

PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY

THE CLIMATE ISSUE



APRIL 2023
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PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY

An editorially independent magazine by alumni for alumni since 1900



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PAWCAST
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On the latest PAWcast, architecture and engineering professor Forrest Meggers explains how Princeton's campus is moving towards net-zero carbon emissions.



MrBeast and Jeff Levenson '80

Curing Blindness
Ophthalmologist Jeff Levenson '80, who works with SEE International, teamed up with YouTube star MrBeast to perform 1,000 cataract surgeries.

Green Tigers
Over the years, PAW has covered many Princetonians working to make the world a cleaner, greener place. See a collection at bit.ly/green-tigers.

Rally 'Round the Cannon
Gregg Lange '70 recounts the origins of Earth Day at Princeton.

Call It Climate Challenge

By Shannon Osaka '17

It is inevitably, when I tell people I work as a climate reporter, they say, “That must be so depressing.”

It can certainly seem that way. After all, the most common story told about climate change over the past 40 years has gone something like this: Greenhouse gas emissions are rising. Droughts, heat waves, species extinctions, and deluges are around the corner. We are missing our opportunities to act.

This story compelled me when I first came to Princeton in 2013. Initially attuned to space, science fiction, and STEM, I had set my sights on studying astrophysics. But in my first semester or two I was taken with the University’s unofficial motto — then “in the nation’s service and in the service of all nations” — and felt a sense of responsibility to do something about what I saw as the greatest issue of our time.

So I threw myself into the study of climate change. With the help of a few supportive professors, I managed to get approval for an independent major that focused almost entirely on global warming and the environment. (Princeton didn’t then — and still doesn’t now! — have a major in environmental studies or environmental sciences.)

As I learned about renewable energy and paleoclimates and carbon taxes, I began to feel that the common climate story was wrong. Yes, climate change is a slowly unfolding disaster, one that we have waited far too long to solve. But it is also an opportunity: A chance to turn an economy grounded in burning fossil fuels into one based on cleaner sources of energy — sources that don’t

give children asthma or the elderly heart disease. A chance to reassess the inequalities between countries in the north and south, between rich and poor.

Slowly, I grew interested in new kinds of stories about the climate crisis, stories that didn’t hit the same “disaster” notes over and over. I began to write about climate solutions and the people trying to implement them.

Now, as a journalist at *The Washington Post*, I try to convince readers that, while climate change may be depressing,

In the course of my reporting, I’ve talked to Princetonians who are digging ice cores in the Arctic, tracking the effectiveness of climate protests around the world, and developing comprehensive climate models that have helped to pass landmark laws.



it is also one of the most interesting problems in the world. It requires creative scientific and engineering breakthroughs — everything from the development of low-carbon cement and ever-larger lithium-ion batteries to the study of how researchers can coax the oceans to absorb more carbon dioxide. It is a problem that, by its very definition, will require the entire world to solve — from diplomats to electricians to corporate sustainability officers to activists to novelists.

Princeton has been a part of this story. The University is trying to use its campus as a form of live-in lab, aiming for net-zero emissions by 2046 with the help of solar, wind, and ground-source heat pump technologies. It is establishing a new home for environmental studies and environmental science on campus to knit together related subject areas. It is my hope that Princeton will eventually create a full department to give interested students an academic track on campus.

Until recently, however, the University’s actions in these areas were often overshadowed by the approximately \$1.7 billion invested in fossil fuels. After diligent efforts by alumni and student activists, last year Princeton announced it would divest from publicly traded fossil-fuel companies and dissociate — or cut financial ties — with 90 companies involved in some of the dirtiest forms of fossil fuel extraction. (Student and alumni activists argue that these steps do not go far enough, and that the University should divest and refuse research funding from all fossil fuel companies.)

But Princeton’s true strength in the fight against climate is its alumni, researchers, and professors. In the course of my reporting, I’ve talked to Princetonians who are digging ice cores in the Arctic, tracking the effectiveness

Neel Dhanesha



Solar panels at the Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment are part of the University's transition to carbon neutrality.

Bumper DeJesus/Princeton University

of climate protests around the world, and developing comprehensive climate models that have helped to pass landmark laws. In this magazine issue alone, there are Princetonians developing fusion, diving into the environmental humanities, and negotiating from the halls of the State Department.

All these energetic efforts can't, of course, blot out the scale of the problem. In 1992, the year that the United Nations first met to discuss the problem of global warming, humans were emitting about 22 billion tons of carbon dioxide every year. Last year, we emitted close to 37 billion tons. Sixty

percent of all greenhouse gas emissions ever produced by humanity were sent into the atmosphere in just the past 40 years or so. The most ambitious goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius — enshrined in the landmark 2015 Paris Agreement — is now virtually impossible to achieve.

At the same time, miraculous things are happening around the world. The United States has passed a gigantic, \$370 billion climate bill; the European Union is preparing similar efforts in response. In the past decade, the cost of solar energy and lithium-ion batteries has plummeted, as public understanding and

belief in climate change has grown. As Elizabeth Kolbert wrote recently in *The New Yorker*: “To say that amazing work is being done to combat climate change and to say that almost no progress has been made is not a contradiction; it’s a simple statement of fact.”

I can't tell anyone else whether they should be depressed or not about climate change. But I do know that every day I wake up, go into the office, and call some of the smartest, most dedicated people in the world — who are trying to tackle the warming planet in any way they can. Many of them are represented in these pages. I hope they inspire you, too. ♦

A Case Study in Civil Discourse



The media landscape today is filled with commentary decrying the state of free expression on college campuses. I want to tell you about a recent episode that, in my view, better represents the quality of campus discussion at Princeton today.

The faculty committee that oversees an endowed lecture named for literary critic and Palestinian advocate Edward Said '57 invited Mohammed El-Kurd to deliver this year's address, exploring the notion of "perfect victims" and expanding on Said's question as to who has "permission to narrate."

El-Kurd, a Palestinian poet and journalist who is harshly critical of Israel, is no stranger to campus dustups. His appearance at Harvard last fall drew demonstrators, and an event featuring him last year at American University was moved off campus.

News of El-Kurd's invitation to Princeton broke on Twitter and, predictably, erupted there into attempts by external groups to stoke outrage. What happened instead is a case study in civil discourse

In the run-up to the Feb. 8 lecture, there was an exchange of letters that played out partly in the pages of the *Daily Princetonian*. Because the English department cosponsors the Said lecture, its acting chair, Professor Jeff Dolven, received letters from one of Princeton's rabbis, student Jewish leaders, and a group of 41 undergraduates.

These letters expressed anguish, disappointment, and fear over the choice of El-Kurd. They called on the department to condemn him and some of his writings, which they regard as antisemitic. "I respectfully ask you to consider whether such rhetoric would be tolerated if it targeted other groups," wrote Rabbi Gil Steinlauf '91, executive director at the Center for Jewish Life, in a message copied to several administrators.

Without exception, however, the letters also expressed support for El-Kurd's right to be invited and heard, some citing by chapter and section the part of Princeton's *Rights, Rules, Responsibilities* that "guarantees all members of the University community the broadest possible latitude to speak, write, listen, challenge, and learn."

"In the name of free speech, we are not demanding that the Department of English retract its sponsorship," wrote the 41 undergrads. "Instead, we write today with urgency to request that the department condemn the event."

Dolven, a Princeton professor for more than 20 years, took that as an opportunity to teach. Here's an excerpt from his response:

[Our Department has] always granted great autonomy to faculty in making invitations. Departmental sponsorship is not an endorsement of what a speaker has said or might say—as you can imagine, such a requirement would dramatically restrict the range of voices that could be heard on campus. This openness also means that the

Department as a whole does not make statements.

It is an important principle for us that we leave that speech to individuals and voluntary groups, and that neither I nor anyone else attempts to speak for a diverse collective.

I can say of all my colleagues, with personal confidence, that we share a deep concern with the rise of antisemitic violence and speech locally, nationally, and globally.

A campus debate about a controversial speaker thus expanded into one about departmental statements, which I discussed in my November PAW column, and which is the subject of an ongoing faculty policy review. It was an intellectually rigorous and rich exchange, at times passionately argued, at all times civil.

Meanwhile, as Twitter and Facebook raged intemperately in the background, the Princeton conversation expanded into the alumni ranks. Dean of the College Jill Dolan received a letter from a Princeton alumnus and parent asking why the English department would sponsor an "appalling" speaker.

Dolan, who is also a Jewish member of the English faculty, replied, "The English Department sponsored El-Kurd's speech because a committee invited him to give this year's Edward Said Lecture. We don't intervene in the academic freedom of our faculty." The exchange could have ended there, but Dolan continued:

I do realize that offensive speech, from wherever it comes, is painful to hear, especially when it degrades and vilifies the communities to which one belongs. In those cases (and there have been several on campus this year), I try to reach out with empathy to those who are pained. I also encourage them to speak back, to mount counter-discourses, to claim their agency and their full subjectivity.

The 2023 Edward W. Said Memorial Lecture went on without incident, in a packed McCosh Hall lecture room containing about 300 people. People listened, they asked tough questions, and they made their own judgments about what to think.

A day later, someone who had heard about the event only from social media and Fox News asked me: "How can we get civil discourse back on college campuses?"

We have civil discourse on this campus. I believe we have it on most American college campuses. There are very few places right now in America where you can have the exchanges that I just described between people who disagree so strongly and are still capable of working together. We should be proud of that, and we should push back hard against the distorted accounts of those who say otherwise.

Inbox



RANKING COLLEGES

Kenneth Terrell '93's essay (On the Campus, February issue) asserts that comparative rankings and associated information on schools is valuable for prospective students and families navigating the college application process, but it is necessary to know their limits. Numerical rankings require quantifiable criteria, and this lens largely excludes a qualitative element that is no less significant: the student experience. With *U.S. News* as an example, the "Campus Life" section of a college's profile attempts to represent this, describing resources and extracurriculars available to students. But this seems to describe the possibilities of an experience, and not what it means to live it.

When Princeton kept its No. 1 ranking on the *U.S. News* list in fall 2021, it felt like a slap in the face. While the pandemic certainly affected the student experience at universities everywhere, the passing of Kevin Chang '23 and the mental health crisis among students facilitated a genuinely abysmal experience in the spring prior. As discussed in PAW's February issue, the campus has hardly had a break from loss and grief since. That college rankings have not been fazed by the

well-being of students suggests a critical limitation to the tool as it stands now.

Well-being should not be secondary to academic or career outcomes. If rankings are indeed concerned with being informative sources and not just sparks for debate, then students must be represented beyond the numbers alone.

Chris Leahy '22
Chicago, Ill.

Kenneth Terrell '93 lines up talking points in defense of the *U.S. News* college rankings very well, but his case still rings hollow in my estimation. The premise behind rankings is transactional — that any one college is better or worse than others — and it reinforces old-boy-network privileged stereotypes.

Rather than paying any heed at all to rankings, anyone trying to estimate the best college for him or herself would do better to recognize what I rediscovered visiting colleges during my children's application process — that there is a plethora of truly excellent higher education institutions in our country, each with unique qualities and opportunities to offer. It takes research and discernment, not the snapshots Mr. Terrell cites, for each person to find his or her best fit.

Count me as a loyal and devoted Princeton alumnus who encourages Old Nassau to continue to manifest its leadership in higher education by not continuing active participation in those silly rankings.

John Fisher '67
Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

ANTISEMITISM ON CAMPUS

In February, while Israeli rescue crews worked through the Sabbath to save lives in Turkey, the English department at Princeton University paid and sponsored someone who, in his writing, claims Israelis eat the organs of Palestinians and threatened to shoot protestors at an earlier speech at Arizona State University. At Princeton, Mohammed El-Kurd made many such hateful references, such as describing the Anti-Defamation League, which has fought antisemitism and racism for more than a century, as the "Apartheid Defense League."

This is not a First Amendment issue. Mr. El-Kurd is free to spout his poison on the internet or on a street corner, but why is Princeton sponsoring this?

For a Princeton University department to sponsor (i.e., pay or use University resources to support) a speaker who would like to exterminate me and my two Princeton sons, Benjamin '13 and Theodore '20, as well as everyone who lives in Israel, is appalling.

Such targeting of any other racial, ethnic, religious, or national group would be unthinkable at Princeton. And yet it is somehow appropriate for the English department at Princeton to invite and support such a speaker targeting a minority group — Jews.

Apparently, the only University-connected figure with the courage to confront El-Kurd's hatred was Rabbi Eitan Webb of Chabad at Princeton, who got up and shouted, "I would like to thank you very much for giving a masterclass on how to be an antisemite."

I am already a 1746 Society donor to the University. But tell me, why should I support this?

Michael Goldstein '78
Encino, Calif.

PRAISE FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE

When the February PAW arrived in my mail, I read it through with varying

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Emily Lewis Penn '77

Lindsay Marrone '18

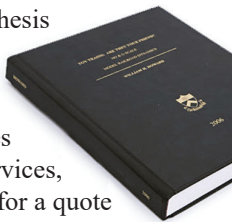
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attentiveness, as I have been doing ever since I first began receiving it my senior year on campus.

This particular issue was unusually moving. As an aging pastor I was touched by both the “Lives Lived & Lost” feature on departed fellow grads and the piece on obits by Douglas Martin *74. Other features were, if not always easy or comfortable reading, worthwhile as always: environmental challenges, issues of diversity and free speech, and even the effects of the conflict in Ukraine on campus life, as the Princeton community engages with the world.

As an elderly, undistinguished, and not particularly wealthy alum who finds occasional difficulty coming to terms with a rapidly evolving world, I often wonder about my connection with a university which in many respects has changed almost beyond recognition since my undergrad years. Yet the connection remains. As evidenced even in the digital age by PAW’s regular arrival in the mail, month after month, year after year, for well over 50 years now, the University somehow has tried to maintain a connection with me, whatever I have done or not done to keep the connection.

Locomotives to Old Nassau — and particularly to old faithful PAW, which after all these years still seeks me out in the mails to tell me what is up on campus, and how the Princeton community strives to make our world a better place.

James Alley '69
Port Ewen, N.Y.

THE ART OF THE OBITUARY

Following the advice of my father (Princeton '53), I have read every inch of the *New York Times* obituary section — famous and not-so-famous — since I was a teen. (He warned, “The worst thing you can do in business is ask a client about their family, only to discover that one of them died.”) I have saved many of the most memorable “characters” I discovered there, recently transforming them into an oral history podcast (“Indelible”), recounting their lives through the voices of those who knew and loved them.

Throughout this time and all these readings, no one writer captured my imagination and confirmed my lust for

life more than Douglas Martin *74 (“The Dead Beat,” February issue). If there was a Pulitzer for short form biography, he would have taken it, many times. One of my favorites of his many lines was the one he mentioned about Selma Koch, former owner of the beloved Upper West Side undergarment emporium, The Town Shop. (“She was 95 and a 34B.”) I repeated this line to her loving son, Danny, when I profiled him for a New York City-based publication a few years ago. As his eyes welled up in remembrance, he mumbled how much his mother would have appreciated the nod. I kept thinking: “I wish Douglas were here to enjoy this.”

Douglas, you have wrested so much life from death. I can’t imagine who will be able to do justice to your own journey when the time comes!

Susanne Beck '81
New York, N.Y.

“The Dead Beat” was a fine insight into an underappreciated art form. Drafting your own obituary, preferably along the lines Douglas Martin *74 follows, can provide useful guidance for heirs making your post-metabolic arrangements, can function as a convenient memoir for your descendants, and can prompt introspection as to what aspects of your life are noteworthy for information, amusement, cautionary, or aspirational value (if none come to mind, that may be a signal to amend your lifestyle).

Clark Irwin *78
Flat Rock, N.C.

MASTERFUL MENTOR

I was very saddened by the death of Edmund “Mike” Keeley '48, a professor who was central to my Princeton experience. The memorial article published in the February issue (“Lives Lived & Lost”) ably recounts his significance as a translator of modern Greek poetry, as well as many of his other accomplishments. But it does not mention his brilliance as a teacher, and what a valuable mentor he was to young translators trying to master the difficult work of conveying a literary text into graceful English.

I enrolled in his translation workshop almost every semester that I was at Princeton, both as an undergraduate and a graduate student, and it was the most valuable educational experience I have ever had. Mike taught us that literary translation

*15

Class of

Annual Giving helps brilliant students who can't afford Princeton to attend and benefit from the same transformative experience that I received.

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Laura-mae Britton *15

Photo: Lyla Ducey

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FROM THE EDITOR

'Do the Work': Taking on Climate Change

You may be apathetic or even terrified about climate change. You may believe nothing can be done. In this issue of PAW, we aim to set aside those feelings and examine how Princeton and the alumni community are working the problem.

From plasma to poetry to heat pumps, alumni, scientists, students, faculty, and administrators are tackling the effects of climate change across a broad spectrum. Shana Weber sees it every day as the University's founding director of the Office of Sustainability, working to help Princeton reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2046, or "sooner," she says.

"The sense of urgency feels different now than it did when I was an undergrad or even 10 years ago with Princeton students," Weber says. "The acceleration of climate change is so much faster than anyone thought, so it's a question of how will we adapt?"



Weber

Princeton is a testing ground for this. The move to net-zero and increased sustainability measures can be seen and felt throughout campus. There's the small: electric buses, composting, and stormwater management. And the big: solar panels that provide 20% of electricity, construction of a massive geexchange system, and developing offshore wind power.

This isn't only intended to make the University a more sustainable place, but to serve as a model for larger communities.

"There's a lot of interest in how we're navigating these changes," Weber says. "Policymakers are paying close attention because they're trying to figure out how to incentivize more of it. We take every opportunity to share what we've learned."

Students are also a part of the equation, contributing as part of what's called "campus-as-a-living-lab." For example, low-carbon concrete was used to build the new Stadium Drive Garage, and students installed sensors into the concrete as it was poured to track its effectiveness and the building's structural health over time.

Those are some of the physical changes at Princeton. There's also groundbreaking research and teaching that is producing alumni who are fighting climate change. These classes and projects can be found in virtually every corner of the University, from the sciences to the liberal arts and beyond.

And then there are activists who are pressing for even greater urgency and accountability. Some work at nonprofits, think tanks, and other universities. Some are students and alumni who want to make a difference, and a good number of them have coalesced around Divest Princeton's mission, which is to see Princeton fully divest and cut ties with all fossil-fuel companies, specifically BP.

This activism can get messy and distract from the big-picture work at Princeton. But climate change needs accountability and attention, and not just from the scientists or researchers.

"I do have moments of frustration with the very human slow reaction-time to what some call the 'creeping catastrophe' of climate change, but I am also heartened by the listening, passion, problem-solving, and activism students are practicing," Weber says. "In other words, I may not agree with all proposed strategies, but I so believe in the practices of civil disagreement and questioning."

We hope this issue of PAW provides some insight into the complex web of climate change issues and the impact Princeton and alumni are having.

"Climate change is here. The world is dealing with it," says Weber. "You have to hold that knowledge at bay a little bit and focus on the long view so you can do the work." —Peter Barzilai '97

is a creative art well worth cultivating. He took us seriously, respected our often-halting attempts, helped us to find ways to express ourselves more effectively, supported us as we sought wider audiences for our work, and encouraged us to go farther than we ever thought we could — all with impressive patience and good humor. I regret that future students will not have the chance to experience this gift.

Madeleine Picciotto '78 *85
Saturna Island, Canada

FAIRNESS AND PRACTICALITY

Concerning the note in the February issue on dorm restrooms (On the Campus), it makes sense that a large majority of students voted in favor of making the restrooms gender neutral. Not only is it fairer to trans and nonbinary students, but given Princeton's old dorms with their separate entrances, gender-neutral restrooms are better for everyone so long as the restrooms provide adequate privacy, such as doors on stalls and showers, rather than the flimsy curtains that the dorm restrooms used to have.

In those dorms, there is usually only one restroom for a floor or entryway and it's more convenient if all students on the hall can use that restroom. In my freshman year, I and the three other women on the third floor in the third entryway of Foulke decided that we didn't want to have to go downstairs to wash up or use the bathroom, so we de facto integrated the men's bathroom on our floor and used it for all purposes other than showers.

Lynn Hogben '77
Philadelphia, Pa.

HARVESTING FISH

There is a (literal) fatal flaw in the otherwise brilliant fish farming focus of genius entrepreneur, Eric Pedersen '82, and he as much as concedes it himself ("Sea Change," January issue). His inventive intention is to change current fish farming to something that provides the farmed species a "healthier, less stressful environment." But that charity is all undone in one bloodletting instant (the fatal flaw), when each of them, in his words, must "just have one bad day."

The doggerel of Mr. Pedersen's latter comment delicately dances around the day he inevitably imposes judgement, when his huddled herds must be "harvested"

(condemned and executed for no other crime than simply being fish). That hardly seems just. Killing for whatever purpose or reasoning, by whatever means, benefits no one. The wisdom literature of the world reflects as much.

I have abandoned flesh consumption (cuisine through killing), going on four or five years now, and will venture to say that my health (as a function of diet) has never been better. Mr. Pedersen's intention is inspiring, and as one T.I. member to another, I wish him nothing but grace and goodwill, hoping that in his admirable mission to feed the masses that he plow his profits into perfecting plant proteins, and so spare those whose blood he would otherwise spill.

Rocky Semmes '79
Alexandria, Va.

EVOLUTION AND IDEOLOGY

I am rather puzzled by Professor Robert George's parable at the introduction to the article "Crashing the Conservative Party" (January issue). I would have thought that any Princeton professor, without regard to their personal ideology, would have been teaching Darwin, not because it suited their personal beliefs, but because it was (and as far as I know, still is) the best encapsulation of the corpus of empirical evidence to which it is directed. I am not aware of any alternative, biblical or otherwise, that does the same. If Professor George does, I would be happy to hear it.

I would hope that all Princeton faculty relish the opportunity to challenge incoming students on this and all other aspects of a student's education — and are prepared to be challenged back. That should be the case whether a professor's ideology is "conservative" or "liberal." Most importantly, both should be prepared to critically weigh their own views.

Barry Newberger *76
Austin, Texas

Quotations from Professor Robert George (January issue) seem to show a great disdain for evolutionary biology and biblical scholarship, suggesting that Professor George has little knowledge or understanding of those fields.

The professor also seems to sneer at those who work against racism, poverty, discrimination because of

sexual orientation, and environmental degradation, slyly ridiculing them as "woke."

In Christianity, love, compassion, and respect for people different from oneself are very important. Assuming that George is a Christian, he and other Christian conservatives should remember that being a follower of Jesus does not just mean being a member of a church. It means following Jesus' teachings.

James R. (Jim) Paulson '72 *77
Oshkosh, Wis.

I was one of those midwestern, traditional morality, patriotic, Boy Scout youths described in "Crashing the Conservative Party" who was transformed during my years at Princeton. But it didn't happen at the hands of scheming liberal professors or because of social pressure to conform. It was the result of experiences and conversations with fellow students.

While growing up, my family didn't look too critically at our comfort and the history that framed it. Once I started to look at the current status of non-me people, I realized that our nation and the societies in it are quite far from the ideals expressed in the founding documents of our nation and from the description of society that dominated my youth. And the distance wasn't an accident or something that would fix itself.

One modern conservative value and view is that there is not, and should not be, any guarantee of success, for people or ideas (especially other groups'). In the marketplace of ideas, it appears to me that conservatism is losing badly. It's not from lack of effort or number or familiarity of ideas. It's because of the fundamental hollowness and self-serving nature of most of them. Why should we make any special effort to preserve and amplify ideas such as these? I've kept most of the core values of my youth but found that conservatism is not the way to put them into practice.

Kevin Raeder '86
Boulder, Colo.

FOR THE RECORD

A photo in the March issue misidentified a member of the Afghanistan Policy Lab. Storai Tapeshe is shown second from left in the back row.



YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



ALUMINARY

Anthony Noble *01

Committee to Nominate Alumni Trustees Chair

For all the lessons that Anthony Noble *01 absorbed at Princeton during his graduate studies, the greatest classroom may have been Shultz Café, the eatery in Robertson Hall. There, on any given weekday afternoon, he might be seated next to Daniel Kahneman or Ben Bernanke, Princeton professors who are now Nobel laureates.

“That ability to sit shoulder-to-shoulder with your professors and your peers and just have run-of-the-mill conversations about their area of expertise or what’s happening in the world — or what’s happening in your world — was so welcoming,” said Noble, senior vice president and chief strategy officer at the American Tower Corporation in Boston. “They were so personable, demonstrating how the smartest person in the room doesn’t have to lose their human touch.”

That human touch became a defining aspect of Noble’s Princeton experience, and a major reason that he became active in the alumni community. While studying at the School of Public and International Affairs, he not only received academic and career guidance from faculty members like Uwe Reinhardt and Cecilia Rouse, but he marveled at the number of alumni who came back to campus to meet with students, generously sharing their time and knowledge with Noble and his classmates.

“The Princeton community has done an exceptional job of instilling the values of the University in alumni engagement,” he said. “When I think about the alumni who advised me during my time as a graduate student, I can’t help but feel it’s my duty to do the same for today’s students.”

In 2018-19, Noble served on the steering committee that helped plan Thrive, the campus conference celebrating Black Princeton alumni. The three-day event was an enormous success, and Noble found the event’s preparation and camaraderie especially rewarding. Soon after, he was invited to join the Committee to Nominate Alumni Trustees (CTNAT), and he leapt at the opportunity.

“One of my favorite parts of being a Princeton alum is voting for alumni trustee every year,” Noble said. “Just seeing what your fellow alums are up to, what they are passionate about, how they use their time and talent; it is always so incredible. When you’re serving on the committee, you’re doing the research to build a ballot, so you really get a chance to see how exceptional members of this alumni community are.”

Last July, Noble became chair of CTNAT, and he was impressed by the dedication of his fellow volunteers. “I think what stands out the most to me is how seriously the committee takes its duty,” he said. “Just the thoughtfulness and how much care they put into doing the research, asking tough questions, finding a way to put the best interests of the alumni community and the University above everything else.”

Noble was hardly surprised. “Princeton is one of those rare places where the impossible is practical,” Noble said. “You want to be a part of that. You want to help push things forward, to improve on something that’s already great and make it better for the next generation.”



Photos: Delane Rouse

2023 ALUMNI TRUSTEE ELECTION

IN OCTOBER OF 1900, Princeton's Board of Trustees adopted a plan to ensure alumni representation on the University's board. At that time, the board was enlarged by the addition of five alumni trustees. The board has amended the plan for elected trustees several times over the decades, designating regional, at-large, and graduate ballots, and creating the positions of young alumni trustee and recent graduate school alumni trustee.

Now, 13 of the 40 trustees, or nearly one-third of Princeton's board, are alumni who have been elected to their positions. Four of these are young alumni trustees, elected by the junior and senior classes and the two most recently graduated classes. The other nine have gone through a nomination and election process overseen by the volunteer committee known as the Committee to Nominate Alumni Trustees (CTNAT), a special committee of the Alumni Council.

There are two slates of candidates for the 2023 Alumni Trustee Election. Polls will open on April 11 and will close on May 17. For more information visit: alumni.princeton.edu/ctnat

AT-LARGE ALUMNI TRUSTEE CANDIDATES



Kamil Ali-Jackson '81
West Chester, PA



Timothy T. Hwang '14
Potomac, MD



Christopher D. Long '97
Mission Hills, KS

GRADUATE ALUMNI TRUSTEE CANDIDATES



Nandi O. Leslie *05
Bethesda, MD



Lisette Nieves *01
Brooklyn, NY



Jay Jie Xu *08
San Francisco, CA

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- READ **Tiger News**, the monthly email newsletter with all you need to know about alumni and University news and events.
- FOLLOW @PrincetonAlumni on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.



YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Photo: Mark Bothwell

1



Photo: Steven Freeman

2

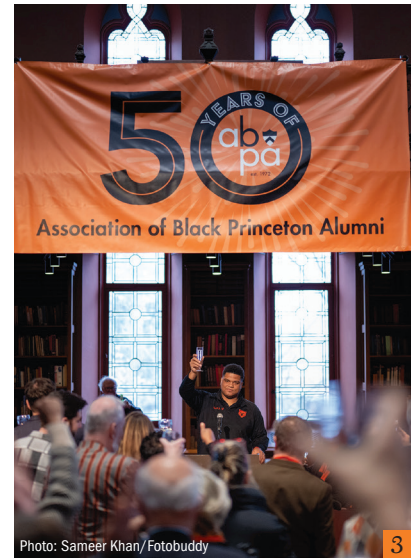


Photo: Sameer Khan/Fotobuddy

3



Photo: Tom Repp/Fotobuddy

Mary Newburn '97
Chair, Alumni Council
President, Alumni Association

DEAR TIGERS,

What makes the lifetime Princeton alumni journey so special? After serving as president of your Alumni Association for the last two years, three aspects shine brightly throughout this experience: community, connection and continuity.

The sense of community is palpable — whether we are gathering in person or virtually. Most recently, the power of community engagement was on full display at spirited alumni Venture Forward events in London, Boston and Chicago, and in welcoming more than a thousand Princetonians back to campus to celebrate Alumni Day.

The strength of connection is undeniable — connection to the Princeton campus and to each other. Tigers connect in so many ways. Stories of those relationships that span decades, geographies and subject areas literally inspire me every day.

The continuity of the journey is remarkable — the alumni experience is “always on,” meaning you can plug in where you can, when you can, engaging in opportunities including, but not limited to, lifelong learning, service, careers and camaraderie.

Everyone is welcome — always — and we are stronger when we are together. We hope you feel that open and warm invitation to participate, in whatever ways are meaningful to you.

Speaking of continuity, our Alumni Association will be in wonderful hands under the incoming leadership of Monica Moore Thompson '89, who will become president of the Alumni Council in July. For her extraordinary partnership over the last two years, I am deeply grateful.

Without a doubt, one of the greatest honors of my lifetime has been serving as president of the Alumni Association, and for that, I thank you. Thank you for all the ways you engage with Princeton. Your commitment to Princeton University helps maintain the aspects of the alumni experience that are so unique and important: community, connection and continuity. ***We are — today and always — Tigers Rising!***

Three cheers,

Mary Newburn '97



Photo: Sameer Khan/Fotobuddy

4

In the last year, alumni gathered for special Venture Forward events with President Christopher L. Eisgruber '83 in London (1), Boston (2) and New York. On Alumni Day on Feb. 25, the Association of Black Princeton Alumni celebrated its 50th anniversary (3), one of several festive events that attracted more than a thousand alumni back to campus (4).

On the Campus



Sameer A. Khan '21

GOING BACK TO JADWIN GYM: On Feb. 25, the annual Alumni Day luncheon returned to Jadwin for the first time since 2020. Read more about this year's alumni award winners and student honorees on page 14.



Gen. Christopher Cavoli '87, left, greets fellow honoree Robert Kahn '64 at Richardson Auditorium.

ALUMNI DAY

Reflections on Service

Gen. Christopher Cavoli '87, internet pioneer Robert Kahn '64 earn top awards

Woodrow Wilson Award winner Gen. Christopher Cavoli '87 is commander of U.S. European Command and NATO's supreme allied commander in Europe — pivotal roles in America's military as the world closely watches the war between Ukraine and Russia. But even Cavoli was overwhelmed by the list of previous recipients of the award he was about to receive on Alumni Day Feb. 25 — and the presence of this year's other top alumni honoree, James Madison Medalist Robert Kahn '64.

"Most of us have the experience at

some point in time or another where Princeton humbled you a little bit," Cavoli told the full house of alumni, faculty, staff, and guests gathered in Richardson Auditorium for Alumni Day. "You arrived, you thought you were pretty good at things, and then you just ran into so many people who were so accomplished. I cannot believe that I am sharing the stage with the guy who invented the internet."

Cavoli, an Army officer for three decades, spoke about his decision to dedicate his life to service, and thanked other Princetonians who have served. What started as a career path he chose for

the excitement and adventure turned out to have much greater meaning, he said.

"Somewhere deep in the background, someplace way way back in the recesses of my mind there remained a memory, a memory that guided me, and I think all of us back here today. It was the memory of a slogan, *in the nation's service*," he said. "It was there the whole time, in the service of our nation and all nations. In the service of others. That's what we were taught, that's what we absorbed here."

Kahn, who received his Princeton Ph.D. in electrical engineering, opened the morning lectures at Richardson, reflecting on his career and the challenges he faced. In the 1970s, Kahn co-created the Transmission Control Protocol and the Internet Protocol (TCP/IP), which are fundamental components of the internet. Princeton "played a key role in my journey as it reinforced and greatly expanded my ability to think critically about technology and systems," Kahn told the audience. "I was fortunately able to apply those skills to architecture and design and development writ large."

Kahn spoke about his career in public service working for the U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), where he spent 13 years. There he focused on design and implementation of innovation infrastructures for government and military use. Now the chairman, CEO, and president of the Corporation for National Research Initiatives, he has continued to work on network applications, Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP), advanced information management techniques, and more.

Kahn expressed his appreciation to Princeton and said, "I look forward

STUDENT HONORS

THE PYNE HONOR PRIZE, the top award for undergraduates, was awarded to two students: **AUSTIN DAVIS '23**, from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, a history major pursuing a certificate in urban studies. He hopes to pursue a career in public history.

ELLA GANTMAN '23, from Washington, D.C., a School of Public and International Affairs major pursuing a certificate in Spanish language and culture. Her research

has focused on voting rights and access, and she hopes to pursue a legal career with an emphasis on racial and economic justice.

The **PORTER OGDEN JACOBUS FELLOWSHIPS**, which fund the final year of graduate school, were awarded to four doctoral students:

BENNY KLEINMAN, economics. His research investigates the geographical expansion of large firms in the services sectors and its effects on labor markets, and

identifies uneven patterns in firms' demand for workers across space.

JASON MOLESKY, English. His research examines the art and other creative works that emerge out of four different sites of extraction in the U.S. (coal, natural gas, uranium, and steel).

MIRA NENCHEVA, psychology. Her research focuses on the intertwined nature of emotion and speech in children's first learning experiences.

LILA RODGERS, computer



From left, Eric Vinson '73, Rhetta Vinson '73, and P.C. Pitts '79 at the Alumni Day luncheon.

to many more years of productive interactions with the University and its faculty and students, as well as the wider community.”

More than 1,000 alumni and guests visited campus for the Alumni Day celebration on a chilly February day. While last year's Alumni Day was the first major in-person event since the onset of the pandemic, this year's was the first in which the luncheon portion returned. Tigers were welcomed by Alumni Council chair Mary Newburn '97 and President Christopher Eisgruber '83 and entertained by the Trenton Youth Singers. Luncheon speakers included University Architect Ronald McCoy '80, who provided updates about campus expansion, and engineering dean Andrea Goldsmith, who shared details of the engineering school's vision.

The day also included the annual Service of Remembrance in the University Chapel, to honor those who died in the last year, and a handful of campus events including rock climbing and bouldering with Outdoor Action and a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Third World Center (now the Carl A. Fields Center). ♦ By C.S.

engineering. Her research tackles engineering challenges in two different quantum systems — nitrogen-vacancy centers in diamonds and superconducting qubits.

ALUMNI AWARDS

THE CLASS OF 1997 received the **CLASS OF 1926 TROPHY** for raising \$10,851,997 for its 25th reunion.

The **HAROLD H. HELM AWARD** for sustained service to Annual Giving went to **WILLIAM F. LANDRIGAN '76** of Cincinnati, Ohio.

GRADUATE SCHOOL

Princeton Grad Students Rally Around Unionization Campaign

More than half of all Princeton graduate students signed cards signaling their desire to form a union, and Princeton Graduate Students United (PGSU) organizers told PAW in mid-March that a union election could happen by the end of the month.

According to its website, PGSU's platform has six key pillars: fair and effective cross-campus grievance procedures; improved support for international students; comprehensive, inclusive, and funded health care and child care; affordable housing guaranteed through graduation; guaranteed cost of living adjustments and contingency funding; and fair, clear, and safe work standards.

“This is a matter of essentially helping to put ourselves on a more equal footing, where we can say, ‘We want a real voice in decisions,’” said Tim Alberdingk Thijm, a fifth-year computer science student and PGSU organizer.

On Feb. 15, PGSU held a rally in Scudder Plaza that, according to PGSU representatives and *The Daily Princetonian*, was attended by more than 150 people. “We wanted to have that rally because we wanted to be like, ‘Hey, there’s a show of support. There’s a substantial number of people who care about this. And we’re willing to be vocal ...’” said Aditi Rao, a second-year classics student and PGSU organizer.

PGSU says more than 1,000 graduate students signed union cards in the 24 hours following the rally, and as of March 7, more than 1,700 graduate students had signed union cards. This academic year, 3,212 graduate students are enrolled at Princeton, according to statistics provided by the Graduate School.

In a Feb. 28 email to students, Dean of the Graduate School Rodney Priestley wrote that

stipends would increase in the summer, with rates from \$47,880 to \$50,400. The University implemented its largest one-year graduate stipend increase in 2022, a 25% raise on average, moving the range to \$45,600 to \$48,000.

PGSU originally formed in 2016, but its campaign didn't start in earnest until after President Joe Biden took office in 2021. Alberdingk Thijm said the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has been “much friendlier” under the Biden administration.

Within the past year, graduate students at Yale University, MIT, Northwestern University, the University of Southern California, and Johns Hopkins University have voted to form unions. PGSU has chosen to affiliate with the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America.

Priestley wrote of unionization efforts: “... I respect your right to make an informed decision and decide based on your own convictions.” He added that “by design, union representation would change some aspects of your relationship with the University, and we do have some concerns about how such representation would affect your education and experience at Princeton.”

Priestley's message included a list of frequently asked questions about graduate student unionization, with responses from the University.

According to PGSU, there are two possible paths forward to unionization. The first involves voluntary recognition from the University. If that doesn't happen, the alternate route would be to file with the NLRB for an official union election. If a majority of graduate students vote in favor of the union, a bargaining committee would form to negotiate a contract with the University. ♦ By J.B.



READ MORE about the unionization effort at paw.princeton.edu

ARTISTIC CONNECTIONS

Collaboration Takes Center Stage in University's Partnership with McCarter

Though McCarter Theatre Center in Princeton suspended live performances for 18 months during the height of the pandemic, staff were still hard at work behind the scenes, in part cementing a newly invigorated partnership with the University.

The result was the formation of a “conversation council,” with more than 70 invitees from across McCarter, the University, and the town of Princeton, that meets a few times per year to propose and explore planned joint projects. McCarter calls it “campus coupling, on stage and off,” with the University community.

“The arts are meant to bring us together as a community, and this council is a really shining example of that,” said W. Rochelle Calhoun, vice president for campus life at Princeton and McCarter’s board chair.

“It’s really about all the collaboration that we can do together to amplify scholarship [and] to be a place of arts and ideas,” said Debbie Bisno, who has been at McCarter since 2016 but took on a new role as director of university and artistic

partnerships around the same time the council formed in May 2022.

For decades, the University and McCarter had what Bisno called a “wonderful marriage,” but, despite the many collaborations, “there wasn’t a highly intentional focus” to those joint projects.

Sarah Rasmussen, McCarter’s artistic director, said the long-term planning has led to more meaningful results. “Artists need time to incubate things and develop ideas, and we need time to build the capacity for that,” she said. “I know so many of our artists are really drawn to a place where they can come and perform and share their work, and also engage more deeply in conversations with scholars, with students, with community.”

According to McCarter, more than 25 new pilots and partnerships have launched since the council was formed.

For example: In February, McCarter, student co-chairs of Natives at Princeton, and the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students (ODUS) co-curated a conversation and social around a performance of *Between Two Knees*,

a comedy about the Native American experience in the United States.

“There was magic that happened in seeing students connect with artists and mingle with patrons outside the campus bubble,” said Bisno, who also noted that part of McCarter’s purpose is to “remind students of what’s accessible and available.”

“I think anyone who’s participated in one of those collaborations has really found it incredibly meaningful,” said Jill Dolan, dean of the college and a McCarter board member for the past eight years.

In addition to ticketed events, the rejuvenated partnership has led to other changes, such as expanded access to McCarter for Princeton students. Students can attend up to six shows — with no restrictions as in previous years — for free.

McCarter staff have also been leading workshops that teach theater skills to members of the University community to help enhance business pitches, storytelling, and public speaking. Students and staff from the Princeton Startup Immersion Program, Princeton Entrepreneurship Council, Princeton University Press, and other groups have already taken part.

For the first time, McCarter also featured a show presented by the Lewis Center for the Arts as part of its mainstage season with the original production *Felon: An American Washi Tale*. Before the first of the three *Felon* shows, about 15 Ph.D. students chatted informally with McCarter staff about careers in the arts. Between bites of pizza and salad and sips of wine, McCarter staff spoke about their career paths, skills that are transferable from a Ph.D. program to a career in the arts, and the challenges that come along with that line of work.

The conversation was part of the Working in the Creative Arts and Public Humanities cohort, which launched in September and is supported by McCarter and the GradFUTURES team in the Office of the Dean of the Graduate School.

Arts institutions are “ideal places to have deeper conversations and do so in a really entertaining way that can bring so many different kinds of people together,” said Rasmussen. “It’s just so wonderful to see what’s possible.” ♦ By J.B.



The Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students, Natives at Princeton, and McCarter co-hosted a social event after the Feb. 8 performance of *Between Two Knees*.

Courtesy of McCarter Theatre

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Photo by Jon Roemer

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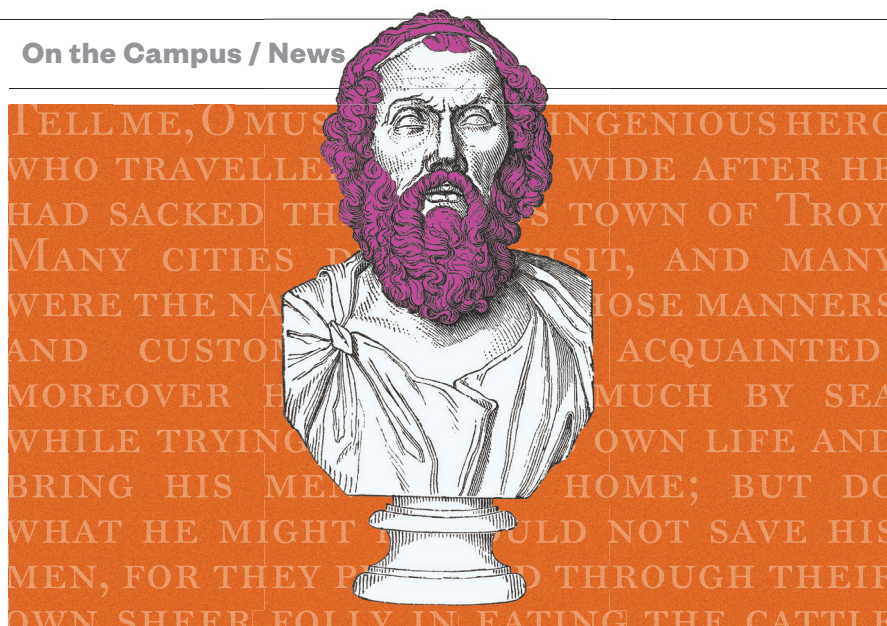
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CLASS CLOSE-UP

Creative Classics Course Makes Old Favorites New Again

How does one rewrite a classic story when it’s already, well, a classic? That’s the assignment for the 13 Princeton students enrolled in “Re-Writing the Classics,” a new course being taught this spring by Kamila Shamsie, a Belknap Visiting Fellow in the Humanities Council and the Department of English.

Shamsie can appreciate the monumental task: She’s authored eight books, including 2017’s *Home Fire*, which reimagined Sophocles’ play *Antigone* as a novel about a modern Muslim family living in the United Kingdom and forced to cope with Islamophobia and ISIS threats.

When she was offered the Belknap Fellowship and asked what she’d like to teach, “it was almost sort of automatic,” Shamsie said. “It struck me how many contemporary writers in the 21st century are using the Greek classics in different ways.” She wanted to bring together those adaptations to examine the echoes and parallels in the stories.

For nearly three hours every Wednesday afternoon in 30 McCosh Hall, Shamsie guides the class in discussions around topics ranging from how to approach writing about gods to sentence structure to how to draw on readers’ prior knowledge of a classic myth without alienating others who may not be as familiar with the story.

The Princeton students have been

assigned Greek classics such as *The Odyssey* as well as modern retellings such as Madeline Miller’s *Circe*. Shamsie also arranged virtual class visits with current authors, including Miller, Ali Smith, Inua Ellams, and others, to talk to the class and answer students’ questions.

“I cannot overstate how fantastic it is to be able to speak with these authors about their work and about their creative process,” said Katie Hameetman ’23, who is majoring in classics. “It’s just been incredible to get such a wide range of perspectives.”

For the midterm, students wrote a proposal for their final assignment, which must be a short story adaptation of a classic Greek myth.

“I want them to be engaged as readers, but also as writers,” Shamsie says, calling the class “halfway between an English and creative writing course.”

Hameetman was particularly drawn to this class for exactly that reason; she had vowed to take at least one creative writing course before leaving Princeton.

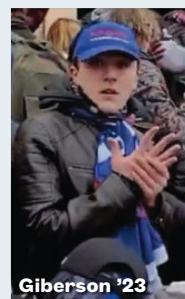
Hameetman said the lessons she’ll take away from the course include how to find a fictional “entry point” when approaching well-established classical material — and how to find wiggle room in a story that seems absolute. “It’s very fun in the sense that it’s simultaneously intellectually challenging, but there’s so much exploration possible.” ♦ *By J.B.*

JAN. 6 CAPITOL RIOT

Senior Faces Felony Charges

Federal prosecutors say a Princeton senior helped a crowd of rioters try to force their way into the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, and have charged him with one felony count of civil disorder and related misdemeanor offenses.

Larry Fife Giberson ’23 is 21 years old and from Manahawkin,



Giberson '23

New Jersey, according to a news release from prosecutors.

The Daily Princetonian reported that he is majoring in politics, and the University’s James Madison

Program lists him among its 2022-23 undergraduate fellows.

The University’s Rights, Rules, Responsibilities policy manual lists “deliberate participation in a riot” that threatens the University or local community among the offenses regarded as “extremely serious.” When asked whether Giberson will graduate this spring, Princeton spokesman Michael Hotchkiss sent a statement saying only that Giberson is currently enrolled as an undergrad.

Prosecutors say Giberson was at the front of a group of rioters in the Capitol’s Lower West Terrace “tunnel” entrance trying to force their way in using a coordinated “heave-ho” push against a police line, and that “one officer was crushed between a door and a shield held by a rioter.” The news release also says Giberson watched as rioters “assaulted and brutally injured” an officer, and later cheered as they used weapons and pepper spray on officers in the tunnel.

When the FBI interviewed Giberson at the Princeton Police Department with his attorney present, he confirmed he was the person in photos and video clips from the riot, the documents say. ♦ *By E.H.D.*

PAW staff; courtesy FBI

IN SHORT

Spurred in part by access restrictions for campus dormitories, WPRB radio is creating a **SECOND BROADCAST STUDIO** on Charlton Street in Princeton to supplement its Bloomberg Hall headquarters. Nicknamed “the Barge” (after U.K. radio stations that operated from international waters in the 1960s), the new space will be used by WPRB’s community DJs, who have been broadcasting from home since the start of the pandemic. Dan Ruccia ’05, president of the Princeton Broadcasting Service, said the change is a temporary fix and the station is working with campus partners to find a space both students and community members can access.

Princeton will soon offer a **PH.D. PROGRAM IN BIOENGINEERING**. Faculty approved the program in early March. The new Environmental Studies and School of Engineering and Applied Science complex on Ivy Lane,

slated to open in 2025, will include a building devoted to bioengineering.

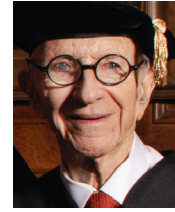
SECURITY CAMERAS will be installed at the exterior doorways of all undergraduate residential college buildings and dorms, according to a memo sent by Princeton administrators on March 8.

The addition of cameras was expected to begin in March, and all cameras should be online by the start of the fall semester. Security measures at graduate residential housing are being reviewed as well, with the memo stating that “several needs identified in the fall are in the process of being or have already been resolved.”

Two recent graduates, Willow Dalehite ’22 and Ben Weissenbach ’20, will study at the University of Cambridge as **GATES CAMBRIDGE SCHOLARS**. Dalehite, an ecology and evolutionary biology major at Princeton, will study zoology. Weissenbach, who majored in English, will pursue polar studies.

IN MEMORIAM

ROBERT GEDDES, the first dean of Princeton’s School of



Architecture and a prominent modernist architect, died Feb. 13 at age 99. Geddes arrived at the University in 1965, and in 17

years as the architecture dean, he established an intellectual community that integrated design, history, and theory along with ties to the social sciences and public policy. “For Bob, architecture was always enmeshed in a complex web of social, political, and ecological relationships,” Stan Allen ’88, one of his successors as dean, said in a University obituary. Geddes also left his mark in the wider Princeton community as the designer of the dining hall quad and social sciences building at the Institute for Advanced Study. ♦

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STUDENT DISPATCH

Following the Trail of the Princeton Fox (and Other Campus Creatures)

By Bing Lin '16 GS

As brochures and Commencement speeches tell us, it's the people who truly make Princeton *Princeton*. Amid the sea of



undergraduates, equal parts electric scooters and sweatpants; graduate students, running on espressos and angst; faculty, probably in tweed; and staff, holding everything together, Princeton is defined by the meaningful interactions that occur between its inhabitants, they say. But amid this hubbub, it is easy to overlook Princeton's multitude of other residents. The pair of peregrine falcons that roost on the wings of Fine Hall, littering the ground with remnants of their daily menu (favorite dishes include the northern flicker, American woodcock, and mourning

dove). Or the blue heron in the pond of the Springdale Golf Club, dutifully and diligently on mice patrol around the clock. Or the fearless red-tailed hawks that routinely swoop in and out of campus trees and buildings; not one of Princeton's omnipresent squirrels is safe. Even the hordes of deer soliciting staring contests and armies of Canada geese looking for a fight by the canal.

And most famous of all, the elusive but ever-present Princeton Fox; a red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) that has made campus its home for the last few years. Go on a few strolls in the gloaming, and you just might bump into this institutional icon, strutting around as smug as any Princeton admit and equally decked in orange and black. Since its official residency, the Princeton Fox has made a name for itself, trending as both a hashtag and a proper noun, and is

constantly sighted by students and staff, sauntering about Princeton's ivy-draped architecture.

When I graduated with an A.B. in 2016, the fox had yet to make its debut anywhere in town. During my time away, I spent a year teaching at a boarding school in southern Thailand; a year in the Ethiopian highlands studying a herd of wild gelada monkeys; and months in a tent thru-hiking the mountain crests of California, Oregon, and Washington. Upon my return in 2019 to pursue a Ph.D. in the School of Public and International Affairs, pretty little Princeton felt pretty out of place. Muttering about how nice certain patches of campus grass would be to camp on was not conducive to a suburban (or sane) student lifestyle, and neither was retiring for bed at "hiker midnight," aka 9 p.m. Nor did either make fast friends.

But my delightful discovery of the Princeton Fox soon turned things around. I quickly struck up at least a one-way friendship with my newfound vulpine friend, who was particularly drawn to the naturally-occurring edge

Bing Lin '16 GS

habitat that Princeton's assortment of structures and sylvan stretches emulated so well. Concomitantly ditching friends and commitments to make my daily fox rendezvous augured what was to come, and things soon spiraled out of control. More than once I'd find myself lying in wait on the golf course, sometimes before sunrise, garbed in full ghillie suit and camo pants, wondering how my life got to this point. From my near-decadal stint as a Princeton student, I had fully evolved from an undergraduate bemoaning "those weird graduate students" to said weird graduate student and true wildlife paparazzo.

But in the words of a literary idol, it is also true that, "if you walk the footsteps of a stranger, you'll learn things you never knew you never knew." Disney's Pocahontas might not have been referencing Princeton's urban wildlife, but intertwining my life with that of the Princeton Fox has taught me so much.

Animals are forced to constantly adapt to survive and thrive in a human-dominated world, and the least we can do is respect and appreciate our colliding worlds.

Bing Lin '16 GS



For one, he keeps a stricter daily regimen than I do, and consistently cycles through the same few sites to sunbathe and hunt, especially around dawn and dusk. Another revelation is that the Princeton Fox has since franchised into several fox families, or skulks, all with distinct dens around campus and little pups to herald the spring early each year. And the magical little moments of interaction; foxes now periodically come to within feet of the weirdo in camo, inordinately curious of the little twigs I snap and gently toss their way.

The Princeton Fox and friends (strictly nonpartisan) are also

emblematic of larger issues at play. Land is finite, and development at all scales is largely a zero-sum game. When land use encroaches on natural habitats, there are species that win and lose, and humans are the only consistent victors. This is likely why Princeton would do well if *U.S. News* ever released a "Best Campus Wildlife" ranking, but these same reasons are also driving increased human-wildlife conflicts across the country and all over the world.

At Princeton, institutional decisions for construction and expansion affect the thousands of transient students, scholars, and staff that make up the institution at any one time, but they affect just as much the silent majority of those with no say in which patches of land are next to be razed or renovated. Animals are forced to constantly adapt to survive and thrive in a human-dominated world, and the least we can do is respect and appreciate our colliding worlds. Between staying out, sleeping in, socializing, or anti-socializing, it might also serve your sanity and conscientious citizenship to immerse yourself every so often in the rich tapestry of parallel lives that also call these historical arches and shrinking verdant spaces home. But if you do approach the Princeton Fox, tread softly, and only carry small sticks. ♦





Blake Peters '25 celebrates a 3-pointer against Missouri.



Kaitlyn Chen '24 leads her team off the court after beating N.C. State.

MARCH MADNESS

‘Anything Is Possible’

Tiger men make epic NCAA run, women win second straight tournament opener

After Princeton men’s basketball dismantled Missouri 78-63 in a stunningly proficient performance March 18, Blake Peters, the sophomore guard who had drilled five second-half 3-pointers, ended his on-court interview with CBS Sports by echoing a famous video of former NBA star Kevin Garnett, enthusiastically shouting, “Anything is possible!”

For Princeton basketball — men’s and women’s — it was a perfect tagline for the first week of the NCAA Tournaments.

Before the men’s team traveled to Sacramento, California, even the most loyal fans might have had trouble imagining the Tigers could have an off night shooting (making 4-of-25 3-pointers) and still defeat No. 2 seed Arizona — but they did, winning 59-55 on March 16.

Then, before the game against Missouri, conventional wisdom said Princeton could keep the game close and hope for a big shot or two to come out on top. Instead, head coach Mitch Henderson

’98’s team took the lead early on and never surrendered it, reaching the Sweet 16 for the first time since 1967 and becoming the second Ivy League team to go that far since the tournament expanded to 64 teams in 1985. The Tigers were set to play Creighton when this issue went to press.

Princeton, in its first NCAA appearance since 2017, looked like a seasoned tournament team. “This is a very, very confident group,” Henderson said. “It is an absolute pleasure being around these guys — they just grit their teeth and they do it.”

On the women’s side, the “possible” was set in motion a year ago, when head

“Before the play, I knew what shot we had to get, and when it happened, I blacked out — and then afterwards, just a bunch of hugs.”

— **Grace Stone '23, women’s basketball guard on her game-winning three pointer over North Carolina State**

coach Carla Berube’s squad defeated Kentucky in the first round and pushed Indiana until the closing seconds in a second-round loss. The Tigers lost their leading scorer, Abby Meyers ’22, who starred for Maryland this year as a grad student, but maintained one of the nation’s most effective defenses, ranked fifth in points allowed this season (55.2 per game).

Defense shifted the game toward the Tigers in their first-round game against North Carolina State — they didn’t allow a point in the final five minutes — and the decisive shot was Grace Stone ’23’s 3-pointer from the right wing that put Princeton ahead 64-63 with 4.7 seconds remaining. On N.C. State’s final possession, the Tigers’ defense again clamped down and the Wolfpack didn’t manage to take a shot.

