TECH’S HAPPY WARRIORS
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Jim Cohen ’86
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Mark Poag ’93
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Zoo Crew
Rocco Papalia '82 recalls an eventful year with 11 freshman roommates.

Season’s Greetings
Columnist Gregg Lange ’70’s annual gift is a regift: a letter from one Class of 1912 alumnus to another about a “rumpus” at Henry Hall.

Tigers of the Week
Browse recent profiles of Jay Paris ’71, above, and Paige Ponder ’96—and send nominations for our weekly spotlight.
Bringing a “Resolution Revolution” to Princeton

Among the many joys of my job is learning from Princeton’s brilliant faculty members. Conversations with department chairs are often fascinating because they illuminate the research that defines fields today as well as people and paradigms that will shape disciplines for years to come.

One recent example occurred when Squibb Professor of Molecular Biology Bonnie Bassler, chair of the molecular biology department, identified a unique opportunity to recruit Nieng Yan, an acclaimed structural biologist who earned her doctorate from Princeton and is now one of the world’s foremost experts on cryo-electron microscopy (cryo-EM). In early conversations about the recruitment, Professor Bassler made a compelling case for the importance of cryo-EM to the future of the life sciences at Princeton.

Cryo-EM is a revolutionary technology that uses an electron microscope to produce high-resolution, three-dimensional images of biological molecules like proteins, DNA, and RNA. Professor Bassler predicted that cryo-EM was poised to transform biological research in the 21st century. Others clearly agree: cryo-EM has already begun to make such a transformational impact that its creators won this year’s Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

Biologists have long sought to understand the atomic structures of biological molecules, but previous methods have faced crucial limitations. Cryo-EM is groundbreaking because it enables scientists to determine the structure of large and complex molecules.

The new technique is a valuable supplement to the work already happening in our molecular biology department. The department is among the best in the world at studying biological machines, the large molecules that help cells to perceive and respond to their environments. To stay at the forefront of scientific discovery, Princeton needed to secure this technology and recruit a cryo-EM expert at once.

Professor Yan’s reputation for pioneering research using cryo-EM made her the perfect candidate to anchor our program. But we faced a significant challenge. She already had access to a cryo-EM machine, a technology we weren’t yet equipped to provide. In order to bring her to Princeton, we needed to acquire a cryo-EM facility.

Recognizing the potential impact that Professor Yan and cryo-EM could have on our campus, Professor Bassler formed an interdisciplinary partnership with Emily Carter, then-director of the Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment, and Craig Arnold, director of the Princeton Institute for the Science and Technology of Materials (PRISM). Together, they developed an imaginative plan to house the machine within the stunning, new Andlinger Center.

Accommodating the instrument in the Andlinger Center made sense because it has applications relevant to engineering, energy, and the environment. Its placement also allows for an efficient use of space—already specifically designed for electron microscopy instrumentation—while leveraging the existing technical expertise of our extraordinary PRISM staff. The resulting multi-departmental collaboration is what Bonnie Bassler calls, “one of the things I am most proud of as chair of this department.”

With a suitable location for the machine identified, funding became the next hurdle. The generosity of our alumni allowed us to act swiftly, demonstrating once again how Annual Giving provides Princeton with its “margin of excellence.” These unrestricted funds gave us the flexibility to invest rapidly in this critical new initiative. Timing was key because demand for these machines has skyrocketed.

Being early adopters of revolutionary technology is crucial to Princeton’s mission of excellence because it enables us to recruit and retain spectacular scientists like Nieng Yan, who now holds an especially distinguished title here: she is the University’s first Shirley M. Tilghman Professor of Molecular Biology.

She will continue her world-leading work characterizing the structure of membrane transport proteins. Our molecular biologists tell me that these proteins regulate the flow of chemicals between the inside and outside of the cell, thereby controlling vital biological processes like neural activity and muscle contraction. The study of these molecules has been transformed by what Professor Yan calls a “resolution revolution” ushered in by cryo-EM.

The new machine’s interdisciplinary applications extend to the study of bioengineering and beyond. Professor Celeste Nelson, director of the program in engineering biology, and Cliff Brangwynne, associate professor of chemical and biological engineering, are just two examples of our leaders in this field. Faculty in the Andlinger Center will also harness the machine’s capabilities to study soft matter with applications ranging from battery materials to biofuels.

Part of the genius of locating this facility in the engineering school is that serendipitous interactions across disciplines will be a natural outcome, spurring even greater research innovation. According to Emily Carter, now dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science, this concrete linkage between molecular biology and engineering matters because, “The problems of the 21st century are complex and aren’t going to be solved by a single discipline, and biological engineering will be a central contributor to many of their solutions.”

This type of interdisciplinary collaboration will be a vital feature in our ongoing quest for excellence. It’s only fitting that a unique partnership has animated this process from ideation through implementation. I enthusiastically agree with Craig Arnold, who remarked that this inspiring outcome exemplifies “the best that Princeton has to offer.”
A BETTER WAY TO SERVE?
John Bellinger III ’82’s message imploring American civil servants to continue serving in the Trump administration (essay, Oct. 4) injects timely moral engagement for many career officials on edge. By way of background, I served in the U.S. Foreign Service from 2011 to 2017, including postings to Ghana, Pakistan, and to the U.S. Treasury Department.

Yes, it is a loss for our country when civil servants, with their decades of policy expertise, leave the government. Unfortunately, this administration does not seem to value this expertise, and the grim decision facing many career officials today is whether leaving the government may be the better way to serve our country.

Many career officials can no longer influence the policymaking process by providing fact-based recommendations to the political leadership because the facts may contradict the new administration’s ideologies. A myriad of projects and initiatives, some spanning decades of research and analysis, are being attacked either through funding cuts or calculated neglect. Moreover, many strategists close to the president are fundamentally distrustful of career officials, relegating them to Orwellian terms like “the deep state.” Given these unprecedented attacks on our government institutions, many career officials may rightly feel that their moral compass is calling them to resign from the government so they can regain the intellectual space necessary to advance their research and policy analysis, whether it is climate change, income inequality, civil rights, or international development, rather than remain within a system that attempts to silence these different perspectives.

As long as our political leadership continues to attack our core institutions, the exodus of civil servants will continue. Career officials who resign do not make the decision lightly. However, under the current administration, there may be more effective ways to serve and contribute to our society.

Thomas Chen ’09
Arlington, Va.

Editor’s note: An expanded version of this letter can be found at PAW Online.

LEARNING AND CHILD’S PLAY
I wanted to express how much I enjoyed “Scratch That” (feature, Oct. 25). The work that this project is doing is truly inspiring, and I feel I actually learned about how children (and adults) learn. The material was so interesting and the writing was beautiful! Great work, David Walter ’11 — this article was above and beyond!

Tamara Pico ’14
Somerville, Mass.

MOTHER, WIFE, STUDENT
Re “A.B., with a Baby: J.C. Alvarez ’77” (podcast, posted Oct. 20 at PAW Online): I want to thank J.C. Alvarez for sharing her story. I had a similar experience at Princeton. I was an older female transfer student in the Class of ’79 and came to the campus with 7-year-old twin boys. I lived in Princeton Junction and had a very difficult time juggling my roles as mother, wife, and student. For the most part, I felt the students accepted me, but the professors did not. Some were openly hostile. To make matters worse, my children were anything but quiet. When I brought them to school, it never turned out well.

There were three people on campus who helped me tremendously. One was a graduate student, Ed Holmes *80; another was an administrative dean (whose name I can’t remember); and the last was the director of continuing education, Mary Ellen Capek. Without their support and guidance, I would have been totally lost. I have never gone to a reunion. J.C., your story is making me rethink that decision.

Eleanor A. Vivona-Vaughan ’79
Monroe Township, N.J.

PAW TRACKS

BAND, BASKETBALL, AND BELL-BOTTOMS: Owen Curtis ’72 ’75 reflects on the differences between ’70s-era Princeton hippies and preps, why TV broadcasters came to be wary of the Princeton band, and how it feels to be pranked by legendary basketball coach Pete Carril. Listen to his story at paw.princeton.edu.
Bernstein’s Sept. 13 cover article, “Road Trip!” However, I was taken aback by his suggestion that James Madison 1771 “wouldn’t have liked a road trip.” Setting aside his constitutional scruples about infrastructure development, we must look no further than The Rise of American Democracy by Professor Sean Wilentz (my thesis adviser) for reference to the famous “botanizing tour” of New York and New England, which was taken by Madison and his pal Thomas Jefferson in the spring of 1791. Wilentz emphasizes the political intrigue, but as Madison himself wrote to Jefferson about their plans on May 12 of that year, “Health recreation and curiosity being my objects, I can never be out of my way.” Sure doesn’t sound like a guy who hated road trips!

Robert Richard ’09
Chapel Hill, N.C.

I thoroughly enjoyed the “Road Trip!” article. It is wonderfully written with lots of great tidbits. Only one small correction: Eero Saarinen was an excellent architect, just like his father,
but neither of them were Brutalists. Eero was a Neo-futurist, but he really tried not to be labeled as having any particular style. Keep up the great journalism.

Michael L. Sena ’69 ’72
Strangnas, Sweden

Within the Museum of History in Granite (designed for 4,000 years, no guarantee), the “History of Humanity” monuments are used for teaching by the University of Northern Arizona. Writing in granite involves considerable research, hence I object to your Sept. 13 wording that it “purports” (i.e. “claims, often falsely”). This is quite different from other descriptions such as “meticulously researched” (Los Angeles Times) and “design worth the trip” (Time magazine). The museum has been praised by presidents of Princeton and of the University of California, a Supreme Court justice, and others.

A purpose of this letter is to ask your readers, by viewing www.historyingranite.org, to form their own opinion of this endeavor, designed to give a view of our civilization to generations upon generations of scholars, of students, and of our descendants.

Jacques-Andre Istel ’49
Felicity, Calif.

GERRYMANDERING? NOT HERE

Your article on gerrymandering (feature, Oct. 4) might have been stronger if it had drawn on the experiences of non-gerrymandered states. There are more than you think. Not only do Arizona and California use nonpartisan methods for districting, but Iowa has done so at least since the ’70s. There are also seven states with only one district (Arkansas, Delaware, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wyoming).

Let me stipulate that gerrymandering is nuts, but I thought the story might have also had an entertaining sentence or two about how this issue has somehow gained traction at a time when “Republicans dominate state legislatures at a rate not seen since the Civil War” (Daily Kos, Nov. 14, 2016).

Rob Slocum ’71
St. John, Virgin Islands

CULTIVATING THE ARTS

“Princeton’s New Home for the Arts” (cover story, Oct. 25) elicited a remembrance of things past for me. Arriving on campus in 1952, I quickly discovered a world-class music faculty of composers, musicologists, performers, and theorists. How that all materialized without any decent music facilities — no dedicated classrooms, practice rooms, or performance arenas — astounds me to this day. At least Carl Weinrich, the famous Bach organ interpreter, had the University Chapel at his disposal.

Although a philosophy major, I managed to perform a senior vocal recital in a nondescript classroom with Robert P. Morgan ’56 ’69 as my accompanist. Bob, who was to become a celebrated musicologist, was then a talented arranger and colleague on the
Princeton Nassoons. Wonderful creative things happen with the right people, and I hope that this impressive “neighborhood” will cultivate a new renaissance for the performing arts at Princeton.

Robert H. Cowden ’56
Monte Sereno, Calif.

IN THE PENALTY BOX
The Oct. 25 issue of PAW just arrived, and I was enjoying learning more about the new Lewis Arts complex. The aerial view of the neighborhood was enlightening until I noticed a major faux pas. The oldest building, the anchor building — the one that was named in honor of one of Princeton’s greatest athletes, who is in both the Football Hall of Fame and the Hockey Hall of Fame (he was one of the first nine inducted and the only American), and in whose honor the NCAA named its annual award for the best male hockey player — is misidentified as the MacMillan Building.

What the puck! It’s the Hobey Baker Memorial Rink, aka Baker Rink, home of the men’s and women’s ice hockey teams. Hobey Baker 1914 deserves more respect. Someone in the PAW office needs to spend some time in the penalty box for unsportsmanlike conduct.

Larry Sanford ’72
Princeton, N.J.

Editor’s note: Thanks to several readers who pointed this out. PAW regrets the error and promises in the future to “Make Hobey Proud,” in line with the motto of the men’s team.

WE’D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU
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Letters should not exceed 250 words and may be edited for length, accuracy, clarity, and civility. Due to space limitations, we are unable to publish all letters received in the print magazine. Letters, articles, photos, and comments submitted to PAW may be published in print, electronic, or other forms.
On the Campus

“Impressions of Liberty,” a sculpture by Titus Kaphar, is on view through Dec. 17 in front of Maclean House. It portrays Princeton's fifth president, Samuel Finley, and a black family representing his slaves, who were auctioned at the house in 1766. The sculpture was commissioned by the University Art Museum in conjunction with the Princeton & Slavery Project. Photograph by Ricardo Barros
Altered Tradition

With no more room on Nassau Hall, class stones to be set along walkways

For nearly 150 years, graduating classes have continued the tradition of placing a stone engraved with the class numerals (accompanied for years by a sprig of ivy) on the exterior of Nassau Hall. But space on the iconic structure has finally run out, and the University is looking to start a new class tradition next spring.

Starting from the large medallion bearing the University’s informal motto — “In the Nation’s Service and the Service of Humanity” — that is set into the path on the front campus, class stones will be installed in the ground on both sides of two walkways that extend in the direction of Nassau Hall.

