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Snow day • The pandemic and mental health • Admission reporting • SPIA Dean Amaney Jamal • Princeton podcasts • Once-imprisoned grad student sues University • In Memoriam • SPORTS: Graduate transfers get a second shot • RESEARCH: Yael Niv: Neuroscience meets psychiatry • Adele Goldberg and the power of metaphors • Behind the Research: Simone Marchesi ’02 on Dante

Fencer Paul Epply-Schmidt ’83 • Nathan Myhrvold ’83 knows pizza • Classmates celebrate Nobel with Maria Ressa ’86 • Runner Larry Trachtenberg ’76 • AIDS activist Jesse Milan Jr. ’78 • Tigers at the Olympics

My Father and the Art of Living
A French connection between a father and daughter built a love of books and conversation — and lessons that endure. By Ann Tashi Slater ’84

Lives: An Appreciation
PAW pays tribute to 14 alumni who died in 2021: teachers, doctors, scholars, and adventurers to be remembered for the way they lived.

PAWCAST
Emily Lammers ’06

Modern Motherhood
On the latest PAWcast, Emily Lammers ’06 talks about her book, No Drama First-Time Mama, offering advice to help new mothers thrive.

Fighting Misinformation
Writer and performer Joe Hernández-Kolski ’96 produced four videos to counter COVID vaccine misinformation in the Spanish-speaking community.

Soccer Shots
Chris Long ’97 and Angie Long ’97 are building the first stadium meant just for a U.S. National Women’s Soccer League team.

Musical Remembrance
Gregg Lange ’70 ponders the musical side of Princeton’s Service of Remembrance — “our own version of a requiem Mass.”

On the cover: Jonathan Smith ’81. Photograph by Steve Dolan/Saint Louis University.
Venturing Forward

This fall, Princeton announced the public launch of Venture Forward, an engagement and fund-raising campaign.

We’ve been laying the foundation for this campaign since the Board of Trustees embarked on a strategic planning process seven years ago. In doing so, we were guided by Princeton’s core values: scholarly excellence; talent and truth-seeking; access, affordability, and inclusivity; and service broadly understood.

“Venture Forward” captures our intention to move into a new day for Princeton and the world—while remaining firmly anchored in and faithful to the values that define us. Throughout its history, Princeton University has planned carefully for growth while investing boldly in human potential and groundbreaking inquiry. We have sought to address the most complex challenges of each age with depth of purpose and creative collaboration.

Princeton’s distinctive model and mission have given scholars the freedom to focus on profound questions that matter greatly over the longer term. From alumnus James Madison 1771, whose study of philosophy and political theory shaped America’s Constitution; to Alan Turing ’38, whose research into the theoretical frontiers of abstract mathematics helped lay the foundation for the digital revolution; to Sonia Sotomayor ’76, whose path led from a housing project in the South Bronx to her position on the Supreme Court, Princetonians have envisioned the possible in ways that their predecessors could scarcely have predicted.

Now, through the Venture Forward campaign, we have the opportunity to ask new questions that will move us from the present to the possible.

We’re focusing the goals of this campaign not on a specific dollar amount, but rather on three areas of impact: deepening engagement of our alumni community; providing a platform to communicate Princeton’s service to humanity and its vision for the future; and securing philanthropic support for the University’s strategic initiatives.

Working closely with alumni leaders, the University will create new and enhanced opportunities for volunteer service, lifelong learning, events, digital communications, and other initiatives. A recent example is Orange & Black Day, a new digital tradition launched by the Alumni Council this year on the 275th anniversary of the University’s founding.

In support of the engagement goals of Venture Forward, I look forward to speaking at alumni gatherings in cities near and far, as well as continuing to welcome thousands of alumni back to campus for Reunions this spring.

Annual Giving is another core priority of the Venture Forward campaign. Each year, unrestricted gifts from alumni, parents, and friends help provide the “margin of excellence” that sustains and enhances the University’s distinctive academic programs.

Princeton’s strategic plan shapes the campaign’s other key fundraising initiatives, including college access and affordability, financial aid, data science, bioengineering, the environment, American studies, and many other important areas of inquiry.

Through your support, Princeton looks forward to a day when we can offer a transformative educational experience to an even greater number of talented students. Since 2001, our groundbreaking no-loan financial aid program has made Princeton affordable to students from all backgrounds. Over the last 20 years, the program has benefited more than 10,000 undergraduates and allowed 83 percent of recent seniors to graduate debt-free.

The new residential colleges under construction will allow us to admit more students, making it necessary to secure new scholarships and fellowships.

It will also be important to continue providing the support and resources students need to be successful once they matriculate. The newly launched Emma Bloomberg Center for Access and Opportunity serves as a hub for Princeton’s access and success programs, and promotes research and information-sharing with colleges and universities across the country.

Through Venture Forward we look forward to a day when the world’s most innovative thinkers respond to the climate crisis with a roadmap for achieving a carbon-neutral economy; to a day when data science balances an exponential leap in knowledge with the preservation of privacy and promotion of social equity; and a day when bioengineers harness the potential of complex biological systems for advancements in health, medicine, and quality of life.

To learn more about the campaign and its priorities, I invite you to visit the campaign website (alumni.princeton.edu/venture-forward) and to view and share the “Dare to Venture” video series, which offers a window into the transformative impact that Princeton is making in the world.

As I lead this University, I think back often to the profound impact that Princeton has had upon my own life, first as a student and then as a faculty member. When I look out now from my office in Nassau Hall or walk the grounds of this beautiful campus, I marvel at the vitality of our students, the insight of our scholars, and the achievements of our alumni. This is a place where spirits soar and people achieve the spectacular—as happened this fall when, in the month that we launched this campaign, five Princetonians were awarded Nobel Prizes.

The creativity and accomplishments of this community are endlessly inspiring. I am grateful for your engagement and support as we Venture Forward.

Venture Forward sidewalk graphic installed on campus this fall.
Inbox

CAPITALIZATION CHOICES
I was impressed by Professor Carolyn Rouse's complex argument in December's issue (“Capital Crimes”) and agree that authors generally know when to capitalize and have good reasons for choosing whether or not to do so without being impeded by new style rules.

There may be good reasons “to articulate for the reader how [one’s own] rules work” with, for instance, the use of “Black” versus “black.” In most cases, to use capitalization simply adds emphasis, and it seems logical that an author be allowed to do so, or Not.

Daniel B. Drysdale '70 Blacksburg, Va.

Thank you, Professor Rouse, for your encompassing and good-spirited discussion of the many considerations regarding the capitalization of black and white.

Have you ever asked why the AP Stylebook uses “Black” and “white”? Perhaps it is because of The New York Times: In the 1920s W.E.B. DuBois argued that not capitalizing the “N” in “Negro” was “a personal insult” to 12 million Americans. Eventually, the Times came around and adopted that style change.

In 2020, the Times made another style change and black became “Black” while white remained “white.” The paper’s rationale included the idea that “white doesn’t represent a shared culture and history in the way Black does, and also has long been capitalized by hate groups.” (See “Why We’re Capitalizing Black,” by Nancy Coleman, in The New York Times, July 5, 2020.)

I have lived through many name changes: colored people, Negro, Afro-American, and now Black, each change implying that I was slightly racist if I didn’t hop to it and adapt. All that happened was that my skin ... got thicker. I don’t care what people call me or themselves. If they are fair with me, I am fair with them. So, if you capitalize one name, you should capitalize them all.

Accordingly, may I please suggest that if black is “Black,” white should be “White.” It’s simply a show of mutual respect.

Thomas Howard Tarantino '69 Philadelphia, Pa.

PAW’S FUTURE
Regarding “PAW’s Future: An Agreement” (December issue), this should work. I understand the concern at an apparent dichotomy between being “owned” and being “independent,” but it is, I submit, a misplaced dichotomy. Having spent much of my career advising public-sector clients on constitutional issues, I am painfully aware that “rights” are neither self-evident nor self-actualizing. They exist because the participants in a society have bought into the importance of, for example, respecting the First (or Fourth, or Fifth, or Ninth) Amendment rights of people whose ideas or actions they oppose, or even despise. If the University and PAW have agreed to respect PAW’s independence, and the University keeps the deal, then it will happen. If the University breaks the deal, then PAW will have to look elsewhere. In the meantime, the matter is resolved.

Jeffrey A. Kehl ’70 New York, N.Y.

As individuals, it’s healthy to have people in our lives who can say, “I love you, but you’re making a mistake.” With its unique status and editorial independence, PAW always could play that role. It’s good to hear that it will continue.

Paul Jeffrey Shuman ’87 Cherry Hill, N.J.

Regarding the future independence of PAW as announced in the December issue, I’m certain that I speak for all Princeton alumni when I say to board chair Marc Fisher ’80: Thank you. You’ve served us well.

Henry Von Kohorn ’66 Princeton, N.J.

PROBLEMS WITH PLASTIC
I have to assume that the irony of receiving a Princeton Innovation supplement to the November PAW wrapped in a plastic bag was not lost on my fellow Tigers. If PAW editors were comforted by the exhortation to recycle the bag after carefully removing the address label (Inbox, November issue), they probably shouldn’t be. According to a recent issue of Consumer Reports, only 8.7 percent of plastic is recycled in the U.S. Plastic film is particularly difficult to recycle.

continues on page 5
Inbox

FROM THE EDITOR

The People on the Bench

Since the day she met me, my childhood piano teacher surely knew that I would never play at Carnegie Hall. My hands were small, my talent meager, my practicing limited to lesson days, when I’d rush home from school and play furiously for two hours until she arrived. Then I’d plod through Beethoven or Albéniz or Chopin, and she would find something to compliment as she delivered corrections and suggestions. I never managed to play those pieces very well, but I learned to be kinder in criticism, to chip away at whatever interested me, to quit worrying about perfection and let the piano be a source of satisfaction, clinkers and all.

I wanted to tell her this, and so several years ago I found her address and wrote to her, explaining that for decades after my lessons ended, I had dragged that old upright up and down the East Coast when I moved. I said I had finally purchased a new piano and still saw her next to me when I sat on the bench. I never got a reply. But when she died recently, at 101, her son reached out: My teacher had kept my letter, and the family wanted to read it at her funeral — would I mind?

And the piano? An old friend.

This is PAW’s 10th annual Lives issue, in which we celebrate alumni who died last year. Some of the alumni featured in these pages did achieve near-perfection in their fields — but they are included here for what they made of personalities, achievements, and experiences. We do not have tributes to some of the best-known alumni who died in 2021, including former Secretary of State George P. Shultz ’42, who died Feb. 6, 2021, and two-time Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld ’54, who died June 29. Their lives and deaths were covered extensively in national media; there is not much that we can add.

We also want to acknowledge several alumni who gave unusual service to their classes and to PAW. Peter Milano ’55 co-founded and led Project 55 — now AlumniCorps — which has enabled young alumni to work at nonprofits. George Towner ’52 served his class as secretary since 2014 and was class treasurer before that. And we lost Paul Sittenfeld ’69, who as a student co-founded Stevenson Hall as an alternative to bicker, and as an alum prepared ’69’s Class Notes column for 46 years. Paul took the time to drop us notes when he saw something in PAW that he especially enjoyed, and gently let us know when we made a mistake.

The tributes in this issue appear as Princeton remembers alumni at the Service of Remembrance, held as part of Alumni Day. Last year, COVID forced the service online; this year it’s scheduled to take place at 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19, in the Chapel. Our tributes represent just a small sampling of the stories that should be told.

We invite readers to help tell those stories by posting remembrances alongside class memorials at paw.princeton.edu. Let us know who’s sitting next to you on your bench. — Marilyn H. Marks ’86 h’88
In a future issue, I would love to learn about innovators in the Princeton community who are working to tackle the world’s enormous plastic problem.

Bill Hunter ’82
Greenwich, Conn.

TEXAS MAYORS
I was so pleased to see such a great article about Tigers leading change in Texas (“Deep in the Heart of Texas,” December issue). As a proud Texan (and member of the Princeton Texans club as an undergrad), I am often asked if there were a lot of Texans at Princeton. My response is always, “There are never enough Texans anywhere.” Kudos to the editor for choosing to make this the cover story and to the author for highlighting some of our finest.

Barbara Trevino Chester ’96
San Antonio, Texas

As a former resident of Dallas, I also considered Austin my hometown for over two decades. Mark Bernstein ’83 captured the essence of these two metropoles and found the sweet spot that exists between the various political factions in each. He also reflected the pragmatic progressivism of mayors Eric Johnson ’03 and Steve Adler ’78 while still finding space to expand on the third-rail issues of each city. Well done!

Terry Sadowski ’84
Pismo Beach, Calif.

FREE PRINCETON
I applaud Princo’s bold but careful stewardship that has led this year to a nearly 50 percent increase in Princeton’s endowment (On the Campus, December issue). This provides a great opportunity for Princeton to demonstrate leadership among its highly endowed peers: Make a Princeton education free. Rather than simply expand the administration, and before Harvard and Yale realize a similar opportunity, there should now be adequate resources (less than 1 percent annual draw) to cover at least tuition, fees, and related expenses for all undergraduates. Thousands of secondary school students would be attracted early in their planning to an excellent education without concerns about the complexities and uncertainties of navigating financial aid. Princeton would have an immediate competitive advantage for the best of the best. The substantial increase in our endowment can thus power Venture Forward “to a day when Princeton can offer a transformative educational experience to a greater number of talented students, regardless of their socioeconomic background,” as the advertisement in the December issue said.

Peter J. Turchi ’67 ’70
Santa Fe, N.M.

FOR THE RECORD
The December “Princeton Portrait” story about Hikoichi Orita 1876 underestimated the value of his $15 Whig Hall membership, which would be about $390 in today’s dollars.
Top Alumni Awards Will Go to Nobel Peace Prize-winning journalist Maria Ressa ’86 and Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Julia Wolfe *12

On Alumni Day, Saturday, Feb. 19, the University will bestow the Woodrow Wilson Award to Nobel laureate Maria Ressa ’86, co-founder of the Philippines-based online news organization Rappler.com, and the James Madison Medal to internationally recognized music composer Julia Wolfe *12.

The Woodrow Wilson Award annually honors an undergraduate alumna or alumnus whose career embodies the call to duty in Wilson’s speech, “Princeton in the Nation’s Service.” Wilson, a Princeton graduate and faculty member, served as president of the University, governor of New Jersey and president of the United States.

The Madison Medal, established by the Association of Princeton Graduate Alumni (APGA), is named for the fourth president of the United States, considered Princeton’s first graduate student, and is presented each year to celebrate a Graduate School alumna or alumnus who has had a distinguished career, advanced the cause of graduate education or achieved an outstanding record of public service.

WOODROW WILSON AWARD
Maria A. Ressa ’86
CEO and President, Rappler Inc.

JAMES MADISON MEDAL
Julia Wolfe *12
Composer, Co-founder of Bang on a Can, and Professor of Music, New York University

Ressa has defended the right of a free press for 35 years and fought misinformation in the Philippines and around the world.

“In 1986, Maria Ressa co-founded Rappler.com, an online news organization dedicated to providing accurate and unbiased reporting in the Philippines. Throughout her career, Ressa has been a vocal advocate for press freedom and human rights, and has faced numerous challenges and threats to her safety as a result of her work. In recent years, her reporting on the administration of Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has been met with constant political harassment and arrests by the Duterte government. Despite these challenges, Ressa has remained committed to her work, and has been awarded numerous prestigious journalism awards for her contributions to the field.”

“Julia Wolfe is a composer of considerable influence and reach. She is a founding member of Bang on a Can, a group dedicated to the performance of contemporary classical music. Wolfe has received numerous composition awards and commissions, and her music has been performed by ensembles around the world. Her work is characterized by its boldness and innovation, and she is recognized as one of the most important figures in contemporary classical music.”

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Maria Ressa has worked energetically over the past 35 years to defend the right of a free press to pursue truth, said Princeton University President Christopher L. Eisgruber ’83. “Her courageous stand against tyranny and misinformation — in the Philippines and around the world — is an inspiration for us all.”

Ressa has been honored around the world for her work fighting disinformation and resisting attempts to silence the free press. In 2018, she was named TIME magazine’s “Person of the Year,” and was among the BBC’s 100 most inspiring and influential women of 2019. Her numerous journalism awards include UNESCO’s 2021 Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize.

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Ressa participated in the 2021 Reunions Online panel on “Civil Society and the Attack on Journalism.” In her address to Princeton graduates during the University’s virtual Commencement in 2020, she advised them to make the choice to learn, to build community while “avoiding the mob” and to embrace fear, as she has in facing detention and arrests.

Previously, Ressa was CNN’s bureau chief in Manila and Jakarta. She taught in Princeton’s Program in Journalism in 2000-01 when she worked for CNN. Born in the Philippines, she immigrated with her parents to the United States in 1973 and returned to the country of her birth on a Fulbright fellowship after graduation.

She is the author of two books, “Seeds of Terror: An Eyewitness Account of al-Qaeda’s Newest Center of Operations in Southeast Asia” and “From Bin Laden to Facebook: 10 Days of Abduction, 10 Years of Terrorism.” She is writing her third book, “How to Stand up to a Dictator,” for publication in 2022.

MADISON MEDAL WINNER

One of the most sought-after classical composers today, Julia Wolfe has written a major body of work for strings, from quartets to full orchestra, and draws inspiration from folk, classical and rock genres, bringing a modern sensibility to each while simultaneously tearing down the walls between them.

When Wolfe was announced as the Richard and Barbara Debs Composer’s Chair at Carnegie Hall for the 2021-22 season, it was noted that she “creates music that has been described as emotionally charged, viscerally powerful, and socially aware. … [she] responds to the world around her, bringing unsung histories to life in riveting musical tableaux, with a focus on the multifaceted history of the American worker. … [her] music invites concertgoers on a journey of powerful discoveries.”

The Grammy-nominated “Fire in My Mouth,” a large-scale work for orchestra and women’s chorus, centers on the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in New York City. The work is the third in a series of compositions about the American worker: 2009’s “Steel Hammer” examines the folk hero John Henry, and the 2014 Pulitzer prize-winning “Anthracite Fields” is a concert-length oratorio for chorus and instruments that draws on oral histories, interviews and speeches to honor people who persevered and endured in the Pennsylvania anthracite coal region.

A new large-scale work, “Her Story,” a composition for orchestra and women’s vocal ensemble celebrating the centennial of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote, will receive multiple performances in the 2022-23 season with a consortium of five orchestras.

Wolfe has collaborated across genres including film and the visual arts. Her music has been heard at venues throughout the world, including the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Southbank and Barbican Centres (UK), and Theatre de la Ville (France).

“Julia Wolfe brings a deeply humane vision to the art of musical composition,” Eisgruber said. “By drawing upon multiple sources in her work, including the lives of history’s unsung heroes, she is forging thrilling new musical paths and inspiring the next generation of composers.”

Wolfe is a 2016 MacArthur Fellow and was named Musical America’s 2019 Composer of the Year. She is a co-founder of New York’s influential music collective Bang on a Can and a professor of music at New York University. Her work “Dark Full Ride” was performed at Princeton in September, and she gave a talk at Princeton’s Department of Music in 2019.

Alumni Day

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2022

Join us on campus to reconnect with friends and classmates, honor our award winners, and attend the Service of Remembrance.

To register and learn more, visit alumni.princeton.edu/alumniday.

609.258.1900 | alumni.princeton.edu
ALUMINARY

Linda Goldberg *88
Association of Princeton Graduate Alumni Interim President

LINDA GOLDBERG *88 takes a macro approach to her role with the Association of Princeton Graduate Alumni — fitting for one whose career has focused on international finances.

Goldberg, a New York City native who becomes APGA president in July, had never traveled on an airplane when she arrived at Princeton, fresh from Queens College, City University of New York, to further her economics studies. She made up for that quickly enough by spending nine weeks traveling through Europe the summer following her first year as a doctoral student.

With a smile, she notes that she collected currencies from each country she visited on that excursion, a prelude to her current work on the international use of currencies.

Goldberg knew her doctoral focus would be on international finance and macroeconomics, and interactions with her Princeton colleagues — many of them international students — reinforced her decision and expanded her horizons. Today she is a senior vice president at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Her main areas of expertise are global banking, international capital flows, and the international roles of currencies. She also co-chairs the International Banking Research Network.

“My life has been greatly changed by Princeton,” Goldberg said. “Starting out, living in the Bronx, going to a commuter school, and working as an undergraduate, and then arriving at this august place — I’m very appreciative. So I see service, through the APGA and hopefully to the broader University, as a way to both give back and as a way for others, and myself, to expand the Princeton experience to be more lifelong.”

GROWING ENGAGEMENT

As president, Goldberg wants to expand the imprint of the graduate community at Princeton through programming and service. “I think the programming should be strategic and really aim to connect with current and future alumni — generations of alumni,” she said.

Goldberg, who connects academics and policy makers in her work, points to promoting exchanges on career questions among grad alums, current graduate students and recent graduate alumni as an example of a way to connect this group. “Academia is wonderful, but there are lots of different choices and ways to build on the amazing opportunity and foundation that the University gives its students,” she said.

“We also look to provide access to intellectual content for this rich community,” Goldberg said, citing faculty forums, seminars and presentations. Other examples to compound engagement are continuing to reinforce contributions from graduate alumni through awards like the Madison Medal, and further developing service opportunities. Efforts to advance diversity, equity and inclusion are also in her prospectus.

And true to her focus on international issues, Goldberg said she hopes to increase engagement not only in domestic regional alumni associations, but in international groups, too, and enhance graduate alumni connection with various affinity groups.

KEEPING CONNECTED

Prior to joining the Federal Reserve, Goldberg was a professor of economics at New York University and a visiting professor at the University of Pennsylvania. She taught as a visiting lecturer at Princeton in 2005-07, and spoke at the University’s 2013 Many Minds conference for graduate alumni, returning in 2014 to moderate a Reunions panel. At the 2021 virtual Alumni Day Service of Remembrance, Goldberg read Mary Oliver’s poem, “White Owl Flies Into and Out of the Field.”

Participating in different University events has not only nurtured Goldberg’s connection to Princeton, but forms the basis of the engagement she wants to promote as APGA president. “That engagement, meeting other alumni… I really appreciate the community that comes together in order to make the community even larger. I’m very appreciative of all that I’ve gotten personally from Princeton, and I’m hoping to both give back and also grow that for others.”
Few students were on campus to see the year’s first snowfall on Jan. 7. The University pushed back the return date for Wintersession and the spring semester because of COVID concerns, but classes were slated to resume on schedule Jan. 24.

Photograph by Ricardo Barros
Cause for Concern
Latest COVID uncertainty renews focus on mental health among students

For most of the fall semester, Sidney Singer ’25 was pleased that her first few months at Princeton seemed mostly normal. Mask and testing requirements were welcome routines in exchange for a typical college experience. That was until December, when the Nova Scotia, Canada, native tested positive for COVID-19 and her mental health took a hit.

“It’s really jarring to be put in isolation,” she said. Though the 10-day period was challenging, Singer appreciated the care package she received from the University, daily appointments with a nurse, and friends who checked on her. “I didn’t feel like I was forgotten about while I was there, which was nice,” she said. (Isolation is now five days, in accordance with new CDC guidelines.)

As Singer and the rest of the Princeton community prepared for the spring semester, fears of returning to restrictions on gatherings and interactions that may negatively affect student mental health loomed large as the omicron variant swiftly moved across the country. “I think the general sense is we’re happy to go back, but we’re also very nervous that it may be short-lived,” Singer said.

University officials confirmed in online meetings with students, faculty, and staff in January that the plan for the spring semester was to return to in-person learning with updated COVID protocols. In a Jan. 5 town hall hosted by the Undergraduate Student Government, Dean of the College Jill Dolan acknowledged the challenges this new period of uncertainty brings. “We know that your mental health has suffered. We know that you did not expect a college experience facing all these social and other restrictions,” she said. “We are really working hard to make it safe enough to lift these restrictions.”

As year three of the pandemic approaches, its impact on the mental health of college students remains concerning. Loneliness, anxiety, and depression are among the resulting conditions students report facing as fears of contracting COVID and keeping up with coursework continue, according to a global study published by the American Psychological Association. Similar trends ring true at Princeton, where, even before COVID, about 30 percent of students reported sometimes feeling hopeless, according to a 2020 survey by the National College Health Assessment.

“This fall we’ve seen a record number of students coming in needing services,” said Calvin Chin, director of Princeton’s Counseling and Psychological Services (CPS). Students have asked for support for a wide range of issues, from managing the grief of losing a loved one to navigating anxieties around socializing on campus again, Chin said.

“Everyone has lost important experiences that they were looking forward to, and that has ramifications too, in terms of long-term mental health.” — Calvin Chin, director of Counseling and Psychological Services
In response, CPS has hired more staff, hosted listening groups where students can share their experiences, and partnered with outside services including ThrivingCampus as a resource to find off-campus therapists, among other initiatives. But some students feel these measures are not enough.

Hannah Reynolds ’22 described her experiences with CPS as a “mixed bag” that varied based on the counselors. She has been frustrated by inconsistencies between messages from University officials that encourage students to ask for help and professors who are unwilling to grant extensions or offer remote options to students. Reynolds is one of several students on campus who are advocating for more mental-health resources for students.

Others include Preeti Chemiti ’23 and Eric Lin ’23, who have worked together for the past year and a half to create Mind Matters, a mental-health guidebook that includes resources, statistics, and student perspectives. Through this project, funded by the Pace Center for Civic Engagement, they’ve created free Princeton-specific and general versions. More than 5,000 copies have been downloaded at mindmattersbook.org.

