HOW TO HEAL LONELINESS

Hint: Get off the screens and break out the art supplies
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Princetonians with their creation, Trace, at the Burning Man festival in August. From left: Mitchell Nahmias ’12 *14, Natalie Grant-Villegas ’15, Andrew Chong ’13, Kate Greenberg ’10, Dao Mi ’12, Joseph Perla ’12, Alex Stokes ’13, Riley Thomasson ’15, Christopher Crawford ’16, Ashrita Shetty, and Lydia Rudnick ’13 — team member Alex Rafter ’14 is not in the photo. Page 39

The Play’s the Thing

Director Lileana Blain-Cruz ’06 doesn’t shy away from taking risks in her plays — in fact, she seeks them out.

By Jennifer Altmann

34 Bye, Bye, Loneliness

Physician Jeremy Nobel ’77 has a new crusade aimed at curing a growing public-health concern: being lonely.

By Deborah Yaffe

Tigers of the Week

Each Wednesday, we highlight interesting and accomplished alumni. Recent profiles include TV writer Taofik Kolade ’08, left, and NASA engineer Jessica Marquez ’99.

PAWcast

Columnist George F. Will ’68 discusses the state of American politics.

Big Screen

Read about new films directed by Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi ’00, Josephine Decker ’03, and Sean Hartofilis ’03.

Simple Gifts

Dean Christian Gauss was “a premier writer, thinker, educator, editor, and favored personality” at Princeton, writes Gregg Lange ’70.

On the cover: Illustration by Serge Bloch
Evaluating the iGeneration

A

lumni occasionally ask me how Princeton's current undergraduates differ from preceding classes. I try to respond cautiously. Generalizing about the student body is almost always a mistake. Generational trends can, however, be illuminating if we keep in mind that they describe statistical tendencies not inflexible rules. The best study that I have encountered comes from Jean Twenge, a San Diego State University social psychologist. She has written a fascinating book with a hyperbolic title: *iGen: Why Today's Super-Connected Kids Are Growing Up Less Rebellious, More Tolerant, Less Happy—and Completely Unprepared for Adulthood.*

The idea that an entire generation is "completely unprepared for adulthood" is of course preposterous. Today's kids will muddle imperfectly through life's challenges, as human beings have done for millennia.

Title aside, though, Twenge's analysis is compelling. She begins with the observation that students today grew up with cell phones, had an Instagram page before they started high school, and do not remember a time before the Internet. Twenge and her colleagues have surveyed middle school and high school students for more than 30 years. That data enables her to examine how technology is affecting the habits and thinking of young people.

Nobody will be surprised to learn that kids (and the rest of us!) nowadays spend a lot of time on our phones. Far more interesting are the correlations Twenge finds between online activity and other behavior. For example, teenagers today spend less time hanging out with friends than did predecessor cohorts: instead of getting together, kids text each other. Meanwhile, young people report declining happiness and increasing mental health issues. The risk of unhappiness increases with time spent texting but—and this may surprise some—decreases with time spent doing homework.

Twenge offers two explanations for why social media might decrease young people's happiness. One depends on the context of what kids read: some of it is bullying, and some of it makes kids aware of events from which they have been excluded (aggravating what people hipper than me call "FOMO," or the "fear of missing out").

The second explanation has to do with the simple fact that online activity, whatever its content, displaces more meaningful contact. Twenge plausibly suggests that "in-person social interaction is much better for mental health than electronic communication…humans are inherently social beings, and our brains evolved to crave face-to-face interaction." Communicating through social media is tempting because it is easy, but it is ultimately more superficial and less rewarding than getting together.

Twenge's book also identifies a number of respects in which today's young people defer milestones—such as getting a driver's license—traditionally associated with "coming of age." Whether because of technology or not, Twenge's data suggest that today's college students arrive on campus with experiences that make them on average less independent, and more safety-conscious, than preceding cohorts.


Free speech and vigorous argument are essential to any great university, and I share Haidt's and Lukianoff's concern about awful events like the violent protests that occurred at Middlebury when Charles Murray spoke there. I do not, however, believe those episodes tar an entire generation. Haidt and Lukianoff have an unfortunate tendency to generalize from outrageous examples.

Still, *The Coddling of the American Mind* is worth reading. Haidt and Lukianoff identify multiple social trends that have intersected on college campuses in recent years. These include nationwide political polarization, the rise of social media and its impact on mental health, changes in parenting practices, and a series of searing political controversies about race and other topics.

Most of the advice that Haidt and Lukianoff give to universities at the end of their book is also quite sensible. They recommend, for example, that universities adopt the Chicago principles on free speech, which Princeton did in 2015. Haidt and Lukianoff also suggest that universities should explicitly acknowledge and emphasize the importance of truth-seeking to their mission. That point has been at the heart of discussions prompted by this year's Princeton Pre-read, Professor Keith Whittington's *Speak Freely: Why Universities Must Defend Free Speech.*

Ultimately, this advice is sensible precisely because it recognizes that if today's students are different from their predecessors, it is not because they are being "coddled" but because they have grown up with different technology and social structures. Communicating wisdom across such differences is a challenge, which is why teaching is an art. Educating the iGeneration will demand innovation from teachers and professors today, just as our predecessors had to invoke their own wit and creativity to educate us.

1. Twenge, p. 2; 2. Twenge, p. 88.
We’ve been reading PAW faithfully for 41 years, and this is the first time I’ve been moved to write. In an era when it often seems we’ve lost our collective moral compass, I found the “moral content” of the Oct. 3 issue to be particularly refreshing and timely.

First, there was President Eisgruber ’83, reminding incoming students of the bedrock values of honesty, respect, and (oh my!) truth-seeking. This was followed by Gary Nash ’55 ’64’s moving story of the Quakers’ petition to the Continental Congress, meeting at Princeton, to end slavery — four years before that “peculiar institution” was written into our Constitution. Finally, there was Dr. Stephen Xenakis ’70’s inspirational recounting of his principled stand against the use of torture by the U.S. military.

Thank you for providing these vivid reminders of the importance of moral leadership in an often amoral era.

Gary Szakmary ’76
Buffalo, N.Y.

I read the interview with President Eisgruber ’83 (feature, Sept. 12) with hope that he has finally become enlightened that climate change is a moral issue, not a political one as he stated in a letter to us a few years ago. Those hopes were dashed again. From his ivory tower, it seems that he can ignore the issue while dashed again. From his ivory tower, it seems that he can ignore the issue while

The University has the moral authority and an obligation to be a thought leader on addressing the issue of climate among other global, seemingly intractable, challenges. I agree with President Eisgruber that “universities are institutions that need to have a service mission and they need to have a sense of values about what it is they are doing.” Apparently, his sense of values is flexible enough to give Princeton a bye on climate.

Besides divesting fossil-fuel investments, the University could also go for near net-zero operation by using only renewable energy and converting its power usage from fossil to renewables. Beyond that, Princeton’s vast research and educational capacity could be used to spur individuals and institutions to take more serious actions, and to bring forward new solutions to decarbonize our lives and to mitigate climate change.

I don’t believe this letter will shift President Eisgruber’s position on climate. It might take a hurricane like Florence hitting Princeton for him to concede that climate disruption is Princeton’s issue too. In the meantime, I will continue my refusal to donate to the University until it becomes the leader on climate that I hope it to be.

Jeff Leon ’69
Amsterdam, N.Y.

I see much mention of moral mission, ethical mission, service mission, and such. I think a great university must be concerned first of all with an intellectual or academic mission. There is a liberal tendency to meddle in all directions, and this can be destructive to what should be a university’s first priorities. I’m stunned to see that our great universities pay almost no attention to the illiteracy and ignorance in our public schools.

My sense is that fewer than half the kids graduating from public school can read fluently, that is, easily and for pleasure. What used to be taken for granted in the fourth grade a century ago is now an impossible dream for millions of young adults.

Do you wonder how this is possible? Easy. The schools use ineffective methods, as has been explained by many authors going back to Rudolf Flesch. A second part of the equation is that the surrounding society, in particular the institutions concerned with learning and culture, stand aside as culture is carefully destroyed. Princeton’s proper mission is to oppose this destruction in every way possible.

Nassau Hall set up a team of people, at great trouble and expense, to identify students who might be persuaded to transfer to Princeton. I would like to see the same effort and expense exerted at putting pressure on K-12 across the country to do a better job.

I am glad to hear from alumni who would like further discussion of these issues.

Bruce Deitrick Price ’63
Virginia Beach, Va.
Inbox

AGREEING TO DISAGREE

In response to “Zanthe Taylor ’93 and Andrew Boer ’93 dig into political and social issues” (Podcast Spotlight, posted Oct. 30): Great article. I have friends who are ultra-liberal and others who love Donald Trump. You know what? I consider them all friends and intelligent. Sometimes, we just have to agree to disagree.

It’s enlightening to see a topic from a different perspective and not label it as a liberal or conservative idea. While the country seems to become more polarized, the centrists can still learn to understand the good in most people (must be the Libra in me: always balancing the issues).

Good luck to Zanthe and Andrew — it makes me proud to be an alum of the consistently rated best university in the United States.

James Corsones ’75
Hurley, N.Y.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN BHUTAN

I want to express my hope that “Seeking Happiness: The Kingdom of Bhutan,” a Princeton Journey to be led by Professor Jonathan Gold, will include awareness of the travesty of the Bhutanese ethnic cleansing, and a visit to the refugee camps there. In the late ’80s and early ’90s, 100,000 ethnic Nepali Bhutanese experienced degradation, torture, murder, and expulsion. Thousands still suffer, for multiple generations now, in destitute Bhutanese camps, with no rights. This ethnic cleansing was carried out by the glamorous former king of Bhutan, seeking national purity for his “utopian” vision. His Western-educated son, who became king in 2006, and his wife have not accomplished anything toward justice for their people. Yet this number accounted for a substantial and ancient percentage of Bhutan’s population.

Some of us, fortunate enough to know Nepali refugee families resettled in our towns by Catholic Social Services and other groups in nearly every state and many other countries, have been made acquainted with the double injustice of their stories and the deafness of the world to them.

The king and queen of Shangri-La must be held accountable by the world until they restore human rights, if not ancestral property, to their own people.

Dorina Amendola ’02
Waverly, Pa.

AN UNFAIR PROCESS

As a ’71 graduate alumnus of the electrical engineering department, I feel gratitude and great respect for my alma mater. This is what led me to endow a scholarship in the department of my graduate studies that has been supporting worthy graduate students for several years. However, I am greatly disappointed by the dismissal process of Professor Sergio Verdú (On the Campus, Oct. 24).

After what amounted to a trial by lynx mob through press articles and town hall meetings, and after bypassing the fundamental need for due process and for “audiatur et altera pars” [let the other side be heard], the University committed a gross injustice to his faculty and to supporting worthy graduate students.

I feel gratitude and great respect for the University treated one of its most prominent faculty members. Sexual harassment is reprehensible, but casual surrender to uninformed public pressure is equally reprehensible.

Anthony Ephremides ’71
North Bethesda, Md.

A BETTER CAMPUS LOCATION

Since the founding of the University until today, a unique planning principle has prevailed. Campus walks allow students and faculty to reach destinations, whether class or dormitory, as pedestrians, within a 10-minute period. The proposed location of the new Lake Campus across Lake Carnegie (On the Campus, Jan. 10) is beyond reach of this pedestrian envelope.

With plans to accommodate as many as 300 graduate students, the Lake Campus could add substantially to traffic congestion on Washington and Alexander roads. Ecological considerations in building design will be offset by the added carbon footprint of road traffic.
As an alternative, the new campus can be centrally located on the Springdale Golf Course's existing open space. This is well within walking distance of the entire University, and would allow development of new graduate-student housing adjoining the Graduate College. In exchange, the University can offer to build a new state-of-the-art golf course south of Lake Carnegie.

As it is, the Springdale course is no longer first-class. Land has been taken along the perimeter for faculty housing. The original clubhouse was taken down for a University building. The tees that had originally provided long vistas have become obstructive inclines. The pond and stream are not visible until after balls are lost.

The principle of a pedestrian university campus can be maintained!

Janko Rasic '59 *61
New York, N.Y.

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FUN WITH NUMBERS

I posted this happy coincidence on the “You know you went to Princeton if ...” Facebook page, and some people said it might bring a chuckle to people if it were in PAW. My dad, Dick Stevens, is from the Class of ’54. He is 86 years old. I am from the Class of ’86; I am 54 years old.

Tip Stevens Walker ’86
Wilmette, Ill.

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THE ART MUSEUM’S CURATORS

(Via Facebook) Re “On Display” (feature, Oct. 24): It’s a fascinating article for so many reasons: Meet the special pieces in the museum collection; learn about what inspired the curators; and note that the writer is a junior pursuing engineering! All in all, it’s a good read.

Linda Francis Knights ’77
Hopewell, N.J.

(Via Facebook) The Princeton University Art Museum was certainly formative...
in my own path toward becoming a curator. Thank you to the current curators for their stewardship of that wonderful collection!
Maria Saffiotti Dale ’85
Madison, Wis.

NOT A QUAKER?
I enjoyed Gary Nash ’64’s article, “A Moment in Nassau Hall” (feature, Oct. 3), about a Quaker delegation presenting its anti-slavery petition to the Continental Congress and its president, Elias Boudinot. Nash relates that Boudinot had studied law under Princeton’s Richard Stockton, whom Nash identified as a Quaker himself. As the descendant of early Quakers, I have always paid close attention to all things Quaker, especially in the Princeton area.

While Stockton was, like me, a Quaker descendant, I believe he was actually a Presbyterian, raised to be by his father, John Stockton, who left the Friends to adopt the Presbyterian faith of his wife (and, subsequently, Richard’s mother), Abigail. So records Stockton’s biography from the Society of the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence. So also affirms the statue of Stockton in the U.S. Capitol, which is clearly the very image of a proud Presbyterian grandee and not a radically humble religious nonconformist in Quaker gray.
Thomas H. Pyle ’76
Princeton, N.J.

HER TRADITIONS LIVE ON
Elyse Graham ’07’s piece on Isabella McCosh (Princeton Portrait, Oct. 24) is a fine sketch of a memorable Princeton character. It might interest fellow readers to know that the Auxiliary to the Isabella McCosh Infirmary upholds the traditions she set forth. Now in its 117th year, the Auxiliary partners with the physicians and staff of University Health Services to uphold the highest possible quality of service. As student demographics evolve with increasing numbers of Pell-grant-eligible students and those from nontraditional cultural backgrounds, the demands on UHS are also increasing dramatically.

In addition to maintaining a special-needs fund, providing a parents’ suite in McCosh where kin may stay free of charge to be near a child, and recently renovating the inpatient rooms, the Auxiliary provides support to UHS to promote health awareness; permit timely equipment, software, and professional-development purchases; and assure an atmosphere of care and concern in all health-related areas.

Last year nearly 83 percent of all students received on-campus care, totaling almost 80,000 outpatient visits and 1,000 inpatient admissions. We stand behind every student athlete, with major purchases for athletic medicine including trainers’ carts, a hot/cold spa tub, and IT equipment. Notably, in 2017 we made it possible to introduce the new Kognito and ProtoCall behavioral-health services, and will continue to fund them for the foreseeable future. And of course, when alumni are on campus, McCosh Health Center is open to treat issues large and small.
Dorothy Bedford ’78
President, Isabella McCosh Infirmary Auxiliary
Valley Forge, Pa.

FOR THE RECORD
Guidelines to protect campus free speech described in an Oct. 24 On the Campus story updated policies outlined in the University’s Rights, Rules, Responsibilities handbook. Protesters who interrupt a speaker and who continue after being notified they are in violation of University policy will be referred to the Judicial Committee of the Council of the Princeton University Community, not the Committee on Discipline.