“Each year, alternating sides, we would work our way back to Nassau Hall,” said Robert K. Durkee ’69, University vice president and secretary. Durkee said plans are for 17 classes without stones on Nassau Hall (ranging from 1946 to 2006) to be memorialized with the new stones in May, in advance of Reunions. He said he hoped the stone for the Class of 2018 could be installed immediately following Commencement.

In the past, classes have had to pay for their stones. “We anticipate this will also be true in the future, but for this transition year the University will cover the costs for the 17 older classes and for 2018,” Durkee said.

Alumni reaction to the plan was mixed. “I think it will be really neat to be part of the new tradition,” said Class of 1981 president Jason Gold, whose class does not have a Nassau Hall stone. “I’m really glad that the University is addressing this.”

Christina Keddie ’03 added that a class stone “is a great way to connect students and alumni to the University, and having it in the same general area is a good continuation of the historical tradition.”

Tom Swift ’76, chair of the Princetoniana Committee, said the group has “varying opinions about where future stones should be placed. There is, however, agreement that the stones, wherever their location, must survive for many generations, and [there are] concerns that embedding them into the ground will work against this end.”

W. Barksdale Maynard ’88, who has taught Princeton architecture and written for PAW, said graduating classes might think it undignified to have their stones trampled underfoot. Before the 1890s, he noted, class stones were placed on various campus buildings, and classes planted ivy to beautify sites. “Why not return to this beautification emphasis?” he asked.

Durkee said that in conversations with alumni and students, “it was clear that they strongly preferred” a location on the front campus. He said the University looked at installing stones in the low walls along Nassau Street and in front of Chancellor Green, but space is limited “and even those locations felt distant,” he said.

He added that the medallion with the Princeton motto and the 9/11 garden stones are well-maintained, and that the University “would do the same” for the new class stones. ❚ By James Haynes ’18
Q&A: EDWARD FELTEN

AI: Not So Scary

Artificial intelligence offers great promise; systems to ensure accountability are key

Coming off a year and a half as White House deputy chief technology officer, computer science and public affairs professor Edward Felten is deeply involved in both the technical and policy communities. He serves as director of Princeton’s Center for Information Technology Policy, which recently announced a new initiative focused on artificial intelligence and related policy. He talked with PAW about future directions for AI research and technology policy.

What kinds of projects will the new AI initiative be looking at?

In many areas we have specific work already going on. I have a project that is trying to improve the forecasting of which types of jobs will be affected by automation, and on what timescale, by looking in a more detailed way at what the capabilities of AI systems are. [Assistant professor] Arvind Narayanan and some of his collaborators have done work on understanding how AI models of language incorporate bias from human use of language.

You’re serving on the new Rework America Task Force, funded by foundations, that aims to modernize the labor market. How can policy initiatives help meet this goal?

The worry to me is not so much that there won’t be jobs, but that we’ll have a workforce whose skills are mismatched to the jobs that will exist. That leads to a couple important questions: How do we make sure workers have the skills that will be demanded by the future job market, and how do we make sure workers are in a stronger position to bargain for better pay and better working conditions?

There is concern about the potential for AI algorithms to be biased. How should policymakers address this issue?

Historically, we’ve gotten a lot of experience with understanding how to make human processes more accountable — through transparency, anti-corruption laws or due-process requirements, and a whole body of administrative law that is designed to hold human or bureaucratic processes accountable. What we don’t yet have is the corresponding theory or set of mechanisms to hold algorithms accountable. It’s important that government play that role in a way that is technically sophisticated. But also, it’s important to recognize that the alternative to these AI systems is to have decisions made by people, and people are notoriously prone to bias and non-transparency as well.

Technology research and development has an important role to play in this because it’s possible to build algorithms that are resistant to bias, and we want to create a norm that people who are building systems that are at risk of bias...
On the Campus

“We’ve passed the time when large tech companies can stand apart from the policy process and say, ‘Don’t bother us; we’re just over here innovating.’”

feel they have an obligation to make algorithms that are bias-resistant.

Recently, several of the biggest tech companies have been criticized for how much power they wield. Are more regulations on them likely? We’ve passed the time when large tech companies can stand apart from the policy process and say, “Don’t bother us; we’re just over here innovating.” They’ve now taken on an amount of power and influence that really requires them to be part of the conversation and engage in debate about what is reasonable for them to do and what they can do. That may lead to a mild increase in regulation, but I think it has to lead to greater conversation and interchange between policymakers and the companies. These companies provide a lot of value — they are engines of economic growth — and it would be a shame if we ended up hobbling them, rather than the companies figuring out how to transform themselves into the best citizens they can be.

You’ve been optimistic about the ways AI is changing society. What makes you confident that the potential benefits will outweigh the costs? AI has huge potential to improve the way that we as society address some of the biggest challenges we face. For example, we’re moving toward a world in which your health care is individualized to your particular situation — to your particular genetic makeup — and a lot of that trend is being driven by advances in AI that make it possible to analyze large amounts of data and figure out how to customize treatments. One of the most important things we can be doing is just to be alert to these opportunities and take advantage of them, rather than thinking of AI as this scary thing that’s happening to us. ◆ Interview conducted and condensed by Josephine Wolff ’01

TAX-REFORM PROPOSALS

Concern Over Taxing Endowment, Tuition Waivers for Grad Students

As the Senate and the House debated proposed tax-overhaul legislation in November, a pair of provisions were of particular concern to Princeton officials:

- A proposal to impose a 1.4 percent excise tax on net investment income at private schools with endowments larger than $250,000 per student. If it were enacted, University spokesman Daniel Day said, the expected impact on Princeton “would be quite large, likely in the tens of millions of dollars per year.”
- A plan to tax the tuition waivers for graduate students who work as teaching or research assistants. If their tuition were counted as taxable income, The Chronicle of Higher Education reported, “graduate students could find themselves paying taxes on a far greater amount of money than they actually receive in paychecks from their college.”

President Eisgruber ’83 told The Washington Post that Princeton was “deeply concerned” about the proposed endowment tax. University officials pointed out that the endowment supports more than half of the annual operating budget and supports financial aid. “There’s a basic principle at stake here,” Eisgruber told the Post: “You should not tax charity to raise revenue.”

David Walsh, a Princeton Ph.D. student in history, said his tax bill could jump by nearly $10,000 if the tuition waiver were no longer tax-free. Most doctoral students across the country “would see their tuition support taxed as income for at least part of their graduate careers,” Walsh wrote in the Post.

As this issue of PAW went to press, University officials were reaching out to members of Congress as higher-education institutions mobilized to oppose the tax proposals. ◆ By W.R.O.

PRINCETON, MICROSOFT FILE DACA LAWSUIT

The University has joined with a Princeton senior and Microsoft Corp. in a legal effort to overturn the Trump administration’s decision to TERMINATE THE DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS (DACA) program, saying the action violates the Fifth Amendment and federal regulatory procedures.

In a complaint filed Nov. 3, Princeton said it has enrolled at least 21 “Dreamers” since 2012, including 15 who are currently undergraduates. The students are “among the most accomplished and respected students studying at the University,” Princeton said, and their presence also benefits other students and helps fulfill the University’s educational mission.

One Dreamer, Maria De La Cruz Perales Sanchez ’18, joined in the litigation, saying in a statement that “I grew up in this nation, and I must hold it accountable to the promises it made when it established the DACA program.” She said the program “provided many of my peers and me with an avenue to have control over our paths and lives free from the constant fear of deportation.”

Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced in September that DACA — which protects from deportation certain young immigrants who came to the United State as children — would be phased out starting in March 2018, and that no new applications would be accepted.

Microsoft said the company and its subsidiary, LinkedIn, employ at least 45 DACA recipients in roles including software engineers, analysts, and other technical and operations positions. Microsoft’s president, Brad Smith ’81, is a Princeton trustee. ◆ By W.R.O.

ARRIVALS

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On the Campus

Eight undergraduates and a graduate student took part in a fall-break trip to Winnipeg, Manitoba, as part of a journalism seminar on reporting about migration. Nicholas Wu ’18, one of the students, reports on the class.

The global migration crisis often conjures visions of the U.S.-Mexico border or refugees in Greece, but students in a course on international news reporting spent their fall break in a colder place: the Canadian city of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Providing extensive resources to immigrants and refugees, Winnipeg has become a global leader in refugee resettlement; immigrants now make up 23.9 percent of the city’s population.

“It’s the best place to look at all the aspects of Canada’s immigration policy,” said NPR reporter Deborah Amos, a Ferris professor of journalism who designed the course and led the trip. “It’s a day trip to see it all,” she said, referring to visits by the class to the small towns of Altona — where the Mennonite community had resettled 45 Syrians, amounting to 1 percent of the town’s population — and Gretna, “to see the path asylum-seekers take from the U.S. to Canada.”

Students interviewed NGO workers, government officials, and refugees throughout Manitoba, a province north of Minnesota and North Dakota. The class also visited groups like Diversity Food Services — which has hired a workforce primarily of refugees and others with disadvantaged backgrounds — as well as the Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council, the largest refugee-resettlement agency in the province.

“I was surprised and heartened that the majority of the refugees I met — even the LGBT refugees — loved Canada, and thought they were safe and welcomed there,” said Matt June Ik Chang ’19.

“To those fleeing persecution, terror & war, Canadians will welcome you, regardless of your faith,” Prime Minister Justin Trudeau tweeted Jan. 28.

Canada resettled more than 46,000 refugees last year, the most since 1980. In fiscal year 2016, the U.S. resettlement cap was 110,000, though only about half that number were admitted. The Trump administration reduced the quota to 45,000 for the current fiscal year.

The students met with refugees like Yahya Samatar, who fled Somalia after being threatened by al-Shabab. He crossed through 11 countries, including the United States, before swimming across the Red River and entering Canada.

“I didn’t know where I was coming from, where I was going to,” Samatar told the class. “This was the only chance I had, so I left everything I had on the side of the river and jumped in.”

Maddy Pauchet ’18 was impressed by the pride that Manitobans take in their identity: “They’re not us, and they’re going to prove it. Everyone we met, from policymakers to museum curators, celebrated their Canadian identity and their government’s push to welcome refugees.”

To read student blog entries filed during the trip, go to: http://commons.princeton.edu/manitoba-migration/.

Open Doors

In Canada, class gets a firsthand look at a welcoming stance toward refugees

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IN SHORT

About 750 Princeton residents are receiving PROPERTY-TAX-RELIEF PAYMENTS of almost $2,500 per eligible home from the University. Last year, the University agreed to pay $18.2 million over six years to settle a lawsuit by residents challenging the property-tax exemption of about 170 campus buildings and the University’s tax-exempt status as a whole. The University will pay $10 million to Princeton residents who received assistance under New Jersey’s homestead benefit program, $1.25 million to the Witherspoon-Jackson Development Corp., and $3.48 million to the town of Princeton in 2021 and again in 2022.

IN MEMORIAM: KURT MISLOW, professor emeritus of chemistry, died Oct. 5 in Princeton. He was 94. Mislow was on the faculty from 1964 to 1988 and chaired the chemistry department from 1968 to 1974. He was a pioneer in the theory of modern stereochemistry, which analyzes the three-dimensional arrangement of molecules and atoms in space. Its importance extends to fields including genetics and biochemistry. He authored or co-authored more than 350 journal articles and in 1965 wrote Introduction to Stereochemistry, a book that is still used in teaching.
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A Day With...
Caton Yang ’20: Game theory, midterms, creating Triangle’s sights and sounds

Caton Yang ’20 is the technical director for the Triangle Club. We caught up with him during midterms week as he finished his assignments and prepared for “build week,” when he and his team would construct the set for the show that premiered Nov. 10.

Starting the day I usually start my day around 7:30. I have a pretty strong circadian rhythm, so I just wake up. Because we have midterms going on, I was looking through Chinese notes, sometimes I’m reading through the Bible a little bit, then I eat breakfast in the Whitman dining hall. I have an omelet — three eggs with tomatoes, peppers, and onions — and then I usually grab a muffin or a bagel. I eat with my roommate or whoever else is available.

Chinese 405 At 9 every day, I have Chinese 405 — it’s Chinese language. I’m Chinese by ethnicity, and I spent five years in Hong Kong, between the ages of 9 to 14. The class was just a review for the midterm, so we went through a couple of chapters and a lot of grammar pattern work. The texts we’re studying are a little more interesting as far as topics go: adoption in China and the public’s perspective on homosexuality and premarital sex. It’s really trying to equip us with everything we need to discuss, like political and social topics that probably would come up in regular discussion.

Economics 310 I go to the class (”Microeconomic Theory: A Mathematical Approach”) a little early, do some studying, and then help the professor set up the projector. Thursday was the beginning of game theory. It was especially fun because the professor brought in candy bars, and essentially we played games where he had different rules where we could either get candy or not get candy — just playing around with probability.

Lunch I went to lunch with my friend Mark. Right after economics class, because we’re in the class together, we ate in Wilcox dining hall. It was Southern fried chicken and mashed potatoes. We had a conversation about voice acting for animations, Japanese animations, and we also talked about economics class.

Study at Marquand Library I was working on a paper for History 270 (“Asian American History”) — it was our take-home midterm exam: two short essays, each 750 words. One was about how labor systems affected the racialization of Asian immigrants, and the other one was on Ex parte Endo, which was a [Supreme Court] decision that came after Korematsu v. United States.