Their research has found similar alarming themes among Princeton students who report feelings of isolation, uncertainty, and anxiety. The duo is happy that students have found the guidebook helpful. “It was definitely really encouraging to see [and get] messages forwarded to us from students who were making use of the guidebook and finding some solace or help in what we put together,” Lin said. That said, mental health is still a problem and harder to manage when the future is uncertain, Chemiti added.

If there is a silver lining, at least past experiences have prepared students to think ahead, said Reynolds, who has already discussed alternate plans with friends to prepare for the possibility they might need to secure off-campus housing. “We’ve already learned to adapt,” she said. “It’s kind of expected that things won’t go to plan.” ◆ By C.S.

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSION

Princeton Holds Data on Admits, Saying It Discourages Applications

The first members of Princeton’s Class of 2026 received their acceptance letters in December, but in contrast to past years, the University did not share how many were admitted or how many applied, announcing Dec. 16 that it would not release data for the early action, regular decision, and transfer admission cycles and would share information about the incoming class when it enrolls later this year.

The announcement on the undergraduate admission website said that publishing information such as admission rates and average SAT scores “raises the anxiety level of prospective students and their families and, unfortunately, may discourage some prospective students from applying.”

“We’ve heard directly from students, families, and college counselors that highlighting statistics about applicants — particularly at highly selective institutions — can give a false impression about those who are admitted to the University and what the institution prioritizes in its review process,” University spokesman Michael Hotchkiss said in an email to PAW. “Many factors, including some not easily captured by statistics, are considered in building a dynamic community at Princeton.”

The policy change drew criticism from The Daily Princetonian editorial board, which acknowledged the admission office’s concerns but questioned its approach. “Withholding data sends an even more discouraging message than low acceptance rates,” the Prince board wrote. “It tells applicants: ‘Our admissions rate is so low, we’re afraid to even tell you.’”

Brennan Barnard, dean of college counseling at the Derryfield School in Manchester, New Hampshire, and the co-author of a family guide to college admissions, said colleges “are faced with this challenging balance between wanting to be transparent about their selectivity and also, rightfully, wanting to increase access and equity.” Barnard added that a college’s overall admit rate, without context, may not be particularly useful to prospective applicants, but more specific data, such as the admit rate for applicants who did not submit standardized test scores or the retention rates for enrolled students, could be helpful in choosing where to apply.

Princeton’s early-action option was not offered in 2020–21 because of the pandemic; in the regular admission period, the University admitted 1,647 of 37,601 applicants (4.4 percent), including students who had deferred their admission.

In choosing not to release statistics until after the admission cycle is complete, Princeton joins Stanford and Cornell universities, which enacted similar policies in 2018 and 2020, respectively. Stanford noted that the numbers of applicants and admitted students were generally used in stories that highlight the most selective colleges. “That is not a race we are interested in being a part of, and it is not something that empowers students in finding a college that is the best match for their interests, which is what the focus of the entire process should be,” Stanford Provost Persis Drell said in a Stanford News article.

Both Stanford and Cornell continue to share admission statistics in the fall as part of the Common Data Set Initiative, and Princeton plans to do so as well, according to Hotchkiss. (To see Princeton’s data for 2020–21, visit bit.ly/CDS_20-21.) “The University is not making any changes to its annual reporting of aggregate data, just stepping away from making announcements about admission data during the admission cycle,” he said. ◆ By B.T.
Since joining the Princeton politics faculty in 2003, Amaney Jamal has been a leading campus voice on hot topics such as Middle East policy and public opinion in the Arab world. In September, she began a new role as dean of the School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA), taking over for Cecilia Rouse, who joined the Biden administration as chair of the Council of Economic Advisers. Jamal says she plans to continue discussing contentious issues as dean while working to advance the school in areas such as increasing diversity and expanding international partnerships. She spoke with PAW about some of her goals.

What do you think is distinctive about SPIA compared to its peers?

There are probably two distinctive features that I think set us apart from other policy schools in the country. The first is that, unlike many different policy schools, our policy school is very intimately linked with the disciplines. Almost all of our appointments come through [other academic] departments, which means we’re hiring some of the best minds in the disciplines to teach our students in the policy school. So we’re constantly looking for academic excellence, rigor in research and teaching, and disciplinary breadth while paying attention to the policy debates.

The second thing that distinguishes us from our peers: Our program remains relatively small, which means our students get a lot of one-on-one attention. Our class sizes are small, and the mentoring opportunities here are plentiful. So our students are getting really great hands-on training.

How would you like to see SPIA change or grow during your time as dean?

I want to continue the path of academic excellence that SPIA is well known for, both domestically and internationally. I come from the Department of Politics, so I wasn’t a member of the school before I became dean. But something that has struck me is that our alumni are in amazing places in their careers, whether it’s in policy, in government, in the military, internationally, at the U.N. — they’re at all these high-level places. So I want to make sure that we continue mentoring and training the next generation of policy leaders so that they are well positioned to assume the highest positions in the country and internationally.

Under my deanship, I do want us to pay a lot of attention to diversity, equity, and inclusion. This is something that my predecessors have done and something that the University cares a lot about. And I think we can do more in this area. We want to empower different voices from diverse backgrounds.

We will be paying attention to critical policy debates. So when [President Eisgruber ’83] asks us as a school to reverse or analyze the long-term effects of systemic racism, we, as SPIA, want to embrace that call because we see ourselves, as a policy school, best positioned to be dealing with this. We will always be asking hypothetical questions related to mainstream policy debates, whether it’s about verdicts or trials or ongoing debates in the country. We are always going to ask ourselves whether systemic racism was at play. And if we’re not asking those questions, we are sort of failing the mission of the school.

In November, some students from the Princeton Open Campus Coalition object to an email that you wrote to students following the verdict in the Kyle Rittenhouse trial, in which you urged students to investigate racial inequities in the justice system. How do you decide when it is appropriate as a dean to communicate your views on an event or an issue?

I think just as a rule of thumb, as a policy
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You’ve announced a strategic planning initiative at SPIA. What are some of the areas of focus? Internationalization is very important for us as a policy school. As you can imagine, every time we think we turn a corner with COVID, it sort of sets us back, but we do want to get our students back abroad. We want to get our faculty back abroad. We want SPIA to be a vehicle that brings international visitors to our campus as well. I would like SPIA represented on every single continent with intellectual hubs at universities where we have easy access to colleagues, and I want it to be a two-way, mutually reinforcing type of relationship where those same people have access to our school. I’ve already started many different conversations along these lines. There’s a lot of excitement and enthusiasm around this.

Another goal is that we really want to elevate our policy voices in Washington, D.C., and elsewhere in the world. We just hired Miji Bell — she will be our associate dean for public affairs and communications. She has a wealth of experience in D.C. and has a magnificent network that’s going to benefit the school tremendously. Interview conducted and condensed by B.T.

READ MORE in an expanded Q&A at paw.princeton.edu

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When Dexter Thomas Jr. began brainstorming ideas for If Everybody Knew, a new podcast from the Princeton Humanities Council, he thought a lot about the best way to capture interesting conversations and make them accessible to a broad audience. His own research, in the niche area of Japanese hip-hop culture, led him to consider how the world would be different if more people knew about topics often confined to academia — so he decided to ask.

“I think that’s what most scholars are doing: They’re working on something or researching something that could potentially change the world,” said Thomas, who is a postdoctoral research associate in the Humanities Council and an Emerging Voices Fellow through the American Council of Learned Societies.

“Let’s imagine, what does that actually look like?”

In the first episode, which was released in December, Thomas focused on the little-known musical Shuffle Along, the first major all-Black Broadway show that debuted in 1921 and ran for 504 performances. The resulting 46-minute episode is an interesting exploration of the history of the musical and features experts who talk about why it largely disappeared from public discussion and what it would mean if more people were aware of it.

With each episode, Thomas’ goal is to make the podcast something anyone can understand. Productions by elite institutions often have an inside-baseball element, Thomas said, and that doesn’t work if the goal is to reach a broader audience. “I want everybody who listens to this to feel like they are part of a conversation,” he said.

Behind the scenes, Thomas produces each podcast with his laptop from his Los Angeles apartment (due to COVID). He’s particular about sound, so he ships microphones for guests to use when recording and includes return labels for mailing them back. He even writes the music for the podcast.

One of the most difficult aspects of pulling each episode together is the amount of research it takes to become well-informed about each topic. “You spend a lot of time basically giving a crash course on something. It’s tough,” Thomas said. He knew little about Broadway and even less about Shuffle Along before working on the episode.

But it’s paid off. Many people across the spectrum, from those who knew nothing to experts, have told Thomas they learned something new from that episode. “That’s really gratifying,” he said. ♦ By C.S.

A Princeton Playlist

In addition to If Everybody Knew (bit.ly/IEK-pod), there are at least a dozen podcasts hosted by Princeton departments, faculty, staff, and students. Below, read about some notable examples from the campus and beyond.

Daybreak (bit.ly/Daybreak-pod)
This daily review of campus news launched in February 2020 — the month before COVID-19 sent students home — and has endured as a consistent presence in The Daily Princetonian’s stable of podcasts.

Irregular Warfare Podcast (bit.ly/IW-pod)
Co-founded in 2020 by active-duty U.S. Army officers and SPIA students Kyle Atwell and Nick Lopez ’20, this biweekly series brings together scholars, policymakers, and military experts to discuss issues ranging from insurgency to cyberwarfare.

Madison’s Notes (bit.ly/Madison-pod)
The James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions posts biweekly interviews about politics, philosophy, religion, and history, hosted by Nino Scalia, the program’s communications coordinator.

PAWcast (bit.ly/pawcast)
Now in its fifth year, the Princeton Alumni Weekly’s monthly Q&A series highlights alumni authors and other newsmakers in conversation with digital editor Elisabeth H. Daugherty.

Politics and Polls (bit.ly/PoliticsAndPolls)
Professors Julian Zelizer (politics and public affairs) and Sam Wang (molecular biology and neuroscience) caught the podcasting bug early and have spoken with a bevy of notable guests, including CNN host Don Lemon and public-health expert Dr. Leana Wen.

The Ivy League Hoops Hour (apple.co/3t2LwVf)
Former men’s basketball coach Sydney Johnson ’97 and co-host Lawrence Schuler ’07 ’12 launched their podcast as the Ivies returned to the court for the 2021–22 season.

To suggest other podcasts to highlight, email paw@princeton.edu.
Awaken to Art
While we build a new Art Museum for Princeton, discover our two downtown galleries.

Native America / In Translation
On view at Art on Hulfish through April 24

Kelly Wang / Between Heartlands
On view at Art@Bainbridge through February 27


Graduate Student Imprisoned by Iran Sues Princeton, Alleging Negligence

Xiyue Wang, the Princeton history doctoral student who spent more than three years in an Iranian prison after facing espionage charges while studying in Tehran, and his wife, Hua Qu ’21, have sued the University, alleging “reckless, willful, wanton, and grossly negligent acts” before and during Wang’s imprisonment.

The 44-page civil complaint, filed in Superior Court in Mercer County in November 2021, provides Wang’s account of the guidance and actions of Princeton officials before he traveled to Iran; during his time conducting archival research; after his passport and laptop were confiscated by Iranian police; and throughout his subsequent interrogation, trial, conviction, and imprisonment. Wang and Qu allege that at various points, the actions of Princeton officials put Wang at greater risk. The complaint cites, for example, faculty who encouraged Wang to study in Iran, despite the country’s “history of kidnapping and holding hostage American citizens,” and alleges that an official in the provost’s office advised against seeking the aid of the Swiss Embassy in Iran before his arrest. Wang was eventually released in a December 2019 prisoner exchange after spending 40 months in jail.

In a statement, University spokesman Michael Hotchkiss wrote, “Xiyue Wang, Hua Qu, and their son are valued members of the Princeton University community, and the University’s singular focus has always been the safety and well-being of Mr. Wang. We are surprised and disappointed by this complaint and believe it is without merit.” Asked in January whether the University had responded to the complaint in court, Hotchkiss said Princeton “will file a response at the appropriate time.”

Wang, a naturalized American citizen, was arrested in August 2016 and accused of spying for the United States. But his situation was not widely reported in the press until July 2017, when Iran announced that a court had convicted him of spying. A Princeton spokesman said at the time that Wang had been unjustly imprisoned and the University had been working for his release alongside Wang’s family, the U.S. government, and others.

The campus community, led by fellow graduate students, held vigils throughout Wang’s time in prison. In public forums and media interviews, Qu appealed to President Donald Trump to negotiate her husband’s release. The State Department, working with Swiss intermediaries, arranged the swap that eventually set Wang free, in exchange for an Iranian scientist who’d been convicted in the U.S. of violating trade sanctions.

After returning to Princeton, Wang told NPR’s Morning Edition that his captors had not cared much about his alleged espionage. “I was a hostage,” he said. “They made it very clear.” ◆ By B.T.
New 1746 Society Members
CARRY OUR BANNER FORWARD

A hearty welcome to the newest 1746 Society members who have added Princeton as a beneficiary in estate plans in one of the many options available, from bequest intentions to pledging an Annual Giving Legacy gift for a 50th Reunion or beyond.

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Tina Sung ’71
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Judith E. Wayno S*83
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Debbie Wesselmann-Lopresti S*87
Anonymous (3)

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Class designations are based on primary affiliations; S/spouse

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On the Campus / Sports

When Clara Roth ’21 put on her Princeton field hockey uniform for the first time, her goal was to win a national championship. But she didn’t expect to win one wearing a different uniform.

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted Ivy League sports from the spring of 2020 until the fall 2021 season, causing many senior athletes to consider transferring elsewhere to continue competing. Coming off a national championship appearance in 2019, several of the Princeton women’s field hockey seniors entered the transfer portal.

Roth and Maddie Bacskai ’21 both transferred to Northwestern University to pursue master’s degrees in management science while also joining the field hockey team as graduate transfers. In November, the Northwestern Wildcats defeated Liberty University to secure the national championship.

“It was definitely disappointing in the beginning,” said Roth. “I never thought I would play anywhere else, and I would have loved to play my senior season at Princeton. But now looking back, it obviously was a blessing in the end. It gave me the opportunity to experience a new school, a new environment, become part of a new team, and obviously win a national championship.”

The two women are in a small group of graduate transfers from Princeton playing notable second careers, including basketball player Carlie Littlefield ’21, who is pursuing an MBA at the University of North Carolina. There she has rejoined coach Courtney Carlie Littlefield ’21 is playing basketball for UNC this year as a graduate student.

UNC Athletic Communications; Northwestern University

Claire Roth ’21 plays field hockey for Northwestern University.

Beyond Princeton, the Games Go On

After COVID disruptions, graduate school is giving some athletes a second shot

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Bacskai, the Princeton women’s basketball coach from 2007 to 2019, who recruited Littlefield to Princeton and coached her for two years.

UNC is currently ranked 21st in the AP poll, and Littlefield is a captain and starter for the team. She leads the Tar Heels with 44 assists.

The list also includes Ryan Schwieger ’21 who leads Loyola University Chicago’s basketball team in scoring, averaging 12.5 points per game. Schwieger has been named Missouri Valley Conference Men’s Basketball Newcomer of the Week twice this season. He is pursuing a master’s degree in urban studies.

At Northwestern, Roth was the second-leading scorer for the Wildcats, scoring 13 goals. Bacskai started every game as a defender and played more minutes than any other team member.

Bacskai tore her ACL in 2019, but it was also so proud [in 2019], but it was also so difficult being on the sideline and not actually being on the field and playing for a national championship,” Bacskai said.

Roth said she chose Northwestern both for the coaches and the opportunity to have a different experience than the one she had at Princeton. Princeton is a small school with a small-town feel, she said, while Northwestern is near a big city — Chicago. “I really wanted to put myself out there and explore something new,” she said.

Both athletes said that they were nervous about joining a new team, but their teammates were extremely welcoming. “I was 23 but it felt like I was a freshman all over again,” said Bacskai.

Even at Northwestern, the Princeton connection remained strong for both players. During the season, their teammates from the Class of 2020 visited, buying T-shirts that read “Northwestern sister” and cheering them on.

“It was definitely sad not being able to have my senior season [at Princeton], but I think when [Clara] came with me to Northwestern, it was almost like I had a piece of Princeton there with me going through this new journey and this final year.” — Maddie Bacskai ’21

A Message to Alumni From the Department of Athletics

Per National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) guidelines, alumni may not provide current or prospective student-athletes with “extra benefits” that are not available to other students at the University. Some examples of “extra benefits” are:

• Arranging, providing or co-signing a loan;
• Providing gifts, transportation, tickets to any entertainment or sporting event, money, or financial aid to student-athletes, their relatives or friends;
• Providing a meal to a student-athlete (except in one’s home, on a pre-approved, occasional basis); and
• Providing a meal or any other benefit to the parent(s), family, or friends of a student-athlete.

The NCAA generally prohibits any involvement by alumni or boosters in the recruitment of prospective student-athletes (PSAs). There is a limited exception for local Alumni Schools Committee members who are conducting official interviews as assigned.

NCAA rules PERMIT Alumni and Boosters to:

• Notify Princeton coaches about PSAs who may be strong additions to their teams;
• Attend high school or two-year college athletics contests or other events where PSAs may compete. However, alumni and boosters may not have contact with the PSAs or their relatives for the purpose of providing information about Princeton;
• Continue a relationship with a PSA, and his/her parents or relatives, provided the relationship pre-dates the PSA entering ninth grade (seventh grade for men’s basketball) and did not develop as a result of the PSA’s athletics participation. Even with such a relationship, an alumnus or booster may not recruit the PSA to attend Princeton and/or participate in Princeton Athletics and
• Continue involvement with local youth sports teams/clubs that may include PSAs, provided the alumnus or booster does not solicit any PSA’s participation in Princeton Athletics.

NCAA rules specifically PROHIBIT Alumni and Boosters from:

• Contacting a PSA or his/her family in person, in writing, or via email, text messaging, or social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram);
• Providing or making arrangements for PSAs or their relatives or friends to receive money, financial aid, transportation, tickets, or other benefits of any kind; and
• Entertaining high school/prep school or community college coaches.

Names, Image, Likeness (NIL) Update

The NCAA, Ivy League and Princeton University define NIL activity as engaging for money or other consideration (payment, goods, services, or gifts-in-kind) in any engagement, business transaction or advertising promotion. Student-athletes are permitted to engage in and earn money and/or other benefits for commercial NIL activity, provided the following requirements are met:

• Student-athletes are compensated for actual work, business or NIL activity;
• Compensation is not for or as a direct result of participation in intercollegiate athletics (“pay for play”);
• NIL activity and other employment is neither used by the University, alumni or boosters as a recruiting inducement or to encourage continued enrollment and/or participation in intercollegiate athletics at Princeton, nor arranged for student-athletes by the University, including by coaches, faculty or staff; and
• All employment and commercial NIL activity is disclosed to the University in accordance with institutional policies, regulations, or procedures.

Improper contact or activity by alumni could render a student-athlete (current or prospective), and in some cases an entire team, ineligible for intercollegiate competition. Please remember to “ask before you act.”

If you have any questions, contact the Athletics Compliance Office at kw2@princeton.edu.
Investigating Mental Health

A neuroscientist helps bring together two disciplines to benefit patients

Professor Yael Niv co-founded the Rutgers-Princeton Center for Computational Cognitive Neuro-Psychiatry.

Professor Yael Niv spent much of her career on basic research, content to puzzle over the fundamental principles of human learning, memory, and decision-making without much of an eye to how they could be applied. But that all changed in 2012, when she attended a talk by the Swiss neuroscientist Klaas Stephan, who opened with a challenge to his fellow computational cognitive neuroscientists: Psychiatry is in trouble, he declared, and it’s our fault.

Stephan saw a problem in the communication between psychiatry — the medical field dealing with disorders of cognition, emotion, and mental well-being — and the young field of computational cognitive neuroscience. That field uses new neuroimaging techniques, behavioral studies, and computer models “to understand the processes of learning, memory, attention, cognitive control, in a way that really was not there 30 years ago,” says Niv. But Stephan worried that neuroscientists weren’t talking to psychiatrists about the medical conditions that they and their patients spend every day trying to understand.

“I’d never thought of that before,” says Niv. “I really took it to heart.” Since then, she has redirected much of her research towards psychiatry, even taking a year off to train towards becoming a licensed cognitive behavioral therapist.

In 2015, with then-Rutgers professor Steve Silverstein (now at the University of Rochester), she founded the Rutgers-Princeton Center for Computational Cognitive Neuro-Psychiatry (CCNP), which aims to use new neuroscience to tackle some of the thorniest questions in psychiatry.

Most of us have heard of diagnoses like depression, schizophrenia, and bipolar disorder. But psychiatry has been continually tweaking and updating the definitions of these disorders for more than a century, and even today the categories are hardly clear-cut.

One study examined “mood reactivity” — the degree to which one’s mood and one’s subjective experience of something influence each other. (A good mood may make things seem better than they are, and likewise, a good experience may improve mood.) “Strong mood reactivity could cause instability and severe mood fluctuations,” says Niv. One might expect that mood reactivity would be strongest in patients with bipolar disorder, who oscillate between extreme highs and depressive lows in their mood. But the researchers also found mood reactivity in people with major depression and bipolar depression, as well as in people without a psychiatric diagnosis, Niv says. Self-reported symptoms, rather than diagnosis, were predictive of mood reactivity, she says.

Data from these studies are used to construct computational models of how the physical structure of the brain must function for a given set of symptoms to relate to performance on a given task. It’s exactly this sort of model that computational neuroscience has used to understand how memory or learning actually work; Niv hopes that computational neuropsychiatry can do the same thing for mood, behavior, and other psychiatric symptoms. By Bennett McIntosh ’16
I’m at a standstill. I’ve taken two steps backward. That idea went right over my head. I’m barely managing to stay afloat. These conventional metaphors, used to convey abstract concepts, are so commonplace that we may not even notice when we use or hear them. But Princeton psychology professor Adele Goldberg can spot them in a flash; she studies how the brain takes in this kind of cliché.

In a study published in the Journal of Memory and Language in December, Goldberg created a database of 180 English sentences consisting of these conventional metaphors alongside literal paraphrases and concrete descriptions. She found that people’s brains pay more attention to clichés than to the other ways of conveying the same information.

Goldberg used eye-tracking software in her lab to test how 66 people responded to hearing those phrases. When someone’s pupils dilate, it’s a sign that their brains are working harder to process the information or that they are more emotionally engaged, she says. And Goldberg found that’s exactly what happened: When the participants heard the clichés, their pupils widened.

The brain was processing them differently, even though the language didn’t stand out in any way. “There’s nothing remarkable about these phrases,” says Goldberg. “We use them every day without even noticing.”

In addition to testing pupil size, Goldberg and Serena Mon ’20 asked questions about the sentences, comparing the literal and metaphorical phrases. The study participants reported that the clichés were no more informative than other ways of communicating but were richer in meaning and more emotional.

Emotions are tied to understanding in unexpected ways. While conducting earlier studies using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) of the brain, Goldberg stumbled upon the fact that when people were passively listening to clichéd language, their amygdalas — the small, almond-shaped region of the brain involved in emotions and motivations — became more active.

It makes sense that the amygdala is bound up in cognitive engagement, Goldberg says. “My own feeling is that emotions drive everything we do,” she says. “And metaphors appear to be more engaging in some ineffable way.”

Goldberg plans to follow up with a study in second-language learners and test if they are as emotionally involved in metaphorical language as people who have heard such clichés for their entire lives. She’d also like to know if the emotional engagement changes with how proficient someone is in English. ♦

By Katharine Gammon ’03

PSYCHOLOGY

How Clichés Give the Brain a Lot to Consider

Paw.princeton.edu
Marchesi’s Work: A Sampling

GARDENS OF DELIGHT
A view commonly held by scholars today that translation results in a loss of meaning is a recent invention, Marchesi says. Instead, he argues, Dante and his contemporaries believed that translation could increase a text’s meaning, and that every act of translation gave the original text a new life. Therefore, they welcomed the widest possible audience and embraced multiple translations. Marchesi also challenges the idea that the rise of national languages in the Middle Ages led directly to narrow-minded cultural nationalism. He focuses on the image of the always-fruitful garden as a metaphor for the productive process of translation as understood by medieval authors.

READING DANTE TODAY
To honor the 700th anniversary of Dante’s death, Marchesi published A proposito di Dante, roughly translated as “Speaking of Dante,” in 2020. Marchesi selected 100 passages, one from each canto (section) of the poem, and added commentary describing their current significance and relevance. Passages are illustrated by Italian artist Roberto Abbiati. Rather than depicting the narrative content of the poem, however, Marchesi and Abbiati sought to create images that visualize how the text affects the reader. Marchesi says he believes this approach captures Dante’s intent to challenge his readers and actively shape their worldview.

BEHIND THE RESEARCH: SIMONE MARCHESI ’02
Considering Dante’s Cross-Cultural Impact

Simone Marchesi ’02’s high school had a strong STEM focus, but he felt irresistibly drawn to the study of modern languages. After earning degrees in Italian studies from the University of Pisa and the University of Notre Dame, he came to Princeton for a Ph.D. in comparative literature. “I felt perfectly at home,” he recalls, and he especially appreciated the interrelated way national literatures are taught at the University.

