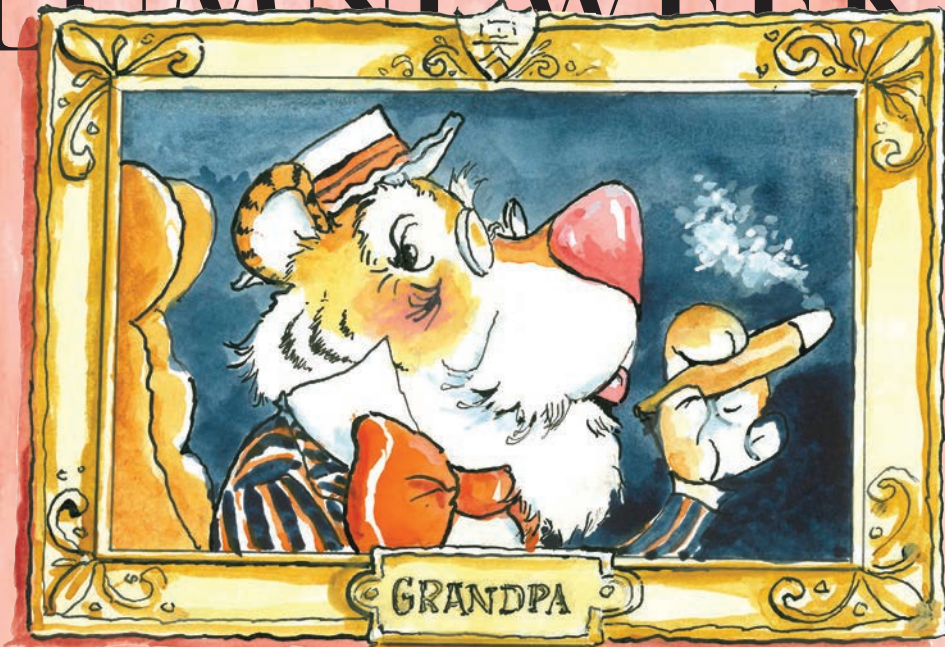


War & Words: Tension High Over Israel-Gaza Violence

# PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY

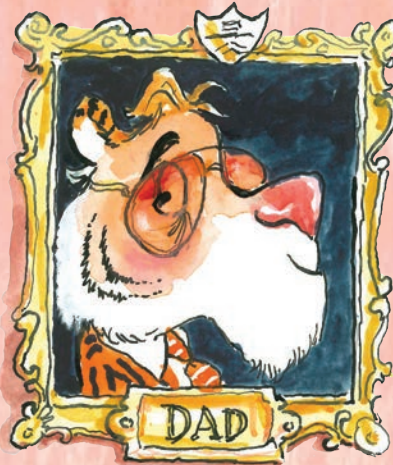
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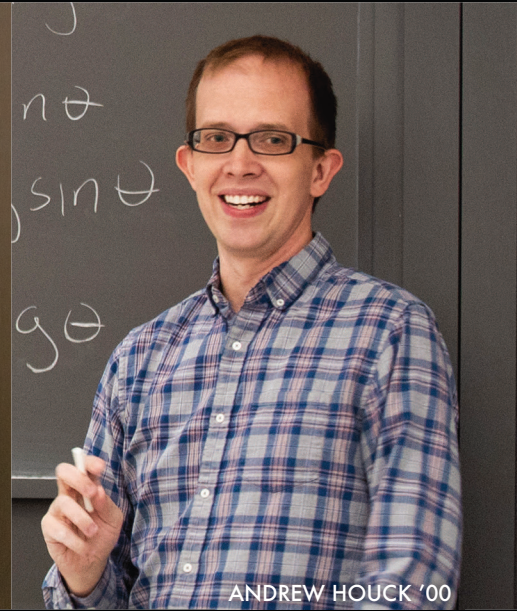
# VENTURE FORWARD



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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: Greg Carroccio/Sideline Photography; Brandon Johnson; Tori Repp/Fotobuddy





# CONTENTS

DECEMBER 2023 VOLUME 124 NUMBER 4

An editorially independent magazine by alumni for alumni since 1900

## TWO SIDES

Wearing the flag of Israel, an onlooker watches a pro-Palestine walkout staged by students on Oct. 25. Page 38.



## FEATURES

### 33 The Legacy of Legacy

Family ties are strong at Princeton, but changes to admission policies could be coming. PAW invited four alumni to discuss the future.

BY MARK F. BERNSTEIN '83

### 38 War & Words

With tension high over the Israel-Gaza war, can Princeton avoid uglier incidents seen at other universities?

BY MARK F. BERNSTEIN '83

### 44 Ross Tucker '01 Is Going Places

After years of working his way through the NFL media ecosystem, the former football player is starting to break big.

BY BRETT TOMLINSON

## ON THE COVER

Will there be a spot at Princeton for another generation of Tigers?

Illustration by Michael Witte '66

## DEPARTMENTS

### 2 The President's Page

### 3 Inbox

### 8 On the Campus

### 19 Research

### 49 Princetonians

### 55 Class Notes

### 71 Memorials

### 79 Classifieds

### 80 Princeton Portrait





# Faculty Dinners at Lowrie House



**P**eople often ask me what I like best about my job. The answer is easy: I enjoy meeting Princetonians of all types—undergraduates, graduate students, alumni, staff, and faculty—and learning their stories.

I especially treasure the dinners that I host for newly tenured faculty members at Lowrie

House, the Princeton president's official residence. We have seven or eight such dinners each year, half of them for internally promoted associate professors and half for lateral appointments from other colleges and universities.

The dinners are a longstanding Princeton tradition. I do not know whether Presidents McCosh or Hibben held them, but Shirley Tilghman certainly did. I still remember the dinner that she hosted for the ecologist David Wilcove, the mathematician David Gabai, and me. We talked about owls, multidimensional doughnuts, and constitutional rights.

These meals, which include faculty spouses or partners, take place around the Lowrie House dining table, which can seat up to twenty people. Princeton Campus Dining, which runs the University's dining halls, also caters at the president's house. The talented team of chefs prepares delicious and imaginative dinners, and the attentive staff ensures that the occasions are festive and happy.

Conversations range widely across topics both serious and light. We discuss world events, University policy, McCarter Theatre productions, and children's Halloween costumes. People get to know one another as family and friends and as faculty colleagues—even, sometimes, as potential co-authors.

For me, though, the highlight is hearing our marvelous faculty members describe their research, scholarship, and teaching. At one October dinner, for example, we covered the evolution of mosquitoes, potential applications of blockchain technology, and statistical arguments about racial bias in policing.

Earlier in the same month, I had a chance to talk with scholars about gender disparities in professional labor markets, conceptions of human well-being, and efforts to educate undocumented college students in America.

Faculty members seem to enjoy these celebratory dinners so much that they are sometimes reluctant to leave. I have a variety of strategies for bringing the evening to a close—every once in a while I get as far as “Plan C,” which involves allowing my golden retriever-Labrador mix, Buster, to “accidentally” escape into the public areas of Lowrie House. His exuberance invariably gets people to their feet. (I'm pretty sure that those nights are his favorites!)

Provost Jen Rexford '91 and Dean of the Faculty Gene Jarrett '97 join the Lowrie House dinners. One benefit of this practice is that the three of us come to know almost all the

tenured faculty members at Princeton by name.

That is rare for a great research university, and it surprises some recent arrivals. When I was provost, I walked past a newly hired art historian and greeted him by name. He blanched. “Oh no,” he said, “the provost knows my name—what have I done wrong?”

At another university, the provost's attention might be a sign of trouble. At Princeton, it is just one manifestation of our unusually personal, collegial, and friendly intellectual environment.

That is a great advantage, in my view. George Shultz '42 used to say, “Trust is the coin of the realm.” Approaching his 100th birthday, he told the *Washington Post* he had learned this:

“When trust was in the room, whatever room that was—the family room, the schoolroom, the locker room, the office room, the government room, or the military room—good things happened. When trust was not in the room, good things did not happen. Everything else is details.”<sup>1</sup>

It is much easier for people to trust one another when they know each other's names. Trust does not mean that people will agree or that they will always like one another—but it does mean that they can build relationships and learn from one another.

For that reason, I regard my dinners with faculty members as sources of both personal joy and institutional strength for our University. Like Reunions, they are a tradition worth cultivating, and a special pleasure for a Princeton president.

---

**“I regard my dinners with faculty members as sources of both personal joy and institutional strength for our University.”**

---

No doubt some college presidents have similar stories to tell from their own campuses, whereas others relish grander venues.

For example, I once overheard one of my counterparts wax poetic about sharing cocktails with a wealthy architect at dusk on a yacht in the Mediterranean. He described that as a highlight of his job. I am certain that the sunset was, as he said, exquisite.

For me, though, the most delightful pleasures of my job are much closer to home, and never greater than around the Lowrie House dinner table, when I am happily immersed in what I immodestly regard as the best scholarly community in the world.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2020/12/11/10-most-important-things-i-learned-about-trust-over-my-100-years/>



# INBOX

YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE LATEST ISSUES

## TIGER-STRIPED WELCOME

In reply to your call for move-in stories (From the Archives, October issue): On my freshman move-in day, one of my roommates, Dave



Parsons '72, suggested that he tour me around the campus that he had learned from visits with his father. Dave pointed out the freshman “zoo” dorms, such as Witherspoon, as well as the Art Museum, Whig and Clio, and then finally Nassau Hall.

Just as we stepped onto Cannon Green, along the path came a gent on a tiger-striped “English racer” bicycle, with a tiger’s tail flowing from the rear fender. The fellow was wearing a suit, with a tiger-striped cap on his head. He greeted Dave warmly.

Dave introduced me to the late, great Freddy Fox '39, a classmate of his father’s. Freddy wanted to know when we arrived, how move-in went, where I was from, and what I was thinking of majoring in.

“Well, I must be going,” he announced after five or 10 minutes. “But to welcome you to Princeton, I have something for you.” He reached into a pocket and pulled out two orange-and-black striped lollipops, giving one to each of us. “Enjoy yourselves, boys!” he shouted as he pedaled away.

I stood there in a state of smiling disbelief. I hadn’t been offered a lollipop, never mind one with tiger stripes, since I was maybe 5 or 6. But, here was the recording secretary of the University greeting me with one, to ensure that I felt welcome on his campus. It was an effective gesture — and the start of a fine four years.

**OWEN P. CURTIS '72 \*75**  
*Alexandria, Va.*

## GOV. JARED POLIS '96

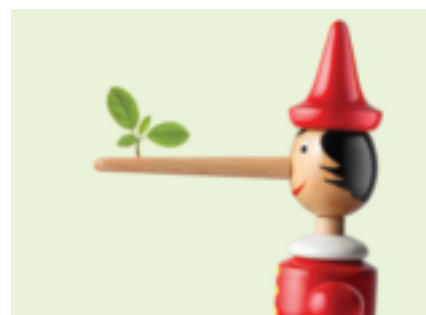
Thank you for this important profile of Gov. Jared Polis '96 (“The Unpredictable Politician,” October issue). It’s critical for us to see more of the nation’s rational and moderate leaders like him who are the counterpoint to the dominating noise and fury of American politics today.

In addition to all of the impressive work he’s done highlighted in this article,

for many years, Gov. Polis and his parents hosted a set of students from Ivy League schools during weeks-long summer internships with their family publishing business, split between Boulder and La Jolla, California. I was a lucky one to nab a spot with them and will never forget the work which exposed us to practical business and artistic insights we couldn’t find anywhere else. To boot, their entire

family and the business’s employees were of the kindest and most charitable nature imaginable. Truly, these are good people, the kind we desperately need in American politics now and in the future. I’m eternally grateful for my summer experience in 2000 and remain very proud to support Gov. Polis still today!

**ZEYNA BALLEE '01**  
*Aix-en-Provence, France*



## GREENING THE SYSTEM

The issue of greenwashing (Research, October issue) is critical as it provides ammunition to critics of efforts to stay on a 1.5 degrees Celsius trajectory by 2050.

I have been digging into what is happening in Europe, where we have both the Net-Zero Banking Alliance (a UNEP sponsored, industry-led initiative that puts member banks in a funnel leading from vague promises to portfolio analysis and then firm commitments, board-level reviews, and five-year objectives from 2025 on) and the European Green Deal.

The European Green Deal includes three pieces of regulation: one on benchmarks used to assess “green” products and services (answers the question “What is an ESG benchmark and what criteria must it meet?”); one on green taxonomy, which defines six priorities for European economies to fight climate change and determines which activities contribute to this fight, thereby enabling industries and investors to target appropriate areas if they want to make their own businesses greener or invest in green



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activities; and the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation, which applies to all actors in the financial sector. This last piece of regulation includes standard requirements for reporting on potential climate risks caused by investments or threats of climate risk on investments.

How far does America have to go to create such a comprehensive system? Without dictating where investments have to go or what companies have to do, these European regulations are creating a climate in which companies and financial players have a strong interest in thoughtful green investing.

**JOCELYN PHELPS '82**

*Paris, France*

**FIELD HOCKEY HISTORY**

In reading your article on the impact of international athletes on the game of field hockey (Sports, October issue), I wanted to add that the tradition at Princeton of recruiting foreign players started before the time frame mentioned in the story. I think that I was the first foreign recruit in 1984.

I clearly recall meeting coach Betty Logan way back in 1983, as I was initiating my life in the U.S. as a newcomer from Argentina. It was a brief encounter at the tournament she used to run in Port Jervis, New York.

Little did I know that a year later, I would be enrolling at Princeton and starting in the first game of the 1984 season. I had developed as a player at the Northlands School in Argentina,

where my team had won the national championships a couple of years in a row. My stickwork was European style, where the hypotenuse ruled whenever you could find the gap, and transitioning to playing on a U.S. field of the '80s with all the "flat and through set plays" was horrifyingly predictable and hard to adjust to. I am glad the art of field hockey at Princeton is now a gratifying sight.

Princeton had its worst record during my time as a field hockey player there, but I do not regret it one bit — it was the opportunity of my life being able to attend the "best place of all." I will always cherish my experience as a college athlete.

**MIRNA GOLDBERGER '88**

*Watertown, Mass.*

**CLIMATE PANELISTS**

Tom Leyden '77 and Zach Goldstein '05 reasonably suggest that the University "should have included University-affiliated scientists to represent the prevailing view that, yes, climate change is an emergency" (Inbox, October issue). The backstory is that the panel sponsor, the Conservative Princeton Association, invited and encouraged two prominent University-affiliated scientists to present the "prevailing" view. One refused; the other did not respond. (I was the one asking.)

Further criticisms from Leyden and Goldstein are refuted in the recording of the panel at [youtu.be/L\\_Kc\\_r3cdH0](https://youtu.be/L_Kc_r3cdH0). Or you can find why climate change



**HOCKEY HISTORY**

*Mirna Goldberger '88, front, in action circa 1986.*

COURTESY PRINCETON ATHLETICS



is not an emergency on the website for the CO<sub>2</sub> Coalition. Please make your own judgment.

**ALEX ZARECHNAK '68**  
Oakton, Va.

### LOOTED VS. LEGITIMATE

The article about looted antiquities (“Raider of the Lost Art,” October issue) was excellent, but it raises, and fails to address, a very significant question: When and under what circumstances can museums and private collectors acquire, and then legitimately claim to own, antiquities? Stated another way, when and under what circumstances are antiquities not considered unlawfully looted from their places of origin?

**HAMILTON OSBORNE JR. '65**  
Columbia, S.C.

*Editor’s note: The Association of Art Museum Directors guidelines, which were briefly mentioned in PAW’s story, advise museums to “thoroughly research the ownership history of a work prior to its acquisition, including making a rigorous effort to obtain accurate written documentation with respect to its history, including import and export documents.”*

### FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

I read the article, “Should Departments Weigh In on Politics?” (On the Campus, September issue) with interest and concern.

As is pointed out, Princeton has a long and cherished tradition of “institutional restraint,” allowing for unfettered freedom of speech, enjoyed by generations of faculty members and students alike. In this and other respects, Princeton has remained very much in line with the views of our founding fathers and the Bill of Rights. Many of us have felt that this is one of the inherent strengths of Princeton in the nation’s service.

Currently, freedom of speech may be significantly challenged within the federal government, in national news networks, and in social media, thus posing uncomfortable issues for us, as Americans and Princetonians. Although accuracy of information is also a concern, we have generally believed that truth is served by freedom of expression.

COURTESY OF JONATHAN GRIBETZ; SHELLEY SZWAST; ALEX BOERNER

## ONLINE Exclusives

CONTENT AVAILABLE ONLY AT PAW.PRINCETON.EDU



### THREE BOOKS Israel and Palestine

After Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7, PAW asked **Jonathan Marc Gribetz**, an associate professor of Near Eastern and Judaic studies, to recommend books for readers who want to better understand the groups’ history. Gribetz responded with several recommendations — here’s an excerpt:

“More than a decade ago, a group of Palestinian and Israeli educators attempted to write a single, joint narrative of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict but the task proved too difficult; instead they produced a book called *Side by Side: Parallel Histories of Israel-Palestine* on which separate, often conflicting Israeli and Palestinian narratives appear across from one another on each page of the book. There is something both instructive and tragic about this failure, and I therefore assign *Side by Side* in my course on the Arab-Israeli conflict. But I also assign an excellent textbook, *Arabs and Israelis: Conflict and Peacemaking in the Middle East*, written by Egyptian scholar Abdel Monem Said Aly, Israeli scholar Shai Feldman, and Palestinian scholar Khalil Shikaki that offers a sophisticated analysis of the history (and the competing narratives) of the conflict and the attempts over the decades to resolve it.”



### TIGER BASKETBALL What to Watch

Hopes are high after both Princeton basketball teams’ tournament titles and NCAA Tournament wins last season.

PAW put together a list of players to keep an eye on this season, including men’s guard Matt Allocco ’24; women’s co-captain Ellie Mitchell ’24; and men’s guard Xaivian Lee ’26.



### SPEEDBOAT SLIDESHOW

See extra photos from the beautiful day in October when Princeton students set a world record for speed with a 14-foot hydroplane boat on Lake Townsend near Greensboro, North Carolina. (Story on page 10.) Spoiler alert: They reached 117 mph.

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At this point in our history, it seems particularly important to reject policy statements regarding controversial issues of the day as part of departmental management. Our junior faculty carry many of our hopes for the future, and their thoughts and opinions should not be constrained by guidelines determined by others.

**STEPHEN R. SMITH '59**

*Towson, Md.*

*Editor's note: In September, the Faculty Advisory Committee on Policy withdrew its proposal for a policy on the issuance of statements by University offices, departments, or other units.*

#### INDEPENDENT STUDY

I was very interested to read Gregg Lange '70's piece, "Rally 'Round the Cannon: Creating a Major Challenge" (posted online Sept. 1). While the entire piece was of interest to me, I was particularly pleased to see that Lange recognized the central role played by then Dean of the Faculty Luther Eisenhart in the development of the four-course plan and independent study, with its senior thesis capstone project. Lange's account jibes with my understanding, yet despite its long history and persistent preeminence in the Princeton undergraduate academic program, few in the Princeton community are aware of the origins of the independent study plan and those primarily responsible for it.

Lange's piece is also of personal interest to me as Luther, who I met once at his home in Princeton in the 1960s, was my great uncle. As Lange correctly states, Luther did not attend Princeton as a student but, coming from a Pennsylvania Dutch family in nearby York, was a graduate of Gettysburg College. When on staff at the University he encouraged his younger brother (and my grandfather), Martin Herbert Eisenhart 1905, to attend Princeton, which marked the beginning of my family's long association with this great institution.

I thank the author for this well-researched, insightful, and timely piece.

**DOUGLAS M. EISENHART '72**

*Natick, Mass.*



Photo courtesy of Skip Fox '75

## MAKING A LIST, CHECKING IT TWICE

*Preparing your end-of-year checklist?*

Don't forget the many ways to give to Princeton, says 1746 Society member and estate planning expert **Skip Fox '75**:

- Give **appreciated stocks, bonds and mutual funds**. You get an income tax deduction for full market value — and eliminate capital gains tax.
- Convert market gains to income with a **Princeton life income gift**.
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Contact the Gift Planning team for more information and to learn about the Annual Giving Legacy program.

*The information presented is not intended as legal or financial advice. Please consult your own professional advisors to discuss your specific situation.*



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LEFT: Renée Cox, *March*, from the series *Queen Nanny of the Maroons*, 2004. Courtesy KODA, New York. © Renée Cox RIGHT: MiKyoung Lee, *Bubble #3*, 2016. Collection of the artist. © MiKyoung Lee. Photo: Joseph Hu

# ON THE CAMPUS

NEWS, SPORTS, AND STUDENT LIFE





**CHARGED UP**

*From left, driver John Peeters and Princeton Electric Speedboating team members Max Machado '26, Rihan Sajid '25, and Andrew Robbins '25 prepare for their attempt to set a world speed record on North Carolina's Lake Townsend Oct. 26. Read more on page 10.*



## MOTORING

*Big Bird's 117 mph pace raises the bar for electric speedboats.*



## ENGINEERING

# Built To Fly

Princeton Electric Speedboating — a new club with bold aspirations — makes a world record run

BY DAVID WALTER '11

*“Good morning everybody, and welcome to the livestream!”*

**O**N OCT. 26 — A CLEAR, WINDLESS fall morning on Lake Townsend near Greensboro, North Carolina — Nathan Yates '22 \*23 welcomed viewers to an online livestream of “the world’s first ever electric boat kilometer record event,” and introduced them to its sole contestant, a 14-foot hydroplane called Big Bird.

The lake was glassy as a mirror, good conditions for challenging the unofficial record for the fastest electric speedboat: 116 mph, set by Vision Marine Technologies from Quebec.

The lake was empty, too, thanks to an obliging city government, which had closed it to all crafts except those affiliated with Princeton Electric

Speedboating (PES). Buoys for the racecourse were set one kilometer apart.

*“From the time it takes the boat to complete a lap, we can calculate the average speed of a boat across one kilometer. The average of the two laps’ speeds is the official speed of the record run.”*

Big Bird is shaped more like a lobster, actually, thanks to two front stabilizers called sponsons. Twenty minutes before her record attempt, she sat parked on a boat ramp while her team performed final inspections.

“Oxygen tank?” asked Nastassia Patnaik '26, the keeper of the team’s pre-run safety checklist.

“Oxygen tank,” confirmed Andrew Robbins '25, the PES team captain.

Big Bird’s custom-built battery rig had been swaddled with a heated blanket; to

deliver maximum power, racing batteries need to be Goldilocks warm, not too hot and not too cold.

It was 9:53 a.m.

*“The boat is in the water ... .”*

How’s this for speed? As a club, PES has grown from a faint idea to a legitimate world record challenger in just a little over three years.

The team formed during the pandemic haze of the 2020-21 school year. That was when the American Society of Naval Engineers (ASNE) sent out a call, via Princeton’s engineering listserv, for entries in a collegiate electric boat rally. Yates and four of his schoolmates decided to go for it — even though they were scattered across the country.

Each team member built a different part of the boat at home — in California, in Rhode Island, in Oregon, in New Jersey. At the race site, they pulled back-to-back all-nighters, soldering furiously, to put the craft together.

Unfortunately, the team member who had designed the boat’s electrical system was the only one who actually knew how to operate it. And he was 6-foot-9. It was an exceedingly tight fit; and what’s more, the hull design turned out to be inadequate for the heavy drivetrain.

“The boat *ran*,” Yates clarified. “But we started taking on water pretty quick.”

Today, PES has around 40 active student members, 18 sponsors, three boats, and one ASNE college championship title, which they won with Robbins in the cockpit, racing at an average pace three times faster than their closest competition.

For this record try on Lake Townsend, PES has a different captain at the helm, a professional racer named John Peeters. With several gas-engine boating world records under his belt, Peeters knows how to handle dangerous speeds. People can die racing top-speed powerboats — which is what the Princeton team believed Big Bird was, even if the crew had never pushed the boat to its absolute limits.

Electric motors, in particular, come with safety concerns. “With battery management systems, they’re very finicky. If you do something a bit wrong,



it'll explode pretty violently," said Silas Mohr '24.

And then, Mohr added, there were the mechanical parts, various pins and shafts and bars. If they broke unexpectedly, no one would get hurt, but any record try would be torpedoed.

In deference to this latter category of fluke malfunction, the team had begun to knock on wood.

"Sailors are just superstitious, right?" said Bobby Diaz '26.

As far as good luck went, the Princeton team's biggest boon was the arrival of Robbins in 2021. He came to campus from Port Huron, Michigan, and grew up working on powerboats. But he hadn't known about Princeton's team until he came across their booth at the freshman activities fair. "Looking back," Robbins said, "it's really incredible."

### Right before the first time trial,

Diaz saw a heron by the lakeshore. "It's a literal Big Bird!" he said. He saw that as a good sign.

Diaz also liked what he saw of Big Bird's run from his perch on a pontoon boat. Everyone did. "See that air underneath? That's beautiful," said a race official on the boat.

Preliminary reports indicated an average of 111 mph on first lap.

The second lap: 117 mph. "We beat Vision Marine on the second pass!" said Diaz. Back on shore, the team hugged, whooped, and high-fived.

Two hours later, on the second run, Big Bird's propellor shaft — a standard, off-the-shelf part — broke unexpectedly. Big Bird glided to a halt. There would be no more record tries in North Carolina. "There was so much torque," Robbins explained in the immediate aftermath, when people weren't talking much.

An hour later, after Yates had sprayed them all down with champagne, most were laughing and clapping again. Were they lucky? Their propellor shaft had failed, but on the second run, and not the first. That was a kind of good luck, wasn't it? A luckily timed unlucky break.

"We broke the record, we're faster than anybody's ever gone, and the boat's in one piece," Robbins said. "I think that's a win!"

M. KRUTER / FOTOBUFFY

## ENDOWMENT

# Investments Down for Second Year; New Princo President Named

**T**HE UNIVERSITY'S ENDOWMENT investments declined for a second consecutive year, according to the Princeton University Investment Co. (Princo), which reported a 1.7% loss in 2022-23 and a total endowment value of \$34.1 billion at the start of the new fiscal year in July.

