

STUDENTS FIGHT TO FREE ELIZABETH TSURKOV

PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY

MAY 2024



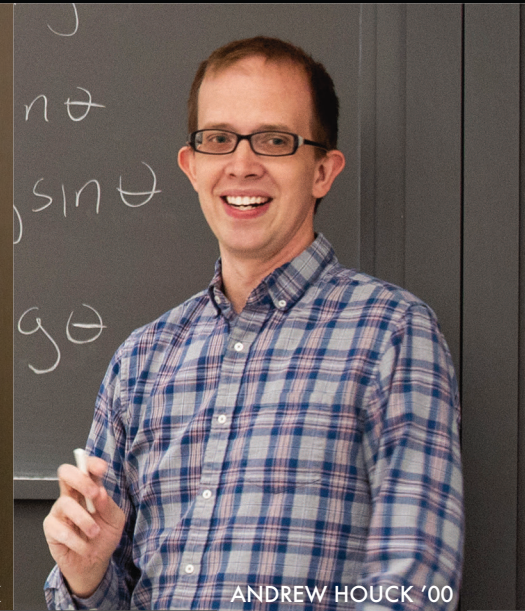
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Venture Forward is a mission-driven engagement and fundraising campaign focused on Princeton's strengths in the liberal arts, pushing the boundaries of knowledge across disciplines, and collaborating to champion inclusion, science, public policy, the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

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



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An editorially independent magazine by alumni for alumni since 1900



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Professor Luther Pfahler Eisenhart proposed a change to Princeton's curriculum starting in 1924 that became the senior thesis.

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With the advent of AI technologies and the coronavirus pandemic, Princeton's ultimate rite of passage has pushed beyond what it has historically been. (Don't worry, it's still painful, though.)

BY JIMIN KANG '21

[40](#) 'Born to Do Something'

Attorney Brittany Sanders Robb '13 may have made a name for herself working on behalf of Kobe Bryant's widow, but she has been helping people since she was a kid.

BY WAYNE COFFEY

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ON THE COVER

PAW commissioned cake-maker Justin Ellen of Everything Just Baked in Northern New Jersey to help celebrate the 100th birthday of the senior thesis. *Photograph by Amy Roth.*

AMY ROTH



Published using 100% recycled paper

The Enduring Value of the Humanities



PHOTO BY DENISE APPLEWHITE

Gene Jarrett, a member of the Class of 1997 and the William S. Tod Professor of English, became dean of the faculty in 2021. In addition to being a renowned literary scholar, he is a gifted academic administrator devoted to liberal arts education. I have asked him to share a few thoughts on the enduring importance of the humanistic disciplines and their value in higher education and society.
— C.L.E.

Euphoria filled me in fall 1993. After my graduation from New York City's Stuyvesant High School that year, I matriculated at Princeton University. Here, I planned to continue concentrating on the high-level mathematics and sciences in which I had been excelling, and which, I thought, would best prepare me for professional—and, admittedly, financial—success.

During Orientation week, I stepped onto Princeton's campus, and discovered the "Undergraduate Announcement 1993-94" curled in my Forbes College mailbox. The booklet, which introduced me to the plethora of academic departments and programs, major and certificate requirements, and courses that the University had to offer, challenged my academic myopia.

"Using the general curricular framework," the announcement advised, "each undergraduate at Princeton is encouraged to develop an academic program in response to personal aspirations and interests." Encouraged, I took courses taught by Toni Morrison, Arnold Rampersad, and Hans Aarsleff, among other outstanding faculty in the humanities, or the field of study focused on the history, languages, philosophy, art, and aesthetics of human culture. These courses changed my life.

I decided to major in English language and literature, with an emphasis in African American literary studies. In subsequent decades, my doctoral education at Brown University and my scholarship as a professor sought to advance this field of study. In my return to Princeton in fall 2021 as the dean of the faculty, I assumed administrative responsibility for ensuring the success and well-being of the faculty and academic professionals at the University, not only in the humanities but also in the social sciences, natural sciences, and engineering.

The story of my intellectual and professional growth, alongside the comparable stories I have come across of people who likewise thrived from humanistic learning, compels me to critique how much the humanities have been publicly devalued in recent years.

The humanities uniquely enlighten us on how to live in and interpret the world. This field strengthens our grasp of the legacy of human intelligence and interactions. It guides

us on how to trace the emergence and evolution of ideas across human history. It documents how language, art, and other kinds of cultural expression mediate these ideas. And it demonstrates how to conceive, communicate, and celebrate human life through imagination and creativity.

Alarmist opinion pieces try to convince us that, in college, majoring in the humanities is too risky. A widely circulated *New Yorker* essay last year on "The End of the English Major" cited statistics on the decline of undergraduate humanities majors and course enrollments, and doctoral student job prospects in the humanities professoriate.

Sensational articles of this kind perpetuate a self-fulfilling prophecy: the myth that the humanities, in their association with the love of learning or "the life of the mind," detract from the "hard" or "direct" skills needed for professional careers. The "humanities crisis"-mongering, if I may call it that, has had serious consequences.

Barbara R. Snyder, president of the Association of American Universities, and Peter McPherson, former president of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, co-leaders of the Boyer 2030 Commission of distinguished higher education leaders, concluded that the misleading public narrative that a humanities major cannot "get a job" exacerbates the "shrinking enrollments in fields most invested in cultivating transformative education, and in humanities departments particularly." The analytical skills born and cultivated from the humanities prepare students for both the academic and nonacademic careers that seek to address the most pressing problems facing humankind.

"Colleges and universities have a critical role to play" in countering this trend, write workforce expert Aneesh Raman and Jobs for the Future President and CEO Maria Flynn in a *New York Times* column titled, "When Your Technical Skills Are Eclipsed, Your Humanity Will Matter More Than Ever." They continue: "Over the past few decades, we have seen a prioritization of science and engineering, often at the expense of the humanities. That calibration will need to be reconsidered."

Of course, I believe that science and engineering deserve prioritization in higher education—which they have rightly earned at Princeton—given the remarkable scientific innovations in quantum science, bioengineering, and artificial intelligence, for example, that are changing the world. But the existential questions that these and other scientific fields have also produced for humankind mean that we must resist the depreciation of the humanities in liberal arts education. The humanities are primed to help us tackle these questions.

As we reckon with the new scientific technologies shaping humankind, we must simultaneously formulate the very ethical and cultural concepts of the humanities that can help center these technologies on the public good. We also must relish the humanities for their own sake—for the intellectual authority they retain in describing what makes us all so human.

The humanities still matter because our humanity still matters.

INBOX

YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE LATEST ISSUES

PAW'S FOOD ISSUE

Your latest edition of food stories (March issue) asks for input from readers. Here is mine:

During my sophomore year in 1955, there used to be a coffee shop (the “fast food” label was not known then) right on Nassau Street, named Renwick’s.

One day they announced a contest, open to any student, to provide the ingredients for a new sandwich. The prize was around \$50 credit toward future food orders at Renwick’s. The sandwich would be included on their menu, and it would be named after the prize winner.

I submitted my entry, a combination of ingredients I derived from my younger years at a local restaurant in New Jersey. My sandwich entry was made from Taylor ham (sometimes called pork roll), grilled with melted American cheese, plus lettuce, tomato, mustard, and pickle relish, served on a toasted bun. They named it the Mackenzie ’57.

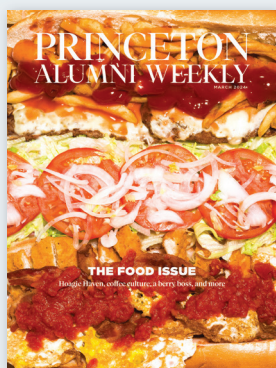
Evidently it became popular enough that it remained on their menu for several years, but with each rendition of a new menu, the name morphed. At one point, it was the McKinzie ’55, and eventually was dropped. It remained, however, as a fond achievement all my life.

GORDON MACKENZIE '57
Fairfield, Conn.

I was never in sports but still found my way to Conte’s (“The Pies That Bind,” March issue). My mother is from Italy, and when she came for my graduation, of course I brought her there. The owner was so delighted to have a countrywoman there and chatted very amiably with her for quite a while. He really made us feel special. I’m so glad to know it’s still there and in the family.

CLAUDIA BURKE BURTON '82
Salem, Ore.

In the early ’70s, undergraduate pizza options seemed to be focused on the Colonial Diner (until it burned down), the Grotto on Witherspoon Street, the Kingston Inn, and maybe for slices, A&S Luncheonette (aka “The Porn Shop”). Conte’s was often lauded by Tommy Sullivan, Bobby Sinkler, and some of the other trainers and staff at Caldwell Field House as a place they liked to have



beers after games or on other evenings. Not sure how many undergrads actually ventured down Witherspoon Street to discover it.

Many years later it became a go-to spot after games and other visits to campus with our kids and other Princeton friends. Taking home a Conte’s

pizza, lasagna from Teresa’s, or a dinner from Tiger Noodles has often been part of the “special dispensation” required to enable me to come to campus for a football or lacrosse game.

ANDY COWHERD '74
Morristown, N.J.

Thanks for the PAW Food Issue!

I loved the section on Conte’s Pizza. As a chemical engineering grad student (1971-75), Conte’s was my go-to place when I wanted to treat myself to a decent meal. Typically, on a summer Sunday, when thesis pressures were a little less, I’d walk from the campus to Conte’s (no car, of course) and order a pepperoni pizza and a bottle of Bud — nothing better in the world. And, being in my early 20s, calories didn’t count.

As for Hoagie Haven (“Roll Call,” March issue), I’m not sure if it was around when I was at Princeton. I would walk to Aljon’s on Witherspoon Street for my hero (not hoagie!) of choice.

And when I was really feeling flush — a lunch of chicken parmesan at the Grotto (\$3.50!) or pancakes at PJ’s. Ah, the good old days!

JOEL SHERTOK '76
Newark, Del.

Those who were Princeton students many years ago may remember Aljon’s, a sub shop on Witherspoon Street just past the cemetery. Aljon’s made very decent sub sandwiches, but when Hoagie Haven opened in 1974, they really upped the game. Hoagie Haven’s subs were obviously superior. After a short while Aljon’s was long gone and little mourned.

In my era, Hoagie Haven did not make the fancy subs described in the PAW article. I was just a scrawny graduate student, so the offerings at the time were plenty for me. But I do remember one evening when a big athlete came in showing obvious dissatisfaction with the current offerings. Flummoxed, he came up with a modification of the current menu, his own creation: whole cheesesteak with double meat and double cheese. Little did I know that I was witnessing the primitive birth of the fancy menu items described in this article.

DONALD R. KIRSCH '78
New York, N.Y.

For those of us that endured the long slushy walks from campus to the E-Quad, Hoagie Haven offered us a convenient and delicious late night study break. The University might as well have made a midnight stop there an engineering graduation requirement. Wayne Coffey’s piece was a refreshing reminder that there are still thriving family businesses in the increasingly gentrified Princeton.

ANDY RUSSELL '82
Stamford, Conn.

Even though I graduated in 1973 and Hoagie Haven opened in 1974, by the time I returned to Princeton some years later, it was an institution of note. The article had me smiling a lot and often laughing out loud at both the topic and the engaging way it was presented. A true institution of Nassau Street.

DANIEL ERDMAN '73
Lancaster, Pa.

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FREE EXPRESSION ON CAMPUS

The article “University Again Revises Rules for Contact, Communication” by Julie Bonette (March issue) honestly reflects ongoing uncertainty in the University’s management of freedom of expression in today’s troubled environment.

Such uncertainty is neither surprising nor inappropriate, considering the complex issues that have arisen on campuses throughout the nation since Oct. 7, 2023. Indeed, Princeton seems to have fared better than other prominent universities, perhaps due to cautious administrative deliberation. No doubt, we are grateful that President Eisgruber '83 was *not* on the invitation list for the U.S. House of Representatives hearing on campus antisemitism in December. Having interviewed 11 viable applicants for our Class of 2028 within the last three months, I was pleased to note that these high school seniors generally regarded Princeton as a stable safe haven compared with other Ivy League campuses, especially Harvard.

Going forward, Princeton’s administration may wish to consolidate its relative success by providing:

1. Reconfirmation of Princeton’s historic commitment to freedom of speech, as defined by our founding fathers in the Bill of Rights.
2. Clarification that advocacy for violent criminal activities, such as murder, torture, rape, or genocide, is not tolerated in our University community.
3. Clear explanation regarding the no contact and no communication order procedure, pending rapid investigation of any potentially inflammatory incident.

In so many ways, Princeton can and must remain the best place of all!

STEVE SMITH '59
Towson, Md.

UNIVERSITIES AS MEDIATORS

President Eisgruber '83 calls on Princetonians to “Speak Up for Princeton and for Higher Education” and to be “an ambassador for Princeton and for higher education” (“President’s Page,” March issue). I would reply “yes (mostly)” to the first, but absolutely “no” to the other.

I’m grateful to Princeton for the

opportunities it afforded me. But what the president misses is how deeply he and his colleagues have entered the American partisan fray and joined the combat he laments. It’s not surprising; viewed from “across the pond,” virtually every American and every American institution seems to have become engulfed in the civil war convulsing American culture and society, whilst protesting their neutrality.

In fact, large parts of American higher education are complicit in provoking the attacks they confront, in their academic programs and priorities, their admissions procedures, their tolerance of intolerance amongst their students and staff, and their selective embrace of some forms of “inclusivity” at the expense of others.

Consequently, they have exposed themselves to irresponsible demagogues seeking to undermine their integrity and independence.

No one’s political persuasion should govern whether they choose to attend any particular university. But can it be doubted that it has become a key metric for many Americans?

American universities have to detach themselves from the frontlines and regain the support and confidence of both sides of the divide. They should play a mediating role in this conflict. Otherwise, they risk becoming casualties of it.

HOWARD SEREDA *78
London, U.K.

FARMING FREEDOM PANEL

Caroline Nelson '14 invites us into her inspiring Montana ranch where she practices regenerative agriculture, e.g. with livestock that don’t graze in one spot, leading to healthier animals and soil, biodiversity, and drought resilience (Princetonians, March issue). Meanwhile, in neighboring Oregon, Lindianne (Sarno) Sappington '76 and husband Arthur spearhead a similarly inspired food sovereignty initiative including regenerative agriculture, watershed management, and self-governing farming freedom (snakerivermusicgardens.org).

At Reunions, Lindianne and Arthur will describe how their work in Oregon

is being applied as a food forest NGO in Uganda to avert a famine. Joined by other experts in agriculture and economics, the Reunions panel will explore how the harmful effects of the net-zero emissions mandates on farming must be overcome with food sovereignty and food security initiatives. It will be livestreamed; look for an event titled “The Great Escape from the Net Zero Hunger Games,” sponsored by the Conservative Princeton Association.