As an associate professor in the Department of French and Italian, Marchesi has been studying and teaching Dante Alighieri’s 14th-century masterwork, The Divine Comedy, for more than 20 years. He teaches the text both in English (in a freshman seminar) and in Italian. Although Dante wrote his epic poem in Italian, Marchesi sees him as a cosmopolitan figure who remained in constant dialogue with other languages and traditions, both ancient and contemporary. ♦ By Joanna Wendel ’09

I was interested in the ways that multiple languages teach you that there is not just one way of doing things, not just one way of saying things, not just one way of thinking about reality. This is a thread that has continued through my studies,” says Simone Marchesi ’02.

IMAGE NETWORKS
Marchesi and Professor Pamela Patton received a 2020 Rapid Response Magic Grant from the Princeton Humanities Council to support their project “Literary Visualizations.” The project will integrate the Princeton Dante Project, an online annotated edition of The Divine Comedy, with material from Princeton’s Index of Medieval Art. Marchesi hopes user access to many iconographic images related to the poem will yield new insights about Dante’s reception in his own time. For example, a famous passage in The Divine Comedy that follows a couple who fell in love while reading a book together usually depicts the lovers reading indoors. Artists from Dante’s time tended to depict them in a garden, referencing the biblical story of Adam and Eve. ♦ By J.W.
TO A DAY WHEN

Data science and artificial intelligence can balance an exponential leap in knowledge with the preservation of individual privacy and promotion of social equity.

Watch the “Dare to Venture” videos: alumni.princeton.edu/venture
Forward the conversation: #VentureForward #ForwardTogether

THE PRINCETON CAMPAIGN

Venture Forward is a mission-driven engagement and fundraising campaign focused on Princeton’s strengths in the liberal arts, pushing the boundaries of knowledge across disciplines, and championing inclusion, science, public policy, the humanities and technology.
My Father, Montaigne, and the Art of Living

by Ann Tashi Slater ’84

Whenever I’m in Paris, I visit the place on the Left Bank where my father lived while studying abroad in the 1950s. A philosophy student at the Sorbonne, he rented a room on Rue Monsieur le Prince, a street off Boulevard Saint-Michel filled with Japanese and Vietnamese restaurants, bookstores, and hotels. Standing in front of my father’s building, I imagine him walking through the tall green doors on his way to a lecture on Socrates or Descartes, wearing his trademark button-down shirt and narrow tie. Sometimes, like my father used to, I stroll to the nearby Jardin du Luxembourg to watch children sail toy boats in the fountain and stylish couples dance to the bandstand orchestra; then I stop in at Café Le Rostand for an espresso. Eventually, I walk down the Boulevard Saint-Michel towards the Seine. Partway along, if you turn right on Rue des Écoles, is a bronze statue of 16th-century philosopher Michel de Montaigne, facing the Sorbonne.

Author of Essais (1580), a three-volume collection of musings on topics ranging from thumbs to cannibals to imagination, Montaigne was the first to use the term “essay” for short exploratory pieces like the ones he wrote. The statue shows him leaning forward with an affable expression; his legs are crossed and one shoe has been burnished gold by students who rub it for good luck before exams. My father, not one for superstition, wouldn’t have touched the shoe (Montaigne, not a fan of superstition, probably wouldn’t have, either), but — headed for class or a visit to the secondhand booksellers along the Seine — he surely took pleasure in seeing one of his heroes.

Perhaps it was at the nearby J. Vrin Philosophy Bookstore that my father bought his copy of Essais, the 1950 Bibliothèque de la Pléiade edition of 1,257 pages plus bibliographic notes. When he died in 2012, I inherited this well-read tome. Half of the gold-lettered brown spine was missing and had been replaced with tape. As he did for the books that mattered most to him — from Montaigne to Michelet, Voltaire to Pascal — on the inside cover, my father had written his name and address in green ink; on the title page, he’d signed his name with a flourish and applied his personal stamp: Library of . . .

BY ANN TASHI SLATER ’84
In time, though, I’ve found my father is still very much with me. onto new roads, fresh thoughts and perspectives, as I test

sky, the Bay Bridge glittering like a half-submerged bracelet. Those quiet hours spent in conversation started when I was a small girl, before the divorce; I especially remember the time we shared on our family’s cross-country journeys (I’ve been on 13 car trips across America). My father loved driving at night and I’d ride shotgun, my mother and brother and sisters asleep in the back of our yellow microbus. It was just me and my dad in an Edward Hopper-ish nightscape of long-haul trucks and roadside diners, my father’s face lit by the glowing dashboard as the miles and hours flowed past.

From my father, I learned about conversation as exploratory. He’d embark on a conversation in the same way he pulled out of the driveway (well after dark) as we set off across America: unburdened by time constraints, open to whatever might be experienced, ready to exit the highway onto roads that looked interesting. I don’t recall what we talked about on our cross-country trips, but later, starting when I was in my teens and visited him at his apartment, we discussed interpersonal politics and people we knew, my friendships and school

New Jersey upbringing. We lingered in cafés and bookshops, went to plays and concerts and museums. He looked up his old girlfriend, a leggy blonde French woman he’d met at a party during his year abroad; in the used car I’d bought, the three of us headed down to her family’s ancestral home in Provence. When my father and I returned to Paris, we naturally left late in the day, twilight falling over the lavender fields as we settled in for hours of conversation on the drive north.

Before my father flew back to San Francisco, we had dinner at a Right Bank brasserie with a French couple I knew. We were discussing how I’d ended up coming to France, and my father exclaimed, “On verra si elle devient Francophile comme moi!” (We’ll see if she becomes a Francophile like me!). More than anything, I think, he hoped I would come to love conversation as the French did, to savor long meals, leisurely café conversations, late-night talks; to adore it as Montaigne did, relishing intellectual exchange and sparring that wasn’t to be taken personally but as an inspiration to ever-deeper questioning of one’s own and others’ beliefs, in line with the skepticism Montaigne expressed in his
famous motto, “Que sais-je?” (What do I know?). It isn’t surprising my father became a psychiatrist. My mother said he preferred talking about life instead of living it. But for him, conversation as a means of examining the self, as an essential part of the inquiry into what it means to be human, was the epitome of a life well-lived. He believed in such learning as a lifelong endeavor and agreed wholeheartedly with Montaigne that “conversation provides teaching and exercise all at once” and “our mind is strengthened by contact with vigorous and well-ordered minds.”

MY FATHER AND I ENJOYED an ongoing conversation until his death almost 10 years ago in Napa, California. He’d fallen into a coma and the doctors didn’t think I’d make it in time from Tokyo to say goodbye. I asked my sister to tell him I was on my way; as I rushed out the door to the airport, I grabbed the latest issue of Le Monde diplomatique, which I’d bought earlier in the week to send him as usual.

When I arrived at Queen of the Valley Medical Center, my father was still unconscious but alive. He’d waited for me, as I’d known he would. Sepsis had set in, his doctors told us, and they could do nothing more. Yet the monitor next to the night table beeped, the peaks and valleys of my father’s heartbeat on the screen reassuringly rhythmic, if spaced further and further apart as the minutes passed. Afternoon sunshine spilled through the window, illuminating me, my sisters, my father’s best friend of almost 50 years, as we stood in a circle around the bed.

I took Le Monde diplomatique from my bag and began reading to my father. It was his favorite publication and he looked forward to it every month. He couldn’t see, he couldn’t fold me in a bear hug and say, “What’s new with you?” but I could hear him, because hearing was the last sense to go. Now he would wake up, as he heard about l’arabe, une “langue de France” sacrifiée and les révolutions de Rousseau. He’d open his eyes and we’d talk: Why was Arabic, France’s second most common language, not being taught more in French secondary schools? How had the ideas of Jean-Jacques Rousseau influenced revolutions in Latin America and Asia, not to mention the U.S.? Rousseau’s tomb was in the Panthéon, my father would tell me; he’d visited it on a rainy spring afternoon after class and then met his girlfriend for an apéro at Café Le Rostand. I’d tell him about the friend I’d had was raising five children while working as an editor, and he’d ask how we’d met and what she was like, what I thought about the status of women in French society; we’d speculate on how things might change since Hollande had defeated Sarkozy in the recent presidential election.

But my father didn’t wake, and less than an hour after I arrived, he passed away.

ONE OF THESE DAYS, I’ll visit the tower near Bordeaux where Montaigne began writing Essais. My father stopped there during a summer spent traveling with his girlfriend, her mother, and her mother’s boyfriend. In Montaigne’s tranquil library, I’ll see my father and his girlfriend gazing up at the inscriptions Montaigne painted on the wooden ceiling beams for inspiration; his girlfriend’s mother — who disliked my father because of his penchant for questioning his elders — will be standing off by the window, looking out at the surrounding fields and forests with her lover.

Among the phrases Montaigne inscribed on the beams is “Summum nec metuas diem, nec optes” (“Neither be afraid of your last day nor desire it”); he also included this in Chapter 37, Book II, of Essais, “On the resemblance of children to their fathers”). As a philosopher and a physician, my father wasn’t afraid of dying; if anything, he feared coming to the end of his life not having lived. Though he didn’t fear death, I was deeply afraid of losing him. The evening after he died, I felt his presence in the earth and the sky — the vineyards evanescent in the violet dusk, the autumn moon rising over the mountains to the east — but the next day, I could no longer feel him, and anguish set in as I realized I would not see him again.

In time, though, I’ve found my father is still very much with me. Like our far-ranging conversations, what we shared keeps expanding onto new roads, fresh thoughts and perspectives, as I test and weigh and consider, in dialogue with myself and others.

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was certain he could hear me, because hearing was the last sense to go. Now he would wake up, as he heard about l’arabe, une “langue de France” sacrifiée and les révolutions de Rousseau. He’d open his eyes and we’d talk: Why was Arabic, France’s second most common language, not being taught more in French secondary schools? How had the ideas of Jean-Jacques Rousseau influenced revolutions in Latin America and Asia, not to mention the U.S.? Rousseau’s tomb was in the Panthéon, my father would tell me; he’d visited it on a rainy spring afternoon after class and then met his girlfriend for an apéro at Café Le Rostand. I’d tell him about the friend I’d had coffee with at the Rostand when I was last in Paris, how she was raising five children while working as an editor, and he’d ask how we’d met and what she was like, what I thought about the status of women in French society; we’d speculate on how things might change since Hollande had defeated Sarkozy in the recent presidential election.

But my father didn’t wake, and less than an hour after I arrived, he passed away.

One afternoon while writing this essay, I look up my father’s Rue Monsieur le Prince building on Google Maps. A few doors down is the PUF (Presses universitaires de France; University Press of France) bookstore; to my delight, “Que sais-je?” is written on the window, advertising an eponymous PUF series of short books that investigate subjects ranging from the Aztecs to Alzheimer’s, medieval philosophy to urbanism. My father would have been delighted as well.

John Hopkins '60, right, with friend Joe McPhillips '58. The pair’s motorcycle journey through North Africa in the 1960s was the subject of Hopkins' *The White Nile Diaries*. This image appeared on the cover of the book.
At the Service of Remembrance on Alumni Day, Princeton will pay tribute to students, alumni, faculty, and staff members whose deaths were recorded in 2021. The moving ceremony was held virtually last year because of the COVID pandemic; this year, Princeton planned to return to the service’s traditional home, the Chapel.

In this issue, PAW, too, offers its tribute to those whose lives ended last year. As always, we hope the profiles here provide inspiration, bring back good memories, and remind you of others you knew on campus. We welcome your comments about these Princetonians and others.

The Service of Remembrance takes place at 3 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 19. For more information about Alumni Day, visit bit.ly/alumni-day22.

MORE AT PAW ONLINE
SHARE your memories of the alumni featured at paw.princeton.edu.
WATCH AND LISTEN to multimedia content, including a World Science Festival documentary about Steven Weinberg ’57 and video of Lawrence Otis Graham ’83 giving a high school commencement address in 2017.
JOHN LIVINGSTON HOPKINS ’60 — “Hoppy,” as he was affectionately called by his Princeton chums — loved adventure.

“Hoppy was a pretty exotic character,” says his college roommate, Ivy clubmate, and lifelong friend Anthony Pell ’60. “He had made an early decision that he was not going to live a conventional life.”

In that, he succeeded: From Peru to Tangier, Hopkins traveled the globe as a diarist and writer, eventually settling in England, where he died in March.

The stepson of a wealthy businessman, Hopkins grew up in the well-heeled New Jersey town of Far Hills, attending the Hotchkiss School in Connecticut before landing at Princeton to pursue an engineering degree. By sophomore year, however, he had dropped engineering in favor of the liberal arts, with a particular interest in writing, says Pell. “Gradually he decided that his future lay in being a writer.”

Upon graduating from Princeton, Hopkins and his friend Joe McPhillips ’58 headed to Peru, with the aim of becoming coffee farmers. During their two months in South America, Hopkins began keeping a diary, in which he described crossing the Andes by jungle bus and floating down the Amazon on a balsa raft: “Cane fields, green hills and red earth... The hazy peaks of the Sierra Madre Occidental in the distance, where Humphrey Bogart sweated for gold.”

When their coffee plan didn’t pan out, the two friends headed for Italy, where they got jobs reading to blind English writer Percy Lubbock, a friend of Edith Wharton and Henry James. Lubbock challenged Hopkins to seclude himself on an offshore island for 24 days and write what came into his head; Hopkins took up the challenge and said he “became a writer that day.”

Soon after, McPhillips and Hopkins headed to Munich, where they bought a white BMW motorcycle they dubbed the “White Nile” and decided to trek with it across North Africa for five months.

In those days, “young Americans really thought they could do anything and go anywhere — the world was their oyster,” Pell says. “We all felt that way.”

Their trip was anything but easy — the two were shot at by soldiers in Libya, suffered through 120-degree heat in the Sahara Desert, and each caught pneumonia — but their appetite for adventure was only whetted. Hopkins and McPhillips ended up getting jobs teaching at the American School in Tangier, Morocco, during the city’s 1960s heyday as a bohemian escape for artistic-minded expats.

Hopkins achieved literary success in France, where he was considered an important existentialist writer. “He worked extremely hard” at his writing, Pell says. “He was writing until he died.” He published eight books, including five novels; his best known were his memoirs The Tangier Diaries 1962-1979 (1997) and The White Nile Diaries (2014), about his journey with McPhillips, “A lot of his books have to do with the desert,” Pell says. “He had a real feeling for that. The isolation, the solitudes, the sheer beauty of the desert all resonate in his books.”

Hopkins met his wife, artist Ellen Ann Ragsdale, in Tangier. When the couple was expecting their first of three boys in 1979, they moved to London, and later settled in Oxfordshire. In the second half of his life, Hopkins became interested in traditional English field sports, taking up pheasant and grouse hunting, and was a devoted father to his boys, who played rugby. His zest for life never left him. “John loved attending the rugby matches,” Ellen recalls, “and often embarrassed his sons by running onto the pitch in his enthusiasm.”

“Tangier is a lax place,” Hopkins wrote in his diary. “Food is fresh, booze is cheap and rents are low. In other words, paradise!”

Hopkins stayed in Morocco for 17 years, becoming part of the literary circle there that included Paul and Jane Bowles, Tennessee Williams, William Burroughs, and Brion Gysin. For several years he lived without a telephone or electricity in a mud hut in Marrakesh.

Agatha Bordonaro ’04 is a freelance writer and editor.

John Hopkins ’60 in Morocco.

Courtesy Hopkins family

Agatha Bordonaro ’04 is a freelance writer and editor.
HE ADVANCED UNDERSTANDING OF OUR UNIVERSE — FOR ALL

BY JOANNA WENDEL ’09

IN THE WORLD OF SCIENCE, Steven Weinberg ’57 was a celebrity — not just for winning the 1979 Nobel Prize in Physics, but for the way he could bring the most complex ideas about the universe down to earth.

Weinberg was an icon among physicists; when he died, obituaries noted his transformative impact on the field. He won the Nobel, with two others, for demonstrating that two of the fundamental forces in the universe — electromagnetism and the weak force, which is responsible for radioactivity — are the same: a breakthrough discovery that became a pillar of the Standard Model of physics, which classifies all known elementary particles. But some of Weinberg’s 10 books were not written for fellow academics; rather, they’re for mainstream readers who appreciate the wonder of science and mathematics — perhaps an equally important piece of his legacy.

“I certainly wouldn’t criticize people who don’t write for the public, but I do have some admiration for those who do,” Weinberg told interviewer David Wilkinson in 2015. “After all, we get [financial] support from the public and we justify that by describing scientific advance as part of the advance of civilization. . . . [W]hen we talk about science as part of the culture of our times — well, we’d better make it part of that culture by explaining what we’re doing.

“You have to keep in mind that you’re writing for people who are not mathematically trained but are just as smart as you are,” he continued. He noted that he’d heard from some readers who went on to become scientists after reading his explanations, and said: “That pleased me more than any other praise could possibly do.”

Physicist Edward Witten ’76, a professor at the Institute for Advanced Study, met Weinberg when Witten was a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard in 1976. He recalls Weinberg’s interventions during “family meetings,” where faculty and students discussed topics in elementary particle physics: “When a topic would come up at one of those meetings which he suspected many or most of us did not understand well, he would give a little lecture explaining his understanding.” Soon, the others began to understand, too.

Weinberg, the first in his family to go to college, at Cornell, said he first found the power of mathematics “intoxicating” when, in high school, he managed to calculate the shape of the cables holding up a suspension bridge. He spent most of his physics career as a professor at the University of Texas at Austin — he was still teaching last spring, at 87.

To his students, Weinberg was not only an inspiring and tirelessly productive scholar, but also a caring mentor. Raphael Flauger, who completed his Ph.D. under Weinberg, was teaching in the department when a family emergency pulled him away. Without hesitation, Weinberg offered to teach in his place. “I will always remember how self-evident it seemed to him that he should offer to teach my course even though he was already 82 years old,” Flauger says. Another former student, Joel Meyers, remembers him as “deeply kind and surprisingly funny.”

Weinberg’s wife, Louise, a professor of law, emerita, at UT Austin, describes him as a “polymath” who had “an enormous fund of knowledge — of history and politics (all nations, all eras), poetry, music, art, cities, streets . . . .”

Louise Weinberg says her husband saw his work as a process of refining past discoveries into an increasingly precise and simplified form. “He liked to believe that there is a sense in which the triumphs of the past, of Galileo, Newton, Maxwell, Einstein, held good, and were cumulative,” she says. “He thought, if the process had an end, it would be the discovery of the ultimate laws of nature.” Weinberg brought us one step closer to discerning those laws. ♦

Joanna Wendel ’09 is a regular contributor to PAW.
Royce Flippin Jr. '56 poses for an action shot in 1955.
In 1955, Royce Flippin Jr. '56 was, in the words of the New York Herald Tribune, “the most exciting back in the Ivy League.” Swift and versatile, he could cut through defenders or launch passes over them. He also played safety on Princeton’s defense.

Sideline with a knee injury for much of his senior year, Flippin saved his best for the biggest game, against Yale, when he thrilled the crowd of 46,000 at Palmer Stadium with a third-quarter touchdown run and a handful of other key plays in the Tigers’ 13-0 upset win. After the final whistle, his teammates hoisted him on their shoulders and carried him off the field. (A photo of the scene still hangs in the Cap & Gown Club, where Flippin was a member.)

One could be spoiled by that kind of adulation, but friends say Flippin’s life was defined by lifting up others. As an investor in the early 1970s, he co-founded a socially responsible mutual fund, aiming to boost companies that excelled in civil rights and environmental stewardship. As an athletic director at Princeton and MIT, he expanded access to sports and recreation. He led NCAA committees, served on boards of alumni-founded businesses, and in retirement delivered communion to shut-ins as a lay minister at his church.

“Everyone he met — he made them feel better,” says Tom Meeker ‘56, Flippin’s college roommate.

When Flippin returned to Princeton in 1972 as director of athletics, he was “the consummate cheerleader,” according to Merrily Dean Baker, Princeton’s top administrator for women’s sports at the time. His sons, Royce III ’80 and Bob ’83, remember tagging along as their dad traversed the campus, going from game to game.

“He had a very pure view of athletics,” says Royce III. “As successful as he was, he saw athletics as something for everyone.”

That perspective served Flippin well during a brief but influential era in Jadwin Gym’s corner office. Coeducation and the passage of Title IX brought rapid expansion in women’s athletics. Princeton had six women’s varsity teams when Flippin arrived. Four more debuted by the time he stepped down in 1979, and two others were in the works.

At that point, more than a third of undergraduates were participating in intercollegiate athletics (including freshman and junior varsity teams), and Princeton had the highest overall winning percentage in the Ivy League. If there was one blot on Flippin’s record, it was football: He fired two coaches in six years, and the Tigers never had a winning season on his watch.

As Baker recalls, the early women’s teams had a long way to go to reach equal footing. They traveled on a shoestring, shared uniforms, and faced resistance from the more established men’s programs. But when Baker went to speak with a reticent men’s coach or raise money from alumni groups, Flippin was often at her side.

“He was an excellent advocate,” Baker says. “He was on board, right from the beginning.”

Brett Tomlinson is PAW’s managing editor.

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Lawrence Otis Graham ’83
December 25, 1961 – February 19, 2021

He Wrote About Racism And Living in Two Worlds

by Carlett Spike

Throughout his life, Lawrence Otis Graham ’83 struggled to straddle two worlds. He was a Black child of the upper-middle class — often the only one in a bubble of whiteness.

“You are living in a white world, but you have to hold on to Black culture,” he said in a 1995 interview with The Washington Post. “You have to please two groups. One group says you have sold out, and the other never quite accepts you.”

At Princeton Graham majored in English, was a member of Whig-Clio and the Third World Center (now the Carl A. Fields Center), and was active in social-justice issues. He went on to earn a degree from Harvard Law School and practice as a corporate lawyer in Manhattan. But in 1992, he stripped these identities from his résumé, portrayed himself as a 23-year-old Tufts University dropout, and got a job as a busboy at the all-white Greenwich Country Club. He wrote a cover story about his experience for New York magazine. “I got into this country club the only way that a Black man like me could — as a $7-an-hour busboy,” he wrote. His diary-like entries reflected on how he and other staff were treated and offered snippets of the conversations among and with club members: from references to the dormitory where staff members slept as the “Monkey House,” to racial slurs, to patronizing instructions to Black and Hispanic workers. On one of his final days he wrote, “I could imagine members asking themselves, ‘Why would anybody who is not like us want to join a club where they’re not wanted?’”

Anita Jackson ’84 befriended Graham after the two took a French course at Princeton. “It was really his drive and tenacity that was almost magnetic,” she says. Their talks about race and class divides were intriguing, Jackson adds, since she was a Black, Southern woman. She recalls him calling to share how awful his experience at the country club was. Her response: “Welcome to my world.”

Graham acknowledged believing that Ivy League degrees and lofty professional and economic status could help shield his family from racism. But as he wrote in a 2014 essay for PAW, that belief was shattered when his son was called a racial slur on the campus of an elite New England boarding school.

He ultimately published 14 books, including Our Kind of People: Inside America’s Black Upper Class, the inspiration for a Fox drama he worked on as a producer until he died suddenly. The book delves into the institutions and customs of Black elites — Jack and Jill, vacation spots, acceptable options for higher education — and their role in American society. A New York Times review criticized the book for not sufficiently unpacking the social dynamics and responsibilities of this group but noted that it made “a major contribution both to African-American studies and to the larger American picture.”

“Many friends remember Graham’s generosity with his time, knowledge, and connections. Jackson adds, “He would often help people achieve their dreams and solve their problems before he accomplished his own.”

Still, “he endured a lot of criticism,” says Kim Pearson ’78, a professor at The College of New Jersey who writes about race, among other topics. “As often happens with African Americans in relatively elite positions who expend a lot of energy trying to practice respectability politics, he got his heart broken.”

Carlett Spike is PAW’s associate editor.

Michael Falco/Black Star
Lawrence Otis Graham ’83 at his home in 2014.
The death of Robert Hollander ’55 took from us one of the world’s greatest scholars of Dante and his poetry. I do not mean one of the greatest in our own generation but in the whole history of Dante scholarship, which got off to a pretty impressive early start with a course of public lectures offered by Boccaccio in 1373. Yet while such scholarly eminence would be more than enough to preserve his memory in perpetuity, it is but one aspect of the man in full, a colleague who lived out as richly as any I have ever known the ennobling adventures of the life of the mind and the humane vision of a great university. I call him the Dante scholar. With equal justice I could call him one of Princeton’s legendary teachers, one of America’s national leaders in the humanities, indefatigable worker, memorable conversationalist, amiable bon vivant, admirable husband and father in an impressive family, and to a lucky few intimates an inestimable friend.

Every university has certain famous undergraduate courses, and among those at Princeton has been the Dante course as established by Hollander. As notoriously demanding as it was rewarding, the course aspired, as Milton’s Paradise Lost had done, to a “fit audience though few.” For 42 years it attracted a cohort of brilliant, quirky, curious, and adventurous students from many departments. At one point a critical mass of the course’s alumni decided that the Purgatorio was preferable to blow-pong as a Reunions activity. Thus, in 1977, the “Dante Reunion” made its intellectual intrusion into a traditionally saturnalian weekend. Still later, certain alumni, perhaps having grown somewhat thicker of wallet and possibly of girth, had a real brainwave: How about a weeklong summer Dante Reunion seminar in some nice, sunny venue — for example, a trecento castle in Tuscany? This fabulous place is near Certaldo, Boccaccio’s hometown; and it was known among the elect simply as Il Castello. There Bob conducted his unforgettable alumni seminars.

