

KAREEM MADDOX '11 HEADS TO OLYMPICS AS BASKETBALL TORCHBEARER

PRINCETON ALUMNI

JULY/AUGUST 2024

Reunions *to Remember*

PAGE

52

THE RECONSTRUCTION
OF P.G. SITTENFELD '07

*The fallen political star
waits to see if he'll be
sent back to prison*

MISSY WYANT SMIT, '98

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CONTENTS

JULY/AUGUST 2024 VOLUME 124 NUMBER 11

An editorially independent magazine by alumni for alumni since 1900



A NEW START WITHIN REACH
P.G. Sittenfeld '07 says "beautiful things ... are yet to happen" despite his public fall from grace. See page 50

FEATURES

30 Rising Above at Reunions

Despite a sad absence and controversy, it was a roaring Reunions, especially for the Class of 2024 that entered Princeton during the height of COVID restrictions.

BY CARLETT SPIKE

42 The Long Road to Paris

Kareem Maddox '11 heads to the Olympics as a torchbearer for 3-on-3 basketball and the Princeton program.

BY ALEXANDER WOLFF '79

50 P.G. Sittenfeld '07 Has Reached a Verdict

The former rising political star hopes to forge a new path but awaits an appeal ruling that could send him back to prison.

BY DAVID MONTGOMERY '83

ON THE COVER

The Class of 1959 and other reuners march down Elm Drive during the P-rade.

Photograph by Kevin Birch

DEPARTMENTS

2 The President's Page

4 Inbox

12 On the Campus

23 Research

61 Princetonians

64 Class Notes

83 Memorials

95 Classifieds

96 Princeton Portrait



Commencement 2024: 'Leaning into Life, at Princeton and Beyond'

PHOTO BY CHARLES SYKES; ASSOCIATED PRESS IMAGES



On May 28, I had the honor of presiding over Princeton's 277th Commencement. I used the occasion to express my gratitude to our 2024 graduates for their crucial role in restoring, renewing, and improving Princeton's culture in the wake of the pandemic. Here are my remarks. — C.L.E.

In a few minutes, all of you will walk out of this stadium as newly minted graduates of this University. Before you do, however, it is Princeton's longstanding tradition for the University president to offer a few remarks about the path that lies ahead of you.

I regard that annual opportunity as both a tremendous privilege and a great challenge, even in an ordinary year, and all the more so in this one. The Commencement address is a curious genre of public speaking. Thousands of them are delivered at colleges and high schools around the country every year.

Very few contain profound wisdom, and most are rapidly forgotten. I do not, for example, remember anything that President Bill Bowen said at my Commencement.

Fortunately, if perhaps somewhat inexplicably, the *New York Times* covered that 1983 speech, so I can tell you—from research, not recollection—that President Bowen urged my class to forsake selfish goals in favor of public service. Sensible advice, if not exactly earth-shattering.¹

Cory Turner, reporting for NPR's *All Things Considered*, divides Commencement messages into two categories: the "you are special" address, in which the speaker tells graduates that they have what it takes to solve the world's most intractable problems, and the "you are not special" address, in which the speaker tells graduates that their success is due not only to talent and effort but also to assistance or luck, which they must pay forward to others.²

In an article about Commencement addresses published earlier this month, former Harvard President Drew Faust wrote that ChatGPT can produce "a script that sounds like every [graduation] speech you've ever heard."³

In case you are wondering, ChatGPT urges—and now I think I am going to quote Drew Faust, not ChatGPT—that "[g]raduates should practice resilience, pursue purpose, nurture relationships,

embrace change, innovate, accept their responsibility to lead, and persevere as they embark on their journey into 'a world of infinite possibilities.'"

To these messages one might add the exhortation that we should all respect and listen to one another despite our political differences. That advice has become extremely popular now, at a time when very few people, young or old, seem genuinely disposed to take it.

Indeed, if graduation speeches were always a vexed genre, they have become more so in these polarized times, when the selection of Commencement speakers is a predictable flashpoint for campus controversy.

Princeton has mostly avoided that predicament by virtue of its rule that the president is the Commencement speaker every year, though in this year I recognize that I am myself a controversial choice for some of you.

In these deeply troubled times, I wish that I had some sage, original, and unforgettable counsel to offer you about how to heal our aching and torn world, or how to live well within it.

I do not think that I can claim such insight in this moment.

So let me instead use my time to offer my thanks and admiration for all of you who graduate today for what you have done while at Princeton—and also to offer you a wish for the years ahead.

I suppose that makes this, by the way, a "you are special" speech. My apologies to anyone who was hoping for the "you are not special" option!

I will begin with gratitude. I am grateful to you for the way that you have helped to restore and improve Princeton's culture. Your energy and initiative were essential in the wake of a pandemic that, in addition to robbing us of so many other things, eroded the norms and habits of social activity.

During the COVID gap, club memberships dwindled; customs evaporated.

A varsity coach told me how surprised he had been to discover that some informal team gatherings no longer occurred.

An officer at Whig-Clio described having to reconstruct unwritten rules that had existed for generations but were now forgotten.

We had to learn anew how to show up for one another and with one another. We had to recall, or reinvent, the rituals that knit us together and the practices that enable us to cooperate effectively with one another.

You came to Princeton, and you breathed new life into our community. You leaned into academic projects and extracurricular ones. You reconstructed,

PHOTO BY CHARLES SYKES; ASSOCIATED PRESS IMAGES



Our newest alumni celebrate their Commencement with the dazzling energy they've brought to Princeton since their arrival.

refreshed, and revitalized acapella groups, athletic teams, dance troupes, musical ensembles, religious and spiritual groups, debating societies, scientific laboratories, co-ops, eating clubs, entrepreneurial networks, the undergraduate and graduate student governments, the Triangle Show, the Princeton University Band, and countless other organizations.

You pursued independent research in dozens of countries. You embodied the enduring value of a broad, liberal arts education by immersing yourselves at the intersection of disciplines—engineering and music, biology and literature, computer science and ancient texts—in the process forging meaningful new areas of research and scholarship.

For that, I am grateful to you.

My wish for you is that you lean into life after Princeton, and into your communities wherever you are, with the same dazzling energy and imagination you showed while you were here. In a world where “remote work” and “remote everything” are possible and tempting, I hope you will continue to show up in person, fully and humanly. By doing so you will contribute to the world. You will also, I hope, find joy in what you do.

If I have any wisdom to offer you today, it is this: happiness often comes from collective human

endeavor to produce something of value to society. The goals need not be grand or newsworthy.

The happiness I am describing is what can make it so satisfying to be part of an athletic team, a theater group, a community garden, a religious congregation, or a workplace. The shared quest to achieve something worthwhile can be deeply meaningful even if it is not headline-making.

I hope, too, that Princeton will remain one source of community in your life. As this weekend’s festive Reunions activities demonstrated, Princeton alumni remain devoted and engaged with this University long after they complete their degrees. That is true whether they are on campus for Reunions or far beyond the FitzRandolph Gate. I hope you will enjoy the opportunity to sustain the connections that you formed here and to form new ones with Princetonians across time zones and generations.

For now, all of us on this platform wish you well on the journey that lies ahead. Whether you receive today a doctoral degree, a master’s degree, or an undergraduate degree, we hope that you will return often to Old Nassau and consider this campus one of your homes. We will welcome you then as we cheer you today, wishing you every success as Princeton University’s Great Class of 2024!

¹ James Barron, “Princeton Head Tells Graduates to Serve Society,” *New York Times* (June 8, 1983).

² Cory Turner, “Anatomy of a Great Commencement Speech,” *All Things Considered*, NPR (May 20, 2014).

³ Drew Gilpin Faust, “The Strange Ritual of Commencement Speeches,” *Atlantic* (May 8, 2024).

INBOX

YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE LATEST ISSUES

THESIS DREAMS

The recent PAW cover story honors the glories of the senior thesis (“The Senior Thesis at 100,” May issue), but doesn’t spend much time on the agonies.

As a Nassoon, I spent year after year watching my good friends senior to me go through the rituals of getting their theses done, such



that I had acquired a good case of “thesis PTSD” by my senior year.

I hated my carrel, used only for working with books that had to stay in the “libe”; wrote my thesis in a two-week marathon session of getting up at noon, eating

lunch, then writing until 6 the next morning (visited nightly at 3 a.m. by the herds of cockroaches who lived in Laughlin Hall); finished a pedestrian effort that earned me the Princeton equivalent of a B+; and then graduated.

Looking back, I so regret the lost opportunity to really do something with my thesis (as I regret not majoring in history to study the 20th century, as I do now on my own). I also marvel at how that effort seemed so daunting looking back from much higher hills conquered in later life.

For decades afterward, I periodically had the thesis equivalent of the famous “exam dream” — *It’s due today! Have I started it? Where do I turn it in? No wait, I was an early concentrator and actually wrote it last year — whew! Or did I? Ugh!*

DAVID G. ROBINSON '67
Wayland, Mass.

GETTING CREATIVE

The PAW article on the history of the senior thesis included a photo of Edward T. Cone '39 and the information that his was the first work submitted as a “creative thesis.” This brought back quite a few memories for me.

Ed Cone was my mother’s distant cousin and probably the most compelling reason for my attending Princeton. I was a music major and, when thesis time

came around, I applied to write a cantata based on the García Lorca play *The House of Bernarda Alba*.

All was going well and, since I’d composed music since high school, I thought, “This is a piece of cake!” I submitted it two days early to my thesis adviser, the brilliant composer and educator Milton Babbitt *42 *92, who said, “Fine. Now orchestrate it.”

Holy Humperdinck! I had two days to

take my piano score, break it down, and expand it into parts for a full orchestra! I went through boxes of NoDoz but got it done.

A year earlier I had put in a lot of work on my junior paper: “Simultaneous Composition in Jazz and Classical Music,” an examination of the music of Stravinsky, Ellington, et al. I got a disappointing grade. But, without my knowledge, Ed Cone read it and raised the grade. My J.P. adviser didn’t appreciate jazz. Ed Cone did.

JOHN SIMON '63
Vero Beach, Fla.

PATIENTS’ ACCESS TO RESULTS

Regarding “Between the Airlock Doors” (Princetonians, May issue): Many physicians — not only the essay writer — seem to think that it’s their right to “protect” patients and families from receiving test results. I disagree. Doctors can certainly advise patients not to sign up for notifications, and they can even tell patients that they will not discuss results outside of an in-person appointment. But they have no right to deny patients access to results.

I’ve waited for test results, and I’ve also received bad news from test results. I can say that, for me, not knowing is much, much worse than knowing, even when the news is bad. So I wish to express my sincere thanks to the legislators who passed the 21st Century Cures Act. I’m incredibly grateful that, in the future, I won’t be at the mercy of paternalistic doctors who want to control my access to my own test results.

BETH LAMPERT PARKS '88
Hamilton, N.Y.

I am a retired family physician who has witnessed the painful waits by patients and their family members for medical results over four decades. There is a tone of hubris in “Between the Airlock Doors” that compels me to declare that people are far more resilient than the author realizes. By the time patients see a subspecialist,

AMY ROTH

they often have some background already as to what the overall results of a report might mean. Above all, Dr. Silberman fails to acknowledge that providing results in a timely fashion can ameliorate the pain of waiting. Receiving a dreaded result may not be the most acute cause of pain at the time when serious illness is suspected, but rather simply the pain of the unknown, which is what his vignettes describe.

What is to be mourned is a continuation of the trend toward less and less time for physicians to actually talk with patients. But this should not deprive patients of filling that need to know for sure ASAP.

KEVIN M. HEPLER '76, M.D.
Mechanicsburg, Pa.

PROTEST AND COUNTERPROTEST

Thank you for your timely and insightful coverage of campus demonstrations around the Gaza war (On the Campus, June issue).

Regarding the Clio Hall occupation, while I don't fully agree with the protesters (and I appreciate Princeton's support when Israel was attacked, in my junior year and again 50 years later), they are continuing a long legacy of campus activism. The damage they did is minor compared with past demonstrations, or even a rowdy night on Prospect Street. The University should keep this in mind when considering discipline.

JON ARNON '75
Merion, Pa.

Editor's note: The University said in a May 20 statement that the Princeton students arrested at Clio Hall were unlikely to face penalties greater than probation.

Howard Levy '85's balanced analysis and assessment of the situation on the ground in Israel and Gaza provides the necessary historical and real-time context that is sorely lacking from much of the protests (On the Campus, June issue). His assessment of the situation on the ground at Princeton makes me sad. While I imagine some protesters mean well, "intellectually weak, inaccurate," and demonizing rhetoric has no place on our campuses, especially those like Princeton that pride themselves

ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

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OLYMPICS En Garde in Paris

At age 19, **Tatiana Nazlymov '27** is headed to her first Olympics, following in the footsteps of her grandfather, Vladimir Nazlymov, a three-time gold medalist in saber fencing. Nazlymov is one of five Princeton fencers who earned spots on the U.S. squad — a new high for the program, which also has a current student representing Canada and an alum competing for Egypt. "Knowing that you're training with Olympians and very strong fencers boosts the morale" in Princeton's fencing room, Nazlymov says.

Read more and watch for more coverage of Tigers at the Paris Olympics this summer at paw.princeton.edu.

PAWCAST 2024 Valedictorian

Genrietta Churbanova '24 is an anthropology major who spent much of her time at Princeton researching Russia-China relations in both the Russian and Chinese



CHURBANOVA '24

languages. On this episode of the PAWcast, she talks about her research, about growing up in both Moscow and Little Rock, Arkansas, and about her extracurriculars — including serving as president of the student Society of Russian Language and Culture and opinions editor of *The Daily Princetonian*. Listen at paw.princeton.edu or wherever you get your podcasts.

PAW BOOK CLUB Bianca Bosker '08

The PAW Book Club's third podcast is out — a funny and insightful conversation with author **Bianca Bosker '08**. For her book *Get the Picture*, Bosker immersed herself in the world of fine art by taking various odd jobs: painting gallery walls white, selling art at a major Miami festival, standing guard at the Guggenheim. She found the art world can be elitist, insular, and perhaps a bit crazy — but also wonderfully illuminating.



BOSKER '08

Listen at paw.princeton.edu or wherever you get your podcasts.

And get ready for our next read, **Katie Kitamura '99's** much-lauded novel *Intimacies*.

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Princeton Alumni Weekly (I.S.S.N. 0149-9270) is an editorially independent, nonprofit magazine supported by Princeton University and paid advertising. Its purpose is to report with impartiality news of the alumni, the administration, the faculty, and the student body of Princeton University. The views expressed in the *Princeton Alumni Weekly* do not necessarily represent official positions of the University. The magazine is published monthly with a combined July/August issue.

Princeton Alumni Weekly, 194 Nassau Street, Suite 38, Princeton, NJ 08542. Tel 609-258-4885; email paw@princeton.edu; website paw.princeton.edu.

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on diversity, depth of knowledge, intellectual rigor, and a spirit of inquiry.

I thank Howard for his quiet counterprotest and hope that at least a few students will engage in dialogue with him, forgoing blind hatred in favor of productive understanding.

EVE GENDRON '88

Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Lecturer Nancy Coffin is partially correct that “the basic role of faculty is to support the students” (On the Campus, June issue). Why, then, have she and others from the Faculty for Justice in Palestine supported events like the December rally that invited speakers from Samidoun, an alleged supporter of foreign terrorist organizations, to campus? Why do they charge pro-Israel University members with supporting genocide and apartheid and insist that the University stop supporting campus CJL and Hillel student programs like Tiger-Trek Israel? Why do they target for termination a talented Black woman leader like Vice President Rochelle Calhoun, who for almost a decade has ably shepherded Princeton’s student body as it has become more diverse, survived COVID, dealt with multiple student deaths, etc., simply because a grand total of 13 students were arrested? That doesn’t sound like supporting students to me.

Coffin, however, is only partially correct. Aren’t Ivy League faculty forays into the public arena supposed to be grounded in expertise? Look at the CVs of the professors listed in PAW’s coverage. With the exception of Max Weiss, who has taught courses on Israel and Palestine, none is a published area specialist on Zionism, Israeli studies, or U.S.-Israel relations. On what basis do they make their bold declarations regarding problems that actual experts find so intractable and tragic? As they surely know in their own fields, that which is complex often looks simple to outsiders. If some of these faculty produce actual reasoned research backing their claims, I look forward to reading it.

ROBERT HILL '00

Miami, Fla.

Thank you for the article, “Protesters Paint Graffiti, Dye Fountain Red,

Interrupt Eisgruber at Reunions” (published online May 25). I do worry that the student protests have led to a counterproductive backlash, with too much attention devoted to the controversy over the protests themselves, and too little attention devoted to Israel’s relentless attacks on those in Gaza — Hamas terrorists and innocent civilians alike. For example, I read today that extremist settlers in the West Bank have been attacking trucks trying to feed those who are starving in Gaza.

RICHARD M. WAUGAMAN '70

Potomac, Md.



TWO YEARS, NO MEAL PLAN

I was amused in reading the Student Dispatch about free food at Princeton (On the Campus, May issue) as I happen to be an expert on that topic — admittedly before COVID. Like any sedulous Princetonian should, I did my research before I started and even spent a semester with “training wheels”: a meal plan combined with free food. When I started for real, I went two years without needing to pay for food, rearrange my schedule, or stash leftovers in my room. And though I’m not a gourmand by any means, my average meal at Princeton was of higher quality than the average meal for any other year of my life.

I’ll admit I was also motivated by the food that gets thrown away. I’ve never been able to waste food, finishing my plate every time for as long as I can remember, and it makes me sad when perfectly good food goes to waste. When there was an extreme excess of food in a faraway location, I sometimes made a point of going there and bringing as much of it as I could back to Frist to redistribute there. My little way of trying to help the planet.

NATHAN MYTELKA '19

Bellevue, Wash.

HIP-HIP ETIQUETTE

Reunions and the P-rade of 2024 were delightful, as always. But there were several violations of the acceptable protocol for the esteemed locomotive cheer.

As set forth by the acknowledged locomotive masters, Turk Thacher '66 and Tiny Morgan '66, a few basic rules should be observed when giving or receiving this hallowed tribute:

1. Don't cheer for yourself; never give, or join in with, a locomotive for your own class.
2. When your class is receiving a locomotive cheer, don't shout back at the same time. It's better to wait until the other class has finished the cheer for your class. Then you can either doff your orange caps in thanks or reciprocate with a locomotive for the class that has just cheered for you.
3. When giving a locomotive for the class one year older than yours, don't chant their class numerals, but rather: "Old Guard! Old Guard! Old Guard!"

4. The cheer should gradually increase in tempo, like a locomotive gathering speed. The locomotive has been a feature of Princeton gatherings for well over a century, so it's important to get it right.

T.R. REID '66
Denver, Colo.

REUNIONS TENT SLIDING

I can confirm tent sliding occurred pre-Reunions in 1983 (Reunions Guide, published online May 21). But until I read Mark F. Bernstein '83's great article, I had no idea I was part of such a tiny piece of Princeton trivia. I truly believed that this had been done for generations.

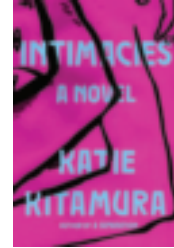
As for safety and pounds per square foot, we relied on the Roman method of testing: If somebody did it before and it didn't fall down, you can keep doing it. Apparently that was a flawed assumption.

BRYAN BELL '83
Raleigh, N.C.

continues on page 11

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Award for Service to Princeton

The Alumni Council Award for Service to Princeton recognizes outstanding contributions to the University by volunteers in the Princeton community, with particular emphasis on those who serve significantly but inconspicuously.

Ricardo DeLeon '86, chair of the Committee on Awards for Service to Princeton, announced the 2024 honorees at the Annual Meeting of the Alumni Council that was held in Richardson Auditorium during Reunions on Friday, May 24.



Robert Gleason '87

Focusing on inclusion and expanding what it means to be an active Princetonian, Robert Gleason '87 gives his time, creativity and intellect to help all alumni feel welcome. From co-chairing the first “Every Voice” conference for LGBTQ+ alumni to serving on the Alumni

Council Executive Committee to leading key initiatives on volunteer engagement and the Committee to Nominate Alumni Trustees, Robert has championed new ways to enhance the sense of belonging for Princetonians of all backgrounds by engaging with people who feel left out and bringing them back into the conversation.

Erica McGibbon '07

A transformative Princeton in Asia (PiA) teaching fellowship launched the higher education career of Erica McGibbon '07 and provided her first opportunity as an alumni volunteer. In 2019, she became the first Black woman to serve as a PiA trustee, advocating for policies to make the

organization more inclusive. A member of the Association of Black Princeton Alumni leadership board since 2021, Erica has led the ABPA's efforts to engage deeply with Princeton's current students, further brightening the paths of untold numbers of alumni and students with her infectious energy and dedication.



Beverly Randez '94

When Beverly Randez '94 moved to San Diego in 2008, she helped transform its Princeton club into a more active regional association. She upgraded its communications while building a leadership pipeline, matching the club's needs with skills she identified in

volunteers. As a member of the Annual Giving national committee and chair of the Alumni Council's committees on Regional Associations and Service Awards, Beverly created innovative ways to engage alumni and amplify the reach of various groups. Her care and devotion have helped Princeton and its Tigers not only to grow but to blossom.

Frederick Strobel '74

Known for decades as the cornerstone of the Princeton Alumni Association of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, Frederick Strobel '74 was instrumental in giving the club structure in 1979, helping to create a board and by-laws. To this day, he warmly welcomes new Tigers to

the region and gently nudges them toward leadership roles and other service opportunities. An Annual Giving volunteer for more than 25 years — including four years as chair of the AG Committee — Frederick remains “Princeton's mayor in Nashville” because of the grace, kindness and inclusivity that are the hallmarks of his service.



These are excerpts from the full award citations. Read the full texts at alumni.princeton.edu/servicetoprinceton

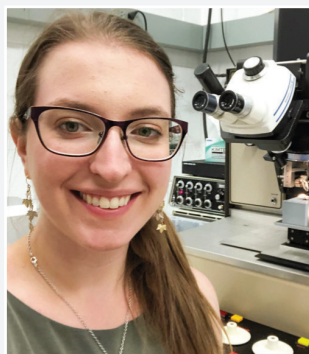
2024 Alumni Trustee Elections

On May 24, the Alumni Council announced the results of the annual alumni trustee election. Trustees elected by Princeton alumni comprise approximately one-third of the University's Board of Trustees. Thank you to all who participated in this year's election.

The alumni elected by their peers to serve as University trustees from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2028, are:



Edward Felsenthal '88
Executive Chair, TIME
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REGION I ALUMNI TRUSTEE



Sarah Marie Michelle Bruno *21
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▶ CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Recommendations for **alumni trustee candidates** are made by the alumni body at large, and nominations for the **Alumni Council Award for Service to Princeton** are made by entire Princeton community.

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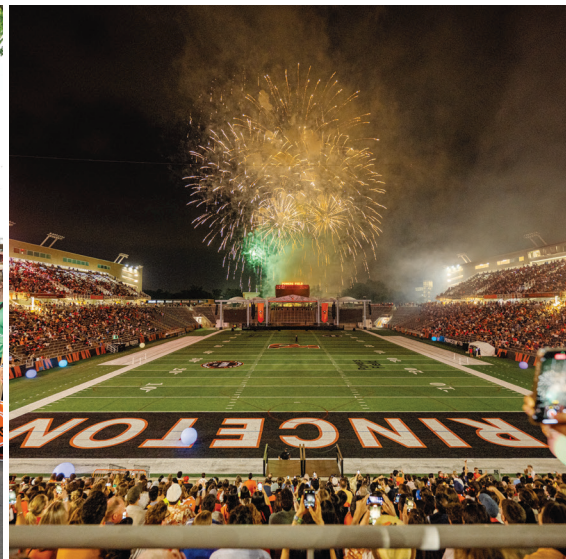
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YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Photos: Sameer Khan and Tori Repp of Fotobuddy

DEAR TIGERS,

At the start of my term as president of the Alumni Association, I shared the book “Belonging” by Owen Eastwood with volunteer leaders. Drawing on his Māori ancestry, Eastwood remarks on the importance of whakapapu, the idea that each of us is part of an unbreakable chain of people across time, hand in hand with those who came before us and those who are to come. It reminds me of our Princeton community and how our shared traditions and unique stories are woven together, creating a powerful and united alumni body.



Monica Moore Thompson '89

Photo: Steven Freeman

In May, Princeton alumni returned to campus from near and far to celebrate Reunions 2024. This annual pilgrimage attracts approximately 25,000 alumni and families who partake in long-standing traditions to celebrate our community. We gather as one, from the Old Guard to the newest graduate and undergraduate alumni. The one and only P-rade, led this year by Donald Fletcher '39 *51 — the oldest returning alumnus from the oldest class — offers a beautiful example of how our University has grown over the generations. The P-rade shows that everyone belongs and all alumni are welcome.

Music and song are another way a community comes together, as evidenced by our alma mater, “Old Nassau.” Written, composed and choreographed by students more than 100 years ago, the song continues to rally alumni today. When we sing it together, we tip our metaphorical hats and wave them outwards and back to express our Tiger spirit.

In addition, there are new traditions, like the Pre-rade and Orange & Black Day, that bring us together on campus and around the world. Whether you are a recent graduate or undergraduate alum, a member of the Old Guard or from one of the many great classes in between, I encourage you to connect with fellow Tigers this summer. We are all guardians of these treasured traditions. Together, we all are Princeton!

Three Cheers,

Monica Moore Thompson '89
Chair, Alumni Council
President, Alumni Association

continued from page 7

ALUMNI AMBASSADORS

I appreciated David Montgomery '83's article on alumni interviewing in the April issue ("The Alumni Interview Endures"). A graduate alumnus, I have been an interviewer for 17 years. I love interviewing: Meeting and connecting with candidates for Princeton has always been a treat. I only wish that I was able to interview more than the seven or eight I am able to interview every year.

To be sure, only a few highly qualified students I interview can be accepted for admission, but I think the interviews have intrinsic value. (My own experiences are such that I think the Office of Admission does a super job with selecting quality candidates for admission.) Maybe the candidate interviewed should — but doesn't — get an offer of admission as an undergraduate, but if the interview is positive, they may return later to Princeton for potential admission to the graduate school, or as a postdoc, or maybe even as a future teacher or professor.

As an ambassador for Princeton, I strive to keep my interviews informative, helpful, and positive. Moreover, as Bradley Saft '00 stated in the article, I also try to "add some color to the application that the admission office may not have." I think interviews have value, for Princeton, for the candidate — accepted or not — and for me as an interviewer. I hope the in-person interviews continue. I also hope I can do this for another 17 years. As one of the thousands of us who interview every year, a big thank you again for this article.

GENE DOUGHERTY *80
Newark, Del.

FOR BUTTER OR WORSE

The May issue "From the Archives" caption asks, "Do you have a Commons-related story you would like to share with PAW?"

Well, why not? It's too late for the proctors to come get us!

I was a waiter in Commons, as were many on scholarships and on the football team. Our job was to bring platters of

food to the tables where students served themselves. We were deployed to the various eating halls and would sit and wait for the rush of hungry students. Somehow some of us thought it would be interesting to take a pat of butter and put it on the blade of a table knife and put the handle on the table. Then you could push down on the blade and release it and send the pat of butter soaring high in the air. Some of us managed to get the butter pats high enough to hit the high ceiling — and stick there!

We liked to imagine that the pat might stick there for a while but come back down on a hungry student to his surprise. We were too busy bringing platters of food to be around for that possible *denouement*, but I wonder — would any reader remember being surprised by a falling butter pat?

CHRISTOPHER WEBBER '53
San Francisco, Calif.

FOR THE RECORD

An article in the June issue about former Princo president Andrew Golden did not include a breakdown of Golden's reported income. He received nearly \$4 million in total compensation in 2021 and was credited with more than \$5 million in previously reported compensation, according to the University tax return.

A photo in the June issue with an article on Kahina Haynes '11 misidentified Emma Wang '23, who appears on the right (page 32).

YOUR PERSPECTIVE

Let us know what you think

✉ PAW@princeton.edu

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Letters should not exceed 250 words and may be edited for length, accuracy, clarity, and civility. Due to space limitations, we are unable to publish all letters received in the print magazine.

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ON THE CAMPUS

NEWS, SPORTS, AND STUDENT LIFE



GRINNING GRAD

Elizabeth Medina '24, standing at right, was among more than 1,900 graduates (bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees) at the University's 277th Commencement on May 28.





COMMENCEMENT 2024

Grads Celebrate the Experience of Learning Together

BY BRETT TOMLINSON

P RINCETON'S COMMENCEMENT moved in 2021, from the front lawn of Nassau Hall to its new home in the more spacious surroundings of Princeton Stadium. But the tradition of exiting through FitzRandolph Gate remains: An hour after seniors recessed from the ceremony on May 27, the line at the gateway was still about 50 grads deep, with a corresponding crowd of family members outside, ready to snap photos.

Eudan Mojados '24, waiting his turn, reflected on the four years that brought him to this point. Enduring the remote-learning fall and socially-distanced spring of freshman year, he said, made him appreciate the experience of learning alongside his classmates. "Having that face-to-face casual conversation, or just your weekly study sessions with your friends, it's a lot easier," he said.