A Sept. 24 letter from President Eisgruber ’83 and Dean of the Faculty Sanjeev Kulkarni stated that “the presumptive minimum penalty in any case of sexual harassment must be a one-year unpaid suspension from the faculty.” An Oct. 24 On the Campus story omitted the term “presumptive.” The letter was released the same day that Professor Sergio Verdú was informed of his dismissal for violating Princeton’s policies prohibiting consensual relations with students and requiring honesty and cooperation in University matters; a University spokesman said the timing was coincidental.
On the Campus

The stainless-steel exterior of the Lewis Science Library, which celebrated its 10th anniversary in November, provides a gleaming backdrop for the massive curves of Richard Serra’s sculpture “The Hedgehog and the Fox.”

Photograph by Ricardo Barros
Race and Redemption

On a fall-break trip to Alabama, students confront our civil-rights history

We shall overcome, we shall overcome
We shall overcome, some day
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe
We shall overcome, some day

Thirteen Princeton students and staff members joined hands to sing “We Shall Overcome” inside a small building on the outskirts of Alabama State University in Montgomery, Ala., dedicated to the history of the civil-rights movement and African American culture. ASU professor Dorothy Autrey, who led the singing, described the role that songs played in the 1955–56 Montgomery bus boycott sparked by Rosa Parks and in other events in the civil-rights movement that took place nearby.

“They sang when they marched at demonstrations to keep time, and they sang in jail — sometimes they literally sang all night long and drove the jailers crazy,” Autrey said. “And most of them were young people just like you are.”

The visit was one of several stops on the five-day Race and Redemption Tour, a fall-break trip sponsored by Princeton’s Office of Religious Life. Eleven students — 10 from the University and one from Princeton Theological Seminary — traveled to civil-rights monuments, museums, and memorials across Alabama to trace the history of discrimination in the American South, beginning with the trans-Atlantic slave trade, Jim Crow, and the activism of the civil-rights movement, and through issues of mass incarceration and voter suppression that are still present today.

Students said one of the most striking moments of the trip was a visit to the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, which commemorates victims of lynching in the United States. More than 800 hanging steel rectangles — the size and shape of coffins — represent each county where a lynching took place. The outdoor memorial hit close to home for students: One rectangle acknowledged an 1886 lynching in Monmouth County, N.J., 40 miles from Princeton, and Amanda Eisenhour ’21 learned the names of two men who were lynched in her hometown of Alexandria, Va.

“This trip forced me to go through the process of what the civil-rights movement was and what a big organizing effort it was, instead of just looking at the results. It has really impacted me and will probably change how I organize in the future,” said Eisenhour, who is active in Students for Prison Education and Reform (SPEAR), a student group.

Other stops on the trip included the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site, the Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, and a visit to the field where Rosa Parks was arrested.

“This trip forced me to go through the process of what the civil-rights movement was and what a big organizing effort it was, instead of just looking at the results.”
— Amanda Eisenhour ’21
On the Campus

In front of the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala.: Kneeling, from left, are Noam Miller ’21, Yoni Schoenberg ’19, Masha Miura ’21, and Amanda Eisenhour ’21. Standing, from left, are Regi Quartey ’21, Lauren Johnson ’21, Emma Parish ’21, T J Smith ’20, associate dean Theresa S. Thames, Sydney Goldman ’21, Princeton Theological Seminary student TauVaughn Toney, and Sebastian Witherspoon ’19.

The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, the 16th Street Baptist Church and Chabad of Alabama in Birmingham, and the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma.

A highlight for many students was the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) in Montgomery, where they spoke with former SPEAR activist Daniel Teehan ’17, who is working to improve mental-health and medical care in Alabama prisons. Some inmates do not have a psychiatrist to write prescriptions, he told the group, and some in mental-health units don’t leave their cells for more than two hours each day.

“This trip has made me so sure about what I want to do, which is to go into civil-rights legal work,” said Masha Miura ’21. “Especially after speaking with Daniel and the others at SPLC — [they are] doing exactly the kind of work that I’ve always wanted to do.”

Students met with activists who had protested conditions in the South decades ago and still live in Alabama, including Jean Graetz, whose husband helped organize the Montgomery bus boycott and whose home was bombed by the Ku Klux Klan; Valda Harris Montgomery, whose family housed Freedom Riders on their way through Montgomery; and Sam Walker, who was put in jail as a 12-year-old boy for protesting laws that disenfranchised black citizens. Walker is now the historian at the National Voting Rights Museum in Selma.

“It was empowering to see that so many people were involved,” said Noam Miller ’21. “For every big march there were smaller marches and smaller players involved — it gave me a little hope because I often get down about what I can actually contribute.”

Theresa S. Thames, associate dean of religious life and the Chapel at Princeton and the trip’s organizer, said she hoped students would take away the importance of activism and the role of college students in the civil-rights movement and examine differences and similarities between issues of social justice and race in the 1950s and ’60s and today.

“Students know of the civil-rights movement and a few key leaders,” Thames said. “However, they are grossly undereducated and miseducated on the many aspects of slavery, Reconstruction, and Jim Crow in America. Also, students believe that these events are ancient history instead of only 50 to 60 years ago.”

Despite the abundance of devastating and dark stories that they encountered during the week, the students left Alabama feeling hopeful about the progress that has been made over the past 50 years and inspired to think about how they could become more involved in campus activism. Some questioned the ways that Princeton and other institutions in the North have recognized their own histories of racism.

“In my opinion, Princeton needs to do a better job of grappling with its history relating to slavery and use that understanding to reach out to underprivileged communities like Trenton,” said Miura. “Looking back on this trip, I really appreciated the fact that even though the monuments we visited in the South may have not been perfect, at least they were there. That was a very important lesson for me.” • By A.W.
Troubling Images
Photojournalists reflect on careers ‘based on other people’s tragedies’

Images of war and tragedy can break the heart or shock the conscience, but they also raise difficult ethical and professional questions. Those questions were the focus of this year’s Belknap Global Conversation, a two-day discussion and workshop sponsored by the Humanities Council and the Program in Journalism.

The conference, titled “Humanitarian Photojournalism: A History of the Present,” brought photographers, historians, academics, and critics to campus. But in an opening panel discussion, moderated by Katherine Bussard, the curator of photography at the Princeton University Art Museum, it became apparent that many photojournalists struggle with aspects of their work, including what to call it.

“My career is based on other people’s tragedies,” observed Peter van Agtmael, who has covered the war against terror in Afghanistan and Iraq. “You can’t get away from that, so there’s a lot of responsibility there, which means that you have to be constantly susceptible to criticism and constantly self-criticizing.”

Too often, photojournalists can only show the aftermath of a crisis and not the action unfolding before it, which limits their ability to intervene, added Susan Meiselas, who, among other projects, has photographed refugees and victims of death squads and political violence in Latin America during a 30-year career. Meiselas is currently the visiting Belknap Fellow in the Humanities Council and the Department of English.

Sim Chi Yin, from Singapore but based in China, discussed her decision to intervene while working on a documentary series she was shooting on the health problems of Chinese gold miners. One night she received a call from the wife of a miner she was photographing, saying that her husband needed to go to the hospital immediately and pleading for assistance.

“I could have said, no, I’m not supposed to,” Sim recalled. “I’m a journalist, it’s Objectivity 101: You don’t intervene and change the scene. But I couldn’t do that. We’re documentary photographers because we want to change something in the world, and we can’t just sit there and watch somebody die if we’re in a position to help.” Sim arranged for the man to go to the hospital and raised money for an operation that extended his life by two years.

Working for the mainstream press carries obligations photographers are not always willing to meet. Sometimes the press shies away from intensely violent images, the panelists noted, while at other times it prefers to sensationalize an issue. Working for mainstream media outlets enables him to go places he could not otherwise go, van Agtmael said, but he and the organization paying him often have different ideas about what to shoot and what story to tell.

While photojournalists seek to capture an image “as intensely and emotionally as possible,” he said, “the language of the press is fundamentally different.” For these reasons, the three prefer not to call themselves “photojournalists” but rather “documentary photographers” or just “photographers.”

All agreed, however, on the power images convey — and the responsibility that accompanies that power. “When you’re a photographer you have to make the choice of where to stand and when to click the button,” van Agtmael explained. “And that excludes everything to your right, to your left, and behind you. When you’re making that choice, you’re excluding many others.”

— By M.F.B.
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On the Campus

President Eisgruber ‘83 and other higher-education leaders have called on Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos to prevent the withdrawal of PROTECTIONS FOR TRANSGENDER STUDENTS under Title IX. The action came in response to reports of a proposed policy change by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that would define sex as male or female, determined by a person’s genitalia at birth, removing legal protection for transgender students. In a Nov. 1 letter, Eisgruber, Rutgers President Robert Barchi, and University of Wisconsin-Madison Chancellor Rebecca Blank argued that Title IX protects the rights of transgender individuals, an interpretation essential to protecting students from discrimination, isolation, and harassment on university campuses. The reported proposal by HHS “would have the effect of rolling back important protections against discrimination on the basis of gender and gender identity,” they wrote.

STUDENT DISPATCH: GETTING TO ‘YES’ — BUILDING GRAD-SCHOOL DIVERSITY

By Nikita Dutta GS

As thousands of prospective graduate students wrap up applications this fall, many will hope for an invitation to visit a Princeton department in early 2019. Those who come will hear about everything from academic resources to the DBar, but some say they don’t hear enough about diversity in the community they would be joining.

“I was concerned about whether or not I would find my people,” recalls Sean Luna McAdams, a third-year Ph.D. student in politics, “though that cut across a lot of different things, not just being Latino” in a predominantly white community.

While racial diversity is just one factor students consider, it may carry more weight than departments realize. According to the Graduate School’s website, while the yield rate for all graduate students has hovered around 50 percent for the past eight admission cycles, the rate for domestic applicants who self-identified as black/African American and who accepted offers of admission declined from 73 percent in 2011-12 to just 40 percent in 2018-19. For domestic Hispanic/Latino students with admission offers, a 70 percent yield in 2011-12 dropped to 50 percent in 2012-13 and has remained in that ballpark since.

Yields vary from year to year, according to Renita Miller, the Graduate School’s associate dean for access, diversity, and inclusion, but the combined yield for underrepresented minorities has been close to or above the yield for all students for several years. An increasingly diverse applicant pool has led to more underrepresented minority students receiving offers of admission, she said, and the total number of these students enrolling has been “steadily climbing over the last several years.”

Some current grad students said they felt a lack of diversity was so endemic to academia that they couldn’t realistically take it into account when evaluating Princeton.

“I didn’t consider it because I didn’t expect there to be much diversity in the first place,” said James Martin, a fifth-year Ph.D. student in molecular biology. “I was surprised during my grad school interviews that I was usually the only person of color at each school I went to, but when it came to making the final decision after realizing that, I thought, ‘This is just going to be a trial anyway.’”

Graduate students told PAW of the importance of discussing diversity issues during recruiting. Martin recalls other schools scheduling more diversity programming on their visit days than he found at Princeton. Luna McAdams told how, during his visit to the politics department, he contacted Latino grad students on his own initiative and learned of Princeton’s Latino Graduate Student Association — of which he is now president. “I was surprised to hear there was an organization, so that helped me in some of my concerns,” he said.

A new program as of October, Princeton Prospective Ph.D. Preview, gives interested students a chance to visit and learn about the admission process before applications are due. The departments of molecular biology,
ecology and evolutionary biology, and Near Eastern studies also have diversity-related visitation programs, Miller said. “We find that underrepresented minority and first-generation low-income students who have an opportunity to visit and learn more about Princeton prior to the application process are more likely to apply and accept our offer,” she explained.

Laura De Olden, the associate director of graduate student life and diversity initiatives at the Woodrow Wilson School, feels she can relate to students “as a first-generation Latina” and aims to “ensure that all members of the Woodrow Wilson School community feel respected, included, and supported.” A few other departments, including neuroscience and chemistry, also have administrators who run diversity initiatives.

But most departments lack these designated resources, and students believe they need to be more direct with prospective students about diversity in their program and the difficulties of graduate school.

“If you come in hearing from an older student saying, ‘These are the struggles, but this is how I made it through,’ it really helps provide a comfortable and safe environment to say, ‘Yes, this will be hard, but I know the path to navigate,’” said Martin.

Francine Camacho, a fifth-year Ph.D. student in quantitative and computational biology, agrees. She recalled two Princeton students of color advising her against attending during her visit, and aims to be similarly forthcoming.

“I don’t try to sell Princeton as a utopia, and I try to be honest about my experiences,” she said. “I usually say graduate school is hard and there is no perfect program or school, each with their own problems, but I have grown to love and appreciate Princeton in my own way.”

While Camacho struggles to encourage students to come to Princeton knowing the isolation she has often felt, she feels that the culture is changing and will improve if more students of color decide to matriculate. Ultimately, she hopes to “remind them that students who look like us and talk like us deserve to be at Princeton.”

ARCH CEREMONY FOR JAMES C. JOHNSON

An Ex-Slave, a Friend to Students

Lecturer in dance Dyane Harvey-Salaam holds a candle in front of a portrait of James C. Johnson in an East Pyne arch during an ancestral-remembrance ceremony Oct. 22. The arch facing Firestone Library has been named in honor of Johnson, a fugitive slave who worked on campus and was a friend to many students for six decades, first as a janitor and then selling fruits and candies from a wheelbarrow. Students in Harvey-Salaam’s course on dance and Africanist practices performed in a ceremony led by Chief Ayanda Clarke, a New York-based IFA spiritual leader. He called on ancestors “who can galvanize community to restore honor where honor was lost” and said, “We’re standing on the shoulders of James Johnson.” ◆ By Francesca Billington ’19

SEVENTH RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE

Perelman College Naming Announced

One of Princeton’s two new residential colleges to be built south of Poe Field will be called Perelman College, recognizing the lead gift by the Perelman Family Foundation. The gift was announced by Debra G. Perelman ’96, CEO of Revlon, and her father, Ronald O. Perelman, chairman and CEO of MacAndrews & Forbes Inc. President Eisgruber ’83 said the gift will allow Princeton “to admit more talented students from every sector of society, increasing our capacity to fulfill our mission and make a positive difference in the world.”

Debra Perelman said the new residential college will help the University meet one of its highest priorities: “to provide diversity on campus, specifically economic diversity, by increasing class size.” Ronald Perelman added that “people of all backgrounds and communities deserve access to the extraordinary education and training offered by Princeton.” A history major, Debra Perelman said she looks back “extremely fondly” at her undergraduate experience, both academically and in service projects “from a community-building perspective.”

She said family members envision the impact of their gift extending far into the future: “It goes beyond what we can see today.” A previous gift to the University from Ronald Perelman created the Ronald O. Perelman Institute for Judaic Studies. ◆ By W.R.O.
Close to Nature

Professor emeritus Henry Horn offers the backstories of local flora, fauna

Henry Horn was out looking for feathers. The professor emeritus of ecology and evolutionary biology had spotted a peregrine falcon near the top of Fine Hall, and the first stop on his weekly nature tour was at the base of the building, where the bird’s leftovers remained in clumps of blood-speckled plumage.

Horn lifted a silky brown feather from the grass and held it up to his audience. “See how the tips are rounded?” he asked. “My guess is screech owl.”

Since arriving as an assistant professor in 1966, Horn has been immersing himself—and others—in Princeton’s flora and fauna. He incorporated local fieldwork into his EEB classes and still holds freewheeling nature tours every Friday of the academic year, open to anyone who shows up at his office.

Horn’s Nov. 8 walk, held as part of the Lewis Library’s 10th-anniversary celebration, traced a path from the falcon’s perch to the still, glassy waters of Lake Carnegie and back. He paused frequently along the way to answer questions and draw the group’s attention to birds, berries, and streams.