Princeton also announced that Vincent Tuohey, an investment director at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Investment Management Co., will be Princo's next president, succeeding longtime head Andrew Golden, who will retire in June 2024.

Tuohey, a Harvard alumnus, has worked on MIT's investment team since 2010. Prior to his career as an investor, he served in the U.S. Army from 2002 to 2006 and earned a Bronze Star while deployed to Iraq. "Vince Tuohey combines outstanding investment acumen and experience with proven leadership ability," President Christopher Eisgruber '83 said in a University release. "He also has a deep appreciation for Princeton's mission and the special achievements of Andy Golden and the superb team at Princo."

Golden told PAW that his goal today is the same as it was when he joined Princo in 1995: to position the endowment for success over the next quarter-century. "I'm privileged to be able to help welcome a successor into this office and do whatever I can to make that transition smooth," he said.

Despite the Princo portfolio's relatively poor overall results in the fiscal year, Golden said that when his team looked back at decisions it made, there was not much it would have done differently. Several categories, such as developed markets, emerging markets, and independent returns, reported gains for the year.

"The key driver of the weak results was a very large venture capital portfolio, and if you look across other schools, the relative performance ranking maps, for this year, almost perfectly negatively correlated with how much venture capital you had," Golden said. "Interestingly, if you look at performance over the past 10 years, and



certainly the past 20 years, it's the exact opposite."

Princo's average annual return for the past 20 years is 10.5%, and one recent year of extraordinary venture capital gains (a 98.7% return for the category in 2020-21) helped the University add more than \$11 billion to the endowment, pushing its value to \$37.7 billion in July 2021. Since then, with regular operating budget spending and investment losses, including a 1.5% loss in 2021-22, the endowment's value has decreased by about \$3.6 billion.

Around the Ivy League and at other leading private institutions, 2022-23 returns were modest but mostly positive, with Columbia (4.7%) at the top of the list. Several schools, including Harvard and Yale, saw the overall value of their endowments decline as the amount spent during the year was greater than the investment gains. MIT reported a 2.9% investment loss.

In September 2022, Princeton's trustees decided to eliminate all University holdings in publicly traded fossil-fuel companies, and Golden confirmed that Princo has completed that process. He acknowledged an opportunity cost associated with the change, but added, "If the University community says that this is a moral obligation that we have, we should do it, even if it costs money. ... In other words, our principles should not be for sale." **By B.T.**



**NEW HORIZONS**  
*Noah Buchholz's expanded teaching includes American Sign Language literature.*

## LINGUISTICS

# Literature Class Marks New Avenue in ASL Studies

BY RACHEL KOLB

**P** RINCETON STUDENTS ENROLLED in Noah Buchholz's newest class this fall are experiencing something never previously offered at the University: a semester-long course entirely focused on American Sign Language literature. Among other genres, they are discovering the world of ASL poetry, an art form Buchholz knows intimately after years as a poet and stage performer.

Buchholz, who is deaf, is well known on the ASL slam circuit for works like "The Moonlight," which he is in the process of filming for a wider audience, and which has also been translated into English by recent National Book Award finalist John Lee Clark.

Buchholz's poetry reveals his mastery of the visual and expressive cadences of ASL. It also reveals the vibrant intellect that drives his work. Buchholz is

currently a senior lecturer in Princeton's Humanities Council and Program on Linguistics, as well as the course sequence head for the University's growing ASL program. He is a translator, a certified deaf interpreter (CDI), and a Ph.D. candidate in religion and society at Princeton Theological Seminary.

This fall, Buchholz says he has been impressed by his ASL literature students. "They have done a very good job at jumping in and discussing advanced material," he said, in an interview conducted in ASL. "That means the ASL program is doing well with preparing them for this level of conversation."

Students enrolled in ASL 205 already have a starting grip of the language. They've completed Princeton's existing four-course ASL sequence, which has fulfilled the University's language requirement since fall 2021. Buchholz

hopes the class will elevate their knowledge of ASL vocabulary and syntax while deepening their understanding of American Deaf culture (an uppercase "D" is used in references to the culture and community).

The syllabus features poems, stories, and translations by Deaf literary luminaries like Peter Cook, Clayton Valli, and Ella Mae Lentz. For one smaller assignment, students will create their own original ASL story or poem to present in class. And for their final paper, they will compose a literary analysis essay — in ASL — of one of the course's primary texts.

"From the first week of class, we've discussed the concept of academic ASL," Buchholz said. "What does it look like? How do we use ASL in academic settings?" He aspires for his students to build their expressive and academic analysis skills, drawing from his example and from classroom conversations.

**ASL has long been the** fastest-growing language offered in American universities, and two other lecturers currently teach at Princeton alongside Buchholz. The expanding program is the result of years of dedicated advocacy by faculty, administrators, and students like Colin Lualdi '17, currently a Ph.D. candidate in physics at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

"We realized we needed the University to offer ASL classes, because there were so many students who wanted to learn," said Lualdi, who is deaf and who co-founded Princeton's ASL club as a freshman. In response to these student appeals, Campus Recreation and the Office of Disability Services stepped up as initial partners. During the spring of 2014, they tapped Buchholz to teach a set of not-for-credit ASL classes, during his final semester as a master of divinity student at the seminary.

"The interest in these classes was remarkable," Buchholz remembered. "The classes were full instantly and there was a long waitlist."

After finishing his M.Div. and spending three years at Bethel University in Indiana, Buchholz returned to Princeton



in spring 2018 to teach ASL again, this time for credit. Enrollment consistently overflowed, even during the years before ASL counted toward Princeton's language requirement.

ASL continues to be popular at Princeton. The waitlist for the introductory levels sometimes exceeds 150, Buchholz said. But, as Lualdi observes, Buchholz's teaching and leadership have given Princeton students more than just an awareness of Deaf culture and different ways to communicate. They now have new linguistic tools to apply to their own professional and personal lives. "I think it's amazing when I can talk directly with Princeton students in ASL," he said, "to discuss science and graduate school and shared research interests."

Serena Alagappan '20, who took all four levels of ASL at Princeton, credits Buchholz for influencing her research interests, including the master's thesis she wrote at Oxford about ASL poetry.

Most of Buchholz's time is now dedicated to the ASL program, but he is also at work on his Ph.D. dissertation, which explores Black and Latin American liberation theology traditions and their frequent lack of engagement with disability. "These traditions have been central to many social justice movements, like the Civil Rights Movement in America," he explained. "So I started to wonder: Where does disability fit in here?"

Buchholz is investigating how certain theological methods contribute to the absence of disability in these liberation theology traditions, especially considering the emphasis New Testament scriptures place on Jesus' interactions with people who are disabled. He hopes his research will contribute to ongoing (and, in his view, much-needed) discussions about disability within religious studies.

Buchholz plans to continue his work as a poet and translator and aims to keep expanding Princeton's ASL program by developing further classes in Deaf and disability studies. "It's truly hard to beat the support system and the resources that exist here," he said. **P**

## CLASS CLOSE-UP

# New Course Unites Students With Local Entrepreneurs to Uplift Trenton

**P**RINCETON STUDENTS ARE collaborating with Trentonians this fall as part of a new Keller Center course that fights what visiting lecturer Majora Carter dubs the American brain drain in "low-status communities" — her term for neighborhoods where inequality is assumed.

In addition to being a MacArthur genius grant winner, Carter is a real-estate developer, environmental activist, and café owner, and she centers her work around economic development, particularly through local talent retention, and the policies and attitudes that work against communities like Trenton.

"These are not easy topics to understand and ... to see and to feel, and to make that systemic bias not just something that you read on a page, but someone that you're looking at," said Carter.

Every Thursday morning, the 10 students in The Reclamation Studio: Humanistic Design Applied to Systemic Bias meet in the Friend Center to discuss themes from that week's readings — including Carter's own book, *Reclaiming Your Community: You Don't Have to Move Out of Your Neighborhood to Live in a Better One* — which speak to the long history of systemic bias in community development.

After lunch, they return for studio time to collaborate with Trentonian social entrepreneurs on three specific projects, all with the aim of empowering the community.

"I really do think it's a partnership between the students and [the entrepreneurs], trying to make sure that we understand what they do and why, and that we are here to figure out how do we support their efforts," said Carter.

Sophia Vernon '27, the only freshman in the class, is working with two other students and Trentonian entrepreneur Elijah Dixon on architectural



plans, programming, and potential partnerships for The Enclave, a mixed-use building set to open in 2025 that they hope will become a social gathering spot.

Before she came to Princeton, Vernon wanted to go into nonprofit work, but that's changed. She said this course has "really opened my eyes to the way that a lot of times nonprofits aren't the most effective or correct way to make change, especially in low-status communities" because they tend to "reinforce the perspective that the community needs outside help to be better."

Another group is working on relationship-building in tandem with the Smith Family Foundation for one of their programs that provides scholarships to local students in the hopes that after their college graduations, they will return to the area to take advantage of leadership opportunities. The third group is examining public contracts awarded by the city to determine if more funds can be reinvested into local businesses. **P** By J.B.

## CAMPUS ACTIVISM

# Unionization Campaign Aims to Bolster Graduate Student Network

**T**HE PRINCETON GRADUATE students who campaigned for unionization last spring are continuing to rally support for their cause but declined to say whether or when a vote to unionize might take place.

The current plan for Princeton Graduate Students United (PGSU), the group driving the unionization campaign, is to “keep talking to people and to keep connecting with new students who’ve arrived this semester,” according to Tim Alberdingk Thijm, a sixth-year computer science student and PGSU organizer.

As of late October, Alberdingk Thijm said 1,700 Princeton graduate students — representing more than half of the graduate student body — had signed cards signaling their desire to form a union. It’s the same number of cards PGSU reported last spring, though the total now includes new signers and subtracts those who

have since graduated (whose cards are no longer valid).

PGSU originally formed in 2016, but its campaign didn’t start in earnest until 2021. The last two years have seen a wave of successful graduate student unionization campaigns at schools including MIT, Johns Hopkins, and Dartmouth, and Alberdingk Thijm said in the spring that the Biden administration’s National Labor Relations Board has been friendlier to student unionization efforts.

In a recent interview with PAW, Alberdingk Thijm said PGSU has continued to talk to fellow graduate students about their priorities and concerns and hold small social events. The group has had no direct contact with the University.

Alberdingk Thijm and Gaby Nair, a fourth-year politics student, wrote an op-ed published in late October by *The Daily Princetonian* in response to a *Prince* news story from earlier that month that cited anonymous

graduate students from the Operations Research and Financial Engineering (ORFE) department speaking out about difficulties in finding an adviser after a record number of students were admitted to the program in 2021.

Alberdingk Thijm told PAW the ORFE story is evidence that “there’s these big issues at Princeton today around how students are treated, how their department supports them,” and since departments have different policies and resources, the problem “needs solutions and ... action from grads to protect one another and to stand up together so that we have a real say in how the University operates.”

Alberdingk Thijm said PGSU will determine its next steps based on “whether or not there’s a feeling that this is a representative group of people and there’s a representative sense of support” for a union.

“No matter where this process goes, it’s been very valuable for us to just build this network of support and community at Princeton to help address these issues,” said Alberdingk Thijm, who added he has full confidence the campaign “will lead to a graduate worker union at Princeton and pay off tremendously for all grads.” **■** By J.B.

## IN MEMORIAM

**John F. Wilson**, a former Princeton graduate school dean and religion professor



who spent more than 40 years on the faculty, died Oct. 5. He was 90. As dean, Wilson helped to expand financial support for doctoral students and led the graduate school’s centennial celebration

in 2000-01. He also chaired the religion department from 1973 to 1980 and served as the first head of Forbes College from 1983 to 1992. Colleague Stanley Katz, who collaborated with Wilson on a long-term project studying the relations of church and state in the U.S., said in a University obituary that Wilson “exemplified all that is best in liberal teaching and learning.”

**Natalie Zemon Davis**, a renowned social historian who directed Princeton’s



Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies, died Oct. 21 at age 94. Davis earned acclaim for reconstructing history in works such as *The Return*

of *Martin Guerre*, the story of a 16th century French peasant, and *Women on the Margins*, which drew on the memoirs of unsung women in 17th century Europe. She joined the faculty in 1978 and transferred to emeritus status in 1996. President Barack Obama presented the National Humanities Medal to Davis in 2013. “With vivid description and exhaustive research,” the citation read, “her works allow us to experience life through our ancestors’ eyes and to truly engage with our history.”

**Anthony Vidler**, an architectural historian who spent nearly three



decades on the faculty, died Oct. 19 at age 82. Vidler, a native of England, served as the first director of the architecture school’s history and theory Ph.D.

track. He left the University in 1993 and later served as dean of architecture at Cornell and the Cooper Union before returning to Princeton as a visiting professor in 2014. Professor Beatriz Colomina, in an obituary published by the architecture school, said the arrival of Vidler and colleagues Kenneth Frampton and Alan Colquhoun in the 1960s was compared by some in the field to pop music’s British invasion: “Architectural history became cool and Princeton the place to be.” **■**



# IN SHORT



The new home of University Health Services will be named the **Frist Health Center** in recognition of a major gift from Dr. Thomas Frist Jr.

“This extraordinary gift from Tommy Frist has enabled us to reimagine the University health facility as a place of welcome that offers a comprehensive approach to student health and well-being.” President Christopher Eisgruber ’83 said in a Nov. 8 University release.

The new center, under construction near Guyot Hall, will be more than twice as large as the McCosh Health Center and will incorporate Eno Hall, which is being renovated.

Frist is a physician and co-founder of HCA Healthcare, one of the nation’s largest health-care providers. With his family, including brother and former Sen. Bill Frist ’74, he made the gift that established Princeton’s Frist Campus Center in 2001.

Larry Fife Giberson ’23 was **sentenced to two months in prison** and six months of supervised release on home detention and must pay \$2,100 in restitution and fines for his role in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol, while he was a student at Princeton.



GIBERSON

Giberson was present in the courtroom Nov. 1 when his sentence for civil disorder — a felony charge that carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison — was handed down by U.S. District Court Judge Carl J. Nichols. Prosecutors requested 11 months of incarceration and three years of supervised release, while the defense team pushed for home detention. Giberson, who graduated with a degree in politics in May, pleaded guilty in July and waived his right to appeal the conviction. **D**

By J.B. and B.T.

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## STUDENT DISPATCH

# As Grad Student Body Grows, So Does Demand for Housing

BY SIDDHARTH MANE GS



**I**N THE VISION OF Andrew Fleming West 1874, first dean of the graduate school, graduate study was to occupy its own distinct place in the life of the University. It is because of this vision that the Graduate College, built to nurture a residential academic community, is set apart from the central campus. In a place with such reverence for its traditions, it is then quite a surprise that the graduate students of today find themselves in scattershot living arrangements across town and campus.

Walker Hall, a former undergraduate dorm, is now home to at least 40 graduate students. Princeton guarantees its first-year doctoral students accommodation, and University spokesman Ahmad Rizvi told *The Daily Princetonian* that “larger-than-usual numbers of graduate students” renewed their housing contracts this year. Graduate enrollment has also grown,

adding more than 500 students in the last 10 years. Walker seems to be a poor choice for anyone’s accommodation: It faces an active construction site, the future Hobson College. These conditions evince a mismatch between Princeton’s expectation of graduate housing demand and its realization.

In years prior, Princeton has offered a soft guarantee of housing to second- and third-year doctoral candidates through spare capacity afforded by the Lawrence and Lakeside housing complexes. In addition, the housing office has usually extended housing offers to some portion of the housing waitlist. This year, the office extended offers to precisely zero people on the waitlist. (I can confirm this because I was the unfortunate holder of waitlist spot No. 1. I have since found outside accommodation, albeit at cost.)

For graduate students, the solution should be clear: Go onto the off-campus market. Certainly students of similarly placed universities do this. While such a scenario would be an unfortunate occurrence in New York, Boston, Chicago, or the Bay Area, it would also be one that could be managed reasonably. So what makes Princeton more difficult?

Prices are similarly high in Princeton (something that startled me after being

an undergraduate in Manhattan). The average monthly rental for a studio is \$1,800. A one-bedroom is over \$2,300. A two-bedroom is almost \$2,900. And since 2019, prices have been rising at a rate much higher than overall inflation, according to data shared by the University. A doctoral student at Princeton earns a little under \$3,800 a month after taxes. It does not take an accountant to see how these figures can induce financial anxiety.

But the Princeton market is unfriendlier than bigger cities. Princeton has a small rental inventory (one on the same order of magnitude as the graduate population itself). And suburban Princeton lacks extensive public transportation networks. This either constrains one’s choice of location or forces one to buy a car. Both add costs.

One solution is for Princeton itself to fill in the gap, and the University clearly recognizes this. The Meadows Graduate Housing complex south of Lake Carnegie will add nearly 400 units and will go some way to filling this need. So what are the remaining qualms? The most obvious one is that Princeton will likely still fall short of guaranteeing doctoral students housing. Even after the Meadows addition, the University will have 2,445 beds for graduate students, Rizvi told PAW. As many as a quarter of graduate students may still have to seek accommodation off campus. A second point is more subtle: The new complex opens in January, four months after off-campus students have likely entered 12-month leases.

Housing might seem like a mundane issue compared to the consequential ideas and research that emerge from this place of the mind, but the mundanities of student life, in aggregate, are quite meaningful. Whether they lie in chance encounters in an apartment hallway, an hour or two of sleep in the morning, or plainly, in a few hundred dollars each month in saved rent, each has some small (but measurable) impact on the life of a student — and, taken together, a profound effect on the student’s life and work. For the growing graduate student body, more careful consideration of housing stock and costs by the University could make a meaningful difference. ■



KELLMAN

KISZKA

O'CONNELL

LANGBORG

EVBUOMWAN

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

# Catching Up With Princeton's Sweet 16 Senior Class

BY JUSTIN FEIL

**T**HE MEN'S BASKETBALL SENIORS from the Class of '23 graduated following a 23-9 season that culminated with Princeton's first trip to the NCAA Sweet 16 since the NCAA Tournament expanded in the 1980s. They've gone their separate ways, but all five are still playing: Four are using their final year of NCAA eligibility (from 2020-21, when the Ivy League season was canceled because of the pandemic) as graduate students at other schools, while Tosan Evbuomwan is now in the pros. PAW caught up with each alum earlier this fall.

## Tosan Evbuomwan

The versatile 6-foot-8 forward from Newcastle, England, gained national acclaim during the Tigers' March Madness run, averaging 16 points, 7.3 rebounds, and 6 assists per game. Performing well on that stage helped Evbuomwan's professional appeal.

He was invited to the NBA G League Elite Camp in May, and after a couple days was elevated to the main NBA Draft Combine. Evbuomwan went undrafted, but the Detroit Pistons signed him to an

Exhibit 10 contract, a type of free-agent deal that allows an NBA team to keep the player on its affiliated G League team. Evbuomwan was on the Motor City Cruise training camp roster with the first game scheduled for Nov. 14.

"Princeton set me up massively," Evbuomwan said. "Obviously basketball-wise, I was fortunate to have great coaches which helped prepare me a lot on the floor, but in general I think in terms of just the next step in life and starting to navigate 'the real world.'"

## Keeshawn Kellman

The 6-foot-8, 225-pound power forward started all 32 games for Princeton last year and ranked second in the Ivy League with a 61.4 field-goal percentage. Kellman left two days after graduation to start classes at Florida Gulf Coast University, where he is working toward a master's degree in entrepreneurship. He was able to jump right into workouts with his new team.

Kellman said he's trying to replicate Princeton's chemistry and togetherness and "help install winning ways into this program."

## Konrad Kiszka

The 6-foot-7 wing/forward is working toward a master's degree in sports business at New York University and would like to work in the sports world after this year. The Violets reached the Division III national tournament last year for the first time since 2015-16.

Kiszka played in 16 games last season and hopes the lessons he learned from four years at Princeton will help him on his new team. "Coach [Mitch] Henderson ['98] had a real love for the game, so he taught us a lot," he said. "I feel like I could fit in anywhere."

## Ryan Langborg

The 6-foot-4 shooting guard scored 26 points in his final game in orange and black, Princeton's Sweet 16 loss to Creighton. He led the Tigers in scoring during the NCAA Tournament run. While working toward a master's in sports administration, he will use his final year of eligibility with Northwestern, the Big Ten school where Henderson served as an assistant before taking the Princeton job.

"I wasn't really thinking about it until we finished our season," Langborg said of his graduate transfer plan. "Obviously I wanted to give everything I had to Princeton. And then, how could you not want to play another year when you have the opportunity, after finishing the way we did?"

## Jacob O'Connell

The 7-foot center is now at Merrimack, where he is studying health and wellness management on his path to medical school. Merrimack won its conference in 2022-23, its first year of Division I play, but was not eligible for the NCAA Tournament.

"I think the team this year will be really good again," said O'Connell. "I think we're going to have a chance to win the conference, and this year Merrimack actually is eligible for the NCAA Tournament. That was one of the things I liked about it, basically the opportunity to go and do it all again." ■



READ an expanded version of this story at [paw.princeton.edu](http://paw.princeton.edu).

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# RESEARCH

ADVANCING THE FRONTIERS OF KNOWLEDGE

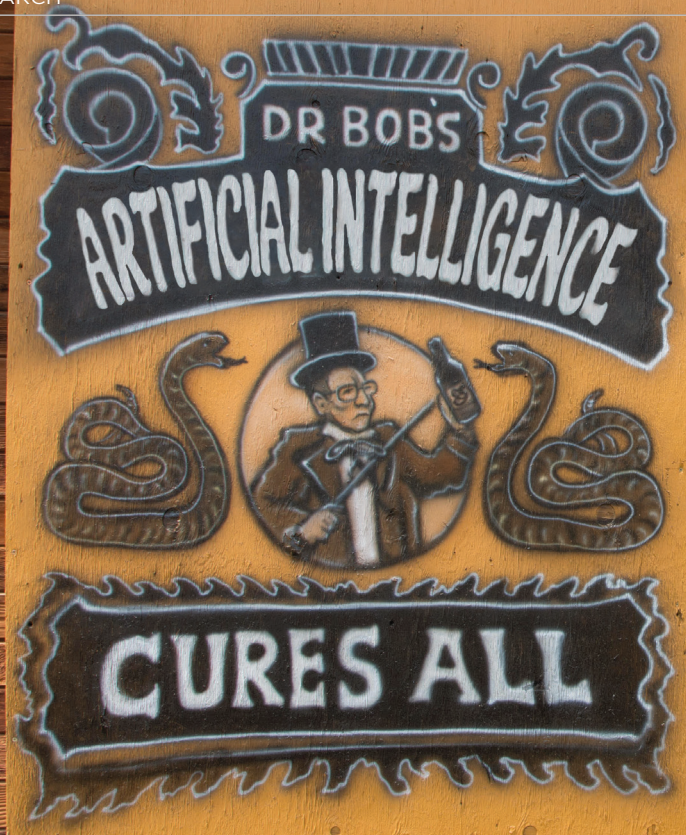
## NOVEL TECHNIQUE

*A team of researchers led by civil and environmental engineering professor Z. Jason Ren has developed a faster and greener technique to extract lithium — an essential component of batteries used in electric vehicles and energy storage for the grid. The extraction method involves dipping porous fibers twisted into strings into salty waters. The water absorbs and travels up the strings (like a tree drawing water from its roots) and eventually evaporates. What's left behind are salt ions such as sodium and lithium, as pictured here, which can ultimately be harvested.*



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## COMPUTER SCIENCE

## Researchers Win Spot in *Time* List For Calling Out AI ‘Snake Oil’

BY POORNIMA APTE

**C**OMPANIES RECEIVE HUNDREDS, if not thousands, of job applications for open positions. So traditional ways of screening and interviewing candidates are breaking down, says Arvind Narayanan, a professor of computer science at Princeton. Desperate for solutions, businesses are turning to predictive AI tools, which promise to forecast candidate fit faster and more efficiently. But there’s a problem. “There’s a huge gap between how these technologies have been sold and what they can actually do,” says Narayanan, who is also director of Princeton’s Center for Information Technology Policy.

Narayanan and Sayash Kapoor, a third-year doctoral student at Princeton, have been calling out the predictive AI hype as “snake oil.” Their work won them inclusion in the 2023 *Time*100 “Most Influential People in AI” list. It’s also the topic of a book the duo co-

authored, titled *AI Snake Oil*, expected to be published in 2024.

AI hype is something that companies recognize but keep perpetuating, Narayanan says. Part of the reason is because “AI tools, touted as math-based, efficient, and unbiased, have a veneer of authority companies are looking for,” he adds.

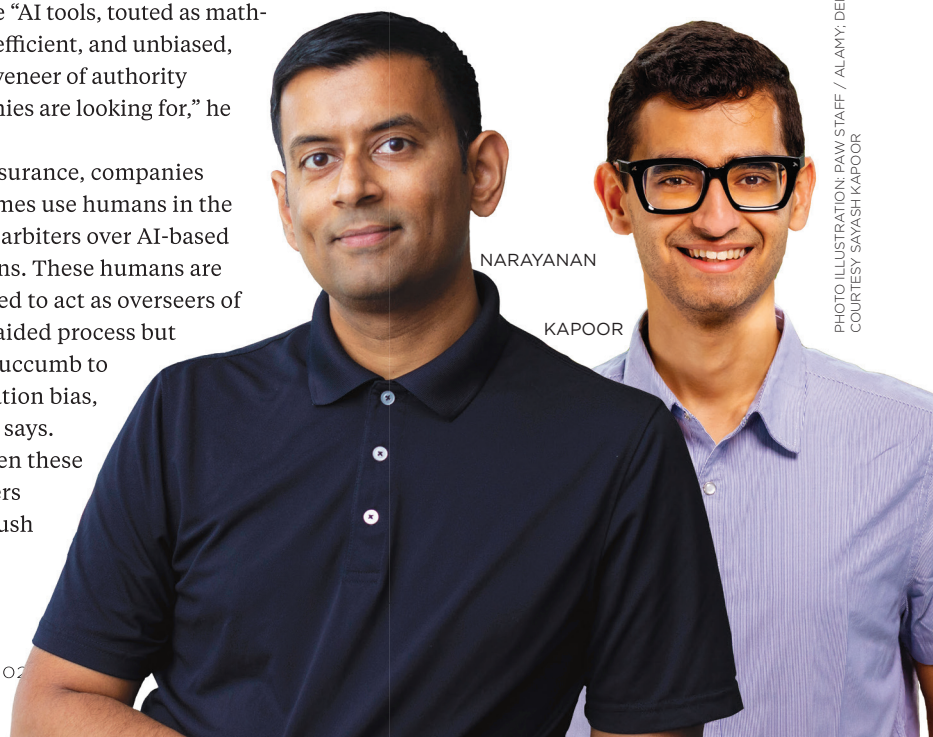
As assurance, companies sometimes use humans in the loop as arbiters over AI-based decisions. These humans are supposed to act as overseers of the AI-aided process but easily succumb to automation bias, Kapoor says. Too often these overseers don’t push back against

the algorithm’s recommendations. “Often these humans are just showpieces in the decision-making loop, they’re just there to justify the company’s adoption of the tool, but they don’t have any real power on pushing back against automated decisions,” he says.

