

THE CLASS
OF 2023

PRESIDENTIAL
SCHOLARS

EXPLORATIONS IN
THE OLD WEST

PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY

A portrait of Toni Morrison, an elderly African American woman with grey hair styled in a bun, wearing a black headband, large hoop earrings, and a red top. She is holding a blue knitted shawl. The background is a solid blue color.

TONI MORRISON, BELOVED

Princeton remembers
a literary giant

OCTOBER 2, 2019
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NOT ALL *tigers*
WEAR STRIPES



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PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY

An editorially independent
magazine by alumni for alumni
since 1900

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Toni Morrison Remembered 24 The Old West 30

Students and colleagues offer a tribute to the author and Princeton professor, who died in August. We also reprint the address Morrison gave on Princeton's 250th anniversary.

Princeton students used to travel west to explore the land and hunt for fossils. Geosciences students have other adventures today.
By Elyse Graham '07

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PAWcast

Asteroids and volcanoes and biotechnology — oh my! Bryan Walsh '01 discusses his book, *End Times*, about the existential threats facing humanity.



In the Field

View additional photos from Princeton's 19th-century scientific expeditions.

Tigers of the Week

Kate Zuckerman '93 promotes eating local; Matt Iseman '93 highlights amazing athletes.

Visionary

Gregg Lange '70 reflects on Toni Morrison's eloquence and foresight.

“The Wisdom of the Dead and the Energy of the Living”: Reflections on Insights from Toni Morrison

During Opening Exercises on September 8, I discussed some of Toni Morrison's profound insights into the meaning of a Princeton education. Here is what I told the Class of 2023.—C.L.E.

These Opening Exercises serve two purposes. They are an occasion for joy and celebration, as we embrace new members of our community and greet returning friends with colorful kites and soaring music. Yet, even as we swirl those kites and sing songs here in the University Chapel to signify new beginnings, we also recognize that Opening Exercises are a moment for reflection about our University's mission, the challenges that lie ahead, and the changes occurring within our community and around it.

As we begin this particular year, I find myself contemplating the insight and achievements of one person who had a very special role in this community for 30 years but is no longer with us as we begin this academic year. I am speaking of Toni Morrison—Nobel Laureate, Pulitzer Prize winner, one of the greatest novelists the world has ever known, and Princeton's Robert F. Goheen Professor in the Humanities Emeritus—who died just over one month ago, on Monday, August 5.

Toni Morrison improved this University in many ways, and we will remember her always. Indeed, two years ago, the University trustees, on the recommendation of a committee that included faculty, students, and alumni, decided that the building that houses the dean of the college and the dean of undergraduate students should be named Morrison Hall to honor the marvelous author and teacher who contributed so much to Princeton and the world.

One of Professor Morrison's lesser-known achievements is that she wrote one of the best essays ever composed about Princeton University. The essay is called, “The Place of the Idea; the Idea of the Place.” She prepared it 23 years ago to celebrate the University's 250th anniversary, and she delivered it in front of Nassau Hall, where the Pre-rade will take place after this ceremony.

Professor Morrison's central theme in her speech was what she called, quoting the literary critic Geoffrey Hartman, how the “wisdom of the dead and the energy of the living” merge to become a tradition that informs the present and shapes the future.”

When Professor Morrison spoke those words, her own voice was an awesome example of the “energy of the living.” It is jarring now to regard her insight as belonging to the “wisdom of the dead.” But she has become a part of the heritage of this place. Her influence will endure for generations, her name inscribed upon the campus and her voice speaking eloquently from the past to the present. She is at once part of our traditions, and also a potential

guide for you as you consider your own relationship to those traditions.

In her speech two decades ago, Professor Morrison imagined some future possibilities with uncanny clarity, so that her words resonate now as if they had been written this month. She reminded her listeners, for example, that Princeton's mission depended upon, and I quote, “encounters and collaborations among and between strangers from other neighborhoods and strangers from other lands.” She also warned us that the University's values would be put at risk if the world were to become, and I quote again, “overwhelmed by fear and mediocrity, by xenophobia [in other words, by animosity toward foreigners] and mendacity [in other words, by a disregard for facts].”

You might think that Professor Morrison even anticipated questions about digital media related to those that James Williams examines in *Stand Out of Our Light* and that you will discuss with him this evening. Professor Morrison asked her audience whether, at some point in Princeton's future, “instruction [would] be executed solely in solitude by the isolated handling of sophisticated new machines.” She answered this question by affirming her own conviction that, and I quote again, “a premier liberal arts education requires students and faculty to face each other in what Woodrow Wilson described as ‘personal conference and intimate counsel.’”

For most of her essay, though, Professor Morrison focused on a demanding practice at the core of the University, a practice that she thought essential for “the translation of tradition, of history, into a livable present and a civilized future.” She referred to that practice in several ways: as “priz[ing] conscience above orthodoxy,” as “the dissenting idea,” and as “dissenting from orthodoxy.”

One might be tempted to give these words a political reading, so that they underscore how students and faculty may serve as critics to powerful people or governments. And certainly that is part of what Professor Morrison had in mind. She said that “service to the individual, to the government, to the world requires unwavering commitment to intellectual freedom,” and she insisted on the need for academic departments and intellectuals to engage with “the great and tumultuous issues of [the] day.”



Addressing the incoming class at Opening Exercises

DENISE APPLEWHITE



DENISE APPLEWHITE

The colorful pageantry of Opening Exercises

Yet, however important it may be to dissent from unjust exercises of power, Professor Morrison's idea of "dissent from orthodoxy" runs deeper than that. It requires each of us to interrogate and challenge our own orthodoxies. Dissent, she said, cannot be merely a matter of style or fashion. It must instead go to things that are foundational. She described the practice as one befitting people comfortable with "intense ... political debates [and] metaphysical arguments," and as dependent upon a "fierce commitment to virtues ... such as integrity and honor and fair play and courage."

A few minutes ago, I quoted Professor Morrison's observation about the importance of "encounters and collaborations" with people from "other neighborhoods" and "other lands." To that list, one might add encounters and collaborations with fundamentally differing perspectives and opinions. Prizing "conscience above orthodoxy" cannot mean prizing *our conscience* over *someone else's orthodoxy*. If we genuinely prize conscience over orthodoxy, we must not only tolerate but welcome reasoned arguments that challenge our own cherished opinions and viewpoints. We must have the courage to state opinions even when they are unpopular in our own community. We must have the integrity to respect those who offer opinions that are unpopular with us. And we must be willing to reassess our beliefs when confronted with persuasive evidence or arguments that point in new directions.

These energizing, transformational, and sometimes difficult encounters take place in, and help to constitute, what Professor Morrison described as each person's personal or private Princeton, made from their individual

memories. Professor Morrison spoke of, and I quote again her poetic language, "friendships secured and endangered on greens and in classrooms, offices, eating clubs, [and] residences," and of "stimulating rivalries negotiated in laboratories, lecture halls, and sports arenas." She observed that on this campus "[e]very doorway, every tree and turn is haunted by peals of laughter, murmurs of loyalty and love, tears of pleasure and sorrow and triumph."

I like these passages from Professor Morrison's speech because they acknowledge both the transformative character of education and how hard it can sometimes be. I hope that your time here will often be exhilarating, but I know that it will not always be easy. That's more than okay; it's essential. You cannot really learn or grow if everything is always comfortable. You will find here classmates, friends, mentors, and others who understand your experience, who share in it, and who are ready to help you when you need it.

All of you, in the great Class of 2023, are beginning already to build your own "personal Princeton." My colleagues and I are excited that you are joining this community. We know that you will infuse living energy into this place from, as Toni Morrison said, many neighborhoods and many lands. We know, too, that wherever you come from, each of you belongs here. We are delighted to see you, and we take great joy in saying, "Welcome to Princeton!"



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Inbox

FROM PAW'S PAGES: 11/22/1976

A FRED FOX TALE

Your July 10 Princeton Portrait of Fred Fox '39 evoked one of my favorite early memories of Princeton, from freshman orientation week in September 1978. The Class of 1982 was gathered together as a group in Alexander Hall for maybe the first time ever as Freddy introduced us to Princetoniana, ranging from some of the school's history to the proper way to sing "Old Nassau."

Early in his remarks, he sought to allay our nervousness about entering such an elite institution. "I'm sure many of you have concerns about how well you'll be able to handle the workload at Princeton," he said, "but there's no need to worry. Look at the person seated to the right of you." We all dutifully turned to the right. "Now look at the person on your left." We turned left. "You're smarter than both of them!"

Arthur Diaz '82
Westerly, R.I.

RETHINKING THE THESIS

In the interest of publishing negative results (which academia too often neglects!), I submit my own experience with the senior thesis ("The Thesis Challenge: Looking Back at a Capstone Experience," posted May 10 at PAW Online). My reviewers evaluated my thesis positively, and I have only praise for my supportive advisers. However, from the perspective of my personal and academic growth, the thesis was a dud, and my mental health suffered under the long-term stress.

The research and writing weren't

qualitatively distinct from final projects or papers I had completed previously, and I was less passionate about my thesis than about most of my upper-level classwork. Given the opportunity cost of taking fewer classes, I think my time and my advisers' time would have been better spent if I had not been required to complete a thesis.

Based on my own experience, I would advocate for more departments to follow the example of the B.S.E. in computer science, in allowing alternate means of satisfying the degree requirements. Perhaps a reasonable substitution could be two to four additional upper-level or graduate-level departmentals. I encourage other alums, faculty, and current students to share their opinions on the value of a mandatory thesis and suggestions for alternative ways to cap off a rigorous undergraduate education.

Ariadne Mytelka '17
Seattle, Wash.

HONORARY SOLUTION

Susan Shirk and Pauline Reich regret that Princeton forgot about them after they completed their Critical Languages year (feature, May 15). The solution could be to make them — and other CL students who wish — honorary members of their classes.

I came down from Williams to study Arabic in the Critical Languages Program in '65-'66 and was delighted to be elected an honorary member of the great Class of '67 a few years later. Since then, I pay class and Ivy Club dues, read PAW cover to cover, and attend Reunions. I am more

Nautical Poet

As a descendant of sea captains and clipper owners, I can't stand the demotion of Capt. Philip Freneau, Class of 1771, ("Class Notes," PAW, October 11).

And as a Freneau Club member—a club which was quite active on the campus in the '20s—I want to protest this calumny of a Princeton patriot! Surely some landlubber must be guilty of giving readers the impression (fortified by the drawing!) that all Freneau did to fight for our freedom was walk Jersey beaches until he "was captured by the British!"

The facts are that this poet, journalist, and sea captain was Master of two deep-sea privateers: the first in 1785-89, the second in 1802-04. I find no ship Scorpion in the record; I find Freneau's poem "The British Prison Ship" was based on his experiences aboard the British brig Aurora.

Consider that, even today, nobody is promoted to Captain, either on a ship or an airliner, unless he has the ability to command—and that is a rare thing amongst poets. If we go back through writers such as Joseph Conrad all the way to the Greeks, we find seamen who can write good prose (Capt. Joshua Slocum did that); but we find no poet sea captains! Greek poets like Alcaeus who were warriors on land, yes, but no sea captains I know of. Thus, to reinstate Philip Freneau to the high estate which he earned, he was not only one of our earliest poets, he was also: (1) this country's first professional journalist and editor of the *National Gazette*, which supported Thomas Jefferson in 1791-93; (2) Captain of two U. S. armed vessels.

Please help me get this patriot off the beach!

GELSTON HARDY '23
Plainsboro, N.J.

attached to Princeton than to Williams.

As for Arabic, my business career focused on the Mideast, and I have just published the first volume of my Arabic short stories titled (translated) *Hanna's Diaries — Coming of Age in the Land of the Cedars*, available at Jamalon.com. Shukran (thank you), Princeton!

John G. McCarthy Jr. h'67
Geneva, Switzerland

MODELING INCLUSION

(Via Facebook) I saw in the March 6 issue that Professor Norman Itzkowitz *59 had passed away. In my freshman year I always wore a promotional button for the Alvin Ailey Dance Company on my jacket that said "Catch Ailey." It was my connection to my love for the arts in New York City and the roots of a great artist.

WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU



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Inbox

Professor Itzkowitz, who ran the Wilson College dormitories where I lived, overheard students intentionally joking, loudly enough for me to hear, about the fact that I wore the pin every day. He approached me later and said, "I see you are a fan of Alvin Ailey. How about organizing a trip so other students may learn about him?" I explained that I wasn't sure how to go about that and that I didn't know a lot of people. He told me to get a brochure and post a signup sheet.

My life at Princeton blossomed because I organized a bus outing to NYC to see Alvin Ailey. The University provided a coach bus with baskets of refreshments from Food Services. About 20 students attended, with everything provided by the University. To this day, I still share that story with students I talk to about Princeton. Professor Itzkowitz modeled diversity and inclusion long before they were HR catchphrases. I am eternally grateful to him for taking a potentially diminishing moment and turning it into a blessed memory.

Cheryl Johnson Watts '85

Allentown, Pa.

PRINCETON MENTORS

Following are responses to the June 5 cover story on alumni and their mentors, which included an invitation for readers to write about their own stories. Other letters were published in the Sept. 11 issue.

Dean Ernest Gordon was an important mentor for many of us in my day. Dean Gordon gave a talk in my hometown when I was in high school, and I got to meet him after his talk. He made such a good impression that I told him, should I be admitted, he would be one of the reasons I wanted to attend Princeton. He blended his ministry with a commitment to social justice and wide intellectual interests.

Dean Gordon was always generous with his time, especially when I was new on campus. He invited me to his home and to monthly play-reading groups he led. Another year, he had popular luncheon gatherings in Murray-Dodge, with free-flowing discussions.

After he retired, my wife and I hosted him and his wife after he moved to Virginia to run an organization he founded, Christian Rescue Effort for the

Emancipation of Dissidents, in the U.S.S.R.

After they moved back to Princeton, I got to introduce my college-age daughter to them when we took them out to lunch. On Alumni Day after his death, we were privileged to watch a documentary film about his time in a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp during World War II.

Richard Waugaman '70

Signal Mountain, Tenn.

The cover photo highlighting the Princeton mentors story made me do a double take. Two young people, posed with a closeness that suggested anything but a professional mentorship relationship, and a mere inch below the heading "Title IX Protest Outside Nassau Hall," seemed a very unfortunate choice.

Mentoring relationships are intended to cultivate academic and professional development. True, enduring friendships and some role reversal can occur — as depicted in most of the mentor/mentee interviews presented in the article — but there is also the very real potential for misuse of the power imbalance between a faculty member and a student. None of the warmly glowing mentorship stories even hinted at that potential.

At a time when Princeton must examine its treatment of sexual-harassment cases and be even more sensitive and responsive to abuses of power, the mentorship cover photo and story came across as tone-deaf.

Catherine V. Caldicott '78

Manlius, N.Y.

It was a great article about mentoring. Readers should also know that Princeton AlumniCorps (initiated by the Class of 1955 as Project 55) has encouraged mentoring relationships throughout its almost 30-year history. Each of our P55 Fellows serving in public-interest fellowships are introduced to a local AlumniCorps mentor early in their fellowship year. These mentoring relationships can be powerful for both the mentor and mentee. For example, my relationship with Artile Wright '06, begun 13 years ago, endures as a close friendship today.

Alumni interested in becoming AlumniCorps mentors should contact Executive Director Kef Kasdin '85

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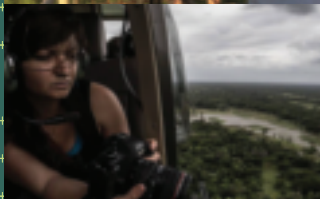
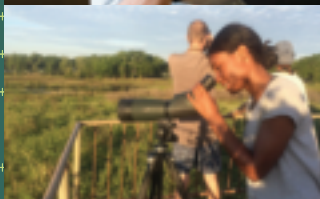
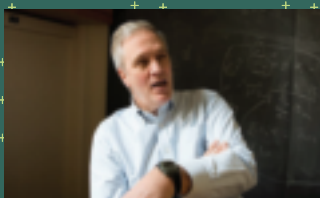
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Richard Walker '73

Potomac, Md.

A TRANSFER'S EXPERIENCE

Congratulations on the new transfer students (feature, July 10): a well-thought-out approach.

I transferred into Princeton as a junior. My first two years were at Rice University. I think there were eight or so of us who transferred in from various schools. I never met any of them. There was no support network. However, there was a special bicker. Someone in the administration told me that Rice was the only school below the Mason-Dixon line from which they would accept transfers. I think the fact that Princeton had earlier accepted me as a freshman and that my brother graduated in '57 helped quite a bit.

I just parachuted in and tried to survive. It was one of the smartest moves I ever made.

George M. Dawson '59

San Antonio, Texas

PURSUING ONE'S DREAMS

I read "Two for the Road" (cover story, April 24) with great interest. Too many of us work long and hard and never get to enjoy what is around us.

