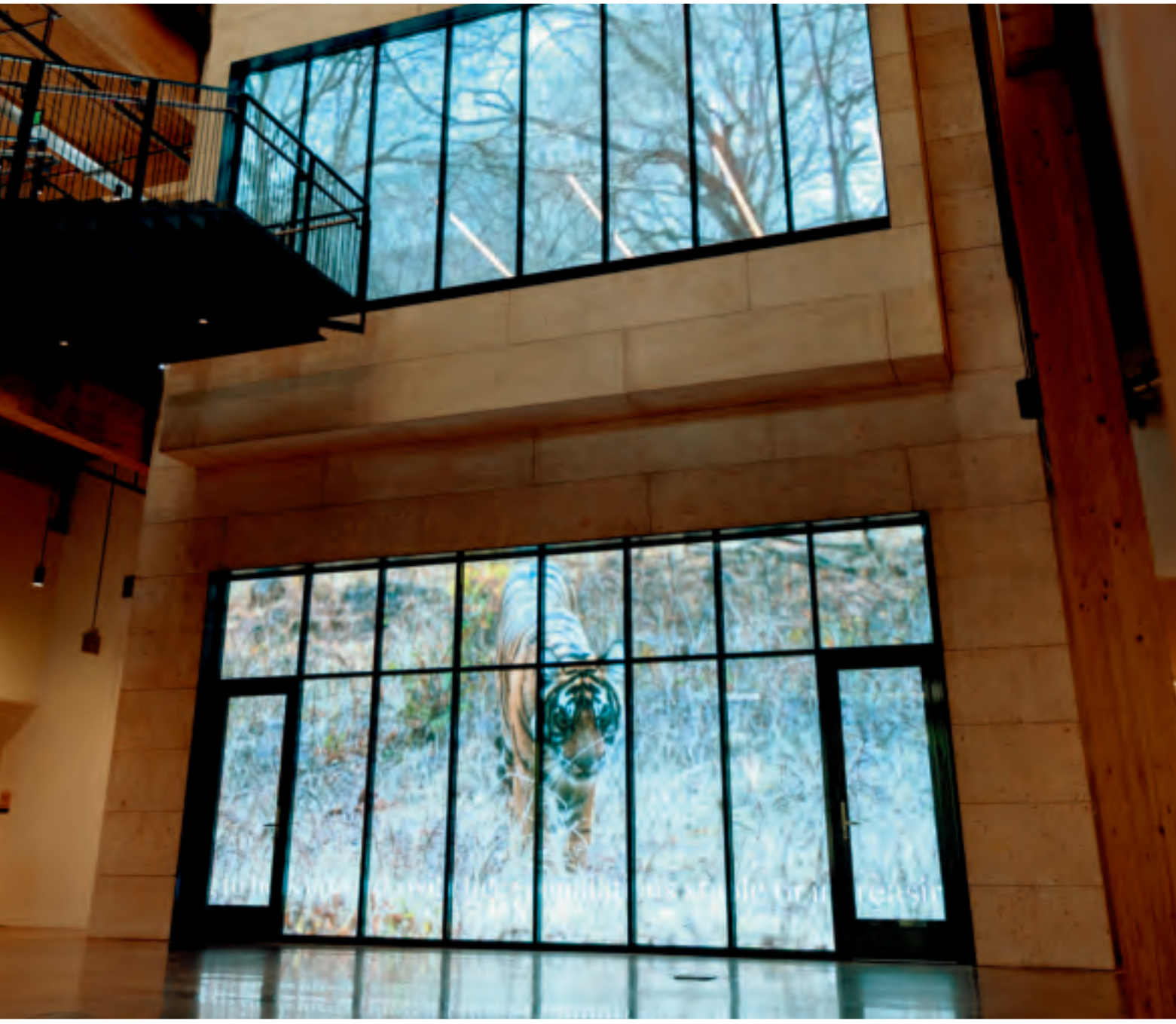
Offensive line, Porbeni said, is a "development position." Most freshmen and many sophomores never see a snap of game time as they learn blocking schemes and gain physical strength. Compared to the player he was when he came to Princeton, Porbeni said, "I'm massively different. I can definitely credit that to coach [Brandon] Cuevas and coach Surace. They invested in me. I came in as an 18-year-old, really a 17-year-old, with less than two years of football experience. And they completely transformed me."

Porbeni was one of four Tigers selected as captains this year, and Surace said that like Travis, he is driven, focused, and attentive to technique. "Jalen was so into the finer points of how to play the position," he said. "And Tare, being further behind, it took him a little bit longer. The light's come on, and it's been fun to see."

Travis, now in his first year as an NFL starter, played a season at Iowa State as a graduate transfer before being drafted in the fourth round by the Colts in 2025. Porbeni said he sees the NFL as an opportunity to prove to himself that he's capable of playing at that level.

"Something my father always told me growing up was anything worth doing is worth doing well," he said. "You know, I got to Division I, now what's next? I'm always going to push myself to be the best that I can be. And through talking with coaches and family and other folks in the field, I think [playing in the NFL] is very much a possibility. Now it's just up to me to actualize it." P

KEVIN BIRCH



DANIEL QUIYU / PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Climate Conscious

A life-size tiger appears on a window in Briger Hall as part of artist and architect Maya Lin's new installation, "What Is Missing? What If?" The project highlights people's memories of natural features disappearing due to climate change, such as the chirping of birds or buzzing of insects. The first installation in Briger Hall through Princeton's High Meadows Environmental Institute consists of enormous screens that project images of endangered animals in their natural habitats. Doors on either side of the screens open into a dedicated gallery room with facts and visuals about climate change. "How can we protect something if we don't even realize it's gone?" Lin asked at the unveiling in September. The exhibition is on view from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays with additional hours until 7 p.m. on Thursdays. Read more about Lin's exhibit at paw.princeton.edu.

TALMO PEREIRA *21

NEUROSCIENCE

Tracking Life, One Movement at a Time

Talmo Pereira *21 is using motion capture software to solve problems in climate science and human health

BY SUSAN RESLEWIC KEATLEY '99

INSIDE THE TOWERING WALLS of the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in San Diego, a maze-like corridor leads to dark rooms chock-full of glowing screens. Some contain video streams of animals overlaid with colorful points, others contain streams of code. Students at the workstations are eager to explain what they are doing, and what the cryptic images and symbols mean. "It says a lot about the lab culture that the people who start as research assistants often stay on to become grad students," says Elise Davis, a Ph.D. student who followed that very path.

Leading the whole operation is assistant professor Talmo Pereira *21, whose contributions to neuroscience are incongruously weighty for someone who seems young enough to be a student himself. After a childhood spent playing computer games to avoid the crime in his neighborhood in Brazil, Pereira has gone on to develop software that precisely and automatically tracks the motion of living things, with applications ranging from fighting climate change to characterizing early ALS.

"Behavior is a lens through which we can view and interpret activity in the brain," says Mala Murthy, director of the Princeton Neuroscience Institute and one of Pereira's Ph.D. advisers. "And Talmo has played a pivotal role in the development of methods to quantify behavior."

As an undergraduate at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Pereira was selected to be part of the prestigious Meyerhoff Scholars Program, which Pereira says is "one of, if not the most successful program aimed at expanding access to STEM careers." The program guided him toward internships at the leading edge of neuroscience and computing at the Broad Institute and Caltech. As a result of the internships, "I knew exactly what I wanted to do — use machine learning to create new ways of quantifying animal behavior — before I knew where I would go to graduate school," says Pereira, who ultimately chose Princeton because "this Hogwarts-looking place had seemingly unlimited resources, a super positive and open culture, and faculty with forward-thinking approaches and perspectives on neuroscience."

When Pereira began graduate school in 2015, motion capture was mainly done by placing reflective markers on things like joints. "To animate Gollum in *The Lord of the Rings*, Andy Serkis probably wore a suit with the reflective markers at the joints. Fruit flies are not huge fans of motion capture suits," Pereira jokes, referring to the first animals he studied. Pereira and an undergraduate in the lab, Diego Aldarondo '18, now a senior applied scientist at the Amazon company Fauna Robotics, created a deep learning software, LEAP Estimates Animal Poses, that can identify animal parts and poses from video. (A later version, SLEAP, can do this for multiple animals in a video.) "They realized they could create a smaller, faster algorithm that required far less training data than, say, what Google was doing with human pose tracking," says Josh Shaevitz, a biophysics professor at the Lewis-Sigler Institute for Integrative Genomics, and one of Pereira's Ph.D. advisers. "To track animal body parts with minimal training time was a breakthrough that made the technology accessible for widespread scientific use."

In November 2021, Pereira became a Salk Fellow, which let him immediately set up his own lab and skip years as a postdoctoral researcher, the most common next step for a scientist after graduate school. In collaboration with Salk's Harnessing Plants Initiative, SLEAP has been used to see which genetic variations in plants result in deeper, more massive, and widespread roots that can capture more carbon dioxide. Pereira describes the current setup as a "super-scale pipeline, with video of tens of thousands of plants to extract over a thousand traits per plant." Pereira goes on to explain that if we could

SALK INSTITUTE

double the amount of carbon dioxide captured by the main agricultural crops, this would exceed the total amount currently emitted worldwide.

Pereira's lab is also using SLEAP to detect the earliest signs of the devastating and fatal disease ALS. With funding from Project ALS, Pereira's lab has now amassed over 100,000 hours of video of mice and can tell around one month of age whether a mouse will go on to develop the disease. "Their caretakers — people who have worked with these mice their entire careers — have told us they cannot tell the difference between the sick and the healthy mice until months later, and even then, it's not through their daily behavior, but through specific assays, like testing their grip strength, for example," says Davis. This ultra-early detection in mice has implications for the search for ALS drugs: "This is going to enable us to do large-scale screening of therapeutics in a way that wasn't possible to do before," says Pereira.

He says that what we really need is "a system that can represent the biological structures and the [brain] computations that give rise to movement," but linked to a living thing. Such systems are called digital twins, and Pereira believes this is the future of neuroscience — testing hypotheses and situations on virtual animals. "In a very deep sense, I am still that 11-year-old tinkering with computers and building agents that can level up in the game," he says.

Pereira's self-deprecation and easy sense of humor belie the enormous impact of his work. SLEAP is used by 50,000 researchers in 93 countries, with Pereira's lab offering support to everyone from sixth graders to university faculty. "Sixth graders are much faster at picking it up," he laughs.

Pereira's brilliance extends beyond computing. "He is probably one of the most motivating people I've ever worked with," says Aldarondo, who worked with Pereira for three years on LEAP. "His passion is infectious, and he makes it easy to get excited about neuroscience and computational methods." P

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

FINOTE GIJSMAN *25 WORKING AT KENYA'S MPALA RESEARCH CENTRE.

ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY

Dung Beetles 'Doing the Job That Is Neccessary'

Princeton researcher Finote Gijsman *25 studies crucial links between the insects and elephants in a new paper

BY KATHARINE GAMMON '03

ON THE SAVANNA in central Kenya, conservation stories usually start with elephants. They tower over the landscape, reshaping vegetation and drawing tourists' cameras. But for Finote Gijsman *25, the most revealing creatures are the ones working underfoot: dung beetles. "They're just such underrated heroes," she says. "They're doing the job that is necessary but nobody acknowledges."

In her doctoral work at Princeton, Gijsman followed these beetles to understand relationships between diverse creatures across the ecosystem. "The big message that I personally take away from the paper is the fact that everything is connected," she says. "If you affect one thing, it's going to have ripple effects on other things."

Her research, conducted at the Mpala Research Centre in Laikipia, Kenya, of which Princeton is a managing partner, shows in stark detail how the loss of elephants — long described as a keystone species — cascades down to dung beetles and the crucial ecosystem services they provide, including nutrient cycling and soil aeration. In the process, she has transformed a childhood fascination

with small, overlooked creatures into a scientific lens on some of conservation's biggest questions.

In ecology, the idea of a keystone species — an organism whose influence on its ecosystem is disproportionately large relative to its abundance — is often illustrated with the story of sea otters and sea urchins along the Pacific coast of the U.S. But Gijsman says the term has not always been rigorously quantified. She wanted to understand the impact of losing elephants on the ecosystem, to create a rigorous measure of their influence on the environment.

Elephants shape African savannas in obvious ways like knocking down trees, opening up grasslands, and redistributing nutrients as they move. But they also have an impact under the ground: Their waste structures the lives of insects like dung beetles, which bury dung, recycle nutrients, and help maintain soil health.

By comparing areas with and without elephants, and tracing how beetle communities changed over time, Gijsman demonstrated that elephant loss triggers a measurable cascade. Altered dung availability leads to shifts in beetle species and behavior, which in turn affects the entire ecosystem. The research was published in the journal *Science* in May.

Growing up in Kenya as the daughter of scientists, Gijsman did not see herself following their path. "To be honest, I kind of rejected science for a long time," she says, "just because it was my parents' thing."

"They feed on basically everything, so they're just surveying the entire landscape. We detected almost every single mammal species at Mpala in their gut content."

— FINOTE GIJSMAN *25
Researcher at Mpala Research Centre in Laikipia, Kenya

Still, she spent much of her childhood outdoors. Chameleons were her first love. She remembers racing around the garden to catch them and bring them home — much to the dismay of neighbors, who often viewed the animals with superstition.

Biology at school gradually pulled her in. It was always her favorite subject, and insects held special appeal. Little by little, she followed the science track that eventually led her to Princeton's Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and to the lab of professor Robert Pringle.

When she joined Pringle's group in 2020, in the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, Gijsman had a background in studying insects and expected to spend graduate school analyzing the interactions of ants and acacia trees in Kenya. Instead, the enforced slowdown led her to start reading about dung beetles — and realize that the lab she was joining had a long history of studying large herbivores and their dung.

"Dung beetles are the natural merging point," she says. "It was a serendipitous moment where everything lined up."

Her project also built on a dung beetle survey started more than 20 years earlier at Mpala, documenting which beetle species were present and what they ate. That ongoing data offered a rare opportunity to measure change.

Another strand of her work dug even deeper, into the guts of beetles. Because dung beetles feed on the feces of many different mammals, their digestive tracts contain a DNA archive of the animals that share the area. "They feed on basically everything, so they're just surveying the entire landscape," she says. "We detected almost every single mammal species at Mpala in their gut content."

That makes dung beetles unconventional but powerful tools for biodiversity monitoring — tiny, shiny sentinels that record with their bodies which mammals are present, even when those mammals are elusive to human observers.

Throughout the project, Gijsman's Kenyan background gave her an important kind of expertise that does not appear in methods sections: cultural fluency. Navigating permits, coordinating logistics, and building relationships with local institutions all required nuanced understanding of how to approach people and processes, she says.

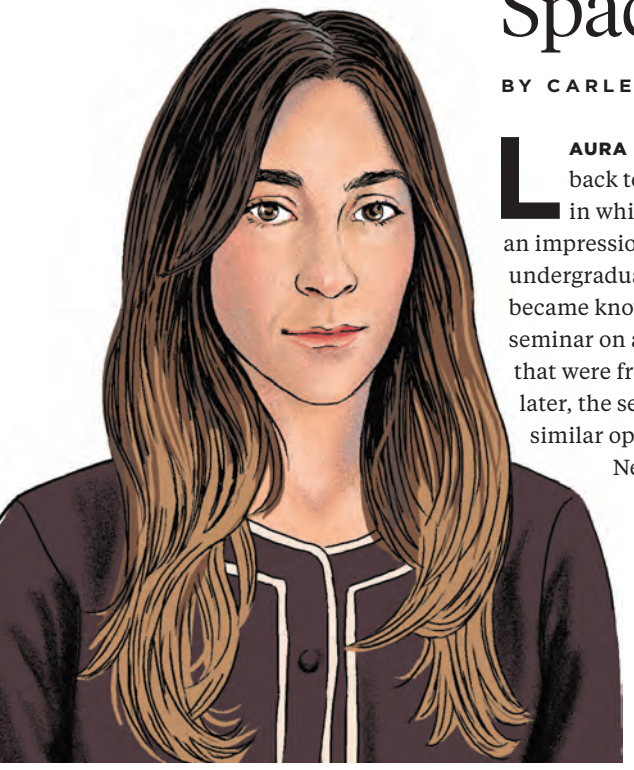
Since finishing her doctorate, Gijsman has moved to Sweden, where she is currently a postdoctoral researcher at Lund University. She is drawn to work at the interface of science, policy, and global partnerships — an echo of the many connections she had to cultivate to make her Kenya research possible. Back in the savanna, the dung beetles keep working. For Gijsman, they are a metaphor as much as a research subject. Protecting elephants, her work shows, means protecting those unsung heroes, too, along with the intricate web of life they sustain underground. P

A DUNG BEETLE AT WORK. ADOBE

BEHIND THE RESEARCH: LAURA NELSON

Researching and Creating Spaces to Gather and Study

BY CARLETT SPIKE



LAURA NELSON CAN TRACE HER INTEREST IN DIFFERENT FORMS OF LEARNING back to high school. One of her teachers held informal study groups after school in which students read and discussed books together. The experience made an impression on Nelson, who decided to recreate a form of these discussions as an undergraduate at the University of Virginia with several friends. For what eventually became known as flash seminars, they invited professors and classmates to lead a single seminar on any topic of their choice. In the first few years, they organized over 100 seminars that were free and open to the university and Charlottesville community. Fifteen years later, the seminars continue at UVA and Nelson has created similar opportunities at Princeton.

Nelson says being part of this collective project was truly formative and inspired her research focus. "It just got me really interested in all different forms of education," she says. That through line stayed at the core of Nelson's work as she taught at a six-student college in Gustavus, Alaska, and then at the tiny Deep Springs College, located on a cattle ranch in California. In her current role as an assistant professor of English, she continues to research and create experimental sites of learning.

Quick Facts

TITLE
Assistant Professor of English

TIME AT PRINCETON
1 Year

RECENT CLASS
Introduction to Media Studies

NELSON'S RESEARCH

A SAMPLING

AFTER SCHOOL

Nelson is currently working on a book titled *After School* about examples of alternative education models. She's researching 10 cases from the 1920s through the 1980s, including sculptor Augusta Savage's basement art school in Harlem in the 1920s and the California Labor School which opened in the 1940s and offered classes on nights and weekends. These models of education relied on collective organizing and creativity, Nelson says. Her goal with the book is to capture the history of these nontraditional educational environments and also serves as a resource for anyone interested in creating similar spaces of learning "with whatever materials or resources are at hand," she says.

LEARNING REIMAGINED

For two years beginning in 2023, Nelson co-organized Place Settings, a lecture series in Los Angeles in which artists, writers, and academics gave talks at different film sets around the city. Nelson says she hopes to bring the concept to the East Coast. She's also collaborating with NYU professor Zachary Samalin and Andy Hines, interim director of the Aydelotte Foundation at Swarthmore, to organize a "Winter School" offering free night and weekend classes, available to anyone, as part of an upcoming exhibition by Samalin about labor schools. These projects "are really aimed to bring lots of different kinds of people together," Nelson says.