Trustee run-through We have a location on Broadmead Street where all rehearsals take place. Members of
the Triangle Board of Trustees come to watch; I believe we had 11 trustees this time. The show is called Spy School Musical. It’s the final stages of the show, when we’re really solidifying what we keep and what we might want to alter for our final production. It’s sort of a bonding event for a lot of the Triangle members. I grabbed some beef brisket, some rice, veggies, there’s salmon there — it was good. Actors typically have all their rehearsals before we enter into fall break, and tech really kicks off during fall break.

The technical director’s job
I oversee all the operations with regard to the set, lights, and sound to make sure everything can come together for the show. During build week, I’m coordinating everything as far as getting lumber, how we’re going to build the set, how we’re going to make everything happen. The set is rather difficult this year: It’s a bunch of really tall letters that can be pieced together and moved around to form the terrain for the show. So you have a lot of abstract shapes, a lot of angles you have to cut out; there’s a lot of surfaces and weight-bearing units that have to hold the actors’ weight. For the actual show, I’m backstage — I’m on a headset, and I’m helping with set pieces. I’m helping make sure everything runs smoothly.

Ending the day
I walked back to my room and finished off my paper around 11. I always do some praying before I go to bed. I only got baptized this summer, 11. I always do some praying before I go to bed. I only got baptized this summer, and I’m trying to start a ministry group on campus. The whole idea behind the new group is to create a more intimate space, one that really promotes vulnerability, but also, more importantly, social and political discussion.

Hotline
Typically I go to CONTACT training on Thursday. CONTACT is a crisis hotline that I’ve been getting trained to volunteer for. The hotline accepts calls for any issue. Especially with the environment on campus where there’s a lot of stress, it’s really important that we have people in the area. It’s better to try to help than to not try at all, right? Edited and condensed by Anna Mazarakis ’16

‘WE SPEAK’ SURVEY
Latest Figures on Sexual Misconduct: ‘Too Many’ Students Are Victims

About 16 percent of the 3,667 students who responded to a University survey on sexual misconduct said they had experienced some form of inappropriate sexual behavior during the 2016–17 school year. Two percent reported they had been raped.

The findings are part of the University’s “We Speak” survey on sexual misconduct, which was conducted in the spring for the third consecutive year.

“That our findings are similar to those from surveys at other campuses doesn’t make them less troubling,” said Vice Provost Michele Minter. While percentages of misconduct in several areas were lower than in past surveys, she said, the figures “still show that too many of our students have been victims of sexual misconduct” and “underscore the sustained need” to address the issue.

Fewer students reported experiencing inappropriate sexual behavior and rape on campus in this year’s survey than in 2014-15 — that year, 20 percent said they had experienced some form of sexual misconduct and 8 percent reported being raped.

This year’s results, which were released Nov. 9, found that undergraduate women were the most likely (27 percent of respondents) to experience some form of sexual misconduct, which includes sexual harassment, stalking, and unwanted sexual contact. By comparison, 16 percent of graduate women reported experiencing sexual misconduct, along with 12 percent of undergraduate men and 5 percent of graduate men.

Nine percent of undergraduate women and 8 percent of graduate women said they had experienced sexual harassment. Of the graduate students who reported experiencing sexual harassment, 18 percent said it had taken place in their work environment.


During the 2016–17 academic year, 18 cases were adjudicated for sexual misconduct, which was conducted in the spring for the third consecutive year.

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RECOUNTING A PRINCETON HEIST

JOHN GRISHAM returned to the scene of his crime. On Oct. 25, the prolific lawyer-turned-writer of legal thrillers discussed his craft with English professor Maria DiBattista in Richardson Auditorium — a short walk from Firestone Library, the setting of the daring fictional heist described in his new novel Camino Island. In the book, thieves break into a security vault and get away with the manuscripts of F. Scott Fitzgerald 1917’s five novels. Grisham didn’t visit the University to research details, but during his October visit — sponsored by the Friends of the Princeton University Library — he was given a library tour and saw the Fitzgerald papers first-hand. “It was very moving because the papers are 100 years old,” he said, “and you can see how Fitzgerald revised and revised and crossed out whole pages of his work.” By Fran Hulette

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December 6, 2017 PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY 15
Talk Cancellation Sparks Discussion of Free Speech

The last-minute cancellation of a talk by a top Israeli foreign-affairs official landed Princeton’s Center for Jewish Life in the headlines last month, prompting a discussion about free speech and leading to an apology by the center’s director and the national Hillel CEO. The talk by Tzipi Hotovely, Israel’s deputy minister of foreign affairs, was hosted instead by Chabad House, another campus Jewish organization.

The CJL canceled the Nov. 6 lecture after student groups led by the Alliance of Jewish Progressives accused the CJL of violating its commitment not to sponsor speakers who “foster an environment of incivility, intend to harm Israel, or promote racism or hatred of any kind.” In a Nov. 5 letter to The Daily Princetonian, the Alliance argued that Hotovely “has repeatedly made racist statements” and that the policy has “served as a thinly veiled method to exclude left-wing voices.” Rabbi Julie Roth, CJL executive director, postponed the talk indefinitely, saying it had not been reviewed as required by the CJL’s Israel advisory committee.

In an op-ed published in The Jerusalem Post, Roth and Hillel CEO Eric Fingerhut said: “This was not a good-enough reason to postpone the event, and for that, we apologize.” The Alliance said in a statement that its members “appreciated the opportunity to engage in respectful disagreement and lively discussion” with Hotovely at the Chabad talk. The group said it looks forward to continuing the conversation, but that can happen “only if the CJL protects the free speech of both right- and left-wing members of the Jewish community.”

The CJL responded in a statement that it will “continue to ensure that diverse perspectives from across the Israeli political spectrum are heard on campus and that the State of Israel maintains its vital and cherished place within our CJL community.”

By A.W.
Myles Stephens ‘19 began last year on the bench for the men’s basketball team.

The 6-foot-5 forward ended it as a first-team All-Ivy League selection, the Ivy Defensive Player of the Year, and the Most Valuable Player of the inaugural Ivy League Tournament.

“I always used to say to Myles, even when he was a freshman, ‘Don’t be afraid to be the best player,’” said head coach Mitch Henderson ’98. “We all could see it. It’s obvious right away that he is the best defender. He is the best defender in the league and was recognized as such, and is one of the best players.”

Stephens’ breakout sophomore year was the most significant development in the Tigers’ unbeaten Ivy championship season, and it set him up to be a team leader this year.

“Now there’s an expectation that not only do you do your very best, but now you have to bring up the level of everyone,” Henderson said. “There’s more of an expectation now from Myles that he holds others accountable to his level, and that can be a really different thing. He’s evolving into that person on the court.”

Stephens is becoming more than the “silent assassin,” as Yale head coach James Jones described him after the Ivy championship game, a 71–59 Tigers win.

“Being one of the guys with more on-court experience,” Stephens said, “I want to be a better leader on and off the court, but especially on the court, being more vocal.”

Stephens’ humility and easygoing personality had already made him popular with teammates. “He’s a leader in the community, he’s a leader on the team, he’s responsible and guys can count on him,” Henderson said. “He’s got the ability to laugh at himself and along with others. That’s a good quality.”

Stephens grew up in nearby Lawrenceville, attending Princeton continued on page 18

**MEN’S BASKETBALL**

Myles Ahead

A more assertive Stephens ’19 has emerged as one of the Ivy League’s best

Myles Stephens ’19 was the Most Valuable Player in the 2017 Ivy League Tournament.
“I always used to say to Myles, even as a freshman, ‘Don’t be afraid to be the best player.’ We could all see it.”
— Head coach Mitch Henderson ’98

Stephens brought energy off the bench as a freshman, and he was a valued reserve in the first eight games last year before a season-ending injury to Henry Caruso ’17, Princeton’s leading returning scorer and rebounder, made Stephens a starter. What followed was a steady upward trajectory as Stephens, already a shut-down defender, became a handful for opposing defenses as well.

Defense played a key role in Stephens’ recruitment. As a high-school junior, he blew away the Tigers’ staff when he matched up against future NBA draft pick Ben Bentil. He credits his defensive prowess to his father, Tony, who had been a top defender for Georgia Southern.

“My dad always said if I’m not playing well, work hard on defense and my defense will get my offense going,” Stephens said. “Sometimes you get a steal or a big block or a nice stop on D, and you can feel the energy on defense, and that kind of leads to offense.”

Stephens saw his offensive numbers erupt last year, with his scoring average climbing from 5.5 to 12.5 points per game. He shot 39.5 percent from 3-point range and nearly quadrupled the number of 3-pointers he made — a reward for countless summer hours shooting in Jadwin with fellow New Jersey native Amir Bell ’18.

Stephens scored 21 points in the Tigers’ opener, an 85-75 loss at Butler Nov. 12. Princeton, which starts Ivy play Jan. 5 at Penn, was one of three teams to receive first-place votes in the league’s preseason poll, ranking third behind Harvard and Yale. ◆ By Justin Feil
MOTHS, EXPOSED: Photographer and professor emeritus Emmet Gowin has released his first book of color photography, at age 75, exploring those creatures we humans typically perceive in flickers of black and gray as they flutter against light sources in the dark. *Mariposas Nocturnas* (Princeton University Press) is an oversized book that catalogs thousands of live moths presented across 100 pages of colorful five-by-five photographic grids. For the photos, taken over 15 years in Central and South America, Gowin attracted moths using outdoor lamps and sometimes provided painted material on which they would alight. Seeing them on these manmade surfaces, he writes, “reminds me that although we share the same world, the moth and I are visitors to each other.”
Dilemmas of Inclusion: Muslims in European Politics (Princeton University Press), by politics professor Rafaela Dancygier, examines the growing political clout of Europe’s Muslim population, whose views on religion, tradition, and gender roles often deviate sharply from the majority’s. Dilemmas explores when and why political parties seek to include Muslim candidates and voting blocs and how including them can shake up party systems.

In Extreme Cities: The Peril and Promise of Urban Life in the Age of Climate Change (Verso Books) Ashley Dawson, a visiting professor at the Princeton Environmental Institute, argues that American cities are ground zero for climate change: They contribute the most atmospheric carbon, and many are coastal, making them especially vulnerable to sea-level rise. Dawson argues for more sustainable building and living practices in urban areas.

Life of the Mind

Q&A: JAMES MCPHERSON

Understanding History Through Empathy

Professor emeritus James McPherson, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of the 1988 Civil War history Battle Cry of Freedom, spoke with PAW about the controversy surrounding Confederate monuments.

Should Confederate monuments be removed?

I can certainly sympathize with a point of view that people who fought to break up the United States with the purpose of preserving slavery should not be celebrated. But it happened. Many of these monuments, which were put up from about 1890 to 1920, illustrate the “Lost Cause” mentality of the Confederacy. I think that that needs to be understood as part of the mythology of the Civil War — and people live as much by myths as by reality. If you try to wipe that out, you’re shortchanging an important part of our understanding of history.

As a historian, I don’t like the idea of banning statues. I think the better way would be to leave most of these memorials where they are with some kind of explanation of who put them up, and when, why, and what they stand for.

Weren’t many Confederate monuments erected in the 1950s and ’60s to resist desegregation?

That is certainly true about the widespread use of the Confederate flag. But most of the monuments you will see in courthouse squares across the South were put up much earlier than that.

Some point out that there are no monuments to Nazis in Germany today. How is this different?

Q&A: JAMES MCPHERSON

Understanding History Through Empathy

For one thing, ours was a civil war and not a foreign war. For another, the occupation of Germany went on a lot longer than the federal occupation of the South during Reconstruction. You wouldn’t have found any of these monuments going up while there were still federal troops there.

How do you feel about Yale renaming its residential college named for John C. Calhoun, who supported slavery but died before the Civil War?

I have mixed feelings about that. Again, you’re trying to erase part of the history of the institution. Calhoun had been a student at Yale; he was a very prominent American, a senator, and vice president. On the other hand, what he stood for was repugnant.

So I can see both points of view. I suppose that is part of my training as a historian. Historians are supposed to see the points of view of actors in history, even if they disagree with them. They are part of the historical story.

There is always a temptation, and I have certainly been in danger of succumbing to it, of judging the past by the standards of the present. I think historians need to empathize with people of 100 to 150 years ago, even if we don’t like what they stood for, in order to understand what they stood for and why. It’s easy for us to say that these people were evil — look at what they believed. But they were products of their time, and their beliefs were widely shared.

NEW RELEASES

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— James McPherson, professor emeritus

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Interview conducted and condensed by M.F.B.
The Problems of Moral Equivalency

By Tera W. Hunter


In December 1865, the College of New Jersey, as Princeton was known, created an honor roll of students and alumni who died during the Civil War, which had ended several months before. Understandably, only those who served in the Union Army were identified. At a memorial service sponsored by College trustees at the First Presbyterian Church six months later, the Rev. Joseph Duryea, the officiating pastor, took pains to valorize only the soldiers who fought for the United States. Yes, he noted, there were those who served with “disloyal States” in the “insurgent army,” but the two sides would not and should not be treated as morally equivalent. One army fought to restore the United States; the other sought to destroy it.

Fast forward to the 1920s, when a longer list of deceased students and alumni who served in the Civil War was carved into the marble wall in the atrium of Nassau Hall. At the insistence of President John Grier Hibben 1882, the son of a Civil War soldier who died serving the Union, the names were listed alphabetically without identifying which army each soldier fought for. The gesture to neutralize the enmity among brothers literally hid the fact that more Princetonians actually fought on the side of the breakaway Confederate States of America, not for the United States. Of the 86 who died as a result of the conflict, 48 fought with the rebels and 38 with the Union. These alliances reflected the College’s longstanding ties to the South and its sympathies for the institution of slavery, which the Princeton & Slavery Project has documented.