Trees are Horn’s area of expertise: He studies their spatial patterns, using models to make sense of structure and growth. But Horn’s other interests extend much further, beyond ecology. On his nature tours, even the most unassuming shrubs get backstories that weave ecological facts together with geometry, environmental policy, and history.

“This is snakeroot,” he said on a path behind the neuroscience building, pointing at a bush capped by white flowers. Ingestion of the plant’s toxins, Horn explained, can cause milk sickness, the disease that killed Abraham Lincoln’s mother.

He moved a few steps forward, then paused at a massive tree stump, more than 140 years old—Horn knew because he’d counted the rings before. A minute later he stopped again, this time at a spindly tree that offered up orange persimmons as bright as Christmas ornaments. “It leaves a bit of a furry taste in your mouth,” he said, biting into one.

Horn’s explanations reflect his own varied interests as a scientist with a penchant for creative pursuits. For his artistic ventures he’s developed an “altered ego,” J. Chester Farnsworth, who speaks with a thick Southern drawl and makes collages out of discarded computer parts.

“The old adage that if you sit and wait, nature will come to you, is not exactly true,” he said. “What is true is if you see something, it’s worth stopping and looking.”

By Allie Spensley ’20

IN SHORT

Women will receive both of the University’s HIGHEST ALUMNI AWARDS for the first time on Alumni Day Feb. 23. Mellody Hobson ’91, top left, the president of Ariel Investments and a leader in financial literacy, will receive the Woodrow Wilson Award presented to undergraduate alums. Carol Quillen ’91, president of Davidson College, will receive the Madison Medal for a graduate alum with an outstanding record of public service.

Interviews with notable Princeton alumnae, faculty, and administrators are featured in the SHE ROARS PODCASTS, which debuted in the wake of the University’s She Roars alumni conference in October. Interviewed in the initial episodes are former dean of the College Nancy Malkiel; Washington journalist Jennifer Epstein ’08; activist/writer Helen Zia ’73; and Frances Arnold ’79, winner of the 2018 Nobel Prize in chemistry. The podcast host is Margaret Koval ’83, director of special projects in the Office of Communications. The series is available at sheroarspodcast.princeton.edu and on iTunes, Spotify, and other podcast platforms.

The Princeton Gerrymandering Project, led by professor of molecular biology and the Princeton Neuroscience Institute SAM WANG, has won a national contest sponsored by Common Cause for a novel legal theory to stop gerrymanders. The group’s winning paper proposes combining basic principles of law and math to suggest a state-court-based approach to redistricting reform.

From top: Erin Wolf-Wendahl, Victor Powell; courtesy of Davidson College
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When he started playing basketball for his middle school team in the small town of Pontelongo, Italy, Richmond Aririguzoh ’20 would avoid the action when the ball came his way. It took time for him to feel confident on the court. This season, the 6-foot-9-inch junior is Princeton’s starting center.

For Aririguzoh, born in Italy to Nigerian parents, basketball has been just one part of a remarkable journey. His family came to the United States when he was 12, settling in Trenton, N.J. Aririguzoh adapted quickly, he said — his English was pretty good after a year or two, save for a few words that clung onto his accent. By the time he reached high school, he was a standout student — and a college prospect on the basketball court.

“As a sophomore, he played in 27 of Princeton’s 29 games, averaging just over nine minutes per game, and emerged as one of the team’s leaders in offensive rebounds and field-goal percentage. This year, Aririguzoh hopes to become an even more complete player for the Tigers, who ranked fourth in the Ivy League preseason media poll. He scored 10 points, grabbed six rebounds, made two steals, and blocked one shot in Princeton’s opening win over Division-III DeSales Nov. 9.

“He’s a star of a human being, and I think that reflects on the court in everything he does,” said head coach Mitch Henderson ’98. “Everyday I walk into that gym, he’s a light bulb, and he makes everyone better. And I’m at the front of that list.”

During his freshman year, as the Tigers went undefeated in the Ivy League, Aririguzoh spent most of his time on the bench — “learning, observing, growing,” he said. The Princeton offense calls on centers to be multidimensional players, and Aririguzoh had been a more conventional, under-the-basket center in high school.

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“When he’s his best,” Henderson said, “it’s hard for the rest of us not to perform our best.”

Read more about Aririguzoh ’20 and previews of the men’s and women’s basketball seasons at paw.princeton.edu

The Big Three

1. All-American midfielder MADDIE BACSKAI ’20 scored the game-winning goals in each of the field hockey team’s first two NCAA Tournament games — a 2-1 win over Virginia Nov. 9 and a 2-1 win over Harvard Nov. 11, both at Princeton’s Bedford Field. The Tigers advanced to the Final Four for the eighth time in school history and the second time under head coach Carla Tagliente. Tagliente said it was a “surreal feeling” to earn the Final Four spot at home against her team’s top Ivy League rival.

2. COLLIN EADDY ’21 ran for 266 yards and three touchdowns in football’s Nov. 10 win over Yale in New Haven. Eaddy’s stellar day began on the Tigers’ first play, when he sprinted for a 75-yard touchdown, and he found the end zone again less than a minute later, on the first play of a Princeton drive that was set up by a Jeremiah Tyler ’21 interception.

3. Men’s soccer’s JEREMY COLVIN ’19 scored on a rebound in overtime against Penn Nov. 3, helping Princeton improve to 5-0-1 in Ivy play. It was Colvin’s fifth game-winning goal this season. The Tigers lost to Yale Nov. 10 but still won the league championship, earning a bid to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2010.
On the Campus / Sports

**Tigers Claim Ivy Share, Bonfire**

With a 59–43 win over Yale in New Haven Nov. 10, Princeton football secured at least a share of the Ivy League title and the first Big Three bonfire since 2013. At 9–0, the Tigers also were on the doorstep of their first undefeated season since 1964. (The result of the Nov. 17 finale against Penn was not available for this issue of PAW; read coverage at paw.princeton.edu.)

Princeton surged to a 21–0 lead in the first five minutes against Yale and never looked back, piling up 489 rushing yards in the game. Three Tigers — running backs Collin Eaddy ’21 and Ryan Quigley ’20 and quarterback John Lovett ’19 — ran for at least 100 yards, and Lovett completed 13 of 19 pass attempts for 145 yards. Princeton led 59–28 early in the fourth quarter before the Bulldogs added two scores to narrow the margin of victory.

A week earlier, Princeton had its hands full against then-unbeaten Dartmouth and its stout defense, which allowed an early touchdown but later sacked Lovett in the end zone for a safety, giving the Big Green a 9–7 lead early in the second quarter. That margin stood until the fourth quarter, when Lovett broke through for a 5-yard touchdown run with 6:33 remaining. Princeton's defense held firm on Dartmouth's last two possessions, and the Tigers ran out the final two minutes for a 14–9 victory.

Even with its modest point total against Dartmouth, Princeton remained on pace to break the program’s modern record for scoring in a season, needing just 10 points against Penn to top the previous high of 437, set in 2013. Lovett also had a chance to make history in his final game. He’d scored at least one rushing touchdown in 19 straight games — tied for the Ivy League record.

The defense was nearly as impressive, ranking fifth in the Football Championship Subdivision in points allowed (12.9 per game). Only two teams, Harvard and Yale, scored more than 10 points against the Tigers this year. ✤

*By B.T.*
ASTROPHYSICAL SCIENCES

Looking at the Sun

Pioneering solar experiments could reveal ‘secrets of the universe’

On Nov. 5, a pair of instruments running experiments led by Princeton professor David McComas made a record-breaking pass through the sun’s atmosphere. That day, the Parker Solar Probe, carrying McComas’ instruments, passed within 15 million miles of the sun, nearly twice as close as any spacecraft before it. McComas’ instruments, together called the Integrated Science Investigation of the Sun (IS-IS; pronounced EE-sys), spent the record-breaking fly-by collecting and measuring high-energy particles from the corona, the extremely hot outer atmosphere of the sun.

The probe, which launched Aug. 12, is due to swoop through the corona more than 20 times over the next seven years; with each pass, IS-IS will inventory the particles zipping out from the sun, whose tumultuous physics have effects from Earth to the solar system’s edge. “This is an unexplored region of space,” says McComas, professor of astrophysical sciences and vice president for the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory.

While IS-IS (IS is an astronomical symbol for the sun) studies the sun up close, McComas is leading another mission to understand how the sun affects the farthest reaches of our solar system: This summer, the $500 million Interstellar Mapping and Acceleration Probe (IMAP) with McComas as principal investigator was selected by NASA for development and a 2024 launch. IMAP will orbit just sunward of Earth, pointing its sensors toward the edge of interstellar space. On this periphery, the solar wind — a million-mile-per-hour stream of charged particles ushering forth from the corona in all directions — collides with the sparse ionized gas of interstellar space. This collision forms a turbulent magnetic bubble around our solar system, absorbing cosmic radiation and neutralizing many of the charged particles that do make it through.

By charting the neutral particles that originate in this boundary region and interstellar space, instruments on IMAP will chart the edge of the solar system. Together, the two probes represent the next steps in understanding the effects of the sun’s tempestuous physics for life on Earth and conditions on other planets.

The Parker Solar Probe is humanity’s first venture into the corona, and the November fly-by, through the corona and out toward the orbit of Venus, is just the beginning. Every few orbits, when the craft passes Venus, that planet’s gravity will tighten the probe’s orbit,
Learning to predict a coronal mass ejection even a day ahead of time would allow power grids, satellites, and other susceptible technology to be set into safer configurations for the duration of the threat, says David McComas.

eventually bringing IS-IS and the other instrumentation onboard within 4 million miles of the sun — seven times closer than the previous record.

This inside view will begin to unlock some mysteries about the corona, from its remarkable heat — it is, inexplicably, up to 200 times hotter than the sun’s surface — to the source of the solar wind and other more threatening phenomena. One such threat is coronal mass ejections, powerful eruptions of plasma that hurtle out through the solar system. When such eruptions collide with Earth’s magnetic field, they can damage satellites and other high-tech systems, or even threaten Earth-bound infrastructure. A March 1989 ejection caused a nine-hour blackout across much of Quebec, and the most powerful events — such as one that hit Earth in 1859, or another that missed us in 2012 — could disrupt enough systems to cause global catastrophe.

“The impact on the global economy, or on communications and even food distribution, could be horrendous,” says McComas. With our current lack of knowledge about the corona, Earth has erratic warnings, coming only about 30 minutes before the plasma hits. Learning to predict a coronal mass ejection even a day ahead of time, says McComas, would allow power grids, satellites, and other susceptible technology to be set into safer configurations for the duration of the threat. That sort of prediction would “be extremely valuable for humanity,” he says.

The probe had a long journey before the launch. A similar solar orbiter was first proposed in the 1990s, but McComas and others faced budget cuts, committees, and drastic changes to the orbital plan. The original trajectory, proposed by a NASA committee McComas chaired in 2005, would have used Jupiter’s gravity to swoop even closer to the sun, requiring prohibitively expensive heat shielding. McComas’ committee reconvened in 2008 to propose the probe’s current trajectory, which requires a still-formidable 4.5-inch carbon shield to protect the probe — representing a $1.5 billion investment for NASA and some 4 million hours of development and production — from 2,500-degree heat. The new orbit means that, from their perch behind the heat shield, IS-IS’ two instruments — one collecting very fast electrons and ions, and the other collecting even faster ones — will have ample opportunity to sample particles from many different coronal conditions, untangling layer by layer how the solar wind and coronal mass ejections are generated. “By having many fly-bys, you basically are ensured to see all these different types of solar phenomena multiple times,” says McComas.

As thrilled as he is to learn from IS-IS’ observations, McComas is equally eager for IMAP to reveal features of the turbulent interstellar boundary, which is as enigmatic as the corona. For example, when another mission McComas is leading, called IBEX, discovered a ring around the interstellar boundary producing many more neutrally charged particles than elsewhere on the boundary, no fewer than 13 different theories cropped up to explain it. IMAP’s high-resolution map will help pare down these and other theories.

McComas says he’s “incredibly excited” for both missions: “It’s an awesome responsibility and an awesome opportunity to make a huge difference in our understanding of the secrets of the universe and the world around us.” ●

Bennett McIntosh ’16

IN SHORT

Because of their ability to absorb carbon dioxide, forests provide one way to mitigate climate change. But DEFORESTATION in the highlands of Southeast Asia destroyed nearly 75 million acres of forests between 2000 and 2014 — most of it cleared for crops — according to a new study by postdoc Zhenzhong Zeng, civil engineering professor Eric Wood, and others. That represents a rate of deforestation more than 50 percent higher than estimated by the International Panel on Climate Change, enough to affect global models of climate change. The research, published in Nature Geosciences in June, also warns about the impact of the deforestation on soil retention and water quality.

The proteins known as ENZYMES have long been considered among the most “monogamous” of compounds in the chemistry lab — each one committed to catalyzing a specific chemical reaction. Developments in the lab of chemistry professor Todd Hyster, however, have found that enzymes can be made to be much more “promiscuous” under certain conditions, making them able to catalyze a wide array of chemical processes.

In research published in Nature Chemistry, Hyster, postdoc Kyle Biegasiewicz, and grad student Simon Cooper show how exposing enzymes to a combination of photo-sensitive dye and colored light can change the way they function, giving chemists much more control over the variety of reactions they can perform in a lab. ●

Michael Blanding
Sarah Rivett is firmly rooted in Colonial America. The Princeton English and American studies professor grew up in Sleepy Hollow, N.Y., a quaint Hudson Valley town made famous by Washington Irving’s 1820 short story “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow.” Today, Rivett focuses on the interplay among language, religion, and indigenous New World cultures. She was drawn to this time period because “it’s both connected to the United States today and very different from the United States today. And one of the ways that you can trace connections across time is through literary form.” For example, she says, it’s possible to see how sermons from the 17th century have been repurposed into political rhetoric in the 21st century. “History is distinct from the contemporary moment, but the contemporary moment has a lot to learn from history,” she says. “I really enjoy that tension.”

**Rivett’s Work: A Sampling**

**SCIENCE FOR THE SOUL**

Early New England may seem a paradox: Settled by deeply religious Puritans, the region flourished during the Enlightenment, a period of scientific discovery. However, the Puritans were not far removed from their era, Rivett argues in *The Science of the Soul in Colonial New England* (2011). “They actually employed a number of natural philosophical and early scientific methods for discerning evidence of God’s grace in human souls,” she says. Rivett adds that the Puritans examined documents such as deathbed speeches for empirical evidence of the divine to validate their religious practices and try to get around “some of the theological limits on what humans could know.”

**LANGUAGE OF CULTURE**

From 1788 to 1809, Thomas Jefferson attempted to create a compendium of indigenous languages by translating the same 200 words in various tongues. In *Unscripted America: Indigenous Languages and the Origins of a Literary Nation* (2017), Rivett details how one Nanticoke woman substituted “words that were very specific to the Nanticoke landscape — local aspects of the land, the waterways.” By reinventing Jefferson’s rubric, the woman saved some of her culture, giving “native people a way to write their language and their history into the archive in some surprising ways.”

**GHOSTS OF THE PAST**

Historians have long wondered how the 1693 Salem witch trials in Massachusetts, where 19 people were hanged, might have coincided with the emergence of key Enlightenment figures like John Locke. To Rivett, the supernatural elements — from the witchcraft allegations to the sightings of apparitions — represent a re-emergence of folk or pagan religions. “The trials themselves are really about the breakdown of Enlightenment epistemology in the face of these older religious forms resurfacing,” she says, noting that fascination with the otherworldly tends to accompany social unrest. “The supernatural provides a fantasy, an escape, or a kind of allegory for thinking through those anxieties.”