MEDIA STUDIES

This year, Nelson received a grant from Princeton's 250th Fund for Innovation in Undergraduate Education, which supports faculty members creating new or reimagined courses. Nelson plans to use the grant to expand the way she teaches her spring semester English class, Introduction to Media Studies, by inviting artists and scholars into the classroom. Instead of just giving traditional lectures, Nelson would like to experiment with the structure of classes and give guests the freedom to perform, screen material, and more. "I am going to be running a set of experimental lectures," she says. Chia Amisola, an artist and technologist, and the duo behind the art collective Shanzhai Lyric are among her planned guests. P

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

HISTORY IN HER HANDS

Terri Sewell ’86 brings lessons from Selma, Alabama, to today’s voting-rights fight

BY JEFF AMY ’95

WORLD POLITICS ARCHIVE (WPA)

SELMA'S OWN
Terri Sewell '86 speaks at a March 2023 commemoration of Bloody Sunday at the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

Terri Sewell ’86, the congresswoman from Alabama’s 7th District, was grinding out the work of today’s politics: recording short videos for her social media accounts.

Although the calendar said late September, Alabama’s summer hadn’t yet released its sweltering grip as the Democrat angled her cellphone under the trees of Kelly Ingram Park and vented her outrage over President Donald Trump’s latest healthcare cuts.

“The one thing President Trump loves more than starting unnecessary wars is kicking Americans off their healthcare,” Sewell said, starting a one-minute blast.

The video itself was unremarkable. But the place where it was recorded is one of the Civil Rights Movement’s holiest shrines. What happened in the downtown Birmingham park helped create the path for Sewell to be elected to Congress. The voting rights struggles of the 1960s may seem like history, memorialized in the park’s statues, but that battle for Black political power has come roaring back.

In April, the U.S. Supreme Court dramatically constricted Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, the provision most successfully used to challenge racially discriminatory election maps. The ruling didn’t overturn the law but upended decades of precedent, making it much harder for minority voters to challenge maps that dilute their political power.

That decision could have severe consequences over time, experts say. It could lead to the erosion of minority representation not only in Congress and state legislatures, but in local governments. And in Alabama, like in other Deep South states where changes are already happening, Republicans could choose to erase the majority-Black district stretching from Birmingham to Sewell’s hometown of Selma. For her, the stakes are personal and political. She is leading the congressional effort to restore the Voting Rights Act’s protections, just as generations before her fought to create them.

“If you had told me that I would be carrying a bill to restore the full protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, I would have said, ‘No way,’” Sewell says. “But here we are. I guess it goes to show you that progress is elusive and that every generation has to fight to hold on to the progress that we’ve made and to try to advance it lest we lose it.”

Kelly Ingram Park is where, during one week in May 1963, Black children and adults faced police dogs and high-pressure water hoses deployed by Birmingham authorities trying to hold the line on racial segregation. Images of the brutal tactics led white leaders in Birmingham to buckle and agree to desegregate restaurants, stores, and other public facilities. A month later, President John F. Kennedy pledged his support for what became the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Those victories came at a cost. In September 1963, four Klansmen bombed the 16th Street Baptist Church, killing four young girls. The church, on the northwest corner of the park, had been the launching point for the demonstrations.

The spotlight later swung to Selma, where the beating of John Lewis and other protesters on Bloody Sunday in March 1965 contributed to the passage of the Voting Rights Act later that year.

Sewell, born in 1965, is too young to remember any of this. But civil rights history is omnipresent in Selma, where routine errands take drivers under the steel arch of the Edmund Pettus Bridge, site of the Bloody Sunday beatings. Sewell’s childhood church was the starting point of the Bloody Sunday march and hosts annual commemorations.

“The fight for voting rights is in my blood, if you will,” Sewell says. Democrats have tapped her to sponsor a bill to bolster the Voting Rights Act in every Congress since 2015, though none has become law, even when Democrats were narrowly in charge of the Senate earlier this decade.

“There’s not been an economic development in our state that I wasn’t at the table convincing folks that Alabama had changed. Was I wrong in saying that Alabama had changed?”

— Terri Sewell ’86
Congresswoman, Alabama’s 7th District

Sewell has lived the promise of the Civil Rights Movement: She was the first Black valedictorian of Selma High School; the first Selma High graduate to enroll in an Ivy League school; a Harvard Law School graduate; the first Black partner at her prominent Birmingham law firm; and the first Black woman elected to Congress from Alabama, in 2010.

As Sewell climbed, the achievements of the Civil Rights Movement seemed set in concrete across the South. Racial injustice persisted, but Black representation in state legislatures, city councils, and school boards became increasingly common.

In 2002, historian J. Mills Thornton III ’66 wrote *Dividing Lines*, a history of how local politics affected the Civil Rights Movement in Birmingham, Montgomery, and Selma. A professor emeritus at the University of Michigan who has retired to his hometown of Montgomery, Thornton likens the April decision to an 1883 Supreme Court ruling that overturned the Civil Rights Act of 1875, setting the stage for southern states to disenfranchise Black voters after the end of Reconstruction.

“This really is the judicial reversal of the achievements of the Voting Rights Act, and I think it’s going to lead us into a similarly dark period,” Thornton says.

The 6-3 opinion written by Justice Samuel Alito ’72 in *Louisiana v. Callais*, a challenge to the creation of a second Black-majority congressional district in Louisiana, significantly narrowed Section 2, which for decades has been used to challenge voting practices that dilute minority voting power and, in some cases, to require the creation of majority-minority districts.

In places where there were enough Black, Hispanic, or Native American voters and where lawyers could prove white voters routinely voted against minority candidates, lawsuits could often force the drawing of new districts that gave minority voters a chance to elect their preferred candidates. In Alabama,

JULIE BENNETT

SOLEMN SPOT
Sewell in front of Birmingham's 16th Street Baptist Church, where four girls were killed in a 1963 bombing.

for example, Sewell's majority-Black district was created after a lawsuit following the 1990 census.

Over time, litigation brought Black representatives not only to Congress but to city councils, county commissions, and school boards, says Kareem Crayton, a vice president of the Brennan Center for Justice, a voting rights and social justice think tank based at New York University School of Law. That representation spurred local governments to pave roads, extend water lines, and pick up garbage in minority neighborhoods.

"The lion's share of the impact of Section 2 has been at the local level," Crayton says.

The court's ruling also reflected a long-running argument from opponents of race-conscious redistricting: that majority-minority districts improperly use race to shape electoral boundaries, and that the government should be colorblind rather than counter the discriminatory effects of other redistricting practices. Those arguments have gained ground in a Supreme Court that in 2023 struck down race-conscious affirmative action in college admissions.

Alito said any Section 2 challenge must preserve a state's other objectives in drawing a map, including partisan gerrymandering, writing that "litigants cannot circumvent that rule by dressing their political-gerrymandering claims in racial garb."

Michael Dimino Sr., a professor at Widener University Commonwealth Law School in Pennsylvania, says he sees the court overruling an incorrect interpretation of the law that had been in effect for 40 years. He says that as long as Black people can register and vote, join a political party, and nominate candidates, the Voting Rights Act shouldn't require the states to draw districts that guarantee victory to their candidates.

He also says that he believes most gerrymandering is done for partisan purposes, and that if such line-drawing is going to be legal in Democratic-controlled states, it should also be legal in Republican-controlled states, even if those states have large minority populations.

"It allows Republican-controlled states in the South to do what Democratically controlled states elsewhere have been able to do forever," Dimino says.

But Justice Elena Kagan '81, writing for the dissenting three-member bloc that included Justice Sonia Sotomayor '76,

SAFE AT HOME
Rep. Glenn Ivey '83 represents Maryland's heavily Democratic 4th District, where Black political representation faces fewer threats than in much of the Deep South.

said the court was wrong to give partisan considerations such weight.

"Today, though, the majority straightfacedly holds that the Voting Rights Act must be brought low to make the world safe for partisan gerrymanders," Kagan wrote. "For how else, the majority reasons, can we preserve the authority of States to engage in this practice than by stripping minority citizens of their rights to an equal political process?"

Black voters in the South overwhelmingly support Democrats, while white voters overwhelmingly support Republicans. For example, in 2020, a survey of Alabama voters by The Associated Press found that 78% of white voters supported Trump, a Republican, and 91% of Black voters supported President Joe Biden, a Democrat. Because of that split, Crayton and other voting-rights advocates warn that the decision could make it easier for Republican-controlled legislatures to eliminate Black-majority districts in pursuit of partisan gains.

"We're going back to a day when you have no representation in Congress for African Americans except in super-Democratic states," Sewell warns.

Fair Fight Action and the Black Voters Matter Fund estimated in 2025 that as many as 19 seats with Voting Rights Act protections for Black or Hispanic voters could be wiped away in the South and Midwest in the 2026 election.

Even before the decision, North Carolina lawmakers redrew a rural district, making it less Black and less Democratic, in a move that could boost Republicans to an 11-3 edge in the state's congressional delegation. On the very afternoon of the Supreme Court decision, Florida lawmakers voted for a map that sought a 24-4 Republican advantage, with Gov. Ron DeSantis arguing Florida was obligated to wipe out a previously drawn Black-majority district because it was a racial gerrymander.

Weeks later, Tennessee's Republican lawmakers split a Black-majority Memphis congressional district into three, with the stated goal of creating a 9-0 Republican U.S. House delegation for the state.

In June, the Supreme Court allowed an Alabama congressional map that it had struck down in 2023 to take effect despite a lower-court finding after the Louisiana decision that the map showed intentional discrimination. The state-backed map made it unlikely that Rep. Shomari Figures, Alabama's second Black member of Congress who was elected in 2024 following a Section 2 lawsuit that created his district, would be able to hold his seat in November.

And there may be more redistricting on the way before 2028. Republicans in Mississippi and South Carolina have discussed eliminating their states' only majority-Black congressional districts, and lawmakers in Georgia could reduce the number of Black Democrats in Georgia's congressional delegation from the current five. While the new Alabama map makes Sewell's district a little less Black, a more radical redraw could create an Alabama congressional delegation that's 7-0 Republican.

"My job in this office was to put the legislature in the best possible legal position to draw a congressional map that favors Republicans 7-0," Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall said in a May 11 video, adding that "we have fought for years

J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE / AP

HARASSMENT TAKES A TOLL ON LOCAL OFFICIALS

BY NGAN CHIEM '23

RICKY HURTADO *15 WON HIS RACE FOR A SEAT IN the North Carolina House of Representatives in what he described as "the last place people would imagine getting a first Latino elected official" in 2020. His path to victory was at times harrowing.

Despite campaigning on healthcare, public education, and public safety, Hurtado says the political atmosphere of President Donald Trump's first term led people "to boil [my candidacy] down to my identity and my positions to just one of immigration."

Hurtado, a Democrat who ran in North Carolina's historically conservative 63rd District, reported being stalked outside his home and says he constantly worried about his canvassers, one of whom had their windshield smashed after parking in a more conservative neighborhood. He also faced a barrage of attack ads on TV and in the mail that he says used immigration as a racist dog whistle.

TAR HEELS

*Ricky Hurtado *15, right, with former North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper, represented the state's 63rd House District from 2021 to 2023.*

Hurtado's experience reflects the hostility confronting many local elected officials. According to a nationally representative sample of 460 officials surveyed by Princeton's Bridging Divides Initiative and CivicPulse, 54% of local elected officials reported experiencing some type of hostility during the first quarter of 2026. Researchers described that figure as an "elevated baseline" that has persisted since the survey began in 2022, with spikes around election season.

Women, minorities, and newer officials reported the greatest risks, while hostility did not vary significantly by political affiliation.

"Hostility is an issue that cuts across party lines (at least at the local level that we're tracking here), and requires collective solutions," researchers at the Bridging Divides Initiative said in an email to PAW.

Indya Kincannon *99, mayor of Knoxville, Tennessee, says she faces online and in-person hostility that "never happened" while working for her predecessor, Madeline Rogero.

"Things are worse now," she says, pointing to the decline of manufacturing, the rise of social media use, and Trump's belligerence as contributors in what she calls "the age of rage."

"People are so mad about so many things, and they use their local government as a stage, a place to release steam," Kincannon adds.

Under municipal law, Kincannon ran as a nonpartisan candidate but governs as a Democrat in a Republican-majority state. She often receives online threats from conservatives outside her more progressive city and has had multiple trespassers on her property. She tries to avoid partisan rhetoric and focus on municipal issues that cross party lines.

Tina Courpas '88, a moderate Republican serving in the Connecticut State House of Representatives and a former Wall Street banker, takes a similar approach, focusing on the state's fiscal problems.

Despite serving in a heavily Democratic state, Courpas says she has never felt unsafe. Instead, her biggest challenge in seeking reelection this November is distinguishing herself from the national Republican Party.

"I do not have an ability to affect the war in Iran, I do not have an ability to affect gas prices," she says, urging voters to split the ballot on state and national races.

But national politics can be difficult for state and local officials to escape.

Nellie Gorbea '88, Rhode Island's first Hispanic secretary of state from 2015 to 2023, says she received threats for her role in overseeing mail-in voting during the 2020 presidential election, as Trump repeatedly attacked the electoral process. After the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection on the U.S. Capitol, Gorbea recalls having to explain to her young children, whom she had promised ice cream earlier that day, why a state police officer was suddenly stationed at their house.

Zack Zappone *19, a city council member in Spokane, Washington, has seen fewer candidates running for local office in recent years. "Part of it is the pay," he says, "but part of it is that they don't want the hostility."

Spokane's first openly queer city council member, Zappone has faced repeated attacks online and in public over his identity. During a Pride parade early in his first term, he recalls feeling "cognitive dissonance" as he enjoyed the event with his kids from inside an armored vehicle.

Shannon Hiller *15, Bridging Divides Initiative's executive director, says officials tend to downplay harassment when speaking with researchers, fearing they will discourage others from seeking office. According to the Bridging Divides Initiative survey, 43% of officials reported being less likely to run for reelection due to hostility, and 37% were hesitant to participate in public events.

Despite the hostility, Zappone remains optimistic about making Spokane a more welcoming city. After two weeks of targeted vandalism on public LGBTQ+ spaces in 2023, he and other city leaders passed a bill making certain hate crimes involving public property felonies.

Politics doesn't always have to be contentious, however.

Samuel Vilchez Santiago '19, the son of Venezuelan refugees and an openly queer Democrat running to represent Florida's 43rd House District seat, says his campaign in the historically liberal East Orlando has been largely "friendly."

During this midterm season, Vilchez says he defers to an enduring tenet of politics: It's the economy, stupid. P

COURTESY OF RICKY HURTADO *15

against courts forcing Alabama to sort its citizens by race, and we were right to fight."

"There's no reason why the state can't go back and totally change my district, too," Sewell says. "If you had told me that would happen, I wouldn't have believed it. It suggests to me everything's on the table when people are considering political power."

Sewell was the sole member of Alabama's congressional delegation to vote for the infrastructure law passed under President Biden and is still aggressively lobbying Alabama officials to make sure more of that money gets used in her district. She helped bring federal money to install modern septic systems in impoverished areas where waste had been dumped without treatment for decades. She was a key force behind a law passed earlier this year that requires Medicare to pay for a blood test that can screen for cancer. The law was named after her mother, who died from pancreatic cancer in 2021. She says she has also worked with Republicans on initiatives such as relocating the U.S. Space Command to Huntsville and recruiting a new factory to her district.

"There's not been an economic development in our state that I wasn't at the table convincing folks that Alabama had changed," Sewell says of the state's racial climate. "Was I wrong in saying that Alabama had changed?"

THE OUTLOOK IS SUBSTANTIALLY BRIGHTER FOR THE other Black Princetonian in Congress. Glenn Ivey '83 represents a majority-Black district, but he serves in the heavily Democratic state of Maryland.

Maryland's 4th District covers much of Prince George's County in suburban Washington, D.C., as well as a slice of neighboring Montgomery County. It was first drawn as a Black-majority district following the 1990 census and is the most Democratic seat in Maryland.

"So it started off as a [Voting Rights Act] district," Ivey says. "It's kind of grown beyond that." The congressman adds that in heavily Democratic areas, Black candidates can win in districts that don't have a heavily Black voting presence. But in the Deep South, Ivey says that's not the case.

Ivey says the most important impact of the Voting Rights Act for Maryland voters may be in determining who's in the majority in the House. Secure in his own seat, he spent part of the runup to this November's election in his hometown of Rocky Mount, North Carolina, trying to help Rep. Don Davis retain the congressional seat that Republicans redrew to make more favorable to their party.

Ivey says the Supreme Court's decision could also energize Black voters, particularly in the South. Turnout was high for Democrats in primary elections in Alabama, South Carolina, and Louisiana following the decision. If that enthusiasm carries into this month's election, Davis, or even more imperiled Democrats like Shomari Figures or some Florida Democrats, could benefit.

"Shomari could win that seat," Ivey says. "Don Davis in North Carolina could win again anyway."

But Maryland illustrates another consequence of the redistricting fight. The question there is whether Democrats should redraw that state's congressional map to shift from a 7-1 Democratic advantage to 8-0. Ivey, who once worked for former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and supported Holder's efforts to limit gerrymandering, now supports such a move, saying, "You have to really fight fire with fire." He argues that Trump and Republicans are trying to concentrate power in Washington and that Democrats need a message that resonates across the country.

"I think you have to meet that national effort with a national response, and that's what this is," Ivey says.

Sewell says the ongoing push to maximize partisan advantage through redistricting is a "race to the bottom."

The question for Sewell is how to respond. Some experts have called for big changes in how officials are elected, such as creating voting districts that elect multiple representatives or moving toward forms of proportional representation. For now, Sewell is focused on restoring protections under the Voting Rights Act. If Democrats control both the House and the Senate in January, there's likely to be a renewed push for senators to change filibuster rules requiring 60 votes for most legislation, potentially clearing a path for voting-rights legislation.

Sewell says that the next version of her bill will seek an outright ban on partisan gerrymandering, as well as restoration of requirements that jurisdictions with a history of discrimination get federal "preclearance" before making changes to voting districts or voting procedures, a requirement of the Voting Rights Act that the Supreme Court struck down in a 2013 Alabama case.

"I look forward to Democrats taking back the House and me reintroducing that bill with the tweaks that have to be made to make the Callais case go away," Sewell says. "Because it won't be the law of the land. The law of the land will be a congressional bill."

But Trump is unlikely to sign any such law while he remains in office.

"I don't think there's a legal or a legislative response that's going to be coming in the short run," Ivey says.