ALEX ZARECHNAK '68
Oakton, Va.

STANDARDIZED TESTING

Now that Dartmouth and Yale have led the way, isn't it time for Princeton to abandon the “test-optional” policy for undergraduate admission? That policy arguably made sense when adopted in the darkest quarantine days of the coronavirus crisis. But it now just seems to be hanging on as a well-intentioned but misguided attempt to democratize admission policies.

Yale's research concluded that “when admissions officers reviewed applications with no scores, they placed greater weight on other parts of the application. But this shift frequently worked to the *disadvantage* of applicants from lower socioeconomic backgrounds.” (Emphasis in original.)

Consistent with other research, Yale also concluded that “among all application components, test scores are the single greatest predictor of a student's future Yale grades. This is true even after controlling for family income and other demographic variables”

I was proud when Princeton in 2001 became the first university in the country to eliminate loans from its student aid packages. That enlightened decision facilitated the matriculation of more low- and moderate-income students. But the “test-optional” policy seems to actually work against this laudable goal. I hope Princeton will soon join the salutary countertrend started by Dartmouth and Yale.

GREG SCHWED '73
New York, N.Y.

continues on page 9

ALAMY, COURTESY OF ALEX CAVOLI '20; SAMEER A. KHAN '21 / FOTOBUFFY

ONLINE Exclusives

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LEWIS '82

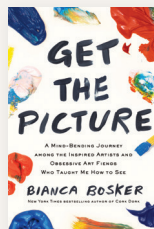
PAW BOOK CLUB

Going Infinite by Michael Lewis '82

In March, Lewis answered club members' questions about his book detailing the rise and fall of crypto mogul Sam Bankman-Fried — just days before Bankman-Fried was sentenced to 25 years. Lewis opened up about his thoughts on the trial, what sentence he thought would be fair given all he learned while reporting the book, and what Bankman-Fried has been up to in prison (sharing crypto investing tips, among other things).

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

Send us your questions for our next author, journalist **Bianca Bosker '08**.



We're reading her new book, *Get the Picture*, for which she took a deep dive into the art world, cracking open the secretive operations of galleries, collectors,

and the artists themselves. It's fascinating and frankly hilarious, but don't take our word for it: Author Suleika Jaouad '10 reviewed *Get the Picture* and said: “I loved every word.”

Send your questions to ehulette@princeton.edu or here:



SCAN the QR Code with your phone to submit your questions.



CAVOLI '20

TIGERS OF THE WEEK

Check out the most recent stories in PAW's Tiger of the Week series at paw.princeton.edu.

- Musician **Alex Cavoli '20** blends eclectic influences into a sound that's somehow both nostalgic and futuristic.
- Stanford physicist **Hideo Mabuchi '92** is an accomplished sculptor who credits his Princeton experience with helping him make connections across disciplines.
- Entrepreneur **Delphine Hirsh '92** is increasing access to menstrual cups to help both women and the environment.

THE WHOLE STUDENT 'A Culture of Connectedness'

Jess Deutsch '91 continues to probe topics around student mental health,



DEUTSCH '91

most recently writing about on-campus projects that foster well-being through art, music, and connection. Next she's writing about

imposter syndrome: If you have a story to share about feeling imposter syndrome as a Princetonian, write to her at jessica.d.deutsch@gmail.com.

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YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Photos: Claire Burgess Photography

ALUMINARY

Maura Whelan '14

When Maura Whelan '14 paints, she thinks about the important people and places in her life and “puts together an onion of images that resemble the feelings I have about them.” That approach worked when Whelan was invited to design the cover for this year’s Reunions program. She immediately thought of memories of iconic Reunions attractions, from the P-rade to the fireworks to the giant tents.

“I painted people dancing in a Reunions tent because we haven’t seen that on the program’s cover before,” she said. “It’s been fun figuring out how to give it a sense of being crowded and joyous while also pulling out individual dancers.”

Inspired by the camping and canoeing trips she took while growing up in Minnesota, Whelan often blends mental images of deep wilderness with modern environments in her art. “I draw upon a lot of natural forms

and imagery and sometimes my work is close to landscape painting and sometimes it’s more abstract,” she said. “I tend to oscillate between the two.”

Whelan never expected to become an artist or attend Princeton. But her father, Tim O’Brien ’81, encouraged her to apply and when the University said yes, the entire trajectory of her life changed. She intended to study English or psychology, but the first class that captured her attention was an introduction to drawing. “Something clicked,” she said. “Then, after I took a painting class, my teacher encouraged me to apply to the art program.” Given her interest in nature, Whelan also pursued a certificate in environmental studies and combined both in her thesis art project, which won the Environmental Studies Senior Thesis Prize.

While at Princeton, Whelan was also a member of Tower Club, where she met Mark Whelan ’14. But it wasn’t until they were on the verge of graduating that the two fell for each other. They were married by the time of their first major reunion in 2019. “We spent most of it waiting for news that one of our friends had safely delivered her baby,” she said. “She finally did, with her husband by her side in his P-rade outfit.”

After spending time in Chicago, where Whelan received her MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and New York City, where she earned her Master of Arts in art and art education from Teachers College at Columbia University, the couple settled down in Missoula, Montana. She’s a visual arts teacher at Loyola Sacred Heart High School, and he’s a software engineer. “I absolutely love the task of creating a curriculum that challenges my students and meets them where they are developmentally,” she said. “Teenage brains are so interesting; they make crazy decisions when it comes to art — I love seeing the stuff they come up with.”

In her role as a teacher, Whelan frequently thinks about how her Princeton professors pushed her to develop the skills she needed to create art and be successful. “The skills I found through making art have been invaluable, teaching me to visualize, problem solve, collaborate, make judgment calls and trust my own instincts,” she said. “Maybe this is the high school teacher in me coming out, but these are all valuable skills no matter what you do.”





Dear Tigers,

We can't wait to see you back on campus for Reunions 2024, **May 23-26!**

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

- ✓ **Registration is open and required prior to check-in!**
Reminder: Satellite class alumni can register only **one guest**.
- ✓ Plan to attend the **Annual Meeting of the Alumni Council** at 11 a.m. Friday, May 24, in Richardson Auditorium. Celebrate your fellow alumni, learn more about the Alumni Association and escape the elements — there's air conditioning!
- ✓ Sign up your kids for **Tiger Camp**, administered by YWCA Princeton, on May 24 and 25. Spaces are filling up quickly, so don't delay.
- ✓ The **Stadium Parking Garage** is a great option for parking and offers electric vehicle charging stations. New electric buses will be transporting alumni and friends to locations around the perimeter of the campus.
- ✓ Alumni with accessibility needs can indicate them on the Reunions registration form. Questions? Contact **pureunions@princeton.edu**
- ✓ **Be Green.** Bring your own water bottle to campus and place reusable and compostable cups in the proper collection bins.
- ✓ While we love your furry friends, please keep them at home. **No pets** are allowed at Reunions.
- ✓ Visit **reunions.princeton.edu** to learn more and read the latest updates!

With love,
Princeton



Photos: Fotobuddy





YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Dear *Princetonians*,

It's hard to imagine a setting that wears the changes of spring better than the Princeton campus. I'm sure some of you remember how the bright colors of the Japanese cherry trees in full bloom and the flowering magnolias on Elm Drive welcomed you on your walks to class, conveying restorative powers and serving as a reassuring reminder of both inevitable change and beloved tradition. It is our good fortune that so many Princetonians return for Reunions every May, when change and tradition meld into such a pleasing synchrony.



Photo: Fotobuddy

Jennifer Caputo

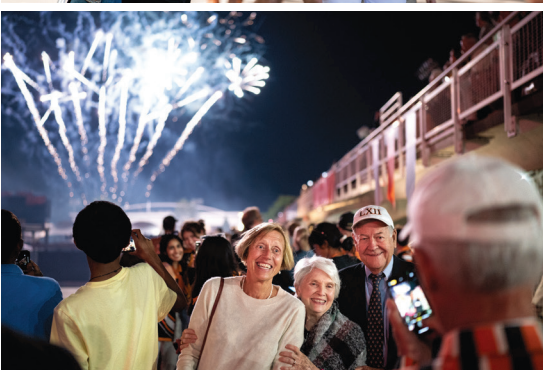
The changes on campus this spring extend beyond the seasons, as the University is in the midst of transformative growth to realize several of its strategic priorities. From the Princeton University Art Museum, to the Frist Health Center to the environmental studies and engineering neighborhood rising up on Ivy Lane — just to name a few projects — you'll experience the ongoing evolution of campus. Yes, it will require minor adjustments to the P-rade route and for Reunions attendees, but it's such an exciting time to return to Princeton to see so much promise and celebrate our community: past, present and future.

It has been a privilege to work alongside Monica Moore Thompson '89, president of the Alumni Association and chair of the Alumni Council, during Alumni Day and at Venture Forward events around the world. The theme she chose for her tenure — “I am Princeton, you are Princeton; together, *we* are Princeton” — is a unifying call that promises to resonate over those four special days in May when Tigers of all stripes return to campus and join in conversation, learning and celebration.

We are so excited to welcome you back to campus May 23-26 to reconnect and celebrate all that Princeton is and what it will become. For registration details and a schedule of Reunions events, visit reunions.princeton.edu

Tiger cheers,

Jennifer Caputo
Deputy Vice President, Alumni Engagement



Photos: Danielle Alio; Sameer Khan/Fotobuddy

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THE CLASS OF '41

The class notes and editor's letter in February regarding the farewell to the Class of 1941 brought to mind a part of the class's legacy that I greatly enjoyed for three years: 1941 Hall. Along with other classes from the 1920s through the 1940s, 1941's members donated a dormitory in what became known as New New Quad. In my years on campus, they were the newest dorms, and by their design, they were distinctive residences for those undergrads lucky enough to draw into them. The dorms featured six singles on a hall with two shared bathrooms at the end, which collectively created what became, with the right mix of hallmates, a suite but with your own personal space. For a kid from a large family, living in 1941 Hall was the first time I ever had a room to myself, and I loved it.

Despite the waffled ceilings, which, from time to time, led to nightmares of being pressed in a waffle iron, the rooms offered large windows, and on the south side, a great view across Poe and Pardee fields.

When New New Quad was torn down for the new Butler College, I was crushed. I wondered how the surviving class members must've felt. I regret that our major reunions were not on the same five-year cycle, so I never got to thank those good folks. So here's a salute to the Class of 1941, for helping me and so many others enjoy our time on campus.

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

YOUR PERSPECTIVE

Let us know what you think

✉ PAW@princeton.edu

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

Letters, articles, photos, and comments submitted to PAW may be published in print, electronic, or other forms. The views expressed in Inbox do not represent the views of PAW or Princeton University.

In the February issue, the Class of 1941 chronicler announced the death of its last surviving member. Thus closes the book of this wonderful class of 505 graduates. My dearly departed father, Dr. Louis A. Pyle Jr. '41 (1920-2002), was one of them.

My first visit to Princeton was in 1963 at age 11, with Dad at his 22nd reunion. The next fall I sheathed all my sixth-grade schoolbooks with shiny "Princeton" book covers. And I'll never forget Dad's 25th in 1966 at Holder. The members of '41 traded up from their orange baseball-suit reunion costumes to smart blue blazers, white pants, and boaters. (But not the irrepressible Thacher Longstreth, class president of epic personality and lanky Lincolnesque frame, who still wore his baseball suit.)

By 1971, I found my own way to Princeton — as again did my father, when he came to be a physician at McCosh Infirmary. I frequently passed by his office en route to Terrace and spent many nights together at home when school was out. What a joy it was to hear his tales of '41 classmates.

In later years, my P-rade began with them at FitzRandolph Gate. I'd march with these Greatest Generation giants until arriving at my own class's staging place, 35 classes down the line. Even after Dad died, I always checked in with his surviving pals, now hunched, humbled, and hewn by Father Time, yet still proud and convivial. God bless us all, especially the great Princeton Class of 1941.

THOMAS H. PYLE '76
Princeton, N.J.

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Friday, May 24
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Saturday, May 25

Food, drink & live music



Reunions AA Haven

Alumni and their friends
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Open AA Meeting

Murray Dodge, Room 103

Friday, May 24 | 5-6:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 25 | 5-6:30 p.m.



ON THE CAMPUS

NEWS, SPORTS, AND STUDENT LIFE



MAKING A SPLASH

Seniors from the School of Public and International Affairs frolic in the Fountain of Freedom after turning in their theses on April 8, while Dean Amaney Jamal and her colleagues take in the festivities, staying safely dry on the stairs.





GRADUATE SCHOOL

Students Campaign to Free Elizabeth Tsurkov

BY JULIE BONETTE

ON MARCH 21, the first anniversary of the kidnapping of Princeton Ph.D. student Elizabeth Tsurkov, her sister, Emma, stood outside the Iraqi Embassy in Washington D.C., surrounded by protesters with signs reading, “Free Elizabeth Tsurkov Now.” She called on the United States government to do more to secure her sister’s release and to reexamine its relationship with Iraq, where Elizabeth was abducted while conducting field research last March.

Emma Tsurkov told PAW the occasion was both heartbreaking and heartwarming. “I just couldn’t imagine a world in which she’d be held hostage for an entire year, but here we are,” she said. “But it was heartwarming because there were so, so many kind people” at the event.

Meanwhile in Princeton, a group of graduate students and undergraduates primarily from the politics department has been coordinating with Emma to boost the Tsurkov family’s efforts and raise awareness on campus, using listservs to get the word out.

“We’re really trying to provide support for Emma, rather than strategizing ourselves, beyond just, who can we reach out to, and how can we disseminate the message further,” said Robert Oldham,

a fifth-year politics graduate student who had taken classes with Tsurkov. Oldham and others have connected with local organizations, such as the Adath Israel Congregation in Lawrenceville, for additional support.

Tsurkov is a dual Israeli-Russian citizen who was conducting research related to her approved Ph.D. dissertation topic when she was abducted by Kataib Hezbollah, a group considered a terrorist organization by the U.S. government. The only publicly known lead in the case

“Sometimes it just doesn’t get talked about, and it’s like, we’re just going about life as normal, and the person who used to be right here — her life is in danger.”

— NARRELLE GILCHRIST
Third-year politics graduate student

came in November, when Iraqi television purportedly showed Tsurkov confessing to working for the CIA and Mossad — links that her family denies.