**By A.B.**

“I had Colonial America in my imagination from childhood,” says Professor Sarah Rivett, who grew up in Sleepy Hollow, N.Y.
STAR SHIP
Jan Andrew Buck ’67

*Star Ship* is a story of the misadventures of the Flagship of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean in the early 1970s. The “Manchester” was the most elegant emblem of American military majesty and might during that period. The problem was that it was beset by mayhem caused by a crew of miscreant meatheads. The episodic comedy was underlain with geopolitical intrigue. The story is told by the acclaimed author, Jan Andrew Buck, of *Einstein’s Mistake*, recipient of all 5-star reviews on Amazon including those of fellow authors of which the following one is representative...

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Paula Fredriksen *79, Aurelio Professor of Scripture emerita at Boston University, is the Distinguished Visiting Professor of Comparative Religion at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. A fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, she has published widely on relations between pagans, Jews, and Christians in the Roman world.

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Engaging Design
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By Seth M. Porter (and Emy Nelson Decker)
Head Librarian, Donald E. Stokes Library
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— Cass Sunstein, Harvard Law Professor and former advisor to President Barack Obama.

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Lucia Allais has written an extraordinary book, an account of monuments in modern times. Allais pulls back the curtain to expose the teeming network of anonymous bureaucrats, internationalists, and postcolonial museum designers who have been so crucial to the survival of ancient buildings into unifying symbols of common humanity. This critical examination of how monuments were made (and of the political sausage they flavored) is eye-opening. As Allais cleverly points out, monuments were recast as much to justify the opening of international order through UNESCO, helping it was motivated as much by hopeful idealism as by a pragmatic belief in bureaucracy. It then argues, protective impulses often helped to shape the territories of decolonization and collective memory, recent architecture, internationalism and bureaucracy connect deeply researched chapters on World War II bombing protocols, postcolonial African museum design, and other subjects. One of the remarkable study, cultural exchanges, international diplomacy, and, above all, conflicts and preserved, conceptualized, revered, disdained—allais shows just how poly morphic these perverse stones can be. Interested in collective memory, recent architecture, international order through UNESCO, helping architectural, political, and social.
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**War With Russia?**

*Stephen F. Cohen, Prof. Emeritus*

“Cohen’s ideas about Russia, which once got him invited to Camp David to advise a sitting president, now make him the most controversial expert in the field.”

— The Chronicle Review

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**Serafina’s Wish**

*Eleanor Moseley Pollnow ’84*

Fearless little Serafina and her family live high in a cozy treehouse. A squirrel’s gift helps her discover that wishes can come true in unexpected ways.

Amazon.com (ages 5-10)

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**New Perspectives on Einstein’s E = mc²**

*Young Suh Kim ’61*

About 100 years ago, Bohr was interested in the hydrogen atom, while Einstein was interested in how things look to moving observers. How would the hydrogen atom look to moving observers?
Mark Gober is an author, a Partner at Sherpa Technology Group in Silicon Valley, a former investment banker with UBS in New York, and former captain of the Princeton tennis team where he graduated magna cum laude. His worldview was turned upside down in late 2016 when he was exposed to world-changing science which suggested that, contrary to mainstream assumptions, consciousness is not produced by the brain. After researching extensively, he wrote *An End to Upside Down Thinking* to introduce the general public to these cutting-edge ideas — all in an effort to encourage a much-needed global shift in scientific and existential thinking.

“Mark Gober’s book is a wake-up call to the scientific community and to the general public. It challenges our current understanding of consciousness and reality. I highly recommend it.”

— Dean Radin, PhD, chief scientist at the Institute of Noetic Sciences; formerly held appointments with Princeton University and AT&T Bell Labs

Mark’s book has been endorsed by these leading thinkers: Eben Alexander, M.D., former neurosurgeon at Harvard Medical School; Dr. Ervin Laszlo, Nobel Peace Prize nominee; Loren Carpenter, Pixar co-founder and scientist; Dr. Ed Kelly, Harvard Ph.D., University of Virginia Professor of Psychiatry and Neurobehavioral Sciences; Dr. Elissa Epel, Yale Ph.D., UCSF Professor of Psychiatry and co-author of *The Telomere Effect*; Jack Canfield, *Chicken Soup for the Soul* co-author; Goldie Hawn, actress and producer; and many others.

www.markgober.com

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Theater director Lileana Blain-Cruz ’06 relishes tackling the most difficult plays out there. If a play looks practically unstageable — no plot, say, and densely theoretical language — her first thought is, “OK, how do we do it? Let’s do it,” she says.

And she does, as in her 2016 production of Alice Birch’s Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again, which ran at Soho Rep, a 70-seat downtown-Manhattan theater known for risky, experimental plays. Revolt is an avant-garde piece that unfurls in a series of fragments to explore how women have been oppressed by language, culture, and violence, and how they can rebel. It is playfully absurdist at some moments and unabashedly bloody at others.

In Blain-Cruz’s production, audience members had to walk across a raised platform to get to their seats, giving a physical dimension to the play’s theme of disrupting social norms. The director “wanted to disorient the audience,” says Sarah Benson, the artistic director of Soho Rep. “She is very willing and eager to turn everything upside down and inside out and see what she finds.”

Blain-Cruz further unsettled the audience during a scene in which three generations of women discuss the evolution of feminism. Before the scene started, audience members were served slices of watermelon, which she uses in the play as a symbol of abundance and summer. Meanwhile, on stage, two characters appeared to cut out their tongues. The scene demands that the audience contemplate “how you imagine a new society when the language you know is already corrupted by an oppressive system,” Blain-Cruz says. The audience’s snack provided a visceral jolt as it juxtaposed the sharing of food with the characters’ rejection of eating, she explains.

At 34, Blain-Cruz has emerged as a force to be reckoned with in the theater world. In the last three years, she has directed more than a dozen plays, winning praise from New York City’s leading theater critics. Last year she won an Obie Award, a prize given for excellence in off-Broadway theater; early this year, she received one of the 45 fellowships given annually by the philanthropic arts nonprofit United States Artists, a $50,000 prize recognizing the “most compelling” American artists — an award that is rarely given to directors.

Many of the plays she directs address daunting social and cultural issues of the past and present — the pain and dislocation embedded in the history of African Americans, the obstacles women face from violence and cultural biases. Time and again, her productions are surprising, visually striking, and inventive.

She is drawn to plays that “represent a truth in the world, that are multilayered and complicated,” Blain-Cruz says. “I like discomfort as we try to figure something out.”

Before arriving at Princeton, Blain-Cruz had been involved in just one theatrical performance, as a chorus member in a high school play. But when she took a Princeton acting class, she found herself leaping out of her role in a scene to tinker with the physical environment. “We’d be working on a scene and I would say, ‘I’ll turn on this light; I’ll close this door.’ What I loved was setting up the world of art don’t have: “It’s the one place you are essentially taking people’s time. They can’t multitask,” she says.

By her junior year, she was artistic director of the Princeton Black Arts Company, a student group, spearheading its rebirth. For her directorial debut at the University, she selected a seminal work in the African American canon that is famously challenging to stage, Ntozake Shange’s For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide / When the Rainbow Is Enuf. In the play, seven nameless black women deliver poetic monologues punctuated by recollections about domestic violence, abortion, and abandonment. There are also meditations on joy, sex, and rebirth.

Blain-Cruz united the play’s tough material with a defining visual element, an approach that has come to be a signature of her work. Instead of building a set, she chose a bare stage, its only adornment a circular mural painted on the floor that was bursting with bright colors. Her production highlighted the play’s call-and-response rhythms and punctuated the poetry.
with simple, evocative dance movements, connecting the piece to African performance traditions.

“Most students wouldn’t have undertaken such a challenging piece,” says award-winning playwright and Princeton professor Robert Sandberg ’70, who was her adviser. “It requires a director to bring their own invention and imagination to the piece. You have to invent everything about it.” Blain-Cruz, Sandberg says, has a gift for telling a story “through images and movement as opposed to direct dramatic action.” Sandberg, who has been on the faculty since 1995, considers her one of the most original directors he has taught.

She has also demonstrated her originality when tackling the classics. While earning a master of fine arts degree at the Yale School of Drama, she gave Shakespeare’s The Taming of the Shrew a surprise ending. As written, the play concludes with a wedding feast at which Katherine appears to be “tamed” by her new husband, Petruchio. In Blain-Cruz’s interpretation, performed in 2011, Katherine serves the wedding guests champagne laced with cyanide, and every guest dies. Instead of being defeated, Katherine — played by fellow student Lupita Nyong’o, now an Academy Award-winning actress — emerges as the victor, but a broken one.

“I wanted a black woman as Kate, at the center of the universe,” Blain-Cruz says. “And I thought, what if she resisted to the end? What if she learned how to act and used it against those seeking to oppress her?” Blain-Cruz eliminated the curtain call, so the mass murder is the last note of the performance. She wanted the audience “to sit with that uncomfortable feeling and have to deal with that.”

The production “is legendary on campus” for its freshness and power, says James Bundy, dean of the Yale School of Drama. For a scene in which Petruchio is attempting to tame Katherine, Blain-Cruz set the pair under a single, swinging lightbulb as if he was conducting a CIA interrogation. “She comes up with visual gestures that contextualize the scene rapidly for the audience,” Bundy says. Blain-Cruz went on to direct several Shakespeare productions, including Henry IV Part One at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and a Princeton student production of Much Ado About Nothing at the Berlind Theatre in 2013.

After finishing her master’s degree in 2012 and serving as a directing fellow at the New York Theatre Workshop — the place where Rent was nurtured — Blain-Cruz burst onto the theater scene in 2016, directing six plays in a single year, four of them off-Broadway.

Blain-Cruz credits her mother, who studied art history in insurance, made sure to take their children to museums, opera, and theater, Blain-Cruz recalls. The family moved several times during her childhood, living in New York City, Miami, and North Carolina. Blain-Cruz’s father is Puerto Rican, and her mother is Haitian. “I live as a human in a space that is betwixt and between — I’m mixed, and so I’m comfortable in living in ambiguity, in that mixed space,” she says. “That feels important to me in the theater that I create — that things can be more than one thing at once.”

Her work has dealt with a panoply of issues relating to African Americans. One of the most acclaimed was Pipeline, written by Dominique Morisseau and performed at Lincoln Center last year, which tells the story of an inner-city public-school teacher hoping to protect her son from the life in prison she fears awaits him. (The name refers to the school-to-prison pipeline.) The production was nominated for five 2018 Lucille Lortel Awards, which recognize off-Broadway shows. It also was shown as a film in more than 80 movie theaters across the country in October.

Blain-Cruz’s work also captures the experiences of African Americans in several period pieces: A family of free people of color faces the threat of becoming slaves in 1813 after the United States acquires the Louisiana Territory in The House That Will Not Stand; a young black girl in 1940s Ohio wishes for blue eyes in a stage version of Princeton professor emerita Toni Morrison’s The Bluest Eye; and a British-Jamaican nurse who lived during the 19th century fights racial prejudice during the Crimean War in Mary Seacole, opening at Lincoln Center in February. Not all her work deals with race, however. In 2016, for instance, she directed Red Speedo, a morality tale about competitive swimming with a largely white cast.

“I’m interested in the complicated dynamics of power and injustice, and how those things create a kind of deep chaos and emotional scarring,” she says. “I feel the deep injustices of this world, and I try to explode those injustices in the theater in the hope that, by seeing them clearly, we might change for the better. That’s utopian, but seeing ourselves in others is a way of reminding ourselves of our common humanity and what is so good about really good art. I believe art is powerful, and theater can be an avenue to really important conversations around race and social justice.”

Despite the serious subject matter of her plays, Blain-Cruz is known for her joyous approach to rehearsing; She’s more likely to be physically engaging with the actors as they limber up than sitting in the third row, offering critiques. Working on a play with her is “full of laughing and dancing and music,” says Obie-winning playwright Branden Jacobs-Jenkins ’06, a close friend since their undergraduate days who has collaborated with her on several projects. One of their collaborations was Garls, an adaptation of Euripides’ The Bacchae that was commissioned to celebrate the opening of Princeton’s Lewis Arts complex in 2017.

This fall alone, Blain-Cruz has directed three productions, including Kate Tarker’s war satire, called Thunderbodies; and

“IM INTERESTED IN THE COMPLICATED DYNAMICS OF POWER AND INJUSTICE AND HOW THOSE THINGS CREATE A KIND OF DEEP CHAOS AND EMOTIONAL SCARRING.”

– LILEANA BLAIN-CRUZ
Fabulation, or The Re-Education of Undine, by Nottage, about an African American woman losing her footing in the middle class. And next year, she’ll take on an entirely new challenge: directing an opera. Faust, with a 50-person cast — the largest Blain-Cruz has ever directed — will be performed at Opera Omaha in Nebraska, in April. It’s the “epicness” of the project that drew her in, she says.

Perhaps the most challenging play Blain-Cruz has directed is The Death of the Last Black Man in the Whole Entire World AKA The Negro Book of the Dead, an early play by Pulitzer Prize-winner Suzan-Lori Parks. The 1990 piece — for which Blain-Cruz won the Obie Award in 2017 — is rarely produced because the material is so challenging: One reviewer called it a “jagged, angry, weird text.”

The play introduces an array of characters that derive from African American stereotypes and biblical, historical, and folkloric figures. The title character, called Black Man With Watermelon, dies again and again throughout the performance by electrocution and lynching, testing the love of the main female character, called Black Woman with Fried Drumstick. The playwright has described the piece as emulating jazz — lines are repeated with variations in the manner of jazz improvisation. “It’s a play many people think of as unstageable, but Lileana is fearless when it comes to things that look formless. She can animate and reveal the architecture of things that look like a mess on the page,” Jacobs-Jenkins says.

The play, produced by Signature Theatre in 2016, won Blain-Cruz praise from reviewers, who called it “hypnotic” (The New York Times) and “evocative” (Variety). “Blain-Cruz directs as if Parks had handed her a musical comedy, even though the history of innocent black men being subjugated, lynched, and executed is her subject,” wrote Thewrap.com. “There’s song and dance, but most arresting is the stylization of the dialogue, as if the actors were singing recitative a cappella.”

For Blain-Cruz, the themes of The Last Black Man are connected to the current debate about police officers killing unarmed black men and efforts to bring attention to the names of shooting victims, which resonated with one of the play’s refrains: “You should write it down because if you don’t write it down, then they will come along and tell the future that we did not exist. You should write it down, and you should hide it under a rock. You should write down the past, and you should write down the present.”

“It’s about remembering those who have left, and accepting and embracing our history, in the hope that that doesn’t have to happen again and that wasn’t in vain,” Blain-Cruz says in an interview conducted by Signature Theatre. “In doing that, there’s a celebration of black life, a celebration of black beauty, a celebration of our existence and our complicated and dense history, and those who have come before us.” The play also conveys that “we are here, and we’re still working. We’re making things, and that’s amazing and significant and powerful, and that feels important for right now, too.”

Jennifer Altmann is a freelance writer and editor who formerly worked at PAW.
BYE, BYE, LONELINESS

FOR JEREMY NOBEL ’77, FEELING ALONE IS A PUBLIC-HEALTH HAZARD

BY DEBORAH YAFFE

JEREMY NOBEL ’77 — PHYSICIAN, POET, public-health crusader — is scrolling through his phone, hunting for the snapshot he took a few days earlier: New York’s Washington Square Park at night, its famous arch bathed in floodlights whose reflected glow illuminates the intersecting paths below.

The photo’s meaning came to him only later, he says. “When I took this, I didn’t see the crossroads,” Nobel tells me, as we gaze at his screen together. “Because I wasn’t saying, ‘Oh, I’m at a crossroads in my life.’ It wasn’t that. It was, like, ‘Wow, there’s a kind of pretty Arc de Triomphe in the light.’ But the crossroads were there.”

Did he perceive them subliminally? “Who the hell knows?” Nobel says cheerfully.

The moment encapsulates Nobel’s vision of how artistic expression can help heal the aching loneliness of modern life: first, by directing focused attention to a moment of experience; next, by encouraging further reflection on the meaning of that experience; and finally, by forging new human connections as you share that meaning with another person.