As Princeton conferred 1,297 bachelor's degrees and 609 graduate degrees on May 28, the experiences of learning together and applying what you've learned were common themes across festivities.

At Sunday's Baccalaureate service, Nusrat J. Choudhury '06, a master's of public affairs alumna, spoke about her work interacting with people "from all corners of our society" as a U.S. federal

judge. (She is the first Muslim woman and first Bangladeshi American to fill that role.)

"I hope that as you move forward in your chosen professions that you approach different opinions and perspectives not as a threat — but as an opportunity to learn," Choudhury said. "And I hope that you, like me, take advantage of the fact that you may achieve even more than you dreamed possible by finding opportunities to work with those with whom you may disagree — even where those disagreements are significant."

The Graduate School's hooding



"I hope that as you move forward in your chosen professions that you approach different opinions and perspectives not as a threat — but as an opportunity to learn."

— NUSRAT J. CHOUDHURY '06
First Muslim woman and first Bangladeshi American U.S. federal judge, speaking at the Baccalaureate service

'VENIMUS, VIDIMUS, VICIMUS!'

John Freeman '24 delivers the Latin salutatory address as fellow grads follow along with copies of the English translation.

ceremony, held in Jadwin Gymnasium because of rain, included remarks by Provost Jennifer Rexford '91, who urged the advanced degree recipients to share their knowledge. "Those of you assembled here today represent a wide array of areas of intellectual exploration and of points of view, on a range of important issues," she said. "But I also know that you share a deep appreciation for the importance of advanced learning. Whatever you do and wherever your career takes you, I hope you find ways to communicate the value of scholarship, research, and teaching to the broader public."

At Commencement, valedictorian Genrietta Churbanova '24 recalled her inquisitive youth, when she asked so many questions that her sixth grade history teacher decided to limit her to three questions per class; she evaded the rule by slipping written questions to her friends for them to ask. "No such high-stakes note passing is necessary at Princeton," she said, gratefully.

Churbanova told her classmates that the best way to pay their education forward was to continue the pursuit of knowledge. "Wherever you are and whatever you do, do not stop learning," she said, "for when we stop learning, we stagnate. Remember that those around you always have something to teach you."

Salutatorian John Freeman '24, addressing the graduates in Latin, compared their shared challenges in the classroom and beyond to those endured by Hercules and Sisyphus, noting that by completing their theses, they'd avoided the fate of the latter. "We surely have reached the top and now is the time to rejoice in our great achievements," he said, in a translation of his remarks. "Our glory shall be as sweet as the labor was hard."

President Christopher Eisgruber '83 had the final word at Commencement, a tradition that he said usually helps

SAMEER A. KHAN '21 / FOTOBUDDY; MATT RASPANTI / PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

the University avoid that “flash point for campus controversy,” choosing a graduation speaker. “This year,” he said, “I recognize that I am myself a controversial choice for at least some of you,” an acknowledgement of the tensions between the administration and pro-Palestinian protesters in recent weeks.

On the morning of Commencement, *The Daily Princetonian* reported that the University was holding the degrees of two graduating seniors because of disciplinary investigations related to the disruption of Eisgruber’s speech to alumni at Reunions. University spokeswoman Jennifer Morrill confirmed in an email to PAW that there was an ongoing investigation and holding degrees is standard practice “when seniors are involved in alleged disciplinary violations soon before Commencement.” In June, Princeton Israeli Apartheid Divest announced on social media that the two students had received their diplomas.

During Eisgruber’s Commencement speech, a few dozen graduates stood and turned their backs to the stage in silent protest, while a handful from the graduate student section walked out. At least three groups of spectators draped flags or banners with pro-Palestinian slogans from the stadium’s upper tier.

Eisgruber, continuing without interruption, spoke about how grateful he was for how this year’s graduates restored campus life after the pandemic gap. “Your energy and initiative were essential in the wake of a pandemic that, in addition to robbing us of so many other things, eroded the norms and habits of social activity,” he said. “You came to Princeton, and you breathed new life into our community.”

Eisgruber pointed to extracurricular groups reborn or revitalized and new paths followed in research and scholarship as legacies of this year’s grads.

“My wish for you,” he said, “is that you lean into life after Princeton and into your community, wherever you are, with the same dazzling energy and imagination you’ve shown while you were here.” ■

TORI REPP / FOTOBUIDDY



SAM WATERSTON

CLASS DAY

In a Class of Their Own

THE CLASS OF 2024 has the unique distinction of being the only class to start its time at Princeton not at Princeton. Instead, due to COVID, the then-freshmen were forced to meet and mingle on a Facebook page “from the discomfort of our childhood homes,” as Sierra Stern ’24, one of the class heralds, put it on Class Day.

The annual celebration, which is organized by the senior class and this year fell on Memorial Day, proved the seemingly impossible is possible: Not only did members of the Class of 2024 commemorate the conclusion of their time at Princeton together on Cannon Green after starting their journeys so far apart, but the class also lauded keynote speaker and Emmy- and Golden Globe-Award-winning actor Sam Waterston,

despite the fact that, as Julie Levey ’24, Class Day co-chair, said by way of sarcastic introduction, he was born “in every Princetonian’s favorite city: Cambridge, Massachusetts,” before attending college “at every Princetonian’s favorite university: Yale.”

“I promise it’s only an upwards trajectory from here,” Levey joked.

Waterston — who is most known for his 18-year run as Jack McCoy on *Law & Order* and who has also starred on the stage and in film — limited his advice, noting that as “graduation is

the landmark” of adulthood, he finds it “kind of crazy that the first thing the world wants to do is to tell you, in a graduation speech, how to think and what to do. I’m not going to try.”

Instead, Waterston encouraged the graduates to think for themselves, to take action when appropriate and to be still when needed, and to always remember the importance of play, which he defined as a mixture of love and joy.

In her remarks, Stern, an English major, admitted that when she scrolled through that class Facebook page years ago, she was overwhelmed by her classmates’ accomplishments. “One of you actually discovered a planet, which is like — you didn’t have to do all that,” Stern said. But she learned not to get caught up in comparisons. “After

“So, remember, there’s no obstacle you can’t overcome. ... You once generated enough saliva to fill two plastic tubes a week.”

— ROHIT NARAYANAN ’24
Electrical and computer engineering major and class herald

the last four years of intense exposure therapy, I am no longer afraid of exceptional people,” she said.

Rohit Narayanan ’24, an electrical and computer engineering major and the other class herald, brought things full circle when he said that given the dramatic events class members have endured, they are characterized by a sense of adventure. “So, remember, there’s no obstacle you can’t overcome. ... You once generated enough saliva to fill two plastic tubes a week.”

How times have changed. ■ By J.B.



RUBÉN BLADES BELLIDO DE LUNA

HONORARY DEGREES

Princeton recognized seven individuals, including three alumni, with honorary degrees at Commencement.

Lamar Alexander, a former secretary of education, U.S. senator, and governor of Tennessee, was honored for “his legacy of substantive and bipartisan policy initiatives.”

Rubén Blades Bellido de Luna, a Grammy-winning composer and singer, “also uses his voice and political acumen to advocate for justice,” according to his degree citation.


Paula A. Johnson, a physician, scientist, and the first Black president of Wellesley College, was hailed as “a true champion for women’s higher education.”

Randall Kennedy ’77, a law professor at Harvard and emeritus trustee of Princeton, was recognized for “bringing depth and nuance” to conversations on race and other important topics.

Mark A. Milley ’80, retired U.S. Army general and former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has been described by President Joe Biden as “a patriot uncompromising in his duty.”

Joyce Carol Oates, a versatile, prolific, and celebrated author, “is also and always a teacher, to the enduring gratitude of generations of Princeton students,” her citation said.

Terrence J. Sejnowski *78, a neurobiologist at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, was praised for his “inventive use of physics, mathematics, and statistics to study the brain.”

The Class of 2024 inducted five **honorary classmates** during its Class Day program: Mia González Guerrero, a Campus Dining barista; Neena Simpson, orientation program coordinator in the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students; Claire Gmachl, a professor of electrical engineering and the head of Whitman College; James Vreeland, a professor of politics and international affairs; and actor Sam Waterston, the Class Day speaker. 



OFFICIALLY AN OFFICER

Jordan Bowman-Davis ’24, who will join the U.S. Navy as an ensign, has his rank insignia pinned on by family including his grandfather, retired Navy Capt. Peter Bowman, right. Bowman-Davis was among nine Class of 2024 graduates who began their careers as officers in the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines at a commissioning ceremony held in Nassau Hall after Commencement. U.S. Army Gen. Christopher G. Cavoli ’87, the head of U.S. European Command, delivered the keynote remarks, and retired Gen. Mark Milley ’80, a visiting professor and lecturer at Princeton, returned to the ceremony in civilian dress.



READY TO FLI

More than 160 graduating seniors (and 800 guests) registered to take part in this year’s FLI Graduation, for first generation and/or low income graduates, held at Richardson Auditorium on Class Day. The ceremony, initiated by students in 2016 and now sponsored by the Emma Bloomberg Center for Access and Opportunity, was one of eight cultural and affinity group graduation events this year.

TORI REPP / FOTOBUDDY; MICHAEL PARAS / PRINCETON UNIVERSITY / ROTC; LZG PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF THE EMMA BLOOMBERG CENTER FOR ACCESS & OPPORTUNITY

Beyond the Lake

West Windsor development houses grad students and postdocs, adds facilities for varsity sports

BY BRETT TOMLINSON

IN DECEMBER 2021, President Christopher Eisgruber '83 and a dozen Princeton administrators and local officials placed their shovels in the dirt for a ceremonial groundbreaking at the Meadows Neighborhood (then known as the Lake Campus), extending the University across Lake Carnegie and into the township of West Windsor.

Three years later, the development near Washington Road is taking shape, with housing for graduate students and postdocs now partly occupied, an underground geo-exchange system in place to heat and cool buildings, and several athletics facilities expected to be available in the fall semester.

“The Meadows Neighborhood will provide a place that is experienced as a natural, yet distinctive extension of the existing campus,” Dozie Ibeh, associate vice president for capital projects in the Department of Facilities, told PAW via email. The housing complex includes a community garden, barbeque areas, and outdoor recreation spaces for volleyball and table tennis, along with community rooms and a retail café slated to open this summer.

The 379 housing units opened in April and are expected to be filled by the start of the fall semester. The complex “significantly increases” the number of one-bedroom and studio apartments for grad students and postdocs, which are the most requested types, according to Dorian Johnson, executive director of housing and real estate services. Multi-occupant units include private bathrooms, Johnson added, for residents who want more cost-effective options. Parking is available in a nearby garage; shuttle bus routes,



WELCOME HOME

With 379 new housing units, the Meadows Neighborhood will allow more graduate students to live in University apartments.

sidewalks, and bike lanes connect the Meadows Neighborhood to the main campus.

Graduate housing is in high demand, Johnson said, and the addition of the Meadows complex has “greatly increased the number of students the University can house on an annual basis.” Princeton guarantees University housing for new graduate students who request it before the housing application deadline.

The West Windsor land is also expected to be a major locus for athletics, with competition venues for at least eight varsity teams (softball, men’s and women’s squash and tennis, men’s and women’s cross country, and women’s rugby) as well as club and recreational sports.

The most significant addition, in terms of indoor space, is the 180,000-square-foot Racquet and Recreation Center, which includes indoor and outdoor tennis courts, indoor squash courts, locker rooms, coaches’ offices, and sports medicine facilities. The center, slated to

open this fall, provides satellite fitness and recreation space for the campus community, including residents of the nearby apartments. Haaga House, with locker rooms and other amenities for the rugby programs, is expected to be open in the fall as well, Ibeh said.

The softball team, which had played at a temporary field near Princeton Stadium after being displaced by the construction of New College West, will move in the fall to its new stadium near the Meadows housing, funded by a gift from softball alumna Cynthia Paul '94 and her husband, Scott Levy.

Princeton baseball likely will be the next team to move, according to a proposal for the new Quantum Institute, which would be built partly on what is now Clarke Field. Varsity baseball will relocate to the Meadows Neighborhood, the proposal said, though the site location and timetable for the move have not been announced.

Other campus projects nearing completion include the year-long renovation of Prospect House, which is scheduled to reopen in the fall, and the new Art Museum. Construction of the museum is expected to be finished by the end of the calendar year, and the public opening will come sometime in 2025. ■



'A PLACE FOR DIALOGUE'

Through Rose Castle Training, Students Become Reconcilers

BY JULIE BONETTE

ON STROLLS THROUGH THE English countryside and in front of roaring fireplaces with tea and snacks in an actual castle, a select few Princeton students learned how to become reconcilers — how to bridge contentious divides by extending patient, listening ears and appreciating the humanity of conversational partners — as part of a weeklong training with the Rose Castle Foundation, a charity that hosts peacebuilding trainings for student groups and interfaith and community leaders from across the world.

At the Rose Castle in Cumbria, England, students are introduced to, and then continuously refer back to, what foundation staff describe as Reconciliation 101, depicted through a pie chart divided into what the program identifies as the 12 habits of a reconciler — character traits such as curiosity, forgiveness, and stewardship; forming a ring outside that circle are what are dubbed the three Rs: remember the past, rehumanize the present, and reimagine the future.



IN BLOOM

At top, from left, Ashley Olenkiewicz '25, Alaa Omer '25, and Myles McKnight '23 are among the Princetonians who've traveled to Rose Castle for training on reconciliation.

Though only a few dozen undergraduates and graduates have gotten the opportunity to attend the workshops, they've since formed the Princeton Rose Castle Society (PRCS) with the goal of teaching others what they've learned and creating a positive ripple effect back on campus. Rose Castle staff have also traveled to Princeton a few times, including in January for an intensive two-day Wintersession

training that was attended primarily by University staff.

Alison Boden, dean of religious life and the Chapel, met the founder of the Rose Castle Foundation, Sarah Snyder, while they were both doing work affiliated with the United Nations. She has led three groups to the castle since 2019, most recently during fall break 2023. Boden said students try to infuse the training into their everyday lives once they return — “how they are interacting with everybody from a roommate to a classmate to mom.” She hopes the students are also “paying attention to disagreements on campus and applying themselves,” from small spats between suitemates, to more serious matters, such as “between people who really are passionate about geopolitical issues.”

Boden specifically chooses a diverse group for each trip; this year's contingent of undergraduates and graduate students had a range of ethnic backgrounds, such as Korean American, Israeli American, Palestinian, and Pakistani; religious backgrounds including Christian, Jewish, and Muslim; as well as conservative, liberal, and independent views.

Givarra Azhar Abdullah '26, a transfer student who attended in fall 2023, found it funny that during one activity when the group was asked to agree or disagree with statements such as “justice requires forgiveness,” she tended to be on the same wavelength as someone with whom she had assumed she'd disagree. She said the best part of the trip was “gaining these friends that are from various diverse backgrounds,” some of whom she didn't think she'd get along with.

Avi Chesler '25, a religion major, who has been to Rose Castle several times, told PAW that being a reconciler is “about how can we exist in the same space and not want to tear each other apart, and my goal for that on campus is that we become a place for dialogue.”

Chesler sees a place for protests and demonstrations in creating change, but his “hope is that beneath that level of strong action, there's an undercurrent of dialogue.”

Kristin Nagy '27, who took the trip last

fall, didn't know what reconciliation meant and applied out of a desire to go to England. But the training left an impact on her. When she returned home, she realized she wanted to keep the values she had learned, but added, "It's a lot easier said than done."

She tries to accomplish that by "bringing that attitude of reconciliation to different conversations in small ways," like chatting more often with people she knows she disagrees with and having "more consideration of how we balance these values of reconciliation with the things that we want in our life and the change that we want to make in the world."

During the academic year, the students have official monthly meetings with Boden, but they've become close and often found themselves gathering informally more frequently, both to practice their reconciliation techniques and to check in on each other and their progress on campus. PRCS branched out and held its first Tigers Leading Tigers event in March, where members shared their training with fellow students through some of the same interactive activities they learned at the castle.

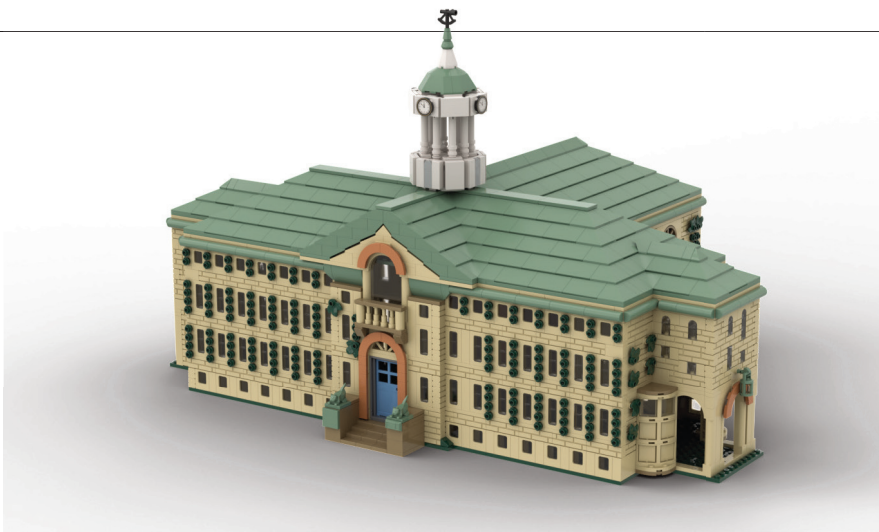
The following month, PRCS hosted an event at Coffee Club where members were on hand to discuss reconciliation and what that means on campus. Nagy said that event "was very successful" and that they talked to attendees "about what reconciliation is and [heard] their perspective on how it might work on campus."

PRCS bid farewell to the spring semester with an end-of-year dinner, where they "talked about how we were all — in very different ways — understanding recent events through the lens of reconciliation," according to Nagy.

Nagy told PAW that though the impact of PRCS on campus hasn't been explicit, she believes and hopes a sense of reconciliation has begun to "permeate the campus culture as a whole."

"The goal of reconciliation isn't to become friends," Nagy said, "it's to understand each other as humans. But we're entitled to have differences." ■

COURTESY OF MATT SMITH



BRICK BY BRICK

A Nassau Hall Lego Set? With Staffer's Design, It's Possible

NASSAU HALL WAS BUILT over the course of two years in the 1750s, using sandstone from a nearby quarry. Matt Smith's homage to the iconic building came together on a much faster timetable, thanks to design software and 2,998 virtual Lego bricks.

Smith, a communications specialist in Princeton's Housing and Real Estate Services who rekindled his love of Lego during the pandemic, devoted 50 to 60 hours of his time away from the office to creating his meticulous model of Old Nassau using BrickLink Studio, a digital building program for Lego enthusiasts. He hasn't made a physical prototype, but photorealistic renderings of his work were published in May on the Lego Ideas website. Voting will go on for at least the next year. If

enough supporters like the project, it could eventually become an official Lego set.

Smith used reference photos and visits to Nassau Hall to capture as many details as possible, from the ivy-covered walls and "cannonball dent" on the south face to the eight-sided cupola and bronze weathervane on the roof. Among the biggest challenges, he says, was keeping his design under the 3,000-piece limit for projects posted on Lego Ideas. He eliminated a few columns of windows, partly to save pieces but also to make the building's width look more realistic.

Under the roof, which is designed to easily lift off, Smith recreated Nassau

Hall's faculty room, complete with wooden benches; its distinctive diagonal checkerboard floor; "Lego-esque" paintings of the two Georges, George Washington and King George II; and the ceremonial mace carried in Princeton's Commencement procession. "The eagle on top of the mace I'm particularly proud of," Smith said. "It really resembles the genuine article."



DETAILED DESIGN
Matt Smith's model of Nassau Hall includes "Lego-esque" portraits on the walls of the faculty room.

Lego Ideas launched more than a decade ago, and several user-generated sets have made their way from the website to store shelves. To be considered for production, a project needs to receive support from 10,000 users. In 2023, Smith created a 1,968-piece set based on *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* that was a hit online, reaching the 10,000-supporter threshold in just 38 days, but Lego ultimately

chose not to make the set.

Smith said he is not aware of any collegiate buildings among Lego's sets inspired by historic architecture. He received approval from Princeton's Trademark Licensing office before posting his design, and the online description includes a disclaimer noting that it was created by an individual, not the University.

When a set does get made, the designer typically receives 1% of royalties and 10 copies of the set, said Smith, who added that for him, it is certainly a labor of love and "not a money-making venture." ■

By B.T.



GUEST ESSAY

Choosing Board Members Requires Greater Transparency

BY CORY ALPERSTEIN '78, LYNNE ARCHIBALD '87,
ROBERT HERBST '69, JESSIE PRESS-WILLIAMS *23,
HANNAH REYNOLDS '22, AND RYAN WARSING *21

EVERY YEAR, the Committee to Nominate Alumni Trustees calls for nominations for elections to be held in April. As alumni who care about Princeton and its place in the world, we responded. However, in the unofficial year of democracy, our experience has left us with many questions about who really runs the University.

We congratulate the winners of this year's elections — Edward Felsenthal '88, Sarah Marie Bruno *21, and Aisha Chebbi '24, with term and charter trustees to be announced only after PAW went to press. Our concerns relate instead to the process and profound lack of transparency of the Board of Trustees and the Committee to

Nominate Alumni Trustees.

Alumni may not realize that, for many years, all the trustees have been alumni (other than the ex-officio governor of New Jersey). There are usually between 36 and 40 trustees, in four categories:

- Charter (currently 14), appointed by the other trustees for six years, with eligibility for an additional two years;
- Term (currently eight), appointed by the other trustees for four years;
- Young alumni (four), elected by the juniors, seniors, and the two classes that have just graduated;
- And alumni trustees (nine), elected by alumni for four years.

This means that the elected trustees

are always a minority. The board is controlled by the appointed charter and term trustees who are selected by the other charter and term trustees, in what amounts to an exclusive closed shop.

As most alumni would assume, in accordance with the bylaws, trustees leave the board at the end of their term. However, a large number are reappointed by their fellow trustees the following year and in fact, their terms can be and are extended indefinitely in this way. The current chair of the Board of Trustees, Louise (Weezie) S. Sams '79, has been on the board for 19 of the past 20 years. In contrast, an alum who has been a ballot candidate but not elected may be nominated a second time, but an interval of no less than five years must elapse before consideration.

The Committee to Nominate Princeton Alumni Trustees is composed of the most recent past president of the Alumni Association and nine alumni, elected by the Alumni Council. Other than being from different regions, how they are chosen or elected is not made public. The opaque nature of the composition of the committee extends to its workings.

To begin the nomination process, there is a brief form to be filled out on the website and more information about the nominee can be uploaded. However, there are no guidelines about what is expected. We submitted biographies similar to the ones circulated by Princeton for previous alumni trustee candidates. Was that too little?

Once the form and any attachments are submitted, the nominator receives an automatic reply confirming submission. And in our case, that was it. The three alumni who were nominated — Robert Herbst '69, Claire Kaufman *23, and Ryan Warsing *21 — never received even an acknowledgment of their offer to serve Princeton. Princeton knows how to communicate when it wants to, so the silence was deeply disappointing. All three nominees met this year's election criteria and have qualities that would make them excellent trustees.

There are no statistics made available about the number of nominees each year and no information about who is interviewed. We know from the website that had any of us been nominated, like

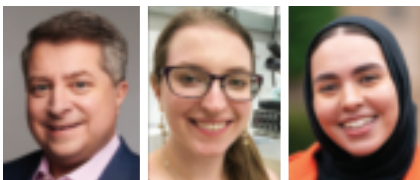
the young alumni trustee candidates, we would not have been able to write our own bios and we would not be able to campaign. Would that be unseemly? Shouldn't ideas be shared for a more lively and participatory voting process?

Engaged, active alumni are exactly the people you would want as trustees. For example, alumni who may have expressed an opinion about Princeton or urged the University to take action to make it a better place. The University, however, has different ideas about this: "Princeton's most effective trustees are open-minded, have the ability to consider all evidence that comes before them and an overarching commitment to arrive at the best decision for the University as a whole, not as an advocate for a position or a particular constituency that could undermine the workings of the board or their own effectiveness on the board." This "neutrality" condition for trustees simultaneously underestimates the value of a Princeton education and penalizes civic participation.

We believe that expressing views or working on a particular issue related to the integrity of an institution should not disqualify nominees. In fact, they may be assets to the board. Moreover, if there are no clear and public criteria for election, there is no way to know what is and isn't acceptable and the status quo and insular nature of the board is reinforced. Given the board's secrecy and lack of clarity, we have no way of knowing if the term and charter trustees are also prohibited from having any "positions or particular constituencies." Surely the goal is a board that encompasses a range of views and experiences with trustees who are willing to grapple with difficult issues.

The pro-democracy think tank Freedom House has posed the question: Is it possible to have a free but unfair election? Princeton wants alumni to think they have a voice, but the Board of Trustees is an opaque, largely undemocratic ladder that leads to extraordinary power well beyond the campus walls. Unless there are good reasons — so far unarticulated — for the board and administration to fear a more transparent, democratic process, they can surely do better than this. **■**

IN SHORT



FELSENTHAL '88 BRUNO '21 CHEBBI '24

Alumni elected three **new trustees** for four-year terms beginning in July. Edward Felsenenthal '88 of Montclair, New Jersey, is the former editor-in-chief and CEO of *Time*. Sarah Marie Bruno '21 of Baltimore is an assistant research scientist in physics and astronomy at Johns Hopkins University. Aisha Chebbi '24 of Miami, this year's young alumni trustee, majored in anthropology.

The following 19 professors **transferred to emeritus status** at the end of the academic year after serving on the faculty for 623 years combined: Jeremy I. Adelman, history; Orley C. Ashenfelter, economics; Curtis G. Callan Jr. '64, physics; Pablo G. Debenedetti, chemical and biological engineering; Bruce T. Draine, astrophysical sciences; William C. Jordan, history; Bruce E. Koel, chemical and biological engineering; Michael Koortbojian, art and archaeology; Rena S. Lederman, anthropology; Daniel R. Marlow, physics; Peter D. Meyers, physics; Stephen Pacala, ecology and evolutionary biology; Elaine H. Pagels, religion; Peter A. Singer, bioethics; Robert J. Vanderbei, operations research and financial engineering; Andrew M. Watsky, art and archaeology; Nikolaus Wegmann, German; Susan Wheeler, creative writing; and Keith E. Whittington, politics.

Princeton **filed a complaint against the U.S. Department of Education** in federal district court May 17, alleging that the department failed to disclose and release records that the University requested under the Freedom of Information Act.

The complaint is related to an investigation of Princeton's compliance with the Civil Rights Act and other nondiscrimination assurances required by law, launched by the Department of Education in 2020 after President Christopher Eisgruber '83 wrote an open letter about combating systemic racism. The following year, Eisgruber called the investigation "bogus" in his State of the University letter and said the department had closed the probe in January 2021 as

the Trump administration left office.

Since December 2022, the University has been seeking Department of Education materials related to the investigation, as well as all correspondence and records that reference Eisgruber, Princeton, and "race, discrimination, nondiscrimination, equal opportunity, speech, or the First Amendment."

IN MEMORIAM

John Wilmerding, a noted curator, collector, and historian of American



art who taught at Princeton for nearly three decades, died June 6 at age 86. After working as deputy director at the National Gallery of Art, he arrived at the University and

became a popular teacher, remembered for his engaging lectures and colorful neckties, some of which coordinated with the day's topic. He chaired the Department of Art and Archaeology from 1992 to 1999. Wilmerding donated art to the institutions he served, including a collection of 19th-century American art now in the National Gallery and about 50 works of Pop Art given to the Princeton University Art Museum in 2007, the year he transferred to emeritus status. In retirement, he advised several museums and wrote columns about art for *The Wall Street Journal*.



Robert P. Matthews, a longtime photographer whose work appeared frequently in PAW for more than three decades, died May 31 at age 83. Matthews' subjects included three U.S. presidents during their visits to campus, life inside the University's laboratories and classrooms, and Princeton football, from the undefeated 1964 season to the final game played at Palmer Stadium in 1996. He retired from the Office of Communications in 1999. **■**

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

2025-2026 HODDER FELLOWSHIP

The Hodder Fellowship will be given to artists of exceptional promise in creative writing, dance, theater, music and visual arts to pursue independent projects at Princeton University during the 2025-2026 academic year.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

For more information, guidelines and the online application for the Hodder Fellowship, please visit arts.princeton.edu/fellows starting July 1



PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

2025-2027 Princeton Arts Fellowship

Open to early career artists in creative writing, dance, theater, music and visual arts, demonstrating extraordinary promise. Fellows will spend the 2025-26 and 2026-27 academic years at Princeton, teaching and engaging with the University's lively arts community.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

For more information, guidelines and the online application for the Hodder Fellowship, please visit arts.princeton.edu/fellows starting July 1



CHEN '24



SZAPARY '24

SENIOR AWARDS

Women's Hoops Star Chen, Fencer Szapary Win Prizes

KAITLYN CHEN '24, a star on three straight Ivy League title teams in women's basketball, and Tristan Szapary '24, the 2024 NCAA men's epee fencing champion, were honored as the University's top senior athletes at the Gary Walters '67 Princeton Varsity Club Awards Banquet on May 23.