“My teammates, they have all the confidence in the world in me, and I knew that if I missed the shot, they were going to get offensive rebounds,” Stone said of her game-winner. “Before the play, I knew what shot we had to get, and when it happened, I blacked out — and then afterwards, just a bunch of hugs.”

Against Utah in the second round, defense again was a point of focus, as Princeton forced 20 turnovers, but Utah star forward Alissa Pili gave the Tigers fits, finishing the game with 28 points.

José Luis Villegas/AP; Rick Bowmer/AP

Princeton fought back from an early deficit until its comeback stalled in the fourth quarter, allowing the Utes to secure a 63-56 win on their home court.

Ellie Mitchell '24 scored nine points and led the Tigers with 18 rebounds, including 10 on the offensive end. Stone spoke admiringly of Mitchell's gritty performance afterward. "That girl puts her body on the line every single day, every single practice, every game," she said.

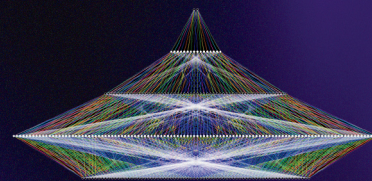
Princeton was the first Ivy League school to win women's and men's NCAA Tournament games in the same year. Which raises a question: Has there ever been a better week for Princeton

basketball? Perhaps in 1965, when Bill Bradley '65 led the men to the Final Four, or 2015, when the women, undefeated in the regular season, won the program's first NCAA Tournament game. But those were spotlight moments for one team, not two — and this year's magical March had the added perk of a hometown launch party, the Ivy League Tournament, held at Jadwin Gym for the first time.

"The women have been unbelievable for five years; we've been trying to catch up to them," Henderson said after his team won the Ivy championship. "We root really hard for one another. And we support one another, and that's the way it should be." ♦ *By B.T.*

*The 46th Annual
Donald R. Hamilton Lecture*

Hosted by the Princeton
Physics Department



SUSY:
Fifty Years of Scientific
Odyssey Inspiring a
Personal Quest

April 20, 2023 8:00PM
@ McDonnell A02

*by James Gates
Clark Leadership Chair in Science*

<https://phy.princeton.edu>

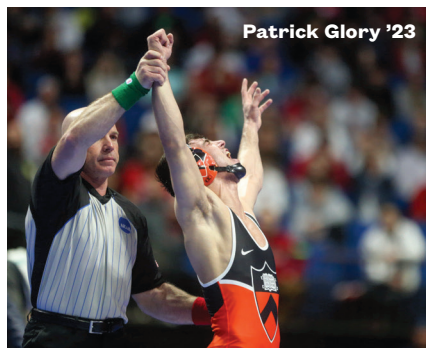
NATIONAL CHAMPIONS IN TRACK, WRESTLING



Sondre Guttormsen '23

Princeton's **SONDRE GUTTORMSEN '23** won his third national title March 10, clearing 6 meters (19 feet, 8.25 inches) to tie the collegiate record in the men's pole vault at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The win came five days after Guttormsen won his event at the European Indoor Championships in Istanbul, Turkey. Competing in both meets "was kind of a gamble," he told LetsRun.com after his record-tying performance, but "coffee helps, caffeine helps, and I was able to pull that out of somewhere."

With seven minutes of tighter, tenser wrestling than his guns-blazing trademark style, 125-pound senior **PATRICK GLORY** won Princeton wrestling's first national title since 1951 at the NCAA Championships in Tulsa, Oklahoma, March 18. Glory defeated Purdue's Matt Ramos 4-1 in the final and



Patrick Glory '23

joined Matthew Kolodzki '21 in the four-time All-American club. Quincy Monday '23, Glory's roommate, finished third in the 165-pound division, and the Tigers placed 13th in the team standings, their best performance since placing fifth in 1951, the year Bradley Glass '53 won his national title. ♦ *By Josephine De La Bruyere '23*

Kirby Lee/USA TODAY Sports; Ian Maule/AP

**REUNIONS
MAY 25-28**

The Andlinger Center for Energy
and the Environment hosts

EMILY A. CARTER

Seizing the Climate Mitigation
Window: New Initiatives at
PPPL and Princeton

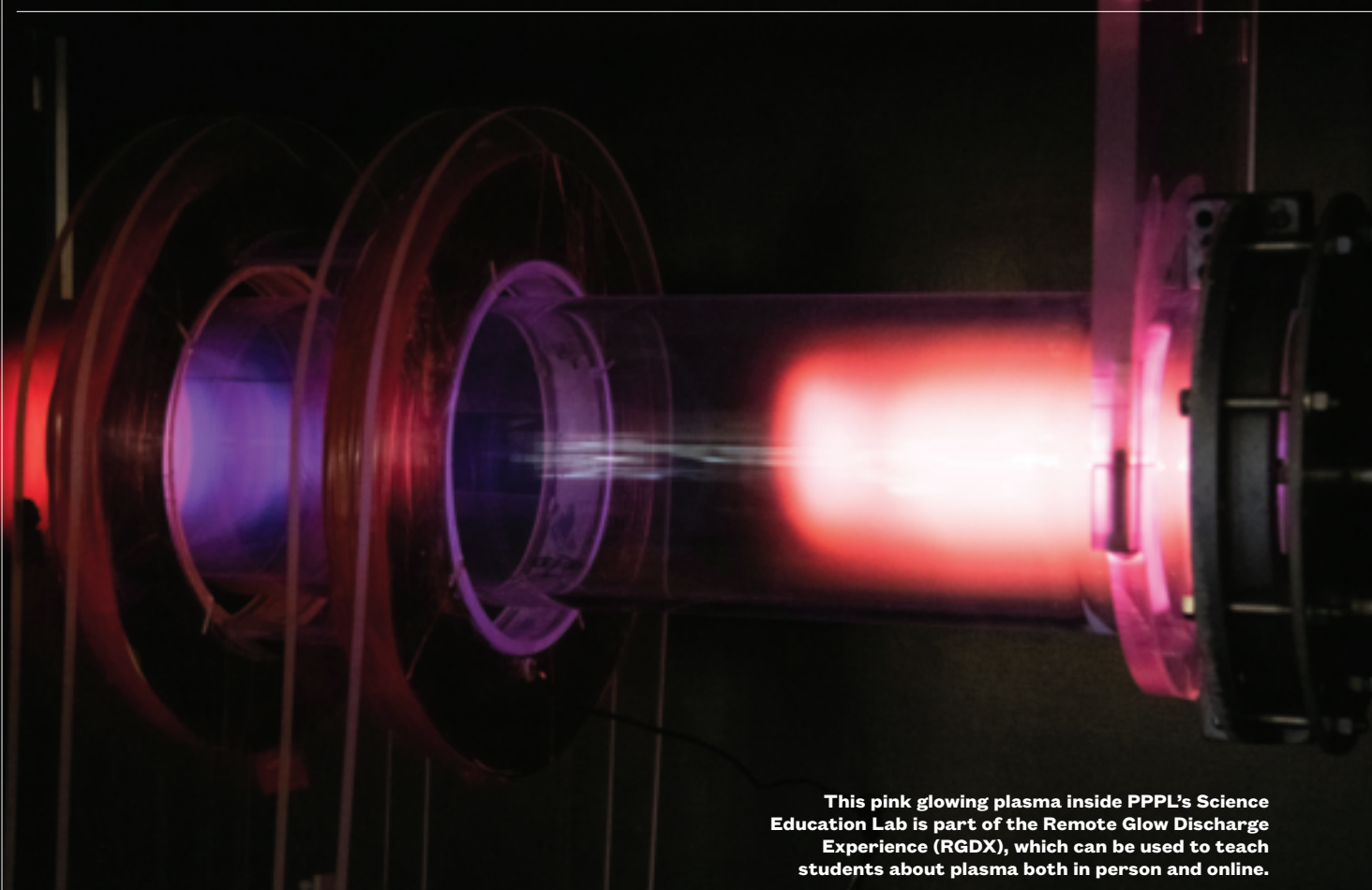
MAY 26 AT 1:30 P.M.

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andlinger center
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This pink glowing plasma inside PPPL's Science Education Lab is part of the Remote Glow Discharge Experience (RGDX), which can be used to teach students about plasma both in person and online.

NEW APPLICATIONS

Beyond Fusion

Princeton Plasma Physics Lab takes on sustainability science

In a small, dark, and unassuming physics lab, silent except for the hum of gadgetry, research physicist Yevgeny Raitses points at a metal box the size of a microwave with tubes snaking in and out of it. Raitses, who works at the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory (PPPL), explains what can happen to the methane inside the box. With the help of electrically charged gas called plasma, methane, a more potent climate-warmer than carbon dioxide, transforms into two desirable products — solid carbon and hydrogen gas, he says. This transformation is just one way scientists at PPPL plan to use their crown jewel, expertise in plasma, to combat the warming of the Earth.

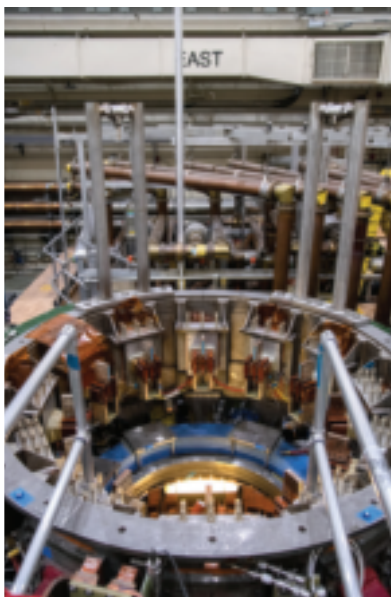
One of 17 U. S. Department of Energy national labs, PPPL sits off Route 1 a few miles from Princeton's main campus, on Stellarator Road — named for a device that uses magnetic fields to hold super hot plasma for fusion experiments. Since the lab's inception in 1961 — 10 years after fusion research began at the site — it has focused solely on that climate-saving silver bullet: producing energy via fusion, a process with no emissions or major safety concerns.

Recently, however, with a climate crisis looming ever larger and the Biden administration committing to fighting climate change, PPPL catalyzed its own change and decided to venture beyond fusion. “The Biden administration has

put its money where its mouth is on investing in new technologies to make America and the world more sustainable, and a certain fraction of them are plasma technologies,” says Steve Cowley *85, the director of PPPL and a professor of astrophysical sciences at Princeton. Through the Inflation Reduction Act, PPPL received \$25 million to put toward lab infrastructure improvements and the Princeton Plasma Innovation Center, a state-of-the-art office and laboratory building that will support different kinds of plasma-related research. Over the past four years, PPPL's staff has expanded from about 500 to 700 employees, and more growth is projected. When it was time to find a leader of PPPL's extended mission, Cowley thought of someone 3,000 miles away who had a long history at Princeton.

Emily Carter, then the executive vice chancellor and provost and distinguished professor at UCLA, had been a professor in Princeton's Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering and its

Navid Banaty



Clockwise from left: Inside research physicist Yevgeny Raiteses' lab, a view from above the magnetic bottle that holds hot fusion fuel, Emily Carter, a view from inside the magnetic bottle, and Steve Cowley *85.



Program in Applied and Computational Mathematics from 2004 to 2019, and during that time also served as the Gerhard R. Andlinger Professor in Energy and the Environment and the dean of the University's engineering school. It was at Princeton where Carter pivoted her own research toward climate mitigation efforts after reading the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2007 report, which underscored the impact humans were having on the climate. She became the founding director of the University's Andlinger Center for Energy and Environment. When asked if she would lead the sustainability effort at PPPL, Carter said yes, realizing, "we had a short time window because of climate change and the political climate, and we had to take advantage of Biden's visionary moment in an urgent way." In 2021, Carter returned to Princeton, this time as the senior strategic adviser and associate laboratory director for applied materials and sustainability

science at PPPL and the Gerhard R. Andlinger Professor in Energy and the Environment at the University.

While the plasma used for fusion is hot, reaching more than 200 million degrees Celsius, lower temperature plasmas (some even at

room temperature) hold promise for applications that can reduce greenhouse gas emissions or even battle climate change directly. "The lab is at the forefront of probing the behavior of plasmas," says Carter, "and we wanted to leverage that strength."

When it comes to emissions, many think of vehicles such as cars and airplanes, but the problem is more insidious, says Carter. "The manufacturing sector uses fossil fuels for everything — chemicals, fuels, materials — and that leads to carbon dioxide emissions." Carter is leading teams of scientists to develop different processes, called electromanufacturing, whereby rather than fossil-fuel burning, clean electricity and plasma supply the heat needed to transform substances in manufacturing, emissions-free. Cowley explains, "With plasmas, you can target exactly the chemical pathways that you want to go through in order to make something; you take fossil fuels out of the manufacturing process, and

SCAN THIS QR CODE
with your phone for more
from PAW on the PPPL, including
photos, videos, and a Q&A with
director Steve Cowley *85



replace it with much more surgically and scientifically derived processes that can use electricity.”

Carter organized a retreat last spring with PPPL staff and scientists from Princeton and Columbia, and the University of Maryland to develop electromanufacturing research proposals. Now, two of Carter’s teams are finalists in a Clean Energy Manufacturing Innovation Institute competition meant to help industries move off fossil fuels. “Our part is to lead the effort in terms of plasma-assisted processes,” says Carter.

Another of Carter’s initiatives attacks climate change directly. There’s a possibility, Carter says, that we may need to find ways to reflect the sun’s rays away from the Earth and vent the Earth’s warmth into space. “I hope we don’t have to do it,” Carter says, “but it’s a matter of national and global security. We need to understand the science involved, and if a rogue state were to try and do it, we need to understand the consequences.” Carter held another retreat for Princeton

climate scientists on this topic, and is putting together an international collaboration focused on the physics and chemistry of how particles suspended in the air, known as aerosols, interact with clouds, light, and each other. “We can extend PPPL’s strengths in understanding plasmas to aerosols and further refine climate intervention models,” says Carter. “We need to keep this in our back pocket if we hit a climate tipping point.”

Carter describes the plasma-assisted breakdown of methane as a “beautiful chemical reaction,” in contrast to the standard method of treating methane with steam, which simply exchanges one greenhouse gas for another, producing carbon dioxide and hydrogen in place of methane. Getting the plasma-catalyzed reaction just right yields carbon in a highly sought form: structures a thousand times thinner than a human hair, called carbon nanotubes. Carbon nanotubes are strong, with high thermal conductivity, and could one day replace concrete and asphalt. The hydrogen

could be used for multiple purposes in industry or as a clean fuel. “We could gather methane, and then one could envision having a small, portable plasma discharge device to turn it into carbon and hydrogen,” says Carter.

While the urgency of climate change has seeped into more of the public consciousness only recently, Cowley says it has concerned scientists for decades. Many of today’s climate solutions are the result of years of research, and we have further to go. “Part of our job is to find exceptional young people and train them with the skills needed to innovate,” he says.

“This requires lots of research and development,” echoes Carter. “Ultimately, we will have to transform all parts of our society off of fossil fuels, and other carbon dioxide and greenhouse gas-emitting processes. The scientists we are bringing together are absolutely committed and enthusiastic about working on solutions to a whole variety of problems in the sustainability space.” ♦
By Susan Reslewic Keatley '99

MECHANICAL & AEROSPACE ENGINEERING

Are Electric Vehicles the Answer?

Switching from gas-powered to electric vehicles is one of the key pieces of the U.S. push to lower carbon emissions. Currently, less than 1% of the 250 million vehicles on the road in the U.S. are electric vehicles, according to Climate Scorecard 2022 data. Yet the federal government plans to end its purchase of gas-powered vehicles by 2035.

While zero-emission vehicles are the future of the auto industry, Yiguang Ju, a Princeton professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering and director of the Program in Sustainability Energy, argues there are still a number of challenges to overcome. Ju spoke with PAW about those issues, the environmental impact of EVs, and his concerns about EV batteries.

What’s the current state of electric vehicles in the U.S.?

In terms of battery, I think that Tesla is clearly the leader in that area. They’re making batteries with high-nickel

cathode materials that have high energy density, using the materials provided by Panasonic (Tesla’s main battery manufacturer). But there are challenges. One is the price at more than \$100 per kilowatt hour, the energy density (which relates to how long the battery lasts), and fire safety. The question that researchers are trying to solve is how to better reliability and recyclability of batteries for electric vehicles.

We’ve all heard horror stories of self-driving EVs malfunctioning and having other issues. How worried should we be?

Well, I think fully automated driving is the future and technology will improve as the time keeps going, but today, I think that the technology is not there yet. For now, cars that are completely self-driving are a miss concept. I had the experience of driving with a friend in a Tesla that was self-driving and the car hit the concrete separator of the highway on a rainy day. I thought I was going to get killed. So, you can see

there are many holes. Rainy days, complicated events, and unexpected environments are very difficult for automated processes because they weren’t trained on those specifics.

What are common misconceptions you hear about EVs?

I think one thing you hear a lot is that electric vehicles are safer than gas vehicles. I think that is wrong. In combustion engines the fuel and air are separated and you never have to worry about the autoignition when you park your car at home. With electric vehicles, if you’re charging it at home it could spontaneously ignite. The other misconception is that electric vehicles definitely have lower carbon emissions than hybrid vehicles. It depends on where you are and how you produce the electricity. If you are in California that’s true, but if you’re in New Jersey where it’s cold, your mileage is dramatically down, so it may generate more carbon emissions than a hybrid vehicle. ♦ *Interview conducted and condensed by C.S.*

 [READ a longer version of this Q&A at paw.princeton.edu](https://paw.princeton.edu)

Mauzerall's Work: A Sampling



CLEARING THE AIR

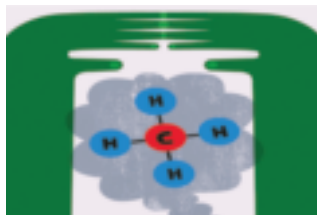
In 2019, Mauzerall and her team reported the coal stoves that many families in rural northern China were using to heat their homes were producing about 40% of the fine-particle pollution in the area. While their findings convinced the Chinese government to begin removing the stoves, “the question became, what should they be replaced with?” Mauzerall says. In a 2021 study, the researchers determined that electric air source heat pumps, which operate like air conditioners in reverse, simultaneously eliminate local air-pollutant emissions while reducing greenhouse gas emissions — but they are expensive to purchase up front. “So our recommendation was that these heat pumps should be subsidized by the Chinese government to increase their uptake, [and they] should be operated using renewably generated electricity.”

add the wells to its list of greenhouse gas emitters. This paved the way for President Joe Biden to allocate \$4.7 billion in the latest infrastructure bill to plugging the wells. Mauzerall and one of her postdocs then measured the methane leakage from offshore oil and gas rigs in the United Kingdom. Their resulting 2022 report found that the U.K., considered a very “green” country, was underestimating these methane emissions by a factor of five.



JOLT FOR THE FUTURE

As a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality, Mauzerall and her team have been studying alternative energy vehicles. “One thing that’s super clear now is that electrification — with increasingly decarbonized electricity — is critical,” she says, because decarbonized electricity, which is created through renewable sources such as sun or wind, or by nuclear power, is not only more efficient in powering vehicles than combustion engines, but also produces no air pollutants or greenhouse gases. “So we’ve been looking at possible future vehicle fleets in China and globally to try to quantify the air quality, health, and climate benefits of various transitions from internal combustion engines to electric and other alternative energy vehicles,” she says. *By A.B.*



LEAKS TO TWEAKS

Mauzerall first began measuring the methane leakage from abandoned oil and gas wells in Pennsylvania and West Virginia in 2014. Six years and five additional studies later, her findings showed significant leakage and convinced the EPA to



BEHIND THE RESEARCH: DENISE MAUZERALL

Taking on Worldwide Ecological Problems One at a Time

Denise Mauzerall wasn’t sure whether she wanted to become a scientist or a lawyer. All she knew was that she wanted to have the biggest impact on the natural world that she could.

“Since I was a kid, I’ve been committed to trying to figure out how to solve environmental problems,” says Mauzerall, a professor of environmental engineering and international affairs at Princeton.

Through her training and work experience, Mauzerall ended up combining both interests to tackle the world’s ecological challenges. While studying for her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in chemistry — from Brown and Stanford, respectively — she served as an environmental consultant for firms in Washington, D.C., then spent more than a year working at the Environmental Protection Agency before beginning a Ph.D. in atmospheric chemistry at Harvard.

Air pollution and climate communities have been really separate, but “there are things that can be done to reduce air pollutant emissions that have co-benefits for greenhouse gas mitigation,” Denise Mauzerall says.

Now at Princeton, where she’s taught for 24 years, Mauzerall is again bringing together different fields to have maximum impact. ♦

By Agatha Bordonaro ’04



H U M A N S

LIFE ON THE EDGE

*Anne McClintock's photos
show the precarity of
Louisiana communities
affected by rising seas.*



A S N A T U R E

Princetonians in the environmental humanities
add new dimensions to climate research

BY DEBORAH YAFFE

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANNE MCCLINTOCK

A

LITERARY SCHOLAR PROFILES
environmental activists murdered for their cause. A Byzantine historian collaborates with scientists to investigate how climate change affected the agricultural economy of a small settlement in Anatolia. A political philosopher draws on Plato's

Republic to imagine ways of building a sustainable future.

As Princeton's scientists and engineers deploy the tools of their specialties to engage urgently with the perils facing the planet, University scholars in an array of humanities disciplines are doing the same thing. Practitioners of an emerging multidisciplinary academic field known by the shorthand "environmental humanities," these scholars are using their training in such domains as history, philosophy, literature, religion, and the arts to explore profound questions about human involvement with the natural world.

The environmental humanities "takes really seriously the social, cultural, and imaginative dimensions of both historical and contemporary environmental phenomena and challenges," says Allison Carruth, a Princeton professor of American studies and environmental studies, whose recent work explores tensions between technological and artistic views of the human place in nature. "It presumes that those social and cultural-imagined dimensions are just as vital to understand and to work within as the scientific, technical, and political ones."

A variety of scholarly approaches fall under the rubric of environmental humanities. The term encompasses collaborations between scientists and humanists, such as Princeton's Climate Change and History Research Initiative, which brings together historians, archaeologists, and paleoecologists to study the impact of two millennia of climate change on Eastern Mediterranean and Eastern Eurasian societies. Environmental humanities may also encompass efforts by scholars in the humanities, and in humanistic branches of the social sciences, to bring the tools of their own disciplines to bear on environmental issues: Anne McClintock, a Princeton professor of gender studies and environmental humanities, uses writing and photography to document the impact of climate change from Louisiana to Iceland; teaches a course on animals in film, photography, and popular culture; and is finishing a book about the links among environmental crises, militarization, and settler colonialism. The environmental humanities may entail public-facing initiatives, such as the provocative public art projects of writer and artist Jenny Price '85, which critique existing environmental arrangements and dramatize alternatives. And by treating humanity as part of nature, rather than distinct from it, the field may open up space within the academy for a conceptual reimagining of the essence of the humanities themselves.

In all these forms, the environmental humanities are neither an intellectual afterthought nor a mere vehicle for marketing scientific findings to a mass audience, scholars say. Instead, the field has its own crucial role to play in helping people — the "humans" in humanities — understand the historical roots of today's challenges, frame the ethical dimensions of contemporary dilemmas, and imagine a just and sustainable way forward.

"If we don't embrace all the disciplines and all forms of knowledge, we don't have much hope of truly engaging these



great planetary crises," says McClintock. "The climate crisis isn't just a crisis of climate. It's also a crisis of perception, and it's a crisis of narrative, and a crisis of the imagination."

HUMANITIES SCHOLARS HAVE WRESTLED WITH environmental questions for decades, but as a distinct area of inquiry, the field of environmental humanities is a relative newcomer, dating back perhaps 15 or 20 years. That very novelty underlines how dominated the academy has traditionally been by the sharp division between nature and culture, science and humanities, that grew out of the European Enlightenment.

"We've had a shifting recognition that there is no nature-culture divide, that culture shapes nature and nature shapes culture," says Rob Nixon, a Princeton professor of English and environmental humanities, whose work examines the ways that images and stories can advance movements for social change. "But if we look at the disciplinary structures in the university system, they still reflect that divide."

Because many Indigenous and non-Western societies drew no bright line between human beings and the natural world, some scholars see the environmental humanities as a circling-back to that older, alternative way of seeing things. It's

Anne McClintock



SHIFTING CLIMATES

Drowning trees and oil infrastructure punctuate the shoreline of Bayou Pointe-au-Chien, Louisiana.

Below, T.A. Barron '74 has championed the environmental humanities at Princeton since the 1990s.

securely established, and he began working with University officials and faculty to promote the environmental humanities at Princeton.

Since then, Barron and his wife, Currie Barron, have contributed millions to endow a range of environmental humanities programs, including a visiting professorship, a permanent professorship, two first-year seminars, an undergraduate prize for environmental leadership, and a biodiversity initiative that seeks to foster interdisciplinary research. Today, more than two dozen humanities faculty members work actively with HMEI, four of them with partial appointments in the institute. This academic year, HMEI is directly sponsoring four environmental humanities courses for undergraduates and cross-listing another 12, on topics ranging from land use to film studies to French environmental politics. And each spring, dozens of undergraduates, some of them humanities majors, graduate with a certificate — soon to become a minor — in environmental studies, a program that requires participants to take at least two

environmentally-focused humanities or social-science courses.

Noncurricular offerings have expanded, as well. The Fluid Futures Forum, founded this year by McClintock, the gender-studies and environmental humanities professor, provides a place for scientists and humanists to come together in discussions of water-related challenges; the 6-year-old Environmental Humanities and Social Transformation Colloquium, co-convened by McClintock and Nixon, the English and environmental humanities professor, has invited speakers from inside and outside the University to present

a perspective that opens space for questioning the assumption — implicit in the very word “humanities” — that human beings stand at the center of experience.

“Human beings are not the only actors who make history,” University of Wisconsin-Madison environmental historian William Cronon wrote in a seminal 1993 essay. “Other creatures do too, as do large natural processes There cannot be people outside of nature; there can only be people *thinking* they are outside of nature.”

The seeds of Princeton’s engagement with the environmental humanities were planted in the early 1990s, when then-president Harold T. Shapiro ’64 began the work that eventually led to the founding in 1994 of the Princeton Environmental Institute, now known as the High Meadows Environmental Institute (HMEI). Then-trustee T.A. Barron ’74, an undergraduate history and politics major who had left a career in finance to write fiction, asked Shapiro how the humanities fit into plans to strengthen Princeton’s environmental studies program.

Shapiro told Barron that the humanities would come later, once a foundation had been laid in fields like science, engineering, and public policy — fields in which Princeton already had faculty strength in environmental studies, and for which funding was more readily available. By the first decade of the 21st century, Barron decided this foundation had been



research on everything from the European migrant crisis to biodiversity in the Korean Demilitarized Zone. And as a marker of its interdisciplinary mission, HMEI's new campus home, currently under construction on Ivy Lane and expected to open in 2025, will include an art gallery hosting rotating exhibitions. "We've actually had a specific intention to make it not a science building, but a building that felt welcoming and invited the humanities into the community," says HMEI executive director Katharine B. Hackett '79.

THE INTERDISCIPLINARY ENGAGEMENT between the humanities and the sciences has its challenges, scholars say. By collaborating with a scientist who studies fossilized pollen, John F. Haldon, a now-retired Princeton history professor who directs the Climate Change and History Research Initiative, has captured otherwise unrecoverable information about the role that climate change played in the development of a community in Anatolia, in what is now Turkey. But such collaborations require that both scientists and historians learn not to draw simplistic conclusions from each other's discoveries — "Ah — causal connection: The Roman Empire fell because of climate change, or an outbreak of plague," Haldon says. "It's never as easy as that."

Even terminology can pose unexpected problems. Ten years ago, at a meeting to launch the research initiative, a geologist was discussing a "crisis" that had occurred some 9,000 years earlier, Haldon recalls. It turned out that the geologist's crisis had lasted 600 years — an eternity for historians, whose idea of a crisis is an event lasting just a few years, or even months.