Nobel, 64, a board-certified internist and preventive-medicine specialist who teaches at Harvard’s Medical School and School of Public Health, is best-known as a pioneer in the development of electronic medical records. But in the wake of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, he rediscovered artistic passions that had lain dormant since his student days and turned his attention to the role the arts can play in combating trauma and loss.

Today, however, the Foundation for Art and Healing, which Nobel launched 14 years ago, has a new focus — the UnLonely Project. It’s an effort to address a less visible and dramatic public-health crisis: the widespread loneliness that characterizes our technologically intertwined, yet curiously isolating, cultural moment. The UnLonely Project’s targets include college campuses like Princeton, where a design class is spending the semester devising ways to decrease students’ loneliness.

“More people on the planet than ever before, more digitally connected than ever before, lonelier than ever before,” Nobel says. “What’s going on?”

SOCIAL ISOLATION IS A CONDITION that can be quantified — this many friends, that much daily interaction. Loneliness, by contrast, is inherently subjective, the perception of a gap between the social connections you want and those you actually have. One person’s desolate solitude may be another’s blissful peace and quiet.

Yet these subjective perceptions of social connectedness can have concrete impact, suggests research by Julianne Holt-Lunstad, a professor at Brigham Young University, who in 2010 published a trailblazing study about the links between social connectivity and morbidity. Both social isolation and loneliness increase the risk of premature death
from illnesses like cancer and heart disease by nearly 30 percent, a greater mortality risk than obesity, Holt-Lunstad has found. Combine those two factors with a third — living alone — and the increased mortality risk is even greater, the equivalent of smoking 15 cigarettes a day.

“Loneliness won’t just make you miserable,” Nobel says. “It will kill you.”

Loneliness wreaks its havoc through both biological and behavioral pathways. It can trigger a fight-or-flight response and depress immune functioning. People with more supportive social networks have lower blood pressure for their age than those who are more isolated, Holt-Lunstad has found, while a difficult relationship can bring on blood-pressure spikes. Over time, the cumulative impact of such stressors can make the development of disease more likely, she says.

Loneliness and social isolation can also modify behavior, Holt-Lunstad notes, by depriving us of connections that stimulate healthy choices. A parent tells a child to eat her vegetables; spouses remind each other to take their medications. “Having others around can have very powerful effects on health-related behaviors,” Holt-Lunstad says. “There’s so many ways in which relationships can influence us.”

Is loneliness increasing? It’s hard to be sure. But some telling demographic indicators suggest chronic loneliness may be on the rise, Holt-Lunstad says: More Americans are living alone, and fewer participate in religious, social, or civic groups. A recent survey by the health insurer Cigna, based on the UCLA Loneliness Scale, a commonly used research tool, concluded that 54 percent of American adults are lonely — up from 30 or 35 percent on past surveys, Nobel says.

If loneliness is up, there’s no shortage of speculation about the reasons why. Nobel points to an increase in factors that logically seem correlated with loneliness: the geographical mobility of young people, which frays extended family ties; the fragmentation and political polarization of American life; and the proliferation of digital technologies that chain us to personal screens, where social media shows all our friends happily partying without us.

For some struggling Princeton undergraduates, “there’s a little bit of a lament as they are taking an inventory of their social networks,” says John Kolligian Jr., executive director of Princeton University Health Services. “They seem sometimes flummoxed that they have lots of contacts, there’s lots of people who are in their life, who are writing to them and texting them, lots of friends being friended on Facebook, but that, somehow, something else is not happening.”

It’s not just the superficial, arms-length nature of relationships fostered on social media that can promote loneliness, Nobel says; it’s also the self-alienation that comes from striving to present ourselves as click-worthy brands.

“As more and more of your public persona isn’t who you are, you’re clearly going to have some challenges in relating to who you are,” Nobel says. “And if you can’t relate to who you are, you can’t connect with other people.”

IN HIS FIRST SEMESTER AT PRINCETON, Jeremy Nobel was lonely. In retrospect, his emotions seem routine, even banal, “except people rarely talked directly about it,” he says now. “I felt an enormous opportunity, but also a kind of risk that I wouldn’t perform to that opportunity. I felt nervous about exposing myself to other people on an authentic level — afraid of rejection, afraid of abandonment.”

It got better. He did well academically and enjoyed his membership on the fencing team. Although he was majoring in chemistry, he found himself drawn to the arts: poetry, which he had begun writing in high school, and photography, which he discovered in a Princeton course. After two years at the University, he decided to take time off to study with a photographer in Kentucky, but on the way to Louisville, he was seriously injured in a car accident.

“My life was saved by a very skilled general surgeon in a community hospital outside of Cincinnati,” Nobel says. “As I was recovering in that hospital, I just was so interested in the fact that somebody had this skill, this toolkit, that saved my life.” After a year of recuperation at home in Pittsburgh, Nobel finished his Princeton degree and continued on to medical school. He worked in primary-care practice, academia, and the corporate world; earned a public-health degree; and helped to develop some of the earliest electronic medical records and other digital health technologies.

“For 20 years or so, literature, humanism, and the arts were not a big part of my life,” Nobel says. “I still enjoyed the arts, but I wasn’t a maker of art. What changed? 9/11 changed.”

The national trauma reconnected Nobel with his own creative drive. From Boston, he watched as child psychologists armed with the tools of art therapy fanned out across New York City to counsel children traumatized by the attacks.

“The kids got better, and what got my attention was they got better across race and class,” Nobel says. “It wasn’t a cultural effect, so something had to be going on neurophysiologically. Something goes on in the brain when you are purposely looking and trying to pattern-match and think symbolically and non-literally about thoughts and feelings and experiences. I thought that was too important to not pay more attention to.”

To build on this insight, Nobel established the Foundation for Art and Healing, aiming to use the arts to help a variety of sufferers: traumatized...
children, patients living with chronic illness, veterans returning from Afghanistan and Iraq. The foundation worked with survivors of national traumas like Hurricane Sandy. And it promoted another idea: that creative expression could enhance the life and health of anyone, not just the troubled and the sick.

As the foundation evaluated the impact of its work, participants repeatedly noted that arts-based interventions decreased their feelings of loneliness and enhanced their sense of connectedness. In response, Nobel’s foundation refocused its mission, launching the UnLonely Project in May 2016. The project aims to raise awareness about loneliness and its health effects, reduce the stigma surrounding the condition, and connect the lonely, or those at risk of loneliness, to programming and resources. Its efforts focus on three sites of vulnerability: among older adults and their caregivers; on college campuses; and in workplaces, where the loneliness that workers experience in their personal lives can spill over into their professional ones.

So far, the UnLonely Project has begun collaborations with employers, universities, and social-service agencies, and sponsored two festivals of original short films. Princeton is exploring its own collaboration with Nobel, says Kolligian, the University Health Services director.

Nobel’s efforts “are allowing people not just to talk about the positive side, like the sense of belonging, but the negative side, too, the pain and suffering that goes along with excessive loneliness and disconnection,” says Joseph Behen, executive director of the Wellness Center at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, which is working with the foundation. “It’s a huge service.”

COLORED CONSTRUCTION PAPER, markers, and decorative stickers spilled over the conference table. Inside a Manhattan office, Nobel and a consultant facilitator were giving representatives from two Long Island community centers a hands-on demonstration of what the UnLonely Project calls a “creativity circle” — a support-group meeting centered on an arts-related activity.

Early next year, the community centers plan to run six-week programs of creativity circles targeting caregivers for the elderly and the sick. But on this crisp morning in early fall, social workers and managers bent over their own papers, creating squares for a group quilt. In one quadrant of their squares, participants represented their strengths; in the other three, they portrayed their support systems, the activities they rely on to decompress, and their hopes for the future. Some stuck to words. Others accessorized with stickers. One person drew trees and flowers.

It was interesting, one participant remarked, how the construction-paper square formed a unified picture of the resources available, creating
a whole whose outlines might not have emerged in conversation. Nobel nodded. “Sometimes you can see the relationships between things differently if they’re laid out as made objects,” he said.

As the exercise wound down, people swapped stories about grade-school teachers who had shamed them out of making art. “I’m so not creative,” one woman said, describing her initial reaction to the prompt. “I was so worried.”

Although Nobel is a serious artist himself — he is working on a book of poems, as he pursues a master’s degree in creative writing — the UnLonely Project’s programming is designed for everyone, not only those with talent. “We all have creative possibilities and potentials,” says Behen. “It’s a matter of engaging them and trying to realize them.”

**THIS FALL, AS THEY DO EVERY YEAR,** the Princeton students in Engineering 200: Creativity, Innovation, and Design broke into teams to devise solutions to a complex social problem. This year’s problem: mitigating loneliness at Princeton.

Research shows that 18- to 22-year-olds are lonelier than any other demographic group, and the American College Health Association’s annual surveys of college students suggest they may be getting lonelier. Nine years ago, 57.7 percent of those who responded reported feeling very lonely sometime within the previous year; by the spring of 2017, that number had risen to 62.2 percent.

Over the years, in response to the same survey question, Princeton students have reported higher-than-average rates of loneliness — over 70 percent in 2017, in line with results at similar elite institutions, says Sonya Satinsky, Princeton’s director of health promotion and prevention services.

Engineering 200 instructor Sheila Pontis says she chose the topic of this year’s project after four years of office-hour visits from students weeping over academic pressure, family expectations, or romantic disappointments. “They’re a sad bunch,” says Pontis, a lecturer in the Keller Center for Innovation in Engineering Education, who heads a design consultancy. “They feel like they can’t generally say how they feel. They just feel like they are alone, because there’s this kind of political response — ‘How are you? ‘Everything’s fine’ — when actually the students know that they’re not fine.”

It’s a phenomenon that Rachel Yee ’19, president of the Undergraduate Student Government, knows well: In her first year at Princeton, Yee says, she led an active social life but had no one with whom to discuss her increasingly troubling family problems. “I didn’t recognize that as loneliness,” says Yee, who has made mental-health issues a cornerstone of her student-government agenda. “I was, like, ‘How could I be lonely if I’m constantly with people?’ That was very confusing to me.”

Beyond the shared pressures of contemporary life, Princeton students face some issues unique to this campus, students say. The process of bickering for the selective eating clubs can ignite anxiety and stress; fears of exclusion; navigating campus life as an independent, without a dining-hall affiliation, can leave students feeling socially unmoored.

And achievement pressures are sometimes suffocating, says Sarah Sakha ‘18, who co-chaired the Mental Health Initiative during her University career. “We isolate ourselves based on the fact that we are meant to always be working or be busy,” Sakha says. “Because of the culture of go-go-go, you often just feel alone in your struggles, and you feel that you can’t share them.”

A recent five-year, $5 million gift to Princeton’s Elcan Family Fund for Wellness Innovation, will be used to promote students’ well-being, resilience, and social connectedness, in part by expanding the visibility and reach of campus mental-health services, Kolligian said. Meanwhile, Yee is trying to break down the stigma associated with admitting vulnerability.

“It is perfectly normal not to feel 100 percent comfortable,” she reassured first-year students in an email sent out ahead of Lawntimes. “I remember knowing only a small handful of people and feeling a little lonely at times.”

Loneliness as a public-health issue transcends a single community, a single campus, even a single country: This year, Britain appointed ministers for loneliness and suicide prevention, becoming the first nation to elevate the issue to a matter of government concern. Holt-Lunstad, the Brigham Young researcher, who serves on the British government’s technical advisory group on loneliness, believes the United States needs national guidelines on social connectedness, comparable to those for nutrition and exercise.

“Just as we take our diet and exercise seriously for our health, we need to take our social relationships seriously for our health,” she says. “Everyone knows that they should be eating fruits and vegetables and what the standard is, and they know where they are in comparison. They may not be doing it, but they at least know.”

Nobel feels a sense of urgency about the work: He figures he has perhaps 18 months to create momentum around an anti-loneliness crusade before exhausting the public’s short attention span. Still, he has no illusions about the likelihood — even, perhaps, the desirability — of entirely eliminating loneliness. “There’s some part of loneliness that probably is tied in to human experience,” Nobel says. “I don’t think it’s part of a healthy, normal psyche to not have some degree of loneliness. So get to know it — make friends.”

Deborah Yaffe is a freelance writer based in Princeton Junction, N.J.
BURN ARTIST: In 2015, architect Kate Greenberg ’10 first attended Burning Man, an annual immersive art and communal-living experience that draws about 70,000 people for one week to a Nevada desert. She vowed that when she returned, it would be as an artistic contributor. Trace, her installation pictured here, was her second artistic contribution to the event. More than 30 people worked to help to realize her design, including 11 fellow Tigers. In Burning Man tradition, Trace was set ablaze and burned to ashes at week’s end. READ MORE about Greenberg at paw.princeton.edu/tiger-of-the-week.
PRINCETONIANS

Q&A: ALAN LIGHTMAN ’70

**A HELPING HOME**

*An alum’s shelter for female students in Cambodia has helped them make their mark*

On a trip to Southeast Asia in the early 2000s, theoretical physicist and writer Alan Lightman ’70 met Veasna Chea, a Cambodian woman in her 30s who had spent her undergraduate years living in a muddy crawl space underneath her university building in Phnom Penh. There were ample living spaces available for male students, but there was no housing for women.

Lightman, the Professor of the Practice of the Humanities at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a prolific author, was inspired by Chea’s story to start the Harpswell Foundation, which built two dormitories offering a total of 80 female university students free room and board. The dorms include an in-house academic program in critical thinking and leadership for these women on topics such as analytical writing, civic engagement, and debate. Within two years of the dormitories’ construction, female residents were topping their classes across major universities in Phnom Penh. With the help of his former Princeton roommate, retired Malaysian politician Koh Tsu-Koon ’70, in 2017, Lightman started the Harpswell ASEAN Program in Women’s Leadership, a two-week intensive critical-thinking and leadership program for young professional women conducted in Penang, Malaysia. Lightman spoke to PAW about Harpswell’s ongoing mission.

**Q:** Why did you focus on women?

**A:** There are many places where women are discriminated against — in every country — but the situation is very bad for women in Southeast Asia. When I began learning more about the situation of women in the world, I found that the most effective way to help developing countries is to empower and educate women. For the simple reason of not having a place to live, many women in Cambodia are prevented from [obtaining a] higher education.

**Q:** Why did you choose critical-thinking skills for the program’s curriculum?

**A:** Critical thinking is lacking in most Asian education. Things are changing now, of course, but for many decades the Asian model was rote memorization that was not based on critical thinking. The reason our students were first in their classes within two years was, I think, because we gave them critical-thinking skills that put them way ahead of their classmates.

**Q:** How has Harpswell changed lives?

**A:** I have many, many letters from our graduates saying how much they benefited from living in our dorms for four years. They are uniformly appreciative of what they learned in our program. We also know that, on average, our graduates earn five to 10 times the salary of the average woman in Cambodia. Finance is only one way to measure success — our students go back to their own villages and encourage girls to have ambition. You need role models.

**Q:** Does the program relate to your other work as a physicist and writer?

**A:** It relates to my work as a human being. My training as a physicist helped me create the curriculum in critical thinking, and my work as a writer probably helped me design the humanities portion of the curriculum. But I think mainly it’s just part of being a human being. Especially those of us who have privilege, opportunities — I think we have an obligation to help other people who have less advantage.

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READ a longer version of this interview at paw.princeton.edu

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“I found that the most effective way to help developing countries is to empower and educate women.”

— Alan Lightman ’70

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Interview conducted and condensed by Tara Thean ’13

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Bryan Smith
Anthony Brandt ’58 has written for many national magazines. He is the author of three books and edited a series of books for the National Geographic Society.

