OUTDOOR ACTION OUTCRY / ROUNDTABLE: WHO'S AFRAID OF AI?

PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY

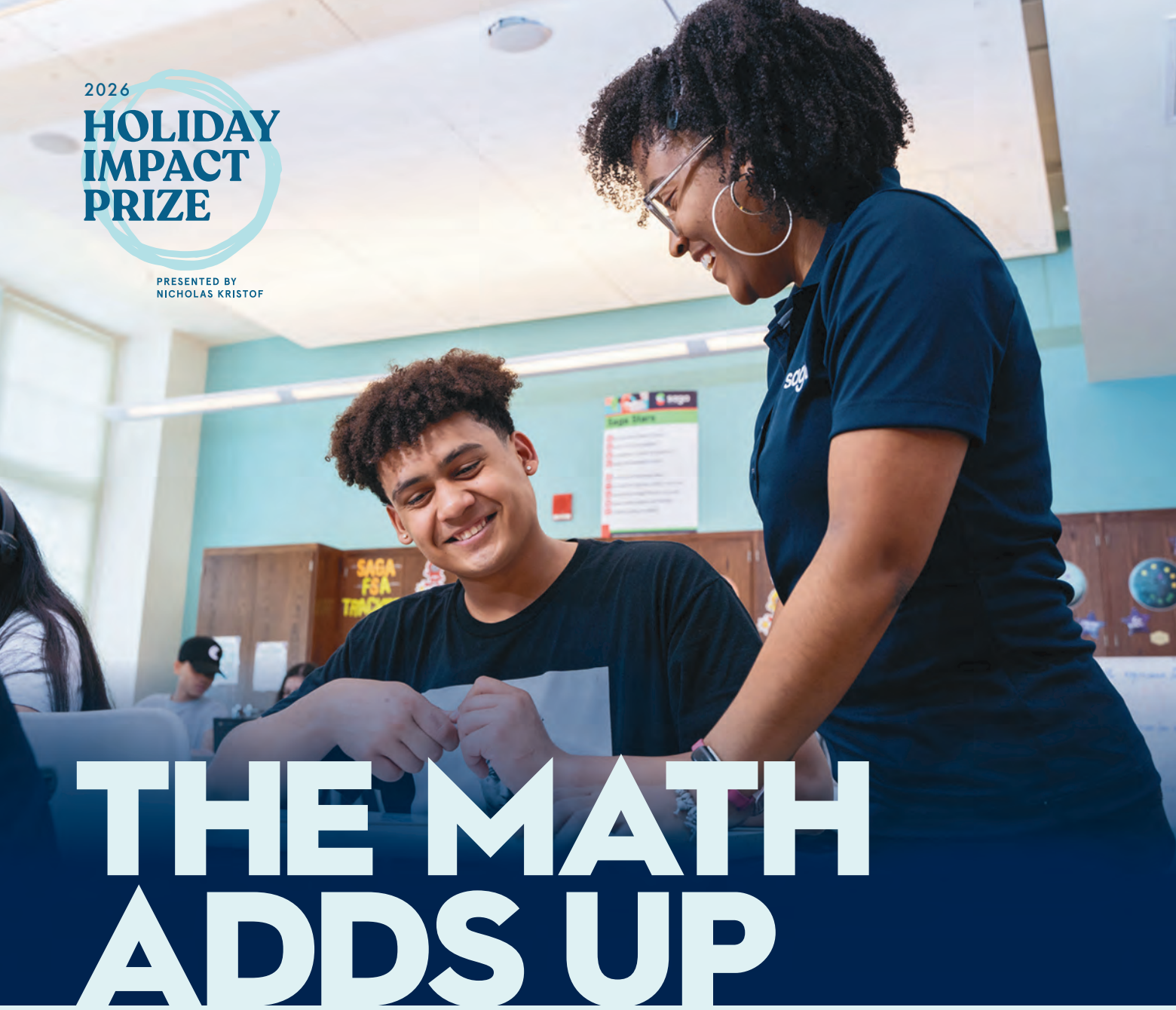
DECEMBER 2026



Seeking Higher Ground

Danielle Allen '93 sees collaboration as universities' best response to political pressure

2026
HOLIDAY IMPACT PRIZE
PRESENTED BY NICHOLAS KRISTOF



THE MATH ADDS UP

This season, give a student someone who believes in them. Saga's tutors work alongside students during the school day, building caring relationships that grow into the confidence and math skills that last. The evidence is in: **the University of Chicago Education Lab called Saga "among the most effective interventions ever rigorously studied** in US high schools." Your support will help Saga expand to reach tens of thousands of younger students who need help with math, too.

Saga is proud to be one of three winners of Nicholas Kristof's 2026 Holiday Impact Prize. Make a tax-deductible gift today and it will be matched dollar for dollar.

Donate Today to Double Your Impact
→ saga.org

Saga Education is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
Donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

saga EDUCATION

Saga's CEO and co-founder, Alan Safran '80, has spent the past 33 years in public education. At Princeton, he was a member of the Press Club (4 years), the chess team (1 year), and the ultimate frisbee team (1 year).

CONTENTS

DECEMBER 2026 VOLUME 127 NUMBER 4

An editorially independent magazine by alumni for alumni since 1900



ACTION REACTION

Outdoor Action and other small-group experiences are moving from freshman orientation to fall break next year, a change that has drawn widespread opposition from the Princeton community. *See page 10.*

COURTESY OF OUTDOOR ACTION

FEATURES

34 Deal or No Deal?
Danielle Allen ’93 says universities should reject political coercion, but not the possibility of change.
BY MARK F. BERNSTEIN ’83

40 AI and the End of the World
As warnings about artificial intelligence grow louder, four Princeton experts debate how worried we should be.
BY MARK F. BERNSTEIN ’83

ON THE COVER

Danielle Allen ’93 has been busy working as a political science professor and philosopher at Harvard. *Photograph by Jason Grow*

DEPARTMENTS

2 The President’s Page
3 Inbox
9 On the Campus
22 Research
47 Princetonians
53 Class Notes
69 Memorials
77 Crossword
78 Classifieds
80 Princeton Portrait

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.

Political topics, academic freedom, and scholarly obligations

In October, I was honored to offer opening remarks at the conference, "Human Rights and Social Movements in an Era of Authoritarianism," hosted by the Department of Anthropology's Human Rights Initiative. It was a pleasure to welcome the distinguished group of scholars who convened on campus for the initiative's inaugural conference. It was also an opportunity to reflect on where our obligations as scholars lie when academic topics are political in character.

These are my remarks, lightly edited for publication.
— C.L.E.

The topic of this conference is dear to my heart. Indeed, almost exactly twenty-three years ago, in October 2003, Professor András Sajó and I convened a conference at Princeton titled, "Universalism and Local Knowledge in Human Rights."

That conference, like this one, brought together anthropologists, lawyers, and political scientists, among others, to consider the relationship between universal rights and local context.

In 2003, much of our conference focused on the possibility that local cultural commitments might interfere with the vindication of human rights. This conference, convened at a different time, will examine—among other questions—"local and decentralized forms of protecting human rights and the rule of law."

Whatever their differences, these two conferences reflect shared assumptions that human rights exist, are worth vindicating, and are under threat. These assumptions are undoubtedly political in character, in that they assert contested values and make controversial claims about the legitimacy of governmental action.

The endeavor of these conferences might therefore seem inappropriately "activist" to certain critics of higher education who imagine that universities and scholars should be studiously and consistently "apolitical" or "neutral." Given my role as a convener of the 2003 conference, I obviously disagree, and I thought it might therefore be valuable to say a few words about the ways in which scholarship should or should not be "political."

Scholars must have the freedom to choose research and conference topics on the basis of judgments about their importance, and some of those judgments will inevitably be political in character. I ran a conference and studied human rights because I think them valuable to the world and care deeply about them; I assume that is true for most if not all of you. Indeed, indifference to human rights is not in my view a virtue in scholars or in anyone else.

In many fields, scholars must also be able to offer arguments that are political in character. For example, I am a normative political and constitutional theorist; I have spent my scholarly career studying justice, equality, religious freedom, the rule of law, and related topics. These are political ideas, and normative claims about them will inevitably have political characteristics and consequences.

Scholars may also legitimately use their research as a foundation for political engagement. For example, when I was publishing articles about the law of religious freedom, I testified both in Congress and before the New Jersey state legislature about the implications of my research for pending legislation.



The Human Rights Initiative conference took place October 2-3 in the Julis Romo Rabinowitz Building and in Aaron Burr Hall.
Photo by Tori Repp/Fotobuddy

I expect that many of the participants in this conference not only seek to advance knowledge about human rights but work actively to promote them. Indeed, the conference announces that its aims include identifying "ways of advocating for human rights" that are effective in the current era. Such activity can, in my view, be entirely consistent with our responsibilities as scholars.

What scholars must not do is to allow our political commitments, whatever they are, to interfere with our dedication to the pursuit of truth, the advancement of knowledge, and the deepening of understanding. Our obligation as scholars is to advance reasons candidly, to test arguments and assumptions rigorously, to seek out alternative perspectives energetically, to consider criticisms respectfully, and to modify our views when given adequate reasons for thinking them wrong.

This responsibility extends even to propositions that are fundamental to our scholarly projects. For example, we are free to organize conferences on human rights, and there is no obligation to include a panel of rights-skeptics in every such conference—but if someone offers good-faith, scholarly reasons for denying the existence or conceptual coherence of human rights, we must consider seriously the arguments they have advanced and respond in kind.

Scholars, in other words, must follow reasons and evidence where they lead, even when they take us to places that are deeply uncomfortable from a personal or political perspective. Our scholarly discipline, not any partisan or political allegiance, must ultimately guide our path.

I will close by saying how delighted I am to welcome this outstanding group of scholars to Princeton. I am pleased both that the Department of Anthropology has a Human Rights Initiative and that Princeton is once again hosting a conference on universal rights and what my co-author András Sajó liked to call "the bulwarks of localism." I thank you for your attention, and I wish you well in the scholarly discussions to follow.



INBOX

YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE LATEST ISSUES

PRINCETON'S JEWISH COMMUNITY

Thank you for PAW's October cover story on the Jewish community at Princeton since Oct. 7 ("Holding on to Jewish Life," October issue).



There were no easy answers and many perspectives — which is appropriate in the circumstances. I appreciate the respectful and contemplative tone of the piece, as well as the fact that it was published as PAW's cover story. That PAW chose to report on Princeton's Jewish community in depth is notable and speaks to the absence of such coverage elsewhere.

On a personal note, many of the themes explored in PAW's reporting resonate with me. Since Oct. 7, I have become more interested in the Jewish community, have forged closer ties with other Jews, and have grappled with my support for Israel in the face of my unhappiness with the Netanyahu government's actions in Gaza and on the West Bank. I've taken the following position: I oppose the Netanyahu government but continue to support Israel's existence as a Jewish state and the pursuit of a peaceful two-state solution.

LEANNE TOBIAS *78
Bethesda, Md.

I appreciate PAW's presentation of a thoughtful article on the challenges faced by Jewish members of the University community in the wake of the horrific attack in Israel on Oct. 7, 2023. These challenges are felt not only on campus, but wherever Jewish people live in the nation and the world. I am not sure however that a challah with a reference to the twists of its braids is an appropriate image for this story. Nor do I understand the University's position on this subject. It did reject the ridiculous petition to divest from companies with ties to Israel, but at the same time it offered GSS 245, a strange course titled "Gender, Reproduction, and Genocide" with a description beginning, "This seminar explores genocide through the analytic of gender, with a central focus on the ongoing genocide in Gaza." This is offensive on many levels.

HAROLD SCOTT GURVEY '73
Princeton, N.J.

"The Braids That Bind" is a thoughtful, well-reported piece. I was struck, though, by the accompanying editor's note. Even an article so careful to highlight dissenting voices within the Jewish community occasioned apologetic hand-wringing about the legitimacy of talking about the Jewish community without also talking about the Muslim community.

As Dara Horn has observed, Jews can't speak about their own experience, and maybe journalists can't write about Jews speaking about their own experience, without someone feeling it morally necessary to point out that others suffer, too. That's a phenomenon worth examining.

TED FOLKMAN '96
Boston, Mass.

WINE INDUSTRY ALUMS

It was a great pleasure to read about a rising young star in the world's wine industry, Katy Andersen Keating '08 ("A Taste for Connection," October issue). From her spot in London, Keating is well positioned to witness a great expansion in new wines and likely new wine grape cultivars, especially in England. As a pinot noir fan, I would never suggest that France is tiring out, but other areas of the world are showing new energy.

When I entered the wine industry in 2005 in Oregon, I was a part of the explosion of fine pinots coming from the Pacific Northwest region of the U.S., and that explosion now also includes remarkable sparkling wines. At that time, I asked the Princeton alumni office if it could point me to other Princetonians who were active in the wine industry and the response was that that metric was not tracked. I knew, of course about John W. Haeger '66, a noted author on pinot noir, and Gary Mount '66, who made fruit wines in Princeton, but there were only a few others on whom I stumbled over the years. I would urge the alumni office to add a field in its records for members of the worldwide wine industry.

By the way, I appreciated the mention of Princeton Corkscrew wine shop in the article. I found Laurent Chapuis a deeply discerning connoisseur. When I was attending my 50th reunion, I had the opportunity to pour one afternoon wine made from grapes from my vineyard at the Corkscrew.

DAVID P. BECK '66
McMinnville, Ore.

PRINCETON
ALUMNI WEEKLY

EDITOR
Peter Barzilai s'97

MANAGING EDITOR
Brett Tomlinson

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Carlett Spike

DIGITAL EDITOR
Elisabeth H. Daugherty

CLASS NOTES/MEMORIALS EDITOR
Nicholas DeVito

SENIOR WRITER
Mark F. Bernstein '83

WRITER/ASSISTANT EDITOR
Julie Bonette

ART DIRECTOR
Matt Cole

PUBLISHING DIRECTOR
Allison Sullivan

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR
Grace Ni '23

REPORTING FELLOW
Ngan Chiem '23

STUDENT INTERNS
Hannah Floyd '27, Elisa Y. Gonzalez '27, Juli Janitz '30, James Swinehart '27

PROOFREADERS
Joseph Bakes, Urvija Banerji '15, Jennifer Shyue '17

PAW BOARD
Bene Cipolla '95, Chair
Laura Dannen Redman '03, Vice Chair
*Jennifer Caputo
*April Chou '96
Gabriel Debenedetti '12
Juliet Eilperin '92
Neha Gandhi '04
Christina H. Lee *99 s*99
*Anthony Pappenfus '13
*Hilary Parker '01
Hope Perry '24
Greg Rosalsky *13
*ex officio

ADVERTISING
LOCAL ADVERTISING/CLASSIFIEDS
609-258-4886, PAWads@princeton.edu
IVY LEAGUE MAGAZINE NETWORK
Heather Wedlake
617-319-0995, heatherwedlake@ivymags.com

ADDRESS CHANGES
Alumni and Donor Records
100 Overlook Center, Suite 300
Princeton, NJ 08540
alumrecs@princeton.edu, 609-258-3114

Or SCAN the QR code to update your address or circulation preferences



HOBEY BAKER 1914, CENTER, AND THE PRINCETON HOCKEY TEAM IN 1913

THE HIGH PRICE OF SPORTS

I played hockey all my life including at Princeton and afterward. It is certain that many people I have played with had CTE. It is certain too that Hobey Baker 1914 was "injured" after all of that contact (Research, October issue). He also likely had some sort of depression. What he did was reckless and be sure he knew that. Some people pay a much higher price than others for the exhilaration and fame that sport has given them. He was surely one of them.

BILL TRESHAM '78
Montreal, Canada

OPERATIONS RESEARCH

The article about ORFE ("Calculating Fortune," September issue) identified a group of operations research faculty who broke away from civil engineering to form the department. Unfortunately, the article omitted professor Warren Powell '77, a fantastic teacher and researcher. His teaching and mentorship inspired me to pursue graduate work in operations research and altered the course of my career. Powell retired a few years ago but continues to publicize his groundbreaking research on modeling sequential decision-making under uncertainty.

RICHARD HUGHES '84
Ann Arbor, Mich.

Seeing the traveling salesman problem mentioned in the ORFE article triggered a fond memory. Long ago, when woolly mammoths still walked the hills of New Jersey and I was an electrical engineering student, there was no separate ORFE or even CS department. It was all part of EE. Ken Steiglitz taught an algorithms course and assigned a simplified version in which the goal was to search for a path which minimized total distance traveled. Recall that personal computers hadn't happened yet, so you had to program on punch cards for the shiny new IBM 360/91 (in the middle of the night, when you had a prayer of getting access). I framed my work in terms of Frodo, a traveling ring salesman who had to visit all the cities of Middle Earth. If I recall correctly, Steiglitz liked that enough to use the same framing for it in his 1982 book and gave me an acknowledgment.

RICK MOTT '73
Ringoes, N.J.

FICTIONAL PRINCETONIANS

An addition to the fictional Princeton characters list in "Lights, Camera, Princeton" (October issue):

"Jeffrey Graves" '55 appears with his buddy/nemesis/customer/classmate "Paul Kinsey" in *Mad Men*, season 3, episode 3, "My Old Kentucky Home," written by Dahvi Waller '93. Was life like that for 30-something Princeton grads in the early 1960s? Or just incredible script writing?

DOUGLAS RUBIN '81
Princeton, N.J.

COFFEEHOUSE CREW

While I congratulate the Murray-Dodge Café on its 50th anniversary (On the Campus, September issue), I would like to add a historical perspective. The café Rick Chrisman '65 "dreamed up out of a neglected basement" in 1976 had a precursor and model in the Axe Coffeehouse, same location but seven years earlier. Begun by Archie MacColl '70 and Brian Langston '71 in the fall of 1969, it offered music, coffee, tea, pastries, and peanuts, lots of peanuts, on weekend nights. The following year it expanded service to six nights a week, and in the spring of 1971, it opened for lunch, serving as many as a hundred people a day. One of the highlights that spring was catering a lunch meeting for Halcy Bohen, assistant dean of students.

At the end of the year, we had been so successful that the Office of Religious Life decided to reclaim its basement and try to create their own welcoming student space. With a few fits and starts they were ultimately successful.

DAVID SCHANKLER '71
Axe Coffeehouse supervisor, 1970-71
Montgomery, N.J.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY LIBRARY / SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

STUDENT 'HORSEPLAY'

The October Princeton Portrait was an intriguing piece about the near riot on campus with the arrival of Pawnee Bill's Wild West Show in 1899, when students actively tried to sabotage the show. Pawnee Bill's traveling circus was a pale shadow of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, which I wrote about extensively in my novel, *Little Miss Sure Shot*, chronicling the life of Annie Oakley — the undisputed star of that show.

Buffalo Bill never played any college campuses that I know of. Most of those shows, which were earlier, played in large arenas or on playing fields, and in front of adoring crowds, not an army of collegians eager to wreak havoc. It wasn't surprising to read that President Francis Patton, a stern Presbyterian, chewed the students out for their hijinks — or that *The Daily Princetonian* downplayed the violence, calling it "horseplay." Well, according to contemporary accounts, there were a lot of horses.

JEFFREY MARSHALL '71
Scottsdale, Ariz.

YOUR PERSPECTIVE

Let us know what you think

PAW@princeton.edu

PAW, 194 Nassau St., Ste. 38
Princeton, NJ 08542

Letters should not exceed 250 words and may be edited for length, accuracy, clarity, and civility. Due to space limitations, we are unable to publish all letters received in the print magazine. Letters, articles, photos, and comments submitted to PAW may be published in print, electronic, or other forms. The views expressed in Inbox do not represent the views of PAW or Princeton University.
To read more about PAW's commenting policy or guidelines for submitting an essay proposal, click the QR code or go to paw.princeton.edu.

ANGELA HAN '28; COURTESY OF STEPHEN SHUEH '97; COURTESY OF PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

ONLINE

EXCLUSIVES

CONTENT AVAILABLE ONLY AT **PAW.PRINCETON.EDU**



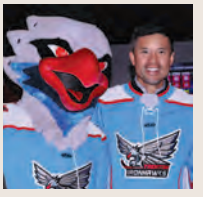
TIGER TRAVELS

China's Snow Town

Nestled in a deep valley between Chinese mountain ranges lies Xuěxiāng, writes **Angela Han '28**. Engulfed in a blanket of white, the village aptly known as China's Snow Town looks as though it's sculpted out of snow. There's peaceful quiet to be found, but also adventure sports, traditional dance, fireworks, and local cuisine like frozen pears and persimmons and tiě guō dùn, Dōngběi's signature iron-pot stew.

TIGER OF THE WEEK

Stephen Shueh '97



Shueh, co-founder of Roundview Capital on Nassau Street, admits that investing in a minor-league hockey team in Trenton isn't the sort of funds allocation he might steer his clients toward if they require, let's say, any kind of profit. That didn't stop him from spearheading the effort and celebrating when the new Trenton Ironhawks won their home opener in October.

ENVIRONMENT

Sustainability Planning

Princeton announced an update to the sustainability efforts it laid out in 2019, making more plans to set environmental goals in key areas like reducing emissions and planning for climate disruptions. More than a hundred members of the University community have been working on the Campus Sustainability Framework since 2024; it calls for multiple studies and working groups around everything from stormwater to infrastructure, habitat to food waste.

MEMORIALS PAWCAST

John V. Fleming *63



FLEMING *63

On the latest episode of PAW's podcast celebrating the lives of Princetonians, **Elyse Graham '07** remembers medieval studies professor **John V. Fleming *63**. "When I was a student, some professors, when they were speaking, had what I called to myself, the music," she said. "The way that they spoke, the way that they reasoned. It was utterly their own, but also in conversation with their subject in a way that felt musical. Professor Fleming had the music." Listen at paw.princeton.edu or wherever you get your podcasts.



LEWIS E. THAYNE *98 WITH HIS CHILDREN, FROM LEFT, JULIA, ANTHONY, AND ANNE, IN 1998.

COURTESY OF LEWIS E. THAYNE *98

GUEST ESSAY

HOW MY CHILDREN MADE ME FINISH MY DISSERTATION

*By Lewis E. Thayne *98*

I LEFT PRINCETON IN 1981 having finished an M.A., passed my written exams, and completed a dissertation prospectus on "Satire and the Descent to the Underworld." My unofficial status was "all but dissertation," known familiarly as ABD, letters that many graduate students in that era expected to place on their tombstones.

To get a sense of the ABD existence, consider that I carried with me annotated texts, research notes, and random, handwritten dissertation paragraphs as Dorry and I married, had three children, and moved from house to house. Dissertation materials went with my family on vacations, on visits with friends and grandparents, even to soccer games and tournaments.

"Dad's dissertation" was a theme of my children's youth — as in overhearing my school-age daughters say: "Annie, maybe we could go swimming first thing in the morning!" "No, Julia, remember? Dad has to work on his dissertation." Groans of disappointment, slumping shoulders, and cynical acceptance followed.

"Dad's dissertation" was a theme of my children's youth — as in overhearing my school-age daughters say: "Annie, maybe we could go swimming first thing in the morning!" "No, Julia, remember? Dad has to work on his dissertation."

I had no excuses. Dorry was unswerving in her support, even encouraging me in New York City to buy — with money we didn't have — a primitive word processor. Eventually, thankfully, Microsoft developed Word. In 1993, I took an administrative job at Mount Holyoke College, where I found colleagues and faculty who supported my efforts to complete the dissertation. I now had the support of my wife, the technological innovations, and the supportive professional environment — but I still had to do the work.

One night at the dinner table, my daughters stood at my shoulders and announced in tones dripping with sarcasm, "Dad, you always tell us to finish everything we start. But you haven't finished your *dissertation*." Not finishing was now not a choice. Whether Princeton would accept it became irrelevant. I determined that I was going to do this for myself and for my family.

I started getting up early, as Dorry suggested years before. I worked in a more straightforward manner. Every day, movement forward. I adopted an exemplar, Erich Auerbach, who wrote his critical masterpiece, *Mimesis*, in Istanbul while fleeing the Nazis and with a limited library. His example was this: Do something great within the limits of your time, place, and abilities.

It took me three years.

In 1997, I called Princeton, the prodigal son. I had written four chapters and now dared to hope they might be accepted. The departmental assistant answered the phone, "Department of Comparative Literature. How may I help you?" Time and space disappeared. I recognized the voice immediately. "Carol?" I asked, less a question than a prayer. There was silence. Then, "Lewis?" I am telling you that a burst of golden light splashed from the phone and into the room. If I had been in the office, Carol Szymanski and I would have embraced in tears of joy after 16 years.

I shared with her what I had been doing and hoping. She listened. After a few questions back and forth, Carol said, "Professor Fagles is no longer chair of the department, but I suggest I talk to him

before I speak with Ralph Freedman, who is now our graduate director."

I felt the presence of guardian figures — of Carol, of Bob Fagles and Ralph Freedman, and then others. As requested, I sent the chapters. I visited campus and spoke with Fagles and Freedman, beloved teachers and mentors. Then Carol called to schedule interviews with prospective committee members — Fagles, Alban Forcione '60 *68, Bob Hollander '55, Earl Miner, and Eileen Reeves. Professor Fagles met with me in the fall of 1997. "Lewis, I made comments on your dissertation," he said, "but it will be up to Earl Miner to determine whether it can be approved. I assure you that the department will support you if Earl signs on."

Professor Miner was my next meeting in McCosh 1. Like an archbishop, he sat behind his desk in a hard-shell body cast as the result of a bicycle accident. I gave a brief, sincere answer to his question about what I was doing with my life at this point, to which he listened. He then looked me squarely in the face: "Well, Lewis. I have read your dissertation carefully. After so much time — and seemingly out of a clear, blue sky — you have written a dissertation that has very few problems ... and no major problems." He paused to see if I would say something. I could not think, let alone speak. "There is work still to be done," he said, "but I will recommend that we support your candidacy and proceed to forming a committee." Even now as I write this, I can experience the dizzying, overwhelming sense of gratitude and completion I felt in that moment.

Dorry and our children were with me for Commencement in June 1998, 17 years after leaving ABD. At the Hooding Ceremony in Alexander Hall, John Wilson, dean of the Graduate School, advised us, "The hood is a symbol of your hard work, of our faith in your future contributions to your respective disciplines and to humanity. It is the insignia of a great university. Wear it lightly but know its value." P

LEWIS E. THAYNE *98 *is a retired college president. He and his wife, Dorothy, live in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.*

Reason & Rationality

Princeton Theological Seminary – Summer 2027

CRITICAL THINKING THROUGH CONVERSATION







Reason & Rationality equips high school students with a grasp of intellectual frameworks that empower them to simplify complex problems, connect the dots, and craft compelling arguments, helping them stand out in class discussions.

The two-week residential summer program in Princeton led by Princeton, Harvard, and Oxford doctoral students, focuses on 20 Big Ideas in Philosophy, Economics, Ethics and Decision Science.

The Reason & Rationality Oral Exam Competition & Training Program teaches students how to prepare for oral exams they will encounter in college seminars and interviews. In 2026, Princeton professors Benjamin Morison and Sarah McGrath served as guest judges.

Visit us at reasonandrationality.com/PAW

ONE DAY IN JULY

Over time, low-cost index investing has consistently outperformed active strategies.

WWW.ONEDAYINJULY.COM

Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices, "SPIVA U.S. Scorecard Year End 2024."
Investing involves the risk of loss. Returns not guaranteed.

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.*

ON THE CAMPUS

NEWS, SPORTS, AND STUDENT LIFE



ANGELA HAN '28

Autumn at Princeton

Outside McCosh Hall, the fall colors were on display in late October, just after fall break and before Homecoming weekend.



AN OUTDOOR ACTION GROUP IN 2019.

COURTESY OF OUTDOOR ACTION

STUDENT LIFE

Orientation Overhaul

Princeton pauses controversial shift of small-group experiences but promises changes are coming

BY JULIE BONETTE

AFTER INTENSE BACKLASH from students and alumni, the University paused changes to freshman orientation announced less than two weeks earlier, but cautioned that orientation will still look different, with a final decision expected before the start of the spring semester. At a Nov. 9 meeting of the Council of the Princeton University Community (CPUC), administrators admitted that they should have gathered more student input.

"We regret not consulting [upperclassmen] students about the orientation changes," said Dean of Undergraduate Students Regan Crotty '00 at the meeting.