Errant predictive AI decisions — from unjust incarcerations to denial of acutely needed loans or jobs — can have enormous negative consequences. What can companies do better when using AI tools? Inquiring about the tool’s category — Is it generative or predictive AI? — is a great broad brushstroke question to begin with, Kapoor says. Generative AI, the kind used to create content, is based on actual technology advancements, and is less plagued by hype, he points out.

Companies should also ask about the data used to train the model. In the hiring process, for example, they want to avoid screening tools that ask all kinds of absurd and “sketchy” questions like “is your desk neat or untidy” as a predictor for job performance. The workaround is to create a bespoke tool with specific and relevant data from the organization’s own records, Kapoor says.

Despite the frenetic pace of AI adoption, Narayanan does not believe it’s too late to “start making changes.” He advises companies to dig deeper



NARAYANAN

KAPOOR

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: PAW STAFF / ALAMY; DENISE APPLEWHITE / PRINCETON UNIVERSITY; COURTESY SAYASH KAPOOR



and fix the underlying problem that's making the adoption of imperfect tools a tempting proposition.

Breaking down the broad field of predictive AI into narrower subsets such as health care and hiring might help us tabulate progress. Use laws already on the books — the anti-discrimination law in hiring, for example — to effect change, he advises. Better funding of enforcement agencies will also help, says Kapoor.

**“With predictive AI, the shocking thing to me is that there has been virtually no improvement in the last 100 years. We’re using statistical formulas that were known when statisticians invented regression. That is still what is being used but is sold as something else.”**

— ARVIND NARAYANAN  
Professor of computer science

While there has been some clamor for the private sector to self-police its AI policies, is it a matter of placing the fox in charge of the chicken coop? Narayanan says that toxic or biased AI outcomes can sully an enterprise's reputation, so companies are trying to fix these aspects of data challenges. On the other hand, concerns about use of copyrighted data to create AI tools might not be a high priority. “In such cases, unless there's legislation or successful lawsuits challenging business practices, nothing is going to change,” Narayanan cautions.

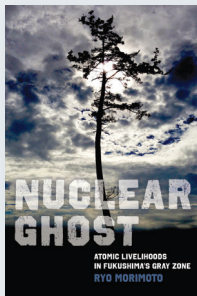
Narayanan is not very optimistic that predictive AI algorithms will get better with time. “With predictive AI, the shocking thing to me is that there has been virtually no improvement in the last 100 years. We're using statistical formulas that were known when statisticians invented regression,” Narayanan says. “That is still what is being used but is sold as something else.”

## FACULTY BOOKS

### NUCLEAR GHOST

Ryo Morimoto

Based on several years of fieldwork, *Nuclear Ghost* (UC Press) looks at the



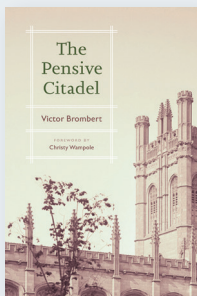
lives of residents in Fukushima, Japan, who have survived various catastrophes that occurred in 2011. Given the triple disasters of earthquake, tsunami, and

nuclear accident, the book discusses and explores the ways the community has acclimated to the presence of radiation and the long-term effects these tragedies have had on their lives. Author Ryo Morimoto is joined by other anthropology experts to unpack this phenomenon.

### THE PENSIVE CITADEL

Victor Brombert

A celebration of the lifelong literary career of Victor Brombert, *The*



*Pensive Citadel* (University of Chicago Press) offers a variety of reflections by the beloved emeritus Princeton professor. The essays by Brombert,

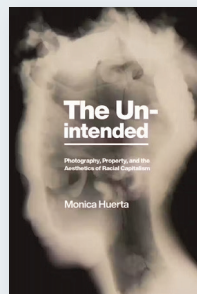
a scholar of 19th and 20th century literature, touch on both his personal experience and the impact of various works of literature. Essay titles include “The Permanent Sabbatical,” “The Paradox of Laughter,” and “Cleopatra at Yale.” The book also includes a foreword by Christy Wampole, an assistant professor of French at Princeton. In her final reflections she writes, “Brombert shares his

vulnerability with faceless readers, a final gesture of benevolence.”

### THE UNINTENDED

Monica Huerta \*06

In her latest book, Monica Huerta \*06 tracks the intersection of photography



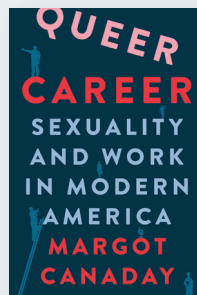
and property law in the 19th century and its legal impact. *The Unintended* (NYU Press) ultimately highlights the subtle and paradoxical ways legal thinking

through photographic lenses reinforces a particular aesthetic of whiteness when it comes to property ownership. Through this unique analysis, Huerta argues that studying photography in relation to property rights further proves the function of white supremacy in U.S. culture and impacts our lives.

### QUEER CAREER

Margot Canaday

In *Queer Career* (Princeton University Press) professor of history Margot



Canaday sets out to review and rewrite our understanding of queer people in the workplace. Historically, workplaces have largely been “straight

spaces” where queer people passed, often adopting a “don't ask/don't tell” practice with their sexuality. As a result, limited attention has been given to the experiences of queer people in the workforce. Canaday uses this book to unpack the history and role employment insecurity played in gay life in postwar America. [P](#)



**SIGN UP** for PAW's Books Newsletter to keep up with faculty and alumni books at [paw.princeton.edu/email](http://paw.princeton.edu/email).

BEHIND THE RESEARCH: AMIR ALI AHMADI

# From Better to Best: The Science of Optimization

BY AGATHA BORDONARO '04

**G**ROWING UP IN IRAN, AMIR ALI AHMADI WAS SINGULARLY FOCUSED on one thing: tennis.

“I played seven hours a day for many, many years,” says Ahmadi, noting he played on Iran’s national junior tennis team at the age of 17 and dreamed of going pro.

When Ahmadi came to the United States for college, however, he quickly realized the likelihood of a tennis career was low. But he also noted that he was more advanced in math than his American peers. His intense focus switched to academics.

“I liked all areas of math, but I tended more towards the mathematics of algorithms and computer science,” says Ahmadi, who earned his

bachelor’s degree in mathematics from the University of Maryland and his Ph.D. in electrical engineering and computer science from MIT. It was at MIT that he began specializing in the field of optimization.

“What draws me to optimization primarily is the universality of it,” he says. “Once you abstract this way of thinking about the universe, you can see everything as an optimization problem.”

## Quick Facts

### TITLE

*Professor of Operations Research and Financial Engineering*

### TIME AT PRINCETON

9 years

### RECENT CLASS

*Computing and Optimization for the Physical and Social Sciences*



## AHMADI’S RESEARCH A SAMPLING



### DOING MORE WITH LESS

Ahmadi is interested in improving the efficiency and reliability of dynamical systems — mathematical models that describe objects moving through space and time, such as planets, airplanes, drones, and even diseases — especially when data is limited. For example, Ahmadi says, imagine a flying airplane suddenly experiences engine failure or wing damage. “The computer needs to ... gather some information and quickly learn from it so that it can

autonomously land the plane before it crashes.” In two different 2023 papers, Ahmadi and his colleagues showed how the behavior of dynamical systems can be learned from only a few of their standard trajectories, allowing the algorithms that apply to them to respond quickly even when new information is limited.



### PROVIDING MORE CONTROL

Ahmadi also applies his optimization background

to improve robots’ collision avoidance and stability. For example, if you want an autonomous car to drive from point A to point B, you need to program it to avoid obstacles, Ahmadi says. “How do you design a controller that will take you in the fastest time from A to B while making sure that there is no collision?” By increasing stability, or a robot’s ability to adjust to its environment to stay on track, you can make sure a land robot can account for a stone that might cause it to fall over or keep a flying drone on course even in strong wind.

### OPTIMIZING THEORY ITSELF

“I do a lot of work just in the pure theory of optimization,” Ahmadi says. For example, let’s say you want to invest Princeton’s endowment to maximize its return in one year without incurring too much risk — all in a socially responsible way. Perhaps the most widespread algorithm



used for these kinds of processes is Newton’s method, originally developed by Isaac Newton in the 1600s. It involves using quadratic mathematical models to approximate solutions to problems that would be too difficult to solve precisely, even on a computer. In a paper published in November, Ahmadi and two graduate students show that new, more modern methods — specifically, using higher-order models, not just quadratic ones — can fine-tune Newton’s method to produce more accurate metrics in a shorter time. “In a nutshell, it’s about improving optimization itself,” he says. **■**

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





# Alumni Day

*Saturday*

**FEBRUARY 24, 2024**



Photo: Drew Kelly

## **WOODROW WILSON AWARD**

**Fei-Fei Li '99**

*Co-Director, Stanford Human-Centered AI Institute; Sequoia Professor of Computer Science, Stanford University*



Courtesy of Cornell University Photography

## **JAMES MADISON MEDAL**

**John Fitzpatrick \*78**

*Director Emeritus, Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Cornell University*

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- Attend the Service of Remembrance.
- Enjoy the All-Alumni Reception.

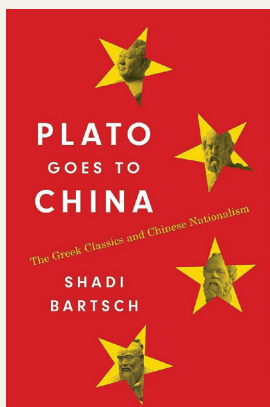
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# The Princeton Bookshelf

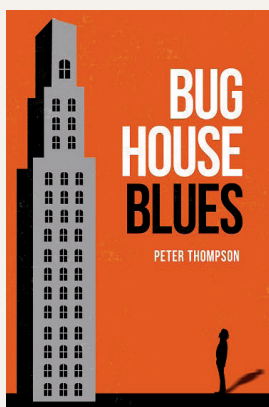
2023 Winter Guide to Princeton University Authors



**PLATO GOES TO CHINA**  
SHADI BARTSCH '87

The surprising story of how Greek classics are being pressed into use in contemporary China to support the regime's political agenda.

"A revelatory look at how China uses, and sometimes abuses, classical thought. ... Like Plato's dialogues themselves, [this book] breathes with drama."  
— Sean Durns, *Washington Examiner*



**BUG HOUSE BLUES**  
PETER THOMPSON '70

A tale of horrible bosses and a summer love—with the savage background of a mental hospital.

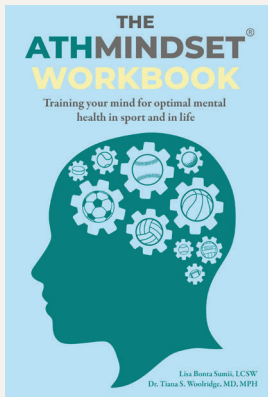
A prequel to the altruistic health worker's checkered career in the Harrison Rhodes Trilogy: *Winter Light*, *Harrison's Word*, *Rhodes To Morocco*.  
Amazon.com and everywhere.



**SIGMUND FREUD:  
A CONTEMPORARY INTRODUCTION**  
SUSAN SUGARMAN

Introducing Freud as theoretician, clinician, and astute social observer, Sugarman retrieves the brilliance so often buried by misreading and simplification. She manages in this distinguished short book to both describe and embody the sweeping scope and meticulous detail of Freudian thought. The book is a condensed treasure.

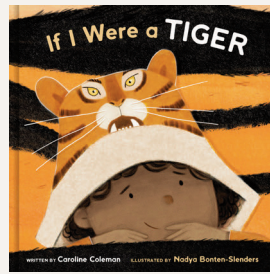




**THE ATHMINDSET®  
WORKBOOK**

**DR. TIANA WOOLRIDGE '15**  
**LISA BONTA SUMII**

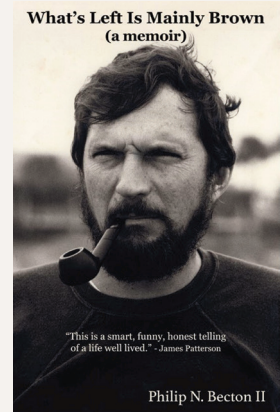
This workbook empowers athletes of all levels to take control of their mental health. Learn the signs of symptoms of mental health issues, and develop a personalized mental health toolkit to navigate challenges, setbacks, and self-doubt with confidence.



**IF I WERE A TIGER**  
**CAROLINE COLEMAN '86**

A whimsical and lyrical rhyming picture book for all future tigers (ages 2-6).

Tim Bone is afraid of ... everything. He comes up with the perfect solution: he'll be a tiger! He has fun imagining the carefree tigerly life. There's only one problem with being a tiger: everyone he loves would run away screaming! Instead he realizes that he's huggable and lovable just the way he is.  
(Penguin Random House 2022)



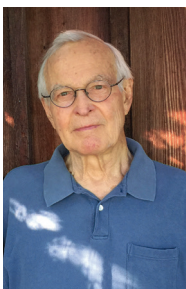
**WHAT'S LEFT IS MAINLY BROWN**  
**PHILIP N. BECTON II '60**

Spanning 85 years of experience as everything from a cotton farmer in Mexico and Navy bombardier/navigator to a Wall Street broker and modern day small business founder, Becton's memoir tells a classic American story with a sweeping front-seat view to history.  
"This is a smart, funny, honest, honest telling of a life very well lived,"  
James Patterson.

# Out of the Whirlwind

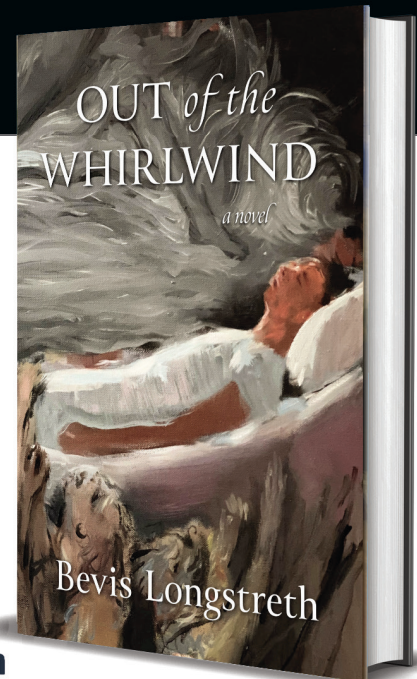
BY BEVIS LONGSTRETH '56

*OUT OF THE WHIRLWIND* IS THE STORY OF A YOUNG MAN coming of age in the 1950's in the New York metropolitan area. He struggles with growing ambiguities about sexual identity and stern, unyielding expectations of a dominant father, braided together to form an apparent life of brilliance at law school, clerkship for a Justice of the Supreme Court and practice at a prominent New York City law firm. His life appears charmed, with professional success and a loyal and loving wife and child. In truth he is a man deeply tormented, hiding his homosexual longings in a closet of privilege. The book poignantly captures this torment, through its childhood whispers and growth, followed, ultimately, by the triumph of finally breaking out, falling in love and building a new life.



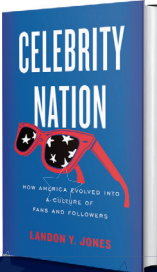
**"The novel asks not only where we belong, but where we want to belong, and at its heart is the story of an aspirational father, the son who wants to please him, and the power they each hold over the other."**

— Karen Shepard, author of *Kiss Me Sometime*



**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** The author of four compelling works of historical fiction, BEVIS LONGSTRETH combines his passion for history with a unique, contemporary perspective. His keen eye and incisive pen were honed during his years as a lawyer and his experience serving as a Commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

**LONDON Y. JONES, '66**  
*Celebrity Nation*



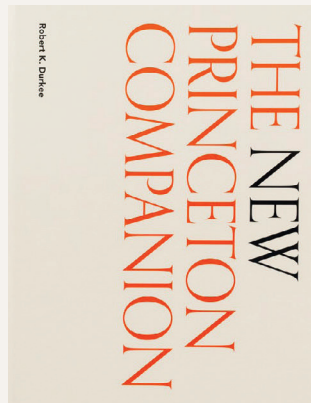
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 —Joyce Carol Oates, author of *Blonde*

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“*The New Princeton Companion* is chock full of little nuggets that will surprise and delight you.”  
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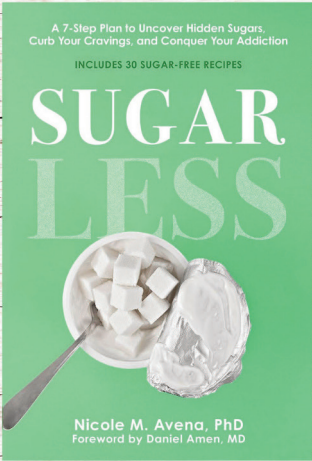
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 Class of '06

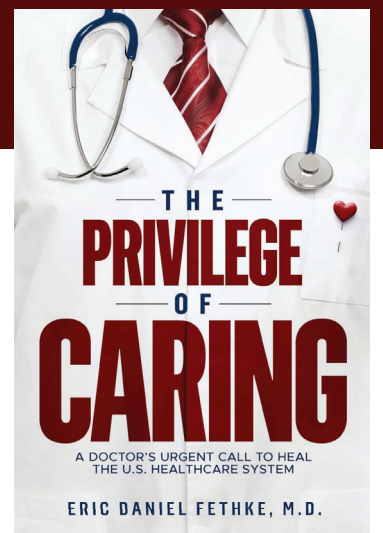
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# The Privilege of Caring

By Eric Daniel Fethke, M.D. '86

In the aftermath of the global pandemic, we were left devastated and in need of stable and reliable healthcare. Today’s polarized political landscape has become consumed by violence and insecurity. Dr. Eric Fethke offers a prescription to improve the health of our nation—kindness, acceptance, and equality.

With over 30 years of experience, Dr. Fethke shares the life lessons he learned while practicing medicine as a pediatric cardiologist. Through personal anecdotes, patient stories, and thoughtful insights, we see behind the curtain to the trials, tribulations, and triumphs of caring for the sick or broken. With incredible humility and an endless supply of patience and genuine sensitivity, Dr. Fethke challenges us to change a broken system so that others without care may finally receive that which they so desperately need.



available at **amazon**



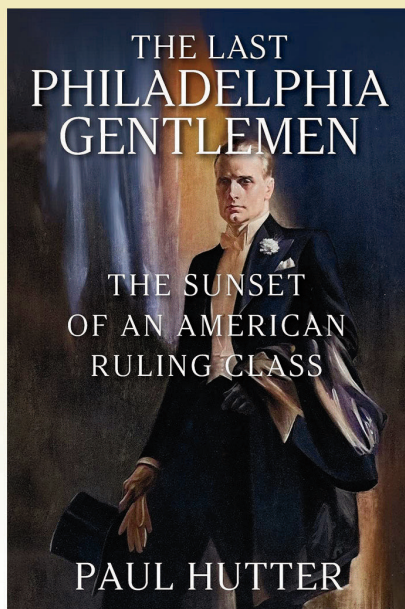
**Eric D. Fethke, M.D.**, is one of the country’s top pediatric cardiologists, known for successfully treating the most difficult heart conditions in babies, children and adults. Passionate about educating clinicians and laypeople alike, Dr. Fethke also hosts *The Pursuit of Health*, a podcast aimed at developing a forum for policy discussions regarding healthcare reform in the United States. He maintains an active blog at [www.dr.fethkemd.com](http://www.dr.fethkemd.com).



# *The Bible of the American WASP Aristocracy*



The familial force behind the famous catchphrase, *"Trenton Makes, The World Takes"*, the **Roebling Family** of Trenton/Princeton founded what was to become one of America's most important manufacturing proprietorships between the mid- Industrial Revolution and the end of World War II (1842-1953). Their invention of steel wire rope accelerated American bridge construction during the era of "Manifest Destiny", and supported the elevators that enabled Andrew Carnegie's steel skyscraper development from the Gilded Age through the Roaring Twenties. The family was materially responsible for several of the nation's most iconic engineering feats including the **Brooklyn Bridge**, the **Empire State Building**, the **George Washington Bridge** and the **Golden Gate Bridge**. Throughout the past two centuries, the Roebling family's "Town and Gown" commitment to both Trenton and Princeton has been estimable and profound.



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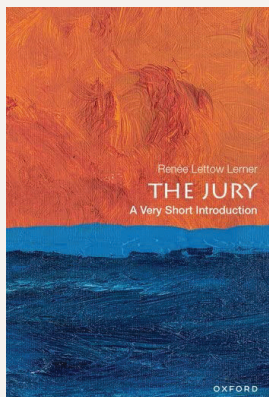
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*Sam Chew Jr.,  
14th Generation Colonial Descendant*

**The Last  
Philadelphia Gentlemen**  
by Paul Hutter '74

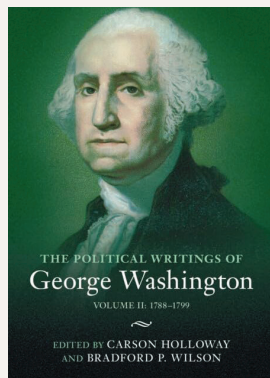
"Hutter has surpassed Whit Stillman as the preeminent WASP chronicler"

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"Harvard Man" and Olympic Rower*



**THE JURY: A VERY SHORT INTRODUCTION**  
**RENÉE LETTOW LERNER '90**

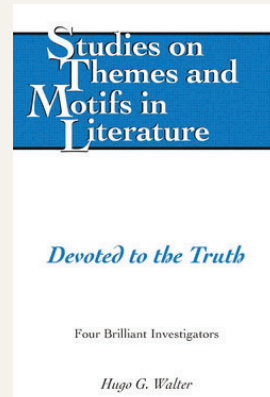
From Socrates to Johnny Depp, juries have rendered verdicts. This Very Short Introduction captures the drama from ancient Greece through the English-speaking world and beyond to modern Europe, Latin America, Africa, and Asia, with fascinating tales for lawyers and non-lawyers alike. Order now on Amazon.



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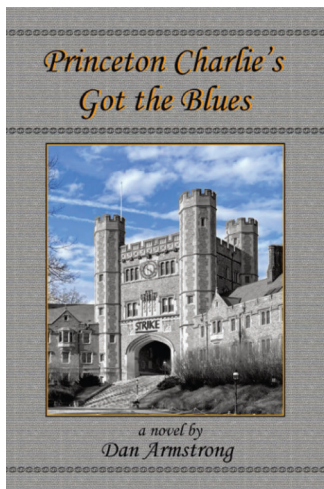


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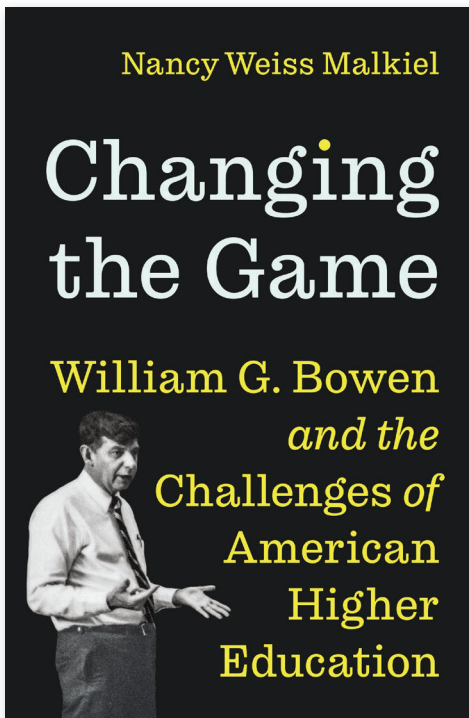
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—Lawrence S. Bacow, president emeritus of Harvard University





What happens when conflict between two families in Taiwan 30 years earlier leads to murder?

## Motive For Murder

Coming December 2023

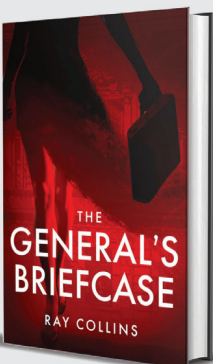
*MOTIVE FOR MURDER IS A CLASSIC SERIAL KILLER THRILLER.* Rookie detective Hana Brown is assigned a gruesome murder of a female Asian by the Fairfax County Police Department in the mistaken belief it is a routine gang killing. The new Chief of Police proudly announces Hana's role to the media to profit from news coverage of how she was wounded in Chinatown when her detective father was assassinated by drug dealers. By the time FCPD realizes the victim is the first of a series of homicides of Chinese American women with notes signed Jack the Ripper, it's too late to replace Hana. An FBI agent detailed to Fairfax is chosen as her deputy, despite his protests, and endorses the belief a serial killer is the culprit. A news reporter who attracts Hana's romantic interest advances a competing theory that political intrigue is the true motive behind the murders.



**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Ray Collins \*81 grew up in the Midwest, attended Yale, and was drafted as an Army combat infantryman during his junior year. He married Betty Ann when mustered out of the service. Ray attended Princeton, where Betty Ann had twins (Jim and Ann) and he earned an MPA. Joining State as a foreign service officer, his first assignment was Manila, Philippines where Betty Ann had their third child (Nori). He became a Japanese language and East Asia specialist during his second assignment in Japan, where their fourth child (Susan) was born.