It’s been 60 years since I graduated, and at first sight on a recent visit, the most striking changes are physical: a plethora of large new buildings surrounding and infiltrating the old campus, what were once tennis courts now dorms, woodland now labs, with the promise of much more expansion soon to come. The architecture has become strikingly modern. Once all collegiate gothic, now I find Robert Venturi ’47 ’50, Robert Stern, and Frank Gehry. The changes on Nassau Street are more modest. The little Garden Theatre survives. That’s where I saw Brigitte Bardot in And God Created Woman and the devastating documentary Night and Fog, about Auschwitz — rooms filled with human skin, processed to make shades for Nazi lamps.

But the generally funky air of downtown is gone. There’s no sign of the cafeteria lined in subway tile where we ate when we were sick of Commons and “mystery meat.” Langrock, where we used to buy our tweeds, disappeared more than 20 years ago. For that matter, so did the tweeds. My friend Bart Auerbach ’58 remembers walking into Langrock some 30 years after he left and the staff greeting him by name. Now there’s a Brooks Brothers in Palmer Square, and an Ann Taylor, some small boutiques, a shop where they sell nothing but cake, another where they sell only chocolate. Missing is the deli where I was introduced to little tins of chocolate-covered ants and rattlesnake meat. Thankfully, the Nassau Inn is still there. The Tap Room still sports the old wood tables intricately carved with the initials of every student who carried a penknife, but they’ve all been covered with thick pieces of glass. They’re no longer a living University tradition. Now they’re history.

Oh yes, 1958. We’re history, too. Those of us still alive are in our 80s now, our careers, except for writers like me, mostly over, our days given to golf and grandchildren. We were part of what was known as the “Silent Generation.” We were all male and almost entirely white. We never marched, never protested, did not raise our voices, did not join the civil-rights movement being born in the South. Clueless and self-involved, we had no idea we were teetering along the edge of an abyss, that Vietnam was about to change the future, that women’s lib was just over the horizon, that the Pill was going to create the sexual revolution in a year or two. We missed the admission of women to Princeton by a decade. Now women make up half of every class. Diversity has become an old story at Princeton, but to me, it’s astonishing to see.

To be sure, I’ve been back from time to time. On one visit, in 1992, my wife and I went back to my club, a reconstituted Elm Club, and had dinner. In the old days, we wore a coat and tie or we didn’t get fed. We were served by black waiters and waitresses. Wine was on the tables every night. By 1992, there was no dress code; student waiters and waitresses served everyone at what had become refectory tables; and we were treated, if that’s the word, to a food fight. Bicker was a huge issue in the 1950s, when everyone had to join a club because the University provided no alternative. Bicker lasted two weeks: two weeks of club committees coming to your rooms and engaging you in small talk, sizing up your status, your level of cool. Every year, some people weren’t asked to join any club. You would find them sitting on the curbs on Prospect Avenue, weeping. Bicker ruined lives. There are still clubs, of course,
A CALL FOR ALUMNI VOICES
Throughout the year, PAW will publish essays by alumni on a wide range of topics that could help other alumni navigate through careers, family issues, and ethical dilemmas, among other things. Essays can be serious or funny, but they should have a strong voice. Send your idea — not a completed essay — to pawessay@princeton.edu.

but today you have choices. Socially, Princeton has long since been liberated. I was surprised as well to find that some students today object to the Honor Code. I thought the Honor Code was sacred. I read in The Daily Princetonian that a significant number of today’s undergraduates think the code is draconian, that it should work on a sliding scale tied to the seriousness of the offense, that it is too much about the letter of the law, not enough about the spirit. I confess to being old-school on this one. The Honor Code is about scholarship, the soul of which requires absolute fidelity to the rules. You never cheat, never plagiarize, never look over someone’s shoulder, never etc., and you do none of these things inadvertently. Sloppiness of any kind is forbidden. I’ve spent my life as a writer, subject to the rigors of fact-checkers on the staffs of the magazines I’ve written for, and they don’t fool around. For that I’ve been deeply grateful. It’s my name on the piece, my reputation that’s at stake. Honor is an old-fashioned concept, but in a time like the present, when it’s so hard to find, a university is an appropriate refuge for it.

One thing that hasn’t changed about Princeton is the quality of the education. I was an English major, and on my visit in April I thought it would be interesting to find an English class to attend. The department kindly steered me to one on John Milton that fit my schedule. I had never taken a course on Milton. He was out of favor in the ’50s. I remember one of my professors writing a note on a paper I had written about poetic imagery in Christopher Marlowe comparing Milton’s “sonorous metal blowing martial sounds” to Shakespeare’s “silver snarling trumpets,” and deciding then and there I didn’t have to read Milton. Now I’m not so sure. This class was a lecture, and the lecturer was so energetic, so enthusiastic, striding back and forth across the low platform at the head of the class, and in the end so convincing that he changed my mind.

It’s difficult to characterize this generation of Princeton students with a phrase the way that “Silent Generation” summed us up in the 1950s. One student said that her time at Princeton was a process of finding out who she is as an individual, and others concurred. One thing that does characterize them is the stress level. A young man told me that he was working 130 percent of his time, and in fact he did look harassed. Everyone I spoke to — students, faculty, administrative staff — mentioned this. The students’ busyness, the stresses of competition, their ambition also keep them too busy to engage in politics much, which surprised me. But I imagine it’s still true that if you enter Princeton conservative, you usually leave it liberal.

If today’s students aren’t active politically, they occasionally march. They joined the national protest against America’s gun culture last spring, rallying near the public library. In my day nobody marched, except for the lone student who used to picket Nassau Hall against nuclear weapons. Students today also volunteer, and I wonder if the town’s ambulance squad would exist if not for the undergraduates who participate. In comparison, my class looks more than a little pathetic. I used to characterize my classmates as, for the most part, fledging bond salesmen. But in fact, great men emerged from my class. The painter Frank Stella. A Rockefeller — Steven — who chose not to become a public figure and went into academe instead. Jack Danforth, scion of the Purina-Ralston feed company and U.S. senator from Missouri for almost 20 years. Gordon Wu, perhaps our only Chinese student, who returned to Hong Kong and made a fortune building infrastructure in China. He is now Sir Gordon Wu, and one of Princeton’s largest benefactors. Maybe we weren’t so bland after all.

I used to hide my Princeton heritage. I didn’t want to be stereotyped as your typical upper-crust snob with a Princeton degree. Now I cherish it. My education made me, ignited my intellectual curiosity, turned me into a lifelong learner, gave me the confidence to sail out on my own and live by my wits. “I would say that we’re being awakened,” one of the young women in the Milton class said to me about what Princeton was like now. Awakened. Enlightened. This is what great universities do, and Princeton is still clearly doing it. We can all be proud to have gone there and been awakened.
Leonard Milberg ’53, a passionate collector of art, rare books, and manuscripts, loves a rare find—especially those related to Jewish or Irish life and literature. And so, in 2016, when he spotted a listing in an auction catalog for three autobiographical and religious manuscripts by Luis de Carvajal the Younger—who was executed in 1596 for secretly practicing Judaism in Mexico during the Inquisition—Milberg immediately arranged to see them.

The 16th-century manuscripts would not end up in Milberg’s collection, however. In researching them, he discovered that they had been stolen from the Mexican national archive in 1932. Milberg helped the Mexican government reclaim them, and in August, he received that government’s highest award, the Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle.

De Carvajal’s manuscripts comprise three documents totaling 180 pages, tiny enough to fit in the palm of a hand (likely for discretion’s sake), written in Latin and Spanish in diminutive script and stitched together. The documents are believed to be the only existing writings from a Jew in Mexico during the Spanish colonial period; together they “contain a giant-sized tale of one family’s devotion to Judaism despite their separation across generations and continents from other Jews,” Milberg wrote in an article for the Princeton University Library Chronicle.

One document was a copy, written by de Carvajal and illuminated with gold, of the Ten Commandments and the Thirteen Principles of Faith by the great Jewish philosopher Moses Maimonides. Another, also written by de Carvajal, was a prayer manual. The third was de Carvajal’s autobiography, which details how he lived publicly as Catholic but secretly worshipped as a Jew. It includes stories meant to highlight his devotion, such as his self-circumcision and his successful entreaties to bring his siblings into the faith.

The memoir was begun while de Carvajal was imprisoned and completed during a temporary release. Arrested again in 1596, under torture he revealed the names of more than 120 Jews, before being burned alive with family members.

Though the booklets had been listed by Swann Auction Galleries as very old copies—not the manuscripts written by de Carvajal himself—Milberg was convinced they were original. “I said, ‘This is not a copy.’ It had gold leafing on it. Who would put gold leafing on a copy?” he says. He brought in experts, at his own expense, to authenticate the documents; when the manuscripts were found to be de Carvajal’s, the sale was canceled and the FBI brought in.

Milberg was pleased that the writings would be returned to Mexico’s archives, but he lamented that “undoubtedly the most important and oldest Jewish manuscripts of the New World” would not be exhibited. He worked with the Mexican government to allow them to be shown at a 2016 exhibition at the New-York Historical Society and to have digital copies made for the city’s Spanish-Portuguese synagogue, the historical society, and Princeton.

Milberg became interested in art during his Army service, when he filled some of his free time reading books about art. Over the last four decades, he has donated several collections to the Princeton University Library: drawings and watercolors; American poetry; prints; Irish poetry, prose, and theater; and works by Jewish American writers.

“I follow my curiosity,” says Milberg, who especially relishes finding unpublished manuscripts by noted authors. Milberg “reads voraciously, and that reading points him to figures who are understudied or obscure,” says English professor Esther Schor, who has used the collection on Jewish American writers in her research and courses.

Milberg’s latest find—the de Carvajal manuscripts—is a reminder that Jews came to the New World more than 400 years ago and made significant contributions. “There is something beautiful and moving when you have something that’s in the hand of an author,” Milberg says. “It’s as if you’re communicating directly with the writer.”

By Jennifer Altmann
The Nov. 6 midterm elections brought changes to the Tiger caucus: Democrat Jared Schutz Polis ’96, a five-term U.S. representative from Colorado’s 2nd district, will be leaving Washington, D.C., to become his state’s governor, and Rep. Leonard Lance ’82, an incumbent Republican in New Jersey’s 7th district, lost a tight race to a Democratic challenger.

Republican Sen. Ted Cruz ’92 of Texas won a second term in one of the nation’s most-watched races, headlining his party’s successful bid to retain the Senate majority.

In the U.S. House of Representatives, six alumni won re-election, according to projections from the Associated Press: Ken Buck ’81, R-Colo. 4th; Mike Gallagher ’06, R-Wis. 8th; Derek Kilmer ’96, D-Wash. 6th; Raja Krishnamoorthi ’95, D-Ill. 8th; John Sarbanes ’84, D-Md. 3rd; and Terri Sewell ’86, D-Ala. 7th.

Alumni in New Jersey had a difficult road. Lance, who had served the 7th district since January 2009, lost to Democrat Tom Malinowski, and Republican Bob Hugin ’76, the lone alum Senate challenger, lost to incumbent Democrat Bob Menendez.

In California, Democrat Jessica Morse ’10 was unable to unseat five-term Republican incumbent Rep. Tom McClintock in the state’s 4th district.

In addition to Polis, two other alumni competed in gubernatorial contests: Democrat Mary Throne ’82, who lost her bid for Wyoming’s top job; and independent candidate Greg Orman ’91, who finished third in Kansas’ three-candidate race.

Incumbent Nellie Gorbea ’88, the Democratic secretary of state in Rhode Island, won re-election, while Ken Simpler ’89, the Republican state treasurer in Delaware, was defeated in his bid for a second term. Among other statewide races, Sean Shaw ’00, a Democrat, lost a close race for Florida attorney general, and Bob Vance ’82, also a Democrat, fell short in his campaign to be Alabama’s chief justice.

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

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 1940
Robert P. Hazlehurst Jr. ’40 Bob died July 2, 2018. He was born in Spartanburg, S.C. His father, R.P. Hazlehurst, was in the Class of 1917. Bob came to Princeton from The Hill School. At Princeton he majored in modern languages and was editor-in-chief of the Prince and a member of Whig-Clio, the Undergraduate Council, the Westminster Society, and the Student-Faculty Association. He took his meals at Cottage and roomed with Neumann, Cerf, Dickey, Tschudy, J.G. Owen, Reese, and B. Jones.

His time at Yale Law School was interrupted by World War II, in which he was a navigator in the Army Air Corps. After finishing at Yale he joined the New Jersey bar and practiced corporate law with Pitney, Hardin & Kipp, where he became a partner in 1952. He retired from the firm in 1989. Over the years he was a trustee of a number of philanthropic organizations and was especially active in Princeton Annual Giving. A devoted Tiger all his life, he was a regular at our reunions.

Predeceased by two wives, Bob is survived by three daughters, including Ellen Courtney ’73; nephew Hamilton Hazlehurst Jr.; and their families.

THE CLASS OF 1942
Robert Young ’42 Bob died Oct. 15, 2018, in Durham, N.C., at the age of 97. He was a former class president, vice president, secretary, and a major booster for the Class of ’42.

A lifelong competitor in and out of Princeton, Bob strove for and prized excellence in everything he did. Bob played tennis and competitive golf into his nineties. A varsity soccer player as a sophomore, Bob tore his knee ligaments while playing Haverford. It was an accident that led him to pursue “alternate competitive venues” such as singing—an activity he continued for the rest of his life—becoming an avid singer and member of Philadelphia’s Orpheus Club for more than 20 years. While in the ICU Bob fretted about how he was going to make chorus rehearsal and the rest of his numerous commitments.

As chairman of the Philadelphia-based law firm Morgan Lewis, Bob led the transformation of the practice from a regional law firm with 125 lawyers to a global firm that reaches throughout Europe, Asia, and Latin America—employing almost 2,000 lawyers.

Bob is survived by his wife, Mary Lou Young; five children; nine grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. The class offers its condolences to them all. Reunions will not be the same without Bob.

THE CLASS OF 1943
David Bowen ’43 Mus died July 5, 2018, in New London, N.H., one month after attending his 75th reunion, accompanied by a large group of family. At 91, Mus volunteered to serve as class memorialist. He wrote 96 memorials from 2012 to 2018. He was a faithful friend to all his classmates.

Mus prepared for Princeton at Montclair (N.J.) High School, where he was on the football and track teams. At Princeton, he majored in politics. He was manager of the varsity soccer team and played on the intramural soccer team, winning the championship for two years. He was a member of Cloister Inn.

After graduating from Princeton, Mus served in the Army from 1943 until 1946. While still in the Army, he married the love of his life, Margaret Keeler, and they immediately started a family.

He spent many years working for Metal Lithographing in Warren, N.J. In 1986, Mus and Margaret retired to New London, N.H., where they enjoyed an active, though peaceful, life on the lake. In New London, Mus helped establish the local Habitat for Humanity and was active in several environmental and social efforts.

He loved bicycling and spent many years sharing a tandem with his wife. Just last year, he rode with his sons in several local cycling charity events.

THE CLASS OF 1947
Verne W. Behnke ’47 Verne died July 10, 2018, in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

He graduated from Galesburg (Ill.) High School and received a scholarship from the University of Chicago. As World War II intensified Verne joined the Marines and served for three years, mustered out as a second lieutenant, and continued his education at Princeton, graduating with the Class of 1947. He worked in New York City in finance and advertising and was instrumental in founding syndicated TV. He later started his own business brokering large cable TV systems.

As a youth Verne performed at the Illinois State Fair, playing guitar and harmonica. He used his amazing bass voice for 10 years in Manhattan doing Gilbert & Sullivan shows.

With his partner, Diane, he grew Fraser firs in North Carolina; many were shipped to New Orleans for Christmas. His semi-retirement gave him the chance to live at 4,000 feet with his fir trees during the summer.