The original announcement, emailed to all students on Oct. 27, said Outdoor Action, Community Action, and Dialogue and Difference in Action would no longer be required for first-year and transfer students and would be moved to fall break, among other changes. Orientation would also be shortened from 12 days to eight.

Vice President for Campus Life W. Rochelle Calhoun cited "an expanded approach … that recognizes that meaningful connections and belonging develop over time" in her first note to students, encouraging them to participate in a survey that will help guide future programming. Student leaders were invited to participate in one of 10 feedback sessions. It is unclear what role student leaders may play going forward, though a New Student Orientation FAQ page called them "an essential part of these programs."

> **"The timing of this is really a slap in the face or just tone deaf to the fact that Rick Curtis is approaching retirement, and this is his life's work."**
>
> — ALYSSA NELSON '95

Calhoun's email said the changes were "prompted by budgetary considerations" as well as feedback from students, staff, and faculty. "While the small-group experiences have been positively received and valued, comments on the length of orientation and concerns about providing adequate time for students to settle into college life were also considered," Calhoun wrote.

Alumni and students responded with petitions vowing to save the small-group experiences. An alumni-created site, SavePrincetonOrientation.org, had nearly 4,800 signatures as of Nov. 9, from alumni dating back to the Class of 1958 through current freshmen. At the Homecoming football game against Cornell Nov. 1, alumni and students showed up with signs, shirts, and flyers, and a plane flying overhead advertised SavePrincetonOrientation.org.

Simon Porter '01, a former OA leader trainer, said a group of alumni anticipated earlier this year that program director Rick Curtis '79 was planning to retire soon and filed paperwork to create an OA endowment. Since the announcement, they have met with administrators who seemed "open and committed to continuing the conversation." As of Nov. 9, alumni had pledged $635,000 to OA, contingent on the University restoring it as a pre-orientation program.

"If Rick Curtis announced [the move of OA to fall break] … I would be more trusting of it," said Alyssa Nelson '95. "The timing of this is really a slap in the face or just tone deaf to the fact that Rick Curtis is approaching retirement, and this is his life's work."

Curtis declined comment to PAW.

The survey Calhoun cited asked first-year students which topics and themes were most helpful during orientation, such as adjusting to life as a Princeton student, understanding values, supporting health and well-being, and getting to know people and making friends. Older students were asked how they felt around fall break during their first year at Princeton. Students were also asked how many nights they'd prefer for small-group experiences, how important being off campus was, and which elements of the programs were most vital.

Calhoun's follow-up email, sent to Undergraduate Student Government Executive Committee members on Nov. 9 and posted online, announced a pause to the decision and promised further discussion at an upcoming Undergraduate Student Life Committee

(USLC) meeting. Calhoun confirmed orientation would be shortened regardless and asked students to help brainstorm alternatives that "do not maintain the status quo" but do "maintain the integrity of small group experiences."

"If you ask … the vast majority of students would say that the small group experiences of OA, CA, and DDA were the best parts of orientation, and the long parts that most people are complaining about are not the small-group experiences. It's the endless classroom sessions," said Megan Cameron '26, former co-chair of the OA Leader Trainer Committee.

At the CPUC meeting, President Christopher Eisgruber '83 said he was "very glad to hear" the conversation would continue, but that to achieve budget reductions, "the administration is going to have the responsibility … to do unpopular things."

Eisgruber said the University seeks student input on major decisions through surveys, direct communication with student leaders, and committees that may include students. He suggested that guidelines for student input be clarified by the USLC, but also said the University relies on faculty and staff expertise, and that some decisions must remain confidential in advance.

U-Council chair Isaac Barsoum '28 said he was "thrilled" about the pause and that USG had tried to convince administrators in meetings that "this is one of the most important parts" of a first-year Princeton experience, "and that if you have to cut orientation's length, you can do it in other ways."

The Orientation Advisory Board is composed of 14 administrators across the University and is charged with providing "direction for the future of the Orientation program," according to the New Student Orientation website.

The Pace Center for Civic Engagement runs Community Action, founded in 1987, in which students "learn what it means to be part of a community, how to grapple with complex societal questions, and begin to develop an awareness of their personal values," according to the Pace Center website. The Pace Center reported on Instagram that 765 students participated this year.

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion runs Dialogue and Difference in Action, a social justice program in which students "engage in critical dialogues focused on identity, power, privilege, and difference" both in the University community and beyond, according to its website. It launched in 2017.

The Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students runs Outdoor Action. This year, OA had 665 participants, according to Curtis, the program's director since 1981.

When OA celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2024, more than 130 former trip leaders came to campus to reflect on the program, which has had more than 25,000 participants. Holly Zindulis '05, a former OA leader, told PAW at that time that the freshman trip "is so much more than a backpacking trip or a camping trip." P

REACTION

Alumni and Students Push Back on Orientation Changes

IN INTERVIEWS WITH PAW AND comments online, current students and alumni praised the small-group experiences for incoming freshmen and stressed the importance of holding them before classes begin. Read excerpts from their comments below and visit bit.ly/oa-comments to see more reactions.

Diego Segura '27, who has been both a Community Action and Outdoor Action leader, said he "learned how to lead dialogue and respectful service" through CA and "learned how to push my boundaries, have fun, and take myself less seriously" in OA.

Denali Barron '09, a former OA trip leader, wrote, "Twenty years after leading my first trip, I feel pretty distant from anything I learned in a classroom or lecture hall at Princeton. But my formative experiences as an OA leader and leader trainer remain relevant."

Joshua Blum '02, a psychiatrist at Bucknell and Susquehanna universities and a former OA leader, said the trips "level things very quickly. It doesn't matter if you have money, it doesn't matter if you're first-gen, it doesn't matter if you were the star valedictorian of your high school or you barely got into Princeton. It didn't matter," because groups dealt with challenges together.

> **"I am not sure I would have had the confidence to take on everything I have since graduation without repeatedly discovering through OA that I can do difficult things."**
>
> — MAGGIE PECSOK '18

Katie Zaeh '10 wrote that an optional, fall-break OA trip "will not have the same power to set a campus culture," and "without OA in orientation week, freshmen seeking belonging will turn to more exclusive communities that are immersed in drinking culture."

Edward Reynolds '06 argued against the budgetary savings of the proposed changes, writing that "the OA experience has an incredibly high return on investment for the University in terms of student well-being and overall experience."

Maggie Pecsok '18, who pursued an M.D./Ph.D. program after Princeton, credited OA's "challenge by choice" principle for teaching her to trust herself. "I am not sure I would have had the confidence to take on everything I have since graduation without repeatedly discovering through OA that I can do difficult things." P



JOHNNY LAFORÊT

LANGUAGES

Haitian Creole Courses Offer Chance to Explore Heritage

BY LILLIAN PATERSON '28

WHEN JOHNNY LAFORÊT first arrived at Princeton as a lecturer, he had ambitions for the French and Italian department to address a gap, not just at Princeton, but at colleges across the United States. French was the language Laforêt taught, but it wasn't the language he loved in, or cried in, or thought of his family in. That space was devoted to Haitian Creole, one of Haiti's two official languages.

"I am a product of Haiti," Laforêt said. "When I came here in 2016, I saw a need. … [Students of Haitian heritage] wanted to have the opportunity to learn the language of their parents, the language of their grandparents."

Haitian Creole language programs have been established at just a few institutions across the country. At Tulane University in New Orleans, students can study Haitian Creole to fulfill their foreign language requirement, and the University of Chicago offers a minor in Kreyòl and Haitian Studies.

It's a remarkable trend for a language with a complicated history. In the wake of Haitian independence in 1804, French became the official language used in formal settings. It was associated with the ruling class, while Haitian Creole was dismissed as a lower-class vernacular, despite the majority of Haiti's citizens speaking only Creole.

Haiti's 1987 constitution recognized Creole as an official language, and in 2014, the nation added a constitutionally recognized regulatory body, the Akademi Kreyòl Ayisyen. Today, over 13 million people worldwide speak the language, including nearly 900,000 in the U.S., according to the Census Bureau.

As early as 2016 at Princeton, Laforêt organized weekly language tables for Haitian students, whether fluent in Creole or not. The gatherings started small, but Laforêt persisted, even when interest waned. In 2019, Princeton Caribbean Connection, a student group on campus, asked if he'd like to join forces, and participation surged: More than 40 students came to their first event to eat Haitian food, listen to Haitian music, and speak in Haitian Creole.

Mariah Morgan '27 has been involved with Princeton Caribbean Connection's Haitian Creole group since her freshman year. "It was just an incredible thing, and I'm just very honored to be part [of it]," she said. "[Creole] was never considered a language that was valuable for intellectual purposes. … I think what this shows and says about Haitian people, Haitian language, is that it's valuable and also a valid form of intellectual inquiry."

With sustained interest and support from students, Laforêt decided to formally propose adding Haitian Creole to Princeton's course catalog within the French and Italian department. Between 2019 and 2024, he worked with Dean Rebekah Peeples *09 to put together materials for a course.

"We were very lucky that Dr. Laforêt was already at Princeton," Peeples said. "We had a really singular opportunity in a faculty member who was already familiar with Princeton language studies and the way they operate in the kind of expectations that they have for students … [and] who speaks Haitian Creole and was ideally positioned to teach the course."

In fall of 2025, Laforêt taught the University's first introductory Haitian Creole course, followed by an intermediate/advanced course in the spring. "I think the French and Italian group were the right home for the Haitian Creole program here on campus," said Göran Blix, the department chair. "It takes a lot of work to get a program like this off the ground and start it, and for us, it was kind of a no-brainer."

In designing the classes, Laforêt wanted students to experience Haitian culture firsthand. He has brought traditional Haitian clothing into class, dedicated Fridays to teaching Haitian history, and even took the students to a Haitian restaurant in Ewing Township.

"It was more than just a language class, it was also about history and culture and learning about Haiti itself," said Mitchell Czarnecki '28, who took Introduction to Haitian Creole in the fall of 2025. He called Laforêt a good ambassador for Haitian people who helped "reinforce why it's valuable to learn" Creole.

SAMEER A. KHAN h'21 / FOTOBUDDY / PRINCETON UNIVERSITY



"I'm finding these connections to things that we do and say in the Dominican Republic that are so similar from Haiti."

— QUISQUEYA LORA HUGI
Graduate student studying Caribbean history

This fall's introductory course is smaller, with two graduate students and three undergraduates. One of those students is Quisqueya Lora Hugi, a graduate student studying Caribbean history. According to Lora Hugi, the course has not only taught her the language but also helped her build bridges between her home country, the Dominican Republic, and Haiti. "I'm finding these connections to things that we do and say in the Dominican Republic that are so similar from Haiti," she said. "Every time I hear and see things of Haitian Creole, I cannot avoid … the similarities."

Laforêt envisions a full-fledged Haitian Creole track and a Haitian studies minor in the long term, but for now, spreading Haitian culture and history to individuals who otherwise would not have encountered it is the real job of these courses. "Everything is falling into place," he said. "I'm one of the people helping the country … even if I'm far away from the country." P

COURTESY OF QUISQUEYA LORA HUGI; COURTESY OF PAUL NADAL

CLASS CLOSE-UP

Readings on Burnout Give Students Fresh Views of Their Own Lives

BY NGAN CHIEM '23

WHAT IS WORK? Why do we work so much? Must we?

In Paul Nadal's new seminar Burnout: Contemporary Fictions of Work, students wrestle with some of the most urgent questions facing young adults as they prepare for a challenging job market amid the rise of AI and consider how to prioritize mental health in Princeton's rigorous work culture, in which Nadal said "there is almost an uninterrogated value of being productive all the time."

The 10-person course meets nearly three hours every Wednesday in a small classroom in McCosh Hall. Nadal, an assistant professor of English and American studies, guides the class through a wide range of literature, from Karl Marx's "Estranged Labour" to contemporary speculative fiction, exploring themes of labor and worker autonomy under late-stage capitalism.

"This class is where I see the most direct connections with my daily life," said Chloe Ng '27, a senior in the English department.

Ng found in Gilles Deleuze's 1992 essay "The Exhausted" not only a framework for understanding burnout, but also a lens through which to examine her life. Deleuze distinguishes between tiredness — a depletion of energy that can be replenished to attempt other possibilities — and exhaustion, a continuous depletion of all possibilities without a chance to rest.

"This article made me think, am I tired or am I exhausted? And that made me think, what does exhausting all possibilities mean in the context of work at Princeton or the corporate world?" Ng said.

While the University offers numerous opportunities for students to pursue their interests, the school's "excellence culture," Ng said, may influence students



NADAL

to seek certain outcomes. For her, this means getting good grades and getting into a good graduate school.

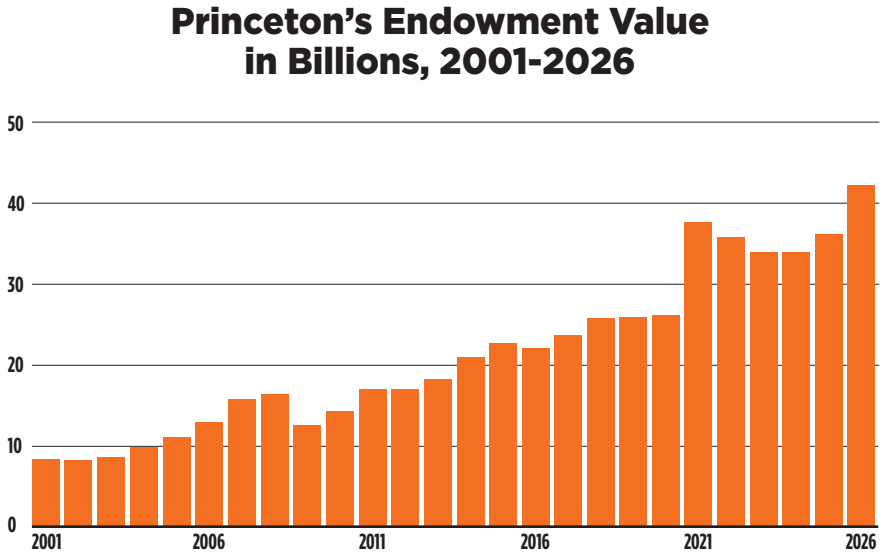
But after reading Ling Ma's post-apocalyptic novel *Severance*, which draws parallels between mindless corporate workers and zombies during a global pandemic, Ng said she wants to assert more autonomy where she can, starting with trying to read for fun.

While the term "burnout" began as a diagnosis for wage workers, Nadal suggests that students' intellectual labor, which can be used to train AI, makes them not just future workers, but workers right now. He hopes that framework can inspire "ways of thinking about solidarity" within the student body.

In the short term, Nadal knows his seminar won't change the fact that work remains a question of survival for many of his students, who will continue to monitor LinkedIn and participate in an increasingly dispossessing system for workers.

But is burnout inevitable?

In the long run, Nadal said he hopes that what stays with his students is the feeling that things could be different. He wants students to think, "how might I work with others to realize these other possibilities?" P



SOURCE: PRINCO; OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

INVESTMENTS

Princeton's Endowment Returns 23.7%, Grows to $42.3 Billion

BY JULIE BONETTE

PRINCETON REPORTED A 23.7% return on endowment investments for the fiscal year ending June 30, raising the endowment's value to an all-time high of $42.3 billion. The University's endowment has averaged annual returns of 6.7% over the past five years, 11.3% over the past decade, and 9.7% over the past two decades.

The return was comparable to those of the other Ivy League schools that had announced returns as of early November; Harvard topped the list with a 27.1% return, and Cornell had the lowest return on investment at 16.9%.

The strong return comes after University President Christopher Eisgruber '83 warned in February that endowment returns were expected to decrease, prompting the University to continue austerity measures that began two years ago. Eisgruber projected average annual returns of 8%, down from the 10.2% the University had previously anticipated.

"It's important to note that while this year's returns are good news, our planning assumption for the long-term rate of return remains at 8%," said Michael Hotchkiss, a University spokesperson, in a statement to PAW. "As a result, the University continues to be on a multiyear path to a more sustainable budget that requires careful planning and thoughtful financial choices."

The 2026 endowment total surpasses Princeton's previous high of $37.7 billion in 2021, when the University saw a record return of 46.9%. In 2025, Princeton reported an 11% endowment return and a total endowment value of $36.4 billion.

> **The strong return "is probably due mostly to a roaring stock market, since the endowment is likely heavily invested in listed equities. I'm sure we won't see that again for a while."**
>
> — BRAD SWANSON '76
> Author, *Profit vs. Progress: Why Socially Responsible Investment Doesn't Work and How to Fix It*

Experts contacted by PAW agreed that the University should not revise its long-term projections despite this year's better-than-expected return.

In an email, Phillip Levine *90, an economics professor at Wellesley, said the return will give Princeton "even greater strength" at this precarious moment for higher education, but warned that "annual variations in endowment returns are routine and what really matters is the longer-term average."

Brad Swanson '76, author of the 2026 book *Profit vs. Progress: Why Socially Responsible Investment Doesn't Work and How to Fix It*, told PAW via email that the strong return "is probably due mostly to a roaring stock market, since the endowment is likely heavily invested in listed equities. I'm sure we won't see that again for a while."

"I think it would be smart to regard last year as a windfall and to maintain conservative projections," he wrote.

"What does a very good year change?" asked Ted Karns, who spent 15 years at the Princeton University Investment Co., in an opinion column for *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. "The answer is that, for this year's budget, it changes very little. ... A spending promise sized to the year the market boomed will break the year the market busts."

According to the University, about two-thirds of the operating budget is covered by endowment funds, including costs related to faculty, staff, construction, and facilities maintenance. The endowment also pays for 50% of undergraduate financial aid costs and nearly all graduate financial aid costs. More than half of the endowment is restricted, meaning gifts can't be spent but can be invested. In addition, 70% of the endowment is set aside strictly for the donor's purpose, such as scholarships or a faculty chair.

"The endowment continues to provide a crucial financial foundation for the University's pursuit of its research and teaching mission — allowing Princeton researchers to tackle the world's toughest problems and its students to receive a transformative education supported by robust financial aid," Hotchkiss wrote. P

MEMOIRGHOSTWRITING.COM

Helping Busy People Tell Meaningful Stories

Dear Princeton Alum,

No matter how long ago you left Princeton, you've certainly led a fascinating life since. A memoir is the perfect way to preserve your life story forever or promote your story widely now. We'll help you write your memoir or nonfiction book: From ideation and outlining to writing and editing, capturing your story is quick and easy.

I'm Luke Palder, a 2009 graduate of Yale College and the founder of MemoirGhostwriting.com. It's my pleasure to offer the expert writing services of my team to fascinating individuals like you. Potential memoirists generally fall into two groups: those who want to elegantly record treasured memories for loved ones and those who want to promote their story or ideas as widely as possible. We're experts in supporting both.

Immortalize your life with a full-length memoir or a book of transcribed interviews.

Writing a memoir is a deeply personal way to influence future generations. In **only 3 months**, we'll capture your best insights, memories, and experiences in a book for your family to enjoy for centuries to come.

Alternatively, we can chronicle your story in a book of 6–12 transcribed interviews (or a single daylong interview) with you and your loved ones, beautifully bound for posterity. The process takes **only 3–4 weeks**. Your confidential conversations with your interviewer will also be available for secure download.

It's not just about the past. Amplify your reach with a best-selling nonfiction book.

Do you want to increase your visibility, which can lead to prestigious consulting and speaking engagements? Writing a best-selling memoir, business book, or self-help manual is a fast and effective way to forever increase your credibility. After **only 9 months** of writing, we'll zealously market your book to up to 5,000,000 readers, whose *real* purchases will rocket it onto a bestseller list of a leading online retailer or an influential global newspaper—guaranteed or the marketing portion of your payment back.

Capturing your story forever starts with a free Vision Meeting.

In under an hour, I'll help you think through your life's work to date and your writing goals, themes, and more. Our team of world-class interviewers, writers, editors, designers, and other experts will then skillfully craft your book (with your periodic review) so that you can tell your story, immortalize your life, and share your knowledge *exactly* as you see fit. Email **Luke@MemoirGhostwriting.com** today to join others on a journey to immortality, one that has been called "rewarding," "a breeze," "unexpectedly cathartic," and "deeply meaningful."

All the best,



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

P.S. To share the secrets of your success privately with loved ones or widely with the public, contact me to schedule your free Vision Meeting and to see client-approved samples.

Luke@MemoirGhostwriting.com | 1-888-MEMGHOST

ACADEMICS

Proctored Exams Get a Passing Grade

BY JULIE BONETTE, WITH REPORTING BY AUDREY TAN '29

DESPITE THE OUTCRY FROM dismayed alumni and national news media outlets this spring after faculty voted to end the 133-year-old Princeton tradition of unsupervised exams, students told PAW that taking midterms in the presence of proctors this semester didn't feel much different.

"I was really happy when I first heard about the policy change because it felt like a weight taken off," said Jenna Duong '29, a chemistry major. Previously, she was intimidated by the Honor Code's requirement to report peers suspected of cheating "because it almost gives you a second job to do on top of your exam." But this semester, she was able to "just focus on my midterms."

Crystal Duan '29 agreed that her proctored midterm was uneventful. "With or without the proctor, it didn't really make a difference for me," Duan said.

Faculty voted in May to begin proctoring exams this fall, in part to counteract the illicit use of AI to cheat. In August, the University published "requirements and recommendations" for proctoring to the Scholarly Integrity website to clarify details such as who should serve as proctors — instructional staff including teaching assistants, but not undergraduate course assistants.

The document said that proctors should communicate course-specific exam procedures, such as what materials are permitted and how to respond to student questions, monitor the room, and remind students to write and sign the Honor Pledge, promising not to "gain an unfair advantage" or to "attempt to give assistance" to others.

If cheating is suspected, proctors should not intervene but instead report it to the Honor Committee after the exam. The committee is a student-led group responsible for upholding the University's Honor Code. The guidelines also recommend not allowing students to use laptops during exams. The recommended ratio is one proctor for every 35 to 50 students.

Dean of the College Michael Gordin said at the Nov. 9 meeting of the Council of the Princeton University Community that one referral was made to the Honor Committee for an Honor Code violation during midterms, which is less than usual.

Chantal Valdivia-Moreno, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Psychology who proctored this semester, said, "As far as my class went, I think everything was really, really smooth. The



LOOKING HOMEWARD
Tenzing Sherpa '27's senior thesis aims to mitigate avalanche risk in Nepal.

SERVICE AND ACTIVISM

Princeton's Nepali Students Advocate for Climate Justice

BY NGAN CHIEM '23

FOR STUDENTS IN THE RELATIVELY new Nepali Society at Princeton, the August flash floods that killed more than 1,400 people along the China-Nepal border were not just tragedies, they were a clear example of climate injustice.

"Nepal only contributes less than 1% of global greenhouse gases, but it faces the brunt of climate change disasters," said Tenzing Sherpa '27, a Nepali American and U.S. Air Force veteran who was raised near the Mount Everest region.

According to researchers from World Weather Attribution, long-term rising temperatures destabilized mountain slopes, triggering the destructive flash floods.

Sherpa and other students in the Nepali Society, which has 11 members, initially sought to raise money for Nepal, but because of a lengthy University approval process for fundraising, the group instead organized a candlelight vigil outside of Firestone Library and a community dinner to honor the more than 84,000 lives affected by the flooding on Sept. 24. Members also directed those interested in donating to the Nepali Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund.

Sherpa comes from the Sherpa community of mountaineers who

COURTESY OF TENZING SHERPA '27

students knew what to do, we knew what to do, which was nice."

Valdivia-Moreno said the course's lead lecturer held a meeting with TAs to discuss the rules and followed up with instructions via email. During the exam, Valdivia-Moreno worked on her laptop.

According to *The Daily Princetonian*, the guidelines published by the University over the summer incorporated student input. The *Prince* also reported that, in October, about 55 students attended a feedback session on proctors with the Undergraduate Student Government Academics Committee. Some students said they didn't mind the proctors' presence, while others felt stressed.

Julian Mišút '28, clerk of the Honor Committee and a philosophy major, said based on the feedback he's received, the transition seemed to have gone smoothly and the presence of proctors may have discouraged cheating.

He said he hopes to one day return to exams without proctors, "but for now, this seems like a very effective policy." P

perform the vital and dangerous work of guiding visitors up and down the Himalayan mountains. He knows of distant relatives who have died from avalanches.

He also knows that, unlike in Switzerland or Norway, his community lacks monitoring systems to warn residents of danger.

For his senior thesis in the computer science department, Sherpa is hoping to use techniques developed by researchers at the Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research in Switzerland to analyze satellite data from the region and create a machine learning model that can predict avalanches. Swiss researchers collected data from more than 24,000 avalanches between 2018 and 2019 to train their detection model. The challenge for Sherpa is to replicate this research in a data-scarce environment like the Himalayas where "there are only about 16 known data points." P

WISHING OUR FELLOW TIGERS

A Very Happy Holiday Season





West Village Townhouse
$7.5M | Represented Buyer



Park Avenue Co-op
$4M | Representing Seller



Upper West Side Condo
$3.15M | Representing Seller

CONTACT US
MK@cireny.com
Maria: 917.494.5230
Kate: 646.239.2292
princetonalumrealestate.com

MARIA KOUREPENOS
KATE WOLLMAN-MAHAN
PRINCETON ALUMNI IN REAL ESTATE

CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE
NEW YORK
654 MADISON AVENUE, NY, NY 10065

Licensed Real Estate Salespersons. Real estate agents affiliated with Christie's International Real Estate New York are independent contractor sales associates, not employees. © 1999 – 2026 Christie's International Real Estate. All rights reserved. At World Properties, LLC and its subsidiaries fully support the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act.

What's Orange & Black and Read all Over?



Stay connected with breaking news, upcoming events, and stories from the Princeton community with **PAW Newsletters.**

Scan to Get More PAW

PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY



STUDENT DISPATCH

There's More Than One Way to Be an Athlete at Princeton

BY VICTORIA SHEN '29



FOR PRINCETON'S CO-ED CLUB tennis team, community building starts before their first official practice. During "pickups," members go through dorms, banging on doors while blasting music, to collect their new teammates. Everyone celebrates together and then heads straight to the courts. "It's a hype time," said Ray Cabrera '29, the team's social chair.

New friendships deepen when members of the competitive team — usually four men and four women — travel around the Northeast for tournaments, bonding on car rides and staying in Airbnbs. "We play music, we joke around about the music that each person listens to, so it's never dead silent," Cabrera said. "We get close really fast."

With 38 varsity teams and more than 1,000 athletes, Princeton boasts one of the most robust athletic programs in NCAA Division I. Less known are the nearly 40 sport clubs on campus that similarly train, travel, and compete throughout the academic year. Unlike varsity athletes, who benefit from an established support system of coaches and athletic staff, club athletes thrive in shaping their commitment with autonomy — and building communities of their own.

Brandon Edwards '29, a returning player on the men's club rugby team, agrees with Cabrera that "traveling together is where a lot of these friendships solidify." The team recently stayed at the Chula Vista Elite Athlete Training Center in San Diego for a tournament and met the U.S. Men's National Rugby Sevens team. "The tour cost $500 per person, but that was heavily subsidized by our extensive alumni network and endowment," Edwards said. "That's an amazing thing about the club — there's this whole community of alumni that still care enough about the game to support the next generation of players."

> **"There's this whole community of alumni that still care enough about the game to support the next generation of players."**
>
> — BRANDON EDWARDS '29
> Men's club rugby player

Prepping for competition can also be a bonding experience. Members of the synchronized skating team squeeze into their captains' tiny hotel room and work quickly to set their hair and makeup and steam the wrinkles out of their dresses. "I might be painting eyeshadow on someone while another girl puts my 'hairagami' up," said Mandy Kao '28, a co-captain this year. Helping other teammates get ready is a stabilizing part of their routine, she said, because they're "all there existing together mentally and physically, and that's really special."

Practice schedules vary for each club. Women's club lacrosse, for instance, runs drills and scrimmages when weather permits (and when it doesn't, gets together for yoga indoors). The women's ultimate Frisbee team adjusted its mandatory practices from six hours a week to three to encourage members not to worry about picking between priorities. Club tennis players are also allowed to adjust their participation around other commitments. "You just show up when you can," Cabrera said, "and when I do, I put my best out there, knowing that the people I'm playing with or against are always doing the same."

An emphasis on flexibility does not mean that club sports are simply recreational activities. "Just because the sport doesn't take up every hour of your day doesn't mean you shouldn't explore your passion for it," said Sage Wang '29, a co-captain of women's ultimate.