Over the longer term, it's unclear, given that Alito's opinion ruled that the previous interpretation of the law violated the 15th Amendment, whether a revised Voting Rights Act could survive another Supreme Court challenge as an unconstitutional race-conscious remedy.

But the court hasn't banned Congress from passing laws to enforce the 15th Amendment, and a law that also bans partisan gerrymandering, Crayton says, would force the court to revisit its current decision, which "essentially privileges partisanship" by clearing the way for more gerrymandering.

"What the justices choose to do in response to that move, we'll have to see," Crayton says. "But it's an important question that is absolutely worth finding out the answer to."

Sewell, drawing on the determination she learned in Selma, is not giving up. She says she's confident Congress can restore and modernize the Voting Rights Act in a way that withstands judicial scrutiny and protects fair representation.

"It is up to our generation," she says. "It's up to us to push back on it." P

JEFF AMY '95 *is a writer in Atlanta who has covered politics in Alabama, Mississippi, and Georgia.*

TIGER ATHLETICS GIVE DAY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2026

Tiger Athletics Give Day, a 24-hour giving challenge, returns for its thirteenth year on Dec. 1st *(National Giving Tuesday)*. We encourage you to join the more than 40,000 Princetonians who have participated in TAGD, to date, in support of our Tiger varsity student-athletes.

TAGD.Princeton.edu

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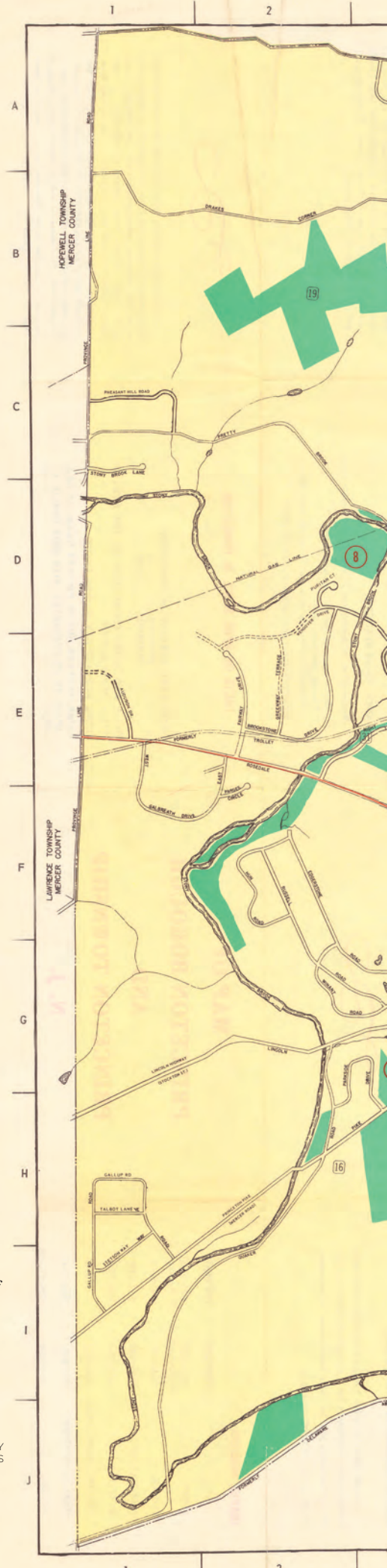
WHY PRINCETON TOOK SO LONG TO BECOME ONE

Fifteen years ago, consolidation brought the borough and township together — and changed the University's relationship with its neighbors

BY HENRY HSIAO '26

ROBERT DURKEE '69, PRINCETON'S LONGTIME vice president and secretary, tells a story that he believes is true but has never tracked down. When the University sited Fine Hall in the 1960s, the architect, "who was not attentive to municipal boundaries," proposed building it on the line that divided Princeton Borough from Princeton Township. The University opted for simplicity, nudging the new math building south into the township.

For nearly two centuries, that line bisecting borough and township ran through Princeton and the University — through laboratories and dormitories, through the site where the Lewis Center for the Arts now stands, through houses whose owners slept in one municipality and ate breakfast in the other. On Nov. 8, 2011, however, voters permanently erased it: Princeton Borough approved consolidation with 61% in favor, while 85% of Princeton Township voters were on board. A unified Municipality of Princeton took effect on Jan. 1, 2013.



A TALE OF TWO PRINCETONS
A 1967 map of Princeton Borough and Princeton Township shows the doughnut hole occupied largely by the University.

COURTESY OF PRINCETON UNIVERSITY LIBRARY / SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
PRINCETON, N. J.

This month marks 15 years since that referendum. At the time, the University officially kept clear of the campaign for consolidation, yet many Princetonians did not. Alumni and staff members were involved in running both the borough and township and sat on study commissions examining the consolidation question over five decades of attempts. On the other side of the results, the University found a different neighbor and a different relationship.

Princeton's consolidation also serves as an intriguing case study of the promises and limits of dissolving local governments. This is particularly salient today, as property taxes and the cost of living rise everywhere, including in the Garden State. Consolidation, normally a political third rail, is back on the table in New Jersey, with Gov. Mikie Sherrill touting school district mergers as an attractive means of achieving savings and efficiencies. But in a state with a penchant for "home rule," what lessons does the Princeton experience suggest about consolidation's feasibility? Could it be easily replicated? And why has the rest of New Jersey refused to follow?

The College of New Jersey moved to "Prince-Town" in 1756, drawn by local landowners led by Nathaniel FitzRandolph, who raised some 1,700 pounds (about $450,000 today) and offered more than 200 acres of woodland and a 4.5-acre plot for campus. Municipal government came later, and for less elevated reasons.

When the college arrived, Princeton belonged to Somerset County's "western precinct" and to Middlesex County's Windsor Township, which split in 1797, leaving Nassau Hall in West Windsor. In 1813, Princeton's townspeople petitioned for a borough charter, arguing that suppressing "acts of vice and immorality" (drinking) and "unlawful meeting[s] of [B]lack people" required the powers of a free-standing municipality. The state legislature granted their request to form a semi-autonomous borough. A separate Princeton Township was then incorporated along with Mercer County in 1838, wrapping around the borough in a classic New Jersey "doughnut-hole" shape after 1853, when annexations of West Windsor land brought portions of the present-day University campus above the Delaware & Raritan Canal into the township. The borough became fully independent in 1894.

Though unseemly, Princeton's messy incorporation was hardly unusual: Roads, railways, reading, rum, and racism — five "R's" representing the factors that Andrew Bruck '05, former acting New Jersey attorney general, identifies as explaining New Jersey's municipal multiplicity — fractured America's fifth-smallest state into its 564 municipalities.

University alumni governed both Princetons from the start. Samuel Bayard 1784 was the borough's first mayor, and Moses Taylor Pyne 1877 was the township's first mayor. B. Franklin Bunn 1907 remains the only person to have been mayor of both.

In 1935, Charles Erdman Jr. 1919 *1923, running for borough mayor, campaigned with a goal of consolidating the two Princetons. Erdman belonged to the Princeton Local Government Survey — a group of University professors and experts, chaired by then-President Harold Dodds *1914, that analyzed redundancies in New Jersey's municipal governments. Announcing his candidacy, Erdman noted that the borough and township had already fused their sewage, garbage, and fire services, and argued that "further steps in this direction should lead to further savings."

The Princeton survey's pamphlet, *Local Government in New Jersey: A Political Patchwork*, also judged the state's number of municipalities too many and urged larger units of government. It named four obstacles: local pride and community consciousness; inadequate legal authority; widely varying school tax rates, debt service, and delinquencies; and clashes between urban and rural districts. Nearly a century on, the list still reads as a forecast for the inflated property taxes that many residents of tiny, ratable-poor New Jersey municipalities (and school districts) pay to support their operations.

Erdman, who took office in 1936 and served six terms, came to think of shared services between towns, though politically palatable, as an insufficient solution. "Cooperation is a lovely theory, but it just hasn't worked," he wrote. After leaving office, Erdman championed a ballot measure proposing the consolidation of the Princetons in 1953. Voters rejected his recommendation that November, and they rejected Princeton consolidation twice more in the decades that followed. A joint borough-township study commission recommended a merger in 1979; the ballot measure failed in the borough by 33 votes. In 1996 — after a commission co-chaired by Donald Stokes '51 *52, dean of the then-Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, again advocated for consolidation — borough voters rejected the recommendation by a wider margin.

"In general, my feeling is that people in the township were more accepting of the concept [of consolidation] than the residents of the borough, historically," says Kevin Wilkes '83, an architect and former borough councilman. The two municipalities were slightly different: The smaller borough, centered on the pedestrianized and denser downtown Nassau Street core, had older housing stock and longer-tenured residents; the larger township, in the words of Yina Moore '79, also an architect and the borough's last mayor, was more suburbanized, sprawling, and "auto-dependent."

Still, over the years the towns steadily voted to merge functions without merging governments — a joint public library in 1960, a regionalized school system in 1966, and a regional planning board in 1969. A total of 13 shared agencies and services ranging from animal control to recreation were created by 2011.

For the University, the borough-township border cutting straight through campus was less a philosophical problem than an administrative one. As the campus expanded toward Lake Carnegie, the border became nonsensical. In Butler, Forbes, and Whitman Colleges, says Kristin Appelget, the University's assistant vice president for community and regional affairs, "the municipal boundary ran through individual rooms and suites," requiring "coordination with the municipal clerk to

MRS. MAYOR
Liz Lempert — shown in front of Forbes College, which straddled the borough-township boundary — was elected the first mayor of the consolidated Princeton.

KYLE KIELINSKI

determine, on a room-by-room basis, where students would register to vote, which sometimes required re-registration when students moved year to year." (Graduate student housing, save for the Graduate College, was all located in the township.)

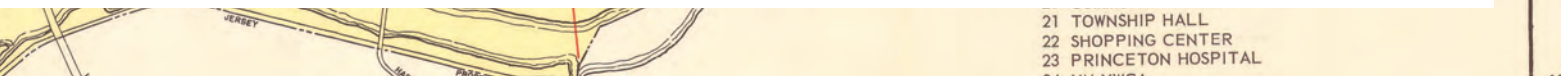
Liz Lempert — a former township committeewoman and later the merged Princeton's first mayor — saw serious consequences of the divide for undergraduates on Election Day in 2008. "It wasn't even just that you are in the wrong polling location in your town — it was like, no, they were in the wrong town. And their names weren't on the list." A significant number of students voted provisionally on paper ballots that do not "really get counted in the same way unless there's a tie," which was "one small example of how having this artificial line down the center of town was disenfranchising students," she says. Nor did the line run tidily: "It wasn't like the borough-township line went down the center of the hallway. It would go through the dorm in a really weird way."

Public safety was likewise complicated. Three police forces operated in town: Princeton Borough, Princeton Township, and University Public Safety. Forbes College straddled the borough-township line, Lempert says, so "you'd have multiple responders. And it's like, who's in charge?" Heather Howard, a School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) professor who previously served on the borough council and then on the consolidated council, called the jurisdictional blurriness "definitely suboptimal."

In 2009, amid rising real estate values post-reassessment and concerns about affordability post-recession, another joint study commission was formed to explore whether the Princetons should consolidate. Yet again, it recommended doing so, in 2011. But tensions that year between the borough, the township, and the University plunged town-gown relations to a nadir, threatening to derail the consolidation push. The reason was controversy over the relocation of the Princeton Dinky's branch terminus. In 1984, with the commuter rail line facing closure, the University had bought the 1918 station buildings, the land beneath the train tracks, and the parking lots, receiving in return from New Jersey Transit a contractual right to move the terminus slightly south.

Now the University was planning to exercise that right by moving the station 460 feet south to make room for the $330 million Lewis Center for the Arts. Relocating the station farther away from downtown would decrease passenger ridership, opponents argued. The change would also move the Dinky station from the borough into the township. "All of a sudden, you've got this uproar," Durkee says. "'The train is leaving Princeton!' No, it's still going to be in Princeton, but it's not going to be in the borough anymore." By early 2011, the project had stalled because of borough objections. And because the site spanned the line, each municipality had to grant zoning changes separately.

With opposition mounting, on Jan. 31, then-University President Shirley Tilghman told both towns' governing bodies and the joint planning board that the University was at a critical "go-no-go" moment: Absent approval of zoning changes, she would instruct her colleagues to plan another site for the proposed arts center. Still, the project went ahead in December 2012. Moore cast the lone dissenting vote in a 9-to-1 decision by the planning board, arguing, as she recalls, that the Dinky



shuttle had essentially been privatized out of the public realm by the "influence of money," and that by demolishing the old station's platform canopy, the University had violated state and federal landmark protections.

Lempert, who now works as assistant director of research development at the University, calls the Dinky episode "a really low point in the relationship … a communication breakdown" rooted in the discovery that "the University unbeknownst to the community had ownership and control over the public train station." Wilkes thought the University had legitimate goals it declined to primarily emphasize — creating a western entrance to the Theater Drive Parking Garage, mitigating heavy traffic on Alexander Street and Faculty Road, and integrating Forbes College into the campus fabric — but instead "put out the Trojan horse of the Lewis Center for the Arts."

Resolution of the crisis came through negotiation. Chad Goerner, the township's last mayor and a consolidation proponent, convened two township and two borough officials, himself and Wilkes included, to meet with Durkee and Appelget. The result was a memorandum of understanding barring any further truncation of the 2.7-mile-long Dinky. Even so, approval of the Lewis Center project took six years, in part because of the complications caused by the municipal boundary that ran through the site, Durkee says.

Meanwhile, the 2011 consolidation campaign ran on a parallel track, in a changed climate. In October 2009, both municipal governing bodies had formed a joint commission under the flexible 2007 Local Option Municipal Consolidation Act, which sought to incentivize mergers by allowing towns to keep pre-consolidation variations in ordinances, service levels, and debt apportionment. The commission hired an outside consultant and recommended full consolidation, with the borough council and township committee's endorsements, to the Princeton electorates in mid-2011, setting up the November 2011 vote.

Through it all, the University said nothing publicly. "The University did not facilitate or play an active role in the consolidation process, nor did it take a position in support of or opposition to consolidation," Appelget says. But it supplied data on request, joined public forums like any other stakeholder, and offered the commission the use of the Princeton Survey Research Center.

The University's posture of silence was strategic, recognizing that consolidation was a matter solely for local voters to decide. "They took two steps backward and made all attempts to not inflect this decision," Wilkes says, "although it is clearly to their benefit that the two towns consolidate[d]." Had residents believed the University wanted it, he says, "that would have [had] an inverse negative impact on the opinions of the public at large."

After the successful vote, the implementation phase began. "In 2012, it was this transition year where we knew we were going to be consolidating, but we were still two governments," Lempert says. A task force scrutinized the logistical details department by department. Once it was set up, the University became "more involved," per Lempert — its liaisons sat on the task force's facilities, information technology, and public safety subcommittees, alongside Goerner, Howard, Lempert, Moore, and Wilkes.

DRAWING IT UP
Kevin Wilkes '83, shown at the offices of Princeton Design Guild, played a key role in the push to consolidate Princeton and the transition that followed the successful vote.

According to Lempert, policing structure between the municipality and University Public Safety was a delicate issue: The question was "what agreements can we work out" so there were "clear lines of responsibility of who's responding and who's in charge." The University further contributed $500,000 toward subsidizing implementation costs, split evenly between the soon-to-be-eliminated towns.

During this period, Howard also advised a group of SPIA students who sat in on the task force's meetings and conducted interviews. They wrote an independent postmortem evaluation of the consolidation effort, later published on the task force's webpage. "I think we give undue attention to the legislative process or the voting, and sometimes we forget what happens after [that]," Howard says. For Princeton students, it was "an amazing opportunity … to observe government work in the real world."

When consolidation took effect in January 2013, Lempert was sworn in as the first mayor of a merged Princeton, six months before Christopher Eisgruber '83 became University president. "There was this new-start opportunity all around," she says. Working from recommendations by experienced community members, she instituted certain traditions: quarterly meetings between the mayor, town administrator, and the University's community and regional affairs office — "so nobody surprises one another" — and an annual public conversation between the invited University president and municipal council.

KYLE KIELINSKI

Money moved in tandem with the improved town-gown relationship. An annual unrestricted payment from the University to the borough had been institutionalized in the early 1970s, reaching $100,000 by 1999 and $1 million under a 2006 accord. Goerner then had negotiated the University's first payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) to the township with Durkee and Appelget in 2011. Under a seven-year agreement in 2014, the University committed to the now-amalgamated municipality $2.75 million escalating 4% annually — faster than the town's 2% capped growth in tax levies. By 2020, the University also paid $9.5 million in property taxes, including some $6.4 million voluntarily. The latest PILOT deal in 2024 made possible the expansion of consolidated Princeton's Loop bus to two routes — as Councilwoman Michelle Pirone Lambros contends, "Two towns would not have been able to collaborate to create these routes and manage the financial structure for underwriting this transit option."

What remains, Appelget says, is "ongoing dialogue" and "a 'healthy tension' in the relationship between the town and the University. However, on most issues we work in alignment." Consolidation meant "one less governing body to engage with," and its benefits "were especially evident during the COVID-19 pandemic. With a single mayor and council, decision-making was coordinated … and the community was able to respond with a unified voice." Here, the University chipped in with $250,000 for a resiliency fund that gave out more than 90 matching grants to small businesses to weather the pandemic, adds Pirone Lambros. As Howard says, "having good services, whether it's public safety or health, those questions don't stop at Nassau Street."

Fifteen years on, the ledger is generally positive on consolidation: The estimated annual savings of approximately $3 million were "accurate," according to current Councilman Brian McDonald '83. Princeton retains Mercer County's lowest effective tax rate (not to be conflated with lowest tax bill) and holds triple-A bond ratings. And consolidation helped spur the establishment of a townwide special improvement district that boosted local commerce and delivered increased services, employment opportunities, and tax relief — a "real win-win-win," says incumbent Councilman David Cohen.

Merging alone was never a silver bullet. The rate of municipal tax growth may have slowed, but a 2014 Rutgers study claimed that the combined town shaved a miniscule 5% off its 2013 expenses. Nor is all perfect today in Princeton's nonfiscal affairs: Dinky ridership has dropped considerably, and the harmonization of dated borough and township regulations is unfinished. Wilkes is the resident realist: "The town zoning [code] still hasn't been completely ironed out. Many wrinkles exist. However, five years from now when it's 20 years, I think this will be worked out, and the future is much brighter than the immediate time post-consolidation."