Having a marvelous sense of humor, love of

He is survived by his wife, Margaret; children Linda, Jeff, Betsy, Jimmy, John, and Michael; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

William James Walsh ’43 Jim died July 13, 2018, in Skillman, N.J., one month after attending his 75th reunion. He served as class president for the past 20 years, and prior to that he was class treasurer, alumni-giving chair, and Reunions chair.

Jim prepared for Princeton at Newark Academy. At Princeton he majored in politics, played varsity basketball, and was on the class baseball team. He served on the Nassau Sovereign board and was a member of Cannon Club.

After graduating from Princeton, Jim joined the Army in the 43rd Infantry Division as a first lieutenant. He saw fighting in the Solomon Islands, New Guinea, and the Philippines and was awarded the Bronze Star.

Following the war, Jim earned a law degree from Rutgers Law School and spent his career as a labor-relations attorney. He met the love of his life, Mary, after passing the New York bar. They married in 1950 and raised three daughters. The family moved from Montclair, N.J., to Princeton in 1969, which allowed Jim to stay engaged with his alma mater all his life.

Jim is survived by Mary; children Cynthia and her husband, Rene Milo; Diana and her husband, Bernard Wharton; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.
nature and extreme wit, Verne will be missed by his many friends. We wish him love and light for his next journey.

Eugene F. Corrigan ’47
Gene died Dec. 7, 2017, in Denver, Colo., in hospice after battling cancer for more than a decade.

During the Korean War he entered the Air Force, and was trained in Russian intelligence at Syracuse University. Tennis was his lifelong hobby, and he won the Air Force championship in 1953.

After the war he earned a law degree at John Marshall Law School and went to work for the Illinois Department of Revenue. In 1955 he married his beloved wife, Billie, and she was able to keep him in good health to play competitive tennis while mothering two sons and a daughter. He served as president of the Colorado Tennis Association and as a board member of the United States Tennis Association.

In 1970 Gene moved to Boulder, Colo., to work for the new multistate Tax Commission, then in 1989 to Sacramento to join Ernst & Young as a state tax consultant. During this time he climbed the ladder of the USTA’s Intermountain Section. As a nationally ranked player he was able to continue on the circuit until cancer got the best of him. In his later life he was still able to enjoy the nearby presence of his four grandchildren.

The class is joined in its memory of Gene’s contribution to national tennis competition and his devotion to his Princeton connections.

THE CLASS OF 1948
David D. Stueck Jr. ’48
David was born in Jersey City, N.J., and lived in Pompton Plains, N.J., after a longtime residence in Wycoff, N.J.

Following Navy service at the end of World War II, he graduated in January 1950 with a degree in mechanical engineering. His father was a member of the Class of 1916, and an uncle, George Stueck, was in the Class of 1931.

After a professional-managerial career in the defense, automotive, and sporting-goods industries, he became owner and CEO of Kapo Machine Corp., in Wycoff.

David died Jan. 29, 2018, in Pompton Plains. He was 91. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Joy; their children, Judy, Keith, and Andy; and five grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1949
Donald K. Luke ’49
Pete died July 6, 2018, in Redding, Conn., but his matriculation was postponed by the draft, as he turned 18 in January 1945 and Uncle Sam snagged him. He was released shortly after the end of the war, and joined the rest of us in time to join Quadrangle Club and major in psychology.

Pete left Princeton in early 1949 and went to work at General Motors in its Chevrolet division. After five years, he joined his father in Suchar Engineering & Sales Co., serving the sugar refining and processing industries. He eventually spent his entire career in that field.

The work involved “quite a bit of traveling to various tropical areas, so my Princeton Spanish gets an occasional workout,” Pete reported.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Joy; their children, Judy, Keith, and Andy; and five grandchildren. We send our condolences and deep sympathy to Joy and the children. He will be missed by all.

THE CLASS OF 1950
Malcolm O. Maclean ’50
Mac died April 22, 2018, in Venice, Fla.

Born in New York City, he entered Princeton from Deerfield Academy. He was manager of the varsity squash team for two years, belonged to Cottage Club, and majored in history.

Mac’s business career was in the financial world, where he worked for several Wall Street firms selling securities. When he retired in 1987 to pursue other business activities, he was a vice president of Bacon, Whipple and Co., a New York investment bank.

He married Honor Banks, a Barnard graduate, in November 1950. After briefly living in New York City, they moved to Long Island, where they established their permanent residence. In recent years they spent time in Florida.

Mac enjoyed deep-sea fishing from his boat during summer weekends, and duck hunting in the winter. He was a village trustee, member of school boards, and active on conservation committees. He served as New York State chairman of Ducks Unlimited.

A devoted Princetonian, Mac was our 10th-reunion chairman and class president from 1960 to 1965.

Mac is survived by his wife, Honor; their sons, Putnam and Malcolm Jr.; daughters Katrina and Sarah; and six grandchildren. Their daughter Honor died in 2013.

THE CLASS OF 1953
Henry T. Donahoe ’53
Henry came to Princeton from the West Coast, and although he spent two years in the Navy, traveled often, and attended a number of reunions, he returned to the West Coast after graduation and stayed there.

He was born in Seattle, Wash., and came to Princeton from Seattle Preparatory and the Thacher School. He majored in history and joined Quadrangle Club.

History remained an important interest all his life, but his first career after the Navy was managing livestock operations in Montana. Sale of the family ranch in 1967 turned Henry’s thoughts in new directions. A second career in banking took him to San Francisco in 1969 and to a position with the Bank of California beginning in 1970.

Still doing things his own way, Henry reported to the 50th-anniversary yearbook that he had retired and also married. Maria Trentacoste, an artist, turned Henry’s thoughts in new directions as he explored art history and worked with Maria to redecorate homes in New York and San Francisco.

Henry died June 17, 2018, in San Francisco. He is survived by Maria, his wife of 24 years.

THE CLASS OF 1954
Robert J. Gaines ’54
Bob died Aug. 6, 2018.

He came to us from the Pingry School, where he had been active in baseball, publications, and student government. At Princeton he completed all his distribution requirements in his freshman year so as to immerse himself totally in his major, philosophy. He wrote his senior thesis on “Criticism and Valuation in Art” for which he won the Ethics Prize. A member of Roy Heath’s Advisee Project, he told Heath years later that he had chosen that topic deliberately because he knew nothing about it.

Bob was a member of Cloister Inn and was active in the Nassau Lit.

Once asked, “What on Earth can you do with philosophy?” he replied, “Anything I want.” And he did, reporting in our 50th yearbook that he had not held a job since 1967, but “supported my family with investments of one kind or another.”

His marriage was terminated in divorce. He is survived by his children, Nina, Vikki, and Bart; two grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Andrew L. Steigman ’54
Andy died Sept. 7, 2018, of complications from a stroke.

At Princeton, he was vice president of Prospect Club, majored in the Woodrow Wilson School, and received a summer scholarship for study abroad. Writing his senior thesis on “British Relations with China, 1945-53,” he graduated summa cum laude and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

Andy’s distinguished career in the Foreign Service was preceded by African studies at the London School of Economics, two years in the Army, and further studies at American
FRASER LEWIS ’56

Fraser died April 26, 2018, at his home in Hampton, N.Y. Fraser was born Nov. 5, 1933, in Norwich, Conn., and attended Portsmouth Abbey School before coming to Princeton. He graduated in 1951 with a major in philosophy and religion, joined the Pithotomy Club, and roomed with J. Stuermer, J. Wintersteen, and D. Kirby. He rowed with the varsity crew and was a member of Cloister Inn.

After Princeton he joined the Army Ballistic Missile Agency as a scientific professional in Huntsville, Ala. In 1957, though an engineering major at Princeton, Paul’s great love was the arts, in particular literature and philosophy. Paul was also an active member of Charter Club.

After Princeton, he spent two years at the Army Ballistic Missile Agency as a scientific professional before joining the family company, JB Martin — founded in 1832 in Lyon, France, where Paul’s family originates. It’s headquarters was in New York City, where Paul was based throughout his career. One of Paul’s simple yet effective guiding principles throughout his career at JB Martin was “Take care of the people and make a good product.” Once retired, Paul alternated between East Hampton and Lyon.

Devoted to his family above all else, Paul was married twice, resulting in three sons, to whom he passed along a love for nature and appreciation of the written word. Paul was an avid reader, constantly fascinated by global current affairs, and a loyal supporter of all New York City and one in Shelter Island, where Jay was active in the Birnam Wood Golf Club. He loved golf and bridge. His marriage was long and happy.

THE CLASS OF 1956

FRASER LEWIS ’56

Fraser died April 26, 2018, at his home in Skillman, N.J. He entered Princeton as a pre-medical student majoring in history. His senior thesis was “Colonial American Medical History.” He was a member of Cloister Inn. Fraser’s senior-year roommates were Ray DeRidder, Frank Embick, Dave Jordan, Scott McMillin, and J.B. Thatcher.

After graduation Fraser attended Temple University’s School of Medicine, specializing in obstetrics and gynecology. Fraser delivered hundreds of babies throughout his career, which was based in Princeton. He was an avid golfer, winner of many tournaments, and had played at Springdale Golf Club since his freshman year at Princeton. Fraser enjoyed all Princeton activities, rarely missing a reunion, and he enthusiastically planned many mini-reunions.

His outgoing personality made him the life of the party, and he possessed the rare talent of never forgetting anybody’s name. He loved telling jokes (often bawdy), and was delighted to be a member of the Buster Lewis Society. In addition to golf and travel (he and Maxine visited more than 70 countries on all continents), Fraser was an avid cook, gardener, musician, photographer, and wine connoisseur.

Fraser is survived by his wife of 63 years, Maxine; their four sons; and three grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1957

JOHN B. LEWIS ’57


After Princeton Jay joined Citibank, rising in the international division. He spent three years in Latin America, then was in New York for two, and then had a series of assignments abroad. In Venezuela, he met his Danish wife, Kirsten. They married in 1967 in Venezuela; their two sons, John and David, were both born there. Assignments around the world included positions in Caracas, the Bahamas, Qatar, Greece, Sudan, Chile, Brazil, and London.

Jay always enjoyed the outdoors, books, music, and travel. Upon retirement he and Kirsten kept two residences, one in New York City and one in Shelter Island, where Jay was continually active in the management of the Shelter Island property owners association.

Very best wishes to wife Kirsten, sons John and David, and his grandchildren.

MICHAEL A. MARSHALL ’57

Mike died July 19, 2018.

While at Princeton he majored in history and ate at Colonial. His senior-year roommates were R. Doughten, C. Edwards, and R. Smith. After Princeton he spent three years in the Air Force, leaving as a captain.

His employment life had two segments: first, a successful 20-year career with IBM during the formative years of modern computing, then a transition to the Santa Barbara real-estate industry. He lived in Santa Barbara most of his life and was active in numerous charities, especially the Santa Barbara Zoological Society. Also, Mike was an avid cyclist.

In 1961 he married Patty Turner. They were active in the Birnam Wood Golf Club. He loved golf and bridge. His marriage was long and happy. The Class of 1957 extends its condolences to Patty; children Tom, Jeff, and Jack; and his grandchildren.

TIMOTHY H. SMITH ’57

Tim died the day after his 84th birthday. While at Princeton he majored in philosophy, ate at Tower, and played basketball.

After Princeton he joined the Army for two years. Then he earned a master’s degree and Ph.D. in philosophy from Rutgers in 1961 and 1968. He was married to Dana Smith from 1959 to 1982. They had three children.

He lived in Wantagh, NY, and served on the Levittown school board for six years. Tim had a distinguished career at Hofstra, where he taught for 43 years. He became full professor in 1994 and served as chairman of the department of education and directed the master’s program.

Tim maintained homes in Hempstead and Manhattan. He met and fell in love with Linda Longmire during a protest over the Shoreham nuclear power plant in 1984. They married in 2009 after decades of dating. “He wore me down,” she said.

Tim was famous as a mentor to students. To his wife Linda, children Cynthia, Tamia, and Steven, and his four grandchildren, the class extends its condolences. He was a fine man.

THE CLASS OF 1959

ROBERT D. BRICKMAN ’59

Bob died Nov. 19, 2017, at home in Charlottesville, Va. Raised in Cleveland, Bob came to Princeton from Choate. At Princeton he majored in chemistry, joined Quadrangle, and played 150-pound football. After graduation Bob attended Johns Hopkins Medical School, where he was a member of the notorious Pithotomy Club, a social club. Married to Polly Campbell in 1962, he completed his residency (and Army Reserve service) in cardiac surgery at the University of Pittsburgh in 1970 and remained on the medical school faculty until 1972, when he moved to a cardiac surgery practice in Norfolk, Va. In 1985, deciding that at some point he
wouldn’t be able to continue doing cardiac surgery but was “not psychologically suited for retirement,” Bob entered Washington and Lee Law School. He practiced law for two years in Norfolk. In 1991 he joined Sentara Hospitals as vice president for medical affairs, becoming medical director for clinical effectiveness until his retirement in 1997. From there he and his second wife, Susan, took up residence in the Caribbean for three years aboard their boat. In 2000 they moved to Crested Butte, Colo., where Bob served on the board of Gunnison Valley Hospital from 2005 to 2013, after which they moved to Charlottesville.

Bob is survived by his wife, Susan; five children from his first marriage; and eight grandchildren. We have sent condolences.

Michael L. Cotten ’59
Born in Cambridge, Mass., Mike attended Brookline High School, where he was active in debating, student government, football, and baseball. At Princeton he majored in politics and took his meals at Elm Club, where he was chairman of the Intramural Athletic Association program. He belonged to Whig-Clio, the Undergraduate Schools Committee, and the Hilliel Foundation.

In 1962, after earning a law degree from Boston College and getting discharged from the Army, he began his law career with three associates in the Brookline area, concentrating on real estate, estate planning, and tax law, and becoming a director of the Chestnut Hill Cooperative Bank.

He had two daughters from his first marriage to Hilda Kaplan in 1968. He moved to Atlanta, Ga., continued to practice law, and married Gwynn. Mike served Princeton as a director of the New England Alumni Association and later as a member of the Alumni Schools Committee, serving as class section chair. He is survived by his second wife, Gwynn; his daughters, Melissa and Heather; and three grandchildren. We have sent condolences.

Robert A. MacNeille Jr. ’59
Born in Evanston, Ill., Bob matriculated into Princeton from Geneva (Ill.) High School and entered the School of Engineering. While at Princeton he was a member of Tower Club and was active in rugby and the Engineering Society.

After graduation he returned to Illinois, earning an MBA from Northwestern in 1961. He joined the family firm, St. Charles Manufacturing Co. (founded and run by three generations of MacNeilles), specializing in steel-case kitchen cabinetry. Bob oversaw rapid growth at St. Charles, developing a nationwide network of dealers and designers. Assuming presidency of the company in 1970, Bob expanded it to international scale.

He married Diane Ellsworth in 1962 and they settled in St. Charles, where they built a life and family together. Bob volunteered for numerous leadership positions during his career. He was a founding member of the TriCity Family Services Agency, and won the prestigious Charlemagne Award for Outstanding Service to the Community.

Later in his career he founded Charlestowne Kitchen and Bath, a fully integrated residential and commercial kitchen and bath installation company serving the greater Chicago area.

Bob died peacefully April 12, 2018. He is survived by his wife, Diane; their three children, Richard, Roderick, and Amy; eight grandchildren; a brother, and two sisters. We have sent condolences.

Saul Singer ’59
Saul died June 19, 2018, in Newark, N.J. He was a resident of Princeton.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., he attended James Madison High School there. He was student body president, played tennis, edited the student newspaper, and belonged to the honor society. At Princeton he majored in biology, was vice president of the Premedical Society, rowed on the lightweight crew, managed the marching band, and ate at Court.

He earned a medical degree from SUNY Downstate and interned and was chief resident at Columbia Presbyterian. He served as an Air Force major in Tehran, Iran, and Wichita Falls, Texas.