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# War Hero and U.S. Senator Danny Brewster '46

had it all, and it nearly killed him. *What happened?*

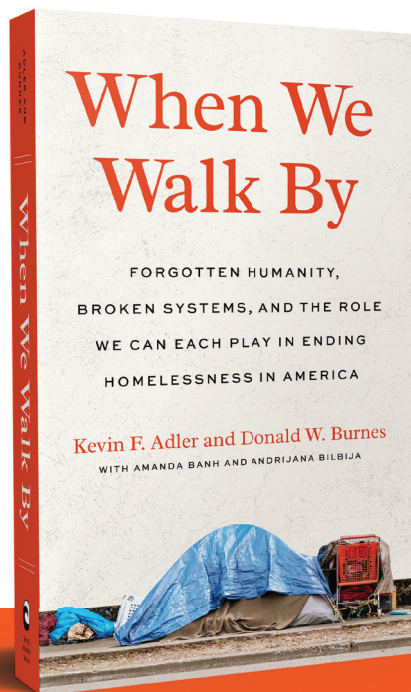
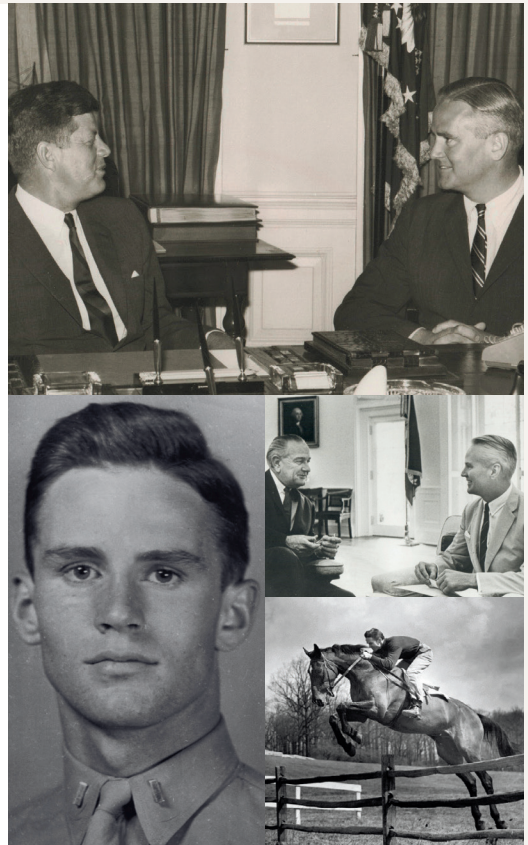
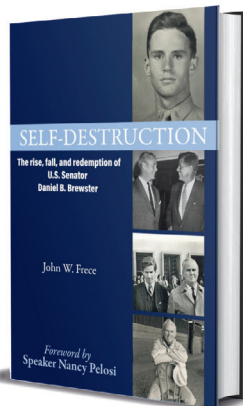
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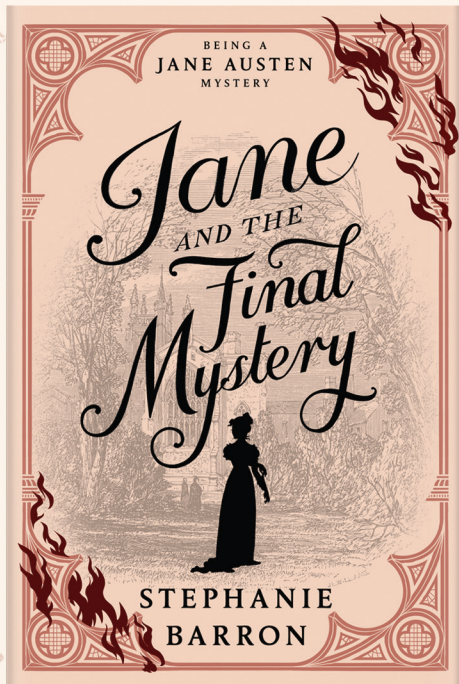
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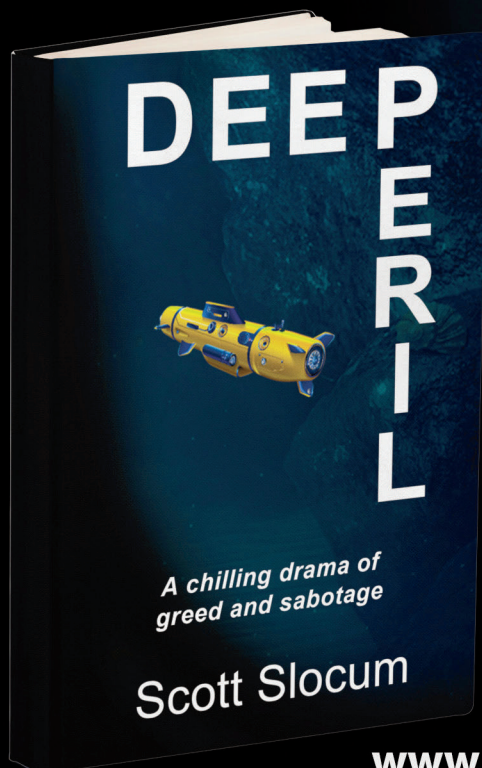
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**About The Author:** A graduate of Princeton University, Scott is a retired Navy officer who now lives in Virginia with his wife Carol. This book is the product of his fascination with the world's oceans and his growing concern about the fragility of our planet.

[www.deepperil.com](http://www.deepperil.com)

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**SWEETBITTER** By Reginald Gibbons '69

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which is the only national juried prize for literature that confronts racism and explores diversity.

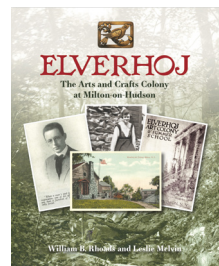
“Timely in the subject of interracial love.”  
—*Library Journal*

“Graceful and evocative prose.”—*Publishers Weekly*

**ELVERHOJ: The Arts and Crafts Colony at Milton-on-Hudson**

By William B. Rhoads '66 '75 and Leslie Melvin

**Elverhoj** was an Arts and Crafts colony established on the Hudson River in



1912 by Danish American artists and craftsmen. Featured in “4 Books That Offer a Bouquet of Design Inspiration” by Eve M. Kahn in *The New York Times*.



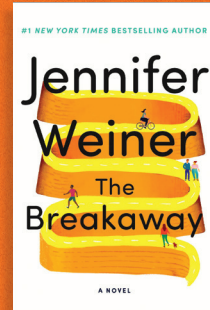
**AROUND THE WORLD**  
**CHRISTINA BADARACCO '12**

Over the last seven years, Christina Badaracco '12 has partnered with the Transamerica Institute to publish the free Healthier Traditions Cookbook series to inspire readers to cook more at home. Her recipes offer healthier ingredient swaps that don't sacrifice flavor.



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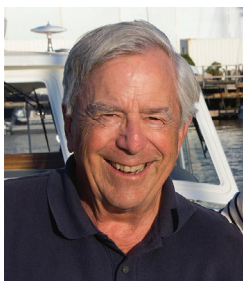
We're starting with Jennifer Weiner '91's *The Breakaway* and hope you will join us and submit questions that we will ask Jennifer during the February edition of the PAWcast. Plus, we've partnered with the Princeton University Store, where you can buy the book.



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**Time to Get Creative**

BY BOB JOHNSTONE '56



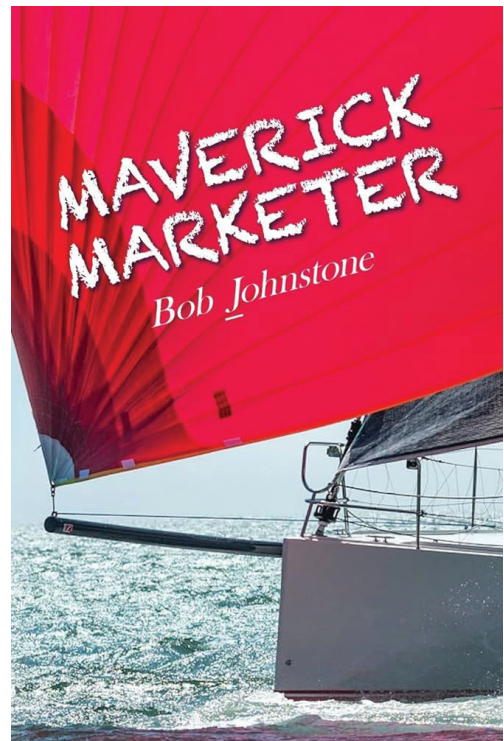
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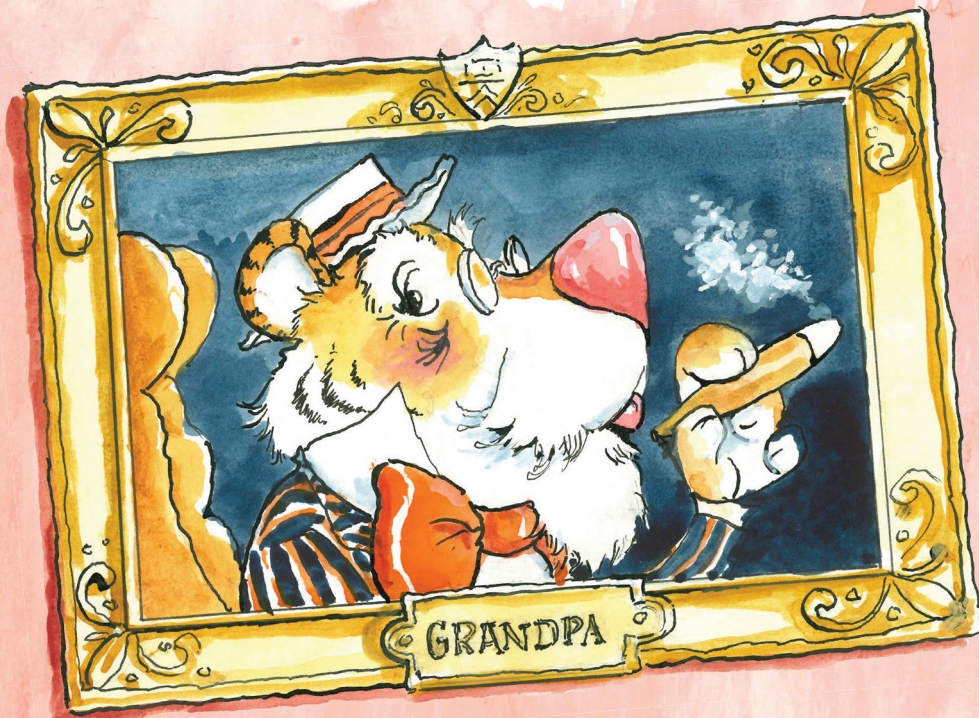
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# THE LEGACY OF LEGACY

Family ties are famously strong at Princeton,  
but changes to admission policies could be coming.  
Five alumni ponder the future.

BY MARK F. BERNSTEIN '83

ILLUSTRATIONS BY MICHAEL WITTE '66



In Princeton families, the Tiger connection often extends across generations, and many alumni, secretly or not, hope that their children will someday follow them to Princeton. It may seem like a small thing, but it matters. Legacy preferences — the boost an applicant receives for being the child of an undergraduate or graduate alum — can provide a thumb on the scale in the hypercompetitive field of college admissions.

According to an essay by Princeton professor Shamus Khan published in *The New York Times* in July, the University accepted around 30% of applicants with a legacy connection in 2018, compared to 5% of applicants overall. As a group, legacies are more likely to be white and to come from wealthy families than others in their entering class. Academically, they seem to be qualified. *The Daily Princetonian*, citing Class of 2023 and Class of 2026 surveys, found that legacy admits had higher SAT scores and earned higher undergraduate GPAs than their non-legacy classmates. And make of this what you will: They were also more likely to work in public service or for nonprofits after graduation.

Although the legacy preference in American higher education dates back a century, and has been controversial for nearly as long, it has come under even greater scrutiny since the Supreme Court last summer banned colleges from explicitly considering race, ethnicity, or national origin in admission decisions. Fearing that entering classes will be less diverse as a result, critics have called for ending the legacy preference on the grounds that it provides an unfair leg up to applicants who are already advantaged. Defenders counter that the legacy preference helps bind alums to the University and should not be ended in the name of diversity just when a growing number of minority alums are beginning to take advantage of it.

Even before the Supreme Court's ruling, several colleges and universities, including Johns Hopkins, Pomona, Amherst, and Wesleyan, decided to end their legacy preference. Since last summer, the Department of Education has opened a civil rights investigation into whether Harvard's legacy preference discriminates against Black, Hispanic, and Asian applicants, and Oregon Sen. Jeff Merkley '82 has introduced legislation that would prohibit its use at institutions receiving federal funds. At Princeton, the Board of Trustees created an ad hoc committee to review the University's admission policies,

including legacy admissions, in light of the Supreme Court's decision.

Given the strong feelings that exist on both sides of this question, PAW invited four alums — Lolita Buckner Inniss '83, Rachel Kennedy '21, Nathan Mathabane '13, and Jeffrey Young '95 — to discuss legacy preferences and whether Princeton ought to continue them. The conversation was conducted on Zoom and moderated by PAW senior writer Mark F. Bernstein '83.

**Bernstein: Lolita and Rachel, can you talk about your own experiences with legacy admissions?**

**Lolita Buckner Inniss '83:** I'm the first person in my family to go to college, and my coming to Princeton was largely by accident. Yale was actually my first choice. Why? Because I had heard of it, and someone told me it was great. I was accepted, and then in July, shortly before classes started, I met a Princeton alum who told me what a great place Princeton was and that it was probably not too late for me to get in. So, I wrote to Princeton, asked if I could come, they said yes, and I withdrew from Yale. I turned up on Nassau Street a few weeks later, carrying my duffel bag and my basketball and wondering what had



**LOLITA BUCKNER INNIS '83**

*Dean of the University of Colorado Law School and the author of numerous articles as well as the book, The Princeton Fugitive Slave: The Trials of James Collins Johnson.*



happened to me because I had no clue about any of this.

I'm now married to a classmate [Daryl Inniss '83] and we've been together since freshman week. We had kids really young, a set of twins. I think the first time we went back to Reunions they were both in strollers. One of them, Christopher [Inniss '09], announced when he was 10 years old that he was going to Princeton, probably because of the Reunions experience. My husband and I strongly encouraged him. In fact, maybe one of the hardest things in our family life was when only one of the twins wanted to go to Princeton.

One of the most thrilling things that has ever happened to me is when we got the big envelope for Christopher. He was still at school, so I went out to the mailbox, brought the letter into the house, and fell straight on the floor. My mind was blown. It meant a lot to me that my son went to Princeton, and I think it's fair to say that he was a lot more prepared to attend than either I or my husband had been, because he grew up with upper-middle-class parents.

My other son, who didn't go to Princeton, said that my husband and I bleed orange and black. Yeah, maybe. Christopher being a legacy certainly has tied me to Princeton even more closely. If they got rid of legacy admissions, it wouldn't be the end of the world. I do think, however, that it creates a bond within legacy families that can't be replicated.

I would be cynically amused if they were to end legacy admissions now when there are finally enough alums of color, especially Black people, to take advantage of it. To end it now really would cut off that opportunity.

### Bernstein: How about you, Rachel?

**Rachel Kennedy '21:** I'm the seventh person in my family to go to Princeton. So, I've had six of the most influential people in my life talking about the ways that they love the school and the ways that they struggled there. Growing up, I was intimidated by that and never wanted to go to Princeton. My dream school was Georgetown, but that started to change in high school, in 2016, when my dad [Randall Kennedy '77] gave the baccalaureate speech.

I went. I saw Princeton. I saw the most beautiful school ever. I felt that community spirit. Both of my cousins had gone to Princeton, and they also went back to hear my dad speak. Seeing just how much the three of them enjoyed being back together was such a powerful experience. And so even though my twin brother was the first one to be interested, I decided to apply too. We did not think the school was big enough for both of us, so he ended up going someplace else. I



**RACHEL KENNEDY '21**

*First-year student at Harvard Law School and a former associate producer of the ACLU's podcast, "At Liberty." As an undergraduate, she was the associate opinion editor of The Daily Princetonian.*

## PERCENTAGE OF RECENT CLASSES WHO ARE CHILDREN OF ALUMNI

Class of 2027: **13%**

Class of 2026: **10%**

Class of 2025: **15%**

Class of 2024: **11%**

Class of 2023: **14%**

Class of 2022: **14%**

Class of 2021: **13%**

Class of 2020: **15%**

Class of 2019: **12%**

Class of 2018: **11%**



SOURCE: OFFICE OF ADMISSION

loved Princeton. It was an incredible experience.

In terms of the legacy question, though, I do think it should be abolished because stories like ours and yours, Dean Buckner, are the minority. Seventy percent of people who benefit from the legacy preference are white. It's just another way to give even more opportunities to people who already have lots of them. This is not a popular stance in my family, by the way.

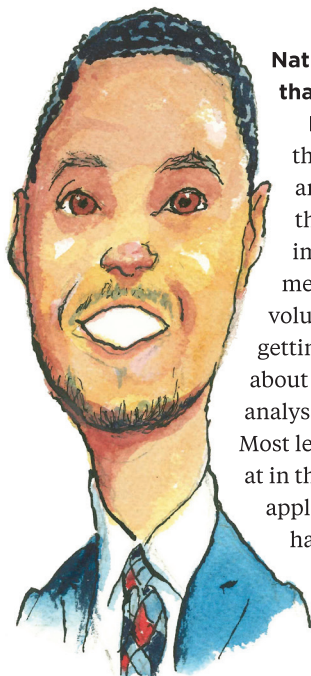
There's a lot of pride and a lot of spirit around the school in general. I celebrate that and I'm grateful for it in my life.

But I think with the repeal of affirmative action, the school has to do as much as possible to promote diversity.

Another note from my experience: One of my main friend groups from Princeton is a group of eight students. We're very diverse in lots of ways: Asian kids, Black kids, queer kids, the whole gamut. That said, six of us are also legacies. We all met from different areas of the campus, but for some reason legacies gravitate toward each other and that limits the college social experience. I love those friends. I'm grateful for them. They made Princeton the place it was for me, but they are not the diverse group that college could be providing.

### Bernstein: [President]

**Christopher Eisgruber ['83] has said that legacy admission is "an important part of who we are as an institution that creates a community that persists long after graduation. Legacy works in our admission process as a literal tiebreaker."**



**Nathan, from your experience, is that how it works?**

**Nathan Mathabane '13:** I think that's accurate. Obviously, anybody who's getting into the school is academically impressive across a variety of metrics. That being said, with the volume of applications we were getting, we had to be very deliberate about who got that full look, that full analysis by the admission committee. Most legacy applicants were looked at in their entirety whereas other applicants, even those who might have appeared the same on paper, were not given that full review.

**NATHAN MATHABANE '13**

*Associate director of college counseling at Woodside Priory School in Portola Valley, California. From 2015 to 2022, he worked for Princeton University as an admission officer and assistant dean of admission.*

**Bernstein: You're a college counselor now at a prep school. Do you tell legacy kids to be sure to check that box when they are applying to a parent's alma mater?**

**Mathabane:** Yes, except that kids don't necessarily want to go where their

parents went. Sometimes they're not checking that box because they're not applying in the first place. I think there is this notion that legacy students are always fired up to go wherever their parents went. Maybe that's a very Princeton thing, but it's not always the case.

**Bernstein: One of the arguments in defense of legacy admission is that it that leads to more donations from alumni. Does that justification stand up?**

**Jeffrey Young '95:** There was a book that came out a few years ago called *Affirmative Action for the Rich: Legacy Preferences in College Admissions* by Richard Kahlenberg, who has looked into that argument. He said the research isn't so conclusive that the legacy preference directly leads to more donations. I know Princeton has a very good tradition of having alumni give back, but I think it's less clear whether this is true elsewhere.

One college that has decided to retain its legacy preference is William & Mary, which happens to be where my parents met. William & Mary defended their decision in part because they said that legacy students who are admitted are much more likely to accept, which boosts the school's ranking. All these highly selective colleges offer incredible opportunities, but they also need to fill their classes and avoid a lot of waitlist stress.

**Kennedy:** You bring up a great point, Jeff, that different schools have different reasons for keeping legacy. Princeton doesn't have to worry about filling its entering class, and it

has such a huge endowment that it doesn't need to rely on admitting wealthy students whose parents can pay full tuition. Princeton occupies such a privileged position, which would make it easier for Princeton to get rid of legacy admissions, though I do recognize that other schools are not in that position, which complicates the conversation.

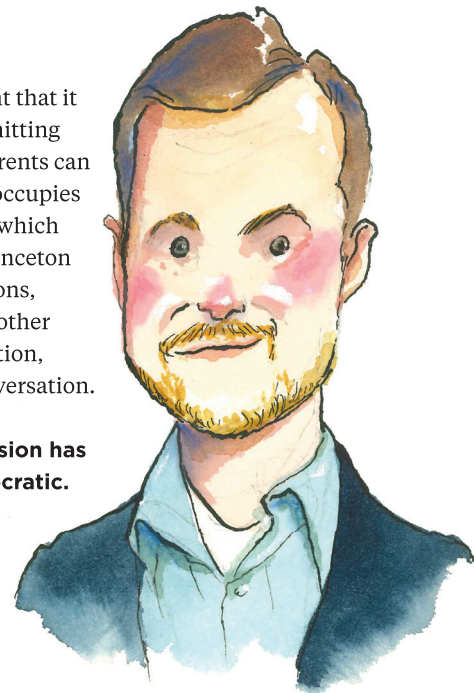
**Bernstein: College admission has never been purely meritocratic. It helps if you play the clarinet and the school you're applying to needs a clarinetist for the orchestra. It helps if you're a field hockey goalie and they need a field hockey goalie. Given this, what's wrong with giving a small boost to children of alumni as well?**

**Mathabane:** I think it's all about the lottery of birth. You could argue that the clarinet player or the field hockey goalie had to do something to earn that distinction, whereas the legacy student, just by virtue of who they were born to, has had a thumb on the scale from the time they were in the delivery room. We do make these arbitrary concessions to different extracurriculars, but there's no extracurricular for having been born to Princetonians.

**Inniss:** I get what you're saying, Nathan. For me, legacy admissions are a more direct route to what is still going to happen because let's look at those field hockey goalies and excellent clarinet players. You're right, they would have had to have worked hard to achieve excellence in those areas. But the people who are most excellent in those areas are also typically white, wealthy, and well-connected — I call them the three Ws of getting into a top school.

If anything, taking away legacy admissions makes those realities less transparent. Again, I look at my own kids. All three were top classical musicians. Some of that was because they were born with amazing music genes and intellect genes, but my husband and I also spent many thousands of dollars on lessons and training. They also never had to hold down a job while growing up, and I could argue that without those benefits they wouldn't have been able to develop their skills the way they did.

Rachel, you mentioned that six of your eight closest friends were legacies, but let's take away legacy. Those six out of eight probably would have been admitted to Princeton anyway because I'm guessing you are all excellent students. I don't



**JEFFREY YOUNG '95**

*Editor of EdSurge, an educational news service, and host of the "EdSurge" podcast. Before that, he worked for 20 years as a reporter and editor at The Chronicle of Higher Education.*



think legacy admission by itself is as unfair or unjust as it's often made out to be because it's just one factor, and often a relatively minor one, that describes people who still have all kinds of outstanding opportunities and characteristics to help get them into these places.

**Bernstein:** Xochitl Gonzalez wrote in *The Atlantic* recently that “ending legacy admissions will most likely mean that wealthy children whose parents went to Brown will go instead to Yale or Columbia.” Is that a fair way of looking at it?

**Mathabane:** I would say that reading of the situation is probably true. There are no quotas in the Princeton admissions system. No one says, ‘We need X number of this student, X number of that student,’ but we are looking to meet different institutional priorities around social diversity, and we also want to do right by our athletic program. We do have certain buckets that we’re trying to fill in each class. But we would never be looking, say, to decrease the number of Pell-eligible students or decrease the number of lower-income students in favor of admitting a legacy applicant.

**Kennedy:** This is already a competition among the most affluent of society, why do something to further benefit them?

“If Princeton does away with legacy admissions, as indeed may happen, there will still be lots of us who send our children there. Why? Because we have a strong attachment to the place, and thanks to all the advantages our children have received since birth, they will still be very likely to get in.”

— LOLITA BUCKNER INNISS '83

**Bernstein:** If the University were to do away with legacy admissions, would it change the “special sauce” that binds so many alumni to Princeton? Lolita, you’re shaking your head.

**Inniss:** No, because the cynic in me says that there are still going to be a huge number of children of Princeton alums who apply and they’re still going to have tremendous advantages in preparation and resources.

**Young:** Princeton has changed so much since I was a student, and it’s going to be a profoundly different place regardless of whether we do away with legacy admission. The social makeup of the University has changed completely over the last 30 years and that is going to continue. Princeton will look very different in 2050 regardless of what happens just because of the type of students who are being admitted.

I do think the reason colleges are rethinking legacy admissions now is because of the Supreme Court’s decision ending affirmative action. If schools can no longer explicitly take race into consideration, will the legacy preference become even more unfair? It seems like a moment to ask tough questions about every piece of the admissions puzzle, including how athletes are treated, how early decision works, all kinds of things.

**Bernstein:** One of our fellow alums, Sen. Jeff Merkley, has co-sponsored legislation that would ban colleges receiving federal funds from considering legacy in admissions. Is this an issue that deserves a response from the federal government, or should Princeton be left to decide on its own?

**Inniss:** I don’t think this is something that requires a legal response. If Princeton does away with legacy admissions, as indeed may happen, there will still be lots of us who send our children there. Why? Because we have a strong attachment to the place, and thanks to all the advantages our children have received since birth, they will still be very likely to get in.