"We're all speaking specialized languages that are tools that we've developed to talk to smaller communities, and they serve those purposes," says Melissa Lane, a politics professor and director of the University Center for Human Values, whose 2011 book *Eco-Republic* used ancient Greek ideas to examine contemporary environmental problems. "But then there's always a challenge of translating."

If professional academics sometimes find interdisciplinarity difficult, however, their undergraduates are enormously receptive, say scholars in the environmental humanities: Whatever discipline they specialize in, students are hungry to engage with the environmental perils they face, especially climate change.

"They — this generation — want to work on problems. They want deep training and expertise, but they don't want to be siloed," says Carruth, the American studies and environmental humanities professor. "They want to have a toolkit that includes the methods, materials, and commitments of the humanities."

On and off campus, Princetonians are deploying those tools in multiple ways. Last spring, students in a course taught by photography professor Jeff Whetstone, the director of the Program in Visual Arts, trained a motion-activated camera on a fox den near campus, capturing and posting on Instagram vivid scenes of life and death in a beleaguered patch of wilderness. The environmental media lab that Carruth runs is exploring ways of using podcasts, animation, and augmented reality to communicate its research and experiment with environmental storytelling. And the next book by Nixon, the English and

ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES IN THE CLASSROOM

This semester, the High Meadows Environmental Institute is sponsoring or cross-listing an array of environmentally focused humanities courses. Among the offerings:

ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM

(American Studies, Latin American Studies, Environmental Studies)

Examines the racial politics of such environmental issues as food consumption and climate change, across varied historical periods and around the globe.

INSTRUCTOR: Juan M. Rubio, postdoctoral research associate in the Efron Center for the Study of America

THE LITERATURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER

(French, Comparative Literature, Environmental Studies)

Discusses classic and contemporary novels, films, plays, and essays from France, Russia, India, Nigeria, Japan, and the United States.

INSTRUCTOR: Göran M. Blix, professor of French and Italian

NUCLEAR PRINCETON: AN INDIGENOUS APPROACH TO SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

(Anthropology, American Studies, Environmental Studies)

Explores Princeton's involvement in the development of nuclear science and the impact of that work on Native lands and communities.

INSTRUCTOR: Ryo Morimoto, assistant professor of anthropology

OIL, ENERGY, AND THE MIDDLE EAST

(Near Eastern Studies, Energy Studies, Environmental Studies)

Offers an overview of the history, politics, and economics of the Middle East's oil reserves.

INSTRUCTOR: Bernard A. Haykel, professor of Near Eastern studies

VENICE, THEATER OF THE WORLD

(Music, European Cultural Studies, Environmental Studies)

Examines a thousand years of music, art, literature, and culture in a city with a unique environmental situation.

INSTRUCTOR: Jamie L. Reuland, assistant professor of music

environmental humanities professor, will profile environmental martyrs — murdered activists in countries from Costa Rica to Cambodia.

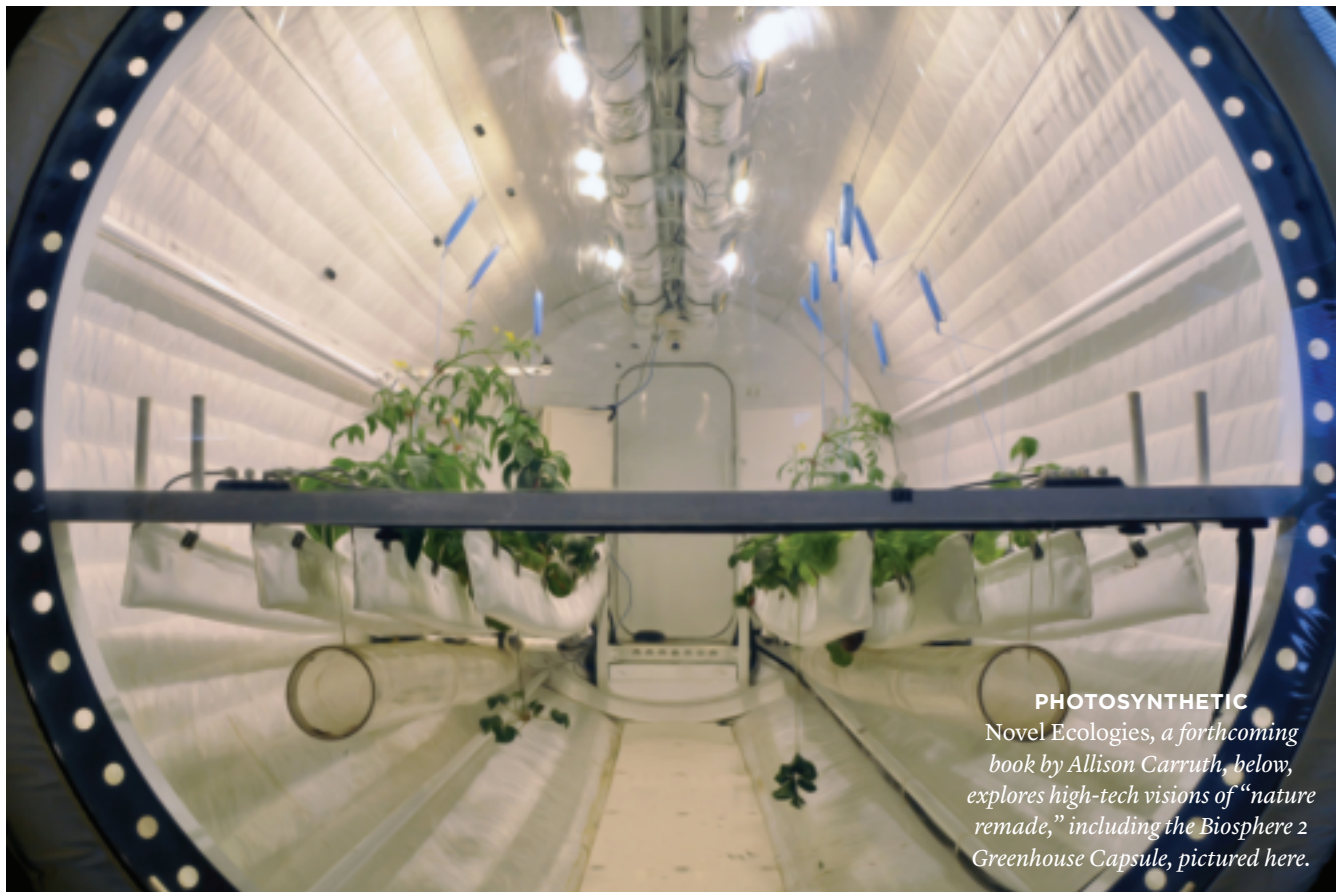
"With martyrdom, the focus is so much on the iconic death, and so what I'm focusing on is the lives and values," Nixon says. "What are the environmental values that people decided were worth dying for?"

Princeton alumni are bringing the environmental humanities into their work in the world beyond the University's walls. Price was a biology major who went on to earn a doctorate in history and is now a research fellow at Washington University's art and



WARMING SIGNS

At the mouth of Katla cave in southern Iceland, visitors can view the impact of melting glaciers.



PHOTOSYNTHETIC
Novel Ecologies, a forthcoming book by Allison Carruth, below, explores high-tech visions of “nature remade,” including the Biosphere 2 Greenhouse Capsule, pictured here.

design school; among her collaborative public art projects is a satirical website that uses federal data on Superfund sites near St. Louis to spotlight the consumption economy that spawns toxic-waste pollution. As an undergraduate engineering major, Noah Mihan '19 founded the Princeton Conservation Society, whose projects have included filming documentaries on coral bleaching in Puerto Rico and rainforest restoration in Indonesia; now Mihan works for a nonprofit founded by wildlife educators Chris and Martin Kratt that teaches children about conservation. And English major Ben Weissenbach '20 is turning his senior thesis on climate change in far northern Alaska into a narrative nonfiction book exploring the environmental consciousness of his digital-native generation.

All these projects exemplify what Barron, the author and alumni donor, sees as a key aspect of the humanities' power: their storytelling mission. “We who understand the perils facing our planet are much too quick to list the problems and dump loads of data on people, when in fact what we really need to do is tell a good story, a story that connects with them and their lives,” Barron says. “The stories we tell can envision a new relationship with nature and the world, can ask really tough questions, can also inspire people to renew their commitment and their hope and change behavior.”

Princeton scientists agree. When it comes to climate change, “the technical solutions are not that hard at this point. We know what we need to do,” says Reed Maxwell, a professor of civil and environmental engineering. “It’s really more about how do we do it? How do we bring people along? And engineers are not trained to do that.”



BUT IF THE ENVIRONMENTAL humanities have a role to play in communicating the content and gravity of scientific findings, the field is not simply a public relations department for the sciences, scholars say: Just as environmental scientists and engineers create valuable and important new forms of knowledge, so too do those working in the environmental humanities.

“It’s not just that all knowledge is scientific knowledge, and then the humanities help us understand it. Humans are the kind of creatures who can’t be studied all the way down in measurable terms,” says religion scholar Alda Bathrop-Lewis *17, a senior research fellow in the Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry at Australian Catholic University in Melbourne, who has written about Henry David Thoreau’s environmental and

Barron Bixler; courtesy Allison Carruth

political thought. “And everything that escapes measurement about us — which is a lot of things — we have to have these interpretive methods to investigate and think about and talk to one another about.”

The humanities, scholars say, can play an important role in considering questions that science does not typically ask — questions about justice and equity, about the ethics of decision-making and resource allocation, and about whose voices count in these conversations.

In his courses on climate science and policy, Michael Oppenheimer, a Princeton professor of geosciences and international affairs, asks his students to read works of history and journalism exploring tragedies — the 1986 space-shuttle explosion, the lethal 2003 Paris heat wave — that resulted from institutional failures or were magnified by societal inequities. Students don’t always “think about vulnerability, the distribution of vulnerability across society, how certain groups are more vulnerable,” Oppenheimer says. “You have to read books to be able to put yourself in somebody else’s place who’s very different than you. And that’s the value of humanities, in a way: to get students to understand people who aren’t like them and don’t live under circumstances like them, yet face immense challenges.”

In the process, the humanities can help amplify voices that have not always been heeded in global environmental discourse, including those of Indigenous people and the poor, says Carruth, the American studies and environmental humanities professor. Historically, scientific and journalistic conversations about issues such as pollution, climate change, and public health “have left a lot of knowledge and a lot of people out,” she says. “The humanities is one way in, in being more inclusive with what counts as expertise, whose experience and histories are attended to. The relationship between people and place and between nature and culture is not universal. And I think at their best, the humanities and allied social sciences do culturally and historically specific work on how folks come to understand their relationship to one another — past, present, future — and to the nonhuman world.”

Asking these basic questions about justice, fairness, and socioeconomic conditions is not just an intellectual exercise but an essential way of addressing the climate crisis, says Price, the creator of public art. “Good luck doing anything about climate change unless you understand why so many people don’t believe in it, why even the people who are scared aren’t really doing much, why are we focusing on individual solutions that aren’t going to do squat, instead of really understanding the big systemic causes of climate change,” she says. “If we leave climate change to quantitative ways of knowing, we’re screwed — just to say it bluntly — because you’re not asking questions that are absolutely essential.”

But while some environmental humanists pay close attention

to vast global issues, others argue that it makes equal sense to devote a similar level of attention to local challenges and context. On the wooded spot near campus where Whetstone’s visual arts class filmed the fox den, his students erected a two-foot-high, tombstone-like marble marker engraved with the word “WILD” — a small reminder to anyone who might one day seek to pave over that scrappy little patch of undeveloped land. Protecting the faraway Amazon rainforest is such a huge, daunting task that “I don’t even know where to start. And I think that can lead to a lot of despair,” says Whetstone, whose current photography project spotlights uncharismatic fauna such as earthworms. “But there are things we can do, and they’re close by. And I think that if we can reframe what we think nature is, maybe we can be better stewards of it.”

Ultimately, the environmental humanities also provide a space for imagining what our future on a changed planet could look like, scholars say. “As much as we can approach climate change as [an] apocalyptic end-of-the-world situation, it’s also important for us to think about, ‘Well, what would happen if we survived this thing?’” says Princeton anthropology professor Ryo Morimoto, whose research has focused on people living near the site of the 2011 nuclear accident in Fukushima, Japan. “What are the visions that we want to enable by saving the planet?”

Sometimes a vision of the future grows out of an understanding of how older societies coped with similar crises, says Haldon, the historian. “We can learn a lot from the past about what it is that enables some societies to be relatively sustainable over a long period and why others fail,” he says. “The ability of a society to respond in a sustainable or resilient way to a significant environmental challenge — only in extreme examples does it depend on the severity of the challenge. Mostly, it depends on the cohesion and the structure of the society itself.”

And sometimes that vision of the future is a matter of assessing what we value, what our purpose is, what we want our lives to mean — the kinds of questions that the humanities have been asking for thousands of years.

“The ways of life we rely upon are transitioning, changing, and are going to keep changing. Even if the way we address climate change is through political theory and action, there’s still so many really, really important questions that we’re all living with that we shouldn’t set aside,” says Balthrop-Lewis, the religion scholar. “How do we integrate the losses that we’re experiencing? What do they motivate us to build in our communities, even as they are transforming and some parts of them are passing away? Those questions are not about solving anything, really. They’re about how to live in really difficult circumstances.” ♦

DEBORAH YAFFE is a freelance writer based in Princeton Junction, New Jersey.

“Good luck doing anything about climate change unless you understand why so many people don’t believe in it, why even the people who are scared aren’t really doing much, why are we focusing on individual solutions that aren’t going to do squat, instead of really understanding the big systemic causes of climate change.”

JENNY PRICE '85
WRITER AND ARTIST



From

P R I N C E T O N

to

P O L I C Y M A K E R S

Tigers at the State Department are helping to forge
international agreements around climate change

BY **BEN WEISSENBACH '20**

WHEN THE LAST SESSION of week one ended at the 27th UN Climate Change Conference (COP27), held November in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, most diplomats retired to their rooms, keen to recharge after five long,

draining days of negotiations. But for **Sierra Woodruff '11**, a lead negotiator for the U.S. delegation, work was just beginning.

Woodruff is one of six Princeton alumni serving on the State Department's climate team, and one of four Princetonians who represented the U.S. at COP27. Alumni may not yet think of the University as a climate policy powerhouse, but it has, in recent years, become one, producing leaders working at the highest level of government on what is arguably the most pressing global issue of our time.

Now, Woodruff was focused on an especially controversial, and historically intractable, matter in climate diplomacy: Loss and damage. The possible transfer of resources from rich to poor nations to deal with climate-driven crises. In particular, she was working with foreign delegates to design the Santiago Network, an international system proposed in 2019, at COP25, to provide resources and technical assistance to developing countries. Yet after days of official talks, negotiations remained at a standstill.

"That first week, we were working really hard but were just not making quite enough progress," Woodruff recalls. "The major breakthrough came when we ran out of time."

An hour after official talks closed, Woodruff and representatives from other key stakeholder nations — including the EU, the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), and the Indo Latin American Chamber of Commerce (ILACC) — reconvened for a night of informal negotiations.

"We all sat in a circle, and conceptually took a step back, and said, 'All right, what do we want out of this?'" Woodruff says. "And without putting anything down on paper, we spent almost a day talking at that high level. I think having a more informal conversation that wasn't on the clock broke down some of the barriers. It was kind of an amazing moment."

The next evening, Woodruff and four other delegates stayed up through the night drafting an agreement. After three more days of revisions in the second week of COP27, the agreement was ratified.

"There's still work to be done [on the network]," says Woodruff. "But it was definitely a sign of progress."

OF THE FOUR PRINCETONIANS WHO represented the State Department in Egypt, the most senior was **Richard Duke '02**, who serves as deputy to Special Envoy for Climate John Kerry. The youngest was **Jonathan Moch '12**. While Woodruff was wrangling support for loss-and-damage measures, Duke and Moch were working together — using interdisciplinary skills both had developed while taking classes in the Department of Geosciences and the School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) — to negotiate carbon emissions reduction agreements with several developing countries.

"Over the years, I've worked with many Princeton alumni

from the School of Public and International Affairs," says Duke, who completed his Ph.D. in public affairs. "And it is always useful to have colleagues who have a similar toolkit to mine, including a deep understanding of applied economics and scientific literacy. That allows us to really be effective on an issue like climate change, where you have to weave those things together every day."

While Duke's core academic focus at Princeton was economic policy, Moch majored in geosciences, a course of study he chose after taking a freshman year climate science course TA'd by **Ian Lloyd '11**, another member of the State Department's climate team. Lloyd — who missed this COP due to paternity leave — grew up in the U.K. and completed his B.A. and masters in physics at Cambridge, but he was drawn to Princeton by its dual strengths in climate science and public policy.

"The link at Princeton to the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory really gives them an incredible additional resource on the climate modeling side," says Lloyd, who was admitted to several top environmental science programs, in both the U.S. and the U.K. "Plus, I could see some of the potentially infinite linkages with the School of Public and International Affairs. So I could see, even at that point, that there could be opportunities to take a more interdisciplinary approach, which was hard to find."

Like Lloyd, Moch studied in both departments to build a policy-oriented skillset. While he was a committed geosciences major, spending his summers conducting scientific research —

INTERNATIONAL STAGE

Sierra Woodruff '11, left, and Emily Seen '08 were among the Princetonians working at COP27 in November.





UP-AND-COMERS

Lindsay Wylie '22, left, and Jonathan Moch '12 are the newest Princeton additions to the State Department's climate team.

"It was pretty exciting for an undergrad to have the opportunity to work with a world-class climate modeling laboratory," he recalls — he also completed a certificate at SPIA, a de facto second major that's no longer offered. The grueling academic regimen required him to write four junior papers, one of which Lloyd helped advise.

"I was, like, grading his papers," says Lloyd, laughing. "Now we're in the same office."

"My TA for the class that got me excited about climate in the first place is now one of my colleagues," says Moch.

After completing his Ph.D. in Earth and planetary science at Harvard, Moch sought career advice from Lloyd, who by then was working for the State Department. Soon thereafter, Moch — like Lloyd — secured an AAAS (American Association for the Advancement of Science) Science and Technology Policy Fellowship to join the State Department's climate team. At COP27, Moch assisted Duke in negotiations by providing scientific and technical insight.

"Jonathan's deep scientific expertise helps our team develop strategy and set priorities for directing Secretary Kerry's time and securing diplomatic leverage," says Duke.

According to Moch, Duke didn't need much help.

"One of my other bosses said to me that Rick, in some ways, is not good practice for you, because he's so technically astute that you don't have to explain much."

The two worked together to achieve a trio of ambitious

bilateral agreements with Egypt, Mexico, and Indonesia. The Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) with Indonesia, for example — a plan to help Indonesia radically reduce its power sector emissions — is projected to save more than 330 megatons of CO₂ emissions by 2030, and well over 2 gigatons of CO₂ by 2060. By comparison, the EU emits roughly 2.7 gigatons per year.

"It's a very tiny part of the solution," says Moch. "But every tiny part counts."

SINCE JOINING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT in 2009 under the Obama administration, Duke has applied his interdisciplinary skillset to make headway on an issue that once seemed intractable. He played a critical role in crafting and marshaling diplomatic support for some of the most consequential global climate policies to date — policies that have, within roughly five years, cut projected warming this century almost in half, virtually eliminating the possibility of the most catastrophic climate outcomes.

Duke graduated from Brown in 1992, the same year Al Gore published his first book on climate change, *Earth in the Balance*. Deeply influenced by Gore's book, Duke came to Princeton in 1997 to do an MPA at SPIA, and he stuck around to complete a Ph.D. in public affairs, writing a dissertation that explored how to commercialize renewable energy technologies.

"The Princeton graduate school experience for me was a combination of practical and conceptually deep economics training with scientific literacy," says Duke. "That experience really did deliver for me a sure footing intellectually on what it takes to set policies in place that are durable, and that achieve the level of global transformation that we need to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions."

In the two decades since Duke left Princeton, he has lived through a marked change in international climate diplomacy. Early in his career, diplomats focused almost exclusively on international treaties to curb CO₂ emissions. But in recent years, Duke has played a pivotal role in pushing the U.S. to pursue more informal partnerships, often targeting less-talked-about, but more potent, greenhouse gases. The success of these efforts has established a new model of climate diplomacy.

"The formal, textual negotiations remain crucial, including as a signal of intent and of commitment," says Duke. "But what has emerged more and more, and what was very clearly in the foreground at COP27, is this complementary action agenda, where on a bilateral basis, on a plurilateral basis, in some cases on a near-consensus basis, we see countries more agilely working together to actually get the job done on climate."

Duke was the behind-the-scenes architect of one of the most significant informal agreements yet: the Global Methane Pledge, which seeks to curb emissions of a heat-trapping gas roughly 80 times more potent than CO₂ over a 20-year timescale.

"One of the things that really pops out [when reading an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, or IPCC, report] is that fully half a degree centigrade of today's net 1.2 C degrees of climate change is caused by methane that's already in the atmosphere," says Duke, whom a colleague called "the methane man."



“And in looking at those plain facts two years ago, there was a certain mismatch between that reality and the scant attention on methane in the climate conversation, globally.”

After drawing Kerry’s attention to this “mismatch,” Duke and Kerry mobilized support within the U.S. government for a methane pledge, and then began pursuing informal agreements with other nations. At COP26 in Glasgow, the U.S. launched the Global Methane Pledge, with 100 signatories agreeing to cut methane emissions by 30% by 2030. At COP27, another 50 countries signed.

“Now, of course, the work is to convert that into real reductions in methane,” says Duke. “But that was not a formal negotiated outcome — that was a nimble political declaration. So it’s really on that action agenda, in its many different forms, that you see the evolution of these COPs from a pure focus on negotiation in the early days, to a more balanced combination of negotiations and action.”

Duke has also played a pivotal role in more conventional international treaties, mobilizing support for the most significant multilateral agreement you have probably never heard of: the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol.

The Montreal Protocol was an international treaty established in 1987 to protect the ozone layer by curbing the production of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which were used in air conditioners and refrigerators. But after the treaty, manufacturers replaced CFCs with hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) — compounds that pose no threat to the ozone layer, but which are extraordinarily

CLIMATE VETERANS

Richard Duke ’02, middle, has worked closely with John Kerry, right, on climate diplomacy through the years, including during the Obama administration.

potent greenhouse gases. The Kigali Amendment proposed to gradually reduce the production of HFCs, but it gained little traction when introduced in 2016. During President Barack Obama’s second term, Kerry (then secretary of state) tasked Duke (then special assistant to the president) with marshaling domestic and international support for the amendment — and last fall, after years of effort, the U.S. Congress ratified the amendment on a broadly bipartisan basis.

“That is a critical global success story,” says Duke. “The benefit of that single agreement is as much as half a degree centigrade of avoided climate change by 2100. That’s part of why we’re not talking about four degrees centigrade anymore.”

WHILE WOODRUFF WAS WORKING ON loss and damage, and Duke and Moch were negotiating informal emissions reduction agreements, **Emily Seen ’08** — whom Woodruff referred to as “the subnational powerhouse in the office” — was working at COP27 to help local governments coordinate decarbonization strategies.

Seen studied human rights at SPIA as an undergraduate, and then spent several years working as a legislative aid and an intern in the Office of First Lady Michelle Obama ’85 before finding her calling in climate policy.

“I think that kind of Woody Woo, idealist, ‘Princeton in the nation’s service’ idea — it’s part of my ethos,” says Seen.

“It’s what I really believe in. It’s cool to work on an issue that matters so much for people, and for the future of the planet.”

Lindsay Wylie ’20 — the most recent Princeton alum to join the State Department climate team — was also drawn to climate policy by a humanitarian impulse. A New Jersey native, she grew up visiting the shore, and in the wake of Hurricane Sandy, she organized Habitat for Humanity projects on the coast.

“My initial interest in undergrad was human rights,” says Wylie, who completed her B.A. at American University before coming to Princeton for her MPA. “To be completely honest with you, I thought, ‘I really don’t know what I want to do. But [climate change] seems like a big problem.’ And that was kind of my start.”

While Wylie — who joined the State Department just last April — stayed in D.C. during COP27, Seen went to Egypt to unveil the Subnational Climate Action Leaders’ Exchange (SCALE), an initiative she designed to support American cities and states as they transition to renewable energy.

“The local level is where so much of the implementation challenge really will be solved,” explains Seen, who joined the Office of the Special Envoy for Climate after speaking with fellow SPIA alum Clare Sierawski ’11, who previously worked there. “It’s such a huge coordination challenge, even at the national level. And then when you get down to the subnational level, we have thousands upon thousands of cities that also should have a concrete plan to keep 1.5 C degrees [of warming] within reach.”

Seen created SCALE to raise local climate ambitions, facilitate the diffusion of best practices knowledge, and provide resources

to governments as they begin to decarbonize. The program’s formal announcement in Sharm El Sheikh featured American leaders of state and local government, including Gov. Jay Inslee of Washington and Steve Adler ’78, former mayor of Austin, Texas, where Seen grew up. (“It all came full circle!” exclaims Seen.)

Aside from her subnational agenda, Seen works with “the NDC Partnership,” a global coalition that helps developing countries create and implement plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the negative effects of climate change. (These plans are referred to as “nationally determined contributions,” or NDCs, by the Paris Agreement, which became effective at COP21.) Domestic victories — in particular, the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), which the International Energy Agency has called the most significant climate action under the Paris Agreement to date — have made this job easier.

“On the international side, our job is to try to get other countries to do more,” says Seen. “But there’s wind in your sails when your own country is doing something. Prior to [the IRA], we had announced our NDC, but we didn’t know if we would actually have a credible way to meet it. This legislation brings us within striking distance of meeting our NDC, and subnational action is going to be an important part of actually getting us over the line.”

IN CONVERSATION, THE PRINCETON CONTINGENT in the State Department’s climate team expressed determination, exhaustion, and cautious optimism.

“When we look at the last 20 years of climate diplomacy, I think it’s important to start with the good news,” says Duke. “The conversation has shifted in a fundamental sense, from a 4 degrees centigrade, untenable scenario, to 2.5 degrees, down to truly keeping 1.5 C degrees within reach. I think it’s important to bear that context in mind, in a conversation that is often dominated by pessimism and a sense of endless talk, not enough action. We’ve actually seen a lot of progress.”

And Duke sees opportunities for more progress in the near future.

“We see huge opportunities to address tropical deforestation given that you now have President Lula in Brazil and President Petro in Colombia with renewed and serious commitment to that agenda,” he explains. “And stopping tropical deforestation is one of the four main items that we have to knock off our to-do list in order to keep 1.5 C degrees within reach.”

Woodruff is less sanguine.

“I think there’s been a huge amount of progress,” she says. “But I also think that societally, we don’t put enough effort and money into prevention. And I think that is very sad — that we as a country, as a society, can’t focus our efforts to put more

money into adaptation and disaster-risk reduction.”

For Lloyd, having a child three years ago upped the stakes.

“People talk about the need to reach net-zero emissions goals by 2050,” says Lloyd. “I always felt that was a long way away. But having a kid made me realize, ‘OK, well, in 2050,

my [oldest] kid is going to be in their early 30s, which is younger than I am.’ That, for me, clarified the urgency of the problem.”

But for Moch, the main storyline is the recent breakthroughs in technology and policy, which have breathed new life into the Paris Climate Accords.

“The U.S. had a lot of good news to share,” he says. “The Inflation Reduction Act was something that we were able to point to and say, ‘Listen, the U.S. is starting to walk the walk.’”

Moch still remembers learning about terrifying “business as usual” scenarios in his first Princeton climate course just 14 years ago — scenarios that likely would have led to 4 or 5 degrees C of warming.

“Those projections have come down,” says Moch. “At the same time, we’re learning that things are worse at even lower levels of warming, and we’re seeing the impacts now. We still need to bend the curve a lot, a lot more. But there’s a question I like to ask my friends who also work in climate, which is: Do you think you are more or less optimistic than your friends who don’t work on climate issues? And I think I am more optimistic.” ♦

“ON THE INTERNATIONAL SIDE,
OUR JOB IS TO TRY TO GET OTHER
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THERE’S WIND IN YOUR SAILS
WHEN YOUR OWN COUNTRY IS
DOING SOMETHING.”