Statewide, however, prospects for municipal subtraction elsewhere appear dim. No cascade of imitations has occurred. The only merger in New Jersey since Princeton's was in Camden County, where Pine Hill absorbed 17-home Pine Valley in 2022. That plodding pace is familiar to former congressman and state legislator Leonard Lance *82, who wrote the law enabling the 1997 Pahaquarry-Hardwick Township merger, the last before Princeton's. He remembers needling the dual Princetons: "I used to say that Pahaquarry and Hardwick have merged and the Germanys have merged. But the Princetons have not merged." Now that the Princetons have indeed merged, "I can't give that speech anymore," he jokes.

Wilkes offers a blunter take: "Princeton is the exception that proves the rule that consolidation isn't going to work [elsewhere]. Because Princeton already had the same name. Princeton already had the same school board. Princeton already had the same planning board. Princeton had a leg up on all 564 municipalities. And it was really hard for Princeton to get it done. No one who has two different names, two different high schools, two different public works and planning departments is ever going to get through the maze of resolving who wins and who loses."

Much the same could be said, too, about the two former Princetons' striking similarities in resident demographics and socioeconomic status, including levels of wealth, education, and ideological or partisan composition.

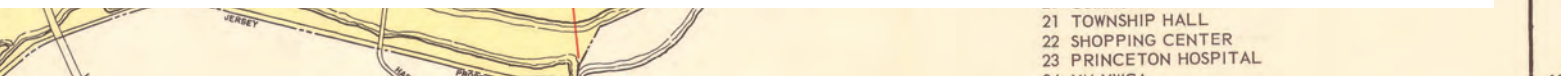
Howard's SPIA students weighed whether Princeton's case was generalizable or exceptional in their report. The conclusion was both, though it may not seem that way today. "At the time, it felt like we were building momentum, and other municipalities were going to follow," she says. "So it's sad."

Goerner's frustrations run deeper. "There's an emotional component to all of this. And that's one of the things that makes consolidation so challenging," he says. "People don't realize: It's not just about consolidating governments to save money. It's also about the lack of efficiency that we have in governing as a result of all of these separate entities" — water, transportation, affordable housing, all "held up on all of these small, provincial town structures. And so I don't [foresee] really big movement in the state of New Jersey."

But perhaps the best evidence that Princeton did get it right, despite all the challenges, is the collective amnesia over consolidation. "If you go to the average Princetonian today, they didn't know where the boundaries were in 2012," Goerner says. "A lot of them don't even know that there was a township." Howard proposes a comparable test: Stop people on Nassau Street and ask, "'Do you live in the old borough or the township?' How many people don't even know?"

In 1953, Charles Erdman Jr. had asked for "one governmental unit for Princeton, not two." It took another 60 years to fulfill that vision, thanks to the labors of alumni, staff, students, and others. But until more Garden State towns follow in Princeton's footsteps, home rule — New Jersey's enduring "religion," as Gov. Brendan Byrne '49 once opined — is here to stay. P

HENRY HSIAO '26 *is a native of Central New Jersey. As a politics major, his independent work examined the structuring of state and local governments.*



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Photos: Sameer A. Khan; Tori Repp

ADAM CAIRNS / *COLUMBUS DISPATCH*

Republic Roadtrip

In July, Danny Miller '05 boarded a bus with about 30 retired judges, lawyers, and civic leaders on both sides of the political aisle to speak with Americans about democracy. Inspired by a similar tour in Warsaw, Poland, in 2020 and 2021, Miller's Democracy Rising Collaborative and the civic education organization Keep Our Republic planned the Justice in Motion bus tour to promote understanding of the rule of law. Over four days traveling through Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Michigan, they stopped in public libraries, courthouses, schools, and community centers for "honest conversations" with everyday people. "This moment is for taking big swings and for doing all we can to protect these foundational principles," Miller says. Read more at paw.princeton.edu.

ALUMNI PARENTS

Moving the Political Needle on Transgender Rights

BY NGAN CHIEM '23

WHEN ASKED THE NAME of his child at a Princeton alumni cocktail mixer in Boston a few years ago, David Abromowitz '78 shared that his daughter, Sophie Abromowitz '13, had transitioned and changed her name since graduating from Princeton. Then came an unexpected response.

"The guy sitting next to me said, 'Oh, mine transitioned the other way.'"

Abromowitz says he has been heartened by how openly people in the Princeton community have shared similar stories about transgender people in their lives. "It was something that wouldn't have happened at my 10th reunion," he says.

After his daughter's transition four years ago, Abromowitz and his wife got involved in transgender advocacy. In 2024, Abromowitz joined other parents and activists to launch Families United for Trans Rights (FUTR), which raises funds and awareness for transgender political candidates and candidates who support transgender rights.

"We said, 'Let's do something that focuses on the … thousands of parents of trans kids out there who are not political, maybe never have given a dime to an elected official, but instinctively want to protect their kid and other people's kids,'" says Abromowitz, now a part-time lawyer who has been politically active much of his life.

During the 2024 election cycle, FUTR, an all-volunteer organization, supported 10 candidates, seven of whom won their races at the city, state, and federal levels.

According to Abromowitz, FUTR donors raised about $10,000 for Iowa House candidate Aime Wichtendahl, fulfilling around 20% of her fundraising goal. She went on to be the first openly trans representative elected to the state legislature and is one of 11 candidates supported by FUTR during the 2026 election.

FUTR also contributed to Veronica Pejril *88's 2024 campaign to represent Indiana's 24th Senate District. Pejril, president of the affinity group Queer Princeton Alumni, said FUTR's contribution went to voter-engagement

KID CARE

David Abromowitz '78 launched Families United for Trans Rights (FUTR) to raise funds and awareness for transgender political candidates.

COURTESY OF DAVID ABROMOWITZ '78

materials and digital advertising. She lost that race but says she plans to run next year for a seat on Greencastle's City Council, where she served from 2020 to 2024.

In addition to political fundraising, FUTR has organized local chapters around the country to engage parents of transgender children in local politics.

Cliff Rechtschaffen '78 and Ann Daniels '78, also parents of adult transgender children, help run the San Francisco Bay Area chapter of FUTR, which formed in 2025. Alongside other local LGBTQ+ groups, including Rainbow Families Action, the chapter organized protests targeting major California healthcare providers that planned to stop offering gender-affirming care. Members also organized letter-writing campaigns and met with local and state officials, including a representative of the California attorney general's office, to emphasize the importance of gender-affirming healthcare for transgender individuals.

"For our daughter, there's no going back. It's impossible to imagine that she could live happily, or even at all on some level, except as her authentic self," says Rechtschaffen, who believes parents' testimony can help humanize the issue for politicians who may have had limited interaction with transgender individuals.

"Getting that gender-affirming care is as essential for [my daughter] as giving insulin to a diabetic," he says.

SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT

*FUTR supported Veronica Pejril *88's 2024 campaign to represent Indiana's 24th Senate District. She's pictured here at Princeton's Many Minds, Many Stripes conference in 2025.*

CROSS COAST

Cliff Rechtschaffen '78 helps run the San Francisco Bay Area chapter of FUTR, which formed in 2025.

SAMEER A. KHAN H'21 / FOTOBUDDY / PRINCETON UNIVERSITY; COURTESY OF CLIFF RECHTSCHAFFEN '78

California law protects equal access health services regardless of gender identity, but some major health systems in the state have moved to restrict gender-affirming services due to pressure from the Trump administration. Similar changes have occurred elsewhere in the country. The administration has also sought to restrict transgender rights at the federal level, including access to gender-affirming care.

But amid broader concerns about the economy and cost of living during the upcoming midterms, Abromowitz and Rechtschaffen argue that attacks on transgender people, who make up about 1% of U.S. adults, according to the think tank Williams Institute at UCLA Law, are nothing more than a "distraction."

Transgender and nonbinary people also remain underrepresented in elected office. According to the nonprofit LGBTQ+ Victory Institute, 0.02% of elected officials identified openly as transgender or nonbinary in 2025. But one lawmaker can make a difference.

In 2024, Leigh Finke, Minnesota's first openly transgender legislator and a FUTR-backed official, introduced the Gender-Affirming Care Act, which became law and required insurance coverage for gender-affirming care.

Pejril credits organizations such as FUTR with helping increase transgender political representation.

"We need vocal allies everywhere," she says.

Abromowitz and Rechtschaffen say they are channeling Princeton's informal motto, "In the nation's service and the service of humanity," by protecting all transgender individuals.

"Princeton alumni have a lot of resources, they have a lot of social capital, they have the ability to contribute to campaigns and the wherewithal to be active politically," says Rechtschaffen. "They're a big force." P

ADOBE; COURTESY OF SAM MARON '17

SAM MARON '17

Addressing Nursing Needs and Student Debt

BY JEANNE JACKSON DEVOE

AS A MEDICAL STUDENT, Sam Maron '17 saw firsthand how difficult it was for hospitals to recruit and retain nurses and other healthcare professionals.

That shortage got worse during the COVID-19 pandemic, when many nurses and other hospital staff were quitting. Maron realized that the problem is complex: How can you grow the pipeline for nurses and other health professionals when schools have limited funding and students graduate with massive debt? "I spent a lot of time thinking about these big systemic failures happening around us," Maron says.

Maron shared his concerns about this dilemma with John Katzman '81, founder of *The Princeton Review*, while he was working part time for a tutoring company owned by Katzman's education technology company, Noodle, in 2022.

"That conversation led to the Scholars Network, which eliminates much of that friction to ensure students get a great education and a career unsaddled by debt in a place that genuinely needs them," Katzman says.

MARON '17

Katzman convinced Maron that he should put aside his plans to begin a clinical practice and instead use his knowledge of the medical profession to build this new company within Noodle. Eventually Maron agreed. "I felt torn between these two things I loved, which were patient care and systemic work," he says. "I think I would make the same decision again."

The company allows hospitals to retain staff while at the same time offering help with tuition to nurses and other health professionals who want to further their careers.

Nursing is one of several healthcare professions, including physical and respiratory therapy and pharmaceuticals, facing shortages. But solving the nursing shortage means confronting a paradox. By 2028, the U.S. could face a shortage of more than 267,000 full-time registered nurses, according to the Health Resources and Services Administration. At the same time, nursing programs rejected more than 93,000 qualified applications in 2025 because they lacked the staff and capacity for more students, according to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing.

Meanwhile, hospitals are losing millions of dollars a year due to staff turnover. An average hospital spends roughly $60,000 to replace a bedside registered nurse, according to a report by the national nurse recruitment firm NSI Nursing Solutions.

Growing up in the small town of Petersham, Massachusetts, where his father was a primary care doctor, Maron saw the challenges his father faced when a nurse left his practice. "It was hard to attract people to the area and then rebuild those relationships," he says.

Maron majored in neuroscience at Princeton, and while his goal was to get a medical degree, he always envisioned combining his medical experience with his desire to be an entrepreneur. "I got exposed to all these different areas that I wouldn't have if I had just been heads down in a preprofessional track somewhere else," Maron says.

He earned a master's degree in global affairs through the Schwarzman Scholars program in Beijing before graduating with honors from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City.

Maron started Scholars Network in 2022 during his fourth year in medical school. Now Maron, 32, who lives in New York with his wife and infant daughter, is senior vice president of Noodle and head of the Scholars Network. The company is approaching $100 million in employer sponsorship commitments, Maron says. It has worked with more than 50 hospitals and is partnering with the state of Pennsylvania on workforce development initiatives that include educational and student debt support for healthcare workers.

Being able to further their education and their careers without more debt and without increasing taxable income is a game changer for health professionals such as Kasey Bradley, a registered nurse

in Pennsylvania. Bradley was a licensed practical nurse who wanted higher certification but already had $30,000 in loan debt. Through Scholars Network, her employer, Penn Highlands DuBois, paid $40,000 for Bradley's schooling to become a registered nurse in exchange for a three-year commitment. "With this opportunity, I'm invested, I'm committed," Bradley says. "I think I'll stay there beyond my commitment, because I love my job. I love where I am. I'm very thankful."

Students apply for the program while they are still in school. Scholars Network processes the applications and the schools choose candidates. Scholars Network then connects students with future employers who pay off their loans in exchange for a work commitment. While many healthcare employers offer employees tuition reimbursement and loan forgiveness, Scholars Network verifies their employment and pays off the loans each month directly to lenders. That allows hospitals and healthcare systems to pay up to $5,250 annually while not increasing the nurse or healthcare professional's taxable income.

Scholars Network acquired Unsaddl in April, a financial company owned by Chris Hsu '18 and Steve Troy '18 that helps companies manage student loan contributions, tuition reimbursement, and other benefits. Hsu and Troy have joined Scholars Network as vice president of product engineering and vice president of educational benefits, respectively. Hsu describes it as "a startup within a startup," with a team of 10 in a 300-person company.

Maron says the merger made sense. "You have a talent acquisition team bringing people in, and a benefits team trying to keep them," he says. "What we can now do is put both of those on the same platform."

Maron met with administrators recently at a partner hospital and heard that the program was so successful "that all different units now are clamoring to get the scholars," he says. "I feel really good when I hear stories of how people are having a great impact on patients' lives." P

GASTON ZILBERMAN

ANN NOGUER '05

ANN NOGUER '05

Running a Travel Company Abroad in Argentina

BY JIMIN KANG '21

THE FIRST TIME ANN NOGUER '05 made an ironic comment in Spanish, the feat hushed an entire room of Argentine lawyers.

"You have arrived!" one colleague exclaimed. Over a decade later, Noguer recalls the incident with a laugh. "It's so hard to be fully yourself in another language," she says while sitting at a bar overlooking the grounds of an upscale hotel in Buenos Aires' Recoleta neighborhood. "And I so value my friends from that nonprofit because they were very patient in figuring out who I really was in Spanish."

Now fluent in the language and settled in Argentina, Noguer manages the Argentina-based educational travel company Puentes Abroad, which she founded in 2014. A Tennessee-born and Arkansas-raised sociology major who spent three years working in New York City after Princeton, Noguer had never planned on moving to Buenos Aires.

Then, in 2008, an opportunity arose to take a four-month trip to Chile, Ecuador, Peru, and Argentina with her friend Tessa Marmion Muir '05, who had just finished law school. Would Ann join Tessa on the adventure of their lives?

After some hesitation, Noguer took the leap. Thus began a journey of Spanish classes, homestay families, hiking, eating, and exploring across South America, which prompted Noguer to consider either moving to Buenos Aires or Santiago. She no longer wanted to stay in New York. In the end, Buenos Aires presented itself as a combination of the two homes she'd already known. Porteños (as people from Buenos Aires are known) were as relaxed and friendly as the Southerners she grew up with in Memphis and Little Rock; like New York, the city was "eclectic, dynamic, with a little hustle and bustle."

The deal was sealed, and Noguer packed her bags in early 2009 to begin a life abroad.

It was in Buenos Aires that Noguer met her husband, Tomás Noguer, with whom she now has two children. Though the family moved to the Patagonian city of Bariloche during the pandemic, Noguer remains devoted to the task of connecting Buenos Aires, her adopted home, with the United States, her inherited one, through Puentes Abroad. "Puentes" means "bridges" in Spanish. Fittingly, the organization builds bridges between Argentina, Uruguay, and American universities via the coordination of study abroad programs and internships in South America. Princeton's International Internship Program (IIP) has partnered with Puentes for years, sending students to work with groups including civil rights organizations, regional newsrooms, and conservation agencies across the two countries.

Noguer's team works closely with universities so that specific organizations and students — who receive one-to-one advising — find good fits in one another. Successful interns get mentors, often live with homestay families, and take part in day trips to places such as an Argentine ranch or the cobblestoned Colonia del Sacramento in Uruguay. In recent years, Puentes began offering one-to-three-week immersive trips that expose students to diverse parts of Argentina, be it the wine and tourism sector in Mendoza, abundant natural resources in Puerto Iguazú, or the rich biodiversity and terrain in Patagonia.

SIGHTSEEING

Floralis Generica is in the Plaza de las Naciones Unidas in Buenos Aires. As part of Puentes Abroad, Ann Noguer '05 plans immersive trips for students to experience all of Argentina.

Given the nature of her business, it might come as a surprise to learn that Noguer arrived at Princeton wanting to be, of all things, a math major. Life in Spanish was certainly not on her Princeton bingo card: Her extracurricular life was an eclectic mix of rock climbing, accounting for her sorority, and coordinating English tutoring for Spanish-speaking staff at the Ivy Club. She also co-founded Princeton's first Redhead Society with Doug Rosenthal '04. The group would have "moon-tanning" parties in the red-hued basement of Dod Hall with red Twizzlers and cherry ginger ale. ("Redhead attendance required, other hair colors encouraged," read an invitation to one Valentine's Day party covered by *The Daily Princetonian* in 2004.)

By the time Noguer finished Princeton, she had landed a job at a New York-based nonprofit leadership training organization through the Project 55 fellowship program. It was via coordinating students' study abroad experiences through the Watson Foundation that Noguer wondered about moving abroad herself. Upon arriving in Argentina, she started writing grants for a civil rights organization during the day and coordinating Boston College's Buenos Aires study abroad program by night; in 2010, seeking insights into the Argentine nonprofit sector, she enlisted in a Spanish-language master's program on nonprofit management at the University of San Andrés, and went on to serve as a regional director for the global recycling company TerraCycle before founding Puentes.

"It's nearly impossible to plan out all the steps of your life looking forward, but when you look backward, you can connect the dots to see how they all come together," Noguer says of her trajectory. The throughline? "A lot of that was navigating two different cultures and helping make bridges between cultures and ideas and people."

In moving from the United States to Argentina, from civil rights work to educational travel, "it didn't mean that I had to start from zero, but I could start from a different place." P

ADOBE

AN ESSAY

What Do You Do When the Usual Expertise Has No Answer?

You have been turning these pages for years.

You have seen what your fellow alumni have done with their careers, and I imagine you have built quite a life yourself.

That is what Princeton tends to produce.

And yet there are moments in life when everything you know, everything you've learned, and everything you've accomplished still leaves you with something you can't figure out.

Maybe something has changed.

Maybe something keeps happening.

Maybe everything looks perfectly fine on the outside.

But you know there's something you're missing.

It might even be something you haven't said out loud because you're not quite sure how to explain it.

It's like a graduation with no ceremony, no stage, and no diploma. Just a knowing that you have entered a new chapter without knowing exactly what comes next.

And when that happens, who do you talk to?

Hi, I'm **Dr. Veronica Anderson Dedegbe,** a fellow Princeton alum.

I have spent much of my life around very smart, accomplished people.

And here's what I know:

> **“ You can be brilliant and still have a blind spot in your own life.**

It's hard to see the whole picture when you're standing inside it.

When I arrived at Princeton, they said I was gifted.

I said, “What exactly does that mean?”

It took years for me to understand.

The gift became clear when I started using it to help other people see things they couldn't see for themselves.

I've had people bring me questions about their **health, money, careers, relationships, purpose and spiritual lives.**

And then there are the other questions.