It was startling to learn that in 1924, the National Alumni Association of Princeton University donated $1,000 to the Confederate Monument Association to support the completion of what is now Stone Mountain. The larger-than-life granite carvings of leading secessionists Jefferson Davis, Stonewall Jackson, and Robert E. Lee are most infamously known as the site of the founding of the second Ku Klux Klan (KKK) in 1915, near Atlanta. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) led the campaign to raise funds to enshrine the site as a symbol of white supremacy, which was part of their larger effort to vindicate their ancestors.

Both the creation of the memorial wall and the alumni donation marked significant departures in tone and substance from Princeton’s initial memorialization of the Civil War, honoring only the dead soldiers of the United States. What transpired in the
Life of the Mind

intervening years? A national political, economic, and cultural reckoning helps to explain the revived controversy about Civil War monuments today.

White Southerners began honoring the rebel military just after the war ended, and there have been unrelenting efforts to do so ever since. But there were two crucial periods in which the majority of the Confederate monuments were built, a fact that’s essential to understanding their contentious historical roles and what should be done about them.

The first period was between 1895 and the 1920s, as Southern states enacted Jim Crow (segregationist) laws and disenfranchised black citizens, the KKK revived its violent white-supremacist campaign, and most lynchings of black people occurred. The second period coincided with the start of the modern civil-rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s, as an overt backlash to the extension of American democracy to African American citizens.

A 2016 report by the Southern Poverty Law Center found that there are more than 1,500 symbols of the Confederacy in public places, although the number is slowly shrinking in response to recent outbreaks of violence by white supremacists. They include the names of Confederates on parks, trails, and public schools (many of which have large African American student populations), the flying of the Confederate flag, the identification of official state holidays and observances in honor of insurgents, and the building of monuments and statues in the likeness of famed leaders (overwhelmingly on courthouse grounds). The message of the monuments has been crystal clear. Confederate figures lording over the institutions charged with enforcing universal law meant that African Americans should enter into them knowing they would be subjected to white rule.

Confederate symbols have appeared in odd places on private property, such as stained-glass windows installed in the Washington National Cathedral (of the Episcopal Church) in 1953, lionizing the likes of Lee and Jackson. The separation of church and state could not have been more blurred, until events in August in Charlottesville, Va., in which a neo-Nazi and KKK rally led to the death of Heather Heyer, inspired their removal.

Odest of all, Confederate symbols adorn federal property. There are 10 major U.S. military bases named after disloyal men who waged war against the nation and slaughtered loyal citizens. There are monuments to rebel leaders in the National Statuary Hall of Congress mounted between 1909 and 1929. There are images of the battle flag contained in state flags that fly in the House complex. The Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania has marble and granite monuments valorizing insurgent combatants all over its grounds.

Perhaps most egregious, there is a Confederate monument in Arlington National Cemetery, commemorating not only the soldiers who died fighting against the Union, but also featuring an enslaved man following his master into battle and an enslaved woman described as “mammy” cuddling a white child. [The monument was dedicated in 1914 on Jefferson Davis’s birthday.] That emblems of white nationalism have been widely abided by the federal government indicates just how normalized they have been.

The majority of these symbols are located in the South. But a striking number are located all over the country, from New York to California, and in several states that did not exist at the time of the Civil War, such as Arizona, Idaho, and Montana. Their proliferation can be attributed partly to the “Great Migration” of white Southerners to other states. But credit as the leading purveyor of Confederate statuary goes largely to the UDC for its unmitigated early- to mid-20th-century campaign. It masterfully perpetuated the mythology of the “Lost Cause” by educating generations to see the Civil War in retrospect as a noble fight for “states’ rights,” to diminish the role that slavery played in the conflict, to reinvent slavery as a benevolent institution, and to literally whitewash unfavorable historical facts. White Northerners were complicit in donating funds and lending moral support to these efforts, or they remained silent while Confederate markers cluttered public landscapes nearly everywhere.
Defenders of Confederate monuments have been fond of asserting that they represent “heritage, not hate.” Local chapters of the KKK donated money to build some of them. The messages delivered in speeches at the times they were dedicated and the inscriptions on many of the monuments themselves are unmistakable in their bigotry and embrace of the “Lost Cause.” A monument in Charlotte, N.C., erected in 1929, praises Confederate soldiers because “they preserved the Anglo-Saxon civilization of the South.” It was defaced in 2015 and subsequently put in a clear protective case to prevent future vandalism.

Confederate monuments were mostly mass-produced objects that signify less art than artifact. As historian Fitzhugh Brundage has stated, they are “the result of private groups colonizing public space.” They were allowed to flourish to foster reconciliation between white Southerners and Northerners after Reconstruction was toppled, to heal the nation’s wounds sundered by the bloodiest war in our history. They did so at particular times when white supremacy was ascendant and African Americans fought back for civil rights.

The monuments do not memorialize a truthful history of the Civil War, even from the perspective of the South. Nowhere are the Southerners who fought for the United States — mostly black and enslaved — represented. Nowhere are the minority of white Southerners who dissented and allied with the Union ever honored in marble or stone. Nowhere are the war’s emancipatory achievements represented. All that remains are artifacts of intolerance that inspired their erection in the first place.

“We must never forget that victory to the rebellion meant death to the republic,” Frederick Douglass reminded the crowd on Decoration Day at Arlington National Cemetery in 1871. “We must never forget that the loyal soldiers who rest beneath this sod flung themselves between the nation and the nation’s destroyers.” As Princetonians in 1865 insisted, treason and disloyalty to the United States should not be rewarded in idol worship and public displays.

**IN SHORT**

When we talk to our babies, we subconsciously change the way we speak, using a higher pitch and shorter sentences. New research by postdoctoral researcher Elise Piazza also shows changes in mothers’ timbre, a musical quality that can define a voice as raspy, silky, or nasal even when using the same pitch. In research published in October in *Current Biology*, a computer algorithm found that all mothers in the study made the same timbre shift, with results consistent across nine languages, including English, Mandarin, and Polish. The research could help improve voice recognition, allowing it to determine subtle shifts when we address other audiences, including students or romantic partners.

While up to 80 percent of adults have the herpes simplex virus (HSV), most never show symptoms, since the virus is latent — or “sleeping” — inside their cells. Sometimes, however, the virus “wakes up,” causing an outbreak of symptoms such as cold sores. Using a new technique, associate research scholar Orkide Ozge Koyuncu discovered that a key component of outbreaks are viral tegument proteins, which line the wall of the virus core and “supercharge” cells’ response to stress, causing a flare-up. Along with molecular biology professor Lynn Enquist, she published her findings in October in *PLoS Pathogens*. By understanding this process, scientists may be able to help control HSV outbreaks.

The human genome is like an instruction manual for the body. Despite decoding all of its 22,000 genes 15 years ago, however, scientists have been unable to fully translate those instructions in order to understand which genes grow specific tissues — and which might cause disease. A team led in part by computer science professor Barbara Engelhardt is filling those gaps. By taking tissue samples from 449 donors and conducting trillions of statistical tests on every mutation in the genome, they have been able to link gene expression to both healthy and diseased tissues. Their work, published in *Nature* in October, could help to develop better genetic treatments.

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Senior research engineer Eric Larson has created a technique for manufacturing a new emission-free automobile fuel that could also pull carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere. The technique takes woody biomass, such as sawdust and tree branches that would otherwise be wasted, and transforms it into oil by injecting it with hydrogen and other catalysts. Since the carbon in the wood originally came from photosynthesis, burning the oil would simply return the same carbon to the atmosphere — moreover, sequestering carbon during production could make the fuel carbon-negative. In a paper published in *Sustainable Energy & Fuels*, Larson argues the technique could yield a viable alternative to fossil fuels if it could be produced cheaply at scale. **By Michael Blanding**
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**Princeton BOOKSHELF**

2017 Holiday Guide to Princeton Authors

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Money Talks ranges across the social sciences to show the many faces of a central component to modern life: money. It comes in different forms and guises, and it plays various emotive and budgetary roles. This book proves that our relationship with money is not just the bland, neutral ‘medium of exchange’ portrayed in classical economics.”

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Blowing America’s Mind
A True Story of Princeton, CIA Mind Control, LSD and Zen
John Selby ’68 and Paul Jeffrey Davids ’69

For fifty years, no one has stepped forward to reveal the insider true story of how innocent Princeton students got caught up in and nearly done in by the CIA’s late 1960’s LSD-laced hypnotic research, which was part of the infamous MK-ULTRA mind control program. Now the story’s out in the open.

Not since A Beautiful Mind has there been a true story involving Princeton and altered states of consciousness; however, in Blowing America’s Mind the dose of madness is deliberately induced at the nearby New Jersey Neuro-Psychiatric Institute under the guise of “expanding consciousness, attaining nirvana, and improving sex lives.” This is a true-to-life One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest at all-male Princeton, from the author of Seven Masters, One Path and his co-author, a Princeton F. Scott Fitzgerald Prize winner who wrote six best-selling Star Wars sequels.

“Blowing America’s Mind is a fascinating journey of love, drugs and covert governmental intrigue. Suspenseful in documenting the impact of the ‘Psychedelic Revolution’ at Princeton in the late 1960’s, the book is a complex, poigniant drama detailing CIA-sponsored hypnosis and LSD research, as the famous all-male Ivy League university is on the eve of going coed and on the edge of imploding.”

Jeremy Kagan, Professor, School of Cinematic Arts, USC
Chairperson of Special Projects for the Directors Guild of America

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The Character of Its Content

How Princeton University Press has thrived in a new publishing landscape  By Jennifer Howard ’85

In March 2000, the month that Princeton University Press published the economist Robert J. Shiller’s now-classic book *Irrational Exuberance*, the dotcom bubble burst—as the book had predicted. Shiller was prescient. So was his editor, Peter J. Dougherty. The book became PUP’s first bona fide *New York Times* best-seller, he says, and “ushered in the current era of publishing major books” at the Press.

When Dougherty retired as PUP’s director in August after 13 years on the job, he handed his successor, Christie Henry, a thriving publishing operation that’s the envy of scholarly presses everywhere. It competes successfully for top-tier books that not only shape their fields but often spark interest beyond academia. Its catalog is viewed as among the best scholarly lists in the world—Dougherty says he strived for it to have “a kind of coherence” and “a powerful influence on intellectual conversations around the world.”

Dougherty kept PUP on a steady course through one of the most unsettled periods that scholarly publishers have had to weather. Digital technologies have changed almost every facet of book production, and rapidly. E-books and print-on-demand technology have made it possible to deliver content to readers in new and flexible ways, but these books still take time and money to produce. The open-access movement, which has pushed to make more research freely available, hasn’t turned out to be the existential threat some publishers feared it would be, but it has encouraged presses to experiment with making some content available in digital format at no charge. Most troubling for many publishers’ bottom lines, sales of scholarly monographs have declined, as the academic libraries that used to be presses’ most reliable customers have had to spend more on scholarly journals and databases, especially in the sciences.

“Any publisher that is relying on monographs for financial sustainability is in big trouble,” Dougherty says. “My mantra, since before becoming director, has been that you really have to have a balanced portfolio.” That means publishing a healthy variety of content: textbooks that likely become required reading in survey courses, highly specialized monographs, and serious scholarly books that might also find an audience outside their own fields.

While some other university presses have had a hard time just staying afloat, PUP has flourished, earning both scholarly accolades and media attention with its publishing program. A case in point is the 2005 book *On Bullshit*, which does not necessarily sound like something a respectable university press would publish, though it’s a serious scholarly argument. Written by Harry G. Frankfurt, a professor of philosophy emeritus at Princeton, the book landed its author a guest slot on *The Daily Show* with Jon Stewart and spent nearly seven months on *The New York Times* best-seller list.

Some books have an impact that can last years or decades. Trade-oriented books help keep the Press financially successful, but most dear to Dougherty are the books that become essential, field-defining works—a tradition that dates to at least 1922. That’s when the Press became Einstein’s first American publisher and printed *The Meaning of Relativity*, based on lectures the physicist gave at Princeton. The book, many editions later, remains a top seller.

“If you’re Princeton, you have to publish the core books, the most important books in the field,” Dougherty says. His colleagues often quote him summing it up this way: “We will be judged by the character of our content.”
When I was a kid, Mad magazine ran a piece on unlikely book titles. One was How To Win in Baseball, by the Philadelphia Phillies. Speaks volumes. — Peter J. Dougherty

T he Press was born in 1905, when Princeton trustee Charles Scribner of the Charles Scribner’s Sons publishing house gave money to Whitney Darrow 1903, PAW’s business manager, to establish a press affiliated with the University. (PUP was reincorporated in 1910 as an independent nonprofit.) Scribner subsequently gave the fledgling press the land and building it still occupies on William Street, cheek by jowl with the main building that, 112 years later, still powers Princeton’s acquisitions and has cushioned it from some of the financial squeezes other university presses have faced in recent years. (Public records show that in 2015, the latest year for which figures are available, the Press had total revenue of more than $23 million and net assets of about $138 million.) Today, the Press publishes approximately 250 new books a year; it counts 48 Nobel laureates among the authors it has published since its founding.