— EMILY SEEN ’08

BEN WEISSENBACH ’20 is an environmental writer and was recently named a 2023 Gates Cambridge scholar.



Growing Green

Influenced by their
time at Princeton,
these eight alumni are
working to address
climate change

BY JIMIN KANG '21 AND
BEN WEISSENBACH '20

ILLUSTRATIONS BY
KATHRYN RATHKE

Denise Applewhite/Princeton University

A Journalist Aims to Cover the Environment in ‘the Most Powerful and Evocative Way’

When Juliet Eilperin '92 was in fourth grade, the mishandling of the Iran hostage crisis that began in 1979 led the born-and-bred Washingtonian to stage an election at school. The candidates for secretary of state? Her cat, Jake, who was pitted against her friend Natasha's dog.

"I grew up focused on questions of how people in power were making decisions that were affecting people's lives," she explains, "and had lots of opinions."

These days, Eilperin continues asking these questions

"WHAT AMAZES ME IS HOW A SIMPLE PAD OF PAPER AND A PEN GIVE ME ACCESS TO ALL SORTS OF EXTRAORDINARY STORIES AND PLACES AND PEOPLE."

as the deputy climate and environment editor at *The Washington Post*, where she has spent 25 years covering national affairs, the White House, and the

environment. On the recently expanded climate desk, she works alongside Zachary Goldfarb '05 and Shannon Osaka '17 — "We joke about this," she says, referencing the Princeton connection — to insightfully report on the warming globe. One such story took her to Alaska's Tongass National Forest in 2021, where she spoke with fishermen, Indigenous activists, and sawmillers about the fate of a single 500-year-old Sitka spruce.

"What amazes me is how a simple pad of paper and a pen give me access to all sorts of extraordinary stories and places and people," she says. "By truly engaging with those people, you can reveal something that's meaningful and that accurately reflects the reality of our world."

Though Eilperin's journalism career began during her time editing *The Daily Princetonian*, her foray into climate issues began when she returned to Princeton as a Ferris



JULIET EILPERIN '92
DEPUTY CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT EDITOR,
THE WASHINGTON POST

journalism professor in 2005, during which she was writing a book on Congress titled *Fight Club Politics* (2006). Her nascent environmental interest led her to write on sharks and their conservation for her second book, *Demon Fish* (2011), for which she spoke to "everyone from shark callers in Papua New Guinea to fishermen in Mexico to shark fin traders in Hong Kong."

Eilperin says she believes when climate change becomes a proxy for political disagreement — the intersection of her coverage areas — that it is important for journalists to write about the reality of the environment "in the most powerful and evocative way possible and allow our readers to decide what to think about it."

"While it is an important duty of journalists to write about everything that is going wrong in the world," she adds, "there are times that you should also shed light on things that can provide people with some degree of hope." **J.K.**

A Storyteller Tries to Inspire Action and Sacrifice

Between knowing and believing lies a world of difference. The vast majority of Americans know that climate change is a problem; bestselling author Jonathan Safran Foer '99 writes stories to help them believe it.

“The challenge is no longer to simply inform, or even persuade, on the level of science and reason,” says Safran Foer. “The challenge is to inspire action, and oftentimes to inspire some amount of sacrifice.”

Safran Foer is best known as a writer of fiction. His 2002 novel *Everything Is Illuminated* — which began as his Princeton creative writing thesis — was adapted into a movie starring

Elijah Wood, and his 2005 novel *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close* became a film starring Sandra Bullock and Tom Hanks. But over the past 15 years, Safran Foer has written two nonfiction books that explore the environmental implications of eating meat.

“Any honest exploration of climate change is going to have to address food,” says Safran Foer. “Changing what we eat will not itself save the planet. But it will be impossible to meet the goals of the Paris Climate Accords if we don’t quite dramatically change what we eat.”

His 2009 book *Eating Animals* — which he says he wrote, in part, to decide whether to raise his son vegetarian (he ultimately did) — explores the role of storytelling in determining and justifying what we eat.

His second nonfiction book, *We Are the Weather: Saving the Planet Begins at Breakfast* (2019), focuses more squarely on the environmental implications of food.

“Diet is almost certainly the most important change you can make as an individual vis-à-vis the climate,” says Safran Foer. “What to eat is a choice that we make multiple times every day. And for most readers of this interview, it’s a largely unconstrained choice.”

But while Safran Foer believes that the moral case for vegetarianism is clear, he also writes about the challenges involved in changing behavior.

“I wanted to write a book about climate change, about my own experience of feeling lost inside of the problem,” he says of *We Are the Weather*. “Of caring and not knowing how to care, or knowing how to care and not knowing how to follow through.”

Safran Foer — who credits a conversation with novelist and then-Princeton professor Joyce Carol Oates with jumpstarting his writing career — says he believes that literature holds the power to inspire action on the climate crisis.

“What we’re now facing requires a leap of compassion, of empathy,” says Safran Foer. “We have to find a way to care about future generations, and the of millions of people who are already personally affected. And that is where I think storytelling can play a really important role.” **B.W.**

“DIET IS ALMOST CERTAINLY THE MOST IMPORTANT CHANGE YOU CAN MAKE AS AN INDIVIDUAL VIS À VIS THE CLIMATE.”



JONATHAN
SAFRAN FOER '99
AUTHOR

A Diplomat Fights to Keep Her Island Country Above Water

By the time Tina Stege '97 arrived at Princeton, she had spent half a decade living away from home. Born in Saipan, the largest of the Northern Mariana Islands, Stege moved to the Marshall Islands, which she has represented as the inaugural climate envoy since 2018.

"It was a really big deal to come from a place like the Marshall Islands and end up going to a place like Princeton," says Stege, who attended high school in Honolulu. For years she lived out of two suitcases, her heart and mind, if not her body, traveling back and forth over the Pacific Ocean as she adjusted to life on the East Coast.

"FOR MYSELF, MY CHILDREN, MY FAMILY IN THE MARSHALLS, MY VISION IS THAT WE'RE EMPOWERED AND CAN MAKE CHOICES — THAT WE'RE EMPOWERED TO BUILD BETTER FUTURES."

Ever since, she has spent time working with her country's Foreign Affairs Ministry across New York, Washington, D.C., and the Marshall Islands, where her family still lives, and where the ocean bubbles up through the floors of her brother's house when the tide is high.

Home to 60,000 people, the low-lying Marshall Islands sit on the fraught front lines of climate risk: If sea levels rise by a meter, which the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns may be the case by the end of the century, close to 40% of the islands' capital city will end up underwater.

But the existential risk is more immediate, Stege explains. When flooding occurs, vegetation dies and rots. Well water becomes brackish, so people can no longer use it for cooking.

Majoring in public policy, Stege would write her senior thesis on the legacy of nuclear testing on the Marshall Islands. "All these choices and experiences pointed me to the fact that I really needed to go home," she says.



TINA STEGE '97
CLIMATE ENVOY, MARSHALL ISLANDS

To prevent these catastrophes, Stege was one of several Marshallese representatives who, during the 2021 COP26 negotiations in Glasgow, pushed developed nations to double their financial contributions towards climate adaptation in developing nations — and succeeded.

"It was a little bit like being home because I was with other Marshallese and we were all working together," she says, describing Marshallese culture as "super relational." "It's so focused on other people and your connection to them. ... I carry that with me."

Stege, speaking from her home in New York, wore a pink *wut*, or flower, tucked behind her right ear — a home custom that "makes life brighter and more beautiful," she explains. It keeps her tethered to the Marshall Islands even when she is far away. "For myself, my children, my family in the Marshalls," she shares, "my vision is that we're empowered and can make choices — that we're empowered to build better futures." **J.K.**

An Advocate Works for Indigenous Communities Who Are the ‘Direct Measure of Climate Change’

A -dae Romero-Briones '03 recalls being “blown away” when a Princeton tour guide venerated how old the campus buildings were.

“In my own community, we have places that are much older than that and they’re destroyed for water, for lakes, to build dams and pipelines,” says Romero-Briones, whose family heritage lies with the Cochiti and Kiowa people. “I couldn’t figure out why Princeton as a community could use arguments about how important something was because of its age, but these couldn’t be applied to Indigenous communities and Indigenous places.”

Romero-Briones was born and raised by her grandparents in Cochiti Pueblo, an Indian reservation in New Mexico where the Cochiti have considered themselves “part of that landscape since time immemorial.” These days she lives in California, where she runs an agricultural

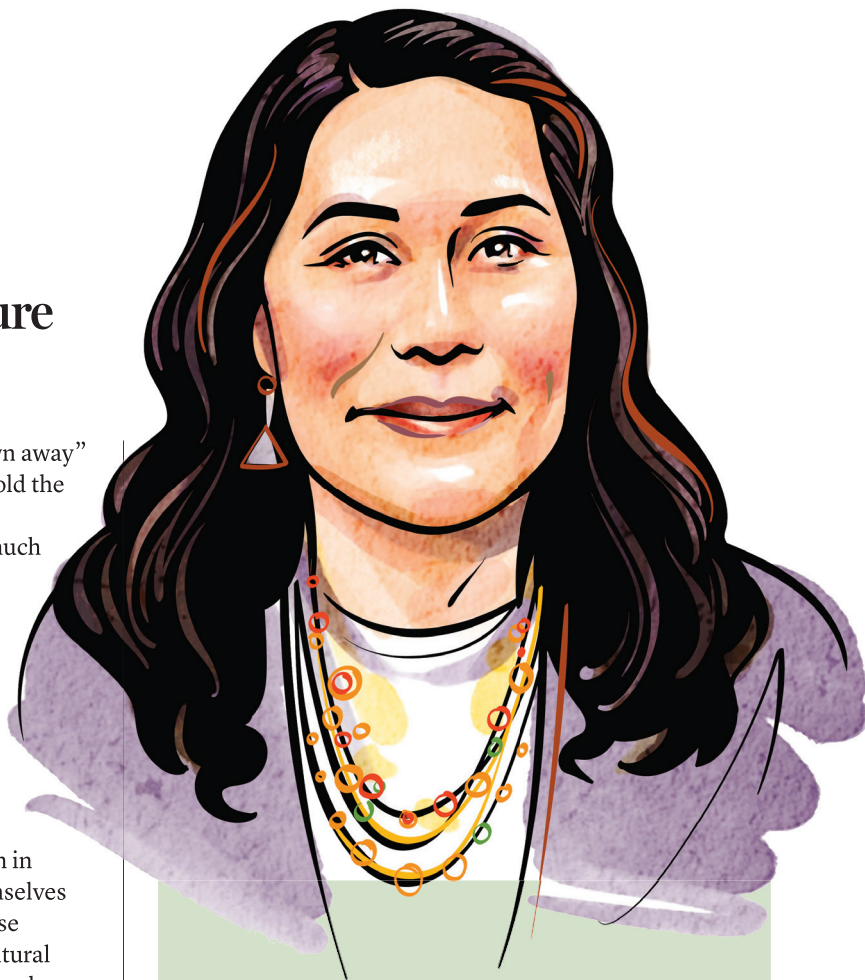
“WE COME AFTER WATER, WE COME AFTER LAND, WE COME AFTER THE ANIMALS, WE COME AFTER PLANTS ... AND WE AS THE YOUNGEST RELATIONS ON THIS PLANET HAVE A DUTY TO LEARN FROM EVERYBODY OLDER THAN US.”

program through the First Nations Development Institute and helps Indigenous communities acquire capital for land stewardship projects through the Manzanita Capital Collective.

She does this work in the belief that “Indigenous people are the direct measure and the visualization

of climate change,” she says. The creation of dams for industrial agriculture altered natural waterways in Indigenous territories, and the clearing of “entire swaths of forests” led to the removal of carbon sequestering trees — harming the health of Indigenous populations in addition to the Earth.

Romero-Briones’ principal focal point has been food, which she considers “the center of how Indigenous people express community and connections with each other and the land.” After getting her Princeton degree in public policy, Romero-Briones



A-DAE ROMERO-BRIONES '03
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS,
FIRST NATIONS DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

pursued a food and agricultural law degree at the University of Arkansas, where she explored the Food Safety Modernization Act and how it curtailed the freedom of native food practices.

By supporting Indigenous projects in traditional modes of growing food, including the cultivation of wild rice and traditional corn varieties, Romero-Briones seeks to promote healthful food practices that are less burdensome on the planet’s resources and improve the health of Native people.

“We come after water, we come after land, we come after the animals, we come after plants ... and we as the youngest relations on this planet have a duty to learn from everybody older than us,” Romero-Briones says. “I’m just one person in a long line of Indigenous people who have continued to fight for our story and our view of the world, because it not only protects Indigenous people, it protects everybody when we have a healthy world.” **J.K.**

An Environmental Leader Takes the Sierra Club in a New Direction

What comes to mind when you think of the Sierra Club? Probably Yellowstone, Yosemite, the Grand Canyon. Middle- and upper-class white folks rallying to preserve pristine rivers, forests, and mountains. But in recent years, and especially under the leadership of Ramón Cruz '02, the Sierra Club — today the largest grassroots environmental organization in the United States — has shifted its main focus from wilderness conservation to global climate change.

“Climate change is at the core of everything we do,” says Cruz, the organization’s 51st president. “The climate crisis is not only about preserving biodiversity and landscapes. It’s also about ensuring that future generations can have a good

standard of living, and that their future and their natural environment is not being jeopardized.”

The first Latino president in the Sierra Club’s 130-year history, Cruz — who hails from Puerto Rico — has broadened the organization’s mission to include issues that have not historically been associated with the environmental movement: reproductive rights, voting rights, and anti-racism.

“The same people whose votes are being suppressed are the same people who are most affected by the climate crisis, and who have suffered a history of pollution,” said Cruz. “We can no longer think of these issues in silos.”

Under Cruz’s leadership, the Sierra Club has taken pains to publicly reckon with its own past. In 2020, the organization

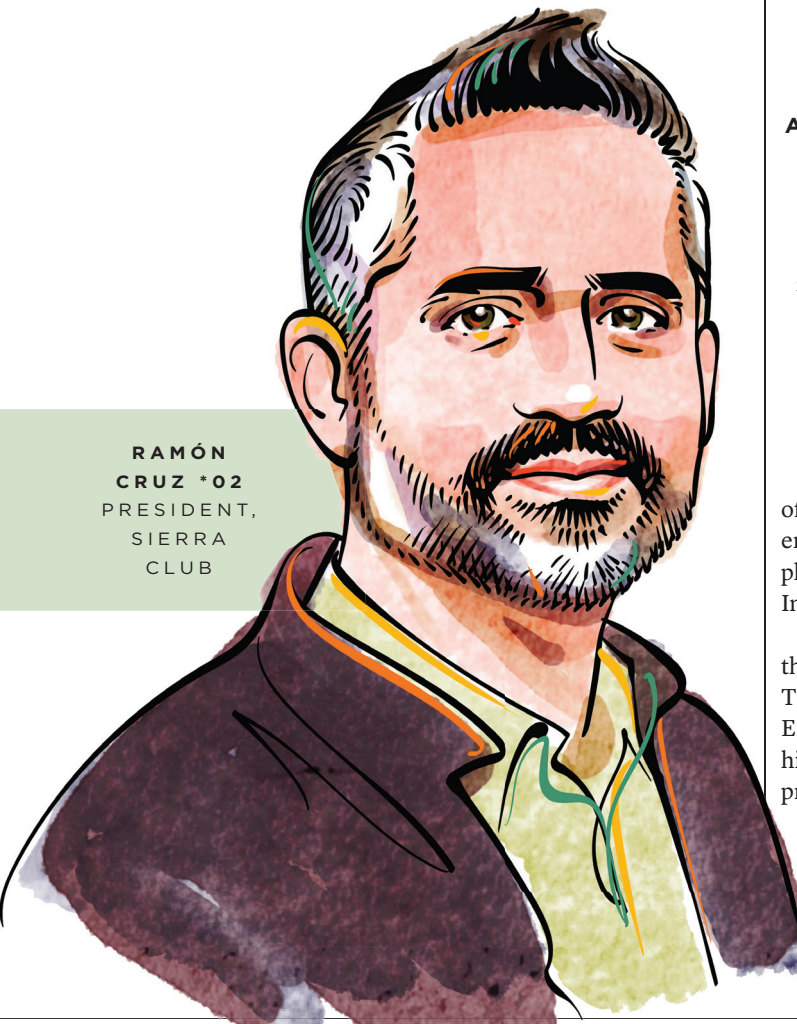
“THE SAME PEOPLE WHOSE VOTES ARE BEING SUPPRESSED ARE THE SAME PEOPLE WHO ARE MOST AFFECTED BY THE CLIMATE CRISIS, AND WHO HAVE SUFFERED A HISTORY OF POLLUTION. WE CAN NO LONGER THINK OF THESE ISSUES IN SILOS.”

publicly denounced founder John Muir’s association with white supremacists and eugenicists, including club members Joseph LeConte and David Starr Jordan. Cruz has also criticized the organization’s early advocacy for the creation of national parks on lands populated by Native Americans.

“In the past, the Sierra Club was not necessarily conscious of the size and relative power we had when parachuting into environmental issues,” says Cruz. “Some of those pristine places that were preserved used to be very well managed by Indigenous people.”

Before joining the Sierra Club, Cruz worked for the Environmental Defense Fund, the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy, and the Environmental Quality Board of Puerto Rico. He attributes his career path in part to graduating from Princeton’s MPA program debt-free.

“The school’s focus on public service, along with spending zero on my graduate education, allowed me to pursue a career in environmental policy,” says Cruz, who received a Public Policy and International Affairs fellowship to attend Princeton. “I didn’t have the hefty student debt that other people may have — and that, for me, was crucial.” **B.W.**



RAMÓN CRUZ '02
PRESIDENT,
SIERRA CLUB

An Environmental Economist Tries to ‘Improve Our Understanding of the World’

Before becoming one of the most prominent thinkers in the field of environmental economics, Michael Greenstone '98 dreamed of playing in the NBA.

“That was my first choice by far,” he jokes. “I just wasn’t good enough.”

But one diverted path led to plenty of others. Now an economics professor at the University of Chicago, Greenstone — who received his Ph.D. from Princeton after studying economics at Swarthmore College — has advised President Barack Obama’s Council of Economic Advisers, where he introduced the concept of applying a dollar value to harms caused by carbon emissions; co-founded Climate Vault, a nonprofit platform that purchases and “vaults” carbon dioxide emissions permits so that the corresponding CO₂ cannot be emitted into the atmosphere; and co-directs the Climate Impact Lab, which quantifies the impacts of climate change around the world.

“The planet doesn’t care very much if you compost your coffee grounds, but it does care a lot about tons of CO₂,” says Greenstone of the empirical basis of his initiatives. In pursuing them, Greenstone seeks to combine his academic father’s “search for understanding the world” with his mother’s inclination as a social worker to “to make the world a better place,” he explains.

Greenstone arrived in Princeton to study labor economics under the tutelage of Orley Ashenfelter and David Card '83. But while searching for a compelling avenue for research, he “accidentally got interested” in environmental questions that no one was answering, such as how the Clean Air Act affected air quality in America, the eventual subject of Greenstone’s thesis.

Beyond the United States, Greenstone has conducted



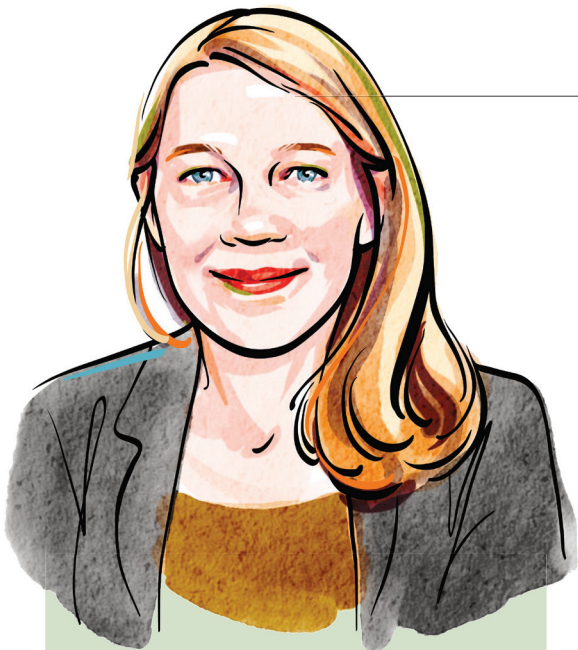
MICHAEL GREENSTONE '98

ECONOMICS PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

research in India and China, where he investigates the intersections of economics, pollution, and public health. After a decade of assisting the government of Gujarat, a state in western India, to design a cap-and-trade program that would reduce air pollution and industrial costs, his team is now receiving inquiries from other Indian states to create similar systems.

“I do think a conceit of rich countries is that climate is the only thing that matters and it’s just not true, you know, around the world,” he says, putting forward his belief in three climate goals: ensuring access to inexpensive and reliable energy, maximizing local environmental quality, and avoiding disruptive climate change.

“One thing I work hard on is to write papers that improve our understanding of the world,” he says, “and then I try to make sure that those ideas get inserted into the bloodstream.” **J.K.**



RACHEL BAKER '18

EPIDEMIOLOGIST AND ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, BROWN UNIVERSITY

An Epidemiologist Readies for Climate Change’s Impact on Infectious Diseases

The World Health Organization has called climate change the “single biggest health threat facing humanity” — and a significant part of this threat is the spread of infectious diseases. But according to Rachel Baker '18, an epidemiologist and assistant professor at Brown University, the effect of climate on disease transmission remains a scientific lacuna.

“For many infectious diseases, we see some sort of climate signature in the timing and geographic patterns of outbreaks,” says Baker, whose work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, and *Scientific American*. “But this is a nascent field, and there’s a lot more work to be done in terms of projecting what those future patterns of outbreaks might be and how quickly we might see those shifts occur.”

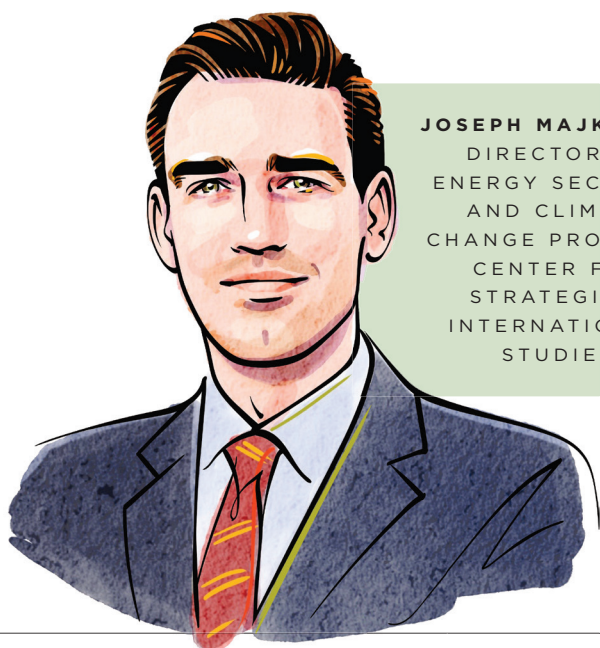
To date, most research in this area has focused on vector-borne diseases — those spread by mosquitos, ticks, and other organisms. (While

A Strategist Seeks Economic Growth Through Sustainability

“How do we have a productive economy that will satisfy global needs for economic growth without greenhouse gas emissions?”

It's the trillion-dollar question, and it guides Joseph Majkut '14's work as director of the Energy Security and Climate Change Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). The question breaks down into innumerable smaller ones.

“What's the right stance for the U.S. to take on climate finance? How do we effectively export the success of the Inflation Reduction Act? How do we make sure that we're pursuing global solutions?”



JOSEPH MAJKUT '14
DIRECTOR OF
ENERGY SECURITY
AND CLIMATE
CHANGE PROGRAM,
CENTER FOR
STRATEGIC &
INTERNATIONAL
STUDIES

the dynamics involved are complex, available information indicates that such illnesses will become more prevalent in a warmer world.) Relatively little is known about how climate affects respiratory diseases — and it is on this issue that Baker has set her sights.

“We're trying to understand the extent to which environmental and climate factors determine seasonal patterns of respiratory disease outbreaks,” says Baker. “Why is the flu season in the winter? Why do we see outbreaks of enteroviruses in the summer? Then we're trying to use that understanding in combination with climate change projection data to figure out how climate change might shift those patterns.”

Baker began exploring these questions at Princeton, where she completed her Ph.D. at the School of Public and International Affairs, and then worked as a postdoctoral researcher for the Princeton Climate Change and Infectious Disease Initiative — an interdisciplinary research team led by biologist and demographer C. Jessica Metcalf, geoscientist Gabriel Vecchi, and biologist Bryan Grenfell.

Majkut seeks to understand the scientific, economic, and geopolitical dimensions of the renewable energy transition, and to provide insights that policymakers can act on. For example, after Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, threatening European energy security and causing a spike in gas prices, Majkut and his team at CSIS published a list of seven policy proposals to respond to the energy crisis. Most of these proposals — which generally advocated for time-limited increases in natural gas production paired with policies to increase clean energy development — were soon adopted.

“There was concern that if the U.S. built gas infrastructure and sent a lot of gas to Europe, that it wouldn't square with the long-term climate goals that both Europe and the world hold,” says Majkut. “We argued that the U.S. had a really vital role to play in guaranteeing energy security, but that this didn't need to come at the sacrifice of climate outcomes.”

Majkut developed his interdisciplinary toolkit at Princeton, where he completed a Ph.D. in atmospheric and oceanic sciences, taking additional courses at the High Meadows Environmental Institute and the School of Public and International Affairs.

“Princeton provided a really great foundation in understanding the science of climate change, allowing me to think through how that science applied to the decisions that society faces when trying to respond to climate risks,” he says.

Since graduating, Majkut has served as a congressional science fellow for Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., testified before Congress, and directed climate policy at the Niskanen Center. Now, in the wake of the Inflation Reduction Act — a landmark 2022 bill that offered subsidies and spending programs to jumpstart America's transition to low-carbon energy — Majkut is largely focused on realizing the act's potential.

“Building a low-carbon energy system is a big infrastructure problem,” he says. “If we can't build stuff fast enough, we're not going to be able to decarbonize as quickly as we otherwise could. And that, I think, is the next public policy challenge for the United States.” **B.W.**

“We need interdisciplinary teams to work together on this problem,” says Baker. “This is why the Princeton Climate Change and Infectious Disease Initiative was so foundational for me and such a great experience. Finding those sorts of teams that actually work together is rare.”

Baker's research thus far suggests that climate change may drive tropical outbreak patterns north and south of the equator, resulting in year-round transmission with milder spikes. But she stresses that this area requires further research.

“We're not going to be prepared for something that we don't know about,” says Baker. “And that's what I'm worried about with climate change and infectious diseases. There are a lot of parts out there that we just don't know.” **B.W.** ♦

JIMIN KANG '21 is a freelance writer and Sachs scholar pursuing a master's in Nature, Society & Environmental Governance at the University of Oxford. BEN WEISSENBACH '20 is an environmental writer and was recently named a 2023 Gates Cambridge scholar.





The D Word

How a broad coalition of students and alumni
have built Divest Princeton into a
sustainable and influential climate activist group

BY AGATHA BORDONARO '04
PHOTOGRAPH BY DYLAN SHAPIRO '23

In 2018, Anna Liebowitz '09 got a phone call from an Annual Giving representative that ended up inspiring a movement.

Liebowitz, who had studied molecular biology at Princeton and was earning her master's degree in environmental science and policy at Columbia at the time, was increasingly alarmed by climate change. She had been looking for ways she could have an impact. On that call, she made a decision: She told the rep she didn't feel comfortable donating because Princeton's endowment included investments in fossil-fuel companies.

"He sounded like he was smiling," Liebowitz says, noting she had asked him to relay her message to his supervisor. "He was like, 'Great, will do.' And that was the end of that."

