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PAW.PRINCETON.EDU



PAWCAST
Majka Burhardt '98



Life on the Edge

On the latest PAWcast, Majka Burhardt '98 discusses her new book, *More*, about fitting motherhood into her rock-and-ice-climbing career.

Three Books

After writing *All the Wave*, pediatric doctor Tiana Woolridge '15 recommends three more books for children.



Woolridge '15

Thought Experiment

Gregg Lange '70 dissects the roots of his PAW column's title, "Rally 'Round the Cannon."



Schutte '75

Blood Donor

In a Newsmakers Q&A, Doug Schutte '75 explains why he gave enough blood to become Virginia's top donor.

On the cover: PAW has transformed Norman Rockwell's "Triple Self-Portrait" to illustrate the potential role artificial intelligence can play in producing works of art or literature. Illustration by Mark Fredrickson.

The Meaning of 'Merit' in College Admissions

Princeton receives more than 35,000 applications for admission annually. “How many unsuccessful applicants,” I have asked Dean of Admission and Financial Aid Karen Richardson, “are so good that you could substitute one of them for an admitted student without any loss of quality to the entering class?”

Around 18,000, she tells me.

Eighteen thousand well qualified applicants: that's roughly nine times the number of offers the dean can make.

When alumni hear these numbers, they often say, with amusement or regret, that they would never get admitted today. That's not quite true, I reply. It is probably more accurate to say that if nine of you applied today, one of you might be admitted, and the other eight would likely be turned down.

One of the questions that I hear most often when discussing admission standards is, “Why don't you just choose students on the basis of merit?” People ask this question with different targets in mind. Some object to affirmative action. Some do not think we should give any weight to athletic prowess or legacy status or to residence in underrepresented states and regions.

My answer is this: Princeton admits all students on the basis of merit, and we judge merit, as we must, on the basis of the institution's mission.

We seek students who have the exceptional academic ability necessary to benefit fully from a Princeton education, who will contribute to the education of their peers while they are here, and who will use their education to make a difference for the better in the world. And every one of our admitted students meets this rigorous and high bar.

When merit is evaluated according to Princeton's mission, many things matter to it. Test scores, for example, are one source of evidence about academic ability, but they are at best imperfect indicators of a student's capacity for discovery, creativity, insight, scholarly or other achievement, leadership, or service.

Life is not a test-taking competition, and neither is college. Princeton would not do much for the world by producing graduates whose chief distinction is their test-taking skill.

That is why Princeton takes a holistic approach to admission, one that insists on academic ability but also values many kinds of merit — such as, to name just a few, a commitment to service and citizenship; the discipline to excel at school while also holding down a job; the persistence to develop artistic or athletic talent; a capacity for teamwork or collaboration; the fortitude to overcome prejudice or hardship; the courage to do right; the honesty to admit fault; and the compassion needed to understand and help others.

Most people concede the benefits of this holistic approach and the multifaceted view of merit it involves.

Yet, many people nevertheless assume students can and should be ranked on some all-things-considered metric. On this view, college admission decisions are a contest, and the “winners” have a presumptive right to a slot at Princeton.

This myth of merit-based ranking infects and distorts discussions about affirmative action, including in the cases now pending at the Supreme Court. People mistakenly say that the cases are about whether colleges should choose students on the basis of “merit” rather than taking race or other factors into account.

Race and ethnicity are among the many factors that help us to understand the challenges that applicants have overcome and the perspectives that they can add to our campus. Those are components of merit, ones that matter to this University's mission along with the other excellences of comparably qualified applicants.

In this domain as in others, the notion of ranking is a destructive error.

We can ask which students have the academic ability and commitment to benefit from Princeton's rigorous curriculum. We can ask what other excellences these students bring to the University. We can ask how they might collaborate with and strengthen one another at Princeton and how they might contribute to the world beyond our campus after they graduate.

These questions are meaningful ones, if also very hard to answer when assessing teenagers still on the path to adulthood.

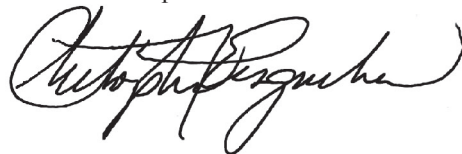
But asking which applicants are “best?” That is a fool's errand.

When our admission office reviews applications from more than 18,000 well qualified applicants, it is not, and cannot be, picking the “most deserving.”

Instead, our admission officers seek to assemble a class of students who will make a difference for the better at Princeton and in the world.

All the students here are talented and accomplished people who fully deserve their places on campus. But they are also lucky people, because each year we must say “no” to thousands of comparably excellent students who are equally deserving of admission.

That is one of many reasons that I am thrilled about the opening of Yeh College and New College West last August. Dean Richardson and her staff still have an impossible task, but the new residences have enabled them to add another 125 students each year who will make our campus and our world a better place.




Opening Exercises on Sept. 4 welcomed the Class of 2026, the largest in Princeton history.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SAMEER A. KHAN/FOTOBUDY

Inbox



WITHERSPOON STATUE

On Jan. 8, George Will '68 wrote a *Washington Post* column, "Wokeness comes for a statue," and questioned the wisdom of a demand, by some, to remove the statue of John Witherspoon from campus because he owned two slaves (On the Campus, January issue). I replied in a letter published by *The Washington Post* on Jan. 13 that I agreed with him and cautioned that it is myopic to judge too harshly the behavior of others through a historical lens of several centuries.

I suggested that instead of removing Witherspoon's statue, it would be more instructive to erect two additional statues to acknowledge the significant contributions and courage of two Princetonians to the civil rights movement in the 1960s. John Doar '44 provided legal support to freedom riders and other civil rights activists and escorted James Meredith to register at the University of Mississippi in 1962. Nicholas Katzenbach '43 represented the federal government at the "Stand in the Schoolhouse Door" at the direction of John F. Kennedy '39 and confronted then-Alabama Gov. George Wallace,

who unsuccessfully tried to prevent the enrollment of two Black students, Vivian Malone and James Hood, at the University of Alabama in June 1963.

I would suggest that the statues of Doar and Katzenbach be placed on either side of Witherspoon not only to acknowledge the mistakes of the past, but to emphasize the progress that has been made and to remind us all of how much work on racial harmony remains to be done.

Kevin R. Loughlin '71
Boston, Mass.

Editor's note: A longer version of this letter appears online at bit.ly/kloughlin.

When I graduated from Princeton, the topics of history and legacy on campus were already contentious. During my time, students protested the Woodrow Wilson School's name, adjudged stained by the former University president's political and social views.

I recall, during a course on the nature of evil, we discussed whether it was better to scrub the historical record of the names of dictators who encouraged genocide or to acknowledge their presence. The class was split rather evenly — to remove a name from history is to ensure neither accomplishments nor accountability for atrocities can be discussed.

I believe each element of our school's legacy should be displayed openly, where it can be analyzed, appreciated, or criticized by those moved to do so. The pursuit of knowledge and greater understanding are

what drew me and my classmates to our Orange Bubble; therefore, discussions of removing or masking the past sit poorly with me. "History is a vast early warning system," notes Norman Cousins.

Perhaps we have a duty to oppose obfuscation of the past. Instead of removing names and statues, we can add. In the case of Witherspoon's statue, Princeton can add a plaque beside the base of the statue, denoting the complexities of honoring a man who contributed to the University but also upheld an institution we now consider deplorable.

Let us draw attention to speakers who sound the alarm, rather than bury them. The past holds innumerable lessons if only we will take the time to let it speak.

Alec Bretton Urbach '17
Huntington, N.Y.

Editor's note: A longer version of this letter appears online at bit.ly/aburbach.

WARTIME EFFIGY

In reading the article on "The New Look of Legacy" in the December issue of PAW, I came across the following sentence: "And Princeton's anti-Japanese sentiment went beyond the administration (students burned an effigy of General Tojo in front of Nassau Hall after the war ended) and beyond the war years." Curiosity won out, and I looked up General Tojo on Wikipedia. I found, in part, that Tojo was a "convicted war criminal who served as prime minister of Japan ... for most of World War II. During his years in power, his leadership was marked by extreme state-perpetrated violence in the name of Japanese ultranationalism, much of which he was personally involved in. ... Tojo's complicity in atrocities such as the Rape of Nanjing, the Bataan Death March, and human experimentation entailing the torture and death of thousands have firmly intertwined his legacy with the fanatical brutality shown by the Japanese

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Inbox

FROM THE EDITOR

Reader Survey: What We're Learning About You

"Consistently interesting and enjoyable."

"My copy usually goes straight into the recycling bin."

"Generally adequate."

These are reader comments about the same magazine. This magazine.

Viewpoint diversity was to be expected when we asked alumni to complete a reader survey last fall. More than 10,000 of you participated, providing thousands of datapoints and written responses. Many are productive and helpful. Others ... let's just say the word "woke" appeared 147 times.



PETER BARZILAI '97

PAW's challenge is analyzing and drawing actionable conclusions from this information.

Since starting as editor in July, I have been working with the staff to change our approach in a variety of ways. We're focusing on breaking news, recruiting new student writers, boosting participation in Class Notes, and increasing reader engagement, among other shifts.

In some ways, this survey confirms what we suspected. But in many ways, it is challenging PAW's staff as we consider the future. Let's examine some of the results.

Readership: 73% said they read at least seven of PAW's 11 print issues each year. That drops to 35% for alumni who graduated from 2012-22. In 2016, when PAW last conducted a reader survey,

68% of all participants said they read at least nine of the 14 issues published at that time.

On the digital side in this most recent survey, 42% said they visit PAW online at least once a month, as opposed to 51% of more recent alums. Back in 2016, we asked whether you were aware PAW had a website, and 45% said they were not.

Our takeaway: PAW maintains strong readership in print — which is not something most publications can say — and most of you don't visit or know we have a website. For the record, we're at paw.princeton.edu, and we hope you'll check it out.

More or less: You'd like to see more coverage of courses/campus life (29% of responses), the physical campus (22%), University history (21%), and student life (20%). You'd like to see less about sports (20%), eating clubs (14%), and the University administration (13%).

Speaking of the administration: We asked you to rate PAW's coverage of the University and issues surrounding the administration, and 2% said we are too critical, 35% said somewhat or too favorable, and 63% said fair. (Let's also note that 35% said they are not aware PAW is editorially independent of the University. We are.)

"Often lacks critical opinion of the administration; clearly designed to promote continued alumni support of the University," wrote one participant. (All responses were anonymous.)

This sentiment was echoed by many readers, which is why it should be said PAW's journalists are not here to write opinion pieces. That is where you come in. We devote several pages in each issue and unlimited space online (Did I mention, *we have a website?*) to your letters. You can be as opinionated and critical as you like — within the boundaries of our commenting policy.

Meanwhile, PAW — as it has for many years — will work to cover the University without bias and hold the administration accountable through our reporting. Your ideas and tips are welcome contributions to this process.

The good stuff: Your comments and ideas were much appreciated. We are listening. And if you're doubtful that Princetonians can agree on anything, consider this: 89% said PAW is doing an excellent or good job. As one of you put it: "I enjoy PAW and like it much better than my husband's Harvard alumni magazine, which I find pompous and over-serious."

Empire throughout World War II.”

I would hope the author of the article would not cry foul if students had burned an effigy of Adolf Hitler, but assuming the accuracy of the Wikipedia article, I fail to see much difference between the two men. Could it be that students were burning an effigy of a very bad person rather than burning the effigy because that person happened to be Japanese?

Betsy Kohl '99
Owings, Md.

WAHL'S SOCCER LEGACY

Thanks so much for the article on Grant Wahl '96 (Editor's Note, January issue). I have played soccer since the 1950s and coached my son's team from kindergarten through high school. I have followed and respected Grant for his compassion, commitment, and knowledge. He was my go-to for anything soccer. He will truly be missed.

Bill Watts '72
Longmeadow, Mass.

ICE HOCKEY AND MORE

It was great to read about the role that Baker Rink has played at Princeton over the years (Sports, January issue). I was part of the Noontime Hockey group when I was a student back in the early 2000s. I also played intramural hockey at Baker during my time. One year the team I organized (named "A Bunch of Grad Students") won the championship, surprising our undergraduate opponents who thought that they would walk over us — we were a team of mostly Canadians. When I went back several years ago for Reunions, I made it a point to take my skates with me so that I could get back on the ice.

The article did, however, forget to mention another notable activity at Baker Rink: broomball. Not sure of its status now, but back in my time it was the most popular intramural sport on campus, with perhaps two dozen teams registered. It was played in sneakers but on the ice, and with a "broom" and a large soft ball. The ice was a great



Broomball at Baker Rink.

equalizer, as athletic and non-sporty people would find themselves equally handicapped slipping, sliding, and falling on the ice.

Kai L. Chan *08
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

FOR THE RECORD

In February's "Lives Lived & Lost" package, Edmund Keeley's class year was misidentified. He graduated in 1949 but was a member of the Class of '48.

Alexandra Bertilsson '26

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READERS RESPOND: CONSERVATIVES AT PRINCETON

Dozens of readers responded to PAW's January cover story, "Crashing the Conservative Party." Below is a selection of letters, some of which were condensed for print. To read longer versions and additional views, visit paw.princeton.edu/inbox.



I greatly appreciated the recent article on conservatism at Princeton. While I was accepted into many equally prestigious doctoral programs, I chose to pursue my doctorate in political philosophy at Princeton primarily because of Robert George. I should note that I dislike labels like “liberal” and “conservative,” because my values and commitments do not line up with those of any mainstream political party. I am, for instance, strongly opposed to both abortion and capital punishment, because I am convinced of the profound and intrinsic value of every human life. Nonetheless, as someone whose views on many controversial issues would typically be labeled conservative, I knew that I would not find many like-minded people among my fellow graduate students or professors at Princeton.

While I generally found faculty and students at Princeton to be respectful of me and my views, it was also crucial for my education to have the support of at least some like-minded faculty and students. This was made possible largely by Professor George and the James Madison Program, which provided needed intellectual diversity to campus and ensured that “conservative”-leaning voices would not be absent from the campus environment.

Even those who completely disagree with the views of Professor George and the scholars he is able to bring to campus through the Madison Program should recognize that he is doing a great service to the University by ensuring that Princeton retains at least some degree of viewpoint diversity, and so helping to preserve it from mindless groupthink and intellectual corruption.

Melissa Moschella *12
Hyattsville, Md.

To me, the goal of Princeton, or any other true university, should not be to espouse the most popular political flavor of the moment, whether liberal or conservative, but rather to encourage free and open dialogue and respect for all perspectives, including those with whom one disagrees. Rejecting opposing viewpoints without taking the time to understand and consider them is what has led to the polarization that plagues our country and much of the world.

Attending Princeton in the late 1960s, I experienced much political ferment on campus, particularly as a participant in ROTC, but at least as I recall it, the discussion was open and free, if heated on occasion. Four hundred protested President Lyndon Johnson when he came to open the Woodrow Wilson School in 1966, but he was made to feel welcome and was able to give his speech. SPIA is still here, but under a different name now of course.

What upsets me most is that the administration, by its actions, gives the appearance of having its thumb on the scale in favor of one political outlook and concurrently fails to strongly enough endorse open, but mutually respectful, dialogue among people with opposing views. I believe any speaker who does not advocate violence or promote hate speech should be equally welcome on campus, regardless of political persuasion or affiliation, and hope that in time the administration will see its way to endorsing, and enforcing, such a policy.

Charles C. Freyer '69
Jenkintown, Pa.

Thank you, David Walter '11, for the in-depth analysis of conservative trends at Princeton. The most astute observation was from *Tory* founder Yoram Hazony '86: Princeton scoops ambitious young people up, “it cuts them off from their local roots, and then they don't go back.”

Whether you are connected to “conservatism of the elite,” “Big Business, Big Finance,” or not, people from the small towns from which we

came have started to view us not as that overachieving kid down the block but as part of the “globalist” elite.

Stripping the most high-performing students from all over America, combined with economic trends that have moved jobs to coastal cities while leaving exurban and rural areas stripped of manufacturing jobs and plagued with high poverty and an opioid epidemic, is a huge problem. Princeton needs to refocus its energy into ensuring its sons and daughters are committed to working in the nation's service, not just in D.C., or New York, or L.A., but in the smaller communities that need them the most.

As a liberal living in a very Trump-friendly region (central Washington state), it is not always easy. But liberals and conservatives alike need to join together in tearing down this wall of perceived (and real) “elitism” that is dividing our country and destroying our future.

Liz Hallock '02
Yakima, Wash.

Limiting the ability of others to express divergent opinions is not a threat to conservatism — it is a threat to the entire Socratic method upon which the liberal arts university model is based. One doesn't have to be a MAGA redneck or a PETA tree-hugger or anything else to be horrified by America's trend (from extremes on both sides) of trying to silence or eliminate one's intellectual opponents. I recall Princeton as an eclectic mix of caffeine-stoned intellectuals espousing diverse (and occasionally batshit crazy) views on politics and everything else. I can think of nothing more depressing than the idea of Princeton one day rejecting anything except the “correct” way of thinking, whatever that may be.

Glen Lockwood '91
Volcano, Hawaii

In his comments to PAW, Yoram Hazony '86 describes liberalism as “a preposterous doctrine because it was devised by men who knew little about [real life]. Hobbes, Locke, Spinoza, and Kant never had children ...”

Well, Jesus Christ, St. Thomas Aquinas, and the adherent popes, cardinals, bishops, priests, and nuns of Roman Catholicism “never had children,” either.

One inference we could draw is that like liberalism, Christianity is a preposterous doctrine devised by men who knew little about real life. Another is that a person can have children but lack even a minimal sense of intellectual responsibility. Such a person might well say whatever played to the peanut gallery of the moment, regardless of the fallacies it expressed, and regardless of its connection to reality.

As a former editor-in-chief of *The Princeton Tory* amply familiar with “The Founder,” I incline toward the latter inference in this case. For present purposes, I only suggest that a choice be made between the two inferences, and I invite readers of PAW to make it.

Irfan Khawaja '91
Princeton, N.J.

I read David Walter '11's article on the state of conservatism at Princeton with great interest because I was deeply involved with conservative groups as an undergraduate. I was a writer, editor, and publisher of the *Tory*, the treasurer of the College Republicans, and a member of the Madison program and the Clio party.

I was at Princeton from 2008 to 2012, so my experience was very different from that of today's conservative students. Most political conversations I had centered around the economy, the national debt, and foreign policy, rather than the culture-war themes Walter describes. I generally found that liberal and progressive students were willing to engage with conservatives and libertarians in thoughtful, respectful conversations. This was a time of center-left dominance, with Barack Obama in the White House and Democrats in Congress using their majority to pass bills like the Affordable Care Act.

After graduating, I didn't remain politically engaged. I went to work in an apolitical field, ended up in an area where conservative voices are marginalized, and felt politically homeless in Donald Trump's Republican Party. I share the skepticism about Princeton's direction expressed by conservative thinkers like Hazony and Schmitz, and I'm outraged by the excesses of cancel culture and sympathetic toward its victims, but I'm not gearing up to wage online battle. In other words, I've dropped out of

“movement conservatism” and settled into what you might call “normie conservatism.” I suspect many of my fellow Princeton conservatives have followed similar trajectories.

Sam Norton '12
Washington, D.C.

David Walter '11's encomium/eulogy to the Princeton conservative skirts with, but never really addresses, the obvious. A political ideology that demands fealty to a man such as Donald Trump, a human firehose of lies, grift, hate, and venality, will find it hard to gain support at any institution that is founded on free inquiry and rational thought. This is as it should be.

Nothing supports the above more than the conservative students, alumni, and scholars quoted in the article. Judging from them, the intellectual core of conservatism appears now to be “anti-wokism,” whatever that actually means. One can argue whether the conservative project of the late 20th century was ever anything more than the intellectual Zamboni for segregationists; perhaps there were real desires for limited government and “traditional” values that were unrelated to undoing the civil rights movement. But it is hard to argue that modern conservatism stands for anything at all. Its failure to thrive at an institution of higher learning, particularly one of Princeton's caliber, should come as no great surprise.

Daniel Wasserman *04
West Lake Hills, Texas

When I was a graduate student during the 1970s, the Concerned Alumni of Princeton (CAP) was a very active conservative organization opposed to coeducation. (Samuel Alito was a CAP member and included his membership in the organization on a job application to work in the Reagan administration in 1985.)

This article features the views of Abigail Anthony '23: the president of the Princeton chapter of the Federalist Society, chief copy editor of *The Princeton Tory*, vice president emerita of the POCC, a founder of the Princeton chapter of the Network of Enlightened Women, and an undergraduate fellow of the James Madison Program.

It is nice that CAP was unsuccessful

(it disbanded in 1986), thus making it possible for Anthony to be an active participant in these current on-campus political debates.

Donald R. Kirsch *78
New York, N.Y.

As publisher of the *Tory*, Princeton's journal for conservative thought, I'd like to thank David Walter '11 for his thoughtful coverage of the state of conservatism on campus. I'm proud to study at a university where conservatives are allowed a prominent presence. Conservatism thrives at Princeton not only due to Professor Robert George's efforts, but also thanks to the University's adherence to the Chicago Principles, which fosters a greater degree of free expression than many other campuses in this country.