Settling in Hollywood, Fla., he practiced trauma surgery at Doctors Hospital and was chief of surgery at Memorial Regional Hospital. Retiring from practice in 1991, he enrolled at the Culinary Institute of America, graduating as valedictorian and joining its board of directors. Shortly after, an accident during a minor operation severed the nerve controlling his sense of taste. Undaunted, he excelled as an amateur chef for the rest of his life, producing gourmet meals from memory.

Saul visited Israel often, raising funds for universities and hospitals there and for philanthropies in both the United States and Israel, including the Center for Jewish Life at Princeton. He enjoyed travel and collecting stamps, rugs, and antiques.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Susan; children Sharon, Sara ’86, and Steven ’87; and four grandchildren. We have sent condolences.

THE CLASS OF 1960
William M. Street ’60
Bill died July 25, 2018, after a long struggle with cancer.

Bill came to Princeton from Louisville Day School. At Princeton he was a Keycaptor and Orange Key rep. He dined at Cottage and roomed at the club his senior year with Doug Bradshaw, Jay Howson, and Ed Kostelnik.

Bill might have described himself as, as it were, “born and raised in Brown-Forman.” His father became president, and Bill began his lifelong career there as an intern in 1946. He wrote his thesis on “Public Policy and the Whisky Industry.” After an interlude to earn an MBA at Harvard in 1963, he returned to his Louisville roots. He rose in time to become CEO of Brown-Forman Beverages Worldwide, responsible for B-F’s global beverage business, which he had been instrumental in developing.

He retired from the company in 2003. Along the way, Bill accumulated a full portfolio of civic, charitable, and spirits-industry responsibilities and recognition, about all of which he was determinedly modest.

He is survived by his wife, Lindy; his daughter, Anne; five stepchildren; their spouses; and 11 grandchildren. The class sends condolences to them all.

THE CLASS OF 1961
David Newhall III ’61
David died March 17, 2018, in Fredericksburg, Va.

Born in 1937, he came to Princeton from Germantown Academy in Philadelphia. At Princeton he majored in politics and took his meals at Tower.

David had a long and varied career as a newspaper reporter, chief of staff for 18 years to Richard S. Schweiker, principal deputy assistant secretary (health affairs) in the U.S. Department of Defense, and board member for a major health network and health-insurance provider. He was also a general contractor specializing in the restoration of houses in the historic district of Fredericksburg, not to mention developing a successful beef cattle operation on his beloved farm, Marmion, where he lived for 43 years.

David is survived by his partner, Larry J. Tomayko; loving cousins; and a host of long-time friends.

THE CLASS OF 1964
John G. Bellios II ’64

John was born March 22, 1942, in Laurinburg, N.C., to George and Angelika Karson Bellios, both of whom were born in Greece. He grew up in a close-knit family and attended the Covington Street School before transferring to Peddie in 1956, where he was elected student-body president his senior year.
At Princeton, John majored in history, his thesis titled "Profiles in Liberation, 1938-1967." He joined Charter and considered himself more of a keen observer than active participant in extra-curricular activities.

After spending a few years in advertising in New York City, John pursued advanced degrees in history, initially at the University of California, Berkeley, and, when his father became ill, at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where he earned his master’s degree and doctorate. John’s great love was teaching American history, doing so at UNC Chapel Hill for 25 years and then, starting in 2001, at UNC Charlotte and Strayer University. In 1977 John published The Open Road: A Study in the Origins of the Beat Generation, 1944-1955.

John is survived by his sisters, Connie and Toula, to whom the class sends sincere condolences.

THE CLASS OF 1967
John S. Davis ’67
John died July 5, 2018, at Philadelphia’s Albert Einstein Medical Center from complications of a stroke. He was 72 years old and had lived for many years in Newtown, Pa.

John came from Manhasset High School, on Long Island, where he was an outstanding student and a member of the Dramatics Club and track teams. He played cello in the high school orchestra and tuba in the school marching band, and sang for his local church choir.

At Princeton John was a member of the college band, always recognizable as its tall drum major. He majored in electrical engineering and was an active member of Cloister’s interclub sports teams. He rowed on the heavyweight crew for 15 years with Donaldson, Lufkin, and Jenrette.

Bill died unexpectedly Aug. 5, 2018, of cardiac problems. He grew up in Maplewood, N.J., and graduated from Columbia High School, where he was an active member of the Student Council, competed on the track and cross-country teams, and earned his Eagle Scout award.

At Princeton Bill roomed with Greg McBride and Harry Williams. He was an active Quadrangle Club member, serving senior year as membership chairman. He was on the Undergraduate Council, a member of Whig-Clio, and social committee chair of the U.S.C. He was a manager for the football team, publicity co-chair for the annual Response Symposium on the Arts, and active in Triangle.


Bill was an institutional bond salesman for Morgan Guaranty Trust, Dillon Read, and for 33 years with Donaldson, Lufkin, and Jenrette. By our 30th reunion he had switched job focus, joining Prudential Preferred Financial Services and Guardian as an estate-planning adviser and insurance broker.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Barbara; his children, John and Lindsay; his grandchildren Mila and twins Grace and Sasha; brother David ’71; and sister Kay Wynant.

THE CLASS OF 1968
Richard M. Seibel III ’68
Dick died peacefully April 29, 2018, surrounded by his family. He was 72. His passing was a result of complications from a stem-cell transplant in August 2017.

He was born in Lynn, Mass., and grew up in Marblehead, Mass. While in high school, he was an Eagle Scout, student council president, and captain of the track team. At Princeton, he was a cheerleader, a member of the Undergraduate Schools Committee and the Dan’s Day Committee, and ate at Quad.

After Princeton, Dick served in the Air Force, received the Meritorious Service Medal, and was honorably discharged as a captain in 1974 after six years of service. After leaving the Air Force he became a veterinarian and practiced for more than 35 years, owning the Kindness Animal Hospital in Ossipee, N.H.

He worked closely with the Lakes Region Humane Society, serving on the board of directors for several years as well as donating his services and supplies for displaced pets in need. He was an avid supporter of public education and equality, and opened his practice to students to intern with him in hopes of helping them decide if a career in veterinary medicine was for them. He loved to teach and designed a curriculum that is still used today.

THE CLASS OF 1979
George A. Riley Jr. ’79
George died June 8, 2016, after a courageous 14-month battle with leukemia.

George came to Princeton from Whitehaven High School in Memphis, Tenn. His passion for civil rights and social justice continued at Princeton, where he was active in the anti-apartheid movement in addition to many other worthy causes. Jeffery Park ’79 said, “George was a principled and articulate activist at Princeton. I was proud that our class included someone of his ethics and leadership talents.”

After graduating summa cum laude, George worked for Ralph Nader ’55. He earned a law degree from Harvard Law School and then served as a law clerk in Memphis before moving to San Francisco, where he was special assistant to the San Francisco city attorney. He was later a partner in O’Melveny and Myers and became a top intellectual-property litigator, advising companies such as Apple and Tesla. Known for his impeccable preparation and courtroom eloquence, George volunteered countless hours to those in need. He was a passionate runner, participating in numerous long-distance races. Above all, he was a cherished friend to many.

George is survived by siblings Peggy and John and several nieces and nephews. The class extends its sincere condolences to George’s family and many friends.

THE CLASS OF 1983
Alexandra C. Manfull ’83

Alex succumbed to PANDAS, an autoimmune condition linked to a streptococcal infection that affects the brain.

Born in Portsmouth, N.H., the only child of Susan Newman Manfull and William “Towny” Manfull, Alex graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy with high honors and the Prize for the Study of History at the Senior Level.

Alex studied history — with an emphasis on financial history — at Princeton and graduated in 2013 with a bachelor’s degree in U.S. history and a certificate in American studies. She was the coxswain for the men’s varsity lightweight crew and a member of Pi Beta Phi and Ivy Club.

Alex moved to Manhattan after college and worked at Morgan Stanley, Apollo Global Management, and Blue Ridge Capital. She
moved last winter to Washington, D.C., to work with Updata Partners as an associate.

Donations may be made to the Alex Manfull Memorial Fund supporting research, education, and treatment of PANDAS in adolescents and young adults.

GRADUATE ALUMNI

George Rosen *49

George Rosen, professor emeritus of economics at the University of Illinois at Chicago, died Jan. 8, 2018, at 97.

Born in Russia, Rosen immigrated to the United States with his widowed mother in 1923. After graduating in 1940 from Brooklyn College, he earned a master’s degree in economics from Princeton in 1942. He then enlisted in the Army. In 1949, he completed his Ph.D. in economics from Princeton.

For several years, he worked for the State Department until he joined the MIT Center for International Studies for a research project on Indian industrial-development policy in Bombay. This began his long career as a development economist, specializing in India and other Asian countries. In 1966, he joined the Rand Corp.

In 1967, Rosen went to Manila to become the chief economist of the Asian Development Bank, supervising the bank’s funded development projects all over Asia. Returning to the United States in 1971, he became professor and head of the department of economics at UIC and remained there until retiring in 1985. He authored 10 scholarly books, including one about the politics of building a new campus on the West Side of Chicago.

Rosen is survived by his wife, Sylvia; a son; and two grandchildren.

Frank J. Wiesner *50

Frank Wiesner, retired chief aerodynamicist of the United Technology Corp., died peacefully March 1, 2018, at the age of 94.

Wiesner graduated from Brooklyn Technical High School in 1940 and began his mechanical engineering studies at Clarkson College of Technology before enlisting in the Army in 1942. He served in the Asia-Pacific campaign and then graduated from Clarkson in 1946. He earned a master’s degree in mechanical engineering from Princeton in 1950. That year, he was hired by Carrier Corp. and was assigned to the product-engineering department with air and gas centrifugal compressors for air conditioning and refrigeration. He was proud of designing the air conditioner and water chiller for the new Chase Manhattan Building, the bank’s headquarters in downtown New York City. The Carrier air-conditioning company became a part of the conglomerate United Technology Corp.

A member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, he received its Gas Turbine Award for the most outstanding technical paper in 1978. Wiesner retired in 1984, but continued as a consultant in retirement.

Wiesner was predeceased in 2008 by Elizabeth, his wife of 64 years. He is survived by four children, two granddaughters, and three great-grandchildren.

Pierre E. Conner Jr. *55

Pierre Conner, retired Nicholas Professor of Mathematics at Louisiana State University, died Feb. 3, 2018, at the age of 85.

In high school Conner was the first student in Louisiana to win a National Westinghouse Award for Science. He earned undergraduate and master’s degrees in mathematics in 1952 and 1953 from Tulane University. In 1955 he earned a Ph.D. in mathematics from Princeton. A postdoctoral fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton followed.

Conner became a professor at the University of Michigan in 1957 and joined the faculty at the University of Virginia in 1958. He also was a visiting professor at MIT. In 1967, Conner was appointed one of three inaugural Commonwealth Professors at UVA.

In 1971, he joined the faculty at LSU, and spent 28 years as the Nicholson Professor of Mathematics. He published many books and articles on algebraic topology, differential topology, and algebraic number theory. In 2012, Conner became a fellow of the American Mathematical Society.

Conner was predeceased by his wife of 56 years, Diane. He is survived by two sons and five grandchildren. He was known to be as kind and generous as he was brilliant.

Bernard H. Paiewonsky *61

Bernard Paiewonsky, aeronautical engineer, mathematician, and scientist, died Aug. 17, 2016, at age 83.

Paiewonsky graduated in 1953 from MIT with a bachelor’s degree in mathematics, and in 1954 from Indiana University with a master’s degree, also in mathematics. He earned M.S.E. (*56), M.A. (*59), and Ph.D. (*61) degrees in aeronautical engineering from Princeton.

After many years at the Institute for Defense Analyses and work at the White House Office of Technology, Paiewonsky became deputy for advanced technology for the secretary of the Air Force. Born and raised in the U.S. Virgin Islands, he was the son of the governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands and founder of its university (UVI).

In 1996, Paiewonsky was appointed to the Board of Trustees of UVI. He served until 2010, when he became trustee emeritus. He attended all meetings of the board, as well as meetings of committees of the board on which he served, according to Alexander Moorhead, former board chair and present vice chair.

He also was an APGA board member from 1993 to 1997 and contributed to the Princeton Graduate School’s Annual Giving campaign for 42 years.

Paiewonsky is survived by his wife, Mary; two daughters; one stepdaughter; three grandchildren; and two step-grandchildren.

His first wife, Sabina, predeceased him.

Graduate memorials are written by the APGA.

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Classifieds

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Europe

Rome: Bright, elegant apartment. Marvelous beamed ceilings. Antiques. Walk to Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain. 609-683-3813, gami@comcast.net

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

Paris, Marais: Elegant, 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment, vibrant Pompidou museum/sidewalk café quarter on 13c pedestrian street, full kitchen, w/d, AC, cable. desaix@verizon.com, 617-608-1404.

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


Provence: Delightful five-bedroom stone farmhouse, facing Roman theater. Pool, WiFi. 860-672-6608. www.Frenchfarmhouse.com


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


Ocean House Watch Hill, RI: 2-night stay for sale, The Tower Suite, 2 couples, good December-April 2019. Contact Sandy-sigalvin65@gmail.com, ’85.

Southampton, New York: Stunning secluded 4-acre estate on Shinnecock Bay. Beachhouse charm, 7BR, 4BA and 2BR,1BA guest cottage. Gated drive, fully renovated kitchen/bathrooms, heated pool, private bay beach. Available year-round, weddings/events. info@baybeachestate.com ’01.

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United States West

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A Princeton Family Made its Mark
By Abby Klionsky ’14

Mabel Hillian was the first to leave her family’s farm in Cheraw, S.C. Heading north during the Great Migration of African Americans from the South, in 1916 Mabel made her way to Princeton, where she had family. Within a few months her young sister Bessie arrived, and both found work as kitchen assistants at McCosh Infirmary.

They stayed for half a century, Mabel — who became the head cook — working for 46 years, Bessie for 50.

Although Mabel claimed to The Daily Princetonian that she “couldn’t even cut butter” when she arrived at McCosh, the meals the Hillian sisters prepared were so scrumptious that students and staff in the know would stand outside and ask for food to be passed through the kitchen windows. The kitchen became a gathering place at meal times, drawing ordinary workers and Princeton presidents. The Hillians’ nephew Robert J. Rivers ’53 — among the first African American students at Princeton — was a member of Prospect Club, but he still ate most of his meals at McCosh: The food was better, ice cream filled the freezer, and the visits with his family served as a support system at a time when Princeton was not welcoming to its few students of color.

For at least a decade during World War II and the Korean War, the Hillian sisters and their brother Tom, who had become an orderly at McCosh in 1922, planted and tended the Down South Garden on about two acres of land where the Lewis Thomas Laboratory now stands to ease the pressures of war rationing. After long days at McCosh, the family spent hours picking, then canning the harvest — which included everything from “B for beans to W for watermelon” — back at their apartment in McCosh. They used the produce in the infirmary food and gave the remainder — up to 1,000 quarts each year — to local families in need.

The Hillians were among the many members of Princeton’s African American community who worked in service jobs at the University or its eating clubs. Bessie’s husband, Harley Dargan, was a butler at McCosh (Mabel never married), and other family members also worked at Princeton — for a family total of 200 years of employment at the University.

Beyond McCosh and Princeton University, the Hillians were pillars of their church community, and Bessie earned a beautician’s license in the 1940s. Each summer Bessie and Mabel traveled to Nova Scotia with the family of John Finney, a University trustee. In 1955, they went on vacation to Bermuda, the Prince reporting that it was the “first time since the beginning of World War I that they have been away with nothing to do and no one to take care of.”

Daniel Hertzberg
Picturing Place in Japan

Tachihara Kyōsho (Japanese, 1785–1840), Edo period, 1615–1868, Painting (detail), 1806. Hanging scroll; ink on paper. Gitter-Yelen Collection

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