But that was hardly the end. In the fall of 2019, after polling peers on Facebook and through email, Liebowitz penned an open letter to Princeton pledging to withhold donations until the University divested from the fossil-fuel industry.

That letter led to the formation of Divest Princeton, a unusual coalition of students, alumni, faculty, staff, and other community members who have forged deep friendships while advocating for the University's full divestment and dissociation — an end to all partnerships, including research sponsorships and on-campus recruiting — from fossil-fuel companies. Divest Princeton also calls for the reinvestment of these funds into sustainable businesses. Now posted on the Divest Princeton website, the letter includes more than 3,100 signatures and commitments to pause donations to the University's \$35.8 billion endowment.

"To me, I think the question was, 'What is the closest lever that I can pull on?'" says Liebowitz, who now serves as an analyst on the Task Force on Environmental Sustainability and Resiliency in the New York City Mayor's Office of Management and Budget. "Princeton and its enormous endowment seemed like a really powerful lever, and one that might care what I think a little bit, especially if I could get a lot of people to also join in. Divestment is certainly not the only approach, but it's one approach that might give normal people more influence than [trying to get involved in] building transmission lines or big policy decisions. Divestment feels like a way to bring down to scale the enormity of the problem."

Nearly three years after it was formed, members of Divest Princeton celebrated in September when the University announced it was divesting from fossil-fuel companies and cutting ties with 90 entities active in the thermal coal and tar sands industries. Since then, Liebowitz and her partners have

"Divestment is certainly not the only approach, but it's one approach that might give normal people more influence than [trying to get involved in] building transmission lines or big policy decisions. Divestment feels like a way to bring down to scale the enormity of the problem."

— ANNA LIEBOWITZ '09

been calling for the University to divest from private fossil-fuel holdings and end BP's longtime research sponsorship of Princeton's Carbon Mitigation Initiative (CMI).

"There's still a lot more to go," says former co-coordinator Aaron Serianni '25.

'THIS IDEA HAD WEIGHT'

In the fall of 2019, after drafting the open letter, Liebowitz enlisted the help of Aitalohi (Aita) Amaize '07, a former psychology major who was earning her Ph.D. in health services administration from the University of Maryland, to distribute it. The timing couldn't have been better. Climate activism was on the rise. That September, more than 600 Princeton students, faculty, and community members joined others around the world for a series of climate strikes to demand action. A few days later, Greta Thunberg famously berated world leaders at the United Nations for "failing" younger generations. Liebowitz's letter began to circulate quickly, with hundreds of alumni signing on.

In October, Liebowitz and Amaize worked with Tom Taylor '21, who was earning his master's degree in public affairs at Princeton and was involved in the University's environmental activism scene, to get current students and community members involved.

"That's when we started getting lots more signatures from people on campus," Liebowitz says. "A campus student group got rolling, also. And we were all called Divest Princeton."

"I think the challenge has always been that there are many good petitions, but you need weight behind the petition for it to mean something," says Taylor, who now researches climate solutions for Atlas Public Policy in Washington, D.C. "This idea had weight, so it was very exciting. That became our first organizing center point."

The Divest Princeton group boasted another feature that set it up for long-term success: It was innately multigenerational. Thanks to the open letter, alumni were involved from the very beginning, meaning the group wouldn't suffer from a loss of drive or enthusiasm once students graduated. And while the unofficial headquarters for the group migrated to campus, spearheaded by student co-coordinators, alumni continue to play a key role in keeping the group going.

"It's allowed the movement to have some continuity," says Lynne Archibald '87, who first heard about Divest Princeton

through her daughter, Marta Cabral '16, when Archibald was in the process of taking over her parents' finances and considering divestment from fossil fuels on their behalf. Archibald now applies her years of experience with nonprofit management to run Divest Princeton's social media strategy.

"There's always someone

taking over: Someone's checking the email box, someone's checking the direct messages," she says.

Princeton had seen other campus groups, such as the Princeton Sustainable Investment Initiative, petition for divestment starting in 2013. But those groups faded away as students moved on.

"Alumni never leave," says Taylor. "What we've done a really good job of doing is just being there and staying there. And I honestly think that's what fueled the [University's] decision to release this divestment announcement."

Additionally, the influx of new student leaders each year — typically two first-year students — gives the group vigor, fresh ideas, and longevity, says Serianni, who until recently was a co-coordinator.

"As activists we always need to adapt and make sure that our campaign is the most effective," he says. "Being both a student and student activist is a lot of work. Balancing the two is challenging, so it's good to take a step back sometimes and be able to rebalance."

Divest Princeton member John Huyler '67 credits the group's generational diversity with providing much-needed access to a breadth of skills and experience. There's always someone "to pick up the baton and contribute" or provide the answer needed to push forward, he says.

Huyler got involved with Divest Princeton after tuning in to the group's first virtual discussion, held during Reunions 2020. "I just was blown away by their passion, their smarts, their commitment, their creativity, their articulateness, the extent to which they were organized," he says.

As an avid outdoorsman living in Colorado, he began to think about his daughter — and about the children she might have. "And it struck me like a lightning bolt that, particularly because of my age, having been out of Princeton for over 50 years, I could have leverage," he says.

Huyler reviewed Divest Princeton's open letter and noted there were "precious few" signatures from older classes. He made it his mission to drum up signatures from his peers, starting what would become a yearslong commitment to participating in and helping Divest Princeton with its programming and initiatives.

'THE FRIENDSHIPS ARE AMAZING'

Many members of Divest Princeton have similar stories of personal interest in and commitment to the cause. Divest Princeton member Bob Herbst '69, for example, wrote an op-ed in *The Daily Princetonian* during his junior year calling for divestment from companies supporting apartheid in South Africa. His passion for justice led him to become a criminal defense and civil litigation attorney. He now lends legal advice to Divest Princeton, and was instrumental in helping the group draft and file a legal complaint in 2022, alleging the University "violated its duty as a nonprofit by investing in an industry that is causing harm to its community and students."



One of the group's current co-coordinators, Alex Norbrook '26, says Divest Princeton played a significant role in his decision to attend Princeton. At his high school in Baltimore, he had been part of the Sunrise Movement, a nationwide climate activist group. He saw that Princeton didn't have a Sunrise Movement, but it did have Divest Princeton. "I knew that fossil-fuel divestment is a huge issue on college campuses. That was a fight I could see myself joining," he says.

Indeed, Divest Princeton "is self-generated and remains an open, passionate, personal commitment by those of us who are involved," says Huyler.

And despite the fact that the majority of its members are off campus and communicate virtually, many close friendships have sprouted.

"Lynne Archibald is one of my best friends because of this," says Huyler, who adds that he has also not only collaborated with former student leader Hannah Reynolds '22 on several *Daily Princetonian* articles, but he even attended her graduation. Also, last summer Huyler went hiking in Boulder with Serianni, who had a summer internship in the area.

"Reunions '22 was huge for us. So many of us met for the first time in person," Archibald says. She fondly tells of hosting Taylor and his extended family, along with her own family members and several other Princeton graduates, in November for drinks at her home in Lisbon, Portugal. Last spring, when traveling in New York, she met another Divest Princeton member in Brooklyn for coffee and plans to do so again.

"The friendships are amazing," Archibald says, adding that there is a Divest Princeton Slack channel that has resulted in numerous networking connections in the climate sphere. "I know of at least one job that came about because of a Divest Princeton connection."

THREE GENERATIONS

John Huyler '67, middle, with Lynne Archibald '87, right, and her daughter Marta Cabral '16 at a Divest Princeton table during Reunions last year.

'THE WHOLE POINT OF DIVESTMENT'

Divestment at Princeton is not a new concept. It was originally proposed — and eventually adopted — during Herbst's era to divest from companies doing business in South Africa. In 2006, the University divested from companies complicit in genocide in the region of Darfur, in western Sudan. And divestment from fossil-fuel companies has gained wide support across various sectors, with more than 1,500 institutions worldwide divesting, or announcing plans to divest, a whopping \$40.5 trillion from fossil fuels, according to the Global Fossil Fuel Divestment Database.

"The whole point of divestment is to make the University a better place for the planet and all the people and biodiversity on the planet," Archibald says.

Further, given the relatively small percentage (about 4.5%) of Princeton's endowment that had been invested in fossil fuels, divestment seems like a no-brainer, Huyler says. "It's such peanuts. Why would you continue to risk the reputation of the University?"

Dissociation is another main sticking point for Divest Princeton. The group says the University should not have any relationships with companies connected to fossil fuels, meaning no recruitment on campus and, most critically, no research partnerships. Divest Princeton members point out that the CMI, an academic research program aimed at developing solutions to climate change, is sponsored by BP. Exxon Mobil and BP also funded Princeton's Net-Zero America study, which looked at ways for the U.S. to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. (Exxon is currently on the list of companies subject to dissociation.)

"It's this subtle co-opting of climate research in a way that allows them to continue their business model," Norbrook says of these sponsorships. "It's a way of using Princeton research to legitimize their desire to continue extracting fossil fuels — and also, to make them *look* green, a kind of greenwashing: 'We're not polluting because we're funding Princeton's leading landmark climate research group.'"

When asked whether the University would like to comment for this story, spokesperson Michael Hotchkiss directed PAW to previous statements. In announcing divestment and dissociation in September, President Christopher Eisgruber '83 pointed to plans to offset lost research funding, saying: "Princeton will have the most significant impact on the climate crisis through the scholarship we generate and the people we educate. The creation of this new fund is one of several ways that the University is helping to provide Princeton researchers with the resources they need to pursue this work."

'WE REALLY LOVE PRINCETON'

While Divest Princeton welcomed the September announcement, its members stressed that their work is far from over.

"Our goal is still full fossil-fuel divestment and terminating all research partnerships with fossil-fuel companies on campus," Serianni says.

To that end, the group is applying pressure in new ways. At



a February meeting of the Council of the Princeton University Community (CPUC), for example, a student affiliated with Divest Princeton asked Eisgruber whether the University would consider adding BP to its dissociation list in light of recent news that

BP is scaling back its goal of cutting greenhouse gas emissions. (BP had originally set a goal of reducing those emissions by 35% to 40% by 2030, but amid record profits due to the high cost of crude oil, the company announced it would plan to cut emissions by 20% to 30% instead. It also announced it would continue to grow its oil and gas production until 2025.)

"There are good reasons for engineering connections with sectors of the fossil-fuel industry, that benefits can come from collaborations," Eisgruber said of research funding in general at a CPUC meeting in November. "Those collaborations are valuable in terms of the research that they produce."

Taylor and Reynolds say Divest Princeton is also working to hold the University accountable for its existing promises to divest and dissociate, and to push regularly for a timeline and progress updates. When asked about this in February, Eisgruber said Princeton University Investment Co. immediately began the process and that it was ongoing.

Norbrook added that he'd like Divest Princeton to partner with groups at other universities — and for universities to partner with each other more broadly — to share resources, generate more pressure, and enact more extensive change.

"[We want] not just to disinvest from harmful businesses and fossil fuels," he says, "but to reinvest that money into sustainable technologies, businesses, and ways to remedy our legacy of supporting harmful companies and governments."

"We all really love Princeton," says Archibald. "It's such a privilege to go to Princeton. We'd like to see the University really *lead*." ♦

LEADERS OF THE PACK

From left, Alex Norbrook '26, Aaron Serianni '25, Eleanor Clemans-Cope '26, and Nate Howard '25 have each served as Divest Princeton student co-coordinators over the past two years.

AGATHA BORDONARO '04 is a freelance editor and writer based in New York City.



Dear Tigers,

We can't wait to see you back on campus for Reunions 2023, **May 25-28!**

Here are a few things to keep in mind as you plan your trip back to the Best Old Place of All!

- ✓ **Registration is now open!** Reminder: Satellite class alumni can only register **one guest**.
- ✓ Sign up your kids for **Tiger Camp**, administered by YWCA Princeton, on May 26 and 27. Spaces are filling up quickly, so don't delay.
- ✓ Become a **P-rade marshal**. Join the group that keeps the P-rade running for 26,000-plus alumni, family and friends.
- ✓ Park at the new **Stadium Parking Garage** if staying on campus during Reunions. New electric buses will be transporting alumni and friends to locations around the perimeter of the campus.
- ✓ **Be Green**. Bring your reusable water bottle to campus or make sure you properly dispose of the Earth Cups that will be available at most major reunion headquarters sites.
- ✓ Visit **reunions.princeton.edu** to learn more and read the latest updates!



Photos: Fotobuddy



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Princeton



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Razia Iqbal

*BBC News, "Newshour"
and "The World Tonight" and
Fellow Professor of
Princeton University (Spring 2022)*



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*Executive Director of the National
Association of Basketball Coaches*



**Katherine
Brittain Bradley '86**

*Founder and Chair of
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WASHINGTON, D.C.

April 18, 2023


FORWARD THE CONVERSATION:
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THE PRINCETON CAMPAIGN

Venture Forward is a mission-driven engagement and fundraising campaign focused on Princeton's strengths in the liberal arts, pushing the boundaries of knowledge across disciplines, and collaborating to champion inclusion, science, public policy, the humanities and technology.

Photos: Sameer A. Khan, © 2019 Fotobuddy (Iqbal and Robinson); Matt Cosby (Grousbeck); © Tony Powell (Brittain Bradley)

PRINCETONIANS

A man with light-colored hair, wearing a dark jacket and blue jeans, is crouching inside a structure made of bamboo poles. He is holding a black plastic bag. The background shows a lush green landscape with more bamboo structures and plants.

CULTIVATING CROPS: Craig Leon '85 is the founder of Cloud Forest Organics, an organization that operates 30 miles south of the equator on a 170-acre parcel of land to produce naturally occurring foods for commercial sale. Foods native to the cloud forests of Ecuador include lucuma, a fruit the flavor of caramel, and tocto, a wild and now endangered walnut. Profit is only a piece of Leon's vision: His larger aim is to restore and conserve cloud forests by developing an alternative food production system. Since rewilding the land, native plants, birds, fish, amphibians, and mammals have returned. Leon sees this as success. "Even if this project had no commercial value ... would we still do it? The answer is absolutely yes."

READ MORE about Leon's project and find other **TIGERS OF THE WEEK** at paw.princeton.edu



Alyssa Weinberg '22
explores climate change
in her opera, *Drift*.

the very, very beginning of an idea, it opens up so many more possibilities. I just think it's so powerful when we can combine more of these elements together, provided that they're done in an organic way where we're all trying to serve the same goal."

That holistic approach to composing has become second nature to Weinberg. "These days, it's just the way that I imagine a piece," she says. "I imagine all those elements; I imagine the experience."

Imagining more than just notes on a page is perhaps Weinberg's biggest takeaway from her Ph.D. studies in composition at Princeton. She had already done stints at the Manhattan School of Music and the Curtis Institute of Music, so she didn't need someone to teach her how or what to compose. "You're there really to do your own work and learn something new from each other and contribute to the community," she says of the University's program.

Learning and contributing were certainly central to her submission to the annual Generals Concert, where Ph.D. students present new works they've written in response to works by established composers. "The point of that wasn't to come away with an awesome, groundbreaking recording of a thing that's going to go be submitted and win you a Pulitzer or something," Weinberg says. "The point was to see what would happen if you tried something new."

And what she tried was certainly new. Her project, *Tethered*, includes a sound sculpture, an interactive sculptural object used as a sonic instrument.

"For my Generals piece, I would

ALYSSA WEINBERG '22

AN OPERA FOR OUR TIMES

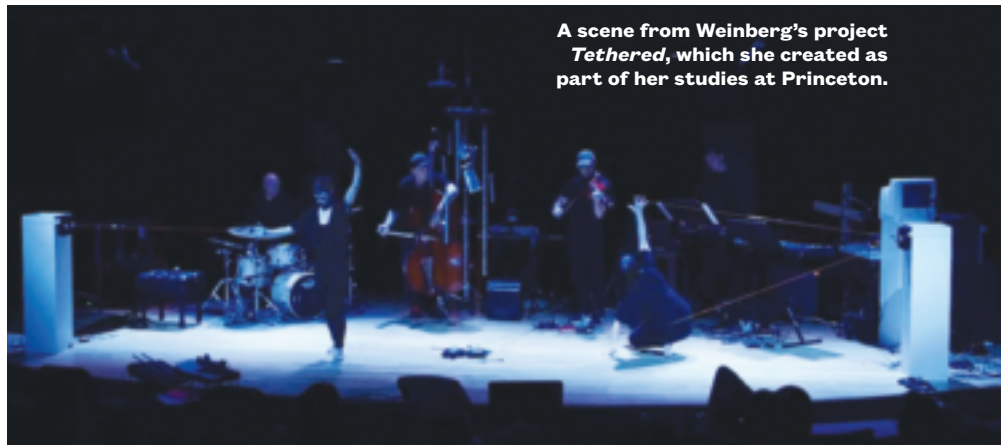
Meet the Princeton Ph.D. whose forthcoming opera explores climate change

Climate change is raising temperatures and sea levels around the world, but it's also threatening the memories held by society and by nature itself. That's the premise behind *Drift*, a forthcoming opera that composer Alyssa Weinberg '22 is developing with librettist J. Mae Barizo, who created the story.

Drift explores themes of climate change, migration, and motherhood through the eyes of a character who represents the memories and experiences of those who have been uprooted. "It's about drifting across these borders that don't actually exist anymore, about traveling in the broadest sense of the word, both physically and metaphorically," Weinberg says.

In April 2022, the project earned Weinberg an Opera America Discovery Grant. She was one of eight women to receive the grants, which support female composers who are developing new works in opera and musical theater.

Unlike traditional operas, *Drift* will be a multidimensional work, featuring elements such as prerecorded voices of the characters and video that play with the audience's perceptions. "It's going to change what we think is happening or not, or if we think we're living in a fixed reality," Weinberg says. "When you think about all of these elements from



A scene from Weinberg's project *Tethered*, which she created as part of her studies at Princeton.

Zoe Prinds-Flash

up building a sound sculpture that we hung from the ceiling over the concert hall,” she says. “I performed alongside classmate Jenny Beck and collaborated with Mike Mulshine, who designed all the coding and Max patches (an interactive visual programming language) for the piece.” Technology was important since the performers wore motion-sensor rings that shaped the sound. Two cellists, meanwhile, improvised music based on what Weinberg and Beck were doing.

“That was like the craziest, scariest thing I’ve ever done,” she says. “That’s not going to be the way that I primarily engage with my work, and it’s not the thing I’m expert at, but it definitely shifted what I now think I’m capable of.”

Drift was originally intended to be Weinberg’s dissertation project, staged as part of a pilot program to perform works by composition students in the Lewis Center for the Arts’ new Wallace Black Box Theater. But COVID-19 intervened, and the campus shut down. “Having unmasked, super-spreader humans singing in a room full of people was the last thing to get approved once we were trying to come back,” she says.

Rather than delay her dissertation until the theater reopened, Weinberg wrote a new work: *Isola*, a 45-monodrama with text by Barizo that featured a multitracked soprano soloist, video projections, a string trio, and electronics. Along the way, she also taught herself Ableton Live, audio software that lets composers write, record, arrange, and mix. (It’s often used in live performances.)

Early in her work on *Isola*, Barizo learned that she’d been named an inaugural IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access) Opera Resident Artist by Opera America. That support, coupled with Weinberg’s Discovery Grant, has given the collaborators freedom to focus on *Drift* without worrying about next steps. “We have no presenter, no commission; no opera company has partnered with us quite yet,” Weinberg says.

What they do have is a solid start on a new work about an urgent topic.

“How can you not write about this?” Weinberg says. “How can you think about the future and assume that the Earth will still be here?” ♦ *By Mark Ray*

Addressing Reunions Sustainability

Reunions is a magical time when classmates reunite at Princeton, but by the end of the weekend, any stragglers still walking the grounds will also see piles of trash and debris left behind. The Greening Reunions Alumni Working Group (GRAWG) has been working to make the event more sustainable.

In the past, Reunions sustainability efforts by alumni have been largely ad hoc, with major classes for any given year determining their own initiatives, if any. But in 2020 GRAWG was formed by the University and alumni. The group’s ultimate vision is carbon neutrality and zero waste.

“We just really want to make a change,” says Thara Srinivasan ’95, GRAWG co-chair.

Last year — the first time Reunions was held in person since the COVID-19 pandemic — GRAWG raised \$7,800 to purchase carbon offsets, which, using post-Reunions survey data, the group estimated covered about 5% of travel emissions. GRAWG says the total carbon footprint of 2022 Reunions travel amounted to about 7,900 tons of carbon dioxide, roughly equivalent to the electricity consumption of 1,500 homes for an entire year.

This year, GRAWG is again encouraging classmates to contribute to carbon offsets — as of mid-March, nearly \$28,000 had been pledged. They’ve also been working with Campus Dining to offer a vegetarian dinner on Thursday night, as well as other beef-free options and fewer meat-heavy menus, as studies have shown that greenhouse gas emissions are greater for animal-based foods than plant-based.

GRAWG has also reached out to classes to encourage them to rent dishware, glassware, linens, silverware, and furniture, rather than buying these items or using disposable alternatives, and to choose higher-quality, durable swag items rather than cheap plastic.

But the thing that everyone seems to be most excited about is cups.

“There are hundreds of thousands of plastic cups used over the weekend of Reunions, and the vast majority of them are not recyclable,” says Shana Weber, GRAWG co-chair and director of the University’s Office of Sustainability.

“The cost of a plastic cup might be about a dime, but the true ecological cost, when it’s incinerated or buried in a landfill, is much higher,” says Srinivasan.

For the second consecutive year, the University is piloting Earth Brands compostable cups, even though, according to Weber, “the collection effort did not work last year” due to low collection rates, meaning not many cups were actually composted. This year, student crews will be trained to help direct cups into the proper bins.

Meanwhile, the Class of 1998, which is celebrating its 25th, is piloting a reusable plastic cup program in partnership with the company TURN, using funding from the University. Reuners can get refills with their cups at the 25th tent, and then, once disposed of in the proper bins, the cups will be reused up to 120 times at future events, according to TURN.

“By having this pilot with the Office of Sustainability, we are able to save about 40,000 cups from going to the landfill,” says Noelani Lee ’98, 25th reunion co-chair. “And our hope is that ... in subsequent years, it will prove itself as a model.”

Lee and her classmates also included a budget for sustainability efforts in their planning, which they believe is a first, and, hopefully, the start of a new tradition.

Both the University and alumni hope to encourage the implementation of lasting solutions.

“It really requires a partnership between alumni and the University to figure out ... what solution is actually scalable,” says Weber. “And this is where we get creative.” ♦

By J.B.



AN INTRO TO ECOPOETICS

By Serena Alagappan '20

In an English course my junior year at Princeton, Professor Rebecca Rainof '08 assigned a book by Briallen Hopper '10 that included the essay “Lean On.” In it, Hopper protests the pursuit of Emersonian self-reliance with an environmental metaphor. She doesn’t think of people as “an orderly orchard of freestanding trees.” She sees them instead “as an overgrown tangle of undergrowth, mulch, mushrooms, and moss, or as an indivisible ocean of brinedrops.”

This interpersonal metaphor inspired me to write my own ecopoetry.

You might be wondering what ecopoetics is. It’s a comparatively new



genre, and one influenced by the effect human beings are having on the planet. Ecopoetry radicalizes “nature poetry” by furnishing far less utopian visions than the romantics did. Although the genre burgeoned in the late 20th century — as climate change and global warming rose in public consciousness — ecopoetics can be traced to ancient traditions that have long imagined ecological worldviews such as Japanese meditative verse and classical Indian spiritual writings.

Critics propose different criteria, but one point many agree on is that all things should be viewed in relation to one another. Ecopoems in essence probe the inextricable link between people and the planet. This notion resonates with me emotionally. None of us is alone. It’s a calling to nurture.

In the poem “Nature and Panic”

Ritchie George/iStock; courtesy Serena Alagappan '20

by C.K. Williams, who served on Princeton's creative writing faculty for 20 years, he writes "beauty won't save the world from the depredations with which it's already been savaged, but it can save us from the enervating despair that is the outcome of panic, that paralysis that might keep us from doing what we can to confront what's before us."

Ecopoetics can be traced to ancient traditions that have long imagined ecological worldviews such as Japanese meditative verse and classical Indian spiritual writings.

Ecopoets meditate on the tension of dread and wonder through their lyricism. As we meet the shared panic of a climate crisis, dwindling biodiversity, and environmental injustice, Williams' words offer profound solace: "Beauty saves us. Beauty will save us. The world, though, is still ours to cherish, and ours to protect." Notice how "beauty" is omitted from Williams' final line. The conviction in poetry's redemptive potential heralds an unequivocal call to action.

At Princeton, this year's Contemporary Poetry Colloquium is focusing on ecopoetics. Featuring the work of Kimberly Bain '20, Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing, Cary Wolfe, and more, the speaker series explores the relationship between writing and the environment, as well as the purpose and impact of this form of expression. It challenges us to consider how poetry and art can serve and inspire amid existential threats to our environment.

I hope this writing resonates with you. If we realize that human beings and our environment are interconnected and vulnerable, we might change our behavior, transform our communication, and take more care in our treatment of one another and the Earth. ♦

Serena Alagappan '20 is a Rhodes scholar who studied comparative literature and creative writing at Princeton. Her forthcoming pamphlet "Sensitive to Temperature" will be published in June 2023.

After the Mushroom at the End of the World

These, remedial gestures: how
a spinning bulk of garbage in
the sea becomes a Holy Vortex
for a plastic bag's vagrancy,

how landfill picking transforms
for garden-artists: pluck, prune,
and glean like you're foraging
treasure on behalf of trash,

how after nuclear disaster,
mushrooms grow on reactor walls,
harnessing radiation like purple
alliums photosynthesize light,

happy globes bursting, these
flowers can nurture budding
stars in climates on the drier side,
drought-tolerant, they'll keep alive.

I read once, that there's a kind
of love that doesn't extend itself
both ways between two people
equally because it doesn't have to.

When air explodes hot and buoyant,
it bubbles and expands, waltzes with
open legs and a rising skirt, condensing
debris, sucking energy from decay.

What's left at the end of the world,
besides lichen, missile clouds blocking
the sun, and a harvest for two that
can only be tilled by one?

Author's Note: The fifth stanza references the end of Carl Phillips' poem "If You Go Away" and the title is inspired by Anna Tsing's "The Mushroom at the End of the World." Originally published in the *Colorado Review*.

CLASS NOTES

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

MEMORIALS

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

THE CLASS OF 1946



Eugene Lent Church '46

Pursuit of excellence is an appropriate moniker for Gene Church, who died two months shy of 97 on June 5, 2022.

One of several who came to Princeton from Theodore Roosevelt High School in 1942, he was devoted to physics, mathematics, and lifelong learning. Gene served in the Navy from 1944 to 1946 as a radar instructor in Chicago. He majored in physics and graduated with high honors in January 1948 prior to enrolling at Harvard, where he earned a Ph.D. in nuclear physics in 1953.

Gene was employed as a research physicist for the Army from 1953 to 1994, after which he consulted through 2018. He spent his early career was at Brookhaven National Laboratory, where he collaborated with Joseph Weneser and made a discovery later named the Church-Weneser effect. In 1959, he was awarded a Secretary of the Army Fellowship at the Neils Bohr Institute in Denmark, where he worked closely with Aage Bohr. Gene's later career focused on optics, scattering, and fractal and chaos modeling.

Our classmate received numerous awards and was a fellow of SPIE, APS, Optica, and AAAS, a senior member of IEEE, and member of Sigma Xi.

In official retirement, Gene cultivated an interest in his early American roots. He was a member of the Saint Nicholas Society of the City of New York, the Society of Colonial Wars, and Sons of the Revolution. He was a member of the Princeton Club of New York for more than 70 years and at the time of his death was president of the Class of 1946.

Gene was predeceased by his wife of 53 years, Anne, in 2001. He is survived by his daughter, his son David Lent Church h'46, and David's three sons. To them all, '46 sends thankfulness for a life well lived — Oranje Boven!