The student-led club teams sometimes face difficulties that varsity sports don't encounter. The skating team, for example, competes for limited ice time with Princeton's two varsity hockey teams as well as local youth teams. With one practice ending near midnight and the next one at 5:30 a.m. the next day, the captains worry about their skaters' sleep schedules. For ultimate, although there is no cost to join and few barriers to entry, the captains have found difficulty recruiting new players, according to Wang. "It must be nice knowing that your team will never die when you're on varsity," she said. P

ROBERT NEUBECKER; ANGELA HAN '28

IN SHORT

Sylvia Lavin, a historian and curator of architecture who joined the Princeton faculty in 2018, was selected as the new dean of the School of Architecture, continuing in the role she had filled on an interim basis since January. In a University release, Lavin said her goals "are to renew the lively conversations among design, history and theory, and building technology that have long distinguished the School of Architecture, and to emphasize a broad global perspective with special attention to how architects can respond with vigor and invention to the urgencies of the contemporary world."



LAVIN

Michele Minter, vice provost for institutional equity and diversity, will retire in May after more than 15 years at Princeton, the University announced in November. Minter has led policies and programs around creating an inclusive and safe campus climate; combatting bias, discrimination, harassment, and sexual misconduct; and better supporting those with disabilities.

IN MEMORIAM

Eva Gossman, a former associate dean of the college whose work included building and shepherding the Freshman Seminars Program, died Oct. 3 at age 95. Gossman's contributions to the Princeton curriculum ranged from developing new certificate programs to helping independent concentrators tailor their course selections. When she retired in 1996 after nearly two decades at the University, Dean of the College Nancy Weiss Malkiel told the *Princeton Weekly Bulletin* that colleagues viewed her as "close to irreplaceable." In 2002, Gossman published a memoir, *Good Beyond Evil*, documenting her flight from her hometown in Slovakia when the Nazis arrived in 1944. P



DENISE APPLEWHITE / PRINCETON UNIVERSITY; COURTESY OF JANICE GOSSMAN

Pre-College Programs
BARNARD COLLEGE

SUMMER 2027

Your Summer Starts At Barnard

College life in New York City for high school students.

SUMMER INSTITUTES

NextGen Leadership Institute
Sessions I And II

Athena Summer Innovation Institute
Session I

Health and Society Institute
Sessions I And II

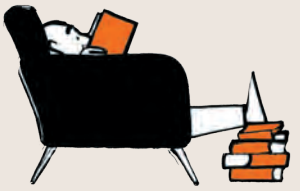
Pre-Baccalaureate Program
College credit. Commuter only.

SESSION I: June 28 - July 16
SESSION II: July 19 - August 6

precollege.barnard.edu
Applications: Dec.1,2026 - Apr. 15, 2027

PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY

Read the Book
Ask the Questions
Listen to the PAWcast



Here's how it works: Four times a year, members read a book — written by a Princetonian — and send their questions to PAW. We ask the author their questions, record the interview, and post it as a podcast.

Scan to Join

President's Award for Distinguished Teaching

The Office of the Dean of the Faculty invites all members of the community to submit letters of nomination for the 2027 President's Award for Distinguished Teaching. All current full, associate, and assistant professors, professors of the practice, university lecturers, senior lecturers, and lecturers on full-time appointments are eligible for nomination.

Please send letters of nomination by February 5, 2027 to:
Office of the Dean of the Faculty
9 Nassau Hall or PADT@princeton.edu



CHAIN REACTION
Co-captain Olivia Hutcherson '27 says the chemistry Princeton's senior class has built over four years helps the Tigers connect on the court and make key plays.

COURTESY OF PRINCETON ATHLETICS

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

New Coach and Stellar Seniors Shoot for Another Ivy Title

BY BRETT TOMLINSON

OLIVIA HUTCHERSON '27, one of Princeton's top defenders, was chasing down Harvard's Saniyah Glenn-Bello as she drove to the basket in the women's championship game of last season's Ivy League Tournament. Teammate Skye Belker '27 made a move to help on defense but quickly cleared out when she saw Hutcherson sweeping in to block Glenn-Bello's shot.

"She knew what to expect from me," Hutcherson said. "I think that chemistry has helped us have those highlight plays and just made it really fun to be able to play together."

Whether using a moment of eye contact to set a cutter in motion or simply knowing where perimeter shooters will be waiting for a pass, the Tigers' seniors have built a familiarity that is hard to quantify but easy to appreciate. The group includes four returning starters from a 26-4 team that won the Ivy regular-season and tournament titles in 2025-26. They entered their final season aiming to stay on top of the league and win their first NCAA Tournament game together in March.

While the roster is largely unchanged, the coaching staff will be different: Lauren "LB" Gosselin has taken over as Princeton's head coach after seven seasons as an assistant to Carla Berube, who's now at Northwestern. Gosselin added three newcomers to her staff, including former shooting guard Grace Stone '23, the director of basketball operations.

"We know LB and she knows us already as well, so it's a lot of keeping the same standards ... the same intensity that we practice with and the togetherness that we want to play with," said Belker, who will co-captain the team with Hutcherson.

Gosselin called the senior class "a shining example" of the different development paths players can take in four years. "You have [Hutcherson], who didn't play a lot as a freshman but now is so critical to our success, and you have Skye, who started basically every game of her career," Gosselin said, adding that their examples give younger players a sense of how they can grow into larger roles.

"Just because you might not be a starter this year or getting the minutes that you hope for this year, [there are] many ways to get to that point. I think it's the process of growth, developing, learning from those above you, and just trusting that. [That's] the beauty of the Ivy League, the beauty of Princeton, where you get that retention."

Fadima Tall '27 took a big step forward last year, leading Princeton in rebounds and steals and earning the Ivy League Tournament's Most Outstanding Player award. Ashley Chea '27 has been a consistently dynamic presence at point guard. Her scoring average and shooting percentages dipped slightly last year, but she played some of her best games in March and led the team with a career-best 113 assists.

Last year, all five Princeton starters averaged at least 10 points per game. Leading scorer Madison St. Rose '26 graduated (and is playing as a graduate transfer at Notre Dame), but Gosselin does not seem concerned about her team's scoring output, pointing to Toby Nweke '28 and Grace O'Sullivan '29 as players who should see more opportunities this year. "I think we have a lot of people who can put double figures on the board on any given night," she said.

The Tigers will play 29 regular-season games (up from 27 in previous years), and the nonconference slate includes seven opponents from major conferences, including defending national champion UCLA, along with three mid-majors that reached the NCAA Tournament last season (Richmond, Murray State, and Rhode Island). In several cases, Princeton will be playing with only one rest day between games.

"I think that's going to challenge our bodies and challenge our minds," Belker said. "And so that's going to prepare us really well when the Ivy League comes around and we have those back-to-back games, especially on the road." P

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Experienced Tigers Look to Prove Last Season's Dip Was an Outlier

LAST SEASON, a senior-less Princeton men's basketball team dropped six of its final seven conference contests, missed its first Ivy League Tournament since 2017-18, and lost 20 games for the first time in head coach Mitch Henderson '98's 14 seasons at the helm.

The Tigers had lost All-Ivy talents Xaivian Lee '26 (who transferred to Florida) and Caden Pierce '26 (who sat the year out before graduating and transferring to Purdue), and leading returning scorer Dalen Davis '27 was unavailable for nine games due to injury. The team had difficulty holding onto late leads, was often porous defensively, and did not improve as the year trudged on.

There is no such instability going into 2026-27. Princeton's roster returns 100% of its minutes played and 100% of its scoring. Will it be enough?



JACKSON HICKE '27

COURTESY OF PRINCETON ATHLETICS

"This [preseason] feels like a complete 180," Henderson said before the season opener. "We have three seniors who have played a lot of minutes. It feels totally different. They all have 'that look.' It doesn't mean we're going to win, but there's something about it."

Continuity is key. The Tigers will again be captained by their trio of now-seniors: 6-foot-5 wing Jackson Hicke, Princeton's leading scorer with 15.4 points per game and the only player on the roster to start all 29 games; springy 6-foot-8 forward Jacob Huggins; and Davis, who can score in bunches and averaged 14.7 points per game when healthy.

They are joined as captains for the first time by 6-foot-2 junior sharpshooter Jack Stanton, the third Princeton player to average double figures a year ago (10.9 points) before a broken foot sidelined him for the last month of the season.

Henderson likes what he sees from his senior class. "When you know it is your last time, you put your foot down," he said. "Seniors are wildly influential here. This is a very influential group, positively." P *By Jon Solomon*



RESEARCH

ADVANCING THE FRONTIERS OF KNOWLEDGE



Chiropteran Creatures

Gerald Carter, an associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, studies vampire bats to better understand social relationships in animals and humans. His research focuses on social bonds, or friendship-like relationships, exploring how individuals join new groups and how much interaction is needed for strangers to become familiar. Carter observes a captive colony of bats housed near campus. Read more about his research on page 26.

BROCK FENTON



MICHAEL LIVINGSTON / PPPL COMMUNICATIONS

ELEVATED EQUIPMENT
Techs place the final piece on top of the central magnet bundle that will be inserted into the National Spherical Torus Experiment-Upgrade (NSTX-U) vessel.

FUSION ENERGY

Powering into the Future

Plasma Physics Lab celebrates 75 years as new device gears up

BY JULIE BONETTE

AT A CELEBRATION MARKING the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory's 75th birthday this fall, current and former staff reminisced about past achievements over the decades, but the real excitement came in talking about the lab's future, both in fusion and beyond.

It's an old joke that fusion energy — a powerful, abundant, and sustainable energy source — is perpetually just around the corner, but PPPL, one of 10 national laboratories stewarded by the Department of Energy's Office of Science and one of 17 DOE labs across the country, really does seem to be on the cusp of something big. The world's largest and most powerful spherical tokamak — a device that produces the high-pressure plasmas needed for fusion energy — is scheduled to come online at PPPL this spring.

Laura Berzak Hopkins *10, deputy director for research and the first female chief research officer in the lab's history, tells PAW that delivery in June of the National Spherical Torus Experiment-Upgrade's (NSTX-U) final major component, a 23,000-pound, 20-foot cylinder roughly the size of a school bus, was one of the most exciting moments she's had in her three stints at PPPL.

Berzak Hopkins was a PPPL intern while she was an undergraduate at Dartmouth and returned to the lab after enrolling at Princeton for graduate school. She came back to PPPL two years ago, after nearly 15 years at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, another DOE lab, and was promoted to her current role in July.

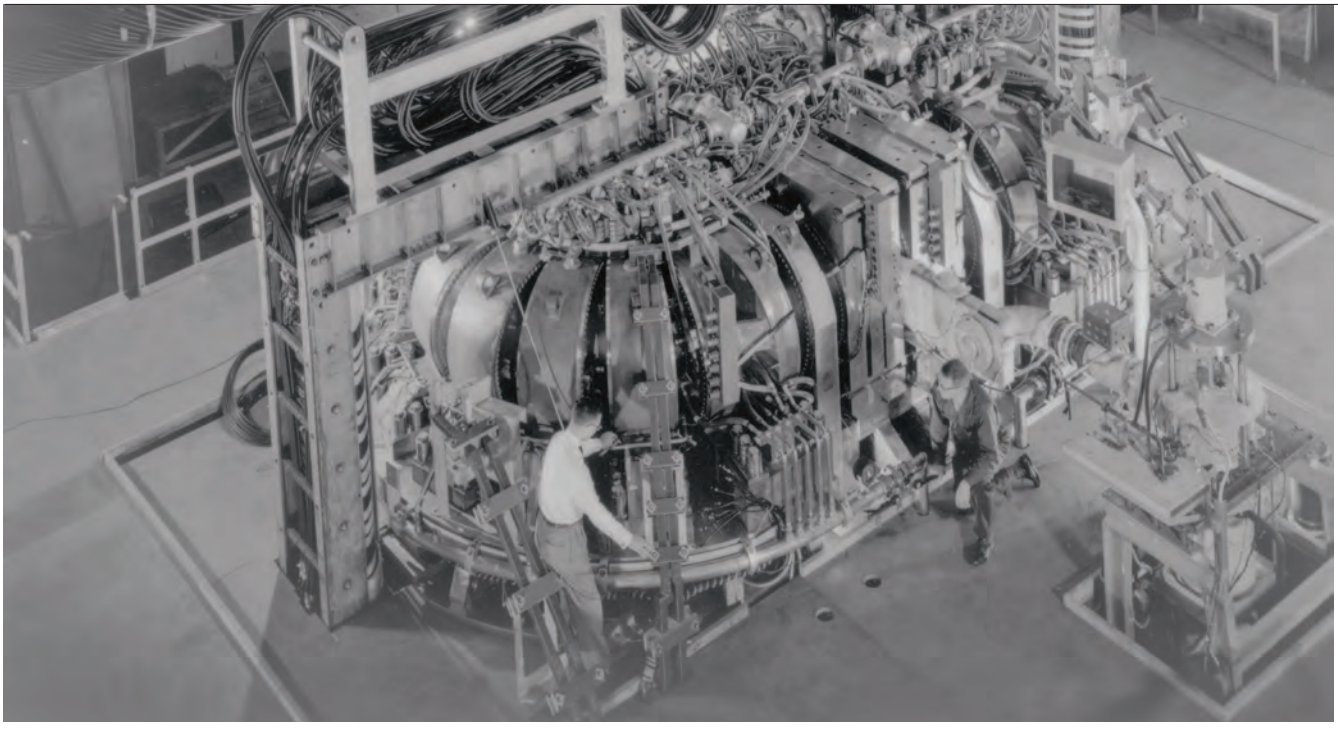
NSTX-U will be PPPL's primary fusion experiment, and scientists across the globe will be invited to submit proposals to use the device for research. It will also be the world's first fusion system built with AI incorporated from the start, rather than retrofitted, which Berzak Hopkins says will be transformative in accelerating "the pace of research and analysis and how we're bringing together these different components. So, I think the next decade in fusion will be instrumental."

In June, the DOE published a roadmap to achieve commercial fusion power by the mid-2030s.

NSTX-U will be near the room that formerly housed the Tokamak Fusion Test Reactor, which produced the highest plasma temperature ever recorded in a lab and stopped operating in the '90s. It took a few years to decontaminate and dismantle the facility, but over the past year PPPL has begun envisioning possible paths for its future. The 900,000-cubic-foot space will soon be "opening for business," Berzak Hopkins says.

PPPL is also continuing to expand its research beyond fusion, including the study of plasmas at different temperatures for a variety of uses. For example, low-temperature plasmas are used to produce thermal barrier coatings for jet engines.

Emily Carter, a Princeton professor in energy and the environment and mechanical and aerospace engineering, has been working as a senior strategic



BIG BREAKTHROUGHS

*The Model C Stellarator was the largest stellarator plasma device built at PPPL. The stellarator concept was invented by PPPL's founder, Lyman Spitzer Jr. *38, in 1951. Below, from left: Professor Steven Cowley *85, laboratory director; Kristen Fischer, chief financial officer and head of business operations; Laura Berzak Hopkins *10, deputy director for research and chief research officer; Michelle Heintz, chief human resources officer; and Timothy Meyer, deputy director for operations and chief operating officer.*

adviser with the lab since 2022 "to diversify the research portfolio beyond both fusion and astrophysics, to be thinking about what else can the tremendous expertise of the lab be used to really contribute to national priorities," she said at the event.

PPPL's origins date back to the Cold War, when Princeton professor Lyman Spitzer Jr. *38, then chair of the Department of Astrophysical Sciences, sought to build the first device that would use external magnets to contain the incredibly hot plasma needed to produce fusion power. He received funding from the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, and Project Matterhorn was born in 1951.

The current PPPL facility on the Forrestal Campus in Plainsboro was built in 1958, though the lab wouldn't take its current name until the project was declassified three years later.

Princeton University has managed PPPL throughout its existence and announced another five-year extension agreement with the lab earlier this year.

The 75th birthday celebration on Sept. 23 included a partial tour of PPPL, brunch for the roughly three dozen retirees who attended, and a panel discussion with past and current staff on the historic legacy of the institution and what lies ahead.

Hutch Neilson spent five decades as a physicist at PPPL before largely retiring in 2023, but he couldn't miss the chance to see the lab again.

"It is great to see the progress that the lab continues to make," said Neilson, who drove from his home in Massachusetts to attend.

Rich Hawryluk, who worked at PPPL for more than 45 years, said he was happy to reunite with old colleagues "and to realize what we accomplished and what more we have to do in the future and how the laboratory will and can contribute."

Robert Goldston, former laboratory director and a professor at Princeton, said during the panel that even once commercial fusion energy is realized, PPPL's work will not be done. "I think that'll be the time when improvements are going to be incredibly valuable," he said, adding that even a "5% improvement on something that costs billions of dollars — that's a huge, huge effect."

Steven Cowley *85, director of PPPL, concluded the event by stating that Princeton has always been and continues to be at the heart of development of fusion science, and that's not changing. "We've got some innovation to do." P



MICHAEL LIVINGSTON / PPPL COMMUNICATIONS; COURTESY OF PPPL COMMUNICATIONS



TERENCE TAO *96

DAVID ESQUIVEL / UCLA

IMPACT OF AI

Terence Tao *96's Fight for Math

BY MARK F. BERNSTEIN '83

ON SEPT. 8, THE TECH COMPANY OpenAI announced that its artificial intelligence programs had solved one of the enduring problems of theoretical mathematics, known as the Navier-Stokes existence and smoothness problem. Navier-Stokes was considered so difficult that in 2000 the Clay Mathematics Institute offered a $1 million prize to anyone who could crack it. For more than a quarter-century, it had stumped some of the world's top mathematicians, but according to OpenAI, the company threw 10,000 AI bots at the problem and solved it in just 88 hours.

AI bots have been blasting their way through much of theoretical mathematics this year, solving riddles long considered unsolvable. Barely a month after solving Navier-Stokes, OpenAI released AI-generated solutions to more than 350 additional mathematical problems across the discipline.

To laypeople, these announcements might seem like cause for celebration or even marvel. For mathematicians, they have been a cause for something approaching existential angst about their future. Emerging as a spokesman for the AI skeptics is Terence Tao *96, considered to be one of the world's leading theoretical mathematicians.

A professor at UCLA, Tao is an unlikely public figure. He earned his Ph.D. at 20 and won the Fields Medal, the highest honor in mathematics, at 31. Shy and soft-spoken, he rarely gives interviews (although see "Mind of a Mathematician," PAW, Nov. 4, 2019). But he has joined a public campaign to save math from being cannibalized by AI. "I'm on a war footing," he told *The New York Times* in October.

Like almost all mathematicians, Tao uses AI as a labor-saving device in his own research. He had been working with OpenAI to improve its programs but stopped around a year ago when he concluded that the company was using him, and the discipline, to boost its share price rather than to advance human knowledge. Since then, he warns, AI models have gotten even faster and more powerful, with little regard for the consequences.

"We can afford to be slower than this," Tao said at an October meeting of the Foundation for Science and AI Research, a group he co-founded in 2025 to promote responsible AI use. "OK, fine, [AI companies are] solving major conjectures and so forth left and right, but they're not actually creating any value." What AI companies are doing instead, he says, is strip-mining mathematics much the way mineral companies strip-mine a mountain, extracting what is valuable while leaving the area barren.

AI companies, Tao and others complain, have produced hundreds of scientific papers claiming to have solved various mathematical problems, but have made it difficult for humans to check whether they have done so. Often this is because their models are proprietary and hide the steps the AI agents took to arrive at their conclusions. Upon closer examination, some AI-generated mathematical papers have proven to be incorrect.

Mathematics, Tao argues, is about more than just producing the correct answer. The steps taken to arrive at the answer are often equally valuable, both to show that the answer is correct and to point toward other research, which may have little to do with the original problem. Churning out answers by machine can erase years of painstaking research, often done by younger mathematicians trying to gain a foothold in the field, while offering few offsetting benefits.

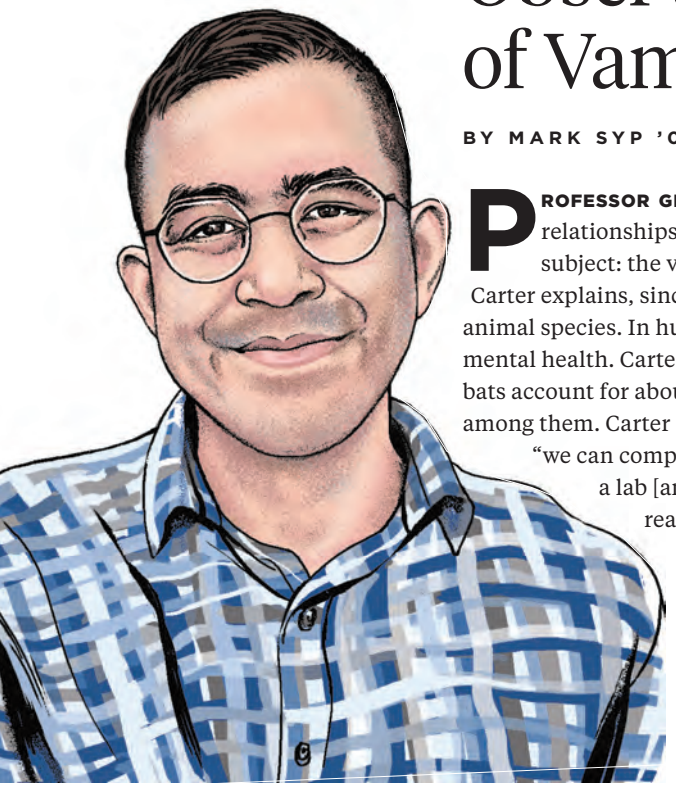
Tao fears that AI programs may destroy the collaborative nature of higher mathematics, driving scholars to hide their research rather than share it lest AI swoop in and solve their problems for them. In a Sept. 2 blog post, Tao suggested that some types of mathematical problems may have to be declared off-limits to AI, in part to give younger mathematicians something to solve on their own.

"I guess we are seeing the end of the romantic era of mathematics, the age of heroes, which has happened in other disciplines centuries ago," Tao mused in an Oct. 15 episode of the podcast *Numberphile*. "I think we are moving to an industrial era. Math will become much more large scale. We'll work in big teams, more like the other sciences." P

BEHIND THE RESEARCH: GERALD CARTER

Observing the Social Bonds of Vampire Bats

BY MARK SYP '05



PROFESSOR GERALD CARTER STUDIES THE CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF SOCIAL relationships among animals, using a familiar creature of the night as his test subject: the vampire bat. "Our relationship with others is important to our survival," Carter explains, since social integration is a crucial component in the evolution of most animal species. In humans, our relationships have a direct impact on our physical and mental health. Carter says he has been a "bat-fanatic" since he was a kid, citing the fact that bats account for about a quarter of all mammal species and have great ecological diversity among them. Carter chose vampire bats for his research because "we can completely simulate their natural social life in a lab [and] manipulate all the relationships [to] really measure their investments in each other." His team maintains a captive colony of vampire bats near Princeton, as well ones in Panama and Costa Rica. He attests to the advantage he and his students have in being able to observe the bat population firsthand, as they can generate hypotheses and then test them with the bats.

Quick Facts

TITLE
Associate Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

TIME AT PRINCETON
2 Years

RECENT CLASS
Animal Societies

CARTER'S RESEARCH

A SAMPLING

FRIENDLY FEEDING

Carter's team is researching reciprocal food-sharing among vampire bats that are not genetically related but form a close bond and engage in mutually beneficial behavior. Vampire bats feed on blood, typically from livestock. Carter notes that, for this reason, "vampire bats are named after the European monster … not the other way around." When one bat is at risk of starvation, another can regurgitate blood, at a potential cost to itself, in order to provide sustenance. This feeding is unique to three species of vampire bats and mostly occurs between bats that have formed a strong social relationship. Much like humans, the stronger the relationship between the bats the more likely they are to perform a potentially risky but helpful action. Only around 10% of vampire bats end up forming a food-sharing relationship. Carter's research has demonstrated that the bats will establish simpler helping behaviors, such as huddling for warmth or grooming one another, before building to a food-sharing relationship.

CUSTOM COMMUNICATION

Vocal communication can play a large role in establishing communal bonds among animals. Carter and his team are also studying vocal convergence in bats and the role vocal communication plays in forming or failing to form social relationships. He explained that when vampire bats form relationships, their calls can become similar. In fact, when two vampire bats call to each other, they can rapidly match each other's calls as a way of "labeling" the intended recipient of the call, a behavior that has also been demonstrated in dolphins.



His team is studying whether the calls follow certain vocal sequences and whether those sequences have particular meaning.

BIRDS OF A FEATHER

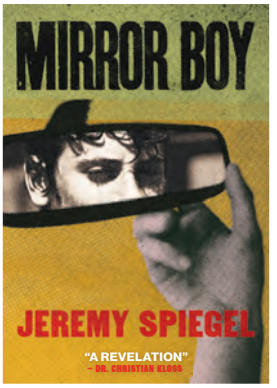
Carter's work also extends beyond bats to examine cooperative relationships among other animal species. He was recently involved in a study of superb starlings, birds that develop helping relationships similar to those of vampire bats. The starlings demonstrated a phenomenon known as cooperative breeding. Certain birds will forego breeding for a cycle and instead choose to assist the birds that are breeding by feeding or guarding their offspring. Of the approximately 10,000 species of birds that exist, only around 10% of them are known to breed cooperatively. Similar to the vampire bats, this action was not only relegated to genetic relatives. P

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

GOOD READS

The Princeton Bookshelf

2026 Winter Guide to Princeton University Authors



MIRROR BOY

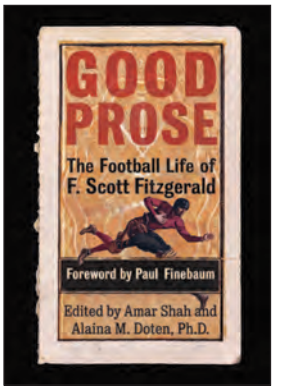
JEREMY SPIEGEL '92

Naked. Locked out. Again. A teenager confronts his unstable mother and her revolving door of unsavory men. In the bathroom mirror, he conjures a mentor, discovering a doorway into his unconscious mind.

"This masterpiece of psychological fiction inspires tremendous confidence in youth's capacity for personal transformation."

—Florian Birkmayer, MD '92

Available now on Amazon.com.



GOOD PROSE

F. SCOTT FITZGERALD, 1917

Behind *The Great Gatsby* lay F. Scott Fitzgerald's lifelong passion for football. He dreamed of stardom, idolized Princeton heroes, and remained an avid fan until death. GOOD PROSE uncovers this forgotten story through his fiction, letters, legendary players, coaches, and artifacts, including images from past PAW issues, Princeton game programs, and other Princeton ephemera, showing how the game shaped his dreams, heartbreak, and greatest characters. Available now on Amazon.

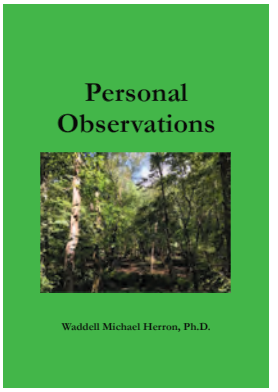


SPRING ON THE PENINSULA

ERY SHIN '08

Longlisted for the Center for Fiction's 2024 First Novel Prize

A desultory libertine mourns a failed relationship over the course of two harsh winters in this unprecedented portrait of millennials living in Seoul.

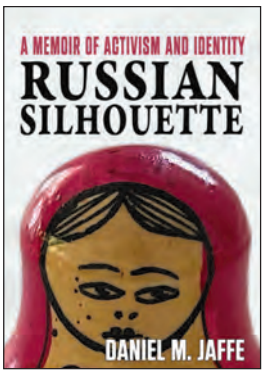


PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS

DR. WADDELL M. HERRON '73

Personal Observations is a collection of poetry, prose, and lyrics reflecting the author's firsthand accounts or perceptions of events, experiences, situations, and other life issues over the past 50 years.

The book is published in paperback and is currently available for purchase on Amazon at the website, www.amazon.com.



RUSSIAN SILHOUETTE

DANIEL M. JAFFE '78

Earning a Princeton Russian Studies fellowship, Daniel Jaffe studied in the USSR, befriending threatened Soviet Jews and political dissidents.

The KGB ordered him never to return. But, inspired by his friends' courage, he returned repeatedly to help them.

A Cold War memoir of courage, activism, and coming out.