Conservative perspectives are by no means treated equally in the broader campus conversation. Still, Princeton remains a place where young conservatives can meet like-minded peers who challenge their ideas and inspire them to think more deeply. The *Tory* will continue to fight to keep it that way and ensure that thinkers of all stripes can engage with current events, debate, write, and evolve at Princeton.

Darius Gross '24
Englewood, N.J.

When I was an undergraduate in the '60s, Princeton's faculty was regarded as liberal or progressive while the student body was regarded as leaning conservative. In those days, there were liberal Republicans as well as conservative ones and conservative Democrats as well as liberal ones. Even though the required age to vote was 21, I volunteered for John Kennedy's campaign in 1960. Nevertheless, I paid hardly any attention to partisan politics. Most of my classmates rarely shared partisan political views.

If conservatism really is “crashing” on campus today, my guess is the cause may be the utter collapse of the Republican Party's conservative identity along with the near total absence of Democrats who espouse conservative policies. I worry less about the health of conservatism on Princeton's campus than in Washington.

Murphy Sewall '64
Windham, Conn.

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LEFT: Alison Saar, *Hooch 'n' Haint*, 2019. Princeton University Art Museum. Museum purchase, Kathleen Compton Sherrerd Fund for Acquisitions in American Art. © Alison Saar / Courtesy of L. A. Louver, Venice, CA.
Photo: Jeffrey Evans RIGHT: Genesis Báez, *Parting (Braid)*, 2021. © Genesis Báez. Courtesy the artist and Aperture

On the Campus



Tori Repp/Photobuddy

COURT CLUB, IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET: The former eating club was rotated and moved to the north side of Prospect Avenue in February, making way for the new Environmental Studies and School of Engineering and Applied Science complex. Read more on page 11.



Members of the Afghanistan Policy Lab include, back row from left, Lutf Ali Sultani, Muqadasa Ahmadzai, Muhammad Idrees Ghairat, and Gran Hewad; and front row from left, Ambassador Adela Raz and Naheed Farid.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Afghanistan's Future

Evacuated leaders, experts 'keep the conversation alive' amid dire situation

The journey from Afghanistan to Princeton was not easy for Lutf Ali Sultani.

Sultani worked as a journalist for a newspaper during the two-decade period when the U.S.-backed Afghan government supported freedom of the press. After the U.S. began bringing troops home in August 2021, the government fell to hardline Taliban fighters. Sultani was supposed to be evacuated, but that was delayed after a deadly explosion close to the airport.

So he continued working, covering a

women's protest on Sept. 8. When two of his colleagues were detained by the Taliban, Sultani went to the police station to seek their release. Instead, Sultani was beaten and taken to a small cell with 17 other people. After his paper reported the arrests, he was released, but his two colleagues were tortured to death, he said.

"I realized that the country was drawn deep into crisis and there was no place for those who believe in modern values such as freedom of speech, human rights, and democracy anymore," Sultani said. He managed to leave on Oct. 17,

on a flight organized by the U.S. State Department and the Qatari government.

Sultani was brought to a military base in New Jersey, and from there he was hired by Princeton as a fellow with the Afghanistan Policy Lab, run by the School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA). Sultani and a handful of other fellows are tasked with researching one of four key areas of policy regarding Afghanistan: how to provide humanitarian aid, how to create civic spaces, how to ensure equality for women, and how to heal the nation.

When the airlifts from Kabul were under way, Amaney Jamal had just taken over as dean of SPIA. She knew that many SPIA alumni had worked in Afghanistan over the years and that they were worried about their colleagues on the ground. Meanwhile, people Jamal knew in academia and in think tanks were telling her that policy schools needed to play a role in helping Afghan evacuees find new purpose in the U.S.

Jamal said she decided that the University's motto — "In the Nation's Service and the Service of Humanity" — "was not abstract theory. We had to model those words. We knew a conversation would happen in exile. If we could secure a group of displaced Afghans here to influence policy debates, that would be valuable."

With help from Princeton's Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination, the Afghanistan Policy Lab was officially unveiled in the spring of 2022, with work beginning in earnest in the fall. Along with a simultaneous program for Ukrainian scholars who had been displaced by Russian invasion (see PAW, February 2023), the Afghanistan project "was the first time we had done something outside the box like this," Jamal said.

Adela Raz, who had served as Afghanistan's ambassador to the United States and to the United Nations, was tapped as the lab's director. Growing up in Afghanistan, Raz was forced to study at home for five years because the Taliban wouldn't let girls attend school. "I read encyclopedias, magazines, old newspapers — whatever was available," she said. Later, Raz earned degrees in the U.S. from Simmons University and Tufts University's Fletcher School.

Under Raz, a small number of fellows, such as Sultani, will work full time for 12- to 18-month terms, conducting research, writing policy recommendations, and engaging with Princeton students and the wider community through panels and public events. Other fellows include women's rights advocates Muqadasa Ahmadzai and Storai Tapesh, former Afghanistan Parliament member Naheed Farid, and former government official Gran Hewad.

Another evacuee working with the Princeton lab is Muhammad Idrees Ghairat, who earned two master's degrees and worked for a variety of international nongovernmental organizations. He said he saw others injured or killed while struggling to get to the airport, and he said it was a hard decision to leave his parents and a disabled sister in Afghanistan. After arriving in the U.S., Ghairat interpreted and taught in Denver before he was hired as a special assistant to Jamal.

The lab's objective, Raz said, is to produce and share policy recommendations with diplomatic and development officials inside and outside the United States. Part of the lab's mission will be to "keep the conversation alive," she added, so that the plight of Afghanistan doesn't slip from the world's consciousness.

According to United Nations estimates, the poverty rate under the Taliban may be as high as 97%, and half of the population is in immediate need of humanitarian aid. "Seventy percent of the population in Afghanistan is below the age of 30, and half are women," Raz said. "It's dire. It's as bad as can be."

In December 2022, the Taliban government officially declared, as advocates had feared, that girls and women would be banned from attending schools and universities. Public execution has returned, music has been banned, and news and entertainment are censored. From what Sultani hears from friends in Afghanistan, "everyone wants to get out. The humanitarian situation is catastrophic right now."

The one silver lining is that the internet and social media have continued to operate, including WhatsApp, Signal, and Telegram. Such channels are crucial

"Local journalists in Afghanistan aren't able to publish today, but they can send out information anonymously, and Afghan journalists in exile in Europe and the U.S. can share their reports."

— Lutf Ali Sultani

for Sultani's work, which focuses on the possibilities of recreating a civic sphere in Afghanistan — one of the key achievements from the time the Western-backed government was in charge.

"Local journalists in Afghanistan aren't able to publish today, but they can send out information anonymously, and Afghan journalists in exile in Europe and the U.S. can share their reports," Sultani said. "They have done really good work." Sultani said his research will focus on how to bridge journalists inside and outside Afghanistan. He is also publishing a weekly news bulletin.

As for ways of getting around restrictions on teaching girls, Raz said it's possible to envision efforts that use remote learning.

Because tensions remain raw between the U.S. and the Taliban, participants in the lab understand that it may take a while for their recommendations to be implemented. Countries in the Middle East and Europe may have more space to find creative solutions, said Andrew Moravcsik, the Liechtenstein Institute's director.

"A core question for the lab — and there are varying opinions on this — is, do we engage with the Taliban or not?" Jamal said. "I hope the lab will remain a place to have that intellectual conversation."

Raz acknowledged that, in the near term, it's hard not to be pessimistic about the possibility of improvements in Afghanistan. But over the medium and longer term, she said, "we're trying to keep that hope." ♦ *By Louis Jacobson '92*

CONSTRUCTION

Old Court Club Gets Its Move On

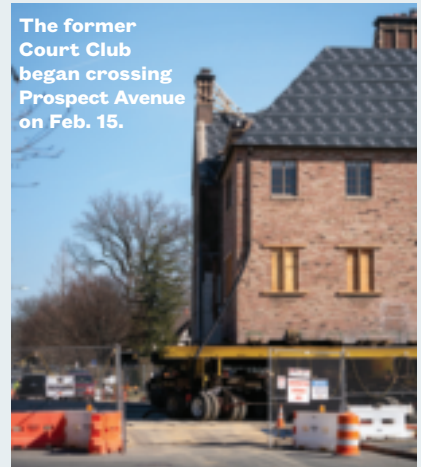
The 96-year-old building at 91 Prospect Ave. that formerly housed Court Club and part of Stevenson Hall is moving across the street.

The building, which in recent years has been home to the Office of the Dean for Research, is moving to accommodate part of the new Environmental Studies and School of Engineering and Applied Science (ES and SEAS) complex.

According to a University release, steel beams and hydraulic jacks were used to lift the structure. Then about 30 heavy-duty dollies were placed underneath to allow for a 180-degree rotation of the building before moving it across the street and setting it on a new foundation.

University spokesman Michael Hotchkiss told PAW that the move began Feb. 9 and was expected to be completed by Feb. 18, after this issue went to press. The building will then undergo renovations

The former Court Club began crossing Prospect Avenue on Feb. 15.



and again be used by the dean for research.

Relocating the former eating club was a contentious part of the ES and SEAS project. The move was approved by the municipal planning board in October 2021 after the University agreed to preserve three other buildings it owns on the north side of Prospect Avenue. ♦ *By J.B.*

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY BALLET

Dancing On

Student-run company grows from upstart to fixture in the campus arts scene

Virginia Byron '10 was participating in a ballet class in New York City earlier this year when she spotted a familiar sight: a dancer wearing a Princeton University Ballet (PUB) sweatshirt. Although she had never met the woman, Byron, a pediatrician currently in a fellowship for adolescent medicine, introduced herself.

She turned out to be Paige Sherman '25, a current PUB member, and as Byron recalls, "She was like, 'Oh yeah, I know you.'"

That's because Byron, alongside Alexis Branagan '11 and Elizabeth Rosen '10, founded PUB in 2008 after identifying what they saw as a gap in the University's dance offerings.

The group, which started with a handful of dancers performing at a Tiger Night event in hopes of recruiting new members, now has a competitive audition process and has grown to about 50 students, both undergraduate and graduate. About 30 are "active" at any given time, meaning they commit to

attending weekly company class and dancing in that semester's performance.

Getting the company off the ground wasn't easy — Byron admits that she had to make sacrifices, including time devoted to her coursework, while starting PUB — but the organization had an immediate impact.

"If we didn't make PUB happen, my entire college experience would've been drastically, drastically different. My entire life would've been different," said Branagan.

Rosen, an attorney at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, recalls that since she "viewed ballet as a foundational form of dance ... it was surprising to me that a company focused on ballet didn't exist on our campus and didn't exist on many other college campuses [at that time] as well."

Branagan danced professionally for several years and is now the communications and events coordinator for Princeton University Concerts. She and Byron note that PUB's founding

came at a crucial time for the arts on campus. Work on the Lewis Center for the Arts complex, which includes a dedicated dance theater, was just getting under way. Branagan believes the facilities attracted more dancers to Princeton.

Princeton currently offers more than 20 dance courses and a dance certificate, but not a major. There are more than a dozen student dance groups.

Today, in addition to working with guest choreographers, PUB encourages its members to choreograph pieces and get involved behind the scenes.

"Because we're student-run, all of our company classes are taught by members of the company. So, it's a really good opportunity for everyone to get a chance to kind of step up and lead and dance with their peers," said Mirabelle Weinbach '25, an electrical and computer engineering major and former PUB publicity co-chair.

"We really focus on creating a space where dancers feel empowered to perform and to practice ballet," said Vivian Li '24, a neuroscience major and current PUB president. "We want to really make sure that everyone is feeling supported and it's a fun place to dance."

The group also regularly plans and gets together for weekly dinners, trips, invited speakers, and other events. Their show last fall, *Cinema*, was movie-themed, so the company hosted movie nights for members. "That was really fun, to be able to watch movies that our choreographers based their dances off of," said Li.

Simon Morrison '97, a professor of music at Princeton, described his role as faculty adviser of PUB for the past eight years as his life's work on campus. With the company reaching its 15th year, Morrison called the milestone "amazing" and added "it's going to just keep growing and growing. ... It really fills a need."

PUB will celebrate its 15th anniversary with a spring show, *En Avant*, in Hearst Theater from April 27 to 29. The performances will include works choreographed by current students, a piece choreographed by PUB alum Felicity Audet '21, and a set classical ballet piece. ♦ By J.B.



Mirabelle Weinbach '25, pictured, and the Princeton University Ballet will celebrate the company's 15th anniversary in April.

From left, graduate students Jeremiah Chamberlain, Evan Karl, and Ria Hanson perform at the memorial service for Maura Coursey.



STUDENT DEATHS

With Familiar Sadness, Grad Students and Undergrads Grieve Classmates

Princeton's campus community, which endured the deaths of three students in 2022, began the 2023 spring semester with two additional losses in the span of one week.

Maura Coursey, a first-year graduate student in the School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA), was found dead in her off-campus residence on Jan. 26, according to a message from University administrators. No foul play was suspected in Coursey's death, and no cause of death was given. The results of an autopsy will not be released until a toxicology report is completed, according to Julie Willmot, director of communications for Mercer County.

Jaqueline Gonzalez '25 died Feb. 1 from liver and kidney failure following a prolonged illness, according to a message from Forbes College Dean Patrick Caddeau shared with PAW by a University spokesman. Gonzalez was on a health-related leave of absence from the University.

Campus gatherings helped students honor their lost classmates. A student-led memorial service for Coursey, which drew

about 200 people to Robertson Hall Jan. 30, featured heartfelt stories and tributes, including a musical performance by three friends who had played folk songs with her.

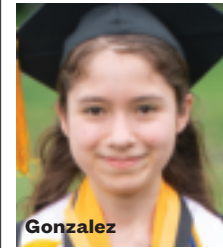
The song they chose, "Crowded Table" by the Highwomen, was one of Coursey's favorites and embraced the theme of community. Graduate cohorts at SPIA tend to be small and tight-knit, friend and classmate Brontë Forsgren told PAW, and losing a member of the group less than six months after arriving on campus has been "incredibly difficult," she said. "I do think that all of us have really relied on each other in a way that's brought us closer through that grief."

Coursey, 28, came to Princeton from Utah, where she earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Utah and worked for the International Rescue Committee on domestic violence prevention for recently resettled refugees in the Salt Lake City area.

On campus, friends were impressed by Coursey's range of interests and talents, from competing in muay thai boxing matches to helping classmates crunch numbers for their statistics

course. She had a passion for social justice, including women's and LGBTQ rights, and had no reservations about speaking up. "She was unapologetically herself," classmate Kelso Brasunas said.

At Forbes College, where Gonzalez lived during her time on campus, about 50 students, faculty, and staff gathered on Feb. 8, the same day that funeral services were held in her hometown,



Gonzalez

Harvard, Illinois. Gonzalez was the valedictorian of her high school class and came to Princeton through the QuestBridge program, which matches

outstanding low-income high-schoolers with selective colleges. Friends remembered her kind heart, her tenacity, and her love of learning. One instructor said that even after she had to drop a class due to her medical leave, she would email asking for new problem sets.

Caddeau, the Forbes dean, wrote in his Feb. 7 message to the college community that Gonzalez was "a talented and dedicated student, and a highly engaged member of multiple groups on campus, including the Freshman Scholars Institute and Scholars Institute Fellows Program through the Emma Bloomberg Center for Access and Opportunity. Her passing is a tragedy for us all."

Dean Kristina Gonzalez, director of the Emma Bloomberg Center, wrote that Gonzalez helped welcome students to Princeton as a virtual college adviser in the Freshman Scholars Institute's online program. "[A]s a community, we will, in Jaki's spirit, look after and hold one another up," she said.

Like Gonzalez, Coursey made a range of connections in her short time on campus. Forsgren was struck by how many had "very specific stories and moments in which she was really a friend for them that they needed." With that in mind, the first-year MPA cohort hopes to find ways to continue honoring Coursey's memory and her impact on the class.

"She's still one of us, and she's still part of us," Forsgren said. ♦ By B.T. and J.B.



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On the Campus / News



STUDENT DISPATCH

Professors Deploy Free-Speech Statements in Classes, With Different Intentions

By *Tori Tinsley '24*



In response to an ongoing debate about academic freedom, some Princeton professors are including a new chapter in their syllabi:

free-speech statements.

These statements have emerged to either reassure students that their views, no matter how disagreeable, are welcome in the classroom, or to set ground rules on what can and cannot be said in an academic setting.

In her class last semester, “Ethnography for Research and Design,” in which I was a student, anthropology professor Carolyn Rouse had a free-speech statement in her syllabus titled, “Speak Freely with Many Caveats.” It listed a set of values students must abide by and certain topics they could not debate. “Nothing is sustainable if we destroy our environment in the process of ‘developing’ it,” she wrote. They could not “debate whether slavery, Nazism, Japanese internment, Stalinism, Jim Crow, Apartheid, or dumping toxic waste into our rivers and streams are good things.”

“I thought, let me make the implicit rules [of speech] explicit in order to find a way to debate new topics, that traditionally have not been in the academy, without opening ourselves up to justifying violent racist policies,” Rouse told PAW.

One student, a senior in the electrical engineering department who requested anonymity in talking about Rouse’s class, told PAW the purpose of the statement was “to make sure that her classroom was a place ... where people felt safe.”

“You have to acknowledge that saying certain things will hurt people and can make people feel unsafe, and can make a place a hostile environment, where people not only don’t feel safe speaking, but also don’t feel safe learning or being there. That should be taken into account when thinking about what you should and shouldn’t say in a classroom,” the student said.

Rouse acknowledged safety was considered when crafting her statement. “I desperately want students to not self-censor themselves,” she said. “I wanted it to feel like a safe space for radical debate.”

Instead, the class debated the syllabus to determine whether students agreed with the free-speech policy or wanted to get rid of it. Ultimately, Rouse revised her statement. “Our class obviously cannot become a ‘free-for-all hellscape, where anything can be said with no consequences,’” Rouse wrote in the amended statement, quoting Elon Musk in regards to Twitter. Going forward, she is also considering having students come up with their own speech rules.

Others are taking a different approach. Bernard Haykel, a professor of Near Eastern studies, has a free-speech

Robert Neubecker

statement that reiterates the “Statement on Freedom of Expression” in Princeton’s “Rights, Rules, Responsibilities.” Gary Bass’ statement for his course “Causes of War” prohibits the use of cell phones or other technology to allow students to speak without fear of being recorded and exposed on social media.

Abigail Rabieh ’25, who took the course in the fall, said Bass would often “put forth views that he doesn’t agree with,” and “he wants everyone to feel the freedom to do that in precept.”

Nasser Hussain, a lecturer in the politics department and postdoctoral researcher in the James Madison Program, included a 2017 free-speech statement from Princeton politics professor Robert George and professor emeritus Cornel West ’80 in his fall freshman seminar, “American Identity at Crossroads.” Topics include issues such as abortion, systemic racism, feminism, and gender identity.

“This statement highlights the value of freedom of speech and why it’s important for even those of us who might be more

set or certain about our own convictions and beliefs — that we should be able to justify them and test them,” Hussain said.

Nina Noble ’26 said had Hussain not started the class with his free-speech statement, her reaction to some discussions would have been quite different. “I probably would have rallied a group of kids in the class to report him to [the University administration] in an attempt to cancel him,” she said. “Because, wow, some of those perspectives were really hard to just kind of sit with.”

Another student, Khoa Sands ’26, said Hussain’s statement allowed students to “vehemently disagree with each other but still maintain that mutual respect.” In fact, Sands, who often opposed Noble in class discussions, said they developed a friendship by the end of Hussain’s class.

“It’s definitely changed the way that I talk to my peers,” Noble said. “I’m definitely more open to hearing different schools of thought, and also testing out [ideas] that I opposed pretty heavily coming into Princeton.”

George, who teaches courses on civil liberties and constitutional interpretation, is the author of several free-speech statements available for professors’ use and adaptation for their course syllabi.

Marc DeGirolami, a law professor at St. John’s University and a visiting professor at Princeton, hopes to shed light on the legal and theoretical complexities of free speech on college campuses in his course “Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Inquiry,” which is being offered for the first time this spring. His course also includes a free-speech statement.

As students tackle difficult subjects, DeGirolami told PAW he aims “to create an atmosphere of trust, where students not only see the statement, but feel the statement as part of their daily experience.”

“If you can’t have freedom of thought, and expression, and discussion in a course about freedom of speech, and inquiry, then my goodness,” he said, “I don’t think that you could have it in any course, in any context.” ♦



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On the Campus / News

IN SHORT

As higher education awaits the Supreme Court's ruling on the future of **AFFIRMATIVE ACTION**, President Christopher Eisgruber '83 defended the use of race "as one factor among others in a holistic admission process" and reiterated that racial diversity "is essential to Princeton's academic and scholarly excellence" in his annual State of the University letter, published Jan. 31.

"If the court imposes new restrictions upon us, we must of course comply with them — but we will also be creative and persistent in our efforts to preserve and build upon the diversity of our scholarly and educational community," Eisgruber wrote. "That diversity is a source of great strength to this University, and it will be essential to our future and the future of this country."

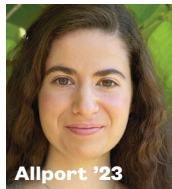
To read more, visit bit.ly/eisgruber-2023.