Teaching really difficult materials at the undergraduate level is a special art, and it was Bob’s forte. As a teacher he was not flamboyant, yet he was nearly magical. He thought of himself as an inheritor of still-living traditions traceable back through the medieval schools to the philosophers of the Stoa. Dante called Aristotle ‘il maestro di color che sanno’ — “the teacher of those who know” — not a bad description of this great Princeton professor himself. Yet his students were less disciples than apprentices or junior partners. Here and there among the learned footnotes of his books and commentaries are generous acknowledgements of brilliant perceptions made by undergraduate students in class or precept.

Around the millennium I was lucky enough to be included as an ancillary spear-bearer in several of the Castello summer seminars. Most people who read Dante once return to read him again, and then probably yet again. I hope perhaps to have a couple more goes myself before the eschaton, and if I do it will be with the delightful memory of Bob sitting at the head of a huge mahogany table beside a stack of well-thumbed books and surrounded by eager learners from several student generations. More than once he talked with affectionate enthusiasm about his own teachers of the early ’50s to whom he felt indebted for the affirmation and deepening of his love of poetry. His extraordinary career was their recompense.

John V. Fleming ’63 is the Louis W. Fairchild ’24 Professor of English and Comparative Literature, emeritus.
She Found Her Calling
In Rural Medicine

BY ANNA MAZARAKIS ’16

North Carolina’s Rural
Madison County does not have a hospital or an urgent-care center; it has only a pharmacy and two health-care providers. One of those two is the Madison County Health Department, where Marianna TePaske Daly ’79 served as the medical director for about three decades.

Daly noticed that the dearth of some health-care services, like treating hepatitis C, meant that some residents had to travel more than an hour to a neighboring county, where there would be a six- or seven-month-long waiting list. She took the initiative to participate in a program that allowed her to bring hepatitis care to Madison County.

“If she saw a need, she was going to figure out how we were going to deal with it here in this county,” says Madison County’s current health director, Tammy Cody, who was also a friend of Daly. “The difference she made in so many things was truly life and death.”

While large geographically, the rural Appalachian county is home to only about 20,000 people, nearly 18 percent of whom live below the poverty line. Daly was raised in a different, more affluent part of North Carolina by a Duke professor and a schoolteacher, yet her community in Madison County viewed her as one of their own, and she thought of them as her family.

Her parents encouraged her to ask questions and help others, which took her to Princeton and then to medical school, with a year’s stop in between to work in Appalachia’s coal fields with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps (she was active in her Catholic faith throughout her life).

After focusing her medical studies on rural public health, Daly arrived in Madison County for an internship. She fell in love with the local people and culture and decided to settle there as a general-practice family physician.

“Many doctors join the profession for different motivations, but Marianna wanted to give back. She wanted to help underprivileged people,” says Carol Meier ’79, Daly’s college roommate. “She was in it to accomplish what she could and make people’s lives better.”

Daly worked hard to address the medical problems of her adopted community. To combat the opioid epidemic, which has taken an especially large toll in rural America, for example, Daly made sure that the health department could offer a medication-assisted treatment program for substance abuse. Madison County’s health department was the second in the state to do so — and it would have been the first if not for Daly’s cancer, which occurred as the program was close to launching.

She was a doctor who made house calls. “I don’t think that’s normal, even in the rural clinic that she worked in,” says Jerry Powers ’80, of her attention to patients. “That’s about as personal a touch as you can give.”

Outside of her work, Daly was guided by a long-held motto: Solvitur ambulando — “it is solved by walking.” When she received her terminal cancer diagnosis in 2019, Daly planned to do a lot of walking, but the pandemic closed her go-to spot, the North Carolina Arboretum. With the help of arboretum staff and a good friend, it reopened just for her, as a “perfect bucket-list day in the mountains.”

“My walk at the arboretum may not have cured my cancer or solved COVID-19, but it made me smile,” Daly wrote in an essay shared with friends. “And for now, that is solution enough for me.”

A year before her death at 62, the Madison County Health Department building was renamed in her honor.

Anna Mazarakis ’16 is a podcast producer.

Marianna TePaske Daly ’79 outside the Madison County Health Department building named in her honor.

Anna Mazarakis ’16 is a podcast producer.
With its racy clothing and jokes about sex and politics, Rowan & Martin’s Laugh-In broke many unwritten rules of television in the late 1960s. But nothing put the show in as much jeopardy as its persistent zingers about industries, like tobacco, that deserved to be heckled.

Many a network executive would have caved to pressure from displeased advertisers in those industries, but not Herbert Schlosser ’49, says George Schlatter, the show’s executive producer. Schlosser stood up to them, he says, with “two main things: brains and balls.”

“I remember him calling me into his office about another complaint,” Schlatter says. “He’d invite me for a cup of coffee and say, ‘Well, George, you’re in trouble again.’ I’d say, ‘What do you want me to do?’ He’d say, ‘George, just keep doing what you’re doing.’”

Laugh-In became a cultural icon; not long after it began, half of American televisions on during its time slot were tuned in, Schlatter said. And the sponsors knew it, which is why Schlosser knew they wouldn’t leave.

Schlosser, who helped oversee Laugh-In and rose through NBC to become the network’s president in 1973, followed it up with an even bigger contribution to American television comedy, writing the memo pitching Saturday Night Live.

“HE LOVED THE DAYS OF LIVE TELEVISION, AND HE WANTED TO BRING BACK THAT FEELING OF EXCITEMENT, THE FEELING THAT ANYTHING COULD HAPPEN.”

Eric Schlosser ’81

Herb Schlosser’s father came to America from Austria at age 11, a nearly penniless orphan. Herb later joined the Navy and was in officer training school, about to deploy to the Pacific, when World War II ended, Eric says. The GI Bill allowed him to attend Princeton.

The University had a profound effect on him, Eric says. At one point, he gathered some classmates for a trip to lobby Washington for federal anti-lynching legislation. After Princeton he went to Yale Law School.

Saturday Night Live was created in part to placate Carson, who wanted NBC to stop rerunning his show on weekends. In a memo dated Feb. 11, 1975, Schlosser outlined a distinctive, “young and bright” variety show that would double as a training ground for new talent. And it would be performed live.

“He loved the days of live television, and he wanted to bring back that feeling of excitement, the feeling that anything could happen,” Eric Schlosser says. “It was a bold thing that was a burst of energy for television, for young talent, and for New York City.”

Schlosser left NBC in 1978 amid lower ratings than the network sought. Eventually he worked at a Wall Street investment bank, according to the Times, and on a passion project: the Museum of the Moving Image. He was a powerhouse fundraiser and a sounding board for the many who sought his advice on business and leadership, says Ivan Lustig, co-chairman of the museum’s board.

“I had an enormous amount of respect for him, and to me he is still that model of being active, intellectually, and engaged with organizations in your 90s,” Lustig says. When some people retire, “their world narrows. His world never narrowed. He was always looking over the horizon at the next new thing.”

Elisabeth H. Daugherty is PAW’s digital editor.

HERBERT SCHLOSSER ’49  
April 21, 1926 – Aug. 6, 2021  

A NETWORK EXECUTIVE WHO MADE AMERICA LAUGH  

BY ELISABETH H. DAUGHERTY
AVRON J. MALETZKY ’59
April 28, 1938 – January 21, 2021
A SHY LONER, HE HEALED DESPERATELY ILL CHILDREN
BY MARC FISHER ’80

FROM THE START, HE WAS A SHOOTING STAR, a violinist with talent beyond his years, an accomplished writer, a kind and generous soul. What Avron J. Maletzky ’59 was not was a social animal.

He was quiet and shy, seemingly happy hiking alone on long treks into the Cascade mountains of the Pacific Northwest. He lived by himself for most of his life, yet sprinkled through the Seattle area, there are families in which a mere mention of “Dr. Maletzky” summons tears of gratitude, even decades after he cared for their seriously ailing children.

In the mid-1980s, when Maureen O’Reilly’s infant son Devin started to breathe 200 times a minute, she knew that the heart murmur he’d been born with had become much more serious. At the emergency room, Maletzky appeared and instantly connected with her son.

The pediatric cardiologist “looked ridiculous,” O’Reilly says. “He wore a wig that looked like a helmet. But he was a total star with our son, totally available, so shy with adults, but so much more comfortable relating to a child.” During a long hospital stay with her son, O’Reilly would sometimes wake in the middle of the night to see Maletzky with his stethoscope, listening to her son’s heart, “for a long, long time, 10 minutes, just silently listening. The children were fascinated by his calm. He and the child were a team.”

Dr. Barrett Maletzky, Av’s younger brother, says his sibling was a superb physician who “handled the toughest of cases. And he was bizarre at times, had no close friends. He bought a beautiful home overlooking Elliott Bay, but there was no furniture in most of it.”

Av was 16, still in high school in Schenectady, New York, when he won the Voice of Democracy scriptwriting contest, sponsored by the nation’s broadcasters. He received $500, a television set, a trophy, and a trip to Washington, where he met President Dwight Eisenhower at the White House.

At Princeton in the 1950s, during a time of overt discrimination by eating clubs against Jewish students, Maletzky, along with fellow Jews and others who had been excluded in the bicker process, found refuge at Wilson Lodge, a section of Commons that the University established for those upperclassmen.

Maletzky found his way into the life of the broader campus through music. He played the violin in the Triangle Show and was concertmaster of the University Orchestra and the Savoyard.

After college and medical school, he spent two years as a virology researcher for the U.S. Public Health Service in Seattle, and stayed. As hard as it was for him to speak up in groups of people, he was eloquent on his instrument, playing in the Cascade Symphony and becoming concertmaster of Orchestra Seattle and a Gilbert and Sullivan light opera ensemble.

The Cascades were Maletzky’s passion and solace. He bushwhacked his way through the backcountry, sometimes on snowshoes, sometimes wielding an ice axe, says Fritz Klein, a fellow violinist and hiker.

“He was called to the mountains,” says Gene Duvernay, who ran a conservation organization and occasionally hiked with Maletzky. “He knew routes no one else knew. He even built trails where he thought they should be.”

“He was an eccentric, which a lot of people were in the Pacific Northwest before Microsoft,” Duvernay says. “You would almost think he was incapable of talking sometimes, but in the mountains, he would talk about things he was passionate about”—the land, music, his patients.

And he was magical with children. “He could adopt the thinking of a child,” Duvernay says. “He was quiet, really quiet, a modest, self-effacing hero.”

Marc Fisher ’80 is senior editor at The Washington Post and chair of the PAW board.
LAURENCE DESAIX ANDERSON ’58
February 12, 1936 – February 11, 2021

He Helped Old Enemies To Reconcile

BY DEBORAH YAFFE

In a spacious backyard in the tiny town of Sumner, Mississippi, stands a Japanese teahouse — a final monument to the passion for Asian culture that sustained Desaix Anderson ’58, a Mississippi-born U.S. diplomat who helped guide the postwar reconciliation between America and Vietnam.

Inspired by John F. Kennedy’s inaugural call to patriotic service, Anderson embarked on a 1964 posting to Vietnam filled with idealistic commitment to the war. The mismanagement and cruelty he witnessed changed his mind, but during a 35-year Foreign Service career, “he never lost faith in America,” says Frank Jannuzi, president of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation, on whose board Anderson served until his death. “Desaix felt that American intentions were more likely to be noble than corrupt.”

Decades later, as a State Department official in Washington, Anderson conducted the delicate negotiations required to persuade Congress to re-establish normal relations with America’s one-time adversary. When the new Hanoi embassy opened in 1995, he spent two years as its chargé d’affaires.

Anderson’s career took him to embassies in Japan, Nepal, Taiwan, and Thailand; after his 1997 retirement from the Foreign Service, he directed the ultimately unsuccessful multinational effort to steer North Korea toward peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

But America’s conflict and reconciliation with Vietnam — the subject of his two books, one published posthumously — never ceased to engage him. In 2007, he organized Princeton’s first Global Seminar, a six-week summer course that brought undergraduates to Hanoi to study the war’s legacy.

The curriculum incorporated conversations with former Vietnamese officials and with U.S. veterans of the war — an inclusiveness that “spoke to a certain generosity of spirit that he had to people on all sides of the conflict, including people with whom he quite vehemently disagreed,” says David Leheny, a former Princeton professor of East Asian Studies who co-taught with Anderson in 2009.

Indeed, Anderson had a boundless enthusiasm for the world’s cultures and people. “To be with Desaix in Vietnam was to expect an invitation at midnight to wander down a Vietnamese alleyway to an outdoor grilled-meat-and-beer stand and be with the people,” Jannuzi says. “He wasn’t one of these ambassador types who needed to be at the Oriental Hotel. He preferred the street market.”

“He so loved making the human connection,” agrees Ted Osius, a one-time colleague who later became the sixth U.S. ambassador to Vietnam. “That’s what made him such a great diplomat, because it really is about building trust, and you do that human being by human being.”

A self-taught painter whose work embodies a minimalist Asian aesthetic, Anderson joined his brother, Buford Anderson ’62, in establishing an art gallery in their Delta hometown of Sumner, hoping to revitalize the economically depressed community of 300 people. The 2011 opening drew enough guests to double the town’s population.

The teahouse that now stands behind Anderson’s childhood home was a similar labor of love. His siblings teased him about his late-life passion for the project — “we referred to it as his folly,” says his sister Florri DeCell — but the final product, completed only after his death, vindicated his vision.

“It’s just an amazing place,” DeCell says. “It’s really, really beautiful, and we’ve all forgiven him for insisting.”

Deborah Yaffe is a freelance writer based in Princeton Junction, New Jersey.
AS A STUDENT AND PROFESSOR, HE MOVED OTHERS TOWARD JUSTICE

BY KENNETH TERRELL ’93

WHEN AN OFF-DUTY ST. LOUIS police officer fatally shot VonDerrit Myers Jr., an 18-year-old Black man, in October 2014, students at Saint Louis University reacted swiftly, occupying the school’s signature clock tower in a protest in pursuit of racial justice. At the time of the shooting, the community was still reeling from the unrest that followed the death of Michael Brown, killed by a police officer that August in the nearby town of Ferguson, Missouri. Myers’ death was even closer to home for the SLU community: It happened in the Shaw neighborhood that borders the campus, and Myers’ father had been an SLU employee.

During their protests, the students found a sincere advocate among the university’s faculty. Jonathan Smith ’81, a professor of American studies and African American studies at SLU, took the initiative to meet with the students informally, talking with them about their goals for the protest while also making sure that they had water, blankets, and other essentials. For Smith, who died on Juneteenth after experiencing a stroke 11 days earlier, the experience in some ways marked a full-circle journey. In 1978, he was among the dozens of students who occupied Nassau Hall to demand that Princeton University divest from South Africa.

“That’s what I did for four years [at Princeton], often to the detriment of my studies — picketing,” Smith told SLU’s Universitas magazine. “During the spring semester of my freshman year at Princeton University, we picketed behind the administration building every day. I was out there, rain, shine, snow.”

“I loved to hear him when he talked about that time at Princeton University, because here he is — the son of a civil-rights leader, somebody who worked in the civil-rights movement,” said his brother, Jacques Smith ’93. “He was so excited to tell his father that he had been a part of that sit-in. He used to tell me this: ‘I called Dad and I was, like, guess what we did! We sat in last night and it ended up on the news!’ And my father was, like, ‘I sent you there to graduate.’”

While Princeton did not start to divest from South Africa until 1986, five years after Smith graduated, his advocacy on behalf of the SLU student protesters achieved results more swiftly. Following six days of peaceful protests, the students and SLU agreed to the Clock Tower Accords, which called for the school to take 13 steps to improve racial equity in the community, such as increasing financial aid for the retention of Black students, creating college-prep workshops for socioeconomically disadvantaged high school students in the region, and sponsoring a national conference on racial equity. The accords also called for creation of the position of special assistant to the president for diversity and community engagement. Smith was hired for that role in 2017, a job he filled until his death.

Smith told Universitas that ongoing dialogue between students and administrators is essential to create meaningful, lasting change on matters of racial equity. “I think the role of young people has always been to introduce the fierce urgency of now,” he said. “I think the role of those of us in leadership is to secure change in a way that’s transformational. And I think that for structures to be transformed and for progress to be real, we always need those two things in action with each other.”

Smith was on the advisory board of the St. Louis Public Radio Friends of KWMU, where he led the group’s diversity, equity, and inclusion work. He was president of the St. Louis Black Rep, which performed a show based on a collection of poems he wrote called “Do I Move You?”

Smith described his lifelong efforts to fight racism as merely doing his part to help his communities.

“I didn’t think of it as leadership,” he said. “I just thought of it as what I could do.”

Journalist Kenneth Terrell ’93 is a writer and editor for AARP.
JOHN H. WILLIAMSON *63  
June 7, 1937 – April 11, 2021

A Gifted and Pragmatic Economist Whose ‘Consensus’ Was Misinterpreted

BY GREG ROSALSKY *13

LEADING SCHOLAR AND POLICYMAKER IN international economics, John Williamson ’63 had a seemingly insatiable wanderlust. Described by friends and family as a champion of globalization and a citizen of the world, Williamson traveled to more than 100 countries.

Many of his trips were for work. But, after conferences or meetings with government officials, he usually would tack on a day or two for his passion of birdwatching. He would snap pictures of the wonders he saw, and, when he got home, he would share his adventures with his kids. “We’d sit down for this huge slideshow after every work trip,” says his daughter, Theresa Williamson. “It was like he had taken us with him.”

Raised by a rose grower and a homemaker in a rural town in western England, Williamson was not exactly destined to be a globetrotting economist. But he showed intellectual gifts at an early age, and in 1960, after graduating from the London School of Economics, he boarded the RMS Queen Mary for a transatlantic voyage to study at Princeton, where he got his Ph.D. degree.

Williamson taught economics at universities around the world and devised policies for governments and organizations like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). He authored 14 books, co-authored eight, and wrote scores of academic papers, developing influential ideas on heady subjects such as exchange-rate policy.

But, when he died in April, newspapers around the world focused on a single term that he coined three decades ago: the Washington Consensus.

Williamson first used the term in 1989. At the time, Latin American countries were struggling to deal with a raging debt crisis, and the United States government, the World Bank, and the IMF — which all are based in Washington, D.C. — were debating what to do about it. Williamson and his colleagues at what is now called the Peterson Institute for International Economics convened a conference to reflect on the debt crisis.

Preparing for the conference, Williamson wrote a background paper that outlined 10 prescriptions that policymakers in Washington seemed to agree upon. “The three big ideas here are macroeconomic discipline, a market economy, and openness to the world,” summarized Williamson, a pragmatic thinker who saw himself as a progressive fighter for the developing world. He thought these reforms would help Latin America.

Almost immediately, the Washington Consensus took on a life of its own. Policymakers based in Washington pursued policies Williamson never believed in, such as deep cuts to social safety nets and complete freedom for foreign capital to enter and exit nations. Left-wing activists and politicians came to see the package of reforms as a kind of one-size-fits-all market fundamentalism, even as neocolonialism perpetuated by a Washington conspiracy. They believed the reforms stunted national development and increased inequality.

“I used to refer to the Washington Consensus as my illegitimate brother,” jokes Theresa Williamson, who was inspired by her father and mother, Brazilian economist Denise Rausch, to create and run a nonprofit. She says her father expressed regret in calling the set of proposed reforms in his 1989 paper the Washington Consensus. “For him, it was not a point of particular pride,” she says. “It was just a term in a paper he wrote prior to a conference that was meant to stimulate discussion. And it was taken to mean something else.”

In a 1999 paper he wrote for the World Bank, Williamson bemoaned that the Washington Consensus had come to be “used to describe an extreme and dogmatic commitment to the belief that markets can handle everything.” He always believed in a robust role for government in the economy and for policies aimed at reducing inequality and poverty.

“While it is jolly to become famous by inventing a term that reverberates around the world,” Williamson wrote, “I have long been doubtful as to whether the phrase that I coined served to advance the cause of rational economic policymaking.”

Greg Rosalsky *13 is a reporter and writer at NPR’s Planet Money.
A JOURNALIST WHO CHRONICLED WHAT OTHERS IGNORED

BY W. RAYMOND OLLWERTHER ’71

AFTER A LONG CAREER as a crusading investigative journalist, Jim Ridgeway ’59 found his most passionate cause in his 70s: inmates in long-term solitary confinement in U.S. prisons. He co-founded a watchdog group called Solitary Watch to support original reporting and first-person accounts of prisoners’ experience in solitary. For more than a decade, he read each letter received from a prisoner, and he felt that each deserved a response.

What started as a trickle of letters grew to hundreds each year. Once or twice a week Ridgeway would walk from his Washington, D.C., home the quarter-mile or so to the post office, using a walker after fracturing his hip. As his vision faded from glaucoma, volunteers would read the letters to him. In a 2016 essay called “Letters from the Hole,” Ridgeway recounted letters he had received and ways he had responded: with bits of news, answering a request for a Bible, a few words of encouragement — “Thanks for your letter. Stay strong.” The prisoners wrote back “with a level of gratitude totally disproportionate to my lame missives,” he said.

“Some of these people have done very bad things in their lives. Others not so much,” he wrote. “But after reading these letters, I can’t accept that even the worst of them deserve to live this way.” Ridgeway had great respect for prison journalists and started a program offering small grants to write about solitary confinement, helping to shape their writing and place it in publications. A fund in his memory will expand the program, says Jean Casella, the group’s co-founder and a longtime collaborator of Ridgeway.

The son and brother of Princetonians, as an undergraduate Ridgeway was chairman of The Daily Princetonian and signaled the path he would later follow. Under his leadership, the Bric-a-Brac reported, the Prince attacked the eating clubs, bicker, and what Ridgeway called the Futilitarian Ethic — “a do-nothing, go-nowhere attitude among undergraduates.”

Ridgeway contributed to publications as different as The Wall Street Journal and Mother Jones, and most notably wrote for 30 years at The Village Voice. “Jim was a muckraker in the glorious tradition,” says Tom Robbins, a fellow writer at the Voice. Described as a constant contrarian, Ridgeway turned out countless articles while authoring or editing 20 books on subjects that ranged from the big energy companies to national politics, unanswered questions about 9/11 to American universities’ undisclosed corporate interests. “He was particularly drawn to underdogs and outsiders, as well as people who stood up to injustice,” Casella says.

Writing for The New Republic early in his career, Ridgeway brought to light Ralph Nader ’55’s findings on suppressed auto-safety engineering, then revealed GM’s surreptitious efforts to investigate and discredit Nader. The subsequent publicity helped spur congressional passage of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966. “I have never met a more honest, meticulous, humble, and productive reporter,” Nader wrote after Ridgeway’s death.

Ridgeway’s 1991 book Blood in the Face was a groundbreaking investigation into far-right militias and other racist groups in America. Showing what Casella described as “incredible prescience,” the book warned that “the fringe is becoming part of the fabric” of American politics and was infiltrating the mainstream Republican Party. At the time of his death Ridgeway was completing a new edition of the book, to be published this spring. After the U.S. Capitol riot Jan. 6, 2021, Ridgeway told his son, David: “This is exactly what I was worried about.”

Journalist W. Raymond Ollwerther ’71 was managing editor of PAW and executive editor of the Asbury Park Press.
Gary Nash ’55 *64 in historic Philadelphia.
Historian Gary Nash ’55 ’64 had a distinguished 50-year teaching career at UCLA; wrote 33 books, including one that was a Pulitzer Prize finalist; and was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

But he may be remembered more for standing his ground in a vitriolic national debate with prominent conservatives over his work on history standards for students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

In the mid-1990s, Nash, the founding director of UCLA’s National Center for History in the Schools, became co-director of the National History Standards Project. Though hundreds of teachers and professors of various political stripes collaborated on the project, Nash became the scapegoat for talk-show hosts and opinion writers. Lynne Cheney, chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities, which funded half of the project, called the new standards “politicized history” and “multicultural excess.” Rush Limbaugh said the report should be “flushed down the toilet.”

“Gary was known for his ‘bottom up’ approach to history, emphasizing the role of ordinary people, rather than the great men or Founding Fathers, as the driving force in historical change,” recalls SPIA Professor Stanley Katz, a friend of Nash, in an email.

“The [standards] project was completed at the very moment at which the culture wars reached their apex of intensity. What Gary saw as fairness and inclusiveness — why not acknowledge the roles of women, African Americans, and working people? — Cheney saw as bias — why Harriet Tubman when children could learn about Betsy Ross?” Katz explains.

Revised standards with minor changes were subsequently accepted around the country, but not before Nash spent months defending his work. Some attacks were quite personal, Katz notes. The controversy was chronicled in History on Trial: Culture Wars and the Teaching of the Past, which Nash co-authored.

When Nash arrived at UCLA in 1966, campus activism was heating up in the wake of the Watts riots that rocked Los Angeles. He later described that time as “politicizing him,” says Professor Carla Pestana, who studied under Nash and now chairs UCLA’s history department.

“He was a passionate fighter for social and racial justice,” says Pestana, adding that Nash worked for the rehiring of militant activist Angela Davis, who had been fired from UCLA’s faculty, and for expanding the university’s curriculum to include Native American and African American history.

After Watts, Nash helped groups that promoted Black entrepreneurship in South Los Angeles and introduced a course called Racial Attitudes in America. He lived his life as an anti-racism activist and scholar who knew that being a public intellectual meant being unpopular and confronting power, UCLA professor Robin Kelley told the university’s media site, UCLA Newsroom.

As a teacher, Nash was generous and inspiring. Pestana recalls how he advised not only his students, but also junior colleagues and early-career scholars.