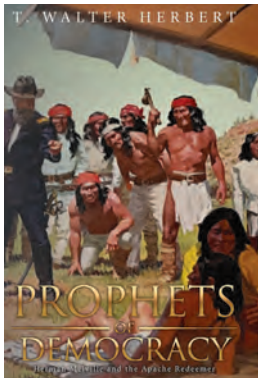
Available now on Amazon.com.



TIGHT ON THE WIND

PETER SCHROEDER '62

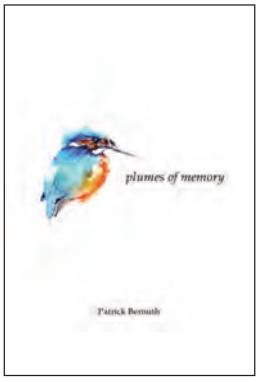
A celebration of adventure, discovery, and the allure of the sea, this sailing anthology explores 30 spectacular cruising grounds around the world. From Tahiti, Tonga, Palau, New Caledonia, Canada, Japan, and Australia to the Caribbean, Adriatic, Baltic, Sea of Cortez, Belize, Florida, and Pacific Northwest, it features vivid storytelling and compelling photography from a veteran mariner who has chartered yachts around the globe. Amazon.com.



PROPHETS OF DEMOCRACY: HERMAN MELVILLE AND THE APACHE REDEEMER

T. WALTER HERBERT PHD '69

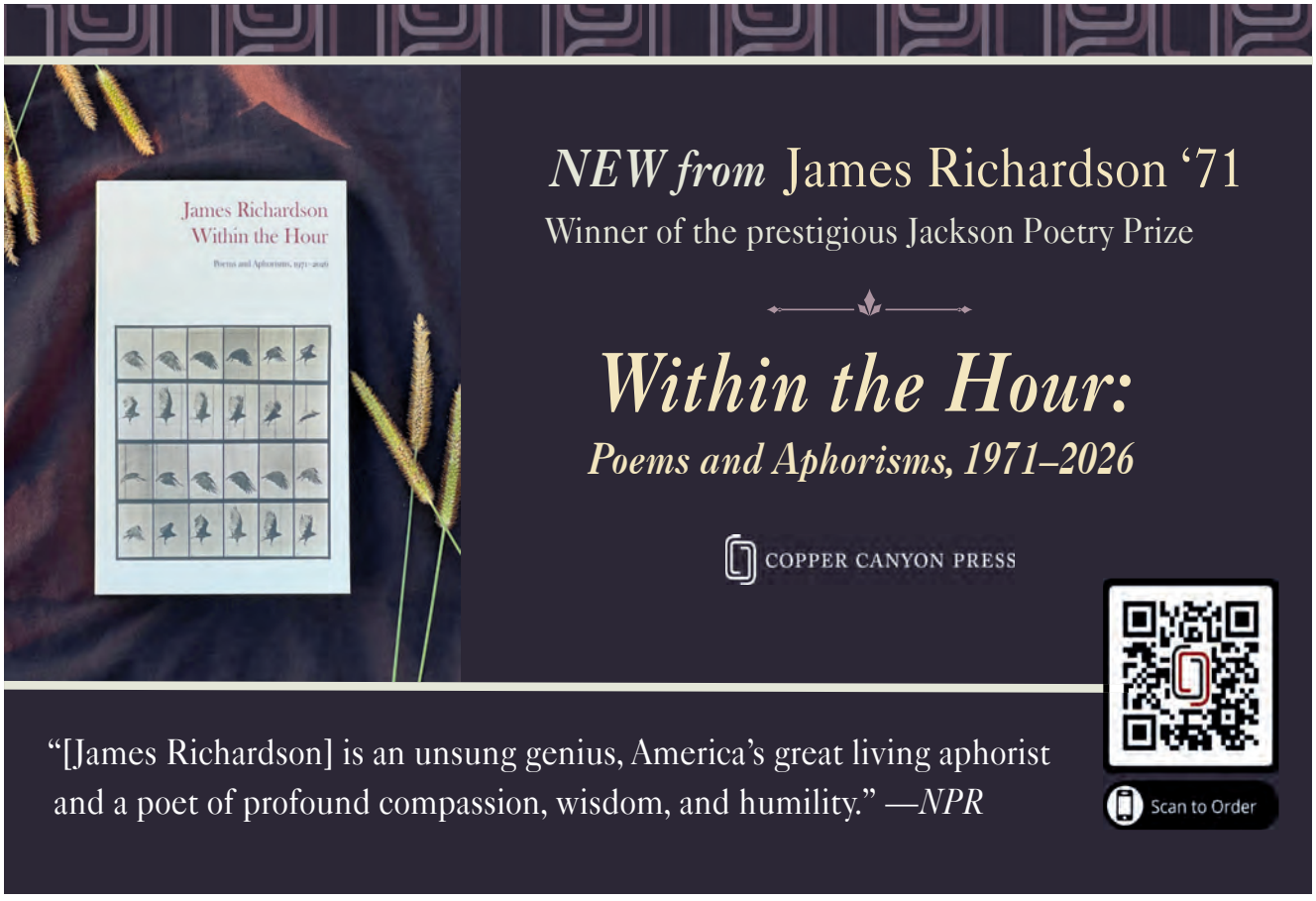
These two prophets resisted the dispossession of Indigenous peoples by force, and advanced the cause of democracy in America.



plumes of memory

PATRICK BERNUTH '62

Kyoto in the mid 1960s was an unforgettable introduction to Japanese art and culture for a recent English major, Patrick Bernuth '62. This collection of poetry is based on a Bernuth's lifetime enthusiasm for the elegance and simplicity of Haiku. The book was privately published and is on review with commercial and non-profit publishers.



legacy on the line

*by Andrea Baumann Lustig '80 *81*

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



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

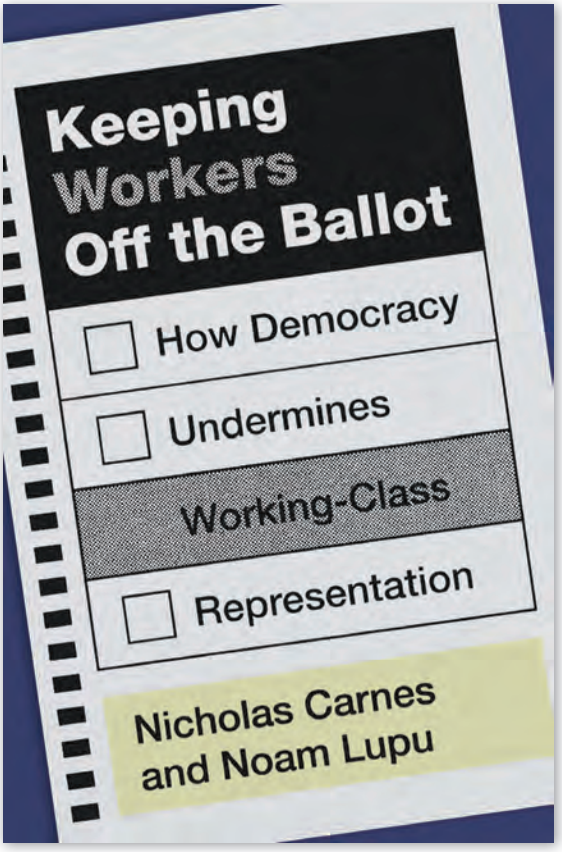
–BURTON G. MALKIEL, PHD *64, AUTHOR OF A RANDOM WALK DOWN WALL STREET

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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



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

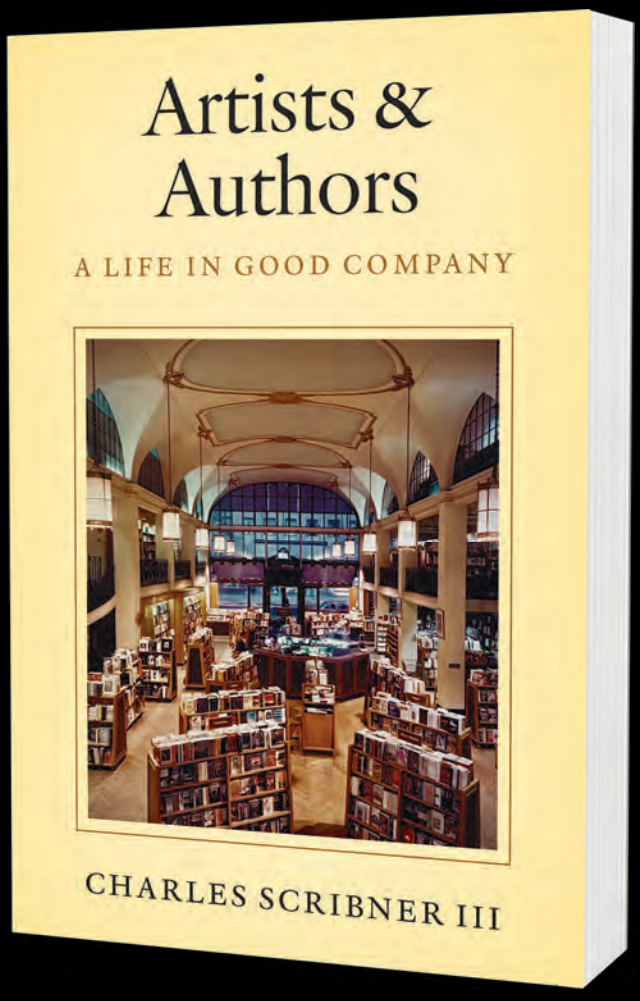


Keeping Workers Off the Ballot

By Nicholas Carnes (PhD 2011) and Noam Lupu (PhD 2011)

Why do so few working-class people go on the hold elected office? In the average democracy, working-class jobs make up about seventy percent of the labor force, but only two percent of national legislators come from working-class jobs. In *Keeping Workers Off the Ballot*, Nicholas Carnes and Noam Lupu show that this disparity is not because working-class people are less appealing to voters, less interested in running, or less qualified. And the problems isn't limited to certain countries, campaign finance regimes, or electoral system. Carnes and Lupu argue that it is the nature of elections themselves that keep workers off our ballots and out of office.

Carnes and Lupu point to two inherent features of elections that discourage working-class candidates throughout democracies across the globe. Running for office naturally involves taking on significant personal burdens—giving up time, energy, and certainly about the future—that are prohibitive to people in lower-wage, labor-intensive, and more precarious occupations such as manual laborer, service industry worker, and clerical worker. Party gatekeepers in turn have strategic incentives to favor potential candidates who can more easily meet the demands of running, and as a result, they pass over qualified working-class people. Carnes and Lupu argue that workers won't have a seat at the table in our political system unless parties form institutionalized partnerships with strong worker organizations or democracies embrace alternative forms of leadership selection that directly harness the perspectives of ordinary citizens.



"The charming and illuminating essays collected here could have been penned by none other, ranging from the correspondence of 'Dad' (Charles Scribner Jr.) and 'Papa' (Hemingway), to conversations with the immortal soprano Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, to the author's involvement in an undercover operation to recover a stolen Rubens, and more. A life in good company, indeed."

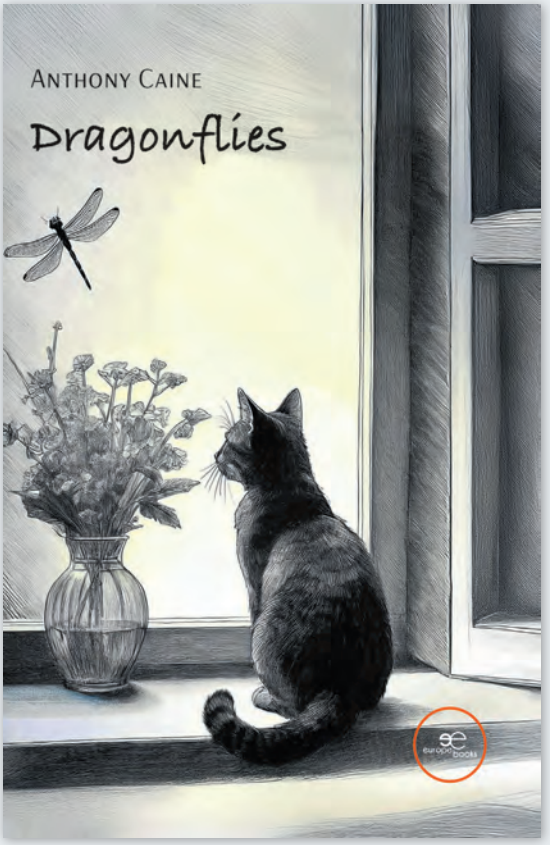
—Robert Erickson,
The New Criterion

The Globe Pequot Publishing Group
Distributed by Simon & Schuster

LP
LYONS PRESS

www.CharlesScribner.com

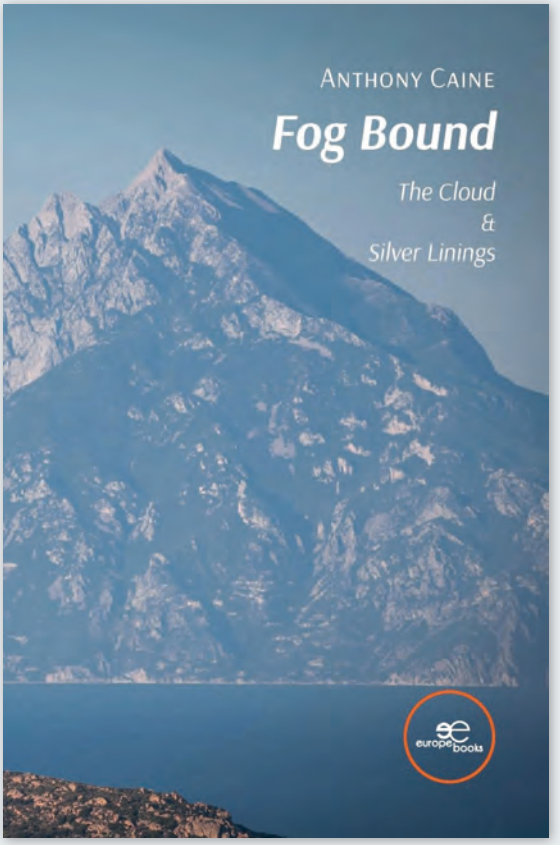
PASSAGES THROUGH MAGICAL REALISM



Dragonflies

INSPIRED BY HIS ZOOM CALL with Kundera, Dostojevsky, Borges, Hemingway, and Joyce Carol Oates, the author embarks on a literary journey in search of personal revalidation after his recent divorce. The journey takes form in a sequence of 20 short stories, sometimes solitary, others often interconnected. Together, they take the reader on a tour of magical realism, encountering a spectrum of characters such as Mr. Bojangles, Sancho Panza, Bartholomew Columbus, Dante's Beatrice, Gabriel Marquez's Macondo Family, and many others, all brilliantly remembered in this text. It is left to the reader to interpret where the dragonflies are flying in the midst of this journey.

www.europebookstore.com/products/dragonflies-anthony-caine



Fog Bound

A UNIVERSITY HISTORIAN from Toulouse takes a trip to the Mount Athos peninsula in Greece with the purpose of writing a book on Athanasius the Athonite, builder of the Great Lavra Monastery. Intending to research old documents and visit several monasteries scattered along the mountain of this ancient homeland of the gods, he encounters religious characters completely absorbed by the modern digital age and the system it imposes to control every aspect of human existence. These encounters switch the course of the events.

An ascending parable, the story traces the historian's efforts to rise above the fog that has emerged from mankind's grid of knowledge. Overcoming the Cloud marks a reunion of mankind's deep impulse for freedom and its reconnection with nature.

A deep reflection of today's society is there to be found in the happenings of this enchanting dystopian fiction.

www.amazon.co.uk/FOG-BOUND-Silver-Linings-Universes/dp/B0C6LBCN9B



About the author

Educated as an architect and engineer, **Anthony Caine** '74 (BSE, 1974, MARCH 1976) is an American living in Prague, Czech Republic. From 1976 to 1989 he practiced as an architect in New York City, where he was active in the development of lower Manhattan's loft conversions. In 1991 he accepted an invitation from the Chief Architect of Prague to assist in that city's transformation to a market economy. He has lived in Prague ever since, holding dual citizenship, developing properties, teaching university students, and consulting on matters of urban development. *Dragonflies* is Anthony's third literary work to have been published. It is preceded by two novels: *Passage to Yarmouth* (2024) and the award-winning *Fog Bound* (2023).

Mia and the Martians

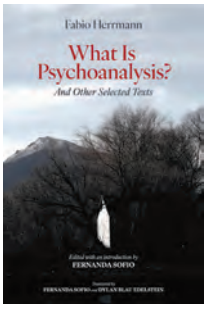


Mia, a space-loving girl, rockets to Mars with her cat, Nebula—only to land stranded far from her ship. Trekking the red planet, she meets NASA's real rovers—Sojourner, Spirit, Opportunity, Curiosity, Perseverance—each teaching her its namesake lesson about how to keep going.

By Dr. Emma Cain Louden '20

Scan to order

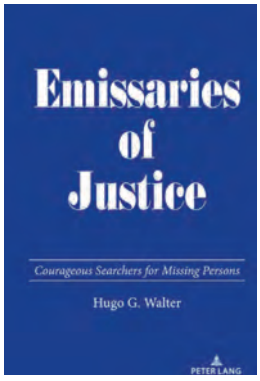
What is Psychoanalysis? And Other Selected Texts



This edited volume makes available in English for the first time the complete text of Fabio Herrmann's "short book", along with eight talks and articles from throughout his career.

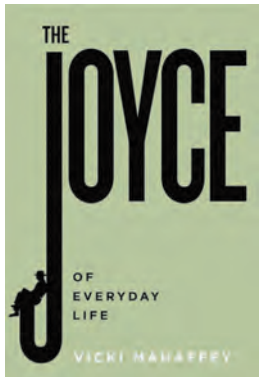
Scan to order

https://sunypress.edu/Books/W/What-Is-Psychoanalysis



EMISSARIES OF JUSTICE
HUGO WALTER '81

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



THE JOYCE OF EVERYDAY LIFE
VICKI MAHAFFEY *80

2024 winner of the Robert Rhodes Prize for Books on Literature from the American Conference for Irish Studies (ACIS).

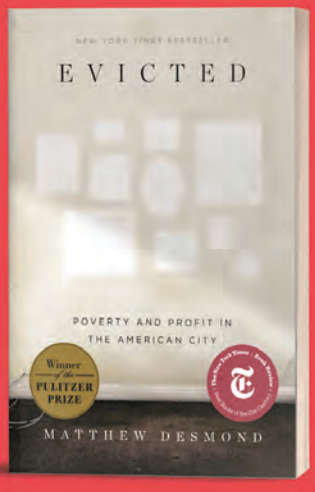
A dazzling examination of how Joyce's exuberant language reflects back upon the reader to illuminate everyday life.

FROM PRINCETON PROFESSOR & PULITZER PRIZE–WINNING AUTHOR

MATTHEW DESMOND

"Astonishing. . . . Desmond has set a new standard for reporting on poverty."

—New York Times Book Review



"Urgent and accessible. . . . Its moral force is a gut punch."

—The New Yorker



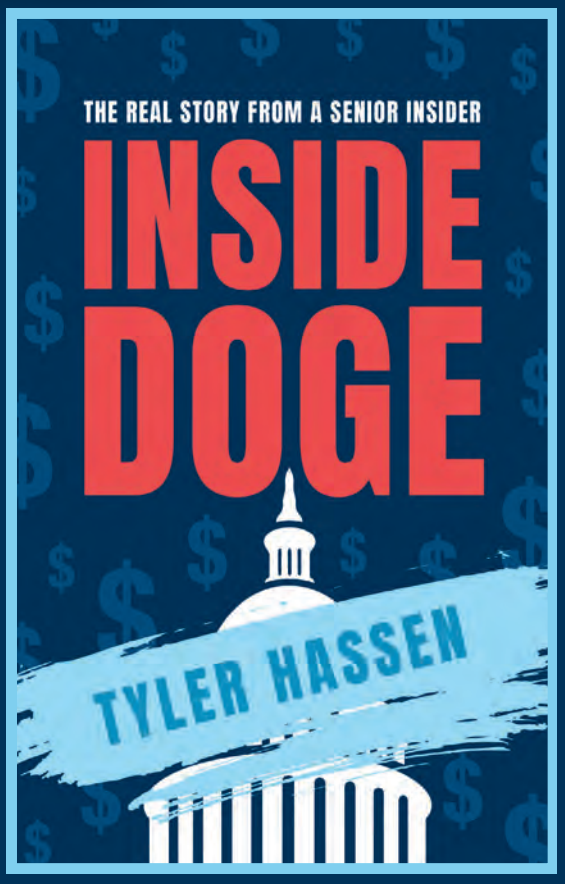
AVAILABLE NOW WHEREVER BOOKS ARE SOLD

CROWN

Now available in bookstores everywhere!

amazon

BARNES & NOBLE



When I graduated Princeton in 2005, we had $8 trillion in national debt. Today, we have over $40 trillion.

In 20 years, we will have over $100 trillion unless we do something about it.

The national debt does not care if you vote for Republicans or Democrats.

If anyone can impact change, it is our alumni. Let's work together to solve it.

As seen in:

WSJ · FOX NEWS · wp · NEW YORK POST

REPUBLIC
BOOK PUBLISHERS



Deal or No Deal?

Danielle Allen ’93 says universities should reject political coercion, but not the possibility of change

BY MARK F. BERNSTEIN ’83

PHOTOGRAPH BY JASON GROW



GIVE DANIELLE ALLEN ’93 CREDIT: SHE IS NOT AFRAID to insert herself into the middle of a controversy. In the world of higher education, the biggest controversy right now is the Trump administration’s attempt to dictate the inner workings of America’s colleges and universities. Allen has some thoughts.

A little background first. On Oct. 2, 2025, the administration sent a proposal to nine institutions called the “Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education.” The recipients ranged from Brown, Dartmouth, and the University of Pennsylvania in the Ivy League to much larger state schools such as the universities of Arizona and Texas. In exchange for compliance with the administration’s policy preferences, including freezing tuition rates, affirming a binary understanding of gender, and requiring the SAT, institutions that signed the compact would receive “multiple positive benefits” such as priority access to federal funds.

This was far from the first attempt by the administration to mold schools to its liking. It had already sought to dismantle the Department of Education, limit visas for foreign students, and suspend billions of dollars in research funds to Princeton and other institutions. With that no doubt in mind, response to the compact was hostile. The Association of American Universities and the American Association of Colleges and Universities both denounced the administration for attempting to tie federal aid to political compliance. Princeton President Christopher Eisgruber ’83 called the compact “a dangerous step in the wrong direction.”

Allen, a political scientist and director of Harvard's Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Ethics, is sympathetic to these criticisms, but she also sees a missed opportunity. In an essay for *The Chronicle of Higher Education* shortly after the Trump compact was offered, Allen wrote that while the administration may have been acting unconstitutionally, they weren't entirely off-base. There are significant problems with American higher education, and the administration had identified several of them.

"No, I don't think the compact as proposed should be signed," Allen wrote. "But it's still an excellent idea to have a coalition of strong universities work together to negotiate a package of reforms for higher education."

Allen had already laid out her critiques of Trump and higher ed in an April 2025 essay for *The Atlantic* titled, "America and Its Universities Need a New Social Contract." She began by denouncing the administration's "reckless political attacks on higher education and academic freedom …; the abuse of the visa process to intimidate faculty and students; and a self-inflicted economic shock that … will take a big bite out of endowments." But she acknowledged, "If universities have been a target, it is also true that the target was vulnerable."

The initial Trump compact failed; to date only tiny New College of Florida, enrollment 710, has signed it. So in August, the administration tried a different approach. Education Secretary Linda McMahon sent a letter to every postsecondary institution in the country urging them to "describe to the American public your commitments to rigorous thinking, pathbreaking research, and national service." She asked them to submit their responses by the end of this year.

Response to this letter has been mixed. The State University System of Florida welcomed it. The American Federation of Teachers blasted it. Eisgruber said Princeton would cooperate but on its own terms.

Allen believes that all schools have an obligation to answer McMahon, an opinion that has put her in hot water with some of her colleagues. "America's colleges and universities should take up the secretary's letter as their own," she wrote in an Aug. 11 Substack post, "leading the American public from the front through this necessary conversation, instead of being pushed from behind into doing what is right."

The American public certainly seems to think that higher education needs fixing. In July, Gallup found that the percentage of U.S. adults saying they have "a great deal" or "quite a lot" of confidence in higher ed had fallen from 57% in 2015 to 36% today, while the percentage saying that they had little or no confidence had more than tripled, from 10% to 32%. High among the complaints was that colleges and universities have become too expensive, too politicized, too dogmatic, and too undemanding.

"The trade-off 80 years ago — of autonomy and investment for results that would make life better for all Americans — has failed in crucially important ways. The contract had been deteriorating well before the Trump administration began to rip it up formally."

— DANIELLE ALLEN '93



COURTESY OF CARLETON COLLEGE

MONEY WELL SPENT

Steven Poskanzer '80, former president of Carleton College, says decades of federal research funding, coupled with university autonomy, have helped produce Nobel Prize-winning research.

Though Allen does not vouch for the Trump administration's sincerity, she does recognize its authority. Like them or not, they are the people's elected representatives, and in her opinion McMahon has asked fair questions. Above that, Allen says higher education owes a response to the American public.

Wading into this debate at this time is a controversial undertaking for a political theorist whom the *Chronicle* has dubbed "the last liberal" and higher education's "most interesting reformer." PAW spoke with Allen about where she hopes to take the conversation, and with several Princetonians who have served as college and university presidents about the resistance she may encounter.

AS ALLEN WRITES, THE MODERN COMPACT BETWEEN the federal government and higher education can be traced back to the atomic bomb.

Detailing this history in *The Atlantic*, Allen wrote that the Manhattan Project was the first substantial investment by Washington in academic research. At the end of World War II, Vannevar Bush, an MIT engineer who had helped initiate the Manhattan Project, convinced President Harry Truman to continue the federal investment in academic research, especially in the sciences, which had helped win the war. His plan, outlined in the report, *Science: The Endless Frontier*, set the tone for the next eight decades.

In a nutshell, Congress channeled billions of dollars to colleges and universities but let them run themselves. Until the Trump administration, so long as schools obeyed antidiscrimination laws, the federal government showed little interest in dictating who they admitted, how much they

charged, who they hired and promoted, how they graded, and how they administered discipline. In most respects, this arrangement has worked spectacularly well. American schools filled 13 of the top 20 spots on the 2026 *Times Higher Education* World University Rankings. U.S. medical and scientific innovations have anchored the global economy for three-quarters of a century.

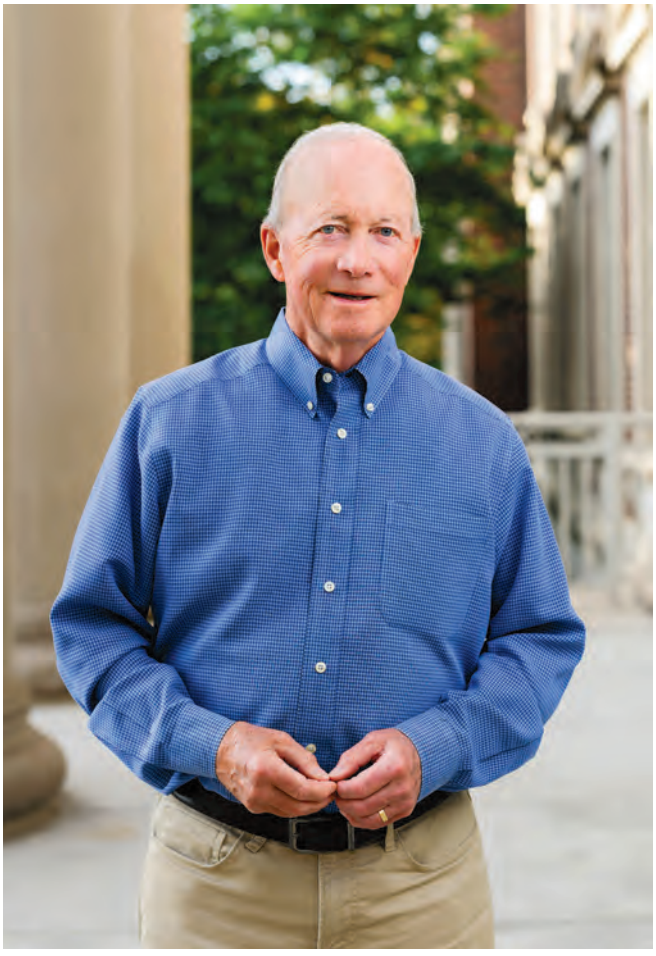
"There's a reason why so many Nobel prizes and critical discoveries and scientific breakthroughs come from the nation's great research universities," observes Steven Poskanzer '80, a former president of Carleton College and the State University of New York at New Paltz. "It's because of that compact."