> *The strange ones.*
>
> *The private ones.*
>
> *The ones that cross so many parts of your life you don't even know what kind of expert you would ask.*

The questions that aren't fully formed yet because all you really know is:

Something is going on here.

Those are often the most interesting conversations.
Sometimes I see a pattern.
Sometimes there's a missing piece.
Sometimes the question someone brings me points to something deeper.
And sometimes seeing one thing differently changes what happens next.

So if there's something happening in your life that you keep thinking about, wondering about, or simply can't make sense of,

bring it to me.

Dr. Veronica Anderson DEDEGBE, MD
Princeton ’87

Gifted Intuitive
C-Suite Decision Architect
Holistic Physician and Surgeon

See What I See.

PAW@drveronica.com

P.S. *Who else are you going to talk to about the strange stuff? The deeply personal question. The thing you've never told anyone. The missing piece you know is there even though you can't put your finger on it. Ask me.*

CLASS NOTES

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

CATCH UP: Past Class Notes, grouped by class at **paw.princeton.edu**

MEMORIALS

LISTEN TO OUR MEMORIALS PAWCAST

Visit **paw.princeton.edu/pawcast** to hear a podcast where we reminisce about an alum or faculty member who recently died. Reach out to us at paw@princeton.edu to let us know of someone to discuss. This month's episode is about John V. Fleming *63.

THE CLASS OF 1948

CLARKE B. DOWLING '48

Clarke died Feb. 13, 2026, at age 99 in Crawford, Ga.

He was born in Cambridge, Mass., and grew up in Corning, N.Y. Clarke served in the Navy from 1944 to 1946 and began his studies two years after he was admitted, ultimately graduating in June 1950. At Princeton, he was active with WPRU and earned a degree in psychology, focusing on the statistical analysis of standardized testing. He was advised by John Tukey, a renowned mathematician.

Clarke married Frances Rowe in 1954 and they had two children, William '78 and Elizabeth '80. His brother, Alexander '51, and his grandfather, Benedict Williams 1890, were also alums.

In his professional career, inspired by his college and Navy radio work and by his undergraduate grounding in math and statistics, Clarke worked for IBM, first in Endicott, N.Y., and then in Poughkeepsie, for 40 years. Working with the technical staff, he contributed to early operating systems including System/360 and compilers such as Fortran.

Known as an avid sailor, Clarke was often on Keuka Lake, the Great Sacandaga Lake, and the Hudson River. He remained active into his 90s and was often seen riding his bike.

Clarke was predeceased by Frances and by a sister, Mary. He is survived by his two children, five grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and his brother, Scott.
The Class of 1948 sends its condolences in memory of our accomplished classmate.

THE CLASS OF 1951

WILLIAM L. BARCLAY III '51

Tim graduated from Scarsdale High School in New York. At Princeton, he majored in

public affairs in SPIA, was editor of *Yacht Club Flashes,* commodore of Yacht Club, and a member of Elm Club. He was roommates with Frank Rogers, Robert Rogers, and William Schaller.

Upon graduation Tim served three years in the Navy. He received his Ed.M. in science education from Harvard. He was a dedicated math and science educator at Darrow School in the Berkshires, Commonwealth School in Boston, and headmaster of Cambridge Friends School. Tim was an original member of the Elementary Science Study program at MIT, developing curriculum and teacher training. He was an avid birdwatcher, tennis player, recorder player, sailor, and activist for environmental and social justice.

Tim died April 7, 2026, at home. He was predeceased by his first wife, Ann; his partner, Antonia; and his second wife, Elizabeth. He is survived by his children William, Mary, David, and Jeanne.

ALEXANDER VAN RENSSELAER HALSEY '51

Sandy was born in New York City and came to Princeton after graduating from

The Hill School. An economics major, he was a member of varsity crew, Orange Key, and Ivy Club. He roomed with John Ehrenclou, Ashton Harvey, and Charles Highley.

Sandy entered the Navy, serving a four-year stint as an ensign, touring Korea, and traveling around the world. After, he began a career in finance at Smith Barney that launched him into operations and data processing on Wall Street. He went on to work at J.P. Morgan and U.S. Trust Co. at a propitious time. He helped to create the foundational electronic networks that power financial systems and introduced Europe to automated banking operations.

Nature and fishing were his passions. With a home base in Locust, N.J., he traveled to Africa eight times and spent summers in the Adirondacks and winters in Hawaii. In 2021, he moved to Palmetto Bluff in Bluffton, S.C.

Sandy died March 5, 2026. He was predeceased by his wife of 72 years, Martha. He is survived by his children, Cynthia, Ann, and David; seven grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1956

DONALD B. HALVERSTADT '56

Don died Sept. 9, 2025, at home in Edmond, Okla.

He came to Princeton from Cleveland Heights High School, where he played basketball and was president of the National Honor Society. Don majored in psychology and joined Cap and Gown. A Harvard medical degree followed with a residency in urology at Mass General and two years in New Mexico with the U.S. Public Health Service. In 1967, he moved to Oklahoma City to start a children's urology program. His appointments included professor of urology and pediatrics at the Oklahoma University College of Medicine, and chief of pediatric urology services at Children's Hospital. He went on to serve as chief executive of the hospital and as a university regent.

Don cherished his time as a senior coach of the O.U. men's basketball team from 1996 to 2004. He traveled with the team and was a fixture at the end of the bench. He also loved traveling and golfing at America's great courses.

Don was predeceased by his first wife of 53 years, Margaret. He is survived by second wife, Liz Duncan; children Donna, Jeff (Arlene), Amy, and Tim (Maddie); and eight grandchildren.

GEORGE R. KILBY '56

George died June 15, 2026, in Anniston, Ala., surrounded by family after a battle with

cancer.

Following his father, Thomas Erby Kilby 1921, to Princeton from St. George's School in Newport, R.I., George joined Cannon Club, wrestled, played J.V. football (very proud to be promoted to varsity late in the 1953 season), and majored in mechanical engineering.

After graduation and a short stint in the Army, he returned to Anniston, where he worked at Kilby Steel Co., which was sold to FMC Corp. in 1968 with George adjusting to life in a big corporation. In 1986, George relaunched Kilby Steel as a machine shop, which he enjoyed running and expanding to more than 600 employees before his retirement.

He was devoted to his family, ski trips, fly fishing, Colorado mountain living, hunting, and raising his Beagles.

George was predeceased by his first wife, Houston Andrews, and his stepson, Loy Thompson. He is survived by his second wife, Farley; sons George '82, Tom, and Whit; stepdaughters Farley and Martel; 10 grandchildren; and three step-great-granddaughters.

ALFRED LITWAK '56

Al died June 21, 2026, after a brief illness in Wayzata, Minn.

He attended J.W. Cooper High School in

Shenandoah, Pa., followed by service in the Navy as an aviation electronics technician. At Princeton, Al majored in economics and joined Cloister Inn, for which he played volleyball. After graduation, he earned a master's degree in economics from NYU.

Al worked for several firms, including Western Electric, Chase Manhattan Bank, and Mobil Oil. He spent more than 20 years at Johns Manville, where he was vice president and chief economist managing the firm's pension investments. He was a member of the prestigious Conference of Business Economists. He was deeply involved in his community and as a member of the Shepherd of the Grove Lutheran Church in Maple Grove, Minn.

Al is survived by his wife of 59 years, Sally Ann; son Jesse (Amy); and granddaughters Sophie and Anna. One of 10 children born to Ukrainian immigrants, he was passionate about his country and served in the Navy during the Korean War. He was buried at Fort Logan National Cemetery with military honors.

LEONARD A. SPALDING III '56

Len died May 6, 2026, at his home in Dover, Mass.

He was the son of Leonard Spalding 1930 and came to Princeton from the Haverford School, where he was a newspaper and yearbook editor. He majored in history and joined Cloister Inn, the Pre-Law Society, and the Aquinas Foundation. After service in the Army, Len attended Harvard Law School, graduating in 1961. He joined the legal staff of the Gillette Co., where he rose to deputy general counsel, helping to fend off three hostile takeovers from the Revlon Co. Len was a dedicated member of the board of the Family Services of Greater Boston.

Len was known for his kindness, quick wit, and keen intellect. He loved ice cream, walking near his vacation home in Chatham, Mass., and swimming in its cold waters. Most of all, he loved being a participant in the lives of his children and grandchildren.

Len is survived by his wife of 51 years, Patricia; daughters Catherine Spaulding Mutter (Michael) and Nancy Spaulding Gray; and grandchildren Sarah Mutter, Samuel Gray, Natalie Mutter, and Carolyn Gray.

GERSHOM J. THOMPSON JR. '56

Gersh died Sept. 12, 2025, in Healdsburg, Calif.

He came to Princeton from Rochester (Minn.) High School, pursued a pre-med program, joined Quadrangle Club, rowed freshman crew, and served as an announcer

for WPRU. Gersh transferred to the University of Minnesota after sophomore year, where he later earned his medical degree.

He served in the Army with the 82nd Airborne in Germany and was especially proud of his 22 parachute jumps. After completing his child and adolescent psychiatry residency at the Mayo Clinic, Gersh moved to the San Francisco area, where he served patients for 55 years, renowned for his insight, compassion, and commitment. He loved Sonoma County, a good pinot noir, fine food, and impressed all with his near encyclopedic memory of history, poetry, model trains, classic movies, and jazz.

Gershom is survived by his wife of 55 years, Joyce Sigmon; sons Jason (Jumana) and Brandon; daughter Paige Draitser (Max); and five grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1958

JON PHILIP CHILDRESS '58

Phil died Aug. 14, 2025, in Alexandria, Va. He was 89.

He came to Princeton from Lamar High School in Houston, Texas, where he participated in publications, debating and the band. At Princeton, he majored in basic engineering, was a member of the Princeton Flying Club, Ivy Club, and the Pre-Law Society, and was a representative of the Undergraduate Schools Committee.

After graduation, Phil earned a master's degree from the University of Texas in mathematics. In 1973, he moved to the Washington, D.C., area, where he worked at the Department of Energy as a consultant in energy forecasting for many years.

He married Alice Hanselmann March 23, 1990, and they had a son and five grandchildren. Phil is survived by his family. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.

WILLIAM K. CLARKSON '58

Bill died Feb. 22, 2024, in Manhattan Beach, Calif. He was 87.

He came to Princeton from Punahou High School, where he was yearbook photographer and on the golf team. At Princeton, Bill majored in electrical engineering and did senior independent research on electronic digital computers. He was a member of Cloister Inn, where he played IAA golf. He also was active in WPRB, becoming program director and a member of the board of directors.

After graduation, Bill earned a master's degree in engineering at Caltech. In 1960, he joined the newly formed Aerospace Corp. and spent his career there. He met Jackie King, an airline hostess, and they married in 1963. They had two sons, Michael, now a lawyer in Boston, and Grant, a professional musician.

Bill is survived by his children and grandchildren. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.

PEDRO CUATRECASAS '58

Pedro died March 19, 2025, in La Jolla, Calif. He was 88.

He came to Princeton from Bensenville High School, where he participated in basketball, track, and student government. After graduating from Princeton with honors, Pedro earned a medical degree from Washington University, and he began a stellar career with several biopharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. During this period, he held adjunct professorship appointments at several universities.

Most people wouldn't know Pedro, yet it would be hard to pick a person at random who hasn't somehow benefited from his tremendous body of work. The researcher participated in the development of some 40 drugs, some of them well-known, such as acyclovir for herpes; sumatriptan for migraines; and atorvastatin, a cholesterol-lowering molecule that became the best-selling drug in history. He was on the verge of becoming the third Spanish Nobel Prize winner in science when he died.

Pedro was predeceased by his wife, Carol, and his brother, Gil, a famous art collector in Spain. The class extends its deepest sympathy to his remaining family.

PAUL EUWER JR. '58

Peck (later known by some as Chico), died March 23, 2026, in Boca Grande, Fla. He was 89.

He came to Princeton from the Lawrenceville School, where he was active in dramatics and captain of the golf team. At Princeton, Peck majored in history and was a member of Tiger Inn. He played freshman and varsity golf.

After graduation, he served six months in the Army and then earned an MBA at the Wharton School in 1961. His career was centered around the investment business.

Peck is survived by his wife, Lily; two children; two stepchildren; four grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.

ERICH E. EVERBACH '58

Ric died Feb. 12, 2026, in Northridge, Calif. He was 89.

He came to Princeton from Louisville Country Day School. where he was active

in basketball, baseball and glee club. At Princeton, Ric majored in politics and was a member of Quadrangle Club and the Nassoons.

After graduation he attended Duke University School of Law. He married Mary Cavallon in 1959, and they had two sons and a daughter. In 1975, he divorced Mary and married Patsy, and they moved to Louisville. In 1976, he, Patsy, and her son moved to Los Angeles, and he took a job with Ticor Title Insurers and joined the California Bar. In 1990, he resigned Ticor and became the first general counsel of Los Angeles Cellular Telephone. In 1999, he became the first general counsel of TelePacific Communications. Throughout, he sang at Nassoons reunions.

Ric is survived by Patsy and their children. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.

FRED S. HURST '58

Fred died May 17, 2026, in Boca Raton, Fla. He was 89.

He came to Princeton from Stuyvesant High School, where he was active in publications, football, tennis, and the orchestra. At Princeton, Fred majored in biology and was a member of Terrace Club, where he participated in intramural sports. He was also the manager of the freshman and varsity baseball teams, and a member of the orchestra.

After graduation, he married Davida Zagnit, graduated from Columbia University School of Medicine, and then was an intern and resident in obstetrics and gynecology at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City. Then he was drafted into the Navy and served in Richmond, Va. Afterward, Fred joined Riverside Women's Health (Mount Kisco Medical Group) and practiced there until his retirement in 2006.

Fred was actively involved in Temple Beth El, where he served as chair of the ritual committee and eventually as president of the synagogue. He served as the medical director of Planned Parenthood in Poughkeepsie and was honored by Vassar Hospital as Physician of the Year.

Fred is survived by his son and daughter, three grandsons, and four great-grandsons. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.

RICHARD E. ORVILLE '58

Dick died May 20, 2024, in College Station, Texas. He was 87.

He came to Princeton from Towson High School, where he was active in soccer, lacrosse, and student government. At Princeton, Dick played varsity lacrosse,

served as a Chapel deacon, majored in physics, and was a member of Quadrangle Club.

After graduation he served six months in the Army and then went to Johns Hopkins University and earned an M.S. in 1963 and a Ph.D. in 1966. He married Barbara Pierce while a graduate student, and then they moved to Pittsburgh. He was hired by Westinghouse Research and Development. He was an industrial scientist at Westinghouse, producing about 20 published papers and several presentations at international meetings concerning the physics of lightning.

Dick and Barbara had two sons who went to Princeton and Johns Hopkins

By 1983, Dick took a faculty position at SUNY at Albany as a professor in the Department of Atmospheric Science. Eventually he went to the Department of Meteorology at Texas A&M University.

He is survived by his family. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.

THE CLASS OF 1960

SANDOR BARCZA '60

Sandor came to us from Budapest, via Refugee Agencies, from the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, which roiled our freshman year. He managed to secure a solid education through high school but was denied university admission because of his family's relatively prosperous situation and background. He entered our class as a sophomore, on scholarship and speaking only broken English. He majored in chemistry, joined Dial Lodge, and met his future wife, Eva, through a fellow Hungarian student.

After graduation, Sandor earned a Ph.D. in organic chemistry at Harvard and did post-doctoral work in Zurich. He returned to the United States to work at Sandoz Pharmaceuticals Co. in New Jersey He spent his entire career there as a medicinal chemist.

Sandor and Eva eventually settled in Mountain Lakes, N.J. They enjoyed classical music performances, hiking, swimming, and loved traveling in the U.S., Canada, and Europe.

Eva died in 2020. Sandor died at home on April 20, 2026. He is survived by daughters Ilona '89 and Mary; and two grandsons.

THEODORE J. HAHN '60

Ted prepared for Princeton at Baltimore City College High School. With us he rowed freshman crew, majored in chemistry, graduated Phi Beta Kappa, dined at Court Club, and joined WPRB, Chemistry Club, and Westminster Fellowship. Ted earned a medical degree and the hand of his lab mate, Bevra Hannahs, at Johns Hopkins in 1964. It was the beginning of a lifetime medical team.

They moved together to Barnes Hospital

of Washington University Medical School, St. Louis, for internship and residency, completed in 1966, then to the D.C. area for three years, where Ted worked in endocrine medicine for the National Institutes of Health, Bevra in rheumatology at Hopkins. They returned to Barnes as faculty in 1969, Ted in endocrinology and bone metabolism. In 1983, both were recruited to the UCLA School of Medicine. Ted became director of the UCLA/V.A. osteoporosis and bone disorders program and director of the Los Angeles V.A. program in 1986. Bevra became chief of rheumatology there.

They scaled back professionally after 2009 to enjoy Southern California life together: sailing, fishing, skiing, hiking, riding Ted's red BMW thru the California hills, and especially spending time with their two grandsons.

Ted died Feb. 16, 2026, his 86th birthday, of a long COVID-related illness. He is survived by Bevra, their two daughters, two grandsons, and extended family.

PAUL A. KURZMAN '60

Paul was born, lived, and died a New Yorker. He slipped out of town to prepare

for Princeton at the Choate School on his way to us. Here, he worked for the *Bric-A-Brac* and the *Prince,* joined the French Club and Prospect, helped manage the baseball team, majored in sociology, served in ROTC and played IAA football. After graduation, he spent two years in the Army, in New York, rising to captain in 1962.

He went back to New York earning a master's degree in social work at Columbia and a Ph.D. in public administration at NYU. Originally aiming to work in business, Paul became increasingly attracted to social work and the social sciences and eventually found a middle way in working with corporations and nonprofits in employee negotiations, benefits planning, and related areas. He wrote or edited more than a dozen books and numerous articles in the field and was widely honored for his leadership in it.

Paul was employed at City University of New York and Hunter College starting in 1974 in rising positions, culminating as acting dean of the school at Hunter from 2004 to 2006, retiring in 2023.

Paul died Oct. 17, 2025. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Margaret; daughter Katherine; son David; and two grandchildren.

STUART M. LEVINE '60

A Suffern, N.Y., native, Stu came to Princeton from the Peddie School, where he did sports

and glee club. With us he majored in English (drama), rowed on the 150-pound crew, served in Orange Key, was social chair of Tower Club, and joined the Pre-Law Society. He then earned his L.L.B. degree at University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1963.

Stu practiced law, first in Washington, D.C., then in New York City with the Sacks, Montgomery firm. He moved to Westport, Conn., with the same firm in the 1980s, practicing law and pursuing other business interests. Stu married twice. He lost his son Robert to COVID and his brother, Bert.