Here’s something I’ve thought about, though. What if we just said, after an applicant has reached a certain level in terms of test scores or grades or some other measure of qualification, we’re going to throw everyone in a big barrel, and we’re going to pick our entering class out of there? In some respects, people would say, ‘Oh, that’s fair.’ But when you consider that there’ll still be large numbers of highly educated people in that barrel, many of whom have parents who went to schools like Princeton, they’re still going to be statistically more likely to get chosen.

I just don’t know if this particular aspect of undergraduate admissions is worth the kind of attention we’re giving it. If we

care about things like access, fairness, and historical injustice in higher education, this is not the field on which we should be fighting.

**Kennedy:** I believe there was a study done after Amherst did away with its legacy preference [in 2021], and the number of legacy students in their incoming class fell significantly. Lowering it at Princeton could also have beneficial effects. I agree, it’s not a hill to die on, but I do think it’s a way to avoid giving another privilege to people who already have a lot of it.

**Young:** There is also a legal question now. The Department of Education has opened a civil rights investigation into Harvard’s legacy admissions policy because a complaint was filed by activists who allege it discriminates against Black, Hispanic, and Asian applicants in favor of white, wealthy ones. They’re arguing to extend the logic of the Supreme Court’s decision abolishing affirmative action in college admissions, to say, essentially, if a racial preference is not legal, then how can a legacy preference be legal? If you eliminate one, how can you keep the other? ■

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

"It enraged me and broke my belief in the U.S. educational system."

*"They're not pitting us against each other."* "Feel **unsafe?** Yeah."

"Really committed to engaging in difficult conversations"

"One of the **safest campuses** for Jewish and Israeli people"

*"There is an intense, widely accepted understanding of **free speech** on campus."*

*"Campuses, as you see, things are out of control."*

"A FEAR OF **DOXXING** LOOMING HEAVY."

"I FEEL SAFE." "ANTIZIONISM IS NOT ANTISEMITISM."  
"It's very difficult to **un-evil** the evil."

"I've never felt silenced." "THIS IS **FEAR.**" "From the river to the sea."

"When you stay at a protest, you **condone** the things that are said there."

"I just want to talk."

"People are unwilling to **educate** themselves." "Shared experience right now"

"Intimidating behavior needs to be watched."

*"We're **talking** to each other and **listening.**"*

"I'M PRO-INSTITUTIONAL NEUTRALITY."

"Which river, which sea?" "October was not the first time I thought about Israel and its relationship with the

"I absolutely feel the **grief.**" West Bank and Gaza."

"YOU'RE BEING A LITTLE MORE CAUTIOUS."

"We are mourning together."

"This **dehumanization** has to stop." "GIVING PEOPLE SPACE FOR PROCESSING"

"What they're saying is we will kill all Jews."

"Private, behind-closed-doors **conversations**" "Rise in the shrillness of the conversation."

"I NEED TO **STAND UP** FOR MY STUDENTS."

"I **respect** their being." "For some reason, it's not exploded here."

"VIOLENCE ONLY BEGETS MORE **VIOLENCE.**"

*"We're not in a fine moment right now."*

"Agitation was not the cause."

"Absolutely **horrifying**"

"THERE'S MORE [WORK] TO DO AT PRINCETON."

"There is a strong commitment to **community** organizing here."



### **At noon on Oct. 25, students at more than 100 colleges**

and universities staged a walkout in support of Palestinians following the Hamas terror attacks in Israel earlier in the month. At Princeton, a coalition of graduate students organized a gathering on the north lawn of Frist Campus Center, holding signs and chanting while a much smaller group supporting Israel staged a silent counterprotest nearby.

About 25 minutes before the demonstration was to begin, the University's Department of Public Safety issued a Tiger Alert saying that it had become aware of a "threatening social media post" (later determined to be unfounded) and that state and federal law enforcement had been notified. Public safety officers erected temporary barriers to separate the two groups of protesters, and administrators from the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students, known as Free Expression Facilitators, circulated through the crowd to ensure that University guidelines were observed.

Some of the rhetoric during the hourlong protest was hot, even for a political rally. Pro-Palestinian students chanted in Arabic, "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!" and in English, "Intifada! Intifada! Long live the intifada!" statements that many took to be supportive of terrorism and the eradication of Israel.

Other incidents, fortunately isolated, also put the campus on edge. For three days in mid-October, a truck sponsored by a group calling itself Alums for Campus Fairness roamed town blazing an electronic sign that accused Amaney Jamal, dean of the School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA), of failing to denounce the Hamas terror attacks. (When it learned that Jamal had already denounced Hamas, the group apologized privately. Jamal has asked them to do so publicly, as well.) While filming video of a pro-Palestinian rally in Palmer Square on Oct. 28, Emanuelle Sippy '25, president of the Alliance of Jewish Progressives, had her hair pulled and her phone snatched by a woman later identified as a University employee. Some Jewish and Arab students have reported feeling unsafe in recent weeks, while Palestinian supporters have begun wearing masks at rallies to protect themselves from doxxing and other retribution. Not surprisingly, rhetoric has been even less restrained on social media than it has been in person.

All in all, campus tension has been as high in recent weeks as it has been in several years. Furthermore, not in recent memory has a political issue so publicly and vocally divided the student body. On a campus that leans heavily toward the political left, fractures have emerged between people who until recently considered themselves progressive allies, only to find that, on this issue, they are bitterly divided.

And yet.

With tension high over the Israel-Gaza war, can Princeton avoid uglier incidents seen at other universities?

## War & Words

BY MARK F. BERNSTEIN '83

WITH REPORTING BY PETER BARZILAI S'97

It may be grading on a curve, but at least as of mid-November when this issue went to print, Princeton had avoided the uglier incidents that had taken place at other schools. Cornell, for example, was forced to cancel classes after a student threatened to kill Jews, and a Jewish student was assaulted at Columbia. At Harvard, Yale, Stanford, NYU, and elsewhere, student groups and individual faculty members issued statements that justified or even celebrated Hamas' terror attacks. Those and other incidents, widely reported in the news media, have led some outsiders to denounce college campuses as hotbeds of illiberalism. Donors at the University of Pennsylvania have threatened to withdraw support unless the administration roots out campus antisemitism.

Against this backdrop, the discourse at Princeton has been restrained, a point on which administrators and activists broadly agree. In addition, various student groups and academic departments have offered panels and lectures on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in an attempt to do what universities are supposed to do — educate.

"There is still a lot of anxiety, a lot of fear, and a lot of shock," says Jamal. "But I do feel like things are more contained on our campus."

"I'm not saying we got everything right," adds Rabbi Eitan Webb, co-founder of Princeton's Chabad House. "But for some reason, it has not exploded here, and I think Princeton can take some credit for that."

**PAW interviewed more than a dozen students, faculty members, and administrators who offered several possible causes to explain this phenomenon: Princeton's historic reputation as the least political of the Ivies. Its relative lack of graduate students, who tend to be more politically engaged. The relative absence of "scholar-activists" on the faculty. Even that the war broke out when students were distracted by midterms and fall break.**

Jamal says she believes that unrest is greater when students feel that their side is not being heard. She credits the speed with which discussions, featuring scholars offering many points of view, were organized here. "That set the tone that there are different positions and we're going to bring them to the table," she says.

Senior administrators also emphasized the importance of civil discourse, early and often. President Christopher Eisgruber '83 denounced the attacks while also calling for calm. "Even in a world wearied and torn by violence and hatred, Hamas' murder and kidnapping of hundreds of Israelis ... is among the most atrocious of terrorist acts," Eisgruber said on Oct. 10. "I hope that Princetonians from all backgrounds will treat each other with grace and compassion during this difficult time."

Two weeks later, as students returned from break, Dean of the College Jill Dolan, Dean of the Graduate School Rod Priestly, Dean of the Faculty Gene Jarrett '97, Vice President for Campus Life W. Rochelle Calhoun, and Vice President for Human Resources Romy

Riddick issued a joint letter to the University community to rebut what they characterized as "a few attempts to inflame and divide the Princeton community." Titled "A Call for Respect and Care," the letter said in part, "We are not one another's enemies. We are people bound by our proximity in time and space and by our shared commitment to Princeton's values and its motto: to be in service to our nation and to humanity."

"I appreciated that email and thought that it was a very important message to send," says Abigail Rabieh '25, head opinion editor for *The Daily Princetonian* and a member of the student board of the Center for Jewish Life (CJL).

This has been an acid test for Eisgruber, who has championed free expression, even on highly sensitive topics, as one of the University's core values. Over the past year, the University has partnered with the free expression group PEN America to conduct workshops with the Council of the Princeton University Community, administrators, and department chairs. A session with students is planned for January, PEN America senior manager for free expression and education Kristen Shahverdian tells PAW.

Students on both sides of the debate credit the University for setting a good tone. Aditi Rao, a graduate student who spoke at the Oct. 25 demonstration, says, "I find Princeton radically more considerate of free speech than any other institution I've been a part of." Ilai Guendelman, an Israeli postdoctoral student in the Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences program, says, "My impression is that Princeton, even these days, is one of the safest campuses for Jewish and Israeli people. But it's only because your perspective comes from a place where the situation is horrible."

### **Still, it must be emphasized, others strongly disagree.**

Many Jewish students argue that the more radical pro-Palestinian chants were not free speech but harassment that makes Jews, particularly those with family in Israel, feel unsafe.

"I am very grateful that we have not seen the sort of incidents seen on other campuses," says Rabbi Gil Steinlauf '91, executive director of the CJL. "But that doesn't mean that the discourse isn't painful. It has been incredibly difficult for our students." Citing calls for intifada and what they regarded as the eradication of Israel, Eden Bendory '25 and Estelle Botton '25 wrote in a letter to *The Daily Princetonian*, "Princeton's campus should serve as a safe haven for Jewish students, not an institution that turns a blind eye to antisemitic slurs and chants occurring right on its doorstep."

In an email to PAW, Kathleen Deignan, dean of undergraduate students, and Michele Minter, vice provost for institutional equity and diversity, acknowledge that "a small number" of complaints have been filed concerning recent incidents, adding, "The University is working to respond to these situations and support the wellbeing of the campus community while maintaining the right of individuals to engage in protected speech."

Supporters of Palestine, meanwhile, have called on the University to show the same level of care and empathy for





**FACE OFF**  
Pro-Palestinian and pro-Israel students have been together but separate at several campus demonstrations.



Palestinian and Muslim students as it does for its Jewish and Israeli students. “Selectively condemning the crimes against Israeli citizens degrades the innocent Palestinian lives being lost by implying that their rights are not worth defending,” Sameer Riaz ’24 wrote in an Oct. 24 column for *The Daily Princetonian*.

The recent campus protests illustrate just how mixed many of the student messages have been and how difficult it is to apply standards of respectful discourse when the parties use language in such different ways.

For example, a vigil organized by Princeton Students for Justice in Palestine (PSJP) in front of Nassau Hall on Oct. 13 was a diverse gathering that included families with children. Although participants did chant, “From the river to the sea,” the crowd was largely silent and embraced afterwards as speakers urged those present to remember all innocent victims in the region. Shortly afterward, though, the organizers issued a lengthy statement that alternated vitriol

with an expression of empathy.

“We, the Princeton Students for Justice in Palestine, hold the Israeli apartheid government responsible for the tremendous loss of life in occupied Palestine, Gaza, and the West Bank,” it began, before adding, in the next sentence, “Coming from a wide range of faith backgrounds, ethnicities, and origins, we are in mourning. We hold the Jewish and Palestinian communities in our hearts, including many of our own family and friends, who are living through this trauma.”

Although Rao is not a member of the PSJP, she gives some insights into the thinking of those who organized the demonstration. She and several other grad students met beforehand to draw up a chant list, based on what they had been hearing elsewhere, and then practiced with each other to make sure that they were not agitating the crowd.

While calls for “intifada” arose organically during the march (“It’s a free speech environment,” Rao says), the decision to

recite “From the river to the sea” in Arabic stemmed from a desire for authenticity. “My strong belief is that we should take the chants that Palestinians are using to talk about their cause,” she reasons. “And so, using their language, using their literal songs, is kind of an important way of making sure that we’re respecting the culture rather than fighting for somebody else’s liberation in our own way.”

Many, however, were indeed agitated and heard it as a call for the elimination of Jews across the region. In Arabic, the chant doesn’t say that from the river to the sea Palestine will be *free*, Webb points out. “It says, from the river to the sea, Palestine will be *Arab*. That’s worse.”

Rao insists that she meant something different, that throughout the region there will be a single state in which both Jews and Palestinians will “live safely and participate in a democracy.” Sippy also contends that, having spoken with many of the PSJP organizers, “The vast majority of people who were using those chants are not calling for the obliteration of the Jews who live in Israel-Palestine.”

Jamal notices a generational divide, especially among students too young to remember the laborious Middle East peace process of the late 20th century. “I’m from the old school,” she says. “For those who support a two-state solution, [the chant] means that Israel is not legitimate.” Along the same lines, she adds, the first intifada, from 1987 to 1993, was much more peaceful than the second intifada, which ran from 2000 to 2005. Which type were the protesters calling for?

Many might not have been able to answer that question themselves. Some suggest that a not-insignificant number of students showed up simply to express support for an independent Palestine and picked up what everyone else was chanting. Webb wonders how many of the marchers could even

have identified the river and sea they were referring to. “Students are well-meaning,” Steinlauf says. “They see oppression and they seek to show solidarity without understanding.”

Others, though, certainly did understand what they were chanting, and that deserves to be taken seriously. Given the recent emphasis in social justice circles on microaggressions and the need for safe spaces, this is more than a little problematic. American identity politics, several commentators have posited, may prove to be a poor lens for analyzing a foreign conflict with ancient roots.

### **In an op-ed for *The New York Times* on Oct. 30,**

Jamal and Keren Yarhi-Milo, dean of Columbia’s School of International and Public Affairs, laid out some steps colleges can take to make the situation better.

“It starts with countering speech that is harmful, modeling civic dialogue, mutual respect, and empathy, and showing an ability to listen to one another,” they wrote. “Universities should not retreat into their ivory towers because the discourse has gotten toxic; on the contrary, the discourse will get more toxic if universities pull back.”

As Jamal says to PAW, “The bigger problem is that our students don’t understand the history here. That worries me.”

On Nov. 6, she and Daniel Kurtzer, the former U.S. ambassador to Israel and Egypt, participated in just the sort of discussion that could teach some of that history, the sort of discussion Princeton is uniquely able to offer. Titled, “Israel-Gaza: Current Analysis and Vision of Post-War Policy,” the event was sponsored by the CJL in partnership with SPIA, the Department of Near Eastern Studies, the Mamdouha S. Bobst Center for Peace and Justice, Chabad on Campus, and the Center for Judaic Studies.

## Princetonians in Israel ‘Rocked’ by Violence

**FOR PRINCETONIANS LIVING IN ISRAEL,** there is broad agreement that the Oct. 7 attack by Hamas that killed an estimated 1,400 people caught their country — and them personally — profoundly off-guard.

“There was a sense prior to Oct. 7 that we had finished with our wars of existence ... that we had moved on to the startup nation, of making the country a success,” says Moshe Friedman ’98, who runs a corporate venture capital fund from an agricultural kibbutz. “We instead find ourselves in a fight of our parents’ generation.”

The attacks “rocked me to my core,” adds Jonathan Heinberg ’04, a father

of seven who works in the tech sector. He says he and other Israelis “knew that Hamas’ charter called for the destruction of Israel” but didn’t realize that the group “had deep plans to attempt to actualize it beyond launching terror attacks and shooting rockets indiscriminately.”

A few weeks after the attacks, and amid an Israeli military counteroffensive in Gaza in which it is estimated thousands of Palestinian civilians have been killed, PAW reached out to alumni in Israel and talked to 17 to collect their thoughts on the recent events. (PAW was unsuccessful in identifying and reaching alumni in Gaza or the West Bank, or alumni who had

been in those places recently.)

In a series of email interviews, PAW found several widely shared opinions: A lost sense of security. Dissatisfaction with the Israeli government’s handling of intelligence prior to the attacks. A frustration with the international news media and other governments for not taking Israelis’ losses more seriously. Foreboding over rising antisemitism. Agreement over the necessity of knocking out Hamas militarily, often paired with sadness over Palestinian civilians who stand to suffer as a result.

“I don’t know how to get from where we are to what that will be, but one of the things Hamas tried to do is make





**'WE NEED TO COME TOGETHER'**  
*Amaney Jamal, left, and Daniel Kurtzer have held open discussions since the Oct. 7 attacks.*

Anticipating a big crowd, it was held in McCosh 50, the largest lecture space on campus, yet attendance was sparse.

After nearly an hour of history and analysis, Jamal and Kurtzer took questions. A student sitting in front first noted that she recognized most of the people in the room as fellow members of the CJL, yet when she had attended a PSJP teach-in, most of the attendees were Arab or Muslim.

"No pro-Palestinian will want to work with the CJL because they're Zionist," the student said. "No person from the CJL will want to go to a PSJP teach-in because they're anti-Zionist. How do you get past these labels to actually be having conversations with people in a civilized way and not have it be an echo chamber?"

Two of the nation's leading political scientists struggled for an answer. After suggesting that she and Kurtzer might try to organize a peace rally "in a neutral area," Jamal noted that the

campus division into information silos is a problem she had wrestled with even before the current conflict.

"We're not in a fine moment right now," Jamal acknowledged. "We need to come together."

Still, efforts are being made, green shoots from rocky ground. One morning in early November, Rabbi Webb sat down for coffee with a pro-Palestinian student. "He gave me a bunch of reasons why he believes what he believes," Webb says. "I gave him a whole bunch of reasons why I don't agree. And we agreed to have coffee again next week."

Imam Khalil Abdullah, assistant dean for Muslim Life, says that Muslim students are feeling "all the emotions," including anger, frustration, sadness, and isolation. Still, while the past few weeks have strained friendships, they have not broken them. "Students are already talking," Abdullah says. "They may not be the loudest voices, but they may be the ones who are keeping this community together."

Despite the tension, a period of relative calm could buy time in which students could learn some of the history, hear differing points of view, and perhaps even continue some of those difficult conversations, if they will take advantage of the opportunity. The point, after all, is not just to keep calm, but to keep talking and listening.

Or this may all just be whistling past the graveyard. Though it should not be overstated, when judged against many other campuses, Princeton has remained peaceful. So far. But the situation remains volatile, and the peace is fragile.

"I've said this to many people," observes Webb. "To build a community takes years of effort. To destroy it takes five minutes." ■

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

TORI REPP / FOTOBUDDY



**ON THE SCENE**  
*Owen Alterman '99 at Kfar Aza, a kibbutz east of Gaza, after the Oct. 7 attacks.*

three children who were placed on active duty. Bayme is a surgeon who works in Be'er Sheva, which is less than an hour's drive from Gaza. Bayme said his hospital treated 685 wounded patients in one day, of whom 150 had life-threatening wounds.


Owen Alterman '99, senior diplomatic correspondent with i24NEWS, went to Kfar Aza, a kibbutz where some of the bloodiest attacks were and observed, "Your nose smells the smoke and death, and in your helmet and flak jacket your ears hear the artillery firing in the background. I hope one of the communities, or part of one, will not be rebuilt and instead left, as with the

concentration camps in Europe, as an eternal testament to what happened."

One silver lining, some alums say, has been the forging of a closer connection to other Princetonians. A WhatsApp channel for students and alums in Israel and the U.S. had 30 members before Oct. 7, says Rabbi Eitan Webb, director of the Scharf Family Chabad House at Princeton University.

"On Oct. 9, I changed the name from Princetonians in Israel to Princetonians for Israel," Webb says. "Within a few days it had grown exponentially, and now there are more than 400 [members]."

LOUIS JACOBSON '92 is a senior correspondent with PolitiFact.

 **READ** an expanded version of this story at [paw.princeton.edu](http://paw.princeton.edu).

COURTESY OWEN ALTERMAN '99



**GAME TIME**

*Ross Tucker '01, right, makes one of his many broadcasting stops this fall, calling the Army-Boston College game in West Point, New York.*



**CBS SPORTS  
NETWORK**

# ROSS TUCKER '01 IS GOING PLACES

After years of working his way through the NFL media ecosystem, the former football player is starting to break big

BY BRETT TOMLINSON

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN EMERSON

# FOOTBALL COMMENTATOR ROSS TUCKER '01'S FALL TRAVEL ITINERARY READS LIKE THE LYRICS TO A GRIDIRON-THEMED VERSION OF "I'VE BEEN EVERYWHERE." HE'S BEEN TO PHILADELPHIA, FOXBOROUGH, BUFFALO, LAS VEGAS, SAN DIEGO, TUSCALOOSA, EAST HARTFORD, LANDOVER, ATHENS, NASHVILLE, GLENDALE, PITTSBURGH, PISCATAWAY ... AND THAT BARELY GETS YOU TO NOVEMBER.

In early October, Tucker was in the booth at Michie Stadium in West Point, New York, which provides one of the most picturesque backdrops in college football: 4,000 cheering cadets standing on a bank of bleachers, with the tree-covered hills of the Hudson Valley behind them. Even in a driving rain — “Ranger weather” in Army parlance — it was a compelling scene.

Tucker and his play-by-play partner, Chris Lewis, were positioned to maximize the stadium view over their shoulders as they faced the camera and sat on the edge of a press-box table, preparing for the second-half kickoff of Army’s game against Boston College.

Then the table collapsed.

Monitors tumbled, papers fluttered, a Telestrator crashed to the floor, and for a few frantic seconds, Tucker and Lewis checked with the broadcast truck to see if their audio connections remained intact.

But in a blink, they were live on the air — two stout men in sport coats and ties gently squatting to stay in frame and delivering their intros as if nothing happened.

“You know,” Tucker said, turning to Lewis during a third-quarter timeout, “a lesser broadcaster would just say, ‘No on-camera.’”

**HANDLING THE UNEXPECTED IS ONE OF MANY SKILLS** the 44-year-old Tucker has picked up in more than a decade and a half of broadcasting football on TV and radio (and hosting a suite of podcasts that includes nine episodes a week during the season).

This fall, he’s earned the chance to call a handful of NFL games on CBS, along with several national broadcasts of college games. After a few years spending his Saturdays working for CBS Sports Network, a cable channel, Tucker says he had to alert friends and family that he’s now on the broadcast network — “60 Minutes CBS!”

How did a Princeton politics major turned journeyman pro lineman reach broadcasting’s top tier, filling a seat usually reserved for star quarterbacks or other All-Pro players? It has a lot

## BIG TIME

*Tucker starred on Princeton’s offensive line before going to the NFL.*

to do with that “I’ve Been Everywhere” itinerary. For the past 10 years, Tucker has been calling two games a weekend whenever logistically possible and treating each one like a prime-time matchup.

“It was just the reps, the volume. You get so comfortable when you do that many games,” he says. “I’m very confident in who I am as a broadcaster.”

In the booth, Tucker embodies many things, friends and colleagues say: He has a lineman’s perspective — an intricate understanding of pulling guards and pass protection schemes

— but also a deep appreciation for the athleticism and strategy that give football commentators something to talk about seven days a week. He pays close attention to the rule book, knowing that not every broadcast team can rely on a former ref in the studio to share their expertise each time a controversial flag is thrown. He is relentlessly enthusiastic, whether calling a high school championship game in Pennsylvania (where he grew up and still lives) or working in an NFL booth. And he’s funny — OK, maybe dad-joke funny, but his momentary irreverence can



PRINCETON ATHLETICS



carry a broadcast through those slow moments when every drive seems to end in a punt.

None of this is accidental, and more than anything, Tucker takes pride in his preparation. For the Army-Boston College game, he watched game film Monday and Tuesday and interviewed Boston College coaches via Zoom on Wednesday — all while prepping for a Thursday night radio gig (Chicago Bears at Washington Commanders, for Westwood One). After the Thursday game, he made a late-night drive to a Marriott near the Garden State Parkway, took a glorified nap, and arrived in West Point Friday morning to talk with Army's coaches and players. He typed his notes and highlighted key points Friday night while watching a YouTube stream of his former high school team (Wyomissing). He revisited his notes first thing Saturday morning while working out in a hotel fitness center, making a few additions in the margins. Then, an hour and a half before kickoff, Tucker was on the field in the rain, checking in with coaches and picking up a few last-minute tidbits that would help him call the game.

That same type of preparation was one of the first things Tucker's Princeton teammates noticed when he arrived for preseason practices in his freshman year, according to Kyle Brandt '01, a former Tigers running back who is now a co-host of *Good Morning Football* on NFL Network.

"He knew everybody on the team's name, their high school's name, their high school statistics, their high school mascot, their high school girlfriends," Brandt says, with only moderate hyperbole. "He knew everything as if he was going to Comic-Con to meet the Avengers, but all he was meeting was [the Princeton football team]."

Longtime assistant coach Steve Verbit, who recruited Tucker, says that his personality, competitive nature, size, and athleticism stood out. He was already 250 pounds in high school and played a de facto point guard role for the basketball team, dribbling the ball up the court.

At Princeton, Tucker earned his first start freshman year on the defensive line, but soon after that, he moved to offense. By senior year, at 6-foot-5 and nearly 300 pounds, he was a mainstay in an impressive class of Tiger linemen: Dennis Norman '01, who was later drafted by Seattle and played for three NFL teams; John Raveche '01, who signed as a free agent with the New York Giants; and Tucker, who also entered the pros through free agency in Washington.



#### **DRAWING IT UP**

*Tucker, known for his preparation as a player and broadcaster, uses the Telestrator to break down a play.*

Brandt played a small role in Tucker's pitch to pro teams, filming his friend doing drills (Princeton's "pro day" for NFL scouts was still years away). He had his doubts that the tape would have many viewers, or that teams would be interested in a second-team All-Ivy player from a team that had only won three games in his senior year.

"And then I snapped my fingers and I'm sitting in FedEx Field with my dad, watching Ross' Washington team play my childhood team, the Chicago Bears," Brandt says. "If you had told me that in Jadwin, when he's doing lunges to show off that he should be in the NFL, it seems ludicrous. And that's the best part about it."

**IN 2004, TUCKER HAD HIS BEST SEASON AS A PRO**, starting 13 games for a Buffalo Bills team that finished one win shy of the playoffs. But like most NFL players, he was never completely on solid ground. The next year, Buffalo released him at the end of training camp.