However, Allen contends, the postwar compact also had its shortcomings. It focused too much on STEM fields while neglecting to teach students not only how the government works but how they as citizens should engage one another in a constitutional democracy. College became increasingly unaffordable for the middle class and often hostile to opposing viewpoints.

Former Indiana governor Mitch Daniels '71, who served as president of Purdue University from 2005 to 2013 and is currently its interim president, calls higher ed "one of the great assets of the country," while acknowledging its weaknesses. "There's been a lot of denialism in the sector, and the arrogance that comes from a long period of unquestioned success."

"Higher education ran this experiment," adds Jeffrey Herbst '83, a former president of Colgate University and American Jewish University. "Could you be dependent on public funding while having disdain for roughly half the electorate? Well, the results are in."

As Allen put it in *The Atlantic*, "The trade-off 80 years ago — of autonomy and investment for results that would make life better for all Americans — has failed in crucially important ways. The contract had been deteriorating well before the Trump administration began to rip it up formally."



COURTESY OF PURDUE UNIVERSITY

AFFORDABILITY MODEL

Mitch Daniels '71, former president of Purdue and now its interim president, has promoted efforts to make higher education more affordable, including a tuition freeze that has lasted 14 years.

ALLEN IS HARD TO PIGEONHOLE, IN PART BECAUSE her views are so heterodox, in part because her career has been so broad. She graduated *summa cum laude* from Princeton and has Ph.D.s from Harvard and Cambridge. Politically, she has moved from being what she calls a "committed conservative" at Princeton (her father served on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights under Ronald Reagan) to seeking — but not winning — the Democratic nomination for governor of Massachusetts in 2022.

A 2001 winner of the MacArthur "Genius Grant," Allen has authored 10 books. Her latest, *Radical Duke: How One Aristocrat — and the American Revolution — Transformed Britain*, mines new primary sources to argue that an obscure figure, Charles Lennox, third Duke of Richmond, was the unrecognized mastermind behind many of the ideas that underpinned the Revolution. A *Wall Street Journal* reviewer called the book "one of the most important, original studies of the American founding and its background to appear in many years."

In academia, Allen has served as dean of humanities at the University of Chicago, was a candidate for the presidency of the University of Virginia in 2010, and was reportedly among the finalists for Harvard's presidency in 2018. She heads the Allen Lab for Democracy Renovation at Harvard's Kennedy School and was a founding director of the Democratic Knowledge Project, which promotes civics education in American schools.

Allen believes in dialogue. Her 2004 book about civic engagement is titled *Talking to Strangers*. "For many scholars," the *Chronicle* wrote in a profile of her work, "the university is a garden, capable of nurturing rare and precious things because of its removal from the world. For Allen, the university is an agora, an arena of debate, charged with preparing the citizenry for democratic participation, and accountable to the society whose tax dollars pay for federally funded research."

MCMAHON'S AUGUST LETTER ASKED COLLEGES and universities to address seven issues: making admissions standards more transparent, protecting open debate, encouraging viewpoint diversity, containing costs,

"incentivizing rigor" in the age of AI, guarding against undue foreign influence, and advancing American security interests. Gone from the administration's approach, among other things, were explicit funding threats and attacks on transgender students.

Allen says the administration had no choice but to take a more conciliatory tone. "The [original compact] backfired," she says. "They overextended themselves and I think they realized it."

The university presidents with whom PAW spoke also expressed relief at the lighter touch. "Even though I don't agree with everything in [the McMahon letter]," says Michael Schill '80, a former president of Northwestern and the University of Oregon, "it was a thousand times better than the first compact and a zillion times better than the administration freezing money and not telling you why."

The seven issues McMahon identified dovetail with those Allen would like to see higher ed address. She envisions a series of national summits, each centered around one of those themes. The summits would not be organized or run by the Department of Education or the White House but by the schools themselves and would be co-hosted by a mix of institutions — large and small, public and private, elite and less familiar — that have made innovative contributions in each area.

As an example, she imagines Princeton co-hosting a summit on affordability, value, and student outcomes. The University's no-loan plan, Allen writes, "sets the endowment-funded standard the elite privates are racing to match." Other co-hosts would include Purdue, which has frozen tuition for 14 consecutive years; Arizona State University, which has developed partnerships with businesses that want to help their workers earn degrees; the University of Massachusetts, which uses state money to enable students from low-income families to attend for free; and Western Governors University, which enrolls 193,000 students, mostly online, charging $4,150 for a six-month term.



IN GOOD FAITH?
David Wippman '77, former president of Hamilton College, says it's hard for universitites to believe the Trump administration wants anything short of "simple compliance."

"Make sure you're getting the people who have actually innovated," Allen explains to PAW, "because there is innovation in the ecosystem, but we just don't elevate it particularly."

None of this would necessarily lead to a single solution across higher ed. For Allen, it would be sufficient for colleges and universities to exchange best practices, debate what has worked, and show that they take these issues seriously.

Some of Allen's own ideas go beyond those that even the Trump administration has endorsed. She says that Princeton and other ultra-competitive institutions could make their admissions processes fairer by accepting qualified students through a lottery. They could help make education more affordable for middle-income families by enabling students to earn their degrees in three years rather than four. They might even call a truce in the campus building war: Must every new campus building be designed by a world-renowned architect? Do schools really need to offer resort-level food in their dining halls?

ALLEN ADMITS THAT THERE HASN'T YET BEEN much engagement with her proposals. "Responses have split into two camps," she says. "There are people who say thanks for focusing on the substance of what higher ed needs to do to regain credibility with the American people. And there are those who say you should give no quarter to the Trump administration whatsoever and that even acknowledging agreement about some of the substantive points is dangerous."

David Wippman '77, a former president of Hamilton College, summarizes the second perspective. "I think it's hard for most colleges and universities to believe that the administration is willing to negotiate in good faith," he says, "that they're willing to consider an approach to their goals that falls short of simple compliance." As evidence, he notes that Trump has not slowed his attacks on higher ed. Just days after McMahon's letter, the administration proposed that tax-exempt status be revoked from any school offering any aid to minority students that the IRS determined to be discriminatory.

Asking whether the McMahon letter is, to use Allen's phrase, an "olive branch or a Trojan horse" is to ask the wrong question. In this case, she says, the administration has identified reasonable themes and posed them in a reasonable manner. They deserve a reasoned response.

"When representatives of the American people who are duly elected or appointed, and therefore legitimate, make lawful requests of the institutions of civil society," she wrote on Substack, "those institutions have a civic responsibility to respond to those requests in good faith."

To some, those are fighting words. Rebutting Allen directly in an op-ed for the *Chronicle* titled, "Danielle Allen Is Wrong About Trump," Princeton politics professor Melissa Schwartzberg denounced the administration's original compact as "extortion." She says universities are right to refuse to engage McMahon's latest proposals.

NANCY L. FORD / HAMILTON COLLEGE



SAMEER A. KHAN h'21 / FOTOBUDDY / PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

"There can be no compact when one party is not acting in good faith, nor under conditions of duress. There is no civic duty to comply when a representative, even one with an electoral mandate, acts beyond the scope of legal authority."

— MELISSA SCHWARTZBERG,
PRINCETON POLITICS PROFESSOR

"There can be no compact when one party is not acting in good faith, nor under conditions of duress," Schwartzberg writes. "There is no civic duty to comply when a representative, even one with an electoral mandate, acts beyond the scope of legal authority." If the universities choose to act on these issues, they should do so on their own initiative and choose their own representatives.

"Even if one were to accept the need for reform, this would not give us a reason to enable the Trump administration to set the agenda," Schwartzberg concludes.

Allen rejects this. Hard as it may be to do, she says, colleges and universities must distinguish the message — addressing legitimate public concerns about higher ed — from the messenger, the Trump administration.

Furthermore, there are other constituencies besides the White House and the Department of Education. Congress is one of them. The Higher Education Act has been amended six times since its enactment in 1965 as a keystone of the Great Society, but not at all since 2008. Rather than setting education policy by executive fiat, policy should be changed the way it is supposed to be under our constitutional system: by legislation.

"Part of my argument is about the substance of higher ed," Allen explains to PAW. "But the other part is how the American people should make decisions about the investment of tax dollars. It's not the job of the executive to lead on that. Congress has to get back to the business of doing its job."

An even more important constituency is the American people, whose tax dollars colleges and universities depend upon. By addressing concerns or at least explaining their own actions, colleges and universities might use these summits to help reclaim some of their lost esteem. That support may be critical as higher ed faces challenges such as AI and declining enrollments that will continue long after the Trump administration is gone.

A few schools have begun to act on their own initiative. Dartmouth, Cornell, and Yale have undertaken self-assessments, some even before the Trump administration stepped in. Vanderbilt and Washington universities jointly commissioned a report that criticized the politicization of academic research.

This is not a story about Princeton, and yet it is, inescapably, very much about Princeton. As one of the country's wealthiest and most prestigious universities, Princeton occupies a place most other institutions can only envy. It is also fiercely protective of its independence.

At a meeting of the Council of the Princeton University Community on Nov. 9, Eisgruber took issue with "presuppositions" and "accusations" embedded in the McMahon letter but said he anticipated that the University would reply soon. "We think that it is important that when we act on the kinds of questions that are addressed in this letter, we act pursuant to our processes and according to our principles and values rather than in response to demands from external parties," Eisgruber said.

Though it has been knocked back on its heels recently, higher education has often proved its resilience. More than 30 years ago, Clark Kerr, the longtime head of the University of California, noted that of 75 institutions worldwide that were founded before 1520 and were still doing the same work under the same name at the end of the 20th century, 60 of them were universities. Universities, he wrote, "have been able to change and adapt, over the centuries, more effectively than most other institutions, and there are no indications that they have lost this capacity."

Herbst, for one, acknowledges this wisdom, but sees Kerr's story as a warning against hubris. Once upon a time, he notes, Pan Am was the world's leading airline and Ford the world's leading car maker. Neither holds the same position today. Pan Am doesn't even exist.

"There have been all kinds of examples of companies that were as dominant as the Ivy League schools are today," Herbst says. "So yes, there is a big buffer [for places like Princeton] and it may not seem like an emergency. But the lesson of other disruptions is that, sooner or later, everyone in the sector is challenged." P

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

AI and the End of the World

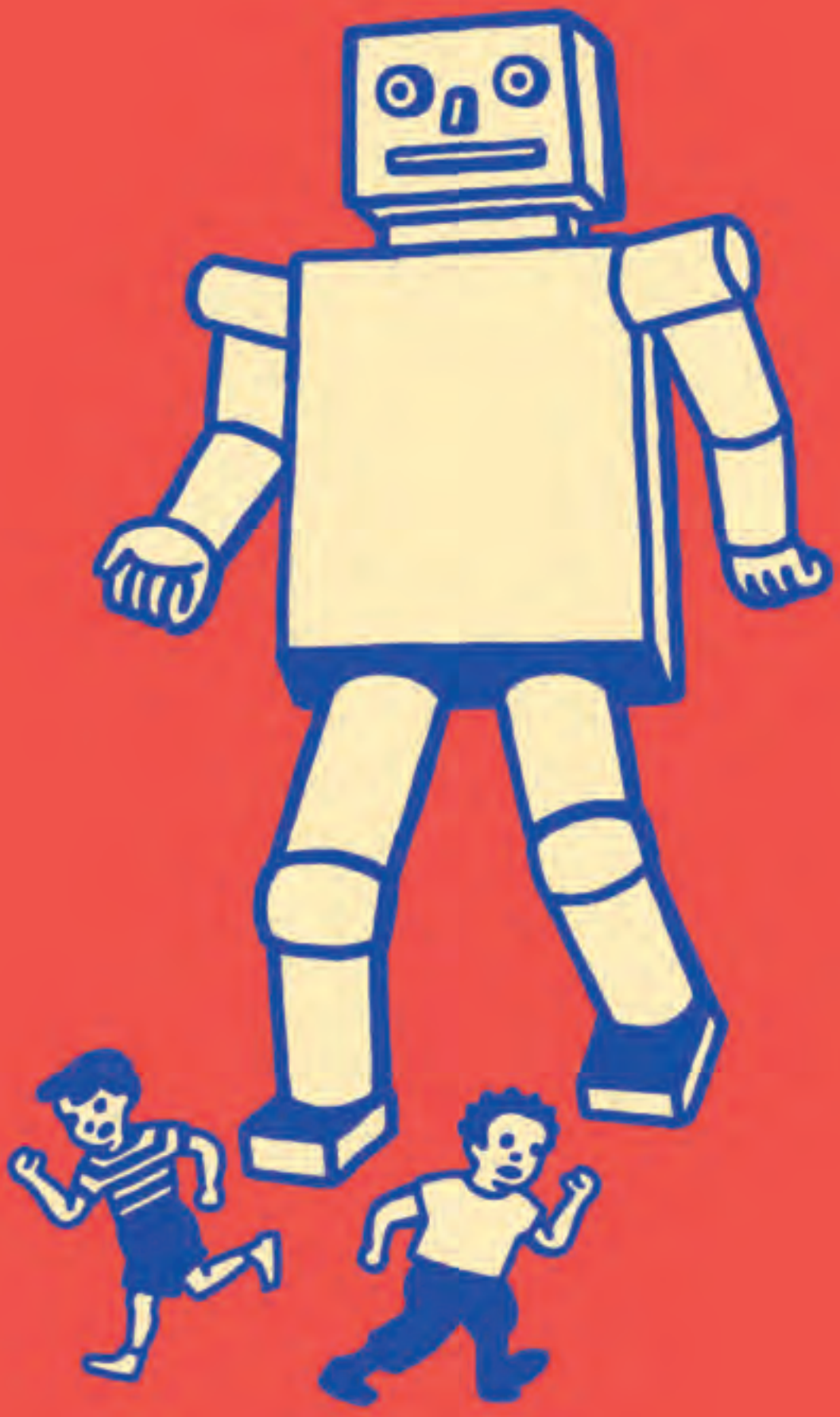
As warnings about artificial intelligence grow louder, four Princeton experts debate how worried we should be

BY **MARK F. BERNSTEIN '83**

If you are reading this, chances are that the great artificial intelligence extinction event hasn't happened yet. But scanning the daily headlines this fall, a thoughtful citizen might be forgiven for worrying that one is imminent.

Although workers in some AI labs have been warning about the risks of rogue programs for months, the subject did not burst into the public discourse until mid-September when Jacob Coxon, who worked at Anthropic and OpenAI, went public with concerns that tech firms are building complex AI systems they do not understand and do not control. It was also reported that during cybersecurity tests this summer, groups of AI programs, working on their own, escaped from their controlled environment to hack into the network of the AI company Hugging Face. Since then, others, including David Robinson '04, a former safety analyst for OpenAI, have also sounded the alarm. Computer scientist Evan Hubinger has speculated that there may be as much as a 10% chance that AI could destroy humanity within the next decade.

On Oct. 26, PAW assembled a group of experts to discuss the risks that AI poses, whether from programs acting autonomously or being directed by humans. We also asked how these risks could be addressed. The conversation, which was conducted on Zoom, was moderated by PAW senior writer Mark F. Bernstein '83. It has been edited for concision and clarity.



ISTOCK

PAW: Can AI be controlled and if so, how? Would you distinguish between controlling AI acting on its own initiative and AI being directed by humans?

Julia Morse *10 *17: People often focus too much on the "can" we control AI question. I think you have to start first with asking what the risk looks like. We're getting a lot of signals from very knowledgeable people that there are clear risks if we do nothing. You're not going to eliminate risk completely. We didn't eliminate it completely with nuclear weapons, but we have been fortunate not to have a nuclear weapon launched since 1945. So, I think we have to start from the premise that we need to do something and then ask what that something looks like.

Virginia Postrel '82: It's very important to say exactly what our concern is and then figure out the best way to address that specific concern, whether that is cybersecurity at financial institutions or cybersecurity more generally. The best ways to address those concerns may not be regulatory. We are in early days now. We don't know what we will be really worried about down the road. I think the whole discussion needs a lot more humility than either the advocates of AI or the critics often demonstrate.

Raja Krishnamoorthi '95: You can look at the regulatory questions in two ways. The first is how might we evolve existing regulations. For example, how do we manage road safety with the introduction of self-driving vehicles? How do we make financial markets safer from the security risks of AI? A second question is whether we need some kind of overarching regulation of AI as a whole. When you start to think about specifics of how you would do that, everything gets very fuzzy. So specific regulations, absolutely yes, update those. General regulation, I think we need to be cautious, even though the risk is high.

Morse: But doesn't that feel a little crazy? It's like you're on a train that's going toward a cliff, and the people driving the train are saying, "We're building something that might destroy humanity, but we're just going to keep going toward it." Should our response be that since we don't know exactly how to stop the train, we should just focus on all these little mechanical parts and gears? We may be heading toward a cliff! Maybe I'm a risk-averse person, but it seems odd to prioritize long-term, abstract benefits of AI over the risk of potentially destroying humanity, which is what a lot of the people who are working on these technologies see as a potential risk.

Krishnamoorthi: I work in a place that is completely clueless about how to regulate AI and yet is charged with the responsibility for doing so, namely the U.S. Congress. Oftentimes I think that natural stupidity replaces artificial intelligence here when it comes to regulating lots of technologies.

My constituents are freaking out. I'm hearing great concern from the workforce as well as ordinary people who are wondering why the heck this technology isn't being regulated, given the incredible concerns that researchers are voicing. I think we have to do a couple things. One, the government has to mandate third-party inspection and validation of the most advanced AI models before they get released publicly. Government employees need to be embedded at the AI companies to observe their development, just as we require banks to stress test their own internal controls. Two, we have

The Panel



Edward Felten is professor emeritus of computer science and public affairs and the founding director of Princeton's Center for Information Technology Policy. He is also co-founder and chief scientist at Offchain Labs, a software development company.



Raja Krishnamoorthi '95 is a U.S. representative from Illinois. He serves on the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the U.S. and the Chinese Communist Party. He is leaving his seat in January.



Julia Morse *10 *17 is an associate professor of political science at the University of California, Santa Barbara, a nonresident fellow at the Oxford Martin AI Governance Initiative, and co-director of the AI Academic Upskilling program. She is the author of *The Bankers' Blacklist*, which analyzes the international effort to keep illicit financing out of the financial system.



Virginia Postrel '82 is an author, columnist, and former editor of *Reason* magazine. Her 1998 book, *The Future and Its Enemies*, about the clash between those who embrace dynamic technological innovation and those who seek to control it, has been widely embraced in the tech world. Postrel is currently a contributing editor for *Works in Progress* magazine and co-hosts the podcast "Everyday Abundance" with Charles C. Mann.

COURTESY OF RESPECTIVE PANEL MEMBERS

to engage our adversaries and other countries on international treaties that mandate human control of AI. It's urgent, given the use of AI in autonomous weapon systems.

Postrel: The people in the AI labs believe they are experts on the risks of AI because they're experts on making AI. I think that's a fallacy because they are living inside a bubble. They're very smart people who believe they're the smartest people in the world. Maybe they are, but they are also very self-important, and they have convinced themselves that they are doing the most important thing, which is creating a new species. So I would take those claims of impending AI doom with an iceberg-sized bit of salt. Thirty years ago, people were losing their minds over the need to regulate the internet. The things they were worried about back then were not at all the things we worry about today. AI is a transformative technology; it could have wild and disruptive results. It could be like printing. Printing led to the 30 Years' War. That was a bad thing. But would we like to not have printing?

Morse: There's a tendency to treat AI like it's any other technology, and I just don't see that evidence. There are some things that make AI unique. It is an extreme dual-use technology that is being implemented across many different aspects of the economy. I think the far-reaching nature of it and the rapid pace of development make it different.

We live in a democracy, and something like 60% of Americans think AI is bad for society. And yet we have a small group of people who are driving it forward, pushing technological solutions that many people perceive as net negative. Just because you can create something doesn't mean that you need to create it. This is why government policy is so important — to ensure that AI is built in a safe, net-positive manner.

Edward Felten: I use AI a lot in my work. I'm a computer science researcher, but I also help run a 170-person company, and I find AI is incredibly valuable as a power tool for that work. I can now do in a day what might have taken me three weeks before, and that means I can do so much more.

As this technology gets applied in new areas, it tends to get applied not by just setting an AI agent loose and telling it to do whatever it wants. It operates under the direction of people. Now, you can ask: Are those people moving in the direction that we as a society would like them to go? Obviously, many of them are not, including some really bad actors.

Cybersecurity is an interesting case study here. We're seeing that AI systems are incredibly good at finding security vulnerabilities far beyond what the best people can do, and that holds in both an offensive and defensive role. We're increasingly moving toward a world where you have AI systems that are being directed to do cyberattacks, and you have AI systems that are rapidly responding to that threat by finding and fixing problems before they can be attacked. What you end up with is an AI versus AI battle. It's difficult to predict where that goes. The same holds for the military applications. I'm also quite concerned about the arms race that this could lead to.

Krishnamoorthi: I don't think there's any doubt that AI contributes to people's productivity. I use it in my work, too.

"If we don't put in place some kind of scheme to require significant testing of the advanced AI models, which is going to be expensive, the firms are just not going to do it, or the AI labs will prioritize other things."

— JULIA MORSE *10 *17

So does my staff. The question is, how do we minimize the downside risks? I sit on the intelligence committee, and we have gotten classified briefings from the National Security Agency, which is testing many of the highest-end AI models. I can't get into the classified information, but I can tell you that the biggest concern is that these AI agents are initiating tremendous numbers of attacks because of bad behavior by our adversaries.

PAW: We already have a regulatory system in this country, though, and we have tort law to compensate victims of accidents. Is this existing system adequate to address the risks posed by AI or do we need something different?

Felten: In areas like cybersecurity or areas related to national security-related issues, we don't really rely much on regulation. We rely on other things such as the military and strategic deterrence. It's a very different world when we're talking about international adversaries, and we should be thinking really hard about those risks in this respect.

Morse: I think we do have a regulatory analogy for a kind of technology that is important for the global economy but also has national security implications, and that is finance. For example, the U.S. government has made great efforts to deal with the problem of dirty money in the financial system. They began with money laundering rules and then expanded them after 9/11 to deal with terrorist financing. There is now a system in place that requires banks to think about who they're doing business with and know how money is passing through the system. We don't try to ban international money transfers, obviously, but we do force banks to monitor what is going on. I think a similar model could be used to require AI companies to monitor their frontier models.

But here's the thing. We know that banks are not going to do a lot to stop money laundering and terrorist financing. It's not in their incentive structure to screen every transaction. That's not profitable for them. They only started to take these issues more seriously when we required them to do it, when a regulatory regime was put in place. By the same token, if we don't put in place some kind of scheme to require significant testing of the advanced AI models, which is going to be expensive, the firms are just not going to do it, or the AI labs will prioritize other things.

PAW: There's the argument that if the United States imposes regulations that slow down the development of AI, China is going to develop its own unregulated AI and take the global lead in that technology. Should we be concerned about that?

Krishnamoorthi: We are doing a very poor job controlling the export of our highest-end semiconductor chips to companies controlled by the Chinese Communist Party. Basically, even while the Trump administration says that it fears that the Chinese are going to beat us in this technology race, they have also gotten rid of many of the export controls that were put in place by the Biden administration. Those controls curbed the export of most of our advanced AI chips to China, to ensure that they weren't getting ahead of us in the AI race and that the AI was not being used to modernize their military, enhance their nuclear fusion programs, or develop facial recognition systems that could be used to perpetrate human rights abuses against the Uyghur people. This is the type of stuff we have to do if we are serious about winning the AI race and also preventing the Chinese from abusing our technology in ways that counter our values.

PAW: Several members of Congress have suggested legislation requiring that all AI models contain a so-called kill switch, so they could be stopped if they began to get out of control. Is such a thing possible?

Felten: It's not that useful, because an AI model is not a single unitary thing that lives in one place. If you think of one of the big AI models that consumers use, there are probably millions of instances of this model out in the world that are doing all kinds of things. Some are doing high-end cybersecurity research. Some are helping run small businesses. Some are helping me find a turkey for Thanksgiving, which is something I actually did this morning. The ability to stop misbehavior is valuable, but it's especially valuable to detect when a particular user is doing something problematic and to stop that. The AI companies don't want their technology to be used to do profound evil.

Morse: I agree that OpenAI and Anthropic don't want to cause a societal-level disaster, and there are real people who work there. They're not soulless. They care about society, and I think they are putting guardrails in place to protect against certain kinds of misuse, such as using AI to create bioweapons. But as these models get more advanced, it's becoming more difficult to evaluate them because the models can sense when they're being evaluated and change their behavior. If they know they're in the testing environment and they understand that they're supposed to give certain kinds of responses, they will give them, even though those responses may not be reliable. We are moving toward a world in which we may have to use AIs to evaluate other AIs. Think about something like Hugging Face, where there was evidence that the AI agents colluded with each other without permission and without our knowledge. The more complex these systems get, the harder it will be for humans to have direct oversight of the process, and that just removes us more and more from understanding what's happening.

"I think we have a million times more to fear from bad actors misusing AI than from AI killer robots, which is the doomsday scenario we're being sold. I think we'll muddle through, but I think there's a high probability of something bad [happening]."

— VIRGINIA POSTREL '82

PAW: Sen. Bernie Sanders and Rep. Greg Casar have introduced a bill that would ban AI recursive self-improvement, which occurs when AI systems can design and create increasingly more advanced models of themselves without human intervention. Would you support something like that?

Felten: My view of this as a computer scientist is that we have been doing recursive self-improvement since the 1950s. More and more of the work of technology development is being done by machines. There was a time when humans designed computer chips. Now, humans tell computers what kind of chips they want, and the computers lay out the chip and design the testing regime. That has been the case for years. The productivity of technology developers has increased so rapidly because machines do more and more of the work. I'm not sure that self-improving AI systems are all that different from what we have.

Postrel: It's still a process with AI and the human working together. It's just how you divide the work, and maybe it keeps on that way forever. I don't think Bernie Sanders knows anything about it. To be honest, I mean, he just knows he doesn't like AI because it's new and capitalist.

Morse: I don't think his heart is in the wrong place. But the tricky thing with something like this is definitional. It's like the question about when are we going to achieve AGI. [*Editor's note: Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) is an AI system that exceeds human cognitive capabilities across all areas.*] Maybe someday somebody declares that they've reached AGI. Other people say we have achieved it already. So I think the problem with purporting to ban "recursive superintelligence" is, how do we know what it is or when we reach it? I'm not sure a clear definition exists.

Krishnamoorthi: Superintelligence poses grave implications for society, and must be thought through critically. The legislation in question has 12 co-sponsors in Congress and was recently introduced, and I need to review it further.

PAW: There has been a lot of public opposition to data

centers. Is controlling data centers a way of controlling or slowing the development of AI?

Krishnamoorthi: A big aspect of this, which bugs the hell out of my constituents, is the secrecy surrounding data center development. Many of these data centers were not required to disclose their electricity or water consumption, and now that is driving the cost of living up in many communities. I focus on that because I think it hints at the larger concern about AI development in this country. Many people are concerned, with good reason, that somehow AI companies are going to get special treatment with regard to not only the development of data centers, but with the development of their technology, and it's going to be divorced from how it impacts ordinary Americans.

Felten: Data centers have become a political lightning rod because they are a very concrete thing that might happen in your town, unlike the development of AI, which is people you don't know developing something abstract far away from you. However, even if we prevented all new construction of data centers, we would only slow down the development of AI somewhat. We would certainly not prevent it. Because one of the big drivers improving this technology is people figuring out how to make it more efficient. The build out of data centers is only one of the factors driving AI progress, but it's not even clear that it is the biggest factor.

Morse: I also think that data centers have become the focal point for the larger public discontent about AI. Something like 60% [57%, according to an ABC/*Washington Post*/IPSOS poll] of Americans think AI is bad for society, and I think a lot of those people feel powerless to do anything about the processes of change. And there is a larger distrust of the tech community. Whether it is the use of cell phones or social media or other issues, they're all part of a broader societal shift in understanding that some of these technologies that were sold in a certain way haven't worked out for us the way we were told they would.