Stu is survived by his second wife, Linn; son Jim '96; stepchildren Melissa and Chris; their families; and two grandchildren.

GINO V. SEGRE '60

Born in Italy, Gino grew up in The Bronx, New York, and graduated from Forest Hills High School, where he was class resident and salutatorian. At Princeton, he majored in biology, played 150-pound football, and joined the Outing Club, Orange Key, and the Pre-Med Society.

Gino earned a medical degree at Cornell in 1964, interned at Johns Hopkins in internal medicine, 1964-66, capped by six months with Johns Hopkins in India studying cholera. After two years with the Air Force Medical Corps at the Air Force base in Dayton, Ohio, Air Force Base, he moved to Stanford for a two-year residency, rising to chief resident there. He then switched coasts to become an associate professor and endocrine fellow at Mass General Hospital in Boston.

Gino always spoke fondly of his research and clinical work in biomedicine, while also teaching and mentoring. He happily carried on with it into the new century, scaling back around 2010. He married twice. With his second wife, Peggy, he lived in an 1820s Cambridge house and enjoyed frequent outings to the museums and theater of both Boston and New York City.

They shared five children, three from his first marriage, and six grandchildren. Gino died May 18, 2025, survived by Peggy and their family.

THE CLASS OF 1961

JOHN EDGAR CURBY JR. '61

John died April 4, 2026, after a brief illness in St. Louis, Mo.

A son of '31, he was born and raised in St. Louis, of which he was a proud, lifelong resident, save only his time at Princeton and two years of national service. He came to Princeton from St. Louis Country Day School. At Princeton, he was in the Woodrow Wilson School, took his meals at Colonial,

and visited Japan in 1960 under the Princeton in Asia program.

During his time in the Air Force and the U.S. State Department, he served in Turkey and Nicaragua before returning to St. Louis for good in 1967, where he joined Reinholdt & Gardner as a stockbroker. He had a 33-year career as a finance adviser before retiring in 2000 from Smith Barney.

An avid traveler all his life, he visited more than 80 countries during his lifetime. Among his many hobbies was, unsurprisingly, trip planning, for which he was legendary.

John is survived by his wife, Susan; daughter Nancy '88; son Drew; stepchildren Sarah Manis and John Morris; two grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

JAMES G. DILL JR. '61 *65

Only now do we learn that Tony died, evidently of cancer, Aug. 16, 2023, in New Suffolk, N.Y.

A son of the class of 1933, he was born in Glen Ridge, N.J., and grew up in Darien, Conn., where he graduated from Darien High School. At Princeton, he was an architecture major, took his meals at Dial Lodge, and roomed with Bob Barrowclough.

He earned an MFA at Princeton before embarking on his career in architecture with Geddes Beecher Qualls Cunningham in Princeton. As a lifelong sailor he spent his summers in New Suffolk, where he participated in many races in the Northeast and was active in regional sailing organizations and yacht clubs. He retired to New Suffolk, where he was president of the New Suffolk School board for more than 20 years.

Tony is survived by his wife, Ellen; daughters Nicole, Rachel, and Rebecca; two grandchildren; brother David; and their families.

WILLIAM F. MITCHELL '61

Bill died Jan. 6, 2026.

The stepson of John F. Burket '38, he came to us from Phillips Exeter. At Princeton, he was a member of Whig-Clio but withdrew from the University in March of 1959. After working for a year, he attended and graduated from Georgia Tech's School of Architecture, following which he served in the Marine Corps.

Bill practiced architecture in San Francisco, retiring and closing his office in 1992. He then earned a certificate in library science and relocated to western North Carolina, where he had in part grown up, and worked for the Henderson County Public Library. He was a published author, writing *Building as History: The Architecture of Ernie Stilwell*. So far as we know, he was never in touch with the University or the class.

Bill is survived by his sister, June Mitchell Coulbourn.

PHILIP S. ROSS '61

Phil died Feb. 2, 2026, in Wevertown, N.Y.

Born in Teaneck, N.J., he came to us from George School. At Princeton, he majored in psychology and took his meals at Wilson Lodge.

After Princeton Phil earned a master's degree at Columbia's School of Journalism and for the first half of his working life was a journalist, with articles published in several national magazines. After earning an MSW from the Hunter Graduate School of Social Work in 1985, he became a psychotherapist in Manhattan. In 2012, he and Barbara moved full-time to Wevertown in the Adirondacks. Over the years he was involved with the Nature Conservancy and the Adirondack Park Institute.

Phil is survived by his wife Barbara; daughters Dhalia and Joana; and their families, which include grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1962

LAWRENCE T. DARNELL '62

Larry died April 15, 2026, in Hawaiian Gardens, Calif.

He came to us from Portsmouth (R.I.) Priory. At Princeton, he rowed heavyweight crew, majored in history, and dined at Cap & Gown.

Following graduation, he returned home to Memphis to begin a career in the insurance industry, but after four years he felt called to the priesthood in the Catholic Church. He began his formation with the Oblates of the Virgin Mary in Rome, Italy, and later Boston. He left the seminary but later returned. In 1979, he was sent to Sao Paulo, Brazil, where he was ordained to the diaconate in 1981 and the priesthood in 1982. Later he was assigned to Boston and finally to the parish of St. Peter Chanel in Hawaiian Gardens in 1989, becoming its pastor in 1991. He retired in 2022, but continued teaching adults interested in becoming Catholics.

Classmate Peter Schroeder, Larry's crew teammate, described him as follows: "He was gentle, softspoken, and remarkably free of negativity or criticism toward anyone or anything. Looking back now, I can see that even in those college years an uncommon compassion that would later become central to his life and calling as a priest."

STEPHEN A. KANNWISCHER '62

Stephen died Feb. 21, 2022, in hospice from a glioblastoma in Sacramento, Calif.

At two high schools he was a member of the band, orchestra, glee club, National Honor Society, and played baseball. A biology major at Princeton, he sang in the Chapel Choir, played varsity baseball, and was a member of the Woodrow Wilson Society.

Earning a medical degree from Baylor College of Medicine in 1967, he served two years as an Air Force medical officer in Korea and at Edwards AFB in California. He married Marilyn Berndt in 1969. That same year he began to practice family medicine and dermatology as a member of the Permanente Medical Group in Sacramento until his retirement in 2005. Marilyn died in 2024.

In retirement he indulged in his love of photography, gardening, and grandchildren. His daughter Marcy remembers a loving father, something of a joker, who was especially close to his two siblings, Lois, who died in 2013, and Lewis '64, who followed him to Princeton. In addition to his brother, and his daughter Marcy, Stephen is survived by his son, Darrell, and two grandchildren. The class extends its sympathy to the family.

PHILLIP H. SANTAMARIA '62

Phil came to Princeton from Lamar High School in Houston. As an undergraduate,

he majored in biology, played freshman lacrosse, JV football, and served as an Orange Keyceptor. He was a member of Colonial Club and lived in the club his senior year.

After attending medical school at Baylor University long enough to realize it was "not his calling," Phil spent several years in the Texas National Guard as a medic. He then entered a 40-year, highly satisfying career in the securities industry, for a few years in New York City and the rest in Houston, working for Rotan Mosle, PaineWebber, and later UBS. He specialized in corporate and municipal bond underwriting, managing syndicate operations and participating in more than 80 underwritings over the course of his career.

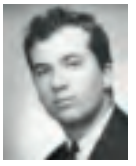
In retirement, Phil volunteered at the Christian Community Service Center food pantry and found great pleasure visiting family and friends, playing poker and bridge, and traveling with Carolyn, his wife of nearly 55 years.

Phil died April 30, 2026, at home in Houston. He is survived by Carolyn; their three children, Catherine, Leslie and Michael; and grandchildren Alejandra and Enrique.

DAVID F. STOVER '62

David died Jan. 30, 2026, in Arlington, Va.

He came to us from Lower Merion High



School in Ardmore, Pa., where he was the concertmaster of the high school orchestra, assistant editor of the yearbook, a National Merit Scholar, and member of the National Honor Society. At Princeton, he was a member of Whig-Clio, served a year on the Arts at Princeton Committee, and was a member of BRINK — an early expression of peace activism at Princeton in an era of nuclear anxiety. He also played guitar and mandolin with the Original Mercer County Rambling Boys. He was a Woodrow Wilson major and a member of the Woodrow Wilson Society.

Following graduation, he earned a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania and began a long legal career in both private and public capacities. He began as a staff attorney at the Federal Power Commission, moved to private practice and in 1975 began as the assistant general counsel of the Postal Rate Commission, becoming general counsel in 1979 until his retirement in 1992. He then was self-employed as an attorney and consultant.

He listed his marital status as single and there are no listed survivors.

THE CLASS OF 1963

THOMAS WISTAR BROWN V '63

Twistar died April 5, 2026, at home in Quakertown, Pa., surrounded by family.

A native of Philadelphia, he came to Princeton from St. George's School in Newport, R.I. He majored in history, was vice chair of photography for *The Daily Princetonian,* took his meals at Cloister, and roomed with Bill Everdell.

Twistar graduated from Temple medical school in 1967, then joined the Army as a physician with internal medicine and trauma experience. Following discharge, he completed a four-year residency in surgery in Philadelphia and, in 1975, became a partner in a general surgery practice in Quakertown. He specialized in vascular surgery for 25 years and then enjoyed a lengthy retirement.

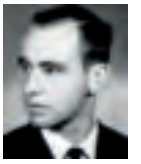
Twistar sailed his whole life, first with his father and family, then with his wife and children and grandchildren. In 1996, he and wife Emma bought a 36-foot cutter, Ravens Nest. They sailed extensively in the Chesapeake, along the Eastern Seaboard from North Carolina to Nova Scotia, and in the Bay of Fundy. They delighted sailing the coast of Maine.

In 2021, Twistar and Emma became official snowbirds and migrated annually to Sanibel, Fla. Summers were spent in Winter Harbor, Maine, where Twistar sailed with the Winter Harbor Yacht Club, biked the backroads of Hancock and Washington counties, and swam in the ocean. Throughout his life, he enjoyed reading, music, and had season tickets to the Metropolitan Opera.

Twistar is survived by his wife of 59 years, Emma; daughters Kate and Alice; and four grandchildren.

DOUGLAS M. CROWLEY '63

Doug died May 15, 2025, in Los Angeles, Calif., where he lived.



A native of Orange, N.J., he came to the class from Columbia High School in Maplewood, N.J. He majored in history, wrote his thesis on "Mussolini's Rise to Power," and was on the fencing team freshman and sophomore years. He took his meals at Terrace and roomed senior year with Robie White, Bruce Florsheim, George Connolly, and Jan Kennedy.

Doug earned a law degree from the University of Michigan in 1966 and moved to California, where he practiced and spent the rest of his life. He lived in Los Angeles, enjoyed playing golf, and was a devoted patron of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, regularly attending performances at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. Doug was a 52-year contributor to Annual Giving through 2023.

He leaves no known survivors.

DENNIS R. FOWLER '63

Dennis died May 28, 2026, in a nursing home in Oxford, N.Y., following a stroke.

His home was in Otego, a village in a rural area of the Mohawk Valley, where he lived for 50 years. He had a successful, lifelong career as a freelance writer with nearly 60 romance novels to his credit as well as computer trade columns and publications and a science fiction novel.

Dennis came to the class from Mamaroneck (N.Y.) High School. An economics major, he was a member of the Sports Car Club and the freshman swim team.

Following two years in the Army, Dennis lived in New York City, working various jobs as he churned out his first novel. It didn't sell. In 1969, in the Princeton Chapel with Dean Gordon officiating, he married Peggy Kahoe. They escaped to upstate New York and, as he recounted for our 50th-reunion yearbook, settled "on an abandoned 100-acre dairy farm ($200/an acre with the house and barn thrown in).

"As Peggy was about to deliver our child and I was out of work again, I foresaw a need for money," Dennis wrote. He dashed off a

35,000-word romance novel — salacious and steamy — "which immediately sold, launching my career as a freelance writer." Fifty more novels followed and he then switched to writing about computers for 20 years.

Dennis and Peggy were deeply involved in their community — she in the Orpheus Theatre and Habitat for Humanity, he in the Otego Harris Library.

Dennis was predeceased by his wife of 46 years, Peggy, in 2017. Their only child, daughter Celeste '94, died in 2004 of metastatic melanoma. Dennis's brother, Jerry, survives him.

STEPHEN J. PRIBULA '63

Steve died May 8, 2026.

He came to the class from Delbarton School. A member of the Woodrow Wilson School, he took his meals at Court Club and worked for four years at WPRB, holding several top posts

Steve earned a law degree from Columbia in 1966 and went directly into the Air Force, serving from 1966 to 1972. At the end of his service, he was appointed a military judge and obtained the rank of captain.

Steve was admitted to the bar in New York in 1967 and in New Jersey in 1979. In 1980, he established his own practice in Chatham, specializing for nearly three decades in real property, trusts, and estates. He became a fixture in the community. He served as borough councilman, led the Chatham Chamber of Commerce, wrote a weekly legal column, and served on Chatham United Way and the Fish and Game Association. His name was on a sign on Main Street in the same location where his parents had once run a grocery store for 20 years.

For years, Steve was Santa Claus to the children of Chatham. He painted, gardened, golfed, wrote fiction, and researched and wrote a full history of his family.

Steve was married to Roberta Retana from 1967 until her death in 1992. They had three children. In 1993, he wed Laurie Savage and adopted her three children.

In addition to Laurie, Steve is survived by her children, Adam, Tricia, and Ted; three children from his first marriage: Benjamin, Anastasia, and Alexander; and 13 grandchildren.

CHARLES T. WILLIAMS III '63

C.T. died May 9, 2026, at Sinai Hospital in Baltimore, surrounded by family, after a brief illness.

A native of Baltimore, he came to us from St. Paul's School. At Princeton, where his father was in the Class of 1928, he majored in history and belonged to Key and Seal.

C.T. earned an M.B.A. from the University of Virginia Darden School of Business in 1965. He devoted his professional life to investment banking, corporate finance, and business management, and his personal life to family and his love of horses and riding.

After beginning as a securities analyst on Wall Street, he returned in 1974 to Baltimore and joined the family investment banking firm, C.T. Williams & Co., founded by his grandfather in 1923. He sold the firm's securities brokerage business to Legg Mason in 1979 but continued as president of the company, operating as a private investment firm. He progressed to co-found Kenilworth Holdings and subsequently served as an officer and director of various subsidiary businesses in Virginia.

C.T. and his wife, Margaret, settled in Jarrettsville, Md. They had a working farm with several horses. C.T. was a member of the Elkridge-Harford Hunt Club, a foxhunting and steeplechase club, established in the 1800, for 50 years.

C.T. is survived by Margaret; daughters Virginia W. Curry and H. Ashton Williams; son Charles IV; and one grandchild.

THE CLASS OF 1964

WILLIAM I. FORBES III '64

Bill died April 10, 2026, in Dresher, Pa.

He came to Princeton from St. Mark's School in Southborough, Mass., and Episcopal Academy in Lower Merion, Pa., where he participated in the scientific society and played football and lacrosse. At Princeton, he majored in aeronautical engineering, played squash and lacrosse his freshman year, and joined Cloister Inn.

After four years working on Boeing's Vertol (vertical takeoff and landing) project, Bill felt a different calling. Enrolling in Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, he graduated in 1972 as one of their first MD/Ph.D. graduates, specializing in otolaryngology.

Bill opened a solo ENT practice in Saranac Lake, N.Y., in 1977, serving the Adirondack region by opening clinics in nearby towns and serving on the medical staff of the Lake Placid 1980 Winter Olympics. In addition, recognizing the vital need for end-of-life dignity, he participated in founding the region's first hospice program. In 1990, he joined a practice in Watertown, N.Y., also serving as an interim chief medical officer for Samaritan Medical Center and as a medical director of Jefferson County Hospice, finally retiring in 2017.

Bill married his anatomy professor, Barbara Louise Frederick, in 1970. Their partnership lasted until she passed in July 2010. He is survived by his sons, David and William, and their families, to whom the class offers its condolences.

RICHARD L. GRAND-JEAN '64

Rick died Jan. 16, 2026, after a long series of illnesses borne with a remarkable and resilient spirit. He leaves behind a world bereft of his passion to make it better.

Rick came to Princeton from Clayton (Missouri) High School. At Princeton, he was a member of Campus Club, served as president of the St. Louis Club, business manager for the *Nassau Lit,* and prepared his thesis for the Wilson School on "Roosevelt's Decision to Aid the Allies."

Rick earned a law degree from the University of Chicago and then joined Salomon Brothers Investment Bank, helping create their London office and later becoming managing director. He moved on to the same position at Hall Capital Partners, a firm founded by Kate Hall '80, former chair of the University's Board of Trustees.

Rick had a great love of life, was an avid tennis player, a voracious reader, born storyteller with a sparkling wit, and had a gift for deep and lasting friendships. He was a fierce believer in social justice and led a life of political activism, starting with the 1968 McCarthy presidential campaign and later co-founding "Democrats Abroad" in London and the locally influential *Santa Barbara Independent* newspaper.

Rick married journalist Christine Doudna in 1983. To Christine, their two children, Molly and Michael, his twin brother Steven, his sister Mimi and their families, the class offers its condolences.

MALCOLM D. HAWK '64

Malcolm died May 3, 2026, at home in Houston with his wife of 56 years, Kate, by his side. He grew up in Sharon, Pa., and Palo Alto, Calif., and attended Palo Alto High School, where he edited the school paper and served on the student court and in other organizations. At Princeton, Malcolm majored in the Woodrow Wilson School, ate at Elm Club, and served on *The Daily Princetonian,* the Guide Service, the Keycept Program, and Campus Fund Drive.

After Princeton, Malcolm earned a law degree at Stanford and following a federal district court clerkship, spent several years in Washington, D.C., holding several positions in the U.S. Department of Justice and on Capitol Hill as a senator's legislative assistant and minority counsel for the Senate Judiciary Committee.

In 1974, Malcolm and his family moved

to Houston, where he began a long and distinguished legal career with Exxon, serving in numerous leadership roles, including as general counsel for key Exxon divisions in both Europe (Brussels) and Asia (Singapore).

After retiring in 2002, Malcolm and his family spent time in both Houston and Steamboat Springs, Colo., and he and Kate continued their travels abroad, visiting all seven continents. He also wrote his autobiography.

The class extends its condolences to Kate and their three children and three grandchildren.

DOUGLAS E. KLIEVER '64

Doug died April 8, 2026.

He graduated from Medford (Ore.) Senior High School, where he was senior class president, a two-time state forensic champion, and a National Merit Scholar. At Princeton, Doug majored in the Woodrow Wilson School, concentrating in international affairs, ate at Elm Club, and graduated *magna cum laude*. At Stanford Law School, he was president of the Law Review and graduated in 1967. He met and married Virginia "Cookie" Harper, the law school librarian, and following graduation, they moved to Washington, D.C., where Doug clerked for Judge Oscar Davis of the U.S. Court of Claims.