Three years ago I said goodbye to corporate America and my team at Facebook and have enjoyed an amazing set of travels and adventures since then. Starting with a midnight flight to Bali on April 1 and ending five continents, six seas, countless ocean activities, 38 flights, and two kids (we continued traveling with them!) later, I am extremely happy to have taken the time to see what is around me.

I highly recommend taking time off to pursue your dreams before it is too late. Remember the eternal words of the sadly departed Mark Hollis from the English band Talk Talk: "Life's what you make it, celebrate it!"

Ajay Shah '91

Redwood City, Calif.

LESSONS ARE IN ORDER

I noted with interest "Orange and Black ... and Red" (feature, July 10) about the "free speech ball" that landed on campus, courtesy of the Princeton chapter of Turning Point USA, a

national group that promotes grassroots conservative activism. And I noted with particular interest one of the inscriptions on the ball, which read thusly: "White privilege [sic] doesn't exist." Now, I don't mean to butt in, but as a former English major, I'd like to encourage the author(s) of this inscription to take advantage of the University's remedial spelling program. There's so much to learn!

H. Grant Thomas Jr. '67

Austin, Texas

KEEP THE NASS IN PRINT

It's hard to believe the *Nassau Weekly* has been in print for 40 years.

Although the *Nass* has always stayed true to its roots as a source of quality investigative reporting in a style different from that of the *Prince*, over the last four decades we have also welcomed and celebrated the work of new voices: poets, storytellers, cultural commentators, satirists, and this publication season, for the first time ever, crossword writers.

In recent years, we have been immensely grateful for funding from WPRB 103.3 FM, which has supported both our content and our commitment to remain in print.

While a move to online-only publication would eliminate the bulk of our expenses, it would deem unimportant the weekly labor of love that puts the words of our writers into a tangible, beautiful form every Sunday. Breakfast-table conversations around the newest pieces and freshly printed Verbatims would take place behind individual screens.

This year, we are asking for your help in restating our commitment to print journalism. Operating at a yearly loss is not sustainable, nor is relying on print ads for income. With our first-ever fundraising drive, we want to help WPRB help us keep the *Nass* free and in print.

Our special 40th-anniversary issue can be found at nassauweekly.com/issue/celebrating-40-years/. We thank you for your continued engagement with the *Nass* and encourage you to make a tax-deductible donation at nassauweekly.com/donate/.

Caroline Castleman '20

Publisher

Serena Alagappan '20

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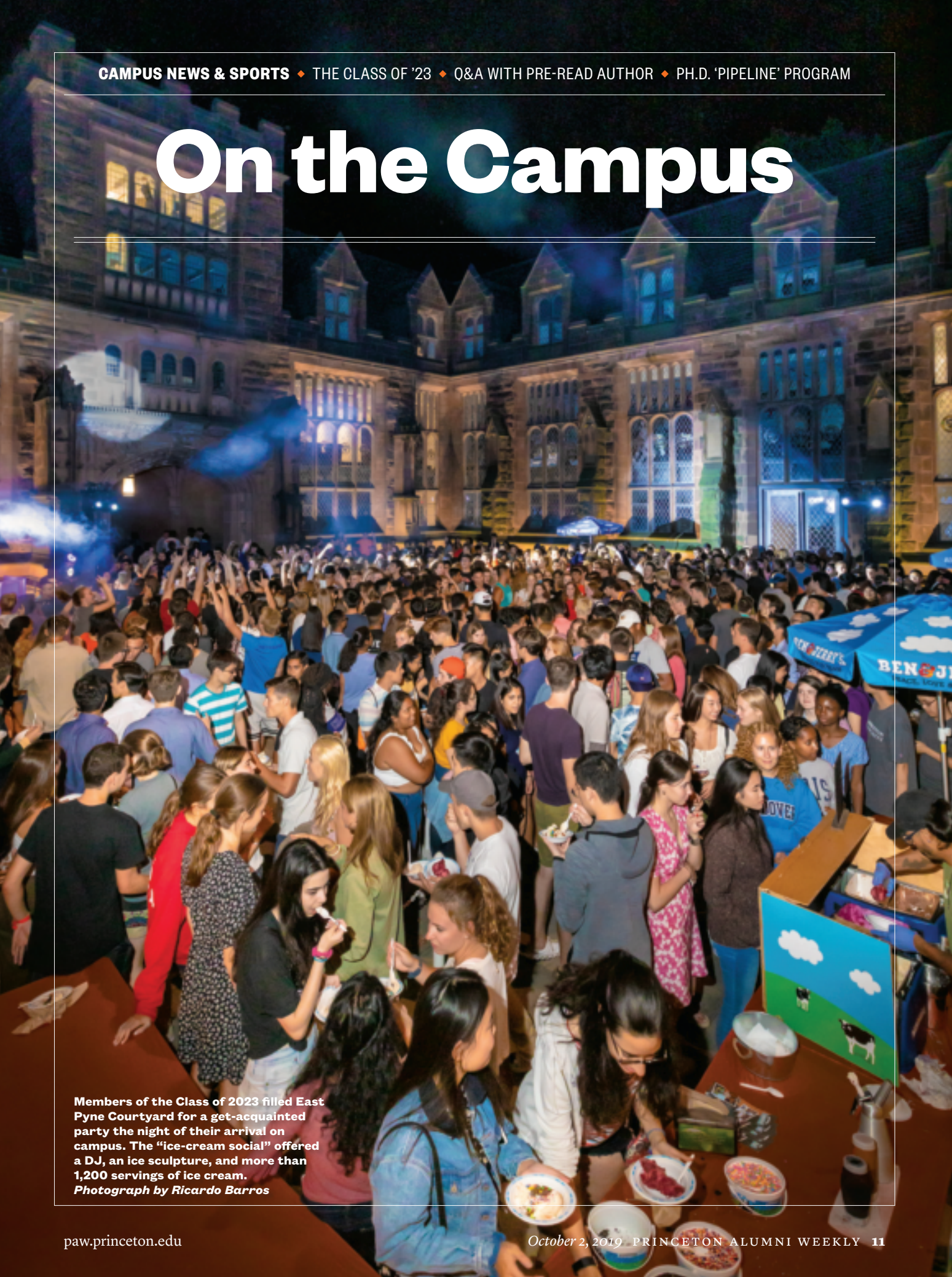


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ECLAIR CAFE

On the Campus

A large, diverse crowd of students is gathered in East Pyne Courtyard at night. The courtyard is filled with people, many of whom are looking towards the camera or interacting with each other. In the background, the historic stone building of the courtyard is illuminated with warm lights, and some windows are glowing. The foreground shows students sitting at tables, some of which are covered with food and drink. A blue umbrella with the text 'BEN & JERRY'S' is visible on the right side of the image. The overall atmosphere is festive and social.

Members of the Class of 2023 filled East Pyne Courtyard for a get-acquainted party the night of their arrival on campus. The “ice-cream social” offered a DJ, an ice sculpture, and more than 1,200 servings of ice cream.

Photograph by Ricardo Barros

Welcome, Class of '23!

Diverse class hears cautionary words on 'existential crisis' of digital fixation

Clad in the rainbow hues representing their residential colleges, members of the Class of 2023 entered the University Chapel Sept. 8 for the official beginning of their Princeton careers. President Eisgruber '83 welcomed the class with an homage to the late author and professor emerita Toni Morrison, inviting the freshmen to engage, as she said in a 1996 address on Princeton University, in "encounters and collaborations among and between strangers from other neighborhoods, and strangers from other lands." (See page 24 for Morrison's address.)

Hailing from 49 states and 49 countries, the 1,337-strong Class of 2023 is one of the most diverse classes to have walked through FitzRandolph Gate. Beyond geography, it includes students from a wide range of socioeconomic, racial, and gender diversity: Close to a quarter of the class is Pell Grant-eligible, more than half are women, and nearly half of the students from the United States identify as people of color.

Hailing from 49 states and 49 countries, the 1,337-strong Class of 2023 is one of the most diverse classes to have walked through FitzRandolph Gate.

Ashley Teng '23, of Washington state, enjoyed the interfaith component of Opening Exercises. "I expected diversity for sure, but I'm still surprised by the ways Princeton incorporates that," she said. Classmate Hannah Diaz, also from Washington, said she'd "never been in a chapel and heard things from other religions — so that was really cool."

For many freshmen, small-group experiences — Community Action, Outdoor Action, and Dialogue and Difference in Action — stood out as opportunities to have the kinds of

collaborations Morrison exhorted.

"It was good to be in a community that was working for a similar purpose," said Tom Olson '23, a Massachusetts native who went on a backpacking trip in New York. Teng had similar thoughts about her experiences on a Community Action trip focused on hunger and homelessness. "We bonded really well," she said.

For Marilena Zigka, a freshman from Thessaloniki, Greece, Outdoor Action gave her a chance to realize "that you can survive without your phone."

That observation seemed particularly relevant given the topic of this year's Pre-read book, *Stand Out of Our Light*, which was sent to incoming freshmen to read during the summer. Written by James Williams, a research associate at Oxford University, the book argues that technology in the so-called digital-attention economy — a landscape in which tech companies invest large amounts of time and resources into keeping people online — is distracting individuals from living lives aligned with their values and goals. (For a Q&A with Williams, see page 15.)

During the annual Pre-read discussion on the evening of Opening Exercises, Williams spoke alongside neuroscience professor Sam Wang and computer science professor Jennifer Rexford '91 in a discussion about the "existential crisis" posed by the digital-attention economy.

In an environment of "information abundance," Williams implored the freshmen to ask themselves, "Why am I attending to the things that I am attending to?" when using personal technology. Rexford encouraged students to take courses and participate in campus events related to the electronic devices that affect "pretty much every aspect of modern society."

Many hands shot up as the discussion was opened to students: One tech

continues on page 14

With construction ruling out Blair Arch, freshmen gathered at Clio Hall for the Step Sing.



Opening Exercises in the Chapel





New graduate students meet over dinner at Procter Hall.

Princeton in the Rankings

Princeton was ranked **No. 1** among national universities for the ninth year in a row by **U.S. News & World Report**, which also placed the University **No. 1** for best undergraduate teaching and for best value. Following is a list of how Princeton fared in other rankings this year:

Kiplinger's Personal Finance:

No. 2 in Best College Values for private colleges

Money:

No. 3 in Best Value for Your Tuition Dollar

Forbes:

No. 2 in Best Value Colleges; **No. 5** in Research Universities

Princeton Review:

No. 3 in Best Value Colleges; **No. 4** in Great Financial Aid

Academic Ranking of World Universities:

No. 6

Times Higher Education World University Reputation Rankings:

No. 7

Payscale.com:

No. 9 in Best Universities and Colleges by Salary Potential

QS World University Rankings:

No. 13

Washington Monthly:

No. 8 (rated on social mobility, research, and service)

Bestcolleges.com: No. 3 in Best Colleges for LGBTQ students by Campus Pride

Wall Street Journal/ Times Higher Education College Rankings:

No. 5; tied for **No. 1** in outcomes (determined by graduation rate, salary, debt, and academic reputation) ♦

continued from page 12

enthusiast asked how a website such as YouTube — home to “so much good information” — could reconcile its useful educational capacities with the potential for distraction. Another wondered how socioeconomic divides might create unequal challenges for users to self-regulate their online behavior. (“Responsibility affects people disproportionately,” said Williams. “Fixing the system in a systemic way is a matter of social justice.”)

Other students focused on the political aspects of Williams’ proposed remedies, which include



Smiles during the Pre-race

more government regulation of tech companies and involving consumers in the design of the technologies they use. One student pointed out that government regulations are not foolproof, while another observed that tech companies’ profit motives in grabbing users’ attention were in line with the demands of the free market.

Olayele Aluko, a freshman from Lagos, Nigeria, said he had worked to use social media less after hearing that apps like Twitter and Instagram make it harder for people to finish entire books. “I like the fact that [Williams] says that technologies and their companies and intentions are not what they seem, and you need to regulate yourself,” he said.

But for other students, it appeared that the discussion would not have much effect on screen habits.

Derek Nam ’23 of Philadelphia, who described himself as “the average person in the attention economy,” said he left the session without an answer to the question: What’s next? “I read the book, but I still went on my phone afterward,” he said. “I’m still addicted to the internet.” ♦ *By Jimin Kang ’21*

PRINCETON'S NEW STUDENTS: BY THE NUMBERS

THE CLASS OF 2023

Class size: 1,337

Applicants: 32,804

Admitted: 1,895 (5.8%)

Yield: 70.7% (highest since 2003)

Of those enrolled:

Students receiving financial aid: 61.4%

Women: 50.9%*

Men: 49.1%

U.S. minority students: 49.7%*

International students: 11.1%

Children of alumni: 13.7%

Recruited athletic prospects: 16.8%

Pell Grant recipients: 24.6%*

From public schools: 60.7%

First-generation college students: 16.1%

Number of U.S. military veterans: 1

B.S.E. students: 28.8%*
(42.6% are women)

* a record high

Sources: Office of Admission; School of Engineering and Applied Science; Office of the Dean of the Graduate School

TRANSFER ADMISSIONS

Applicants: 1,003

Admitted: 14

Enrolled: 9

From community colleges: 8

Military (reservist, veterans): 6

ENTERING GRADUATE STUDENTS

Doctoral-degree students: 495

Master's-degree students: 159

Applicants: 11,733

Admitted: 11%

Yield of those admitted: 49%

Men: 58%

Women: 42%

International students: 42%

U.S. minority students: 43%*

(of domestic students)

Humanities and social sciences: 52%

Sciences and engineering: 48%



James Williams addresses the Pre-read assembly.

CLASS OF 2023 PRE-READ AUTHOR JAMES WILLIAMS

Sapping Our Attention

A former digital strategist warns of the tech dangers that surround us

James Williams is a former Google strategist who recently completed doctoral work in technology ethics at Oxford. He is the author of this year's Pre-read, *Stand Out of Our Light: Freedom and Resistance in the Attention Economy* (Cambridge University Press), which examines the pervasive effects of digital technologies on our attention and willpower. He spoke with PAW the day after addressing the freshman class.



You write that a reckoning with digital technologies and their effect on attention “may be the defining moral and political struggle of our time.” Why is it so important?

It's what we might call a first-order issue. To combat climate change, to combat all these big problems in the world, I think we first have to be paying attention to the right things; it seems to me to be a prerequisite.

President Eisgruber '83 wrote in his foreword to your book about how students and even faculty say digital

devices make it hard “to lose themselves in a book or an idea.” What can a university do?

Universities [are] extraordinarily important in that they are institutions whose mission includes the preservation of a certain depth of thought. At the end of the day I think it's really about keeping in mind our goals, our values, our missions — why students are here, why academia, why education matters — and making sure, at every chance we get, that our environment is aligned with these.

You write about feeling a “deep” distraction that you couldn't quite name. What are some of those attention-deficit warning signs?

I think it will be different for everyone. A lot of the time it involves some problem connecting with a previous desire or intention that they've had. One way you see this broadly in career settings is a midlife crisis, where you realize, “I've unconsciously started playing this game I didn't realize I was playing.” I think broadly it's when there's some moment of reflection about what you care about, what's important, and then you look at your life and there's a distance there.

In your book you draw on Jan-Werner Müller's *What Is Populism?* How do digital technologies contribute to the rise of populism?

What I was drawn to in Professor Müller's concept of populism was ... the way he talks about populism as being a moralizing realm. Many digital technologies are biased toward a kind of moral outrage. It seems to me that the moment we see those kind of technologies becoming the core communication platforms of society, it's to be expected that you would see populism in that description he gives.

What advice would you have for alumni who want to think about the effect of digital media on their lives?

One thing I would say is that the question isn't limited to momentary distraction; it relates to the ways in which media shape our habits [and] shape our lives over time. In a way it's not even only about the use of the technology itself. Even if somebody doesn't use any smartphone, any technology ... they [might still] read news articles. Journalism has essentially been colonized by Twitter. Every journalist I've talked to says they're on Twitter all day; it's become kind of the newswire. So the logic of the attention economy is not confined to an experience with devices; it's something that is now cast like an umbrella across all of our media.

♦ Interview conducted and condensed by Allie Spensley '20

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Chinese, Liao dynasty, 907–1125, *Coffin Box Panel: Arranging an Outdoor Banquet* (detail), 10th–early 11th century. Wood with lacquer-based pigment. Museum purchase, Fowler McCormick, Class of 1921, Fund

A New Faculty Path

Princeton leads effort to encourage underrepresented students to seek Ph.D.s

Prininceton is leading a partnership with other New Jersey colleges designed to encourage more students from underrepresented groups to enter the academic “pipeline” and seek Ph.D.s, with a goal of ultimately increasing faculty diversity.

The Presidential Scholars Program (PSP) — a collaboration between Princeton, the three campuses of Rutgers University, and The College of New Jersey — will begin seeking applicants this fall who are first-generation and low-income students and students of color. Also targeted are female students in academic disciplines in which they have been historically underrepresented, such as classics, mathematics, and philosophy.

The program is expected to enroll 15 participants when it is launched next summer, with three students who have completed their first year of college from each of the partner locations.