"I had gotten married in May, and my wife had quit her job to move to Buffalo," Tucker wrote in a recent column for *The 33rd Team*, a commentary site launched by two former NFL executives. "I broke down while talking to my best friend on the drive back to our apartment. It was one thing when my failures affected me, but now it impacted others, including the woman I had just married. That bothered me as much as anything."

Tucker soon found his next job, as a reserve for the New England Patriots, and later spent a preseason training camp with the Cleveland Browns. His career spanned seven years, a long time for any nonstarter to stay in the NFL, Verbit says, "because they'll always find another guy that's less expensive."

In his final year, back in Washington, Tucker was placed on injured reserve after suffering a herniated disc in his neck

during the third preseason game. Knowing he wasn't likely to get back on the field, he joined Princeton football's broadcast team, calling games on the radio. He also wrote a guest essay for the Monday Morning Quarterback, a *Sports Illustrated* website then run by longtime NFL columnist Peter King, in which he joked that he was "the only 28-year-old Princeton grad that has been fired five times already."

King, who has been one of Tucker's mentors, advised him to use his experiences from the sideline and locker room. After all, not many people can say they've played for Bill Belichick, Bill Parcells, Marty Schottenheimer, and Steve Spurrier. "You've been behind the curtain," King recalls telling him. "You've snapped the ball to Tom frickin' Brady! Use that — use that to your advantage."

Tucker is fairly careful about his behind-the-scenes revelations, with a few exceptions. He once made headlines for sharing a story about Brady's beer-chugging prowess. (Brady later swallowed a pint in one gulp on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*.)

While NFL experience may have helped Tucker get started in broadcasting, his path to CBS included plenty of modest gigs with lesser-known outlets such as Sports USA Radio, Versus, and the Pennsylvania Cable Network. He stayed in touch with contacts from a broadcast boot camp he'd attended during his playing days and built his brand through social media, radio appearances around the country, and podcasts.

"I was so happy this year that he finally got a gig on one of the network teams doing games on Sunday on television, because obviously that's what everybody who gets into that business wants to do," King says. "He is a classic case of a guy who worked so hard to make that happen."

**FOOTBALL BROADCASTS TYPICALLY SHOW THE INSIDE** of the booth in moments of calm — before the opening kickoff or while there is a timeout on the field. To the viewer, it looks like two or three people alone with headsets, casually talking about the game.

But when play starts, the booth comes alive, buzzing with a quiet efficiency. A statistician jots down key numbers on blank index cards — that last punt covered 36 yards, for example — to assist the play-by-play announcer. A spotter peers through binoculars and then places coins on a wide roster sheet, indicating which running backs and receivers are on the field before the snap.

As a color commentator, Tucker is primarily connected with the production crew, holding down a button to mute his microphone and discuss off-air when to use the Telestrator, a device that allows him to circle key parts of a recent play, or sharing his preference of which camera angle to show for the next replay.

From the start of his game day at West Point, Tucker spent time chatting with several of the dozens of people he'd be working with, and a few he just met along the way — a Québécois couple attending their first Army game, the woman who operates the elevator to the press box.

"It's authentic," says Pete Sousa, a part-time sports announcer who worked as a spotter during the Army-Boston College game. "Everybody feels seen. They're part of the team. He does a great job of welcoming everybody."

Tucker also checked in on his favorite Michie Stadium tailgate party, sampling pulled pork, brisket, and bratwurst, all before 9:30 a.m. He enlisted Lewis, his play-by-play partner, to shoot a video of him for social media standing next to the sizzling charcoal grills.

"If John Madden came up in this age, I feel like this is some of the stuff he'd be doing," Lewis says.

Tom Wolfe, in *The Right Stuff*, famously traced the calm, folksy intercom voice of airline pilots to the West Virginia drawl of test pilot Chuck Yeager. Today's football commentators — at least the ones who came of age in the 1980s and '90s — seem to pull similar inspiration, consciously or subconsciously, from Madden, the former down-in-the-dirt offensive lineman and Oakland Raiders coach who, as an announcer, punctuated his calls with "boom" and "wham" (and taught the country about turduckens during his Thanksgiving Day broadcasts).

Tucker has heard people say he reminds them of Madden and calls it "the ultimate compliment," but he's quick to add that any similarities in style are not intentional. If there is a comparison to be made, it seems less about the "booms" and more about the approachability that made Madden a fan favorite and now makes Tucker a rising star. On social media, he takes people behind the scenes with a popular series of videos from press-box buffets, tagged #tuckspreads; his followers send back photos of their own pregame tables and invitations to future tailgates. "I don't know why, but people love it," he says. "It becomes, to some of them, a source of pride, or consternation, about their city. Like, if Green Bay didn't have brats, they'd go crazy."

Greg Cosell, a longtime NFL analyst and nephew of the late broadcaster Howard Cosell, recalls watching a Philadelphia Eagles preseason game earlier this year with his wife, who called Tucker "an easy listen."

"I don't think there's anything earth-shattering to say, other than the fact that he's incredibly prepared, he works incredibly hard, he's got a great personality," says Cosell, a regular guest on Tucker's podcasts. "He is an easy listen."

Verbit, now in his 38th season as a Princeton coach, tunes into Tucker's weekly spot on WIP, Philadelphia's sports radio station, during his morning commute to campus. Sometimes he'll send a text to Tucker, offering a counterpoint to whatever he just said on the radio — and within a few minutes, he gets a text back.

To Verbit, the voice on the radio, or on the TV Sunday afternoons, still sounds a lot like the teenager he recruited more than 25 years ago.

"You can hear the love, the love of the game," he says, "and the love of what he's doing, with every word that comes out." ■

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BRETT TOMLINSON is managing editor of PAW.



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# PRINCETONIANS

ALUMNI STORIES AND PERSPECTIVES



## CORNER CLUB

*Savannah Du '18 and Michael Zhang '17 fondly recall the moment they nodded at each other from opposite corners of a room in Spelman Hall during a party for the East Asian music group VTone. That memory later inspired the name the indie pop duo chose to go by — corner club. In October they released their first full-length EP, in the rearview mirror. It “represents an earnest view into the people and places we left behind since the beginning of the pandemic,” the group tells PAW.*



**READ MORE** about corner club and find other **TIGERS OF THE WEEK** at [paw.princeton.edu](http://paw.princeton.edu).

**MAGIC MOMENT**

*Texas Rangers general manager Chris Young '02 celebrates with his wife, Liz Young '02, and son after winning the 2023 World Series.*



**CHRIS YOUNG '02 AND MIKE HAZEN '98**

# Baseball Executives Square Off in World Series

BY GABE LACQUES

**C**HRIS YOUNG '02 HAD JUST been dealt the toughest loss in his tenure as a baseball executive. Yet in that moment, after his Texas Rangers gave up a ninth-inning home run in a pivotal American League Championship Series Game 5 on Oct. 20, Young, general manager of the Rangers, took a moment to think of a friend experiencing one of his highs.

Mike Hazen '98, his counterpart helming the Arizona Diamondbacks, just enjoyed a rousing victory over the favored Philadelphia Phillies in the National League Championship Series when a message popped up from Young. "We had just won a very emotional

Game 4," says Hazen. "And he sent us a congratulatory text message and I went around to our guys and I was like, 'Who does this?' And they asked, 'Would you have done this?'"

"Probably not. But that's who he is as a human being. I'll say it: We were very fortunate to be able to attend a really good institution that fostered a lot of relationships that I have until this day."

That relationship took a new turn days later, when Young and Hazen squared off in a World Series in which the chief baseball officers from both clubs hailed from Princeton.

Young's Rangers prevailed, winning the best-of-seven-game World Series 4-1 and

wrapping it up with a 5-0 victory in Game 5 at Chase Field in Phoenix, Arizona. Amid the stadium's champagne-soaked visitor's clubhouse, Young, his 6-foot-10 frame looming above the debauchery, spoke of a Texas franchise tired of losing and its willingness to acquire premium talent to end 63 years without a championship.

"I don't know," says Young, "if we spoke it into existence."

Young and Hazen know where their baseball acumen is rooted. And that's why a special guest was summoned to Globe Life Field in Arlington, Texas, for Game 1: Scott Bradley, the Tigers baseball coach who just completed his 25th year at the school.

"I'm not here without Scott," says Hazen. "And so Chris and I had him come in as a thank you to be here to watch."

Young concurs. He is a rarity in athletics, a two-sport star who, at 44, looks like he could still pitch several key innings or battle with the bigs under the basket. He calls Princeton "a tight-knit community and a very special place," a



rare opportunity to develop his baseball, basketball, and academic skills.

Athletes, he says, “got no favors” there, the rigor sharpening both his mind and his ability to compartmentalize tasks.

It was Bradley, he says, who provided a key nudge toward baseball.

“He believed in me, that I had potential beyond college,” says Young. “He said don’t be limited just thinking you’re a college baseball player — that there’s a career beyond this for you if that’s what you want to do.

“That belief is important. Sometimes you don’t know how good you are until someone tells you. His confidence and the belief he instilled in me helped get me there.”

Young was eventually selected in the third round of the 2000 Major League Baseball draft by the Pittsburgh Pirates, traded to the Rangers in 2004 and then the San Diego Padres in 2006, where he played one year for the man who’s now his manager in Texas, Bruce Bochy.

Meanwhile, a sea change was occurring in baseball, where a *Moneyball*-driven tilt toward executives with backgrounds in finance and other fields began superseding those with on-field experience.

By the time Young’s playing career ended in 2017, he was a rare commodity: An Ivy League-educated mind with the credibility that pitching a dozen years in the major leagues brings.

Now, he and Hazen assembled World Series teams. In the Rangers dugout, associate manager Will Venable ’05, who like Young played both sports at Princeton, is a prized managerial commodity.

“It’s a school where people who are highly driven and highly capable want to go and get better,” says Venable, who lauds Young’s “clarity of vision” and culture of accountability. “You combine that with the program that Coach Bradley has, which is very professional. I don’t think [it] has a lot of the components other colleges do — basically it’s run like a professional team.

“It’s a really good foundation for people who are involved with baseball at Princeton to continue on to do things in the industry.”

And somehow it all comes back to campus.



Young eventually had to choose a path — baseball or basketball. Yet nearly a quarter-century after he excelled at both sports, he found those paths intertwined.

It was late March and Young had big decisions to make: who made the major league club and who got sent to the minors. Yet Princeton’s men’s basketball team was competing in the Sweet 16 round of the NCAA Tournament.

What’s a 6-foot-10 former center and right-handed pitcher to do?

The day job won out. Young stuck around spring training camp and joined Venable as they agonized through the Tigers’ Sweet 16 loss to Creighton.

Still, Princeton made a few fans along

**“It’s a school where people who are highly driven and highly capable want to go and get better. You combine that with the program that Coach Bradley has, which is very professional. I don’t think [it] has a lot of the components other colleges do — basically it’s run like a professional team.**

— WILL VENABLE ’05  
Texas Rangers associate manager

#### HEAD IN THE GAME

*Arizona Diamondback’s general manager Mike Hazen ’98 and manager Torey Lovullo, left, during the Division Series against the Los Angeles Dodgers.*

the way — Bochy among them — as coach Mitch Henderson ’98’s squad shocked No. 2 seed Arizona and No. 7 seed Missouri.

“I wanted so bad to be at the Sweet 16,” says Young. “I felt like a kid missing Christmas, but it was the last day of spring training, we had cuts to make, and I didn’t feel like it was appropriate for me to leave and leave those cuts to other people.

“Will and I watched it and were jumping and screaming together. I was on texts with so many friends. But most important, so happy for those athletes and beyond happy for Mitch — he’s such a good person, such a winner, and the impact he’s made on so many peoples’ lives that he doesn’t even realize.”

Young experienced a full-circle moment when he invited Henderson to visit the Rangers this year, the current coach of his alma mater swapping knowledge and appreciation with Bochy, one of his first major league managers.

And it just doesn’t stop. Hazen, 47, who preceded Young by three years at Princeton, is simply another reminder of the years that molded him. Only one man couldn’t lose: Bradley, the coach who molded them all. ■



RYAN OZMINKOWSKI '19

# New Theater Experience Takes a Team of Tigers

BY JORDAN SALAMA '19

**T**WO HOURS BEFORE SHOWTIME in the heart of Hollywood, an abandoned 6,000-square-foot pawn shop was buzzing with activity. Big band jazz music echoed through the corridors. Actors rehearsing their lines roamed about various spaces separated by elegant, multicolored drapes. A fortune-teller warmed up by reading tarot cards for anyone who would let her. A magician sat, almost unnervingly calm, in the corner amid all the chaos. A team of stage managers, lighting designers, chefs, producers, and gaffers scurried about, putting on finishing touches until the very last minute: Tables were set, crushed ice was poured into buckets, rope was strung around freestanding archways to look like mangled tropical vines.

“You should have seen this place two months ago,” Ryan Ozminkowski '19 says in between hanging lights and wiring speaker systems. When he got the keys over the summer, the warehouse-sized pawn shop, slated to be demolished, was a wreck. “Nails were sticking out of everything. Pigeons were nesting in the rafters. Mountains of trash were piled

up everywhere,” he says. “To turn this decrepit, powerless, waterless space into a world-class nightlife venue, our production team truly worked a miracle.”

The result, just after the sun went down, was *Calypso* — a three-night, invite-only pop-up event that aimed to redefine the experience of a night out on the town. *Hunger Games* actress Jackie Emerson, playing the role of the title character-enchantress Calypso, guided guests dressed in formal attire through the space as her story unfolded. Along the way, we were treated to astounding sleight-of-hand card magic by Franco Pascali, acrobatics from Megan Bautista, and a multi-course meal prepared by James Beard-award-winning chef Tony Messina.

But as those frenzied final hours of preparation unfolded before *Calypso* had first opened its doors to the world, I couldn't help but feel a simpler sense of déjà vu. Friends since just about our very first week at Princeton in 2015, Ryan and I, along with Ben Jacobson '19, created a student group called *Princeton Tonight*, a public-access television show that also arranged concerts, lectures,

## ENCHANTING EXPERIENCE

*Guests of the popup, Calypso, were immersed in a full theater experience that included food and various entertainment. Megan Bautista, pictured here, wowed the crowd with her acrobatic performance.*

and film festivals on campus with guests ranging from Art Garfunkel to Cecily Strong. Long were the days and nights of hanging lights and wiring sound systems and managing talented teams to pull it all off.

And at that premiere weekend in Los Angeles, together once more, it was all hands on deck. Ben was mixing drinks and I was taping down cables. Other Princeton friends, including Nicole Kalhorn '19, Andrew Diehl '19, Carly Bonnet '19, Peyton Lawrenz '19, and Rawlison Zhang '20, who often showed up when *Princeton Tonight* needed them most at Richardson Auditorium or McCosh 50, were there washing dishes and pouring concrete. Ozminkowski's gift for bringing people together was on full display, and looking around, it took me a moment to remember that we were not in school anymore — that any of this was actually real at all.

Indeed, it is an undertaking fit for a dreamer. “Our goal is to create a space that can transport our guests, something they can wander into and explore,” Ozminkowski says. “To get them away from their Excel spreadsheets and the work they're stressed about and let them indulge and be present in the space that we've designed for just that purpose.”

To do so, Ozminkowski brought a number of Princeton alumni onto his team, all of whom he met during his time on campus. That included David Bengali '04, a projection designer and projectionist who has designed for broadcast, opera, dance, and theater both on and off Broadway. Bengali served as a Princeton Arts Fellow at the Lewis Center from 2017 to '19, which was when he met Ozminkowski, still a student, and first heard his vision.

“The more he described the project, the more excited I was,” Bengali says. “In the midst of a growing sea of immersive experiences that seem like they are mostly focused on just being Instagram-worthy, Ryan was envisioning an event



that was all that and more — that would also have a strong narrative, a story and characters that would really mean something to the audience.”

“I’m not sure I’ve ever met anyone who dreams on as big of a canvas as Ryan does, and I find that so inspiring about him,” says Lovell Holder ’09, an executive producer on the project who first met Ozminkowski on campus in 2017.

### **Calypso is the first offering**

under the umbrella of Ozminkowski’s new immersives company, Figment Entertainment. He has described Figment as the natural, if ambitious, next step forward in his multifaceted career in entertainment and business since graduating from Princeton. He has worked, among other roles, as the head of development for Academy Award-winning filmmaker Damien Chazelle and as the co-founder of a startup backed by Y Combinator, which supports emerging companies. But the kind of large-scale event that *Calypso* embodies has been Ozminkowski’s dream ever since he began building haunted houses as a middle schooler in rural Lodi, California.

If all goes according to plan, *Calypso* will soon return in a more permanent way. After the smashing success of its exclusive three-night run in September, Ozminkowski is now in talks with investors and entertainment executives who were in attendance to purchase a space where the production can exist in long-term residency in Los Angeles. The dream is to eventually expand to cities around the world.

“I’m excited to continue to explore how Figment, under Ryan’s innovative and inspiring leadership, will invent and bring people unique and unexpected experience pairings: high-end cuisine with circus, cardistry and illusions with cocktails, and projection mapping. This immersive enterprise is just getting started,” adds Bengali.

“All we’re trying to do is bring a little more magic into the world,” Ozminkowski says. The lights dimmed. Bengali’s world-class projections, a wall of glowing clocks, began ticking, counting the very first hours of a new dream. ■

KATHRYN RATHKE

## THE JOURNEY HERE

# From Restaurants to Meditation

BY JEN A. MILLER

**W**HEN KATIE GRIECO ’92 LEFT a highly successful restaurant development and management career to teach Vedic meditation, it was a shocking move. But it made sense for Grieco, who has never shied away from big change or taking an unusual path, starting when she was a freshman at Princeton.

**At the start, Grieco wasn’t sure what she wanted to study,** until she took a Buddhism class with Stephen F. Teiser. She was “blown away by how interesting it was and what a different worldview Buddhists had,” she says. It didn’t turn her into a religious person, but it did lead her to declare religion as her major, as she saw it as a lens through which to view the world.

**After graduating, she thought she might want to become a chef** and got a job working as an assistant for Susan Holland, the owner of a catering company. Those three years, from 1992 to 1995, were “the best life education, and the best entrée into New York City.” The experience showed her that while she enjoyed event planning, she wanted to work in restaurants, which led her to the master of management in hospitality program at Cornell University.

**She didn’t imagine becoming a personal assistant again,** but working in that role for world-renowned chef Tom Colicchio got her foot in the door. She was by his side as his company, Crafted Hospitality, took off, opening restaurants mostly in New York City, but also in Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Dallas, and Atlanta. In her last role with the company, in 2017, she was the vice president in charge of operations and new project development, where she led the opening of about one new restaurant per year, 12 in total. “Taking care of people was a big part of our mission,” she says, a goal that included everyone from guests to co-workers to “the people who supplied our arugula or came to fix a broken toilet. Let’s care for people and make them happy.”

**With stress mounting, she tried something new.** By 2014, she knew she needed a change. While she loved her work, it was beginning to take a toll. The pressure “was starting to have a negative impact on how I felt both physically and emotionally,” she says. Robert Hammond ’92, co-founder of the High Line in New York City, suggested she try Vedic meditation, a practice that involves meditating 20 minutes two times a day — he’d just gotten back from India, where he trained to be a teacher.

**Practice turns into profession.** Grieco meditated for the first time in August 2014 and hasn’t missed a day since (and now does two sessions a day). It made such a difference in her mental and physical health that she realized “this is where I belong now.” In 2017, she left Crafted Hospitality, took a year off, then trained as a Vedic meditation teacher, and opened Simply Meditate in 2019. She now offers personal meditation instruction and teaches courses all over the country, most often in New York and California.

**Lessons learned:** Trust your gut, and don’t be scared to pivot in another direction, even if it seems radical to everyone else. “There’s more risk in staying put than making a change,” she says. “Nothing has to be forever.” ■



**“There’s more risk in staying put than making a change. Nothing has to be forever.”**



MICHAEL LEWIS '82

MICHAEL LEWIS '82

# Behind the Scenes of a Crypto Empire's Collapse

BY MARK F. BERNSTEIN '83

**A**UTHOR MICHAEL LEWIS '82 has an uncanny ability to take complicated subjects and bring them to life through deft storytelling and vivid characters. The author of 16 previous books, many of them bestsellers, his latest, *Going Infinite: The Rise and Fall of a New Tycoon* (Norton), came out in October.

Lewis again demonstrates a sixth sense for a hot topic, exploring cryptocurrency through the controversial figure of Sam Bankman-Fried, founder and CEO of the crypto exchange FTX. Lewis spent more than six months working on the book before FTX declared bankruptcy in November 2022 and Bankman-Fried, once rated as the 60th richest person in the world, was arrested. Bankman-Fried was found guilty of seven criminal charges in November and could face a maximum of more than a century in prison. Sentencing is expected in March, and a second trial with separate charges may also occur next year.

Although *Going Infinite* has been praised as an entertaining story, several reviewers have also criticized Lewis for being too

sympathetic to Bankman-Fried and whitewashing his alleged crimes.

Lewis spoke with PAW Oct. 16, during his book tour, about his writing process, the public response to the book, and what he learned during a very unusual two years.

**How has the tour gone? It seems like this book has received more criticism than you usually get.**

It has been very similar to the *Moneyball* tour. That was a shitshow for the first month because the baseball scouts who were threatened by the book were friends with the reviewers, so it was just a steady drumbeat of negativity. I have found in the past, though, that when there's this kind of noise when the book comes out, it wakes people [up] to the

book's existence and has a very positive effect on sales.

**Several of your books have been made into movies. Is there a movie deal in the works for this one?**

Yes. This has been an unusual situation

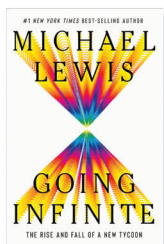
because word got out that I was actually embedded with Sam when everything blew up. I didn't start writing the book until last January, but there was such interest in it that I sold it to Apple. I've written a television show for them, and I wanted the story in a big, safe place, because there were people who didn't want the movie made. There was a fantastic bid for the movie rights from a rival crypto billionaire, and I didn't want him to have any kind of influence on it. Events sort of forced my hand.

**How did you decide to write about Sam Bankman-Fried?**

I got a call in September 2021 from a friend [Brad Katsuyama] who was thinking of doing a business deal with Sam. He wanted my opinion of Sam, because the guy had come out of nowhere, from having zero dollars to having \$22 billion and being the richest person in the world under 30. But nobody knew who he was, and my friend had no character references. So, he said, could you just sit down with him and tell me what you make of him?

I spent a couple hours with Sam and gave my friend a big thumbs up on his investment. We're still talking about whether he should ever turn to me again for investment advice! I didn't have any idea who Sam was or FTX. I had dipped into crypto as a possible subject several times and walked away because I never found a way to write about it in a way that interested me. So right away I said to Sam, I don't know where this is going to go but I want to watch you. Which I spent the next year doing.

It was instantly clear that Sam was an interesting character, but it was also his situation. He already had his fingerprints all over U.S. national elections, the media, financial regulation, and philanthropy. I thought, this kid has got his hands on a giant pile of money and the world is reshaping itself around it, and I want to describe what happens when that happens. He felt like a mechanism for holding a mirror up to the world. **■**



READ the full Q&A with Michael Lewis '82 at [paw.princeton.edu](http://paw.princeton.edu).

ALAMY



# CLASS NOTES

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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)

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# MEMORIALS

PAW posts a list of recent alumni deaths at [paw.princeton.edu](http://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 1948

### THOMAS B. PECK JR. '48

Tom died Nov. 6, 2022, at age 95.

A native of Long Island, Tom was drafted into the Army after his first year at Princeton. He was sent to the Philippines, where he served in Manila and Corregidor. He had been shipped overseas to join the Sixth Division for the invasion of Japan, but Japan's surrender in the war effectively ended his mission.

Tom returned to Princeton, graduating in 1949 with a degree in psychology. He was president of the Camera Club, assistant manager of the football team, a member of Court Club, and worked for the *Nassau Lit* and *Nassau Herald*. A month after he graduated, he married Betty Ansis.

Tom had a long career in the CIA, including service with the psychological warfare unit, and was based in Saigon, Singapore, and Washington, D.C. After retiring in 1977, he continued as a consultant with the CIA, which awarded him the Career Intelligence Medal.

Retirement allowed Tom to pursue lifelong interests. He became a freelance photographer and practiced handgun shooting and marksmanship, with certification as an NRA pistol instructor.

In our 50th-reunion yearbook, Tom said that "the three foremost defining events" in his life were, "in chronological order, being admitted to and graduating from Princeton, marrying my wife, Betty (and then raising three wonderful children with her), and pursuing a career in the CIA. If I had failed to reach any of these fundamental goals, my life would have been very different, and, I think, nowhere near as fulfilling as it has been."

Tom is survived by daughters Barbara Henning and Catherine Hallin; seven grandsons; and 14 great-grandchildren. Betty and son Robert predeceased him. The Class of 1948 sends its best wishes in memory of our delightful classmate.

### WALTER F. SHEBLE '48

Walt died Feb. 9, 2023, at age 96 following a long struggle with dementia.

Born in Chestnut Hill, Pa., Walt prepped



at Germantown Academy. At Princeton, where his brother Jack was in the Class of 1951, Walt was a member of Colonial Club and business manager of the *Sovereign*.

He graduated with high honors from the Woodrow Wilson School before earning both his J.D. and LL.M. at George Washington University. "I learned at Princeton to study the situation carefully if you want to influence the decision and move it," wrote Walt in our 50th-reunion yearbook. "Then work your tail off to make it. Move on to your next project but don't look back too much."

Walt was on the advance team for the presidential campaigns of John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, and he served as a consultant to President Kennedy from 1961 to 1963. His contributions to public service were broad, ranging from testifying at congressional hearings to establish the Federal Public Defender's Office and gain voting rights for D.C. residents while chair of the D.C. chapter of the Junior Bar Association, to negotiating with the Soviet Union and North Vietnam to get packages to prisoners of war in Hanoi while special assistant to the postmaster general.