Shaun Cason '23 and Anna Allport '23 received one of Princeton's



Cason '23

highest honors, the **2023 SACHS SCHOLARSHIP**, named for Daniel Sachs '60. Cason, a transfer student and 15-year Marine Corps veteran who is majoring in history, will pursue a master's degree in late antique and Byzantine studies at the University



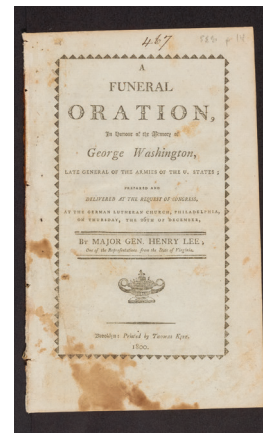
Allport '23

of Oxford. The scholarship, he said, was a win for the veteran community on campus. Allport, an independent concentrator in interdisciplinary theater and performance studies and a PAW student writer, will pursue a master of fine arts degree with a focus on K-12 arts education, which she called "a vital catalyst for analytical thinking."

The University will raise the minimum full-time salary for its more than 700 **POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS** to \$65,000 in March, according to a Jan. 27

announcement. The change marks an 18.5% increase over the federally required minimum, but it falls short of the \$68,500 salary that a group of more than 400 postdocs had lobbied for in an open letter to Dean of the Faculty Gene Jarrett '97 and Provost Deborah Prentice.

SIDNEY LAPIDUS '59 donated a collection of rare Revolution-era



books and publications to the Princeton University Library, along with a financial gift that will be used to digitize the materials and make them openly available online,

according to a University release. The Sid Lapidus '59 Collection on Liberty and the American Revolution contains more than 2,700 books, atlases, pamphlets, newspapers, and magazines.

Princeton's Committee on Naming has invited members of the University community to submit naming suggestions for spaces at **PROSPECT HOUSE**, which will be undergoing renovations from May 2023 through August 2024. The committee will be considering naming recommendations for a dozen spaces, including dining areas, meeting rooms, and the library. Proposed names can be submitted online at namingcommittee.princeton.edu.

Executive Vice President **TREBY WILLIAMS '84** will step down from her role as Princeton's chief administrative officer at the end of June, after nearly 10 years in the role. Williams, a member of the University administration since 2005, plans to serve as a senior adviser for one year before retiring in 2024. ♦

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Pre-College Programs

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On the Campus / News



Members of Divest Princeton protest in front of, and above, Blair Arch.

CAMPUS ACTIVISM

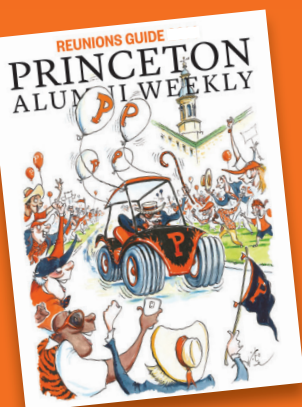
Renewed Calls To Divest From Fuels

The top of Blair Arch was covered with a banner by the student-activist group Divest Princeton on Feb. 3, albeit for just a few minutes. The words “DIVEST IN THE SERVICE OF HUMANITY” stretched across the arch until a University official told organizers they could not hang signs from a building.

“We knew it was a possibility and we went for it anyway,” Eleanor Clemans-Cope '26 told PAW. “This is an extremely important issue and what we were doing was not causing harm. In fact, it was demonstrating our right to protest and free speech.”

Divest Princeton called on the University to expand its divestment from fossil-fuel companies by ending research funding and dropping private holdings. In September, the University announced that the Board of Trustees had voted to divest from all publicly traded fossil-fuel companies and dissociate from (or cut all ties with) 90 companies, including some of the world’s biggest polluters. ♦ By P.B.

Peter Barzilai '97



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Photo by Jon Roemer

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1746 SOCIETY PRINCETON UNIVERSITY



Princeton women's basketball celebrates its NCAA Tournament bid after winning Ivy Madness in 2022.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Still Evolving, Ivy Tournament Comes to Jadwin for the First Time

Last March, the Princeton women's basketball team found itself in its closest Ivy League game at the worst possible time. Though the Tigers went 14-0 in the regular season, they still had to earn an NCAA Tournament bid in a single-elimination conference tournament, where No. 4-seed Harvard hung with them in front of a home crowd in a tense semifinal. The Crimson pulled within one point in the final minute, but Princeton sealed the game with timely defense and free throws before beating Columbia in the next day's final.

"It's really hard to beat a team three times, so we got their best game," said Julia Cunningham '23, a captain on this year's Princeton team. "All of us knew what was at stake and that we needed to win that game to get to the final."

The game encapsulated the pros and cons of a conference tournament, which Ancient Eight fans have debated for decades (before 2017, Ivy League basketball stood out in awarding its NCAA berths to the regular-season champion). Tournaments generate excitement and exposure by creating games with massive stakes at a time

when college basketball is in the spotlight. Yet they also make it less likely that the league's best team will move on to March Madness. The Princeton women went on to reach the second round of the NCAA Tournament, but they never would have gotten that opportunity had they faltered against Harvard — unless they received an at-large bid, which is very rare for teams outside of power conferences.

On balance, however, the postseason tournament has been well-received throughout the league — and the idea is spreading. New tournaments were recently instituted or approved for women's volleyball, field hockey, and men's and women's soccer. The fifth

"There's a lot of media there and emotions are always high. It's always a really exciting event, it's very well-run, and we're excited to have it at Jadwin this year."

— Julia Cunningham '23, women's basketball captain

"Ivy Madness" basketball tournament (COVID-19 caused cancellations in 2020 and 2021) will be held at Jadwin Gymnasium March 10-12. As of Feb. 15, both Princeton teams were tied for first place in the league and on track to qualify for the four-team affair.

From day one, athletes and coaches have praised the added excitement of chasing playoff spots and participating in the tournament. "Overall, I think this is a good thing for the student-athlete experience," men's basketball coach Mitch Henderson '98 said.

Ivy League executive director Robin Harris said that even though they run concurrently with higher-profile games in power conferences, the tournaments have put Ivy teams in the national spotlight. "When I'm sitting at the championship game and I'm getting text messages from other [conference] commissioners and the NCAA president who are watching the game — and I also know the men's and women's selection committees are watching the games as they're meeting to select the teams for the tournament — that's just amazing exposure for Ivy League basketball," Harris said.

The league made some unique choices for its format. By inviting just four teams, it limits the time demands on athletes and adds an intriguing playoff race to the regular season. And it's one of the few conferences whose men's and women's tournaments occur at the same time and place, making it easier for fans and reporters to attend both. "There's a lot of media there and emotions are always high," Cunningham said. "It's always a really exciting event, it's very well-run, and we're excited to have it at Jadwin this year."

With the tournament still young, Harris said the league collects feedback from coaches and athletes each year and considers potential adjustments to the format. After the first two tournaments were held at the Palestra on Penn's campus, it established a rotation to bring the event to the other seven Ivy campuses. And when holding both tournaments on Saturday and Sunday proved too tight, it moved the women's schedule up a day last year.

Ivy fans can still enjoy postseason debates — just no longer if a tournament

Tosan Evbuomwan '23 and the Tigers topped the Ivy standings in February.



four-team bracket at a predetermined site. “There’s very little protection for the 1-seed,” Henderson said. “I know that our athletic directors are looking closely at this, and we want to make sure we’re giving the best chance to send our best team to the NCAAs.”

Another potential change would be expanding the field to more teams, giving more players the opportunity to participate: Dartmouth,

Columbia, and Brown have never made the men’s tournament, and Dartmouth has never qualified for the women’s. “Given how close the Ivy League has been in the last 5-10 years, and there have been multiple ties already for fourth

place, I wish it would be expanded,” said Noah Savage '08, a former Princeton basketball team captain who broadcasts Ivy League games for the ESPN networks. “I think that most coaches are in favor of an eight-team tournament — you get more participation, more games, and everybody gets to experience basketball in March, which is really exciting.”

However, every issue has trade-offs. For example, adding more teams would diminish the excitement of the regular season, and it might become too difficult to keep the men’s and women’s events at the same site.

“I think [the four-team structure] has been very successful and also consistent with our approach generally to athletics in making sure that the impact on the student-athletes’ time allows them to be students,” Harris said. “While there are certainly coaches that would like to see all eight teams be able to participate, I think this has worked so incredibly well, I’m not hearing a groundswell for that changing.” ♦ *By Kevin Whitaker '13*

should be held, but how. One potential topic is whether the regular-season champion should have more of an advantage. Some conferences give the top seed home-court advantage or byes, but the Ivy tournament is a flat

Sideline Photos

PETE CARRIL INSPIRED BOOKS



TEAMBALL

By Barnes Hauptfuhrer

This book discusses the shared core values of various leaders (including Pete Carril, Bill Bradley and others) who led their teams to extraordinary achievements, and emphasizes the importance of politicians, business leaders, and all Americans, re-embracing such core values to better unify America. (Now available on Amazon and at the Princeton U-Store)

COACH - The Players' Book

Compiled and Edited by Barnes Hauptfuhrer and Friends

This book includes 30+ short chapters of memories of Coach Carril, primarily written by players across Coach Carril's 29-year tenure at Princeton. Players include legends from the 60s and 70s (such as Chris Thomforde, Geoff Petrie, John Hummer, Brian Taylor and Armond Hill) through his final 1996 team led by current Men's Basketball Coach, Mitch Henderson. (Now available on Amazon and at the Princeton U-Store)



ALL PROFITS FROM SALES OF THESE BOOKS WILL GO TO THE FRIENDS OF PRINCETON BASKETBALL

PSYCHOLOGY

Happy Now?

Professor Erik Nook dissects the joyful emotion and why it can't be chased

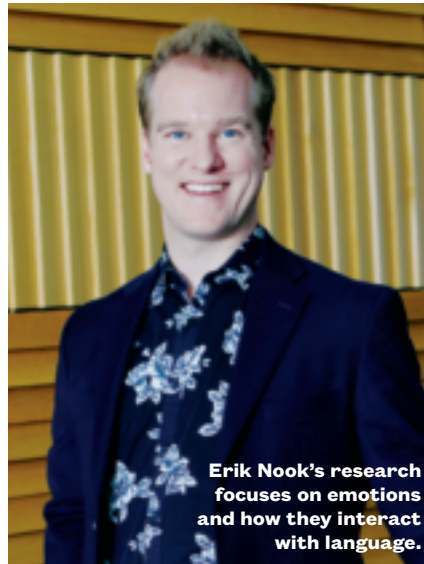
What does it mean to be happy? It's a state many people aim to achieve but struggle to reach. Erik Nook, an assistant professor of psychology who is associated with the Princeton Neuroscience Institute and directs the Logic of Emotion Lab at Princeton, has some thoughts about that. "Happiness is like a butterfly: If you chase it, it keeps flying away, but if you sit still, it will land on you," he says. Nook, who works as a clinical psychologist at New York Anxiety Treatment and studies emotions and how they interact with language, spoke with PAW about happiness and the myths surrounding it.

How do you define happiness?

There's a lot of theoretical debate about what emotions are. I find it helpful to remember we're each constructing an understanding of what different emotions mean based on how we grew up, our culture, and our life experiences. That said, many people would think of happiness as a positive emotion. It signals that something good is happening or we're looking at our current life situation as overall good. There's also research dissecting two different types of happiness: hedonic, where things in our life make us feel good, vs. eudaimonic, where we find happiness living in line with our values and purpose. I think the extent to which any one person thinks about happiness is going to be slightly different.

What have you observed when it comes to happiness over the past few years — especially with the backdrop of the pandemic?

There are a few stories to be told there. One is a story of resilience. In the midst of a period of stress and strain we found a way to keep our life practices and institutions going, to adapt to find joy, and to celebrate good things. It's also been really tough, and those difficulties are not equal across individuals, so it's



important to keep both sides in mind. It's been remarkable to observe with my own patients how few are concerned with COVID at all. It might be the population I work with, but even folks who really had a hard time have been resilient.

One other thing I'll add is that literature shows folks have developed measures of obsessions with happiness and this idea that being happy is the most important thing. What's interesting is that those who score higher when asked how much do you want to be happy are doing much worse. There's also research that shows generally our emotional well-being improves as we age.

That's an interesting point, because one of the top New Year's resolutions is to focus more on happiness. Why is this an area people struggle with?

I think it's really unfortunate that we maintain these myths that happiness should be the be-all and end-all of our lives. Or that being happier means you're better in some way, because the reality is, being human is hard. Having moments when we feel joyful and happy, savoring that, and deeply engaging with what you care about might actually be a better ideal

than expecting high and unchanging amounts of joy. Other cultures have different ideal emotional experiences. Jeanne Tsai at Stanford has done research that found Western cultures value higher-energy emotions like excitement, while East Asian cultures value low-energy emotions like calm.

If someone comes to you and says, "I want to be happier," what are some action steps you'd recommend?

One, check in with what you care about. What do you actually value? I think these often remain a mystery to us, so take a moment to stop and think. Then ask yourself "where are the gaps in my behavior and my values?" That might give you a sense of things that you can do to close that gap and live a more values-aligned life. Some thought-based intervention skills people can incorporate include reframing negative self-talk, savoring positive things when they happen, practicing mindfulness, and immersing yourself in gratitude. There's a lot of research on the power of gratitude journals. On the behavior side, if fears are holding you back, challenge yourself to act (ask someone on a date, call a therapist, etc.), reward yourself, and surround yourself with mutual loving relationships.

What's the best way to recognize or find little moments of happiness in everyday life rather than waiting for a big achievement?

Let me start off saying that is normal, but I would ask you to reflect on how that's working for you? If you're content, nothing needs to change, but if not, you may need to shift. Studies show big positive life events can actually be extraordinarily stressful and alienating — because not only are you coping with the stress of the event itself, but everyone around you is saying you should be so happy. I would offer the idea that we're conflating happiness with pride. If those are the only moments in which you allow yourself to feel happy, it's going to be really tough. What if we got to feel happy arriving to a meeting on time or checking something off our to-do list? Again, being able to savor small positive moments is a really important skill to maintain mental health. ♦ *Interview conducted and condensed by C.S.*



BEHIND THE RESEARCH: RHAISA WILLIAMS

Investigating Black Motherhood

Assistant professor of theater Rhaisa Williams has always been fascinated by stories about people. She has a doctorate in performance studies — a field that is “all about the different ways that the rituals, the cultures, the systems, the institutions make us who we are,” she says. Williams finds stories are the way to get at both the mundane and hugely gigantic — and the narratives that drive her research are the stories of Black women.

Much of her research involves going into archives and studying stories and photographs to look for the richness and complexity of Black women’s lives in the past. She

“How can we complicate different types of responses for Black women,” Williams asks, when they’re dealing with various types of suffering?

might start with a newspaper story and intertwine it with information from court cases or a school newsletter to create a larger record. She wants to bring all these threads together to enrich the ways Black women are portrayed. ♦

By Katharine Gammon '03

Williams’ Work: A Sampling



CONTROVERSIAL CONTRACTS

Williams is working on her first book, which will be published sometime in 2025, tentatively called *Mama, Don’t You Weep: Black Motherhood Performances and the Economics of Grief*. Interested in the ways that contracts play an outside role in how Black women have been able to fight for and prevent issues from happening to them and their children, she conceptualizes Black maternal grief from the fraught history of economics, affect, and juridical petitioning to highlight how contracts — from life insurance policies to working agreements — frame grief. Informed by the legacy of slavery, she adds, contracts form the invisible backbone of how Black women can publicly articulate grief and attempt to obtain material support for their families.



MATERNAL GRIEF, EXPOSED

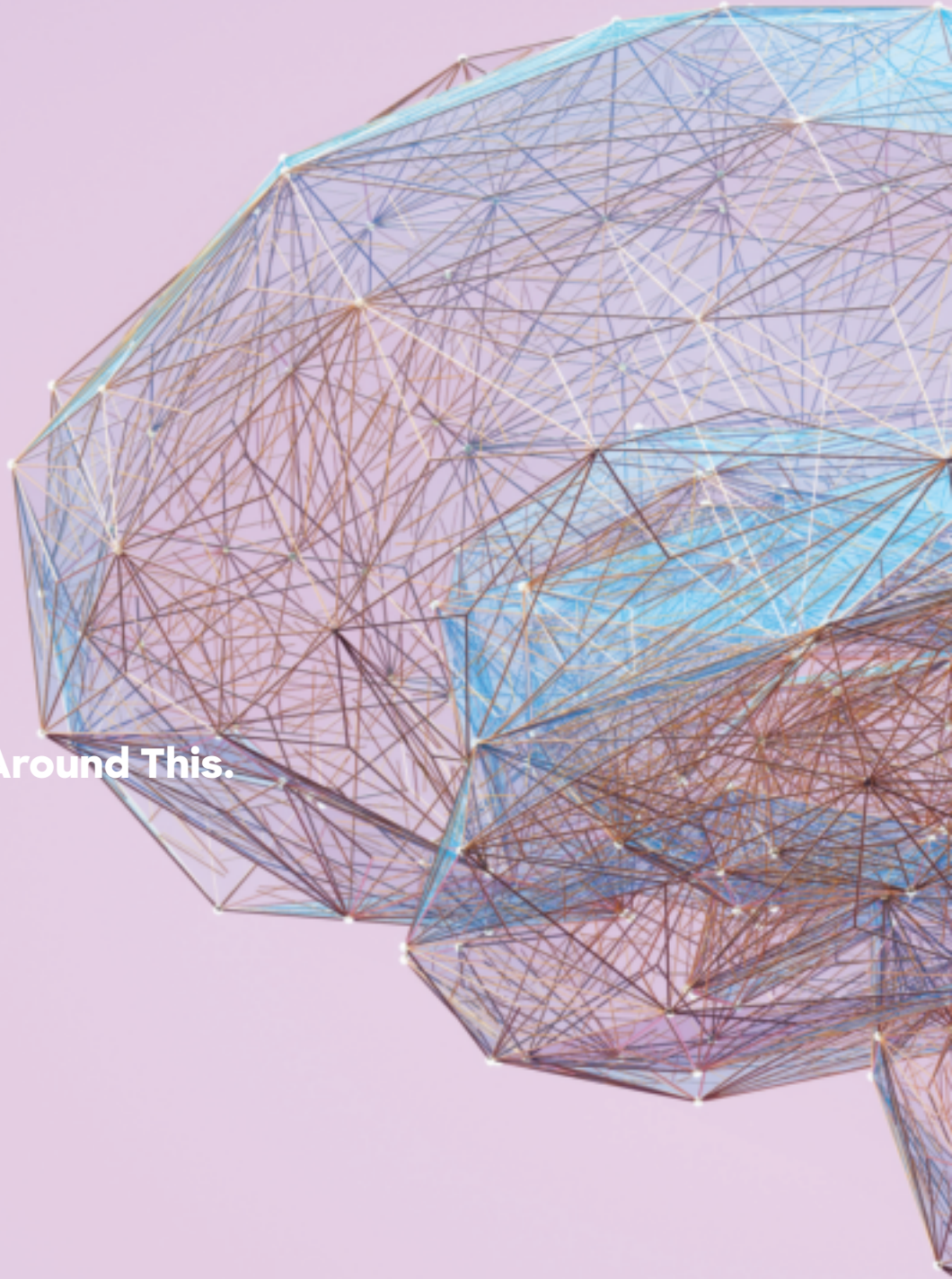
Much of Williams’ work is inspired by her family history. In one article published in the journal *Transforming Anthropology* called “Toward a Theorization of Black

Maternal Grief as Analytic,” she focuses on her paternal grandmother’s death. She explores the archetype of the strong Black mother who becomes an emotional force and bedrock for everyone around her, and also looks at how grief about a family member’s death can bring vulnerability, complexity, and softness into life experiences. “How can we complicate different types of responses for Black women,” she asks, when they’re dealing with various types of suffering? She hopes to widen the lens on the ways that Black mothers deal with traumatic loss, in all its forms.