Chen, the Von Kienbusch Award winner, finished her Princeton career with 1,276 points in three seasons, won Ivy Player of the Year in 2023, and was the Ivy Tournament's Most Outstanding Player three times. She also helped the Tigers win NCAA Tournament games in 2022 and 2023.

Szapary, the Roper Trophy winner, was Princeton's first men's epee national champ in more than a decade. He led men's fencing to a share of the Ivy team title in 2024 and helped the Tigers place second at the NCAA Championships in 2023 (the tournament uses combined scoring for men's and women's teams).

Jalen Travis '24, an offensive lineman on the football team, received the Art Lane '34 Award for selfless contribution to sport and society, and Sam Davidson '24, a field hockey defender and sociology major, won the Class of 1916 Cup, awarded

to the senior letter-winner with the highest academic standing. The women's track and field team and men's and women's rowing programs received the Ford Tiger Game Changers Award for their volunteer work in the local community.

The Chris Sailer Leadership Award, for athletes who demonstrate exceptional leadership and a commitment to serving others, was presented to Matt Allocco '24, who captained men's basketball in an Ivy title season, and Leilani Bender '24, a two-year captain who helped women's rugby transition to varsity status.

United States Golf Association president and men's golf alumnus J. Stuart Francis '74 received the Class of 1967 PVC Citizen-Athlete Award, and Dr. Mike Gross, who leads Princeton's sports psychology services, was honored with the Marvin Bressler Award.

Despite missing a season of competition in 2020-21, when the Ivy League suspended play because of the pandemic, Princeton's graduating athletes won a combined 47 conference titles in their time on campus. "The Class of 2024 has managed to do more in three competitive years than most classes do in four," athletics director John Mack '00 said on Class Day. **B** By B.T.

RESEARCH

ADVANCING THE FRONTIERS OF KNOWLEDGE



ROCK YOU LIKE A HURRICANE

Princeton Vaughn wanted to understand how lizards are impacted by hurricanes. “I was interested in this question so I designed an experiment to test if the traits that shifted in the wild actually dictate how long a lizard can hold on to a branch,” Vaughn, a graduate student in ecology and evolutionary biology, said in his video project. For the experiment, he placed lizards on a beam opposite a custom-built fan to simulate strong winds and documented how long the creatures could hold on (before flying into a net with a soft-landing pad). He also took x-rays to examine differences in bone structure and found toe length to be an important evolution for lizards to survive hurricanes. Vaughn was one of the winners of the Outstanding Presentation Award given to the highest rated video submissions created for Research Day on May 9. A total of 18 projects won awards and received cash prizes ranging from \$750 to \$1,500.

COURTESY: PRINCETON VAUGHN

**KNOCK KNOCK**

Marwan Khraisat, a researcher at Saudi Arabia's King Saud University, speaks to a woman during canvassing in Kuwait City. The woman ultimately turned him down for the survey.

“Remember, these are countries that are primarily authoritarian, so when you knock on someone’s door and say ‘your opinion really matters, we really care about what you have to say,’ they’ll respond,” Jamal says.

In Kuwait, which is more politically open than many countries in the region, canvassers knocked on 4,796 doors over a monthlong period and conducted 1,210 interviews. To boost their credibility, everyone on the team wore matching gray vests and baseball caps bearing the logo of Kuwait University’s Center for the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies, a local partner for the project. They had also obtained a letter from the police vouching for their legitimacy. The goal was to get at least 10 responses in this neighborhood, but the canvasser on this particular street had gone 0-for-19.

A woman drove up in a Chinese-made Changan sedan and parked outside her apartment complex. Dressed in jeans and a sweater and wearing a hijab, she eyed the canvassers a little warily as she collected groceries from the back seat. Marwan Khraisat, a researcher at Saudi Arabia’s King Saud University who was supervising, approached her, explained what they were doing, and asked if she would participate.

“Why does the government want our opinion? They already know it,” she asked in Arabic, as Khraisat translated her response. He explained that the canvassers were not government employees. After asking a few more questions, she agreed to consult her husband, disappearing up a flight of steps. Fifteen minutes later, it became clear that neither she nor her husband was coming back down. The canvassers moved on.

Jamal first conceived of the Arab Barometer when she was a doctoral student at Michigan during the late 1990s and early 2000s. Political scientists

SURVEY RESULTS

Going Door to Door to Track Sentiment in the Arab World

BY MARK F. BERNSTEIN '83

THE CANVASSING TEAM WAS having a bad night. On a warm evening in February, they had knocked on door after door in an upper-middle-class neighborhood of Kuwait City and struck out every time.

Working in teams of two or three, about 20 people were collecting survey data for the Arab Barometer, a joint venture headed by Princeton in collaboration with the University of Michigan and three institutions in the Middle East. It is the longest running and largest repository of public opinion data in the region, encompassing 15 countries from Morocco to Yemen. Hospitality is strong in the Arab world, so doors aren’t usually slammed in a canvasser’s face, but residents still had ready excuses

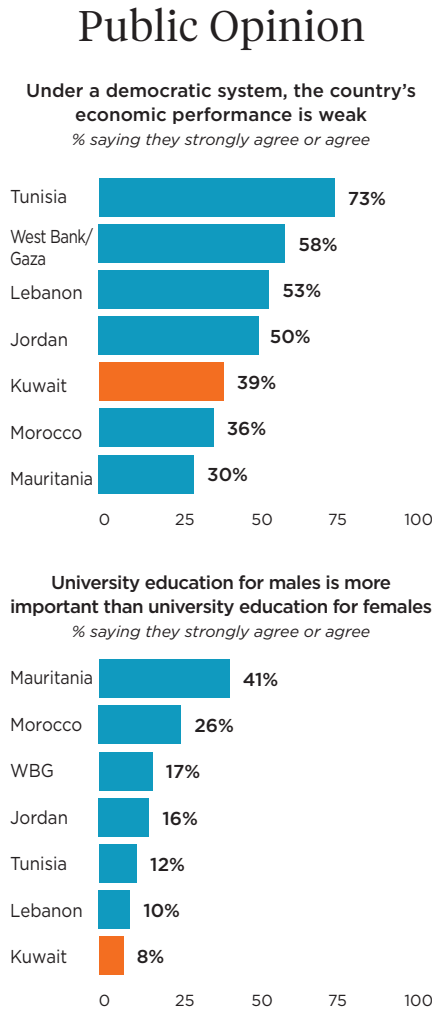
for saying no: “It’s late,” “we’re eating,” “we’re putting the kids to bed.”

Completing the survey, which is always done in person, is a big undertaking. If a canvasser is invited in, a subject agrees to answer more than 200 questions on topics ranging from their work history to their views on democracy, the economy, and foreign affairs. Even for an experienced interviewer, it can take nearly an hour. Political pollsters in the United States have found it increasingly hard to get people to answer surveys, but response rates remain high in the Middle East, says Amaney Jamal, dean of the School of Public and International Affairs and one of the Arab Barometer’s founders. On a good night, she says, canvassers can get an 80% response rate.

could survey public opinion in countries around the world, she observed, but not the Middle East. “People were assigning this monolithic Arab street narrative,” Jamal recalls. “I would say to colleagues, we need an accurate source of data.” After 9/11, that lack of insight on what ordinary citizens in the region thought about the world suddenly became acute. With funding from the U.S.-Middle East Partnership Initiative, the first set of Arab Barometer surveys were conducted in 2006. They are now completing their eighth wave of reports.

Although the Arab Barometer tries to partner with a university in each country they survey, canvassers are recruited from around the region. Those working in Kuwait this year received several hours of training from Ghanim Al-Najjar, the founder of Kuwait University’s Center for Strategic and Future Studies, and Samir Abu-Rumman, managing director of the Gulf Opinions Center for Polls and Statistics and a visiting politics professor at Princeton, who emphasized the importance of careful data collection and explained how their findings would be used. Survey responses were recorded on electronic tablets and uploaded each evening to a server in Princeton, says Michael Robbins, a director and co-principal investigator. He and his team at Princeton then sorted and tabulated the data while giving feedback to those in the field.

Reports are issued for each country on a rolling basis. Some countries, such as Iran, are too repressive to allow field work, but canvassers do work in places, such as Yemen and Iraq, that can be dangerous. The Arab Barometer was fortunate to have completed most of its



interviews in Gaza and the West Bank by Oct. 6, the day before the Hamas attack on Israel. Their findings, showing that a majority of Gazans were deeply dissatisfied with the Hamas government and supported an independent Palestine existing alongside Israel, were published in *Foreign Affairs* and widely publicized.

Across the region, though, Jamal and Robbins say that support for the United States has dropped sharply as the war in Gaza has continued. In Kuwait, for example, historically a strong American ally, only 16% of respondents said they had a favorable view of the U.S., as compared with 55% who felt favorably toward China and 49% toward Russia. China, Jamal says, is gaining support across the region at America’s expense.

Taking a broader view, Jamal says that support for democracy has declined since the Arab Spring a decade ago, as greater political freedom in Tunisia, Egypt, and elsewhere has not been matched by economic advances. In many parts of the Arab world, the average family may be poorer than it was under more autocratic governments. Jamal sees a message in this for both donors and pro-democracy groups: “If you really care about democracy, you need to make sure that people aren’t paying a huge [economic] price for it.”

Robbins believes that the project provides an invaluable resource for political scientists and policymakers around the globe. “People always said that the Middle East couldn’t be surveyed,” he says. “But I think it has been a huge contribution of the Arab Barometer to show that you can do this and do it reliably. It has helped our understanding of how citizens view their world throughout the region.”

The Arab Barometer’s final report on Kuwait this year was issued in June, so in mid-February, canvassers were still out doing the hard work of collecting data.

Moving on from the apartment complex, Khraisat walked to a different part of the neighborhood to check on canvassers there. Zaina, an Egyptian gym teacher who was canvassing in Kuwait to earn some extra money, had enjoyed better luck. She had knocked on nine doors and completed four interviews.

Reviewing the survey responses on her tablet, Khraisat nodded his head approvingly. They had about an hour left to canvass and still needed more interviews. He and Zaina continued down the block, ready to knock on another door. ■



“Remember, these are countries that are primarily authoritarian, so when you knock on someone’s door and say ‘your opinion really matters, we really care about what you have to say,’ they’ll respond.”

— AMANEY JAMAL

Dean of the School of Public and International Affairs and one of the Arab Barometer’s founders



AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

Taking a New View of the Declaration of Independence

BY JEN A. MILLER

WHILE THE STORIES of the Founding Fathers and their roles in creating the United States are well known, they weren't the only people shaping history. Robert Hemmings, Thomas Jefferson's valet and trained barber, was one of them. And despite eventually being the first enslaved person freed by Jefferson, he's largely been in the background of American history. A visual record of him doesn't even exist.

In "The Descendants of Monticello," a new exhibit that opened June 24 at Declaration House in Philadelphia, where Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence in 1776, artist Sonya Clark aims to change that by elevating Hemmings' story, and in the process, those of other enslaved people who were both central to, as well as witnesses to, the forming of this country.

"The house itself is a portal that can really open up, not just about this particular story of Robert Hemmings, but really the story of America," says Anna Arabindan-Kesson, co-curator of the exhibit and associate professor of art and archaeology and African American studies at Princeton.

At Declaration House, which is part of the Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, Jefferson was not alone. Hemmings, who was 14 at the time, was with him, and attended to Jefferson's personal needs, such as helping him dress and making sure he was not disturbed while working. Hemmings stayed with him until 1784, when Jefferson left for France.

Despite having a front row seat to history, Hemmings has been largely ignored as part of that story. Clark and Monument Lab, a nonprofit public art and history studio based in Philadelphia, decided to change that.

They started by reaching out to Jefferson's Monticello, where Niya Bates, co-curator of the exhibit and current Princeton Ph.D. student in history, served as the director of African American history and the Getting Word African American Oral History Project.

"While we do have a lot of documentary evidence about Hemmings, there's just not enough meat there to really run with," says Bates, who is a student of Arabindan-Kesson. For example, historians know that

UNTOLD STORIES

Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence at this site in June 1776. Robert Hemmings was enslaved by Jefferson during this time.

Hemmings bought his freedom in 1799 because that's the first year he appeared on Richmond's tax rolls.

Through Getting Word, Clark took portrait photographs of more than 400 members of the descendant community and used images of their eyes for the exhibit, to make a projection of eyes opening and closing to create a different kind of experience than if it was just images and artifacts.

"In that way, they could stand in the gap where we had those holes in the archival evidence about Robert Hemmings," Bates says.

These contemporary video portraits of living descendants are juxtaposed with eyes drawn from photographs of descendants found in Monticello's archives.

"It's not an exhibit where people go into the building and walk around," says Arabindan-Kesson. Instead, the projections "pull a viewer in because you're being looked at. You're an active participant. You're a witness."

The exhibit is also a way of getting people to interrogate the history they've been taught, and look for who is missing from the story — people like Hemmings, and his sister Sally Hemings, who bore several of Jefferson's children.

Bates adds that this project is also unique in which organizations have come together to make it happen: a National Park historic site, a historic house museum, a nonprofit, and the descendent community. They hope by focusing on those who weren't founders, it will force viewers to think about the concepts of democracy, liberty, and what it means to be an American citizen, she says.

The exhibition runs through early September. Arabindan-Kesson and Bates are also working with Yolonda Wisher, senior curator at Monument Lab, on a book about the exhibit and Hemmings that will be published in time for the U.S.'s 250th anniversary in 2026. **■**

BEHIND THE RESEARCH: NICOLE MYERS TURNER

Examining the Power of Religion

BY AGATHA BORDONARO '04



NICOLE MYERS TURNER'S INTEREST IN THE BRAZILIAN MARTIAL ART OF CAPOEIRA while in high school set her on a journey of exploration that led to the study of religion. "I was fascinated by the fact that capoeira was a tradition that was carried from Africa to the Americas and continued to be practiced now, in the 21st century," says Turner, who began studying how African culture is retained through language and dance in high school and continued as an undergraduate at Haverford College.

Her research quickly led her to robust archives on the role of religion as not only a vehicle of preservation but also a community builder. This resonated with Turner, as she had been a member of a church committee in her predominantly Black neighborhood of East New York, Brooklyn, that was politically active around voter registration, housing development, and other civil issues.

"I was really curious about how religious spaces and religious ideas could be used to bring about social change and mobilize people to act," she explains.

"Religion is such a force."

Turner went on to earn her Ph.D. in history from the University of Pennsylvania and her M.Div. from Union Theological Seminary. Her current research focuses on African American religious, political, and gender history in the 19th century.

Quick Facts

TITLE

Assistant Professor of Religion

TIME AT PRINCETON

2 years

RECENT CLASS

Mapping American Religion

TURNER'S RESEARCH

A SAMPLING



CHURCH AS AGENT OF CHANGE

Since high school, Turner has been interested in the ways in which Black churches and theological schools evolved into homes for political activism and social organization. Her first book, *Soul Liberty* (UNC Press, 2020), traces this evolution in post-emancipation Virginia, where, she notes, "We can't take for granted that African American people were able to be political agents. No

Black people had the right to vote or participate in formal political spaces." Her book also examines gender dynamics in Black churches at the time, showing how these dynamics were shaped by slavery and its influence on the ways families, labor, and even religious spaces were organized.



TRACING BLACK RELIGION

While researching her first book, Turner frequently used

mapping techniques to better understand the political forces at work in post-1865 Virginia. In collaboration with Virginia Commonwealth University's ALT Lab and Cabell Library's digital scholarship staff, she turned her diagrams into *Mapping Black Religion*, a digital history project that explores Black religious life and politics during the 19th century. "I wanted to tell a more focused story about the intersection of Black religion and politics through the Virginia State Baptist Convention" — which was created to support the formation of independent Black churches. She also hopes to explore "how mapping is a multivalent practice with its own power and politics."

MOVING THROUGH THE AMERICAS

Since her first book zeroed in on the importance and specificity of place in the



Black religious experience, Turner is now studying how forced migration and fugitivity shaped the beginnings of Black religion in the Americas. "So much of the experience of enslaved Africans and religious community is shaped by movement, whether it's the forced migration of the transatlantic slave trade or domestic slave trade, or the movement of self-emancipating folks," she says. "I'm interested in how people circulate and shape the formation of Black religion in various places." ■

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

EVERY VOICE



Honoring and Celebrating
Princeton's LGBTQ+ Alumni

SEPT
19-21
2024

All alumni are invited to attend the three-day conference to celebrate Princeton's vibrant LGBTQ+ community, past and present. We look forward to welcoming you back to campus to celebrate **EVERY VOICE!**

- A conversation with **University President Christopher L. Eisgruber '83** and **Provost Jennifer Rexford '91**
- **Networking opportunities** during receptions, meals and small group sessions
- An exhibition of works by **LGBTQ+ alumni artists**, an alumni book fair, and an alumni and student performance showcase
- A look at the rich history of the **LGBTQ+ community at Princeton**
- **Engaging sessions** on representation, campus life, intersectionality, empowerment of social movements, bodily autonomy, family planning, **and more**
- **A celebration of life service** at the University Chapel

VISIT [EVERYVOICE.PRINCETON.EDU](https://everyvoice.princeton.edu)

in the coming weeks for additional updates on conference registration, a detailed schedule of events and pre-conference networking opportunities.

REGISTRATION OPENS AUGUST 1.

All Princeton alumni are invited to attend with one guest for the complimentary three-day event. Pre-registration is required.



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END OF THE LINE
The Class of 2024 takes
its spot in the P-rade.



Rise Above

Despite a sad absence and controversy, it was a roaring Reunions, especially for the Class of 2024 which entered Princeton during the height of COVID restrictions

BY CARLETT SPIKE

WITH REPORTING BY PETER BARZILAI '97, MARK F. BERNSTEIN '83,
JULIE BONETTE, ELISABETH H. DAUGHERTY, AND BRETT TOMLINSON

PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEVIN BIRCH, JOHN EMERSON,
AND BEVERLY SCHAEFER



KEVIN BIRCH

HOURS BEFORE THE P-RADE on Saturday at Reunions, word began circulating that Princeton's oldest-ever alum,

Joe Schein '37, had died Friday morning at age 109. Schein had become a fixture at Reunions, kicking off the P-rade while carrying the Class of 1923 Cane since 2016. That first year at age 101, Schein walked the entire P-rade route and continued to do so throughout most of his reign.

"Our father always felt that Princeton was 'paradise,'" his son Oliver Schein '76 wrote in an email to PAW on behalf of him and his brother Roland Schein '74. "He felt that way when he took us to his 25th reunion in 1962, when he attended our graduations in '74 and '76, and when we accompanied him to his 86th reunion in 2023!"

His love and dedication to Princeton will forever be cemented, as his family buried Schein in his class jacket, his Einstein baseball cap that reads "E=mc²," and a Princeton tie. Schein offered a final message to Princetonians through an Instagram video shared by the University on Friday.

"I wish you a very happy reunion and I wish you all the good fortune that life can bring if you are prepared for it, as you certainly have been at Princeton,"



he said. "Go Tigers!"

A day later, Don Fletcher '39 *51, 105, took the Class of 1923 Cane and started the P-rade. As reuners made their way down Elm Drive, pro-Palestinian protesters rushed into the middle of the road and temporarily blocked the festivities. Security intervened, causing protesters to clear the road. The disruption lasted about two minutes.

The protesters — which included a mix of grad and undergrad students, alumni, faculty, and people from the area and

WELCOME BACK

*Above: Don Fletcher '39 *51, now the oldest alum at 105, carries the Class of 1923 Cane and gets the P-rade started. Below, Monica Moore Thompson '89, president of the Alumni Association and chair of the Alumni Council, with her husband, John Thompson III '88, and daughter, Morgan Thompson '20, pose near FitzRandolph Gate.*

beyond — began chanting alongside the path near the Class of 2019 and 2020 staging areas and the P-rade continued without further incident. The group, which goes by Princeton Israeli Apartheid Divest (PIAD), grew to more than 100 protesters throughout the P-rade. They handed out cards and Palestinian flags, and asked alumni to sign their pledge to withhold donations from the University until it meets the group's divestment demands. The pledge had 1,044 signatures as of June 14.

"The movement will keep building and growing into the summer and into the fall," said Sarah Sakha '18, who has been to campus a handful of times in the past few months to join the protest. "We'll keep supporting students on campus and faculty as they continue the movement advancing toward their demands."

Reactions were mixed: Some alumni cheered and high-fived the protesters while others voiced their disapproval —



KEVIN BIRCH; BEVERLY SCHAEFER



DANCING QUEENS

Stepping out from the Studio '94 disco, from left, Leigh Hall '94, Winifred Lloyd Flach '94, Wendy Kaufman Gale '94, Corinne Horn '94, and Cynthia Korman '94.



verbally and with hand gestures. One marcher threw his drink at the protesters. But largely the sea of paraders sporting orange and black tiger stripes proceeded as usual, with marching bands and music from floats often drowning out the chants.

Protesters disrupted the weekend a few other times, as PIAD wrote on social media on Friday, “This weekend, act, disrupt, and escalate on your own terms — all tactics welcome.” The next morning, the words “pretty town bloody gown” appeared in spray paint across the white columns of Robertson Hall and the water in Princeton’s Fountain of Freedom had been dyed red.

The protesters also interrupted President Christopher Eisgruber ’83’s annual Q&A later that morning in Alexander Hall’s Richardson Auditorium. About 20 minutes in, local resident Joline Konson stood up and began shouting and was eventually escorted out by Public Safety officers after ignoring an initial warning. As a video began to play on the stage as part of Eisgruber’s presentation, about 50 people in the audience silently held up their red hands while still sitting.

As Konson was being taken out, the protesters with red hands began to chant and marched out of the auditorium. Throughout the roughly seven-minute disruption, several alums in the audience shouted “Shame” and “Let him talk” at



the protesters. After the protesters left, several small wireless speakers apparently left under seats went off at intervals with pro-Palestinian messages. At least three were confiscated. The protesters continued to chant outside of Richardson.

Ken Mayers ’58, who was wearing a pro-divestment T-shirt and a keffiyeh around his shoulders, said he had walked out with the students “because I think the University has failed to negotiate with the protesters, who have a perfectly valid argument.” Mayers said he supported the walkout but not the protester who shouted during Eisgruber’s talk. “I didn’t think it was appropriate to stand up shouting,” he said.

DISCLOSE, DIVEST, DISRUPT

President Christopher Eisgruber ’83 conducts his annual Q&A, which this year was disrupted by protesters shouting and holding up red hands.

“I respect that there’s a point of view, [but] I don’t approve of the tactics,” said Bob Auray ’73. He added, “I’d have more respect for these folks if they’d go over and fight.”

After the protesters walked out, Eisgruber addressed the audience, saying, “Protest is OK, disruption is not.” He later fielded questions from the audience, including one from an alumnus who praised Princeton for its handling of protests on campus and said



TIGER TOTS

Amalia Gilkes, daughter of Diana Kleper-Gilkes '99 and Nate Gilkes '98, is a Reunions veteran. At only 9 years old, this is her third appearance in the P-rade. Entertained with face painting, snow cones, and a bounce house, Amalia can't wait to join the Class of 2037, her mother says. Below left: Hilary Beard '84 and her husband Noel Gordon '86 soak in Reunions. Beard says her 40th has been particularly meaningful as she's connected with many young Princetonians. Below right: Geoff Peterson '69, right, and his classmate, Rick Kitto '69, are all peace and love in their groovy attire.



KEVIN BIRCH; BEVERLY SCHAEFER



SPECIAL GUEST

The Class of 2009 rollin' along with this little doggie.



that other universities had “made fools of themselves.”

Eisgruber quickly defended the leaders of peer institutions, saying they may be facing different challenges. “If you’re in an urban center, you have a lot more people coming onto your campus who may not be part of your community and share its values at all,” he said. “I appreciate very much your support, and I just hope that at what is a very difficult time you will also lend that support and bit of grace to campuses that are struggling beyond what we are doing. Because we need those peers — they are an important part of America and an important part of the higher-education system.”

The session also included a moment of levity when Mike Salmanson ’82, who’d attended law school with Eisgruber and his wife, Lori Martin, at the University of Chicago, stood up to ask a question. Eisgruber told a story about auditioning for the law school musical, in part to spend time with his future wife.

“So Lori did not get cast in the musical — I did!” Eisgruber said. “Mike Salmanson was the director of that musical, and I can remember Mike’s instructions to me, which were, during all the dance numbers, stand in the back and lip sync.”

While some reported other encounters with protesters, including H. Clay McElDowney ’69, who said about 30 chanting protesters entered his class’s headquarters at Scully on Friday, many alumni told PAW they were unaware of the incidents. Indeed, for a large majority of the roughly 25,000 alumni, family, guests, faculty, staff, and graduating seniors, Reunions 2024 was celebrated as usual, under warm and sunny skies.

There were alumni in inflatable tiger and dinosaur costumes, various western attire for the Class of 2009’s rodeo theme, as well as the Class of 2014’s bright and clashing pink-and-orange-striped outfits as part of their Malibu 10 theme, a nod to *Barbie*.

For the Class of 2024, Reunions marked a particularly joyous occasion, as one of their final chapters of a turbulent four years on campus. They began their Princeton journey in the thick of the pandemic, taking their first classes remotely during the fall of 2020 and enduring a strange

socially distant return in the spring — but they rose above. The class marched loudly and proudly as they rounded out the P-rade, donning their class jackets.

Perhaps one of the happiest people at this year’s festivities was Marissa Hart ’24, who was celebrating her birthday. “It’s a party all around campus, so it’s the best way to celebrate,” she said. Amid all the orange and black, Hart, who had a gold “It’s my birthday” sash and three big balloons, was hard to miss. “I just love Princeton and I’m happy to be here for my birthday!”

Throughout the weekend, alumni partied under the tents, reconnected over meals, dove into a variety of topics at more than a dozen Alumni-Faculty Forums, and made memories at many other events and gatherings.

The ripple effects of the Oct. 7 terrorist attack and the ongoing Israel-Hamas war were discussed in a handful of panels. On Friday, a packed room of more than 50 mostly Jewish alumni met at the Chabad House for a panel titled “Crisis for Israel, Crisis for American Jews: What’s Next?” The hour-long discussion moderated by Rabbi Eitan Webb with panelists Owen Alterman ’99, Ilya Shapiro ’99, and Leah Powell ’26 covered the climate for Jewish students on campus, views on the situation abroad, and ways the alumni community can help, among other topics.

“I shouldn’t feel distressed walking through campus,” said Powell, vice president of the Chabad Student Board. She explained that some of the protesters’ chants are offensive and that she’s been discouraged by the University’s response.

Despite this, Alterman, a senior correspondent for Tel Aviv-based outlet i24 News, said the strengthened connection between the Jewish community has been one silver lining. “This is the ultimate stress test,” he said, adding it’s been “an incredible positive surprise that really should give us a lot of strength going forward.”

In a related conversation Saturday, Professor Keith Whittington and Jonathan Rauch, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, addressed free speech on campuses around the country. Hosted by Princetonians for Free Speech, Rauch began the conversation by quoting a portion of Whittington’s 2018 book *Speak Freely* in which he stated campuses are not yet in crisis and asked Whittington if his feelings have changed since then. “I think we’re doing worse,” Whittington said.

“Part of my concern is that the problems that we see are in some ways the surface problems related to free speech and academic freedom, and below that surface are potentially much deeper problems,” he continued.

At an Alumni-Faculty Forum on civility and finding common ground

KEVIN BIRCH



SOUND SOUL

Lucy McBride '95 speaks during PAW's panel, "Student Mental Health: Is It a Crisis, and What Can Be Done?" on Friday.

REUNIONS PANELS

Spotlight on Mental Health

BY ELISABETH H. DAUGHERTY

THERE ARE MANY GOOD REASONS to care about mental health, but the bottom line might be physician Lucy McBride '95's.

"Health is the integrated sum of our behavioral, physical, social-emotional health, and spiritual health," McBride said at PAW's Reunions panel on Friday. "When mental health is on the fritz ... every aspect of our health is at stake."

Titled "Student Mental Health: Is It a Crisis, and What Can Be Done?" the discussion delved into what's causing the anxiety and depression that's on the rise among college students — including at Princeton. Chioma Ugwonalí '24, a student leader in mental health on campus, said she sees peers overly anxious about getting the right jobs and living up to the Princeton name.

Joshua Blum '02 said that as a psychologist at Bucknell and Susquehanna universities, he tells students that previous generations didn't always see a clear path ahead, either, but they figured it out. Just watch films like *The Graduate* or *Say Anything*, he said.

Blum noted that students aren't

alone in how they feel: Professors are also struggling as students come to them for help in a way that didn't happen with past generations.

He and the other panelists listed tangible things to help, like getting outside, exercising, and finding passions to pursue at every age. Jess Deutsch '91, who writes PAW's student mental health column, "The Whole Student," said it can help to ask people how they're doing and then really listen to the answer so the

"But from others I feel like there's a temptation to label these suicides as freak accidents, something that just happened ... 'We're in a mental health crisis, so there's nothing we can do' — I hear that response more often than I would've hoped."

— NOAH LUCH '24

Past co-chair of the student government's Mental Health Committee

person feels heard.