From 1970 to 1988, Walt worked at the Inter-American Development Bank. In retirement, he spent time in nature, both wandering trails at home and abroad, and gardening.

Walt is survived by his wife of 67 years, Nancy; son Brooke; daughters Rebecca Sheble-Hall and Meggan Sheble; and two grandchildren. The Class of 1948 sends its sympathies in remembrance of a gentleman and fine public servant.

### R. WARNER WOOD JR. '48

Warner, an innovative orthopedic surgeon, died Feb. 27, 2022, at age 96.



Warner grew up in Princeton, where he sometimes delivered groceries to Albert Einstein. He was home-schooled by his father in a rigorous boarding/tutoring environment that led to his admission to Princeton. After enlisting at 17, he served in the Navy Air Corps through the end of World War II, then returned to

Princeton and graduated with a degree in biology.

Warner earned a medical degree at the University of Virginia, did his internship and residency in New York, and then practiced medicine for 62 years — until the age of 94 — at St. Joseph's Hospital in Georgia. His impact was broad: During his residency at Columbia Presbyterian, Warner performed more than 2,000 scoliosis instrumentations, then a new and novel procedure to attach metal rods to the spine to help correct spinal curvature. He performed the first scoliosis instrumentation in Georgia, as well as the first total hip replacement done at St. Joseph's.

Warner also had the largest number of osteotomies — designed to shorten or lengthen a bone to improve its alignment — of the spine for ankylosing spondylitis in the world. He volunteered his time generously for the Children's Medical Services program, and his caring approach has been recalled widely.

Warner is survived by his wife of 42 years, Carol; children Wendi McAfee, Randi Spivey, Meggan Wood, and Ryan Warner Wood; and five grandchildren. The Class of 1948 sends its sympathies in memory of our distinguished and accomplished classmate.

## THE CLASS OF 1951

### WILLIAM H. CARPENTER '51

Bill died May 16, 2023, at the age of 93 in Chagrin Falls, Ohio.



He graduated from University School in 1947, Princeton in 1951, and University of Michigan Law School in 1954. He served in the defense appellate division of the Judge Advocate Generals Corps of the Army and was a trial lawyer with the Cleveland law firm Arter, Hadden, Wykoff and Van Duzer.

In 1966, Bill joined IMG as general counsel and helped to pioneer the field of sports management in the United States and the rest of the world. He used to joke that he had written more sports-related contracts than anybody who had ever lived and "the guy who's second isn't close."

During his career at IMG, Bill performed services on behalf of Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player, Doug Sanders, Raymond Floyd, Greg Norman, Bob Charles, Dave Marr, Rod Laver, Andre Agassi, John Havlicek, Denny McClain, the All England Lawn, Tennis and Croquet Club, and many other athletes and organizations. He also served on the board of directors for Booth Memorial Hospital.

Bill was predeceased by his wife of 57 years, Nancy. He is survived by children Edward II, Marguerite, and Lynn; and four grandchildren.



**WALDO L. JOHNSON '51**

Born in Pottstown, Pa., Waldo came to us from Mercersburg Academy to major in



history and joined Terrace Club. The son of Rolland G. Johnson 1925, his roommates were Thomas Rauenzahn, James Eakin, and Samuel Pringle.

Following graduation, Waldo joined the Army, where his language skills led to an assignment with the Intelligence Service in Germany. In 1954, he joined the Insurance Company of North America (later known as Cigna) as a trainee and where he held a variety of management roles during his 35-year career.

He and his wife of 72 years, Lena, lived in the Lansdale, Pa., area, where they were active in local community activities. Waldo died May 23, 2023, in Telford, Pa. He is survived by Lena, five children, five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

**ROBERT M. SNABLE '51**

Bob came to Princeton from Bernards High School in Bernardsville, N.J. The son of



Myron A. Snable 1923, Bob majored in chemistry and was a member of Cannon Club, the Chapel Choir, the Princeton Evangelical Fellowship, and the track team, for which he shared several Princeton records on the relay team. He roomed with Ed Davis.

Bob went on to Princeton Theological Seminary and was ordained in 1954 to work as an assistant pastor at several Presbyterian churches in New Jersey. During these early years, he attended several religious-related youth meetings throughout Europe, Asia, and the United States, and in 1961 he earned a master's degree in sacred theology from Union Theological Seminary. From 1966 to 1986, he served as a chaplain in the Air Force, retiring as a lieutenant colonel. He then went on to serve as a Presbyterian pastor in several churches in rural Delaware, retiring in 2000 from Georgetown and Coolspring churches.

Bob died May 15, 2023, in Dover, Del. He is survived by his wife, Matilda; and several children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

**RICHARD D. THORNTON '51**

A native of the Boston area, Dick graduated from Wellesley High School and majored



in electrical engineering at Princeton. He was active in track, WPRU, and Key and Seal Club. He went on to graduate school at MIT, where he received S.M. and Sc.D.

degrees and an appointment to the faculty in 1957. He served as a professor of electrical engineering and computer science until his retirement in 1998.

While teaching, Dick formed a company, Thornton Associates, that pioneered water purity measurements through resistivity computations. After retirement, he started another company, MagneMotion, which is focused on developing electromagnetic systems for moving people and goods.

Dick was engaged in a variety of scientific projects relating to propulsion throughout his career, some of which were the forerunner of electric cars. In the 1970s, he participated in the annual MIT electric car race across the country. He and his wife, Marian, were avid sailors up and down the Atlantic Coast from their summer home on Buzzards Bay, and they enjoyed skiing, hiking, and a variety of other outdoor adventures.

Predeceased by his wife, Dick died May 16, 2023, in Concord, Mass.

**THE CLASS OF 1954****PRESTON B. KAVANAGH JR. '54**

Pres died June 23, 2023.

He prepared at Woodrow Wilson High School in Washington, D.C., and was active in student government.



Pres majored in the Woodrow Wilson School, joined Quadrangle Club, and served on the Chapel Study Committee and the Undergraduate Council, winning its 1953 award as "the junior who has done most for undergraduate life."

Commissioned in the Navy, he married Lois Lapham in 1956 during his three years of service. He then attended Princeton Theological Seminary before earning a B.D. in 1960 at Harvard Divinity School. Committed to civil rights and social justice, he entered the urban missionary movement in Cleveland and Chicago's inner city and was jailed alongside early civil-rights leaders. In 1963, he joined Commonwealth Edison, retiring in 1985. He was an active and inspired board member of the United Way, Chicago's Community Renewal Society, and several community organizations.

Pres enjoyed summering on Martha's Vineyard, where in his retirement he undertook independent biblical studies and engaged in community service, driving Edgartown's recovery of its water utility and saving residents from one of Massachusetts's worst and highest cost utility services.

In his 80s he and Lois moved to the Tampa area, where his final years were spent coping with the steady degradation of Parkinson's disease.

Pres is survived by Lois; children Katharine, Preston III '81, and Evan; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**THE CLASS OF 1955****ROBERT B. BEARDSLEY '55**

Bob, active in a wide variety of civic affairs, died June 1, 2021, of natural causes at his



home in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

He was born Sept. 8, 1933, in Clinton, Iowa, and adopted in 1938. His adoptive father, Walter Beardsley, was a member of the Class of 1928.

Bob graduated from Andover. At Princeton, he majored in history and joined Cap and Gown. After graduation he served three years in the Air Force. In 1965, he became personal assistant to the chairman of the board of Miles Laboratories.

In his last 20 years, Bob's activities included participating in the Gay Men's Chorus of South Florida, and serving as board director of the Boston Civic Symphony; director of Larami Productions, a Boston film venture; committee chair of the Massachusetts Association for Mental health; board director of WTRC AM-FM Radio in Elkhart, Ind.; trustee of the Howe Military Academy; and board director of the First National Bank of Elkhart.

Bob purchased, restored, and lived in several historic pieces of real estate in Indiana, Boston, Maine, Portugal, France, and Florida. In 1969, he convinced his family foundation in Elkhart to repurchase and restore Ruthmere, a large beaux arts family home. The Robert B. Beardsley Arts Reference Library of American Domestic Architecture and Decorative Arts and the Robert Beardsley Piano Prize competition were two of his legacies.

Bob is survived by his husband, Scott Pinto.

**WALTER R. MILBOURNE '55**

Walt died Nov. 28, 2022. He was a career lawyer with a strong lifelong interest in



tennis, chess, and ping-pong.

Walt was born Aug. 27, 1933, in Philadelphia and attended DeVilbiss High School in Toledo, Ohio. There he was active in student

government, publications, and the Latin Club. At Princeton, he joined Campus Club and majored in the School of Public and International Affairs. He earned letters in freshman and varsity tennis, where he was seeded No. 1, and played IAA table tennis and basketball. Walt was chairman of the Clio Party and a member of the Whig-Clio government council and the senior advisory board of the SPIA. He was also a member of the freshman and varsity debate panels. His senior-year roommates were Ed Eyring, Richard Murphy, and Peter Garrett.

After graduation from Harvard Law School, Walt practiced law in Philadelphia, concentrating on litigation. In 2001, he became of counsel to his firm and was active in alternative dispute resolution, which he much enjoyed. He posted a national top-20 placement in chess and a national ranking in ping-pong. In tennis, he was active from the

age of 8 to 80, and his trophy case was bulging.

Walt was nationally recognized as an insurance and reinsurance defense litigator and was a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He was an executive committee member of the International Association of Defense Counsel.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Sue; sons Gregory and Rob; daughters Karen and Margaret; and 10 grandchildren.

### THE CLASS OF 1956

#### RUSSELL A. PECK '56

Russell, an eminent medievalist lauded as “the complete professor,” died at his home of 58 years, surrounded by family, Feb. 20, 2023.

Princeton played a pivotal role in Russell’s life, transforming him from a dairy farm boy in Wyoming to a scholar who wrote his senior thesis on Wordsworth, his dissertation at Indiana University on Chaucer, and a groundbreaking book on John Gower.

Crediting his Princeton mentor D. W. Robertson for his “flamboyant” teaching style, Russell enthralled and astonished his students at the University of Rochester, where he taught for nearly 60 years, by turning the English classroom into a dramatic stage where professor and students together brought literature to life. Russell was known to sing spontaneously in class and even dance on his desk. Outside the classroom, Russell staged medieval festivals and banquets, literary excursions, and an “X-term” seminar at his family farm in Ontario. Theatrical at heart, he inspired students for more than 25 years on his ambitious Theater in London trips.

Founder of the barbershop quartet the Princeton Boomerangs, who “always bounce back,” Russell possessed resilient energy and a lifelong love of music that brought him together with his wife Ruth, a pianist, and enlivened his household and community.

He is survived by Ruth; children Demaree '81, Nathan, and Gunther '84; 10 grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

### THE CLASS OF 1957

#### WOLCOTT S. GIBBS JR. '57

A notable journalist and author, Tony died Sept. 2, 2022, in a hospice near his home in Ojai,



Calif. He was a descendant of Oliver Wolcott, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and treasury secretary under Presidents George Washington and John Adams. Tony came to Princeton from Lawrenceville. He majored in English and joined Tiger Inn, where he was secretary-treasurer and a member of the bicker committee. He lived at the club during senior year.

Following in the footsteps of his father, Wolcott Sr., the theater critic and a columnist for *The New Yorker*, Tony was an editor of the magazine during the 1980s. A lover of sailing and boating, he also served as the senior editor of *Yachting* magazine and volunteered with the Coast Guard Auxiliary. He authored several mystery novels and was a volunteer with the Humane Society and the Animal Rescue League of Ventura County, Calif.

Tony married Elizabeth Villa, and they had two children, William and Eric. His second wife, Lynne M. Gibbs; her daughter, Madeleine Trautwein; and Tony’s two sons and their families survive him.

### JAMES R. SCARRITT '57

An expert in African politics, Jim died June 23, 2023, in Boulder, Colo. He was the son



of Arthur D. Scarritt 1918, and he came to Princeton from Pembroke Country Day School in Kansas City, Mo. He majored in the Woodrow Wilson School. Jim was

assistant swimming team manager and a member of Court Club and the United World Federalists. He also worked at WPRB. Senior year he roomed with Jack Dibb, Barrie Jones, Bob McCrea, Charlie Shoup, Jim Walker, and Craig Smith '58.

Jim served in Army ROTC, followed by active duty as a lieutenant in the Field Artillery. In 1963, he earned a Ph.D. in political science from Northwestern University. Then followed a long career in academia, capped by his appointment as chairman of the department of politics at the University of Colorado. He also spent time in nine countries in Africa, both as a researcher and adviser to independence and human-rights movements.

One of our classmates, Jim Starr, introduced Jim to Prudence Johnson in November 1957, and they married in 1959 and had four children.

Jim is survived by his wife of 64 years, Prudence; children Susan, Ann, Katherine, and Arthur; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

### KENNETH E. VAN RIPER JR. '57

We have recently received notice of Ken’s death on Aug. 20, 2020, in Sarasota, Fla.



Son of Kenneth E. Van Riper 1925, he came to Princeton from Deerfield Academy in Massachusetts. At Princeton, he was a key member of the soccer and squash teams and sang in the Glee Club. Majoring in philosophy and religion, he took his meals at Colonial Club. Senior year he roomed with John Adams.

After participating in Army ROTC, Ken served as a second lieutenant and then first lieutenant in the Field Artillery and Army

Reserve. In 1963, he married Kersti B. Alm of Stockholm, Sweden, whom he met while living in Princeton after graduation. They had two children, Lisa and Kenneth III. Ken had a long career in the insurance industry, obtaining his chartered life underwriter designation while working as an executive at the Life Insurance Management Association, followed by the Farmers and Traders Life Insurance Co. and the Maccabees Mutual Life Insurance Co.

Ken is survived by his second wife, Patricia A. Van Riper; his children, Lisa and Kenneth; stepson Michael J. Misorek; and their families.

### THE CLASS OF 1958

#### RICHARD N. FRYBERGER '58

Dick died Aug. 6, 2023, in Watertown, Mass. He was 89.



He came to Princeton from the Gilman School, where he played football and lacrosse. At Princeton, Dick majored in architecture and was a member of Colonial Club

and Army ROTC. His roommates were Kev Maloy, Bill Trimble, and Ernie Franklin.

After graduation, Dick worked in San Francisco, met his ROTC obligation, and returned to Princeton, where he joined the University planning department. Then he moved on to Harvard for the development of the Kennedy School of Government and participated in creating master plans for the School of Education and Radcliffe College. He directed the Harvard Planning Office for 15 years, and then for 12 years ran Harvard’s Allston Initiative, creating a new campus across the Charles River next to the Business School.

In Cambridge, he met and married Nancy Hoadley. Continuing his love of racing, he and Nancy sailed worldwide, and he also raced cars. When he retired, his successor said: “I am in awe of Dick’s accomplishments and his capacity for creative and insightful planning solutions over his decades at Harvard.”

Dick is survived by Nancy. The class extends its deepest sympathy to her.

### THE CLASS OF 1960

#### THOMAS ARTIN '60 \*68

Tom’s father was a professor of mathematics at Princeton. Tom graduated from Princeton



High School and while a sophomore there was recruited by a Princeton jazz group and toured Europe in the summer of 1955.

Tom majored in English and joined Elm Club and the *Nassau Lit*. After teaching at the college level for two years, he returned to Princeton and joined the first class in the graduate program in comparative literature, where he earned a master’s degree and a Ph.D. in 1968. Tom photographed the March on Washington in



1963, published a book on his experience, and exhibited the original prints.

In 1979, he left academics and became a professional jazz musician, playing the trombone in many of the finest jazz groups and venues for decades. Broadening his horizons, in 1990 Tom added his lifelong love of photography to his professional repertoire, with fine art photography that was featured in many one-man shows.

He authored numerous books, translated other books from the five languages he spoke fluently, and was featured on 10 jazz albums, two movie scores, and 15 art exhibitions.

Tom died July 25, 2023. He is survived by his wife, Cynthia; sons Peter and Michael '87; seven grandchildren; one great grandchild; brother Michael '55; and numerous nieces, nephews, and friends. A retrospective exhibition of his photographs and a jazz service will be held in December.

#### JAMES B. HARTLE '60

Born in Baltimore, Jim graduated from the Gilman School. At Princeton, he joined Key



& Seal and began his lifelong immersion in theoretical physics. Inspired by the legendary John Wheeler, he took gravity and cosmology as his early specialties and wrote his thesis on "The Gravitational Geon."

Jim earned a Ph.D. at Caltech in 1964 and took a professorship at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he spent his entire career. He visited other prominent physics venues, particularly Cambridge, U.K., where he worked with Stephen Hawking. At the Institute for Advanced Study he collaborated with Murray Gell-Mann, Kip Thorne '65, and many others. They are included in Jim's compilation of essays, *The Quantum Universe*, on quantum mechanics, cosmology, and physics in general. His textbook, *Gravity: An Introduction to Einstein's General Theory of Relativity* and his many other works earned him the sobriquet "the father of quantum cosmology." He earned many honors, including the Einstein Prize of the American Physical Society and membership in the American Philosophical Society and the American Academy of Sciences.

Jim had wide interests, especially history, archaeology, and music, all of which influenced his love of travel. He died May 17, 2023. Jim is survived by his wife, Mary Jo (John Wheeler's niece); stepdaughter Sara; granddaughter Eliza; and sister Alice. Our sympathies to them all.

#### THOMAS F. URBANIAK '60

We learned belatedly that Tom died Sept. 5, 2021.

Born in Trenton, he was a true son of New Jersey, though he lived for 60 years just across the Delaware in Yardley, Pa. He attended Princeton Country Day School,



then brought his soccer and hockey skills to us from Lawrenceville. With us, he played freshman hockey and varsity soccer. He majored in biology and joined Cannon, where, among other accomplishments, he sharpened his bridge skills.

Tom earned a medical degree at Hahnemann Medical College, Philadelphia, in 1964. He then served two years with the Marines in Vietnam and in Quantico, Va. He earned his residency in orthopedic surgery at the University of Virginia Hospital in Charlottesville, and took a fellowship at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Tom went on to practice for more than 50 years at Helene Fuld Medical Center in Trenton, where he became president of the staff.

Tom enjoyed golf, boating, fishing, reading, summering at Seaside Park, N.J., vacationing on Sanibel Island, Fla., and entertaining family and friends. He followed Princeton athletics avidly.

Tom is survived by his wife, Barbara, whom he married in 1965; three children; and four grandchildren. The Princeton branch of the family includes brother Henry '57, daughter Kristin '91, and son-in-law Dan '93. Our sympathies to all.

#### THE CLASS OF 1961

##### GORDON P. GOODFELLOW JR. '61

Gordon died Nov. 12, 2021. He was interred at Arlington National Cemetery in May 2023.



Born in East Orange, N.J., Gordon came to us from St. John's Episcopal School in Houston. At Princeton, he majored in physics and roomed with Michael McAshan and David Armstrong.

During his freshman year at Georgia Tech, Gordon requested a transfer application to Princeton but was told the University did not accept transfer students. He wrote back stating he had not asked to be accepted, but only asked for an application. That bravado and two consecutive 1600 College Board scores seemed to do the trick. Following graduation, he joined the Army and was sent to the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, Calif., to study Mandarin, working in cyber-espionage for the NSA on Okinawa.

Following his Army tour, he received a National Science Foundation grant to study Hindi at the University of Texas at Austin. A chance elective in economics was sufficient for him to seek his doctorate in that field. Gordon spent his career in Washington as a specialist in Social Security issues for the government and later as pension program analyst for Willis Towers Watson.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Betsy; son Parker; daughter Katherine Gaul; and four grandchildren.

#### STEPHEN J. LERMAN '61

Steve died June 6, 2023, as the result of a rare lung tumor in Reno, Nev.



Born in Boston, he came to us from Belmont Hill School. At Princeton, he majored in biology and joined Whig-Clio, the Outing Club, the *Prince*, and the Pre-Med Society. He

was a member of Quadrangle and roomed with Peter Pettibone, Jon Hlafter, Lee Pierson, Walt Fowski, and Greg Guroff '62.

Steve earned a medical degree at Case Western Reserve University and was a resident in pediatrics at Boston Children's Hospital. He then served in the U.S. Public Health Service in Nigeria, followed by children's flu vaccine trials at the University of Nebraska, a master's degree in public health at Harvard, and consulting in child health programs for the World Health Organization. Steve loved travel and visited more than 50 countries in his lifetime, including 22 trips to China, mostly working with parents adopting babies and on public health issues.

He is survived by his wife of 24 years Phyllis; first wife Lindsey Miller-Lerman; children Hannah and Jeremy; and two grandchildren.

#### ANDREWS R. WALKER '61

Andy died June 8, 2023, at his longtime home in East Hampton, N.Y.



Born in Winston-Salem, N.C., he came to us from Woodberry Forest School, which his great-grandfather founded in 1889. At Princeton, he majored in economics, played varsity tennis, and took his meals at Cottage Club.

After service in the Navy at the Office of Naval Intelligence at the Pentagon, Andy earned an MBA at Harvard. He worked at White, Weld & Co. in New York until 1976, relocated to Transco Co. in Houston, and returned to New York in 1978 to work for various oil and gas companies and the citrus and vineyard business in banking and financial consulting. He lived on Eastern Long Island for the rest of his life, during which he was active in the Peconic Land Trust in preserving the natural beauty of Long Island. He was a trustee of Outward Bound and Woodberry Forest, climbed Kilimanjaro, and enjoyed tennis and golf.

Andy is survived by his wife of 21 years, Angelika; a nephew; a niece; and their families.

#### RICHARD A. WEBSTER '61

Dick died July 21, 2023, in Chicago, his home for the previous 33 years. He was 84.

Dick was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., and came to us from St. Paul's School. At Princeton, he



majored in economics, was in the Outing Club, and took his meals at Key & Seal. He roomed with Bill Rough and Jim Palmer.

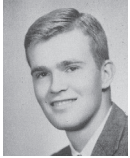
Dick went on to enjoy a long career in banking that took him from New York City to Hartford, Conn., and finally Chicago. He had a passion for history, gardening, bird-watching, and jigsaw puzzles. He enjoyed spending time in Ireland, where he was to be buried, and going for extensive walks throughout the varied neighborhoods of Chicago. But most of all, he loved spending time with his family.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Brigid Maloney, whom he married in 1969; and their two children, Maeve and Richard.

### THE CLASS OF 1962

#### JOHN P. MCWILLIAMS JR. '62

John, known as Mac to his Princeton friends (and his grandchildren), died July 23, 2023, in Middlebury, Vt.



Mac came to Princeton from Deerfield Academy. As an undergraduate, he graduated *summa cum laude* in English. He roomed his

senior year with Andrew Berry, Rich Dallow, and Rich Thatcher and served as vice president of Tower Club.

Mac spent his career in teaching. After receiving a Ph.D. in English and American literature at Harvard, he taught at the University of California, Berkeley and the University of Illinois, Chicago before moving to Middlebury College in 1978. A revered teacher, scholar, and writer, he served on the Middlebury faculty for nearly 40 years, for most of those years as the Abernethy Professor of American Literature. He published many books and articles and was the recipient of numerous grants and honors, including four National Endowment for the Humanities fellowships.

Mac had many passions: He was an accomplished pianist, collected stamps, enjoyed chess and bridge, and loved long walks with friends and family.

His wife, Mireille, survives him, as do five of his children — Andrew, Kirsten, Elizabeth, Christopher, and Isabel — and six grandchildren. His daughter Suzannah predeceased him.

#### JOHN C. OGDEN '62

John died of complications from elective hip-replacement surgery June 25, 2023, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

He studied biology at Princeton and was a member of the Woodrow Wilson Society and the Broken Arrows. He earned a Ph.D. from Stanford in biological science in 1968.

John became passionate about subtropical



ecosystems; first, as director of the Fairleigh Dickinson University West Indies Laboratory on St. Croix; and later as director of the Florida Institute of Oceanography,

a 21-member statewide consortium of universities and institutes that operated two oceanographic ships and the Keys Marine Laboratory at the University of South Florida.

He published more than 70 papers, contributed to numerous books, and produced several television programs about tropical ecosystems. He also served as a consultant to governmental agencies and private foundations.

John introduced a generation of students to the excitement and wonder of the ocean and to the need for new national and global policies to govern ocean resources.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Nancy; daughter Lisa Ogden and partner Jake Mangiofoco; son Eric, his wife Lara and son Kai; and John's sister Rita and her family. The class offers its condolences.

#### DAVID R. WATTS '62

Dave died July 16, 2023, in Charleston, S.C.

He made his mark at Princeton. The first two years he played 150-pound football and sang in the Glee Club. He was elected class secretary his junior year, became a Keyceptor, and joined the Nassoons, the latter becoming a lifelong connection. Dave was president of our class senior year, chairman of the Keycept program, and a member of the Undergraduate Council and Undergraduate Life Committee. He majored in history and was a member of Quadrangle Club.



Dave elected to pursue medical school at Northwestern University. He met his wife, Carol, there and married soon afterward. Drafted into the Army, he served as a surgeon with the First Air Cavalry Division in Vietnam. Resuming residency, he focused on vascular surgery, which he practiced until his early retirement at age 58, prompted by atrial fibrillation.

He and Carol chose to relocate to Charleston, where he sailed his own boat, attended regular reunions with the Nassoons, and became an avid history buff.

The class extends condolences to Carol and to daughters Catherine, Elizabeth, and Mary.

### THE CLASS OF 1963

#### GEORGE C. CONNOLLY '63

George, a highly decorated Air Force fighter pilot, died June 13, 2021, in a veterans home in Huntsville, Ala., following a three-year struggle to recover from cardiac arrest.



George came to us from Highland Park (N.J.) High School. He was elected to the National Honor Society and was named to the New Jersey All-State Chorus.

At Princeton, he majored in aeronautical engineering and was a member of Air Force ROTC.

George was commissioned upon graduation and completed his pilot training ranked first in both academics and flying. Beginning a 26-year career that included several tours in the Vietnam War, he was assigned to a squadron based in Thailand and was credited with 196 combat missions in the F-105.

His 19 combat awards included the Silver Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism (five times), the Joint Service and Air Force Commendation medals, the Vietnam Service Medal with six bronze stars, and the Gallantry Cross from the Republic of Vietnam.