In recent months, the Tsurkov family has created the website BringElizabethHome.com to provide

SOMBER ANNIVERSARY

Elizabeth Tsurkov was kidnapped in Iraq in March 2023. A year later, the graduate student’s sister, Emma, spoke outside the Iraqi Embassy in Washington, D.C.

updates and to encourage supporters to write letters to a different government official each week, such as Maryland Sen. Ben Cardin, chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. A mid-March newsletter said that “well over 100 supporters reached out to Senator Cardin’s office on Elizabeth’s behalf.” The family has advocated for enhanced congressional oversight of U.S. funds sent to Iraq and for Iraq to be designated as a state-sponsor of terrorism.

In April, 16 members of the House of Representatives sent a letter to President Joe Biden and Secretary of State Anthony Blinken urging continued action on Tsurkov’s behalf, including raising the matter with Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia’ Al-Sudani during his scheduled visit to the White House in mid-April, after this issue of PAW went to press.

The University marked the

anniversary of Tsurkov’s abduction with a social post expressing sadness and deep concern for her well-being and noted that Princeton is continuing “to urge the U.S. government to do everything it can to assist in bringing her home safely.”

For Narrelle Gilchrist, a third-year politics graduate student who also had classes with Tsurkov, the situation is “disturbing” and “surreal.”

“Sometimes it just doesn’t get talked about, and it’s like, we’re just going about life as normal, and the person who used to be right here — her life is in danger,” Gilchrist said.

Gilchrist and Oldham said the first priority is getting Tsurkov home safely, but the situation has also raised broader concerns among students around fieldwork. Gilchrist thinks this is an opportunity to ask questions such as how to prepare for fieldwork before departing, as well as “what can we do to support each other in these situations, because these kinds of things could happen to any of us.” **P**

PHOTOGRAPHY

Emmet Gowin's Archive Finds a Lasting Home at Princeton

BY DAVID MARCUS '92

IN MAKING A photographic print, Emmet Gowin said, "I go through a gradient of discovery." As a professor in Princeton's Program in Visual Arts from 1973 to 2009, he incorporated that process into his teaching.

Gowin remembers a photograph of Mount St. Helens, the volcano in Washington state, that he took in 1982. He did a poor job of exposing the image, so the top half was too dark.

"Normally, you would throw that away and kick yourself for wasting a sheet of paper," he said. "But I kept the print and took it to class, where I used a very dilute ferricyanide bleach to remove some of the silver, the overexposure. Gradually the top half started to match the bottom half. I said, 'Forgive me, now I can't talk, this has never happened to me before.' Finally, it did match perfectly, and with a beauty I

could never have anticipated or repeat."

Earlier this year, Gowin committed his archive to the Princeton University Art Museum. In addition to more than 650 of his photographs, the museum will acquire about 500 unsigned test prints, 7,000 rolls of film, 7,000 contact sheets, three handmade photographic albums and three book maquettes, and more than 50 photographs by other artists, including Sally Mann and Walker Evans.

The archive covers his entire career, from his black and white photographs of his wife and their two children to aerial images of Mount St. Helens and several other projects.

Gowin placed his body of work at Princeton, he said, out of "a great sense

UNEXPECTED BEAUTY

Emmet Gowin's in-class experiment gave new life to this 1982 photo of Mount St. Helens.

of gratitude" to the University and its students, "young people whom I imagined would be so much more advanced and prepared for life than I was and yet became very quickly my intellectual allies."


The material not only established Gowin as a significant photographer whose work is in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art and the Metropolitan Museum in New York; it also suffused his instruction.

Gowin built his collection of other artists' work in large part by trading his work for theirs, often when they were visiting Princeton. He made it a practice to hang some of those works, vernacular images and prints by photographers he revered, in the hallway of 185 Nassau St.

"Every two or three weeks, I would change that show," he said. "When you came to class, you might be surprised by what was on that wall. Class has just started, and already you're thinking about a problem."

Gowin has exceptional technical ability in developing photographs, said Carla Williams '86, whom Gowin advised on her senior thesis, and he used his own work in explaining that craft to students. "He spent a lot of time in the darkroom," she said. "He would bring in the negatives and walk us through all of the choices that have to be made in the making of that print."

And, she added, Gowin "was an incredibly generous, kind instructor. He was never critical. He always found something constructive to say. He gave you the latitude to make mistakes. It fostered your love for this thing. It was an amazing way of experiencing a creative practice in the construct of an educational institution."

Gowin is now reviewing his own work to prepare it for the archives. The process, Gowin said, allows him "to revisit all the film I've ever made and see if there were images that I couldn't understand or was too stupid to see. I'm finding things that are amazing. Going back to my earlier work has been such a great joy." 



EMMET GOWIN (BORN 1941, DANVILLE, VA.), MOUNT ST. HELENS, WASHINGTON, 1982, GELATIN SILVER PRINT, 27.9 x 35.6 CM, THE EMMET GOWIN ARCHIVE, GIFT OF EMMET AND EDITH GOWIN AND MUSEUM PURCHASE, FOWLER MCCORMICK, CLASS OF 1921, FUND. © EMMET GOWIN.



CLASS CLOSE-UP

Students and Staff Assess the Inaccessible

BY JULIE BONETTE

DISABILITY JUSTICE, a spring semester course taught by lecturer Erin Raffety '15, may be a writing seminar, but Raffety, who received her Ph.D. in cultural anthropology from Princeton, firmly believes the topic can't be taught in a classroom.

"You have to get out and move around and experience the environment," she said.

For the past few semesters, Michael Barnes, the University's inaugural director of accessibility, has led a walking tour of campus for Raffety's class where he points out accessibility improvements, like the elevator addition to Nassau Hall that aesthetically matches the rest of the ancient building, but also potholes, crumbling sidewalks, and a chair lift in Dickinson Hall, complete with flashing lights, that takes seven minutes to travel from the top to the bottom floor.

"It's that dance between the need for full accessibility, but also the equity of ... experiencing these beautiful, older buildings," Barnes said. "So, how can we creatively make these [buildings] accessible while maintaining the ethos and the historical nature to the University?"



RAFFETY '15

While the Princeton community wrestles with that, students in Raffety's course are also delving into their own questions; for one assignment, students must write a persuasive paper about accessibility issues on campus or the

accommodations process. Inwoo Shin '26, who took the course in the fall of 2022, wrote about how Princeton's policies are often written by administrators and enacted by faculty, not necessarily those who identify as disabled, so she believes implementation can be "really flawed by those skewed perspectives."

Several students told PAW the course has opened their eyes to accessibility issues they hadn't been aware of previously. "We are so caught up in the world, in our own reality, that we kind of fail to think about others," said Madeline Miao '27, who is currently taking the course.

Yacoub Kahkajian '26, who identifies as having a disability, said it's helped him understand that the medical aspects of disabilities often take precedence over other considerations, like social life, which "helped me see why I've always felt like I wasn't really getting the same advantages as other people."

Nico Del Pino '27, who took the class last fall, realized that physical signs of accessibility, like accessible entrance signs, actually highlight the majority of areas that are inaccessible. He said society as a whole "could just as easily have designed a world where there were no stairs, so people with mobility issues in that imaginary fantasy land would not be considered disabled because they would be able to get everywhere. And that's really just the tip of the iceberg." ■

University will continue to work with AccessAble as new buildings open. In addition, since the University's Allies for Access program launched in January 2023, more than 145 staff, faculty, and students have undergone training to serve as allies to the disabled, according to Asha Nambiar, director of accessibility and disability services. The program aims to empower the community "to serve as ambassadors for access on campus through ... a foundational understanding of disability and what it means to be an ally," according to Princeton's most recent DEI report. The next training will take place this summer.

ACCESSIBILITY INITIATIVES

THE UNIVERSITY'S WAYFINDING APP and facilities website will soon include detailed accessibility guides for all 212 campus buildings and more than 900 individual teaching spaces after the University conducted the most comprehensive accessibility survey of campus to date last fall in partnership with AccessAble, an accessibility information provider based in England. The guides will include detailed information such as turning radii for wheelchairs and availability of ADA seating. According to Barnes, Princeton will be the first higher education institution in the nation to have such comprehensive access guides. The

University will continue to work with AccessAble as new buildings open.

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GEOSCIENCES

Earthquake Rocks Princeton

Damage from the 4.8-magnitude quake was minimal

BY JULIE BONETTE WITH REPORTING BY GRACE NI '23

FREDERIK J. SIMONS, Princeton professor and associate chair of the Department of Geosciences, was in Princeton's Guyot Hall when the building started to shake at 10:25 a.m. on Friday, April 5.

Although construction has been heavy in that area of campus, he knew exactly what he was feeling.

"This was an earthquake because this was a shock that ... was stronger than anything I'd ever [felt]," he said. And it "went on for 30, 40 seconds."

Indeed a 4.8-magnitude earthquake was felt on campus — and across the region — and caused minor damage to University property.

According to the United States Geological Survey, the earthquake's epicenter was near Whitehouse Station, New Jersey, about 25 miles northwest of Princeton. News reports indicated that it could be felt as far north as Boston and as far south as Washington, D.C.

Guyot houses seismographs in the basement, and Simons said a magnitude 4 earthquake is not that uncommon in the Northeast. The region "is pretty quiet, but that doesn't mean there aren't regular earthquakes," he said. "This is seismically active, it's just not in a major way."

A TigerAlert message sent to the campus community at 11:03 a.m. said there were "no reports of injuries or damage on campus," and that normal activities could resume. In the moments after the earthquake, PAW observed a handrail that came loose next to the University Store by Blair Arch and talked with a student who said a window panel outside Whig Hall had fallen off.

In the afternoon, the University again emailed the community, noting there were no "reports of significant damage on the Princeton campus or other University facilities." The message



SHAKE, RATTLE, AND ROLL

The April 5 earthquake's epicenter was near Whitehouse Station, New Jersey.

also said that Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, where nuclear fusion and plasma physics are studied, closed for the day and officials there were continuing "to evaluate the status of facilities."

The magnitude of the earthquake "just

about ties it with the largest recorded earthquake within [the state's] borders," according to Allan Rubin, Princeton professor of geosciences, who told PAW via email that the largest previous earthquake was a 4.8-magnitude in 1938. "But there have been only a few this large in the last 300 years."

The state's hazard mitigation plans over the years, including as recently as 2019, report the highest magnitude earthquake in New Jersey occurred in 1783, with a magnitude of 5.3.

Rubin said April's earthquake occurred "on or close to the Ramapo fault, the largest ... [and] most active" fault in New Jersey, which typically produces an earthquake large enough to feel every two to three years, though Rubin added that those earthquakes are usually only magnitude 2 or 3.

Simons, who fielded news media requests the rest of the day, encourages interest in earthquakes because "science needs careful, long-term sustainable support and curation." He said geosciences faculty and students at Princeton will be studying the data for days, possibly weeks, and "if an undergraduate wants to see some of that," Simons will happily entertain visits to Guyot Hall. **P**



EYES ON THE SKY

From Cannon Green to the E-Quad to the residential colleges, Princetonians from town and gown looked skyward (with protective glasses, of course) to observe the April 8 solar eclipse. Experts from Princeton's Department of Astrophysical Sciences were on hand to answer questions in Palmer Square, where these eclipse viewers were photographed.



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STUDENT DISPATCH

Live Free and Dine: A Week on Princeton’s Free Food Listserv

BY JACK HARTMAN '24



THERE ARE MANY WAYS students feed themselves at Princeton: dining halls at the residential colleges, eating clubs, restaurants on Nassau. Try fighting a 7 p.m. crowd at Tacoria.

Or you could just eat for free. Free food litters campus nearly every day, leftover from events, USG giveaways, and recruiting receptions. A whole listserv is populated with dozens of postings per week, advertising sandwiches for the taking at the Carl A. Fields Center or Yemeni pastries in Bloomberg Hall. Such

volume prompted a question: Would it be possible (for, say, a PAW intern) to exist solely on free food?

A prior such attempt by a PAW student writer nearly 10 years ago ended after three days. That felt like too small a challenge. After all, my inbox was flooded with emails promoting free food in every corner of campus. How hard

For students who started college during the pandemic, the listserv held the same status as Atlantis: a legendary relic of a time gone by. However, unlike the fictional underwater kingdom, the listserv has returned to form.

could it be? Buoyed by a competitive spirit and perhaps some naive optimism, I downed my Monday morning coffee and started the clock on trying to go one week, Monday through Friday, eating only free food.

Monday opened strangely quiet. I expected that soon a handful of options would come rolling through for a nice study break lunch, so I waited ... and waited ... and waited. A posting for leftovers from the popular deli Olives seemed too far away — it would likely be gone by the time I arrived — and there was not a single other posting between noon and 5 p.m. I was beginning to worry this project would begin with an unintentional full-day fast. However, at 7:15 p.m., my email suddenly sprang to life. “Pizza and Connalis [sic] in Murray Dodge,” the email read, sent three minutes ago. It seemed like the perfect break, but by the time I walked in at 7:27, there was not a slice of pizza to be seen, only an empty box haphazardly placed on top of the woefully small recycling bin. Another student who had come in search of a free slice or two lamented how quickly they had gone. He mentioned how a less scrupulous student could pass through the library of Mathey College and enter the servery without paying. Dejected and not (yet) eager to try such a trick, I returned to my room with a dinner of miscellaneous snacks left in Mathey’s common room.

However, Tuesday dawned a new day, and I was determined to make good on my weeklong quest. As many sleep-deprived undergrads do, I generally skip breakfast, so after coffee at the PAW office (perks!), I hoped to see lunch options roll in. A deluge began: sandwiches in Scheide Caldwell, an early dinner (and leftovers to take home) at the Hellenic Studies coffee hour, late night Jules pizza at Whig-Clio. Fully satisfied — and now armed with leftovers to avert any Monday-like disasters — I had renewed confidence that this was an achievable goal.

Princeton’s free food emails have been a staple for more than a decade, but the cancellation of in-person events in 2020 and much of 2021 put the listserv in

ROBERT NEUBECKER, PAW STAFF

peril. For students who started college during the pandemic, the listserv held the same status as Atlantis: a legendary relic of a time gone by. However, unlike the fictional underwater kingdom, the listserv has returned to form. One alumnus, Michael Kim '23, even became the de facto "king" of the free food listserv, garnering a *Daily Princetonian* feature about his exploits last year. Though it can be a savior to hungry students, the listserv also reveals an unsettling truth: While many leftovers are scooped up by eager and appreciative undergrads, the sheer number of posts means a lot of food, especially in less-trafficked corners of campus, ends up in the garbage (or maybe a compost bin).

Wednesday and Thursday were positively boring relative to Tuesday's highs (my meals included sandwiches from a PAW event, West African chicken and rice, and leftovers from Tuesday). A major problem I encountered was one of timing: On Wednesdays and Thursdays, I have class for much of each afternoon, prime time for lunch leftovers. To the truly determined student hoping for repeatable free food, I only offer two words of advice: morning classes.