Dougherty’s first job in publishing was not in the tony office of a university press, but as a college-textbook salesman for Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. It was 1972, and Dougherty was not long out of college, with a bachelor’s degree in history from La Salle College in Philadelphia, the city where he grew up.

“A lot of the great publishers of this generation started out as what they called college-book travelers,” says Mary Katherine Callaway, the director of Louisiana State University Press and a friend and admirer of Dougherty’s. “They would go from university to university showing the professors what was available for courses.”

Dougherty grew up in an Irish-American family in a neighborhood that was a meeting point for Irish-Americans, African Americans, and others. His father, a bookie and bartender, suffered heart attacks and a massive stroke when Dougherty was young, and the family scraped to get by. At West Philadelphia Catholic High School, he was an avid reader of both the right-leaning National Review and the left-leaning Ramparts “and many things in between,” he recalls. “I’ve always loved ideas,” Dougherty says. “I find them entertaining, and I like the entertainment part of it.”

Along with books and ideas, he loved music and sports, both of which continue to be passions of his. “We all have our cross to bear, and mine is that of being a lifelong Philadelphia sports fan: Phillies, Eagles, and Sixers,” he says. “When I was a kid, Mad magazine ran a piece on unlikely book titles. One was How To Win in Baseball, by the Philadelphia Phillies. Speaks volumes.”

After high school Dougherty moved on to La Salle, putting himself through school by working in a variety of jobs, including one at a bar at the Jersey Shore during the summer.


In August 1992 he landed at Princeton University Press as economics editor. It’s been his home ever since. Along the way, he wrote a book in the field of economics, his specialty: Who’s Afraid of Adam Smith? How the Market Got Its Soul.

In person, Dougherty has the easy manner of a man who enjoys a good conversation and a laugh. He knows how to have fun. A lifelong music lover who grew up listening to the broadcasts of legendary Philly DJ Jerry Blavat, Dougherty attended a dinner a few years ago where Blavat was a guest. The DJ grilled him about soul music. Dougherty passed. “He thought I was OK,” the publisher says.

He’s not the kind of editor who feels at home only buried in a manuscript. For decades, Dougherty has been getting out and about among scholars, something he encouraged the editors who worked for him to do as well. Seth Ditchik, the editorial director at Yale University Press, was Princeton’s economics editor from 2005 to 2016, spending a lot of time stalking the hallways of academic departments.

“You were always talking with economists, you were always getting a sense of what they were working on, what they were excited by,” Ditchik says.

On one of Dougherty’s characteristic campus expeditions, some 20 years ago, the publisher dropped by Shiller’s office at Yale. The professor was impressed by the way Dougherty encouraged him to be ambitious and imaginative without sacrificing intellectual rigor. The two went on to work on several books together, including Irrational Exuberance. When Shiller won the Nobel Prize in economics in 2013, he asked Dougherty to accompany him to Stockholm to accept the award.

Why invite his editor along? “Because he’s been such an important influence on my intellectual life,” the economist says. “There’s a tension in any academic field between specialization and creativity,” Shiller says. “People do highly specialized work, and they want to develop something that’s more comprehensive. It’s part of a life’s work.”

As Dougherty built a formidable list of authors, he helped change how economists viewed book writing, often considered a dubious investment of time compared to journal articles, according to Shiller. Dougherty made books seem worth the time and trouble they take to write. “During the years of his tenure, academic books in economics have become more respectable,” Shiller says. “His book list in economics was, I thought, maybe the best in the world.”

continued on page 38
Like her predecessor, the new director of Princeton University Press has a long history with university presses. But unlike him, Christie Henry did not cut her teeth on textbook sales.

The first woman in PUP’s top job, Henry is part of a rising generation of press directors who learned the trade as digital publishing was sweeping in. Though they still want to publish the best books they can — and they believe strongly in the essential value of print books — they have other priorities as well.

Henry spent the last 24 years at the University of Chicago Press, another top-flight scholarly publisher, where she rose from editorial assistant to editorial director for sciences, social sciences, and reference, a list that includes the famous Chicago Manual of Style as well as top-caliber academic monographs and trade-oriented books.

Among her priorities at Princeton is expansion of PUP’s presence in the digital realm, she says. As e-book options expand and new publishing platforms and systems come online, press directors like Henry are paying close attention and figuring out how to integrate them with traditional book publishing. “There’s some interesting stuff happening under the hood,” Henry says.

As an example, she cites Biblio3, book-publishing software that PUP and many other presses have decided to adopt. It integrates every stage of the publishing process, from acquiring a manuscript through publishing and selling the final book, Henry says, which will make it easier for Princeton’s global operations to run smoothly and to share information with other publishers and vendors.

Henry also wants to explore how to bring scholars and other readers together to have online conversations around major Princeton University Press projects like the Digital Einstein Papers, a joint project with Caltech that continues Princeton’s long association with Einstein, making his collected papers freely available online after they appear in print volumes. The hope, Henry says, is that readers will “continue their engagement with PUP content offline, through research, conversations, and the circulation of new ideas and books.”

She’s overseeing the next iteration of the PUP website, which is due for an upgrade, she says, both to modernize it and “to ensure that it reflects the sensibilities and personality of the press.”

As they evolve technologically, university presses, like other kinds of publishers, must evolve socially as well, Henry suggests. Directors have to think about how to keep staff engaged, and make it a priority to bring people aboard from all kinds of backgrounds. “We are seeking diversity in the broadest senses,” Henry says.

In a sign of how times have changed in scholarly publishing, though, Henry does not plan to be an acquiring editor as well as director.

The Press already has “a formidable science team, and they don’t need another science editor,” she says. “I know this from competing with them for decades.”

Henry hopes to build on initiatives begun by Dougherty, including his efforts to expand PUP’s presence to Europe and Asia. She has high praise for the editorial team Dougherty assembled.

“I certainly hope to grow the incredible legacy that Peter and a phenomenal team have left the Press,” Henry says. “There’s so much in place, and the Press is really pre-adapted to continue to succeed.”
of course, projects don’t land on an editor’s desk with “INSTANT CLASSIC” stamped on the title page. It takes a canny reader who knows the field, whether it’s economics or philosophy or some other discipline, and combines that with an instinct for work that really matters. “You can sort of taste it,” Dougherty says. “In the scholarly book-publishing business, the subject-matter knowledge that you bring to evaluating a project is incredibly important. But at a certain point, you’re making gut decisions, instinctive decisions about what’s good and what’s not. Emotion comes into this. Feel matters at a certain point.”

A conversation with Dougherty is likely to roam over large swaths of the cultural and intellectual map, from soul music to movies to astrophysics. He’ll discuss the country’s current political travails and how seemingly arcane works of scholarship connect to current events and popular culture, and how university-press books often end up speaking to the current moment in ways their authors and publishers could not have anticipated.

One subject Dougherty has revisited throughout his career is the power of textbooks. By “textbook” he does not mean the doorstop tomes most of us have reluctantly lugged to class at some point in our academic careers. With some editors, “you say the word ‘textbook’ and they all want to run for the fire escape,” he says. To him, it means a foundational text with intellectual heft and staying power. Consider 2016’s *Welcome to the Universe: An Astrophysical Tour*, by Neil deGrasse Tyson, Michael A. Strauss, and J. Richard Gott ’73 and based on an introductory astrophysics course the trio taught at Princeton. Dougherty describes it as a technical book, but one that became a *Times* science best-seller.

“These are field-defining books,” Dougherty says. “I don’t think of them as Princeton books if they’re not books that teach the teachers and raise the big issues and consolidate the conversations.” One example, he says, is a forthcoming book by Princeton sociologist Matthew Salganik on how to conduct social research on the internet — a textbook that’s also an ethics primer. “It’s not a question of what you can do. It’s a question of what you *should* do,” Dougherty says. “Technically it’s a textbook, but it’s going to be written about all over the place.”

In recent years, Dougherty has been exhorting university presses to think about the wider world — one of his signature essays on scholarly publishing is called “The Global University Press” — and he made it a point to strengthen PUP’s international presence. Along with Columbia, the University of California Press, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Press, PUP belongs to the University Press Group, based in the United Kingdom and responsible for selling books in Europe, the Middle East, and India. Dougherty made those markets a priority, and he successfully pushed to expand into Asia. In addition to PUP’s office near Oxford, England, the Press opened an office in China last summer, the first American university press to establish such a presence there. “You have to publish books for international markets because scholarship is a global conversation these days,” he says.

Today, Dougherty works as an editor at large from a trailer near Dillon Gym; he moved out of the Press building to give his successor, Henry, the space to make her own mark. “The decisions that the director makes now are decisions that are going to be mortgaged over the next 10 to 20 years,” he says. “The person who’s making those decisions should not be me. It should be somebody who is going to be living with them and implementing them over the next generation.”

But “retirement” does not really describe Dougherty’s new station in life. At 68, he continues to work with authors on Press projects, with a particular emphasis on books about higher education. This year, as the Fox Family Pavilion Scholar and Distinguished Senior Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania, he will give publishing workshops and advise faculty on their book writing and publishing. He continues to write and speak widely about scholarly publishing and why academic presses should strive to be a global presence in this era of networked technologies.

And Dougherty plans to write his own book now — about scholarly publishing. “Book authors and publishers alike have weathered a revolution in the digital age, one that raised many a doubt about the future of books and opened some new avenues,” he recently told a news site at Penn. “I take the strong position that books are here to stay, are more vital than ever as a form of expression, and that opportunities abound for authors and publishers to find exciting ways to connect with readers, if we can discover and develop them.”

Jennifer Howard ’85, a former senior reporter for The Chronicle of Higher Education and a former contributing editor at The Washington Post, is a writer based in Washington, D.C.
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Moments after a grand jury declined to charge Darren Wilson, the Ferguson, Mo., police officer who shot and killed Michael Brown in 2014, Brown’s parents issued a statement urging supporters to “join with us in our campaign to ensure that every police officer working the streets in this country wears a body camera.”

The idea of using technology to increase police accountability and transparency had been gathering momentum, and the U.S. Department of Justice soon jumped on board. In 2015 and 2016, it awarded $36 million in grants to local police departments for body-worn cameras.

But many civil-rights activists saw the adoption of cameras “in a very different light,” says Harlan Yu ’12, a principal at Upturn, a tech-policy consulting group based in Washington, D.C. With camera footage under the control of the police department, there would be no guarantee that it would be made available to the public as evidence for either a criminal defense or police-conduct complaint. And the cameras point not at officers, but at the people in communities they’re patrolling, significantly increasing public surveillance in the most heavily policed neighborhoods. With the added potential to incorporate advanced biometric tools like facial recognition, some feared that cameras would expand existing disparities in law enforcement. (Axon and Motorola, two of the leading body-camera vendors, have since publicized plans to offer real-time identification tools built into their devices.)

“Even a technology that seemingly would be used in the interest of the community is being reframed and reused as another tool for police power,” Yu says.

Yu, a computer science Ph.D., and his Upturn co-founder, David Robinson ’04, were well positioned to contribute to the emerging body-camera debate. In 2014, they had worked with civil-rights leaders to draft “Civil Rights Principles for the Era of Big Data,” guidelines for fairness, privacy, and equal opportunity that drew the attention of White House adviser John Podesta, then the head of President Barack Obama’s working group on privacy and big data. When Podesta’s group made its report to the president in May 2014, the cover letter echoed the principles that Upturn had highlighted. “[B]ig-data analytics have the potential to eclipse long-standing civil-rights protections in how personal information is used in housing, credit, employment, health, education, and the marketplace,” Podesta and his colleagues wrote. “Americans’ relationship with data should expand, not diminish, their opportunities and potential.”

In May 2015, alongside partners in the civil-rights community, Yu and Robinson helped to develop a new set of principles, this time specifically addressing the use of body cameras. More than 30 organizations signed on, ranging from the ACLU to the NAACP to the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a leading tech-privacy nonprofit in San Francisco. They weren’t advocating for or against body cameras. It was more of an “if ... then ... ”: If departments are going to adopt cameras, then these are the guidelines they should follow. Upturn and the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights followed up with a meticulously researched “policy scorecard,” first released in November 2015 and updated twice, grading the body-camera policies of major police departments.

The results were less than promising: On a scorecard with eight criteria, such as “addresses personal privacy concerns” and “makes footage available to individuals filing complaints,” most department policies satisfied fewer than half. But according to Sakira Cook, senior counsel at the Leadership Conference, the scorecard — and the media coverage it generated — “had a huge impact on influencing the conversation around body cameras.” Law-enforcement officials reached out to the Leadership Conference to discuss the areas where they were falling short and the ways they might improve their policies (and scores).

Ben Wizner, director of the ACLU’s Speech, Privacy, and Technology Project, points to the body-camera effort as an example of Upturn’s role in the civil-rights arena. “Here’s an instance of a proliferating new technology that has clear benefits and clear dangers: the benefit in being able to improve
police accountability and the danger of creating another widely available surveillance tool,” Wizner says. “The work that they did in trying to balance those dynamics in a rapidly changing technological environment was really laudable.”

Recent research has supported the civil-rights community’s skepticism: In a study published in October, the Lab @ DC, a team of social scientists working for the Washington, D.C., city administrator, found that the Metropolitan Police Department’s use of body cameras had “no detectable, meaningful effect on documented uses of force.” Shifting policies, attitudes, and actions won’t be easy, but Yu is encouraged by the way that civil-rights leaders have engaged the issue. “It just means that we have to keep fighting harder to push back against the most egregious practices that we see,” he says.