Damion Thomas, who earned a Ph.D. at UCLA and now is sports curator of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture, told UCLA Newsroom he was hooked on history from the first lecture he heard Nash deliver. That day, Thomas recalls, Nash told his class that history is about power and the future, not the past, because if you can influence what people think about the past, you can change what they believe.

Just a few weeks before losing his battle with colon cancer in July, Nash spoke about teaching history in a podcast interview for The Economist that has been widely quoted since his death: “In a liberal democracy, we want a division of opinion, for young people to … argue [about history] and think hard about it. Patriotism is not just saluting the flag. It is becoming responsible citizens who will take an active role in what’s going on around them.”

Fran Hulette is a former Class Notes editor.

Gary Nash ’55 ’64
July 27, 1933 – July 29, 2021

He Wanted American History To Reflect Us All

By Fran Hulette
SCRIPTS, BOOKS, ESSAYS: HE NEVER STOPPED WRITING

BY MARK F. BERNSTEIN ’83

JOHN SACRET YOUNG ’69’S OFFICE at his home in the Brentwood section of Los Angeles is as cluttered as he left it, the walls crammed with photographs, the desk still brimming with papers, the shelves full of journals he kept and the books he read for pleasure or research — as well as a few he wrote himself. His widow, Claudia Sloan, says she still finds briefcases stuffed with notes for Young’s unfinished projects.

“He absolutely was not prepared to die,” Sloan says. “In an odd way, he felt he was just hitting his stride.”

Best known as the executive producer of several successful TV shows, most notably China Beach, Young also produced, directed, and wrote for numerous other shows and movies, including The West Wing and, most recently, Firefly Lane, which follows two young women from their teenage years in the 1970s through adulthood. More than anything, though, Young was a writer: of scripts, screenplays, essays, novels, art catalogs, and two — going on three — memoirs. They helped him win two Writers Guild awards and earn seven Emmy nominations.

Young “was always writing,” recalls his son, John V.W. “Jake” Young ’02, and that could be anywhere. On a plane, at a party, or at an industry event, Young could often be found off to the side, jotting down bits of dialogue he overheard or a description of how the light reflected off someone’s shirt. If he didn’t have a notebook handy, a cocktail napkin or any other scrap of paper would serve.

The son, brother, and nephew of alumni, Young played football, hockey, and rugby and majored in religion, Sloan says, because it was the only department at the time that would let him write a novel for his senior thesis. He later established the John Sacret Young ’69 Fund for Visiting Filmmakers at Princeton.

Moving to Los Angeles after graduation, Young took whatever jobs he could find, including managing an apartment building, while trying to break into the entertainment industry. Lacking a car at first, he would ride his bicycle to the library to do his research. He got his break in the mid-’70s as a researcher on the show Police Story, riding around with Los Angeles cops to learn their lingo and the details of their jobs. He used that knowledge to begin writing scripts for the show.

China Beach, which ran from 1988 to 1991, addressed the still-sensitive trauma of Vietnam through the experience of young Army nurses. The show was unusual for viewing the war through the eyes of women, and Young stood out for making sure that four of the show’s six writers were women. “The show is about women,” he explained in a 1988 interview. “I needed a woman’s voice.”

In all of his projects, Young’s powers of observation were legendary. “He did more research than anyone I know,” Sloan adds. “He made sure he knew everything he needed to know about whatever he was writing.” Young’s mantra: “Dig deeper. There’s more there.”

A disciplined worker who fueled himself with strong coffee every morning and rewarded himself with a carefully crafted martini in the evening, Young wrote a novel, The Weather Tomorrow, while working on Police Story. His 2005 memoir, Remains: Non-Viewable, focused on the death of his cousin in Vietnam. A second memoir, Pieces of Glass — an Artoire, published in 2016, examined the influence that art, including pieces from his own extensive collection, had on his writing.

After nearly five decades in the entertainment industry, Young was also full of show-business anecdotes — he would often remark, after seeing some star on screen, “Oh, I spent a little time with [so-and-so].” Sloan will publish Pieces of Tinsel, Young’s memoir of his Hollywood years, later this year.

Mark F. Bernstein ’83 is PAW’s senior writer.
NATIONAL TITLE: In his senior year at Princeton, longtime fencer Paul Epply-Schmidt '83 came in second in the NCAA foil finals, a loss he says still sticks with him. “It spurred me on to do things.” He continued to fence on and off after college, including two unsuccessful bids to qualify for the Olympics and, in 2016, a bronze in his age group at the U.S. championships. In August 2021, he won gold at the men’s Vet-60 foil competition at the annual Veteran National Championships (for older athletes, not military veterans). “What was satisfying was that I really kept my cool mentally,” says Epply-Schmidt.

READ MORE about Epply-Schmidt and his foil at paw.princeton.edu
NATHAN MYHRVOLD ’83

DEEP DISH
An omnivore turns his tastes to pizza

Nathan Myhrvold ’83 has eaten a lot of pizzas and has a lot of thoughts about them. How many thoughts? Enough to fill 1,708 pages of his latest book, Modernist Pizza.

A true polymath, Myhrvold has a range of interests and talents that might be called omnivorous. For 13 years Princeton’s 2005 Madison medalist served as chief technology officer for Microsoft, founded its subsidiary Microsoft Research, and later co-founded Intellectual Ventures, which buys patents in emerging technologies. Whatever he does, he likes to do big. He has won awards as a wildlife photographer and has an authentic 45-foot-long T. rex skeleton in his living room.

So, it is not surprising that Myhrvold’s interest in food is also ravenous. While working at Microsoft, he earned a degree from the École de Cuisine La Varenne in France, and he has apprenticed at a top Seattle restaurant and been part of an award-winning team at the world barbecue championships in Memphis, Tennessee. For Modernist Pizza, Myhrvold and his co-author, chef Francisco Migoya, visited more than 250 pizzerias around the world, sampling thin crusts, deep dishes, and everything in between.

The book includes three volumes and a kitchen manual, covering the history and fundamentals of pizza, techniques and ingredients, and more than 1,000 recipes. The volumes are lavishly illustrated with 3,700 photos; boxed in a stainless-steel case, the set weighs in at a hefty 35.5 pounds. That still makes it shorter and lighter than two of Myhrvold’s previous books, Modernist Cuisine (2,438 pages and 52 pounds) and Modernist Bread (2,642 pages and 50 pounds), both of which won the James Beard Cookbook Award. (The next book in the series, he says, will cover pastry.)

Opinions about pizza, however, tend to be more visceral than academic, so PAW senior writer Mark F. Bernstein ’83 spoke with Myhrvold to settle some debates.

You have said that the first pizza you ever ate was from Shakey’s, so I suppose you had nowhere to go but up. (Laughs.) It turns out that as infants and as children, we don’t always have our best food experiences. Gerber’s strained peas are not my favorite kind of peas anymore, for example.

Yes, I’ve certainly had a lot better pizza than Shakey’s, but Shakey’s plays a role in the history of pizza. It opened in 1954, so it was the first fast-food chain in the country — of any kind of food. Which is kind of remarkable considering that there are plenty of things that you’d think of as more American, like hamburgers or fried chicken, but America had adopted the pizza pretty thoroughly by that point.

There are a lot of national pizza chains today. Are any of them any good? Well, you have to remember that they’re offering two things besides just pizza: price and convenience. Some of the chains have these ads on TV where you can get a pizza for $5. Good luck getting a deal like that anywhere else. And chains are also convenient because they get it to you super fast.

Those values are important to people, so they have their role. In general, I think you’d find it better to have a pizza from
one of the national chains than to have a frozen pizza, although frozen pizzas also have their role in the grand scheme of things. The pizzas that are going to taste the best are the ones that are made by someone who uses high-quality ingredients and has an enormous amount of skill, and they’re probably going to cost more than $5. But if I said those are the only worthy pizzas, I would be ignoring the fact that millions of people today get one of those takeout pizzas delivered with very high convenience and good cost.

There are several regional styles of pizza in the United States. How did they come about, and do you have a preference among them?

For some reason, people decided that pizza was a food to be experimented with, and they did. You could have a super-thin crust and a super-thin topping; that’s what they do in São Paolo. Or you could say, I’ll make the crust really thick and sprinkle cheese around the edges — and that’s a Detroit-style pizza. Pretty much every dial you can twist, people have twisted.

In Chicago, which is known for deep-dish pizza, the legend is that people who wanted to create a competitor to Pizzeria Uno staked out the garbage cans behind the restaurant, waiting for the head chef to come out so they could talk to her and try to hire her away. A little-known aspect of that story is that all of the pizzaiolos at Pizzeria Uno during their formative years were African American women. And they were all related to each other.

What’s your favorite type of pizza?

Usually, I go for a fairly simple pizza these days. If it’s a New York style, I’d go for pepperoni. If it was a more artisanal, I’d go for margherita. Still, I’d encourage everyone to step a little outside their comfort zone because, particularly at the right place, it can be incredibly good.

If I have only a pizza stone and a gas oven at home, can I still make a good pizza?

Absolutely! If you wanted to make a traditional Neapolitan-style pizza, I’d say OK, but that’s going to take some experimentation. But if you’re willing to make a New York-style pizza, a pizza stone and an oven should be just fine. In general, thicker crust pizzas work better at home because a thicker crust is a little more forgiving. It doesn’t burn as easily.

What are some easy things people can do to make a better pizza?

The first thing is to practice. Home chefs are way too hard on themselves. They try a complicated recipe once and if it doesn’t turn out perfectly, they say, “Oh, I screwed up. It’s not as good as the restaurant.” And if I’m there I’ll say, “Do you really think this is the first time the restaurant made that dish?”

The thing most people find intimidating about pizza-making is the dough. But plenty of people who make pizza at home begin with a prebaked crust, which you can buy in most grocery stores, and that’s fine, that’s a good place to start. Don’t be afraid of the crust, though; it’s not that hard to make. And usually, even if what you get isn’t pretty, if all you end up with is a lot of melted cheese and fresh hot bread — how bad is it going to be?

So, I don’t have to know how to toss the pizza dough like they do in the movies?

Flipping the dough is entirely showmanship. No professional flips the dough and claims it’s actually part of making a better pizza.

In fact, it’s almost always part of making a worse pizza because there’s a chance you don’t catch it.

Please settle this once and for all: Is pineapple an acceptable topping on pizza?

The so-called Hawaiian pizza with Canadian bacon and pineapple was actually invented in Toronto. I don’t blame the guy for trying to make something that seemed sunny and far away because in January in Toronto it’s pretty cold. There are people who love it and people who hate it [the pizza].

In Buenos Aires, they put rings of pineapple down and fill the centers with green olives. That’s an even less likely combination, in my opinion.

Any thoughts about eating cold leftover pizza for breakfast?

We have a whole section on this in the book, because what do you do with leftover pizza? One approach is to revel in the leftover pizza and eat it cold. The more you like that, the closer you are to having lived in a dorm.

But we also explain how to reheat pizza. Different types of pizza reheat differently. Perhaps the hardest to reheat are the super-thin crust Neapolitan pizzas, so we invented something we call the pizzadilla. You take some extra cheese, throw it on your couple of slices of pizza, fold them over, and then cook it in a pan like a quesadilla. It’s excellent!

Now, it’s not pizza at that point but it’s a lot better than eating it cold, in my view.

Finally, is it ever acceptable to eat pizza with a knife and fork?

As we’ve established, my pizza career started at Shakey’s, so I think pizza should be eaten with my hands. Now, in Europe they eat it with a knife and fork. If I’m eating pizza in a restaurant in Europe I always feel like, oh God, I’m the uncouth American animal for eating it with my hands. But usually after struggling through a few slices with a knife and fork, I just pick it up. 

Interview conducted and condensed by Mark F. Bernstein ’83
Susan Kirr ’86 logged on to a Nobel Peace Prize watch party early on the morning of Dec. 10, along with dozens of Princeton classmates. Rappler, the news site that classmate Maria Ressa ’86 leads in the Philippines, had organized the event. As students, Kirr and Ressa had put on plays together at 185 Nassau St. and Theatre Intime. The journalists at Rappler wanted to know what Ressa had been like as a college student.

“She was a bright, shining star,” said Kirr. “She had this impish, beatific smile every time you saw her, just so happy and intellectually engaged and curious. She let you feel that you were a very, very special person to her.”

Kirr began to cry and rubbed her eyes. “I’m sorry, I’m getting emotional because I’m just so proud of her.”

A couple of hours later, Ressa received her Nobel medal in Oslo’s cavernous city hall before a socially distanced audience that had been slashed to just 200 because of the spread of the omicron variant.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee honored Ressa and another journalist, Russia’s Dmitry Muratov, to highlight the growing threats to press freedom and democracy. In her acceptance speech, Ressa criticized social-media companies for profiting off the spread of disinformation.

“If you’re working in tech, I’m talking to you,” said Ressa. “How can you have election integrity if you don’t have integrity of facts?”

She also called for more funding for public-interest media and urged the U.S. to revoke or reform a law that treats social-media platforms like utilities.

“We can continue down the path we’re on and descend further into fascism, or we can choose to fight for a better world,” she said. “Please, ask yourself: What are you willing to sacrifice for the truth?”

Ressa’s story has resonated at a time when fact-based reporting and democracy are under threat. After Rappler exposed Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte’s murderous war on drugs, his supporters spread disinformation about Ressa and Rappler online. She faces large legal fees to defend lawsuits and criminal charges that human-rights activists say are politically motivated.

With Ressa potentially facing decades in prison, Princeton alumni have rallied in the last several years.

“When the government started attacking me, out of the blue Princetonians from different classes began to come together,” said Ressa. “It was first the journalists.”

Kathy Kiely ’77, a Missouri School of Journalism professor and Princeton trustee, teamed up with Tom Weber ’89, president of The Daily Princetonian’s board of trustees, Mike McCurry ’76, and others to publish a full-page ad in PAW in September 2020 urging U.S. officials to pressure the Philippine government to stop harassing Ressa.

“When we started working on our connections ... and I want to tell you that in maybe 72 hours, we had more than 100 names and there were some real blue-chippers,” said Kiely, who didn’t know Ressa. Those who signed included New Yorker editor David Remnick ’81, president of The Daily Princetonian’s board of trustees, Mike McCurry ’76, and others to publish a full-page ad in PAW in September 2020 urging U.S. officials to pressure the Philippine government to stop harassing Ressa.

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When they placed a similar ad in The Washington Post, the list of names grew.
When Larry Trachtenberg ’76 realized that the 2021 New York City Marathon would be the 50th anniversary of the race — it was not held in 2020 due to the pandemic — he recalls thinking, “If I only have one marathon left in this aging body, I’m going to do it in New York.”

In 1970, Trachtenberg was one of 127 runners to compete in the first New York City Marathon. In November, he became the only person to finish both that first marathon and the 50th. Despite some health issues, Trachtenberg, 67, says he might not be finished with the distance: “I’m already thinking I’ve got to come back and do this again.”

By Jennifer Altmann
Jesse Milan Jr. ’78 got the HIV virus at the beginning of the AIDS epidemic, 40 years ago. Today, as president and CEO of AIDS United, a national advocacy and grantmaking nonprofit, he hopes to bring the epidemic to an end. Medications can prevent and treat the disease, yet each year in the U.S. there are 35,000 new HIV infections and 5,000 deaths from AIDS. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the toll is worst in the Southern states, in part because most haven’t expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. Milan, a lawyer, became an activist after the death of his partner from AIDS in 1985. His previous roles include AIDS director for the city of Philadelphia. He spoke with PAW about his work.

Do you see similarities between the HIV/AIDS epidemic and COVID? The racial disparities that we are seeing in COVID have been the case with HIV since the beginning. Twelve percent of the U.S. population is African American, but more than 40 percent of the people living with HIV in this country are African American. And among those who are newly diagnosed, the largest percentage are young Black and brown gay men. Racial health equity must be achieved, and this is the moment where we need to step up and make it happen.

“I feel very fortunate. To have seen so many people who did not make it this far gives me a real sense of privilege and purpose. Today, more than 50 percent of the people living with HIV in this country are already over the age of 50. This is great news.”

What does it mean for you to have lived with the virus for 40 years? I feel very fortunate. To have seen so many people who did not make it this far gives me a real sense of privilege and purpose. Today, more than 50 percent of the people living with HIV in this country are already over the age of 50. This is great news. So, for me, living with HIV today is about taking care of my own health and making sure that I do what is needed to continue to live a healthy life, but also my role for our community, to help others get to that point of living a healthy and long life and to stop all new infections and deaths from this disease.

Is that a realistic dream? The one important goal for any person living with HIV is to reach what’s known as viral suppression. If you achieve an undetectable viral load, your virus is also not transmittable to other people. Today, barely 50 percent of people living with HIV in this country are achieving viral suppression, so we have a lot of work to do.

When do you believe we will no longer have people dying of this disease? Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, AIDS United and our partners were pushing a goal of ending this epidemic by 2025. The two years lost because of the COVID pandemic and the redeployment of so many public-health resources is causing us to now focus on the must-have goal of ending this epidemic no later than the end of this decade. [Editor’s note: After this interview, the Biden administration adopted a goal of reducing new HIV infections by 90 percent by 2030.]

What sort of reaction have you received from classmates to this cause? Every time I go to Reunions, I’m always gratified by how my classmates embrace the evolution of Jesse. Most recently, AIDS United sent out an appeal to celebrate my birthday, and my heart burst when I saw the number of classmates who responded. ♦ Interview conducted and condensed by Charles Wohlforth ’86

JESSE MILAN JR. ’78
WORKING TO END AN EPIDEMIC
Activist sees progress, but “a lot of work to do”
Charlie Volker ’19 had NFL aspirations, but when COVID-19 canceled minicamps for prospective players, he found another opportunity to utilize his speed and strength.

The former Ivy League 60-meter-dash champion and first-team All-Ivy running back has risen rapidly as a brakeman for the American four-man bobsled team since the fall of 2020. The team placed third in the seventh of eight World Cup events and was ranked 10th internationally.

Now the team is headed to the Beijing Winter Olympics.

“I have a chip on my shoulder still from football not working out,” Volker said. “I have to prove myself every day. That’s an awesome thing. I love competing. I love making memories with these guys. I’m just super excited to be here right now. There’s nowhere I’d rather be.”

Six Princeton alumni and student athletes will compete in the Olympics this month, and one in the Paralympics in March. The list includes three women’s ice hockey players, two of whom helped Canada win gold in the World Championships in August.

Kimberly Newell ’16 was slotted to be host Team China’s goalie after returning from recent ankle surgery, Sarah Fillier ’24 and Claire Thompson ’20 hope to bring Team Canada its first Olympic gold medal since 2014.

“I think it gave us a lot of confidence as a team that we have everything we need ... to be the best in the world,” said Thompson of the World Championships title. “Throughout the season, we’ve continued to play well and beat every other national team that we’ve played.”

Fillier was Canada’s fifth-leading scorer at Worlds with three goals and three assists, and was ranked 10th among all the players at Worlds.

“The Olympics is a whole different experience and a dream I’ve had since I started playing hockey,” said Fillier, who will return to Princeton from a leave next fall. “It’s really awesome. And to be able to do it with Claire, my teammate at Princeton, is really cool.”

One year after winning the 2018 Olympic snowboard halfpipe gold medal, Chloe Kim ’24 took her first year of college classes at Princeton in 2019-20. When the pandemic struck, she took a leave of absence to begin training for the 2022 Olympics, where she is favored again.

Nathan Crumpton ’08 has been pursuing the Olympics since 2011, and now he’s finally succeeded not once, but twice, in back-to-back Games. Crumpton ran for American Samoa in the 100-meter sprint in Tokyo in August and will compete in skeleton in Beijing. Crumpton is believed to be the first Princetonian to compete in both Games.

“This is over a decade in the making,” said Crumpton. “This is my main sport. This is the one I’ve been ranked top-10 in the world in past World Cups and past years.”

At the time he graduated, he was ranked third at Princeton for the best all-time men’s triple jump, but moved to skeleton after watching Vancouver 2010 on TV. After years of bumps, bruises, and a herniated disc that cost him a PyeongChang 2018 berth, the Summer Games chance emerged unexpectedly. He called the experience “a dream come true.”

Declan Farmer ’20 is in training camp for the Paralympic Winter Games, where he’ll aim for a third straight gold in men’s sled hockey. The U.S. also won the 2021 World Championships.

Farmer, who was born without legs, will be an assistant captain for the second straight Olympics. He was only 16 at Sochi in 2014, and he was a Princeton sophomore when he scored the game-tying and game-winning overtime goals in the 2018 gold-medal game. He trained on his own at Baker Rink while at Princeton, but now lives and trains with teammates in Nashville, Tennessee.

“I couldn’t imagine not being on the national team,” Farmer said. “It’s such a central part of my life, and it’s such an honor and privilege to be on it. I get so much joy from being on it.”

By Justin Feil

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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
MEMORIALS

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

THE CLASS OF 1943
John Cobb Cooper III ’43
John died Sept. 7, 2021, in Portland, Ore., with his wife, Joan, by his side.

The son of John C. Cooper Jr. 1909 and Martha Marvel Cooper, Coop was raised in Jacksonville, Fla., and Princeton and prepped at Exeter Academy, where he played hockey and tennis and worked on publications. In 1942, John left Princeton to join the Eighth Air Force Division, where he earned the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal. He attended Columbia University after the war, finishing his degree in 1948. He also wrote a well-received novel at that time, The Gesture, about a B-17 squadron during 1943.

In 1952 John earned a law degree from Loyola Law School. During those years, John also worked as an editor and a teacher, and flew with the Flying Tigers airline during the Korean War.

In 1953 John married Joan (Smith ’51), and together they raised four children. In 1966 John joined the Holly Sugar Corp., serving as counsel and secretary until retirement.

John made it back to two reunions and was a loyal contributor to our reunion yearbooks. He had a lifelong passion for writing plays and fiction, which he pursued late into his 90s. John is survived by his wife of 68 years, Joan; children John (Zaida), Katherine, Daniel, and Monte (Anne Boutin); granddaughter Sonrisa; many members of his extended family; and countless friends. The class extends its profound sympathy to them all.

THE CLASS OF 1945
Patrick Henry Swearingen Jr. ’45
Harry died June 14, 2021, at his home in San Antonio, Texas. For all but the last few months of his 97 years, he enjoyed good health and mobility, always a notable fixture in the gym in his button-down shirt and khakis.

He arrived at Princeton only months before Dec. 7, 1941. Like his classmates, he stepped up to defend against the existential threat of tyranny, serving in the nosecone of a B-25 in the Army Air Corps. It humbled him that one in 28 classmates gave his life. He treasured his Princeton experience and remained close with his roommate Jim Calvert until Jim passed in April 2021.

After the war he returned to Princeton and graduated in 1947 with election to Phi Beta Kappa. In 1950 he graduated from the University of Texas School of Law. He returned to San Antonio, joined the law firm where he would spend the next 65 years, and married Gail Hall, who predeceased him in 2004.

Relationships mattered to Harry, and he invested in them until his final hours. At his 75th Princeton reunion, he reminisced: "Coming then from an 11-year public school system, I was preoccupied with making it academically. Then war tore up our class and we returned in dribbles as veterans in a hurry. Next time I would worry more about friends and being involved in the many activities.” He valued community service and made a meaningful difference in the lives of many. In recent years, he championed Dreamers who he felt could do much good for the country if given a chance.

Harry is survived by his three children, Sidney ’78, Susan, and Patrick ’84, and their spouses; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandsons.

THE CLASS OF 1947
Paul Mott Rodda ’47 *51
Paul died Sept. 23, 2021, at the age of 95, after a fall. Active and involved all his life, Paul was on his way to a Rotary Club luncheon at the time of the accident.

While at Princeton Paul was a member of Triangle Club, Theatre Intime, and Terrace Club. He graduated magna cum laude with election to Phi Beta Kappa. He then earned a master’s degree in architecture and urban design in 1951. He was a notable artist, designing the Class of 1947’s beer jacket and drawing numerous cartoons of the “little Tiger,” including one of him returning to Nassau Hall after World War II. During World War II, Paul served in the Army as a corporal technician in the 45th Division.

In the 1950s Paul moved to northeastern Pennsylvania, where he worked as an architect in several group firms before opening his solo practice in 1975. He continued to practice architecture until retiring at 91. His volunteer and professional affiliations included the American Institute of Architects and the state board of the Pennsylvania Society of Architects; Flagon and Trencher (descendants of Colonial tavern keepers); the Rotary Club of Dallas, Pa.; and the Wyoming Valley Torch Club.

Paul is survived by three daughters, three stepdaughters, and a granddaughter.

THE CLASS OF 1948
Nelson B. Noland ’48
Red — or Pinky, as he was known to many classmates — passed away peacefully May 16, 2021, in Colorado Springs, Colo., where he was an “auto icon.”

After serving in the Navy and graduating with high honors from the School of Public and International Affairs, the Richmond, Va., native followed his passion for cars to Detroit, where he worked for GM’s Cadillac division as a late operator. Before long he was shop foreman and then the youngest car salesman in the Cadillac factory store. In 1964 Red moved to wholesale operations in Dallas and 10 years later he purchased his own Cadillac dealership in Colorado Springs.

Over the years he added Land Rover, Jaguar, Saab, Indian Motorcycles, and Infiniti Franchise rights, as well as the Red Noland pre-owned and collision centers, to the operation, which grew from 20 employees to more than 150.

Skiing and soaring were Red’s other passions. He came close to breaking distance records with his gliders and could be found on the slopes of Vail until his 90th birthday.