PSP will support students with intensive mentoring, financial assistance, undergraduate research projects, and training opportunities in areas ranging from navigating college life to academic and teaching skills, according to Afia Ofori-Mensa, the program’s director.

The program will bring all participants together in their first summer, while offering students workshops and mentoring at their own institutions during the academic year and research experience in their junior and senior summers.

Stipends for students would help to offset their work expectation during college. Plans call for an additional fund to repay a portion of undergraduate or graduate-school loans for participants who earn their doctorates.

A University spokesman said some details of the program could be revised or updated before its launch.

Sociology professor Miguel Centeno, faculty director of the program, noted that while the student population at many schools has become more diverse, the numbers for African American and



“Whoever teaches you helps shape you and your view of how the world works.”

— Program director Afia Ofori-Mensa

Latino faculty members “are not much better than 30 years ago.” He cited 2015 statistics that among all U.S. colleges, 4 percent of full professors were black and 3 percent were Latino. At Princeton, the 2017 figures were even lower: 3 percent and 2 percent, respectively.

While the program would not be structured to turn out a large number of graduates each year, Centeno said, “even if it is a relatively small success, it is almost guaranteed to have an impact.”

It’s estimated that the program could cost about \$2 million per year once it has reached its full complement of students, he said. Princeton has committed to pay “the brunt of the initial cost,” he said, and the program plans to seek foundation support after the first year or two.

“Whoever teaches you helps shape you and your view of how the world works,” Ofori-Mensa said. At the same time, she said, a student who can identify with a professor with a similar background “believes there is a path for that student into the professoriate.”

Establishing a pipeline program to encourage more students from underrepresented groups to pursue doctoral degrees was among the recommendations of a special committee of the University trustees set up in the wake of a campuswide debate over the legacy of Woodrow Wilson 1879. ♦ By W.R.O.

IN SHORT

RODNEY PRIESTLEY, professor of chemical and biological engineering, will become the University’s first vice dean for innovation, effective Feb. 3. He will oversee efforts to expand ties between faculty and students with industry, entrepreneurs, and other partners.

JHUMPA LAHIRI, a member of the faculty since 2015, is the new director of the creative writing program. She has won numerous awards and fellowships, including the Pulitzer Prize in 1990 for *Interpreter of Maladies*.

JO DUNKLEY, professor of physics and astrophysical sciences, is a recipient of the New Horizons in Physics Prize, awarded by the Breakthrough Prize Foundation. She shares the \$100,000 award with two other researchers, including former Princeton postdoc Kendrick Smith, for developing “novel techniques to extract fundamental physics from astronomical data.”

BAINBRIDGE HOUSE next to the Garden Theatre on Nassau Street, one of Princeton’s oldest structures, has reopened as a gallery of the Princeton University Art Museum that will highlight emerging contemporary artists. Previously the home of the Historical Society of Princeton, the building is now called Art@Bainbridge. ♦





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On the Campus

OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS LIFE

Students Collect Personal Stories of Faith and the Refugee Experience

Stories surrounding the refugee crisis aren't new, but talking to a refugee in person sheds a different light on what they experience. That was the case for Irene Hsu '20, who worked on an oral history project of Princeton's Office of Religious Life (ORL) during her eight-week summer internship at the Midtown Utica Community Center in Utica, N.Y. The center's mission is to support the refugee and low-income population of that area.

Hsu spoke with refugees about their journey and struggles. Kar Bu and Sall Da — members of a Karen family originally from Myanmar — told of being forced out because of their ethnicity, fleeing to Thailand, and raising their children in a refugee camp before coming to this country in 2006. Hsu, a sociology major, said stories like these were eye-opening.

"That really resonated with me, because it made me realize just how desperate a lot of these refugees are," she said, "and how they're really fleeing from something that's so violent and so atrocious."

While this is not the first collection of oral histories from refugee populations, what's distinctive is that these were conducted through the lens of religion.

Hsu was one of 14 students who conducted interviews for the project, which is one piece of the ORL's larger Religion and Resettlement Project. Supported by a three-year, \$550,000 grant from the Luce Foundation and co-sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the goal is to explore the role faith plays in the experiences of refugees. The other two major pieces are a series of symposia and a program in which students conduct research and connect professors with lawyers to assist with the cases of asylum-seekers.

The oral histories will be archived



Media Land, a member of a refugee family interviewed as part of a Princeton oral history project, holds a photo of himself at the age of 3.

in Mudd Library; more than 100 have been collected so far. ORL also hopes to find other educational uses for the recordings, said Katherine Clifton '15, ORL religion and forced-migration coordinator. "It's ever more important to preserve histories of vulnerable populations," Clifton said, "especially today when the systems are being threatened by the political climate."

While this is not the first collection of oral histories from refugee populations, what's distinctive is that these were conducted through the lens of religion. Giving refugees the opportunity to discuss the role faith plays in their lives is important because it is often a major aspect of their experience, said Matthew Weiner, associate dean of religious life.

"Our religion was part of our journey because it gave us hope," said Media Land, a member of the family interviewed by Hsu.

Weiner said the project helps students develop educational and career-building skills by pushing them outside their comfort zones. Oral history "triggers you to meet people you would not have met," he said. "It triggers new encounters." ♦

By C.S.

Irene Hsu '20

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Power Hitter

On the court and in the classroom, O'Connell '20 leads by example

Maggie O'Connell '20's women's volleyball teammates and coaches knew she was talented from the moment she stepped on the court.

Outside hitter Natasha Skov '20 explains it by recalling a match against Harvard. After a Crimson defender blocked O'Connell, she came back from the net fired up and focused on the next point. When the next set came her way, O'Connell delivered. "When she gets angry, she puts it all into her hits," Skov said, "and I remember that one hit that just blew everyone in the gym away."

O'Connell has won every individual honor in Ivy League volleyball — three All-Ivy seasons, Rookie of the Year as a freshman, and Player of the Year as a sophomore. She's led her team in kills per set in two straight seasons. This fall, as the Tigers try for their fourth Ivy title in five years, they'll be leaning on O'Connell's efficient hitting on the right side.

"She puts a lot of pressure on herself

to be perfect, but we do depend on her a lot at the end of games," said head coach Sabrina King '01. "To be that go-to player time and time again is not always easy."

In the last three seasons, O'Connell said, she's improved in handling pressure situations. She's had plenty of practice, from five-set matches in Ivy play to a pair of NCAA Tournament appearances. "I've learned how to help lead whether we're winning or losing," she said.

O'Connell holds herself to the same high standards off the court. A chemical and biological engineering major, she works in assistant professor Sujit Datta's lab and co-authored a recent paper published in the journal *Soft Matter*.

"What I love about being at Princeton is being able to play Division I sports while also doing engineering," O'Connell said. "My role on the team, whether it be helping to get us out of tough situations [or otherwise], is also counterbalanced by my dedication to my major and my academics, which really is a top priority to me." ♦ By Vignesh Panchanatham '22



Maggie O'Connell '20, left, has been an All-Ivy player in three straight seasons.

THE BIG THREE

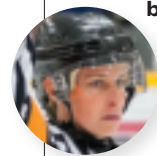
1 MIKE FORD '15 became the first rookie in New York Yankees history to hit a pinch-hit walk-off home run, driving a pitch over the right-field wall in the bottom of the ninth inning of his team's 5-4 win over Oakland Sept. 1. Through Sept. 9, Ford had hit 10 home runs in his first 38 major-league games.



2 HANNAH DAVEY '22 scored a first-half goal and made a between-the-legs pass to assist classmate Ali McCarthy '22 on the overtime game-winner as Princeton field hockey topped Wake Forest 2-1 Sept. 8. Tiger goalie Grace Baylis '20 made a key save in overtime, diving to her right to slap away a penalty stroke and keep the score tied.



3 KELLY COOKE '13 was one of four women selected by the NHL to officiate in the league's rookie tournaments in September. Cooke, a recent Northeastern University law school graduate who was Princeton's leading goal scorer in her senior year, has refereed at international competitions and in the NCAA Women's Frozen Four, where she was part of the collegiate championship's first all-female officiating crew last March. The NHL is the only major North American pro league that has not employed women as officials. ♦





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Life of the Mind

FACULTY BOOK: FREDERICK WHERRY *04

Extending Credit

How one professor is working to balance the social ledger of creditworthiness

For many borrowers, obtaining a home mortgage, car loan, or credit card is a relatively simple process. A bank looks up their credit score — measured on a scale of 300 to 850 — to determine their past financial behavior. For some 45 million Americans, however, that assessment is not possible. According to sociology professor Frederick Wherry *04, those with no credit score — “credit-invisible” or “credit-unscorable” — or with little-to-bad credit tend to be young adults, immigrants, and people of color, who comprise more than 10 percent of the adult population.

Whether it’s a lack of a credit history or a preference for cash, these Americans are locked out of “financial citizenship,” says Wherry. His research is almost entirely devoted to the idea of financial citizenship. In a recent book, *Credit Where It’s Due: Rethinking Financial Citizenship* (Russell Sage Foundation), co-written with Kristin Seefeldt,



José Quiñonez *98, and Anthony Alvarez, he examines the systemic roots of credit invisibility, the pitfalls of having no credit or bad credit, and solutions to reverse the trends. Wherry began examining these issues as a Ph.D. student, along with the legacies that have led to disparities in wealth — including redlining in housing and discrimination in banking and lending. Such policies have led to a stark wealth divide. In 2016, the median black household wealth (net assets minus debt) was \$3,500 — just

2.4 percent of that of white households (which was \$147,000).

“It’s really hard to talk about asset-building in communities of color when people don’t even have credit scores,” Wherry says, noting that 28 percent of blacks and Latinos are credit-invisible. That void can cause consumers to take on forms of credit that are ultimately more expensive — including subprime mortgages, check-cashing stores, and payday lenders — which only perpetuates inequality.

The effects of bad or no credit are far-reaching: Landlords can require a higher security deposit from the credit-invisible. Employers increasingly are

checking job applicants’ credit, resulting in lower starting wages or a significant handicap at promotion time if the report is unfavorable, Wherry says. In addition, such practices can exacerbate existing cleavages in society. One study, co-written with Rourke O’Brien *14, found that applicants with “black-sounding” names and bad credit were likely to be hired at a lower salary than whites with the same credit score, while women with low credit scores were less likely to be hired at all.

In poorer households, financial worries due to a lack of credit can manifest in unhealthy ways and lead to anxiety and depression. Wherry has spearheaded extensive studies of public databases to better understand these effects in his role as director of the Dignity + Debt Network, a collaboration between Princeton University and the Social Science Research Council. One project done in coordination with Princeton graduate

Frederick Wherry *04 is a professor of sociology and the director of the Dignity + Debt Network.



students used machine learning to analyze complaints to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Borrowers lodged an overwhelming number of complaints about humiliating and abusive harangues from debt collectors, who would sometimes call them repeatedly at work and occasionally even called their bosses, increasing feelings of worthlessness as well as threatening their employment. Wherry and his colleagues were surprised by just how much consumers wanted to work with lenders and demonstrate their honorable intentions and just how wounding such tactics could be.

Credit Where It's Due explores how to reverse this trend. Much of the book focuses on the Mission Asset Fund, an innovative program in San Francisco headed by Quiñonez (see "Credit Builder," PAW, March 21, 2018) that works with the neighborhood's Latino community to establish formal lending circles that allow community members to lend money to one another with zero

"It's really hard to talk about asset-building in communities of color when people don't even have credit scores."

— **Sociology professor Frederick Wherry**

interest, and then report repayment to credit bureaus. Another program sets up loans to start small businesses. Informal lending circles were already common, but the fund ensures members access to formal credit lines in the future. "It's not so much about changing behavior," Wherry says, "but about making those behaviors structured and visible."

But larger policy changes may be needed. "We must recognize that conscious policy choices are responsible for our existing inequalities," Wherry and his colleagues write, "and that it will take clearly intentioned policies to undo their impact." One idea they support concerns "baby bonds": a

government-funded trust for each child that would mature at age 18, to be used for education, to buy a home, or start a business. The initial amount of the bond would be inversely proportional to the wealth of the baby's family. (The policy might be better called "seed capital for every child," they argue.) Wherry and his co-writers also propose government-backed short-term loans as an alternative to payday lenders.

Such programs would help the credit-invisible by allowing them access to capital at fair rates, and acknowledging that just because someone doesn't have a credit score, doesn't mean they are financially irresponsible. "When someone is struggling financially, the default assumption is there must be something wrong with them — either they are shirking their responsibilities, made a mistake, or somehow got duped," Wherry says. Changing that perception could be the first step in bringing them out of the shadows and making them viable financial citizens. ♦ *By Michael Blanding*

NEW RELEASES

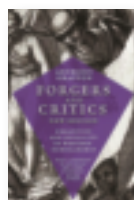


Creative writing professor **Yiyun Li's** latest novel, *Where Reasons End* (RandomHouse) takes place in a time-defying world — the space between life and death — in

which a mother speaks with the child she has lost to suicide. Vivid and raw, Li's novel captures the complexity of their relationship during this moment of extreme suffering.

In today's political climate, entrenchment — efforts to implement change in ways opponents will find difficult to reverse — is at the heart of new laws and court cases. In *Entrenchment:*

Wealth, Power, and the Constitution of Democratic Societies (Yale University Press), Professor of Sociology **Paul Starr** analyzes historical examples, such as abolishing slavery, and examines how societal changes become hard to reverse in contemporary democracies.

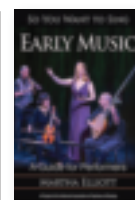


In *Forgers and Critics: Creativity and Duplicity in Western Scholarship, New Edition* (Princeton University Press), Professor of History **Anthony Grafton**

argues that forgeries throughout history have ultimately led to a more thorough and skillful tradition of scholarship since scholars must become experts in identifying fakes.

Bathroom Battlegrounds: How Public Restrooms Shape the Gender Order (University of California Press) tracks the importance of the restroom across American history as a key location

for cultural hallmarks. **Alexander K. Davis '16**, lecturer in gender and sexuality studies, demonstrates how the gendered American public restroom has more than 200 years' worth of history and conflict, covering everything from transgender inclusion to social status.



So You Want to Sing Early Music: A Guide for Performers (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers) is an instructional guide by **Martha Elliott '82**, lecturer in music.

Elliot combines historical context with stylistic techniques to provide recommendations and guidance for performing 17th- and 18th-century musical pieces.

In *The Torture Letters: Reckoning with Police Violence* (University of Chicago Press), **Laurence Ralph**, professor of anthropology, details the extensive history

of torture used by the Chicago Police Department, largely against black suspects. Drawing from research and the testimonies of victims, retired officers, and lawyers, Ralph challenges Americans to demand an end to the systems that abet police violence. ♦



ANTHROPOLOGY: RYO MORIMOTO

The Human Side of Atomic Catastrophe

Ryo Morimoto never set out to become an expert on catastrophes. Born and raised in Japan, he wound up in the United States for a Ph.D. in anthropology at Brandeis University, where he considered specializing in Japanese cooking and cuisine.

Then, in March 2011, three nuclear power-plant reactors in Fukushima melted down following an earthquake and tsunami.

Brandeis encouraged Morimoto to visit the area and learn about the disaster's impact on modern Japanese society, since it would undoubtedly affect how people ate. "Once I put my foot in, there was no way for me to get out — because you actually meet people, survivors, and victims," Morimoto says. "That intimate moment ... really drew me into this."

Morimoto hopes we can change our attitude toward nuclear power. "Distancing is great — it

gives us a way to avert potential risk. But distance can encourage ignorance, a lack of reflection," he says. "We have to have a more intimate relationship with [nuclear material], which we have around us all the time." ♦

By Agatha Bordonaro '04

Assistant Professor Ryo Morimoto brings a human element into the study of all things nuclear.

Morimoto's Studies: A Sampling

TOXIC AMNESIA

In 2013, while working on his Ph.D., Morimoto served as a translator for a documentary about the 2011 Fukushima disaster. He was struck by a disconnect between the director's focus on the devastation and the locals' desire to move on. "They were saying, 'Things have changed and we're trying to live our lives,'" Morimoto says. His current book project explores this gap between the "global imagination of this area" and the residents' coping mechanisms, showing how local perspectives that don't match the world's expected narrative "will get erased or redacted."



BEYOND BORDERS

For thousands of years, Fukushima residents lived alongside wild boars, which were farm pests but also a source of food. After the disaster, the boars proliferated in evacuation zones, becoming highly radioactive. Morimoto's recent research shows that not only are decontamination efforts pushing boars into nearby areas, thereby spreading contaminants, but also that the surplus of animals has necessitated broad-scale incineration, haphazardly scattering nuclear waste by air. "This is the less-discussed

impact of nuclear disaster. I want to let people know that a lot more than just direct human exposure is at play here."