Friday began with a nice breakfast from At Earth's End, courtesy of the student government's "Thesis Friday" initiative. Late Friday afternoon, I caught an email with the subject line "[Free Food] Sandwiches, Cookies, Salad, Chips and Soda in Frist MPR," briskly walked to the campus center's empty basement, and was greeted by trays and trays of sandwiches, wraps, cookies, and salad. I grabbed a few wraps and a couple cookies for "lunch," plus a few sandwiches for later, and found myself thinking about how I would break my streak on Saturday. While I was by no means starving — and my bank account would thank me — I had no wish to prolong my five-day experiment. After much deliberation given the myriad choices I now had, I made a Saturday afternoon trip to Cava on Route 1. Fast-casual Greek food never felt so earned, even if I didn't have to run across campus to get it. 📍

A&A

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MINERAL ANALOGS

Carleton Watkins's Photographs and the Gold Standard



MONICA BRAVO

Assistant Professor of Art and Archaeology



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Carleton E. Watkins, *Nugget of Gold 201 40/100 Ounces—Spanish Dry Diggings, El Dorado Co., Cal., 1866-67.* albumen print on paper, 14 11/16 x 19 3/4 in (37.3 x 50.2 cm). Hearst Mining Collection of Views by C. E. Watkins, 1871-1876, Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Princetoniana

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"Take it or Leave it" tent on the East Pyne South Lawn anytime after 9 a.m. Thursday, May 23. And then go on your own search for more great finds! Items not claimed by a new owner by 9 p.m. Saturday, May 25, will disappear!

INNOVATION

Princeton Hosts Inaugural New Jersey AI Summit

A T THE NEW JERSEY AI SUMMIT on April 11, academics, business leaders, scientists, engineers, and government officials gathered on Princeton’s campus to conceptualize the future of artificial intelligence in the state and its potential to impact everything from education to sustainable energy to health care.

Brad Smith '81, vice chair and president of Microsoft Corp. and a University trustee, delivered the keynote address. He was one of several speakers to touch on the legacy of innovation in the state, starting with Thomas Edison, and existing resources such as top universities and businesses that uniquely position New Jersey to become a hub of AI innovation.



BRAD SMITH '81 AND JENNIFER REXFORD '91

While Smith cautioned that guardrails are extremely important, he said AI will result in “a new opportunity for us to rediscover and reflect upon what all of us have in common — to think about what it means to be human, to consider all of our common values.”

Throughout the day, presenters

detailed the current use of AI in the state as well as prospective paths forward to better society as a whole.

At an education and workforce development panel, Jennifer Jennings '00, a Princeton professor of sociology and public affairs as well as a former teacher in Trenton, suggested AI can assist K-12 teachers — noting “we are seeing teacher supply issues in New Jersey” — by supplementing classroom instruction, targeting specific areas where students need support.

The event, President Christopher Eisgruber '83 said, was exactly what he and Gov. Phil Murphy envisioned when they announced the creation of an AI hub in December. “The conversations we have today and the ideas that you share will help shape the plans for the AI hub,” Eisgruber told participants, “and the relationships that we build today will create the foundation for collaboration in the months and years to come.” **■** By J.B.

SAMEER A. KHAN '21, FOTOBUDDY / PRINCETON UNIVERSITY



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ADMISSION

Trustees Endorse Targets for Socioeconomic Diversity

FOLLOWING A TRUSTEE COMMITTEE'S review of Princeton admission policies, the University announced new targets for socioeconomic diversity in the undergraduate student body, with a goal to recruit classes in which at least 70% of students are eligible for need-based aid and 22% are eligible for federal Pell Grants.

In Princeton's Class of 2027, which arrived in the fall, 67% of students were eligible for the University's financial aid and 22% were eligible for Pell Grants, according to University releases.

The trustees also endorsed continuing to add undergraduate transfers through the existing transfer program, which has primarily enrolled community college students and U.S. military veterans. The program was reinstated in 2018 and previously announced plans to expand its enrollment to between 25 and 35 students each year.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Undergraduate Admission Policy, chaired by trustee Jose Alvarez '85, was convened following last summer's U.S. Supreme Court

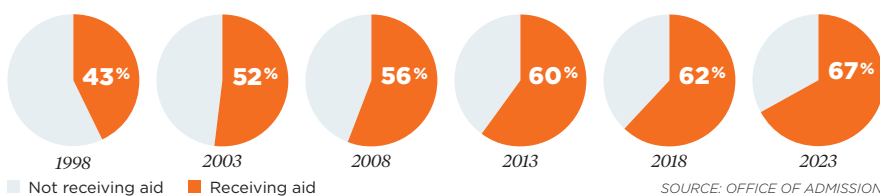
decisions that prohibited the use of race as a factor in college admission decisions. The 15-member committee completed its report in mid-March, and the full board approved its recommendations soon after.

In its review of athletic recruiting, the committee emphasized that recruited athletes should continue to be representative of the overall student body, academically and socioeconomically.

The committee also studied legacy admission but did not recommend changes. According to the report, the legacy preference "recognizes the University's special bond with its alumni." The majority of legacy applicants — about 70%, the report said — are denied admission, and legacy preference "functions as a tiebreaker between equally well-qualified applicants in limited instances," benefitting fewer than 30 students per year.

The committee supported retaining the legacy preference while monitoring its effects "to ensure that it is fully consistent with the University's admissions philosophy, including its commitments to academic excellence and socioeconomic diversity." **By B.T.**

INCOMING FRESHMEN RECEIVING FINANCIAL AID



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PRINCETON UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM

Artist Victor Ekpuk gives members a tour of *Victor Ekpuk: Language and Lineage* at Art@Bainbridge. Photo: Mike Lee Orr

CAMPUS PROTESTS

Education Department Notifies Princeton of Bias Complaint

PRINCETON SAID THAT THE Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights notified the University in early April about a complaint related to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin. Zachary Marschall, editor of the conservative website *Campus Reform*, wrote that he’d filed the complaint, which alleges Princeton failed to respond to antisemitic chants at campus protests.

“Based on our familiarity with events on our campus and other information available to us, we are confident we are in full compliance with the requirements of Title VI,” Michael Hotchkiss, a University spokesman, told PAW in a statement that also noted the complainant “is not a member of the University community.”

The University statement cited Princeton’s policies encouraging free expression and mutual respect. “While disciplinary approaches are not always applicable given the University’s robust commitment to freedom of expression, the University has responded to every complaint of bias against Jewish community members brought to its attention and continues to offer support,” Hotchkiss said.

According to *Campus Reform*, Marschall’s complaint referenced an Oct. 25 walkout at Princeton where protesters chanted “intifada” and “apartheid has got to fall” as an example of harassment of students on the basis of national origin.

While pro-Palestinian and pro-Israel demonstrations were widespread on

college campuses in the weeks following Hamas’ Oct. 7 terrorist attacks, many at Princeton felt that the University had avoided the type of inflammatory incidents that made headlines elsewhere.

“There has been rhetoric on Princeton’s campus, as on many campuses, that has been deeply disturbing to some in the Jewish community, who feel that such rhetoric could create a hostile environment to Jewish people who support Israel’s right to exist,” Rabbi Gil Steinlauf ’91 of the Center for Jewish Life told *The Daily Princetonian* in April. “My read on the campus climate at Princeton, however, is that such a climate of hostility has not taken over the campus in the way it has at other universities.”

A Department of Education spokesperson told PAW that “the department does not comment further on pending investigations.” According to the Office of Civil Rights website, there were 132 Title VI shared ancestry investigations active as of April 9, including five at Ivy League peers. **■** By B.T.

IN SHORT

The Board of Trustees approved a **\$3.1 billion budget** for the 2024-25 academic year, including \$279 million for undergraduate financial aid, the University announced March 29. Undergraduate aid grew by 7.8%, while tuition and fees for undergrads increased 4.5% to \$82,650. The University estimated that the “net cost after aid” for the average scholarship recipient will be about \$13,000. The trustees also approved a 4.3% increase in graduate student stipends.

John Kolligian Jr., executive director of University Health Services, and Calvin



KOLLIGIAN JR.

Chin, director of Counseling and Psychological Services, are co-chairing a new task force that has engaged the Jed Foundation, a mental health nonprofit the University previously worked with from 2016 to 2020, to evaluate Princeton’s **mental health climate and resources**. At



CHIN

the conclusion of the 18-month partnership, the task force will transition into a standing committee on mental health, Kolligian and Chin announced at the March meeting of the Council of the Princeton University Community.

The Princeton faculty approved a proposal by **graduate school** administrators to add graduate students to its four governing subcommittees, which were previously composed solely of faculty members. The subcommittees oversee academic policies, curriculum, fellowships, and student life and discipline.

In early April, a group of **postdoctoral researchers and scholars** at the University announced its intent to petition the National Labor Relations Board and establish a union, the Princeton University Postdocs & Scholars-UAW (PUPS-UAW). The group’s open letter to the University, which was signed by 147 researchers and scholars, urged the administration to “remain neutral and not attempt to influence postdoctoral workers against unionizing.”

IN MEMORIAM

Daniel Kahneman, a psychologist whose insightful research on human behavior earned him a share of the 2002 Nobel Prize in economic sciences, died March 27 at age 90. Kahneman famously never took an economics course, but his work on topics such as decision-making and



loss aversion made a lasting mark on how economists view the world. He also taught hundreds of budding social scientists in Princeton’s Introduction to Psychology course (aka Psych 101). After 14 years on the faculty, he transferred to emeritus status in 2007 and published *Thinking, Fast and Slow* (2011), a bestselling book that shared his research with a broad audience. Kahneman and his longtime collaborator Amos Tversky were the subjects of another bestseller, *The Undoing Project* (2016), by Michael Lewis ’82. Princeton’s Kahneman-Treisman Center for Behavioral Science and Public Policy was created in honor of Kahneman and his wife, fellow psychology professor Anne Treisman, who died in 2018. **■**

COURTESY OF JOHN KOLLIGIAN JR.; MONICA KHANNA; DENISE APPLEWHITE / PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

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76%

of Princeton students say it is ok to shout down a speaker on campus in some instances.

70%

say they would feel uncomfortable disagreeing with a professor about a controversial political topic.

41%

say that some Princeton administrators and faculty try to indoctrinate students with their personal political beliefs.

“Every time a political reference is made, I get afraid to express my disagreement because I know that I likely don’t have as much knowledge as my professors or administrators.”

• — Class of 2025*
• From FIRE survey results
•

There is a huge difference between universities with low FIRE ratings where no one dares speak their mind, and Princeton, which despite its low freedom ranking, has students, faculty, and alumni ready to confront the would be censors. Princetonians for Free Speech is a vital part of this alliance. If it weren't for PFS, the next generation of tigers would likely already have been rendered into tame conformists.

John Londegran, Professor of Politics and International Affairs at Princeton University



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BASKETBALL

Champion Seniors Bid Farewell in a March With Mixed Results

BY BRETT TOMLINSON

WITH REPORTING BY HOPE PERRY '24 AND JON SOLOMON

ELLIE MITCHELL '24 AND Kaitlyn Chen '24 didn't start their time at Princeton together. Mitchell was a freshman on the 2019-20 women's basketball team that saw its March Madness dreams shut down by COVID. Chen arrived the next fall, living off campus as a freshman while Mitchell took a gap year. But for the last three seasons, the two have defined one of Princeton's most remarkable runs in any sport: three years of dominance in the Ivy League, each capped with regular-season and Ivy Tournament championships.

"Obviously, on the court we spend a lot of time together, but off the court as well," Mitchell said. "You probably can't find me, Kaitlyn, or Chet [Nweke '24] without one of the others by their side. ... And I think our ability to just have fun, to have that kind of trust and that strong relationship — no matter how anything is going, we know we're there for each other. It makes it more fun to be playing with people you love."

Led by Chen and Mitchell, Princeton beat this season's other Ivy co-champion, Columbia, on Columbia's home court March 16 to win the Ivy Tournament and



HIGHS AND LOWS

Kaitlyn Chen '24, at center above, celebrates a third Ivy Tournament title on March 16, the same day Matt Allocco '24 and the Princeton men were upset by Brown.

an automatic NCAA Tournament bid. (The Lions also reached the NAAs, as an at-large selection.)

The Tigers had won first-round NCAA games in the last two years, but this season's matchup against West Virginia and its high-pressure defense derailed that trend. Playing in Iowa City in the

second game of a March 23 doubleheader that featured Iowa's Caitlin Clark in the opener, Princeton seemed touched by stardust early, swishing three of its first four shots and leading by two at halftime. But the Mountaineers forced 16 second-half turnovers, and the Tigers could not recover, losing 63-53.

Afterward, head coach Carla Berube thanked her three seniors, Chen, Mitchell, and Nweke, whose combined record in their three seasons together was 74-16. "You couldn't find three people that care more, that want to be great," she said. "I think they've left an incredible legacy."

For the Princeton men's team, March began with brilliance — three commanding wins to wrap up a third straight Ivy League regular-season championship — but ended with two disappointing postseason losses.

The Tigers, seeded first in the Ivy Tournament, ran into a hot-shooting Brown squad in the opening round March 16. The Bears made 55% of their first-half shots and led by as many as 22 points early in the second before Princeton freshman Dalen Davis almost single-handedly drew the Tigers back into contention. Matt Allocco '24, who finished with 20 points, sank a 3-pointer with 44 seconds left to cut Brown's lead to 84-81. But the Bears made free throws, broke Princeton's full-court pressure, and sealed the game in the waning seconds.

While Princeton's 24-4 record was not enough to earn an NCAA at-large berth, the Tigers did land a home game in the National Invitation Tournament March 20, hosting UNLV, a school it last played in 1998, when head coach Mitch Henderson '98 was a senior.

Like Brown, UNLV surged ahead in the second half and staved off a series of Princeton rallies, winning 84-77. Zach Martini '24, in his final game as a Tiger, made five 3-pointers and finished with 17 points. It was Princeton's only home loss of the season.

"It was hard to watch tonight because I didn't think we were us," Henderson said. "[It was] a tough way to end the season. I thought we could keep winning, but man, what a pleasure to be around this group." ■

'18

Class of

Princeton offers students so much more than at any point previously. I want to help Princeton keep making things better for everyone.

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Mitchel Charles '18

Photo: Andrea Kane

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WATER POLO

Jovana Sekulic '26 Shoots for a U.S. Olympic Spot

BY BRETT TOMLINSON

AT PRINCETON, Jovana Sekulic '26 was a star from the beginning, scoring a team-high 74 goals in 27 games for the women's water polo team as a freshman in 2022. But when she was invited to try out for the U.S. national team in California that summer, she kept her confidence in check, not making any plans beyond the first weekend of training.