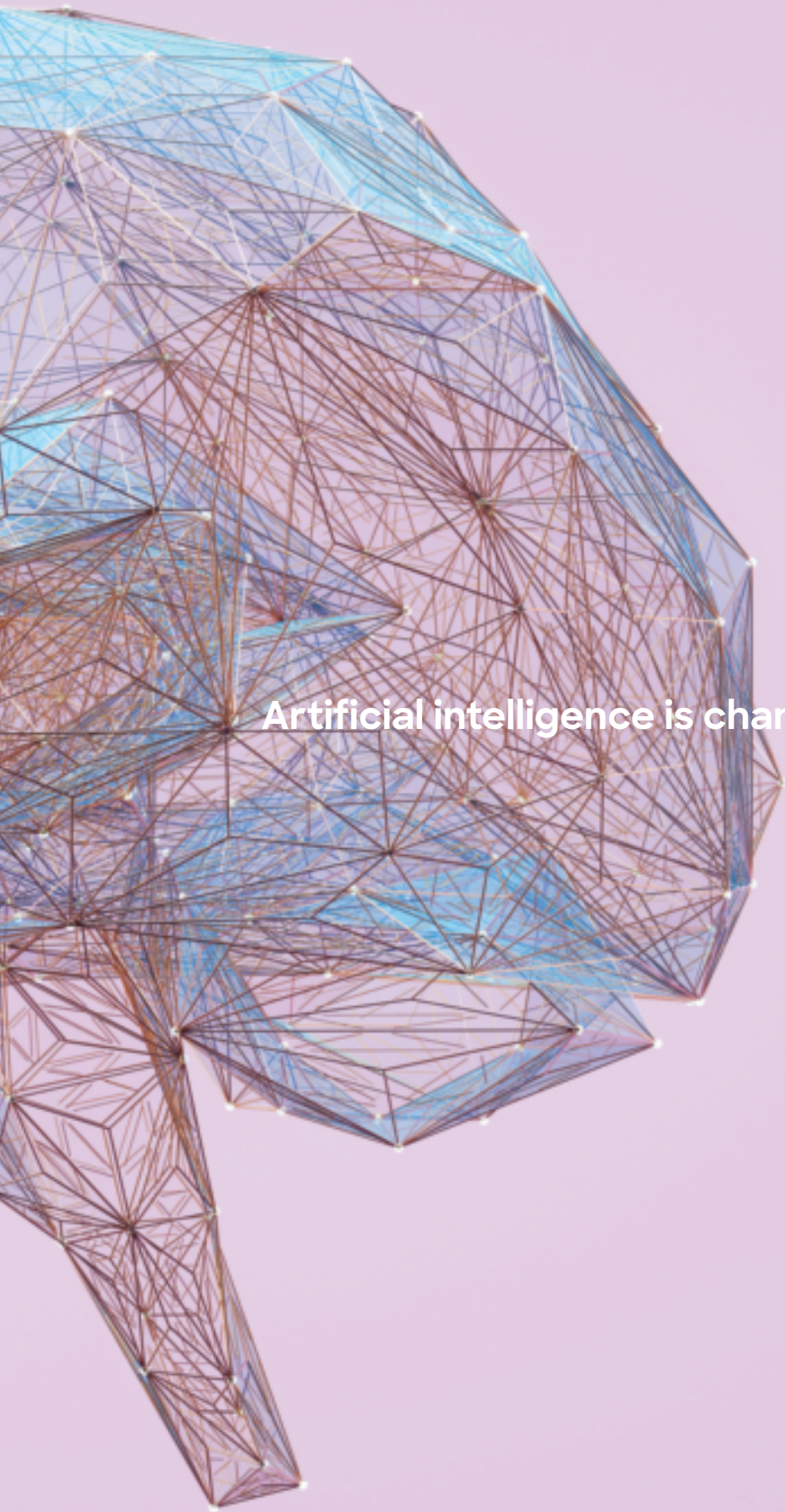
MOTHERS & NIGHTLIFE

In a recent essay about Black matrilineage and photography, Williams examines a picture of her mother, grandmother, and great-aunt seated regally on a makeshift stage with a velvet backdrop. The focus is to think more critically about similar images taken at cabaret parties and after-hour joints throughout Cleveland, Ohio, during the 1970s and 1980s. Doing so reveals “webs of labor, work, pleasure, joy, process, and rituals that Black mothers existed within,” she says. It also showcases the pictorial interconnectedness of families, extended communities, and Black folks during particular generations. She hopes to expand the article into a narrative book. ♦ By K.G.



Wrap Your Brain Around This.

Andriy Onufriyenko/Getty Images



Artificial intelligence is changing higher education.
Will it be for the best?

BY MARK F. BERNSTEIN '83

Let's start with a simple question:

What is ChatGPT, the new text-generating software from the research lab OpenAI?

ChatGPT is a variant of the GPT (Generative Pre-trained Transformer) language model. It uses a deep neural network with an architecture called the Transformer, which is trained on a large dataset of text. The model learns to predict the next word in a sentence given the context of the previous words.

Hold up. I, Mark Bernstein, did not write the previous paragraph. ChatGPT wrote it for me when I gave it the prompt, "Please explain what ChatGPT is." (Why I felt it necessary to say "Please" to a computer program is a different question.) Within seconds, the chatbot produced five reasonably lucid paragraphs explaining its existence. I've reproduced the first one here.

Though it may sound snobbish of me, the text ChatGPT generated is ... fine. The information is accurate and covers basic points. As prose, it's dry and lacks any of the depth or style that a reader should expect from a PAW story, right? (Right?) Moreover — and this is not unimportant in a piece of writing appearing under my byline — it was not my own work.

In late November, San Francisco-based OpenAI ("AI" stands for artificial intelligence) released ChatGPT on its website, and the world went crazy. The site has been visited millions of times — for free now, though the company has said it will soon start selling subscriptions — and generated a comparable number of news stories, op-eds, blog posts, and tweets, the sort of writing that for now at least is still done by humans. Nearly every journalistic outlet, it seems, has run a story about this new program, often under hair-raising headlines such as, "Will ChatGPT Make Me Irrelevant?" (*The New York Times*), "The End of High-School English" (*The Atlantic*), and "Will Artificial Intelligence Kill College Writing?" (*The Chronicle of Higher Education*).

Will it? Although the prose ChatGPT generates is mundane, it has produced work that would receive a passing grade on at least one graduate-level business school exam. Fearing an outbreak of "AIGairism" (AI-enabled plagiarism), the public-school systems in New York, Los Angeles, and Seattle have banned it on school Wi-Fi networks, and numerous colleges and universities have reportedly taken steps to regulate its use.

Could ChatGPT produce acceptable academic work at Princeton? Don't be too confident that it couldn't. As an experiment, Arvind Narayanan, a computer science professor, fed ChatGPT questions from the final exam he gives to students in his upper-level course on "Information Security" (COS 432). "I had to read some of the answers three times before feeling confident I was reading nonsense," he tweeted. "It was so unsettling I had to look at my reference solutions to make sure I wasn't losing my mind."

Narayanan was not alone in feeling unsettled. Marc Ratkovic, a professor in the politics department, says that press accounts about ChatGPT prompted him to add a warning to his open book take-home final in POL 345, "Introduction to

Quantitative Social Science," forbidding students from any interaction with AI algorithms. A few days before the start of the second semester, in the face of growing uncertainty among the faculty, the dean of the college and dean of the graduate school published the University's first official guidelines on acceptable AI use. More about that later.

How should we react to ChatGPT and the even better iterations of text writing software that will follow? I posed that question to Uri Hasson, a professor of neuroscience and psychology who has studied this technology for years. Should we be amazed? Enchanted? Horrified?

His reply? "All of the above."

SERIOUSLY, WHAT IS CHATGPT?

To return to my original question (without the aid of a chatbot), ChatGPT is the most polished version of a type of computer program, known as a large language model (LLM), which has been around for several years. Less advanced LLMs suggest the next word in a sentence when you are composing a text or email. Another type enables Alexa and Siri to follow oral commands.

LLMs work by exposing a computer program to a range of human text. The program begins to spot patterns in the way sentences and arguments are structured, which words tend to follow other words, how tenses work, how prefixes and suffixes are used, and so on, then learns to predict their occurrence in different contexts. The larger the amount of text the computer is trained on, the more educated its guesses.

OpenAI says that ChatGPT has been trained on huge swaths of the internet, analyzing countless numbers of books, scholarly papers, blog posts, Wikipedia entries, newspaper articles, magazine stories, and plain idle chatter, which is why it seems so lifelike. It has also been exposed to thousands of staged conversations between human AI trainers. When the chatbot tried to re-create a conversation, human trainers fine-tuned it so it delivered the most appropriate responses.

Because ChatGPT recognizes the elements of different styles of writing, it can imitate them as well, not only producing something, say, in the form of a poem or a legal contract, but one written in the voice of a famous author. One drawback to being trained on the internet is that previous versions absorbed a lot of racism and alternative facts along with the great works of literature, something OpenAI says has been programmed out of ChatGPT. It will also refuse to tell you how to do something illegal, such as rob a bank or build a bomb. But it could.

OpenAI was founded in 2015 as a nonprofit research laboratory, with Elon Musk and Peter Thiel among its early investors. (Neither currently has a leadership role in the company.) In November, it released GPT-3, which could create simple text such as tweets, blog posts, and short news stories. ChatGPT runs on a more sophisticated version of this program, GPT-3.5, and an even better version, GPT-4, is expected later this year.

Now that the public has discovered these chatbots, their commercial potential is undeniable. It took GPT-3 two years to attract a million subscribers; ChatGPT got a million visitors within five days. In late January, Microsoft said it was making a multibillion-dollar investment, reported by *The New York*

Times to be \$10 billion, in OpenAI as competitors, including Google parent company Alphabet, rush to get their own products to market.

'A STATISTICAL-ECHOING MACHINE'

Here is another prompt I posed to ChatGPT: Recite the Princeton Honor Pledge. Within seconds, it printed out this: "I pledge that I have neither given nor received assistance on this academic work."

Next, I upped the ante: Recite the Princeton Honor Pledge in the style of F. Scott Fitzgerald 1917. ChatGPT responded: "I swear upon my honor, that I have neither bestowed nor received aid in this scholarly pursuit, for to do so would be a betrayal of the ideals of integrity and fair play that I hold dear, like the glistening of the sun on the surface of the water in the novel *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald."

That's a lame Fitzgerald imitation, if you ask me, but ChatGPT performed better when I asked it to recite the pledge in the style of William Shakespeare: "Upon mine honor I do swear, that neither aid given nor received have I here. To break this pledge were a treachery, akin to the betrayal of Julius Caesar, by Brutus and his ilk. Thus, I do solemnly avow to uphold truth and integrity, now and evermore." Try signing that on your next take-home test.

There is no limit to the amount of time one can waste playing around like this. (Ask ChatGPT to recite the 23rd Psalm in the style of Donald Trump. You'll thank me.) It's a hoot, except for one small point, which you may have noticed: In response to my initial query, it misquoted the Princeton Honor Pledge. It sounded right, the wording was close, but the information was wrong.

As Sanjeev Arora, a professor of computer science, explains, ChatGPT is designed to generate *plausible* text, not necessarily *accurate* text. Visiting the ChatGPT website, he walked me through one vivid example. He first asked it to generate a new story about the history of Baker Rink, which it did competently. But when he asked it to write a news item about Tom Cruise visiting Baker Rink, it did that equally well, inventing something out of whole cloth, including made-up quotes. Arora calls this "bunkum," though some of his colleagues are less polite. Narayanan and Sayash Kapoor, a Ph.D. candidate in computer science, have dubbed ChatGPT "the greatest bullshitter ever," drawing on the work of former Princeton philosophy professor Harry Frankfurt, who defined that term as "speech intended to persuade without regard for the truth."

Bunkum — or bullshit, if you will — sharply limits ChatGPT's usefulness. The tech site CNET used AI to generate dozens of news stories for its website, only to pull them down when human fact checkers discovered that they were full of "very dumb" errors. There are other limitations, as well: ChatGPT was not trained on information after 2021 or on information behind a paywall.

Hasson, who runs the Hasson Lab at the Princeton Neuroscience Institute, has thought a lot about these "statistical learning machines," but his concerns are philosophical as well as technical.

"They don't understand anything, they are simply echoing," Hasson says of programs like ChatGPT. "Still, it's amazing how smart you can appear to be simply by imitating and echoing."



Recite the Princeton Honor Pledge in the style of F. Scott Fitzgerald 1917.

ChatGPT responded:

*"I swear upon my honor, that I have neither bestowed nor received aid in this scholarly pursuit, for to do so would be a betrayal of the ideals of integrity and fair play that I hold dear, like the glistening of the sun on the surface of the water in the novel *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald."*

Now, you can ask, are we [humans] smart because we're echoing *The New York Times*? Or are we smart because we are thinking and understanding? To what extent do we only look smart, but maybe if you look inside, we're also just a statistical-echoing machine? That's the question that bothers me the most."

GPTZERO TO THE RESCUE?

Hoping to get ahead of concerns about AI plagiarism, OpenAI announced that it was looking into adding a digital "watermark" to ChatGPT text. A Princeton undergraduate may have found an even more ingenious solution. For his senior thesis project, Edward Tian '23 has developed a program called GPTZero, which purports to detect whether a piece of writing was generated by artificial intelligence. His mantra is, "Humans deserve to know the truth."

Tian, a computer science major, says he has been concerned about the misapplication of AI for some time. Last year, he TA'd for a machine learning class and recalls that even then he found it hard to distinguish some machine-generated text from the human-generated kind. Over the holidays, he sketched out the basic structure of GPTZero within a few days while sitting in a coffee shop near his home in Toronto.

GPTZero analyzes any piece of writing for two qualities that suggest whether it was written by AI. Tian has dubbed them "perplexity" and "burstiness." Simply put, humans tend to make weird, unpredictable linguistic and organizational choices in our writing, both within sentences and across them. AI prose, on the other hand, tends to generate simpler sentences with fewer twists and turns. Tian's program assigns a numerical score for each metric. The lower the score, the more likely something was automatically generated.

To illustrate how GPTZero works, Tian draws on a very different dimension of his undergraduate experience, a class in

creative nonfiction taught by John McPhee '53, where he says he learned to appreciate the beauty and elegance of good writing. Shortly after GPTZero was released, Tian posted a video on Twitter in which he asked it to assess one of McPhee's *New Yorker* articles. Not surprisingly, McPhee's work received a very high score on both perplexity and burstiness. As computer-generated balloons floated across the screen, the app rendered its judgment: "Your text is likely human generated!" *The New Yorker's* editor, David Remnick '81, was no doubt relieved.

To a public increasingly worried about a dystopian future filled with AI written prose, Tian became an unlikely hero. He may be the only senior in Princeton history to have his thesis profiled, while he was still writing it, by NPR, CBS, the BBC, and *The Guardian*, along with numerous other outlets. More than 23,000 teachers from 40 states and 30 countries have signed up for GPTZero since its release on Jan. 2, Tian says, and once he finally submits his thesis in April, he hopes to launch it as a startup company.

The challenge of thwarting a computer program developed by a multibillion-dollar tech company would seem to be enough to tackle in any senior thesis, but Tian admits to more humanistic concerns. "I can imagine a world 10 or 20 years down the line where everyone is using ChatGPT to write," he explains. "That's sad to me, because if everyone is writing the same thing, then no one is writing anything original anymore. There are no more John McPhees, no more Susan Sontags. This beautiful prose is lost because ChatGPT is only regurgitating what has already been written."

'COMPEL US TO BE BETTER TEACHERS'

Because ChatGPT burst into the public consciousness in late December and early January, when students and faculty were away, its impact on campus has been muted. Nevertheless, many were uneasy.

Historian Anthony Grafton, who also directs the Program in European Cultural Studies, admitted his own qualms. "At this point I think we're all nervously waiting for the next shoe to drop," he wrote in an email over winter break. "For the fields that I teach, I suspect the corpus of texts isn't tremendously rich — that was my conclusion from my own fooling — and I'm hoping I can retire before it gets big enough for the software to fool me."

Grafton's colleague, Jeremy Adelman, sounded a similar note. "People are mumbling about it, but not much more," he wrote. "But it's only a matter of time before there has to be a discussion."

That discussion has now begun. On Jan. 25, just days before the new semester, Dean of the College Jill Dolan and Dean of the Graduate School Rod Priestley released a three-page letter to all University teaching faculty setting forth guidelines for the acceptable use of AI, and specifically ChatGPT. "Faculty were starting to inquire," Dolan says, "and because there has been so much in the news about it, I think it was the right time for us to begin a discussion about the best ways to go forward."

After taking a swipe at "copious handwringing in the media" about the dangers of AI, the deans declined to ban it altogether. "If anything," they wrote, "AI will make higher education and the nuanced and sophisticated use of thinking it teaches even more essential. The ability of AI tools like ChatGPT to



generate comprehensible text and code makes close reading and careful discernment even more important for our students and ourselves."

All this said, the letter made clear that, under the Honor Code and academic integrity regulations, Princeton students are still expected to produce original work and acknowledge their sources. Furthermore, ChatGPT may not be cited as a co-author on a paper, something a few professional journals have decided to allow. Beyond that, the guidelines permit instructors to control the use of AI on a class-by-class or assignment-by-assignment basis. They were, however, urged to be clear about their rules for AI use, emphasize to students why doing original work matters, and design assignments that require critical thinking.

"We made a conscious decision not to focus the memo on questions of cheating," Dolan explains, "because we want to be more forward-thinking in seeing this as a tool that inevitably students will use and encouraging faculty to think about how they can use it ethically, appropriately, and interestingly." The few other American universities that have issued guidelines for AI use appear to have taken a similar, non-absolutist approach.

Princeton faculty seem to be greeting the new guidelines positively. "I think it's quite good, actually," Adelman wrote of the deans' letter in a follow-up email. "In fact, this whole challenge can compel us to be better teachers. I think."



**'HUMANS DESERVE
TO KNOW THE TRUTH'**
*Edward Tian '23's program
is designed to detect if AI has
been used to generate text.*

Although it did not mandate them, the letter offered several suggestions for how AI could be used as a teaching tool. A few people on campus had already been thinking about that. Steven Kelts, a lecturer in the Princeton Writing Center who teaches a course on tech ethics, envisions asking students to take something produced by ChatGPT and, in effect, edit it. Did it make any factual errors? Are the examples it cites valid? How could its organizational structure be improved? Because it is good at summarizing long blocks of text, ChatGPT might be useful in helping to generate ideas or organize notes. Others, at Princeton and elsewhere, have suggested that ChatGPT may soon be used in humanities courses the way calculators are used in math classes. There are times, in other words, when it could be an acceptable labor-saving device and other times when a professor may decide that it is important for students to demonstrate mastery of the underlying skills.

WILL AI KILL COLLEGE WRITING?

In a Dec. 20 column for *The Daily Princetonian*, Mohan Setty-Charity '24 predicted a “technological arms race” between students and faculty if ChatGPT were banned on campus. Instead, he urged the University to find ways to use the new technology as a pedagogical tool, stating the case for AI as baldly as possible.

“Presumably, Princeton students are learning skills that cannot be immediately reproduced by AI,” he wrote. “If we aren’t, what are we doing here?”

Persuasive chatbots present practical, political, and philosophical questions that society will have to grapple with in coming years. In the near term, at Princeton, two things seem clear: AI is not going anywhere, and students and faculty will have to learn the best ways use it. But higher education as we know it, thank goodness, has not been rendered obsolete.

Don’t take my word for it. Ask ChatGPT: Will artificial intelligence kill college writing?

“Artificial intelligence has the potential to assist in the writing process, but it is unlikely to completely replace the need for college-level writing. AI can assist with things like grammar and spell checking, but it cannot replicate the critical thinking and analysis that is required in college-level writing. Additionally, AI may not be able to understand the nuances and context of a particular topic, which is essential in academic writing. Ultimately, while AI can be a helpful tool, it cannot replace the skills and knowledge that are developed through the process of writing at the college level.”

Would a computer lie to you? ♦

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

‘Unexplored Corners’

A new Princeton University Library exhibition on **Toni Morrison** reveals never-before-seen material on her creative process and day-to-day life

BY JENNIFER ALTMANN



**MEMORIES
OF MORRISON**

*"Toni Morrison: Sites of
Memory" is open at the
Milberg Gallery until June 4.*

In the 1970s, Toni Morrison led a hectic life. She was a promising novelist who held a demanding job as an editor at Random House. After a divorce, she was raising two young sons on her own. And like many working women, her commute — to her office in midtown Manhattan — was one of the few stretches of time she had to herself.

A new Princeton University Library exhibition offers a revealing look into how she juggled it all while producing powerful and award-winning work. The exhibition features never-before-seen pages from her day planners, the now-obsolete paper calendars that many of us once carried. In the pages of this most revelatory artifact of her life, Morrison's days are filled with meetings with the authors whose work she edited — among them Muhammad Ali and Angela Davis — as well as more mundane appointments. But it is in the calendars' margins where the most spectacular surprises lie. Several of the day planners carry phrases and sentences, with those from the mid-1970s holding the only existing drafts for one of her most important novels, *Song of Solomon*. Up until 2021, it was thought that all drafts for the novel had been lost in a 1993 fire at her home.

About 100 original archival items offer a view into “unexplored corners of her writing process and unknown aspects of her creative investments that only live in this archive,” says Autumn Womack, an assistant professor of African American studies and English who served as curator for the exhibit, which is at the Milberg Gallery in Firestone Library. Among the most tantalizing elements are hand-edited drafts of alternate endings for *Beloved*, her most famous novel and the winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction; unfinished projects, such as an outline for a play that was never performed; and hand-drawn maps that Morrison made to help her plot the geographical dimensions of her fictional worlds.

“Toni Morrison: Sites of Memory” is the first major exhibition dedicated to material from the Toni Morrison Papers. Morrison, who was the Robert Goheen Professor in the Humanities for 17 years at Princeton, worked with the Princeton University Library to preserve materials damaged in the fire. The collection, which

the University formally acquired in 2014, includes approximately 200 linear feet of research materials, manuscript drafts, correspondence, editorial notes, diaries, photographs, speeches, dramatic works, and screenplays that provide insights into the creative process of the author, winner of the 1993 Nobel Prize in Literature, who died in 2019 at the age of 88.

The exhibition, open until June 4, covers many facets of Morrison's life. There are letters from well-known authors such as Toni Cade Bambara. And there are photographs, outlines, drafts of speeches, and more, revealing much about her day-to-day life, her writing, and her friendships.

The University will celebrate Morrison throughout the spring with numerous arts and academic events. And 2023 will be a year of national recognition for Morrison with a commemorative stamp issued by the U.S. Postal Service.

Letters and manuscript drafts in the exhibit provide insight into Morrison's journey from editor to published author with the publication of her first novel, *The Bluest Eye*, about an African American girl who wants blue eyes like Shirley Temple, was published in 1970, when she was 39. There are letters Morrison wrote asking editors for feedback on the manuscript. But she told no one at Random House that she was working on a novel. Her colleagues learned about it when they read the review in *The New York Times*.