Upon retirement, George began a second career as a weapons systems engineer working for a defense contractor at the Patuxent River Naval Air Station in southern Maryland. He retired in 2006 and the following year wed Gaile (Gordon) Goetsch (his second marriage). They moved to Grant, Ala., where they lived on a six-acre property that includes a 100-foot-high waterfall.

George is survived by Gaile; son Glenn; daughters Lori and Jennifer; stepson Andy; three grandchildren; one step-grandson; three step-grandchildren; and his brother, Vincent.

### THE CLASS OF 1964

#### GERALD D. SKONING '64

Gerry died July 8, 2023, of complications from long COVID.



Born in Geneva, Ill., Gerry came to Princeton from the Hotchkiss School. A fine athlete, he won three varsity letters in hockey at Princeton, serving as captain senior year. A member of Ivy Club, he majored in philosophy and graduated with honors. Senior year he roomed with John Clarkson and Ty Dann. Close friends included Scott Andrews, Alex Wellford, John Cook '63, Pony Fraker, and Dick Springs. He then studied law at the University of Michigan and played on a hockey team that won a national championship.

After law school he served with distinction in the Navy as a line officer aboard the aircraft carrier *Independence*. Returning home to Chicago he joined the law firm Seyfarth Shaw, where he spent his entire career. A nationally prominent labor law expert, he argued landmark cases in front of the Supreme Court. A prolific writer, he had



many op-ed pieces published, and shared them along with his “Midnight Musings” with long-standing friends.

Gerry was a consummate gentleman and a wonderful friend to a vast assortment of people. Memories of times spent with him will be cherished.

To his wife, Mary; his brother, Mark; and his sister, Elissa; the class extends its sympathies.

#### GARY N. TAYLOR '64

Gary died at home May 11, 2023, surrounded by his family. He grew up in



Plainfield, N.J., and attended Wardlaw Country Day School there, where he was active in many organizations and played soccer, basketball, and baseball. As a senior he was named Plainfield's “Youth of the Year.”

At Princeton, Gary majored in chemistry, ate at Dial, and worked at the student center all four years. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa and *magna cum laude*. He earned a master's degree and a Ph.D. in chemistry from Yale and did postdoctoral work at Caltech.

Upon graduation he began a long and accomplished career as an organic chemist and materials scientist. He initially worked at AT&T Bell Labs in New Jersey for 25 years, where he focused on micro-lithography, the surface chemistry of computer chips; then moved on to Shipley/Rohm and Haas and to Penn State. He was lead author and contributor to numerous journal articles and patents, many of which defined processes and materials for computer chips to run smaller and faster.

Upon retirement he and Linda, who were married in the summer following our graduation, moved to Selbyville, Del. There he continued to contribute his scientific expertise as a technical adviser to the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays.

Gary was known to his family and friends as a kind, humble, and generous-spirited man, with a passion for science and nature.

The class conveys its condolences to Linda, their children, and families.

#### THE CLASS OF 1965

##### PIERRE LATOUR JR. '65

Pierre died April 27, 2022, on Cape Cod, where he lived for many years with the love



of his life, wife Susan.

Pierre grew up on Long Island, son of Mary and Pierre LaTour Sr. '40. He came to us from Andover, majored in biology, and joined Charter

Club. He roomed with Tom Brayton and Phil Coviello in 1879 Hall junior year before tying the knot with Susan in May 1964 and living off-campus.

After graduation, Pierre taught secondary

school at the Antilles School in the Virgin Islands and at Andover. He then decided to go into filmmaking, moved to Utah, and made a feature film, *Challenge to Survive*, starring Mel Tormé and William Shatner. Later, the family returned to Massachusetts, where Pierre taught and coached for years at the Rivers School in Weston.

As fulltime residents of Chatham, Mass., Pierre and Susan co-authored a mystery novel, *Dead Reckoning* (which included a nod to '65 by having its protagonist born in Crystal City, Mo.). An avid fan of Princeton and its athletic teams, football in particular, Pierre maintained close friendships with many clubmates and classmates, attending numerous Charter Club section gatherings organized by John Bliss.

The class extends its sympathy to Susan, his children Pierre III and Nicole, and their offspring.

#### PAUL B. WOODRUFF '65 '73

The Class of 1965 lost a great soul with the death of Paul, our class salutatorian,



who attended Oxford as a Marshall scholar before serving as an officer advising Vietnamese troops in combat.

Paul returned to Princeton for his doctorate, with the experience of war that would inform his life as scholar, mentor, author, husband, parent, and friend.

Paul joined the philosophy department of the University of Texas, Austin, in 1973. He served UT as director of the Plan II Honors Program and then as the first dean of the School of Undergraduate Studies. He is remembered with reverent awe by generations of students.

Paul published as a philosopher, translator, and poet. His most recent book, *Living Toward Virtue: Practical Ethics in the Spirit of Socrates*, offers a path forward through persistent self-questioning. Paul's translations of Sophocles and Euripides expressed a deep love of theater that began at Princeton, where he played the hero of Euripides' *Hippolytus* in ancient Greek.

Paul is survived by his wife of 50 years, Lucia; their daughters, Rachel and Kate; and five grandchildren.

Through *The Spring of Love: Poems for Jane*, he responded to the tragic death of Kate's daughter. His last published writings were astonishing op eds in *The Washington Post* on healing one's soul, confronting death, and the blessing conferred by the physical presence of friends and family.

#### THE CLASS OF 1966

##### WILLIAM R. BARRETT JR. '66

Bill died Dec. 26, 2022.

Born in Alabama, Bill grew up in Plainfield, N.J., and graduated *cum laude* from the Choate School, where he was active



on the literary board of the school newspaper and a member of the glee club. He followed his father William Barrett '38 and grandfather Hugh Barrett 1908 to

Princeton, entering with the Class of '64.

At Princeton, Bill majored in politics and was a member of Charter Club. He was active with the Highland Singers and the Campus Fund Drive.

After graduation, Bill began a career at J.P. Morgan that would last 33 years, including extended overseas assignments in London and Tokyo. Following retirement, he moved to Brays Island in Sheldon, S.C., but remained active in banking, serving on the board of Morgan Stanley Private Bank.

He was an accomplished woodworker, building beautiful furniture as well as a miniature replica of the family's London home. He enjoyed crosswords and puzzles of every kind.

Bill is survived by his wife of 56 years, Penny; daughter Campbell; son Ben; and brothers Pete, Bruce, and Tony, to all of whom the class sends its condolences.

#### MARTIN E. CUMMINGS '66

Marty died July 17, 2023, at his home in Bennington, Vt., after a brief illness.



Marty graduated from Niskayuna High School, near Schenectady, N.Y. Admitted to Princeton with the Class of '67, he was granted sophomore status.

He majored in history and was a member of Wilson Lodge. He was active in the Outing Club and remained a committed outdoorsman for the rest of his life.

After graduating from Princeton, he earned a master's degree in urban and environmental planning from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. For most of his career, he worked for the New York State Department of Public Service, conducting environmental analyses of gas pipeline and power plant projects.

In 1998, Marty moved from New York to Vermont. In 2004, he married Gail Mauricette. They traveled widely, to Alaska, Hawaii, the Galápagos Islands, and Montana, among other destinations, often returning to St. John in the Virgin Islands and Sanibel. They enjoyed hiking, backpacking, and kayaking in the White Mountains, the Adirondacks, and Vermont.

Marty is survived by Gail, son Daniel, stepchildren Stephanie Mulligan and Jason Dolmetsch, and four grandchildren. The class extends its heartfelt condolences to them all.

#### MARVIN LEE GRAY JR. '66

Monty died of lymphoma March 26, 2023, at his home in Tacoma, Wash.



He graduated from Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Va., where he was class valedictorian, worked on the school paper and yearbook, and was on the football and wrestling teams.

At Princeton, he majored in mathematics, was a University Scholar, roomed with Mills Thornton and Steve Schreiber, and belonged to Whig-Clio, the bridge club, and Campus Club, where he was house chairman.

Monty graduated *magna cum laude* from Harvard Law School, where he was articles editor of the law review. His distinguished legal career included clerkships on the Second Circuit and U.S. Supreme Court, and service as staff attorney in the Air Force Office of General Counsel, trial attorney in the U.S. Department of Justice's Office for Drug Law Enforcement, assistant U.S. attorney in Seattle, adjunct professor at Seattle University Law School, and instructor at the University of Washington Law School, as well as longtime service as partner in the Davis Wright Tremaine law firm.

Monty is survived by his wife, Jill (sister of classmate Jack Miller); daughters Elizabeth and Carolyn; and grandchildren Westley, Natalie, Sarah, and Jason. The class extends its heartfelt condolences to them all.

#### JOHN S. NEWBOLD III '66

John, known to classmates as Jock, died May 11, 2022, at his home in Carlisle, Pa.

Originally from the Philadelphia Main Line, Jock came to Princeton from the Haverford School, along with Jeff Reichel, Walt Smedley, Burt Gay, Rob Johnson, Turk Thacher, and Doug Walters. Jock was captain of the Haverford School baseball team.

Jock withdrew from Princeton during freshman year. After graduating from Rollins College in Winter Park, Fla., he enrolled in Officer Candidate School at the Navy Air Station in Pensacola, then went on to serve as a flight instructor at Andrews Air Force Base.

In 1973, Jock and his wife, April, moved to the Carlisle area. He worked as a Cumberland County probation officer for several years and served for 23 years as a helicopter pilot with the Army National Guard. He taught for five years at Vision Quest residence for at-risk children, volunteered for Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children (CASA), and belonged to St. John's Episcopal Church in Carlisle.

April died in 2020, the year after she and Jock celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Jock is survived by son H. Jefferys, daughter Virginia Tilden, and five grandchildren.

#### THE CLASS OF 1969

##### ALFRED D. PRICE JR. '69 \*75

Al died May 2, 2023, of cancer. He left a huge void in the lives of his family, his Buffalo community, his church, and our class.



Al grew up in Buffalo, where his father served as manager of a historic public-housing project, later named

A.D. Price Courts in his father's honor. In high school he was a member of the student council, the NAACP Youth Council, and the SNCC.

At Princeton, Al was deeply involved in the Association of Black Collegians, was national chairman of Afro-Americans for Educational Opportunity, and was jazz director of WPRB. Classmates remember him not only for parties and protests, but also for late night conversations about their collective futures as Black men coming of age in the 1960s.

In 1975, Al became the first Black student to earn a master's degree in architecture and urban planning from Princeton. In 1977, he began his 42-year tenure on the faculty of the School of Architecture and Planning at SUNY Buffalo. Al's research, advocacy, and public service focused primarily on issues of affordable housing. His service to the Episcopal Church began in his childhood when his family desegregated the Church of the Ascension in Buffalo at the request of their bishop. Over time, six bishops of the Diocese of Western New York came to rely on him for advice, and for his service he was named Canon Architect of the Diocese.

Al was a person of amazing energy — intellectual, emotional, and physical. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; children Douglas, Eric, Megan, and Sarah; and nine grandchildren. With them, we mourn the passing of this extraordinary man.

#### THE CLASS OF 1983

##### BRYAN K. WILSON '83

Bryan died May 5, 2023, while surrounded by his family, after an 18-month battle with prostate cancer.



Born in Summit, N.J., Bryan attended Summit High School before Princeton.

An architecture major, he joined Campus Club and was a member of the volleyball team, becoming team captain. Classmates remember him as a quiet conversationalist belying an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, and he was a caring, loyal friend.

After Princeton, Bryan moved to Block Island, R.I., working on construction projects. Earning a master's degree in architecture from the University of Oregon, Bryan returned to Block Island, establishing his company, ZMA Design/Build. Bryan was deeply involved in Block Island life.

In addition to designing and building beautiful homes, he volunteered on boards and committees: He was rescue captain of the Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squad and a member of the New Shoreham Town Council, the North Light Commission, the Historic District Commission, the Recreation Board, and the Block Island Health Services Board. In 2009, he joined the Deepwater Wind team, where he managed the development, construction, and operation of the Block Island Wind Farm, the first offshore wind farm in the United States.

Bryan is survived by his wife, Amy Veldman-Wilson; his children Zacharia, Aisha, Mikayla, Maya, Ezekiel, and Amira; grandchildren Sydnee, Ryker, and Rowan Bryan; siblings Suzanne, Gwyneth, Jean, Katie, Sean, and Andrew; and many other family and friends. The class extends its condolences.

#### THE CLASS OF 1998

##### JAMES P. MASTAGLIO '98

A cornerstone of some of Princeton's winningest basketball teams, James died



July 25, 2023, after a brief battle with aggressive lymphoma. He was 47.

Stags came to Princeton from Garden City (N.Y.) High School and immediately moved into the starting lineup for Coach Pete Carril's 1994-95 team. With James on the roster, the Tigers won three Ivy League titles, two NCAA tournament games, and cracked the top 10 in the national college rankings his senior year.

Off the court, Stags managed to weave sports into his studies. His thesis for the politics department was titled "Pay for Play: Compensating the College Athlete." He was a member of Cap and Gown Club.

More recently, James notched athletic accomplishments as coach for his children's teams and as a golfer. As an officer of Cherry Valley Club on Long Island, he was able to transform his hometown course while indulging his lifelong fascination with golf course design. Professionally, he was the co-founder and principal of a financial services company.

James is survived by his wife, Bridgette; daughter Olivia; son Kellan; father Peter; and sister Elizabeth. The Class of 1998 sends its condolences to James' family and many fans.

#### GRADUATE ALUMNI

##### HARRY COSTAS AVERY \*59

Harry died at age 93 in Pittsburgh June 9, 2023.

Harry was born in 1930 in Philadelphia. He enlisted in the Army after high school and served at Fort Lewis in the interval between World War II and the Korean War.



After the Army, he attended the University of Pennsylvania, graduating with a degree in classics in 1953. He was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to Greece and went on to earn a master's degree at the University of Illinois in 1956 and a Ph.D. in classics at Princeton in 1959.

In a career that spanned more than 50 years, Harry's research and teaching interests were in Greek literature and history of the sixth and fifth centuries B.C. and in Roman history and literature of the late Republic and the Augustan era. Most of his career was spent at the University of Pittsburgh, where he served as classics department chairman for two decades and professor emeritus since 2015. Earlier in his career he taught at the University of Texas and at Bryn Mawr.

Predeceased by his wife JoAnn, Harry is survived by his children Eugenia, Anna, Constantine, and William '91; and three granddaughters.

#### **NORMAN C. THOMAS \*59**

Norman died in Cincinnati May 25, 2023.

Born Feb. 16, 1932, in Sioux Falls, S.D., Norman grew up in Marquette, Mich. He earned his undergraduate degree in political science from the University of Michigan in 1953. Norman served in the Navy during the Korean War and in the Navy Reserve for an additional decade. As a Woodrow Wilson fellow, he earned a Ph.D. in politics from Princeton in 1959.

Norman taught at the University of Michigan, Duke University, and the University of Cincinnati, where he was named the Charles Phelps Taft Professor of Political Science in 1980. He received awards for excellence in teaching from both the University of Michigan and the University of Cincinnati.

Active in professional organizations, Norman published nine books and numerous articles. During his retirement, he taught at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and was a featured speaker for Cincinnati organizations. He served as an elder and clerk of the session at the Presbyterian Church of Wyoming, Ohio.

Norman is survived by his wife of 70 years, Marilyn; daughters Margaret, Elizabeth, and Anne; 12 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his son, Robert.

#### **RONALD E. MILLER \*61**

Ron died in Seattle, Jan. 26, 2023.

Born in Seattle Sept. 1, 1934, Ron earned a bachelor's degree in economics at Harvard in 1955. His senior thesis won the Newcomen Prize in Business History, and part was published as "The Impact of the Aluminum Industry on the Pacific Northwest: A Regional Input-Output Analysis" in the

journal *Review of Economics and Statistics*.

After studying at the Universities of Heidelberg and Munich as a Fulbright scholar, Ron received a master's degree in economics at the University of Washington in 1957 and a Ph.D. at Princeton in 1961. MIT Press published his dissertation as *Domestic Airline Efficiency: An Application of Linear Programming*.

With a focus on mathematical economic modeling, Ron joined the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania, where he taught from 1962 to 1995. He refocused his research attention on measuring interregional feedback effects in multiregional I-O models. His basic input-output (I-O) course was required for both graduate students and undergraduates in Penn's Regional Science Department. Ron co-authored three editions of *Input-Output Analysis: Foundations and Extensions* with Peter D. Blair. For 33 years he served as managing editor of the *Journal of Regional Science*.

#### **ROBERT BURR LITCHFIELD \*65**

Due to complications from a fall, Burr died in Westport, Mass., Feb. 9, 2023, at the age of 86.

Burr was born Aug. 16, 1936, in Washington, D.C. He graduated from Harvard with an A.B. in 1958. He was a Fulbright scholar in Italy 1958-59 and earned a Ph.D. in history from Princeton in 1965.

He was a professor of European history at Brown, where he taught from 1968 until his retirement in 2003. His courses included The Industrial Revolution in 18th-19th century Europe; European enlightenment; and European social history. Burr taught at Dartmouth before joining the faculty at Brown.

He published *Emergence of a Bureaucracy: The Florentine Patricians, 1530-1790*, which won the American Historical Association's Marraro Prize in 1987. He also translated works of leading Italian historians Franco Venturi, Emilio Sereni, and Sergio Bertelli. After participating in a project for comparative census analysis, in 2008 Burr published an ebook, *Florence Ducal Capital 1530-1630*, which details the city's changing urban geography.

He loved to cook and used both Italian and English cookbooks. His delicious Roman stew was enjoyed by many guests.

Burr is survived by his husband, W. Gardner Chace.

#### **KEMAL DERVIS \*73**

Kemal died of neurodegenerative disease May 7, 2023, in Bethesda, Md.

Born Jan. 10, 1949, in Istanbul, he earned bachelor's and master's degrees at the London School of Economics and a Ph.D. in economics from Princeton in 1973.

Kemal worked in various posts for the World Bank for two decades. Between 2002 and 2020, his economic policies set the basis of major economic development in Turkey, where he took the newly created post of minister of the economy. He stayed in the ministry post for a bit more than a year before winning a seat in Parliament. In 2005, Secretary-General Kofi Annan chose him to lead the United Nations Development Program, becoming the first person to lead the office who was from a country that had received aid from it. Kemal focused on how globalization was affecting poorer populations and spotlighted the expected effects of climate change's impact on the poor in many countries.

After four years at the United Nations, Kemal joined the Brookings Institution as the director and vice president of the global economy and development program and was a nonresident distinguished fellow.

Kemal is survived by his wife, Catherine Stachniak; sons Erdal '94 and Erol; and three grandchildren.

#### **RICHARD J. AGEE \*82**

Richard died April 30, 2023, in Denver, a few days before his 70th birthday.

Born May 2, 1953, in Oakland, Calif., Richard graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, with a degree in music as a regents scholar. He earned a Ph.D. in music from Princeton in 1982.

He spent the 1981-82 academic year as a visiting assistant professor at Reed College before joining the music faculty of Colorado College, where he served until 2015.

At Colorado College, Richard taught early music history, theory (counterpoint and harmony), and subjects including the symphony, Beethoven, the operas of Verdi, and Wagner's Ring. His research interests included music printing and publishing during the Renaissance, music patronage during the same period, and the transmission of Gregorian chant in the 16th and 17th centuries. His book *The Gardano Music Printing Firms, 1569-1611*, was published by the University of Rochester Press in 1998.

A skilled craftsman, Richard built his own harpsichords and spinets. He accompanied the Colorado College chamber orchestra, chamber chorus, and the Collegium Musicum with harpsichord and organ basso continuo.

Richard is survived by his sister, Linda; brother James; a nephew; and a niece.

*Graduate alumni memorials are prepared by the APGA.*

*Undergraduate memorials appear for Thomas Artin '60 \*68, Paul B. Woodruff '65 \*73, and Alfred D. Price Jr. '69 \*75.*

# CLASSIFIED

## For Rent

### EUROPE

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

**Paris, Tuileries Gardens:** Beautifully-appointed, spacious, 1BR, suitable for 2, 6th floor, elevator, concierge. [karin.demorest@gmail.com](mailto:karin.demorest@gmail.com), w\*49.

### MEXICO

**Tulum:** Spacious private villa, 4BR, 4.5BA, pool, rooftop jungle views, housekeeper included, AC, wifi. Discount for Princetonians. <https://www.facebook.com/CasaLol.Tulum> Prices/availability-CasaLol@yahoo.com, '90.

### UNITED STATES, WEST

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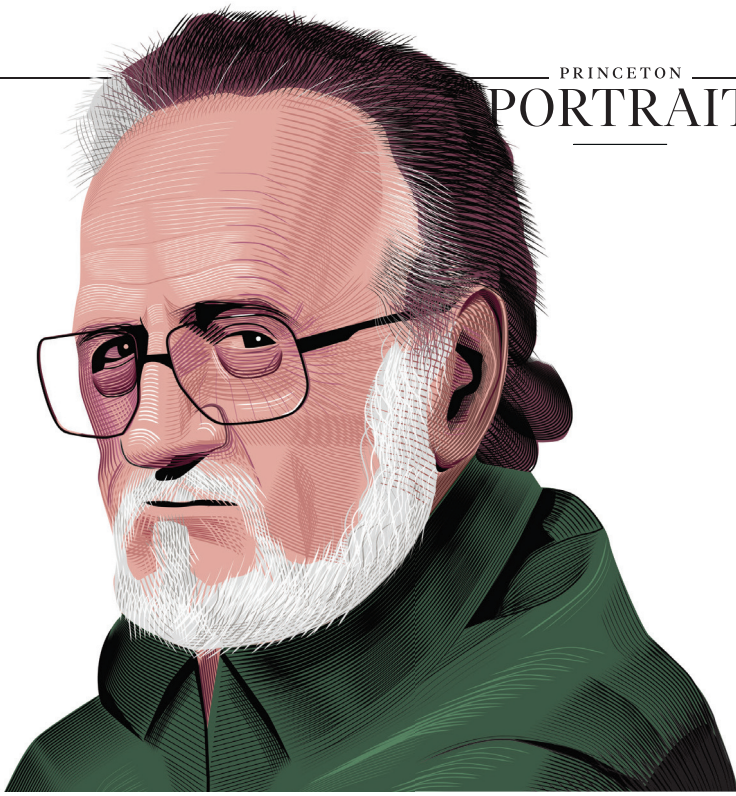


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JOSÉ DONOSO '51 (1924-96)

## An Influential Author Who Got His Start at a Student Publication

BY HARRISON BLACKMAN '17

**A**SIDE FROM A FEW HISTORICALLY resilient undergraduate publications such as the *Nassau Literary Review* and the *Nassau Weekly*, many other literary efforts have come and gone at Princeton. One such short-lived initiative was *MSS*, an alternative literary journal operating for a few years in the early 1950s. *MSS* served as the unlikely launchpad for the first literary works of influential Chilean author José Donoso '51, a figure of the Latin American Boom, a literary movement of the 1960s and '70s, alongside such writers as Carlos Fuentes, Julio Cortázar, and Gabriel García Márquez.

Born in 1924 to a privileged family in Santiago, Donoso grew up surrounded by servants and tutors. As *The New Yorker* put it in 1996, Donoso “was born in the Chilean bourgeoisie, and set his stories in their eroding households.” According to *The New York Times*, he went out of his rarified world to hang about with sailors in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and herd sheep in Patagonia. At the same time, he reportedly mastered French through his

reading of Marcel Proust. In 1949, after three years at the Pedagogical Institute of Santiago (today the Metropolitan University of Educational Sciences), he received a scholarship to Princeton and transferred.

Donoso brought his life of extravagance to Princeton. In a memoir of his college days, diplomat Robert Keeley '51 \*71 recounted finding Donoso, his neighbor in Edwards Hall, leaving a pile of dirty collared shirts stacked in a corner of his dorm. When Keeley asked about the shirts, Donoso explained that after a shirt became too foul to wear, he bought a new one at the U-Store. Apparently, Keeley taught Donoso the virtues of laundry services, and the U-Store lost a reliable customer.

**It was in his beginnings, writing stories in Edwards Hall, that Donoso found his sense of literary arrival.**


But Donoso proved to be a financial asset for *MSS*, a journal whose core group featured Keeley, future *Newsweek* reporter Walter Clemons Jr. '51, and Hellenic studies benefactor Stanley Seeger '52 \*56. Donoso was one of the journal's most talented fundraisers, selling 200 subscriptions through strong-arm tactics. Keeley recalled, “He would invite himself into the room, take any vacant seat, and give the impression that he couldn't be made to leave until someone in residence had bought him off.” Once Donoso graduated, the journal folded after two issues, lacking in Donoso's salesmanship.

Donoso's first published short stories came out in *MSS*. “The Blue Woman” concerned a woman's self-doubt following her rhinoplasty; “The Poisoned Pastries” drew upon his childhood in Santiago. Both were written in English, Donoso's field of study at Princeton. For the vast output that followed, Donoso wrote in his native Spanish.

Donoso was a reporter for five years in Santiago, and he wrote several books before he completed his masterpiece *The Obscene Bird of Night* (1970), a magic realist tale about the life of the last, mutated member of an aristocratic family. For Donoso, the abstract and complex *Obscene Bird of Night* was a turning point after which most of his work became more straightforward, but not without heady themes. In *A House in the Country* (1978), Donoso considered the political decline of Chile through the metaphor of an elite estate similar to the household in which he was raised.

While declining to call himself an exile, Donoso opposed the Pinochet regime and lived for many years outside of the country, in such places as Mexico, Spain, and the United States, only returning to Chile in 1981, and dying there in 1996. He taught creative writing at Princeton and the University of Iowa, and in 1990 received his country's National Prize for Literature. During the course of his career, he published more than 20 books.

But it was in his beginnings, writing stories in Edwards Hall, that Donoso found his sense of literary arrival. Regarding his Princeton experience, Donoso said in a 1986 interview that “I was most impressed with the sensation that ‘This was the real thing,’ and that I was part of it.” ■



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