Following his clerkship, Doug began a distinguished legal career with the DC office of Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton where, initially as an associate and then a partner, he represented major industrial clients in the pioneering era of federal environmental law and regulation. After retiring from Cleary in 1997, he continued in private practice until 2005, representing major firearms industry trade associations.

Doug was an avid traveler, initially with Cookie until she passed away in 2008, and thereafter with family and friends. His avocations included woodworking and gardening. He is remembered for his intellect, discipline, and devotion to his family.

The class extends its condolences to Doug's two sons and their families.

WILLIAM H. MEARS JR. '64

Bill died May 17, 2026, after a brief illness. Born and raised in Richmond, Va., he graduated from Douglas S. Freeman High School, having been editor of the school newspaper and active in sports, dramatics, and student government.

At Princeton, Bill majored in classics, writing his thesis on "Virgil's Support of Caesar." He joined Campus Club and was active in Orange Key, heavyweight crew,

the Undergraduate School's Committee, and the Class Memorial Fund Drive. For five years, he served as class treasurer and since 2011 has been Class of 1964 vice president for advanced planning.

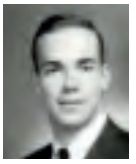
Following graduation, Bill earned a J.D. at St. John's University and later an M.S. in accounting and certificate in taxation at Pace University. He began his career in New York City at U.S. Trust Co. and later became a tax partner at Ernst & Young. His last position was at Brown Brothers Harriman Trust, where he was executive vice president and served on the board of trustees.

Bill and Pate Bevis married in 1997, pursuing their goals and dreams together in the Big Apple. After retirement, they settled in Bill's hometown of Richmond, where they focused on giving back to their church, colleges, and community. Bill also served on the Richmond Symphony Board, making significant contributions. Always a Virginia gentleman, he was helpful to all he knew.

The class extends its sincerest condolences to their families.

JOHN T. MOSS '64

John died Aug. 7, 2026, at his home in Roseville, Calif., of complications from Parkinson's disease.



He graduated from Western Reserve Academy in Hudson, Ohio, with Bill Faust and Charlie Snyder. They all came to Princeton and were roommates, together with John's cousin Tom Popp. John majored in electrical engineering, joined Quadrangle Club, and was active in WPRB.

Upon graduation, John joined IBM in computer sales, working in Trenton and Honolulu before being sent to Saigon for three years. There he met Le Thi Tuyet, "Jackie," whom he married in 1972. John next worked for several small companies in San Francisco before completing a two-year M.S. program at Stanford's Graduate School of Business.

Accepting an offer from Hewlett-Packard, John stayed for 22 years, following that with eight years at Agilent Technologies. With HP's encouragement to participate in the community, John was elected to the Los Altos (Calif.) School District board of trustees, and then city council, serving two years as mayor. On stepping down, he was elected president of the Los Altos Rotary Club.

Upon retirement in 2007, John and Jackie moved to a retirement community in Roseville, where they entertained their neighbors with Jackie's fabulous Vietnamese cooking. They have two daughters, Rhoda and Jennifer, and five grandchildren. Their daughters were teenagers before meeting their relatives in Vietnam, to which John and Jackie returned many times.

ROGER V. RUSSELL '64

Roger died Feb. 6, 2026.

He graduated from DeVeaux School in Niagara Falls, N.Y., where he was class president and participated in soccer, tennis, and track. At Princeton, Roger majored in sociology and anthropology. His senior thesis, "The Effect of Crisis on the Power Structure of the Tuscarora Indian Tribe," focused on the Tuscarora, who, after losing a brief war in their North Carolina homeland in the early 1700s, migrated to northern New York and became the sixth nation of the Iroquois Confederacy. Roger joined Campus Club, participated in the Judo Club and Whig-Clio, and was commissioned from ROTC into the Army Reserves.

After graduation, he served in the Army for a decade, including in Vietnam, rising to the rank of captain. He credited his service as shaping his lifelong sense of duty, discipline, and love of country.

Roger earned a J.D. from the NYU School of Law in 1977 and then practiced contract law in Vietnam before returning to the U.S., where he worked for a tax-publishing company in New York City.

He married Lee Ping in 1971. They shared 54 years together and had two children and four grandchildren, to all of whom the class offers its condolences. Roger will be remembered for his quiet strength, sense of duty, dry sense of humor, deep devotion to his family, and abiding faith in God.

JONATHAN WELLS '64

Jonathan died Sept. 19, 2024, in Poulsbo, Wash.

He was born in New York City and graduated from Montclair (N.J.) High School, where he attained a perfect SAT score and won a National Merit Scholarship to Princeton. A geology major who ranked in the top 1% of his class, he dropped out of Old Nassau during his junior year. He worked as a cab driver in New York City before being drafted into the Army. He served two years in Germany.

Thereafter he enrolled at the University of California, Berkeley. Then, for reasons unclear, he was charged with draft dodging and was imprisoned for a year. He then returned to Berkeley for a bachelor's degree. He had been a self-described atheist and Darwinist but reversed his thinking on these matters in the early 1970s and attended a Unification Theological Seminary. After graduating from there, he attended Yale, where he received a doctorate in religious studies. Then he returned to Berkeley for

a Ph.D. in molecular biology and cellular biology.

In subsequent years Jonathan did scientific research and writing, and he gained renown in anti-Darwinist circles as a leading advocate for intelligent design, which he believed was an argument for the existence of God. His 2000 book *Icons of Evolution: Science or Myth* stirred controversy in academic circles.

We extend belated condolences to Jonathan's widow, Lucy, and their two children.

THE CLASS OF 1965

WENDELL T. FITZGERALD '65

Wendell died Dec. 6, 2025, at home, surrounded by friends and loved ones.

He will be remembered for his tireless contributions to Southern Oregon, for his work in keeping GMO crops out of Jackson County, and especially for re-establishing Ashland's Bellview Grange with many new members, but also as a home for Ashland Children's Theatre, AA, folk dancing, and all manner of business meetings and social gatherings.

Wendell is remembered for his love of the divine feminine, economic justice, and his passion around ending poverty. As president of the Grange, he was often the first to show up and the last to leave after clean-up, leading by example. He was active as a brother in local Elder Group meetings and gatherings of the Mankind Project and The Ashland Pachamama Alliance.

Wendell is survived by his nephew and niece. He devoted his life to learning how to make the world a better place. We will all benefit from his example.

STEVEN A. RUSKIN '65

Steve died April 13, 2026, in Rye Brook, N.Y.

He was born in New York City and

attended Wellington C. Mepham High School in Bellmore, N.Y. At Princeton, he studied at the Woodrow Wilson School and ate his meals at Quadrangle. He roomed with Mike Cummings and Jim Hipple.

After Princeton, he received his law degree from Columbia Law School in 1968. He married Nancy Bisgaier in 1965, and they had three children, Lauren, Kenneth, and Susan. Steve was a tax lawyer and partner in several law firms over his career, ending with his own firm in Purchase, N.Y. He was active with the Princeton Alumni Schools Committee of Northern Westchester as chairman. He played tennis and golf regularly and loved to travel.

His greatest pleasure was his family. The class extends its condolences to his wife, Nancy, and his children and grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1966

MICHAEL P. EQUI JR. '66

Michael died Aug. 13, 2021, during a brief hospital stay. Throughout his life, he battled Friedreich's ataxia, a progressive degenerative movement disorder.

Michael came to Princeton from Holyoke (Mass.) High School. He left Princeton without graduating and later earned a bachelor's degree from Boston College and a dentistry degree from Columbia University. He served in the Navy in the early 1970s.

Michael and his wife, Martha, settled in Cohasset, Mass., where he established a dentistry practice in 1973. He practiced until 2006, when the effects of ataxia forced him to retire.

He was active in several Cohasset civic and community organizations, including the Jaycees and Rotary Club. He was a passionate Red Sox fan.

Martha predeceased Michael. He was survived by his children and grandchildren, to whom the class extends its condolences.

RICHARD L. RIEMER '66

Rich died June 25, 2025. At the time, his residence was Oakland, Calif.

He came to Princeton from Auburn (N.Y.) East High School, where he ran track, played basketball, and served as president of his class and the student council. At Princeton, Rich majored in religion, roomed with Cam McEwen and Mike Spence, and belonged to Cap and Gown. He sang with the Nassoons and was a member of the Westminster Foundation.

After graduation, Rich entered Yale Divinity School, where he eventually earned a master's of divinity degree.

He spent a year as legislative assistant and speech writer for United States Sen. Ed Brooke of Massachusetts and he worked for a time for a D.C. law firm on a Ford Foundation study of the U.S. prison system.

Moving to California, Rich earned an M.A. in clinical psychology from The Wright Institute, in Berkeley. In 1976, he accepted a position at a large community college as counselor for returning Vietnam veterans. After that, he was a psychology fellow in the psychiatry department of Mount Zion Hospital, in San Francisco.

In the 1980s, he was in private practice as a psychotherapist, with offices in Oakland and Sausalito, while teaching at both Mills College and the University of San Francisco.

Along the way, he acquired a 12-acre ranch in the Sonoma County wine country and a Victorian home in Oakland.

He never married or had children.

THE CLASS OF 1968

IRVING H. SEARS '68

Hopper died Jan. 25, 2026, in Philadelphia.

He came to us from Penncrest High School

in Media, Pa., where he played football, basketball, and baseball. At Princeton, he majored in psychology and was active in the Trenton Tutorial project. He was a member of Cannon Club and lived off campus with his wife senior year.

Following graduation, Hopper attained additional degrees in psychology from Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania. He worked at Hall Mercer Community Behavioral Health Center, a prominent community mental health center and crisis response center in Philadelphia for several years and then switched careers, moving into the information technology field. He worked as a director of technical services at Mumps Audiofax until his retirement, at which time, he moved to Center City, Pa., where he enjoyed engaging in a wide range of interests including painting, guitar playing, poetry, writing, and his fandom for all Philadelphia sports teams.

The class extends its deepest sympathies to his wife of 50 years Randi Kamine; their children Peter, Anya, and Clayton; six grandchildren; four siblings; and their families.

THE CLASS OF 1969

LAWRENCE N. OLDEN '69

We have learned belatedly of the death of Larry Olden, who died June 30, 2025, at

Westchester Medical Center in Hawthorne, N.Y.

Larry was born in Camden, N.J., but moved with his family to Phoenix, Ariz., where he graduated from Arcadia High School. At Princeton, Larry majored in French. During our undergraduate years, classmate Mike Cone introduced Larry to classical music, and it became a treasured pastime. With Mike's encouragement, Larry taught himself piano so that he could play his favorite pieces, and he even tried his hand at composing.

Following Princeton, Larry earned a master's degree in French literature at Brown, and his Ph.D. studies were interrupted by the Vietnam draft. Larry proudly served his country in the Army as an adjutant. After his honorable discharge and a variety of jobs, Larry taught himself mechanical engineering. He retired after a long career with API in Tempe, Ariz. Larry was a talented bridge player, a gifted poet, a lover of classical music, and a lifelong learner.

Larry is survived by his life partner, Charlene Hirschberg; siblings Robert,

Katherine Eichberger, and David; one niece; and six nephews, and several great-nieces and nephews. The class extends its sincere sympathy to all of Larry's family.

TERENCE L. YOUNG '69

Terry died March 17, 2026, from Alzheimer's disease in Scottsdale, Ariz. Known to

many of us over the years for his engaging nature and infectious laugh, Terry regularly attended Reunions and other classmate gatherings. His talent for reviving old friendships at these events will be sorely missed.

Terry was born in St. Louis and later moved with his family to Palm Springs, Fla., where he attended Lake Worth High School and played multiple sports. At Princeton, he played 150-pound football and baseball, earning varsity letters in both. Terry was a sports enthusiast and storyteller, and he could deploy his sharp wit to puncture any oversized ego. Terry was a member of Cannon and could often be seen wearing the iconic green Cannon tee, including in the years after our graduation.

Following Princeton, Terry spent 25 years as a management consultant, first at Arthur Andersen, and then as a partner at Ernst & Young. Shortly after E&Y's consulting business was sold to a French concern, Terry left the company and spent a few years working on his golf game. He returned to the workplace as the CEO of the Producer-Writers Guild of America pension and health plans. Terry's company handled all pension plan benefits and health fund claims for the guild, which represents film and television writers and producers, and supervised the investment of the plan's funds.

In retirement, Terry and his wife, Karen, whom he married in 1985, lived in Scottsdale. She was an important part of many Reunions and other gatherings of '69 friends. We send our deepest sympathy to Karen for her, and our, loss.

THE CLASS OF 1970

BONO YVERTES '70

Bono died March 8, 2026, in Bridgehampton, N.Y.

He came to Princeton from his hometown high school in Roslyn, N.Y. He was then known as Paul Herbert Ostrow. He played freshman soccer, supported several key charitable causes on campus, joined Tower, was named a University Scholar, majored in the Woodrow Wilson School, and wrote his thesis, "Life: The Making of the Technocratic Culture."

Sometime before our 25th reunion, Paul changed his name. We do not know the circumstances. We do know he left a widow and daughter, Nancy Walter-Yvertes and Juliette, respectively, and we extend our sympathies to them.

THE CLASS OF 1973

WILLIAM J. BRADY III '73

Bill died Nov. 25, 2025, surrounded by his wife and children.

Born in 1951 in Pittsburgh, Bill attended Central District Catholic High School. He was a member of the debate team and took first place in debate in the annual Steel City Speech Tournament. At Princeton, Bill majored in religion and literature and wrote a thesis on Kurt Vonnegut. He was president of Terrace Club.

After graduation, Bill earned a law degree from Boston University Law School. He started his career as an assistant district attorney in Brooklyn and eventually became a civil litigator in New York City.

Bill was an insatiable reader, a lover of jazz, wine, and poetry, avid tennis player, world traveler, and a loyal Knicks fan.

Bill is survived by his wife of 49 years, Laurie; children Alex '10 and Lee; daughter-in-law Karuna; and grandson Krishnan. The class extends its sympathy to Bill's family.

THE CLASS OF 1975

STEWART A. SCHODER III '75

Stu died April 4, 2026, at home in Chicago.

He grew up in Edison, N.J. Coming to

Princeton from Regis High School in New York City, he majored in history with a concentration on the Near East. He went on to study at King Saud University as a Fulbright scholar and earned an M.A. in business economics from the UPenn.

A gifted linguist fluent in French, Arabic, and Turkish, Stu had a distinguished career in corporate finance at Citibank, Salomon Brothers, and Sara Lee, with postings in Saudi Arabia, Côte d'Ivoire, and France. He concluded his career as CFO at Christ the King College Preparatory School in Chicago, where he devoted a decade to expanding access to quality education for underserved students on the city's west side.

Stu was admired for his wide-ranging curiosity, incisive intellect, and contrarian spirit. His passions ranged from the symphony to his beloved New York Mets, and he was rarely without a book in hand and an opinion about what you should be reading next. He was a passionate and masterful cook, having begun cooking as a member of a cooperative in Spelman.

Stu is survived by his wife, Delia Flores; his children, Mike '10 and Elizabeth; his stepchildren; his mother; and three siblings.

THE CLASS OF 1976

PERRY CHARLES EVANS '76

Perry died July 27, 2025, in North Carolina. He was retired from a long career in financial services.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Perry graduated from Loyola High School. At Princeton, he majored in politics and earned a certificate in African American studies. He had a deep interest in the workings of society and governance. Perry was a member of the Aquinas Institute and the Association of Black Princeton Alumni.

Roommate Adonis Hoffman remembered: "Perry and I were classmates at Loyola High School of Los Angeles and literally traveled to Princeton together in the summer of 1972. We were roommates in the Princeton Inn. During the summers, Perry worked as a junior banker at Bank of America, as did I. Upon graduation, Perry pursued graduate studies at UCLA, where he received an MBA. After that, Perry had a long and successful career as a comptroller and financial professional. He was a jazz aficionado, an exotic car enthusiast, an excellent bowler, and an accomplished photographer."

The class extends sympathy to Perry's wife, Helen Finch.

CLAUDIA D. WELCH '76

Claudia died Aug. 7, 2024, in Oakland, Calif.

She grew up in Wynnewood, a suburb of Philadelphia, and graduated from Friends' Central School. At Princeton, she shared a freshman suite in Gauss Hall with Anita Springer, Melanie Lawson, Judy Linsenberg, Nancy Kraybill, Veronica King, Margie Brown, and her cat Mishka. Along with several of her roommates, Claudia worked at Commons. She majored in psychology and was fluent in French and German. She enjoyed dance and drawing. Claudia studied dance prior to Princeton and did an occasional twirl in privacy but never jumped back in formally while at college. She had an inventive imagination and enjoyed creating stories.

After Princeton, Claudia moved to Berkeley, Calif., near her father, Claude Welch, a former Princeton religion professor. For the past 30 years she built her career as an attorney in the law department of Chevron Corp. in San Francisco and San Ramon. She was about to retire.

The class officers extend condolences to her brother, Eric.

THE CLASS OF 1977

CHERYL DENISE COHEN-VADER '77

Cheryl died Aug. 30, 2025, after managing Alzheimer's since 2018.

She majored in sociology and joined the Bank of New York. After a Columbia MBA in finance, she joined Citicorp and rose to vice president, Citicorp securities

department, public finance. In 1990, Cheryl moved to Denver. She became chief deputy manager for the construction of the Denver International Airport, deputy mayor of the City of Denver, chief executive officer of the Stapleton Development Corp., and chairman of the Retirement Board for the Denver Employees Retirement Plan.

Sharp with a dry sense of humor, Cheryl was a loyal and devoted friend, who listened but never judged. Her father was a bishop in Miami and faith was an important part of her. Cheryl married later in life, but her husband predeceased her.

Cheryl loved all things Princeton, was a '77 class trustee and a member of the ABPA. She roomed in Lourie-Love with Beverly Lewis, Nancy Lin, Gabriella Morris, and Linda Tarver Pirolli. Nancy recalls, "Despite all her accomplishments, she stayed down-to-earth and loved watching the Muppets with my children. She was a big foodie and loved to travel." Emily Lewis Penn misses "all things Cheryl, especially her wry sense of humor, deep spirituality and love of adventure." Her life showed leadership, resilience, and groundbreaking achievements in the public and private sectors and devotion to family.

The class extends its sympathies to Cheryl's siblings Joel, A. Melvin, and Shawna; and niece Latoya Cohen Johnson.

DONALD E. MACQUEEN JR. '77

Don died Feb. 19, 2026, at the age of 71 from complications of ALS.