Morrison kept an astonishing breadth of research material for her novels, Womack says. There are popular photographs, advertisements, newspaper clippings, historical maps, and music that helped her conjure the imaginative worlds she created for her characters. “In many interviews, she talks about how much research goes into a clause or a sentence, sometimes boxes and boxes,” Womack says. “This gives a sense and weight to that really meticulous research process, that curiosity, as she searched for the right mood, tenor, or word.”

Her painstaking work is evident in the hand-drawn maps she made to render her fictional landscapes. The exhibition includes blueprints sketched by Morrison for the convent in her 1998 novel *Paradise* and drafted floor plans of the house at 124 Bluestone Road in *Beloved*. They demonstrate her careful attention to geography and topography in her work. “She is visualizing the house, how it is laid out, how the characters move through space,” says Jennifer Garcon, Princeton's librarian for modern and

contemporary special collections, who worked on the exhibition.

PAPER TRAIL

From left, René Boatman, Andrew Schlager, and Autumn Womack review several of the hundreds of pages of Morrison's documents.

Morrison labels items in the drawings the “cold room,” the “stone room” and “bedrooms,” and draws an arrow to the “restaurant.”

Her day planners are filled with notations of meetings with the



The Bluest Eye

On the southeast corner of Broadway and 31st street ^{there} is ~~the~~ a pizza parlour where slow-footed teenagers group to smoke cigarettes

A particularly abandoned stone store

On the ^{southeast} corner of Broadway and 31st Street ~~there is an abandoned store which~~

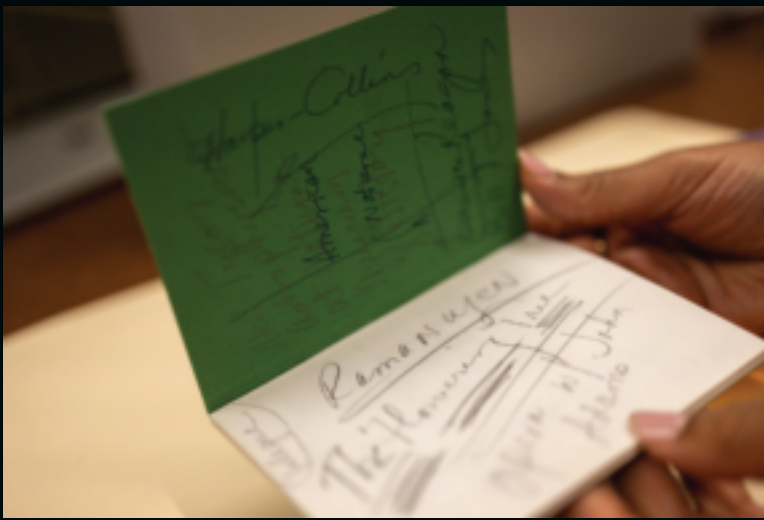
~~stands out particularly among~~ It does not recede into its background of other ~~empty~~ stores, but rather faints itself on the eye in a manner that is both imitative and melancholy.

Visitors driving along Broadway wonder why it ~~isn't~~ has not been torn down while pedestrians in the neighborhood simply look away when they pass it.

Those who have lived ^{in that part of the neighborhood} there years remember when it was a Hungarian Bakery well known for Buns and poppy seed bread.

~~As~~ fluid and transient ^{and} the population in ~~that area~~ ^{that} area been that few persons can recall the time before that when it was a pizza parlour where slow-footed teenagers grouped ^{while they} tea smoked cigarettes, feel their grains and placed side out eyes. Probably no one ^(in the neighborhood, I believe) remembers, even longer longer ago when this ~~store~~ ^{was} where Eunice Winder lived there.

The Winder family didn't live in a store front because the war was just over and ^{they were} ~~haunting~~ ^{difficult} ~~difficult~~. They lived there because they were poor ^{and} ~~slow~~ ^{and} ~~mean~~ ^{mean}. But, ~~and~~ they were poor, ^{and} ~~slow~~ ^{and} ~~mean~~ ^{mean}.



ON DISPLAY

From left: Morrison's handwritten notes; blueprints sketched by Morrison for the convent in Paradise; Morrison with a student at Princeton; and manuscript pages from *Love* with a copy of the book's first edition.

writers whose work she was editing. Her nearly two-decade career at Random House began in 1965 at a subsidiary that produced textbooks. She later moved to editing novels and nonfiction as the first Black woman editor in the company's trade division. The day planners are from "the heart of her editorial career at Random House," Womack says. "We see her noting meetings with Davis, one of her writers, and notes on editorial feedback to give to Gayl Jones on her novel. We see her working on Ali's biography. The notes in the margins are things she might say to him in an editorial meeting."

Morrison's busy schedule compelled her to use the early morning hours for work on her novels, as she explained in a 1993 interview with the *Paris Review*: "Writing before dawn began as a necessity — I had small children when I first began to write and I needed to use the time before they said 'Mama' — and that was always around 5 in the morning." The habit of writing at dawn stayed with her: "I always get up and make a cup of coffee while it is still dark — it must be dark — and then I drink the coffee and watch the light come," she said. "And I realized that for me, this ritual comprises my preparation to enter a space that I can only call nonsecular."

In the margins of the day planners from the mid-1970s, the curators discovered drafts of dialogue, outlines, and notes on characters for *Song of Solomon*, her 1977 novel, which was awarded the National Book Critics Circle Award. "There is prose that makes its way directly into the novel," Womack says. "As she was having editorial meetings, she was writing on the side."

Morrison described using her subway commute to work on her fiction in an interview in *Salon* in 1998: "I would solve a lot of literary problems just thinking about a character in that packed train," she said. "And then sometimes I'd really get

something good. By the time I'd arrived at work, I would jot it down so I wouldn't forget."

Some of Morrison's drafts were lost in the 1993 fire. No complete draft of *Song of Solomon* has been found — the day planner jottings are the only known early versions of parts of the book. "This is the only place where a surviving draft that we know of exists," Womack says.

Morrison mused on her habit of composing on whatever

paper was handy in the *Paris Review* interview: "Sometimes something that I was having some trouble with falls into place, a word sequence, say, so I've written on scraps of paper, in hotels on hotel stationery, in automobiles. If it arrives, you know. If you know it really has come, then you have to put it down."

Though she did extensive research for many of her novels, what fueled

Morrison's work was her imagination. When writing *Beloved*, she read just a handful of accounts of the life of the woman who inspired the novel, Margaret Garner, an enslaved mother who killed her child to spare her the same fate.

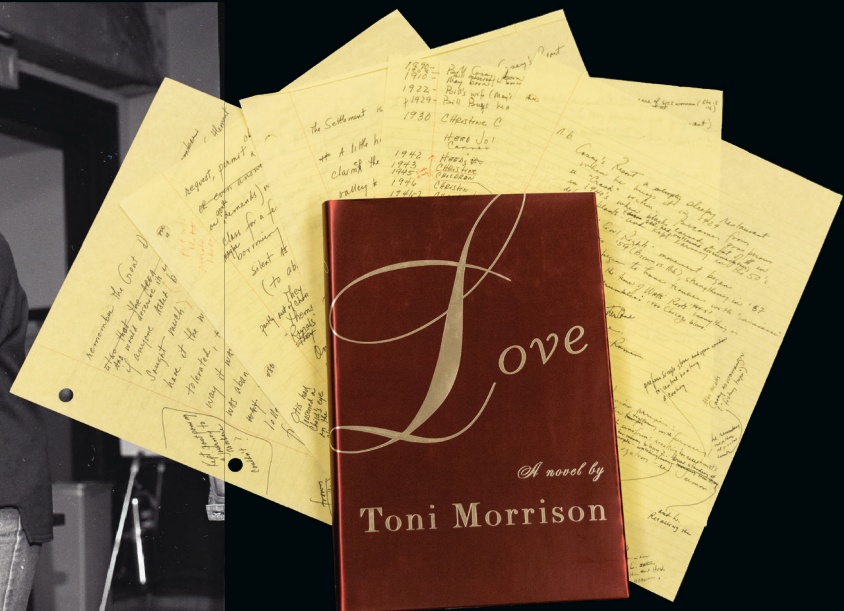
Garner's story "was much more awful than it's rendered in the novel, but if I had known all there was to know about her, I never would have written it," Morrison recalled in the 1993 interview. "It would have been finished; there would have been no place in there for me. It would be like a recipe already cooked ... What I really love is the process of invention. To have characters move from the curl all the way to a full-fledged person, that's interesting."

To visit the exhibition online, go to library.princeton.edu/tonimorrisonexhibition. ♦

JENNIFER ALTMANN is a freelance writer.

"In many interviews, she talks about how much research goes into a clause or a sentence, sometimes boxes and boxes. This gives a sense and weight to that really meticulous research process, that curiosity, as she searched for the right mood, tenor, or word."

AUTUMN WOMACK, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AND CURATOR OF MORRISON EXHIBIT



ARTS EVENTS PAY TRIBUTE TO TONI MORRISON

TO COINCIDE WITH the Princeton University Library's exhibition on Toni Morrison, the University will hold a series of events celebrating the author, with art exhibits and performances at various venues as well as academic events, including a three-day symposium on Morrison's work.

Artistic events include the exhibition **"Cycle of Creativity: Alison Saar and the Toni Morrison Papers"** at the Princeton University Art Museum's Art@Bainbridge, the gallery on Nassau Street, through July 9. The exhibition brings together selections from the Toni Morrison Papers with sculptures, prints, and textiles by artist Saar, whose work weaves personal narratives with histories of the African diaspora that draw upon Black vernacular art, music, and spiritual traditions.

"By placing selections from Morrison's papers alongside Saar's potent artworks in various media, we will have the rare opportunity to see the overlaps between two brilliant minds at work," says museum director James Steward.

McCarter Theatre commissioned performance artists Daniel Alexander Jones and Mame Diarra (Samantha) Speis to create **original works reflecting the influence of Morrison's work** beyond the field of literature, to be performed March 24 and 25. The artists spent time exploring Morrison's

archive at the library. Of that experience, Jones says, "I was transfixed by snapshots of Ms. Morrison with a range of figures that suggest something about the ways she and other Black artists tended to one another over time and in quotidian motion."

Princeton University Concerts will present a **newly commissioned work inspired by Morrison's archive**, created and performed by MacArthur Fellow and three-time Grammy Award-winning jazz vocalist Cécile McLorin Salvant, on April 12.

The three-day symposium in March, **"Sites of Memory: Practice, Performance, Perception,"** will examine the multidisciplinary and collaborative nature of Morrison's work as well as her writing practices, her unpublished writings, and her daily life as a teacher at Princeton, among other topics. The keynote speaker is author Edwidge Danticat. In the spring, the Department of African American Studies will present **the Morrison Lectures**, with scholar Farah Jasmine Griffin offering new interpretations of Morrison's work.

Cotsen Children's Library will exhibit **"They've Got Game: The Children's Books of Toni & Slade Morrison."** Open



'CYCLE OF CREATIVITY'

Alison Saar's *"Torch Song,"* a 2019 work, will be on display at the Princeton University Art Museum through July 9.

through June 4, the exhibit centers on the children's book series *Who's Got Game?*, which re-imagines Aesop's fables and was written by Morrison and her son Slade.

A fall exhibition at the library, **"In the Company of Good Books: Shakespeare to Morrison,"** will feature objects from the library's collections of English literature through four centuries, including Shakespeare's first folio and previously unseen work by Morrison. ♦

By J.A.

Robert Matthews, Princeton University; Brandon Johnson, Princeton University Library; Alison Saar (born 1956, Los Angeles, CA; active Los Angeles), *Torch Song*, 2019. Multi-block linocut; 49.5 x 45.7 cm, 58.4 x 64.6 cm (framed). Princeton University Art Museum purchase, Kathleen Compton Sherrard Fund for Acquisitions in American Art. © Alison Saar / courtesy of L.A. Louver, Venice, CA.



Princeton's incoming provost, Jennifer Rexford '91, on diversity, student mental health, and why computer science is the most popular major

BY MARK F. BERNSTEIN '83

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN EMERSON



MOVING UP

Jennifer Rexford '91 becomes Princeton's 14th provost after eight years as chair of the computer science department.

JENNIFER REXFORD '91 BECOMES Princeton's 14th provost on March 13, but she enters the job with a wealth of experience as a University administrator. The Gordon Y.S. Wu Professor in Engineering as well as a professor in the computer science department, Rexford has been the computer science department chair since 2015. During her tenure, computer science has become Princeton's most popular undergraduate major and, conspicuous among computer science programs, which still tend to be male dominated, one in which nearly 40% of students majoring in the subject are women.

The provost is the University's chief academic and budget officer, with additional responsibilities for long-range planning. Rexford succeeds Deborah Prentice, the Alexander Stewart 1886 Professor of Psychology and Public Affairs, who has been named vice-chancellor of the University of Cambridge.

A former winner of the Moses Taylor Pyne Honor Prize, the University's highest undergraduate honor, Rexford earned a B.S.E. in electrical engineering at Princeton before earning her Ph.D. in electrical engineering and computer science at the University of Michigan. After working as an engineer at AT&T Research, she joined the faculty in 2005.

Taking a break from a campus-wide listening tour in January, Rexford sat down with PAW to discuss her new role in Nassau Hall.

What have you been hearing on your listening tour?

I recently visited the University Center for Human Values, partly because I didn't know enough about it yet, but also because I'm looking for examples of interdisciplinary activities on campus and trying to learn what kind of practices allow academic communities to come together. I've also recently been to the architecture school, because they have a very different mode of teaching than the one I'm familiar with in computer science.

Have you gotten any advice from your predecessor, Deborah Prentice?

She and Treby Williams '84 [the University's executive vice president] have been walking me through different aspects of the job to bring me up to speed, particularly on the more internal parts that I wouldn't have seen before. But I think the best advice I've gotten is to listen as much as I can during this period when I'm not actually in the role yet and have some time to learn about the parts of campus I don't know as well. That, and find ways to bring people together who aren't normally in conversation with one another but may have something to contribute to a particular initiative.

Will you be able to continue teaching?

I think so, but probably not in the first year or two, because I want to devote all my time and energy to my new role. I really enjoy teaching, though, and often teach one of our sophomore-level computer science courses. I'm going to miss that.

What are your immediate priorities as provost?

I'm still learning, so I don't know that I have a definitive answer. I have noticed a few recurring themes from my time as department chair. One is that a lot of the most exciting activities

on campus cross disciplinary boundaries. I'd like to figure out the best way to help facilitate that, whether that's in the form of resources, or bringing people together, or just learning best practices from the successful activities already on campus.

A second priority is thinking more about our impact on the world. How can we help the research and teaching we do at Princeton have a broader impact in society and especially in higher education? A lot of faculty across divisions of the University have an appetite for external research, and we can do a lot to support them in having their research and educational innovations reach a larger audience, so they don't get bogged down in things like tech transfer and administrative problems. Faculty in the science and engineering departments would love to see their ideas and innovations used in practice. It might be that research software engineers or the right kind of computing platform could help make that happen.

What do you mean by tech transfers?

Let's say a faculty member is doing research on biomedical data science, trying to turn medical data into insights that would provide better health outcomes. They might be creating software that could accomplish that, and they might be using that software to do experiments for a research paper. If that software were made widely available, it might help medical practitioners or researchers at other schools. So, the question is, what could the provost's office do to help that faculty member make their software or datasets usable by other people?

Computer science has become the University's most popular major during your time as department chair. What accounts for that surge in popularity?

Part of it is a national trend. Computer science is growing everywhere. I think that, in large part, that's because a lot of students see it as a lever towards affecting change in the world.

At Princeton, we have created a culture where we take all comers to computer science. We don't try to weed anyone out. And we've tried to make our introductory curriculum accessible to nonmajors and students who might not have had the opportunity to program in high school. Today, almost half of the students in our intro course, COS 126, have never coded before — and more than half of the students at Princeton take that course! We really want it to be something that could be part of any student's experience.

Computer science has also achieved something close to gender parity. Are there lessons there for other departments?

I think the key has been making our introductory course accessible to students who haven't been exposed to computer science before. We even have preceptorial sections that are designed for students who haven't coded before, so they're not in their first semester at Princeton and finding themselves in precept with someone who interned at Google for three summers and might be showing off a little bit.

Another key has been letting students do independent work or write a thesis on a topic they're excited about. We offer a B.S.E. degree, but we also have a lot of students in our A.B. program and a lot of our gender diversity started to increase when the number of A.B. majors went up. These were students who might not have

anticipated that they would want to study computer science when they came here. Or they might have seen computer science as something to combine with a second passion that they have.

The department has gone from having fewer than 20% women majors to close to 40% now, and that's with the enrollment growing. We now have 220 members of the current junior class majoring in computer science. I'm proud of that. When I was an undergraduate electrical engineering major at Princeton, there was one woman computer science major a year. And now it's either the first or second most popular major for women at Princeton.

In an interview with *The Daily Princetonian* recently, President Eisgruber said that "high aspiration environments" such as Princeton "are consistent with mental health." Do you share his view?

Obviously, there is more to do here. We're coming out of an incredibly difficult period for students with the COVID situation. That's certainly one issue. I think the role of technology in students' lives also can be isolating in its own way. There's a lot more we could do to better understand how to help students have a healthy relationship with technology.

Three Princeton students have died by suicide within the last year. Is there a mental health crisis on campus? [Two other students died, one following a prolonged illness, after the interview was conducted. See "On The Campus," page 13.]

I think there's a mental health challenge across higher education, and Princeton unfortunately is not immune to it. I think it's a national or even a global trend. But obviously, whether it is or isn't part of a wider trend, we need to do something to help our students. It's heart-rending.

From a mental health standpoint, do you think the atmosphere on campus has changed since you were an undergraduate?

I'm certainly no expert, but I do feel that, when I was a student, we didn't talk about mental health. And I think it's good that students are more vocal about mental health issues now than they used to be and more supportive of one another.

The University recently released its second annual diversity, equity, and inclusion report. Can you talk about what accomplishments have been made and where work still needs to be done?

One thing that's exciting, and which has been happening all over campus including in my own department, is making efforts to sponsor DEI activities at the department and center level, and in doing so to meet students or prospective students — or even the larger community — where they are. Just as an

example, in the fall of 2020, the computer science department had an independent work seminar on data science for Black Lives Matter called "Machine Learning for Social Justice: Data Analysis to Study the Black Lives Matter Movement." The students were really excited to find ways in which they could bring computing to bear on social justice issues that they cared about. They were doing a wide range of computational studies on different datasets to better understand the state of racial inequities in the country and what types of interventions might be helpful. I think we can find interesting ways for the students' academic pursuits to intersect with their desire to be part of the change that they want to see in the world.

There is concern that the Supreme Court could strike down or sharply restrict affirmative action this year. Is the University thinking about how it might respond to that?

I don't have a lot to say on that yet, but certainly Princeton and our peer institutions are talking a lot about this, because we all share a common conviction that a diverse student body provides a richer experience for everyone.

The University seems to get bigger every year. How does

the University keep the special closeness that Princeton is famous for in a place that is so much larger than it was 50 years ago?

Something that's really special about Princeton is that you can walk from one end of the campus to the other and run into people and know who they are. I don't think there is any one solution for how to maintain that.

As the campus has

grown, we have tried to develop neighborhoods around different academic disciplines, so there's a closeness among related fields such as engineering or the humanities. I think another thing that helps is creating opportunities for people to bump into each other in the day-to-day life of the campus, whether it's at interdisciplinary centers or physical spaces like cafés and places to take meals together. I think you need to have both serendipity and proximity to help people make those connections.

Long-range planning is one of the provost's responsibilities. Have you given any thought to what Princeton will look like 10 or 20 years from now? What kind of place is it going to be?

Well, I hope that we will have expanded our reach, both in terms of the number and diversity of students on campus, and that we will have found even more effective ways to reach the community off campus, whether that's with educational initiatives or with the research that we do. ♦

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



ALAN LIGHTMAN '70

DAWN MILLER '10

JESSE MCCARTHY '18

RANDALL BALMER '85

KATHERINE J. CHEN '12

OGEMDI UDE '16

The Real Influencers

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TIGER of the WEEK



Photos by Bill Wadman, Stephanie Mitchell/Harvard University, Dina Rudick/Getty Images, Elena Seibert, courtesy Randall Balmer '85

PRINCETONIANS



CHAMPIONING CHARITY: Benjamin Edwards '20 (right) and Alexander Kirschenbauer '20 (left) wanted to inspire recent college graduates to begin giving back to their communities.

They made it happen on Dec. 3 with the first Solstice Ball, where 250 people between the ages of 22 and 30, including many Princeton alumni, tore up the dance floor, reconnected, and supported a cause. That cause was the Bowery Mission, which provides homeless New Yorkers with food, shelter, and support programs. Tickets were \$175 each, and the event raised \$15,000. "Of course, we want people to come and have fun, but we want that to be one aspect of a larger education about how we can help people in our community," Kirschenbauer says. The duo hopes to continue the ball in the years to come.

READ MORE about the Solstice Ball event at paw.princeton.edu.



From left, Allison Thomas '78, Rufus Frazier, Maria Montgomery, and Shirley Frazier at the 2022 reunion of the Black descendants of Gwynn's Island, which drew 80 people.