Adam Krikorian, the national team coach, read her name in the list of players invited for a second week of tryouts, and Sekulic said she was "through the roof, but I'm also like, where do I stay? And, I have no clothes!"

Sekulic sorted out the logistics (with help from a Princeton teammate's parents, who lived nearby), and since then she has been on the fast track with arguably the world's best water polo program. She took a gap year in 2023-24 to play for the United States in hopes of earning a trip to this summer's Paris Olympics. (The roster will be named in June.) In February, along with former Princeton star goalie Ashleigh Johnson '17, she helped her team win a world championship for the eighth time; no other nation has won more than two.

Water polo holds a special place in Sekulic's family, which immigrated from

Serbia when Jovana was 11. She and her two brothers had played the sport before moving to the U.S., and her parents found a youth team in the Philadelphia suburbs where the three siblings could compete together. It was a difficult time



AS OF EARLY APRIL, eight Princetonians have been selected to represent their countries at the Paris Olympics this summer. For the United States, **Kelsey Reelick '14**, **Claire Collins '19**, **Emily Kallfelz '19**, and **Nick Mead '17** will be part of the rowing team. Undergraduates **Hadley Husisian '26** (women's epee) and **Tatiana Nazlymov '27** (women's saber) will compete in fencing. And **Kareem Maddox '11** will be part of the 3x3 men's basketball team. Australian **Tim Masters '15** will row in the men's coxless four.

WORLD-BEATER

Jovana Sekulic '26, left, helped the U.S. win its eighth world championship in February.

for Sekulic, who was learning English and adapting to a new school.

"The moment I got into that pool, I feel like I found ... a comfort zone in this very uncomfortable setting that I was in," she said. "It was kind of like my little escape."

Jovana's older brother, Matej, played goalie for the Princeton men's team and is set to graduate in May. Younger brother Luka is a sophomore at the U.S. Naval Academy, where he plays for former Princeton coach Luis Nicolao.

Playing on a boys' team in her youth

helped Sekulic develop speed, strength, and competitiveness, she said. Princeton head coach Derek Ellingson, who first saw her play as a 12-year-old, said Sekulic looks like she's always expecting to score the next goal, even after a bad call or some other setback. "She has a motor that just doesn't stop," he said. "She has the will to win."

In California, Sekulic lives with a host family, but much of the time she's on her own, which was a change from her Princeton experience. "I was really struggling in the fall, but I don't think I realized it," she said. "I was kind of pushing it to the side ... and I think that kind of reflected in the pool."

A trip back home to Pennsylvania and time spent training on campus allowed her to reflect and recharge. When she returned, she took a "nothing to lose" attitude and landed a spot on the World Championships squad, which was undefeated in its six tournament games in Doha, Qatar.

In April, after another busy month of training, Sekulic and the U.S. hosted a series of international matches in California. She scored a goal in a 14-8 win over Australia April 9.

Throughout her time with the national team, Sekulic has developed a close friendship with Johnson, her fellow Tiger and a two-time Olympic gold medalist. "She's always there if I need to talk or I have my tough days," she said, "and that's really, really cool." ■

MISSY WYANT SMIT, '98

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Photos: Andrea Karrie

ANNUAL 1746 SOCIETY REUNIONS BREAKFAST SEMINAR



Saturday, May 25

8:00-10:00 a.m.



Photo: Sameer Khan

Ronald J. McCoy *80
University Architect

FEATURED SPEAKER:

Ronald J. McCoy *80, FAIA

University Architect

Please join us for the Annual 1746 Society Reunions Breakfast seminar, with an address by University Architect Ronald J. McCoy *80. The event will be held in the Frick Chemistry Laboratory Atrium. All 1746 Society Members — and those considering membership — are welcome to register.

The 1746 Society gratefully acknowledges its members whose estate plans and life income gifts support Princeton's future. All members will receive an invitation by email with a link to registration.

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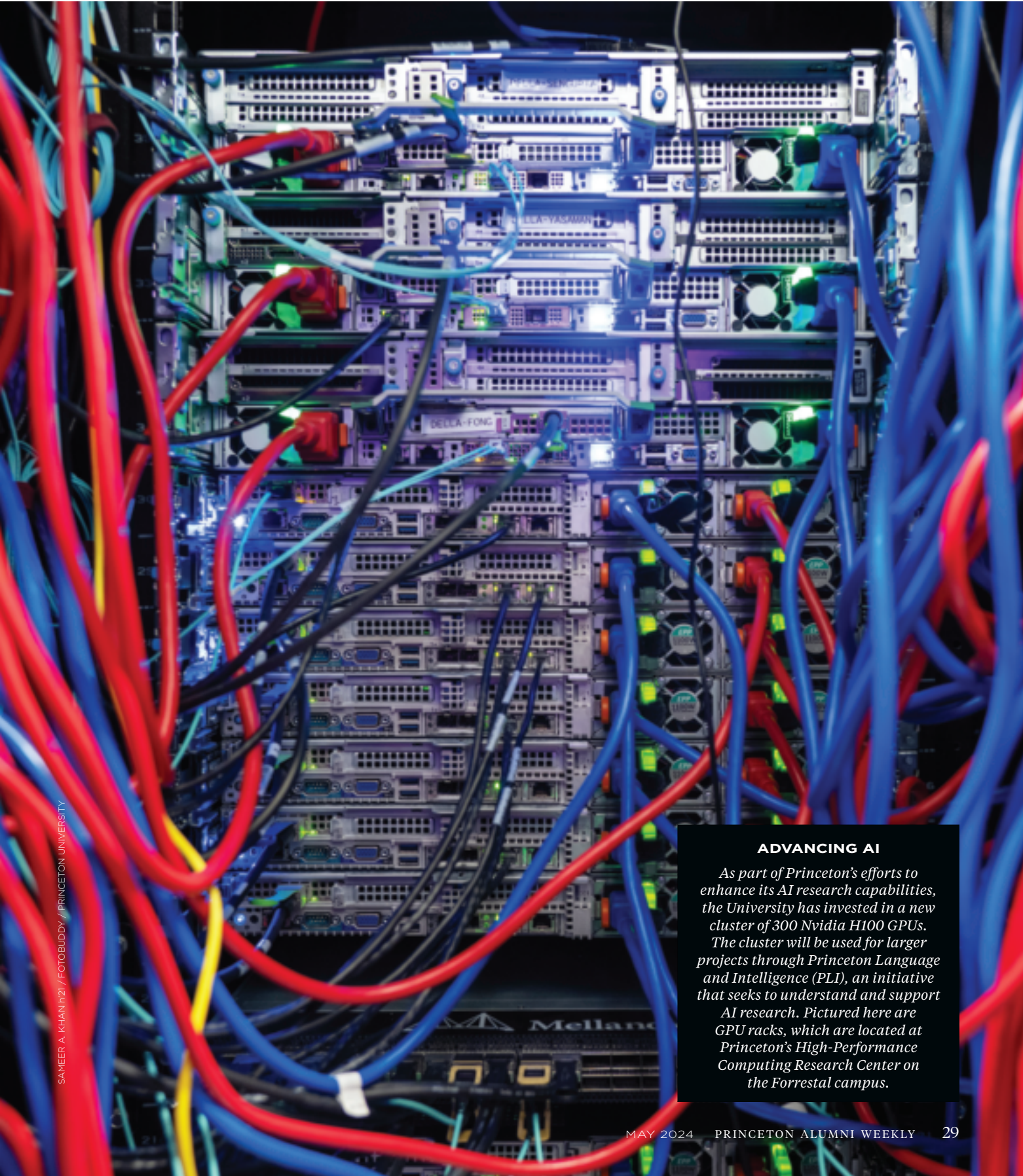
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RESEARCH

ADVANCING THE FRONTIERS OF KNOWLEDGE



SAMEER A. KHAN/21 / FOTOBUDDY / PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

ADVANCING AI

As part of Princeton's efforts to enhance its AI research capabilities, the University has invested in a new cluster of 300 Nvidia H100 GPUs. The cluster will be used for larger projects through Princeton Language and Intelligence (PLI), an initiative that seeks to understand and support AI research. Pictured here are GPU racks, which are located at Princeton's High-Performance Computing Research Center on the Forrestal campus.



CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

How Retroreflective Materials Could Cool Cities

Princeton researchers say measures can decrease temperatures in urban settings by nearly 5 degrees

BY KATHARINE GAMMON '03

URBAN HEAT IS A HUGE ISSUE — cities create their own heat islands, sometimes as much as 10 degrees hotter than their surroundings. While it has been an annoyance, it hasn't been a serious threat to human life, says Elie Bou-Zeid, Princeton professor of civil and environmental engineering. But with climate change, heat waves are increasing in duration, intensity, and frequency. That makes the issue of urban heat more intense — especially for lower-income citizens.

As a result, cities are looking for simple fixes, such as planting more trees, which cause evaporative cooling, and painting rooftops white, which reflects heat back up to the sky.



BOU-ZEID

Now, researchers are investigating another possible answer: retroreflective materials, which already exist in road signs and bike reflectors. Bou-Zeid and colleagues' work, published in March in the journal *Nature Cities*, found that

retroreflective materials on buildings could decrease the surface temperature by up to 36 degrees, and air temperatures by nearly 5 degrees.

These materials aren't widely used to cover buildings because they can't be applied as paint, Bou-Zeid says. Instead, they have to be installed in sheets like wallpaper or siding, so working with them is a little trickier. They are not expensive, however, and could be adjusted in the future to improve their reflectivity at different times. Some types of mirror-like reflectors could have negative visual consequences, but Bou-Zeid says that the big advantage of retroreflectors is that they send the light back to the sky, not to the eyes of pedestrians on the street.

Bou-Zeid worked with Princeton materials scientist Jyotirmoy Mandal and graduate student Xinjie Huang on the research, which showed how the materials could be best used in different climatic conditions, latitudes, seasons, and urban layouts. They found the best outcomes in using retroreflective pavements for open, low-rise areas and retroreflective wall design strategies for compact, high-rise areas.

Taming heat in cities is a bit like addressing climate change — any solution is going to include a portfolio of changes, from electric vehicles to improved efficiency to better agricultural practices. Likewise, to combat urban heat, cities need to combine the powers of a wide swath of technologies, Bou-Zeid says.

Other innovations in the future could include new tech to create outdoor cooling centers — basically cooled parks inside cities. Mandal, who co-authored the new paper, is researching how to create new materials for cooling. Bou-Zeid is also part of a collaboration to predict how urban heat islands will develop decades into the future, using a combination of satellite imaging and machine learning models. The idea is that to design solutions today, it's necessary to understand what future threats will feel like.

"We should think outside the box in terms of how we can cool cities," Bou-Zeid says. "There's a lot of innovative technologies and ways we can apply. There's no single answer or single solution for this problem." ■

BEHIND THE RESEARCH: ANNA ARABINDAN-KESSON

Illuminating the Intersection of Medicine, Race, and Art

BY AGATHA BORDONARO '04



AT THE AGE OF 6, ANNA ARABINDAN-KESSON MOVED FROM Sri Lanka to the city of Geelong, Australia. She recalls being the “first nonwhite kid” at her new school and quickly became interested in the dynamics of race. This focus continued as her family moved again to New Zealand, where she completed high school and studied nursing.

“I was trained by a lot of indigenous nurses, so as a 17-year-old I was reading critical race theory and learning about colonial history,” she explains. She adds that what struck her were “the assumptions and associations we make about people just based on how we see them.” After supporting herself for several years as a nurse, Arabindan-Kesson went back

to school for a humanities degree and instantly felt a connection between her medical background and the field of art history. As a nurse “we’re trained to see, to look very closely, to read bodies, to make diagnoses,” she says. “There’s a connection to what one does as an art historian.”

Arabindan-Kesson focuses on the intersection of medicine, race, and art, often shining a light on connections “that are there but aren’t seen” and trying to parse how these connections affect us in the present. **■**

Quick Facts

TITLE

Associate Professor

TIME AT PRINCETON

9 years

RECENT CLASS

Introduction to Pre-20th Century Black Diaspora Art

ARABINDAN-KESSON’S RESEARCH

A SAMPLING



PICTORIAL PRESCRIPTION

While teaching a course on colonial medicine in 2020, Arabindan-Kesson was struck by the ways medical and racial histories were visualized across the British empire. For example, one drawing, called *The Torrid Zone*, depicts Jamaica as a realm of “deviant cross-racial intimacy” with a dangerous, disease-producing climate. “Art history can help us really understand how an object, artwork, or image works,” she says. Arabindan-Kesson

co-founded and co-leads Art Hx, a website that publishes short essays about colonial-era visual materials that “can help us understand these entangled histories” of medicine, race, and art. She is currently working to expand Art Hx’s virtual artist-in-residency program.



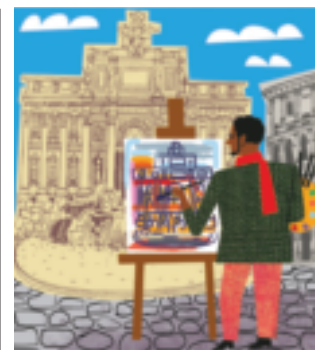
HOW PLANTATIONS SHAPED HEALTH CARE

Arabindan-Kesson is working on her second book, tentatively titled *An Empire State of Mind: Plantation Imaginaries*

and *British Colonialism*, about how colonial plantations, in America and abroad, were spaces that cultivated developments in both landscape techniques and medical imaging, while also reinforcing the concept of racial difference as “fixed and hierarchical.” For example, Arabindan-Kesson notes that plantations were constructed by clearing away existing vegetation and indigenous communities to produce open spaces that would allow overseers to view enslaved people without obstruction. “That idea of seeing clearly is so important to developing both landscape techniques and medical frameworks at the time,” she says.

MAPPING BLACK ART IN ITALY

As a 2022-23 recipient of the Rome Prize, which supports advanced independent work in the arts and humanities, Arabindan-Kesson spent



last summer tracing the movements of American-born Black artists in Rome during the 19th century. She put together a Black artists walking tour, mapping where these antebellum artists may have traveled and what the environment might have been like for them. “It was really amazing to try and trace how they might have moved in a world outside the politics of the U.S.,” she says. Arabindan-Kesson plans to continue this research in Florence in the summer of 2025. **■**

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



THE SENIOR THESIS AT 100
BACK TO THE FUTURE



BY JIMIN KANG '21

PHOTOGRAPH BY SAMEER A. KHAN h'21

IT TAKES METTLE
PAW's Grace Ni '23 puts a modern spin on the senior thesis process in a 3-by-8 metal carrel. Most carrels were removed in 2012, but three remain available to students at Firestone Library.