Jeremy Nobel '77, author of *Project UnLonely*, said loneliness is the biggest preventable risk factor for depression, and societal discrimination can make it systematic. There's a psychological benefit, he said, to connecting with something greater than ourselves — "the bigger human story."

At another mental health panel that followed PAW's, student and University leaders shared both updates and challenges Princeton's community has faced. Noah Luch '24, a past co-chair of the student government's Mental Health Committee, said that six Princeton students died by suicide while he was here. Over time, numbness seemed to set in on campus, he said.

"I've been disappointed, and to some extent, I've been ashamed, of the response," Luch said. He said he's seen some people at Princeton "really put their hearts into making sure students are loved and supported. But from others I feel like there's a temptation to label these suicides as freak accidents, something that just happened ... 'We're in a mental health crisis, so there's nothing we can do' — I hear that response more often than I would've hoped."

Calvin Chin, director of Counseling and Psychological Services (CPS), said he hears that frustration but is encouraged by the changes he's seen over 10 years in his job: Grade deflation was abandoned, staff at CPS increased 40%, and a push by students led to better handling of medical leave situations. "There are tangible things that have happened, and at the same time there is absolutely more that could be done," Chin said.

Luch noted that many alumni at Reunions are or will be parents, and he offered them advice: Talk to your kids about mental health, including your own experiences, and tell them, "I am not ever going to associate your worth with your academic standing. I am never going to associate what career path you go down ... with how much I care and love about you." ■



in U.S. politics, Arthur J. Ewencyk '09, chief counsel of the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability, said that citizen engagement is becoming even more important as public discourse challenges the norms of democracy.

“If people have views that are outside the bounds of our democratic understanding, if they are pushing toward authoritarianism, I’m not saying that you spitefully yell at them and shake your fist,” Ewencyk said. “But there is a duty to engage with people ... even if at times that can yield some uncivil behavior, particularly coming back at us.”

Climate change was another popular topic that featured opposing views in two panels on Friday.

At “America the Beautiful: From Sea to Shining Sea,” sponsored by the Concerned Black Alumni of Princeton, speakers discussed how systemic racism continues to impact the environmental landscape of the United States in a variety of ways, including the geographic location of landfills and incinerators, which have been shown to disproportionately impact communities of color.

“Land is something that cannot be moved, and when we think about the ways in which the colonial system treated land, it has always been a racialized concept,”



said Kevon Rhiney, a visiting professor in the environment and the humanities at the High Meadows Environmental Institute.

Moderator Ariel Rogers '08, a visiting instructor at Dominican University, said the interstate highway system and redlining pushed people of color “literally downhill, where the waste from day-to-day life would flow and trickle,” which led to the destruction and separation of communities, with ripple effects such as the creation of food deserts and increased health concerns.

That afternoon, the Conservative Princeton Association hosted “The Great Escape from Net Zero Hunger Games,” where speakers discussed the opportunities for Africa’s energy and agricultural potential and claimed to debunk climate change “myths.” For example, Diana Furchtgott-Roth, director of the Center for Energy, Climate, and Environment at the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank, said “most sea-level rise is a response to the interglacial period,” and not caused by human-induced climate change, though there is broad consensus within the scientific community, including at Princeton, that human-caused global warming is the cause of the current rise of global sea levels.

Lindianne Sappington '76, executive director of Snake River Music Gardens, a nonprofit focused on rural farming, spoke about how American agricultural regulations implemented to mitigate climate change concerns can hurt farmers. “Most food-producing families are too polite to say how we feel about what’s being done to us,” Sappington said, but ultimately, “If we don’t grow food, you don’t eat.”



DINO-MITE

Clockwise from top left: Helen and Ray Juzaitis '74 wearing stars as part of the class's Super Stars in Stripes theme. Cynthia Casazza Assini '04 in a dinosaur costume. (Not) Mickey Mouse in the Triangle Club's Reunions performance of "Ship Happens: A Cruisical!" Lily Gold '14, right, and her husband, Alexander Pimentel '14, are pretty in orange and pink, a nod to Barbie. And three P-raders are in distress over Samuel Alito '72.

BEVERLY SCHAEFER, KEVIN BIRCH



BREAKING BARRIERS
The Association of Latino Princeton Alumni marches in the P-rade. Below, the Association of Princeton Graduate Alumni (APGA) shows off its Magic in Orange & Black theme.

The speakers were questioned by a couple of members of the audience, and one person, who shouted over the presenters as they attempted to respond to his questions, was ultimately asked to stop speaking and left the room.

A number of exhibits spearheaded by alumni were also on display throughout the weekend, including The Princetoniana Pin Collection at Maclean House and the 150 Years of Asian and Asian American Students at Princeton installation at Frist Campus Center.

At the Lewis Center for the Arts, reuners were invited to view the latest iteration of Diana Weymar '91's Interwoven Stories, a years-long collaborative sewing art project that most recently solicited contributions about what it means to heal with music, which tied into Princeton University Concerts' Healing with Music series. Weymar's project started in 2016 at the Arts Council of Princeton and has since gone on to Bogotá, Colombia; Belfast, Northern Ireland; and British Columbia, to name just a few places. At a PUC reception on Thursday afternoon, Weymar said the project's return to Princeton was "really kind of magical."

"Each of these stories reflects the therapeutic process of being still, and



making something, and being together," Weymar said of the stitched pieces, which ranged from a simulated postcard offering greetings from Princeton to a quote by Jon Batiste surrounded by pink flowers and yellow butterflies to a Princeton-themed word search puzzle.

The weekend ended with the annual fireworks show held in Princeton Stadium, a handful of alumni arch sings, plus more drinking and dancing under the stars into the early hours of Sunday morning.

Jen Caudle '99, a regular at Reunions, said the event seems to get better each year. While she participated in "a little of everything," her favorite part was connecting with new people and developing new relationships that she missed out on as an undergraduate.

"Princeton Reunions is the ultimate example and epitome of school spirit and community," she said. "It's just so neat to see how tight of a community we are and how much Princeton means to all of us." ■

BEVERLY SCHAEFER, KEVIN BIRCH



TEE TIME

Above: From left, Prem Subramanian '89, Lisa Washington '89, Betsy Roxby '89, and Christie Coates '89 in their We Got Game costumes. Below: The Class of 2019 rocks its The 19th Hole theme with shirts that say "The best damn place of all."



THE LONG ROAD TO PARIS

Kareem Maddox '11 heads to this summer's Olympics as a torchbearer for 3-on-3 basketball and the Princeton program

BY ALEXANDER WOLFF '79

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MATT NAGER

On a February evening in a Colorado Springs high school gym, 16 men take turns playing a breathless version of halfcourt basketball. They pass, dribble, cut, and shoot with no coach in their ear, only the thumping of hip-hop and the pounding of a plum-and-apricot colored ball. A 12-second shot clock pushes the pace, and the requisite “clearing” of the ball behind the arc with each change of possession does nothing to slow the tempo. A shot from beyond that arc is worth two points. Anything else counts only one, so a deep shot delivers a 100% premium, not the 50% of orthodox hoops with its twos and threes. A game lasts 10 minutes or 21 points, whichever comes first. Best to get to 21 *now*.

This is elite 3-on-3 basketball, aka 3x3, and it has jumped the schoolyard to take a place on the Olympic stage. The discipline demands an enervating combination of haste and concentration and has a way of making even the most accomplished 5-on-5 player look the fool. After failing to qualify a men's team for the first Olympic 3x3 tournament, in Tokyo in 2021, the U.S. has locked up a spot in this summer's Paris Games, which lay barely five months off. These trials will determine who wears the red, white, and blue.



GOING FOR THE GOLD

Kareem Maddox '11 aims to win a gold medal at the Paris Games, where Latvia is the defending Olympic champion in 3x3 men's basketball.





Now and then a voice cuts through the wall of sound — that of Kareem Maddox '11, the 6-foot-8 former Princeton star who has become the face of American 3x3. His voice is a professional one: Before taking his current job in player personnel with the NBA's Minnesota Timberwolves, Maddox worked as a podcaster and public radio host. Tonight he has no qualms about deploying his pipes. Steeped in the Princeton principles that can be so effective in an uncluttered halfcourt, Maddox has strong feelings about 3x3 best practices, which he shares with teammates in sharp interjections. He whips out a whiteboard during timeouts to amplify those points. But most of his fellow candidates perform the basics instinctually: Keep the lane open. Better to cut than screen. If you pound the ball inside, look to kick it out quickly for that extra payoff. "If the pros went to twos and fours," says USA Basketball 3x3 director Jay Demings, "you'd probably never see a two-point shot in the NBA again."

With its nod to extreme sports and the X Games, that "x" in 3x3 is no accident. Alarmed to see the age of the average Olympic TV viewer creep up, the International Olympic Committee and its television partners have embraced sports that skew younger and edgier, like BMX cycling, skateboarding, and beach volleyball. To go with the relentless hip-hop, FIBA, basketball's world governing body, has introduced further streetball touches: no-autopsy, no-foul officiating, a ban on in-game coaching, a slightly smaller and thus more dunkable ball, and flip commentary. In Tokyo, the public address guy would describe a player as "quicker than a Kardashian marriage," or a team as "all business, like the front of the plane."

In fact, organized 3-on-3 has suburban origins that date back to the mid-'70s, when teenage friends in a town outside Grand Rapids, Michigan, played for a few bucks tossed into a hat. Within several summers they had rolled out dozens of these so-called Gus Macker tournaments around the Midwest. Sports marketing executives took notice, grafting corporate sponsorship and a network deal onto the Macker's homespun basics and launching the result, Hoop It Up, in major metropolitan markets.

Not long afterward, former Princeton guard and captain John Rogers '80 caught the 3-on-3 bug. In 1992, he joined ex-Tigers Craig Robinson '83 and Kit Mueller '91 in entering Shoot the Bull, a tournament in Chicago's Grant Park staged by their hometown NBA team. That summer they reached the final four of the elite division and a year later won it all. "It was a magical experience, beating players from all over the country while playing the Princeton system," Rogers remembers. "Taking only threes and layups is at the heart of what [longtime Princeton] coach [Pete] Carril taught us. It's stuff you see in the NBA today, only in 3-on-3 it's on steroids because of all the space."

Rogers and his crew — it included the ex-Harvard captain and future Secretary of Education Arne Duncan — wanted more. They won Shoot the Bull two additional times. In 1997, at a Hoop It Up event in San Diego, they lost their first game only to roar back to win the whole thing. For years afterward they made 3-on-3 a part of their lives, entering a half-dozen or so tournaments each summer and winning, Rogers estimates, "80% of them."

Rogers himself eventually aged out of participating. But he and his Chicago firm, Ariel Investments, kept bankrolling elite teams on the circuit, first under the name Ariel Slow and Steady and later as Team Princeton, which continued to collect Hoop It Up titles, winning nine of 11 possible national championships between 2003 and 2014 as well as multiple events after FIBA established its 3x3 World Tour in 2012. Duncan even qualified for the 2014 Worlds in Russia while he served in the cabinet of Robinson's brother-in-law, Barack Obama. (Given the diplomatic implications of participating after Vladimir Putin's invasion of Crimea that year, Duncan had to give those Worlds a miss.)

Not every Ariel or Team Princeton player has had a direct Princeton connection. But whether having played for Robinson at Brown, or for former Tigers coach Bill Carmody at Northwestern, most have been schooled in the Princeton system and its precepts. And several dozen players to follow Rogers, Robinson, and Mueller came straight out of Jadwin, among them Bob Slaughter '78, Sean Jackson '92, George Leftwich '92, Mitch Henderson '98, Brian Earl '99, Dan Mavraides '11, Mack Darrow '13, and Ian Hummer '13,

BULL'S EYE

From left, Kit Mueller '91, Craig Robinson '83, John Rogers '80, and Arne Duncan (Harvard '87, unfortunately) at the Shoot the Bull tournament in Chicago, where they captured the elite division title in 1993.



with Henry Caruso '17 and Devin Cannady '20 currently joining Maddox in the USA Basketball 3x3 men's player pool. (Cannady's wife, former UConn standout and current WNBA star Katie Lou Samuelson, qualified for the Tokyo Olympics but contracted COVID-19 and couldn't play on the U.S. 3x3 women's team that won the gold medal.) Rogers has also sponsored teams featuring Princeton women, and the U.S. women's player pool now includes ex-Tigers Blake Dietrick '15 and Charlie Littlefield '21. As a result, Demings rhapsodizes about "the John Rogers ecosystem" and its contributions to U.S. efforts during the first dozen years of FIBA-sanctioned 3x3.

"Drive drill," a staple of Tigers' basketball practices for more than half a century, is the template for how the orange and black play 3x3. An offensive player dribbles toward a teammate with the option to hand off or, if the teammate's defender turns his head, send the ball on a bounce to that teammate cutting backdoor to the basket. Many graduate-level wrinkles can be run off "drive drill" — they go by names like "split cut" and "drift action" — and you're as likely to see these concepts from Princetonians on a 3x3 halfcourt in Hong Kong in August as in Jadwin on a Saturday night in February. Maddox falls in a long line of Princeton "passing pivots" — Mueller and Steve Goodrich '98 before him; Tosan Evbuomwan '23 afterward — who could take advantage of space with mobility, ballhandling, and precision passing. "At its core, 'drive drill' is Princeton basketball, the guy with the ball thinking, 'What can I do to create a shot for my teammate?'" says former Princeton captain and coach Sydney Johnson '97, who coached Maddox in college and has served as a 3x3 assistant with USA Basketball. "It's perfectly suited to how we see and play the game."

For a decade before his death in 2022, Carril would attend Princeton practices and serve as a resource for Henderson, the Tigers' young coach. If Henderson fretted that his offense had gone stale, Carril might suggest a few rounds of 3-on-3 to get the players' feng shui right. "It's a great way to teach because 3-on-3 breaks the game down into parts," says Henderson, who keeps 3x3 video clips on his laptop for inspiration. "It's all about the togetherness of three. Never one-on-one, never beating someone off the dribble."

When Henderson himself played on a few of Rogers' title-winning 3-on-3 teams, the play call "come and get it" might mean, "Go backdoor." Or a player who yelled "gonna screen for you" would in fact cut away. "Basketball is a game of cunning and guile and trickery," Henderson says. "As coach Carril would say, 'Did you never steal candy from the dime store?'"

The ironies abound: that players from Princeton, a program renowned for structure and teamwork, excel at a version of basketball associated with untidiness and individual play; that

"IT'S A GREAT WAY
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— MITCH HENDERSON '98
Princeton men's basketball coach

the basics of an offense often derided for being slow can work so well at a high tempo; and that a discipline introduced to the Olympics for its appeal to youth rewards what pickup ballplayers call "old man game" — fundamentals, savvy, and deception.

Sure enough, more than half the players in this weekend's 3x3 trials are age 30 or older. Maddox himself is 34. Between graduation in 2011 and his arrival here on the cusp of the Games, Maddox has more than a dozen years to account for — and prior to that, a fascinating story as well.

It's one of the few times in Kareem Maddox's life that he remembers not being tall enough. His father, Alan, had scored tickets for the men's 200-meter final at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, where 6-year-old Kareem needed to stand on his seat to glimpse Michael Johnson bolting through a cauldron of noise to shatter his own world record. From Johnson's gold shoes to his upright running style, the scene imprinted itself upon him. "My first Olympic dream moment," Maddox calls it.

During the summer of 2010, Maddox played in several 3-on-3 tournaments while interning at Ariel. There followed an epic senior season at Princeton — an Ivy title and NCAA Tournament appearance, plus recognition as first team All-Ivy and the league's Defensive Player of the Year — and then gigs with club teams in the Netherlands and England. Whereupon he responded to what he calls "a nagging voice in my head" that said, "Time to get a real job and move on with your life."

Over the summer of 2013, he showed up at KCRW, the National Public Radio affiliate in his hometown of Los Angeles. "I volunteered two days a week," he says. "Then four. No one stopped me. Eventually they said, 'OK, we'll pay you.'" He loved storytelling and, as befit someone with an A.B. in English, had a knack for it. In 2014, he hooked on with the public affairs show *To the Point* and then the Denver studios of Colorado Public Radio. That's when he entered a national 3x3 tournament in Colorado Springs, where he and Darrow narrowly lost in the semifinals. Sensing a story, Maddox had driven down with his audio equipment, and before leaving recorded an interview with U.S. 3x3 national coach Joe Lewandowski, who told him the discipline would likely become an Olympic event. "It was my first touchpoint with USA Basketball and 3x3," he says. "I played pretty well. And I got the spark back."

CPR soon assigned Maddox to be local host for *All Things Considered* at KUNC, its affiliate in Greeley. ("Stories that matter, voices you trust. This is Kareem Maddox, thanks for being with us.") His shift ran from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., and with little else in this northern Colorado town calling to him, Maddox began spending mornings in a gym with a full court. Alone with a ball and a basket, he started to unlock a part of the



game he had long overlooked. “In college I’d never shot,” he says. “I wasn’t a bad shooter — we just had better shooters.”

Back on campus for Reunions in 2016, Maddox bossed the annual alumni game and heard Henderson ask him why he was no longer playing. At the same time, watching that year’s NBA Finals between the Golden State Warriors and Cleveland Cavaliers, he felt stirrings of inspiration as the Warriors’ Stephen Curry seemed to obliterate the boundaries of what a shooter could do. “Shooting was a craft, but Curry turned it into a fine art,” Maddox says. “I wanted to keep creating beauty that way. I’d find myself getting into a flow state, that sweet spot between moving and thinking.”

How do you unretire at age 26? For Maddox, it involved a summer showcase in Las Vegas in front of agents angling to place players with club teams overseas. He was woefully out of game shape, but the caffeine from a couple of preworkout shakes helped him play well enough to attract the interest of a team in Poland. Freshly promoted, the club had little budget. Maddox didn’t care. That season he sank 37% of his three-pointers.

The following summer came official word that 3x3 would be on the Olympic program. Memories of Atlanta and Michael Johnson flooded back, lifting a goal into view. Maddox began to tell family and friends that he was gunning for the Games.

In 2018, he took a mostly remote job as a producer for Gimlet Media, the podcasting studio, and threw himself into the FIBA 3x3 World Tour as a member of Team Princeton. As on the pro tennis tour, players accumulate points according to how they perform, with rankings determining whether they or their countries qualify for capstone FIBA events. On a Wednesday, Maddox would board a plane bound for Beijing or Prague or Hyderabad or Mexico City. His might be the lone seat with a burning overhead light, as he edited audio on his laptop for his day job. Then he’d fly home Sunday night, gassed but with ranking points in tow. “So much of 3x3 is just who wants to be there,” he says. “Who wants to travel to

Mongolia and not complain about the food?”

A year later, Maddox and Team Princeton broke through. They won the FIBA World Cup, sweeping all seven games in the shadow of Amsterdam’s Rijksmuseum, in the most dominant World Cup performance on record. A few months later, Maddox was named tournament MVP as Team Princeton captured the FIBA World Tour stop in his hometown. Throughout he deployed not only his newfound touch from distance, but also his chops as a passer who could crisply clear, kick, or swing the ball, and as a defender with the length to disrupt opponents’ passes and shots. “They call 3x3 the 10-minute sprint,” he says. “It’s all explosive movement. Sprints from under the basket to the arc, then changing pace within the 12-second shot clock.”

Just as Team Princeton was finding its groove, the pandemic hit like a flagrant foul. Back in L.A., his old high school coach let Maddox use the gym, and through voice memos and direct messages he tried desperately to keep the team connected. But, he says, “game-play chemistry doesn’t come from group chats, and other countries were being more permissive [with COVID protocols].” A roster tweak, then a late injury that forced another substitution, and Team Princeton “wasn’t where we needed to be” for the qualifying tournament for Tokyo, Maddox says. “This is such a chemistry sport, and we ran into a hot-shooting Dutch team.”

Maddox was gutted. Unexpected therapy came as he worked on “The Greatness with Kareem Maddox,” a podcast series for which he chased down Olympic icons, from Native American distance runner Billy Mills to Trinidadian sprint medalist Ato Boldon. In the final episode, from August 2021, Maddox turns the tables and invites Boldon to interrogate him about his own unavailing Olympic quest. Failure to qualify remained painfully fresh. “I’m frustrated and embarrassed and angry about it,” he tells Boldon. “Not being able to finish the task, you feel fraudulent in a way.”



RED, WHITE, AND GLUE

Maddox, seated, works on and off the court as a leader to foster a tight-knit team.



PRINCETONIANS IN PARIS

A Viewer's Guide to the 2024 Summer Olympics



SCOTT '21

ROWING

These events feature the largest and most internationally diverse cohort of Tigers at the Paris Olympics. Alumni rowers and scullers have won medals in each of the past five Olympics. Rowing will be contested daily from **July 27 through Aug. 3**, with final heats **July 31 through Aug. 3**.

Claire Collins '19, United States (women's eight)

Tom George '18, Great Britain (men's pair)

Jonas Juel '22, Norway (men's quadruple sculls)

Emily Kallfelz '19, United States (women's four)

Tim Masters '15, Australia (men's four)

Nick Mead '17, United States (men's four)

Kathleen Noble '18, Uganda (women's single sculls)

Kelsey Reelick '14, United States (women's four)

Hannah Scott '21, Great Britain (women's quadruple sculls)

FENCING

Four students and three alumni will compete in what three-time Olympian Kat Holmes '17 calls the "objectively cool" sport of fencing. "People are hitting each other with swords," she

says. "I think that it kind of speaks for itself." Fans agree: Tickets for the competition, which runs from **July 27 through Aug. 4**, sold out in less than two weeks.

Maia Chamberlain '22, United States (women's team saber)

Sabrina Fang '27, Canada (women's team foil)

Mohamed Hamza '23, Egypt (men's individual and team foil)

Kat Holmes '17, United States (women's team epee)

Hadley Husisian '26, United States (women's individual and team epee)

Tatiana Nazlymov '27, United States (women's individual and team saber)

Maia Weintraub '25, United States (women's team foil)



JOHNSON '17

WATER POLO

The United States is a women's water polo juggernaut, thanks in part to two-time gold medalist and four-time world champion Ashleigh Johnson '17. The U.S. group stage games are on **July 27, 29, and 31, and Aug. 2**. Knockout-stage games will be played **Aug. 6** (quarterfinals), **Aug. 8** (semifinals), and **Aug. 10** (gold and bronze medal games).

Ashleigh Johnson '17, United States (goalkeeper)

Jovana Sekulic '26, United States (center)

TRACK AND FIELD

Olympic track trials for several nations, including the U.S. and Canada, began after this issue went to press, so vaulter Sondre

Guttormsen '23 may see additional Tigers in Paris (check paw.princeton.edu for updates). The men's pole vault will be contested on **Aug. 3** (qualification) and **Aug. 5** (final).

Sondre Guttormsen '23, Norway (men's pole vault)

3X3 BASKETBALL

The U.S. men, making their 3x3 Olympic debut, are scheduled to play **July 30 and 31 and Aug. 1, 2, and 4**. Semifinals and the gold and bronze medal games are on **Aug. 5**.

Kareem Maddox '11, United States



YEAGER '26

FIELD HOCKEY

Beth Yeager '26 took a gap year to help the United States qualify for Paris. The U.S. group stage games are on **July 27, 29, and 31, and Aug. 1 and 3**. Knockout-stage games will be played **Aug. 5** (quarterfinals), **Aug. 7** (semifinals), and **Aug. 9** (gold and bronze medal games).

Beth Yeager '26, United States (midfielder)



GO TO paw.princeton.edu or use the QR code to learn more about Princetonians in Paris, including profiles of select athletes and updates on how they fare at the Games.



Maddox wants to know: When is it time to stop chasing the dream? Or as he further frames the question, “I do both these things” — audio storytelling and 3x3 — “kind of well. Which do I want to be great at?”

Boldon diagnoses Maddox’s struggle as one “between the practical and the possible.”

But Maddox also noticed a strange thing happening. When others would ask him about the Olympics, and Maddox would explain how the U.S. men had fallen short, “people were even *more* supportive. ‘Damn, you just missed it. You gonna try again?’”

Which helped resolve his dilemma.

USA Basketball learned well the lesson of its failure to qualify for Tokyo. For the Paris Olympic cycle, Demings and Lewandowski chose to field a de facto national team and give it as much runway and support as possible. From Team Princeton they plucked Maddox and the son of Hall of Famer Rick Barry, 6-foot-6 Canyon Barry, who had played at Florida and in the NBA’s developmental G League. To add shooting and international seasoning, they recruited a 5-on-5 stalwart, 6-foot-2 guard Jimmer Fredette, who had led the nation in scoring at BYU before logging seven seasons in the NBA and five more in China and Greece. Supplemented by a 6-foot-3 former Division II grinder named Dylan Travis, and playing under the banner of Team Miami, the four won gold at the 2022 FIBA 3x3 AmeriCup in their namesake city; added silver at the FIBA 3x3 World Cup; won medals at four World Tour events, including golds in Cebu and Abu Dhabi; and took gold at the 2023 Pan Am Games. By last fall they had collected enough points to clinch an Olympic berth in Paris for their country.

About a week after those trials in Colorado Springs, propping his phone up against a coffee mug, Maddox logged on to a Zoom call with Demings and USA Basketball chief Jim Tooley. They were calling to share news that he and Team Miami, fully intact, would be lacing up their sneakers for the U.S. at the end of July on the Place de la Concorde.

As the lone holdover from the pre-Tokyo failure, with a 3-on-3 pedigree of more than a dozen years and Olympic fandom dating back to childhood, Maddox was overcome. “I’ve thought for years about what I’d say at this exact moment, other than thanks,” he says. “But the best way to show our gratitude is to put in more work and get it done this summer.”

Maddox had long felt awkward mentioning to others his goal of making the Olympics as a basketball player. He worried that it might sound grandiose — “because I’m Kareem and you haven’t heard of me.” But 3x3 is truly an enterprise in which individuals recede into the whole. “The most Princeton thing about 3x3 is that selfishness is taken out of the equation,” Maddox says. “We’ve got 10 minutes to win this game and it doesn’t matter how.”

Back in 2011, John Rogers and his A team turned up for a Hoop

THE BASICS

HOW TO WATCH 3X3 OLYMPIC BASKETBALL

How many players are on each team?

Four. Teams are allowed one substitute per game, with players tagging in during stoppages in play.

What is the size of the court?

The Olympic 3x3 court is 49 feet wide by 36 feet deep and has one basket. (By comparison, a regulation NBA court is 94 feet long by 50 feet wide and has hoops at each end.)

How does scoring work?

A shot made beyond the arc is worth two points, a shot from inside the arc is one point, and a successful free throw is one point. A player fouled in the act of shooting is given one or two free throws depending on whether the attempted shot was in front of or behind the two-point arc.

How do you win?

The first team to 21 points wins, but if neither team reaches 21 points in 10 minutes, the team with the most points wins.

What is the format of the Olympic tournament?

There are eight teams each for men and women. The tournament starts with pool play and all eight teams playing each other once. The top two teams in the standings advance to the semifinals and the bottom two teams are eliminated. The other four teams (third vs. sixth and fourth vs. fifth) meet, with the winners advancing to the semifinals. The winners of the semifinals play for the gold medal and the losing teams compete for the bronze.

It Up event in Camden, New Jersey, and Henderson, who had just been named the Tigers’ coach, drove down from Princeton to play, with Carril along for the ride. Ariel wound up winning. As Rogers remembers, “Coach loved that we were all hanging out together. Multiple generations of Princeton players, playing ball and drinking beer and winning. It was his nirvana.”

Today, as he tries to distinguish the Tigers’ program from others during an era marked by such disruptions as the transfer portal and NIL enticements, Henderson touts Princeton to recruits as “a four-year experience.” In fact, he could be selling a 30-year experience. “The beauty of Princeton basketball,” he says, “is that John was Class of 1980. I’m 1998. And Kareem is 2011. And we’ve all done this, winning titles while honoring the way we were taught.” 📖

ALEXANDER WOLFF ’79 spent 36 years on staff at Sports Illustrated. He is the author of seven books about basketball and co-editor of *World Class*, a collection of the journalism of the late Grant Wahl ’96.

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LEFT: Tabitha Soren, *Emailed Kiss Goodnight*, 2016. Collection of the artist. © Tabitha Soren RIGHT: Joanna Piotrowska, *A Most Gentle Touch*, 2019. Collection of Alice Russotti. © Joanna Piotrowska



P.G. Sittenfeld '07 has

The former rising political star is forging a new path but awaits an appeal ruling that could send him back to prison

BY DAVID MONTGOMERY '83
PHOTOGRAPHS BY THOM GOERTEL

ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT LEGAL cases in a generation centered on the role of money in politics has been simmering relatively unnoticed in America's heartland. That appears about to change. The case all started with a telephone call. Alexander P.G. Sittenfeld '07, a precocious star of Cincinnati politics, saw his friend's name pop up on his phone and he answered the call. "Chin, congratulations, brother."

Chinedum (Chin) Ndukwe had played safety for the Cincinnati Bengals. Now he was a developer pursuing projects downtown, and he was a new father.

"Hey, is Mayor Sittenfeld available please?" Ndukwe teasingly replied.