ALLISON THOMAS '78

TELLING THE TRUE STORY

Probing the history of Gwynn's Island's Black community

When Allison Thomas '78 introduces herself, she does so like this: "My name is Allison and I descend from enslavers dating back to Colonial Virginia." This usually shocks people, but she doesn't care. Thomas wants to normalize revealing these stories, both through small interactions and big projects, including one she started working on in 2015 when she found proof of her family's true history in an ancestor's diary.

She and writer Maria Sharp Montgomery, along with Our Black Ancestry, a nonprofit, launched the Gwynn's Island Project, which has unraveled the history of a Virginia island located on the western shore of the lower Chesapeake Bay. They're connected because Montgomery is a descendent of those whom Thomas' family enslaved. Together, the duo has been telling this story and proving the existence of the island's once thriving Black community.

"We're not responsible for that history, but I am responsible for sharing it," Thomas says.

When asked if she was aware of her family's history of enslavement, Thomas says, "I was, and I wasn't." She knew that her family had a significant past in Mathews County, and that her seventh great-grandfather died the richest man in Virginia, with 300,000 acres of land and 10 million British pounds.

"The story that I grew up with was

that he had 16 children and gave them each a piece," she says. That the majority of his wealth also came from 1,000 enslaved people was left out. "Somehow we managed to make those enslaved people disappear."

In 2015, Thomas joined an aunt, uncle, and her grandparents in going through letters written between 1820 and 1920 that had been stored in an attic. That's where, along with transcriptions of those letters, she also found her great-great-great grandmother's Civil War diary, which listed 40 enslaved people, with a dollar value written next to each name.

Thomas asked her uncle why no one told her. He assumed she knew. "Of course, our family continued to enslave people until they weren't allowed to," she recalls him saying. Thomas started posting letters and documents to Ancestry.com, which is how Montgomery found her, and they began collaborating on this project.

Enslaved people were brought to Gwynn's Island in 1635 to work on corn and wheat plantations and in shipping. Most left after the Civil War, but some stayed. Some also ran away during the Civil War, and came back. By 1910, 25 Black families owned property on the island. They built homes, a church, a school, and cemeteries, and worked as fishermen and farmers. But pent-up white resentment eventually boiled over. A Confederate monument

went up in 1912. In 1915, James H. Smith, Montgomery's great-great-grandfather, was accused of assaulting a white man and found guilty. He was ordered to pay a fine and spent 30 days in jail. The white community considered this a light sentence. It was just one factor that led to increasing threats of violence, and pressure for Black residents of Gwynn's Island to leave. It worked, and they were all gone by 1920, leaving behind their homes and farms. In 1924, the *Richmond Times* called the island a "White Man's Paradise."

To prove the existence of the island's Black community — and that Black residents didn't just up and leave for no reason — Thomas and Montgomery spent three years digging through census records, property deeds, bills of sale, and court records. "We kept uncovering new things," she says. At first, the Gwynn's Island Museum, which is run by Thomas' cousin, who is also a descendant of the diary writer, "clung to the old narrative," she says. But after rounds and rounds of conversations, the museum "came around 100%."

Thomas and Montgomery wrote a new version of this history for the museum. Through Ancestry.com and Our Black Ancestry, they also created family trees to help connect descendants with their Gwynn's Island ancestors. In August, they organized a second reunion for Black descendants of Gwynn's Island, which drew 80 people. They've created a Facebook group and applied for a historical marker about the Black community to go in front of the island's post office.

These events are joyful but also a paradox. "I can go visit my family cemetery, but we haven't found the Black cemetery on the island, and we know there's at least two," Thomas says.

In addition to the project, Thomas works in the entertainment industry as a producer. The pandemic abruptly halted production, so she funneled her time and energy into the Gwynn's Island Project and volunteering with Coming to the Table, a nonprofit that seeks to acknowledge and heal from the racial wounds of the past.

She adds, "All of us who descend from enslavers need to be talking about it because it's part of our history." ♦

By Jen A. Miller

'97/'19

Class of

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José L. Pabón '97/'19

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From the "Houses" series, which features unexpected and unnoticed houses around Oakland.

SHOWCASING OAKLAND ON ITS OWN TERMS

Constance Hale '79 and Malcolm Ryder '76 forge an artistic collaboration decades after college

Photos of painted buildings, front yards, shop signs, graffiti, and more objects across Oakland, California, are at the center of Constance "Connie" Hale '79 and Malcolm Ryder '76's collaborative project Oaktown. Composed of collections of Ryder's photographs accompanied by Hale's writing, the goal of the project is to present Oakland on its own terms.

"When you're not from Oakland, the image you have in your mind of Oakland is absolutely horrifying, and it's been propagated for decades by the mass media," says Ryder, who has been living in Oakland for nearly three decades. "It's very racist, and it's always somebody who's not from here trying to tell everybody what this place is about. My goal, which is significantly political, is to let Oakland speak for itself."

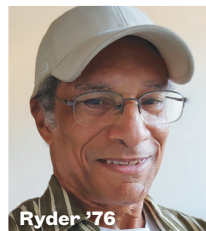
Ryder, who grew up in a segregated community in Norfolk, Virginia, and Hale, who grew up in Waiialua, Hawaii, first crossed paths on the Princeton campus. A few years apart, they were friendly but not quite friends. "Everybody remembers

Malcolm," Hale says. "He was the guy with two cameras around his neck and one in his hand." After college Hale moved to California to pursue writing and Ryder to New York to work as a photographer.

They didn't reconnect until one day in the early 2000s when Hale spotted Ryder at an Oakland cafe. The two were happy to connect and exchanged well-intentioned promises of getting together soon. But it



Hale '79



Ryder '76

wasn't until many years later, when Ryder, working then in management consulting, posted a series of photographs on Facebook that caught Hale's eye, that they really began the next phase of their relationship. The photos were of the Alameda Naval Base, a

decommissioned military base in Oakland, and after seeing them Hale reached out. "She was the first really serious person to encourage me to look at those pictures in a much more deliberate way," says Ryder, who is now doing photography full time. From there, the two began communicating often about Ryder's work, work which included thousands of photographs of Oakland. Hale, a freelance writer for PAW and other publications, got the idea to profile Ryder and he was game. She began interviewing him, and then deep in the early months of the pandemic the two met up to spend a day together so Hale could follow Ryder as he explored the city taking pictures. It was impactful for them both.

It was June 2020, at the height of COVID and the Black Lives Matter movement. Hale remembers the resonance of the moment adding new gravitas to Ryder's photography. "It gave it a new depth and dimension," she says.

Ryder adds, "Long after that day, I was still replaying it in my mind. I had the realization that she was now affecting my thought process while I was making pictures." The profile was published in *Alta* in September 2020, but the two kept talking. About a year and a half later, they finally decided to collaborate. "It was certainly an opportunity we knew we shouldn't pass up," he says.

The duo is so complementary of one

another that it can be hard to tell where one's work ends and the other's begins, but it seems their collaboration is such that Ryder takes the photographs, which Hale curates into thematic collections and provides any writing necessary to supplement the visuals. The Oaktown website houses the photographs in categories — such as “Streets and Walls” and “Architecture and Industrial Ruin” — along with more journalistic and narrative-driven collections, like a project they're working on now called “Adeline Graffiti Palace,” focused on a local graffiti haven. Another project, “Thirteen Ways of Looking at Kasper's,” was inspired by the Wallace Stevens poem “Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird” and tells the story of a now abandoned, but legendary, hot dog joint turned street artist canvas.

Ryder's photographs leave a lot up to the imagination. They capture environments made by humans but not the humans themselves. “There's all kinds of biases that we're not even aware of,” Hale says, paraphrasing Ryder's reasoning behind the photos' lack of people. “If there's no person in the photo, we're really looking at the photo



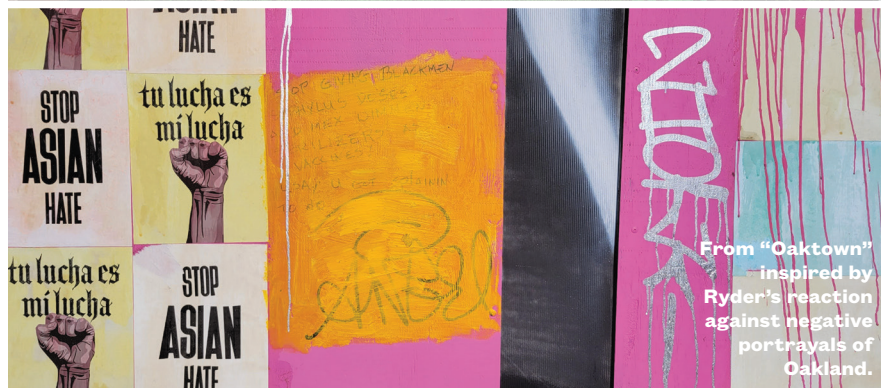
From the “Thirteen Ways of Looking at Kasper's” series of the abandoned hot dog joint in Oakland's Temescal neighborhood.



From “Oaktown,” a picture of the Ghost Ship art space, which caught fire in 2016.



Photo from the “Houses” series.



From “Oaktown” — inspired by Ryder's reaction against negative portrayals of Oakland.

as a photo, we're looking at the building as a building, and we're looking at what traces of life people have left.”

The original intention of their collaboration was to make a book, but Hale and Ryder's goals have evolved. They seem most interested now in the many ways they can have their work seen, especially by local audiences. “It's not just having the photos in galleries where a certain kind of person goes to look at photos and buy the photos,” Hale says, “but to also get the photos out into the communities of people who might actually be affected by seeing the photos. They might see their neighborhoods differently, they might see themselves differently.”

Already the portfolio has received some local acclaim by way of exhibitions as well as support from local government. The Oakland mayor's office recognized Oaktown via an official proclamation saying the work “keenly shows the beauty and struggle of Oakland” and adding that it “helps us to see ourselves.” Oakland, as Ryder originally intended, speaking for itself. ♦
By Elena Sheppard '09

Malcom Ryder '76

CLASS NOTES

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

MEMORIALS

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

THE CLASS OF 1946



Henry Roemer McPhee '46 Roemer, former associate special counsel to President Dwight D. Eisenhower, died at the age of 97 Nov. 12, 2022.

Roemer was, as he was fond of saying, educated "in a cloud of orange and black" in Princeton public schools and at Princeton University. He completed his education at Princeton after serving as a U.S. naval officer on destroyer escorts in the Pacific theater of World War II. He earned a law degree in 1950 from Harvard Law School and was admitted to the bars of the District of Columbia, New Jersey, Illinois, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Upon graduation from Harvard, Roemer began his career in the executive branch of government and was asked to join the staff of President Eisenhower, serving from 1954 until the end of Eisenhower's second term in January 1961.

Roemer cited his boundless enthusiasm for life in a reunion yearbook: "Life has been generous to me, and it is still unfailingly interesting."

He is survived by his second wife, Selby Fleming; his three children Roemer III '78, Joan '80, and Larkin; nine grandchildren; a large extended family; and his brother, writer John McPhee '53.

THE CLASS OF 1949



Bailey Brower Jr. '49 Bailey, a lifetime resident of Chatham Township, N.J., died Oct. 8, 2022. He is survived by his wife, Nancy "Taz"; four daughters; six granddaughters; and one grandson.

Bailey graduated from Madison Academy in Chatham Borough, enlisted in the Army Corps, and after finishing a tour of duty in Yokohama, Japan, joined the Class of 1949 on campus. He majored in economics, joined Campus Club, and belonged to the Rifle Club, the Advertising Club, and Whig-Clio.

After working in New York, he and Taz co-founded the Noe Pond Club. Along with his brother, they established swimming and

tennis clubs in various locations near Noe Farm in Chatham, all offering recreational opportunities for nearby families.

Bailey kept in touch with Princeton in many ways. He attended every Yale football game but one, and served on Princeton's National Schools Committee, the Alumni Council, and the Princeton Club of Northwestern New Jersey. He was also treasurer of the Concerned Alumni of Princeton.

Bailey was interested in antique firearms, with an extensive collection of Savage pistols and a definitive book on that gun. His own guns were given to the NRA National Firearm Museum in Virginia.



W. Lee Wiley '49

Lee, a North Carolina native and a UNC "faculty brat," came to Princeton from Episcopal High School and majored in chemistry. Living in Holder Hall, he joined the Chemistry Club and took his meals at Cannon. After graduation, he spent two years at DuPont and then went into the Army for another two years. Back in Wilmington, he resumed his DuPont career in a variety of administrative and research postings, retiring there in 1985.

Lee earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of North Carolina. In 1957, he married Mary Ross, known to all as "Molly." They were married for 66 years and had two children, William Jr. and Cosby, and four grandchildren.

Lee was a man of many interests. He earned his pilot's license, served as a tax consultant, and became a bridge life master in his 80s. He loved skiing, tennis, and sailing on the Chesapeake and the Maine coast, and spent more than 50 summer vacations on Nantucket Island.

Lee died Aug. 3, 2022. As he said in our 50th-reunion yearbook, "Life has so much to offer," and he accepted that offer for his long life.

THE CLASS OF 1950

Louis A. Langie Jr. '50

Lou, a man described as having relentless passion for giving and a contagious laugh, died Sept. 8, 2022, in his hometown, Rochester, N.Y.

An Aquinas Institute (Rochester) graduate,



at Princeton he was a history major, on the boxing team, business manager of the *Nassau Sovereign*, and president of Elm.

Upon graduation, as the fourth-generation Langie, he became executive vice president of the family fuel business. In 1969, he joined Lincoln Rochester Trust Co. as a vice president, retiring 20 years later from Chase Lincoln First Bank as vice chairman of the board.

Considered a pillar of the Rochester philanthropic community, Lou served on at least a dozen nonprofit boards, chairing many of them. In addition, he founded the Casting for Character fishing tournament, a fundraiser for the Seneca Waterways Chapter of the Boy Scouts.

An avid fisherman, Lou pursued many adventures with his wife, Sally, traveling throughout the world seeking unusual fishing experiences. He also enjoyed gardening and friendly competition on the handball and tennis courts. He and Sally loved their Bedlington terriers.

He is survived by his daughters, Roberta and Adele; and a granddaughter. Sally, his wife of 55 years, predeceased him.



Carl G. Madsen Jr. '50

Carl, better known as "Duff," died Sept. 12, 2022, after a short illness in Kokomo, Ind.

Since his family traveled widely, he attended 12 different schools before enrolling in the Bolles School in Florida, where he graduated as an outstanding cadet. While earning a degree in sociology at Princeton, he was known to skip lunches to sit in on other classes.

After four years at the Ohio State University College of Medicine and an internship at Pittsburgh's Shadyside Hospital, Duff completed his psychiatric training at the Menninger Clinic in Topeka, Kan. Following service as a base psychiatrist at Bainbridge Naval Training Center in Maryland, he set up a private practice in Painesville, Ohio, likely the first mental health professional to practice in the area. He subsequently moved to Defiance, Ohio, and finally ended his 55 years of practice in Kokomo.

Duff was an accomplished woodworker, furniture maker, and sailor. Of his Princeton days, it was reported in his obituary that his only regret was that as he walked past Albert Einstein on campus, he failed to ask, "Who cuts your hair?"

Alice, whom he married in 1954, predeceased him. Three sons, Anders, Stephen, and Alec, and two granddaughters survive him.

James H. Turnure '50 *63

Jim died Oct. 22, 2022, at the age of 98.

A graduate of Gorton High School in Yonkers, N.Y., he enlisted in the Army in



1942, serving until 1946 in the Signal Corps in Africa and the European theater, and for a short time in foreign service in the American Embassy in Rome.

At Princeton, he graduated with high honors in art and archaeology and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He continued at Princeton to earn a master's degree in 1953 and a doctorate in 1963. He moved on to Cornell as an associate professor and director of the honors program in art history, continuing until 1968, when he accepted a full professorship at Bucknell. He taught there for three decades, passing on his love of art to his many students.

In addition to teaching, he was honored with numerous awards. He served as acting director of the Bucknell Center Gallery, board chairman for the Packwood House Museum, president of the Mid-State Artists Association, and director of Bucknell University Honors Council.

Jim is survived by his son, James; three grandsons; and two great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by Elizabeth, his wife of 57 years.

THE CLASS OF 1951



James Eyerl Kittelberger '51

Jim attended James F. Rhodes High School in Cleveland and Oberlin College before transferring to Princeton. He was a member

of Key and Seal Club and the Student Christian Association and participated in intramural sports. He roomed with Tony Wilkinson and John Hagaeman. After two years in the Army, he joined Western Electric in Kearny, N.J., and earned a master's degree from Stevens Institute of Technology. While working as an engineer for the Bell System, he is credited with developing communication systems employing technological innovations that are still in use today. Widely admired for his talent to retain facts, he was a three-time champion on the TV game show *Jeopardy!* in 1964.

In 1969, Jim moved to Boulder, Colo., to help Bell Laboratories open a new facility. He became active in Boulder civic and religious organizations and was an avid traveler. Upon early retirement from Bell, he opened his own travel agency, which he managed for more than 25 years.

Jim died Oct. 2, 2022. Predeceased by his wife, he is survived by his son and daughter and a granddaughter.

THE CLASS OF 1953

Alexander Brody '53

Alexander, the grandson of Hungarian writer Sándor Bródy, died in Budapest, Hungary, Feb. 13, 2022.

Born as Sándor Bródy in Budapest, he grew up in the Hungarian capital and came



to the United States at the age of 15, where he took the name Alexander Brody. He attended the Edgewood School before entering Princeton.

He was a member of Ivy Club and majored in the School of Public and International Affairs.

After graduating, Brody went to work for Young & Rubicam and by 1970 was head of its operations outside the United States. Between 1984 and 1987, he was president of the World Advertising Federation. In 1987, he became president of Ogilvy & Mather. After retiring in 1993, he spent more and more time in Hungary. He was the founder of the Sándor Bródy Award and one of the founders and patrons of the János Bolyai Creative Award.



James K. Donnell '53

Jim, of Cranberry Township, Pa., died Nov. 28, 2022, one month short of his 91st birthday.

He grew up in Waterloo, Iowa, and came to Princeton from East Waterloo High School. He was a member of Campus Club and majored in the School of Public and International Affairs, writing his thesis on "Scientific Management and Collective Bargaining." Jim was also in NROTC and graduated as a Navy ensign. He served two years active duty in the Navy aboard the USS *Deuel* and then attended Yale Divinity School, receiving his B.D. in 1958.

Jim was ordained in the Presbyterian Church USA and served as pastor of First Presbyterian Church of West Carrollton, Ohio, (1958-1972) and College Hill Presbyterian Church, Beaver Falls, Pa., (1972-1985). He then became associate executive presbyter of the Pittsburgh Presbytery (1985-1997). In retirement, Jim moved into Sherwood Oaks in Cranberry Township.

Jim is survived by daughters Bridget and Jane; his son, Calvin; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. He was married twice and predeceased by both wives.



David Macdonald Fitts '53

David died Oct. 25, 2022. He was born in Plainfield, N.J., and came to Princeton from Plainfield High School.

He joined Terrace Club and majored in basic engineering.

After graduation, David joined the Navy and became a commissioned officer on the USS *Robert A. Owens*, stationed in Norfolk, Va. It was there that he met Violet "Betty" Barnes, who was serving in the Navy as a nurse, and they were married Sept. 21, 1957. They had three sons and raised them in Fredericksburg, Va.

David and his wife later moved to Vienna

and finally to Virginia Beach. David worked for the Department of Defense until his retirement. He was a member of Galilee Church in Virginia Beach, singing for many years in the choir.

David is survived by his wife, Betty; their sons Kenneth, Clifford, and Keith; nine grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.



J. David Schnatz '53

David, a native of Buffalo, N.Y., died Oct. 27, 2022.

He came to Princeton from the Nichols School. He joined Charter Club, majored in chemistry, and wrote his thesis on "A Synthesis of Dehydroabietic Acid." He returned to Buffalo to attend the University of Buffalo Medical School, and it was there that he met and married Carolyn, his partner for more than 65 years.

David began his medical career in the Endocrine Fellowship Program at the University of Washington in Seattle, where he subsequently joined the faculty. Family and home, however, pulled David, Carolyn, and their toddler, Julie, back to Buffalo, where he became a professor of medicine at Buffalo Children's Hospital, establishing and heading a diabetes program treating patients and training residents.

In 1977, David moved to West Hartford, Conn., where he was appointed director of medicine at St. Francis Hospital and professor of medicine at the UConn Medical Center, and created a dramatically larger faculty and full-time staff. Later he created and ran a clinical service to care for patients with blood lipid disorders and continued as professor of medicine at the UConn School of Medicine.

David is survived by his wife, Carolyn; his daughter, Julie; his son, Peter; and six grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1954



Richard Arthur Ely '54

Dick died Sept. 21, 2022.

He graduated from Ocean City (N.J.) High School after captaining its football team to an undefeated season.

A biology major at Princeton, he joined Quadrangle Club and participated in IAA track, football, and hockey. His interests at that time included boating, hunting, and photography.

Dick left Princeton after his junior year and attended the University of Pennsylvania Dental School, during which he married Judith Fay. They raised four children, Douglas, Suzanne, Leslie, and Jennifer and divorced in 1975.