Working in a few glass-partitioned rooms within a fashionable shared-office suite on K Street, Yu and Robinson have carved a niche at the intersection of technology and public policy. Uptown has the technical chops to design and create complex computer code (it built legislation-drafting software now used by the House Office of the Legislative Counsel), but its larger impact is making tech-policy debates more accessible and inclusive — for example, through technology primers, research reports, and policy memos written for civil-rights and social-justice groups. What started as a two-person partnership has grown to a group of five that operates primarily behind the scenes, with the help of grants from the Ford Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, and others. They are, in Robinson’s words, “happy warriors,” with a watchful eye on potential pitfalls of technology and an underlying optimism about its potential to improve lives.

Robinson, a philosophy major, Yale Law graduate, and Potomac, Md., native, traces his hopeful view of technology back to his childhood. Born four weeks prematurely, he has a mild case of cerebral palsy, which made writing difficult during his elementary-school years. “When ‘writing’ on your report card meant penmanship, I was terrible at it,” he recalls. “Then at some point I got a computer, and it was life-changing for me because it turned out that I love writing — and I’m able to do it well. ... Technology has such a powerful, liberatory role in my own life.”

Yu grew up in San Jose, Calif., in the heart of Silicon Valley, and studied electrical engineering and computer science at the University of California, Berkeley, before starting graduate school at Princeton. He has an easygoing manner underscored by technical virtuosity, says J. Alex Halderman ’03 ’09, a professor of computer science and engineering at the University of Michigan and longtime friend of both Yu and Robinson. “Even if it’s a complicated technical issue, working with Harlan on it, you feel like you’re just hanging out, everything’s cool,” Halderman says, “and then the problem’s solved.”

Based solely on their academic backgrounds, one could paint the two as complementary parts of a cohesive whole — Yu the technologist and coding wizard; Robinson the lawyer and wordsmith — but in reality, their partnership thrives on shared traits. Yu deftly bridges technical and intellectual issues in the policy pieces and op-eds that he writes, while Robinson has an enduring, hands-on fascination with computers.

Their work at Uptown took root at Princeton, where the...
Upturn’s larger impact is making tech-policy debates more accessible and inclusive.

two met during the early days of the Center for Information Technology Policy (CITP), founded by Professor Edward Felten with the aim of using technology to address practical challenges in the policy realm. (Related story, page 9.) Yu, one of Felten’s Ph.D. students, had just finished a summer working in California on a state-sponsored review of electronic voting machines. Robinson, who studied philosophy and politics as a Rhodes scholar at Oxford, was coming back to campus to work as CITP’s first associate director.

CITP, at the time, was relatively small — a place where students, faculty, and staff would gather around a lunch table and hash out ideas for new projects. Those lunchtime conversations were the genesis of Yu and Robinson’s first formal collaboration, along with Felten and William Zeller ’08: a paper titled “Government Data and the Invisible Hand.” In it, they argued that when it came to data, the government should focus on providing the information in machine-readable formats such as XML. That would improve access to official data, allowing entrepreneurs to develop useful apps, sites, and data visualizations even while the government upgraded agency websites. The paper proved influential in the Obama administration’s open-data initiatives, including the 2009 launch of Data.gov, now home to data sets from nearly 200 federal, state, and local organizations.

After two years at CITP, Robinson left to begin law school at Yale while Yu continued to pursue computer-science projects that incorporated his policy interests. His dissertation work included a deep dive into the U.S. Code of Laws, the official record of federal statutes. “The big-picture idea that Harlan had was to take what computer scientists know about managing large, collaboratively written texts and to figure out how to apply it to the writing of U.S. statutes,” Felten says. Over time, the U.S. Code has accumulated redundancies, errors, and inconsistencies — analogous to bugs in a large, frequently patched set of computer code — so Yu set out to “debug” the statutes in a way that would help legislators drafting future laws to avoid repeating or compounding past mistakes.

Before his final year of law school, Robinson interned at a D.C. law firm. Yu was also living in Washington, where he’d worked on an open-government project at the U.S. Department of Labor before beginning the final drafts of his dissertation. Both had promising, traditional career paths ahead — but they couldn’t shake an idea they’d been discussing: a consulting group that would draw on the kinds of work they’d found so compelling at Princeton. CITP had a mission to inform stakeholders, Robinson says, and its work was intended to be neutral; Robinson and Yu wanted to use the same meticulous, analytical approach to work with advocates involved in issues they cared about. In July 2013, the Ford Foundation — in the midst of launching efforts to promote internet freedom — gave

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“Ultimately, we hope for a world in which all participants understand how technologies work — and why they matter.”

— David Robinson ’04

them a significant boost with a grant to support civil-rights and privacy advocates with research on technology issues related to financial data and online voter registration.

Robinson and Yu aimed to make their partners feel confident in tech conversations, but first, they had to gain a clearer understanding of the civil-rights community. “It was a learning process on both sides,” Yu says. “We spent a lot of time listening, talking with groups on the ground, and reading, because when we first started working in this area, we didn’t have a history of doing social-justice work. A lot of the context was still very new to us.”

The give-and-take resonated with Wizner, the ACLU’s technology-project director. “For too long there’s been a divide in discourse and understanding between the technology community and the rest of us in how we try to communicate with each other,” he says. “What Harlan and David are both able to do so effectively is to translate very complex issues into simple language without dumbing it down and without being condescending. Not all technologists have that ability.”

In the last five years, Upturn, which now operates as a nonprofit, has helped its partners curb the proliferation of targeted online ads for payday loans (Facebook and Google banned them in 2015 and 2016, respectively). Robinson also is leading an effort to push back against the use of algorithms to predict risk in bail decisions. In many places in the United States, he argues, the bail system “tends to put people in jail for being poor,” so using historical patterns to set bail amounts may perpetuate past biases. Upturn is involved in the fight for internet freedom abroad, working with Halderman and other academics who are engineering networks that seek to circumvent censorship in countries like China and Iran. And Yu and Robinson have an eye on future issues, such as social equity in the development of self-driving cars, including the potential for carmakers’ mapping technology to create a form of “redlining,” restricting where autonomous vehicles can and cannot drive. “Ultimately, we hope for a world in which all participants understand how technologies work — and why they matter,” Robinson says.

Yu says places like Upturn and CITP — and computer-science departments in general — can show those in the field how they can “pull on various levers of policy,” which in turn makes computer science a more attractive subject for those with interests that range beyond coding. At Princeton, where computer science is the most popular major among seniors for the second straight year, the department has set a goal to enroll every undergraduate in at least one of its courses.

“We need many more computer scientists and technologists focusing on the core social problems — in housing, in education policy, in health policy, in all sorts of core areas where new technologies are going to shift the landscape,” Yu says. “As technology continues to permeate all aspects of our society, there’s just going to be a greater need for this kind of work.”

Brett Tomlinson is PAW’s digital editor.

domain materials,” says Lee, a D.C.-based senior tech-policy reporter for Ars Technica. “I think the value-add I do is kind of synthesizing and clarifying.”

Lee recognized his calling in journalism while working as a summer intern at Google: For programmers, it’s a dream job, but he was more excited to go home in the evenings and write blog posts. (At the time, his blog covered a range of tech issues and personal interests like urban planning and political philosophy.)

Since completing his master’s degree in computer science at Princeton, Lee has worked as a tech reporter for Forbes, The Washington Post, and Vox. His topics have included net neutrality, autonomous vehicles, cryptocurrencies, digital-copyright law, and the feasibility of electric-powered airplanes.

Readers of Ars Technica, which caters to technology pros and others in the know, demand precision. If you haven’t done your research, you’ll hear about it, he says: “Having that voice in the back of my head gives me an incentive to do better work.”

Joshua Tauberer ’04
Advocating for open data

Aug. 6 marked the end of an era for Joshua Tauberer ’04 and his website, GovTrack.us, which publishes congressional bills, voting records, and original research. He celebrated with a tweet:

I just shut off GovTrack’s bulk XML data rsync server, after 12 years, since Congress/@USGPO is doing that now.

That Tauberer had created the go-to feed of congressional data, using screen-scraping programs to identify, copy, and reformat the text of bills and resolutions from a clunky Library of Congress site, was remarkable. That it took the government more than a decade to catch up was disheartening. So when the open-data efforts of the U.S. Government Publishing Office finally replaced Tauberer’s work, it was a victory worthy of an exclamation point.

What’s next for GovTrack? Its current offerings include summaries of bills written in layman’s terms and detailed analyses of notable legislation. Tauberer heads a team of four people who run the site (all part time, funded by advertisers and donors), and he continues to be an advocate for open data.

Tauberer also serves on D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser’s Open Government Advisory Group and has participated in local hackathons, including one earlier this year that helped the District’s agencies redesign commonly used forms. “I try to roll up my sleeves and work with government when I can,” he says.
LET THE MUSIC PLAY: Rob Norton '92 fulfilled a longtime dream in 2014, when he opened Hill & Dale Records in Washington, D.C. A veteran of the pharmaceutical industry, he says the initial learning curve was difficult but “it was the first time I have ever had real fun at work.” Norton was meticulous in crafting the store’s space — he even designed the record display cases — and he carefully curates its wares: vinyl records, posters, and photography. “I’m strictly against music snobbery,” he says. “If it makes people happy, then any kind of music is OK.”
Some of Allegra Lovejoy ’14’s fondest childhood memories are of trips to the Grand Army Plaza Greenmarket in Brooklyn, N.Y. Twenty years later, Lovejoy finds herself on the other side of the farm stand as the manager at Capital City Farm, an urban farm in Trenton, N.J.

Located less than a mile from the highway (Route 1) in East Trenton — one of the city’s most blighted neighborhoods — Capital City Farm was an overgrown lot before community activists heard about plans to turn it into a junkyard for vehicles. The activists contacted D&R Greenway Land Trust — an organization dedicated to preserving natural areas in New Jersey — which, with other local groups, raised funds to officially preserve the property as an open space. In late 2015, Lovejoy joined D&R as a project fellow and a farm-and-volunteer coordinator to help ready the lot for agriculture and chart its future. The following spring, she was promoted to manager, responsible for transforming the neglected property into a functioning 2-acre farm.

Lovejoy was no stranger to farming, thanks to her foray into community gardening the year before with The Food Project in Boston. That job introduced her to all aspects of farm management and even required her to design and build an irrigation system.

“There are [so] many challenging aspects to farming, including site planning; water engineering; and fertility, pest and disease, and labor management,” Lovejoy says. “I had to learn all of those on the job. It made for a challenging year.”

At Capital City Farm, Lovejoy has made community involvement a priority. She and her staff of two set up shop at farmers markets in Trenton twice a week during the summer and donate about half of the farm’s produce to a nearby food pantry and to the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen. The farm also sells its harvest to local restaurants.

“We grow food in solidarity and support of the low-income communities that surround us and are open to any means to get that food into their kitchens.” — Allegra Lovejoy ’14

Lovejoy, a Woodrow Wilson School major, became interested in urban farming while writing a paper on the effects of climate change in Bangladesh.

“It was so striking to learn that globally, there’s a major trend of civil wars being preceded by drought and famines,” Lovejoy said. “I wanted to get firsthand experience of working with people who are doing community-based work with agriculture and reconnecting to the land.”

Lovejoy will be doing just that when she heads east at the end of this year to teach sustainability practices at a farming community and retreat center at the foothills of India’s Sahyadri Mountains. Afterward, she’ll return to New Jersey to start work as a program coordinator for the state’s Northeast Organic Farming Association.

Lovejoy says that while the Trenton farm relies on nonprofit funding and sales of its harvest to operate, staff sometimes give away produce to poor and homeless people in the area: “We want people to eat,” she says. “We grow food in solidarity and support of the low-income communities that surround us and are open to any means to get that food into their kitchens.” Both members of her staff are Trenton residents; one was raised across the street from the farm lot.

“For people growing up in an entirely man-made environment, developing a connection to nature is no small thing,” she says. “That connection has been very transformative for me, and I’ve seen its impact on others — we set up and manage the farm with that intention.”

— By A.W.
Our kids came to live with us on a Wednesday: Nov. 5, 2014. We’d known of their existence for just two days. My wife and I had completed six months of training to become therapeutic foster-care providers, but we felt less than certain that we were ready for parenthood.

Despite our trepidation, when the kids’ caseworker told us their current placement was ending immediately and they would otherwise go to a group home, we said of course they could stay with us. We took the next day off from work so we could buy pee-proof sheets and print signs for their doors with their names on them, and then — just like that — they arrived.

As they stepped onto the front porch, it struck me that G. (now 8, then 5) and A. (now 7, then 4) were the most beautiful children I’d ever met. G. had a dark, curly mop of hair and sparkling, curious eyes; A.’s long locks were tightly braided in a way I knew I would struggle to replicate. Her brown eyes were impossibly wide as she clung to her brother.

We welcomed them that night having no idea that we would be their forever home. We didn’t even know whether they would be eligible for adoption until they had been with us a year and a half. But we loved them from the start, and when we discovered our family could be made permanent, we hastened to make it so. The adoption process has taken over a year, and its conclusion is finally on the horizon.

Over the last three years, our kids have grown tremendously, and we’ve been working on becoming the parents our kids need. Throughout, we’ve heard a lot of admiration for our choice to become a family. “Your kids are so lucky to have you!” We’ve also heard a lot of disbelief. “I don’t know how you do it. I could never ... .”