A

S PRINCETON MARKS THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SENIOR THESIS, what anchors one of the University’s most revered — and arguably, most daunting — traditions is the belief that each and every student can surprise themselves if given the chance. Patricia Fernández-Kelly, who has taught sociology at the University since 1997, is one member of this thought camp. Having advised upward of 80 theses, one of Princeton’s most prolific thesis advisers claims “that a senior thesis does fulfill an extraordinary purpose.”

It allows students, she says, “to discover things that they never thought that they’d discover.”

Discovery comes in many forms. Most of the time, it is a personal affair, a point of growth. On the rare occasion, it might make headlines. In early 2023, Edward Tian ’23 was in the news after launching an AI-detecting application derived from his thesis-in-progress. GPTZero, a tool that discerns whether a text was produced by ChatGPT based on its “burstiness,” or the degree to which its language and sentence structures are unpredictable to machines, was viewed by a quarter of a million people within its first 20 days on the internet, according to Tian.

Tian, a B.S.E. graduate of Princeton’s computer science department, didn’t have to write a thesis. (The thesis is mandatory for all seniors except those pursuing B.S.E. degrees in computer science, mechanical and aerospace engineering, and operations research and financial engineering.) But his interest in writing and journalism pushed him to produce something public facing. “There’s a lot of worlds colliding where the work needs to be done,” says Tian, who had spent a year between his sophomore and junior years with the BBC using data tools to investigate misinformation. When he told his former professor John McPhee ’53 — whose sentences Tian fed into GPTZero to demonstrate how the tool worked — about what he had accomplished, McPhee’s exhortation was surely and unsurprisingly “bursty,” Tian recalls: “He said, ‘Go dazzle the cyberzone.’”

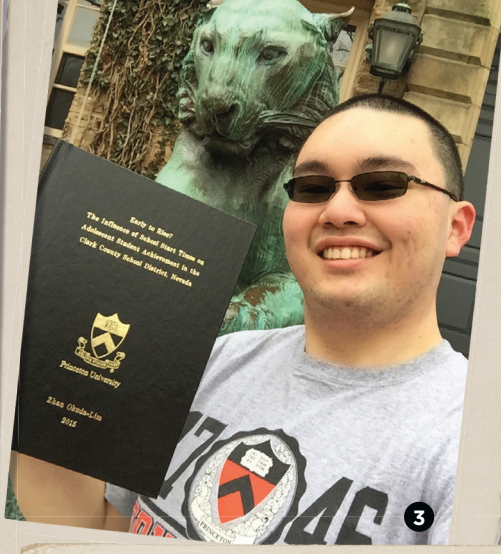
It’s exactly the kind of thing any undergraduate would want to hear as they launch themselves into the rest of their lives. Because the Princeton senior thesis is no mean feat — nor is it a static event. Eleven years ago, PAW published a retrospective of the tradition with testimonies from a

A NEW TRADITION

In recent years, students have started taking photographs with their senior thesis in front of Nassau Hall. These alumni shared their photos with PAW.

1. Camden Olson ’19, “Service Dog Tales: A Tri-fold Study Investigating Diabetic Alert Dog Accuracy, the Use of Animal-Assisted Therapy to Address Executive Functioning Skills, and the Function of Calming Signals in Service Dog Puppies”;
2. Evan Saitta ’14, “Paleobiology of North American stegosaurus: Evidence for sexual dimorphism”;
3. Zhan Okuda-Lim ’15, “Early to Rise? The Influence of School Start Times on Adolescent Student Achievement in the Clark County School District, Nevada”;
4. Connor Pfeiffer ’18, “Britain and the ‘German Revolution’: The European System and British Foreign Policy During the Franco-Prussian War”;
5. Brandon McGhee ’18, “The Blacker the Berry: The Black Church, Linked Fate, Marginalization, and the Electability of Black Candidates”;
6. Jimin Kang ’21, “Tales from Indigenous Brazil: A Translation of Daniel Munduruku’s Chronicles of São Paulo & The Lessons I’ve Learned from the Portuguese”;
7. Victoria Pan ’21, “Are Lockdown Orders Driving Job Loss? Characterizing Labor Market Weakness During the COVID-19 Recession”;
8. Daniella Cohen ’22, “Inter-Subject Correlation Analysis Reveals Distinct Brain Network Configurations for Naturalistic Educational Stimuli”;
9. Juliana DaSilva ’23, “Investigating the role of Hh signaling during embryonic germ cell migration in *Drosophila melanogaster*”;
10. Devin Kilpatrick ’19, “Sojourners from Central America: A Study of Contemporary Migrants & Migration from Guatemala to the United States”;
11. Alice Xu ’20, “Pretty, and The Promises and Compromises of Happiness: Idealism, Realism, and Choice in Jane Austen’s Novels.”





range of alumni. But with the advent of AI technologies and the coronavirus pandemic, the decade since has already pushed the thesis beyond what it has historically been. And what it has been is a blueprint for a young person coming of age in their intellectual and creative journey; an example of the extraordinary things Princeton students can do, given the right support; and an exercise requiring focus, persistence, and a dash of good humor, virtues that feel more timeless now that a hundred years have passed.

THE IDEA FOR THE SENIOR THESIS was born in the immediate aftermath of World War I when Luther Pfahler Eisenhart, an effervescent math professor who quickly rose through the ranks to become Princeton's dean of the faculty, proposed slashing the traditional five courses in an undergraduate curriculum to four. The resultant free time would go toward independent study of the student's choosing, a policy that, at most other schools, had only ever been reserved for those seeking honors. (To this day, the pattern holds: Though some seniors at other U.S. universities write theses, the task is optional for those hoping to graduate with extra laurels.)

With the pedagogical magnanimity that Eisenhart was known for, he fervently believed that grades achieved in the first two years of one's time at Princeton "did not constitute a reliable test of a student's ability to qualify for honors," writes Alexander Leitch 1924 in *A Princeton Companion*. Rather, only

when given the chance to "function freely" on their own would students prove their academic mettle.

It is this sense of possibility that renders the thesis a subject of enduring fascination for generations of alumni. Testimonies of the thesis-writing experience abound, both online and elsewhere: in the archives of this very magazine; the dozens of reflections collected in Nancy Weiss Malkiel's 2007 anthology *The Thesis: Quintessentially Princeton*; on bookcases across campus but most notably in the Mudd Manuscript Library, where thousands of theses — especially those submitted prior to the digitization of theses in 2013 — are kept.

Then there are the senior theses about the senior thesis. Most readers of this article will open the work of Melissa Gracey DeMontrond '00 to find themselves in the dedication. "First and foremost," it begins, "I would like to dedicate this thesis to every individual who has ever gone through the torturous and merciless process of writing a senior thesis at Princeton University. I know your pain." A handful might even find themselves in DeMontrond's photographs of seniors burrowed away in Firestone's metal carrels, metallic 3-by-8 boxes that thesis writers used as a kind of office, or in the stories of "cubby hole parties" that took place among these carrels, which Kelly Ehrhart '97 describes in her own thesis about the thesis. (The carrels were removed in 2012, except for three that have been preserved in Firestone Library. By the time I arrived at Princeton, one couldn't

GONE FICHE-ING

Before the internet and AI, students spent countless hours poring over microfiche to research their senior theses.

hide behind a sliding door, but they could overhear other people's conversations on the other side of the open-air carrels.)

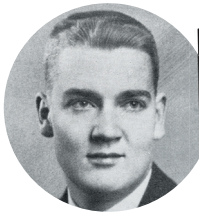
Both DeMontrond and Ehrhart were anthropology majors fascinated by the thesis



PRINCETON UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES, DEPARTMENT OF RARE BOOKS AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, PRINCETON UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

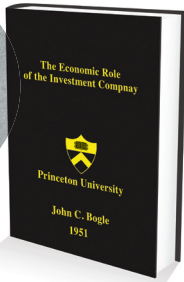
as a rite of passage. How a student might enter Princeton as a child but emerge, after being shepherded through a series of challenges within a community of like-minded peers, a worldly adult. “The thesis process has altered my state in the world and made me aware of what is to come in the way of responsibility and behavior,” Ehrhart writes in her conclusion. “However much it is complained about and however despised it may be, the thesis is one of the most integral events that I will ever endure.”

It’s true: The thesis calls upon young people for an ingenuity that emerges from no source but themselves. Often, the results become astounding contributions to society. The list and lore of “famous theses” are well-known: John C. Bogle ’51 created



JOHN BOGLE '51

In his 2008 book, *Enough*, Bogle describes his senior thesis as “idealistic.”



Vanguard, one of the world’s largest providers of mutual funds, from his thesis; Wendy Kopp ’89, Teach for America, which has impacted more than 5 million students across the United States; Jonathan Safran Foer ’99, his first novel, *Everything Is Illuminated*, which was

adapted into a 2005 film and launched his writing career.

There are dozens of other examples besides.

One of the lesser known is how Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi ’00 — whose 2023 biopic *Nyad* was nominated for two Oscars — launched her filmmaking career with a documentary she made in Kosovo to fulfill part of her thesis requirement in comparative literature.

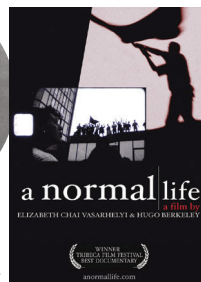
Co-directed with Hugo Berkeley ’99, *A Normal Life*, which follows a group of five remarkable young people building their lives under the shadow of war, won best documentary at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2003. Fifteen years later, Vasarhelyi and her partner, Jimmy Chin, won an Oscar for their nail-biting documentary *Free Solo*, which follows professional climber Alex Honnold as he climbs a 3,000-foot-tall summit in California’s Yosemite Valley without any harnesses or ropes.

Vasarhelyi decided to major in comparative literature because of her fascination with “representing the unrepresentable,” she tells PAW. As the child of parents who emigrated from their respective countries due to religious and political persecution, she wanted to explore the tensions between people’s identities and their political contexts. Her project thus became not only her version of film school, but the culmination of four years spent pondering a question that she had really been asking all



ELIZABETH CHAI VASARHELYI '00

The award-winning *A Normal Life* originated as Vasarhelyi’s thesis, “Reconstructing Kosovo.”



her life. “Finding the space academically to nurture this curiosity of mine was really meaningful,” she shares. “It defined my whole career. I’ve made films ever since.”

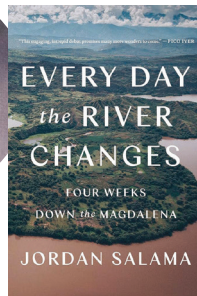
Importantly, most of Princeton’s star-studded theses are works-in-progress that later grow to become much more.

Vasarhelyi edited *A Normal Life* from her parents’ basement for another two years after graduation. Jordan Salama ’19, whose thesis was the first to become a University Pre-read for incoming freshmen, spent the pandemic rewriting what would become *Every Day the River Changes*, his nonfiction debut about the communities that live along Colombia’s Magdalena River.



JORDAN SALAMA '19

Salama’s thesis became his first book and a University Pre-read for the Class of 2026.



Ask him for the full story and you’ll learn that the real work took even longer than that. Salama, a Spanish and Portuguese concentrator, was first inspired to write about the river while pursuing an internship in Colombia after his

freshman year. It took multiple returns and the encouragement of his adviser, Christina Lee ’99, to create the final submission, which he presented at a fateful journalism colloquium where he was connected to an agent who sent a PDF of Salama’s thesis to some of the nation’s largest publishers.

But trace the story further back, and much like Vasarhelyi’s case, you’ll find that Salama’s story began long, long before he set foot in Old Nassau. Salama’s family is Argentine on his father’s side, and his great-grandfather — the main subject of his most recent book, *Stranger in the Desert* (2024) — emigrated

there from Syria to work as a traveling salesman. Salama only became fluent in Spanish when he came to Princeton, where his experience was one of “opening [his] eyes to Latin America,” he says.

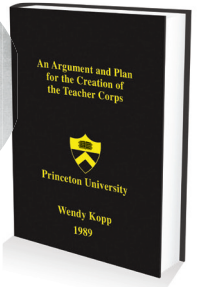
These days, Salama looks back on his Princeton trajectory not only with wonder, but a great deal of humility. “Nobody’s an expert in anything when you’re a senior in college,” he says. And so, throughout the many conversations he shared with strangers and the funny encounters he had — my personal favorite: Salama unexpectedly hearing his rendition of Oasis’ “Wonderwall” played on the sound system in a bar in Puerto Boyacá — he “leaned into it.”

At the end of the day, perhaps that’s what a thesis is: an



WENDY KOPP '89

Kopp’s groundbreaking senior thesis is the most requested thesis from Mudd Library.



impressive feat, yes, but also little more than an honest testament to who a young person is and a proof-of-concept for how they mean to go on.

THOUGH ALL THESE ARE PIONEERING in their own ways, some are more pioneering than others. Given the immense range of senior theses produced each year, it's difficult for any single thesis to jump out — or earn a legendary status — as soon as it's written. But ask any Princeton math major from the past decade about the most fabled thesis they know, and you'll surely hear about Mason Soun '15. Inspired by the work of math writer Danica McKellar, Soun wanted a way to explore the trials and tribulations of studying math while championing what inspires people, as he writes in his introduction, "to fall in love with this subject in the first place."

Combining his passions for math education and creative writing, he went on to produce something exceptional: a thesis composed of comical short stories — featuring fictionalized versions of Justin Bieber, Kim Kardashian, and Kanye West — whose plots revolve around linear algebra and the experience of working with numbers. The first story, "To Beliebe," follows an earnest and somewhat pitiable version of Bieber as he attempts to become a knife-seller with a company called Vector Marketing.

In one archetypal scene, the Canadian superstar attempts to sell knives — which can be lengthened or fastened together, like vectors — to an old man surnamed Gomez, whose adamant refusal prompts the singer to respond, winking: "Never say never."

"It was very much an outlier in the math department," recalls his adviser Jennifer Johnson, who says she enjoyed working with Soun. "He was very serious about the idea of looking for ways to make math less frightening and to share his enthusiasm for mathematics with young students." (Though it was an "interesting experiment," she adds, she doesn't think she "would want to try anything like this again.")

Sometimes, it is not will but circumstance that calls for seniors to get inventive. Arguably, some of the most exceptional seniors in recent years — and I relinquish any bias — belong to the Class of 2021, who had to evacuate campus just as they were submitting proposals for their senior theses.

Chris Gliwa '21, a civil and environmental engineering graduate from East Rutherford, New Jersey, had anticipated research at a global scale. Instead, he found himself walking around his neighborhood amid a pandemic that had unexpectedly brought him home.