After receiving his DDS, he served in the Navy for two years at a dental clinic in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. He engaged in one year of practice with an associate in Woodbury, N.J. In 1960, he moved back to Ocean City, where he practiced dentistry for 40 years.

Dick was an enthusiastic duck hunter, skeet shooter, jet skier, and proud owner of two 31 Bertram dayboats for sport fishing. He also held private, instrument, and commercial pilot licenses, and loved to fly family and friends to various locales.

He married Nancy Morgan in 1994. They enjoyed living as snowbirds between Ocean City and Ocean Reef Club in Key Largo, Fla., for nearly 25 years.

He is survived by Nancy, his four children, nine grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and his sister, Lynn.



Frederick W. Fraley III '54
Fred died Nov. 2, 2022.

He prepared for Princeton at University School in Cleveland, where he participated in track,

publications, and student government.

He majored in the Woodrow Wilson School, joined Terrace Club, played saxophone in the Marching Band, sang in the Chapel Choir, and served on the news board of *The Daily Princetonian*.

Fred earned a law degree at the University of Michigan Law School in 1957. After two years with the Far East Section of the State Department, he moved to Houston. After a brief exploration of private practice, he joined the legal department of Lone Star Gas Co. in Dallas in 1962, where he eventually specialized in international law regarding oil. He was a founder of the Dallas International Law Society in 1972. He retired after 35 years as general attorney and secretary of Enserch Corp., successor to Lone Star Gas. At age 85, Fred decided to dedicate more time to the church, took courses at Trinity College, and received a diaconal studies diploma.

Fred married Elizabeth Anne Pierce in 1964, and they raised two daughters: Katherine, who died of leukemia in 1981, and Mary. Elizabeth died in 2005. Fred married Jean Jones in 2009 and she died in 2022.

He is survived by daughter Mary Herff and grandchildren William and Annie.



Geoffrey McNair Gates '54
Geoff died Oct. 24, 2022.

He prepared at St. Paul's School, where he participated in hockey, football, and publications.

An English major at Princeton, he wrote his senior thesis on "Social Responsibility of the Individual in the Modern American Novel." He joined Tiger Inn, was on the art board of *The Princeton Tiger*, played rugby and hockey, and participated in the Student Christian Association. His other interests were writing, drawing, and photography.

After two years as a lieutenant in the Marine

Corps, he embarked on a Wall Street career, initially with Bache & Co., and later with Laidlaw, Adams & Peck and then Sanders Morris Harris, and finally as an independent investor and consultant, specializing in mining stocks.

Geoff continued to enjoy drawing, becoming a talented illustrator and caricaturist and a collector of paintings by contemporary artists. He loved the abundance of the arts, popular culture, and social life in his 40 years of living in New York City.

Married to Wende Devlin in 1974, they raised three children and lived in New York City, then Darien, Conn., and Westfield, N.J.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Wende; son Christopher, daughter-in-law Kristina and their three sons, Soren, Charlie, and Field; son Bryan, daughter-in-law Meera and their two sons, Raj and Rishi; and daughter Julia '04.

THE CLASS OF 1955



James F. Babcock '55

Jim, the first member of the Class of '55 to serve as president after graduation, died Sept. 2, 2022, in Blacksburg, Va.

He was born June 16, 1933, in Caldwell, N.J., and attended Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, where he was president of his class.

Jim majored in history, joined Quadrangle Club and the Triangle Club, and as a talented violinist, was concertmaster of the University Orchestra. He was elected to Phi Beta Kappa in his junior year. Jim's senior-year roommates were Ray Fitzsimmons, Billy Head, Phil Richardson, and John Lankester.

After three years in the Navy Supply Corps, he became a vice president of Citibank's overseas division with positions in Colombia and Belgium, where he was chairman of Financia NV. He moved into domestic banking with First Virginia Bankshares and served as chairman and CEO of the First Virginia Bank of Hampton Roads.

Jim was elected rector of Old Dominion University and was chairman of the Virginia Symphony, the Virginia Economic Development Alliance, and the WHRO public TV station.

In retirement, he composed violin music and published several novels. He was proud that among his ancestors was Edward Shippen III, a founder and original trustee of Princeton.

Jim was a member of the 1746 Society. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Margaret; their three children, Martha, Carolyn, and Frederick; and three grandchildren.

Albert W. Dibbins '55

Al, a renowned pediatric surgeon, died Oct. 12, 2022, at home in Portland, Maine. He had been president of the New England Surgical Society, founding member of the New England Pediatric Surgical Society, and first inductee to the Maine Pediatric Hall of Fame. He also



had his lab coats painted with Winnie-the-Pooh characters, loved judging an annual pie-making contest, and cared for the wounded at an evac hospital during one of the bloodiest battles of the Vietnam War.

Al was born July 28, 1933, in Everett, Mass. Before Princeton, he attended Andover and afterward Tufts Medical School, where he was first in his class. At Princeton, he majored in biology, joined Tiger Inn, and played freshman football and track. His senior-year roommates were Wilmot Gilland, Paul Porter, Fred London, Lew Barker, Richard Shaughnessy, Tom Webster, Henry Wendt, George Kirkham, and John Swabey.

In 1974, Al joined the staff of Maine Medical Center, where he would spend the rest of his career. He was said by many to be the founder of specialized pediatric care in Maine, and his impact on pediatric surgery was nationally and internationally recognized.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Betty; three daughters, Betsy Crocker, Tory Dibbins, and Susan Dibbins; three grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.



Gilmor S. Hamill IV '55

Gil, a geologist who explored for oil throughout the world, died Sept. 27, 2022, in Moraga, Calif., after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease. His wife,

Pamela, said Gil's most recent memories were his time at Princeton and walking along the beach near his second home in Australia.

Gil was born May 31, 1933, in Cumberland, Md., the son of G.S. Hamill III '31. He attended Mt. Lebanon High School in Pittsburgh. At Princeton, he joined Elm Club and majored in geological engineering. He played freshman football and rugby and participated in IAA football and volleyball. His senior-year roommates were Chuck Williams, George Witter, George Kovatch, Dick Evans, and David Olfe.

After Princeton, Gil earned a master's degree and a Ph.D. from Rice and served as a geodetic officer in the Air Force. Oil exploration took him to Japan, Australia, Korea, Zaire, Congo, and Texas. He opened an office in Western Australia for Gulf Oil and enjoyed all that country had to offer: tennis, wine and dining, bridge, and banter about being a Yank. After he retired, he built a house on the Sunshine Coast north of Brisbane, where he and his wife spent 16 years traveling back and forth, enjoying perpetual summer.

Gil is survived by his wife, Pamela; children Jennifer and James; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Sydney R. Prince III '55

Syd died Oct. 19, 2022, at his home in Battles Wharf, Ala., on Mobile Bay, the place he grew



to love as a teenager from Maryland. He was born Nov. 25, 1933, in Washington, D.C., and his family vacationed in Point Clear. Syd made it his goal to live near there.

Before Princeton, he attended the Landon School in Bethesda, Md., where he captained the football and baseball teams and was a member of the student council. At Princeton, he majored in economics and joined Cannon Club, where he was chair of the bicker committee.

Syd served two years in the Army and then graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law. He then moved to Mobile and joined the Inge Twitty law firm, embarking on a 40-year practice that focused on litigation defense.

Syd loved fishing in the Gulf of Mexico and playing golf. He served as president of the Country Club of Mobile, where he played a key role in renovating the facility. He was also the president of the Order of Myths, the oldest mystic society to celebrate Mardi Gras in Mobile.

Syd is survived by his wife of 61 years, Anne; sons Sydney IV and John; daughter Beverly Anne; and four grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1957



Frank O. Elliott '57

One of the leading architects in our class, Frank died Oct. 3, 2022, in Lincoln, Mass.

Coming to Princeton from Warren High School in Ohio, where he was a class officer, Frank became president of Elm Club and a member of the Inter-Club Committee. He rowed on the lightweight crew and was active in intramural sports and the Princeton Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. His senior-year roommates were Howie Boose, Dick Moore, and Lindsay Steen.

Following service as a lieutenant in the Navy, he studied at the University of Geneva, Switzerland, where he met and married his wife, Ingrid E. Glatz. Thereafter he studied at Columbia (B.Arch.) and Harvard, attaining a master's degree there.

As an architect, Frank worked for many years in Europe, winning several design prizes in Munich, and then joined the American firm of McMillan, Griffis & Mileto, working in its office in Rome. Later, he became a partner with Brown Daltas and Associates, heading up offices in Rome, New York, Mexico, and Cambridge, Mass. The firm's signature project was the King Khalid Military City in Saudi Arabia. Finally, he formed Elliott and Associates, designing numerous noteworthy buildings in the Boston area.

Frank is survived by his wife, Ingrid; children Karin and Mark; and three grandchildren.



James Kraft '57

Jim led a life lived to the fullest — lived around his passion, enjoying and understanding the arts and leading others to do the same. He studied,

taught, consulted, created, collected books and prints and gave them away, and helped others enter their professions. He spoke, exercising a refined intellect abetted by sensitivity and acute social and personal intuition, gregariousness, and quiet humor. He loved his family, friends, Princeton classmates, students, and his Norfolk terriers that accompanied him everywhere.

At Princeton, he was a member of Cap & Gown, president of the Glee Club, and secretary of Theatre Intime.

After Princeton, Jim became a fellow at Cambridge and earned a Ph.D. in English at Fordham. He taught at three major universities. He spent seven years at the National Endowment of the Arts, and was dean of the New School for Social Research for one year. He consulted with Henry Bessire's arts fundraising firm, the Whitney Museum, and the Manhattan School of Music. He wrote on Henry James, his specialty; and the poet Witter Bynner. He wrote two books of poetry clearly in his own voice.

Jim lived in Manhattan, the village of Old Chatham, N.Y., and the Berkshires. He died Oct. 18, 2022. He is survived by two children, Brooks Kraft and Elizabeth Jones, of a marriage of 22 years; four grandchildren; and a longtime companion.



Jan C. ter Weele '57

Jan was one of a half dozen classmates who escaped from Europe at the onset of World War II. His family went from the Netherlands to London, where

the Dutch government in exile commissioned his father to become commandant of the six islands of the Dutch West Indies. Refineries there were a target of German submarines. Following the war, the family moved to the United States, where Jan attended Pomfret School and then Princeton.

At Princeton, Jan joined Cloister Inn. Senior year he roomed with Allen Martin, John Forbes, and Jean-Pierre Cauvin. He earned a doctorate in education at Harvard, which led to his becoming a superintendent of schools in several Maine school districts. When Jan found himself reprimanding a subordinate in a meeting, he said, he decided he should retire.

He moved from studying painting part time to full time in New England, Hawaii, and New York City, and established a studio in Portland, Maine. His joyful, mostly abstract paintings were a combination of French Fauvists and a contemporary Dutch school. Jan played tournament bridge around the country with his companion of 30 years, Motoko Schoning.

Jan died Nov. 21, 2022, of a heart attack.

He is survived by Motoko, a son from a prior marriage, one brother, and one sister.

THE CLASS OF 1958



Paul J. Eckenroad III '58

Paul died Nov. 10, 2021, in Buford, Ga. He was 85.

He came to Princeton from Fredericktown (Ohio) High School, where he was active in sports and student government.

At Princeton, he played lightweight football for three years and was in the NROTC program. He majored in history and was a member of Tower Club. He roomed with Al Demaree, Steve Meloy, Bob Ziebarth, John Turnbull, and Paul Phillips.

After graduation, Paul served three years in the Navy, 28 in specialty-store retailing in California and New York, and 17 years in real estate, business brokering, and direct sales in southwest Florida.

Married and divorced twice, Paul had five children and five grandchildren. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.



Lee M. Elman '58

Lee died Nov. 27, 2022, in New York City. He was 86.

He came to Princeton from Mount Kisco High School, where he participated in student government, publications, and was captain of the tennis team. At Princeton, he was in the Woodrow Wilson School, a member of Cannon Club and Whig-Clio, and managed the tennis team.

Passionate about theater and classical music, Lee co-founded the Aston Magna Music Festival, the country's longest-running summer festival of early music performed on period instruments, now in its 50th year. He had a rare ability to seek and celebrate the good in others and never had an unkind word to say about anyone. While in college, he dined in Spain with Ernest Hemingway, who inspired him to endow the Lee M. Elman Class of 1958 Hemingway Prize at Princeton. He was a Fulbright scholar at the University of Bologna before earning two degrees from Yale Law School.

Lee was the cultural affairs commissioner for New York City under mayors Abe Beame and Ed Koch, and he was a member of the New York State Council on the Arts for 22 years.

He was an avid mountain climber, having been on Everest (reaching 22,500 feet), the Alps, the Rockies, Cascades, and in Argentina and Ecuador.

Lee is survived by his longtime companion Judy Ney and his daughter Alexandra Foley. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them.

Richard H. Rahe '58

Dick died March 24, 2022, in Wilsonville, Ore. He was 85.



He came to Princeton from Garfield High School in Seattle, where he skied, played football, and participated in student government and dramatics.

At Princeton, Dick was on freshman crew and the ski team and was a member of Dial Lodge. He roomed with John Danielson, Walt Strine, Bill Holcomb, Phil Childress, Sandy Ross, and Jim Haugh.

Dick left Princeton in the spring of 1957 to enter medical school at the University of Washington. During his psychiatry residency at UW, he partnered with Thomas Holmes to develop the Holmes-Rahe Stress Scale, an inventory that evaluates one's stress level and the likelihood of it causing stress-related illness.

Dick married fellow UW alum Laurie Davies, with whom they had two children, Brad and Annika.

Completing his residency, he joined the Navy, and during the next 20 years in Stockholm, Guam, San Diego, and Reno, Dick published 168 scientific articles as well as two books recounting his professional experiences concerning stress and coping with coronary illness.

Dick enjoyed scuba diving and underwater photography, which became a passion and hobby. He remained a lifelong athlete and was a U.S. Masters swimmer for 20 years in which he won many medals.

Dick is survived by his wife, Sohyon; his daughter, Annika; and two grandchildren. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.

THE CLASS OF 1959



William H. Simon '59

Bill died Sept. 11, 2022, after a short, brave battle with brain cancer.

A Philadelphian from Cheltenham High School, Bill dined at Court Club, majored in biology, and somehow found time for the Freshman Glee Club, Orange Key, the Pre-Med Society, Theatre Intime, and Court's bicker committee. A medical degree and surgical internship at the University of Pennsylvania and an orthopedic residency at Harvard's Massachusetts General led to a rich orthopedic medical career.

Highlights from six decades of medical practice included service as a lieutenant commander in the Public Health Service, research at NIH's Institute for Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases, many medical treatises and three books, and generations of grateful medical school students he taught as an associate clinical professor of orthopedic surgery at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. Bill served his community on the board of the Baldwin School, in Penn medical alumni societies, active membership in the Main Line Reform Temple, and 50 years as the Class of 1959 rep for our southeastern

Pennsylvania AG efforts.

Bill's love of singing marked his entire life but left time for a bountiful garden and an absolute devotion to sports in general, particularly the Philadelphia Eagles. Most recently he wrote several mysteries with a medical twist involving a lovable, quirky doctor who bore a remarkable resemblance to the author.

The class extends its deepest sympathy to Bill's wife, Michele; and daughter Eve.

THE CLASS OF 1960



John Oster III '60

Coming to Princeton from Milwaukee Country Day School with strong athletic credentials, John played freshman baseball and basketball here and began a four-year enthusiasm for the rugby club. He majored in economics and dined at Cottage Club. On graduation (high honors) he married the same year, joined the Air National Guard (serving to 1967), and joined his family's business, Deltrol Corp. He had worked through his teen years at Oster Mfg. Corp, their former business.

John left Deltrol to purchase an electronics firm, which Deltrol then acquired and where John spent the balance of his business career, growing it from regional to international stature. He was serving as president (semi-retired, he said) at the time of our 25th and chairman and until his death.

John carried his lifetime enthusiasm for active pursuits into his later years: polo (up to a point), golf, fly fishing, hunting and skiing in the U.S. and abroad, often enthusiastically accompanied by members of his family.

John died Oct. 24, 2022. He is survived by his wife, Maureen, whom he married in 1991; two children from his first marriage; and five grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1961



F. Peter Boer '61

Peter died Oct. 3, 2022, in Alexandria, Va.

Born in Budapest and raised in Lackawanna, N.Y., he graduated from Nichols School.

At Princeton, he majored in physics (Phi Beta Kappa), played IAA sports, and ate at Terrace.

Following a Ph.D. in physics at Harvard, he embarked on a remarkable career and life. He worked for Dow Chemical, American Can, and W.R. Grace, retiring as executive vice president and chief technical officer. He served on eight corporate boards; was John J. Lee professor at Yale, president of the Industrial Research Institute, chairman of National Medals of Technology, and served on eight government and six academic boards, including Los Alamos and the EPA. He was cited on William Lipscomb's Nobel Prize and elected to the National Academy of Engineering.

Peter enjoyed serving as class treasurer and

vice president and would have been delighted that Ellen is succeeding him as treasurer. Having been to more than 180 countries, he authored 10 books on his travels and industrial management.

Peter is survived by his wife of 60 years, Ellen; daughter Alexa '90; son Andrew '93; four grandchildren including Kate '26; and their children-in-law, both also Princetonians.



Franklin S. Odo '61 *75

We lost Franklin, whom we knew as Frank, Sept. 28, 2022.

Born in Honolulu, Hawaii, he was the first graduate of Kaimuki High School to come

to Princeton. He majored in history, was in Whig Clio, and took his meals at Ivy Club. His senior-year roommates, whose nickname for him was "Big Daddy," were Tom Haskell and Jim Cole.

After earning a master's degree in East Asian regional studies at Harvard and a Ph.D. at Princeton, writing his dissertation on Japanese feudalism, Frank followed a remarkable career in academia, anchored by his directing the Asia Pacific American program at the Smithsonian Institution from 1997 until 2010. He was the first Asian Pacific American curator of the National Museum of American History. He taught at various times at Amherst, Columbia, Occidental, Long Beach State, Penn, Princeton, the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and elsewhere. A prolific author, he was an internationally known pioneer and advocate for Asian American Studies. He was an active member of the Asian American Alumni Association of Princeton.

Frank is survived by his wife of 59 years, Enid; children David, Jonathan, Rachel, and their families, which include four grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1962



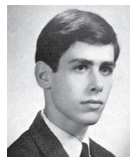
Philip G. Dailey '62

The class recently learned of the passing of Philip July 30, 2022, in Deerfield Beach, Fla.

Philip came to Princeton from Vestal (N.Y.) Central High School, where he played multiple sports, and was an All-American tackle in football. He was vice president of his class his senior year. Philip majored in electrical engineering at Princeton and became a member of Court Club.

He left Princeton early in 1960 and embarked on a career with Simplex Time Recording Co., serving as a branch manager in various locations. He enjoyed traveling with his wife, Diane, in Switzerland and Mexico, as well as much of the United States and Canada. His avocations included audio and video technology, and later in life singing with a community choir group, rekindling an early love from school days.

Philip was predeceased by Diane and son Charles. At the time of his death he was survived by his daughters, Kimberly Perez and Kristen Iwashchenko; son Brian; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. The class extends its condolences to the family.



Paul Glickler '62

Paul died Sept. 19, 2022, of a heart attack at his home in Topanga, Calif.

He went to Cheltenham High School in Elkins Park, Pa. At Princeton, he majored in art and archaeology and was a member of the Woodrow Wilson Society.

For a few years after graduation, Paul worked in theater in New York, but he spent his remaining working life in the film industry in California. Within a few years of arriving, he wrote and directed a successful feature film, *The Cheerleaders*, a comedy about high school cheerleaders engaging in sexual antics. Paul described the film as “suburban absurd.” Made on a shoestring, it earned millions at the box office. Over the years that followed, he worked in many capacities on other feature films and documentaries.

Paul did not keep in touch with Princeton after graduation. He married Cabell Smith in 1967. They were divorced some years later. For the last several decades of his life, he lived in the Santa Monica Mountains above Los Angeles. He also continued to pursue his interest in the fine arts, painting colorful abstractions of the landscape of Topanga.

To his sister, Louise Plaschkes, the class offers its sincere condolences.



Gerhard M. Williams Jr. '62

Gery died Sept. 18, 2022, in Dallas, of respiratory failure.

Following his father, Gerhard Sr. '33, he came to Princeton from Sexton High School in Lansing, Mich., where he participated in football, wrestling, and track, and was active in student government. At Princeton, he lettered in wrestling, majored in politics, was active in the Young Democrats, and ate at Cannon. He took the 1960-61 year off, graduating in 1963. On June 30, 1962, he married LeeAnn “Lannie” Monroe. They had two children, Gerhard III and LeeAnn '89.

Following graduation, he worked at nonprofits, political campaigns, and educational institutes before earning a master’s degree in public policy in 1973 and a Ph.D. in urban and regional planning in 1974 from the University of Michigan. After teaching at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas for three years, he joined Conrail, where he served as vice president. He finished his career as a consultant for CSX Corp. In retirement, Gery and Lannie lived in Savannah, Ga., and then Dallas, enjoying travel and golf.

Lannie died Aug. 15, 2022. Gery is survived by their children, Gerhard III and LeeAnn; and two grandchildren. The class extends its sympathy to all.

THE CLASS OF 1964



John W. Davis III '64 *66

John died Aug. 21, 2022, in Manahawkin, N.J., surrounded by his family.