It’s true that parenting is hard. I don’t think any parent would disagree. Parenting kids suffering from developmental trauma (i.e., neglect and abuse at an early age) is even harder. And maybe we are particularly suited to this — maybe it is something most people couldn’t do, and we’re heroes. But I don’t really believe that. In my mind, therapeutic foster care and open adoption are routes that more people ought to consider and social systems ought to support.

All kids deserve to grow up in an environment where they can feel safe and can mature into the fullest expressions of themselves. And, for a variety of personal and societal reasons, not all adults can create those environments. My wife and I decided we would do our imperfect best to provide what our kids’ biological family wasn’t able to and also to expand our family to include theirs. (As we say, it’s not a family tree, but rather a family forest.)

Intervening when traumatized children are still young makes it less likely that they will require significant interventions later in life. It makes children less likely to pass on the unhealed trauma, as our kids’ parents did. Keeping kids safe is not only a huge benefit to the particular youths who land in well-resourced homes, it’s a benefit to the entire community.

Our kids aren’t just our kids. They are all of our kids. What happens to them (not to mention their peers, many of whom are on waiting lists for foster placements due to a shortage of willing families) affects us all. What’s more, when actively supported to heal their wounds, the children who come from the hardest places can become the most compassionate and contributing members of society.

There’s no shortage of opportunities to help improve our kids’ collective prospects, and every one of us is called to take positive action of some kind. In my eyes, the commitment we’ve made to our children is one of the most powerful investments we could have made in the future. Showing up for G. and A. every day is not easy, but it’s absolutely worth it.

This journey thus far has proven to me beyond a doubt that love is a verb — perhaps the most powerful one there is.
One day, many years ago, the mayor of New York City was transformed into a dinosaur. To announce this momentous change, he held a press conference, only to discover that the jaded citizenry didn’t care. That was the story told by Sean Rubin ’09’s Uncle Eddie, who had a habit of concocting far-fetched tales starring Rubin’s toys. This story stuck.

“I was around 17 at the time — we’re a funny family — and I started writing out the story when I realized: If there were a dinosaur in New York, nobody would care,” Rubin says. Uncle Eddie put a dinosaur in New York City, and Rubin started asking questions about him: His new book, Bolivar (Archaia) is what came next.

Writer and illustrator Rubin, who grew up in Brooklyn, crafted his protagonist in the mold of a typical Gothamite: He reads The New Yorker; he likes jazz; he goes to museums; he eats corned beef sandwiches: “[Bolivar’s] character seems to be the sort that people swear they’ve encountered,” he says.

Rubin’s detail-rich illustrated homage to his uncle’s imagination fits into an emergent genre seeking to bridge the gap between image-based stories and novels.

According to Rubin, librarians see these volumes, sometimes called chapter books, as a springboard for young readers transitioning into pictureless prose.

Rubin shows Bolivar’s life mostly as glimpsed from the vantage point of his precocious 8-year-old next-door neighbor, Sybil, who is fixated on photographing the elusive dinosaur whom no one else seems to notice.

Her attempts take readers through an autumnal jaunt across a New York cityscape set in the mid-’90s, about the time when Rubin was Sybil’s age. “The city is always changing. So I found it was more authentic to draw it from memory,” he says. “In some ways, the memories sort of became more real.”

For eagle-eyed readers, there are several references to Princeton ensconced in Rubin’s intricately detailed scenes: orange-and-black scarves, hats, and umbrellas tucked into background scenery; a University seal secretly etched into a brick façade; a sly nod to a famous Princeton politician folded into the rendering of the city’s mayor.

Rubin has been drawing since he could hold a pencil, but he says: “It’s not so much when I started drawing — most children draw — it’s that I never stopped.”

As he got older, he began sketching characters and scenes from the Redwall book series, an anthropomorphic medieval realm of sword-wielding mice and their woodland compatriots. At a Redwall book signing when Rubin was 13, his parents urged him to show his work to the author, Brian Jacques. Rubin was reticent, but the introduction was a turning point: Jacques was so impressed he arranged for the teen to start contributing art for his website and for Redwall audiobook covers. Then, in his final year in Princeton, Rubin was asked to illustrate an entire Redwall book, which led to other work through the years.

In 2011, as he stopped taking on large illustration jobs, Rubin began concentrating on Bolivar while also starting a company that makes safe surfaces for pools and water parks. In illustrating the book, Rubin undertook every aspect of production himself, including hand lettering and an old-school approach to producing layouts — physically cutting and Scotch-taping his characters into sample configurations before drawing the final, crosshatching-heavy product.

The book, at 224 pages, is a bit daunting for story-time reading, Rubin concedes, but he divided it into five manageable chapters — one for each bedtime during the week.

Rubin is relieved that five years later the book is complete, but he is already thinking ahead: “This is not the last we’ve seen of Sybil and Bolivar,” he says. “I’m looking forward to working with the characters for years.”

By C.C.
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 1949
Mitchell Brock ’49
Mitchell died July 22, 2017, in hospice care in Kingston, N.Y. He was 89 years old.
Mitchell was born in Wyncote, Pa., attended Episcopal Academy and St. Paul’s School, and came to Princeton after 14 months in the Navy. He rowed on the crew team, played club hockey, and captained the JV football team. He belonged to SCA and Ivy Club, majored in SPIA, graduated with honors, and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa as a junior.
Mitchell earned a law degree from Penn in 1953 and immediately joined Sullivan & Cromwell in New York City. He became a partner in 1960 and remained there until his retirement in 1992, specializing in international law. Many organizations benefited from Mitchell’s keen analytic mind and unfailing optimism. He was on the boards of the American Foundation for the Blind and Helen Keller International. He was a member of the Anglers Club, the Neversink Association, and the Frost Valley YMCA.

THE CLASS OF 1950
James B. Haynes Jr. ’50
Jim died July 9, 2017, at his home in Shreveport, La. He was respected as a true gentleman — selfless and unassuming — who inspired his children and grandchildren.
Jim attended the fledgling Southfield School in Shreveport and then graduated from Culver Military Academy. At Princeton he majored in history and belonged to Terrace.

THE CLASS OF 1951
James Clyde Berryman ’51
Jim was born May 2, 1928, in Philadelphia, to Rufus and Lillian Ann Maguire Berryman. Jim was raised in Leighton, Ala., graduated from Colbert County High School, and then enlisted in the Navy. At Princeton he majored in economics, was president of Cloister Inn, and served on the Interclub Council. He met his wife, Odile de Tussigny, in Paris, where he earned a certificate in economics and liberal arts from the Sorbonne in 1952.

Jim had an international career as a personnel and labor-relations specialist in the petroleum industry, initially with Caltex-Indonesia in Sumatra, then with Amoseas in Libya, and lastly with Texaco in Brussels and New York. He traveled extensively, negotiating local employee-compensation and benefit packages with petrochemical unions.

Jim first retired to Vermont, where he collected antiques and taught himself to restore old furniture, watches, and clocks. His home still has a distinct Italian culture.

Jim died Jan. 25, 2017, in Corbara, Corsica. He is survived by Odile; their son, Clyde; and their granddaughter, Ajda Berryman LaPrad. His brother, Leo, predeceased him.
THE CLASS OF 1953

Robert Rich ’53
Bob was born in Fort Dodge, Iowa, and graduated from Fort Dodge High School. At Princeton he majored in economics, joined Elm Club, and played JV football before leaving at the end of his junior year. Drafted into the Army, he spent two years at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., before completing his college career and graduating from Northwestern University with a degree in accounting.

Bob then went to work as an accountant, earned a CPA license, and joined the firm of Ernst & Ernst in Des Moines, Iowa.

He married Marcia Cramer and they moved to Centerville, Iowa, where Bob was chief financial officer and later executive vice president for Iowa Southern Utilities.

In 1978, Bob and Marcia moved to Fort Dodge, where Bob was a self-employed investment farm manager and financial consultant. Among the investment farms he managed were those of Princeton University.

Bob served as an elder of his church and was on the boards of St. Joseph’s Hospital, Iowa Trust and Savings Bank, Youth Shelter Care, Smithway Motor Express, and many others.

He died Aug. 4, 2017, of complications following surgery. Bob is survived by his wife, Marcia, their daughter, two sons, and 11 grandchildren.

John H. Thatcher Jr. ’53
Born in Brooklyn but raised in New Jersey, John attended the Englewood School before coming to Princeton, where he majored in history and was a member of Charter Club. He served on the Undergraduate Schools Committee and the Scholarship Committee of the Orange Key Society.

Struggles with what was eventually diagnosed as celiac disease shaped John’s first years after college, which led to a career as an investment counselor. His very active involvement with the Alumni Schools Committee led to his interviewing more than a thousand potential Princetonians.

Childhood summers on Fishers Island in New York led to an increasing concern for the environment and the founding of the Fishers Island Conservancy. John was a tireless advocate for conservation of the island’s clean water and ecosystems. He is remembered especially for working with the “mosquito girls” to lessen the island’s mosquito population through nontoxic control measures. Unfortunately, John had a stroke 12 years ago while fishing that brought an end to his Fishers Island activities.

He died Aug. 14, 2017, at home in Hillsborough, N.J. John is survived by his wife, Mary; their daughters, Marisa and Monica; nine grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Frederick J. Tritschler ’53
Fred was born in Spokane, Wash., in 1931, but he grew up in Los Angeles and near Chicago, graduating from Evanston (Ill.) High School. At Princeton he played basketball and tennis for all four years, was captain of the basketball team, and scored a record number of points against Penn during his junior year. His major was economics, and he was a member of Cottage Club. After graduation, he joined the Navy, graduated from Officer Candidate School in Newport, R.I., and served in the Mediterranean for three-plus years on two different destroyers.

Returning to Chicago, Fred worked briefly for the Chicago Tribune selling advertising. He then joined IBM, where he worked for 34 years as a computer salesman and then in administrative capacities all over the East Coast. Tennis was a constant pastime; he even hit with Arthur Ashe one evening in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

In 1991 he retired and moved to Hilton Head Island (S.C.) and then to Tampa, Fla., where there were regular visits with Dave Sisler and Chuck Thies, two of his Princeton roommates. In 2016 he and Sue moved to Dallas, Texas, to be near their two daughters.

Fred died suddenly of a stroke Sept. 3, 2017. He is survived by his wife, his daughter, Mary Susan “Sue” Martin, whom he married in 1959; their four children, Laura, Fred III, Wesley, and Cynthia; and four grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1954

Syd Silverman ’54
Syd, a longtime publisher and owner of Variety and Daily Variety, died Aug. 27, 2017, of a sudden illness. He prepared for Princeton at the Manlius School, majored in politics, wrote his senior thesis on “Television and Politics,” and was secretary of the Princeton Sports Car Club — an avocation that he pursued passionately for the rest of his life. Even as an undergraduate, Syd worked for Variety during the school year and in the summers, traveling to New York on Tuesday nights for press closing and printing. He took over the business in 1957 after service as a second lieutenant in the Army. In his three-decade career with the publication, he maintained its reputation as “the bible of show business.”

After selling the publications to Cahners Publishing, Syd focused on collecting and driving vintage cars and participating in historic auto racing. He was an owner and investor in the Sportscar Vintage Racing Association and developed the successful Vintage Motorsport magazine.


Syd and Jan had four children and eight grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1955

Richard E. Dillon ’55
A pioneering advertising executive and entrepreneur, Dick was born Sept. 14, 1933, to Irene and John C. Dillon, and died of cancer Aug. 17, 2017, in Vero Beach, Fla.

After working at General Foods and Johnson & Johnson, Dick created one of the first advertising agencies focused on marketing to Hispanics in the United States. Mendoza Dillon & Associates grew rapidly and was eventually acquired by the WPP Group.

After the acquisition of his company, Dick and wife Phyllis divided their time between New York City, Vero Beach, Fla., and Steamboat Springs, Colo. An avid golfer, fly-fisherman, skier, traveler, bridge aficionado, and history enthusiast, he had a robust physical and intellectual curiosity. Despite his personal philosophy — “Life is war and every day’s a battle” — he will be remembered as one of the most personable and joy-filled of men.

One of his grandsons, hearing his boisterous laugh, dubbed him “Ha-Ha,” his sobriquet for the rest of his life. His zest for living showed in the iconic pink polo shirt he wore on the links and his frequent bursts into song in his lilting Irish tenor.

He is survived by Phyllis, his wife of 62 years, six children, and eight grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1959

Richard F. Ford ’59
Dick died July 8, 2017, at home in St. Louis. He had battled cancer for 20 years.

Coming to Princeton from Portsmouth Priory, where he captained the football team, Dick continued his gridiron prowess, playing three years with the 150-pound Tigers, as well as three years on the lacrosse team. He majored in economics, served on the UGC, and was a proud member of Ivy Club, representing “The Vine” at meetings of the Right Wing Club. In 1959 Navy ROTC (Marine option) offered Dick his first employment, at Camp Pendleton, Calif., to which he took his August bride, Katherine Good.

Returning to St. Louis after service, Dick started his lifetime career in finance as a stockbroker with Merrill Lynch. After 10 years he moved to First National Bank of St. Louis (later Centerre Bank), eventually becoming president and CEO. From there he organized a venture-capital partnership, Gateway Mid-America Partners.

In the 1980s, Dick served as the head fundraiser for Senators Jack Danforth ’58 and Kit Bond ’60 while also serving as the Annual Giving chair for the St. Louis region. He sat on the board...
of trustees of Washington University in St. Louis for many years, retiring with emeritus status.