Sittenfeld's mayoral ambitions were no secret. As the friends chatted in late October 2018, he hadn't announced a run yet,

though he was already seeking contributions from donors like Ndukwe. That he would win the election in 2021 was a foregone conclusion around town. His

rise in city politics had been historic. In 2011, at 27, he became the youngest person ever elected to the City Council. Two years later, he was reelected with the most votes in a crowded field, a feat he repeated in 2017. Both times he also got more votes citywide than the mayor. His attempt to vault into the U.S. Senate in 2016, at 32, got no further than the Democratic primary in Ohio, but state Democrats saw in him a future contender for higher office.

Sittenfeld confided to Ndukwe that he and his wife, Sarah, a radiation oncologist, hoped to become parents soon, too. Ndukwe got to the point of his call. One of his development deals was heating up, known as 435 Elm St., a blighted property across from the convention center. His out-of-town investors might also contribute money to Sittenfeld's campaign. Would Sittenfeld like to meet them?

reached **A VERDICT**

So unfolded the first scene in an elaborate set-up devised by federal prosecutors and FBI agents that enveloped Sittenfeld until he was indicted in November 2020 on six counts of corruption. His lawyers likened it to a “prosecutorial *Truman Show*.” The featured players included Ndukwe, who had agreed to record phone calls with Sittenfeld after investigators uncovered previous campaign finance violations by Ndukwe. There was also a trio of undercover FBI agents posing as real estate investors, known by their aliases: Rob Miller, Brian Bennett, and Vinny. The agents kept hidden video cameras rolling when they met Sittenfeld in a penthouse apartment they rented downtown and in a hotel in Columbus. Miller always had a perfect five o’clock shadow and wore a lot of gold jewelry, a lobbyist testified. Vinny lived in Newport, Rhode Island, and liked to sail his yacht to Miami. “They just didn’t look the part,” the lobbyist recalled. “Something felt off about them.”

Sittenfeld maintained his innocence and testified for four hours at the trial in July 2022. The jury acquitted him of four charges. The two guilty verdicts involved accepting \$20,000 from the FBI agents for his political action committee in a quid pro quo of support for Ndukwe’s project.

This past January, Sittenfeld, by now 39 and the father of two young sons, reported to a minimum-security federal prison camp in Ashland, Kentucky, to begin serving a 16-month sentence. He joined daily Bible study and gave sermons in the chapel. He became expert at making

cheesecake improvised from commissary items, slices of which he distributed to fellow inmates. He also busied himself writing long-form profiles of his new brothers-in-confinement, dusting off the craft he had practiced at Princeton in a seminar taught by John McPhee ’53. His prison job was to assist an inmate known as the “Mayor of Ashland” in daily rounds of checking fire extinguishers, preparing beds for new arrivals, and troubleshooting inmate needs. In one of his regular prison dispatches, which one of his older sisters, the bestselling novelist Curtis Sittenfeld, shared weekly with family and friends, Sittenfeld wrote: “It’s not lost on me the irony that I didn’t become the Mayor of Cincy but here I am serving as the ‘chief-of-staff’ to the ‘mayor’ of the Ashland camp.”

Meanwhile, the federal appeal of his conviction started drawing national attention. After that initial phone call, the agent running the operation instructed Ndukwe to make an explicit illegal offer, according to testimony. A week later, Ndukwe was on the phone saying to Sittenfeld, “For this

meeting with Rob next week, I’m pretty sure he can get you 10 this week. You know the biggest thing is, you know, if we do the 10, I mean, they’re gonna want to know that when it comes time to vote on 435 Elm ... that it’s gonna be a yes vote, you know, without, without a doubt.”

Sittenfeld replied: “I mean, as you know, obviously nothing can be illegal like ... illegally nothing can be a quid, quid quo pro. And I know that’s not what you’re saying either.”

In the next breath, Sittenfeld added: “But what I can say is that I’m always super pro-development and revitalization of especially our urban core In seven years I have voted in favor of every single development deal that’s ever been put in front of me.”

That’s the heart of the matter. When does a politician informing a donor of his values and priorities cross the line to making an illegal promise?

A bipartisan array of former federal corruption prosecutors, former Justice Department officials, retired elected officials, and civic and business leaders have signed legal briefs

supporting the appeal by Sittenfeld, a Democrat, calling the case “a conviction for conduct that was not criminal,” in the words of the prosecutors’ brief. The briefs warn that if his conviction stands, it will undermine the First Amendment by criminalizing routine daily interactions between politicians and supporters. The brief-signers include former Republican Attorneys General

William Barr (criticizing an indictment brought by his own Justice Department), John Ashcroft, and Michael Mukasey; Gregory Craig, White House counsel under Barack Obama; Donald McGahn, White House counsel to Donald Trump; Mike McCurry ’76, former White House press secretary for Bill Clinton; and Carter Stewart, former U.S. attorney for the Southern

District of Ohio, an Obama-appointed predecessor to the Trump-appointed U.S. attorney who indicted Sittenfeld and the Biden-appointed U.S. attorney now opposing his appeal.

Sittenfeld was not permitted to attend oral arguments in May before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Sarah, his wife, and other family members sat in the front row. Less than a week later, in an unusual twist, the three-judge panel that heard the arguments ordered Sittenfeld released after he had served fewer than five months, pending their final decision. The judges cautioned that the move should not be taken as a signal of their ultimate opinion, but it showed the case raised “a close question” that could result in the



TAKE THE STAND
Former NFL player Chinedum (Chin) Ndukwe, right, testifies in a Cincinnati courtroom in June 2022 in the case against P.G. Sittenfeld '07.

conviction being reversed. The court's decision could land anytime. Whichever way it goes, lawyers following the case say, it is poised to have a decisive impact on the way politics is practiced, and the Supreme Court may get the final word.

For the man at the center, the impact has already been dramatic in surprising ways. "The last 3½ years ... have felt first like a profound spiritual journey; second, like a love story; and only third, like a legal nightmare — in that order," Sittenfeld told PAW in an email a few days after he was released. "When you plug all three of those in, at least from me, you get an expression of gratitude."

Now Sittenfeld finds himself in the unusual position of fighting for a legal principle that, even if he prevails, he no longer cares to take advantage of. He has set aside his political dreams — "I will not be running for elected office," even if his conviction is overturned, he says — and plans to try working as a writer. In his letter to the judge before his sentencing, he wrote, "Do I want to put these shattered and broken pieces of my life back together as they were before? My answer, Your Honor, is a profound no — and there has been a dramatic reordering of my ambition."

Instead, he has begun a different journey. Shortly after his conviction, he confided to friends, "I pictured myself, on that day of my arrest, sitting in handcuffs in the backseat of an FBI vehicle. What would it mean for my worst moment — one of humiliation, fear, and despair — to have, in fact, represented something radically different and to have contained the seeds of something greater?"

ALEX DERKSON WAS THE NEW KID IN SEVENTH GRADE at the private Seven Hills School in Cincinnati in 1997, sitting uncomfortably alone at a backyard pool party for members of the class. He spied one of the most popular boys sauntering in his direction. "And P.G., you know, gregarious guy, came and started talking to me and just asked me questions and introduced me" to other kids, he recalls. "He loved to connect people; he loved to make people feel welcome."

Everyone who knows Sittenfeld says this is a defining trait, evident throughout his life — even on the undercover FBI tapes. The recordings feature Sittenfeld urging one of the agents, in the first hour of their acquaintance, to find a wife and settle down in Cincinnati and offering to set him up on a blind date. He tells the agents they can stay at his house if their apartment gets too small. He invites them to a dinner party at his home with the then-U.S. attorney, whose office at that moment was investigating the host.

Sittenfeld attended Princeton in the footsteps of his father, Paul G. Sittenfeld '69, an investment manager in Cincinnati who died of a sudden illness four months after his son was indicted, and his older sister, Josephine Sittenfeld '02, a professional photographer. His third older sister, Tiernan Sittenfeld, is an executive with an environmental advocacy group.

"P.G. was the type of student that kind of everyone knew and was friends and friendly with everyone," says Danny Shea '07, one of Sittenfeld's roommates in Forbes College. "P.G. in the freshman dining hall, this was kind of like a creature in their habitat. Will talk to anybody, can talk to anybody."

After being elected president of the freshman class, he migrated from politics to journalism, writing columns for *The Daily Princetonian* and PAW, and became president of the University Press Club. When his sister Curtis' literary career soared with the publication of her novel *Prep* in 2005, he published a satirical Q&A with her in the *Prince* on the eve of her reading in McCosh 10:

"P.G.: As you prepare to come speak on campus, do you feel residual insecurity about the fact that Princeton rejected your undergraduate application back in 1993?"

"Curtis: It did sting at first. But I got over it after I ghostwrote your application and 'you' were accepted. Now that I ghostwrite this column as well, I feel like a really valued member of the Princeton community."

After Princeton, everyone assumed he would return to his beloved Cincinnati, probably to launch a career in politics. When he won a Marshall scholarship to study at Oxford, "I was surprised, not because he'd won a prestigious honor, but because spending two years in Oxford would delay his return to the city that he'd just spent the last four years describing as the greatest place on Earth," Shea says. "There are two things for sure that he would have talked about to anyone who would listen, which were Skyline Chili and Graeter's Ice Cream."

The choice between careers in politics and writing was actually a closer call for Sittenfeld than it may have appeared. "Politics won out for that chapter, but only by a little bit," he said in a telephone interview from the prison camp, on the day before his release, when that plot twist had yet to be revealed.

Before turning to politics, he worked for a couple years for an education nonprofit in Cincinnati. To call his first campaign for City Council energetic would be an understatement. "He set the city back on its heels — you know, 'Who's this Sittenfeld guy?'"

"What P.G. Sittenfeld did was a violation of the PUBLIC TRUST. He told undercover agents that he could 'deliver the votes.' ... If that's not clear, well, then how do we ever prove that the public trust is being VIOLATED?"

— CATHERINE TURCER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMON CAUSE OHIO

says former Cincinnati Mayor Mark Mallory. "The way he thinks is, 'I'm going to go out here and appeal to as many people as I can, regardless of their race, regardless of their social status, regardless of East Side or West Side.'"

In addition to being known as a sure vote on development projects, Sittenfeld became a champion of enhancing services for senior citizens, building affordable housing, and improving pedestrian safety. In 2018, he and four other councilmembers were in a power struggle with then-Mayor John Cranley. It emerged that the five were communicating by text, a violation of open meeting laws that embroiled the city in a bitter

\$101,000 lawsuit. Sittenfeld called the text thread an “honest mistake” in a statement of apology at the time.

By July 2020, when Sittenfeld announced his run for mayor, the FBI was deep into its investigation of what prosecutors called a “culture of corruption” in Cincinnati. In November 2020, Sittenfeld became the third member of the City Council indicted that year, following his colleagues Tamaya Dennard and Jeffrey Pastor.

Sittenfeld’s supporters maintained that the cases were categorically different. Dennard and Pastor pleaded guilty to accepting money for personal use. Sittenfeld pleaded not guilty to improperly taking contributions that he reported to the elections officials. But some in Cincinnati were not ready to draw such distinctions. “If you read the indictments of Tamaya and Jeff, and P.G., they’re all bad,” Cranley said at a news conference hours after Sittenfeld was arrested. “It’s hard not to conclude that, in Tamaya and Jeff’s case, at least part of it was desperation for cash. In [Sittenfeld’s] case, it seems to be to accumulate power for power’s sake. And so, in many ways, that’s worse. But it’s all bad. It’s all sickening. It’s all depressing.”

Sittenfeld had been informed of his impending indictment the day before. He told Sarah. “I say this news that must seem sort of like more than just shocking, sort of like unthinkable and confusing and foreign and unleash a million scary questions,” he recalled in the interview from prison. Her reaction was to take his hand and say, “For better or worse.”

In the interview, Sittenfeld continued, “For someone to so instinctively live the [marriage] vows in that moment is the most touching, loving gesture I’ve ever been on the receiving end of in my entire life.”

THE SET OF THE SO-CALLED *TRUMAN SHOW* IN WHICH Sittenfeld played the antihero fits within several blocks of downtown Cincinnati. Here is the bustling Mexican restaurant Nada, where Ndukwe introduced Sittenfeld to agent Rob Miller over lunch, and where, before the black beans and rice were cleared, Sittenfeld whipped out PowerPoint slides to demonstrate his broad political support, “in the event that, um, Chinedum is successful in twisting your arm to be supportive

The words are not in dispute. They’re all on tape. The question is: What do they mean? Prosecutors, led by Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew Singer, highlight something Sittenfeld told Ndukwe in another conversation. Ndukwe, a regular contributor to Sittenfeld, said he was reluctant to donate now because he wanted to stay on the good side of Sittenfeld’s political opponents. Sittenfeld said it would be fine if Ndukwe simply helped raise money from others, which is legal. Sittenfeld continued, “But I mean the one thing I will say is like, you know I mean, you don’t want me to like be like, ‘Hey Chin like love you but can’t.’”

Ndukwe testified that he interpreted that to mean, “If I donated, he was going to support and be supportive in my efforts, and if I didn’t, he wasn’t going to be supportive.”

In his own testimony, Sittenfeld countered that the context of the conversation was his effort to become mayor, not any specific project. If he weren’t elected mayor, he couldn’t act for Ndukwe or anyone else in the city. “I know what I was thinking, I know what was in my heart,” Sittenfeld told PAW. “And, you know, as I said on the stand, I would never in a million years have taken a bribe for a vote. That’s not why I went into public service.”

Prosecutors also highlight a moment in the apartment when Sittenfeld told agent Miller, “I can sit here and say I can deliver the votes.” Earlier at Nada, and later at another meeting, he said he was ready to “shepherd the votes.” Prosecutors argue that even though Sittenfeld rejected the obvious quid pro quo from Ndukwe, he still knew what the faux developers wanted and that they were willing to donate \$20,000. “The jury rationally found that this was not evidence of ‘ordinary politics’ but evidence of an explicit quid pro quo,” prosecutors wrote in their brief against Sittenfeld’s appeal. (Prosecutors declined PAW’s request to comment.)

Sittenfeld’s pro bono lawyers — led by James Burnham and Yaakov Roth — cast the exchanges in a different light. They point out that Sittenfeld had supported redeveloping 435 Elm before he met the agents. His offer to “shepherd the votes” came after he asked a series of questions about the project, and Ndukwe and agent Miller painted a rosy picture of a hotel, offices, stores, and apartments. On the tapes, Sittenfeld sounds mystified that the developers think anyone would oppose such a project, including

*“The biggest goals for my life are I want to be a deeply involved **HUSBAND** and **FATHER**, and I want to be a committed **CHRISTIAN**. And then, if I’m doing those two things, **LET WHATEVER WORLDLY PATH UNFOLD.**”*

of someone” in the mayor’s race. Across the street is the swank apartment building where Miller invited Sittenfeld after lunch and offered \$10,000 in cash, which Sittenfeld declined because, he said, so much cash was an irregular way to make a campaign contribution. Several blocks away is 435 Elm, still a hole in the ground next to an adult entertainment boutique as of early June. Farther along is City Hall, built in classic Richardsonian Romanesque style that makes it look like a swollen Alexander Hall, where Sittenfeld once hoped to preside. Conveniently close at hand are Skyline Chili and Graeter’s Ice Cream.

the mayor, “if this project is what it is teed up to be.” “The idea that they had reached some sort of illicit trade for money, and then he’s pulling out PowerPoint slides half an hour later to make a pitch, just doesn’t make any sense,” Roth told the appeals court. “He’d already committed to this on the merits and without any discussion that it was conditional in any way.”

It took the FBI agents six weeks to give Sittenfeld the \$20,000 in part because they kept offering it in forms that could have violated political contribution laws if Sittenfeld had accepted. First they tried cash. Then money orders. Then corporate

checks. Finally Sittenfeld accepted checks from duly registered limited liability companies to his political action committee.

Catherine Turcer, executive director of Common Cause Ohio, a government accountability advocacy group, says the case shows how blurry the line between legal and illegal behavior has become — but she says Sittenfeld crossed it. “What P.G. Sittenfeld did was a violation of the public trust,” she says. “He told undercover agents that he could ‘deliver the votes.’ That’s not exactly the same as, ‘I will do this if you will do that,’ but it’s very clear. And what’s really scary is, if that’s not clear, well, then how do we ever prove that the public trust is being violated?”

Kenneth Katkin ’87, a professor of constitutional law at Northern Kentucky University who attended the proceedings out of professional interest and to offer commentary for Cincinnati news media, says Sittenfeld’s case is different. It’s one of few federal prosecutions in decades for bribery in the form of legally reported campaign contributions as

opposed to cash or gifts for personal use. It’s also “extremely unusual to see so many [former] prosecutors of both political parties saying that a political corruption conviction, or really any kind of criminal conviction, was a wrongful conviction,” he says.

America’s privately funded democracy requires politicians to be able to raise money based on what they have done and will do, Katkin says. Voters, in turn, must be able to give support based on that record and those promises. “What [Sittenfeld] did not only wasn’t illegal, it wasn’t different than what every other elected official does,” he says. “Any politician who says, you know, ‘I’m going to vote to enact a Roe-versus-Wade law and restore abortion rights nationally, so give me money and help me get elected so that I can do that,’ and then people give him money ... That could be seen as bribery under the theory that’s used in this case.”

ON THE MORNING OF HIS 21ST DAY OF PROVISIONAL freedom, in early June, Sittenfeld is still sporting the sharp haircut he got in exchange for eight tortillas from a prison buddy inside Ashland. After a stroll through a park and past the Catholic church where he worships and volunteers, he settles in for coffee at a nearby café. The “seeds of something greater” that he once prayed might lie within his lowest moment have started to germinate.



“FOR BETTER OR WORSE”
Sittenfeld and his wife, Sarah, were reunited in May when he was released pending a ruling on his appeal.

“You think your life in the world is, ‘What’s my résumé? What’s my diploma? What’s my job? What’s my income? How do I look?’” he says. “I do not believe those things are my identity now.”

He continues, “The biggest goals for my life are I want to be a deeply involved husband and father, and I want to be a committed Christian. And then, if I’m doing those two things, let whatever worldly path unfold.”

Sittenfeld would not be the first person convicted of a felony to embark on a more intense spiritual path while asking hard questions about the purpose of life. But even before his

indictment he was pondering what lay beyond the daily slog and frenzy of political striving. He says he was moved by the story of Cyrus Habib, a rising star of Washington state politics who chucked his career to enter the Jesuit religious order. After his indictment, Sittenfeld sought out Habib, who has become a friend and spiritual mentor. Habib introduced him to the concept of recognizing the

“invitation” in struggle and suffering.

Now, even as he battles for legal vindication, Sittenfeld says he can’t help seeing himself as someone who has been granted the “gift” of appreciating his life in deeper ways, albeit at great personal and professional cost. It’s

made him think about returning to the road not taken after Princeton. He says he wants to tell stories, advocate, offer his experience as a comfort to others caught in crises and searching for meaning. “I am more interested in the hearts-and-minds approach to change, rather than pulling-the-levers-of-government approach to change,” he said in the interview from prison.

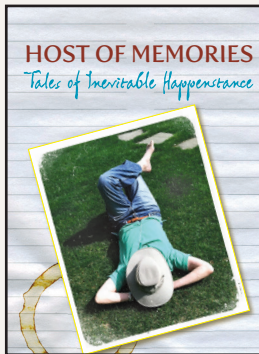
“If the universe allows me to, I would like to help tell powerful stories that maybe cause people to look more closely at something or change their mind about something or be introspective in a way that kind of helps them lead a better life.”

He added: “There’s been way too much that’s been beautiful and meaningful and redemptive in this journey for me to just say, ‘Well, we live in a cruel, hard world where nonsensical or unfair things happen, end of story.’ The story’s not over; the story’s still unfolding. And there are things, beautiful things, that are yet to happen.” ■

DAVID MONTGOMERY ’83 is a freelance journalist and former staff writer for The Washington Post Magazine.

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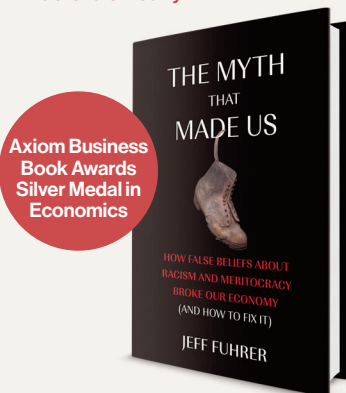
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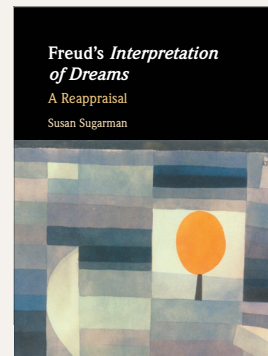
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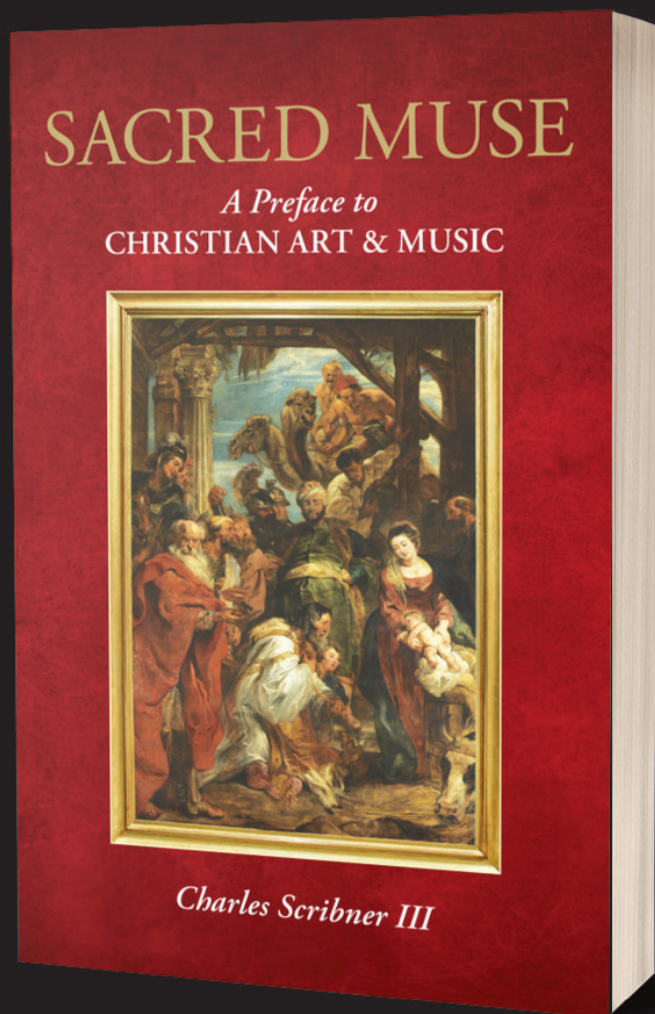


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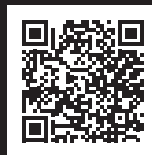


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shaped enduring works of
Western culture..”

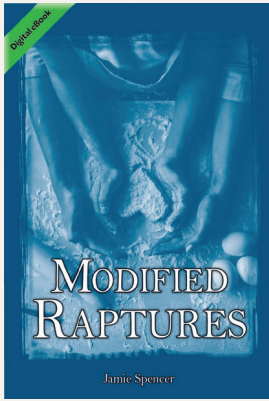
—*William R. Handley,
University of Southern
California*



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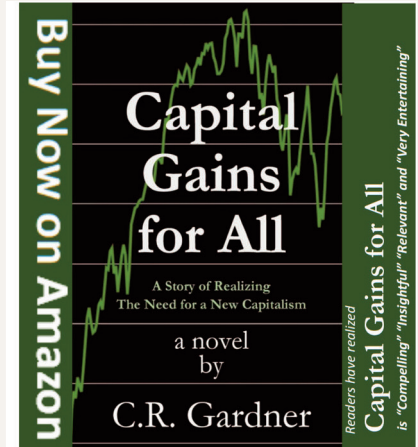
MODIFIED RAPTURES
JAMIE SPENCER '66

Where's the action in this romantic novel? It plays out at many Schools and Colleges in the St. Louis region (plus one more in outer space). And what happens in it? Well, boys woo boys, and girls girls. Plus the usual. The novel casts a genial eye on the fluidity of our sexual identities and shows the wide range of amorous consequences that can result.



LET'S DO THAT AGAIN
TYLER BENGTSON '04

A product designer applied design thinking while playing with his children, creating this cheerful collection of over 100 impromptu games, illustrated like a comic book, including analysis on what makes games fun and how to co-create games with your kids. This book encourages you to be intentional about loving your kids playfully.



Read the **book**.
Send your **questions**.
Listen to the **podcast**.
Repeat.



PAW BOOK CLUB

RAY COLLINS
AUTHOR

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

Exclusive! Read a special 3-chapter preview of *Motive for Murder*.

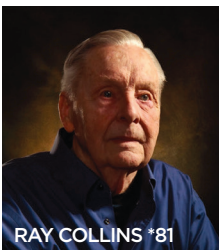
CHAPTER 1

Her diary was missing. Deborah Chu stared at the empty bottom drawer of her bedside table. At first, she considered the possibility she might have mislaid the journal, but then she realized the lock on the drawer had been forced. There was no doubt the diary had been stolen.

Her unflinching routine—even when arriving home near midnight, tired from teaching an economics seminar at Georgetown University—was to climb into bed, pick up a Mont Blanc fountain pen, and watch blue ink flow onto the page. She would inscribe each entry, then secure the diary in the drawer.

The diary recorded her innermost feelings and a brief synopsis of the day's events. But what terrified her was the fact that the diary documented her most shameful act.

Deborah's thoughts focused on the faceless tormentor who'd made her life miserable for the past week. Objects were missing...



RAY COLLINS '81



Or Scan the QR Code with your phone



Read the rest at <https://raycollinsauthor.com/book/motive-for-murder/>

SCOTT AND TARANTINO



LOOKING FOR LEGENDS

By Scott and Tarantino '69

Which would you rather have, dreams or memories?

Whether you're an armchair traveler, an occasional tourist, a seasoned globe-trotter, a daring adventurer, or an intrepid explorer, there's something for you in **Looking for Legends**.

Part travelogue, part history, and part good old-fashioned action story, *Looking for Legends* provides witty commentary as Scott and Tarantino recreate the magic and excitement of adventure.

Find us at www.lookingforlegends.com



Or Buy Online:

amazon

BARNES & NOBLE



ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Scott (right) is a multi-sport athlete, equestrian, coach, mentor, and explorer, all while being a grandmother to eight and great-grandmother to fifteen. She has traveled to more than fifty countries, been to places high and low, and knows how to go along in order to get along. **Tarantino** (left) is an entrepreneur and private investor. His extensive library allows them to travel even when they stay at home.

Royal Edge By Michael Pepper '71

The year is 1971. Blocks away from Princeton University and just days after his graduation, a young Michael meets Ella, an elderly woman living alone and in need of a housemate. Michael cannot refuse her offer of free lodging, since he hopes to stay in town and ride out the Vietnam War draft—a war that has already taken his friend’s life.

As their friendship grows, Michael learns of Ella’s remarkable past as a Russian countess: Ella is a descendant of Czar Alexander II. Michael finds his guide in Ella. Through her magnificent stories about her royal past, Michael gains a new perspective on his own life’s direction.

“Michael Pepper’s *Royal Edge* is a searing and profound memoir that touches on so many subjects. . . . I enjoyed *Royal Edge* immensely and recommend it to anyone who wants a front seat at one of the most tumultuous times in recent American History.”

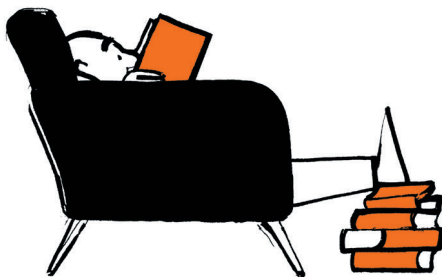
—Anita Abriel, internationally best-selling author of *The Light After the War* and *The Life She Wanted*

“I read your work with great interest and found it an eloquent and moving memoir of youthful self-discovery.”

—Richard Wortman, James Bryce Professor Emeritus of History at Columbia University

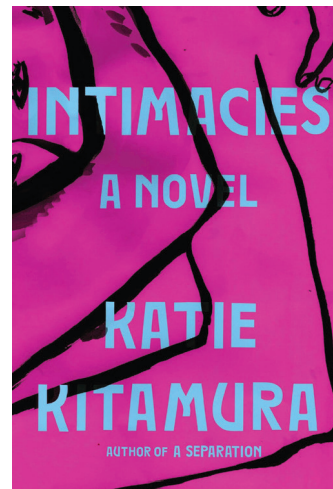


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Repeat.



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OUR NEXT BOOK!**



Intimacies
by Katie
Kitamura '99



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**PRINCETON
ALUMNI WEEKLY**

PRINCETONIANS

ALUMNI STORIES AND PERSPECTIVES



JUMP BALL

In April, Mason Rocca '00 traveled to Italy, where one of his former professional basketball teams, Olimpia Milano, inducted him into its Hall of Fame in an on-court ceremony. Rocca served as team captain for Olimpia Milano, one of the top teams in Europe, which made the finals of the Italian basketball league in three of his four seasons playing there, from 2008 to 2012. His basketball career also included playing starting center for Team Italy in the 2006 World Championships. "That was the pinnacle of my career," says Rocca, pictured here during a 2010 game in Moscow. "It was incredibly special to represent Italy at the World Championships and play against the top players in the world." 📷



READ MORE about Rocca and other Tigers of the Week at paw.princeton.edu.