John came to Princeton from Exeter, where he played football, lacrosse, and wrestled. After freshman year with the Class of 1961, he served three years active duty with the Marine Corps, coming back to join the Class of 1964. He joined Ivy and majored in architecture, doing his thesis on reconstruction of hurricane damage along the southern regions of the New Jersey coast and working summers as a lifeguard and bartender on Long Beach Island.

John stayed on after graduation to earn a master’s degree in architecture. He then took up residence on Long Beach Island, becoming an accomplished architect and designing homes and commercial properties there for more than four decades.

John’s fondness for the island and the sea was as strong as his desire to be a sailor, but both were eclipsed by love for his family, especially his wife, Colleen. John will be remembered for his devotion to her, and for his warm laugh and enthusiastic support of family sports meets, milestones, and ventures.

John was predeceased by Colleen and son Rowe. He is survived by his son, Whit; daughter-in-law Lisa; and three grandchildren, to all of whom the class offers its condolences.

THE CLASS OF 1967



Jerry Paul Brashear '67

Jerry died July 13, 2022, of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease at his home in Ashland, Ore.

He grew up in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, graduating from high school there as president of his class, valedictorian, and captain of the football team. At Princeton, Jerry majored in psychology and sociology, was in Tower Club, and roomed at 84-85 Patton with George Hayum, Rich Hesel, Tom Tillotson, Bill Dixon, and Hank Jackson. He was active in Orange Key, played freshman football, was a student manager of the University Store, a Commons waiter, research assistant for both the psychology and politics departments, and graduated *magna cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa.

Jerry got an MBA from Harvard in 1969 and a Ph.D. in urban and regional planning from the University of Michigan in 1975. At our 50th reunion he explained that he realized his business skills were applicable to public and government-related organizations, so he embarked on a

lifelong career in consulting for risk management of utilities, public and private infrastructure, and national-security organizations.

In 1979, Jerry married Pamela Ann Newton and the couple had two daughters, Corbin and Regan. He spent 22 years with a small Washington, D.C., consulting company. In 1996, he formed the Brashear Group, starting a risk research program at the University of Texas, Austin, and creating risk management and critical infrastructure planning across America. He served on numerous industry boards and his firm won awards, honors, and volunteer-service recognition across the nation.

Jerry enjoyed traveling, swimming, classical music, reading history, and time with his grandchildren. He is survived by those grandkids, and his wife Pamela and two daughters.

THE CLASS OF 1969



David A. Pensak '69

Dave, a prolific and successful inventor and innovator, died Aug. 28, 2022, at his home in Wilmington, Del.

He was raised in Princeton, where his father, Louis, was a friend of Albert Einstein. Dave told of sitting in his sandbox with Einstein, “a nice man with white hair,” while Einstein peppered him with questions. He credited his father and Einstein for fostering his critical-thinking and problem-solving skills.

Dave majored in chemistry, participated in the Band, and was IAA chairman of Stevenson Hall. His roommate George Handzo remembers Dave as an inveterate punster and purveyor of terrible jokes, great qualities for helping to write Tiger Band halftime shows.

Heading to Wilmington in 1973 with his newly minted Harvard Ph.D. in chemistry, Dave began a 30-year career with DuPont, where he was a mentor to many young scientists. His work in computers was key to developing cybersecurity as a discipline, and he had 38 patents in fields ranging from agricultural chemistry to solid-state physics and cold-chain technology. In his “retirement,” Dave was a founder of numerous technology companies and served concurrently on law school, medical school, and business school faculties.

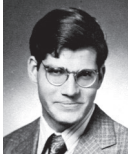
Ever loyal to Princeton, Dave was a longtime ASC volunteer and served a term as class treasurer. He is survived by his wife of 15 years, Karen; his children, Jacob, Nina, Rae, and Ali; his grandson, Hayden; and his brother, Martin Pensak '78. The Class of '69 joins them in mourning the passing of this brilliant polymath and generator of ideas.

THE CLASS OF 1974

Daniel G. Jaszi '74

Dan died Sept. 1, 2022, in Darien, Ill.

He was a member of Quadrangle Club and active as an alum as an ASC interviewer



and phone-athon worker. He earned a law degree from Columbia University, an LL.M. in taxation from New York University, and an MBA from Washington University.

He worked as both a lawyer and an accountant, with a special expertise in employee-benefits law and administration. Dan's career included serving as assistant general counsel at Corbel & Co., senior trust officer at First Wisconsin National Bank, and legal manager at HPL&S. He also was self-employed as a lawyer and accountant.

Along with his talent and gregarious personality, Dan suffered during much of his adult life from chronic illness, which he accepted with a Christian spirit. He was often effusive in his expressions of gratitude toward the many people who helped him.

The son of the late George and Helen Jaszi, he is survived by his brother, Peter. The class extends its deepest sympathies to his family and friends.

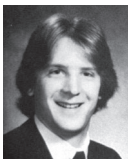
Lawrence C. Short II '74

Lawrence died Feb. 20, 2021, of complications from heart and kidney failure.

He was born in Austin, Texas, Feb. 12, 1952, and had a long career in the financial industry as an investment banker at Coastal Securities and a senior vice president at Southwest Securities. He later was a self-employed investment banker.

Lawrence is survived by his partner, Stella Mooney; daughter Sarah Short Roebuck and her husband, Geoie; sons Daniel Short (partner Brenna Myers), Victor Reyna, and David Reyna; aunt Peggy Coffield; sister Patricia Palmer; and grandchildren Isabella, Giovanna, Elin, and Vivian Ocean. The class extends its deepest sympathy to his family. The family asks that he be remembered by a donation to the American Heart Association.

THE CLASS OF 1984



Michael Zanolli '84

Mike died Oct. 4, 2022.

He was born in Pittsburgh and grew up in McLean, Va., and Piedmont, Calif., where he attended Piedmont High School and was captain of the football team. At Princeton, Mike continued to play football, majored in architecture, and was a member of Tiger Inn.

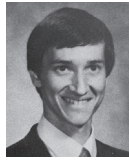
Mike then earned a master's degree in architecture from Columbia. He worked for several years with architectural and urban design firms in New York and Pittsburgh before earning an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

Mike returned to New York and became a well-known leader in commercial real estate finance for almost 30 years.

He will be remembered for his endless supply of Hawaiian shirts, quick wit, awful rewrites of song lyrics, and especially for his loyalty and kindness to, and love for, his family and friends.

Mike is survived by his wife, Alice; daughter Corinne; and son Evan. His family is grateful to classmates Pete Askey, David Brodess, John Few, Martin Gates, Brian Hetherington, Steven Heussner, Mike Vatis, and Mike Winter for being pallbearers and to Dave, Steve, and Marty for their heartfelt tributes. The Class of 1984 joins them in mourning the passing of this wonderful soul.

THE CLASS OF 1986



Charles T. Call '86

Chuck died at home Nov. 12, 2022, in Front Royal, Va., of complications from appendiceal cancer. He is

survived by his three children, Shayla, Dash, and Jag Fitzsimmons-Call; his partner, Sarah Convissor; his sister, Carole Ticer; and brothers Chris and Craig.

When not taking his boys to soccer games, watching Shayla at rhetoric competitions, or volunteering as an EMT, Chuck was an associate professor in American University's International Peace & Conflict Resolution Program, where he focused on peace building, anti-impunity, and violence prevention. He also served as a non-resident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.

Highly regarded as a scholar-practitioner, Chuck's academic contributions reflected his lifelong pursuit of solutions to armed conflict. After concentrating at the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton, he spent 18 months volunteering in a community of displaced persons in wartime El Salvador, which solidified his commitment to peace and justice.

Known for his incisive intellect, Chuck challenged conventional thinking at policy conferences around the world. Following publication of his book *Why Peace Fails*, he served as senior adviser at the State Department's Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations.

Chuck was a devoted father, mentor, and friend. His love of Dr. Pepper, spicy food, and salsa dancing lives on among family, friends, and the members of the Class of 1986.

THE CLASS OF 1994



Gregory Tolles Smalley '94

Greg, a lifelong resident of New York City, died July 19, 2022.

He was born Aug. 2, 1972, to Patricia Tolles Smalley and David V. Smalley and raised in New York City and Larchmont, N.Y. He attended St. Bernard's School and Trinity School in New York.

He studied theater at Princeton and enjoyed acting, directing, and writing. He was the author of several poems, essays, and a one-act play titled *Egg Cream*, which was produced in New York City. He was at work on a dystopian, baseball-themed novel at the time of his death. He spent many years living and working in Ecuador, as an administrative assistant at the Episcopal School, and part-time clerk in several bookstores.

Greg was a lifelong competitive sailor and spent summers racing and winters frostbiting out of Larchmont Yacht Club. He ran marathons, loved dogs, and was an active social fixture in his beloved West Village neighborhood.

Greg had a wry sense of humor, enjoyed vigorous debate, and was always welcoming, gracious, and of service to his family, friends, fellows, and strangers. He was a devoted son, brother, uncle, nephew, cousin, godfather, and friend.

Greg was predeceased by his mother. He is survived by his father, Dave; brother Brian and his wife Susan; and nephews William and Nathan. His family, friends, and everyone who knew him will miss him greatly.

THE CLASS OF 2013



Nicholas J. Piacente '13

Nick died Nov. 19, 2022, at the age of 31. His death was caused by a blood clot in a coronary artery, which is rare for his age.

To describe Nick as a scholar is an understatement. Nick was valedictorian at Mattituck (N.Y.) High School and at Princeton he concentrated in art and archaeology and graduated *summa cum laude*.

In 2014, he decided to change careers and left the financial district. He attended St. John's Law School, where he received a full scholarship, and for the past four years he was a practicing attorney.

Nick was a gentle soul and an animal lover. He enjoyed vacationing in the mountains and had recently joined a hiking club. He also enjoyed the arts, especially opera.

He played the clarinet and was first chair clarinetist for three years for the Suffolk County Music Educators Association and three years at New York State Music Association. In addition, he was first chair clarinetist at the Best of All Eastern, 2009, and he performed at Carnegie Hall.

Nick is survived by his parents, Keith and Christine; his sister Christine and her husband Giles Smith; his niece, Lillian; his nephew, Augustine; and his Uncle Al.

GRADUATE ALUMNI

George B. Todd *64

George died Aug. 27, 2021, in New Haven, Vt., at age 86.

Brought up in Evanston, Ill., George

showed an early proclivity for music. After undergraduate studies at Amherst, where he played in several musical groups, he earned an MBA at Stanford Business School, then moved to Germany and did a stint with Radio Free Europe. Realizing that music was his life's love, he earned an MFA at Princeton in 1964.

George spent his academic career at Middlebury, where he was the Christian A. Johnson Professor of Music. The courses he taught ranged over a wide variety of genres, from theory and analysis to composition, classical music, medieval and Renaissance music, 20th-century music, computer music, and Mozart opera.

With a love of electroacoustic music born during his Princeton years, George established the Middlebury Electroacoustic Studio. He released several albums of his own electronic compositions and composed many pieces for performances. He maintained a strong connection with Dartmouth's electronic music community.

Whether teaching the Nielsen Symphonies, the harpsichord music of Bach, the rags of Scott Joplin, or his own electroacoustic music, George brought his passion to the classroom.

George is survived by sons Grey and Scott, daughter Kate, and two grandsons.

Robert S. Freeman *67

Born Aug. 26, 1935, in Rochester, N.Y., Bob died Oct. 18, 2022, in Austin, Texas.

Bob earned a B.A. in music from Harvard and a diploma in piano performance from the Longy School of Music while performing as a professional oboist. He earned a Ph.D. from Princeton in 1967 and was a Fulbright scholar in Vienna.

After serving on the music faculties of Princeton and MIT, Bob was director of the Eastman School of Music from 1972 to 1996. He preserved and expanded the Eastman School campus, which became a bulwark against the urban decline threatening Rochester's city center.

After leaving the Eastman School, Bob served as president of the New England Conservatory, then became dean of the College of Fine Arts at the University of Texas at Austin.

Bob's books include *The Crisis of Classical Music in America: Lessons from a Life in the Education of Musicians*; *Gilbert Kalish: American Pianist*; and *Woof!: A Love Story of Dogs, Music, and Life*.

Bob was predeceased by his wife of 42 years, Carol; and Katharine McNally, his first wife and the mother of his children. He is survived by his children, John and Elizabeth; his stepson, Scott; and four grandchildren.

Blair D. Savage *67

On July 19, 2022, Blair died of pancreatic cancer in Madison, Wis.

Born July 7, 1941, in White Plains, N.Y., Blair dedicated his life to the scientific understanding of our universe. The 1957

launch of Sputnik and the ensuing space race ignited his boyhood passion for science and technology. Blair studied engineering physics at Cornell, graduating in 1964. He continued his studies at Princeton and earned a Ph.D. in astrophysics in 1967.

Blair enjoyed decades of teaching and astronomy research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he specialized in UV astronomy, studying the interstellar medium known as "star dust." He authored or co-authored more than 563 articles and research papers with 32,532 citations.

Blair was recognized as one of the most highly cited space sciences researchers in the world by the Institute for Scientific Information. He contributed to many space astronomy projects including Stratoscope II, OAO-2, Copernicus, IUE, FUSE, Hubble, and the WIYN Observatory. His passion for spectroscopy empowered him to unravel scientific mysteries from more than 30 years of Hubble Space Telescope spectral data.

Predeceased by his wife, Linda, Blair is survived by sons Reid and Keith, grandchildren Wesley and Raleigh, and sister Lynn Conway.

William McGowen Priestley *72

Raised in Rosedale, Miss., Mac died in Winchester, Tenn., June 22, 2022, at age 81.

Mac graduated from The University of the South (Sewanee) in 1962 and earned a Ph.D. in mathematics from Princeton in 1972. He returned to Sewanee, where he taught mathematics for 44 years.

An avid reader, writer, and conversationalist who found wisdom and beauty in words and numbers, Mac believed in the intrinsic good of an educated and curious life. He was a dedicated and principled teacher, intent on sharing the joy of mathematics with all his students, many of whom later became mathematicians.

Mac was determined to make calculus accessible, relatable, and intriguing, likening mathematical analysis to poetry, music, and other expressions of the human spirit. He published a textbook, *Calculus: An Historical Approach*, and a second edition, *Calculus: A Liberal Art*, to present mathematics as a bridge between the sciences and humanities. In 2006, he received the Distinguished Teaching Award from the Southeastern Section of the Mathematics Association of America.

He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Mary Patten Priestley; and his children, Bill, Thomas, and Patten Priestley Mahler. He was "Grandmac" to grandchildren Will, Julianna, Lily, and Lyell.

Fiona C. Tolhurst *95

Fiona died unexpectedly in Fort Myers, Fla., Dec. 21, 2021, at age 53.

Born Feb. 25, 1968, she majored in English literature at Rice in 1990. Fiona attended

Princeton on a Mellon Fellowship and earned a Ph.D. in 1995 under the direction of John Fleming *63. Her area of scholarship was Arthurian literature.

Fiona worked for one year at Texas A&M before taking up a tenure-track position at Alfred University, becoming one of the youngest female faculty members to become full professor. Unhappy with American politics, Fiona and her husband, Christoph Neuendorf, moved to Switzerland for several years, where he worked in finance and she taught and continued her scholarship. After returning to North America, Fiona became a professor at Florida Gulf Coast University, where she was chair of the Department of Language and Literature at the time of her death.

Fiona was a recognized authority on Geoffrey of Monmouth, particularly feminist approaches to Geoffrey. She edited a special collection of Arthuriana devoted to theoretical approaches to Geoffrey. Her work consistently focused on medieval women, particularly Eleanor of Aquitaine, and she published articles emphasizing the extent of C.S. Lewis' Arthurian interests.

Fiona is survived by her husband, Christoph Neuendorf.

Margaret Rose Vendryes *97

The first Black student to receive a doctorate in art and archaeology from Princeton, Margaret died March 25, 2022, of a cardiac event during surgery in a New York hospital. She was 67.

Visual artist and art historian, Margaret is best known for her paintings of Black female vocalists from Aretha Franklin to Beyoncé and Lizzo in the African Diva Project, and her biography of Harlem Renaissance sculptor Richmond Barthé.

Born March 16, 1955, in Kingston, Jamaica, Margaret earned an AB at Amherst in 1984, an MA from Tulane in 1992, and a Ph.D. from Princeton in 1997. At York College, CUNY, she was Distinguished Lecturer in Fine Arts, and served as chair of the Department of Performing and Fine Arts and director of the Fine Arts Gallery. She also taught at Boston University and Wellesley. She was preparing to assume the post of dean of the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts.

Margaret was a voice of advocacy and justice for underrepresented groups and the LGBTQ+ community. Her service to Princeton included APGA Board membership and chairing graduate alumni Reunions.

Margaret is survived by her spouse, Jacqueline Herranz Brooks; sons Damian and Erick Cohen; and three grandchildren.

*Graduate memorials are prepared by the APGA. Undergraduate memorials appear for James H. Turnure '50 *63, Franklin S. Odo '61 *75 and John W. Davis III '64 *66*

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Italy/Todi: Luxurious 8BR, 7.5BA villa, amazing views, infinity pool, olives, lavender, grapes, vegetable garden, housekeeper included, cook available, A/C, Wi-Fi. Discount for Princetonians. Photos/prices/availability: www.luxuryvillatodi.com, p'11.

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

United States, Northeast

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

Catskills, NY: Modern House for rent weekly/monthly, Featured in Dwell, Sleeps 6, 2Bed/2Bath, plus Loft, Hiking/Skiing Nearby. Contact- mids.ibanez@gmail.com '94

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

United States, West

Big Sky Montana: Charming 4 BR log home on 20 acres beautifully furnished, spectacular views, Big Sky sunsets, skiing, hiking, fishing and golfing within 5 minutes. Close to Yellowstone National Park and Bozeman. Enjoyment all 4 seasons. 610-937-0529. jane.griffith655@gmail.com, s'67.



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'Hooked' by Triangle, He Went on to Movie Stardom

By Elyse Graham '07

The Triangle Club: a 132-year-old training ground for many of Princeton's most famous writers and actors. The years that gave the club its modern character were arguably 1930-40, when a certain kind of cracking-wise, let's-put-on-a-show college theater was in its golden age, and when an inimitable group of performers, including Josh Logan '31, who co-authored the musical *South Pacific*, and Jimmy Stewart '32 paced the boards. But the alum from these years who best embodied Triangle's spirit of high thinking and low living was José Ferrer '33.

Born in Puerto Rico, Ferrer moved to New York City with his parents, who were Spanish immigrants, at the age of 6. Gifted and expensively educated, he cracked the entrance exams for Princeton when he was 14, though he took the University's advice to take a gap year before he arrived. (He spent it at a

posh boarding school in Switzerland.) He played the piano, as gifted children do, and everyone thought he had a future playing concert halls.

It's hard to be the sort of person whom *Princeton* makes rougher around the edges, but Ferrer managed it. Campus in the '30s was lively. Prohibition was in force, so every afternoon, bootleggers swarmed the quads, carrying paper-bag deliveries of terrible whiskey and gin. Ferrer found

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his nimble piano playing in demand at parties, so he started a jazz band, "José Ferrer and His Pied Pipers," that played seemingly everywhere booze flowed.

Soon they were kicking up joints in New York and beyond. "When the Depression hit, rich papas who couldn't afford Paul Whiteman hired us," Ferrer later said. "We made a lot more dough than college boys should have in their pants."

The Triangle Club had a reputation for being "nonsocial," meaning mostly that it attracted weirdos. The president of Triangle, Bert Brush '33 *35, thought the Ferrer he saw onstage would fit in just fine, and he explained repeatedly to Ferrer that, though Ferrer thought he was a well-bred architecture major, he was actually "a born actor," and he should stop playing the role of a serious person and start getting serious about playing roles. Brush cast Ferrer as one of the leads in the club's big touring play, immersing him in the world of grease paint, wardrobe trunks, and froofy wigs. (Ferrer played an 18th-century French valet who swaps places with a lord.)

"Once I was in, I was hooked," Ferrer said.

After graduating, Ferrer started graduate school in New York City — partly as a concession to his father, who had refused to see Ferrer perform with Triangle at the Metropolitan Opera House, believing acting to be beneath his son. But Triangle is a hard sickness to cure, and soon he returned to the life of the theater.

He rose quickly on Broadway, then in Hollywood, starting with screwball comedies, but finding his stride with tragic, cerebral characters such as Iago, Don Quixote, and Cyrano de Bergerac. In the latter role, he won both the Tony Award, in 1947, and the Academy Award for Best Actor, in 1951. (His father eventually forgave him — and even reveled in telling stories about his "outrage" when Princeton corrupted his son.)

Ferrer didn't lose all his native polish. He had expensive tastes all his life. He dressed elegantly. He had an upper-class New York accent, which, having Rs as smooth as an egg cream, would have fit in amid the snobbish cadences of '30s Princeton. But he knew how to cut loose, as he did in the Broadway hit *Charley's Aunt*. Wrote *The Philadelphia Inquirer* on June 2, 1946: "He swung from chandeliers in his woman's get-up with wig askew and cigar dangling from mouth. He did nip-ups and cartwheels, flounced in chairs with gartered legs hoydenishly crossed, and dropped unmentionables all over the stage." Tell me a Hasty Pudding man could beat a Triangle man at *that*. ♦



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