THE CLASS OF 1951

Robert Rundle Thornton '51

Bob died Oct. 4, 2022, in Encinitas, Calif., after a long and successful career as a California lawyer.



He joined us in 1947 as an NROTC student after graduating from Granby High School in Norfolk, Va. He majored in chemical engineering and was a member

of Tower Club. After three years with the Navy in both the Atlantic and Pacific (including as an electronics officer on the flagship for the first tests of the hydrogen bomb at Enewetak Atoll in 1954), he attended Harvard Law School.

Bob worked briefly as a lawyer in San Francisco before joining a large general practice firm in Los Angeles. He specialized in intellectual property law, but he also engaged in litigation for the firm's clients. He moved to San Diego County, where he looked out at the Palomar Mountains as he raised avocados on his property. Known for his patriotism, Bob was buried in Miramar National Cemetery after services on the USS *Midway*. He is survived by his wife, Nancy.

THE CLASS OF 1952



Gordon Granger '52

Gordie graduated from Blair Academy (class president) and spent a year at Lehigh before joining us. His father, Allen Granger, was in the Class of

1901. Gordie joined Tiger, studied politics, was on the wrestling team, and belonged to the Glee Club and Westminster Fellowship. He roomed with Jack Dodds, Win Cousins, and Bob Bader.

After military service as a second lieutenant in the Army, he worked in banking for a time, then took up a long career with the Provident Life and Accident Insurance Co., retiring as regional manager.

Active in the Chatham, N.J., community, he was a member of Minisink, Canoe Brook Toastmasters, and Rotary. He was a church elder and helped found the Senior Center of the Chathams.

Gordie died Nov. 28, 2022. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn; daughters Lynn and Cynthia; and his son Douglas. To them the class sends its best, with memories of Gordie's good company and skill at sports. And a salute to Gordie for his military service to our country.



Irvin Greif Jr. '52

Irv came from the McDonogh School to the class and majored in sociology. He joined the Colonial Club, was on *The Daily Princetonian* as promotions

manager, enjoyed club football, pingpong, and softball, and roomed with John Davis and Hugh Kitchener his senior year.

Irv went on to follow a life of volunteering in education, especially with children in special education at the Chatsworth School, and he received the President's Volunteer Service Award. With his wife, Nanette, he pursued travel and collected American antiques and fine art. As he reported in *The Book of Our History*, he also acted as an agent for other artists.

Irv died Sept. 23, 2022. He is survived by Nanette and their children, Andy, Loren, and Leigh. The class sends them good wishes, with appreciation of Irv's productive life.

THE CLASS OF 1953



Alexander Brody '53

Alex was born as Sándor Bródy in Budapest, Hungary, and came to the United States at the age of 15. He attended the Edgewood School before

coming to Princeton. He joined Ivy Club and majored in the School of Public and International Affairs.

After graduating, Alex joined Young & Rubicam as a messenger boy but within 18 months became an account executive working on the General Foods and Time Inc. accounts. In 1959, he was transferred to the Frankfurt, Germany, office as head of TV. Eventually, he became international director. From 1984 to 1987, Alex served as president of the World Advertising Federation, and in 1987 he became president of Ogilvy & Mather.

Alex died Feb. 12, 2022.



Alan J. Kohn '53

Alan was born in New Haven, Conn., and attended Hamden High School before coming to Princeton. He joined Campus Club and majored in biology, writing his thesis on "Feeding Activities of a Marine and a Fresh Water Bivalve Mollusk."

Continuing his studies in the same field, he spent two years in the Department of Zoology at Yale and then a year and a half of research in Hawaii and other Pacific Islands. After further research expeditions in Asia and Europe, he accepted a position at Florida State University and spent three years there before moving to a position at the University of Washington in Seattle, where he served for 37 years until retiring. In that time, he became a leading expert on *Conus*, a genus of predatory,

venomous sea snails found in tropical and subtropical seas throughout the world. He published more than a hundred papers and authored or co-authored four books on the subject.

Alan died Nov. 15, 2022. Predeceased by his wife and his son, he is survived by his three daughters.



William F. Ogden Jr. '53

Bill was born in Atlanta, but moved to Chicago with his family at the age of 5 and grew up in that city. He came to Princeton from the Chicago Latin School for Boys, majored in economics, and was a member of Cap and Gown. His thesis topic was "Analysis of Problems Maintaining a Supply of Iron Ore for the United States."

After college he joined the Navy, went to Officer Candidate School, and spent three years on a gas tanker in the Mediterranean. He began his business career with Manufacturers Hanover Bank in New York and earned a law degree from NYU Law School. He met Elinor Ketting in New York, married her, and moved to Minnesota, where he worked for the First National Bank of Minneapolis until 1976, when he opened his own consulting business.

Love of fishing led him to Montana, where he created Eagle Rock Reserve, an open-space development in Bozeman. In retirement, Bill served a term as class president and was active in the St. Paul-Minneapolis Committee on Foreign Relations, the Westminster Presbyterian Church, and the Greater Yellowstone Coalition.

Bill died May 11, 2018, of complications of Parkinson's disease and heart disease. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Elinor; their three children; and four grandchildren.



Richard W. Vannatta, Jr. '53

Dick died Oct. 22, 2022, in Burke, Va.

He was born in Bethlehem, Pa., and came to Princeton in the Naval ROTC program after graduating from Liberty High School in Bethlehem. At Princeton, he joined Dial Lodge and majored in aeronautical engineering.

After a tour of duty as a pilot in the Navy, Dick did graduate work at Penn State and then went to work for General Dynamics in San Diego before returning to the East Coast to do consulting work for Presearch in Maryland. Over the years, Dick worked for various companies such as Boeing, Vought, and Convair and especially enjoyed working on the Sikorsky Stallion minesweeping helicopter and the V-22 Osprey tiltrotor.

Predeceased by his wife, Lucille, Dick is survived by three children, two of them Princeton graduates, and seven grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1954



William W. Berghuis '54

Bill died Nov. 10, 2022, in Toronto, Ontario.

He prepared at Blake School in Hopkins, Minn., where he was active in swimming, tennis, and dramatics.

At Princeton, he majored in economics and wrote his senior thesis on "Consumer Choice and Unfair Advertising." He joined Quadrangle Club and was business manager of *The Daily Princetonian* in his senior year.

While attending Harvard Business School he met Faith Heward, a sophomore at Radcliffe, and earned an MBA in 1956. They married in 1957, while he was serving three years in the Finance Corps of the U.S. Army in Japan, and moved to Montreal in 1959.

With a lifelong passion for investing, Bill built a career in the investment business, ultimately founding Nexus Investment Management in Toronto. He served on many boards, both professional and in his community. While he retired from active management in 2009, he remained engaged with his firm until 2020.

Bill enjoyed tennis into his late 80s and was sufficiently fit to walk the entire length of the P-rade and back to Quad during our 65th reunion. He treasured family time in the Thousand Islands, lively banter across three generations, and his signature bourbon sour cocktails.

Bill is survived by his wife, Faith; sons Brian '81 and Derek '83; daughters Kate and Willa (both Harvard graduates following in Faith's footsteps); and eight grandchildren, including Anna '19.



Pablo Eisenberg '54

Pablo died Oct. 18, 2022, after a prolonged illness.

He prepared for Princeton at Millburn (N.J.) High School, where he participated in tennis, basketball, and student government.

At Princeton, he majored in the Woodrow Wilson School and wrote his senior thesis on Apartheid Policy in South Africa, which led him to devote his early years to African affairs. He joined Cannon Club, captained the freshman and varsity tennis teams, and became a prominent competitor in tennis both nationally and internationally.

After service in the Army, during which he met his wife, Helen, he earned a B.Litt. in African affairs at Oxford (while again captaining the tennis team). He served for a few years in Africa as a foreign service officer, as program director for Operation Crossroads — a model for the Peace Corps, and ran a student exchange program between Africa and the U.S. He then went on to positions with the

Office of Economic Opportunity, the National Urban Coalition, the Center for Community Change, and Georgetown University's Public Policy Institute.

He is remembered for his principled critique of U.S. philanthropies' neglect of people who need help and their lack of accountability, leading to the establishment of the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy.

He was predeceased by Helen Cierniak, his wife of 62 years, and is survived by his daughter, Marina.



David B. Roy '54

Dave died on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2022.

He prepared at West View High School in Pittsburgh, where he was active in student government. At Princeton, Dave majored in economics, joined Cannon Club, played freshman and varsity baseball, was a member of the Undergraduate Council, and chaired Orange Key.

After serving two years as an officer in the Army Security Agency, he began a 14-year career (and six moves) with IBM. He married Nancy Lee Knapp in 1960, and they raised two daughters and a son.

At IBM he became a marketing manager, vice president, and director of computer departments. Capitalizing on his acquired expertise in computers and data processing, he left IBM and became president/CEO of several savings and loan banks, and a management and marketing consultant to financial institutions, eventually moving to Lancaster, Pa., in 1986.

Committed to giving back to his local community throughout his lifetime, Dave served on more than 35 local, nonprofit, and civic organizations including the Boy Scouts, chapters of the United Way, Chambers of Commerce, Rotary clubs, church boards, Princeton alumni committees, the Military Officers Association of America, and animal rescue groups.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Nancy; daughters Dana and Julie; son Scott; and six grandchildren.



Edward S. Stimpson III '54

Ed died Oct. 22, 2022.

He came to us from Noble and Greenough School in Dedham, Mass., where he was active in football, baseball, and hockey. Ed majored in English, joined Cottage Club, played varsity hockey, captained varsity baseball, and was a member of Roy Heath's Advisee Project. (Years later he was to persuade Heath to produce the Class of 1954's 25th-reunion volume "Princeton Retrospectives: Twenty-Fifth-Year Reflections on a College Education," based on interviews with the

members of the project and other classmates.)

He married Anne G. Bolster in June 1954, and they raised two daughters, Joanna and Sarah.

After two years of service in the Army and earning an MBA at Harvard Business School, Ed embarked on a variety of ventures including capital investment, real-estate development, and financial consulting. Between 1967 and 1975 he was an analyst for Fidelity and for T. Rowe Price. He then became managing trustee of family holdings in Cambridge and Natick, Mass., from a base in Cape Cod, where he and Anne also enjoyed community-service projects.

A “Reasonable Adventurer,” to employ Heath’s term, Ed’s indomitable curiosity led him to master golf, fishing, photography, computers, graphic arts, and genealogy, among other things.

Anne died in 2012. Ed is survived by his wife of nine years, Maura Jean O’Donnell Stimpson; his two daughters; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1955



Alexander Beck Babcock '55

Mike, whose deep love of teaching imbued his entire life, died Oct. 18, 2022, in Pasadena, Calif. After Princeton graduation and marriage

to Carole Bailey, he spent three years in the Navy in Florida, then returned to California, determined to make some serious money. After three years, he drove by a high school and realized what he really wanted to do was teach.

That he did, first getting a master’s degree in education from USC and then devoting his life to education. After years of teaching, he wound up as head of Polytechnic School and leader of several other school boards and community organizations in the area, including the Pasadena Unified School Board.

In his free time, Mike loved RV trips to the desert, woodworking, tennis, swimming, watching sports, and playing spirited games of Yahtzee with his family. Friends said his wit, humor, and kindness were wonderfully infectious.

Mike was born March 18, 1933, in Summit, N.J. He attended Webb School in Claremont, Calif., and at Princeton majored in psychology and joined Tiger Inn. He played IAA pingpong, tennis, and golf, and his senior-year roommates were Kenly Webster, Al Weech, and John Roos.

Mike was predeceased by his wife of 64 years, Carole. He is survived by children Michael, Linda Broker, Scott, and David; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Spiros Segalas '55

Sig, legendary investor and pioneer in growth equity investing, died Jan. 2, 2023, in New York City. With six others in 1969 he



co-founded Jennison Associates, a manager of U.S. large cap growth stocks. He was also a generous donor to Annual Giving.

Sig was born July 2, 1933, and at Trinity School was active in football, basketball, track, and student government.

At Princeton, he majored in economics and joined Cannon Club. He was involved in freshman football and track, as well as IAA football, basketball, and track. His senior-year roommates were John Sibley and Henry Kaplan. After graduation he served as an officer in the Navy.

Sig had unbridled optimism and loved traveling, photography, and the ocean. He cherished his family and encouraged them to pursue activities that brought them joy. He loved sports and watching his family compete. To his grandkids he was “Papou,” larger than life and perfectly imperfect. Upon meeting his first great-grandchild, he gave him his first Yankees cap. “I just want to make sure he’s raised right,” he said with a smile. “Go Yankees!”

Sig was predeceased by his wife of 65 years, Diane. He is survived by children Anthony, Harry, Christine, and Daphne Sampson; 11 grandchildren; a great-grandson; brother Hercules; and sister Mary.

THE CLASS OF 1957



Martin M. Berman '57

Having followed in his father’s footsteps as a doctor, Marty died Dec. 5, 2022, in Bloomfield, Conn., after a distinguished medical career.

He came to Princeton from Poly Prep in Brooklyn. In college, he majored in biology, was a member of the freshman basketball team, and was a star athlete for Court Club’s intramural sports teams, winning the University championship in basketball in 1954. His senior-year roommates were Jay Arbeiter, Charles Fogler, and Michael Marcus.

After graduation Marty earned a medical degree at the N.Y. State University Downstate Medical Center, with internship and residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital. He then served as a captain in the Army Medical Corps. After a fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, Marty became the chief pathologist at Hartford (Conn.) Hospital and a professor at the University of Connecticut Medical School.

Marty met Irene Levin of Oslo, Norway, in New York City after traveling in Europe with her brother in 1960, and they married a year later. They had three children, Carrie Beth, Adrienne, and Rosanne Sarah. Marty and Irene retired and moved from West Hartford to the Duncaster retirement community a few years

ago. His wife and daughters, as well as his two sons-in-law and six grandchildren, survive him.



Robert B. Duncan '57

One of the Phi Beta Kappa graduates in our class, Bob died of lung cancer Nov. 5, 2022, in Lewes, Del. He came to Princeton from East Orange (N.J.) High School. At Princeton, he was active in Whig-Clio, the marching band, and as house committee chairman of Terrace Club. Majoring in the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, he obtained a Poe scholarship to study in France to work on his thesis on “French Policy Toward Algeria.”

Like most of us after graduation, Bob served his country in the military service (Army). He then passed the difficult foreign service examination and joined the State Department. After assignments in Tangier and Rabat, Morocco, he served in Algiers, Algeria. Returning to the U.S., he obtained a master’s degree at Harvard, and then went to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where he headed the economic section of the American Embassy and served as a representative to the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa. Again returning to the U.S., Bob attended the War College for a year, followed by assignments in Paris, France, and Bangkok, Thailand, where he was the third-ranking diplomat at the U.S. Embassy.

During college Bob met Faith Snedeker, and they were married after he completed his military service. Following his Foreign Service career, they retired to Dewey Beach, Del., where Bob continued in church and civic organizations and as a teacher at Southern Delaware Lifelong Learning. He and Faith eventually moved to the Moorings retirement center in Lewes.

Bob is survived by his wife of 62 years, Faith; his children Susan '86 and Robert R.; their spouses; and one granddaughter.



William J. Jones Jr. '57

One of the many fine lawyers in our class, Bill died Nov. 3, 2022, in Summit, N.J.

He came to Princeton from Newark Academy, graduating *cum laude*, an honor he also achieved at Princeton and Harvard Law School. At Princeton, he took his meals at Key & Seal and participated in many extracurricular activities, including the swimming team, the Camera Club, and the Savoyards. He was also business manager of Theatre Intime and art director of the Outing Club. Bill majored in the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. His senior-year roommates were George Oram and Robin Lincoln.

Following his graduation from law school, Bill became assistant district attorney for New York County. He then joined the Bell Systems, serving as an attorney at various times for New York Telephone Co., Western Electric, and AT&T, where he specialized in antitrust law. After retiring from the corporate world, he became an adjunct professor at Seton Hall Law School and practiced law in a partnership with Dr. Winston Porter, former assistant administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. He fully retired in 2021, and in our 65th-reunion yearbook, he stated, "I do not like retirement. Nor old age generally" — feelings that probably are held by many of us.

Bill married Joyce McKenna in 1959, and they had two daughters, Elizabeth and Jane. His daughters survive him, as well as six grandchildren. In the obituary written by his family they called him a "dedicated father and grandfather" who found "immeasurable joy being 'Papa.'"



Ronald Arthur Nelson '57

Ron came to Princeton from West View High School in Pittsburgh, along with Frank Ittel and Ed Naumann. He joined Cannon Club and majored in geology, and played four years of football as a wingback in Charlie Caldwell's single-wing attack. His roommates were Nate Bachman, Mike Bowman, Bill Danforth, Leigh Ford, Frank Ittel, Bob Knisley, Bob Mack, George Ramonat, and Bill Yohn.

For about 20 years, Ron was in the oil field service business and also served as sales manager for an Italian steel company, living in Warren, Pa. For the next 30 years, he worked as a registered representative for several brokerage firms and lived in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

Ron and Toni married in 1959. They had five children (three living) and seven grandchildren, all nearby in Florida. Ron died Dec. 6, 2022, succumbing to a number of medical issues including congestive heart failure, kidney failure, and Parkinson's. Ron was a good man and talented athlete who will be missed.



James C. Tappan '57

One of the many successful marketing and financial experts in our class, Jim died Oct. 29, 2022, at his home in Hobe Sound, Fla.

Son of an Army colonel who expected him to go to West Point, Jim graduated from Culver Military Academy but elected to come to Princeton. He was a member of Elm Club, where he served as vice president and Bicker chairman. He was also a member of the freshman prom committee, the Intercollegiate

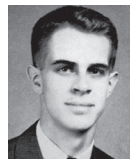
Culver Club, and the Republican Club. He majored in the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and graduated *cum laude*.

Having received a Naval ROTC scholarship to attend college, after graduation Jim served as an aviator aboard the USS *Wasp*. There he met Robert Kay, who became a lifelong friend and brother-in-law, as Jim married Robert's sister, Patricia. He and Patricia were married for 57 years, until she died in 2016. They had three children, Jim Jr., Joe, and Tracy, and six grandchildren, including Jack Cahillane '22.

After leaving the military, Jim joined Proctor & Gamble, working in Ohio, Mexico, and England, where he became managing director of P&G UK. He was then recruited by General Foods to be managing director for Europe, headquartered in Belgium, followed by a return to the U.S. as group vice president. Leaving General Foods after it was acquired by Philip Morris Co., he formed Tappan Capital Partners, one of the earliest private-equity firms. Serving on many corporate boards of directors, as well as Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management, Jim nevertheless found time for his lifelong interest in golf, including a directorship of the PGA.

He is survived by his close friend, Michel Williams, his children, grandchildren, and their spouses.

THE CLASS OF 1958



Edward K. Dey '58

Ed died Nov. 2, 2022, in Paris, France. He was 85.

He came to Princeton from Locust Valley Friends Academy, where he sang with the glee club, played tennis and basketball, and was a member of the International Affairs Club.

At Princeton, he was in the Woodrow Wilson School and joined Dial Lodge, where he was on the IAA senior board, and was an active member of the Westminster Fellowship.

After graduation, Ed earned a master's degree from the University of Michigan. He entered the foreign service in Washington, West Africa, and Paris. Then he changed careers to go into banking. He met Odile Alquier at the Embassy in Paris, and they married in 1972. Ed became a banking consultant, mostly for USAID and the World Bank.

Unknown to most classmates, his hopes of shooting his age at golf came from his father, Joseph, who won nearly every award the golf world offers; and from his mother, Rosalie, chair of the Women's Committee of the U.S. Golf Association.

Ed is survived by Odile, their daughter Alix, his son-in-law Olivier, and his grandchildren Alexandre and Juliette. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.



Winston H. Hagen Jr. '58

George died Nov. 9, 2022, at his home in Naples, Fla. He was 86.

He came to Princeton from the Taft School. At Princeton, George majored in aeronautical engineering, doing independent work on supersonic aircraft design. He belonged to Colonial Club and his senior-year roommates were Bob Reed and Bob Hamilton.

After graduation, he worked for Cox & Co. in New York City before running his own business, Instrumentation for Medicine, in Greenwich, Conn.

For many years, George and Sally owned a house on Block Island, R.I., where they enjoyed entertaining friends and family during the summer months. He and Sally moved to Bonita Springs, Fla., in 1998 and then to Naples in 2021.

George is survived by Sally; his three children from his first marriage to Joan Binney, Winston, Lili Crawford, and Diana Bushelman; six grandchildren; one great-grandson; and his sister, Audrey Patterson. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.



John B. Nowell '58

John died Dec. 1, 2022, in Abingdon, Va.

He came to Princeton from Woodberry Forest School, where he participated in football, basketball, and baseball. At Princeton, he was on the freshman football team and a member of the rugby team. He belonged to Cottage Club and majored in economics and sociology.

A veteran of the Army, John worked for many years in construction. After retirement, John and his wife, Dorothy, moved to Abingdon, Va., for their love of the mountains. John was a beloved father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He was a friend to all and will be dearly missed. His greatest achievement in life was his family.

John is survived by daughters Nancy Nowell, Carol Hemphill and her husband Alan, and Linda Tuttle and her husband Paul; sons Mac and his wife Kim, John and his wife Jo Brooke, and Bob Ring; 13 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.



Boynton M. Rawlings '58

Boynt died Dec. 20, 2022, in Normandy, France. He was 87.

He came to Princeton from the Choate School. At Princeton, Boynt sang with the Boomerangs and the Tigertones (of which he was president) and belonged to Campus Club. His senior-year roommates were Fred Wardenburg, Fred Pettit, Rocky Potts, and Rod Johnstone.

He graduated from Stanford Law School, and after practicing in various places, Boynt started his own law firm in Paris, France. In 1996, he helped found the Paris Choral Society.

Boynt loved nothing more than strumming classic American ballads on the banjo for family and friends, especially at his beloved 16th-century country home L'ancien Presbytère, in Montreuil-en-Auge, Normandy. In 2019, he hosted a well-attended mini-reunion there, on the 75th anniversary of the Normandy invasion. He was a real authority on that period of history.

Boynt is survived by his wife, Kathy; his daughter, Laura; his sons, James and William; two stepdaughters, Sophie and Julie Fabre; and his five grandchildren, Fiore and Nicholas Petricone, Adelaide Rawlings, and Harlow and Finley Rawlings. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.



Henry B. Thomas '58

Henry died Sept. 16, 2022, in Washington, D.C. He was 86.

He came to Princeton from Phillips Exeter Academy, where he was a member of the senior octet and participated in dramatics, sailing, soccer, and squash.

At Princeton, Henry majored in electrical engineering, and he was in the Triangle Club, the Savoyards, the choir, the freshman Glee Club, and the freshman squash team. He was a member of Charter Club, where he was chair of the house committee. His senior-year roommates were Frank Decker, Birch Clothier, and Bruce Wilson.

After graduation, Henry earned an MBA from MIT and was one of the first MIT Fellows in Africa; he joined the Uganda Development Corp. and after two years taught for a semester at the MIT Sloan School. In mid-1963, he joined the World Bank in Washington.

At the time of our 25th reunion, Henry was assisting with the development of the financial markets in Kenya. He married Lynette Wardle of Sydney, Australia, a co-employee at the World Bank; they retired in 1993.

Henry was predeceased by Lynette in 2017. He is survived by his son, John; his daughter, Maria; and granddaughter Alexandra Somers. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.

THE CLASS OF 1960



Richard H. Hobbs Jr. '60

As the wartime son of then Col. Richard Hobbs 1924, our Dick managed to attend eight schools on his way to Princeton.

New Trier Township High School was his last stop on that way. With us, Dick joined Tower, majored in history, and was active in ROTC, where he was honored as

Superior Cadet. When not on parade, he enjoyed bridge, golf, tennis, and swimming and prepared himself for his chosen career in advertising.

After two years active Army service (he served six more in the Reserve and retired as a captain in 1968), Dick joined Leo Burnett Co. in 1962 in Chicago. He became a specialist in media services and rose through the ranks to retire in 1996 as executive vice president and director of Burnett's worldwide media services.

In retirement, Dick and his wife, Valerie, settled in Sarasota, Fla. There, he applied his media experience to serve as one of the founding partners of Starcom Worldwide. He also continued his lifelong love of fishing, especially for the fearsome muskellunge of northern waters.

Dick was active for many years in the Society of Colonial Wars and the Mayflower Society, as well as the Episcopal Church.

Dick died Sept. 7, 2022. He is survived by Valerie, their three daughters, and seven grandchildren. The class extends its sympathy to them all.

THE CLASS OF 1961



Stephen Miles Berger '61

Steve died Dec. 7, 2022, with his family by his side. He grew up in Philadelphia, where he attended Central High School. He was active in all

things sports and was recruited to play football at Princeton, but got waylaid by an injury freshman year. He majored in biology and was a member of Dial Lodge.

After graduation, Steve attended medical school at Columbia and began his residency at the Mayo Clinic. His residency was interrupted by a call to serve a tour as an Army physician in South Korea. While in Pusan, he fell in love with and married his life partner, Yong Suk Han (Sukie). After finishing his residency and fellowship at Penn, he settled in Columbus, Ohio. There Steve founded and ran Cardiology Inc., Ohio's largest cardiology practice, for 40 years.

He played the piano and guitar, was a collector of antique fountain pens, and loved to entertain in the home he designed and built on the banks of the Olentangy River. He had many loves and interests, but his greatest joy and achievement was the family he and Sukie created.

Steve is survived by his wife of 54 years, Sukie; daughters Lisa '91, Danielle, and Michelle; and six grandchildren. He will be missed.

Alexander Mansfield Williamson '61 *62

Sandy, as he was known to us, died peacefully Jan. 17, 2022, in Roswell, Ga.

Born in Portland, Ore., he grew up in several U.S. cities and abroad, the family



finally settling in Greenwich, Conn., where he graduated from the Brunswick School. At Princeton, he majored in geological engineering, was in the Air Force ROTC and on the rifle team, took his meals at Wilson Lodge, and roomed with George Diller.

After earning a master's degree at Princeton, also in geological engineering, Sandy had a variety of careers as a geophysicist, an import/export agent, a high school teacher, and a community college instructor — a man of many talents for all seasons. Along the way he earned master's degrees at NYU in business and the University of South Carolina in statistics. His obituary says that, as an adult, he was known by all as "The Man with the Hat," although we don't know the origin of that interesting nickname.

Sandy is survived by his wife of 57 years, Roberta "Bobbie"; sons Stephen and Derek; and daughter Wendy and their families; which include three grandchildren; and a sister.

THE CLASS OF 1962



William H. Barker Jr. '62

Bill, a physician, teacher, and writer, died Sept. 17, 2022.

At Princeton, Bill majored in history while taking pre-med courses. He attended medical school at Johns Hopkins. After a stint at the CDC investigating infectious disease outbreaks, he joined the faculty of the University of Rochester Medical School, where he devoted his career to teaching, researching, and writing about epidemiology, geriatric health services, and preventive medicine. His influential book, *Adding Life to Years* (JHU Press 1987), described geriatric health services in the United Kingdom and lessons for geriatric care in the United States.

Bill married Malla Anderson in 1967. They were ardent partners for 55 years until Malla's death in 2021. They treasured life on their farm near Rochester, N.Y., and traveled around the world.

Beginning in his 60s, Bill suffered multiple health problems. For his final 10 years, he used a wheelchair as a double amputee, but through it all, in the words of his twin brother Randy, he "stayed utterly and joyfully engaged in life."

Bill is survived by children Joseph and Maria, four grandchildren, and four siblings. To his family, the class extends its deepest sympathy.

Herbert Henryson II '62

Herb died Sept. 23, 2022, at his home in Middlebury, Vt.

Graduating from Lawrence High School in Lawrence, N.Y., at Princeton, Herb majored in chemical engineering and was a member of

Dial Lodge. He then earned a Ph.D. in nuclear engineering at UC Berkeley.

While in California, he took part in the Free Speech Movement and met his wife, Maxine, whom he married in 1965. They went to London on a Fulbright. In his second year there, he worked for the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority. Returning home in 1968, Herb worked at Argonne National Laboratory in advanced nuclear physics near Chicago.