A regular at Reunions — word is he walked the entire P-rade route at the 65th — Red interviewed prospective students for the Alumni Schools Committee and assisted with class Annual Giving efforts.

Red was married to Eloise “Bunny” Day for 67 years. To Bunny, their children Tom, Betsy, and William; five grandchildren; and extended family, we offer heartfelt condolences. Red will be missed.

Melvin P. Peisakoff ’48 *50

Mel spent the next 11 years at the RAND Corp. in Santa Monica, Calif., where he pioneered the application of mathematical and computer techniques for running large
organizations. In 1961, he joined CEIR, a computer services company in Beverly Hills, and three years later moved to North American Aviation, later known as Rockwell International Corp. In 1975 Mel became the first executive director of computing at the University of California.

Information on his later career, unfortunately, is unavailable. We do know, from our 25th-reunion yearbook, that Mel was married to Marlene Feder (NYU ’54) and had three children: Madeline, Janice, and Murray. Having only recently learned of his Sept. 7, 2020, death, the class extends belated condolences to his family.

THE CLASS OF 1949
Robert N. Kienle ’49

Bob died Oct. 3, 2021, just a few weeks before his 94th birthday.

At Princeton he majored in chemistry and was active in the band and dramas. He was a member of Court Club and later its manager, and after graduation he went to Yale for graduate work, earning a Ph.D. in chemistry. He then joined Uniroyal as a research chemist. His work took him to a number of locations, and by the time of our 25th reunion he was the manager of chemical research for Uniroyal, based in Detroit.

Bob and his wife, Constance, lived in Grosse Pointe Farms, a suburb of Detroit, where their children were born and raised. He was a keen bridge player, an artist specializing in watercolors, and a lover of classical music.

Bob was predeceased by Constance. He is survived by their four children, Judith, Catherine, David, and Steven; and seven grandchildren.

Bob and Connie specifically requested no formal funeral services be held. We honor that request, but the Class of 1949 wishes to express its sympathy and condolences to his family.

Linton S. Marshall Jr. ’49

Pat died April 20, 2021, in West Ocean City, Md. He had always lived near the ocean, primarily near Chesapeake Bay, and his happiest years were spent close to that body of water.

Pat came to Princeton from the Lawrenceville School, and his undergraduate life revolved around swimming, rugby, and Charter Club. He left before graduation and earned a bachelor’s degree in history at George Washington University in 1952. He then enlisted in the Navy and was a member of the second class of Navy frogmen specializing in underwater demolition.

At that point Pat contracted polio and was paralyzed from the waist down. We do not know the extent of his illness, but his obituary reported that he “recovered and continued surfing, swimming, sailing, and boating” in Ocean City. We have very little direct knowledge of this period of his life, but he ended up as the owner/operator of Fisherman’s Marina in West Ocean City.

Captain Pat, as he came to be known, is survived by his four children, Linton S. III, Helen, Mary, and Jenkins; 11 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. We hope they all share his love of the ocean.

Jay I. Meltzer ’49

Jay died July 3, 2021, in Manhattan.

He was pre-med at Princeton and a member of Key & Seal. He majored in biology and graduated with election to Phi Beta Kappa. Jay spent the bulk of his career at Columbia’s College of Physicians and Surgeons, starting with his internship and residency in 1953.

Upon earning a medical degree there, he was appointed to the medical school’s faculty. He worked with patients suffering from kidney disease and high blood pressure, and when the Department of Medicine established a specialized division for the treatment of hypertension and kidney disease, Jay was chosen to lead it.

Among Jay’s many achievements was the development of renal dialysis for analyzing and treating kidney transplants and chronic kidney disease. In addition to his academic responsibilities in the laboratory and classroom at Columbia, he had an extensive private practice in internal medicine, providing individual treatment to patients, his colleagues, and their families, plus many indigent and homeless patients he treated at New York-Presbyterian Hospital.

Jay is survived by his wife, Pamela; and his three children, Paul, Carl, and Lisa. We send our condolences to them for a life well-lived.

THE CLASS OF 1950
William T. Caldwell III ’50


He graduated from the Taft School. At Princeton, where his father was in the Class of 1915, he was a member of NROTC, majored in chemistry, and belonged to Terrace.

In 1954 Bill earned a medical degree from Columbia. After internship in Miami, he served as a Navy lieutenant, mostly as a flight surgeon on the USS Franklin D. Roosevelt. Leaving active duty in 1958, he completed his training in ophthalmology at Columbia Presbyterian (NYC) Hospital in 1962. He then established a practice as an eye physician and surgeon in Red Bank, N.J., semi-retiring in 1991.

Bill had a passion for boating, fishing, and sailing that he shared with his family. An avid woodworker, he built his own iceboat, Little Blue, and designed his wooden boat, The Betty Boop. In retirement he pursued bird watching, was a docent at a mariners’ museum, built ship models, and crewed on sailboats. He taught himself Scottish Gaelic and made several trips to Scotland with his wife, Betty Ann, whom he married in 1952.

Bill’s wife; two daughters, Linda Ann and Mary Ellen; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren survive him. His son, William, died in 2018.

Raymond H. Farrant ’50

Ray died May 21, 2021, in Discovery Bay, Calif.

Born in Hackensack, N.J., he graduated from Teaneck (N.J.) High School and served in the Marine Corps from 1944 to 1946. He graduated with honors in politics and was vice president of Elm Club.

After working briefly for the U.S. Rubber Co., he entered the real-estate business in New York and New Jersey. Then, with his father and several business associates, he formed an industrial real-estate company. In 1964, with classmate and Elm member Jim Lindsay, he established a commodity-import business based in New York City.

In 1997 he moved to California with his second wife, Ruth, whom he married in 1981. He and Ruth spent seven years traveling in an RV, participating in the Mobile Missionary Assistance Program. They then settled in Discovery Bay, where Ruth died in 2013.

Ray always enjoyed outdoor activities. He is survived by his daughter, Beth Haywood.

George W. Henderson Jr. ’50

George died June 4, 2017.

At Princeton he majored in psychology and was a member of Cloister. After graduation and following a short stint selling real estate in Georgetown, D.C., he moved to Cleveland, where he became an oil refinery safety engineer. While racing sailboats on the Great Lakes, he earned a master’s degree and a Ph.D. from Case Western University. With his degrees in hand, he joined Case’s faculty, teaching statistics and industrial psychology, and working in its consulting wing.

Tiring of academia, he became a full-time consultant. He relocated in the East, joining ITT Corp. in New York City as an internal consultant.

By 2000 he had returned to private consulting and lived in Mamaroneck, Long Island, with his wife, Irene, whom he married later in life. From there he enjoyed sailing, tennis, and travel.
He came from the Lawrenceville School to Princeton, where his father was in the Class of 1915, and graduated with honors in physics. A master’s degree from Brown and a Ph.D. from Cambridge followed.

For more than 35 years he worked for the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md., where he published numerous articles on joint lubrication. He also had a passion to unveil what he called “scientific fraud,” exposing abuses to the system governing scientific research and grants.

Charlie’s life was not limited to scientific endeavors. Since 1980 he was president of the management company of the Hotel Harrington, which his grandfather had opened in Washington, D.C., in 1914. He was also devoted to the McCutchen Family Foundation, founded in 1956, which provides scholarships and financial aid to a variety of worldwide charities.

He always enjoyed his time on Lake Placid where, as a boy, he spent summers at his grandfather’s family camp. There he developed an interest in natural history, hydroplanes, and windsurfing. In later years, he delighted in cruising the lake in his fully restored, 100-year-old Fay & Bowen wooden boat.

No next of kin are known. Many tributes followed his death, and he was greatly respected by many people and organizations during his 91 years.

Harold H. Stocker ’50
Hal died June 10, 2021, in Yuba County, Calif.
Born in Portland, Ore., he attended school there until he came east to Mount Hermon to finish high school. He then enlisted in the Navy, serving about a year before coming to Princeton. He was a biology major and belonged to Campus Club.

Hal graduated from medical school at Columbia in 1954 and interned at Cincinnati General Hospital. Following two-year residencies at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital and Stanford Medical Hospital, he practiced internal medicine at Kaiser Hospital in Oakland, Calif., for 26 years. During those years he donated about a month each year to serve on the hospital ship Hope.

Upon retirement he moved to Challenge, Calif., a small community northeast of San Francisco and near the Nevada border. He soon entered politics there and served as a Yuba County supervisor for 20 years, where his main concern was preserving the natural beauty of the county’s foothills.

Hal’s favorite pastimes were tennis, gardening, and growing fruit trees. He was an ardent fan of the San Francisco 49ers.

Hal is survived by his wife of 53 years, Leah.

THE CLASS OF 1951
Wallace Mannington Kain ’51 Wally was raised in the New York City area and graduated from Roosevelt High in Yonkers. A mechanical engineering major, he was a member of Cannon Club and captain of the rifle team. His roommates were Gayle Price, Cal Smith, and Joe Zawadowsky.

As an ROTC Distinguished Military Student, he was sent to Fort Bragg as a second lieutenant in the 82nd Airborne, where he was an aide to his commanding general. After three years of Harvard Law School, he joined AT&T as a patent lawyer working for companies in the Bell System and living in several locations from Yonkers to Greensboro, including seven years in Princeton.

Upon retirement in 1984, Wally and his wife, Joan, moved to Sanibel Island, where he worked passionately for a number of conservation and animal-protection causes. He headed the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation and was mayor of Sanibel for two terms.

He also pursued hobbies including sport shooting, wildlife photography, sailing, biking, and writing novels. He and Joan also enjoyed travels to distant parts of the developing world.

Wally died Oct. 16, 2021, leaving two sons and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren as survivors.

William James Rushton III ’51
Billy died Sept. 30, 2021, in Birmingham, Ala., after a long and successful career as CEO of a major life insurance company and leadership roles in many charitable, community, and church organizations.

Billy came to Princeton from Exeter, roomed with Walt Clemons, played 150-pound football, and was active in the Westminster Foundation. He joined Quadrangle Club and majored in mathematics. An ROTC student, he was sent to Fort Sill upon graduation, where he met his wife, LaVona Price. He was then sent to Korea, where he won a Bronze Star as a battery commander.

Upon Army discharge Billy worked briefly for Prudential Life, then joined the family company, Protective Life Insurance Co. in Birmingham, serving in a variety of actuarial, sales, and administrative positions before becoming CEO in 1969. During his 22-year tenure, the company grew exponentially and moved to a new, modern headquarters.

At the same time, Billy was on the boards of a half-dozen major corporations, headed the United Way and the Community Foundation, and was active in many community organizations and the First Presbyterian Church.

Billy is survived by three sons and his brother, James Rushton ’53. LaVona predeceased him.

THE CLASS OF 1952
William F. Ewart Jr. ’52
Bill came to the class, like several others, from Pittsburgh, as a grad of Shady Side Academy. He majored in history and was vice president of Cottage. He worked on the Prince, joined the Republican Club, and was president of the Western Pennsylvania Club. His roommates were Harry Brightman, Dan Duffield, and Geoff Ticker.

After Navy service he worked at Jones and Laughlin Steel for 25 years, then at National Steel as a vice president until commencing study at the Princeton Theological Seminary, where he graduated in 1986. He had completed a session at the Harvard Executive Management Program in 1981. His seminary training led him to serve as a pastor and interim pastor at Presbyterian churches.

Bill died Oct. 8, 2021. He is survived by his wife, Joan; and their children, Alice, William, James, and Nancy. To them the class sends good wishes at this sad time in their family.

John F. Geer ’52
John graduated from the Kent School. At Princeton he majored in English and gained the Class of 1870 Old English Prize. He ate at Charter and was an ROTC Distinguished Military Student. John wrote for the Nassau Lit and the Tiger. He roomed with Bill Service, Henry Sherk, and Fred Jones.

After service as a first lieutenant in the field artillery, he earned a law degree from Columbia and launched a distinguished career in law as general counsel for American Standard and general counsel for the Episcopal Church Pension Fund.

John died Sept. 17, 2021. He is survived by his children, Jennifer ’80, Evelyn, and John. To them the class sends good wishes and its regard for John’s military service for our country.

William Wilson Hewitt Jr. ’52
Bill came from Deerfield, joining Cannon and majoring in history. His father was in the Class of 1922. Bill belonged to NROTC and roomed with Pete Battin, Gil Simpson, and Clarke Nash ’53.

His Navy service was aboard the carrier USS
service to our country.

wishes, with respect for their father's naval

survived by his two children, William III '77

cum laude, and cross country, graduated

council president and captain of wrestling


grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

two stepdaughters, Leslie and Susan; and many

He served in the Army after graduation and
then settled in San Antonio, Texas. Later he

lived in Dallas, where he served as president

of the Texas Shippers Association, but he

later settled in San Antonio, Texas. Later he

military service was as a lieutenant
with the 15th Field Artillery Battalion of the
2nd Division in Korea, and he was awarded
the Bronze Star. Then he went to the Harvard
Business School, Class of 1956. His stellar
business career began at GM, followed by 10
years at McKinsey & Co. In 1980 he joined
Intext publishing and became president. The
following year he founded another publishing
firm, Guide Communications.

Mike died Oct. 4, 2021. He is survived by
his children, Amanda '78, Cecil, John, and
Alex, to whom the class sends condolences and
appreciation of their father’s military service
to our country.

THE CLASS OF 1953

James Harlan Kelly '53

James was born in Mexico,
D.F. (now Mexico City), and
attended Texas Military
Institute and the Lawrenceville
School before entering
Princeton, where he joined Cottage Club and
majored in politics.

He served in the Army after graduation and
then settled in San Antonio, Texas. Later he

lived in Dallas, where he served as president of
the Texas Shippers Association, but he

subsequently returned to San Antonio, where
he died Nov. 27, 2021.

James is survived by his second wife, Alice
Shankle; two daughters, Kirby and Kendall;
two stepdaughters, Leslie and Susan; and many
grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1954

Thomas Pascoe Gordon '54


At Andover he was class and student
council president and captain of wrestling
and cross country, graduated cum laude, and
won an English Exchange Scholarship to
Harrow School before entering Princeton in his

The senior thesis was “A Statement of Logical
Empiricism.” A member of Cloister Club
and captain of varsity fencing, he won the
Todd Harris Fencing Award. He later became
U.S. Champion in epee fencing in 1959 and
a member of the U.S. Olympic Team in 1960.
He earned a law degree at Yale Law School in 1961
after service in the Air Force.

Joining Barnes, Deckert, Price, Myers
& Rhoads in 1961, he spent his entire legal
career with the firm, became a partner in 1969,
and retired at the end of 1995. He excelled in his field of major commercial litigation, representing either side, and was a wise and objective business counselor with deep knowledge of antitrust law and its practical implications.

He was an acknowledged master of the English language and had a sharp wit. Characterized as “a generous mentor, exacting craftsman, scoundrel of pomposity, and utterer of uniquely funny stuff,” he particularly loathed the corrupted and fraudulent verb “to address” of uniquely funny stuff,” he particularly loathed the English language and had a sharp wit.

Henry is survived by three children: Nadine, Harry ’86, and Alyssa; and his friend and former wife, Elizabeth.

Joseph J. Lawton II ’54
He graduated from the Choate School. At Princeton he majored in history, joined Cottage Club, and nurtured a special interest in piano. After graduating with high honors, he earned a master’s degree in music from Indiana University in 1956. He was known as a piano virtuoso, performing at the Brevard Music Festival. After two years in the Army, deciding that he “would have more free time for playing the piano,” he joined his brother, Edgar, at a family-owned company as plant manager and vice president. In 1959 he married Penn Anthony, and they had a son, Joseph James Lawton III.

Joe retired when the company was sold in 1982. At age 53, after a period of soul-searching, he decided to pursue more actively his early love of music, history, and the piano, performing at numerous events. His passion was traveling in Europe from a base in Vienna to study the great classic Romantic composers and visit their historic homes. After a long courtship, he married Cindy Craig in 1999. Joe and Cindy enjoyed travel throughout Europe, leading tours for lovers of classical romantic music in the company they formed together, Great Composer Tours.

Joe is survived by his wife, Cindy; son Joseph III; three grandchildren; and his brother, Edgar H. Lawton Jr.

George E. Miller ’54
He joined Princeton from Bronxville (N.Y.) High School, majored in English, ate at Tower Club, and participated in Joe Brown’s creative arts class.
Commissioned in the Army and given a choice of assignment, he chose “Germany” and “Jewish.” In Munich, he headed a troop newspaper that served an area the size of West Virginia, where he raised his paper’s standing among other Army journals in Europe from 15th place to first.

Returning home, he landed a job in advertising, starting in the mailroom. After several agency stints, he spent his career at Grey Advertising, where he became part of a new business team that led to Grey’s becoming the largest agency in New York City. In 1961 he married Deborah Best, daughter of a cosmopolitan and nomadic family. She spoke five languages and planned the family’s frequent trips abroad.

During his long advertising career, George spent many nights and weekends pursuing his passion as a self-taught sculptor. He crafted many thought-provoking, fantastical, and allegorical figures that won prizes at competitions sponsored by the Nassau County Museum of Art. They can be seen at www.georgeevelynmiller.com.

George is survived by his beloved wife of 58 years, Deborah Miller; and his daughters, Karen O’Malley and Leslie Peters ’90.

Martin H. Burns Jr. ’55
Before Princeton he attended New Trier High School in Winnetka, Ill. At New Trier he participated in student council, the glee club, opera, basketball, and the talent show. At Princeton he majored in English and joined Tower Club. He participated in the Freshman Glee Club, the Tigertones, and Triangle Club show. His senior-year roommates were Henry Lewis, Julian Kelly, and Frederic Neilson.

After Princeton he became a partner in the Chicago law firm of Russell and Bridewell. He summed things up for the 50th-reunion yearbook: “But for the customary bumps along the way, it’s been a very good ride and I am increasingly grateful for it. My best to my classmates.”

Marty was predeceased by his wife of 58 years, Ellen.

A. John Elliot ’55
John, a legendary individualist both as a physician and otherwise, died Aug. 11, 2021, in Sarasota, Fla. Classmates may not recognize the name. That’s because his name at birth and at Princeton was Amerigo John Eleuteri. However, during his medical residency, when he was called over the hospital PA system, he was repeatedly called “Elliot.” So he legally changed his name to Elliot.

He was born April 3, 1933, in Trenton, N.J., and studied at Trenton Central High School. At Princeton he joined Court Club and became vice president, and majored in biology. His senior-year roommates included Larry Mitnick, Don Kline, and Ed Cieresko (who changed his name to Clayton).

John was often first in his class at medical school at Columbia, a surgical internship at Johns Hopkins, and orthopedic residency at Yale. He moved his family to Westerly, R.I., and at Westerly Hospital he became chief of staff and chief of surgery. He also studied at Cambridge in England to learn new skills, went to China to instruct on arthroscopy, and was named a professor emeritus by the West China Medical University.

In 2015 he and his wife, Judy, relocated to Lakewood Ranch, Fla. There he wrote and self-published a historical novel, The Last Trumpet.

John is survived by Judy; daughters Cassie Elliot and Sharon Ahern; and stepson Trowbridge Cottrell. He was predeceased by his son Robert in 2017.

Richard F. Hespos ’55
Dick — a kind, thoughtful, and inventive man with a great sense of humor — died Aug. 24, 2021, at an extended-living facility in Hamilton, N.J. He was so inventive that he went by two names, as did his wife. To his Princeton connections he was Dick, but to his family he was Rich. His wife of 63 years was Jill to her many friends, but on all her legal documents she is Arlene.

Dick was born Aug. 26, 1934, at home in North Bergen, N.J., delivered by a midwife who was his grandmother. He was one of more than 1,000 babies she delivered. Dick was also the first member of his family to graduate from high school.

At Princeton on a scholarship, he joined Cannon Club and majored in mechanical engineering. Senior year he roomed with Barry Danner and Mills Kiley. After Princeton he got an MBA from Harvard and a Ph.D. from Columbia.

His working life embraced engineering, computing, and management positions at Bethlehem Steel, McKinsey & Co., Dun & Bradstreet, and Continental Insurance, then finally, a stint as a dean at Harvard Business School. Dick and Jill loved to attend plays, jazz, and lectures and to travel around the world, memorably on Class of ’55 trips.

Dick is survived by his wife, Jill; children Sheryl, Michael, and Susan; and brother Jerry.

Frank W. Jackson ’55
Frank, an inventive gastroenterologist with an amazing range of curiosity and accomplishments, died Sept. 29, 2021, at home in Mechanicsburg, Pa. Besides an impressive list of medical achievements, he was famous for raising giant tomatoes, wonderful corn,
Frank was born June 23, 1933, in Pittsburgh, and he attended Peabody High School there. At Princeton he majored in biology, joined Charter Club, and participated in IAA basketball, softball, football, bowling, pool, and volleyball. His senior-year roommates included Jim Parks, Steb Chandor, Todd Terry, George Harris, Bill O’Brien, and Bill Frank.

After Princeton Frank attended Johns Hopkins, completed additional training in internal medicine and gastroenterology at the University of Pennsylvania, and moved to Harrisburg. He was ceaselessly curious, which steered him into a wide range of projects, including a strong push for patient education and several leadership positions, including presidency of the state gastroenterology society.

Frank is survived by his wife, Ellen Danfield Jackson; five children, Toquaih, Wilson, Monique, Quenby, and Bisque; and eight grandchildren. He was predeceased by his first wife, Joaquine, in 1998.

Peter Thomas Milano ’55
Pete, a big guy with a huge heart and a vast collection of friends and admirers, died after a long illness Oct. 2, 2021. Said Tom Markham, the first classmate Pete met freshman year and his senior-year roommate, “He was just a great guy. I’ve never heard anybody say a word against him. He was admired in many quarters.”

Pete was born Oct. 21, 1933, in Yonkers, N.Y. At Yonkers High School he was captain of the football, baseball, and basketball teams. Also, he met and fell in love with Christine Prota, the captain of the cheerleading team, whom he married after his graduation with honors from Princeton. Pete majored in mechanical engineering; joined Cannon Club, where he was vice president; was a mainstay of the varsity football team; and participated in IAA basketball, volleyball, softball, and track.

After a career with AT&T, in 1989 he turned his focus to Princeton and the Class of ‘55. “It was the most enjoyable job I ever had,” he told Markham. Pete became a founder, board member, and president of Project 55, now AlumniCorps. With the class he was a co-chair of the 40th reunion and served as class vice president for two five-year terms.

Pete is survived by his wife, Christine; sons Peter ’88, Thomas, and Steven; and grandchildren Michael ’12, Emily, Matthew, Kaitlin, Kaileigh, and Peighton.

THE CLASS OF 1957

Warren T. Blume ’57
Warren came to Princeton from Ridgewood (N.J.) High School to major in economics and sociology. He ate at Campus Club, sang in the Glee Club and Chapel Choir, interviewed locals for the Gallup Poll, and shared a Dod Hall suite with eight classmates, who recall Warren as very organized and disciplined — except when diverted to the bridge table.

Warren followed Princeton with medical training at McGill in Montreal, where he met and married Lydia. The couple moved to his medical residencies in Madison, Wis., the Mayo Clinic, and Paris. Warren became a Canadian citizen and in 1972 joined the department of neuroscience at University Hospital in London, Ontario, where, seeking a challenge, as to custom, he organized what became a widely admired program for treating epilepsy. “W.T.B.,” as everyone at the hospital called him, published numerous papers on this affliction, bringing him many awards plus induction into the prestigious Order of Canada.

Despite a right shoulder damaged at birth, Warren loved playing tennis — as a lefty, of course — and skiing. Warren and Lydia traveled widely, returning often to Paris to enjoy the wines, meals built around Warren’s favorite, fish, and their seats at the French Open tennis.

Warren died Sept. 13, 2021. He is survived by Lydia, three daughters, and four grandchildren.

F. Curtis Dohan Jr. ’57
“He was brilliant — but you’d never know it,” one classmate said of Curt. He died at home Nov. 16, 2021, cared for by his family, of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. “He always had a smile on his face,” said another classmate.

Curt’s grades at Princeton placed him near No. 1 in the class despite his having chosen electives in liberal arts rather than sciences. After Harvard Medical School, he became a researcher and popular neuropathology lecturer at the University of Tennessee Health Center, teaching medical students and residents in packed classrooms about diseases of the brain.

Curt retired in 2011, five years after a stroke, but remained at the center, helping residents pass their boards and continuing his father’s research. He wrote in the 60th-reunion yearbook, “With my daughter Katherine’s help, I identified what I believe to be the gene variant that causes the genetically determined defect in the intestinal lining postulated by my father.” Johns Hopkins University will take over now, testing the postulation. The problem can affect a significant part of the population.

At Princeton, Curt was a physics major, varsity wrestler, and member of Ivy Club. Seven roommates enjoyed his company senior year. Curt and Jean Rittmeuller (Harvard Ph.D.) met in 1978, at the Brattle (old movies) Theatre in Cambridge. Curt’s son, David, graduated from Princeton in 2015 summa cum laude in computer science.

William Potter Johns ’57
Bill was one of the more colorful members of the class but not especially known. His wit was sharp, as was his aesthetic taste.

Bill came to Princeton from Tulsa and was president of the Oklahoma Club, a member of the yacht and polo clubs, and ate at Campus Club. He was in the Army ROTC and a horse troop. His senior-year roommate was Bruce Martin.