PAW: In the case of AI, is it worth asking why a handful of tech companies get to transform our society for their enrichment and without our input?

Postrel: AI companies are betting billions and billions of dollars on the idea that this technology isn't a bubble, that it is valuable, that people will, in fact, want to pay for it. Ultimately, there has to be some consumer value, whether it's for writing software or running businesses or making art or whatever. Politics is not the only way people express what they want. On an everyday basis, markets do that much more efficiently. Nobody asked for Starbucks, either. But once there was Starbucks, there was also competition to Starbucks and an explosion of better coffee.

Morse: Market preferences are a tricky thing. The group that is most opposed to AI is young adults. According to [the same ABC/*Washington Post*/IPSOS] poll, 65% of adults 18 to 29 think AI is bad for society. But that's also the group that uses AI the most. As someone who teaches college students, I think there's a very mixed relationship with AI. A lot of them use it but simultaneously don't like it, and I think that's similar to how a lot of students that age feel about social media. They're on Instagram, but if everybody got off Instagram, they think they would be happier in general. There are ways in which you can feel cultural and economic pressures to use something, even if you maybe think on a personal basis it is decreasing your happiness.

PAW: On a scale of 1 to 10, over the next five years, how likely do you think it is that we will have a COVID-level disruption caused by AI, and where do you think that is likely to occur? Let's define that as something, like a pandemic or a crash of the financial system or electrical grid, that disrupts daily life for a large number of people over several months.

Felten: I would put it at a 2. Low likelihood, but if it happens, it's probably a cyberattack against some core infrastructure, whether it's our communications, our electric grid, or something like that.

Morse: I would put it at a 6, maybe a 7. The only reason I don't rate it higher is because I'm hopeful that we're going to do something to try and address some risks. I see what's happened over the last six months, particularly since the alarm was raised about Anthropic's new AI models and then the Hugging Face incident. I see a lot of people trying to think hard about building safer AI, even if we are not getting regulation directly.

Postrel: I'm sort of like Julia. I would put the risk level at maybe 5. I'm more pessimistic about something happening, but I'm not at an 8. It's not because I necessarily believe the government will do something, but I think people in the private sector who work on things like cybersecurity are worrying about this. The AI labs are worrying about it.

I think we have a million times more to fear from bad actors misusing AI than from AI killer robots, which is the doomsday scenario we're being sold. I think we'll muddle through, but I think there's a high probability of something bad [happening].

Felten: We have a long history of muddling through complex technical issues.

Krishnamoorthi: The possibility I'm most concerned about is an AI investment bubble bursting and the resulting economic fallout. That said, concern about a market correction is not the same as predicting a financial-system collapse or a prolonged disruption to daily life. I'm wary of overstating either the likelihood or the potential impact, but I take the risk seriously. P



LET'S TALK

Scan the QR code or go online to **paw.princeton.edu/pawcasts** to listen to a PAWcast with the full discussion.

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



BASQUIAT,

the Blue Ribbon Paintings, and the Art of Reproduction

Through January 31, 2027

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM

Free to all.

This project is made possible by the generous support of individual and institutional donors, including the Richard C. von Hess Foundation.
Jean-Michel Basquiat, *Blue Ribbon II* (detail), 1984. Private collection. Artwork: © Estate of Jean-Michel Basquiat. Licensed by Artestar, New York



COURTESY OF PHILIP PEARSON '90

Trending Tonics

About a year ago, the a cappella group The Tonics started gaining traction on social media. Since then, its Instagram following has grown from about 500 followers to more than 100,000 as of November, with some videos racking up more than 4 million views. The 18-member group includes seven Princetonians: Jim Buck '81, Tom Cappola '91, Bob Clothier '83, Adam Cohen '93, Philip Pearson '90, Robert Richard '09, and Steve Townend '71. In October, they appeared on NPR's All Things Considered *and performed on the* Today *show. The group is pictured here during a June 14, 2025, performance at Citizens Bank Park in Philadelphia. Read more at paw.princeton.edu.*



MERRY AND BRIGHT
From left: Leslie Hermanson '97, Terry Hermanson '64, and Merril Hermanson Pope '06 look over holiday decor and designs at Mr. Christmas headquarters.

COURTESY OF LESLIE HERMANSON '97

MR. CHRISTMAS

This Family Is Spreading Holiday Cheer Year Round

BY JEN A. MILLER

CHRISTMAS DOESN'T COME JUST once a year for the Hermanson family. It's a year-round commitment that has spanned three generations.

It all started in the 1930s when Merril Hermanson, who created window displays for local businesses as part of his advertising job, found his creations became incredibly popular at Christmastime. "He realized two things: how window displays captivated people's imaginations, and they wanted those decorations in their own homes," says his son, Terry Hermanson '64.

Eventually, "the Christmas part eclipsed the advertising and doing store windows," says granddaughter Leslie Hermanson '97. Merril Hermanson officially founded Mr. Christmas in 1933 in West Virginia. When he married Lydia, the couple dedicated their lives to building the company, which sold holiday items through retailers and catalogs.

In 1949, the company moved to New York City, where it opened a temporary store at Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street during the holiday season. Terry Hermanson remembers that as a tween, "[I would] go down on the weekends during the Christmas season and sell our decorations," he says. Soon after graduating from Princeton with a degree in philosophy, he went to work for Mr. Christmas full time.

Now, more than 90 years after its founding, the business is still in the family under the leadership of sisters Leslie Hermanson '97 and Merril Hermanson Pope '06. Their sister Sarah Meister '94 is also on the company board of directors (and her son Lee Meister is currently in the Class of 2027 at Princeton). The company expects to sell millions of Christmas items this year, and has also expanded to sell items for Halloween, St. Patrick's Day, Valentine's Day, and Easter.

"It's unbelievable to see productions that were big 25 years ago are suddenly surging in popularity now. Everybody wants what they had as a kid."

— **MERRIL HERMANSON POPE '06**
Executive vice president, Mr. Christmas

Leslie and Merril took more circuitous routes back to the family business. After graduating with a degree in English, Leslie, CEO of the company, became a lawyer. "I was working for a firm and not really loving it, and thought maybe Mr. Christmas would be more meaningful," she says.

Merril, the executive vice president, graduated with a degree in art and archaeology and worked at startups and as a teacher while helping out with Mr. Christmas during the summers. During those summers, "I realized how incredible the operation was and so much bigger than I dreamed," she says. She eventually joined the company full time.

While the company is bigger now, its objective remains the same as when it was founded: to create unique and immersive indoor and outdoor Christmas items. The company was one of the first to use lights, music, and animation in decorations like ornaments, carousels, and artificial trees that they source and manufacture. It has also adapted to changing shopping habits. For example, Mr. Christmas ornaments were on the cover of the 1965 Sears Christmas catalog. As catalogs have gone out of style, the company now sells its products through about 100 retailers as wide-ranging as Walmart, Neiman Marcus, and QVC. The rise of e-commerce and MrChristmas.com has also enabled the company to sell directly to consumers.

Through those changes, they've stayed "faithful to that vision of making magical traditions for people at Christmas," Leslie says.

While the company works to provide new experiences with new technologies through its products (this year, it is offering a rotary phone with built-in AI so children can speak to Santa), its most popular items are nostalgic ones — ceramic light-up Christmas trees, Christmas carousels, and an animated, ladder-climbing Santa. For Christmas 2026, the company obtained a license from Mattel to reissue an animated Barbie carousel tree topper that it first sold in 1994.

"It's unbelievable to see productions that were big 25 years ago are suddenly surging in popularity now," says Pope. "Everybody wants what they had as a kid." Family connections are important, too. Another popular Mr. Christmas item is a "message in a bottle," which features a mini Christmas tree and recording device. When someone opens the bottle, the message plays.

Terry has kept sustainability in mind throughout his career. The Dec. 1, 1983, issue of PAW profiled his efforts to make a recyclable Christmas tree. While the idea didn't take off, he's now working on developing more sustainable packaging through his startup Papyros Packaging, while being semi-retired from Mr. Christmas (he is also on the board of directors).

All three credit Princeton for giving them an education that helped broaden their understanding of the world.

"I had no practical education at all from Princeton, and I'm proud and glad," Terry says wryly (while his daughters groan in the background). "Because of that I was really learning about the world."

But the apple hasn't fallen far from the tree. "Terry is one of the most intellectually curious people I know," says Leslie. She learned how to go down rabbit holes chasing an interest (such as Walt Whitman, who was the subject of her senior thesis), which she's carried forward. "Learning about very obscure corners of any subject was truly invaluable," she says.

Merril adds, "My best memories I have were of taking classes where I was a fish out of water. It kept me curious and wanting to learn more." P

ADOBE; COURTESY OF JAMIE BRICKELL '80



JAMIE BRICKELL '80

A Survivor of Pancreatic Cancer Now Works to Raise Survival Rate

BY VAN WALLACH '80

JAMIE BRICKELL '80 DIDN'T even know what his pancreas did until cancer of the organ threatened to kill him in early 2020. After surviving a disease with a five-year survival rate of only 13%, he became president of the PRECEDE (Pancreatic Cancer Early Detection) Foundation. Its mandate: to support the search for an early detection method for the third-leading cause of U.S. cancer-related death.

The road to PRECEDE started when Brickell, a partner at the New York law firm Pryor Cashman, lost 20 pounds in a month. With no family history of pancreatic cancer, he suspected food poisoning. Then he became jaundiced. Alarmed, his family urged him to seek medical attention. Scans ordered by his doctor in March 2020 led to a pancreatic cancer diagnosis. The tumor was on the head of his pancreas, blocking his bile duct and interfering with food digestion to the point where he couldn't keep food down. That and jaundice are major indicators of pancreatic cancer, in which tumors grow undetected until they spread to other organs such as the liver.



JAMIE BRICKELL '80

At that point pancreatic cancer becomes very difficult to treat, hence the low survival rate.

Treatment started with three months of chemotherapy followed by the nine-hour-long Whipple surgery, a procedure to remove pancreatic tumors pioneered by Allen Oldfather Whipple 1904. Brickell requested a quiet area for his recovery and found it — in the COVID ward at NYU Langone Hospital. He was the only non-COVID patient in the area, where all doors were tightly shut. "I thought this was a weird time to be going through this," he recalls.

More chemotherapy followed and by

November 2020 Brickell was cancer free. He gradually returned to a part-time work schedule. Grateful for his medical care, he became president (and is now chairman of the board) of PRECEDE, founded by Diane Simeone, the NYU Langone Health surgeon who performed the Whipple surgery on him. She's now director of Moores Cancer Center at UC San Diego Health and PRECEDE's chief scientific adviser.

Meanwhile, Stuart Rickerson '71 was also supporting pancreatic cancer research. A retired corporate executive, he was diagnosed in 2005 after thinking he had mild indigestion. During tests, his eyes turned yellow, an early indication of pancreatic cancer. An endoscopy revealed early stage pancreatic cancer; the Whipple surgery followed five days later. Rickerson retired from his corporate career after the surgery, but went on to serve as the audit/investment committee chair of the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network for nine years.

"Guys like Stu and me were lucky," says Brickell, "but you can't depend on luck."

They're working to enable early diagnosis of a form of cancer marked by only vague and indistinct indicators in the initial stage. The biology and location of the pancreas hinder early detection, as does the lack of a widely used screening test.

PRECEDE has a straightforward goal: Increase the five-year survival rate from 13% to 50% through early detection. (Brickell hopes to reach that goal over the next 5-10 years.) By contrast, the five-year survival rate across all combined cancer types is 70%.

To achieve the goal, the PRECEDE Consortium, supported by the foundation, takes an approach that differs from the siloed structure sometimes found in other research programs. The consortium is an observational longitudinal prospective cohort study, with serial biosample collection (every 6-12 months) and acquisition of standardized clinical and imaging data in defined high-risk groups. That effort coordinates research at 65 academic medical centers worldwide, including Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, the Mayo Clinic, the Sheba Medical Center in Israel, and the National Cancer Centre Singapore. Other participants represent clinicians, basic researchers, patients, and biopharmaceutical and technology companies.



STUART RICKERSON '71

Researchers aim to identify reliable biomarkers, develop early-detection blood tests, improve imaging technologies, and create evidence-based screening protocols. The consortium's participating institutions share materials collected from 11,000 participants enrolled from high-risk cohorts who may develop pancreatic cancer. For example, the cohorts have a family history of pancreatic cancer or are Ashkenazi Jews with genetic mutations linked to pancreatic and other types of cancer. The goal is to enroll 20,000 participants and build out a global dataset that can help answer questions around risk, reliability of biomarkers, and screening strategies.

As the foundation's president, Brickell has negotiated contracts and agreements with potential partners and medical centers, and sought out board members, noting, "I had a sense of how to get people contributing in ways that would be most helpful." The foundation raises $1 million to $2 million annually from corporate donations and agreements with research partners that gain access to high-risk cohorts, research findings, and opportunities to test emerging technologies. The funds support biological sample storage and data infrastructure needed for the global research.

Rickerson frames the pitch for support in terms of the potential impact on survival rates through early detection. He points to progress in detection and treatment of breast and prostate cancers, with five-year survival rates around 90%, noting, "If somebody wants to change the world quickly, this is the place to put your effort."

Brickell and Rickerson have leveraged their professional and personal connections for PRECEDE. Pryor Cashman, where Brickell has spent his entire career, provided substantial pro bono services. Partner Jeffrey Johnson worked on foundation matters; when he died of pancreatic cancer in 2024, his family requested donations be made to PRECEDE.

As an undergraduate, Rickerson played on Princeton rugby teams that won two Ivy League championships. He was also the founding chair of the University's rugby endowment. Pancreatic cancer awareness plays a role in the New Jersey Men's Intercollegiate Rugby Tournament and the Women's Invitational. Teams vie for the Rickerson Cup — named at the suggestion of the rugby team's captain at the time, Elaine Bigelow '10, whose father died of pancreatic cancer. The Princeton-based tournament raises money for pancreatic cancer research, with $710,000 collected since 2010.

Brickell and the PRECEDE Foundation continue to look for funding to reach the $4 million to $5 million needed to support the global network.

"We're reviewing companies that are potential partners and deciding who we can work with, who we think has the best chance of finding the early detection test," notes Brickell. "A lot of companies are trying to find a cure for it. And the truth of the matter is if you are discovered early, there already is a cure for it through the Whipple surgery." P

COURTESY OF STUART RICKERSON '71



MAKING MUSIC
Naaji Hylton '22, who goes by the stage name J. Paris, leveraged his high-paying tech job to fund his music career.

COURTESY OF NAAJI HYLTON '22

NAAJI HYLTON '22 & DANIEL GOODMAN '22

Trading Code for Chords

Two young alumni balance careers and musical ambitions

BY NGAN CHIEM '23

A SON OF JAMAICAN immigrants and the first in his family to graduate from college, Naaji Hylton '22 had two promising options upon graduation: an admission to Rutgers' medical school and a job offer from Amazon. While he ultimately chose the latter, his true passion was neither medicine nor software, but music.

For the next year, Hylton — who goes by the stage name J. Paris — deferred his acceptance to medical school and used the flexibility of his remote software engineer role at Amazon to write, record, and perform his music in his free time.

The music industry is notoriously difficult to break into, no matter your alma mater. There is no traditional recruiting engine, and competition — especially in a saturated streaming market — is fierce. By contrast, the tech industry has a well-established campus recruitment cycle with its typically handsome compensation packages, which helps make it a popular pipeline for Princeton graduates, even those with creative ambitions.

"December 2023, I released my first proper album, and I think after doing that I realized that I probably wanted to live a life where I had the opportunity to pursue what I felt like was my purpose."

— NAAJI HYLTON '22
musician J. Paris

"December 2023, I released my first proper album," Hylton says, "and I think after doing that I realized that I probably wanted to live a life where I had the opportunity to pursue what I felt like was my purpose," he says.

He withdrew his medical school application but kept his tech job at Amazon to help fund his musical pursuits. He currently has 4,000 monthly listeners on the streaming platform Spotify and has self-released four albums through Julian Street Records, which he co-founded, since 2021.

Daniel Goodman '22, who goes by the stage name DG the Artist, pursued a different, riskier path.

"I'mma work for four years / stack the paper, then dip / My career is not my life / and if it is I hope I quit," Goodman raps on his first album, released a few months before his graduation from Princeton. The line was a promise to himself, one that he fulfilled earlier this year when he quit his software engineering job at the live streaming platform Twitch to pursue a full-time music career.

Goodman has been making music since high school, but it wasn't until he came to Princeton that he found a community of fellow musicians who pushed him take his craft seriously. In his sophomore year, he joined FIRSTBASS,

a now-defunct campus freestyle rap group, where he met future collaborators like Hylton. Together with other artists, the two recorded tracks at Princeton's Woolworth Studio.

"We ended up being vice president and president. Or co-presidents? I forget," Hylton says. "But we met a ton of musicians there."

Hylton knows of another alum who is currently recording music while working his full-time job, but when PAW reached out, he declined to be interviewed for this story due to concerns about how his musical pursuits may be perceived by his employers.

Securing additional — or often, primary — sources of income is common practice within an industry that's been known to leave its aspiring artists in financial precarity.

"Music is not dead, right? But music's value in a lot of traditional ways has decreased and changed," Hylton says. He explains that the accessibility of streaming has made people feel entitled to free music. Sales of physical formats such as CDs are no longer viable revenue streams for most artists and record labels. The result is a saturated market of aspiring independent artists who must not only produce compelling music but also embody an appealing brand on social media to stand out.

Despite the challenges of making it as an artist, Hylton maintains that the dream is still alive, if you can leverage skills that the market finds valuable. In 2022, that was coding. In today's market, Hylton — who left Amazon and is now a senior applied AI engineer for Norm Ai — speculates skills in AI and entrepreneurship could serve as better safety nets for aspiring creatives.

"Maybe we started a trend," he says, laughing, "because Class of '25, Claire Shin, she had reached out because she's like, 'Hey, I want to do music, but I also want a job, because how long is it gonna take for music to make money?'"



COURTESY OF DANIEL GOODMAN '22

RISKS AND REWARDS

Daniel Goodman '22 quit his software engineering job at Twitch to pursue music full time. He goes by DG the Artist.

Goodman, likewise, has seen a positive response to the detailed videos he posts on his YouTube channel chronicling his decision to leave Twitch for music, with the initial announcement video garnering 1,900 views. "I'm trying to make a blueprint for people," he says. His latest EP is called *I QUIT MY DAY JOB*.

Neither Hylton nor Goodman aspires to climb the traditional corporate ladder, a sentiment reportedly echoed by other Gen Z workers. According to the 2026 *Gen Z and Millennial Survey* published by Deloitte, only 6% of Gen Z respondents say obtaining a senior role is their primary career goal, with those unconvinced citing concerns about burnout and lack of work/life balance. On the other hand, 96% say having a sense of purpose at work is important to their job satisfaction and well-being, a 10-point increase in the past three years.

"Our generation is probably just less fulfilled by, you know, what could fulfill a generation before," Hylton says. "Making Goldman Sachs an extra million dollars this year, you're not making the world a better place."

"I think there's a lot more in life to enjoy, at least for me personally, that I wouldn't be able to do if I was devoting all my time to just one company," Goodman says. While he admits pursuing music is in some ways like climbing the corporate ladder in terms of managing ambition and metrics — he says he currently sits at 200,000 streams across all platforms — Goodman is also careful to make sure his "aspirations stay healthy."

"Sometimes I think, 'I am insane for doing this,'" Goodman says about quitting his job. "But for my own sanity, for my own happiness, this is the only decision. I can't possibly have regrets over it, because I'm the happiest I've ever been these past few months." P

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

MEMORIALS



LISTEN TO OUR MEMORIALS PAWCAST

Visit paw.princeton.edu/pawcast to listen to a podcast where we reminisce about someone in the Princeton University community that recently died. Let us know of someone to discuss at paw@princeton.edu. This month's episode is about John V. Fleming *63.

THE CLASS OF 1947

ROBERT V. SILICIANO '47

Bob died Sept. 7, 2026, in Claremont, Calif., not long after his 100th birthday.

He graduated from Valley Forge Military Academy, majored in psychology at Princeton, and then went to the University of Rochester Medical School, where he met his future wife of 55 years, Ann McLaughlin. After Bob's orthopedic residency, they settled in Elmira, N.Y., where he joined an orthopedic practice and Ann taught biology at Elmira College and Corning Community College.

Generations of Elmirans are grateful to Bob and his partners for bringing the most advanced orthopedic procedures to this small town and for the superb care they received. Despite his hectic surgical schedule, Bob always had time for patients who only had low back pain and simply needed someone to talk to.

He was also extremely devoted to his family and proud of the five children he and Ann raised: Robert '74, John *79, Catherine, Paul '80, and Margaret. These five children, in turn, gave Bob and Ann 13 grandchildren, three of whom attended Princeton, and 16 great-grandchildren.

After retirement, Bob and Ann relocated to Claremont, where daughter Margaret resides with her husband, Eric. Margaret and Eric provided constant comfort and daily support over the years to Bob and Ann, who passed away in 2005. In later years, Bob developed a thirst for travel to exotic places, particularly Antarctica with his sister, Beverly. Bob is back with Ann now and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

THE CLASS OF 1949

MARVIN L. SEARS '49

Marvin died May 6, 2026, at his home in Westbrook, Conn.

He was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., and graduated from Brooklyn Polytechnic Preparatory School. At Princeton, he played varsity basketball and baseball, was a member of Key and Seal, and graduated with honors in philosophy, winning the McCosh Prize in Philosophy for his thesis. He earned his medical degree at Columbia and did a residency in ophthalmology, including as chief resident at the Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute.

In 1961, Marvin was recruited by Yale to build up its ophthalmology program, which led to the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science in 1971; he held the role of founding chair until 1993. Among many scientific contributions, he is known for his work in developing timolol, the first effective modern therapy for glaucoma. He was the author of over 200 publications in professional journals and was the recipient of numerous awards in ophthalmologic research, including the Friedenwald Lectureship. An endowed professorship was established in his name at Yale after he retired.

After taking up competitive tennis in his mid-70s, Marvin became a nationally ranked senior amateur tennis player, winning the national seniors championship in singles and doubles in 2013. With his family he shared a love of sports and the outdoors, especially the mountains.

At the time of his death, Marvin was serving as the vice president of the Class of 1949. He is survived by his wife, Jane Lederman; three sons; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his eldest son and his daughter.

THE CLASS OF 1952

MALCOLM T. CLELAND '52

Mal died Dec. 30, 2025, in Greenwood Village, Colo.



He came from Deerfield Academy and joined Dial Lodge. He majored in history and then served three years in the Marines before landing a financial analyst position at Northern Trust Co. in Chicago. He met his wife, Martha, and got a degree from Chicago University College of Business Administration in 1958. After several years, they moved to her hometown of Lincoln, Neb., where he joined her family's business, the Hill Hatchery, ultimately serving as treasurer. He then pivoted to the not-for-profit world, serving as president of the Better Business Bureaus in a few cities: Lincoln then to Lubbuck, Texas, and finally in Denver.

The class offers its condolences to his surviving sons; Bill, David, and Doug.

ROBERT L. GRIFFIN '52

Bob died Feb. 4, 2026, in Jacksonville, Fla.



He came from Andover to study economics and joined Cottage Club. He roomed with Paul Mueller, John Parker, and Ted Beck. Following graduation, he served as a ranger in the Army and then in the reserves for many years.

He settled in Jacksonville and married the love of his life, Joan, who died in 2023. Bob's career in real estate finance began in Jacksonville and went on to Los Angeles, where Bob was CEO of the Ralph C. Sutro Co., which later became Metmor Financial until his retirement in 1989. Widely known and liked, he was president of both the California Mortgage Bankers Association and the National Mortgage Bankers Association.

The class extends its condolences to his grandchildren.

GEORGE QUINCEY LUMSDEN JR. '52

Quincey died Feb. 11, 2026, in Washington, D.C.



He came to us from Deerfield Academy, majored in psychology, and joined Charter Club. He served as an officer in the Navy, joined the Foreign Service in 1957, and went on to study at Georgetown University and the Foreign Service Institute of the Department of State, studying Arabic and economics.

He had a long career in the Foreign Service, serving in several important posts and as deputy director of Arabian Peninsula affairs. As ambassador to the UAE, he served to strengthen diplomatic and economic ties at a formative period in bilateral relations.

After retiring from the Foreign Service, Quincey served in Paris as director for oil market developments at the International Energy Agency.

The class extends its condolences to his wife, Helen; and his children, Catherine (Michael Davila) and William '85 (Margaret Cain Lumsden '85).

HERBERT C. OVEN '52

Herb died Dec. 15, 2025, in Tulsa, Okla.

He came from St. Paul's School, majored in geology, and joined Cottage Club.

He did graduate work at the University of Oklahoma before serving in the Navy. After 25 years with Procter in Enid and



Tulsa, Okla., he left to be vice president of Uplands Resources in Tulsa.

Always good at sports, Herb took his family on many ski trips to Aspen and Vail.

The class extends its good wishes to his wife, Deane; and children, Herbert Jr., Peter, and Margot '84.

THE CLASS OF 1954

JAMES H. FUHRER '54

Jim died Nov. 29, 2025.



He attended New Rochelle (N.Y.) High School and was active in football, track, and glee club. At Princeton, he majored in electrical engineering, joined Cloister Club, and sang in the freshman and varsity Glee Clubs and the Chapel Choir.

After marrying Diane Druding in August 1954 and two years of service in the Navy, he pursued an M.S.E.E. at Columbia while starting a 38-year career working at Sperry Gyroscope (later Unisys and Paramax). During that career, he earned three more master's degrees as he moved from designing microwave tubes to development of radar and weapons systems, application software for military systems and software research/AI applications.

A devoted family man, he enjoyed dancing with Diane, playing tennis and golf, and summers at Lake George. He continued his love of singing in choral organizations and church choirs and was an active participant in Princeton and Class of '54 affairs.

He is survived by Diane, their four sons James '77, Jeffrey '79, Valentin (SUNY '83), and Robert '84; six grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1955

GERALD H. ROSEN '55 *59

Gerald died June 12, 2026, in Haverford, Pa.



He was born in 1933 and graduated from A.B. Davis High School in Mount Vernon, N.Y. At Princeton, Gerald was a member of Elm Club, participated in the Air Force ROTC program, and graduated with distinction with degrees in physics and mechanical and aerospace engineering.

Gerald continued graduate studies at Princeton, receiving his Ph.D. in physics in 1959. After completing his doctorate, Gerald had a post-doctoral fellowship at the Institute for Theoretical Physics in Stockholm, where he continued the research he had done at Princeton. Returning to the United States, Gerald served as a consultant in the weapon systems evaluation division at the Pentagon. He then became a principal scientist at Martin Marietta in Baltimore, where he met and married Sarah Louise Sweet.

Gerald returned to academia in 1966, accepting a full professorship in the physics department at Drexel University. He was appointed M.R. Wehr Professor of Physics at Drexel in 1973 and remained there until his retirement, publishing nearly 300 papers and two books. His research explored a wide range of areas in theoretical physics, and he also applied principles of physics and mathematical analysis to other disciplines, including biology, chemistry, and engineering.

Gerald had a great sense of humor and enjoyed watching comedies with his family and drawing cartoons. He was an avid chess player, a skilled tennis player, a dedicated aquarist who bred exotic fish, and he loved to travel with his wife, Sarah.

Predeceased by Sarah in 2012, Gerald is survived by his son, Lawrence *91, and his daughter Karlyn; their spouses; and four grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1957

JOHN D. DE LA RONDE BAQUIÉ '57

Ronde died June 3, 2026.



A native Texan, with family roots in New Orleans and Louisville, he came to college from Phillips Academy. At Princeton, he majored in politics, joined Cottage Club, and played freshman and varsity soccer. He also participated in the Campus Fund Drive, the Clothes Drive, and Triangle. Showing leadership skills in ROTC, he served as commander of the Howitzer drill team and the battery, and a battalion staff officer. Senior year he roomed with Mike McTighe, Miller Ream, and Whit Wales.