THE POLITICS OF WASTE

The biggest challenge when dealing with nuclear material is getting rid of it. In addition to the logistical considerations, the physical act of transporting radioactive waste raises social, ethical, and environmental questions, Morimoto says. For example, Japan's plan for massive, 1,600-foot-deep holes to store the waste requires an understanding of the stability of deep geological repositories, as well as a plan for any groundwater that might flow through. On top of which, when the waste is brought there, "it'll probably be traveling in front of [someone's] house in the street," Morimoto points out. "And we might see inequality — people who are [disadvantaged] in society might have to deal with it."

♦ By A.B.



TONI MORRISON

REMEMBERED

Writers and readers responded to the Aug. 5 death of Toni Morrison with an outpouring of grief and appreciation for the impact her work had on their lives. For many Princetonians, her loss was felt especially intensely, for Morrison was not just a Nobel Prize-winning author, but a teacher, mentor, and colleague. She began teaching at the University in 1989, founding the Princeton Atelier five years later. She took part in many of Princeton's most moving events, including the community gathering after the terrorist attacks Sept. 11, 2001, and the conference on Princeton's connections with slavery two years ago.

Here we reprint the keynote address she gave Oct. 25, 1996, at Princeton's 250th-anniversary convocation.

An expanded version of this essay was published in *Inner Sanctum: Memory and Meaning in Princeton's Faculty Room at Nassau Hall*, edited by Karl Kusserow, with a foreword by Shirley A. Tilghman (the Princeton University Art Museum in association with Princeton University Press, 2010).

The Place of the Idea; The Idea of the Place

This is a singular honor for me, but it's also a daunting assignment, one I thought would be more easily assumed by someone accustomed to making speeches about policy or education, rather than an artist. Trying to say something pertinent, something original about an institution so

permanently lodged in the history of high learning and the history of the nation seemed to me quite hopeless.

While wondering how to launch these remarks, I began to look through works of other writers, poets and novelists, and I turned at one point to William Wordsworth hoping to find suitably elegiac lines. I hoped those of us gathered here by simple love of the place and allegiance to its mission would be receptive to some meditation on *genius loci* — the “spirit of the place” — Wordsworth's eloquent use of the conceit that certain sites, natural sites, held *genii* which “spoke” to the contemplative passerby.

I found nothing really appropriate for this occasion, or at least for my remarks. But during the search I was reminded that part of the significance of Wordsworth's inscription of places as sources of revelation lies in what one scholar, Geoffrey Hartmann, calls the “continuum of the wisdom of the dead and the energy of the living.” In other words, the spirit of the place is animated by a reverence for the past that is forever mitigated by the present.

It became an understanding that furnished me with an opportunity to think of Princeton as two orders of continuum: the personal and the public. To think of Princeton, for those who have experienced it, as a place of private memory which colors and organizes their everyday life, and then of Princeton as a place of collective public memory — which is to say history — which has helped shape the nation's life.

In the first instance Princeton is a subjective experience of the place itself. Just remembering those trees down there, on Witherspoon Street — how they reach across the pavement and the shops and the pedestrians to touch each other. How beneath their heads the streetlights are shy and so, if you are there in spring at twilight, falling petals cover the walkers and the road like snowflakes in December. In the second instance Princeton is a place fixed in public memory as continuum, as part of the history of the nation. Take, for example, another street — that one, Nassau Street. Once it was the King's Highway, later named after the House of William III, now a modern avenue of commerce. But once, much, much longer ago, it was the trail of indigenous Americans, the Leni Lenape.

In private memory this place is its halls, its library, its Chapel worn to satin by the encounters and collaborations among and between strangers from other neighborhoods and strangers from other lands. It is friendships secured and endangered



Toni Morrison in 2003

PAW ASKED SEVERAL PRINCETONIANS FOR THEIR REFLECTIONS ABOUT TONI MORRISON

Links to essays by others are at paw.princeton.edu



BY MORGAN JERKINS '14

I found out about Toni Morrison's passing while I was just a few minutes away from my job. I was checking the news on my phone, and when I saw her image within an announcement of her death in *New York* magazine, I immediately entertained the thought of pivoting my heel to go back home. Not Toni Morrison, I thought. We need her. In a time of heightened white supremacy, domestic terrorist attacks, and gaslighting of our nation's history, Morrison's prose has always been a lighthouse in the dead of night. I watched and reviewed the documentary of her life and career in June, and I was floored by how powerful a woman she was in scope and versatility.

Morrison showed the world that black life is full of vibrancy without the white gaze clouded over us. Her unforgettable characters and their stories across the American landscape will stay with us forever. I am thankful, as a black woman of arts and letters, that Morrison and her work existed. I am thankful that Toni Morrison was privileged enough to receive her flowers while she was living, when many, many other black female artists and their lives have been lost to the shadows and are in desperate need of recovering. Even now, I cannot believe she's gone, but Morrison is never entirely gone. Her prose remains with us, and in a way, has made her immortal.

Morgan Jerkins '14 is an author, journalist, editor, and professor. Her debut essay collection, This Will Be My Undoing: Living at the Intersection of Black, Female, and Feminist in (White) America, was published in 2018.

♦ ♦ ♦



BY JACOB SAGER WEINSTEIN '94

In my junior year of Princeton, I took Professor Morrison's Long Fiction seminar. She was a best-selling author and a Pulitzer Prize winner, and was frequently mentioned as a Nobel candidate. More than that, I had read her books. I knew what she could do as a writer. To say I was intimidated would be an understatement.

At least, I was intimidated walking into her classroom. By the time I walked out, she had somehow convinced me that I had the right to sit in a room with her and learn from her, and most improbably of all, to contribute something to our conversation. Decades later, I'm still not sure how she pulled off that particular conjuring trick.

It had something to do with the matter-of-factness with which she talked about her own work.

continued from page 24

on greens and in classrooms, offices, eating clubs, residences. It is stimulating rivalries negotiated in laboratories, lecture halls, and sports arenas. Every doorway, every tree and turn is haunted by peals of laughter, murmurs of loyalty and love, tears of pleasure and sorrow and triumph.

Yet woven into these instances of private memory are other more complicated ones that are the property of public memory: The FitzRandolph Gateway locked for years and then unlocked for more years. Ivy constantly trimmed to reveal and commemorate the ravages of a Revolutionary war. The policy duels (as well as one physical one) of presidents, statesmen, captains of mighty industries.

This place — it is redolent with the breath of the emotional life lived here and the intellectual life made manifest here. “The wisdom of the dead and the energy of the living” merge to become a tradition that informs the present and shapes the future.

When, in 1862, President Abraham Lincoln told Congress that the “dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present,” he was referring to a Civil War waged to suture the wide cut, the open wound of an already sundered Union. And when he followed that observation with “We cannot escape history,” the connotation of the term — history — summoned the future. Lincoln was alluding to history's future judgment on how and whether the nation could separate dogma from its own past and regard history as events in progress.

The founders of Princeton who preceded that speech by 116 years knew well, better perhaps than the founders of any American institution of high learning of the time, the necessity of being open to the unforeseeable. For as Woodrow Wilson said, those founders “had no more vision of what was to come upon the country than their fellow colonists.” But it was clear that they were determined to enter history — not as into a sepulcher but as into a torrent of contemporary affairs. They were determined to make a place where views different from the authoritarian synod, views considered radical, apostate at the time, would prepare young men for whatever might be asked of them in the service of their God, their conscience, and their province.

Princeton was the place of the independent idea. The place where conscience was prized above orthodoxy. The place of the dissenting idea. Not dissent for its own sake, dissent as style, as fashion or dissent as self-aggrandizement, but dissent over what was foundational, complex, and urgent to the health of the citizenry: the thrust of an individual's spiritual and intellectual life. In the 1740s that was indeed a risky proposition. Some, I am sure, believed it an arrogant one — and they may have been right, it was arrogant. But if so, it was the arrogance of a sublime idea, not a pedantic one; it was the arrogance of a generous idea, not a self-satisfying one.

It's hard now to imagine how fresh were the terms in which those men spoke of spiritual life, of their God; how intense were the political debates, the metaphysical arguments they advanced; how intense the enemies they must have infuriated, and the envy they surely aroused. To put forward, without established support, a position so unpopular among colonial educators must have seemed reckless, reckless indeed. Yet it was that very independence that helped make Princeton, in the words of Don Oberdorfer [’52], “a national place before there was a nation.”

From top: Sylvie Rosokoff; courtesy Jacob Sager Weinstein '94



Students congratulate Morrison after she was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature, Oct. 7, 1993.

When Aaron Burr Sr. succeeded the short tenure of his predecessors and moved the College from Newark, the chosen place was the village of Princeton, a choice that reinforced its independence, its insistence upon making its own way. Although, or perhaps because, the place was far from meddling distraction, it was an environment ideally suited to forging the affairs of a new nation. This hall from which I speak, Nassau Hall, with its original occupants, its site as the meeting place of the first state legislature of New Jersey, as well as the Continental Congress of 1783, bears witness to the stamina, the prescience of the originating idea taking root in hospitable soil.

I have a personal interest in the translation of tradition, of history, into a livable present and a civilized future. I have personal interests in methods by which histories are disrupted, how intervention can extinguish cultural memory or drive it underground to avoid eclipse. Thus the 250-year trajectory of this “experiment” in higher education has great significance for me. I am intrigued by the ways in which the independent idea — the dissent from orthodoxy — plays out over time; how it is preserved or altered; and how the place of its birth is both conserved and made new. There are in this country parallel histories of the same nativity, with the same agenda of freedom, with other landscapes struggling for preservation and for new life.

Universities play a powerful mnemonic role. Their fields, their campuses, are dotted with figures and plaques of bronze, stone, and marble — with botanical life to keep memory alive. But universities are not memorabilia; they’re not mausoleums. So while Princeton remains legitimately enthralled with the place of the idea, it must continue to be equally faithful to the idea of the place.

The idea of the place is visionary, is change, throbs with life and leans toward the edge. The idea of the place is burrowing into the heart of a theory, of a concept, casting its gaze toward the limitlessness of the universe, not merely moving toward the future but in certain instances driving it. The idea of the place despises those forces in academic institutions so fearful of independent thought, so alarmed by challenge they prefer oblivion, irrelevance, rather than shoulder the hard responsibilities of change.

The place of the idea represents the value of tradition, of independence; the idea of the place is its insightful grasp

continues on page 28

She struggled with opening scenes, she said. She’d start writing a novel and, halfway through, realize she had begun it in the wrong place.

And it had something to do with how she talked about the stories we wrote for her. Of course, she found things to improve. But she also found things to delight in, so that we felt them worth improving.

More than any one thing she said, though, it had to do with the tone she set. She spoke to that roomful of students, decades younger and vastly less skilled than she, as though we were her respected colleagues.

Needless to say, I had not earned that respect with my inept, inexperienced writing. If I had earned it through anything, it could only be my status as a fellow human being. If you’ve read her books, you know Toni Morrison’s endless empathy for our broken, joyful, struggling species. Receiving that empathy firsthand was the best of that semester’s many gifts. ♦

Jacob Sager Weinstein ’94’s most recent book is Lyric McKerrigan, Secret Librarian.

♦ ♦ ♦



BY KATE MCQUADE ’03

I have few memories of 9/11 that haven’t been replaced by images I’ve seen a thousand times on TV screens. But one memory I’ve held onto is standing in a crowd

on Cannon Green, feeling lost and confused at a schoolwide vigil, and listening to Toni Morrison read a poem addressed to the dead of September 11.

I was a junior. The light that day was bright and golden, the sky cloudless — it might have been the cruelly beautiful afternoon of 9/11, but I’m pretty sure the vigil was a few days later. (The facts matter less to me than the feelings I remember; I think anyone who has read *Beloved* knows that sometimes memories take on a life of their own, that they can end up meaning more than facts.)

What I remember feeling, as Morrison read her poem very slowly and deliberately, was something going calm across the crowd. It wasn’t comfort. Just calmness: a quiet, charged awareness that we were facing a terroristic power whose scope was still beyond us. Mortality, maybe. Hate, maybe. History, maybe. Whatever it was, her words reminded us that speaking up mattered, even — perhaps especially — in the wake of unspeakable loss.

Since Morrison’s passing, I’ve been thinking a lot about what she taught me — as a writer, as a teacher of writing, as a white person living in a country that grants me undue privilege because of my skin. Most of all, she taught me the importance of speaking up. Of addressing not just external evils, but also those seeded among us, in a country where terrorism is just as often domestic and where racially motivated discrimination and violence find enduring roots in a national history that must also be addressed.

She reminded me there on Cannon Green, and many times since in her novels, of the multifaceted power of language: a way to both honor the dead and push against those who threaten the living. There was no better example of who we should all be as Americans. ♦

Kate McQuade '03 is the author of Tell Me Who We Were, which was published by William Morrow in July.

♦ ♦ ♦



BY LEAH WRIGHT RIGUEUR '09

When I was a graduate student at Princeton University in the early 2000s, one of my most potent memories is of sitting in on Cornel West and Eddie Glaude's class on the black intellectual tradition; on this day, our guests were Morrison, the actress Phylicia Rashad, and Jay-Z (Shawn Carter). Turning to Carter, West asked the rapper to comment on his musical catalog, his lyrics, and race in America. Jay-Z vigorously shook his head, laughed, and responded: "Why should I talk when Toni Morrison is here? She's the one who taught me. I need to learn from her." The room broke out in laughter born from a shared understanding that Morrison was our translator, our teacher, our literary great, our canon.

Long before I became a professional historian, Morrison put me through a master class in doing history imaginatively, reassuring me that the careful excavation of stories that unapologetically center black life and community was, and still is, a revolutionary act, especially for a black woman in America. "I write what I have recently begun to call village literature," she once noted. "Fiction that is really for the village, for the tribe. ... I think long and carefully about what my novels ought to do. They should clarify the roles that have become obscured; they ought to identify those things in the past that are useful and those things that are not; and they ought to give nourishment." Morrison told us to explore that which is foreign, and to wrestle with both the beautiful and the horrifying parts of blackness, and to do it with clarity, love, and empathy. She constantly reminded us that writing us "whole," in all our intricacies and silences, was a necessary part of freedom. She leaves a legacy of limitless possibility, for our community, our liberation, and for us: "The vitality of language lies in its ability to limn the actual, imagined, and possible lives of its speakers, readers, writers." ♦

Leah Wright Rigueur '09 is an associate professor of public policy at the Harvard Kennedy School and the author of The Loneliness of the Black Republican: Pragmatic Politics and the Pursuit of Power. This is an excerpt from an essay that appeared Aug. 9 in The Washington Post.

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of the future. Negotiating those two ideas, conservation and change, is no small matter. It demands work; it demands work and intelligence of the highest order. And they're not necessarily adversarial ideas, and even when they appear so that irreconcilability is the clash that stirs inquiry and fosters knowledge.

There are few places, very few places left, other than great universities, where (to paraphrase my earlier quote) both the wisdom of the dead coupled with the doubt of the living are vigorously encouraged, welcomed, become the very stuff of education, the pulse of teaching, the engine of research, the consequence of learning. No faculty member worth the profession has ever taken for granted as fixed truth or fiat all he or she has learned. The nature of our profession is to doubt, to expand, to enhance, to review, to interrogate. But no faculty member is able to question in a vacuum or is fired to innovate, to create because she or he is interested in erasing the inheritance, the authority of her discipline.

No student is expected to be content with the acquisition of data, of information. It is demanded of her to move beyond the stasis of what is known to what is knowable, toward more and other knowledge, knowledge that might one day contribute to the wisdom of the past.

Tradition is not there to bedevil us. It is there for us. It is not there to arrest us; it is there to arouse us. That is the continuum; that is the reconcilability of tradition and the future.

Because the date of this celebration of 250 years is so close to year 2000, because the tenure of a class already enrolled will end at year 2000, this Charter Day marks the beginning of a new century. It is appropriate, therefore, to have millenniumistic thoughts — large millenniumistic thoughts. What will Princeton be at its Quincentennial celebration? By then it will have seen 250 years of the third millennium.

What form will the idea of the place have taken then? Will its proud legacy of service to the nation be narrowed by then, narrowed to holding public office and wielding private power? Will the entitled still be worried about entitlements? Will gates again be locked? Will the mission have stumbled because the constituency has changed? Will instruction be executed solely in solitude by the isolated handling of sophisticated new machines? Will departments and intellectuals have closed themselves off from the great and tumultuous issues of that future day? Will those hired to guide students to meet those challenges recoil from the difficulty and re-create instead the moribund world of their desire? Will chests swell at the success of having preserved the place and the idea in amber? Will that generation of educators be telling students that not only was everything better before they were born, but that everything before their birth will always be better; that the best they can hope for their future is to clone a former generation's past?

Or will Princeton continue to do what it has done so brilliantly, so often in the past century and a half? Revel in the fact that its taproot was fed by the waters of civil dissent, has been nurtured by sound learning and respect for heterogeneous discourses on the dominant philosophical views of the world.