After years as a senior scientist, Herb decided to change careers, earning a law degree from the University of Chicago Law School while still working at Argonne. The family moved to New York City, where he worked in corporate law, becoming an expert in mergers and acquisitions. Herb enjoyed poetry, fiction, sudoku, and the New York Yankees.

He is survived by his wife, Maxine; two sons, Dylan '92 and Stefan; and six grandchildren. The class extends its condolences to all.

THE CLASS OF 1963



Atmore L. Baggot '63

Atmore, a well-known and highly respected attorney in the Phoenix area for more than 52 years, died Nov. 9, 2022. He spent the last day before his fatal stroke in a favored, comfortable routine, making court appearances and going to the gym. Just weeks earlier, he had signed up for a dorm room at our 60th reunion.

Atmore came to us from Bronxville (N.Y.) High School, where he played varsity football and baseball and received an award from the American Legion as the outstanding mathematician in the class. At Princeton, he started as an electrical engineer, then switched to the philosophy department, writing his thesis on "The Concept of Law in Thomas Hobbes." As a member of Dial Lodge, he played touch football, basketball, softball, and darts and was a member of the Judo Club. His roommates were Larry Kadish and Burton Rose.

Atmore earned a law degree in 1969 from the University of Illinois, where he met Linda, the love of his life. They settled and raised their family in the Phoenix area, where he built a successful practice in immigration law and criminal defense.

Atmore's entry in our 50th-reunion yearbook included this self-reflection. "I think I will be a candidate for 'least changed,' since I still do essentially the same things I did years ago — things like drink beer (sometimes too much), listen to rock and roll (XM 5 on satellite radio), play the piano at gatherings (although not terrific), look at the girls going by (when the wife isn't looking at me), go to the gym and play sports (again, not terrifically), do remodeling projects on a DIY basis (some pretty good size),

and still worry about paying the bills."

Atmore is survived by his wife of 52 years, Linda; son Arlyn; and two grandchildren. His daughter, Nicole Jordana Baggot, died in 2018.



William P. Macht '63

Will died March 15, 2022, at home in Vancouver, Wash., surrounded by his partner Sylvia Skarstad and his two sons. He was a professor of urban studies and planning at Portland State University in Oregon and president of Macht & Co., a successful urban development company,

A native of Syracuse, N.Y., Will came to us from Deerfield Academy, where he graduated with honors, was on the editorial boards of the school paper and class yearbook, and was a member of the debating society and the squash and tennis teams. At Princeton, he majored in the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, was associate editor of *The Daily Princetonian*, chairman of *Response Magazine of the Creative Arts*, and a resident officer of Charter Club.

Will graduated from the University of Virginia Law School in 1967. After working in government positions in Washington, he became international counsel for the Gates Corp. in Denver, then the development director of the Rouse Co. that was building the new city of Columbia, Md., between Washington and Baltimore, where his first son, Marlow, was born.

Several years later, Will and his wife, Marieluise Vogt Macht, moved to Hood River, Ore., where their younger son, Madison, was born. Sensing the potential for mixed-use development of Hood River's extensive waterfront, Will was elected port commissioner and was involved in numerous land developments in the Hood River and Portland areas.

Throughout his 44-year career, Will also taught as a professor at both Portland State University's College of Urban and Public Affairs and the University of Oregon School of Architecture. He published more than 200 articles in professional journals and books.

Will is survived by his partner, Sylvia Skarstad; his two sons, Marlow '95 and Madison; his four grandchildren, Elijah, Aaron, Hazel, and Ruby; and his brother, John.



Donald P. McPherson III

'63 Don died Nov. 20, 2022, at home in Baltimore with his wife, Ann Teaff, by his side.

A longtime partner at DLA Piper in Baltimore, Don volunteered thousands of hours representing indigent clients.

Don came to Princeton from Gilman School in Baltimore, where he was on the basketball and track teams and a member of the Christian Association and the political club. At Princeton,

he was on the swimming and track teams and a member of Charter Club. He majored in philosophy and his thesis on "Verification of Counterfactual Statements" won the Dickinson Prize. His roommates included Callard, Constable, Dent, Duff, Gewin, Gilbert, Greenleaf, Markell, and Newsome.

Don earned a law degree from Columbia University in 1966 and joined Piper and Marbury, now known as DLA Piper. He headed the real-estate practice group for 14 years and, for 28 years, he headed or served on committees for the firm's pro bono practice. In 1997, he received the Arthur W. Machen Jr. Award from the Maryland Legal Services Corp., the highest award in Maryland for pro bono legal work.

On retiring in 2009, Don joined Just Advice, a project of the University of Maryland School of Law that offers free legal advice to those who can't afford an attorney. He helped nearly 1,000 individuals and was working on a legal document for one of his clients the evening before he died.

Don was a committed, superior athlete who swam, ran, or walked every morning. He and Ann traveled extensively, and their destinations invariably included bicycling or hiking.

Don is survived by his wife of 26 years, Ann; his daughter, Cynthia; three grandchildren; and brother Edward. His son, David, died in 2016.

THE CLASS OF 1964



Barry M. Rich '64

Barry died Aug. 31, 2022, of liver cancer in Boston, where he was self-employed as an attorney.

Barry came to Princeton from Shaker Heights High School in Ohio, where his activities included the Junior Council on World Affairs, the yearbook, the literary magazine, and the chess club. At Princeton, Barry majored in English, writing his thesis on "The Art of Samuel Richardson," best known as a writer and printer in England, with professor E.D.H. Johnson as his adviser. His extracurricular activities centered around the Wilson Society, where he served on the house committee and ways and means committee, and Whig-Clio.

Following graduation, Barry attended Harvard, where he earned a law degree and a master's degree. He commenced law practice in Boston, initially with a large firm but ultimately establishing his own general practice, with a focus on real estate law. He was actively practicing up until his death.

Barry's principal avocation was cooking and according to his wife, Carol, he was an excellent amateur chef. He was also an avid reader, with a particular interest in American history.

Barry is survived by Carol and a son, Jeremy, to whom the class extends its condolences. A daughter, Melissa, predeceased him.

THE CLASS OF 1965



Dolph F. Becker '65

Dolph died Oct. 8, 2022 in Bloomfield, Conn., after a long siege with illnesses before succumbing to Lewy body dementia. He was surrounded

by family including his wife of 56 years, Midge; and children Jason and his wife Leah and Sarah and her husband Doug; and granddaughter Isla.

Dolph was born March 5, 1943, in Hartford to Kathryn and Russell Becker, attended Hartford High School, where he met Midge, and was voted "Most Likely to Succeed." He majored in history, writing his senior thesis on Hartford as a useful study in Jacksonian democracy, joined the Wesley Foundation and the Rod and Gun Club, and took his meals at Campus.

He moved to Boston to work for Prudential but mostly to be near Midge, married her, and they moved back to Connecticut to start a family. For Dolph, this also involved starting his career as a financial planner and life insurance agent, making many friends locally and managing scholarship funds for several local schools. He did find time and energy to root for the Red Sox, the late lamentable Whalers, UConn, and of course the Tigers.

Birdwatching, travel, and long-distance hiking with his golden retriever Sassy were several of his favorite activities. He was known locally and in his class for the depth of his conversation, wisdom, and advice, and for the laughter he always brought with those qualities, as well as for blasting Lionel Richie songs with all windows open when the family took a trip anywhere.

A celebration of his life will be held in May 2023 at Duncaster in Bloomfield, Conn.

THE CLASS OF 1966

William C. Cummings III '66

Will died Aug. 1, 2022, of injuries suffered in a biking accident in Madison, Wis.

A native of Janesville, Wis., Will came to Princeton from Andover, where he was all-club in lacrosse and soccer. His Princeton roommates included Jim Holman and Mike Witte.

He withdrew from Princeton during sophomore year and served in the Army from 1965 to 1967, earning a National Defense Service Medal.

Alumni records show his most recent residence as Waunakee, Wis. He had his own computer consulting business, Accessible Computing, in Verona, Wis., as well as a honeybee operation, involving the raising and care of honeybees and sale of honey.

Will is survived by Christina Gates, Steve Cummings, Anne Fredrich, a niece, and three

nephews, to all of whom the class extends its condolences.

THE CLASS OF 1967



Joseph L. Wood '67

Joe died March 6, 2022, after battling prostate cancer.

He grew up in Alabama, moved to Baltimore in 1959, and graduated from the

McDonogh School in 1963. A member of the National Honor Society and the Cum Laude Society, Joe won a National Merit Scholarship. At Princeton, Joe majored in electrical engineering, roomed at 1903 Hall with Charles Lazer and Ted Todd, belonged to the Amateur Radio Society, was a three-year member of WPRB, and ate at Key and Seal.

After graduation, Joe moved west to Berkeley, earning an MSEE in 1969. From 1969 to 1972, he served in the Army. In 1972, he joined Bell Labs. Not long after, Ted Todd introduced Joe to a colleague from Ted's office, Susan Mapes. They married in 1973 and lived in Cranbury, N.J., for 23 years and had two sons, Joseph Wood IV and Timothy. Tragically, Susan died of breast cancer in 1996.

Ted Todd again played matchmaker and Joe married Laura Triest, Ted's cousin, in 1998. The couple had a daughter, Natalie.

Joe moved to Laura's home in Annapolis, Maryland, to work for the federal sales office of the Aspect Communications Corporation located in Greenbelt. Their home on the Delaware shore of the Chesapeake Bay allowed time on his 37-foot boat and Joe joined the Annapolis Yacht Club and earned a Coast Guard Captain's license. He is survived by Laura and three children.

THE CLASS OF 1972



Bruce A. Hughes '72

Bruce died July 10, 2022, of cancer. Known for his outgoing, friendly, loyal, and engaging personality, he was the husband of Lisa (Pode) Hughes,

and the son of Rosamond Finocchio and the late George Hughes.

Bruce came to Princeton from Phillips Andover Academy, where he played varsity soccer and baseball. At Princeton, Bruce was a history major and a member of Charter Club, playing softball, coaching hockey, and serving as Bicker committee chair. He lettered on the freshman and varsity soccer teams. He roomed his last two years with Jim Hart and Jeff Engler.

Bruce earned a law degree at the New England School of Law and an LL.M. in taxation from Boston University, practicing law in the Boston area. In one of his more significant cases, he helped keep his treasured Red Sox from leaving Boston when the longtime owner died and a potential new

owner was considering a move.

Bruce noted that his proudest contributions were his daughter, Alanna, and son, Brendan. In addition to them, Bruce is survived by his wife, his mother, a brother and sister, and numerous nieces and nephews. The class extends its heartfelt sympathy to Bruce's family.

THE CLASS OF 1973



William James Arraj '73

Billy died May 25, 2019, at Lake Forest Park, Wash.

Born Aug. 1, 1952, to James and Margaret Arraj in Queens, N.Y., Billy grew up loving

to play basketball. He attended Regis High School in New York City, where he sang in the glee club and was active in the Homeric Society, reading Homer in Greek during his senior year.

After Princeton, where he majored in religion, he received a Fulbright-Hays scholarship and studied at Wolfson College at Oxford. He later attended the University of Chicago, where he received his doctorate in 1988 for work on South Asian languages and civilizations.

Billy was interested in music and the arts. He was known for his patience and compassion and his ability to strike up a conversation with anyone.

In 1990, Billy married Collett Davis Cox. They had a daughter, Emily Collett Arraj. The class extends its sympathy Billy's family.

THE CLASS OF 1974

Pamela V. Brown '74

Pamela died Nov. 26, 2022, at the age of 69.

She was born in the Mount Airy section of Philadelphia, the daughter of Mary and Daniel Brown, and came to Princeton from Philadelphia High School for Girls. She majored in psychology and worked at Commons, which occupied much of her time during her undergraduate years. After graduation, she earned a master's degree in psychology from Hahnemann Medical College and her Psy.D. from Rutgers University.

Pamela was one of the few black women practicing in private practice in the mental health field when she started out in 1987. She located her office in downtown Philadelphia because of the access it gave her patients through public transportation. She specialized in treating children, and demand for her services was very strong because of her intense devotion to her patients.

Pamela loved ballet and ice dancing, though she seldom had time to enjoy them because of her workload. She had a serious stroke in May and focused on recovering enough to enable her to continue seeing her patients.

The class extends its deepest sympathy to her brother, Daniel and his wife, Camilla; and her aunt Dorcas Carter and her husband, Floyd.

GRADUATE ALUMNI**Richard Mawe *55**

A scientist and an actor, Richard died Oct. 7, 2022.

Born April 16, 1929, in West New York, N.J., Richard earned bachelor's and master's degrees (1950 and 1951) from Fordham, and a Ph.D. in biology from Princeton in 1955.

After serving as a flight physiologist in the Navy, Richard taught at Columbia before joining the faculty of Hunter College. He chaired Hunter's department of biology and became dean of sciences and mathematics. Richard established Hunter's Center for the Study of Gene Structure and Function. In 2001, Hunter awarded him an honorary degree in recognition of his developing minority science programs and recruiting minority scientists.

Richard's free time was consumed by his love for the stage. He studied and taught acting at the HB Studio in New York. Richard appeared in films, television, and theater productions, and belonged to Actors' Equity Association and the Screen Actors Guild. Keenly aware of the challenges facing theater artists, he served as vice president of the HB Playwrights Foundation. He spent his final months pursuing a writing course at the 92nd Street Y.

Predeceased by his long-term partner Grace Konrad, Richard is survived by two brothers, nephews, and a niece, and their children.

Hans Toch *55

Hans died June 18, 2021, in Albany, N.Y.

Born April 17, 1930, in Vienna, Austria, Hans escaped the Holocaust, immigrating initially to Cuba and then to the United States. He earned a bachelor's degree at Brooklyn College in 1952 and a Ph.D. in psychology at Princeton in 1955.

Hans served in the Navy, was a Fulbright fellow in Norway, a visiting lecturer at Harvard, and a member of the psychology department at Michigan State University before being recruited in 1967 as a founding faculty member of the School of Criminal Justice at the State University of New York at Albany, the first program in the country to confer a Ph.D. in criminal justice. He retired from SUNY Albany in 2008.

Hans' scholarship represented the viewpoints, understandings, and humanity of offenders, police officers, the incarcerated, and correctional officers. He authored more than 30 books including *Violent Men: An Inquiry Into the Psychology of Violence*; *Living in Prison: The Ecology of Survival*; and *Stress in Policing*.

A fellow of the American Society of Criminology and of the American Psychological Association, Hans served as president of the American Association of Forensic Psychology.

He is survived by his children, Jay and Michelle; and two grandchildren.

Nicola N. Khuri *57

Nicola died in New York Aug. 4, 2022, at the age of 89.

Born in Beirut in 1933, Nicola earned a bachelor's degree from the American University there and a Ph.D. in physics from Princeton in 1957.

After fellowships at Princeton, he taught at the American University of Beirut, the Institute for Advanced Study, and Columbia before joining the Rockefeller University faculty in 1964 as an associate professor. He rose to full professor in 1968.

A pioneering theoretical physicist known for using math to describe what happens when elementary particles collide in giant accelerators, Nicola's contributions included building the foundation for potential scattering theory, which has been put to work in several important physics experiments, including at the Large Hadron Collider. He also studied the general mathematical properties of quantum field theories, which are used to describe elementary particles and their interactions, and the basic structure of matter.

Beyond his scientific pursuits, Nicola had a talent for bringing people together and was a leader of the second Shelter Island Conference in 1983.

Nicola is survived by his daughter, Suzanne Khuri and her husband Vijay Seshadri; his son, Nicholas Khuri '10 and his wife Claire Landis; and three grandchildren.

Robert Smith Jordan *60

APGA president from 1975 to 1977, Bob died April 29, 2022, of heart disease in Salt Lake City. He was 92.

Bob began his studies at UCLA, pursued a master's degree at the University of Utah, and earned a Ph.D. in politics from Princeton in 1960. As a Fulbright scholar, Bob earned a D.Phil. from Oxford.

An authority on U.S. national security policy, international organizations, and military biography, Bob held faculty and administrative positions at the University of Pittsburgh, George Washington University, SUNY Binghamton, the University of South Carolina (Dag Hammarskjold visiting professor), and the University of New Orleans, where he was dean of the graduate school. He held positions at the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and at the Army, Naval and Air war colleges. Bob's international posts included Fourah Bay College in Sierra Leone and the University of Lancaster (U.K.) as a Fulbright professor.

Bob appreciated his Mormon pioneer heritage and was active in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He maintained lifelong friendships from his Air Force days, where he was an officer and earned a Bronze Star Medal.

He is survived by his wife, Jane; children Sara, Rebecca, Bob, and David; eight grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Florian A. Mikulski *65

At the age of 86, Florian died Oct. 11, 2022, in Chatham Township, N.J.

Born in Buffalo, N.Y., he received a bachelor's degree from Canisius College, and earned a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from Princeton in 1965.

He served in the Army Chemical Corps from 1962 to 1964 as an officer, ultimately leaving as a captain. After working as a chemist for several years at Allied Chemical, he joined the CIA, where he worked in the Clandestine Services, and later in the Directorate of Science & Technology, where he was one of the founders of the digital satellite system.

Florian joined Chase Manhattan Bank as a vice president and software specialist and later founded the bank's international telecommunications network, a predecessor of the internet. After serving as president of Security Pacific Bank's telecommunications subsidiary, he became an independent telecommunications consultant. He was the author of *Supply Chain Management, Complex Procurements*, which guides companies on how to make the right vendor choice.

Predeceased by his wife, Ann, Florian is survived by his children, Thomas, Nancy Maluso, Michael, and Susan Mullin; 13 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Janna K. Maranas *97

Janna died Nov. 3, 2022, in State College, Pa., at the age of 57.

She was born Aug. 11, 1965, in Portland, Ore. In her high school years, Janna excelled in flute and vocal performance. She started her undergraduate studies as a music major, but later switched to chemical engineering. She graduated from Cal Poly, Pomona with a bachelor of science degree. She continued her studies at Princeton, where she earned a Ph.D. in chemical engineering in 1997. Her dissertation research pioneered the application of simulation methods and thermodynamic concepts in the analysis of the behavior of polymer blends.

Soon after her graduation from Princeton, Janna began her academic career in the Department of Chemical Engineering at Penn State University, reaching the rank of professor. Janna was known to be a dedicated teacher, a tireless mentor to students, and a cordial faculty colleague. She made an impact on the lives of her students, many of whom hold positions in academia and industry.

Janna is survived by her daughters, Cassandra and Christina; her mother, Mimi Mosbaugh; her sister, Rachel Tuck; and several nieces and nephews.

Graduate alumni memorials are prepared by the APGA.

An undergraduate memorial appears for Alexander Mansfield Williamson '61 '62.

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Alumni in the News

NEWSMAKERS Q&A: ABBY RUBENFELD '75



Abby Rubinfeld '75 is a top attorney in the field of LGBTQ family law and civil rights issues who worked on the cases that legalized same-sex marriage. This year she has rallied against lawmakers' plans in her state, Tennessee, to ban drag shows, and testified before the state legislature on behalf of the Tennessee Pride Chamber, of which she's a member. The legislation has since passed, and now Rubinfeld is planning to fight it in court.

Note: Scroll down to see a list of alumni in the news.

When does the law go into effect?

The law goes into effect April 1. It was originally for July 1, but I think it changed because somebody must have realized that the whole point of the

Princeton Books

THREE BOOKS

Julia Boorstin '00 on Women Who Lead

Julia Boorstin '00 is CNBC's senior media and tech correspondent and author of the new book, *When Women Lead: What They Achieve, Why They Succeed, How We Can Learn From Them*. In it she tells the stories of female leaders who have defied the odds and suggests that some leadership traits that have traditionally been seen as more "female" — empathy, vulnerability, gratitude, and a communal approach — are exactly what everyone needs right now to succeed in business. Here are three books about female leaders that inspired her.



Read why Boorstin chose these at paw.princeton.edu.



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

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

United States, Northeast

Bridgehampton, NY: Charming 3BR, 2.5 bath home, pool, walk to town/train, bike to beach. Available July 1- Labor Day. 917-446-3605, bill@thedailyfnq.com. 2-week minimum.

Catskills, NY: Modern House for rent weekly/monthly, Featured in Dwell, Sleeps 6, 2Bed/2Bath, plus Loft, Hiking/Skiing Nearby. Contact- mids.ibanez@gmail.com '94

Chatham, Cape Cod: Charming 3BR, private yard/outside shower, walk town/beach. 917-912-2361, Batcheller40@hotmail.com, k'60

REUNION WK Rental. New 3rm suite in Private Princeton home, full bath and private entrance. Sleeps 4, 3mi to campus, daily transportation provided. \$575 per night, 4 night min. contact; JRS85@cornell.edu for info and availability.

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

United States, Southeast

Highlands NC: 3BR/5 bath home inside the gates of Highlands Falls CC. Available in July or August. \$6,500 for 2wks; \$9,000 for 3wks. tompotts76@yahoo.com, '71 P'03

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Books

"Creative Uncertainty: A New Philosophy for a World Out of Balance" By David Keppel. Kindle/Paperback

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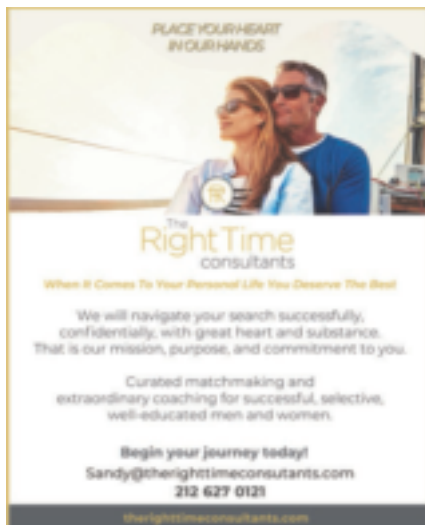
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What Will Become of Farrand's Beloved Ivy?

By Elyse Graham '07

Will the Ivy League always have its ivy? The answer isn't as obvious as we might expect. Like all plants, ivy thrives in a specific range of environmental conditions. Above a consistent temperature of about 90 degrees, the Boston ivy that grows on Princeton's campus gets stressed, drops leaves, turns brown and yellow and dies. That type of heat and humidity isn't uncommon during the summers in Virginia. And because of climate change, the grounds and landscaping staff at Princeton have been slowly adjusting the flora on campus to survive the historic climate of Virginia, not New Jersey.

We owe Princeton's ivy look, which is far more subtle and complex than it might appear, to Beatrix Jones Farrand, the landscape architect who designed Princeton's modern grounds. When the University hired Farrand in 1912, she had to solve the problem of how to produce the look without using too much of the plant itself. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, a fashion for ivied gardens, half-wild and rich with little fancies, coincided with a fashion on

American campuses for buildings in the Collegiate Gothic style, also half-wild and rich with little fancies, that we now associate with the Ivy League. But ivy is terribly destructive to buildings — and we might not have figured out how to get the ivy look if not for Farrand's brilliance.

She filled the campus with vines that are actually cleverly groomed trees and shrubs: forsythia, honeysuckle, five-leaved aralia, blending with true vines of ivy and hydrangea, climbing up walls and

“We feel like, in campus grounds, we're upholding her values still. How we work, how we look at things.”

— Devin Livi, director of campus grounds

weeping from archways in sticky drops of purple and gold. From her, too, come our curving paths, our fall conflagrations, the cherry trees that cover the campus with an indecent pink blush every spring. More than anyone else, Farrand is the reason Princeton looks like Princeton.

Farrand, née Jones, grew up rich in New York City, the niece of the novelist Edith Wharton. A character based on her appears in an 1894 society novel by Marion Crawford, which describes her as witty and practical, a consummate New Yorker.

Farrand decided young that she wanted to be a landscape architect, and

her talent was so exceptional that those who could afford the best would settle for nobody else. She managed the gardens of the Morgans, the Rockefellers, and the Whitneys, and she advised the Roosevelts on the White House gardens. After Woodrow Wilson 1879 became U.S. president in 1913, she designed the new gardens that flanked the remodeled East and West wings.

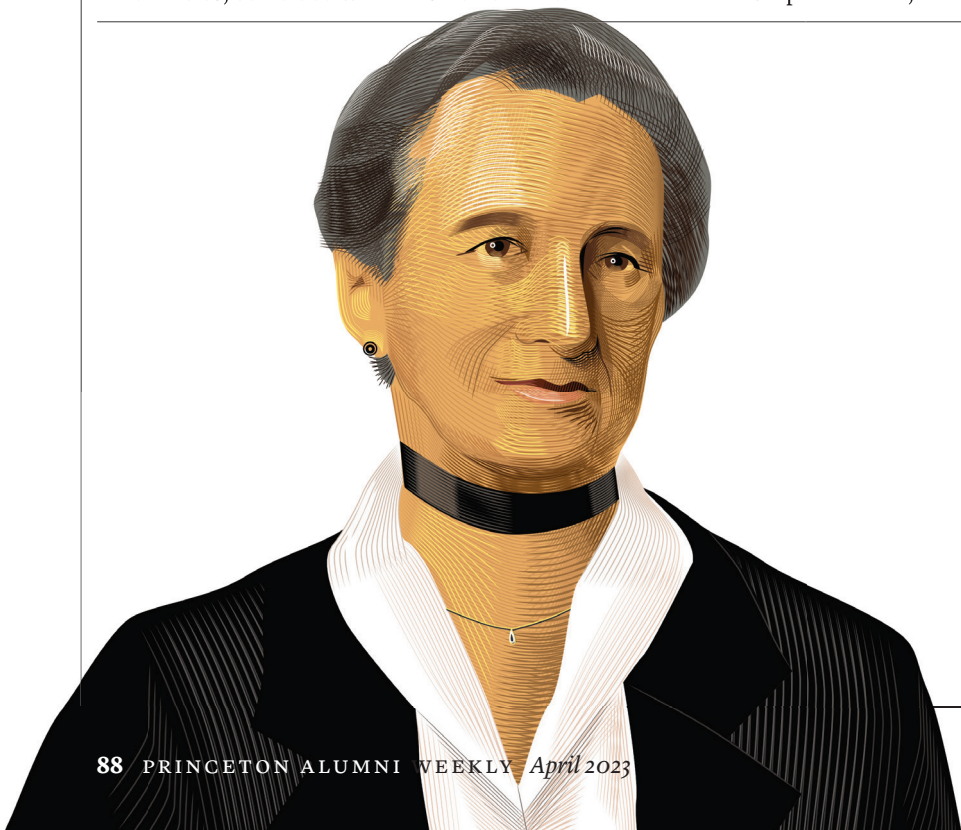
In 1912, Princeton hired her, on the Roosevelts' recommendation, to serve as a landscaping adviser. She got a husband out of the deal: At a dinner at Prospect House the next year, she met a Yale history professor, Max Farrand 1892, who was outdoorsy, funny, and tall, like her.

Farrand's philosophy emphasized native plants, seasonal costume changes, and designs that enhanced the existing natural landscape. That philosophy still informs the look of campus today, says Devin Livi, the University's director of campus grounds: “We feel like, in campus grounds, we're upholding her values still. How we work, how we look at things — asking, ‘What would she use?’ We're carrying the torch.”

But a philosophy that champions native plants no longer works as a campus development plan without a reevaluation of what “native” really means. Already, members of the grounds staff are talking about bringing in new varieties of grass that better respond to drought conditions. They have a 12-acre nursery where they bring plants from the South — the Chinese pistache tree, for instance — and test them for a few years to see whether they fare better than New Jersey plants. If they do, the staff introduces them to campus.

“We've seen the biggest decline in evergreen trees, in terms of things we don't plant and we don't see anymore,” Livi says. “We're keeping an eye on sugar maples. They're found in Vermont and Massachusetts. And in New Jersey, once — but less often now. We're looking at different varieties to see if different varieties can survive in the changing climate.”

An unhappy paradox, then: For as long as temperatures keep rising, trying to sustain Farrand's legacy means that her campus will, in time, become unrecognizable to her. ♦





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