"It was during these walks that I became more perceptive of the industrial character of my neighborhood," Gliwa says. In addition to exploring a nearby industrial complex that had once housed a bleachery during the American Civil War, he had socially distanced conversations with elderly neighbors who would share stories about the health problems that had proliferated in the area since the industrial boom in the 1960s. "They said that mysterious illnesses were common, but the companies and local leaders always assured them that there was nothing to worry about."

Upon scouring a 1980s site assessment and decades-old news articles, Gliwa was compelled by a key culprit: benzene, a highly carcinogenic chemical used in industrial processes. With this discovery, a thesis was born. In the months that followed, Gliwa estimated airborne benzene concentrations using historical site data, then used wind records to build a model demonstrating how benzene would travel into the areas where his neighbors have lived for generations. Though his intention was "not to find conclusive evidence of wrongdoing," Gliwa explains, his study's confirmation of environmental pollution in East Rutherford was enough to vindicate his neighbors, whose response made Gliwa "very emotional."

"They are like family to me," he reflects, three years on. "People from my community rarely go to schools like Princeton, so to exercise my education and research skills in this way was truly a once-in-a-generation opportunity."

Though Gliwa chose not to publish his thesis due to the possibility of legal concerns, he continues to build upon the skills that made his project possible with a long view toward tangible policy change. These days, he is fulfilling his third year as part of the University's Scholars in the Nation's Service Initiative (SINSI). His first rotation was with a team working on climate and environmental issues at the White House.

DESPITE ITS REPUTATIONAL CHARGE, the senior thesis isn't immune to change. (Nor is it immune to critique: In the 1990s, a debate on its potential abolition made it to *The New York Times*.) As each generation of Princetonians paints new strokes on the hallowed portrait of this timeless tradition, the University has had to reframe the assignment. Creative theses — in which seniors produce novels, films, plays, and dance performances, among other things — are a fantastic case in point. Since Edward T. Cone '39 submitted the first creative thesis in the form of a self-composed string quartet, hundreds of Princetonians have followed suit, giving rise to "hybrid" theses in which students (in certain majors such as English and comparative literature) fulfill their thesis requirement with a creative project supplemented by a critical essay. Online records of creative writing submissions since

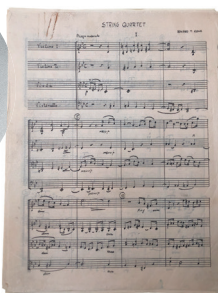
1995 document a rising trend: Since 2013, there have been consistently more than 20 seniors each year submitting creative theses, while the preceding class years are patchier, with anywhere

between one and 18 theses on record. In the early 1950s, the University granted Robert V. Keeley '51 *71 permission to become the first student to submit a novel as



EDWARD T. CONE '39

Cone was the first to have an original musical composition accepted as a senior thesis.



a senior thesis. Less than a decade later, there were six seniors writing novels to graduate.

Looking forward to the next 100 years, what might we expect of the senior thesis? Will it continue in the same way it has, or become an entirely different affair altogether? Perhaps the most salient question hovering over the thesis's future concerns the rise of new technologies, including the widespread availability of digital data and AI.

"I have the impression that students are increasingly looking at small topics as opposed to trying to engage large ideas," says Fernández-Kelly, referring to the use of large databases for research data instead of the slow, sometimes painstaking work of studying systemic issues on the ground. "But that isn't a problem with the senior thesis, but a problem with our culture."

In response to the popularity of generative AI tools, deans Jill Dolan, Kate Stanton, and Cecily Swanson (the latter two co-chairs of the University's working group on such technologies) issued a campuswide memo in August stating that policy on using AI in assignments would be up to the discretion of teaching staff. "We believe that the powers and risks of generative AI should only deepen the University's commitment to a liberal arts education and the insistence on critical thinking it provides," they wrote.

Should faculty permit, the future Tian envisions might just as well become reality soon: one in which thesis writing is a combination of AI-assisted and human-derived work. But this isn't something that keeps the GPTZero founder up at night.

"Standards of student writing are derived from best practices in the real world," he explains. "This is an exciting opportunity in the reverse: How students are writing theses or using AI tools responsibly will help define how people are using a combination of these technologies after they graduate."

Not long from now, Jeremiah Giordani '25 — who for one PAW article described himself as "one of the biggest ChatGPT users at Princeton" — will be brainstorming thesis ideas. The computer science concentrator, who laments the view that generative AI is for lazy students seeking easy ways out, considers the tool on par with calculators or spellcheck functions: time-saving technologies that give people the cognitive freedom to focus on creative tasks.

"These technologies are here," he says. "They're very useful, and to become as skilled as possible, it's necessary to learn how to use these tools as well as you can." Though Giordani is not yet sure what he'll research, he plans to find an adviser who has a liberal, and even encouraging, approach to using ChatGPT.

Regardless of who (or what) will do the writing, that's one thing computers will never change: the very human relationships students build with their advisers. True, some pairings may hardly ever meet, and some seniors have admitted to avoiding their advisers altogether. But when a senior and their adviser click, history shows that the learning and guidance often go both ways.

Malkiel's 2007 collection *The Thesis*, which gathers interviews with Class of 2006 seniors and their advisers on the thesis research process, includes the story of ORFE concentrator Lindsey (Cant) Azzaretti '06, who, for her thesis, came up with the idea of applying modeling techniques to the

"This is an exciting opportunity in the reverse: How students are writing theses or using AI tools responsibly will help define how people are using a combination of these technologies after they graduate."

— EDWARD TIAN '23

on using AI in students' work, especially theses

optimization of human blood storage. Her adviser, Warren B. Powell '77 — who had advised upward of 200 undergraduate theses before his retirement in 2020 — was inspired. "The problem is now featured in a book I am writing on approximate dynamic programming, and I have already used it in a tutorial I have given on the topic," his section in the anthology reads. "All this for a problem that would never have occurred to me."

Lee, Salama's thesis adviser, says she believes the advising experience has influenced her own approaches to scholarship. Published in 2021, her most recent monograph — which explores the life of saints and their believers in the Spanish Philippines — features a foreword in which Lee explains how her identity as a Korean Argentinian compels her to study the intersection of Asian and Hispanic worlds. "I realized that you can write a good, strong piece of academic work that has personal resonance," says Lee, whose work with Salama and other students has often concerned the incorporation of the first-person voice. "I'm not sure I would've done this if I hadn't directed a thesis," she adds.

To summarize the sheer diversity of theses from the past century — and to predict what they will look like in the next — is to partake in the same quixotic fervor of Eisenhart's original vision. But for each student who has cried in a carrel is one who has laid a cornerstone for an illustrious career, or, at the most basic level, realized that they had it in themselves to do something incredible, and in their early 20s, no less. How big the world seems after such an accomplishment, and the rest of life so doable — or perhaps it is simply the comic relief of shared suffering that buoys us along. That much hasn't changed; when members of the Class of 1925 designed their Reunions beer jacket, they included a tiger being crushed under four massive tomes. And what about the Class of 1924, the last batch to escape the mandatory thesis?

Their beer jacket featured a horseshoe. They couldn't believe their luck. But whether that was a prescient choice, I'll leave to the reader to decide. ■

JIMIN KANG '21 is a freelance writer and recent Sachs scholar based in Oxford, England.

Attorney Brittany Sanders Robb '13 may have made a name for herself working on behalf of Kobe Bryant's widow, but she has been helping people since she was a kid

'Born to Do Something'

JUST OVER FOUR YEARS AGO, Brittany Sanders Robb '13 made a momentous career decision, opting to leave her job as an associate at a prestigious New York law firm to return to her hometown of Kansas City. She and her husband, Andrew Robb, who was basically making the same move, were joining Andrew's parents at Robb & Robb, a boutique personal-injury firm that the founding partners, Gary and Anita Robb, had built into one of the preeminent plaintiff's shops in the country, particularly in the field of helicopter-crash law.

Sanders Robb had not even been with her new firm for a week when a call came in regarding a potential new case. It was from a woman on the West Coast whose husband and daughter were among the nine fatalities in a horrific helicopter crash on a fog-shrouded Sunday morning in the hills northwest of Los Angeles. She was looking for someone to represent her in a wrongful-death lawsuit, one that Sanders Robb knew would be the most high-profile helicopter-crash case in American history. This was how Sanders Robb came to work on behalf of Vanessa Bryant, the widow of NBA icon Kobe Bryant and the mother of the late 13-year-old Gianna.

BY WAYNE COFFEY

PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEVE PUPPE



KC COUNSELOR

*Brittany Sanders Robb '13 in
the Robb & Robb offices that
look out over Kansas City.*

Within six months, Robb & Robb worked out a confidential settlement with the defendants, Island Express Helicopters and the estate of Ara Zobayan, the pilot of the helicopter, who also died in the crash. The experience reaffirmed Sanders Robb's conviction that she had made the right decision to leave the white-shoe world of defending huge corporations.

"Vanessa is a remarkably strong, determined woman," Sanders Robb says. "Her [two surviving] daughters are so lucky to have her. I knew I wasn't going to find the same fulfillment doing defense work. I wanted to help people, not companies."

Sanders Robb's pace of work has rarely relented in the four years since Bryant placed that call. The four Robbs are the only attorneys in the firm, and all of them work on every case, one of which was another highly publicized wrongful-death lawsuit that was expected to go to trial in February of this year.

The Robbs had been on it since 2018. The case was *Udall vs. Papillon Airways, Airbus*, filed in downtown Las Vegas. In the first week of January, it brought them to a courtroom on the 16th floor of the Clark County Justice Center, a striking glass and sandstone building with a grove of palm trees out front. Robb & Robb's clients were Philip and Marlene Udall, a British couple whose 31-year-old son, Jonathan, and his newlywed bride, Ellie, were among five people killed in the February 2018 crash of an Airbus EC130 B4 helicopter on the west rim of the Grand Canyon. Jon and Ellie were celebrating their honeymoon, taking a sunset tour with three friends, also from Great Britain. Papillon, which has been specializing in helicopter tours since 1965, calls itself "the world's oldest and largest sightseeing company." It is based near Harry Reid International Airport, about seven miles south of the courtroom where Sanders Robb, 33, was handling the case as lead associate. For years, defense attorneys for Airbus had filed motion after motion in an effort to get the suit dismissed, arguing, among other things, that because it was a French company it could not be sued in the U.S. Sanders Robb signed a brief rebutting one of these arguments — which the defense

"Kristin taught me a valuable lesson even in her death that material things don't matter ... and that no matter what you are going through, there is somebody who is going through a worse situation than you are."

BRITTANY SANDERS ROBB '13

attempted, and failed, to take to the Supreme Court.

Sanders Robb built her case on the failure of the manufacturer and the operator to equip the helicopter with a crash-resistant fuel system (CRFS), technology that has been around for almost 50 years and can significantly mitigate the risk and lethality of post-crash fires. CRFS tanks have a flexible rubber bladder encased in an aluminum shell and are equipped with breakaway rods and hardware that safeguard the tank from being punctured. Though Federal Aviation Association (FAA) regulations at the time did not require Papillon to equip this aircraft with a CRFS, the plaintiffs argued that negligence by both the manufacturer and the operator resulted in Jon Udall's death. He had no injuries from the impact of the crash and was actually able to exit the aircraft before it was engulfed in flames when the old-school gas tank — Gary Robb likened it to "a milk jug" — burst, spilling fuel everywhere and resulting in burns on more than 90% of Udall's body. Sanders Robb also blamed Papillon for not having emergency protocols in place; Udall was on the desert floor for seven hours before he was rescued and taken to a hospital, where he survived 12 more days before succumbing to complications from his burns.

"His suffering was unimaginable," Sanders Robb says.

On the morning of Jan. 5, the second day of pretrial motions, Gary Robb's cell phone buzzed with an email. It was from the attorneys sitting 10 feet away, at the defense table. After six years of motions, depositions, and an array of legal maneuvers to escape culpability, they were making an offer to settle. The hearing was adjourned. By the end of the day, an agreement awarding the Udalls \$100 million was in place, \$24.6 million from Papillon and \$75.4 million from Airbus Helicopters. It is the largest public settlement in a wrongful-death case involving an individual in U.S. history, according to VerdictSearch, a data-tracking component of Law.com. Defense attorneys sought repeatedly to keep the amount confidential, but Sanders Robb said that Udall's parents were unyielding in their insistence that the amount be made public.

"I think that once [Airbus and Papillon] really came to grips with our clients' resolve and strength, they came to the table with [their offer]," Sanders Robb says. "No amount of money is going to give true justice to a family that has lost a son and a brother. This case was never about the money for Philip and Marlene Udall. Their goal has been to create change in the industry so other families do not have to suffer as they have suffered and as their son suffered."

SANDERS ROBB BEGAN LIFE IN ELKTON, ILLINOIS, a small town outside St. Louis. That she found a path to Princeton and Washington University School of Law is a story in itself. Raised by a single mother, she was the first person in her family to attend college. After escaping an abusive, alcoholic marriage, Mary Sanders, Brittany's mother, moved with her four kids to Kansas City, with the massive assistance of a divorce attorney who worked pro bono.

"She was just an angel," Sanders Robb says. "She helped keep my mom and me and my sisters safe."

Mary Sanders supported the family by working at a grocery



TRAGIC CASE

Former NBA player Kobe Bryant, his daughter Gianna Bryant, and seven other people are remembered with a bronze statue at the site of the helicopter crash in Calabasas, California, where they died in 2020.

store and cleaning houses and a church. For long stretches the family lived below the poverty line, getting by with public assistance and regular visits to a food pantry. In the months before Sanders Robb turned 6 years old, life got harder still. Her parents' divorce was finalized, and her best friend, a girl named Kristin Bean, died after a long treatment for cancer. Sanders Robb and her mother were at Kristin's house the day she died. Sanders Robb ran up to Kristin's room. Seeing her friend's toys and stuffed animals had a powerful impact on her, no matter her young age.

"You don't take the toys with you when you die. That was the thought that just clicked," Sanders Robb says. "Kristin taught me a valuable lesson even in her death that material things don't matter ... and that no matter what you are going through, there is somebody who is going through a worse situation than you are."

When Sanders Robb's sixth birthday came around, she told her mother that she wanted to donate her gifts to the hospital where Kristin was treated. It was the start of Kristin's Kids Club, a philanthropy that continues to this day. Apart from gifts for sick kids, Sanders Robb's club raised money with school-supply drives and made contributions earmarked for cancer research. She sent out flyers and recruited friends to help her fundraise

and support other worthy causes. She designed and sold T-shirts to support her local VFW post, and shortly after 9/11, she and her friends raised \$2,500 for America's Fund for Afghan Children. When President George W. Bush visited Kansas City, 10-year-old Sanders Robb presented him with a check. The president handed Sanders Robb a presidential seal pin.