The evidence of these celebrations, based on the initiatives announced, the quality of the symposia and conferences held, the arts on display — the evidence is convincing. Princeton at



Paul Wyse created this portrait for Morrison Hall, the former West College.

its Quincentennial will still follow its principal and noblest dictates and continue to wage war for the liberation of power, not just its transfer. It will continue to do what has made it legend and unique among the country's great universities: remain steadfast in its insistence that a premier liberal arts

education requires students and faculty to face each other in what Woodrow Wilson described as "personal conference and intimate counsel."

The evidence of these recent years and under recent and current leadership is unassailable: No priorities will go unmet in enabling this institution to make as constructive a difference in the larger community as it does in the lives of each and every student, regardless of that student's resources; in assuring the best physical environment for staff, faculty, and students; in assembling the best scholars and artists in the world; and in enhancing its global influence.

On the other hand, if Princeton University has abandoned the principles upon which the College of New Jersey was founded, then whoever stands here in front of this great, historical hall at the Quincentennial, will be speaking of a "virtual" university: a package of attitudes and preferences emanating from souvenirs and images and longing. Where complacent leadership proved not only unsuitable for the education of the nation's children; it proved dangerous to them.

In the words of Alfred North Whitehead: "Those societies which cannot combine reverence to their symbols with freedom of revision, must ultimately decay either from anarchy, or from the slow atrophy of a life stifled by useless shadows."

Princeton's poise rests on its tradition of independence. Princeton's subtlety lies in its ability to revise itself. Its strength is knowing what its founders knew, that service to the individual, to the government, to the world requires unwavering commitment to intellectual freedom, a fierce commitment to virtues already being debased by apathy: virtues such as integrity and honor and fair play and courage.

In the years to come, between now and the 250 years that will pass before the Quincentennial that I am imagining, the world may be overwhelmed by fear and mediocrity, by xenophobia and mendacity. Then universities alone may very well be the last preserve of free thought, of independent inquiry, of simple caring for.

Princeton's proud history is that it was the first of such havens. Its bright future is that it will always be.

Please join me in celebration of and rededication to ... This place. This idea. ♦



BY SUSAN WHEELER

By the time I began teaching at 185 Nassau, Toni Morrison, in the hive of her Atelier program, was spared the joys of faculty meetings and so some years passed before I met her.

But she had, through her novels, been my teacher — about language, about what needed writing, about language's "deference to the uncapturability of the life it mourns."* I had studied the sentences and the images of *Sula* as though it were a sonnet.

I had lived in Chicago when it elected its first black mayor, Harold Washington, and in a final moment before big-box stores, cellphones, and digital music blanketed every city. For a long while I had wanted to write that moment and, within that fiction, to stay with a voice based in part on the voice of a man who ran a basement record store I had frequented. I am white so there had to be a white narrator, but I didn't want the man living only in the white character's racial imagination, and I didn't want what Skip Gates named the "Magic Negro," the black character present only to save a white one. If I gave him his own narration — not a counterpart but a life making the white girl and her racial fixation superfluous — I felt it would only be justified if I could write it "perfectly." And, of course, I couldn't, so I stalled.

Then Toni Morrison was awarded the Nobel Prize, and in her acceptance speech I read, "Make up a story. Narrative is radical — creating us at the very moment it is being created. ... We know you can never do it properly — once and for all. Passion is never enough; neither is skill. But try."* I pinned this to my desk and hobbled into the morass.

I feared it was done improperly, abysmally, but a decade later, my narrative was done. I still hadn't met Toni when my publisher sent her the novel's galleys for her comment; blurbs came in from others and the book went to press. One Saturday morning I ignored a 7 a.m. phone call. It was Toni, calling the number beside the publisher's — mine — to leave a message: She regretted having taken so long and hoped that the publisher could use her comment, in which she said my "flawless ear ... produced an irresistible work." I had to listen again to believe it. A decade's fear lost half its heft in a moment.

In the years following I at last met Toni and spent several occasions both tongue-tied and laughing in her presence: She relished her own considerable humor in a way that upped its delivery. That she was here, at Princeton — an embodied teacher for her students in addition to the way her art teaches the rest of us — still thrills me. ♦

Princeton professor Susan Wheeler is the author of a novel, Record Palace, and six books of poetry.

*Both quotes from *The Nobel Lecture in Literature, 1993, Toni Morrison*

T

The railroad was still being

laid across the West when students and faculty from the College of New Jersey went past the furthest tracks, scouring the Badlands in search of prehistoric beasts. Starting in 1877, parties from the College embarked each summer on scientific expeditions out West, largely to states that the Rocky Mountains cross, such as Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, and the Dakotas. The expeditions sought fossil specimens to stock the College's museum of natural history. Usually fossils lie in sedimentary deposits that haven't been very compressed or contorted; the lands around the Rockies were ideal grounds for the fossil hunter in search of new discoveries. In the course of these journeys, the parties also found a world that was itself vanishing into the past: The Old West, a landscape of frontier towns, makeshift camps, and Native settlements, which photographs from the expeditions preserve.

The expeditions required their participants to play a range of roles, from paleontologist to photographer to geological surveyor. Juniors and seniors could apply to join through a competitive examination; successful applicants, between eight and 13 each year, attended lectures before the trip on helpful subjects like osteology, the study of bones. In 1882, the students who had signed up to go west wrote up tongue-in-cheek rules for the expedition, the *Princetonian* reported. The rules included: Every member would grow a full beard — starting work on the growth “at once” — and carry his own tobacco; no member would keep rocks or fossils for himself; and no swearing would be permitted, unless it referred to the cooking, the insects, the instructors, the mules, or the weather.

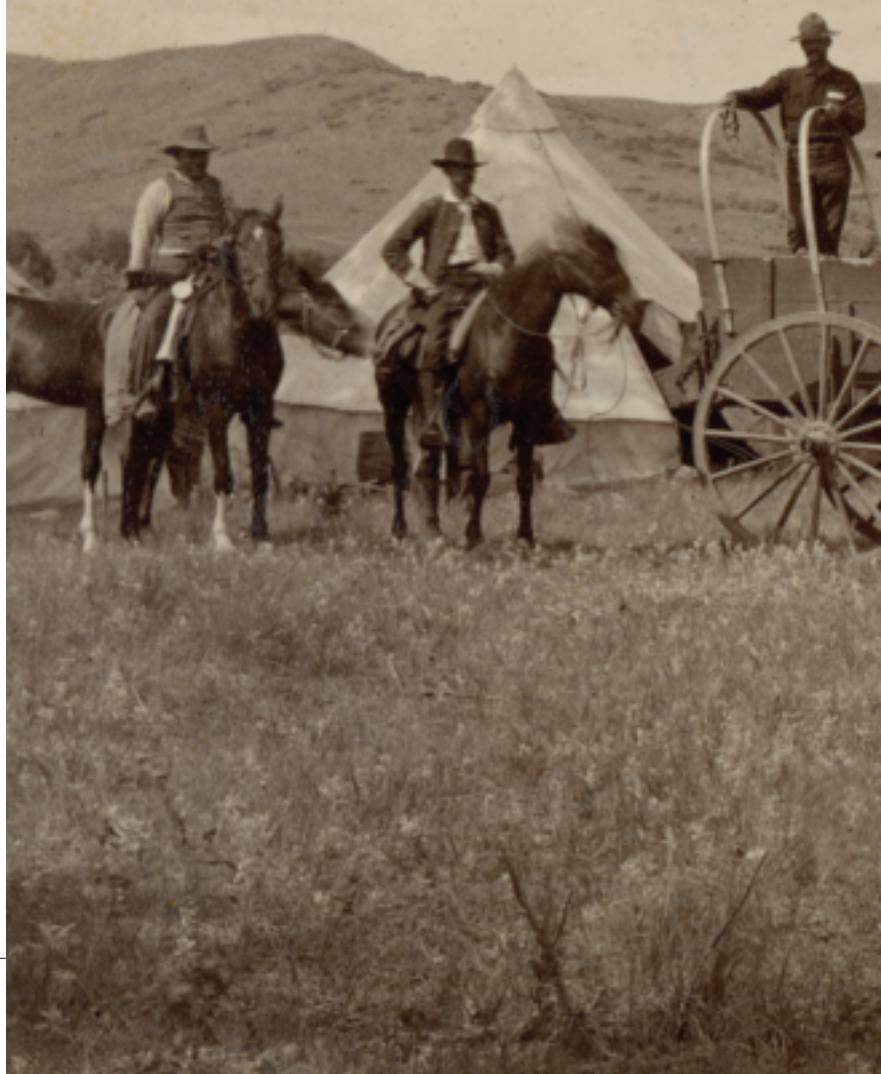
An expedition party might travel more than 5,000 miles, some 1,200 on horseback. Depending on their plans and the terrain, party members might travel with saddle horses, packhorses, mules, or a four-horse wagon equipped with a

THE OLD WEST

Images from expeditions of another era — and what scientific explorers do today

By Elyse Graham '07

Photographs from the
Princeton University Archives,
Princeton University Library





In 1890, Princeton students traveled to the Badlands in what was the eighth scientific expedition and were escorted by members of the Ninth Cavalry. Among those pictured are cavalrymen and the group's teamster.



FROM TOP:

In 1886, guide Jake Heisey and David Harlan 1886 sit in the foreground as Nicholas Murray Butler — then a tutor at Columbia University, and later its president — and George Reynolds 1886 are “digging for fossil bones, in White River bad lands, Utah,” a handwritten description says.

Students passed the butte below on their way to collect fossils in Utah. Accompanying the image is a description that draws attention to the horse on the right: It was obtained by the party’s photographer “from an Indian at Fort Duchesne for fifteen dollars and the pony that the photographer had been riding and which said Indian agreed to receive.”

teamster and a cook. In 1893, they hired a Deadwood stagecoach, an icon from Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show. In 1895, after a welcome respite on a train, they reached the end of the railroad tracks in Montana Territory — but managed to continue by rail to Wyoming by hitching a ride on a construction train, laying out their bedding on rumbling flat cars. They often relied on Indian agencies to find their way around; on a visit to one such agency in Wyoming, the travelers watched Native Americans play a game with some 60 players that resembled hockey or lacrosse. “After the game a Princeton cheer was given,” the *Princetonian* later reported, “which amused the Indians very much.”

They focused on collecting vertebrate fossils, but also took interest in gathering geological specimens and evidence of prehistoric plant life and river life. They found specimens of prehistoric camels, crocodiles, deer, dogs, elephants, fish, horses, lizards, mice, rhinoceroses, shellfish, turtles, and wolves, and much else besides.

The Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library holds hundreds of photographs from these journeys in its Princeton

Scientific Expeditions Collection. The students, wise to new gadgets as in every generation, supplied from their ranks photographers who used glass-plate cameras and tents set up as darkrooms to record the adventures of Princetonians out West.

Today, research expeditions remain part of the bedrock of the Department of Geosciences. Two or three undergraduate classes set out each year on expeditions during school breaks — to the Everglades, the Bahamas, the Republic of Cyprus, or farther still. Faculty members conduct research expeditions all over the globe, sometimes taking their lab groups with them. Scientists often pitch camp for weeks at a time, working in the wilderness as their predecessors did. In many places, they still use local agents as guides and suppliers (for instance, if a scientist needs to get hold of liquid nitrogen while in another country). They may work, with permits, on indigenous lands. And those scientists who join research programs in Antarctica or expeditions at sea on research vessels can justly claim to be voyaging in strange and lonely regions.





Roping horse

Obstinacy

Leigh's Ranch





FROM TOP:

Students display a *Menodus* skull they unearthed in the Badlands in 1890. The creature resembled a rhinoceros.

A Princeton geological expedition to the Dakotas, in 1882, was led by Professor William Berryman Scott 1877, center with glasses. Physicist and Princeton dean W.F. Magie 1879 is at bottom right.

Adventurers from Guyot Hall no longer seek large prehistoric animals, but rather incredibly small ones. “We haven’t gone out to do big-animal paleo in at least the past 20 years,” says Bess Ward, the chair of the Department of Geosciences. “We look for little tiny things that you might never have heard of, or for chemical signatures that are left behind in rocks.” Scientists examine rocks for foraminifera, or microscopic animals with intricate shells of calcium carbonate. They use mass spectrometry to study the isotopes in water and carbonate rocks. The questions asked, conversely, are much larger: What caused the event that wiped out the dinosaurs — a meteorite or a huge volcanic eruption? How much has the sea level changed over the millennia? What is the role of the ocean, which holds most of the carbon dioxide we produce, in moderating global warming?

“Compared to traditional paleontological expeditions, we have a more global view,” Ward says. “We visit a place not just because it’s interesting in itself, but because it can tell us more about the larger world.”

As much as the frontiers of our knowledge have changed, the world of past generations lingers in the fossil strata of the University. The department still has endowed funds — from the old days — set aside for packhorses. “When I first became department chair, I looked through the records to find out what funds we had available and what their requirements were,” Ward says. “One phrase stood out to me: ‘The department may use this fund for packhorses, but not office furniture.’” ♦

Elyse Graham '07 is an assistant professor of digital humanities at Stony Brook University.



▶ A **SLIDE SHOW** of more expedition photos is at paw.princeton.edu

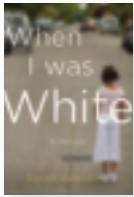
PRINCETONIANS



PEDAL POWER: As a pastry chef in New York City, Kate Zuckerman '93 loved to experiment with local ingredients. Her latest venture, Sweetcycle, puts a new spin on that recipe: People prepare sweet and savory treats with a stationary blender-bicycle. Sweetcycle has spread its message of sustainable dining at wellness fairs, corporate events, and the *Today* show. "I feel like I'm giving them a food memory and a connection to raw ingredients that they wouldn't ordinarily have," Zuckerman says. ♦ **WATCH** a video profile of Zuckerman at paw.princeton.edu/tiger-of-the-week

READING ROOM: SARAH VALENTINE *07

'IDENTITY IS SOMETHING THAT IS ALWAYS IN THE MAKING'



Sarah Valentine *07 grew up in the Pittsburgh suburbs, the athletic, scholarly child of parents of Irish and Italian ancestry. Not until she was a 27-year-old

graduate student in Princeton's Slavic Languages and Literatures department did she muster the courage to confront her mother about why she looked so different from the rest of her family.

Her mother told Valentine (whose original family name was Dunn) that she was the child of a rape by an unidentified African American man. DNA tests confirmed that the man who raised her was not her biological father. The revelation almost undid Valentine, affecting her health, complicating her relationship with her mother, and prompting an unsuccessful search for her biological father. It also inspired a memoir, *When I Was White* (St. Martin's Press). Valentine will visit campus Oct. 3–5 to discuss the book as part of the Thrive conference.

What inconsistencies were involved in growing up as a dark-skinned child in a white family and neighborhood?

The first was that I was clearly to everyone else a person of color. Every time I would be asked my background, all I had was the answer that I was white, that I was Irish and Italian. And I think that was probably very unsatisfying to most people. But I didn't have any other answer to give. Believing I was white but constantly having my identity questioned from the outside really gave me a sense of split consciousness or double consciousness.

How did the revelation of your black ancestry affect you?

It was a shock. On the one hand, everything about me finally made sense, and in that sense, it was a huge relief. But it opened a whole Pandora's box:



"Believing I was white but constantly having my identity questioned from the outside really gave me a sense of split consciousness or double consciousness."

— Sarah Valentine *07

Why has this been a secret until now? What does that mean for my sense of self? In what universe would parents lie to their daughter about her race and her biological parents? All of these things were overwhelming to deal with.

You crossed the color line just by regarding yourself differently. What does that say about the way we understand race in this country?

I started to reckon with my own racism

— the racism I had internalized from my community and my family. It meant that I reflected very deeply on whiteness and how that operates in terms of racism and racial categories.

How has living as a black or biracial woman been different from living as a white one?

It really gave me a sense of living my authentic self. Both of those identities were denied to me growing up. I know some people consider mixed race as a separate identity. Socially, there is a sense that if you resemble a race other than white you are identified with that race — mainly because whiteness has always been exclusionary. If we didn't consider mixed people black, we wouldn't have had our first black president. We don't really have a good way of understanding mixed-race identity in this country.

You write at the end of the memoir that you've been left with fragments, absence, loss.

I came to that conclusion because the biggest lesson I learned was that identity is something that is always in the making. I had to come to terms both personally and narratively with the fact that the story was not going to be finished in the way that I wanted it to be.

What are you doing now?

I'm working on a novel, and it's very freeing to work on a story where I can decide the ending. ♦ Interview conducted and condensed by Julia M. Klein

 **READ** a longer version of Valentine's Q&A at paw.princeton.edu

THRIVE: EMPOWERING AND CELEBRATING BLACK ALUMNI: OCT. 3–5

TIME TO THRIVE — The Thrive conference, featuring African American thought leaders from across disciplines, will take place on campus Oct. 3–5. Highlights include a conversation with President Eisgruber '83; Lily McNair '79, president of Tuskegee University; and former Princeton vice provost Ruth J. Simmons, president of Prairie View A&M University. The arts will be well represented: On Friday, an evening of poetry and music will be followed by a performing-arts showcase; on Saturday, a conversation with film and TV pioneers will be followed by a film screening. U.S. Rep. Terri Sewell '86 will close out the event with a speech at the event's final dinner. Registration and more information can be found at <https://events.princeton.edu/thrive>. ♦



Dave King '77, left, and his old friend Steve Davis '79 reconnected while serving on the board of PATH, a global-health NGO.