Sports were a big part of Don's early years in New Jersey and he excelled, especially at football. He was recruited to play football in college and chose Princeton. He received the Lourie Award for the outstanding freshman football player before injuries ended his football career. He played rugby at Princeton all four years. Through friends at Princeton, Don met Gay, whom he married in 1981, for a love story of 45 years. They raised four sons in West Windsor, N.J.

Following graduation, Don worked at Fenn and Fenn, a printing company in New York. After five years, Don started at Walter B. Howe, an insurance agency in Princeton, as a commercial insurance agent. His job was always interesting as he worked with companies as varied as landscaping firms, small schools, and foundations. He spent 36 years there (later Howe Insurance Group), the last five as president and co-owner.

Don never wanted to be the center of attention, but he did occasionally mention the gold star streak he and Gay maintained, successfully completing *The New York Times* crossword puzzle, reaching 2,594 consecutive days on the day he died.

Don is survived by his wife, Gay; sons Edward (Barbara); Ian (Danielle); Grant (Jessica); and Henry (Catherine); 18 grandchildren; sister Sara (William) Oderwald; brother Andrew (Sherry); brother-in-law Steve Shults; former sister-in-law Patricia MacQueen; and a niece and nephews.

THE CLASS OF 1994

SAMI SULEIMAN MATAR '94

Sami died April 16, 2026, in New York City, surrounded by his loving family.

Originally from Lebanon, Sami grew up in Kuwait, where he graduated from the American School. At Princeton, Sami attended the orientation session for international students. In a single week he formed friendships that lasted decades. Friends remember his musician's hands, delicate and deliberate, from his years of playing the violin, and his uncanny knack for knowing exactly when they needed a beer or a walk or just an empathetic ear. During those few hours when Sami resisted the E-Quad's siren song while majoring in civil engineering, he walked the campus, his ever-smiling eyes often hidden behind his beloved Nikon camera.

After Princeton, he received a master's in structural engineering from Cornell. He joined LERA Consulting Structural Engineers, where his more than 30-year career drove some of the firm's most complex projects, including Bellevue Hospital Center in New York, the Lodha World Towers in Mumbai, and Hermitage Plaza in Paris. He was awarded a certificate of appreciation by the City of New York for his advisory work following 9/11.

Sami survived by his wife, Andrea, and their son, Alex. He will be remembered by his classmates for his quiet generosity and ready kindness.

THE CLASS OF 1996

KATIE HOEVELER TALLMAN '96

Katie died March 15, 2023.

She was born March 19, 1974, in San Francisco. At Princeton, Katie was a member of eXpressions dance troupe, Theta, and Cottage. She majored in politics at Princeton while completing the pre-med requirements.

Katie spent fall semester junior year in Paris and returned with a flawless French accent. She loved French culture. She traveled wherever she could after graduation with her friends or her husband; whether it was Tahoe for mountain biking, Utah for skiing, Southern California for a beach vacation, India for a friend's wedding, or New York for all things NYC. If she wasn't traveling in her spare time, Katie could be found on the dance floor or at concerts, putting what she learned in eXpressions to good use.

After graduation, Katie pursued her goal of being a pediatrician. She earned a medical degree from UC San Diego, completed her residency at The Children's Hospital at the University of Colorado, and then returned to San Diego. In 2012, she set her sights on becoming a child psychiatrist, embarking on a fellowship at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Katie co-founded the medical behavioral unit at CHOP. Later, she went into private practice. She combined her love of travel with her work providing medical services to those in need in Africa.

Katie is survived by her husband, Michael; parents Jan and Charlie Hoeveler; her siblings; and her many nieces and nephews. .

GRADUATE ALUMNI

HANS GEORGE HERZBERGER *61

At 93, Hans died Jan. 30, 2026, in the Rishi Valley, India.

Born in 1932 in Jena, Germany, Hans and family came to the U.S. in 1935. He attended Cornell as an undergraduate, then spent two years in the Army, stationed in France. Returning to the U.S., he earned a Ph.D. in philosophy at Princeton in 1961. To help fund his graduate education, Hans worked at the University of Pennsylvania's Department of Linguistics on the world's first computer program to analyze grammar.

After positions at the University of California, Berkeley and Case Western Reserve, Hans joined the philosophy faculty at the University of Toronto in 1967. He studied topics such as the concept of truth, semantic paradoxes, and canonical super-language. His articles included "Dimensions of Truth" on Buridan, and "Ordinal Preference and Rational Choice," a milestone in the erosion of the idea that rational agents are maximizers of utility. He developed his own formal theory of truth as a modification of Kripke's, and his interests included the philosophy of Frege, and the inexpressible and the ineffable.

In 1991, Hans moved to India, where his wife, Radhika, had opened the Rishi Valley School. Together they worked on Indian philosophy.

Hans is survived by Radhika and their daughters Maya '92 and Sunanda.

JAMES F. LEATHRUM *63

James died April 11, 2026, in Chesapeake, Va.

Born Dec. 24, 1937, James earned a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering from the University of Delaware in 1959 and a Ph.D. in chemical engineering from Princeton in 1963.

James served in the Army, performing computer-based ballistic calculations. The experience sparked a lifelong career in

computing and software. After completing his military service, he worked at Union Carbide before transitioning to academia.

James was a professor of computer science and statistics at the University of Delaware, where he served as department chair and played a key role in establishing the department. He later joined Clemson University as a professor of electrical and computer engineering, helping to build a new program in computer engineering. His research focused primarily on software to support the military and compiler design.

After retiring from academia, James founded Oakleaf Systems, a software design consulting company.

Having a child with Down Syndrome, James and his wife, Barbara, were active in Down Syndrome advocacy locally, at the state level, and nationally with the National Down Syndrome Conference.

Predeceased by Barbara, James is survived by his sons James Jr. '84, Thomas, and Roger; five grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

BYRON T. GORRES *64

Byron died Feb. 21, 2026, in Stillwater, Minn.

He was born Nov. 15, 1936, in Amery, Wis. Raised on a dairy farm, Byron sold his prize bull to help pay for his education. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls in 1958 and began his career at 3M as a technician. After earning his Ph.D. in chemistry from Princeton in 1964, Byron returned to 3M, where he built a 34-year career as a scientist and manager.

At 3M, Byron led the development of new computer techniques from 1964 to 1981; managed worldwide diskette research and development from 1983 to 1985; and met with Steve Jobs to discuss storage media for the original Macintosh.

While Byron's early career focused on computer techniques and magnetic storage for devices like the original Macintosh, his later shift into polymers applied his expertise in molecular structures to industrial material science building on his foundation in physical chemistry. His research in polymer advances resulted in at least one registered patent.

Byron is survived by his wife, Georgene, whom he married in 1958; children: Sheryl Zaworski, Geoff, Gwen Gierke, and Brett Gorres; nine grandchildren; and two great grandchildren.

JOHN E. MALMSTAD *69

John died Feb. 14, 2026, in Cambridge, Mass.

He was born in Bismarck, N.D., June 25, 1941. As an undergraduate at Northwestern, John completed pre-medical requirements but chose to major in Russian and comparative literature. At Princeton, he earned a Ph.D. in Slavic languages in 1969, working under Nina Berberova, who helped him develop his interests in Modern Russian culture and Émigré Russian literature.

John held faculty positions at Columbia (1968-85) and Harvard (1985-2015). Of his 27 book-length publications, only four appeared in English: his co-authored (with Robert Maguire) translation of Bely's *Petersburg,* his biography of Mikhail Kuzmin (written with Nikolai Bogomolov), a collection of articles about Bely, and a co-edited *Festschrift for Vladimir Markov.*

For undergraduates, John taught a year-long survey of Russian literature in English, and for graduate students he conducted seminars with readings in Russian of poets including Blok, Bely, Annensky, Kuzmin, and Khodasevich.

Drawn to the New York City Ballet, which under George Balanchine's direction was lending new vitality to the traditions of Russian dance, John worked with dancers, wrote articles on ballet, and wrote a scenario for a ballet, *Winter Dreams,* performed by the Pennsylvania Ballet in 1987.

John is survived by his friends and the students he mentored.

ROBERT J. SCALLY *67

Bob died Jan. 7, 2026, in Sag Harbor, N.Y., at the age of 88.

Born in August 1937 in Queens, N.Y., Bob earned a bachelor's degree at Queens College and his Ph.D. in history from Princeton.

Bob built a decades-long academic career at New York University, where he was a professor of modern European history. The son of Irish immigrants who grew up in a cold-water flat, Bob's early experiences stayed with him throughout his life, shaping a lasting respect for the lives and labor of ordinary people. He believed history was best understood through the lives of everyday people rather than through those with power. That conviction shaped his book *The End of Hidden Ireland,* an archival study of Irish peasant families during the Great Famine and the ways their individual lives and decisions shaped Ireland.

Bob was the founding director of Glucksman Ireland House at NYU, which he helped launch at a moment when Ireland was emerging onto the global stage. Ireland House became a center for scholarship, dialogue, and cultural exchange.

He is survived by his wife, Dena; his son, Terence; and his grandsons, Theodore and Dominic.

MARY NAUS WATTERS *72

Mary died March 27, 2026, of pancreatic cancer in Houston.

Born Dec. 10, 1947, in Sheboygan, Wis., she graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1969 with a double major in psychology and mathematics. Mary earned a Ph.D. in psychology from Princeton in 1972. The subject of her dissertation is "Memory Search of Categorized Lists: A Consideration of Alternative Self-Terminating Search Strategies."

Having been awarded a National Institute of Mental Health Fellowship, Mary completed her clinical post-doctoral work at the University of Pennsylvania under Dr. Aaron Beck, the father of cognitive therapy.

After holding positions at Wellesley and Haverford, Mary joined the faculty of the University of Houston, where she remained for 30 years. She served as director of the Health Psychology Research Group, supervising more than 20 Ph.D. students, published numerous peer-reviewed journal articles, presented at national conferences, and taught undergraduate and graduate courses in statistics, developmental psychology, clinical psychology, and health psychology. She received the university's Teaching Excellence Award. Shealso served on the editorial boards of several psychology journals.

Mary is survived by her husband, William C. Watters III; sons William IV and Christopher; grandchildren Asher and Wynter; and her brother, Peter.

MICHAEL L. FRIEDMAN *73

Michael died March 24, 2025, in Palo Alto, Calif., after a long illness.

Born April 2, 1947, in Brookline, Mass., Michael completed undergraduate work at Queens College CUNY in 1969 and earned a Ph.D. in philosophy from Princeton in 1973.

At the time of his death, Michael was the Suppes Professor of Philosophy of Science at Stanford, where he taught from 2000 to 2024. He taught previously at Harvard, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Illinois at Chicago, and Indiana University.

Michael's scholarship focused on the philosophy of science, Kant studies, and on philosophy more broadly. His early work was on space-time theories and on unification-based theories of scientific explanation. He was awarded the 1985 Matchette Prize and the 1987 Lakatos Prize for Foundations of Space-Time Theories. He received the 2015 Fernando Gil International Prize in Philosophy of Science for *Kant's Construction of Nature.*

Michael's visiting positions included Harvard, UC Berkeley, Western Ontario, Konstanz, Oxford, and the Max Planck Institute. He was a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and was president of the Philosophy of Science Association in 2000.

Predeceased by his wife, Graciela de Pierris, Michael is survived by his mother, his sister, and her two children.

Graduate memorials are prepared by the APGA.

*An undergraduate memorial appears for James G. Dill Jr. '61 *65.*

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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.

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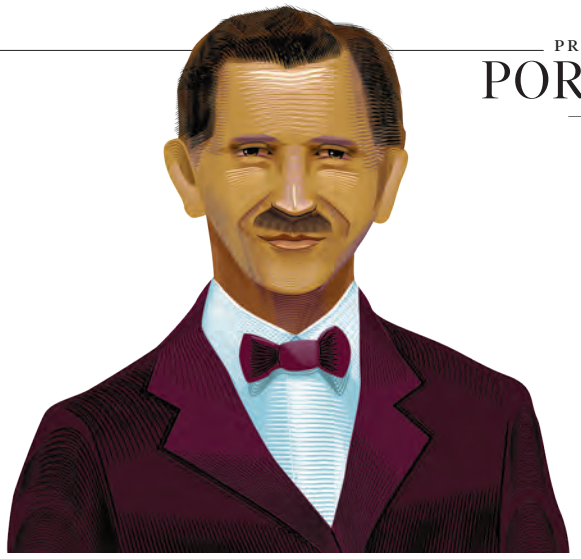

CHARLES L. HOUSE 1909 (1887-1961)

Amid Crises, He Held Together an Agricultural School in Greece

BY HARRISON BLACKMAN '17

OUTSIDE THE MAIN URBAN center of Thessaloniki, Greece's second largest city, lies the picturesque campus of the American Farm School, laid out amid gnarled olive trees and plowed fields, the source of agricultural products and yogurt that find their way into Greek supermarkets. For more than a century, the centerpiece of that campus has been its flagship building, Princeton Hall, whose origin begins with the singular efforts of Charles House 1909.

The son of two American missionaries, John Henry House and his wife, Susan Adeline Beers, House was born in 1887 in present-day Bulgaria, then part of the Ottoman Empire. At the time, Turkish authority was beginning to wane as independence movements sought to carve out their own countries from the territory, using guerilla tactics and bombings to disrupt Ottoman control. Throughout this unrest, the House family engaged in international diplomacy, with John mediating the 1901 kidnapping of American missionary Ellen Stone, a major tabloid case sometimes considered America's first hostage crisis.

By 1902, that instability convinced House's parents to send their 15-year-old son to New Jersey to be educated, where he first received a scholarship to Blair Academy before starting at Princeton in 1905. At Old Nassau, House occasionally wore a fez on campus, inspiring his classmates to call him "Turk."

While "Turk" was stateside, his father embarked on a vast project to establish an agricultural school outside Thessaloniki, purchasing 53 acres of land and enrolling 10 Slavic orphans who would live out of a modest farmhouse.

However, the school expanded rapidly, and by 1907 the Ottoman government granted it tax-exempt status, a protection the Greek government continued in 1912 after it seized the region. The school also became a laboratory for agricultural innovation in the country, collaborating with the U.S. Department of Agriculture on experiments involving California grapes, ultimately producing a strain resistant to native aphids.

But the school continued to be plagued by a series of catastrophes, local and international, that convulsed the area: The school burned down in 1916; the entire city of Thessaloniki was razed by a massive conflagration in 1917; and in 1922, Greece's defeat in its war against Turkey led to an exchange of populations, as Turks in Greece were expelled to Turkey and conversely Greeks from Turkey found themselves forced to start over in Greece.

To lead the school into this tumultuous future, John tapped his son Charles as his successor. In 1922, Charles recruited the Class of 1909 to sponsor the construction of a new campus building. Princeton Hall housed up to 250 students and faculty and featured a kitchen, refectory, and assembly room.

Meanwhile, the growing Farm School under House also helped raise some famous Princetonians as well — Edmund Keeley '48, the son of an American diplomat stationed in Thessaloniki, grew up on the campus, an experience that informed his career as an esteemed literary translator of modern Greek and a Princeton professor.

House went on to style himself as a modest figure — described in a 1955 article of *The Rotarian* as dressing down in dungarees to perform repairs on farming equipment — but would hold his own against dire outside threats. When the Germans invaded Greece and occupied the school in 1941, House negotiated to allow his students to remain on campus. According to historian Brenda Marder, when an American official asked a Greek delegation in Washington if House was collaborating with the Germans, Peter Stathatos, an aide to the Greek king, replied, "Certainly not. The Germans are collaborating with House."

The Nazis later arrested House and his wife and deported them to prisoner-of-war camps, but the pair returned in 1944 to restore the school to normal operations.

During the ensuing Greek Civil War between a government aligned with the U.S. and a Communist insurgency, House faced one last challenge with a courageous stand that echoed his father's response to the Stone kidnapping. In the middle of a night in January 1949, a group of Communist rebels stormed Princeton Hall and abducted 37 students and four teaching assistants. The leader of the partisans proceeded to confront House at gunpoint, and House demanded to be taken in the boys' place.

The partisan refused the offer, but the impact of House's stoicism had eroded his group's morale. By the next day, 25 of the 41 abductees had escaped, and three months later, the final prisoner returned. As Marder wrote, "many of the [boys] reported that the strong religious underpinning built by the school had been the cornerstone of their strength." P

DANIEL HERTZBERG

Kindred Spirits Have a Way of Reuniting – Even After Years Apart

Andreas Prindl and Deborah Robbins grew up together, spending long childhood summers in northern Michigan where their parents had adjacent cabins on the lake. Then their paths diverged, but they and their families always remained in touch. Today, they share an active life filled with friendships, culture, and travel.

Andy graduated from Princeton University in 1960, where he majored in German, French, and Italian, a choice that proved to be very useful during his long and illustrious career in international banking. Most of his professional life was spent overseas, first in Japan and then for many years in London. His passion for travel and books led him to write and publish eight books focused on the literary heritage of places he knew and loved.

Deborah, too, enjoyed a happy professional career, earning a master's degree in library science and working as a librarian. Later, her love of music led to a rewarding career as a school music teacher. She has always been interested in biking and, as with almost everything she does, she took that to the next level by cycling across the entire North American continent from Boston to Vancouver.

Princeton Reunions

In 2015, Andy's multinational life included a trip to Princeton University for a major Reunion. He knew that he would find Deborah in town; she had lived there for years as part of the communities associated with the Center for Communications Research and the Princeton Junior School. They learned that their connection to each other was still strong.

"We discovered that we had the same passions and interests – travel, books, languages, music – and having both lost our spouses, we decided to combine our lives."

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One of the attractions of Princeton Windrows that resonated with them was the impressive library which includes shelves of books by resident authors. Andy's books are now displayed there. Living with others who also love books offers him opportunities to serve as a presenter at the weekly "Wednesday at Windrows" lecture series.

He has been known to transform himself into Henry James, delivering monologues in character. He and Deborah also enjoy the movies, art exhibitions, and concerts that are a regular part of life at Windrows.

Hitting the Right Notes

Deborah and Andy love music as much as they do books. They fill their beautiful apartment with the sounds of their daily harpsichord and recorder duets. They enjoy attending Princeton Symphony Orchestra concerts in the Windrows living room as well as live jazz evenings in the Pub.

But neither Deborah nor Andy would be content with a sedentary life, however rich it might be in cultural events. Both of them enjoy all the physical activities that Princeton Windrows offers: swimming, exercising in the gym, tai chi and yoga, pickleball, and walking and biking along Lake Carnegie.

"Princeton Windrows has everything we could have wanted, with the added benefit of new friends who also like travel, books, music, outdoor activities, and a fine dinner – plus a glass or two of good wine."

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Image: J.M. Synge, Jack B. Yeats (illustrator), *The Aran Islands*, 1907.

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