RUTH CHANG '12



SAM CHANG '16



LOGAN SANDER '18

MIDSTORY

Princetonians Pioneer Project to Cover Midwest News

BY JAKE CADDEAU '20

RUTH CHANG '12, Sam Chang '16, and Logan Sander '18 grew up in Toledo, Ohio. When they came to Princeton, connections and career opportunities that felt a world away from the Midwest opened up to them.

“When you’re from Ohio, and you’ve gone out to Princeton, people tell you ‘stay on the East Coast, that’s where success is. That’s where opportunity is,’” says Sam Chang. “Nobody says to come home.” But, in 2018, the trio returned to Toledo to found Midstory, a nonprofit media think-hub, with Alex Lim, their friend and an MIT graduate. The organization they’ve built uses multimedia storytelling to amplify voices from the Midwest. It’s primarily grant funded but also relies on contributions from individuals.

The overwhelming majority of publishing and news media jobs in the U.S. are based on the coasts. “That means that, although many of those are national publications, their perspective is from a specific point of view or a specific life experience,” says Sander. “We felt there was a need for us to tell stories that were relevant to people across the nation.”

Each member brings a different strength to the team. Sander majored in

comparative literature and has written for *Time*, *The Forward*, and the *Toledo Free Press*. Ruth Chang’s background is in architecture and design. Sam Chang studied public policy at Princeton and has a passion for film and media production. The Midstorians have leveraged their varied skillsets to create a platform with three main arms: media production, solutions-oriented research, and programing for young people.

Midstory has published stories on everything from harmful algae blooms in the Great Lakes and other biodiversity topics of Midwest microclimates to city infrastructure and historical pieces about industry in the region. One video, titled “All Aboard: Toledo in Transit,” features an interview with Robert Seyfang, a Toledo-born architect who led the

“We believe that the best way to change some of the perspectives about the Midwest is to engage people, especially young people, in the storytelling process.”

— SAM CHANG '16

renovation of that city’s train station in 1996.

Another project features a compilation of stories from Asian American Ohioans. Titled “Asian in Ohio,” it speaks to the complexities of glossed-over narratives of Asian people in America. The project includes an interactive gallery with video interviews, data visualizations mapping Asian American population centers throughout the country, stories about the history of the Asian experience, and present-day examples of Asian Americans making a cultural impact in the region.

“It was a multi-year project that began during the pandemic and the anti-Asian hatred that was brought more into the limelight,” says Ruth Chang, who was the lead writer. “Three of us are Asian American and grew up in the Midwest. We had the personal experience of growing up at that interesting intersection of the American identity.”

Midstory aims to bridge a critical gap by helping Americans see each other and the unique concerns of the Midwest more clearly. The founders agree that their youth programs are integral to the success of that mission. “We believe that the best way to change some of the perspectives about the Midwest is to engage people, especially young people, in the storytelling process,” says Sam Chang. Most of their interns aren’t from the area. “By the time they leave our program, many of them are saying, ‘I think there’s a future for me here in the Midwest.’ It’s incredible to see that shift in how they see the region.”

Midstory partners with a range of universities and fellows in the Ohio area to research issues and environments pertinent to the region. They have also engaged more than 100 students for “Think Lab” programs through work opportunities, guest workshops, speaker events, and lectures. Undergraduate, graduate, and postgrad students from schools across the country can also work with Midstory as interns and fellows.

Sander says she hopes their return to the Midwest inspires others. “We’re hoping that through doing that, we can make that a pathway for young people across the nation to find a home in places like Toledo.” ■

SANCHALI PAL '12

Helping Consumers to Live More Sustainably

BY POORNIMA APTE

WHEN SHE WAS A SENIOR at Princeton, Sanchali Pal '12 started tracking her carbon footprint using a spreadsheet.

While climate change concerns had occupied her radar for a while, watching the documentary *Food, Inc.*, about the environmentally damaging effects of industrial food systems, cemented Pal's resolve to live sustainably. The spreadsheet experiment went on for six years. By eating less meat, buying secondhand clothes, and using less energy, Pal lowered her emissions and saved about \$2,000 a year. "I was also happier and healthier and more aligned with my values," she says.

But the spreadsheet method was too tedious and not scalable — significant obstacles to Pal's ambitions of effecting a wider carbon revolution one consumer at a time.

Even if more than half of Americans surveyed by Pew Research Center in 2023 view climate change as a major threat, not many would use a spreadsheet to track their footprint, Pal realized. Instead, much like awareness about calories has influenced food spending, consumers need to develop "carbon



SANCHALI PAL '12

intuition" so living sustainably becomes second nature, she says.

Pal launched Commons, an app that helps consumers do just that. "It makes it easy for people to make spending choices that are better for them and better for the planet," says Pal, who is founder and CEO of the startup. The app launched as Juro in 2020 before rebranding to Commons in 2023.

Free to download, the app educates consumers about ways to live sustainably — covering everything from how to

GOING GREEN

The Commons app can track your real-time carbon footprint and offers rewards for sustainable living.

compost in an apartment to switching to a fossil-fuel-free 401k. When users link their spending data, they can track their real-time carbon footprint and see the emissions behind their purchases. They receive personalized tips based on spending — including relevant brands and guides. Users can also buy carbon offsets, a way of canceling unavoidable carbon emissions by supporting projects that decrease them. Commons earns 20% from offset fees. The average Commons offset subscriber pays about \$35 a month. The startup reports that in 2022, Commons users, numbering in the tens of thousands and growing, reduced their footprint by an average of 20% and saved \$200 a month.

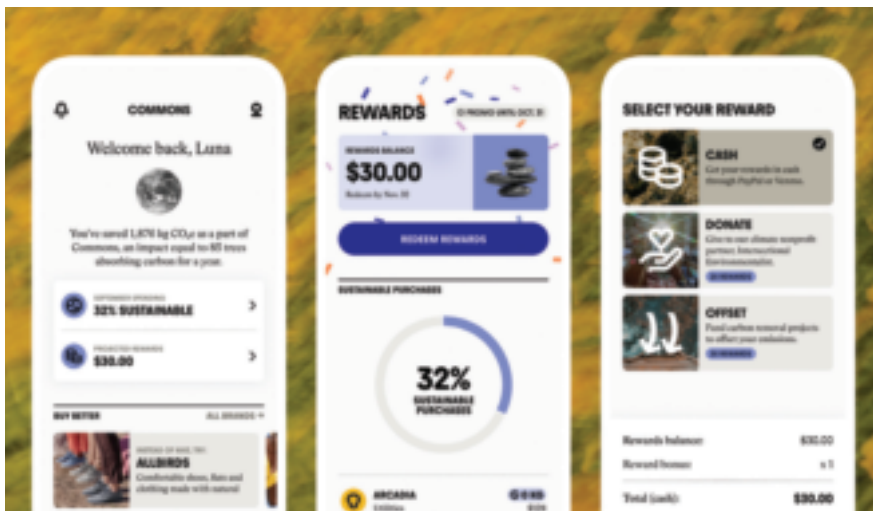
Commons tracks consumer spending as a proxy for carbon accounting. Pal spent more than a year working with advisers from MIT and Yale School of the Environment to develop robust and accurate measures of the carbon footprints of routine consumer purchases. Finally, Pal developed a diverse portfolio of credible carbon offset projects, a set that is revisited every quarter.

Despite its promise, the startup struggled with funding early on. A cold call to a Princeton alum, Bryan Schreier '00 of venture capital firm Sequoia, provided necessary momentum and part of a \$1 million preseed funding round. "I found his email in TigerNet, the alumni database, and he replied right away," Pal says of Schreier.

Commons has raised \$13.9 million since its inception and added recognizable names, including civil rights activist Colin Kaepernick, to its board. Kaepernick's ability to bring awareness to the Black Lives Matter movement showed how just one person can launch a movement, a dynamic that can translate laterally to climate action as well, Pal believes.

"Commons is about more than carbon footprinting," Pal says. "It's about sustainable living and making an impact."

"It's not just about me, it's about the collective change that could happen if millions of us shift demand," she adds. **■**



COURTESY OF SEQUOIA; COURTESY OF COMMONS

CLASS NOTES

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

MEMORIALS

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

THE CLASS OF 1949

PETER B. CANNELL '49

Peter died Nov. 15, 2023, six months after celebrating his 97th birthday.



Peter's arrival at Princeton was delayed by his service in the U.S. Merchant Marine. From July 1944 until March 1946, he was stationed aboard merchant freighters assigned to the Murmansk Run, one of the most dangerous wartime routes in the North Atlantic.

At Princeton, Peter was on the tennis team, the *Princeton Tiger*, and the Film Club, and was a member of Cottage Club. He majored in English in the American Civilization Program.

In 1955, Peter joined his father-in-law's investment banking firm, F. Eberstadt & Co., as a securities analyst and then head of institutional research. He later became president and CEO of Chemical Fund, a fund managed by Eberstadt. Throughout the years, he was associated with the *Financial Analysts Journal* and served as a director of Engelhardt Minerals, Horizons Inc., Fountain House Foundation, the Asthma and Allergy Foundation, the Hospital For Special Surgery, and several other organizations. He was a member of the Princeton Club of New York, plus many others in the metropolitan area and elsewhere.

Peter was predeceased by his wife, Ann. He is survived by four children, 10 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

LAWRENCE E. OXLEY '49

Larry died Nov. 18, 2023, just two weeks before his 96th birthday and five months after his wife, Marion, died. They were married for 70 years, and are survived by their son Greg '81; granddaughter Morgan, and great-grandson Nolan.

Larry came to Princeton from the Pingry School. At Princeton, he played football and majored in engineering. After two years in the Army, he transferred to Allegheny College, where he earned a degree in economics. His subsequent career was in marketing for firms including Alcoa Aluminum, Olin Mathieson, and Altech Industries.

Larry and Marion were active participants in tennis, golf, and bridge, and he supported and coached many swim teams as well as those of his son and granddaughter. He served as a PIAA high school swimming official for 40 years, and in 1965 he helped found the Trident Swim and Tennis Club.

Larry served the Class of 1949 in many capacities, including a brief stint as agent for Annual Giving, ending with his death. We appreciate his loyal support over the years.

THE CLASS OF 1951

JOHN V. ELLICOTT JR. '51

John came to Princeton after graduating valedictorian from Landon School in



Bethesda, Md. He was an economics major, graduated *summa cum laude*, and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He was on the editorial staff of the *Bric-a-Brac*, the VP of Theatre Intime, and a member of the Quadrangle Club. He roomed with Allen Rushton.

After graduation, John earned a law degree, *cum laude*, from Harvard Law School. He served four years in the Navy JAG and then pursued a career as a trade lawyer and ultimately partner at the firm Covington & Burling, where he dealt with foreign trade control issues including export controls, economic sanctions, and measures to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

He was married to his first wife, Mary Lou Ulery Ellicott, for 40 years. Following her death, he married Beatrice Berle Meyerson in 1996. John enjoyed tennis, hiking, skiing, and traveling, especially to Brazil. An avid cyclist, he commuted to work on his bike for decades and founded his firm's biking club, C&B Wheels. John served as our class vice president in 2007-11 and then as president in 2011-16.

John died Jan. 15, 2024, at his home in Washington, D.C. He is survived by his wife, Bea; daughter Annie '79; son Val; stepsons Win, Fred, and Chris; and five step-grandsons.

RICHARD S. HAYES JR. '51

Richard came to Princeton after graduating from Phillips Exeter Academy. He majored in sociology, was on the swim team, and



was publicity manager of the Yacht Club and on the executive committee of Tower Club. His roommates were John D. Griswold and Richard Haury.

Upon graduation he joined the Navy and became a lieutenant, serving aboard cruisers and amphibious forces. He went on to pursue a career in sales and marketing mostly within the leather industry.

For the majority of his life, Richard resided on the East Coast, primarily in New Hampshire — in Peterborough, Grantham, and ultimately in Manchester. An avid outdoorsman who loved flyfishing and hiking, he worked in the White Mountains over a couple of summers as a hutman for the Appalachian Mountain Club in the Greenleaf and Lonesome Lake huts.

Richard died Feb. 16, 2024, at his home at RiverWoods in Manchester. He was predeceased by his wife, Connie, and son Chris. Richard is survived by his children Rosemary, Beth, Amy, and Peter; 11 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. He received both a Christian burial and a burial with military honors.

ROLLIN H. WHITE III '51

Rollin was born in Cleveland and graduated from St. Paul's School. At Princeton, he was a



politics major and a member of the Republican Club, the Cleveland Club, and Ivy. He roomed with Don McLean, J.T. Wallis, and T.D. Wright.

He married Anne Harriman White in his senior year, and after graduation they lived in Rye, N.Y., while he completed a training program at Bankers Trust. They moved to Cleveland, where Rollin worked in shipping with Wilson Transit Co. He went on to pursue a career handling administrative and customer investment service at Cleveland Trust, which became KeyCorp.

He was active in Cleveland philanthropic efforts as president of Hill House and as treasurer of the Cleveland Institute of Art.

Rollin died Nov. 15, 2023. He was predeceased by his wife, Annie. He is survived by his daughters, Laurel and Wendy; and son Rollin IV.

THE CLASS OF 1953

JOHN PARKER HANSON '53

John died Feb. 2, 2024, in Clearwater, Fla.

He was born in Brooklyn, New York, and attended Poly Prep School before coming to Princeton. He left Princeton after his freshman year and transferred to Wheaton College in Illinois, where he studied missions and earned a bachelor's degree with honor.



John received a medical degree from Cornell Medical School and took several short-term mission trips before studying further at Columbia Bible College in South Carolina to prepare for evangelical medical mission work.

In 1971, he married Evangeline Olsen and moved to Hong Kong, where they served as missionaries with the Evangelical Free Church. He served at Kowloon Hospital as a medical missionary and administrator for construction and finance of the mission. Returning to the United States, he practiced family medicine in Largo and Clearwater, Fla.

John is survived by two children and two grandchildren.

LAMBERT HEYNIGER '53

Nick was born in Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., and came to Princeton after studying at the



Darrow School and the Lawrenceville School. He joined Cap and Gown and majored in the School of Public and International Affairs. He was president

of the Nassoons and sang in the Freshman Octet and the Chapel Choir.

After military service, Nick did graduate work at Princeton and Columbia and then entered the U.S. Foreign Service. After two years in Washington, he spent two years in Amman, Jordan; and two years in the Hague, the Netherlands. After that he spent time studying Swahili before becoming political officer at the American Embassy in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; and then American Consul in Oran, Algeria.

Taking early retirement from the foreign service in 1980, Nick went to work with Derek Price '54, who had recently become president of the J.W. McConnell Foundation. In retirement, he lived in a continuing-care retirement community in Hanover, N.H.

Nick died Jan. 26, 2024, and is survived by three children and three grandchildren.

NORMAN ARTHUR HJELM '53

Norm died Feb. 13, 2024, in Wynnewood, Pa.

Born in Worcester, Mass., Norm came to



Princeton after graduating from Bergenfield (N.J.) Senior High School. He joined Prospect Club and majored in Religion-English. His thesis was "An Exploration of the Relationship between Modern Poetry and the Christian Faith and Church."

Norm spent seven of the next 10 years earning degrees in theology from Augustana Theological Seminary and Union Theological Seminary and studying at Lund University in Sweden, where he met his wife, Ingalill. He spent a few years in parish ministry in the Chicago area but then

moved to Philadelphia, where he was book editor for Fortress Press, a publisher for the Lutheran Church. Norm then spent seven years in Geneva, Switzerland, as director of communications and then as deputy general secretary of the Lutheran World Federation before returning to the United States to serve as director of the Commission on Faith and Order for the National Council of Churches in New York City. In 2009, he received an honorary doctorate from Uppsala University in Sweden in recognition of his contributions to theological scholarship. In retirement he continued to work on various editorial projects such as a three-volume history of Christianity since 1550 with a Danish colleague.

Norm's wife, Ingalill, died in 2006. He is survived by three children, 11 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

MARTIN H. LITKE '53

Marty died Sept. 27, 2023, at his home in Newport Beach, Calif. He was born in



Brooklyn, N.Y., and graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School before coming to Princeton. He joined Dial Lodge and majored in biology, writing his thesis on "Effect of

Ultra-Violet Radiation and Photo-Recovery on Bacterial Growth Rates." He served on the crew team as boat captain for the coaching team. Marty attended medical school at New York University, did his internship at Bellevue Hospital in New York City, and completed his residency as an internist at the VA Hospital in Long Beach, Calif. He married Mildred Cohen in September 1957 and served in the Army as a captain, providing medical care for patients in post-Korean War Seoul.

Marty then developed a private medical practice with his wife in Garden Grove, Calif., becoming chief of medicine at the local hospital and teaching at the county hospital. He helped form the Princeton Club of Orange County and chaired the Orange County Alumni Schools Committee.

In retirement, Marty traveled widely with Mildred and continued to be involved in medicine as a teacher to the residents and interns at the medical school of UC Irvine.

Marty was predeceased by Mildred and son David '81. He is survived by his son Matthew '87; daughter Ann; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

ELDO S. NETTO JR. '53

Eldo was born in Youngstown, Ohio, and came to Princeton after graduating from Lowellville (Ohio) High School and spending time in the Navy. He joined Campus Club and majored in the School of Public and International Affairs.



After graduation he joined W.R. Grace and Co. and spent three years in Chile. Returning to New York, he went to work for The New

York Trust Co., which was merged into the Chemical Corn Exchange Bank, which sent him to Mexico. Returning to New York in the early 1970s, Eldo entered the textile business with Princeton classmate Alan Campbell '51 as his partner. He was also a self-educated collector of French furniture and Old Master drawings.

Eldo died March 12, 2024. Predeceased by his wife, Kathryn Ann Cosgrove, Eldo is survived by his son David, and two granddaughters.

CHARLES WESLEY SIBBERS '53

Chip was born March 29, 1932, in Rockville Centre, Long Island, N.Y., and died Feb. 2, 2024, in Poquoson, Va.



He attended Baldwin High School before coming to Princeton. Chip joined Cannon Club, majored in sociology, and wrote his thesis on "The Influence of Drinking

on High School Prestige Rating." After graduation, Chip served in the Marine Corps as a rifle platoon leader and tactical air observer and then graduated from Harvard Business School. He worked for NASA for 30 years in Hampton, Va., in non-technical supervisory and managerial positions. He delivered Meals on Wheels for many years and served as chairman of the Poquoson School System board of directors.

Chip is survived by his wife of 66 years, Jeannine; their three children; three grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

THE CLASS OF 1954

RAOUL S. BARKER '54

Raoul died Jan. 10, 2024, the day after celebrating the 89th birthday of his wife of 68 years, Betty.



He prepared at Mount Dora High School in Florida, where he was active in football, dramatics, and the glee club.

He was an Eagle Scout and helped to create the Ice House Community Theater.

At Princeton, he joined Terrace Club, Whig-Clio, and the Jazz Club, and served as business manager of the Tigertown Five.

Raoul left Princeton in his sophomore year to enter the Air Force Aviation Cadet Training Program. He was commissioned in April 1955 and married Betty Ann St. Louis a week later. After eight years of service, the Air Force sent him to the University of New Hampshire, where he earned a B.S. and M.S. in electrical engineering. During his 22 years in the Air Force, he was engaged in

intelligence and international military sales.

Upon his retirement from the Air Force in 1976 he began a second career in defense contracting, eventually retiring as president of Sherikon Space Systems in 1996.

Raoul and Betty enjoyed travel, boating, and golf. He was known for his encyclopedic knowledge, his skill at Scrabble, his quick wit, and his dedicated efforts to preserve the American bald eagle.

Raoul is survived by his wife, Betty Ann; their children William, Beverly, and Paul; 13 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

FREDRIC L. EDELMAN '54

Fred died Jan. 6, 2024.

He prepared at James Madison High School in Brooklyn, N.Y., and was active in tennis, publications, and band. At Princeton, he majored in chemistry, joined Campus Club, rowed with the varsity crew for four years, and was a member of the Pre-Med Society and the Chemistry Club.

Fred earned a medical degree from the College of Physicians & Surgeons at Columbia in 1958 and completed residency in neurosurgery in 1965. He then served for two years as a neurosurgeon with the Navy.

A clinical professor of neurosurgery at UCLA, he left an indelible mark during his distinguished career as a neurosurgeon and educator. He initiated its peripheral nerve program and contributed significantly to advancement of this subspecialty within neurosurgery. He retired from clinical practice in October 2023.

In his college days, Fred spent summers adventuring on freighters plying the waters from Nova Scotia to Argentina. In 1959, he married Emily Shappell. Together they enjoyed dancing, learning, exploring, and with their children, sailboat racing.

Fred is survived by Emily; their three children, Michael, Jonathan, and Jill '88; and grandchildren Roan, Clea, Logan, Daniel, Jacob, and Jonah.

WILLIAM C. UGHETTA '54

Bill died Jan. 8, 2024.

He prepared at Scarsdale (N.Y.) High School and was active in football, wrestling, and student government. At Princeton, he majored in the Woodrow Wilson School and joined Colonial Club, serving as secretary-treasurer. He was active in the Pre-Law Society and the Freshman Council and played freshman and JV football.

Bill served two years as a lieutenant in the Navy and married Mary Lusk in 1957 after his first year at Harvard Law School, earning his law degree in 1959. His legal career began at Shearman & Sterling in New York City.

In 1968, he embarked on a 30-year career as a lawyer with Corning Glass Works in Corning, N.Y., serving as senior vice president, general counsel, and secretary.

He enjoyed time in the Adirondack Mountains and Lake Placid, skiing in the winter and swimming in the summer. He was an enthusiastic golfer, proud of his hole-in-one at age 77, and was an active bridge player. Bill was an Eagle Scout in his youth, and three of his sons became Eagle Scouts and the fourth a Life Scout. He served the class and the University as an officer or member of many committees.

Bill was predeceased by his wife of 62 years, Mary; and one grandchild. He is survived by his sons William Jr. '82, Robert '89, Ted '90, and Mark; and nine grandchildren, including Eloise '11, Charles '19, and William '21.

THE CLASS OF 1955

PAUL E. OBERKIRCHER '55

Paul, who formed the radiology department at the new Paoli (Pa.) Memorial Hospital and led it and the medical staff for 28 years, died March 5, 2024, at his home in Malvern, Pa.



Paul was born Sept. 18, 1933, in Buffalo, N.Y. He attended Nichols School in Buffalo, where he participated in a variety of sports, glee club, and student government.

At Princeton, he majored in chemistry and joined Cannon Club, serving as house manager. He earned numerals in freshman baseball, a JV letter in cross-country, and played freshman football. His IAA sports included touch football and basketball. He was a Chapel deacon, president of the Chemistry Club, and vice president of Baptist Students of Princeton. At Cannon, he roomed with Tom Markham, Pete Milano, and John Easton.

Paul served in the Army and received his medical degree at Jacobs School of Medicine at the University of Buffalo. He took a teaching position at the University of Pennsylvania and in 1968 formed the radiology department at Paoli Memorial Hospital. Paul had a notable career there, serving as chief of radiology and chief of staff. He retired in 1996 and enjoyed spending time with his large family, golf, and traveling.

Paul is survived by his wife, Kathleen; sons David, Douglas, Paul Jr., Peter, and James; daughter Kimberly; 14 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

THE CLASS OF 1956

JOHN DETJENS III '56

John died Dec. 10, 2023, at his home in Lake Oswego, Ore.

Coming to Princeton from Western Reserve Academy in Ohio, he majored in English, joined Ivy Club, and was a devoted member of



the crew team that competed at Henley-on-Thames.

After commissioning from the ROTC program, where he had climbed to unit commander, John served on active duty in the Army before attending Yale Law School.

Marrying Stephanie Williams in 1960, he served as an attorney in New York City with Simpson, Thacher & Bartlett; general counsel with Warnaco in Bridgeport, Conn.; and as president of White Stag and partner in Stool Rives in Portland, Ore., until retirement in 2000.

John was a competitor in all pursuits: academics (his thesis was on Rudyard Kipling), the practice of law, rowing, tennis, and golf. But his competitiveness was tempered by a kindness, peacefulness, and selflessness that all remember. He loved the outdoors and traveled the world with his family camping, hiking, and canoeing.

John is survived by his wife, Stephanie; daughters Karen Detjens and Courtney and her husband Corey duBrowa; and grandson Tanner.

CHARLES FRIED '56

Charles died Jan. 23, 2024, at home in Cambridge, Mass.



He came to Princeton from Lawrenceville after his parents fled Czechoslovakia. He majored in modern languages, joined Charter Club, and wrote insightful and witty columns for the *Prince* and the *Tiger*. He studied at Oxford and earned a law degree at Columbia.

Charles served as a clerk to Supreme Court Justice John Marshall Harlan II 1920 and in 1961, at age 26, joined the faculty at Harvard Law, where he taught for more than 60 years. Charles described himself as a "natural conservative" based on his family's experience in Europe, and he became an intellectual leader in conservative thinking with his books, *An Anatomy Of Values* and *Right and Wrong*. He joined the Reagan administration, serving as solicitor general in 1985-89, and was appointed by Gov. William Weld as associate justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Court from 1995 to 1999. Harvard professor Lawrence Tribe described Charles as "one of a kind: a towering intellect, erudite beyond belief, invariably kind, and unfailingly decent."

Charles is survived by his wife, Anne; son Gregory; daughter Antonia; and five grandchildren.

LEE N. MCMILLION '56

Lee died Nov. 30, 2023, in Grand Rapids, Mich.

He came to Princeton from Wheaton,



Ill. He majored in chemical engineering, played horn in the band, joined Campus Club, and was in the NROTC.

Lee served in the Navy as a supply officer for six years in Pearl Harbor, California, and Kentucky. NASA hired him to join the Mercury team designing the first astronaut spacesuit, after which he worked in intelligence gathering for 27 years. A consummate technologist, Lee had a special skill for project management, where his infectious enthusiasm enabled him to build effective teams. He remained in demand as a project consultant.

Lee could never talk about his work at home, but he loved conversing about everything else. He delighted in the deep history of Virginia and Washington, D.C., where he lived for 50 years. Even as Alzheimer's affected him, his affection for people, his irresistible joy, good humor, and love of music were never lost.

Lee is survived by his wife, Lynn, whom he met on a blind date and married right after graduation; daughters Karen and Amy '80; four grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

NEAL H. STEIGBIGEL '56

Neal died Jan. 13, 2024, in New York City.

He came to Princeton from Midwood



High School in Brooklyn. He majored in chemistry, joined Prospect Club, was a member of Whig-Clio, served as associate editor of the *Bric-a-Brac*, graduated Phi

Beta Kappa, and won the Milbank Memorial Scholarship Prize. He earned a medical degree from Harvard Medical School and pursued a research and clinical career treating infectious diseases. Neal had a profound impact on innumerable colleagues, medical students, and patients. His key posts included professor of medicine at the NYU School of Medicine and head of the Division of Infectious Diseases and professor of medicine at Albert Einstein College of Medicine-Montefiore Medical Center. He was also a contributing editor for the *Medical Letter on Drugs and Therapeutics* for more than 40 years.

Neal is survived by his life partner, Marian Unterman; his former wife, Ellen Jarvis Steigbigel; children Matthew and Amy; daughter-in-law Jennifer Buesser; and grandchildren Nathaniel and Anya.

Neal was a staunch supporter of the class and a Princeton advocate. As he wrote for our 50th-reunion yearbook, "Princeton remains an anchor of excellence, balance and integrity in our often confusing and irrational world."

THE CLASS OF 1957

JAMES VAN ETEN BENT '57

Jimmy died Jan. 13, 2024, peacefully at home.

He graduated from The Bolles School



in 1953 as valedictorian. At Princeton, he majored in economics and graduated Phi Beta Kappa. Jimmy joined the Right Wing Club and Cottage Club, where he participated

in intramural sports, and he was a member of the college freshman and junior varsity squash teams. A company commander in the Naval ROTC, after graduation he served two years as a lieutenant junior grade in the Navy with tours in the Atlantic, Mediterranean, and Caribbean.

In 1958, he married Patricia Cummer, and they had three children, Patricia Bent MacRae '81, Jimmy Jr., and Robert Paul. For more than 60 years until his retirement in 2021, Jimmy worked tirelessly to grow and maintain the Florida School Book Depository, following in his father's footsteps as chairman of the depository.

He also sat on the boards of Barnett Bank, the Southeast Atlantic Corp., the Museum of Science and History, the Bolles School, and the St. Mark's Episcopal Church Foundation. He served as president of the local Princeton Club and on the schools and scholarships committee. Jimmy and Patricia established the Bent Family Foundation in 1998 to further their commitment to education.

Jimmy is survived by his wife Patricia; their three children; six grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and his sister, Elizabeth Bent Colmery and her family.

ROBERT P. COE '57

Bob died Feb. 5, 2024, in Bethesda, Md.