Dick is survived by his wife, Katherine; his children, Flynn, Nini ’84, and Katie; his sister, Kathleen; and three grandchildren. We have sent condolences.

Aldo Vandermolen ’59

Aldo died July 17, 2017, in Dover, N.J., after a five-year battle with glioblastoma. Born in Alkmaar, Holland, schooled there in Dutch and then in Portuguese in Brazil, he graduated as valedictorian from his São Paulo high school in 1954, and then shipped out as a freighter deckhand to join his parents in New Jersey. He entered 12th grade at Nutley High School to learn English, and mastered the language and matriculated at Princeton. He majored in economics, played varsity soccer, served on the Interagency Council, and joined Cloister Inn. Aldo earned an MBA from Harvard Business School.

Brief stint with Grey Advertising and Colgate-Palmolive ensued. But his life’s work was his family’s business, Vandermolen Corp. in Livingston, N.J., serving as sales manager, then president. There he invented the backpack leaf blower, a portable wood chipper, and an electronic insect killer. A longtime Rotarian, he served as his club’s president. He loved travel, good food, wine, music, and good friends, of which he had many. He married Joan Aldred in 1966. Sadly, she died in 1984.

Our professors lectured us on renaissance men, and Aldo was one: merchant seaman, accomplished athlete, advertising executive, inventor, sales manager, CEO, Rotarian, civic leader, fundraiser, benefactor, and fluent in five languages.

Aldo is survived by his devoted partner, Doris Bonanno; his children, Garret, Jennifer, Elise, and Evin; Doris’ daughters, Lori, Lisa, Linda, Leslie, and Noni; his sisters, Mariette and Irene; and many grandchildren. We have sent condolences.

Edward D. Rose ’61

Ed died May 28, 2017, peacefully in his sleep at his home in Sandwich, Mass. Born in Quincy, Mass., he came to Princeton from Thayer Academy. At Princeton, he majored in German, was at Cloister Inn, and was in the Glee Club, Chapel Choir (for four years), and the Campus Fund Drive. He also served as a Chapel deacon. His senior-year roommates were Woody Andrews, Joe Messina, McKamy Smith, Andy Prindl, and Sandy Falconer.

After Princeton and a tour in the Navy, Ed attended Jesus College at the University of Oxford, then earned a master’s degree from Boston University. An accomplished teacher and organist, he had a long teaching career at Thayer and served as the long-time choir director and organist at Union Chapel in Hyannis. He and Eleanor lived on Martha’s Vineyard for many years, relocating to Sandwich five years ago.

Ed was predeceased by his son, Douglas, in 1968. He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Eleanor; sister Susan Spurling; two nieces; and two nephews. He is also survived by Matt Ovios, whom Ed and Eleanor regarded as a son, and his family.

Jonathan Richard Williams Jr. ’61

Dick died Jan. 23, 2017, of pulmonary hypertension. Born in Selma, Ala., he came to us from A.G. Parrish High School. At Princeton he majored in chemistry, took his meals at Quad, was in the Pre-Med Society, and participated in club sports. He roomed with Wilson Morris.

Following Princeton he earned a master’s degree in biochemistry and a medical degree from Tulane Medical School, and interned and was a resident at the University of Missouri Medical Center. After stints at the U.S. Public Health Service and at Massachusetts General in oncology, he practiced internal medicine and oncology at Baylor Medical Center in Dallas until 1985, followed by service with Vitas Health Care as hospice medical director and then as national medical director. He retired in 2004 to Glenville, N.C., where he was active in the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd until his passing.

Dick is survived by his wife of 36 years, Lois; sons J. Richard III, Gary, and Kirk; daughter Elizabeth Rogers; and his children’s families, which include eight grandchildren. He was predeceased by his son Douglas.

THE CLASS OF 1974

Andy Guy ’74

Andy died suddenly Nov. 22, 2015, just six weeks after spending a glorious weekend with roommates Larry Fullerton, David Witt, and Chris Elliot.

Andy sang with and became president of the Footnotes, worked at and became supervisor of the student center, and graduated summa cum laude. He returned to Kansas City to work for the Missouri State Commission on Human Rights and moonlighted as a singing waiter.

Andy graduated from the University of Virginia Law School in 1979 and moved to Seattle to join the firm of Bogle & Gates, becoming a partner in 1986. Andy and his first wife, Ginger, lived in Queen Anne, Wash., until 1999.

In 2001, Andy became a lateral partner in the litigation practice at Stoel Rives. He devoted many hours to pro bono work and was honored as one of the “Best Lawyers in America” for commercial litigation. He retired in 2014.

Andy remarried in 2005; he and wife Debby traveled the world, enjoying each day together. Andy was a loving and devoted husband, stepfather, brother, and uncle. He was a champion for his stepdaughters, Meryl and Heather, and for nieces Andrea, Angela, and Melissa, always guiding, supporting, and advising. His radiance, love of life and music, and good humor had a positive impact on all.

THE CLASS OF 1982

Geoff Taber ’82

Geoff, wife Jacques, and their sons, Scott (13) and Andrew (13), died Dec. 24, 2016, in a house fire at their country home near Stoney Lake, Ontario. Words cannot express how deeply their loss is felt by their family and friends.

After growing up in New York City and attending the Browning School, Geoff majored in history, joined Cottage Club, and wrote his thesis at Princeton on the Voting Rights Act of 1965. His senior-year roommates were Steve Robertson and Tom Carruthers, who along with many other classmates became lifelong friends.

After graduation, Geoff moved to Toronto and earned his law degree from the University of Toronto. In 1987, he joined Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt in Toronto, where he spent his entire career, rising to partner and founding the
firm’s emerging-companies group. He met his beloved wife, Jacquie Gardner, a fellow lawyer at Osler, and they married in 2000.

Geoff’s many interests included cycling, reading, sailing, Ultimate Frisbee, spending time with friends, and most of all, his family. He was an enthusiastic coach, manager, and supporter of Scott and Andrew’s athletic endeavors, which included ice hockey, ball hockey, and soccer.

Geoff will be remembered for his sense of humor, intellect, tremendous generosity of spirit, and his passion for all aspects of life.

Geoff, Jacquie, Scott, and Andrew are survived by Geoff’s sister, Shelagh Taber ’84, and her family. The class extends its heartfelt condolences to them, and we share their sorrow.


THE CLASS OF 1984

David Tilgner ’84

David died Aug. 6, 2017, following a courageous battle with brain cancer.

David came to us from Mount Anthony Union High School in Bennington, Vt., where he was active in soccer and tennis and graduated as valedictorian. At Princeton, David was a member of the Quadrangle Club. He graduated cum laude with a degree in civil engineering.

David began his career in manufacturing management at Clairol and later worked for The Coffee Connection and Starbucks. Returning to Vermont in 1996, David spent the next 20 years with Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, where he was most recently vice president of Portion Pack Manufacturing.

David married his soul mate, Lori Bessery, in 2000. He enjoyed going to his children’s activities, especially at the ice hockey rink. David enjoyed recreational ice hockey as well as hiking, skiing, golf, and tennis. In the summers he delighted in spending time with family and friends waterskiing, fishing, swimming, or just relaxing.

The class shares its sadness with his wife, Lori; children Alex and Kate; father Charles Tilgner III ’56 and his wife Elisabeth; brother Charles “Chips” ’81 and his wife Dina; and in-laws, aunts, nieces, nephews, and extended family. He was predeceased by his mother, Linda Tilgner.

GRADUATE ALUMNI

William E. Schmidt ’53


At GWU, he taught analytical chemistry and conducted electrochemical research. He became professor emeritus in 1991. Schmidt served as secretary of an American Chemical Society analytical committee for 40 years.

An avid hiker, Schmidt was active with the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. He was also a scoutmaster for the Boy Scouts and a founding member of the Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church.

In 1997, Schmidt was predeceased by Dorothy, his wife of 50 years. He is survived by five children, eight grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

Alan T. Gaylord ’59

Alan Gaylord, the Winkley Professor of Anglo-Saxon and English Language and Literature emeritus at Dartmouth College, died peacefully Jan. 5, 2017. He was 82.

Gaylord graduated from Pomona College in 1954 and earned a Ph.D. in English from Princeton in 1959. From 1959 to 1965, he was a member of the English department at the University of Michigan. He was then a professor of English at Dartmouth from 1966 until he retired as professor emeritus.

He was a respected medievalist and well-liked professor who taught and published on a wide variety of topics, from Chaucer to William Morris to Robert Frost. He also played a vital role in establishing the Dartmouth Film Society.

In retirement at the Medford Leas community, Gaylord served on the residents’ council. He was a member of the Chamber Music Committee and the LeasMusicCast Committee and wrote film and program notes. He is survived by his wife, Linda; four children; and four grandchildren. His first wife, Beverly, the mother of his children, predeceased him in 2011.

William G. Melson ’64

William Melson, senior scientist emeritus at the Smithsonian Institution, died Oct. 7, 2016, at the age of 77.

Melson graduated from Johns Hopkins University in 1961 and earned a Ph.D. in geology from Princeton in 1964. For more than 40 years, he was a geologist/researcher specializing in mineral sciences at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History, and he received a 50-year career-service pin as scientist emeritus.

He worked on eruptions and volcanic hazards and accompanied Smithsonian archaeologists to archaeological sites. Melson also served on NASA’s lunar-sample-analysis planning team and the NSF Institution of Oceanography’s deep-sea drilling project. He co-authored Lunar Rocks, and wrote Geology Explained: Fort Valley and Massanutten Mountains.

Melson was a consultant to the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board and offered many educational programs, hikes, and field trips, as well as taking 150 volunteers to the Arenal Volcano in Costa Rica. He also was an adjunct faculty member at George Washington University. He was a fellow of the Geological Society of America, the Mineralogical Society of America, and the American Institute of Chemists. He completed 10 marathon races.

Melson is survived by wife Judith, two daughters, and three grandchildren.

James M. Ling ’67

James Ling, who had been a senior staff engineer and a technology and development manager in the United States defense industry, died Aug. 2, 2015. He was 74.

In 1965, Ling earned a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from the University of Illinois. In 1967, he earned a master’s degree in electrical engineering from Princeton, and he earned a Ph.D. degree in 1969 from the Polytechnic University of Brooklyn (now part of New York University).

In 1969, Ling and his wife, Alice, whom he had met while at Princeton, moved to Northern Virginia. There he spent his entire career at TRW and Northrop Gruman.

Ling’s family described him as “a level-headed and devoted family man, who worked tirelessly to support his family.” He enjoyed watching sports, playing tennis, watching horse racing, and eating out. In 1992, he was proud to see his eldest son graduate from Princeton.

Ling is survived by Alice, whom he had married in 1967; four children (including Stephen ’92); one granddaughter; and four other Princeton alumni relatives.

James A. Maiorana ’74

James Maiorana, a research mathematician with the Institute for Defense Analyses, died Oct. 31, 2014, of mantle cell lymphoma. He was 68.

Maiorana graduated from Caltech in 1968 with a bachelor’s degree in mathematics and physics. Inducted into the Army, he was released from active duty in June 1970 after graduate study in mathematics at Princeton.

He earned a Ph.D. in 1974 and received an honorable discharge from the Army that year.

He taught and did mathematical research at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. After two years, Maiorana left Stony Brook and became a research mathematician with the Center for Communications Research at the Institute for Defense Analyses in Princeton.

Maiorana worked on solving mathematical problems in national security. What he did was classified, and he received many awards in cryptography, encryption, and related fields. He remained at the institute until his death.

Maiorana was survived by his wife, Sharon; his mother, Catherine; three brothers; and four sisters.

Graduate memorials are prepared by the APGA.
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Princeton Goes On Tour

John S. Weeren

Like wandering minstrels, the members of Princeton’s glee and banjo clubs took to the road — or rather the rails — in December 1887. Having honed their musical talents with concerts in Trenton and Orange, N.J., and Germantown, Pa., earlier that month, they embarked on an 11-day, two-state “Christmas tour” Dec. 27.

Traveling in a private railroad car, they performed in 10 communities ranging from Buffalo, N.Y., with a quarter-million residents, to Lock Haven, Pa., with fewer than 7,500. The latter was a low point: According to The Princetonian, “Owing to a very poor and unappreciative audience both clubs assumed a careless air, and by no means did themselves justice in either the singing or the playing.”

But for the most part, the performers were welcomed warmly, even in locales where the bulldog rather than the tiger reigned. “Many of the cities were distinctly ‘Yale’ in their prejudices,” The Prince reported, “but we are glad to say that as a rule the Yale alumni gave us greeting almost as hearty as they would have extended to their own undergraduates.”

The repertoire included such numbers as “Go ’Way, Old Man,” described in one compendium as a “Song of Louisiana Negroes”; “An Awful Little Scrub,” a humorous song by English comedian George Grossmith; “Good Night” from the English comic opera Erminie; and, of course, “Old Nassau.”

The clubs’ exertions were not simply rewarded with calls for encores. “Large receptions, many of them most brilliant,” followed the concerts in all but two locations, and The Prince noted more than one instance of dancing “far into the morning.” During their stay in Buffalo, many students visited Niagara Falls; in Geneva, N.Y., some “took advantage of the excellent sleighing”; and in nearby Auburn, they toured the penitentiary, soon to earn notoriety as the site of the country’s first execution by electric chair.

It was a weary but contented troupe that returned to Princeton Jan. 7. ♦

John S. Weeren is founding director of Princeton Writes and a former assistant University archivist.
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