DAVE KING '77 AND STEVE DAVIS '79

PATHS CROSS

Some 30 years after meeting at Princeton, two friends find common cause at PATH

Promoting health equity and eradicating disease is a cause embraced by governments, private foundations, industry experts, and individuals. But bringing those entities together to deliver innovations in health care has been an overlooked part of the process. Seattle-based PATH, one of the largest global-health NGOs, is focused on changing that in the more than 70 middle- to low-income countries where it operates.

"We are quarterbacking coalitions around a problem," says Steve Davis '79, PATH president and CEO since 2012.

"Depending on the problem, we may bring together the Gates Foundation, the Food and Drug Administration, pharmaceutical companies, ministries of health, and others."

Davis, who also teaches social innovation at Stanford University's Graduate School of Business, points to meningitis A in Africa. Previous prevention efforts had been too expensive to employ on the continent. PATH not only convened a group of

partners, including the World Health Organization, but it also pushed for a 50-cents-per-dose target for the vaccine. Davis says that because of PATH's initiatives, 400 million vaccines were delivered, effectively eliminating the disease in what's known as the meningitis belt, a group of approximately two dozen sub-Saharan countries.

In 2013, Dave King '77, CEO of LabCorp, joined PATH's board of directors. The two men had bonded while on Princeton's crew, where King was the coxswain. Davis, from Montana, and King, from Berkeley, Calif., spoke

"In rich countries [people] don't die from tuberculosis or malaria, but millions in other parts of the world do. ... We have been very successful so far at moving the needle."

— Steve Davis '79

often about social philosophy and issues such as apartheid. "I did feel intimidated at Princeton," says King, "and here was somebody else who also came from a public high school and who also felt a little overwhelmed, and we had a nice personal connection."

After the two graduated, they followed separate career paths. Then, in 2015, someone mentioned King's name when Davis and the board were looking for a new member.

"I thought there was no way it could be the same person I knew at Princeton," says Davis. "Other than occasional Christmas cards between Dave and me, we had roughly a 30-year gap in our communication."

The work being overseen by Davis and King, who is now PATH's board president, ranges from technical strategy to finance to audit matters. "We have worked together extensively on PATH's financial model, thinking about how to increase PATH's discretionary financial resources so we can pursue big new ideas, and how to maximize the value delivered to our global-health mission from each dollar spent," says King.

"We try to create more access through innovation," says Davis. "The classic example is that most people in rich countries don't die from tuberculosis or malaria, but millions in other parts of the world do. Equity involves using the best processes and service innovations to close the gap. We have been very successful so far at moving the needle."

PATH now delivers health care in the form of vaccines, primary care, and more to 150 million people worldwide each year. Davis will step down as PATH president and CEO at the end of 2019, and while he's not sure what he'll do next, he is immensely proud of the growth and impact he has overseen during his seven-year tenure at the helm of the organization. "I think our approach to global health and development is a great testament to a lesson from Princeton," says Davis. "In everything we do today, just as we did as students, you have to have the evidence to develop the solutions that will solve the problem." ♦

By John N. McMurray '95



Christine Hunsicker '99 saw an opportunity to leverage the power of the internet to shake up the way we dress — and changed the industry.

CHRISTINE HUNSICKER '99

NO MORE BORING WARDROBES

Dress it up, dress it down, wear it all around town ... then send it back

In 2017, Christine Hunsicker '99 sat down with the clothing retailer Ann Taylor and suggested something unusual: to rent out its clothing. Mall traffic was down, clothing sales were dropping industrywide, and something had to change. But Hunsicker's proposal sounded like it might make things worse. After all, people pay less to rent a shirt than to buy it.

Hunsicker explained why the opposite was true: People would spend more overall if they could access the company's entire catalog through a website for a flat fee, and wear and return things by mail whenever they felt like it. Hunsicker knew this because she had spent the past four years running Gwynnie Bee, an online clothing-rental service that allows subscribers to choose, receive, and return clothing by

mail, for a monthly fee.

"When they're buying, they stick to practical things they can wear over and over again, like black pants," she says. "But when they rent, they buy loud things, colorful things, more fashiony statement items. They're willing to experiment more."

Ann Taylor took the plunge and signed on to use CaaStle, the technology and logistics platform Hunsicker had developed to run clothing-rental services. Soon more brands signed on, including Express, Banana Republic, and

Mall traffic was down, clothing sales were dropping industrywide, and something had to change.

recently, Bloomingdale's. Today, CaaStle employs about 500 people and supports 13 brands, according to Hunsicker. CaaStle powers every aspect of clothing rental, from the website and database to cleaning, shipping, and handling returns.

The idea for Gwynnie Bee — the first step toward building CaaStle — came to Hunsicker after a decade working at startups. She served as president and COO of Right Media, which was bought by Yahoo!, then as COO of Drop.io, which was acquired by Facebook. By 2011, she felt ready to create her own company and started researching different industries. She and her partners were intrigued by apparel — a \$2 trillion industry that, compared to other categories like books and electronics, had been slow to move online. Soon after, Hunsicker read an article about Netflix's rental model, and something clicked. The result, in 2012, was Gwynnie Bee. (Initially, it specialized in plus sizes, but now offers other sizes as well.)

Inevitably, there were hiccups along the way. Though Hunsicker had received positive feedback to the idea while doing preliminary research, when Gwynnie Bee first launched, hardly anyone signed up. It turned out that the photographs of the clothing were unappealing, so the company reshot everything with the help of a stylist, and business took off. Cleaning the clothes was another logistical hurdle. The company eventually switched from outsourcing to building its own cleaning capabilities, which sped up turnaround times.

Having proven that subscription-based clothing rental could work, Hunsicker started taking the idea — and the systems she had built to power Gwynnie Bee — to traditional retailers. Thanks in part to that early fateful meeting with Ann Taylor, the business has expanded into its current incarnation as CaaStle. (Gwynnie Bee still exists, as one of the brands under the CaaStle umbrella.)

Being in the clothing-rental business has changed the way Hunsicker dresses, too. At Princeton, she "lived in T-shirts and jeans," she recalls, but today she finds herself taking more risks "simply because I'm not committing to anything. That lack of commitment is quite freeing." ♦ *By Eveline Chao '02*

CLASS NOTES

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



MEMORIALS

PAW posts a list of recent alumni deaths at paw.princeton.edu. Go to Reader Services on PAW's home page and click on the link "Recent Alumni Deaths." The list is updated with each new issue.

THE CLASS OF 1943



David B. Clapp Jr. '43

Dave died Jan. 3, 2019, at his home in Dana Point, Calif. He was 98. Dave and his wife, Beverly, raised three children while enjoying every opportunity to travel together and share time with family.

Dave prepared at Mercersburg Academy in Pennsylvania, where he was on the wrestling team and the publications board. At Princeton he majored in psychology and graduated with honors in January 1943. After enlisting in the Army, Dave was put on a special track after demonstrating a proficiency for language. The Army sent him to Harvard to learn Mandarin Chinese. Once fluent in Chinese, Dave was sent on assignment to Tibet and China to survey mineral resources, including uranium. For his outstanding contributions to the accomplishment of this top-secret mission, Sgt. Clapp received the Bronze Star and two Battle Stars.

After the war, Dave spent 17 years working for the pure carbonic division of Air Reduction Co., in New Jersey, before moving to the West Coast to start his own company, Carbonic Products. Both of his sons worked at his company, which manufactured dry ice and supplied carbon dioxide throughout Southern California.

Dave was predeceased by his wife of 67 years, Beverly, in 2011. He is survived by daughter Barbara Pruett, sons David III and Michael, nine grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.



Thomas A. Sampson '43

Thomas died March 20, 2019, in Naples, Fla., after a short illness. He was 97.

Tom attended Mercer (Pa.) High School, where he was editor of the senior yearbook, art editor of the school paper, and a member of the drama and glee clubs. At Princeton Tom majored in chemistry. In the *Nassau Herald* Tom said he would "probably study law and become a lawyer or a chemist."

After Princeton Tom joined the Army Air

Corps, where he served for three years flying combat missions in a B-17 Flying Fortress.

He was awarded the Air Medal with five Oak Clusters and was discharged as a first lieutenant.

Tom married Betty Ingraham in 1945, and they had two sons. After three years in the metallurgy department of the Carnegie Illinois Steel Corp., he did as he had predicted and went to law school. After graduating from Dickinson School of Law in 1948, Tom joined his father's firm, Stranahan and Sampson, and worked there until his father's death in 1962, when he went into private practice. In 1977 Ross Cardas joined the firm, which continued as Sampson and Cardas. Tom retired from the active practice of law in 1983.

Over the course of his career Tom was very active in his community, his church, and with his family.

Tom was predeceased by his wife, Betty. He is survived by sons Jack and Tom.

THE CLASS OF 1948



Milton N. Allen '48

Mole was the first president of the Class of 1948, elected in our freshman year of 1944-45. He then transferred to the Naval Academy and, after graduation in 1949, was on active duty as a submarine officer until 1954. He never lost his loyalty to our class and to Princeton. His hometown was Teaneck, N.J.

In his subsequent varied business career he was an owner, an executive, and a management consultant to a variety of business and community enterprises — detailed in his entry in our 50th-reunion book. The Allen family home was in Old Lyme, Conn. He and his first wife, Barbara, were the parents of children Peter '79, Thomas '82, and Jane. They had two grandchildren.

His second wife, Liesa, predeceased him. In the reunion book he wrote, "I cherish Princeton's continuing values and the strength to face diversity ... I cherish Princeton's magic and mystique to draw the best from everyone." He died May 29, 2019, soon after his 92nd birthday.



John Imbrie '48

John was born July 4, 1925, in Penn Yan, N.Y. He had a distinguished career in earth sciences research and teaching geology, paleontology, and oceanography. He was an Army World War II combat veteran of the 10th Mountain Division and was wounded in Italy.

While at Princeton he graduated with election to Phi Beta Kappa and married Barbara Zeller. He went on to earn a doctorate at Yale in 1951. He joined the Columbia University faculty and was named geology department chair in 1960, before being invited in 1967 to Brown University.

From 1981 until retirement from Brown in 1990, he directed a multi-institutional, international research program using time-series analysis of ocean-floor cores to identify the timing and variability of orbital-scale environmental changes.

From 1973 to 1975, while on a National Research Council panel, he helped develop a multi-institutional 10-year study of climate change, establishing the relation between the variations of Earth's rotation and repeated ice ages. In 1978 he was named to the National Academy of Sciences and in 1981 became a MacArthur Fellow. He received numerous other scientific honors.

John died May 13, 2016, in Seekonk, Mass., the family home for half a century. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; daughter Katherine; son John Z.; and three grandchildren.



Dominic J. Karol '48 *52

Dom was born Feb. 16, 1927, and grew up in Palisades Park, N.J. He entered Princeton in July 1944, joined Prospect Club and the Glee Club, and played JV baseball. He graduated with honors in electrical engineering in 1951 and then with a master's degree in electrical engineering in 1952. Sandwiched into his college time were two years as an Air Force troop and supply-carrier pilot "flying eggs and vegetables to outposts in Alaska and the Aleutians."

As a civilian he had "an up-and-down career" in the aerospace industry. He interviewed Princeton applicants for the alumni schools committee. He noted in our 25th-reunion yearbook, "Nanette Eastman and I were married in 1957. She really must have loved me a lot because the family name was Karolkiewicz then. We changed it in 1963."

The Karols lived in Paramus, N.J., for 57 years and were parents of three sons — Kenneth, Christopher, and Richard, all sailors and avid sports fans — and had three grandchildren. Dom died Dec. 5, 2014, at the age of 87.

THE CLASS OF 1951



George Franklin Darden Jr. '51 George was born April 4, 1929, in Columbia, S.C., to George and Eliza Everett Darden.

George prepared at Woodberry Forest School. At Princeton he majored in architecture and belonged to Cottage Club. He roomed with Edgar Lawton, Dail Longaker, and Zack Toms.

He earned a law degree from the University of Virginia Law School in 1957 and practiced general law in Virginia Beach for many years. He was instrumental in starting the East Coast Surfing Championships and was at one time president of the Virginia Beach Jaycees. George loved his longleaf pine tree farm in Bladen County, N.C., begun there by his grandfather. He was an avid quail hunter. His ashes were scattered in Bladenboro.

George died June 17, 2018, at home in Virginia Beach. He was predeceased by daughter Mary, son John, and sister Ann. George is survived by his wife, Carol; and daughter Jennifer.

A celebration of George's life was held at the First Presbyterian Church in Virginia Beach. Memorial donations may be made to the Virginia Beach Rescue Squad Foundation, 740 Virginia Beach Blvd, Virginia Beach, VA 23451 or the Virginia Beach SPCA, 3040 Holland Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23453.



Charles Corson Highley Jr. '51 Chuck was born May 9, 1926, in Newark, N.J., to Charles and Anna Turnbull Highley. His father was a member of the Class of 1917.

After graduating from the Lawrenceville School he served in the Marines from 1944 to 1946. At Princeton Chuck was a sociology major, belonged to Cap and Gown, and played varsity tennis. He roomed with John Ehrenclou, Sandy Halsey, and Ash Harvey.

After graduation he went back to Glen Ridge, N.J., and worked in his father's coal and oil business, Highley & Co. He also became a security analyst. He and Diane Beatty were married in 1953 and eventually settled in Spring Lake, N.J.

Charley was a golf legend. At his home course, Spring Lake, he won his first club championship in 1957 and captured it again a total of 13 times. Added to this were championships at the North and South Super Seniors Tournament at Pinehurst, N.J., State Senior Championships, and the Florida State Super Seniors Championship, among others. His overall tennis and golf prowess encompassed 70 years.

Charley died May 22, 2018, in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. He was 92. He is survived

by his wife, Diane; their children, Jennifer, Charles, Matthew, and Robert; and seven grandchildren.



Donn Allen Snyder '51

Donn was born July 13, 1929, in Plainfield, N.J., to William and Ophelia Judson Snyder. A graduate of Plainfield High School, at Princeton he majored in chemical engineering, was secretary of Elm Club, and roomed with Jim Patrick and Jake Pentz. He graduated with honors and went on to earn an MBA from Harvard Business School in 1953.

In 1952 he and Mary Margaret Moody were married. Donn worked for Goodyear Tire and Rubber, Cities Service Co., Columbia Carbon Co., and, after a brief hiatus in the real-estate business, for the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority. The family lived in Westfield, N.J., for 35 years. Donn was elected mayor in 1972, served as deacon at First Baptist Church, and co-founded the Westfield Foundation.

Donn and Mary retired to the Outer Banks, N.C. Donn died May 8, 2018, at home in Kitty Hawk after battling Alzheimer's for many years.

Donn was predeceased by Mary in 2013, and by his brother, LeRoy, an orchidist at Jasna Polana, in 1989. He is survived by his children, Margaret, David, and Allen; and their families.

Donations in his memory to the Outer Banks Family YMCA, 3000 S. Croatan Highway, Nags Head, NC 27959 would be most appreciated.

THE CLASS OF 1953



John Edward Craig Jr. '53

Ed died June 6, 2019, at home in Tryon, N.C.

He was born in Great Neck, N.Y., and graduated from the Lawrenceville School. At

Princeton Ed majored in history and wrote his thesis on "Free Masonry in Colonial America." He was a cheerleader for four years and created the role of the Princeton Tiger. He was also on the swim team and was captain of the team in his senior year.

After graduation Ed joined the Navy as a naval aviator and served in Hawaii, California, and Florida, as well as Vietnam. He closed out that phase of his life as commanding officer of VA-83, a light attack jet squadron.

Following his military career, Ed spent 30 years as a financial planner with First Command, serving military families. In this phase of his career he also found time to take part in community events as senior warden of his parish church and a member of the local community board of directors. This phase was divided almost equally between first Gibson Island, Md., and then Mildenhall, England.

Reassigned to Fort Tryon, N.C., Ed stayed in

that community after retiring, becoming again involved in the local parish of the Episcopal Church and serving as president of the Rotary Club and vice president of the swim club.

Ed was predeceased by his wife, Shirley. He is survived by four children, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.



James Edward Fowler '53

Ed was born in Boise, Idaho, and graduated from Boise Senior High School. At Princeton he majored in politics and wrote a thesis on "The

American Bar Association and the Presidential Treaty-Making Power: Conservative Legalism Versus Rational Internationalism." He was a member of Quadrangle Club and ran cross-country and track.

After three years with Army intelligence, mostly in Japan, Ed graduated from Yale Law School and went to work for the firm of Debevoise, Plimpton, Lyons, and Gates in New York. He lived in Chappaqua, N.Y., where he was involved with the church and school board in a number of roles.