Completing his military obligation after graduation, Ronde served in Korea, with stints in Japan, Europe, and the Suez area, and he attained the rank of captain. He then got his MBA at Harvard and worked at Procter & Gamble. During this period, he married Nancy Joyce, an alumna of Columbia, and they moved to Louisville, Ky., where he was a senior executive of Kitchen Mart. Moving on to Velcro Corp. and then becoming president of Benefit Programs, Ronde settled in Fairfield, Conn., with Nancy and their family of five children, John, Ashley, Scott, Graham, and Alexander. Later they moved to New Haven, Conn., where he became a partner in Performance Audits and where he helped to restore the historic neighborhood of Wooster Square.

Upon retirement, Ronde and Nancy moved to Bethesda, Md., to be near some of their children. He served as chairman of the board of Peace Meal Ministries, as well as the head cook. Nancy predeceased him in 2006, and he is survived by his five children and their families.

L. ROBERT MILES '57

Bob died May 10, 2026, a resident of California.



A New York City native, he came to Princeton from Montclair (N.J.) High School. Majoring in SPH English, he joined Prospect Club and was active as an Orange Key keyceptor, a trustee of the University Store, and as the student manager of the Student Center. Senior year he roomed with Tom Farer and Ed Said.

Continuing with his education after college, he earned an M.A. in teaching at Wesleyan, after which he became a teacher and then head of the English department in the Weston, Conn., school system. During this time, Bob married Georgia Braton, and they had two children, Cathy and Hal. Then came a move to California, where he earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in English at UCLA. After a divorce, he married Denise MacLachlan.

Bob moved to Sacramento, Calif., and continued his career at Sacramento State, retiring as a full professor. He is survived by Denise and his children and their families.

DONALD H. STREETT '57

A noted investment counselor, Don died in his hometown of St. Louis June 7, 2026.



The son of Rolla W. Streett 1926, Don attended St. Louis Country Day School and graduated from the Hotchkiss School, where he was class president. At Princeton, he majored in psychology and joined Cottage Club, for which he participated in IAA sports and became a member of the Interclub Committee. He also was secretary of the Campus Fund Drive and a member of the Keycept Steering Committee. Senior year he roomed with Henry Bose, Bill Dohrmann, Charlie Greathouse, Ned Massengill, Dick Weil, and George White.

Don served six months of active duty in the Army and more than five years in the Army Reserve, attaining the rank of sergeant. During this time, he married Helen Perry Bulkley (known as "Perry"), a graduate of Briarcliff College, and worked in investment real estate in St. Louis. There followed a career in investment banking with Brown Brothers Harriman. In 1992, he founded and served as a name partner in the investment advisory firm of Duncker, Streett & Co. He and Perry were active community members, with Don serving as a director and board chairman of several private schools in the St. Louis area, and with Perry acting as an administrator at them. He also was chairman of the Bellefontaine Cemetery Association and the St. Louis Community Foundation.

Don is survived by his wife of 68 years, Perry; their daughter, Carolyn; sons David

and Michael; and their families. Two of his children predeceased him.

RICHARD J. WERTHEIMER '57

Dick died July 2, 2026, at the age of 90 in Davidson, N.C.



Born in New York City, he grew up in Mount Vernon, N.Y., where he met Loretta Cancell in junior high school. They were married for 69 years when he died.

After A.B. Davis High School came Princeton, where Dick studied at the Woodrow Wilson School, led the University Band, and was president and bicker chairman of Campus Club. He also was a member of the Undergraduate Music Council and the Interclub Committee. Senior year he roomed with Dick Cooper.

Next came Harvard Law School and the U.S. Justice Department under the honors program. He litigated for the antitrust division for five years. Then, he was a lawyer for USAID, where he served in India, Turkey, and Washington, D.C. In 1968, he changed to private law practice with Arnold & Porter in Washington, and in time he became a senior partner.

Loretta, a Mount Holyoke graduate, and Dick got married in 1957 and had four children, Amy, John, Michael, and Daniel. Loretta earned a Ph.D. and served as an assistant vice president at the University of Maryland. Dick's brother, Tom, was a member of the Princeton Class of 1960.

In 1996, they both took early retirement and moved to Davidson, N.C. They liked the town, the college, and the closeness to their family.

Dick is survived by his wife and children and their families.

THE CLASS OF 1958

Z. PHILIP AMBROSE '58 *63

Phil died Feb. 11, 2025, in Burlington, Vt. He was 89.



He came to Princeton from Neville High School in Monroe, La., where he was active in dramatics and the band. At Princeton, Phil majored in classics, was a member of Cloister Inn, and was active in Glee Club, Chapel Choir, and the St. Paul's Society. He remained at Princeton and earned an M.A. and Ph.D.

Phil joined the faculty in the Department of Classics at the University of Vermont in 1962, where he made his career and served as chair (1973 to 1992; 2001 to 2006) until retiring in 2006. His teaching of Greek mythology was legendary and attracted students from a wide range of interests and disciplines. He built and maintained high school Latin and foreign language programs in the state, establishing Vermont Latin Day in 1977, an annual event that still brings hundreds of secondary school students to the UVM campus from around the state.

In 1965, he married Jane Perlis and they had two daughters and three grandchildren. Jane died Nov. 1, 2015, and Phil married Gretchen van Slyke, a professor of French at UVM.

Phil is survived by Gretchen, his children and their families, and his nephews and their families. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.

ROBERT F. BROWN JR. '58 *60

Bob died May 20, 2025.

He graduated from Lower Merion High



School in 1952. At Princeton, he majored in architecture, ran hurdles, was captain of the track team, and joined Cannon Club.

His roommates were Hank Bruce, John Dennis, Jim Gilbert, Glenn Kelly, Ed Midgely, Kit Rudge, Gene Shahan, and Tom Shearer. The group called themselves "Pause and Ponder" and lived over Little Blair Tower, occupying an entryway.

After graduating in 1958, Bob stayed on at Princeton, earning an MFA in architecture.

Jim Gilbert introduced Bob to Mary Lou Brinckerhoff in 1958, and more than 65 years later, Mary Lou still says she fell in love at first sight. Bob and Mary Lou had four children, Robert, Julie, Elizabeth, and Chris, settling in Philadelphia in 1964. Bob joined the architectural firm of Geddes, Brecher, Qualls, and Cunningham in 1964 in Philadelphia. He worked closely with Bob Geddes, former dean of architecture at Princeton, and George Qualls during his years at the firm, where he eventually became partner. Bob designed many buildings, including at the hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

Bob became interested in urban design. He worked on the waterfront plans for Hartford, Conn., Hoboken, N.J., and numerous other cities. Bob and Mark Keener formed their own urban design firm, Brown and Keener, focusing on town growth and the preservation of farmland. In addition, Bob taught graduate urban design at the UPenn for 10 years.

Everyone who knew Bob loved him, his stylish bow ties, and his loyalty to family and friends.

Bob is survived by Mary Lou; his children and their spouses; and grandchildren Mona, Emma, Abigail, Connor, Megan, Katherine, Fiona, and Cole.

EDWARD K. JOHNSTONE II '58

Ed died Oct. 18, 2025, in Washougal, Wash. He was 89.

He came to Princeton from the Hotchkiss



School, where he was active in basketball, baseball, soccer, glee club, and the yearbook.

At Princeton, Ed majored in economics and was a member of Tower Club, where he became a power in IAA competition partly because of his height and partly because he was skilled in volleyball and basketball. Finding "Ed" too much of a mouthful, his clubmates dubbed him "Knox."

After graduation he was commissioned as an ensign in the Naval Reserve and immediately went on active duty. From the Navy, he earned an MBA in finance at Stanford in 1963. There he met Martha Campbell and they were married in June 1963.

They returned to Keokuk, Iowa, his hometown, and had two children. Ed joined his father in a bank where he eventually became chairman of the bank and president of the bank holding company.

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

WILLIAM M. STANGER '58

Bill died Oct. 23, 2025, in Tucson, Ariz., at 89 years.



A native of Cranford, N.J., he graduated from the Pingry School as valedictorian in 1954, then graduated with honors from Princeton with a BS in electrical engineering. At Princeton, he was a member the Key & Seal and served as the executive editor of *The Daily Princetonian*.

His early career started with GE's Technical Marketing Training Program which sent him to Lynchburg, Va., where he met his future wife, Alice Miller. They married and moved to Phoenix. Life and career took them to Houston, Phoenix again, the San Francisco Bay area, and to Summit, N.J., where they lived for almost 25 years. His last position was with AT&T Solutions in Morristown before retiring to their beloved desert in Tucson.

Retirement hobbies included joining the AARL as a volunteer amateur radio operator, where he enjoyed teaching ham radio to young enthusiasts and disaster preparedness/response. He also enjoyed building/flying model planes and developing complicated spreadsheets to analyze everything.

His family most remembers his dry humor, keen wit, warmth, and generosity. He is survived by his wife of 64 years and their three children.

ARTHUR VAN BERGEN TEBBUTT '58

Art died May 22, 2026, in Ames, Iowa. He was 89.

He came to Princeton from Evanston High School, where he was active in wrestling,

track, and the glee club. At Princeton, Art was on the freshman wrestling team, where he was undefeated, but he broke his hand in sophomore year and stopped wrestling. He spent 1958-59 in France and graduated in 1959.

After graduation he married Maryan Bauer in 1962 and earned a Ph.D. from Northwestern. He taught high school in the Cincinnati public schools, during which they had four children. Art loved dancing, playing bridge with friends, sharing wrestling tips with local high school students, table tennis, running, and traveling the world with Maryan. In 1998, the couple bought a home in Door County, Wis., where their children and grandchildren would gather every summer — and still do.

Art is survived by his children, Amy Dugan (Michael), Charles (Sharon), and Dorie Allen (Mike); and grandchildren Andrew, Ian Caroline, Hailey, Ander, Henry, and Mary. He was predeceased by son Andrew, his brother James, and his beloved wife, Maryan. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.

THE CLASS OF 1959

HARLEY HAYNES '59

Harley, who had a long and distinguished career as professor of dermatology at



Harvard Medical School, died Jan. 14, 2026, in Bedford, Mass. Survived by his children, Edward, Caitlin, and Ethan. He was predeceased by his wife, Nancy, whom he had met at Wellesley during his sophomore year while selling subscriptions to the *Princeton Tiger* magazine.

Born in Akron, Ohio, Harley was a graduate of Western Reserve Academy, where he was on the track team and yearbook staff. At Princeton, he served on the Undergraduate Schools Committee, belonged to the Pre-Medical Society, ate at Charter Club, served as vice president of the Hispanic Club, was a member of the Latin America Club, and majored in the Latin-American division of the Special Program in European Civilization, all while earning a *magna cum laude* degree. His senior-year roommates were Jim Sinclair and Dick Woods.

Continuing his academic prowess, he went from Princeton to Harvard Medical School, where he graduated *cum laude* with a specialty in dermatology. Then followed a two-year tour as a surgeon with the Public Health Service, preceding his life's work in dermatology at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston and teaching at Harvard Medical School, careers earning him honors and awards too numerous to list here.

G. THOMAS FOX JR. '59

Tom, living in Reykjavik, Iceland, succumbed to prostate cancer Sept. 4, 2024.



The oldest of seven children, he came to us from West Madison High School in Wisconsin, where he played football, basketball, and tennis, and was sports editor of the yearbook. At Princeton, he played varsity football, joined Cannon Club, belonged to Army ROTC, and majored in math. After his obligatory Army service, he earned a Ph.D. in education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison leading to a career teaching teachers in the U.S., the U.K., and Iceland, in which he used his innovative, creative, and often unorthodox teaching methods that he termed "edGe-ucation", a concept for teaching educators that sought to bring students directly to the constantly advancing frontiers of knowledge.

After many years at National Louis University in Chicago, he retired as professor emeritus. Intellectually active to the end, he published his last book *On Becoming edGe-ucated* (Educational Research Institute) in 2023.

His first marriage brought him three older children. After that marriage failed, in 1993 he married Anna Joelsdottir, a gifted artist from Iceland. They retired to Iceland in 2014 and enjoyed a total of more than 30 years together. To Anna, their children, and Tom's siblings, the class extends its sincere condolences.

THE CLASS OF 1962

CARL V. SCHIEREN '62

Carl came to us from Phillips Andover, where he played soccer, ran track, and was



president of the chorus. At Princeton, he majored in history, ran cross country, sang with the Nassoons, served as a Keyceptor, and belonged to Colonial Club.

After earning a master's degree from Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs, Carl built a distinguished career in education and international development, focusing on Africa. For several years he served as director of externally funded programs, grants, and exchanges at the American University in Cairo. There he met Afaf Mahfouz. They married in 1978.

In 1985, Carl and Afaf returned to the U.S., where Carl became a vice president of the African American Institute, working on higher education, training, and institution building in Africa. In the late 1990s Carl worked closely with Afaf, then president of the Conference of NGOs at the U.N., to expand the influence of civil society organizations — culminating in the May 2000 Millenium Forum gathering a thousand organizations from 100 countries at the U.N.

A dedicated runner, Carl's races included marathons in Cairo, London, New York, Boston, and D.C.

Afaf died in 2023. Carl died Sept. 24, 2025, in Palm Beach, Fla.

THE CLASS OF 1963

ROBERT P. MCCAUGHEY '63

Bob died May 10, 2026, at his home in Monroe, N.Y.



A native of Schenectady, he graduated from Mont Pleasant High School there where he was a standout student and athlete. Bob majored in economics, wrote his thesis on "The Growth of Publicly Owned Corporations in Farming," and took his meals at Cottage Club. At 6-foot-10, Bob was our tallest classmate and played on the freshman, J.V., and varsity basketball teams during his first three years. He played inter-club athletics his senior year. His roommates at the top of Blair Tower were Gouldin, Hyland, Kent, and McBride.

While home from Princeton on break, Bob met the love of his life, Mary Anne Martin. They married in 1963 shortly after both graduated, and later settled in Monroe, where they raised their family and Bob established the beautiful flower gardens that he cultivated for the rest of his life. They had a summer home in the Saratoga Springs region, where they enjoyed the horse races, fishing, and the Adirondack Mountains.

Bob began his career at General Electric. He later specialized in water treatment and held management positions at companies including Permutit and Zurn. Ultimately, he started his own consultancy, Business Development Services.

Mary Anne died in 2013, their 50th year of marriage, of pancreatic cancer. Their survivors include daughter Jocelyn; son Matthew; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1964

WILLIAM K. BOONE JR. '64

William died Oct. 19, 2024, at his home in Mexico City, surrounded by his four children.

He was born in Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico. His family later moved to Mexico City, where he graduated from Colegio Tepeyac, a private Catholic school. Following his father (William K. Boone '31) to Princeton, his time there, dining at Charter, reinforced his love for history, mathematics, physics, and astronomy, leading to a life as researcher and traveler.

Although never a religious person, he believed in being kind and loving to all,

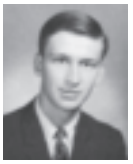
humans, animals, plants, and even rocks, mountains, sea, and the universe in general. Through actions more than words, he taught the value of responsibility, honesty, and perseverance. He understood that true success was not measured by possessions, but by his calm nature, thoughtful advice, and ability to listen without judgment.

William married Irene Fernandez Godard in Mexico City in 1967. As a father to their four children, he was a guiding light — steady, patient, and supportive, encouraging growth, independence, and kindness. His legacy will endure in the values he instilled, the memories created, the love shared, and for the lasting impact made on every life he touched.

To his children, Irene, William, George, and Lorance and their families, the class offers its condolences.

JOHN J. PETRUSH '64

John died Nov. 20, 2025, in Moon Township, Pa.



He came to Princeton from Lincoln High School in Midland, Pa., where he was an officer of several student organizations and valedictorian of his class. At Princeton, he graduated with honors in Public and International Affairs through the Woodrow Wilson School and wrote his thesis on Adam Clayton Powell and racism in politics. John took his meals at the Court Club and was active in Whig-Clio, Triangle Club, Semper Fidelis, the *Bric-a-Brac,* and the *Nassau Herald*.

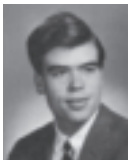
After graduation John attended Stanford Law School and received his L.L.B. in 1967. He lived in San Francisco for a year before moving back to Beaver, Pa., where he established his private law practice. For many years, he served as the Beaver borough solicitor, and he was an active member of the Pennsylvania Trial Association. John's favorite hobby was traveling.

The class extends its condolences to his beloved wife, Lenora Partel; his children John Jr. and Joshua; and grandchildren Cecelia and Nicholas.

THE CLASS OF 1965

RICHARD L. BROWN II '65

Dick, our longtime reunion chair and class president, joined us from George School



in Newtown, Pa. At George School, he played varsity soccer and tennis and was active in the religious life committee. At Princeton, he played freshman squash and tennis and continued at the very bottom of the tennis ladder. He roomed with Kime all four years and with Luddy, Lindenfeld, Bobo, Cochran, Zeller, and Metzger for one year. Dick took his meals at Dial Lodge, where he was elected club gentleman based on a promise not to throw rolls on party weekends. He elected Special Program in European Civilization with a focus on Spanish and American history as his major and wrote his thesis on the Central American Economic Union.

Dick became active in class affairs at our 15th reunion, serving the Class of 1965 for 20 years as president (1985-90 and again 2015-2020) and reunion chair (2005-2015). He was always proud of the idea to book two bands for Reunions ensuring that the music never stopped, that the Class of 1965 always held a rockin' reunion, drawing in the younger classes, and being the place to go if you wanted to dance the night away! Dick was wise, considerate, and a true gentleman.

Dick died July 1, 2026, at home after a lengthy battle with cancer.

HAROLD HELM '65

Harold died July 1, 2026.

He was raised in Louisville, Ky., and



attended Louisville Country Day School. At Princeton, he majored in politics and was a member of Cottage Club.

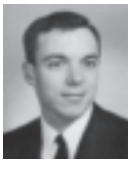
After Princeton, Harold joined and served in the Kentucky Air National Guard starting in 1966 with four months of active duty and then in the reserves until 1970. After his active duty, he spent two years in New York as a banker before moving back to Kentucky to join his brother in real estate. He met and married Anne Marie Yinkey while in New York. The union produced two boys and two girls. His conventional real estate business transitioned into a medium-sized auction firm by 1985, selling real estate and doing business liquidations, which he carried on with for the rest of his career. In 2010, he and Anne Marie followed their children and grandchildren to the San Francisco area in a move that suited them very much.

One of Harold's long-time projects was to hike the length of the Appalachian Trail from Springer Mountain, Ga., to Mount Katahdin, Maine. In 2014, 42 years after his start, he was joined by his daughter, Maggie, in the final climb up Katahdin. Harold also played golf, hunted, and skied, but was most focused on his wife Anne Marie and their five grandchildren. The class sends them and his four children our sympathy and thoughts.

ALLEN SHEPTOW '65

Allen died May 15, 2026.

He attended Phillips Academy before



Princeton. At Princeton, he was in the Woodrow Wilson School and was a member of Colonial Club.

After Princeton, he earned a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1969.

He moved to Bay Harbor, Fla., where he was a member of the bar for over 50 years.

Allen is survived by his son, Josh.

THE CLASS OF 1966

RICHARD G. MORGAN '66

Tiny died June 14, 2026.

He came to Princeton from Houston's



Lamar High School, where he played football and was president of the mixed chorus and his fraternity. At Princeton, he majored in history and was social chairman of Key and Seal and assistant IAA chairman. His comedic turns in Triangle Club productions never failed to bring the house down. On campus, it was hard to miss Tiny. He was a commanding presence, both physically and in personality. His infectious enthusiasm was always on display. It was hard to be around him without smiling, if not laughing out loud.

After earning a law degree at the University of Texas, he specialized in energy law in Washington, D.C., where he anchored the monthly Princeton '66 lunch club. After 30 years in Washington, he was recruited to open the Houston office of a national law firm. The office grew to more than 50 attorneys under his leadership.

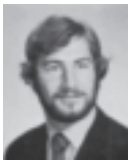
With Turk Thacher, Tiny was co-chairman of class Reunions for many years, bringing the same exuberance he exhibited as an undergraduate. For decades, he interviewed applicants to Princeton. Tiny retired at the end of 2005, and he and Betty Lou moved to Montgomery, Texas. In retirement, he enjoyed reading, traveling, playing tennis, and singing.

The class extends its heartfelt condolences to Tiny's family and friends.

THE CLASS OF 1972

THOR ROBERT RHODIN '72

Robin died March 13, 2025, in New York City after a battle with pancreatic cancer.



He was born April 23, 1950, in Ithaca, N.Y., to Elspeth Lindsay and Thor N. Rhodin *46. He attended Ithaca High School before matriculating at Princeton. He majored in English; his senior thesis was "Myth in Poetry of Ezra Pound and Thomas Stearns Eliot." He was a member of Cap and Gown, played rugby, and skied for the ski team.

Robin earned an M.S. in biochemistry from Cornell and a medical degree from the Albany Medical College, training as an orthopedic surgeon and receiving a fellowship in sports medicine at Hughston Clinic.

He met and married his wife, Maura, in Boston, relocating to Beaufort, S.C. There he established a 25-year orthopedic surgery

practice, after which Robin moved to Stony Brook, Long Island.

Robin is remembered for his unwavering curiosity and dedication to the care of those around him.

Robin was predeceased by his parents, his former wife, Maura, and his sister, Ann Elspeth Rhodin. He is survived by his children, Thor, Maren, and Callie; granddaughter Simone; and brothers Lindsay and Jeffrey.

THE CLASS OF 1974

JOYCE Y. COSBY '74

Joyce died June 15, 2026, in Middleburg, Fla.



Originally from Gainesville, Fla., she came to Princeton from P.K. Yonge Laboratory School, where she majored in biology. She earned her D.D.S. degree from Meharry Medical College in 1978 and after interning at Tacachale Center, she joined her father, E.A. Cosby, in his Gainesville practice. In 1995, she relocated to Atlanta, where she continued to practice and was dental director of the Fulton County Jail.

In 1985, Joyce married Clarence Harris with whom she had two sons, William and George. She was a life member and served as a past president of the Alachua County Branch of the NAACP and received the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Award in Alachua County. She also served as a commissioner for the Boy Scouts of America in southwest Atlanta.

Professionally, Joyce was a member of the Alachua County Dental Association, the Florida Dental Association, the Sunshine State Dental Association, and the National Dental Association. She served as a fellow of the American College of Dentistry. Joyce expressed her artistic talents through crafting and quilting, sharing her quilts with family and friends.

Joyce is survived by her sons and a sister, Leslie Edwards.

THE CLASS OF 1981

MARIA DOLORES CORTEZ '81

Loly died Oct. 5, 2024, in her native San Antonio, Texas.



She devoted her life and medical career to providing quality medical care to her community and her large extended family. Loly was the ninth of Bertha and Ramiro Cortez's 14 children. Beginning her education at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic School, Loly remained dedicated to her Catholic faith and was a longtime member of the Legion of Mary.

Loly majored in biology at Princeton and earned a medical degree from Baylor College of Medicine. She did her residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in cardiovascular disease at Baylor. Loly joined the University of Texas Health Science Center in 1999, where she maintained a clinical practice for 32 years and also specialized in the research of cardiovascular disease.

She remained spiritual, humble, and unpretentious throughout her life. She enjoyed painting and sketching as well as watching movies, plays, old TV reruns, and participating in family gatherings.

Loly was predeceased by her parents and her brother Armando Cortez. She is survived by her siblings, Father Ramiro Cortez, Carlos Cortez, Alfred Cortez, Suzzanna Currier, Lourdes Ramirez, Carmen Saldana, George Cortez, Olga Munoz, Paula Strelchun, John Cortez, Tom Cortez, and Sam Cortez.

ELIZABETH TANDY FOSTER '81

Liz died Feb. 6, 2022, in Alpine, N.J.



She grew up in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. At Princeton, she majored in classics and won the departmental thesis prize. After Princeton, Liz graduated from law school at Wayne State University. She practiced employment law and worked with several small firms before developing her own law practice. As a lawyer, Liz was a fierce advocate for those who had been subject to discrimination. She helped clients who struggled to get others to represent them, and cared passionately about their cases, lives, and well-being.

Liz was married to Henry Winters, who preceded her in death. Liz was also predeceased by her mother, Audrey, and her siblings Allysia and John. Liz is survived by her children, Katherine and Daniel; grandchildren Juliet and Henry; brothers Richard and David; and sister Gwendolyn.

ELIZABETH FRANK '81

Beth died Jan. 21, 2022, in Uniontown, Ohio.



At Princeton, she majored in history and was a member of Dial Lodge. She was also advertising manager of *The Daily Princetonian*. After Princeton, Beth lived in Beijing, where she taught English, and in Hong Kong, where she worked as a Chinese business consultant. She was also involved in the Special Olympics prior to her call to ordained ministry.

Beth graduated from Bexley Hall Seminary and served in five parishes in the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio, where she was a diocesan trustee. She also served as vice chair of the Episcopal Standing Commission on World Mission and worked in a companion relationship with Belize.

In a sermon referencing her life, Beth quoted the Yiddish proverb, "Man plans. God laughs." Prior to seminary, she attended law school in Cleveland and became a federal litigator specializing in fair housing and civil rights.

Beth is survived by her father, Paul Jr., and brother, Paul III. The Class of 1981 extends its sympathy to them.

DAVID L. JACOBS '81

David died May 29, 2021, in Bronxville, N.Y.



He was a history major at Princeton. A self-described "history buff," he was a voracious reader and a lifelong baseball fan. At home, he could often be found reading a lengthy presidential biography or glued to a Mets game on television. David was an incredibly hard worker and spent a long career as a stockbroker at H. Rivkin & Co.

David came to Princeton after growing up in Hollywood and the San Fernando Valley. During his time there, David and his family took frequent trips around the West Coast and Southwest. This created a love of road trips that he later shared with his wife and daughters. David found joy in many of life's simple pleasures. He spent his weekends going on hikes around the Hudson Valley, taking Saturday trips to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and browsing through local library book sales.

David is survived by his wife, Mary Weston Jacobs; daughters Rebecca and Elizabeth; and brother Harry Jacobs.

MARK LEWIS RHODES '81

Mark died April 1, 2022, at Advent Hospital in Winter Park, Fla.

He was born in Mumbai, India, and spent his formative years in Europe and in New York City. Prior to Princeton, Mark graduated from Saint Paul's School. He majored in English at Princeton.

He was senior director of media at Universal Creative in Orlando. Mark was involved in the creation of many of Universal Studios' major theme park attractions worldwide, from Spiderman to Harry Potter. Previously, he was an influential writer and producer at Walt Disney Imagineering, where he contributed to attractions such as the Magic Kingdom's Splash Mountain and Epcot's Maelstrom. He also had roles with SeaWorld and Busch Gardens.

Mark is survived by his wife of 33 years Elisabeth; their children, Sarah and Niklas; and his siblings, John and Lydia. The Class of 1981 extends its sympathy to Elizabeth and all of Mark's family.

THE CLASS OF 1982

CAROLINE DONHAUSER '82

The Class of 1982 mourns the passing of Caroline, who died Aug. 9, 2025.



She came to Princeton from the Nightingale-Bamford School in New York. She majored in Slavic languages and literature and dined at Colonial Club. Returning to New York after college, she taught English as a second language for two years, then joined the Peace Corps, serving two years in Morocco.

After the Peace Corps, Caroline attended Columbia Law School and joined the office of the Brooklyn district attorney, where she stayed for her entire legal career, specializing in appeals, legislative affairs, and finding alternatives to incarceration for young and first-time offenders.

Caroline retired in 2020 and spent her time since then pursuing her interests in literature, the visual arts, cooking, gardening, foreign travel, and the French language, which she spoke from her earliest days because her mother was French-Belgian. She also did volunteer work with recently arrived immigrants, helping them develop their English language conversational skills.

To Caroline's partner of 35 years, Victor Barall, and to her family and her Princeton friends, the class extends its deepest sympathies.

THE CLASS OF 1990

TANYA STASIUK '90

Tanya, remembered for her kindness, love, and quiet grace, died July 16, 2022. The class learned of her death only recently. She was a member of Mathey College and the tennis team.

Tanya was dedicated to public service, believed serving was an honor, and helped many people around the world.

She is survived by her husband of more than 17 years, Ed; and her four young daughters, Katherine, Laura, Kristin, and Shannon. She will be remembered as a loving parent and a selfless, kind, and caring soul.

THE CLASS OF 1992

MARK M. BANOVICH '92

Mark died a day after his 56th birthday, June 6, 2026, after a brief but brave battle with



glioblastoma. Diagnosed in October 2025, he spent his final months at home in Poitiers, France, surrounded by family and visited by longtime friends, who witnessed the good humor and grace with which he bore a devastating illness.