He served in the Army as an officer, then attended Harvard and Columbia, where he studied architecture and history. His principal professional occupation was as the director of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society. Bill himself belonged to some of the most important societies representing distinguished early-American ancestry, especially the Society of the Cincinnati, the members of which are descendants of American Revolutionary War officers.

He contributed to historical books and publications. He also co-founded Country Floors, a New York design and tile company. He lived on the ground floor of an Upper East Side apartment house attended during his last seven years by two teams of nurses.

Bill died at home Oct. 29, 2021. He was predeceased by a lifelong companion, Laszlo Kepessy of Budapest, Hungary, known to a few classmates.

THE CLASS OF 1958

Shawn Biehler ’58 *59
Shawn died Sept. 11, 2021, in Riverside, Calif. He was 84. He came to Princeton from Leonia (N.J.) High School, where he was active in the band and the science club. Shawn was in the American Naval Cadets and the Palisades Park Rifle Club. At Princeton he was a member of the marching band and manager of the concert band. He was a geophysics major and a member of Court Club. He roomed with Bill Murphy and Jim Bergholt.

After graduation he went to MIT and Caltech, earning a Ph.D. Shawn became a professor of geophysics at the University of California, Riverside. Together with Robert...
Riekcer, Shawn co-founded SAGE (Summer of Applied Geophysical Experience), where highly motivated students participated in rigorous classroom and field learning taught by some of the best in the field. Shawn’s image wasn’t complete without his SAGE T-shirt.

He continued to ensure the program’s success for years after retirement with a scholarship fund in his name to assist those with a similar passion. He loved teaching and drew true pure joy and life from his students.

Shawn is survived by his wife, Andrea; children Bonnie and Shawn Jr.; Andrea’s three sons from a prior marriage; six grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.

David Mackay Jr. ’58
David died Oct. 16, 2021, in Naples, Fla. He was 84.

He came to Princeton from the Lawrenceville School, where he was active in various sports.

At Princeton David was on the freshman track team and WPRB. He was a member of Tower Club. He majored in politics and wrote his thesis about Ghana. He roomed with Hal Staff and Tony Adams.

After graduation David was a real-estate developer in California. Then he moved to New York and continued to be employed in real-estate management, first as an executive with American Express and then with J.P. Morgan Bank.

The final years of his business career, beginning in 1980, were as CEO of Glenn Miller Productions. David arranged for the Glenn Miller sound to be heard worldwide by granting licensing agreements to bands.

David is survived by his wife, Constance, and children Matthew and Jacqueline. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.

Duncan C. Smith ’58

He came to Princeton from Andover, where he played soccer and was in the student congress. At Princeton he played soccer, was a member of Cap and Gown, and was active in IAA sports. He majored in English, was a Distinguished Military Student in the Army ROTC, and graduated cum laude. He roomed with Bill Duncan, Joel Weinstein, Mike Jones, Earl Fogelberg, Mike Dennis, David Angus, Bob Stoddard, Fuller Torrey, John MacFarlane, John Matthews, and Larry Smith.

After graduation, Dunc served in the Army and graduated from Yale Law School. He and Carol Langdon married during his third year. They moved to Salem, Ore., where he clerked for a state Supreme Court justice. Their first son was born there; they then moved to Connecticut, and Dunc joined a law firm. During the next 10 years, two more sons were born, and the family moved to Greenwich.

In 1979, Dunc joined Chemical Bank as associate counsel and eventually became senior vice president and deputy general counsel. His many community activities are detailed in our 50th- and 50th-reunion yearbooks.

Duncan was preceded in death by Carol in 2000. He is survived by sons Gregory ’86, Gordon, and Andrew; nine grandchildren; and two great-grandsons. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.

Robert L. Waldron II ’58
Bob died Nov. 13, 2021, in Columbia, S.C. He was 85.

He came to Princeton from West Rockford High in Rockford, Ill., where he was valedictorian of his class, played football and basketball, and was active in student government.

At Princeton he was a member of the sophomore bicker committee, and after joining Ivy Club he served in the same capacity. Bob was triply honored by being elected president of the Undergraduate Council, vice president of the class, and vice president of Ivy. A pre-med, he majored in biology. He roomed with Neil Chrisman, Steve Rockefeller, Doug Levick, Jerry Rigg, and Dave Kerr.

Bob graduated from Harvard Medical School, interned at Massachusetts General Hospital, and served in the Peace Corps in Panama and Chile. After practicing radiology at Harvard and Columbia, and then in California, he settled in South Carolina in 1980, where he was chief of radiology at Richland Memorial Hospital and professor of clinical radiology at the University of South Carolina. He was the author or co-author of 32 scientific papers.

Bob is survived by his wife, Sandra; his sons Rick ’84, Rob, and Burton Johnson; and four grandchildren. He was preceded by his son Ryan. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.

Per Magnus Wijkman ’58
Per died Sept. 24, 2021, in Sweden. He was 85.

He came to Princeton from boarding school in Sweden and joined our class in 1956 as a junior. He majored in Romance and Germanic languages, and was a member of Wilson Lodge. One week before graduation, Per was called back to Sweden for military service, so when his name was called at our graduation ceremony, his mother stood for him!

His life was amazing and important — it is detailed in our 50th-reunion yearbook. After 15 months in the army Per studied economics at the University of Stockholm and then was offered a teaching position. In 1977-78 he was invited to work at the Federal Reserve in Washington and to teach at the Woodrow Wilson School.

In 1984 Per returned to Sweden, where he and Birgitta were married. Their daughters Elizabeth and Anne were born there.

In 1988 the family moved to Geneva and Per was involved in negotiations that led to Sweden joining the European Union. In 1994 they returned to Sweden, and he became chief economist at the Federation of Swedish Industries. As he put it, he was “involved in a major event of our generation — the unification of Europe.” He retired in 2000.

Per is survived by his wife, two daughters, and three young grandchildren. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.

The Class of 1960

Alban K. Forcione ’60
Albie graduated from the Landon School, Bethesda, Md., where he played football and baseball and was president of his class. He followed his brother, Eugene ’59, to Princeton. With us he continued both sports as a freshman and went on to captain the 150-pound football team. He majored in European civilization and served as president of Cannon Club.

He concentrated his academic efforts on European literature and began his lifelong devotion to the works of Cervantes: his senior thesis; a master’s degree at Harvard in comparative literature in Spanish, Italian, and English; a post-graduate Fulbright in Spain and Germany; and a Ph.D. thesis at Princeton, again on Cervantes. He then joined the Princeton faculty in the departments of Romance Languages and of Spanish and Portuguese studies.

Albie spent the majority of his tenure at Princeton as the Emerl L. Ford Professor of Spanish and Comparative Literature, with numerous interim appointments as Distinguished Visiting Professor elsewhere. He wrote several seminal works on Cervantes and mentored numerous graduate scholars who went on to their own distinguished careers.

Albie died Sept. 14, 2021. Surviving are son Michael and brother Eugene. He was preceded by his wife, Renate, and one of his two sons, Mark. In later years he enjoyed retirement in Princeton with his companion, Joyce Gardiner. To her and all his family we offer our sympathies.

James W. Leonard ’60
Born and raised in Plainfield, N.J., Jim graduated from nearby Westfield Senior High School, where he was class treasurer and played football. At Princeton he brought his aggressive instincts to the Rugby Club, where he played...
James A. Shield Jr. ’60
Jim was born and raised in Richmond, Va., where his family roots went back to Colonial times. He came to Princeton via St. Christopher’s School there. Indicative of the breadth of his interests, Jim was both a horseman and fox hunter, and head cheerleader for the school. With us, he majored in biology, joined Charter, and was active in the Pre-Med Society, Whig-Clio, and Triangle Club.

Jim was directed toward his chosen profession from an early date. He earned a medical degree at the University of Virginia School of Medicine in 1964 and did his internship and residency in psychiatry at Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia, followed by two years with the National Institute of Mental Health, Bethesda, Md. Returning to Richmond in 1970, Jim joined the psychiatric practice of his father at the Tucker Psychiatric Clinic, where he practiced until retirement in 2011. He was honored as an advocate for mental-health recognition throughout Virginia, and Virginia Commonwealth University established the James Asa Shield Jr. Chair in Psychiatry in 2000.

Jim’s extracurricular interests ran decidedly toward Virginia Colonial and Revolutionary era history and many related institutions, including the Society of the Cincinnati (Va.), where he served as president. Jim died Oct. 24, 2021. His wife, Sandy, predeceased him. Jim is survived by their son, daughter, and one granddaughter. Our sympathies to them all.

Ned C. Steele ’60
Ned was born and raised in Bethlehem, Pa., and graduated from Fountain Hill High School there. At Princeton he majored in chemistry and served as house chair of Elm Club. Ned rowed with the crew and even slimmmed down to pull a sweep for the lightweight crew.

After graduation Ned served as an intelligence officer in the Army Reserve before joining Bethlehem Steel, where he worked 40 years in various marketing capacities and many locations. Ned was a lifelong sports enthusiast, pursuing tennis, golf, skiing, and running into his retirement years. Married to Jane in 1965, he shared all those sports with their four children and, ultimately, 11 grandchildren. He was a dedicated coach and attendee at all their junior sports activities.

Ned was a dedicated Catholic layman and a working volunteer in numerous charitable activities. In retirement, he and Jane moved to Wilmington, N.C., before finally returning to their Bethlehem environs in recent years, where he died Sept. 20, 2021. The class extends our sympathy to Jane and all their family.

Ernest B. Adams ’62
Ernie came to us from South Pasadena High School, where he was student body president and ran track. At Princeton he ran track, was a member of the Sailing Club, and participated in IAA billiards. Graduating with a degree in architecture, he earned a master’s degree at the University of California, Berkeley.

His career was interesting and varied as he worked as a land and urban design planner, residential-development planner, and residential designer of townhouses and condominiums. After the recession of 1974 he became a custom-home architect. His last, decade-long project was to be the master planner and architect of a Benedictine abbey.

In 1973 he married Lynda Kimmell and they had a son, Boz, and a daughter, Caitlin. In his spare time he was active in Scouts, sailing, scuba diving, skiing, backpacking, and travel. His classmates described him as creative, friendly, and having a generous sense of awe for others’ accomplishments while devaluing his own. The class extends condolences to Lynda, Boz, Caitlin, and his friends among our classmates.

Robert W. Mack ’62
The class recently learned that Rob died Aug. 16, 2021, in Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif.
by an adventurous, entrepreneurial spirit that led to years of success in oil exploration and other businesses.

Tom was born in Amarillo, Texas, and came to Princeton from Amarillo High School. He graduated from the Woodrow Wilson School, was a member of Dial Lodge, and roomed senior year with Funkhouser, Burruss, and Snow.

Soon after graduation, Tom married his hometown sweetheart, Charlene. They moved to Dallas, where he started his own exploration business. In time, his ventures expanded to include operating television affiliates and co-founding the first commercial feedlot in Texas. He also served on multiple boards and was involved in numerous educational, medical, and arts institutions. Throughout, he remained the modest, unassuming, humorous guy his classmates remember: He liked to quip that he had drilled dry holes in 19 states and seven foreign countries.

During their 48 years of marriage, Tom and Charlene made Dallas their home although they twice lived in New York, traveled frequently to Europe and Asia, and took their children on hiking trips all over the world. Still, no place was more special than their family ranch in northern New Mexico on the Mora River, where they enjoyed hunting, fishing, horseback adventures, and long, chatty dinners.

The class extends sympathies to Charlene, their three children, and 10 grandchildren.

Henry L. Shepherd III ’63
Nick died May 12, 2020, in the town of Orleans, Mass., where he lived and worked for many years.

Nick came to Princeton from Pomfret School, where he was editor of the school paper and a varsity letterman in basketball and baseball while finishing second in his graduating class. At Princeton he majored in English and wrote his senior thesis on “The Significance of the Pan Myth in the Writings of E.M. Forster.” He was a member of Key and Seal and active in Orange Key and Whig-Clio. He played on the freshman basketball and baseball teams.

After graduation, Nick earned a law degree from the University of Connecticut School of Law. He had a general law practice, specializing in real-estate law. In addition to their home in Orleans, he and his wife, Kathryn, who survives him, had a home in Naples, Fla.

Kinch Morgan Varner III ’63
The class lost a treasure with Morgan’s passing Oct. 20, 2021, in Atlanta, Ga., following a life of hard work, success, and richness in family and friends.

Morgan came to Princeton from Lanier High School in Montgomery, Ala. He majored in economics, was a member of Quadrangle Club and Orange Key, and roomed with Abrahamson, Denious, Kaplan, Loftus, Pickman, and Willard. From Princeton, Morgan went to Duke Law School. He married his college sweetheart, Chilton Davis, in his third year there. After service with the Army in Germany, where daughter Ashley was born, they moved to Atlanta. Morgan began his law practice with a local firm. After three years he started a new firm, which grew to nearly 20 lawyers before merging with the Kentucky firm of Stites & Harbison. Morgan continued his work in real estate, construction, and estate law until the day of his death.

In Atlanta, Morgan was active in the arts and charities, conducted church-school classes, and was an avid fan of all sports, particularly Duke basketball. He was on Duke’s Board of Visitors.

In addition to their home in Atlanta, the Varners owned a home in Nantucket where, with Hoey, Keller, and Little, they sponsored mini-reunions that grew only more popular.

The class sends condolences to the Varner family.

THE CLASS OF 1964
Jonathan S. Netts ’64
Jon, who came to Princeton from St. Peter’s School near his hometown of Bogota, N.J., died Jan. 9, 2021, in Palm Coast, Fla., of complications of COVID-19. He remained at the University for only one year and earned a bachelor’s degree at Wittenberg and a master’s degree at Fairleigh Dickinson.

During a distinguished career in education as a teacher, district administrator, and director of a state teacher-training consortium in New Jersey, he also became a licensed real-estate broker, taught courses in real-estate law, and served as a member of the planning board and as city councilman, council president, and deputy mayor of Norwood, N.J.

In 1992 Jon and his wife, Priscilla, whose marriage would span 53 years, moved to Palm Coast, which would be incorporated as a city in 1999. From the start of the city, Jon served in an array of municipal posts, including councilman and vice mayor. In 2007 he was elected to the first of his two four-year terms as mayor. Jon also served on the boards, often as chair, of numerous local civic organizations, including Habitat for Humanity. He received gubernatorial appointments to several state commissions and was cited as “a person to watch” in local government for his leadership on environmental issues.

THE CLASS OF 1965
Edward F. Muhlenfeld ’65
Ed passed peacefully with his wife, Linda, and three daughters at his bedside Aug. 29, 2021. A proud graduate of Princeton, where he majored in politics and took his meals at Tower, he also earned a master’s degree at Georgetown in international relations and was a decorated captain in the Army serving in the Vietnam War, where he earned a Bronze Star.

His interest in finance and investments led to his lifelong career, finishing at Wilde Wealth, where he worked until his death, having been recognized as one of the top stockbrokers in the U.S.

His passion for music provided a recent hobby, as he used the bass guitar and jammed to popular country music songs, to the delight of his five wire-haired fox terriers bred by his wife, including one national grand champion, four champions, and their puppies. He also involved himself in charitable and public-service activities through Rotary and the
Scottsdale Bible Church of Arizona.

A devoted husband to Linda, he was father of Allison, David, Vanessa, Stephanie, and Jamie, and grandfather of nine. He will be missed and celebrated by his family, friends, and community. The class sends its condolences on the death of this fine family man and thanks them all for his service.

THE CLASS OF 1967

Schuyler K. Henderson ’67 Schuyler died Oct. 4, 2021, on Nantucket Island, Mass. He attended New Trier High School in Illinois, where he was quarterback of the football team and a National Merit Scholarship recipient. He graduated with honors in 1967 from the Woodrow Wilson School and was a member of Tiger Inn. He married Paula Snorf, a New Trier classmate, in July 1967.

Schuyler graduated from the University of Chicago law and business schools, earning a law degree and MBA in 1971. He was the first person to earn that joint degree there and was an editor of the law review. He served in the Marine Reserve in Chicago and New York from 1968 to 1973, retiring as a captain.

After law school he became a partner at Mayer, Brown, & Platt in Chicago. Sent to London to run their European office, he remained for years the youngest head of an American law firm in that city. He pioneered currency swap agreements and in 1984 co-authored Currency and Interest Swaps, followed by Henderson on Derivatives (2003, second edition 2010). Later a partner at the international firm of Baker & McKenzie and the English firm Norton Rose, he eventually left to become an independent consultant, writer, and lecturer publishing scholarly articles on banking law.

Schuyler and his family lived in London’s Kensington area and had a weekend home in the Cotswolds, where he discovered the joy of gardening, and traveled with family to exotic countries of the world. In 2009 they sold their London residence and bought an old mill house in Upper Swell, Gloucestershire.

In May 2020, after 43 years in England, Schuyler and Paula moved permanently to Nantucket, where they had owned a house since 2008. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Schuyler Wheelock Henderson and Monroe Heath Henderson, six grandchildren, and brother James D. Henderson.

THE CLASS OF 1968

Robert A. Moreen ’68 ’75

Bob died Oct. 30, 2021, in Bala Cynwyd, Pa. He came to Princeton from the Loomis School in Windsor, Conn., where he participated in Glee Club. At Princeton he participated in Glee Club. Senior year he roomed with Bob Hodge and Robert Jaffe in Lockhart. Bob majored in music and earned a doctorate at Princeton in 1973 in the same field. He then became an assistant professor in his old department. He founded the Renaissance singing group Musica Alta and made significant contributions to the study of Verdi’s operas.

In a significant career shift, Bob became a fulltime consulting actuary. He joined Mercer & Co. in 1989. During his career he created Mercer’s M&A field and developed several major global business initiatives in the United States and in Europe.

Retiring in 2012, Bob spent his later years traveling widely, playing with grandchildren, hiking, attending concerts, reading broadly and voraciously, and serving actively in his synagogue.

Bob is survived by his wife, Vera ’72; his sons, Gabriel ’01 and Raphael ’05; and their families. The class extends its deepest sympathies to Bob’s family and friends.

THE CLASS OF 1969

Tracy Land Mott ’68

Tracy died on his 75th birthday Nov. 4, 2021, of breakthrough COVID-19 despite being fully vaccinated.

He came to us from White Station High School in Memphis, Tenn., where he was active in the school newspaper. At Princeton he majored in political science, ate at Terrace Club, and was a member of a rock and roll band.

Following graduation, Tracy worked for several governmental agencies in New York City before earning his M. Div. degree from Union Theological Seminary. He went on to pursue a Ph.D. in economics from Stanford University. He taught economics at the University of Colorado, Boulder, and became chair of the economics department at the University of Denver, where he mentored countless students and scholars in post-Keynesian economics.

Tracy cared passionately about social and economic justice, donating time and money to progressive and liberal causes. When not working, he was a fan of the Atlanta Braves. His love of music continued throughout; he was an avid guitarist and harmonica player as well as a singer.

Tracy is survived by his stepchildren, Wendy Bartlo and Bret Bartlo, and their families. The class extends its deepest sympathies to Bob’s family and friends.

THE CLASS OF 1970

James Todd Day ’70

James, who was with us enthusiastically through our 40th reunion, died Aug. 24, 2021, in Columbia, S.C., after a long struggle with primary progressive aphasia robbed him of his beloved French language, then his life.

He came to us from Webster Groves, Mo., where high school bored him. While combating that at Princeton in the Chapel Choir and the lightweight football and wrestling squads, he took French 101 out of curiosity, and the legendary department of Maman O’Brady and his adviser Jean Macary took over his soul. His thesis addressed “Religious Ideas of Voltaire.” A Ph.D. followed at Penn, then a distinguished career teaching French while gathering culture in Beaujolais, on the Riviera, in Dijon or Paris, and in Martinique.

He put his Chapel Choir tenor to good use in the great French Gothic cathedrals and in Carnegie Hall. His final 28 years were at the University of South Carolina, where he won teaching awards and spent a five-year term overseeing the ETS AP French program. He presented his research on Stendhal at a London colloquium.

James is survived by his wife, Pam; his children, Allison and Jeremy; his brother Roy; and nieces Meagan and Haley. Each time we hear the beauty and power of the great ideas he taught in the language of Stendhal and Voltaire, we will think of them, and most especially of him.

Peter Otto Langer ’70

A stalwart worker for the class for whom Princeton was a daily presence, Peter died Aug. 15, 2021, while on his daily walk in Burke, Va., enjoying the beauty of nature that inspired much of his life.

He was born in grim circumstances, in Leisingen, then in East Germany, in 1947. Emigrating to the United States, Peter came to us from Forest Hill High School in Palm Beach, Fla. An original member of Stevenson & Co. in 1989. During his career he created several major global business initiatives in the United States and in Europe.

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Paul A. Pelosi ‘70

Paul, one of our robust core of lifelong Californians, died June 30, 2021, following a yearlong battle with lymphoma.

Paul grew up in Cupertino, then came to Princeton from Bellarmine College Prep in San Jose. Like so many of us, he gravitated toward political issues, and wrote his thesis for Professor Gary Orfield on “Presidential Involvement in the Medicare Issue.” He then went to Santa Clara Law School, passed the state bar, and embarked on a long career of service to the folks in central California.

Paul worked tirelessly for the Diocese of San Jose and was president of the Catholic Professional and Business Club. A fine high school athlete, he was always a big fan and coached his children’s teams whenever given the slightest chance, which earned him a spot of honor watching when his grandchildren’s turn came.

Paul is survived by his wife of 40 years, Karen; his children, Julie, PJ, and John; his grandchildren, Hudson, Presley, Harry, Merrill, Sofia, and Ella; and five siblings and their large, adoring clan. They will miss him greatly but remember him with a hug and a smile, as will we.

Alan Richard White ‘70

One of the class stalwarts holding down the fort for many years in upstate New York, Alan died Aug. 25, 2021, of cancer in Radford, Va.

He played multiple sports and was an Eagle Scout and valedictorian in high school at Horseheads, N.Y. He continued with several intramural teams at Stevenson Hall as part of our initial cohort there. Always an enthused and active engineer and a dean’s list student, after serving in the Army he worked with multiple engineering firms, including Gardner Denver in Syracuse for two decades. He finished his career as owner of his own firm.

Alan was always active in the Presbyterian Church and the congregations where his family worshipped, and involved in a wide range of community affairs from sports to charity. His dedication to A&W root beer was the stuff of legend.

Alan is survived by his wife of 49 years, Carol; their children, David, Jennifer, and Erin; one granddaughter; and siblings Patrick, Michele, and Steven, with their families. Our class engineers have compiled a huge range of accomplishments strengthening the United States — Alan highly among them. That contribution will remain valued and missed.

THE CLASS OF 1971

Steven L. Buennning ‘71

One of our most stalwart classmates, Steve died June 25, 2021, after a long battle with pulmonary fibrosis in Baltimore, Md.

He came to Princeton from Darien (Conn.) High School. He majored in history and belonged to Stevenson Hall, where he was social vice president. Roommates included Keller, Marengo, Mackay, Bergey, Denicola, Klacsman, Dave Marshall, and Randy Watkins. He served on the executive committee of Orange Key Guide Service.

During two years in the Army, Steve met his life partner, Betty, whom he married in 1974. Their children are Amy and Mark. Steve earned a master’s degree in teaching at the University of Chicago in 1975 and launched his lifelong career of teaching high school history at Palatine and Fremd high schools in suburban Chicago. Through the Model United Nations Club and elaborate use of props and theatrics, he made history come alive for more than 12,000 students during his 41-year teaching career.

A continuous learner, he visited countless U.S. and international museums and historic homes. He was also active in Vacation Bible School, Habitat for Humanity, Episcopal churches, and the Princeton Schools Committee as an interviewer for over 20 years.

The class extends its sympathy to Betty, Amy, Mark, two grandchildren, and other family and friends.

Steve C. Charen ‘71 ‘74

Our accomplished and well-traveled classmate died July 4, 2021, in New York City after battling metastatic throat cancer.

He came to Princeton from Belleville High School in New Jersey. He graduated with high honors in the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs. He chaired the University’s Moratorium Committee and the New Jersey College Young Democrats, was elected to the UGA, and received a McConnell Foundation summer study grant. Steve lived with Ackerman, Emery, Hamilton, James Robson, Sonenshein, and Tiryak in Dodge-Osborn and ate at Wilson College and the Princeton Inn.

After graduation Steve worked on the McGovern campaign and helped construct an oceanfront house in Vancouver, British Columbia, with Robson. He earned an MPA at SIPA in 1974 and then a law degree at New York University in 1977.

Steve resided in New York City the rest of his life, with a litigation practice at Partker, Bellknap for 25 years and then a solo civil litigation defense practice. He enjoyed and supported New York’s Public Theater, as well as commercial theater in Manhattan, and was a huge Yankees fan. He balanced his life in New York City with extensive travel to such destinations as the Pacific Northwest, Grand Canyon, rapids, major European capitals, the south of France, Israel, Italy, Mexico, Tierra del Fuego, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Fiji.

Steve was conversational on a wide variety of topics but had limited contact with ‘71 classmates. Longtime friend Albin Felzenberg ’78 provided many details about Steve’s life. To his family and friends, the class extends its condolences.

POST A REMEMBRANCE with a memorial at paw.princeton.edu

February 2022 PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY 83

Ted J. Swisher ’71

We lost one of our most remarkable and influential classmates when Ted died July 8, 2021, of cancer complications in Albuquerque, N.M.