He came to Princeton from St. Mark's



School near his home in Massachusetts. At Princeton, he majored in history and joined Prospect Club, where he participated in intramural sports. He was also a member

of Whig-Clio and the International Relations Club. Senior year he roomed with John Dewey, Tim Sherwood, and Rinn-Sup Shinn.

Following graduation Bob earned a master's degree in teaching at Wesleyan University, taught at two high schools in Massachusetts, and then obtained a master's degree in history at Columbia. In 1962, he joined the foreign service, with postings in Bolivia, Ghana, Chile, India, and Washington, D.C. In 1967, he married Jane Meleney, a graduate of St. Lawrence University and former Peace Corps volunteer, and they had two children, Cathleen and Cynthia, both born in Chile. He became an expert in economics in developing countries, going back to Ghana as the economics officer of the American Embassy and then working for a foreign company publishing economics reports.

Upon retiring Bob and Jane moved to Bethesda, where Bob taught 49 courses for

the Lifelong Learning Institute of American University. He was also active in Bethesda Help, the American Civil Liberties Union, and the Nature Conservancy.

Bob was predeceased by his brother, John '60. He is survived by his wife, Jane; their two daughters; two grandchildren; his brother Peter; and their families.

ALLEN P.G. STALEY '57

Allen died Oct. 2, 2023, in his home in New York City from kidney cancer after a long but



pain-free illness.

Born in St. Louis, he was raised in Mexico, Mo., and attended Governor Dummer Academy (now The Governor's Academy) in Byfield, Mass.

At Princeton, Allen was a member of Cottage and majored in art and archaeology. He roomed with T. Rourke his senior year.

After Princeton, Allen earned a Ph.D. in art history at Yale. He went on to hold curatorial positions at the Frick Collection in New York and the Philadelphia Museum of Art before joining the faculty of Columbia University. He taught at Columbia for more than 30 years, serving as department chair and inspiring generations of students to pursue studies in art history.

Allen was the author of five books on British art, including *The Pre-Raphaelite Landscape* and *Pre-Raphaelite Vision: Truth to Nature*. Allen's scholarship into the Pre-Raphaelites helped renew interest in the once-obscure movement, leading to a major reappraisal of the period. He also co-wrote the definitive work on the early American artist Benjamin West.

After retiring, Allen continued to write books and scholarly articles while splitting time between New York, London, and a country home in Amenia, N.Y.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Etheleen Staley; their sons, Oliver and Peter; and four grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1959

H. DAVID BONNER '59

In our 10th-reunion yearbook in which he extolled the perceived glories of his then-



adopted home, San Francisco, Dave avowed that "nothing would get me back to New York." Well, best laid plans and all that, because by the time of our 35th reunion (and presumably well before) Dave found himself with a wife and two children in Lexington, Mass., as president of Bontronics, an audio-visual company.

To start at the beginning, or nearly so, Dave came to Princeton from upstate New York's Monroe High School, where he played basketball and ran track. At the halls of ivy he joined Key and Seal, majored in economics,

soared with the Flying Club, and tuned dials at WPRB. Leaving that behind in 1959, he gained a Navy Supply Corps commission at OCS Newport, rode a destroyer for several months, then enrolled at Harvard Business School (MBA in 1965). Then followed his career at Bontronics, which he sold, after 40 or so years, to High Output in Canton, Mass., remaining on in a consulting capacity. But as he was settling into a slower pace, he endured a near-fatal accident in 2007, when he fell from a ladder at work, sustaining serious head injuries that required a several-month — but successful — recovery.

Dave died Nov. 10, 2023. He is survived by his wife, Jane; and children Kathryn and Aaron.

DAVID L. WEST '59

Born in Kansas City, Mo., to Elmer and Susan West, Dave graduated from Shawnee Mission



High School, where he held several leadership positions. Freshman year at Princeton saw Dave as a member of the Undergraduate Council staff and senior year on the

Class Memorial Fund Drive. He had selected English as his major; Campus (of which he was to become president) as his eating club; and fellow Kansas Citian Stu Hutchison as his junior- and senior-year roommate. Following graduation, he and Peggy Daniels were wed; a deferral from his ROTC Army service obligation allowed him to complete law school at Harvard, following which 2nd Lt. and Mrs. David West were posted to a missile site in Germany. Dave was the officer on duty when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, forcing the base to its highest level of readiness.

The crisis long passed, in the fall of 1964 Dave returned to Kansas City to begin a 45-plus year career in the trusts and estates field. In 1979, he was elected to the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, eventually becoming the senior member of his firm's estate planning group. He served, among others, on the boards of St. Luke's Hospital Foundation and Bishop Spencer Place.

In 2020, the Wests moved to Cary, N.C., and there Dave died, Aug. 10, 2023. He is survived by Peggy; daughters Carolyn '90 and Anne '92; one grandson; and his brother, Robert '60.

THE CLASS OF 1960

HAROLD R. MEDINA III '60

Scion of a considerable Tiger clan, Kurt came to us from Phillips Exeter Academy,



At Princeton, he dined at Charter and majored in economics, but conceded that WPRB campus radio was his true major. He was station manager and a ubiquitous voice on-air for four years.

After two years with the Army, Kurt went directly into business. He began at Time-Life-Books in direct marketing, married Pam in 1965, and they moved to London, where he was marketing director for the U.K.

Leaving Time-Life, he and Pam returned to the United States in 1973, where Kurt transformed his direct marketing skills into a series of successful corporate positions, concluding with his retirement in 1992 to establish his own marketing consultancy, focused on clients, projects, and timetables that were attracted to him.

In semi-retirement Kurt was proud of his work with former roommate Terry Mecray '60, in organizing the class's successful Colonial Philadelphia mini-reunion in 2014. Kurt and Pam also continued their longtime support of and participation in the historic Hedgerow Theater near their home Rose Valley, Pa. They moved to a retirement community Atlantic Beach, Fla., in 2018.

Kurt died Dec. 23, 2023, of a cerebral hemorrhage. Our condolences go to Pam; their son Scott; his wife; and grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1961

DAVID N. FISHER JR. '61

Longtime Cape Elizabeth, Maine, resident and Portland attorney, Dave died Dec. 5,



2023, at Mercy Hospital in Portland.

The son of David N. Fisher '30, Dave was born in New York City and raised in Greenwich, Conn. He came to us from Brunswick School in Greenwich.

At Princeton, Dave majored in English, ate at Tower Club, played rugby, and roomed with Mike Miles, Ken Moyle, and Steve Heller. He was active in bicker at Tower.

Following Princeton, Dave earned a law degree at Salmon P. Chase College of Law in Kentucky and practiced law at Drummond & Drummond in Portland for the next 42 years. He was known as a deliberate and empathetic lawyer with a calming, thoughtful demeanor. As a fourth-generation Tiger, he bled orange and black and was known to spontaneously break out in "Old Nassau" from time to time.

Dave was predeceased by his wife of 41 years, Mary Sue. He is survived by his daughters, Wendy Westervelt and Lisa; sons David III '91 and Andrew '99; 10 grandchildren, including Sebastian Fisher '24; and his partner of more than 12 years, Robyn Hooper.

ALAN E. OESTREICH '61

Al died Sept. 20, 2023, in Cincinnati, his longtime home.



Born in Brooklyn, he grew up in Buffalo and came to us from Nichols School. At Princeton, he majored in mathematics, took his meals at Wilson Lodge, was

an officer of the Hillel Foundation and the Undergraduate Math Club, and was in Theatre Intime. He was also executive director of *Bric-a-Brac*, an editor for *Princeton Engineer*, and a writer for the *Nassau Literary Review*.

In 1965, Al earned a medical degree at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, followed by internship at Baltimore City Hospitals and residency at Strong Memorial in Rochester, N.Y. Following Army service, he was a pediatric radiologist at the University of Missouri-Columbia, and then had a distinguished 43-year career at Cincinnati Children's Hospital, retiring in 2009 but hardly remaining inactive. Over the years he taught, authored several medical textbooks, translated others into English, wrote many professional articles, and was an active member of several national and international radiology associations. Avocationally, he was a world traveler and a passionate civil-rights activist.

Al is survived by his wife of 50 years, Tamar; his son, Michael; and his sister, Janet Bernstein.

THE CLASS OF 1962

WILLIAM L. NUSSBAUM '62

Bill died Jan. 12, 2024, in Pompano Beach, Fla.



He came to us from University City High School in St. Louis, Mo., where he was the managing editor of the school newspaper and participated in student

government. At Princeton, he majored in economics, dined at Charter Club, and was comptroller of *The Daily Princetonian*.

Postgraduation, Bill secured a law degree from Washington University and served in the Navy's Judge Advocate General's Corps. After practicing private law briefly, he became assistant general counsel and then general counsel for Moog Automotive in St. Louis. He left the corporate world and opened an art consulting business, reflecting his enthusiasm for collecting contemporary American art, a passion he shared with his wife.

While residing in St. Louis, Bill was involved in the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Food Outreach, and Temple Emanuel. In his later years he enjoyed traveling extensively, particularly to Southeast Asia. In 2005, he moved to Pompano Beach, Fla., quickly connecting with the local community and participating as an avid member of the Fort Lauderdale Bridge Club.

Bill is survived by his children, William and Beth; and sister Betty Kerman. The class extends its condolences to all the family.

HUGH P. WHITT '62

Hugh died Feb. 4, 2024, in Omaha, Neb.

He was a graduate of Joseph E. Brown High School in Atlanta. At Princeton, he



found his lifelong calling when he majored in sociology and anthropology. He was a member of ROTC and Court Club and active in the University Press Club and the Princeton Symposium on World Affairs.

Hugh received his doctorate in sociology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1968 and two years later joined the Department of Sociology at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. He taught at Nebraska for 42 years, retiring as professor emeritus in 2012. His scholarly writing focused on social deviance, the sociology of religion, and quantitative methodology. His co-authored book, *The Currents of Lethal Violence: An Integrated Model of Suicide and Homicide*, received the Distinguished Book Award in 1995 from the Mid-South Sociological Association.

In his spare time, drawing on his interest in quantitative methods, Hugh became an expert in the field of sabermetrics, the analysis of baseball through statistics. In a similar manner, his longtime interest in deviant human behavior fed a love of mystery stories, particularly those about Sherlock Holmes.

Hugh was predeceased by his wife, Susan Bailey.

THE CLASS OF 1963

DONALD H. HOOKER JR. '63

Don died Feb. 17, 2024, at his vacation home in Shepherdstown, W.Va.



Don was one of eight in our class to come from Gilman School in Baltimore. At Princeton, he majored in English and wrote his senior thesis on American prose fiction of the 1920s, "The Myth of the Lost Generation." He was a member of Ivy Club and served as a Chapel deacon. He was on the freshman heavyweight crew, the varsity baseball squad sophomore year, and threw the javelin for the varsity track team in his junior and senior years. His roommates were Bill Conner, Thad Hutcheson, and Dexter Peacock. Don's father was Class of 1932.

After Princeton, Don taught English and served as a dormitory supervisor at International College in Beirut. He, George Gurley, Tony Jones, and Bill Schmick were chosen to be the first teaching fellows at this K-12 boarding school that draws students from all over the Middle East.

After returning to Baltimore, Don married Betsey Norris in 1965. They moved to California, where Don taught physics, coached, and lived at the Webb School in Claremont for five years before returning to Baltimore to begin his career in commercial and investment banking. He was vice president of First National Bank, president of First Maryland Leasercorp. and then moved to Alex. Brown & Sons, where he

retired as a principal.

Throughout his life, he enjoyed golf, tennis, theater, music, opera, travel, reading, and a playful sense of humor.

Don is survived by his daughter, Heidi Abbott; his son, Donald III; three grandchildren; and his partner of 16 years, Mary Bradshaw.

DANIEL E.B. QUICK '63

Dan died Jan. 11, 2024, at Butler Memorial Hospital in Butler, Pa. after a brief illness. A



retired business executive, he lived most of his life in New Jersey but in recent years lived in a Lutheran ministry retirement home in Saxonburg, Pa.

Dan came to Princeton from the Taft School, where he was active in various musical organizations including the glee club, concert band, and dance club. At Princeton, he majored in English, wrote his thesis on the poetry of Emily Dickinson, and played in the Marching Band. He and his roommate, Al Patterson, were members of Court Club.

Dan spent most of his professional life as an executive with Sears, Roebuck & Co. at its regional office in Wayne, N.J. He later moved to Publishers Storage and Shipping Co. in Pine Brook, N.J., where he served as vice president. In retirement, he enjoyed international travel, symphony concerts, and time with his family.

Dan's wife of 35 years, Elaine, predeceased him. He is survived by his sons, Scott and Stephen; daughter Katharine Mastrantonio; stepdaughters Susan Downes and Sandra Jerich; nine grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. Dan was preceded at Princeton by his brother Elwyn '47 and his brother-in-law Robert Lorndale '47.

RICHARD C. ROGERS '64

Richard died April 28, 2023, in Overland Park, Kan.



He came to Princeton from Loomis Chaffee School. He majored in politics, wrote his thesis on "American Political Conservatism after the Midcentury," sailed with the Yacht Club, and briefly joined the rugby club. He took his meals at Key and Seal and played on the club's football and hockey teams.

After graduation, Richard served in the Air Force and did a tour in Vietnam. He settled thereafter in New Jersey, working first for Fidelity Union Trust in Newark, then the Bank of New Jersey. From 1972 to 1985 he held varying positions in the finance office of the State of New Jersey.

In 1985, Richard moved to Memphis and began a career in education. He took

successive master's degrees at Memphis State University — the first in English language arts and the second in teaching English as a second language. During this time, he taught English at public schools in Memphis. In 1990, he joined the faculty of Rust College, a private historically Black college in Holly Springs, Miss., commuting from Memphis, a 45-minute drive. At Rust, he was an instructor in the humanities department until 1998.

Richard is survived by his wife, Mary Ann.

THE CLASS OF 1964

KENNETH M. BUERK '64

Ken died Jan. 26, 2020, in Oxford, Ohio, living most of his life in a home in the center



of the Miami University natural area.

He came to Princeton from Ohio's Columbus North High School. At Princeton, he majored in biology (*magna cum laude*), having done an experimental thesis on the biochemistry of the oak wilt disease.

After Princeton, Ken earned a medical degree from the Washington University Medical School in St. Louis. After interning at the University of Minnesota, he returned to St. Louis for an ophthalmology residency focused on glaucoma. He then served with the Public Health Service in New Orleans, which included providing services to the last leprosy colony in the United States.

After further training in glaucoma, he joined his older brother Gerald's ophthalmology practice, serving until his retirement in Oxford and Hamilton, Ohio.

Upon his death, the *Oxford Observer* reported he left \$3.5 million to establish the Kenneth M. Buerk Open Space Preservation Fund of the Oxford Community Foundation for use in preserving local woodlands, watersheds, and family farms. The Foundation's director described Ken as "an understated man who valued nature and had ideologies that placed value on things like nature rather than materialistic items."

The class offers its condolences to his sister-in-law, Ellen Plummer Buerk; and his four nieces and nephews.

BRIAN L. OLSEN '64

Brian died March 2, 2024, in Santa Cruz, Calif.



He came to Princeton from Palatine Township (Ill.) High School, where he was class president. Majoring in religion, he spent spare time as an announcer on WPRB, which sparked an interest in the media.

After graduation, Brian began as a TV cameraman at WGN in Chicago. Finding that it didn't pay well, he shifted his career

to furniture sales and manufacturing, founding several companies and becoming an early adopter of RTA (ready-to-assemble) furniture (so you can thank him when you are putting together that IKEA bookshelf). He ended his career with a shift back to media, as director of North American sales for DirecTV.

Once retired, he could indulge a lifelong passion for travel with his wife, Nancy. Their adventures took them to every continent but Antarctica and included voyages on the Amazon, car-camping trips north of the Arctic Circle, and six-week self-guided safaris in southern Africa. Wherever they went — Africa, the Czech Republic, France, Italy, China, Japan, Australia, or elsewhere — they were keen bird-watchers and art collectors.

All who knew Brian appreciated his sense of fun, spontaneity, creative energy, humor, and gift for building and fixing almost anything. He will be deeply missed by his daughters, Kirstin '87 and Erica; and his grandchildren.

JAMES A. WILLIAMSON JR. '64

Jim, who was born in Detroit and raised in Reading, Pa., died Feb. 11, 2024. He was



a happy man and loved life. It was impossible not to like Jim, with his laid-back demeanor, dry sense of humor, intelligent conversation, and warm, gentle, and endearing personality.

He was valedictorian at Mount Penn High School before matriculating to Princeton, where he majored in math and participated in Army ROTC, McCarter Workshop, Chess Club, and Terrace. He received an MBA from Harvard, followed by a fascinating career: IBM; Army first lieutenant; computer startup in New York City; management consultant; law degree from George Washington University; attorney in the DC office of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius; hearing examiner at the U.S. Department of Energy; and finally, CEO of the family tool business, Jaw Manufacturing Co., in Reading.

Jim was a devout Christian Scientist and an inquisitive science guy. He loved music, especially barbershop and singing with the Pretzel City Chorus.

In Washington, he met his future wife, Judy, at a party to which neither had been invited. It was a long and loving marriage that produced daughter Kate. Jim will be greatly missed by Judy, Kate, his extended family, and each of us who has been privileged to be his friend.

THE CLASS OF 1965

CHRISTOPHER W. LAWRENCE '65

Kit died Dec. 14, 2023.

He was born in Queens, N.Y., in 1943, but his high school years were at Winchester



High School in the Boston area, where he became state champion in the shot put. Kit played freshman football and threw the javelin in track, majored in economics, and was a member of Cannon Club. His roommates included Jim Luke, Griff Sexton, and Wally Uhle.

After college, he took a job that lasted 32 years at Procter & Gamble. He met his wife, Sandy, there, in a marriage that lasted 44 years and had a son, now grown, Kyle.

After retiring in 1998, Kit enjoyed serving on the ski patrol at the Perfect North ski resort, travel, fishing, boating, woodworking, and volunteering at a soup kitchen to help those less fortunate.

We have sent condolences to his wife and son.

WILLIAM P. MACK JR. '65

Bill died Dec. 17, 2023, at his home in Richland, Wash.



He came to us from Hammond High School in Northern Virginia, where he played baseball and basketball, ran cross country, and was senior class president.

At Princeton, he majored in politics, joined Quadrangle Club, and belonged to NROTC. He served as a Navy surface warfare officer and later graduated from the UVA School of Medicine, then worked at the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Postal Service. His father was a Navy officer, and they wrote a novel together about World War II in the Pacific Theater.

Bill was a longtime resident of Annapolis, Md., and a member of St. James' Episcopal Parish. Deeply involved in family life and child-rearing, he stayed active in outdoor activities, including a variety of sports and working on model railroads with his grandson, while also following the three professional sports teams in Washington, D.C. He never missed a chance to show his kids how to play any sport and do any task around the house, whatever it took to be present and helpful.

Bill is survived by his wife, Marjorie; sons Ryan and Eric; grandson Reid; sister Megan Opsahl; stepbrother Henry Sutherlin; stepsister Saunders Hedberg; along with numerous relatives.

RICHARD E. MCCALL '65

Sandy died on his birthday, Oct. 28, 2023, of pancreatic cancer at his home in Fairhope, Ala.



He came to us from Choate, majored in history and dined at Quadrangle. He roomed with Bamberger, Boehm, Danchak, Diamond, Goldfarb, Gouldin, Gray, and Pascarella.

Sandy earned a medical degree at Tulane and served as a captain in the Air Force in Vietnam and Japan, then at Parkland Hospital in Dallas, and ultimately as chief of staff at Shriners' Hospital in Shreveport, La. He also took many trips to Central and South America attending and helping heal numbers of young patients, raised a family, including dogs and sailboats, and was much loved by those he worked with and served, for his humor, intelligence, and humanity.

Sandy is survived by his wife, Jane; daughters Elizabeth and Katherine; and a multitude of grandchildren and close relatives, including his brother Jonathan C. McCall Sr. '72. His bio in one of our reunion yearbooks states: "I have never regretted attending Princeton, and as I get older, I look back with even more warmth and nostalgia." Peace, brother, well earned.

THE CLASS OF 1966

JACK D.B. COLEMAN '66

Jack died Jan. 28, 2024.

Born in London, England, in 1937, Jack immigrated with his family to the United States in 1948. He graduated from the South Kent (Conn.) School, where he played football, rowed crew, and captained the hockey team.

He entered Princeton with the Class of '60 and took a leave in 1958, during which he volunteered on Mackinac Island, served for four years as an Army medic, and toured Europe by bicycle. He returned to Princeton in 1965 and graduated with our class.

He earned a master's degree in teaching from Harvard, where he met his wife, Roxanne. They lived for several years in the Outer Hebrides of Scotland and later in Alaska. He earned a Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Massachusetts in 1975, before settling in Philadelphia.

Jack taught history at Philadelphia's William Penn Charter School for 26 years before retiring in 2006. He is remembered by colleagues and students for his bagpipe-playing, requiring pushups of late arrivals, and firing a miniature cannon to start exams.

Jack is survived by daughters Elizabeth and Hannah, and brother Francis, to whom the class sends its heartfelt condolences.

THE CLASS OF 1967

J. MICHAEL BEWLEY '67

Mike died Feb. 7, 2024, of complications



following open-heart surgery.

A larger-than-life presence to all who knew him, Mike grew up in Phoenix and came to Princeton from Camelback High School. An active

member of Tower Club, he starred on the intramural football, basketball, and softball teams, the latter as left-handed shortstop.

After graduation, Mike served in both the Army National Guard and Air Guard sandwiched around earning a law degree from the University of Arizona. He started his own firm in 1975, specializing in employment law. Mike represented clients on claims of discrimination, winning nearly all his cases against large Silicon Valley companies.

He loved playing and watching sports, especially basketball, and managed to attend no fewer than 14 Final Fours.

Still, the most fulfilling aspect of Mike's life was a decades-long passion for cutting-edge contemporary art. He and his longtime life partner, Elle Travers, searched for works that dealt with difficult social issues and built an extensive collection that represents many issues of our time, including race, gender, and social justice. In 2017, the San Jose Museum of Art hosted an exhibit featuring some of the collection's most compelling pieces.

Mike is survived by Elle; sister Judy Kelly; niece Kelly Hester; great-niece Amanda Mehr; and great-nephew Ben Hester. He will be remembered by all whose lives he touched as a gregarious, thoughtful, and, yes, competitive person with a ready smile and infectious laugh who made the world better through the light he shined on its social injustices.

VICTOR S. FALK III '67

Vic died of cancer Feb. 9, 2021, in Miami.

He grew up on a farm in Edgerton, Wis., graduating from Wayland Academy in Beaver Dam.

At Princeton, Vic joined Colonial Club and roomed with Frank Strasburger, Jeff Tempas, Bill Paternotte, Stony Simons, Roger Kellogg, Brooke Pearson, and Malcolm Simmons. Vic participated in the Ski Club, *Tiger Magazine*, and Triangle Club. He left our class after the first semester of junior year and was drafted into the Army during Vietnam. He returned to Princeton and majored in politics. After gentle cajoling from ex-roommates, he rejoined our class at our 25th reunion.

Vic met Linda Spooner (Northwestern '66) and they were married in June 1971. Vic and Linda moved to Madison, Wis., where he attended law school at the University of Wisconsin, graduating in 1973. They moved to Florida, and Vic received a master's degree in tax law from the University of Miami in 1974. He joined Wometco Enterprises, serving as general counsel and later as vice president of Wometco Cable Corp.

In 1994, Vic retired and moved with Linda to the Ocean Reef Club in Key Largo, Fla. He also bought a log cabin in northern Wisconsin and divided time between them. At the Ocean Reef Club, Vic

was a longtime board member of the Rod and Gun Club and was the 2018 Sportsman of the Year. He was a member of the Key Largo Anglers Club and fished Atlantic salmon in Canada and marlin in the Bahamas. He enjoyed snow skiing in the West and in Europe and waterskiing in the summer. Vic hunted grouse and woodcock with his English setter dogs at his log cabin during the summer and autumn.

Vic is survived by Linda; son Christian; daughter Megan; six grandchildren; and brothers Tom and Fred.

IAN N. MCKINNON '67

Ian died Aug. 25, 2021, in Toronto of cancer.

He was born in Toronto and attended Upper Canada College and Ridley College, before finishing high school at Neuchatel Junior College in Switzerland. At Neuchatel, he competed on the hockey and ski teams. At



Princeton, Ian majored in economics, writing his thesis on "Reasons for Canada's Imbalance of Payments." He was treasurer of Cloister Inn, a Whig-Clio member, and played freshman and varsity hockey.

After graduation, he attended business school at Columbia University, receiving an MBA in 1969, the year he married his wife, Becky. Ian worked for many years for Thomson Kernaghan and Co. in the investment business on Bay Street in Toronto, the Wall Street of Canada. He invested in several private ventures, including the 1985 purchase of Timothy's World Coffee. He served as chairman of Timothy's World Coffee, guiding the company's strategic direction (while still working at his day job), and Becky served as president and chief operating officer (while she and Ian raised their three daughters). Ian left Thomson Kernaghan in 2000 and focused on developing his coffee company's wholesale business, until he and Becky sold the company in 2008. They retired to their vacation house on Lake Muskoka, two hours north of Toronto. Ian loved being with his extended family and his dogs and listening to music.

Ian is survived by his wife of 52 years, Becky; daughters Bonnie Flemington, Michelle Nickel, and Laura Bowles '97; and eight grandchildren.

ROGER L. RUDOLPH '67

Roger died of a heart attack in Denver April 7, 2019.



He grew up in Denver and graduated from George Washington High School, where he was senior class president and a member of the Denver All-City Student Council. At Princeton, Roger majored in architecture and was on the Dean's List. He was a member of Tower Club and the

Yacht Club and was supervisor of the Donut Agency. In senior year, Roger roomed with Bob Grant, John Nash, and Dave Paul. He remained close to his roommates, often sending them illustrated letters.

After graduation Roger attended graduate school in architecture at Harvard. Deciding not to practice architecture, he spent five years illustrating math textbooks and taking the opportunity to travel the world in between book assignments. His next 10 years were spent teaching English and mathematics at the College of Marin Center for Independent Study, north of San Francisco. During this period, Roger lived on a boat for five years, teaching adults and the less fortunate how to obtain job skills. In the third stage of his career, he moved to Eugene, Ore., and sold computer hardware and software used by architects. After retirement, he left the West Coast and returned to Denver for his final years. Roger's wife, Shirley Litt, predeceased him. They had no children.

Roger traveled extensively through Europe, Latin America, and Asia. He began organic vegetable gardening, lived in a tepee for 1½ years, developed an early interest in Buddhism, and practiced yoga for much of his life. While he had no illusions about his achievements, he was grateful for and content with his life experiences. Roger was a pioneer 1960s counterculture rebel beloved by his roommates and the Class of 1967.

THE CLASS OF 1969

SCOTT R. BAUMANN '69

Scott died Dec. 20, 2023, in Auburn, Wash.

He was a Navy veteran and retired United Airlines pilot.



His father was in the Navy, and Scott and his four siblings moved with their parents to Virginia, North Carolina, Ohio, Hawaii, and California, where Scott graduated from Point Loma High School. There he ran for the cross-country and track teams, excelled at academics, and became an Eagle Scout.

Scott's activities at Princeton foreshadowed his later career. Besides majoring in astrophysics and working jobs at Commons and the Language Lab, Scott was president of the Flying Club. Wanting to serve his country, he joined the Navy during his senior year. After graduation, he began training for the most dangerous kind of flying, as a Navy carrier pilot.

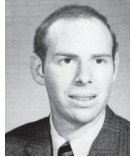
Following naval service, from 1978 to 2000 Scott loved flying for United, operating "some of the most complicated equipment in the world," he said. His flying career ended when he was piloting a flight from Los Angeles to London and suffered a stroke. In retirement he especially enjoyed building and running model boats with friends in a remote-controlled model boat club. His

continued interest in flying led him to become a docent at the Museum of Flight.

Scott met his wife Claudia on eHarmony and they got married in 2006. They bonded over their shared love of the Seahawks, the Mariners, and country music. Scott is survived by Claudia; his son Scott and his wife Brittini; daughter Lindsey; and grandchildren Hunter, Camdyn, and Livi.

BRUCE J. HILLMAN '69

Bruce died Jan. 9, 2024, in Goldsboro, N.C., of complications of Parkinson's disease. He was a world-renowned and widely admired radiologist.



He grew up in Miami, where his father managed a South Beach hotel, and graduated from Miami Beach High School. At Princeton, Bruce was active on the Undergraduate Schools Committee and was athletics chair at Tower Club. Known as one of the better billiards players on the Street, he led Tower to the IAA championship in our senior year.

Bruce graduated from the University of Rochester medical school, was a clinician and researcher at the University of Arizona, then was a Pew fellow at RAND in health policy. In 1992, he became chairman of radiology at UVA, where he was chosen by his peers as head of the UVA physicians' corporation. Awarded every major radiology honor in the United States and abroad, he was the founding editor of the *Journal of the American College of Radiology*.