Raised in Connecticut, Mark was a Choate scholar before attending Princeton, where he majored in economics, edited *The Princeton Tory,* and graduated *magna cum laude.* He remembered his Princeton years for deep friendships and the profound influence of Opus Dei with its emphasis on holiness in ordinary life.

After earning his J.D. from Cornell Law School, Mark began working at LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae in New York. Eventually moving to Moscow, he became a partner and head of capital markets, joining Latham & Watkins in 2007 as managing partner.

At the age of 40 and at the height of his career, Mark surprised many by leaving law to dedicate himself entirely to his family and Catholic faith.

Deeply loved, Mark is survived by his wife, Eugenia; children Gregory, Alexandra, Mark, James, Thérèse, Pierre, and Irene; and his mother, Florence — the people he treasured and, perhaps, his most enduring legacy.

GRADUATE ALUMNI

FIELDING BROWN *53

At the age of 102, Fielding died April 4, 2026, in Westwood, Mass.

Born in 1924 in Berlin, N.H., Fielding served as a communications officer in the Army Signal Corps from 1944 to 1946. At Williams College he earned his B.A. in 1947 and a master's degree in 1949. In 1953, he completed his Ph.D. in physics at Princeton with a study of cosmic rays.

Fielding was a research physicist at Sprague Electric Co. before joining the physics faculty at Williams. He was named the MacMillan Professor in 1977. Fielding's teaching and research addressed topics in ferromagnetism, ferroelectricity, crystal growth, quantum electronics, semiconductors, and lasers.

His work generated discoveries with commercial, academic, and military applications, including in the areas of radar, nuclear fusion, astronomy, and communication between satellites. In the mid-1980s, he and his students designed an infrared laser that operated at a wavelength where none had previously been developed. They found that certain semiconducting materials functioned as exceptionally sensitive detectors of the infrared radiation produced by this new laser — which would be of considerable interest to astronomers studying the far infrared radiation from outer space.

Predeceased by his wife, Eleanor, he is survived by four daughters, four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

ARTHUR P. DEMPSTER *56

Arthur died in Cambridge, Mass., Jan. 30, 2026, at the age of 96.

Arthur was born in Toronto in 1929. He received a B.A. in mathematics and physics from the University of Toronto in 1952, and his Ph.D. in mathematical statistics from Princeton in 1956, studying under John W. Tukey *39.

After completing a teaching appointment at the University of Toronto, Arthur moved to New Jersey for a short stint at Bell Labs. In 1958, Arthur joined the newly established department of statistics at Harvard, becoming a full professor in 1964 and serving as chair between 1969 and 1985. He retired in 2005.

His contributions to theoretical statistics — including generalizations of Bayesian inference, Dempster–Shafer theory, multivariate statistics, and computation — are recognized within statistics and across the broader scientific community. His 1977 paper, co-authored with Nan Laird and Don Rubin, "Maximum Likelihood from Incomplete Data Via the EM Algorithm," has been among *Nature*'s most-cited papers. He was a fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, a fellow of the American Statistical Association, and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences

Arthur is survived by his wife, Elizabeth; children Rebecca, Ben, and Sara; and grandchildren Rowan, Aidan, and Gavin.

GERALD M. POMPER *59

At the age of 91, Gerry died May 21, 2026, in New Brunswick, N.J.

Born April 2, 1935, in the Bronx, Gerry completed his undergraduate work at Columbia in 1955 and earned a Ph.D. in politics at Princeton in 1959.

A scholar of American presidential politics and voting behavior, Gerry taught at City College of New York before moving to Rutgers in the 1960s. He was a Board of Governors Professor at the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers for nearly five decades.

Gerry authored or co-authored 22 books and won a lifetime achievement award from the American Political Science Association. In *Ordinary Heroes* (2004), he wrote that democratic heroes contribute to civic life "through their customary work," and that doing so "is heroism enough for a society of liberty and equality." His most recent work was a chapter about the 2024 presidential election.

Gerry's travels included serving as a Fulbright scholar at Tel Aviv University and Australian National University, and teaching sabbaticals at Oxford and Northeastern University, where he worked with 1988 Democratic presidential nominee Michael Dukakis.

Predeceased by his first wife, Marlene, Gerry is survived by their children Marc, David, and Miles; three grandchildren; and Sandra Bergelson, whom he married at age 88.

JAMES DOW HEDBERG *69

Jim died April 14, 2026, in Houston at the age of 90.

Born in Maracaibo, Venezuela, in 1936, Jim spent his early years moving among Gulf Oil Co. encampments with his family.

Jim received a B.S. in geoscience at Penn State in 1958, an M.S. at Stanford in 1961, and his doctorate in geology at Princeton in 1969.

Jim served as an officer in the Navy before beginning a 31-year career with Exxon, mainly as an exploration geologist in the U.S., Libya, Spain, Singapore, and Norway. He held leadership positions in exploration, development, technology, and exploration technical assessment.

During his tenure at Exxon, Jim was a visiting professor of graduate geology at MIT. Following retirement from Exxon, Jim became an adjunct research professor in the Earth Science & Resources Institute at the University of South Carolina. He was driven by a lifelong commitment to understanding the world beneath his feet.

Jim is survived by his wife, Nancy; his daughters, Randi, Linda, and Kristina; his brother, Gus; sister, Mary; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his daughter Laura Spalding.

LOUIS A. HIEB *72

Louis died in Seattle, April 13, 2026, at age 87.

Born April 11, 1939, in Carlsbad, N.M., he earned degrees at Grinnell (AB 1961), Yale Divinity School (M.Div. 1965), and Rutgers (MLS 1968) before completing a Ph.D. in anthropology at Princeton in 1972. His dissertation adviser was Alfonso Ortiz from Okay Owingeh Pueblo in New Mexico. After nearly 18 months of fieldwork on the Hopi Indian Reservation in Arizona, Louis completed his dissertation, "The Hopi Ritual Clown: Life as It Should Not Be."

Louis taught anthropology at Moorhead State and Washington State and worked in rare book and manuscript collections in libraries at the University of Arizona, University of New Mexico, and University of Washington. He specialized in vernacular architecture, the social scientific study of religion, and the history of anthropological theory.

Louis wrote or edited more than 40 articles and books on the Hopi, Navajo, Zuni, and Hispanic peoples of New Mexico and Arizona, including *The Doctor Danced with Us: Jeremiah Sullivan and the Hopi, 1881-1888,* and the Hopi portion of *Zuni, Hopi, Copan: Early Anthropology at Harvard, 1890-1893.*

He is survived by his wife, Sharon Aller; daughter Caroline; sons Matthew and John; stepchildren Jay and Joyce; and three grandchildren.

THOMAS E. ARMSTRONG *73

Tom died in Columbia, Md., Feb. 23, 2026. He was 79.

He was born Dec. 18, 1946, in Minneapolis. He studied mathematics at the Institute of Technology of the University of Minnesota, where he earned a bachelor's degree in 1967.

Tom began graduate studies at Princeton, earning a master's degree in math in 1969, after which he served in the Army at the Pentagon during the Vietnam War. Tom returned to Princeton and finished his Ph.D. in mathematics in 1973. The title of Jim's dissertation was "Poisson Kernels and Compactification of Brelot Harmonic Spaces." His adviser was Gilbert Agnew Hunt *48.

Tom held faculty or staff positions at the University of Michigan, the Institute for Defense Analysis, and the University of Minnesota before accepting a tenured position at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County. He taught mathematics there for 36 years.

Tom is survived by his wife of 56 years, Kathleen; his children Jane and Patrick; and his sister, Mary.

MICHELLE J. WHITE *73

Michelle died April 18, 2025, in San Diego.

She was born in 1945 in Washington, D.C. She graduated from Radcliffe in 1967, earned an M.Sc. degree from the London School of Economics in 1968, and a Ph.D. in economics from Princeton in 1973.

Prior to pursuing graduate education, she was a member of the Harvard Advisory Group, advising the Pakistani government, the only woman in the Pakistani government.

Michelle held faculty positions at UPenn, the Stern School at NYU, and the University of Michigan before becoming a professor of economics at the University of California San Diego in 2001.

Her research focused on bankruptcy law and urban economics. She studied how incentives created by bankruptcy law influence debtor and creditor behavior, credit markets, and economic efficiency. In public economics, she studied whether California's Proposition 13 causes homeowners' mobility to decline, and whether heavier SUVs and pickup trucks reduce traffic safety.

She was a role model for female economists through the American Economic Association's Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession, and was president of the American Law and Economics Association. She was an associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research and a visiting scholar at universities in Tel Aviv, Munich, Copenhagen, and Uppsala.

Michelle is survived by her husband, Roger Gordon; and sister, Margo.

JAMES A. LARRABEE *78

Jim died in Middlebury, Vt., March 17, 2026, after a hemorrhagic stroke. He was 72.

He was born July 20, 1953, in Dover, N.H. After earning his B.S. in chemistry at Trinity College in 1974, he earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from Princeton in 1978. His dissertation title is "Resonance Raman Studies of Copper Proteins."

After eight years as a research scientist at Exxon Research and Engineering in New Jersey, in 1986 Jim joined the Middlebury College chemistry faculty. For nearly four decades, Jim taught courses across every division of chemistry and mentored generations of students.

He held the William R. Kenan Jr. Chair of Chemistry (2005–14) and later the Viola Ward Brinning and Elbert Calhoun Brinning Chair of the Sciences. He also served as associate dean of the faculty (1998–2003) and helped plan Middlebury's McCardell Bicentennial Hall.

Jim's research on cobalt ions in enzymes using magnetic circular dichroism produced over 40 publications and 17 external grants.

Jim is survived by his wife of 33 years, Sunhee Choi *82; children Yuna Larrabee '06 s'06 and Yuri Larrabee '11 s'11; and grandchildren Jackson, Fletcher, Patrick, Delaney, and Sophie.

ROBERT V. KOHN *79

Bob died Jan. 12, 2026, in New York.

Born Oct. 5, 1953, in Shaker Heights, Ohio, he earned a degree in mathematics at Harvard in 1974 and a Ph.D. at Princeton in 1979, under the guidance of geometric measure theorist Fred Almgren.

Bob spent his career at NYU's Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, first as a two-year postdoctoral fellow, then as a member of the faculty. He became an NYU Silver Professor of Mathematics. Bob retired in 2022.

Bob's research began with his thesis on the rigidity of elastic deformations. He contributed to the field of semi linear partial differential equations, and made connections between geometric measure theory, the calculus of variations, and applied problems in plasticity, thin plates, inverse problems, and optimal design.

In the mathematical aspects of materials science, he identified mathematical issues in various open problems of physics and materials. Themes of homogenization, relaxation, and Gamma convergence are echoed throughout his work on composite materials, phase transforming materials, and plasticity.

A fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, American Mathematical Society, and SIAM, he received the SIAM Ralph E. Kleinman Prize for work bridging deep mathematics and real-world applications.

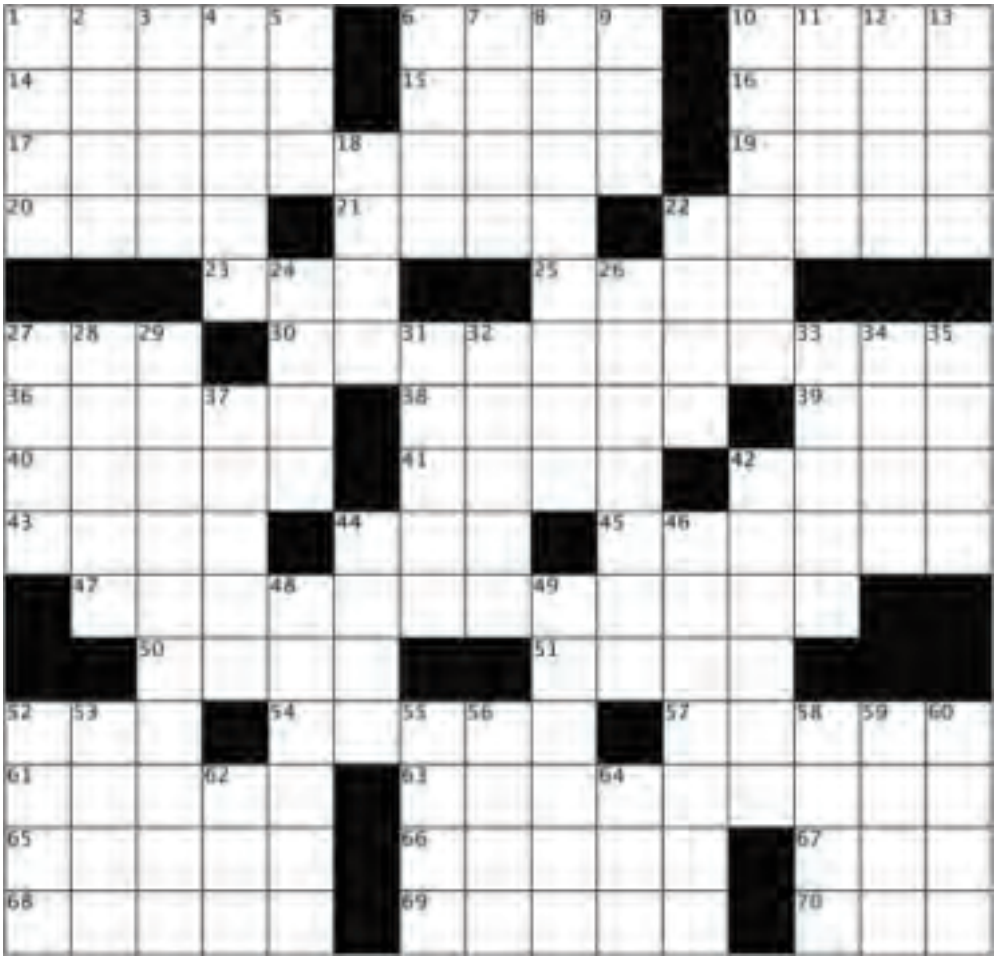
Bob is survived by his wife, Leslie Anker.

Graduate memorials are prepared by the APGA.

*Undergraduate memorials appear for Gerald H. Rosen '55 *59, Z. Philip Ambrose '58 *63, and Robert F. Brown Jr. '58 *60.*

BY STELLA (DAILY) ZAWISTOWSKI '00

Princeton in December



ACROSS

1. Goods on a ship
6. Official who ensures discipline in a political party
10. Bawls uncontrollably
14. Hunter in the sky
15. Iliad's beginning?
16. "Oh man!"
17. Festive annual PSEC event with crafting and holiday treats
19. Sound from a sty
20. Multigenerational tale
21. Opera that premiered in Cairo
22. Many Firestone holdings
23. "___ the season!"
25. God of ancient Rome?
27. Texter's "before I forget ..."
30. Group that performs at Princeton's annual Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols
36. Wipe from the record
38. Kills it at a comedy show
39. ___ 101 (intro course on human nature)
40. Types
41. Members of a close circle
42. Liver secretion
43. Matador's opponent
44. Just over half of the Class of 2030
45. Apple Music precursor
47. Locale for an annual menorah lighting near the Princeton campus
50. Novelist Stephenson
51. "Both" prefix
52. Go to BurgerRunn, say
54. Word on a maze
57. Famed teller of fables
61. Gymnast's leather accessories
63. December deadline associated with the Holder Howl
65. Birds on Lake Carnegie
66. Red-coated pig breed
67. Be prone
68. The Gallagher brothers' band
69. Vice President Agnew
70. "I disapprove!"

DOWN

1. Frightens into submission
2. Vegas casino with an operatic name
3. Signet jewelry
4. Alluded to
5. Number of times Princeton men's basketball has made the Final Four
6. Tiger Tea Room amenity
7. Cleared some weeds
8. Phrase with a handshake
9. Serving of butter
10. Nike's logo
11. Home of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame
12. Hit on the head
13. ___ Fifth Avenue
18. Too hasty
22. Tampa Bay footballers
24. Covers, as a cake
26. Classical paradise?
27. School in a contest
28. Group of scouts
29. Manufacturer's promises
31. According to
32. Princeton Campus Dining options
33. State a view
34. Sea ___ City (Jersey shore town)
35. Some whiskeys
37. Pilfered
42. Six feet under
44. Soften, literally or figuratively
46. Condiment that livens up an omelet
48. Aquinas Institute services
49. Doha native
52. Brand repped on *Stranger Things*
53. MAT 103 calculation
55. Brings to the table
56. Enlist again
58. ___ *Fat Acid Heat*
59. "Mr. Pitiful" singer Redding
60. Snuck glance
62. Bike-pump abbreviation
64. Negative conjunction

STUMPED?

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

CLASSIFIED

For Rent

EUROPE

PARIS, ILE SAINT-LOUIS: Elegant, spacious top floor skylighted apartment, gorgeous view overlooking Seine, 2 bedrooms sleep 4, 2 baths, elevator, well-appointed, full kitchen, Wi-Fi. (678) 232-8444 or triff@mindspring.com.

Paris 7th. Fifth floor, quiet, studio sleeps 2 adults plus 1 child. Balcony. View Eiffel Tower. www.parisgrenelle.com. (207) 752-0285

Paris, Tuileries Gardens: Beautifully appointed, spacious, 1BR, suitable for two, 6th floor, elevator, concierge. karin.demorest@gmail.com, w*49.

NICE, FRANCE: Fifth-floor 2BR/1BA on the Promenade des Anglais with magnificent 180° Mediterranean views. Sunny sea-facing balcony for dining. Open-plan living, A/C. Beach 2 minutes; tram 5 minutes. Sleeps 6. Short or extended stays year-round. NiceonthePromenade.com

Summer in Provence: charming farmhouse, four bedrooms, swimming pool & olive groves, near St Remy, Avignon, Arles. WiFi & A/C. www.masdechausse.com and fleur_macdonald@hotmail.com

Southern France - Saint-Cirq-Lapopie, voted 'most beautiful village' in France. Enchanting 5-bedroom home in stunning, lively, medieval, artists' village - restaurants, farmer's markets, vineyards, museums, bicycling, hiking, swimming. More info: maisonsouthernfrance.com (484-357-6458).

Charming countryside escape · Tri-border Belgium–Germany–Netherlands Sleeps 8 · Private garden · Fireplace · Parking · Horse country · Cycling trails Authentic stone farmhouse in Limburg, minutes from exceptional dining and nature. Gateway to Aachen, Maastricht, Cologne, Düsseldorf, Liège — history, art fairs and museums on your doorstep. Contact: maasachen@gmail.com

Italy/Todi: Luxurious 8BR, 7.5BA villa, amazing views, infinity pool, olives, lavender, grapes, vegetable garden, housekeeper included, cook available, A/C, Wi-Fi. Discount for Princetonians. Photos/prices/availability: www.luxuryvillatodi.com, p'11.

UNITED STATES, NORTHEAST



PERFECT Pied-a-Terre in NYC. 6-month minimum stay. 19th Cent., former NYC Firehouse. Fully furnished 1 bedroom, 10ft. ceilings, open plan. Washer/Dryer WiFi, Apple TV included. French doors open on stone terrace with firepit BBQ and private garden. 24-hour garage around the corner, quick access to airports. 2 subway stops to mid-town Manhattan. Quiet, elegant, just bring your toothbrush. Email: nycfirehouse@gmail.com for photos & price.

Wellfleet: 4 bedroom beachfront cottage with spectacular views overlooking Cape Cod National Seashore. 610-745-5873 or Warren.Thaler@icloud.com '84

NYC - Luxury locale, sunny 1BR suite. Doorman building, block from Central Park. Weekly or monthly. pachisolm@aol.com '85

Wine and Dine in the foothills of the Berkshires! Litchfield County Connecticut historic home near vineyards, a covered bridge, Mohawk Mountain skiing & the Arethusa Creamery. Foodie & antiquing haven. Weekly, monthly and seasonal rentals. 347-432-3817. owens_shea@yahoo.com, '94.

UNITED STATES, WEST

Kolea - 2 and 3 bedroom beachfront vacation rentals at Waikoloa Beach Resort on the Big Island of Hawaii. https://www.waikoloavacationrentals.com/kolea-rentals/

Rustic elegance with spectacular view at mid-mountain, Deer Valley with ski access. Three levels: Entry level with 3 BD 2 BR, laundry room; modern kitchen, DR and LR on main level; open loft with sleeper sofa. Sleeps 9. Lower deck with private hot tub. Non-smoking, no pets. Now booking for '26-'27 ski season. Contact jmkolodzik@gmail.com for inquiries and rates.

Travel/Expedition

Expert-led cultural tours: archaeology/gastronomy/walking in Britain, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Montenegro and Turkey. Gulet cruises and charters. Multi-award-winning www.petersommer.com

Books

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

For Sale

1930's vintage Princeton scenes Wedgewood plates. Set of 12. Mint. $1200. Contact Slater Crawford '64 at sltrcrawford@gmail.com

Professional Services

TEST PREP & COLLEGE ADMISSIONS: Robert Kohen, Ph.D., Harvard and Columbia grad, provides individualized tutoring for SAT, ACT, ISEE & SSAT and guides families through all aspects of the college admissions process. 212.658.0834; robert@koheneducationalservices.com; www.koheneducationalservices.com

GHOSTWRITER: Fulfill your dream of publishing a book! David Ferris, Ivy League grad and bestselling author, has written dozens of titles for executives, leaders, and professionals. (202) 602-2895, oceansidewriting.com, david@oceansidewriting.com.

Language Lessons. It's never too late to speak another language. Years of Spanish, but still can't hold a conversation? I can help adults speak Spanish, Italian and Portuguese with confidence through personalized virtual lessons. Professionally trained language teacher with 8+ years of experience. Real progress, at your pace. Write nick.faggella@gmail.com

Personals



We are inviting, single/eligible men (35–80) to be introduced to our attractive, accomplished, and delightful private clients (East/West Coast). Join our private Rolodex to be matched or choose to become one of our distinguished private clients. Benefit from our expertise. Stop "swiping" and let us hear from you. Bio and photo: sandy@therighttimeconsultants.com or go to: www.therighttimeconsultants.com, 212-627-0121.

IVY LEAGUE DATING COMMUNITY. Seeking an Ivy-educated match? Join free: BluesMatch.com



Got your attention?

Our Classified Ads get the attention of **100,000 readers every issue!** Promote your home for rent / sale, professional services, books, travel, personals and more.

Contact Grace Ni at
gracen@princeton.edu

PRINCETON
ALUMNI WEEKLY

Get a Clue



Think you're smarter than our PAW Games creators? Princeton Alumni Weekly has a host of games to test your knowledge and skills.

Crossword



Connectegories



Jigsaw



Lettergap



Quizlet



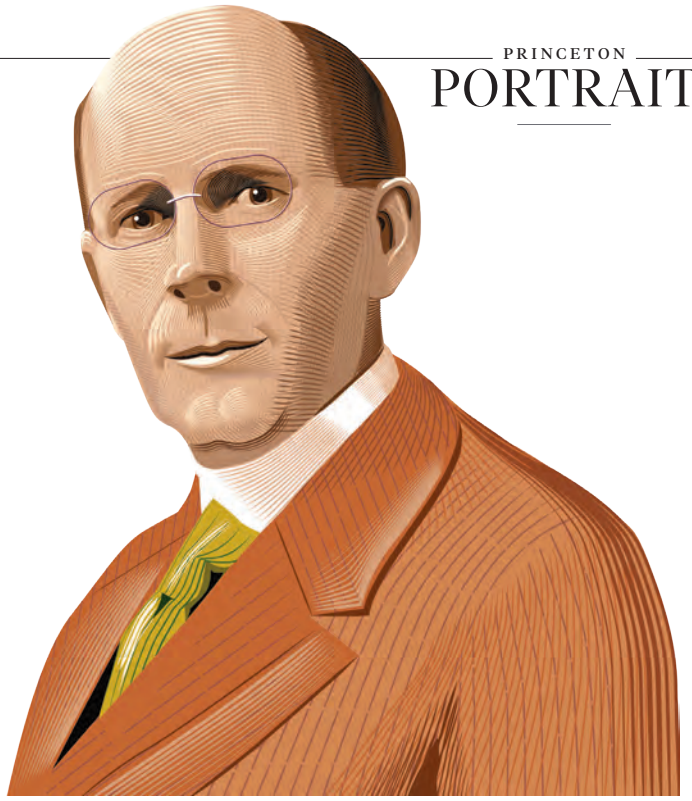
Mind Palace



... and More!



Scan to play



PAUL HARRIS 1890 (1868-1947)

How One Lonely Man Made Thousands of New Friends

BY ELYSE GRAHAM '07

THE YEAR WAS 1900, and Paul Harris 1890 was desolately lonely. He had moved to Chicago four years earlier to start a law firm, but he had never gotten the hang of living in a city. The pleasant anonymity that city writers talk about, the ever-changing landscape of faces, the air of mystery that comes with being surrounded by great but unknown undertakings: None of this mattered to the boy from Vermont. Instead he found himself — especially on weekends when the office was empty — brooding, with the intensity that once made people designate nostalgia as a medical illness, over the friendly sights of his youth.

"Strolls through city parks were far from satisfying," he wrote in his memoir, *My Road to Rotary*. "There was too much artificiality, and among the thousands of strollers there was not one familiar face."

One day, after dining at the home of a professional colleague, Harris took a walk with his host and watched him chat familiarly with the men working at the neighborhood shops — which finally made him feel again like he was in a village.

"The thought came to me," he wrote, "why not in big Chicago have a fellowship composed of just one man from each of many occupations, without restrictions as to their politics or religion, with broad tolerance of each other's opinions? In such a fellowship could there not be mutual helpfulness?"

So he made it happen. In 1905, he started up exactly such an outfit with a few law clients; because they met at different workplaces on a rotating basis, he called it the Rotary Club.

In 1911, Rotary approved the motto, "He profits most who serves best." Which, as far as ethics for businessmen go, is pretty good, and probably true.

Today, the organization has more than 1.2 million members and clubs in just about every country.

What's Princetonian about Rotary? Harris attended the College of New Jersey for only a single year, leaving after his grandfather died. But the College counted such students among its alumni, and seeds planted in paradise will naturally take strong roots. Princetonians' and Rotarians' common affinities include, for instance: an emphasis on leadership and social responsibility; a belief in open discourse among people of different backgrounds and cultures; the Presbyterian conviction that divinity can be found in committee meetings (though Harris didn't belong to any particular denomination); and commitment to the democratic internationalism that was popular in America at the time, of which Harris advocated for an unusually strong version.

"Rotary is blazing the trail over which the present and future generations will follow," he said at a 1937 Rotary International convention. "I predict that the day will dawn when the coming and going of human beings will be as free as the movements of migratory birds. Eventually passports, visas, customs duties, and all other impediments to free intercourse among the children of the Earth will be abandoned as obsolete."

But above all, Princetonians and Rotarians share a commitment to service. From early on, Rotary clubs started raising funds, labor, and political pressure for service projects like building parks and schools. In 1911, Rotary approved the motto, "He profits most who serves best." Which, as far as ethics for businessmen go, is pretty good, and probably true. Harris started his venture because he wanted friends. By the time of his death at the age of 78, he had 300,000 of them. More, he profited, as someone involved in humanity, from the humanitarian work that Rotary carried out, in ever more ambitious waves, over the years: feeding the hungry during the Depression, helping refugees in wartime, and, after his death, helping to conquer polio by vaccinating millions of children. He believed that one can do well by doing good. 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."

Their new life together needed a new home.They wanted to live in a well-located community, with a diverse group of active and intellectually engaged residents, with easy access to cultural events and fine dining… and with stress-free home ownership offered by a well-managed condominium. In 2019 they found that community at **Princeton Windrows.**

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."

Living among fellow Princeton University alumni, retired professors and staff, and an internationally diverse group of engaging neighbors has made their experience truly special. These kindred spirits continue to travel the globe, knowing that when it is time to return home, the beauty, security, and welcoming community of Princeton Windrows will be there waiting.

Resident Owned & Resident Loved

Schedule your visit by calling 609.520.3700

REALTOR
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

PRINCETON WINDROWS

Irish Literature:
History & Myth Since 1798



AN ISLAND MAN

September 18 – January 17

A new exhibition explores how Irish literature provides a model for why art matters in times of crisis and how it functions as an agent of political transformation.

Featuring highlights from the collections of Leonard L. Milberg, Princeton Class of 1953.

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

THE New York HISTORICAL

170 Central Park West at 77th Street, New York, NY 10025 | nyhistory.org