Ted came to Princeton from Mt. Lebanon High School in Pittsburgh, Pa., as a state wrestling champion and football co-captain. His Princeton wrestling success included Cane Spree, freshman (underclassman), and varsity. He majored in sociology and roomed with Uyeda, Brodeick, Sell, Salmon, Macaleer, and Moessner. Roommates remember his sense of humor, modesty, and thoughtful decision to express his Christian faith through community action. Through a junior-year internship at Koinonia Farm, a Christian community in Georgia promoting social justice, Ted found his life’s work.

Returning to Koinonia after graduation, he became its executive director in 1976. In 1984 Ted joined Koinonia’s housing-movement spinoff: Habitat for Humanity. With Ted in a major leadership role, Habitat grew from 23 to 1,700 affiliates in the United States. He oversaw the international expansion of Habitat to hundreds of affiliates in 70 countries.

Ted married Lisa Verploegh in 1987 and they had two children, Benjamin and Miriam. After a divorce, he married Betsy Groves in 2000. Moving from national to local, Ted assumed the leadership of Habitat’s Santa Fe (N.M.) affiliate in 2006. He always enjoyed fishing, hiking, camping, and sports, especially the Steelers.

tributes poured in from the Habitat community. The class extends its condolences to Ted’s family and friends.
THE CLASS OF 1973

Stephen C. Carlson ’73

Steve died Sept. 21, 2021, after a lengthy battle with progressive supranuclear palsy. He was 70.

Born in Minneapolis, Minn., Steve attended Princeton upon graduation from Lake Forest (Ill.) High School. At Princeton he was a member of Terrace Club and the Debate Panel, and president of Whig-Clio. Steve met his wife, Patricia Brown Carlson ’75, through Whig-Clio. Professor Melvin Tumin provided Steve with invaluable guidance and wisdom as Steve wrote his thesis on the topic of civil disobedience. He graduated magna cum laude with election to Phi Beta Kappa. Steve credited his high school teachers and college professors with igniting his lifelong interests in ancient Greece, Shakespeare, and poetry.

Steve graduated from Yale Law School in 1976 and practiced law in Chicago at Sidley Austin for nearly 40 years, becoming partner in 1983. While he loved his work, Steve found his greatest joy in his family and raising three daughters with his cherished wife, Patricia.

Deeply philosophical and reflective, Steve wrote, “If we can make life better for others, that is really probably all we accomplish and is more than enough. If you have succeeded in making life better for anyone else because you were here, then you have lived a good life.”

Steve lived a good life.

Steve is survived by Patricia; daughters Elizabeth ’04 and her husband Mark Wolicki, Susan and her husband Robert Demke, and Julie and her husband Matt Nedostup; and four grandchildren.

George A. Pieler ’73


Born March 17, 1951, George attended Hinsdale Township High School near Chicago. At Princeton he majored in public and international affairs (Woodrow Wilson School) and was active in Whig-Clio, where he served as president.

George attended Columbia Law School, graduating in 1976. He moved to Washington, serving as an attorney at the Federal Reserve and later on the staff of Republican Sen. Bob Dole, majority leader in the Senate. George then held several positions in the Department of Education, ending as acting deputy undersecretary. Following government service, George worked with several nonprofits and policy groups in Washington, including as co-founder of the Washington Scholarship Fund. He published widely, on a range of policy issues, while remaining active as a private attorney.

George had a great love for, and deep knowledge of, classical music. His passion was evident at Princeton, with an already large collection of classical recordings that blossomed once he was no longer constrained by a student budget. Intensely private, he was also a lifelong friend to many across all ideological lines, who will miss his wit, unique sense of humor, and generosity.

THE CLASS OF 1974

Harold J. Brewer ’74

HB died Oct. 6, 2021, in Columbus, Ga.

Born in East St. Louis, Ill., with his twin sister, Cheryl, he grew up in Fairview Heights, Ill., where he was deeply involved with his church and sports, leading his basketball team to the state sectional finals and an undefeated football team. He continued playing football at Princeton, but later determined that his love of Jesus and his church took precedence.

He completed his history degree while also studying at the Princeton Theological Seminary.

After graduation he taught at South Brunswick (N.J.) High School while co-pastoring at Liberty Tabernacle in New Jersey. He met his wife, Kathy Ann Byrd, at Twin County Baptist Church, where her father was pastor. They moved back to Illinois, and he planted Cornerstone Community Church and later served on staff with Springfield Community Church from 1996 to 2007 and then with The Chapel. In fall 2020 he moved to Georgia to help with his son’s company.

Throughout his adult years, he stayed close with his roommate, Carl Gustafson. HB was known for his hugs and his deep spirituality.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Kathy; daughters Ana Alikalfić, Joy DeLaere, and Anna Paprocki; son Joshua; and 14 grandchildren.

Romero D. Perkins ’74

Romy died Nov. 1, 2021. He came to Princeton from Phillips Academy along with another star running back in our class, the late Walt Snickenberger. Romy starred in football, of Charter Club, and served as drillmaster for Pete Carril, but also because he thought a Princeton education would stand him in good stead after his playing days were over.

Bob played on the 1976-77 Ivy Championship team and became co-captain senior year. Per teammate and best man at Bob’s wedding, Tim Olah, Bob ate a dozen eggs, over easy, every day for breakfast as part of his training regimen. He scored more than 1,400 points in his Princeton career, amazing in the pre-three-point era.

A passionate reader, Bob majored in English, writing his thesis on postwar American fiction.

The summer preceding freshman year, Bob met the love of his life, Elise De Clerk Roma, to whom he was married for 41 years. They had two children, Kristin and Stephen, and two grandchildren.

A longtime resident of Worcester Township, Pa., where he owned a window, door, and awning business, Bob was on the waiting list for a heart transplant when he died Nov. 9, 2020. The class extends its heartfelt condolences to Elise, Kristin, and Stephen, their family members, and friends.

THE CLASS OF 1983

Philip D. Hren ’83

Philip died Feb. 8, 2021, after a four-and-a-half-year battle with pancreatic cancer. He was raised by John and Joyce Hren in Gainesville, Fla. At Princeton he majored in physics, was a member of Charter Club, and served as drillmaster for the marching band.

After Princeton he earned a Ph.D. in applied physics from Cornell University. While singing with the Cornell Catholic Community Folk Group, he met his wife of 30 years, Catherine (Walsh) Hren. A software engineer by day, Philip spent his free time playing racquetball, singing in the Saint Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church choir, and playing the trumpet with the Little German Band and Dancers of Raleigh.

Philip is survived by his wife and three children, Allison, Madeline, and Andrew; his parents; and his four siblings.

Corinne N.C. Whitaker ’83

Cory died Aug. 24, 2021, in a hiking accident. At Princeton she co-led Princeton Hunger
Action and the Campaign for Jamalpur for low-income people in Bangladesh. She majored in the School of Public and International Affairs and sang in the Glee Club, Chamber Chorus, and Madrigals.

After Princeton Cory was a Fulbright scholar in Togo and then a policy analyst at Bread for the World in Washington, D.C. She earned a Ph.D. at Johns Hopkins, where her dissertation on an internationally funded project in Tanzania reported that village men’s were subverting efforts to empower local women. Cory joined the International Women’s Health Coalition from 1997 to 2008 as senior program officer for Africa and senior advisor for regional programs, and then worked as a consultant for international organizations including the United Nations. Her last evaluation was for a U.N. project in Iraq on reducing gender-based violence.

Cory was an unveiling of uncomfortable truths and a tenacious activist for women and girls. She also devoted her expertise to many volunteer projects and served on the boards of directors of several nonprofits. Her articles and reports will continue to guide human-rights workers. She embodied the ideal of Princeton in the service of humanity.

Cory is survived by her husband, John Tucker; son David Tucker; mother Suzanne Whitaker; and siblings Priscilla Whitaker and Ben Whitaker. Her warmth and compassion were unforgettable, and she is deeply missed.

**THE CLASS OF 1990**

**Samuel J. Fair III ’90**

Sam died July 17, 2021, following a diving accident in Sarasota, Fla.

Sam came to Princeton from St. John’s High School in Toledo, Ohio. At Princeton he majored in politics and was a member of Ivy Club, where he developed lifelong friendships. Sam rowed on the varsity lightweight crew at Princeton and Michigan, then joined the Michigan architectural firm Giffels and work at Princeton and Michigan, then joined the Michigan architectural firm Giffels and

At the time of his death, he was a lease portfolio manager at Mercedes-Benz of Denver/Colorado Springs.

Sam is survived by his life partner, Jennifer Banginda; daughter Maya Fair; mother Linda Sue Fair; and father Samuel J. Fair Jr.

**Daniel L. Palmer ’90**

Dan died July 24, 2021, peacefully in Minneapolis, Minn., at age 53. He suffered a heart attack after playing in a golf tournament.

At Richfield Senior High School, Dan excelled in academics, sports, and band while making strong friendships; Friendships formed the cornerstone of his life.

Dan built many friendships at Princeton, while majoring in psychology and dining at Dial Lodge. He played on the hockey and baseball teams, activities that were among the fond memories shared by classmates who attended his celebration of life.

Dan’s love for sports continued throughout his career. At the time of his death, he was working as operations director at Inside Edge (sports analytics) and as a personal instructor at Hit Dawg, a baseball academy.

Dan is survived by his daughter, Harlee Jade; parents Jane and Thomas Palmer; brother David and his wife, Michelle; and sister Laurie Palmer McMillian and her husband, Omar.

**THE CLASS OF 2000**

**Jasper Dow Bynum ’00**

Dowe died July 17, 2020, at home, after a three-year battle with brain cancer.

He was born Jan. 13, 1978, in Birmingham, Ala. He graduated from Mountain Brook High School, where he was a member of the soccer and basketball teams. He also continued the family tradition of achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. At Princeton he was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity and Cottage Club and kept up his habit of developing a large number of lifelong friends. Part of the inaugural group to major in operations research and financial engineering, he also earned a certificate in finance.

After a year with Goldman Sachs in New York and London, Dowe returned to Birmingham to co-found Cook & Bynum Capital Management. His work provided the opportunity to travel the world in an unending quest for knowledge.

Dowe contributed significant time and resources to charities focused on children, serving as fundraiser, adviser, and board member. As a scratch golfer he especially enjoyed organizing golf tournaments as charity events.

Known as a voracious reader and a walking encyclopedia, he also had a prodigious sense of humor, which never faltered.

Dowe is survived by his wife, Emily; daughters Ann Margaret and Eliza; son Jack; parents Stanley ‘68 and Lucie; brother Julian ‘92; and sister Mary ‘95.

**THE CLASS OF 2003**

**Betsy A. Smith ’03**


Betsy spent her childhood with her parents and her two sisters in Gainesville, Fla. She graduated from Eastside High School’s International Baccalaureate program, where she was a competitive swimmer. While at Princeton, Betsy lived in Forbes College and was a member of Terrace Club. A chemistry major, she nurtured a variety of academic interests that ranged from science to history. She was an active member of the Taekwondo team and sang in the Fire Hazards a cappella group.

After Princeton, Betsy earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from Yale University, then returned to Princeton for her postdoc studies. Betsy continued to share her passion for education at Elmira College, where she was a beloved associate professor of chemistry and had been teaching since 2014.

At age 25, she finished first in her age group at the New Jersey State Triathlon. She also represented the U.S. at the Gay Games in Paris.

Betsy will be remembered for her ardent support of those around her and for the inspiration she provided to people to be comfortable in their own shoes. She was brave and authentic and made the world a more welcoming, hopeful place. Her friends and family will never forget the countless ways she empowered them, cheered them on, and made them feel loved.

Betsy is survived by her beautiful baby daughter, Charlotte; parents Jacquelyn Smith and Dale Smith; sisters Malinda Smith and Jean Smith Ashby ’77; brother-in-law Corey Ashby; nephew Miles Ashby; and her three cats.

**GRADUATE ALUMNI**

**Edward X. Tuttle *’52**


He was born June 28, 1927, in Ann Arbor, Mich. In 1944, at Union College, Ted joined the V-12 program. In 1947 he joined the U.S. Naval Reserve, attaining the rank of commander in 1963 and retiring in 1967.

At Brown he earned a bachelor’s degree in engineering while serving as a member of the Naval Officer Training Corps. Ted did graduate work at Princeton and Michigan, then joined the Michigan architectural firm Giffels and Vallet. In 1959 he opened his own architecture business in Southfield, Mich., and remodels the Battle Creek Gas Co. building. For a gas station and diner in Alpena, Mich., Ted helped design a 30-foot-tall Paul Bunyan lumberjack made almost entirely of Kaiser automobile parts. Kaiser Paul became the mascot of the Alpena Community College Lumberjacks cross-country team.

Persuaded that he was suited to the law as a specialist in architectural and engineering litigation, Ted graduated from the Detroit College of Law in 1977 and joined the firm of Denenberg, Tuffley in Southfield, retiring in 1991.

Ted is survived by children Nora, Nancy, and Roy; three grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and sister Patricia Gazouelas.

**John McKenzie Gunn *’54**

PRINCETONIANS / MEMORIALS

John was born Jan. 16, 1924, in Pensacola, Fla. He began college at Washington & Lee in September 1941, but left to serve in the Army’s 84th Infantry Division’s Medical Corps.

After earning a degree in physics in 1949 from Georgia Tech, John decided his real passion was economics. He attended the University of North Carolina, then earned an A.M. in economics from Princeton in 1954.

John’s first academic job was at Florida State University. He returned to Washington & Lee, eventually retiring as the Lewis Whitaker Adams Professor of Economics.

John had a reputation as a demanding teacher and a caring mentor. He helped students find jobs, apply to business or law school, or seek a postgraduate fellowship. The numerous recognitions that John received included the establishment of two endowed scholarships in his name. He relished getting to know many of the successive Gunn scholars.

Not afraid of change, John was an outspoken advocate for coeducation at Washington & Lee and joined the call for the university to drop Robert E. Lee’s name.

John is survived by son David and granddaughter Gwendolyn.

Robert D. Cogan *56


Born in Detroit, Robert was introduced to jazz as a young boy at the famed Paradise Theater. This led to his lifelong passion for music exploration, writing, and scholarship.

Robert earned a bachelor’s degree and master’s degree in music from the University of Michigan, and an MFA in music from Princeton in 1956.

Robert had a long career at the New England Conservatory of Music. He taught composition and music theory as a faculty member and served as chair of the Graduate Theory Department for many years. The New England Conservatory awarded him an honorary doctor of music degree in 2003.

After retiring, Robert continued teaching as an emeritus faculty member, and taught his final students in 2020.

He traveled widely as a sought-after lecturer and wrote six books on music theory. Robert’s compositions are performed by musicians worldwide. In his last days, his passion for astrophysics continued as he sought to understand “what comes next.”

Robert is survived by his wife of 61 years, Pozzi Escot; daughter Kali; granddaughter Annaka; and brother Richard.

Raymond C. Fort Jr. *65


He was born March 28, 1938, in Philadelphia, and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Drexel Institute of Technology in 1961. He earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from Princeton in 1965.

Raymond taught organic chemistry from 1965 to 1985 at Kent State University, where he received the Distinguished Teaching Award in 1982 and authored several textbooks. He then accepted an offer to move to the University of Maine as professor and chair of the chemistry department, where he continued to teach and do research beyond his official retirement in 2016.

Raymond collaborated with researchers across campus and nationally, applying his skills in physical organic chemistry and computational chemistry to a wide array of theoretical and applied chemistry problems. He was an influential and generous mentor and friend to many young faculty members and students. Passionate about his life’s work of teaching and doing research, he was also known for his commitment to dressing well while lecturing.

Raymond is survived by his daughter, Lisabeth Wills; son Raymond C. Fort III; three grandchildren; and siblings George and Elaine.

Craig M. MacLean *66

Craig died Nov. 12, 2021, of cancer in Englewood, Fla.

He was born Oct. 13, 1938, in Ridgewood, N.J. After serving in the Army, Craig earned an undergraduate degree in political science from Brooklyn College in 1964. Craig furthered his passion for military history and political science at Princeton by pursuing a master’s degree in politics and government in 1966.

After seven years in academia on the faculties of Oberlin and Gettysburg, Craig found his true home in the nonprofit sector.

He devoted 35 years to Horizon Goodwill Industries in western Maryland, working to provide training and employment opportunities for underrepresented individuals.

As Horizon Goodwill’s executive director, Craig grew the organization from three to 17 stores, adding donation processing, training, and resource centers in western Maryland and West Virginia. He helped ensure that those who came to Goodwill for assistance received skills training, vocational services, and opportunities to connect with the resources they might need. The Horizon Goodwill corporate headquarters in Hagerstown, Md., was named the Craig M. MacLean Career Development Center in his honor.

Craig is survived by his wife of 56 years, Abby; children Ken MacLean ’90, Heather MacLean Thomas, and Jennifer MacLean ’92; and seven grandchildren.

Michael L. Groden *75

Michael died March 25, 2021, of cancer in Englewood, Fla.

Born in Detroit, Michael was introduced to Robert A. Frost’s poetry at the age of 12. He attended the University of Michigan, then earned a master’s degree in English from Dartmouth and a Ph.D. in English from Princeton in 1975. His graduate adviser was A. Walton Litz ’51, under whom he focused on the writings of James Joyce.

Studying Joyce’s manuscripts, Michael made several significant discoveries that led to his dissertation and his book, Ulysses in Progress. The book reoriented the general approach to Joyce’s most famous work in the direction of its textual development.

Garland Publishing issued all of Joyce’s surviving manuscript materials as The James Joyce Archive, and Michael became general editor.

He spent his entire career on the faculty of the University of Western Ontario.

In 2002 at the National Library of Ireland, Michael expertly explained the importance of the large collection of Ulysses manuscripts that the library had acquired from the family of Paul León, Joyce’s close friend and adviser.

Michael was awarded an honorary doctorate by the National University of Ireland in 2004, the centenary of the year in which Ulysses is set.

Michael is survived by his wife, Molly Peacock; and his siblings, Joel and Marcia.

Pierre E. Mendelsohn *93

Princeton lost a dedicated volunteer when Pierre died Nov. 3, 2021, in London at the age of 51.

Known for his generosity with students and alumni alike, Pierre was a stalwart volunteer for Graduate Annual Giving and supported the Alumni Schools Committee of the UK over many years. Pierre also contributed to an ASC UK program offering newly matriculating students meaningful work experience opportunities. He was a member of the Graduate School’s Leadership Council, promoting entrepreneurship and the highest business ethics.

Born July 23, 1970, Pierre came to Princeton from France after earning a master’s degree in engineering/computational fluid dynamics from the Grenoble Institute of Technology. He earned a master’s degree in mechanical and aerospace engineering from Princeton in 1993.

An engineer turned pioneering entrepreneur, Pierre worked in leading banks in New York, London, and Hong Kong before founding his own company, Alpima, in London in 2014. Alpima offered a new investment philosophy, based on Object-Oriented Investing. Pierre was named one of the top 50 CEOs of 2021 by the Financial Technology Report.

Pierre is survived by his wife, Laure; daughter Ilias; and sons Auguste and Arthur.

Graduate memorials are prepared by the APGA. Undergraduate memorials appear for Paul Mott Rodda ’42 ’51, Melvin P. Peisakoff ’38 ’50, Shawn Biehler ’58 ’79, Alan Forcione ’60 ’68, Robert A. Moreen ’68 ’75, and Steven C. Charen ’71 ’74.
Classifieds

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

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

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

Tuscany, Italy: Val d’Orcia village house with sunny garden, sleeps 4, walk to restaurants, www.cozyholidayrentals.com

United States, Northeast

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

Bridgehampton, NY: Charming 3BR, 2.5 bath home, pool, walk to town/train, bike to beach. Available August 1–Labor Day. 917-446-3605, bill@thedailyfinq.com. 2-week minimum.

Brooklin, ME: Two weeks between July 16 and August 6. Large, secluded, shorefront house on Eggemoggin Reach. Sleeps 7. Near WoodenBoat School, Bar Harbor, coastal adventures. mcdallett@gmail.com, ’78

United States, West

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February 2022 PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY 87
The Polish Logician Of Firestone

By Elyse Graham ’07

“Voyaging through strange seas of thought alone” is how the poet William Wordsworth described the work of Isaac Newton. Perhaps the very idea that genius is eccentric has pushed some intellectuals to seek out eccentric paths. Whatever the case, when we survey the crowd of those whom humanity has reckoned to have genius, we see a great many figures standing politely at a 30-degree angle to the world in which everyone else lives.

One such figure was Rose Rand, once a staple character in Firestone Library. She came to Princeton from Vienna, where, in the 1930s, she belonged to the Vienna Circle, a group of 20-odd philosophers, scientists, and mathematicians who sought to establish a logical bedrock for thought amid a dangerous rising tide of nationalism and irrationalism.

They were an interesting group. Kurt Gödel, a brilliant logician, followed the twists of paradox to the insight that any system of mathematics must be either incomplete or inconsistent. Felix Kaufmann, a master of deductive logic, tracked problems of mathematical infinity as diligently as he tracked problems in criminal law. Olga Hahn-Neurath, despite going blind in college, advanced the Boolean algebra that controls computers today. Discussion topics included: Do scientists know things? Does mathematics reference our world? Can one translate the sentence “This is fun” into the language of logic? Is green an experience?

“If we were to open the window so that passersby could hear us,” one member later said of the group’s Thursday meetings, “we would wind up either in jail or in the loony bin.”

Rand’s special interest as a philosopher lay in reasoning about social rules and obligations. As a Jewish woman, she couldn’t find a paying position in philosophy and had to eke out a subsistence living from translation work. No matter; the world of ideas was very real to her, and to the extent that she could, she lived there. In addition to being one of its thinkers, Rand was also the Vienna Circle’s official historian, documenting every meeting in spiky cursive.

When the Nazis took over Austria, she fled to Oxford, then Princeton. She did not hold a position at the University, but she held a library card. She wrote and wrote, building towers in the high, cold air of abstract reasoning, sharing her notes from Vienna with other scholars by post to keep alive the conversations of a friend group now scattered.

John V. Fleming ’63, an emeritus professor of English at Princeton, later recalled Rand as a campus mystery in the 1960s: “a small, frowning woman of gimlet glance and impenetrable accent who clomped about the philosophy shelves on the third floor in high-top Keds.” Even her name was an enigma: “She was universally referred to among awed library regulars as ‘the Polish Logician.’ One didn’t know whether this meant a logician who was by nationality a Pole, or a practitioner of logic in a Polish mode. (Both things apparently were true.)”

The Polish Logician made brilliant contributions to philosophy, which others have built on while examining how to run a free and democratic society. She didn’t choose a life without a state, a scholarly home, or the strange and wonderful discourse that exalted her youth in Vienna, but she chose to continue that discourse even though it meant lifting a solitary voice in a wilderness of bookshelves far from home. She died in Princeton in 1980.

Without her writings, we would have a weaker purchase on reasoning about what it means to belong to a community; and we would know far less about the Vienna Circle, whose members Rand observed as carefully as they observed the turbulent social world around them.
Andy graduated from Princeton University in 1960, where he majored in German, French, and Italian, a choice that proved to be very useful during his long and illustrious career in international banking. Most of his professional life was spent overseas, first in Japan and then for many years in London. His passion for travel and books led him to write and publish five books focused on the literary heritage of places he knew and loved.

Deborah, too, enjoyed a happy professional career, earning a master's degree in library science and working as a librarian. Later, her love of music led to a rewarding career as a school music teacher. She has always been interested in biking and, as with almost everything she does, she took that to the next level by cycling across the entire North American continent from Boston to Vancouver.

Princeton Reunions

In 2015, Andy's multinational life included a trip to Princeton University for a major Reunion. He knew that he would find Deborah in town; she had lived there for years as part of the communities associated with the Center for Communications Research and the Princeton Junior School. They learned that their connection to each other was still strong.

“We discovered that we had the same passions and interests – travel, books, languages, music – and having both lost our spouses, we decided to combine our lives.”

Their new life together needed a new home. They wanted to live in a well-located community, with a diverse group of active and intellectually engaged residents, with easy access to cultural events and fine dining... and with stress-free home ownership offered by a well-managed condominium. In 2019 they found that community at Princeton Windrows.

One of the attractions of Princeton Windrows that resonated with them was the impressive library which includes shelves of books by resident authors. Andy’s books are now displayed there. Living with others who also love books offers him opportunities to serve as a presenter at the weekly "Wednesday at Windrows" lecture series.

He has been known to transform himself into Henry James, delivering monologues in character. He and Deborah also enjoy the movies, art exhibitions, and concerts that are a regular part of life at Windrows.

Hitting the Right Notes

Deborah and Andy love music as much as they do books. They fill their beautiful apartment with the sounds of their daily harpsichord and recorder duets. They enjoy attending Princeton Symphony Orchestra concerts in the Windrows living room as well as live jazz evenings in the Pub.

But neither Deborah nor Andy would be content with a sedentary life, however rich it might be in cultural events. Both of them enjoy all the physical activities that Princeton Windrows offers: swimming (Andy teaches a water exercise class), exercising in the gym, tai chi and yoga, tennis, pickleball, and walking and biking along Lake Carnegie.

“Princeton Windrows has everything we could have wanted, with the added benefit of new friends who also like travel, books, music, outdoor activities, and a fine dinner – plus a glass or two of good wine.”

Living among fellow Princeton University alumni and retired professors and staff, as well as an internationally diverse group of interesting neighbors, has made their experience truly special. As we emerge from the pandemic, these two kindred spirits will surely be jet-setting around the globe again. When it is time to head home, the beauty, security, and community of Princeton Windrows will be right here waiting.

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