Remembered for his vision, brilliance, and creativity, Bruce was a published author of short stories and creative nonfiction. A valued PICS board member, he also was a '69 mentor to Jordan Salama '19, author of *Every Day the River Changes*, the required Pre-read for freshmen who entered with the Class of 2026.

Bruce was an avid golfer, fly fisherman, and all-around athlete until he was struck down by Parkinson's. He attended Reunions when he could and watched every televised Tiger game until right before his death. He is greatly missed by his wife, Pamela Wexler; son Aaron and his wife Morgan; his brother Jeff and his wife, Stephanie; and by his many friends.

RICHARD J. HOLLAR '69

Dick, also known as "Bear" to his Princeton friends, died Jan. 28, 2024, in Pasadena, Fla., after a short illness.



Dick was born in Bound Brook, N.J., and spent his elementary school years in Saudi Arabia, where his father was working for Aramco.

The family moved to St. Pete Beach in 1960 and Dick attended Boca Ciega High School, where he was a standout discus thrower and a starting offensive and defensive lineman.

At Princeton, Dick joined the track team, worked in the student laundry, and ate at Dial Lodge. His roommates included Jim Carter, Lou Zibelli (who gave him the nickname Bear), and the late Cal Salls. He was an economics major.

Dick's lifelong career was in health-care practice management and medical billing, largely for Shared Medical Systems and Physician Practice Management Systems. He married Barbara Tilton in 1970, and they lived on Alloway Lake in southern New Jersey for many years. Later, his work took them to the Florida Keys, New York's Hudson Valley, and finally back to his childhood home in Pass-a-Grille, St. Pete Beach.

Dick loved fishing and boating, and his particular passion was gourmet cooking. His culinary hobby led to many overseas trips, and his and Barbara's favorite destinations were Spain and Portugal.

Dick is survived by his wife of 53 years, Barbara; son Alexander and his wife Shannon; and grandchildren Delanie, Alexander, and Quinn.

THE CLASS OF 1973

TERRELL W. GAULT '73

Terrell died Feb. 11, 2024. He was born in Chicago. His family later moved to Kennett



Square, Pa., and Terrell graduated from Kennett High School, where he was president of the mixed chorus and valedictorian of his class.

At Princeton, Terrell majored in chemical engineering. A second tenor, he loved singing. As a member of the Smith-Princeton Chamber Chorus, he toured South America, singing in Chile, Argentina, and Mexico.

He later went to the University of Washington, where he earned a master's degree in environmental science. Between his degrees, he worked for Procter & Gamble and was a named inventor on the first U.S. Patents for liquid Cascade and liquid Tide.

Music always remained important to Terrell, and he was the lead guitarist and vocalist with the Sydeways band. He was an avid skier and tennis player, as well as a referee for school soccer in Portland, Ore. Passionate about wine, he had more than 400 bottles in his wine cellar.

Terrell lived most of his adult life in Portland. He was married to Audrey Egli until her death. They had a son, Patrick. Later in life, he married Annette Mulee. The class extends its condolences to Annette, Patrick, and grandson Jack.

GEORGE W. ROBERTSON IV '73

George died peacefully in his sleep Feb. 7, 2020, at his home in New York City.

Born in March 1951 in Miami, he attended Coral Gables High School, where he was



called Robbie by his friends. At Princeton, he majored in psychology, sang with the Footnotes, dined independently, and wrote his senior thesis "Leadership

Training: A Program" under the guidance of Professor Joel Cooper. He then studied at the University of Miami, where he earned an MBA in finance.

George was president of his company, Better Leaders. He was a preliminary judge for Temple University's Business Plan Competition, as well as a member of the Marketing Executives Networking Group.

He was a supporter of the arts and young artists through his work as chairman of the Friends of Drawing of the Museum of Modern Art. He was also active with the Rema Hort Mann Foundation and the GLBT National Help Center.

George was a loving and selfless friend. He is survived by his husband, Andrew Ong; one brother; and two sisters. He is greatly missed.

THE CLASS OF 1975

STEPHANIE ROBERTA GATES '75

Maintaining her characteristic grace to the end, Stephanie died Nov. 17, 2023, of cancer in Middle River, Md. She was a native of Cumberland, Md., and a graduate of Allegeny High School there.

After majoring in sociology at Princeton, Stephanie followed her entrepreneurial instincts. She researched the history of western Maryland, then founded and ran Queen City Tours to guide visitors there. Later, her consummate people skills made her an excellent real estate agent and eventually a broker with her own agency, Gates Realty.

Stephanie never remained on the sidelines if she perceived that a situation demanded attention. She was an activist, committed to education and helping others. Her ability to make anyone she met feel seen had a lasting effect.

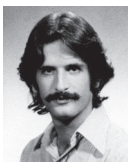
Stephanie loved the University and was proud of having achieved her goal of being the first member of the Gates family to attend Princeton. Besides returning for Reunions and She Roars, she interviewed prospective students for the Alumni Schools Committee.

Stephanie was predeceased by her life partner, Dwight Pearman. She is survived by her brother, Bruce Gates Jr.; many close cousins; and many friends. We share their loss. Memorial contributions can be made to the Stephanie Gates '75 Prize in the Department of African American Studies.

THE CLASS OF 1976

DAVID A. DICHEK '76

David died March 2, 2024, in Seattle, of complications following open heart surgery. He was a professor at the University of



Washington in the Division of Cardiology and the John L. Locke Jr. Family Endowed Chair in Cardiovascular Research and Treatment since 2001.

Born and raised in Studio City, Calif., he came to Princeton after graduation from North Hollywood High School, as David described, “miles and worlds away.” He entered with the Class of 1975 and lived in Princeton Inn. Following a year’s leave of absence, David graduated Phi Beta Kappa with the highest academic rank in Romance languages.

After graduation, he taught science for three years at St. Paul’s School in Concord, N.H., before entering medical school at UCLA. In 1977, on a ferryboat in Scandinavia, he met his future wife, Helén. They married in Sweden in 1980 and had a son in 1992, moving frequently for their careers. David was an internal medicine resident at Massachusetts General Hospital and a fellow in cardiology at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore.

He served as head of the cardiovascular gene therapy unit at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. He joined the Gladstone Institute of Cardiovascular Disease and the faculty at the University of California, San Francisco in 1994. In addition to his work at the University of Washington, he maintained a clinical practice in general cardiology and an internationally known research program.

David was fluent in French and enjoyed his annual family bike trips that sometimes overlapped with the route of the Tour de France.

David is survived by his wife, Helén; son Daniel; and sister, Daryl.

THE CLASS OF 1980

MICHAEL J. BARREN '80

Mike died July 18, 2023, while on Cape Cod.

Mike attended Southwestern Central High School in Lakewood, N.Y., where he was an outstanding three-sport student-athlete. While at Southwestern, Mike met and fell in love with “Wink,” who shared in Mike’s Princeton experience and was a dear friend of many of his classmates.

Mike attended Princeton on an Army ROTC scholarship, majoring in economics while playing basketball and baseball. Imagining a possible career in education, he earned a teaching certification through the Teacher Prep program. Mike loved his years at Princeton, was an active member of Cottage Club, and a proud member of Club 18 (Little Hall) his junior year.

After Princeton, Mike earned a law degree from Ohio State, fulfilling his service obligation as a lawyer in the Army JAG Corps at Fort Ord in California. Following his JAG service, Mike and Wink settled in Columbus,

Ohio, where they raised their family. He practiced law for 30 years before following his heart to a second career in education as athletic director at Chillicothe High School for six years, followed by his final year teaching at Sunshine Christian Academy in Columbus.

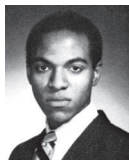
Mike made friends everywhere he went and had a knack for staying in touch. He loved sharing memories and creating new ones, exploring breakfast diners, spending summers on Cape Cod, and attending his children’s (and Buckeye) sporting events. Mike was a master of pregame tailgates.

Mike and Wink loved their family and were extremely proud of their children. Mike was predeceased by Wink and son Christopher. He is survived by children Nick (Jessie), Pat (Melinda), and Christine (Sam); two grandchildren; mother Catherine; four siblings, including Brian '89; and numerous nieces and nephews.

THE CLASS OF 1982

VALERIAN BUTLER SMITH III '82

Valerian, universally known as Peppah, died Jan. 27, 2023, in his beloved New Orleans.



Peppah brought polymathic and passionate intensity to all that he undertook: a career in finance, a starring turn performing on the cello with the University Orchestra, captaining the equestrian team, cooking, gardening, history, and historic preservation. Through all these enterprises he maintained a deep commitment to the Anglican church, volunteering as warden of the vestry of All Saints Episcopal in New York and participating in the life of St. James Episcopal when he relocated back to Louisiana.

Peppah graduated from Catholic High School in Baton Rouge, applying only to Princeton. He majored in politics and was a member of Ivy Club. In addition to the orchestra, he performed with the Triangle Club and the Freshman Singers. After graduation, he volunteered with the Princeton Schools Committee, with a special focus on recruiting minority and underserved students. His career in finance included the co-founding of the first minority-owned plan fiduciary consulting firm in the country.

Peppah is survived by his mother, Valeria Jean Butler; and sisters Lynn Whitfield, Kimberleigh Butler-Smith Taylor, and Shawne Langston Emery. The class joins them in mourning the loss of a singular talent and friend.

CLINTON W. WINTERS '82

The Class of 1982 remembers the warm and empathetic spirit of our dear friend Clint, who died Feb. 7, 2023.

He was born in Fort Campbell, Ky., and joined Princeton from the Groton School. He majored in sociology and played basketball,



football, and lacrosse, representing Princeton in intercollegiate competition in the latter two.

A former commander and project officer in the Army, Clint earned an MBA at the University of Phoenix and worked as customer-care center manager for Total Wine. A lifelong resident of Burke, Va., he is remembered as an avid and frequent volunteer at Miriam’s Kitchen in Washington, D.C.

In the last few years of his life, Clint made a habit of reaching out to old friends to catch up and stay connected. He talked about the ephemeral nature of our lives, and the importance of expressing appreciation to those we care deeply about. May we all take his words to heart as a tribute to our beloved Clint.

He is survived by his wife, Theresa; daughter Brittany; and mother Minnie Winters-Greene. His brother Daryl predeceased him.

LAWRENCE R. ZUKERBERG '82

The Class of 1982 mourns the loss of Lawrence, who died Dec. 26, 2022.

Lawrence came to Princeton from West Orange, N.J., and majored in biochemistry, graduating *summa cum laude*. He went on to medical school at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and completed his residency at Massachusetts General Hospital. Staying at MGH, he became a respected pathologist over three decades of clinical work and pathbreaking research.

Along with his devotion to family, Lawrence was fascinated by the stock market and always ready to talk about finance. His generous nature extended to his dogs, ranging from large to very large.

The class shares with Lawrence’s family the deep sense of loss and draws comfort knowing that his life in medicine brought new insights into disease and comfort to patients.

Lawrence is survived by his wife, Cynthia Collins; daughter Hayley; stepdaughter Michaela Durrant; and sisters Janet Bragg and Emily Zukerberg.

THE CLASS OF 1986

SUSAN J. CRAIGHEAD '86

Susan, the journalist and campaigning jurist, died Dec. 29, 2023, after a brief hospital stay.



She had an extremely severe, rare skin disease from birth, yet she always found ways to live a full life in the midst of constant pain and physical limitations.

After Burlington (Vt.) High School, Susan came to Princeton and the Wilson School, writing her thesis on the chemical gas tragedy in Bhopal. This work led to a Rhodes scholarship (Oxford M.Phil. in international relations), an opportunity that gave her the chance to, as one friend noticed, “become a

social butterfly.”

On returning to the United States, she began a brief career as a reporter, work that built upon her experience with the University Press Club. Outgrowing that, she went to Harvard Law School, became a public defender, and was nominated as the chief judge of the King County (Wash.) Superior Court. Susan led the court through a difficult period in which she was the public face of the debate over a controversial new juvenile facility that she hoped would help overcome the systemic racism that she saw plaguing our juvenile justice system.

The Class of 1986 extends condolences to her son Daniel. Susan was an incredibly courageous woman and never flinched from the world’s fight. Her life and memory are a blessing.

THE CLASS OF 1990 SARAH COLBY '90

Sarah was born Feb. 14, 1968, in Princeton, N.J. She died of cancer Sept. 28, 2023, in Walnut Creek, Calif.



After graduating from Princeton, Sarah joined the Princeton in Asia program and lived in Bangkok for a year, where she taught

English and learned to speak Thai. When she returned to the United States, Sarah worked as a journalist, first in New Castle, Pa., and later in Hayward, Calif.

After graduating at the top of her UC San Francisco law class (then Hastings College of Law) in 1997, Sarah clerked for District Judge Charles A. Legge before serving as a Skadden fellow at Legal Aid at Work. She dedicated her professional life to legal services and civil-rights enforcement. In 2021, shortly before her cancer diagnosis, she was thrilled to join the Southern Poverty Law Center to continue her civil-rights advocacy.

While traveling in Brazil, Sarah met Fernando “Fer” Massa. They married in July 2007, and Lucas was born in 2008. The bi-continental, bilingual family lived in California and Buenos Aires.

In addition to Fer and Lucas, Sarah is survived by her mother, Illene; brother Paul; and an array of devoted friends from each phase of her life. Her father, Paul “Nick” Colby '50, predeceased her.

STEVEN D. ROBERTS '90

Steve died Oct. 9, 2023, of a pulmonary embolism. A proud San Antonian, Steve was an enthusiastic member of the Princeton community and a devoted friend and roommate.



While at Old Nassau, he played both football and rugby, and could frequently be found at the piano in the Rockefeller common room, shooting pool downstairs at Charter Club, or

performing with his band, Fourplay, around campus. He was outgoing and charismatic, with a sense of humor and youthful enthusiasm that he maintained his entire life. Steve majored in politics, writing his thesis on Lyndon B. Johnson, and later earned a law degree from Southern Methodist University.

Steve lived his post-Nassau life in the Dallas area, where he established and ran his own litigation practice for more than two decades. He was a dedicated father who devoted much of his time to his children and their activities, ultimately coaching dozens of youth soccer teams. He maintained his love of music throughout his life, performing with his band Independent George up until his passing.

Steve is survived by children Rachael, Steven II, James, Reagan, Rhyann, and Raleigh; the children’s mother Mallory; father Henry; mother Carolyn; and sister Kathy.

THE CLASS OF 1992 ANN SEAMAN '92

Ann died unexpectedly Nov. 29, 2023.

She was born in Perth Amboy, N.J.,



but resided primarily in Edison. Ann graduated as the salutatorian from John P. Stevens High School. At Princeton, she majored in economics, was a member of Charter Club, and graduated with honors.

Ann began her career with Merrill Lynch as a licensed broker and was employed by Paychex for the past 20 years.

Ann was kindhearted, never complained, and could be counted on to make you laugh with her vibrant sense of humor. She loved her flower garden, cultivating new plants, and traveling to Mexico, Bermuda, Aruba, and Disney. She selflessly postponed many travel plans while being the sole caregiver for her mother and father during the last decade.

Ann was predeceased by her brother David; her mother Yolanda Seaman; and her father Edward Seaman '58.

The class extends its deepest sympathy to her sister MaryAnn Matthiessen; a caring aunt; and to her two nephews, Christopher and Ryan Matthiessen (who carries on the Princeton family connection while working at the nuclear fusion lab at Princeton Plasma Physics). Ann loved “her” Princeton Tigers and we hope she knows how much she will be missed.

THE CLASS OF 1993

WILLIAM MUDD WALKER III '93

Will died Jan. 17, 2024, at the Cleveland Clinic, surrounded by his family after having cancer for 19 months.

Will was born in Philadelphia and grew up in Devon, Pa. He attended the Episcopal Academy, where he excelled in football and lacrosse and was class president. At Princeton, he played club lacrosse, was a member of



Cottage Club, and sang in the Nassoons.

After Princeton, Will started his career in finance in New York working for Constitution Reinsurance, then made the switch to trading at TIR (later E*Trade). Will and Sydney were married in 1999 and relocated to San Francisco for two years before moving back to West Chester, Pa., where they raised their young family. Will held many positions at renowned financial firms and ultimately landed his dream job at the Capital Group in Los Angeles in 2010, where he was a VP of equity trading.

Will was passionate about Boulder Crest, a charity organization serving members of the military, veterans, first responders, and their families. He asked that all donations honoring him be directed to Boulder Crest: <https://support.bouldercrest.org/WillWalkerMemorial>. He joined the board in 2016 and was passionate about the cause for the rest of his life.

Will also gave endless hours to the lacrosse program at St. Francis High School in La Cañada, Tribe Lacrosse in Pasadena, the Southern California chapter of Harlem Lacrosse, and the chain gang on Flintridge Preparatory School’s football field, coaching, teaching, and helping others.

Will is survived by his wife, Sydney; sons Wyatt and Brooks; his parents, William II '64 and Margaret; and his sister, Emily Walker West.

GRADUATE ALUMNI

ROBERT LOWELL WALTERS '55

Bob died in Richmond, British Columbia, Jan. 21, 2024, in his 103rd year after hosting friends and family to a Sunday brunch.

Bob was born Nov. 20, 1921, in Canton, Ohio. He earned a bachelor’s degree at Oberlin in 1943, and a Ph.D. in Romance languages from Princeton in 1955. He studied at the Sorbonne as one of the first Fulbright scholars. Bob joined the Department of French at the University of Manitoba in 1951 and stayed in Canada for the rest of his life. After 12 years of teaching at the University of Winnipeg, he transferred to the University of Western Ontario (now Western University) in London in 1963.

Bob’s area of expertise was 18th-century French literature, particularly Voltaire’s scientific writing popularizing Newtonian optics and cosmology in Cartesian France. Bob continued to make scholarly contributions after his retirement from teaching in 1987. Spending several months each year in the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, he edited critical texts in four volumes of Voltaire’s *Complete Works* (Oxford, Voltaire Foundation), including *Vol. 15: Eléments de la philosophie de Newton*, and *Vol. 17, Essai sur la nature du feu*.

Bob is survived by his daughter, Mary Louise; stepchildren Peter, Kate, and Jeremy; and two grandsons.

JOSEF S.M. THANNER *62

Joe died Jan. 17, 2024, at his home in Dunbarton, N.H., at the age of 97.

Born in 1926 in Altötting, Germany, Joe immigrated to the United States in the 1950s. He attended Wichita State University on a UNESCO World Heritage Scholarship and earned a Ph.D. in modern languages and literature from Princeton in 1962. Joe spent his academic career as a professor of German language and literature at Rutgers, teaching in the graduate school until his retirement in 1994.

Before coming to Princeton, Joe worked as an editor at Winkler Publishers in Munich. During that time, as a freelancer he translated French and English works into German. They included Prosper Mérimée's *Carmen*, Charles Dickens' *David Copperfield* and *Great Expectations*, and Oscar Wilde's *Short Stories and Fairy Tales*.

A lover of fine wine and good food, Joe could speak rapturously and in intricate detail about a meal and wine pairing he had enjoyed 40 years earlier. He also relished a well-made martini. He could forgive someone for almost any transgression except not having a sense of humor.

Joe is survived by his wife of 64 years, Phyllis; children Megan, Koren, and Christopher; eight grandchildren; brother Rudolf; and sister Irmengard.

RICHARD A. DEBS *63

Richard died Jan. 28, 2024, at his home in Providence, R.I.

Born in Providence in 1930, he was the son of Syrian immigrants who relocated to Brooklyn.

Richard earned a bachelor's degree from Colgate in 1952, an L.L.B. from Harvard in 1958, and a Ph.D. in Oriental languages and literature from Princeton in 1963. He was a Fulbright scholar in Cairo and wrote his doctoral dissertation on "Property Law in Egypt: Islamic Law and Civil Code."

In 1960, Richard joined the legal department of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. He became secretary of the bank and ultimately first vice president. In 1976, he became the founding president of Morgan Stanley International, a role that demanded familiarity with diverse cultures and the ability to engage with people across many different societies.

Richard was a philanthropist with wide-ranging passions who dedicated himself to board service for many organizations. He served as chair of the American University of Beirut, and chair of Carnegie Hall. His other philanthropic engagements included the Carnegie Endowment for International

Peace, the New-York Historical Society, and the Brooklyn Museum.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Barbara; children Elizabeth and Nicholas; and granddaughters Isabel and Zoe.

JOHN E. KNODEL *65

John died Jan. 10, 2024, in Ann Arbor, Mich., of aspiration pneumonia and congestive heart failure. He was 83.

John was born July 25, 1940, in Mount Vernon, N.Y. He graduated from Duke in 1961 with a degree in psychology and earned a Ph.D. in sociology from Princeton in 1965.

John's research during a postdoctoral fellowship at Free University, Berlin, resulted in the publication of *The Decline of Fertility in Germany, 1871-1939*, and *Demographic Behavior in the Past: A Study of Fourteen German Village Populations in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries*.

He joined the sociology faculty at Rutgers and renewed his association with Princeton as a research scientist in the Office of Population Research. In 1971, the Population Council and the Institute of Population Studies at Chulalongkorn University offered John a position in Bangkok. In Southeast Asia his interests expanded from fertility to include mortality; migration; intergenerational relations; aging; and the interactions between the HIV epidemic and demographic processes.

After two years in Thailand, John spent a year at Brown University before joining the sociology department and the Population Studies Center at the University of Michigan, where he remained from 1975 to 2004.

John is survived by his wife, Chanpen Saengtienchai.

ROGER E. KANET *66

Roger died in Fort Myers, Fla., Jan. 31, 2024, at the age of 87.

Born Sept. 1, 1936, in Cincinnati, he completed his undergraduate studies at Xavier University in 1961, earned a master's degree from Lehigh in 1963, and a Ph.D. in politics from Princeton in 1966.

Until his retirement in 2019, Roger held positions as a professor of political science and international relations at the University of Kansas, University of Illinois, and University of Miami. He credited his initial interest in Soviet/Russian studies to Fathers Falk and Hegy at Berchmanskolleg in Germany.

Roger's principal teaching and research interests across his 53-year career focused on post-communist Europe, European and global security, democratization, and nationalism. He had a special interest in the field of international relations. During his career he mentored more than 50 doctoral students. Roger received the distinguished scholar award for post-communist studies from his peers in the International Studies Association.

He is survived by his wife, Joan; daughters

Suzanne and Laurie; granddaughters Elizabeth and Emily; grandsons Christopher and Zachary; and sisters Kay and Gail.

ROBERT G. SEDDIG *71

Robert died Jan. 11, 2024, of complications related to metastasized mucosal melanoma in Southwest Harbor, Maine.

Robert was born Aug. 8, 1941, in Davenport, Iowa. He graduated in 1963 from Carleton College with a major in government and international relations. He earned a Ph.D. in politics from Princeton in 1963, specializing in U.S. constitutional law.

For 45 years, Robert was a political science professor at Allegheny College, retiring in 2012. He was presented the Julian Ross Award for excellence in teaching. Near the end of his career, an endowed faculty chair — the Seddig Chair in Law and Public Policy — was created in his honor at Allegheny. In recognition of his research on the early history of the U.S. Supreme Court, he was named a Fellow in Legal History by the American Bar Foundation.

In 2002, Robert committed as an oblate (ecumenical associate) of Saint Mount Benedict Monastery in Erie, Pa. After retiring from Allegheny, he became a visiting professor for 11 years at the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Maine.

Robert is survived by his wife of 56 years, Lyta; daughters Elspeth and Erica; and three grandchildren.

LEON ANDREW IMMERMANN *78

Andy died of a cardiac emergency in Dunwoody, Ga., Dec. 21, 2023.

He was born in New York Dec. 9, 1952. Andy's higher education included a bachelor's degree from Carleton, two master's degrees in religion and philosophy from the University of Minnesota, a Ph.D. in religion from Princeton in 1978, and a law degree from Yale.

Andy clerked for Judge Arlin M. Adams, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, Philadelphia. After his clerkship, he joined the Philadelphia law firm of Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis, where he specialized in taxation. Upon becoming a partner, he relocated to the firm's office in Atlanta. Next, he joined Alston & Bird, where he practiced tax law for 23 years.

Andy chaired the committee on taxation of the American Bar Association's, Section of Business Law. He was a member of the executive committee of the State Bar of Georgia's, Business Law Section, and a member of the editorial board of *Business Law Today*.

After Princeton, he worked for the Fund for Open Information and Accountability and co-authored the book *Are You Now or Have You Ever Been in the FBI Files*.

Andy is survived by his wife, Joan; sons David and Paul; and sister Johanna.

Graduate alumni memorials are prepared by the APGA.

CLASSIFIED

For Rent

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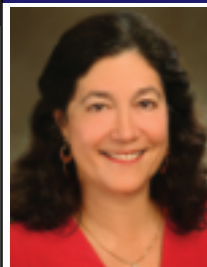
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MARY ALISON FRANTZ (1903-1995)

Through Archaeology, Diplomacy, She Brought America and Greece Together

BY HARRISON BLACKMAN '17

IN 1984, AT THE AGE OF 81, Mary Alison Frantz paid her last visit to the ancient site of Delphi, Greece. There, the scholar admired the ruins she had spent her life documenting as a photographer and archaeologist. “I went back to the sanctuary and this time climbed up to the stadium,” she wrote. “I felt my age as I reflected, going up the (relatively) easy path, how I once went up the rougher and steeper one.”

Frantz was accustomed to taking the more difficult path, whether as a photographer of ancient ruins or as a trailblazing woman in the male-dominated fields of archaeology, diplomacy, and espionage. From understanding Greece’s past to its contemporary political intrigues, Frantz was a key figure in bringing Greece and America together. Her career began and ended in Princeton.

Born in 1903 in Minnesota, Frantz was homeschooled by her mother after her father, a newspaper publisher, died of pneumonia. After majoring in classics at Smith College and a fellowship at the American Academy in Rome, Frantz moved to Princeton in 1927, where she

To photograph a 2,400-year-old lion sculpture on the Parthenon, she took advantage of the morning light and scaled its ancient walls.

joined the University staff of what is now known as the Index of Medieval Art.

Two years later, Frantz moved to Athens and joined the American School of Classical Studies. In 1934, she became part of the Athenian Agora excavations supervised by Princeton archaeologist T. Leslie Shear Sr., a project that helped archaeologists understand the Athens of Socrates, and created an archaeological park now visited annually by half a million people. In 1937, she completed her doctorate in Byzantine art from Columbia, and in 1939, she became the official photographer of the Agora excavations, a position she held for 25 years.

Frantz’s photographic tactics were both calculated and daring. To photograph

a 2,400-year-old lion sculpture on the Parthenon, she took advantage of the morning light and scaled its ancient walls. “The only way up was by climbing the broken end of the south interior wall,” Frantz wrote, adding, “thereafter inching down to the corner and crawling along the top of the colonnade to the point chosen for the photograph.”


According to art historians Amy Papalexandrou ’98 and Marie Mauzy, Frantz’s methods achieved a “somewhat unconventional combination of scientific intent with aesthetically pleasing results.”

In 1939, Frantz’s work took on an urgent dimension. Yale archaeologist Carl Blegen arrived in Athens with 600 clay tablets inscribed with Linear B, an undeciphered Bronze Age script. Worried about the escalation of World War II, Blegen planned to deposit the tablets in the Bank of Greece, but he wanted the artifacts photographed first. In just two days, Frantz photographed them all. According to archaeologist James McCredie, the images assisted the efforts of Michael Ventris, a British architect who deciphered the language a decade later, proving that Linear B was a form of ancient Greek.

Frantz fled Greece before Germany invaded in 1941. She was recruited into the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), precursor of the CIA, working as an analyst in the Washington, D.C. office, where she monitored the activities of Greek political exiles and their goals for the country upon liberation. In 1971, Frantz explained, “We had all kinds of ways of contacts with people, just to learn what they had in mind and what they were preparing.”

After the war, Frantz returned to Athens as the cultural attaché to the American embassy, where she was a founder of the Fulbright Program in Greece. The program has led to more than 75 years of Greek and American cultural exchange.

In 1976, she joined the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton as a research fellow and completed a book on the Athenian Agora’s late antique period. In 1984, when she made her final visit to Delphi, she reflected on her life’s work in the ancient stadium, writing, “It was perhaps appropriate that I sat for a time in the seats near the finish line.” ■



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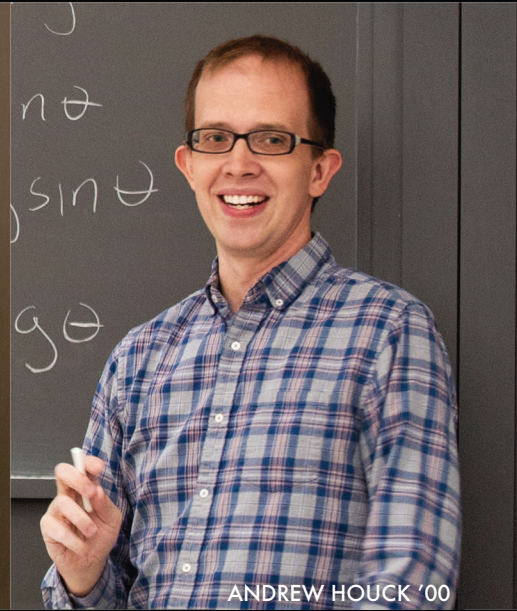
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