Fifteen years out, Ed moved to Mobil Oil Corp. as corporate counsel. He spent 28 years with Mobil and made the company an industry pacesetter in the hiring of women and minority lawyers.

Retiring from Mobil, Ed moved to Washington, D.C., to serve with the firm of Holland and Knight and take on such public-service responsibilities as president of the National Symphony Orchestra board. Retiring to Bloomfield, Conn., Ed became involved in a local church, while a vacation home in Keene Valley, N.Y., brought involvement in the Nature Conservancy's Adirondack chapter, the Ausable Club Preservation Foundation, and more.

Ed died May 19, 2019. He is survived by his wife of more than 60 years, Carolyn; their two children; and four grandchildren.



Clark McKercher Simms '53

Mac died July 12, 2019, in Wells, Maine. He was born in Montclair, N.J., and graduated from Montclair Academy.

At Princeton he was a member of Charter Club, director of the Princeton Summer Camp, and president of the Student Christian Association. His thesis was "The Influence of W.N. Whitehead on Modern Religious Philosophy."

After serving three years in the Army, including 16 months in Korea, Mac earned a master's degree from Yale and began a teaching career at Newton High School in Massachusetts. In 1959 Mac moved to The Gunnery School in Connecticut, where he taught English and served as assistant



headmaster while also coaching the debate and crew and a number of other activities.

After 19 years at The Gunnery, Mac moved to the Oakwood Friends School in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., where he was chairman of the English, history, and religion departments and where he served as headmaster from 1980 to 1988. A colleague wrote that Mac was “a progressive educator, always keeping us focused on the student ... (and) on the cutting edge of curriculum development and pedagogy.”

Always interested in the world of politics, Mac ran for State Senate in Connecticut in 1970 and served as a McCarthy delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1968.

Mac is survived by his wife, Chase; and four children of his blended family, Jonathan, William, Amanda, and Leonardo, and their families.



Peter F. Dirk Van Peenen '53

Dirk spent a good part of his life looking for trouble in his role as a Navy research doctor: disease-bearing ticks in Egypt, schistosoma (blood flukes)

in Indonesia, and parachuting into Vietnam during the war to find the vector for a new and dangerous form of malaria. To prepare for this work, Dirk, who was born in Pensacola, Fla., came to Princeton, where he joined Dial Lodge, majored in modern languages, took his junior year in France, and wrote a thesis on “Emile Zola et les impressionistes.”

More specific preparation was acquired at the University of California, San Francisco, where he earned a medical degree, and at Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene, where he earned M.P.H. and Dr.P.H. degrees in public hygiene.

All this led to a career in the Navy Medical Corps with assignments around the world and the position of chairman of the department of preventive medicine at the Uniformed Services University in Bethesda, Md. Retiring from the Navy with the rank of captain, Dirk settled in Tucson, Ariz., where he took advantage of the art studios at the university by enrolling as a freshman, intentionally declining to reveal his previous academic degrees, and earned a second bachelor's degree and a second election to Phi Beta Kappa.

Dirk worked in a variety of media, from sculpture to silkscreen. He died March 24, 2019, of organ failure in Tucson. He was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

THE CLASS OF 1954

John D. Gray '54

John prepared for Princeton at Evanston Township (Ill.) High School, where he excelled in swimming. At Princeton he lettered four years in varsity swimming, majored in history



in the American Civilization Program, participated in Glee Club, and joined Quadrangle Club. He roomed with Frank Barnes, John Welland, and Bill Hawley.

John married Helen in 1955, earned an MBA from Northwestern in 1958, and moved to Cincinnati to begin a 35-year career in purchases at Procter & Gamble. He valued the lifelong relationships he made there.

Guided by his respect for Princeton's emphasis on service, he was active in local government in the Village of Mariemont, serving as a village councilman for 10 years and launching a highly successful recycling program there. He also supported the Boy Scouts, where his sons all achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.

He loved swimming, gardening, and traveling to see family. He was a lifelong member of the Christian Science Church.

John died June 3, 2019, in Cincinnati. He is survived by his wife, Helen; sons David, John, and Jim; two grandchildren; and sister Carolyn Elliott. He was predeceased by sister Louise.



Harold E. Jackson '54

Jack (known later to friends and family as Hal) died June 15, 2019, of acute myeloid leukemia.

A graduate of Collingswood (N.J.) High School, at Princeton he majored in physics, was a research assistant in the Cosmic Ray Lab, a participant in Roy Heath's Advisee Project, and a member of Terrace Club.

Hal earned a doctorate in nuclear physics at Cornell University in 1958, where he met and married Sally Ann Moseley. He began his distinguished 60-year career in research on particle physics with Argonne National Laboratory. He enjoyed occasional sabbaticals and research assignments at CERN, Los Alamos, SLAC, DESY, and Fermi Lab.

Hal was an avid skier, loved to fish, and traveled extensively, with a particular passion for Paris. He remained a loyal Princetonian, and was proud of his record of never failing to contribute to Annual Giving. He was torn over missing his 65th reunion, and despite his illness, his blood continued to flow orange and black.

Hal is survived by Sally; three children, Kimberly, Matthew '84, and Mark; seven grandchildren; and his brother Knute.

THE CLASS OF 1957

Perry Edwards Hall Smith '57

Perry died May 14, 2019, of cancer in Bangkok, Thailand. Over the next two days, his body was cremated there in a Buddhist ceremony.

Perry prepared for Princeton at Phillips Exeter Academy. His father, Harvey Hassall



Smith, was secretary of the Class of 1917. Perry was named for his father's best friend and Princeton classmate, Perry Edwards Hall.

At Princeton Perry majored in art and archaeology, rose to costume manager of the Triangle Club, and took his meals at Key & Seal. He roomed with Bob Fletcher, John Henneman, Dick Mullan, and Jerry Raibourn. He earned a master's degree in art from Harvard and was a Fulbright scholar in Venice from 1958 to 1961.

In 1962 he began a lifelong search for what he called “secret India.” From 1963 to 2000 the international development arm of the National Council of Churches employed him in Algeria, Madagascar, Zaire, Vietnam, Haiti, India, Nepal, Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam.

He was a benefactor of the Tibetan Medical Institute in Dharmasala, India, the 1957 Classmate Fund, the Princeton Art Museum, and the New Orleans Museum of Art.

He is survived by five nephews and six nieces. His ashes will be buried sometime later in a family plot in Bangor, Maine.

THE CLASS OF 1959

Kevin E. Cassidy '59

Kevin died May 5, 2019, in Southampton, N.Y., from complications related to Alzheimer's disease.

Born in Rochester, N.Y., Kevin and his family moved to Southampton when he was an infant, and he spent his childhood in the then-bucolic surrounds of eastern Long Island. Graduating as class salutatorian from Southampton High School (where he played the tuba in the marching band despite being tone-deaf and not able to read music), Kevin enrolled at Princeton as one of 10 students nationwide to receive a Grumman Corp. scholarship to study engineering.

During his freshman year Kevin joined the American Institute of Mining Engineers Society, but he left Princeton following that year and transferred to Clarkson University in Potsdam, N.Y. While there he met his future wife, Martha Mitchell, and they married the week following graduation. Kevin's obituary states that he had a long career as an electrical engineer, working for Grumman, Long Island Lighting Co., a local architectural and engineering firm, and his own accident interpretation and reconstruction firm, Cassidy & Associates.

Kevin is survived by his wife, Martha; and daughter, Janet. We have sent condolences.

William M. Damerel '59

Born in Detroit, Mich., Bill came to Princeton from the Kingswood School in West Hartford, Conn., preceded by his father, who was in the Class of 1928; his great-grandfather, who was

in the Class of 1871; and three uncles. Enrolling in the electrical engineering department, he complemented his academic pursuits as an engineer at WPRB while also preparing for military service with Navy ROTC. In his sophomore year he joined Cloister Inn. Shortly thereafter he left Princeton to enlist in the Marines, serving as an air traffic controller and attaining the rank of sergeant.

Bill returned to academia at Auburn with a Marines scholarship, where he called on his WPRB experience to work part time as a disc jockey at a local radio station and earned a bachelor's degree in 1964. While at Auburn he met and married Theresa Hodson, and following graduation he embarked on a 48-year career with IBM, starting as a systems engineer in computer systems design. By the early 1990s he was a senior planner for IBM, living in Rochester, Minn. Retiring in 2014, Bill could look back on significant contributions he made to the development of IBM computers.

Bill died April 26, 2014. He is survived by his wife, Theresa and his daughter, Nicola. We have sent condolences.



John E. Hardaway '59 '63

John died peacefully Dec. 24, 2018, near his Boulder-area home after four years of declining health.

John came to Princeton from Lower Merion (Pa.) Senior High School, and plunged into an impressive list of extracurricular activities despite the course load of his geological engineering major. Among them were serving on the Sophomore Bicker Committee, the Undergraduate Council, and as a Keyceptor, a Chapel deacon, a student aid manager, Junior Prom manager, and in Triangle Club. Somehow, he found time to eat at Cannon. His roommates were Bob Hicks, Dick Orth, Don Chubb, Bill Macaleer, Gene Dickason, Don Lawson, and Larry McAtee.

After graduation and a two-year stint in Germany in an Army combat engineer battalion, John returned to Princeton for a master's degree, where he met and married Ann Tilson, a librarian on campus. He then embarked on a 55-year career as a mining engineer and environmental consultant based in Colorado. He stayed in shape for his often-rigorous outdoors work with distance running in his 40s, and then bicycling in his 70s, logging 10 miles a day in all weathers.

John, a widower since 1995, is survived by two sons, John and James; and four grandchildren.

Thomas A. Kerr Jr. '59

The Rev. Canon Thomas Kerr died Dec. 19, 2018, at home in Wilmington, Del., surrounded by his family. He had endured a 13-year battle with multiple myeloma. He was laid to rest at Immanuel Episcopal church in a service



officiated by the bishop of Delaware, with several classmates in attendance.

From Princeton Day and Groton, Tom came to Princeton as a legacy; his father was in the Class of 1934. He majored in history, played intramural hockey, was active with the Student Christian Association and president of the St. Paul's Society, and ate at Tower. Following graduation from General Theological Seminary in New York in 1962, he began a life of religious service as an Episcopal priest. He served the New Jersey diocese for 23 years before moving to Wilmington to serve as canon pastor at St. John's Cathedral for 10 years, then rector of Immanuel Church for a further seven years, then to the New Jersey diocese until 2006, when he retired following his diagnosis.

Married to Janet Spence (to whom he proposed on their first date) in 1965, the Kerrs raised two sons and a daughter. Spoken of as a man of infinite patience, enormous compassion, and endless tolerance, Tom served those in need, comforting countless people through their darkest times.

Tom is survived by his wife, his children including Timothy '01, and two brothers. We have sent condolences.



Robert S. Ketchum '59

Bob died May 18, 2019, following a brief illness. Born in Detroit, Mich., he graduated from Birmingham High School. While there he met Marilyn

Benson, whom he would later marry.

At Princeton Bob majored in the Woodrow Wilson School, was commodore of the Princeton Sailing Team, ate at Cloister Inn, and was a member of the Whig-Clio Society. Senior year he roomed with Chuck McNary and Jack Herman.

After Princeton, Bob married Marilyn in August 1959. Following graduation from Harvard Law School he joined the Detroit-based firm of Miller, Canfield, Paddock, and Stone in 1962, where he practiced for 41 years, reaching senior-partner status and specializing in estate-planning law. The Ketchums had two sons, Andrew '84 and Edward. Bob and Marilyn were members of St. James Episcopal Church in Birmingham, where they sang in the church choir for many years. Bob also served as a lay reader.

Bob was elected to the Birmingham Board of Education in 1974, serving as president in 1977. He was also president of the Birmingham Lions Club.

Bob and Marilyn moved to Wilmington, N.C., in 2003 after his retirement. They enjoyed extensive traveling, including an around-the-world cruise in 2014.

Bob is survived by his wife, Marilyn; his

sons; and two granddaughters. We have sent condolences.



Rensselaer W. Lee III '59

A modern Renaissance man, foreign-policy consultant Rens died Dec. 30, 2018.

Born in Evanston, Ill., Rens came to us from Milton Academy. At Princeton he majored in the Woodrow Wilson School, joined Charter, drilled with the ROTC, worked at WPRB, and played piano, chess, and tennis. His father, Rensselaer W. Lee 1920 *1926, chaired the Department of Art and Archaeology.

After earning a master's degree in public law at Columbia and a Ph.D. in political science at Stanford, Rens taught briefly at CCNY. He then worked as a CIA contractor before setting up his own investigative research firm, Global Advisory Services, performing overseas contract assignments for federal offices and agencies, while serving as a senior fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute.

An authority on terrorism, international organized crime, and nuclear proliferation, and fluent in Russian, Chinese, Spanish, and French, Rens traveled extensively throughout Russia, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Cuba, the Caribbean, and much of South America. He authored four books and numerous articles providing insightful perspectives on complex issues of our time, most recently the North Korean nuclear situation. A gourmet, his appreciation for food and fine wine was legendary. A talented jazz pianist, Rens could hear a piece of music once and play it back by ear.

Rens is survived by his wife, Christine; sons Nicholas '99 and Thomas; two grandchildren; and two sisters. We have sent condolences.

THE CLASS OF 1963



Robert S. Edsall Jr. '63

Bob died peacefully May 10, 2019, in Durango, Colo., from progressive supranuclear palsy. A longtime resident of Florida, he ran a large citrus operation there.

Peers praised him as a meticulous grower, using scientific methods to manage nutrients in the soils of Indian River, St. Lucie, and Highlands counties, where citrus products are prized for sweetness and juiciness. Bob's father first planted in 1940, and Edsall Groves grew to 1,800 acres before cutting back to its current 800. In 1990 Bob opened Sun Harvest Citrus, the first packinghouse in Fort Myers, where customers could enjoy fresh-squeezed drinks. He retired 20 years ago, and his nephew runs the company today.

Bob's down-to-earth manner and generosity led him to mentor countless young people from overseas, helping some receive agricultural



education. In his off-hours he loved camping, fishing, hiking, and anything else outdoors. He went to Princeton from Woodberry Forest School in Virginia, majored in Romance languages, spent summers in Spain and Mexico, and ate at Campus Club. Upon graduation he spent four years as a Navy navigator.

Bob is survived by his wife, Eleni; sons David, Stephen, and Drew Edsall; stepdaughter Maria DeLoach-Webb; stepsons Chris and Clayton DeLoach; three grandchildren; four step-grandchildren; and nephew David McKenzie.

THE CLASS OF 1966

Richard J. Smith '66

Rick died Nov. 8, 2018. His family held a private service in Taos County, N.M.

Rick was in the first graduating class of Albuquerque's Manzano High School, where he was student body president. At Princeton he majored in politics, spent a year on the WPRB staff, belonged to Whig-Clio, and was treasurer of Cloister Inn's board of trustees.

In 1969 Rick earned a law degree at the University of Texas. He spent the next 44 years as a lawyer, state and federal prosecutor, and federal administrative law judge, retiring in 2013.

He is survived by his wife, Layne Vickers Smith; son Todd Torkelson; sister Judy Proffitt; and brother David Smith. The class extends condolences to them all.

THE CLASS OF 1968



Allen Sparkman '68

Allen died peacefully April 25, 2019, of ALS. He was 73.

He came to Princeton from Spring Branch Senior High School in Houston, Texas, where he was student council president and on the debate squad. At Princeton he majored in history, ate at Quad, and was active in Whig-Clio, the Undergraduate Schools Committee, and the Bridge Club.

After Princeton he served in the Army, then attended the University of Texas Law School, where he was vice chancellor in the school's most prestigious honor society, an editor of the *Texas Law Review*, and graduated with high honors. In 2015 he earned a certificate of theology and ministry from Princeton Theological Seminary.

Professionally, Allen was a master of all things partnership. He was a founding partner of Sparkman & Foote, where he practiced tax and business law. His practice included business transactions, securities, and tax and professional responsibility. He was a member of the Business Law Sections of both Texas and Colorado and active in CLE, especially for the Colorado bar, producing a significant number of CLE documents. He was also the author of one book on limited liability company law. In spite of his ALS, Allen was actively involved in the practice of law until two weeks prior to his passing.

Allen is survived by his children, Julianna Overstreet, David Sparkman, and Miriam Sparkman Reese; and his longtime partner, Adrienne Bond. The class extends its deepest sympathies to them all.

THE CLASS OF 1972



Samuel James Elliott IV '72

Jim died March 27, 2019, in Palm Springs, Calif. He was a resident of Portland, Ore., and Berlin, Germany.

Known also as "Jimmylein," Jim was from Camp Hill, Pa., and graduated from the Lawrenceville School in 1969. He followed his father, Samuel James Elliott '44, to Princeton. Jim majored in Germanic languages and literature and graduated in three years with the Class of 1972. Following Princeton he completed graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin. Jim had a long and successful career at Intel Corp. in Portland before accepting an early retirement in 1990.

He was an accomplished bridge player and avid biker. He worked diligently with the Human Rights Campaign.

Jim is survived by his spouse, Frank Teschen; sister Jennifer and her husband, Frank; and three nephews, Elliott, Geoffrey, and Zachary.

He was predeceased by partners Mark McCoy and Richard Yorba; his brother, Geoffrey B. Elliott; and his parents. The class sends condolences to his family.

THE CLASS OF 1973



Tim Testerman '73

The class was saddened to learn that Tim went to his eternal rest Aug. 2, 2019, after an illness in Lang Son Province, Vietnam.

Tim came to Princeton from Vero Beach (Fla.) High School, where he excelled in academics (valedictorian) and athletics (football and basketball). At Princeton his success continued as he quarterbacked the undefeated freshman football team. Sophomore year he was on varsity but grew disillusioned with football and ultimately left the program. Originally planning to be an architect, Tim switched to English and graduated with honors. During sophomore year he lived in 6th-entry Holder with Bill Kapler, Carl Barisich, Steve Glauberman, Dave Thompson, Tim Cassidy, Ted Manakas, and Larry Chollet. In his upper class years he lived with Manakas, John Lovejoy, Charlie Piot, and Tom Harhai.

After Princeton Tim embarked on a globe-trotting lifestyle, and he taught in schools in France, Italy, Morocco, Turkey, Greece, China, and ultimately Vietnam. Those who knew him well thought Tim would write a great American novel like his idol, Ernest Hemingway. Classmate Chris Slobogin still has a few unfinished manuscripts that Tim had given him

for safekeeping, along with a toolbox.

Although Tim was viewed as an enigma by many, those who knew him best at Princeton describe him as honest, profound, intelligent, and interesting.

The class extends our condolences to his family, especially his older brother Jeff. Rest in peace, Tim.

THE CLASS OF 1978



Margaret Beale

Woodward '78

Margaret died May 10, 2019, at the age of 63. Coming to Princeton from Rye High School in New York, Margaret majored in Romance

languages and literature and graduated *magna cum laude*.

A bright, vibrant, courageous soul with a generous heart, Margaret could command a room and easily have everyone laughing. She was an epicenter of fun in Holder Hall, at Campus Club, and during our major reunions.

After Princeton she served as an account officer with Citicorp's leveraged leasing department in Harrison, N.Y., worked in real estate in the Rye area, and in later years moved to Wilmington, N.C.

Drawn to the beauty of the natural world, she celebrated it through her gifts as a gardener and a painter, as well as through her passionate love of animals. Margaret was a unique individual, untamed by convention; she was like the nature she loved — anything but boring. She will be greatly missed by the many who love her and who take comfort in knowing she is at peace.

Margaret is survived by her father, M. Cabell Woodward '51, sister Ann Boucher, and daughter Katherine Kiarsis.

THE CLASS OF 1983



Lynn King '83

Lynn died April 22, 2019, just after 9:30 p.m., surrounded by her beloved circle of friends and with her daughter at her side.

Lynn was born in New York City and graduated from Fieldston in the Bronx. While at Princeton she was a vice president of the Asian American Student Association and collaborated with the Princeton University Art Museum. She became an active participant in the Shanghai Princeton Alumni Association.

For most of her professional life Lynn served as an executive coach and trainer with an emphasis on spirituality in business. She studied at the Fielding Institute in Santa Barbara, Calif., where her master's thesis focused on bringing together organizational development with shamanism. In addition, she coached leaders and social entrepreneurs in Silicon Valley and elsewhere, expanding their hearts and minds as well as their résumés. Lynn also contributed to the concept of Moral

Innovations by David Wu '79.

Lynn's other work focused on environmental sustainability and multicultural education. Part of this legacy is her hydroponic garden in China. Lynn felt that her work built her "spiritual résumé." Her final months were spent on her greatest work: using her own death as a teaching tool in how to live life and approach death with joy. She described the demonstrations of love she experienced during this time as "golden petals of light."

Lynn is survived by her daughter Tara, her loving family, and the community of students and friends who helped guide her on her final journey.

GRADUATE ALUMNI

David S. Carter *52

David Carter, professor emeritus of mathematics at Oregon State University, died peacefully Dec. 28, 2018, at the age of 92.

Born in 1926 in Victoria, British Columbia, he earned a bachelor's degree in 1946 and a master's degree in 1948. Then he entered the Princeton Graduate School and earned a Ph.D. in mathematical physics in 1952.

At Princeton Carter was a member of Project Matterhorn, which dealt with the mathematics of thermonuclear weapons, and for which he worked on programming the ENIAC, the first general-purpose computer. From 1952 to 1957, he was at the Los Alamos National Laboratory working on nuclear fusion reactor research. In 1957, he became a United States citizen.

After Los Alamos Carter held faculty positions at the University of Washington and the University of California, Berkeley, before becoming a long-term professor of mathematics at Oregon State University in Corvallis, Ore. He was an accomplished musician, avid golfer, boater, and a bridge player, as well as a recreational scuba diver and pilot.

Carter was predeceased in 2012 by his wife of 62 years, Ruth. He is survived by their four children and eight grandchildren.

Russell J. Klingenstein Jr. *56

Russell Klingenstein, retired Navy captain, Civil Engineer Corps, died May 15, 2019, at age 96.

His engineering studies at Johns Hopkins were interrupted by World War II. Commissioned in the Army Corps of Engineers, Klingenstein arrived in France in 1944 and fought in Germany. He returned to the United States in 1947 and earned a bachelor of science degree in engineering from Hopkins in 1948. He then accepted a commission in the Civil Engineer Corps, U.S. Navy.

From 1951 to 1953, he was in charge of a construction battalion in Okinawa. In 1955 he was sent to Princeton for graduate studies in port and harbor engineering, earning a master's in 1956. In 1959 he went to Thailand as deputy officer in charge of construction, Southeast Asia. Later assignments concerned facility planning for the Navy's worldwide

system of bases.

Promoted to captain, he reported in Saigon to the commander of U.S. naval forces in Vietnam as the force civil engineer. From 1968 to 1969 he managed the construction program supporting all naval operations. From 1969 to 1973 he was in Italy as chief of engineering and infrastructure of NATO's Southern Command. Klingenstein retired in 1974. A noteworthy 11-year consulting career followed.

He was predeceased by his wife, Katherine, in January 2019, prior to what would have been their 70th wedding anniversary.

Arthur K. Satz *57

Arthur Satz, president emeritus of the New York School of Interior Design (NYSID), died Nov. 10, 2018, at the age of 89.

Satz graduated with a bachelor's degree in music from the University of Rochester in 1951 and a master's degree from the University of Southern California in 1953. In 1957 he earned an MFA degree in music from Princeton. He was a Fulbright scholar and later an instructor at Vassar and Yale.

He became affiliated with NYSID in 1963, and rose to president and chairman of the board in 1975. During his tenure, NYSID became a degree-granting college that grew into a top-ranked institution in its field.

To quote from his obituary, "Mr. Satz learned and taught about the unique ability of interdisciplinary arts education to open minds and widen the focus of design students."

In 1995 the college named the 70th Street, Manhattan, campus auditorium Arthur King Satz Hall in his honor.

Richard S. Wirtz *63

Richard Wirtz, the E.E. Overton Distinguished Professor of Law emeritus at the University of Tennessee College of Law, died Jan. 3, 2019, at age 78.

Wirtz graduated from Amherst College in 1961 and earned an MPA in 1963 from Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School. He then worked for government programs fighting the war on poverty. In 1970 he earned a law degree from Stanford University Law School.

He clerked for a federal judge and worked in a large law firm. In 1974 Wirtz joined the faculty of the University of Tennessee College of Law, and became an associate professor in 1977 and a full professor in 1987. In 1988 he became associate dean for academic affairs, served as acting dean in 1991-92, and was appointed dean in 1992, serving until 1998.

As dean, Wirtz worked to improve its accreditation with the ABA and to renovate and upgrade its physical plant. In 2000 he became the first Overton Distinguished Professor. He became emeritus in 2004 and continued to teach law until 2010. Over the years he won two outstanding teacher awards, was a member of several legal

committees, and published many legal articles.

Wirtz was predeceased by his wife, Margaret, in 2008. He is survived by two daughters.

William M. LaRiche Jr. *70

William LaRiche, architect and a past president of the Association of Princeton Graduate Alumni, died Dec. 1, 2018, at age 76.

LaRiche graduated from Dartmouth in 1964. He then studied in France for a year with a Fulbright scholarship. In 1970 he earned a master's degree in architecture from Princeton.

LaRiche then worked for Ewing, Cole, Erdman & Eubank in Philadelphia. He went on to work with various firms in New York City before opening his own office in Princeton, where he lived until 1990. During this period he was a lecturer at Princeton's School of Architecture and the first director of the visual arts program. From 1985 to 1987 he was president of the APGA.

Moving to New York City in the early 1990s, LaRiche taught architecture at Stevens Institute of Technology and the New York Institute of Technology, and designed many new structures. In his last decades he wrote, especially poetry. He wrote the text for *Alexandria: The Sunken City*. He had a friendship with Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, who encouraged his poetry.

LaRiche is survived by his first wife, Marianne; his second wife, Viviana; two children; and three grandchildren.

Amy L. Wordelman *94

Amy Wordelman, director of the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages in Amherst, Mass., died Oct. 24, 2018, after a seven-month battle with leukemia. She was 57.

Wordelman earned a bachelor's degree from Oberlin in 1983, and a master's of divinity degree from Emory in 1987. In 1990 she earned a master's degree and in 1994 a Ph.D., both from Princeton. She then taught at Oberlin, Emory, and Canisius.

For the past 22 years she had been on the staff of the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages. Initially she was a program assistant, then assistant, associate, and interim director. Since 2016 she was director of the center. Wordelman had been involved in nearly every aspect of the center, which offers instruction in more than 40 less-commonly taught languages.

Derek Krueger *91, professor of religion at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, wrote that "her fellow graduate students remember her for her practical approach to historical problems, her incisive feminism, and her clear sense of history as an instrument for social justice."

Wordelman is survived by her husband, Eric R. Loehr, whom she married in 1993; her parents; and a brother.

*This issue contains undergraduate memorials for Dominic J. Karol '48 *52 and John E. Hardaway '59 *63.*

Classifieds

For Rent Europe

Paris, Left Bank: Elegant apartment off Seine in 6th. Short walk to Louvre, Notre Dame. 609-924-7520. gam1@comcast.net

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France, Paris-Marais: Exquisite, sunny, quiet one-bedroom apartment behind Place des Vosges. King-size bed, living/dining room, six chairs, full kitchen, washer, dryer, weekly maid service, WiFi, \$1350 weekly. max@gwu.edu

Ile St-Louis: Elegant, spacious, top floor, skylighted apartment, gorgeous views overlooking the Seine, 2 bedrooms sleep 4, 2 baths, elevator, well-appointed, full kitchen, WiFi. 678-232-8444. triff@mindspring.com

Italy/Todi: Luxurious 8BR, 7.5BA villa, amazing views, infinity pool, olives, lavender, grapes, vegetable garden, housekeeper, A/C, Wi-Fi. Discount — Princetonians. Photos/prices/availability: MarilynGasparini@aol.com, p'11.

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

Paris 7th: Fifth floor, quiet, studio sleeps 3. Balcony. View Eiffel Tower. www.parisgrenelle.com, 207-752-0285.

Provence: Delightful stone farmhouse facing Roman theater, 5 bedrooms, pool, market town. Frenchfarmhouse.com

Paris, Marais: stunning, quiet, luminous very large one-bedroom on the 3rd floor of a 17th-c. building, elevator, fully-equipped kitchen/dining room, beautifully furnished. bbaudez@princeton.edu

Paris near Louvre, Opéra, Ritz Hôtel. Family managed. Sleeps two, terms depend on season, 6 night minimum. apower7@icloud.com, 831-521-7155, w'49.

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Stunning Paris apartments: original period details, high-end amenities, the best locations! Bac/St. Germain, Rivoli, Luxembourg Gardens, Rive Gauche, Odeon, Upper Marais. 1-3BR, 1-2.5BA. 917-746-8056, www.56paris.com/for-rent

Umbria, Italy: Stunning, spacious countryside villa, olive groves, fabulous views. Sleeps 4-12, pool. Next to castle, golf course, cashmere shops. +44 7894420299; barbarasteino@gmail.com, www.umbriaholidayvilla.com *60 '98.

Umbria/Todi. Elegant restored 14thC convent. Walk to town. 4 ensuite BRs, A/C, gardens, olive orchards, pool, WIFI. 847-234-9171. jrcrawford@TRIADCAPLLC.COM, '68.

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Saint-Cirq-Lapopie: (Alumni Discount), voted 'most beautiful village' in Southern France. Beautiful 4-bedroom home in lively, enchanting, medieval, artists' village — restaurants, markets, vineyards, museums, bicycling, swimming. maisonsouthernfrance.com 617-608-1404.

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United States Northeast

Stone Harbor, NJ: Beachfront, 4BR, upscale. 570-430-3639, Stoneharborbeachhouses.com, radams150@aol.com

Stone Harbor, NJ: Houses ½ block from beach, sleep 10 each. Great for families, reunions, weddings. VRBO.com/7627382, 7632290. Bayberry10501@optimum.net, 201-803-1669, p'18.

Litchfield County 1790s home across from bison farm & close to vineyards. Weekend, weekly and monthly rentals. Contact Shea at 347-432-3817 or owens_shea@yahoo.com, '94.

United States West

Big Sky Montana: Charming 4 BR log home on 20 acres beautifully furnished, spectacular views, Big Sky sunsets, skiing, hiking, fishing and golfing within 5 minutes. Close to Yellowstone National Park and Bozeman. Enjoyment all 4 seasons. 610-225-3286. janegriffith655@gmail.com, s'67.

Park City/Deer Valley, Utah: 3 BR ski-out condominium in Upper Deer Valley. Newly remodeled, hot tub, beautiful views, available all seasons. Reasonable rates. 937-825-4137 or pjkolodzik@aol.com, p'12 p'20.

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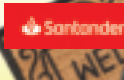


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Professor of the Practice of Public Philosophy, Harvard University; Class of 1943 University Professor in the Center for African American Studies, Emeritus, Princeton University

Welcome and Introduction by

Christopher L. Eisgruber '83

Princeton University President

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THE CONSTITUTION AS OUR STORY

Thursday, October 17, 2019
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Mister Mayor, The Mineralogist

By Harrison Blackman '17

“Among those organizations engaged in the making of all geologists at Princeton is the celebrated Lunch Club,” geology graduate student Harold Bannerman *1927 wrote in a 1926 issue of the department newsletter, *The Smilodon*. According to Bannerman, this lunchtime gathering of graduate students in Guyot Hall typically began with a discussion of contemporary political issues — tariffs, immigration laws, and “rum running” — before transforming into a venue for fish stories.

These tall tales, often involving shipwrecks and boa constrictors, were encouraged and perpetuated by the club’s president, longtime professor Alexander Hamilton Phillips 1887 *1899. Phillips was a popular and industrious professor of mineralogy for a generation.

“Many tales are told of delighted alumni who have discovered him in out-of-the-way places by hearing his laugh in a crowd,” earning him the nickname Ha Ha Phillips.

A native of nearby Lawrenceville, Phillips grew up on the family farm before attending Princeton. He joined the Princeton faculty after graduation, working on his doctorate as he began a 49-year career at the University. For several years he taught biology, vertebrate morphology, and anatomy before becoming Princeton’s second full-time mineralogy professor in 1898 and discovering the first radium-bearing ores in North America.

Phillips incorporated innovative teaching strategies. From the wood of a pear tree in his backyard, he carved sophisticated crystal models — items that remain in the geosciences department’s collection. He was especially active in local and scientific communities, serving both as

president of the Mineralogical Society of America and, from 1911 to 1916, as the Republican mayor of Princeton, a post in which he sparked at least one controversy.

In 1911, *The Daily Princetonian* reported that the Witherspoon Moving Picture Theatre in downtown Princeton had barred students from entry — and the article’s anonymous writer blamed Mayor Phillips. *The Columbia Spectator* chimed in, speculating that Phillips enacted the policy to punish students who skipped his mineralogy class. In a reply the following day, the mayor claimed innocence and blamed a theater manager, while noting “the dangers of

creating a disturbance in a darkened room filled with an excitable audience.”

As his reply suggested, Phillips possessed good humor. His laugh was so legendary that in 1933 PAW reported that “many tales are told of delighted alumni who have discovered him in out-of-the-way places by hearing his laugh in a crowd,” earning him the nickname Ha Ha Phillips. And on many spring evenings, PAW recounted, Princeton seniors would sing a refrain familiar to an entire generation:

Ha Ha Phillips, Hee Hee Hee

Teaches mineralogy

As mayor he dug up lots of graft;

The more he got, the more he laughed. ♦



Daniel Hertzberg, based on a painting by Robert Bruce Horsfall (American, 1869–1948), Princeton University Art Museum

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