Kristin's Kids Club's longest running program is the promotion of an independent, supported-living community called Life Unlimited, the largest service provider for disabled adults in the Kansas City metro area. Every Christmas, the club throws a holiday gala at Life Unlimited with food, gifts, and carols. The party hosts include not just Sanders Robb and Mary Sanders, but an assortment of their nieces, nephews, and grandchildren. Nathan Powell, 33, one of the residents of Life Unlimited, has known Sanders Robb for 15 years. Last Christmas, his gifts from Kristin's Kids Club included earbuds and a Kansas City Chiefs jersey. Powell has been a paraplegic since he was 12. He was mowing the lawn one day when a friend, playing with a gun, accidentally shot him in the chin and spinal cord. At 14, living in a nursing home, Powell was deeply depressed and "angry at the world." It was only after moving to Life Unlimited and meeting Sanders Robb and Mary Sanders that his attitude began to shift. Sanders Robb shared

her story about getting through painful times and turning the death of her best friend into a force for good.

“When you meet those kinds of people, it lifts up your spirit,” Powell says. “It gets to a point that you look at what life throws you, and if you are just there and complain, you are not going to go anywhere.”

With Sanders Robb’s encouragement, Powell started to work with troubled kids. He tried to inspire them and make positive changes in their lives. He launched his own nonprofit, the Nathan Powell Foundation (www.npfoundationinc.org), to support spinal-cord injury victims.

“Brittany has the purest heart and this amazing drive to help people,” Powell says. “She will do anything to help somebody.”

Sanders Robb’s charitable endeavors wound up charting a path that led her to Princeton. When she was in seventh grade, she was invited to Washington, D.C., to be honored for being the Missouri state winner of a community service award. At the ceremony she met Marsha Hirsch, the principal of Pembroke Hill, a prestigious private school in Kansas City. She wound up receiving a full scholarship, quickly emerging as a stellar student and standout on the debate team, a young woman who thrived in the rigorous academic culture, but was never defined by it, according to Mike Hill, her debate coach and mentor.

“Brittany is welcoming, inclusive — a friend to everyone,” says Hill, now the head of Pembroke Hill’s upper school. “There’s an authenticity about her that is [very rare].”

DURING HER SOPHOMORE YEAR AT PEMBROKE HILL, Sanders Robb got a last-minute call from the Kansas City-based National World War I Museum and Memorial. One of the museum’s biggest events of the year, the Walk of Fame, was days away, and a brigadier general who was supposed to give the keynote address had backed out. A museum official who had gotten to know Sanders Robb because of her fundraising for veterans asked if she would be the speaker. She wrote a speech and stepped to the podium, with thousands of people packed onto the expansive lawn in front of her. Just as she was set to begin a gust of wind scattered her papers, so far and so fast they couldn’t be retrieved. Sanders Robb spoke for 20 minutes, extemporaneously.

Uncommon poise seems to be baked into her, and so is a fierce commitment to support people who might feel overwhelmed and overmatched, says Sara Schuett, executive director of the Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys. “One of the qualities that stands out to me about Brittany is that she is fearless,” Schuett says.



ROBB & ROBB & ROBB

Brittany Sanders Robb '13 at home with her husband, Andrew, and their son.

“Robb & Robb takes on huge corporations on behalf of injured individuals and gets some of the best results in the country.”


The prevailing stereotype of a personal-injury attorney is an ambulance-chasing opportunist who pounces on human misfortune and posts massive billboards on interstate highways to drum up business. Sanders Robb didn’t set out to change that but doesn’t mind if it’s an unintended consequence. Robb & Robb doesn’t advertise or solicit business. Sanders Robb sees her work in pragmatic, human terms. People get in accidents, whether at work or in a car or aircraft. They suffer injuries. They get sick or hurt or even die, sometimes because of negligence, incompetence, or recklessness. She says she wishes nothing bad ever happened to anybody, and that Robb & Robb would have to find a new kind of law to practice.

In *Udall vs. Papillon Airways, Airbus*, Sanders Robb’s greatest satisfaction wasn’t so much the record \$100 million settlement, but the fact that Philip and Marlene Udall’s six-year quest to make the helicopter industry safer had been successful. Papillon has retrofitted all the company’s helicopters with crash-resistant fuel systems, and recently Sanders Robb learned that Airbus has told tour operators it would cover the full cost of the retrofit. The FAA has mandated that all helicopters manufactured after April 5, 2020, must be equipped with a crash-resistant fuel system, no matter when the model of the aircraft was originally certified. It doesn’t bring back any of the five people who suffered a horrible death as the sun set over the Grand Canyon one afternoon in 2018, but it’s a start.

“Brittany was born to do something,” Mary Sanders says. “She’s done a whole lot already.” ■

WAYNE COFFEY is a freelance journalist and the author of more than 30 books. He lives in Sleepy Hollow, New York.

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

PRINCETONIANS

ALUMNI STORIES AND PERSPECTIVES



CARLA WILLIAMS '86

MEDITATIVE MUSING

For her thesis, Carla Williams '86 produced 74 self-portraits using mostly Polaroid 4-by-5 and instant 35mm film formats. She drew inspiration for the intimate prints from the photos male photographers made of their wives, girlfriends, and muses, as well as the work of artist Cindy Sherman.

*Her adviser Emmet Gowin praised Williams' work as one of the best projects he'd seen as a professor. Last year, Williams restaged her 1986 thesis show in her first gallery exhibition at Higher Pictures in New York and published the photos in a book titled *Tender*.*



READ MORE about her journey and other **TIGERS OF THE WEEK** at paw.princeton.edu.


SOUND CHECK

Winnie Holzman '76 with Cameron Crowe and J.J. Abrams at the premiere for Showtime's *Roadies*, where she was a writer and executive producer.

WINNIE HOLZMAN '76

Wicked Writer's New Play Coming to McCarter Theatre

BY JOSH TOBIESSEN

ANYONE WITHIN A HUNDRED miles of New York City has probably seen a poster for Winnie Holzman '76's hit musical, *Wicked*. Also known for a number of television credits, including the '90s series *My So-Called Life*, Holzman is thrilled that her new play, *Choice*, is coming to McCarter Theatre in Princeton this May.

Choice, which, yes, deals with reproductive rights, follows journalist Zipporah Zunder as she works on an investigative story that ends up affecting some of her closest relationships. It may seem timely in this election year, but Holzman has actually been working on it for a number of years.

"It's not like anything I've ever written before, and yet it's in my style," Holzman said in a telephone interview from her home in Los Angeles. What she means is that, despite handling a serious topic, it's still a comedy with a lot of heart. McCarter's website describes *Choice* as a "comic, surreal, and thought-provoking play." At a time when the conversation about reproductive rights has become simplistic and rigid, Holzman is trying to explore it in a different way.

"It's about a woman trying to

understand something, and the more she tries to understand it, the more mysterious it becomes," she says.

Both comedy and mystery are essential to her approach in this play. She's not interested in propaganda. "If something is too spelled out, if something is hitting you over the head, you're being bludgeoned into submission, you're not moving forward in your seat and trying to understand," Holzman adds.

This production represents something of a homecoming for Holzman.

As an undergraduate at Princeton, Holzman's academic career centered on writing poetry in her creative writing classes, but her extracurricular focus was Theatre Intime, an on-campus theater group administered entirely by students. Over the course of her time there, she acted in many productions including *The Glass Menagerie* and an early production of Christopher Durang's *The Marriage of Bette and Boo* that took place before that play's New York premiere. Sometimes she would even stay in Princeton over the summer to continue acting with the company in productions for local residents.

The combination of writing poetry and acting in plays laid the groundwork for

her future career. "It was a beautiful training ground," she says of that time. "I was practicing my craft of writing, but I was also getting a lot of acting experience. That really fed me as a writer who writes for actors."

While she stopped writing poetry when she left Princeton for New York City, her writing continued to be informed by that poetic background. "Emphasis on word choice, on rhythm, on a certain kind of musicality. Finding something punchy and intense. I think that that's really helped me as a screenwriter, as a TV writer, and in writing for theater," she says.

That training served her well from her early days of sketch comedy in New York City to the very first year of NYU's Musical Theater Graduate Program. It continued to serve her throughout a TV writing career that began with the series *Thirtysomething* and is still ongoing today, and a screenwriting career that has, most recently, involved writing the film adaptation of *Wicked* (which is split into two parts, the first of which comes to theaters later this year and stars Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande).

But success has not always come easily.

Critics were underwhelmed by her first musical, *Birds of Paradise*, which she created with the composer David Evans in graduate school at NYU. Holzman views that experience as a gift. "It gave me more than a success would have. It taught me so much about what I really want. Why am I really doing this? Am I doing this just for a great review? For approval? Or am I doing this because something within me really needs to do this? I needed to learn that lesson," she says.

Choice definitely falls into the category of something she "needed" to write. It also challenged her in new ways — after collaborating with other writers or composers for most of her career, this is the first play that she's written by herself. But, as she's quick to point out, whether you're an undergrad working on a play, or a professional on Broadway, TV, or film, you're never alone.

"You are by yourself when you are writing in your room, but pretty soon, a whole circus troupe of people arrive, and they all want to do it with you, and you do it together," she says. ■

Maybe a Tiger can change its

STRIPES.....



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REUNIONS 2024 SCHEDULE

Date	Event	Time
Thursday	Drag Tent @APGA	9:00 to 11:00 PM
Friday	Friday Welcome Reception, QPA Cabaret featuring Princeton Jazz Ensemble Whig Hall Senate Chamber	7:00 to 11:00 PM
Saturday	Post P-Rade Reception, Annual Meeting Chancellor Green	4:00 to 6:00 PM
Saturday	Off-Year Reception for QPA Members Chancellor Green	6:00 to 9:00 PM
Saturday	Queer Princeton Alumni (QPA) Presents: A Ballroom Experience featuring TrueTPgh and DJ Ariel '08, Chancellor Green	10 PM to 2:00 AM

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ESSAY

Between the Airlock Doors

BY ERIC SILBERMAN '13

IN MY ONCOLOGY TRAINING, there has been nothing more frustrating — or frightening — than a patient’s ability to automatically receive a pathology report. The 21st Century Cures Act, a 2016 federal law that was recently implemented in full in the hospital where I work, requires all medical information to be provided directly to patients expeditiously, whether it be blood tests, imaging reports, or doctor’s notes. This often creates awkward moments when a patient sitting in a clinic can report her own hemoglobin and creatinine even before I’ve had a chance to review them. But the automatic population of pathology reports is more troublesome than mild anemia. That a diagnosis of new cancer or returning cancer can come at any time and when a patient is in any place — whether physically or mentally — yields distress. The once-solemn handover of a cancer diagnosis from physician to patient is now preempted by a cellphone ding and a user-unfriendly app.

The “old way” was far from perfect. I learned that firsthand early in my training, when I was an internal medicine intern rotating on the leukemia service. It happened between the pair of

steel airlock doors that one had to use to enter and exit the unit.

The dim cancer unit was located in a building adjacent to the main hospital, six floors and an emotional chasm above the brimming and bright newborn nursery. In the latter, cries of new life trilled; in the former, the cries were softer and portended lives fading away.

The heavy airlock doors were in place to create a sterile environment in the unit. But the airlock was also a portal to a besieged world. Outside the full-length windows, the sun rose and set over an unfairly serene Lake Michigan, but inside, days were measured in chemotherapy cycles and the predictable fall and rise in blood counts.

I spent a month of 2019 working in that strange and challenging world. Each morning, amid the darkness of the Chicago winter, I trudged to work

That a diagnosis of new cancer or returning cancer can come at any time and when a patient is in any place — whether physically or mentally — yields distress.

through fresh snow, passed through the airlock, and changed my boots into a pair of dress shoes I kept under my desk. Each evening, I put on my boots again and retraced my steps back home. There were no windows in the resident workroom, so the only daylight I saw while at work was whatever filtered in through the windows in patients’ rooms.

Often the shades were tightly shut. This was the case in the room of Nick, a young man around my age who had advanced leukemia. His brother had donated stem cells for a transplant a few years back, but the cancer had returned, this time ravaging Nick’s immune system to the point of eradication and turning his body into a breeding ground for hostile infections like the fungus that had eroded his mouth and nose into bloody ruins.

On morning rounds, I would sit in that dark room with Nick’s tenacious wife and we would exchange difficult questions.

“What are we going to do about his pain, his bleeding, his infection, his cancer?” she asked, alluding to the fact that the strongest analgesics, antibiotics, and chemotherapy had not halted her husband’s disease.

“What would he want if all this doesn’t work?” I asked, alluding to the same.

CANCER CARE
*Eric Silberman '13, an
oncologist in New York,
photographed at
Mount Sinai Hospital.*



JOHN EMERSON

We both knew that he was dying. But she kept both the literal and figurative shades closed, pushing — perhaps rightfully — for anything more that could be done.

In that unit, the ultimate test of cure was the repeat bone-marrow biopsy, performed a prescribed number of days after chemotherapy finished. If the pathology matched the sample from before therapy and was dotted with cancerous cells, then the leukemia was too strong for the chemotherapy to break. But if the biopsy showed clearance, then anticipation melted into relief: The treatments had worked.

But relief could be fleeting. Miguel was a young man a few doors down, an immigrant from Guatemala, who showed clearance of the cells from his bone marrow — but his cancer had already invaded the fluid surrounding his brain. Yet his window shades were wide open. Whether the news I shared with him was bad or good, he clasped his hands together in prayer and thanks.

Each day as I exited through the airlock, I tried to wash my mind of these horrors and all that I wished I didn't know. I knew whose blood counts were rising and whose were stagnant. I knew who had infections I couldn't treat. And I often had a sense of whose cancer would win. But I couldn't say all of it — even if I had the heart to — for to share every detail would be disheartening. Leaving those dim halls, in the long few seconds between one set of double doors closing behind me and the other set opening, I was forced to stand in between two worlds: the space of the unit, of knowing and telling tragic truths, and the space of life in the outside world. Each day, as soon as the door opened to the outside, I felt relieved; fortunate to be able to step away, if only for an evening.

Once, though, I was ambushed there. Maryam, a middle-aged Middle Eastern woman on the unit, had been diagnosed with leukemia shortly after moving to the U.S. She was unassuming, answering only, "Fine," whenever we asked how she was feeling. She dismissed questions about the possible side effects of her

But “do no harm” is greater. There’s a difference between a glaring, anonymous, automatic delivery, and a graceful, deft opening of the window shades, slowly, inch by inch, so as not to blind a person’s eyes. This is something that an app cannot provide — a skill irreplaceable, if not the only one that will ever be irreplaceable.

chemotherapy with a distinctive nod of the head.

As the days progressed, and her chemotherapy ended, she too underwent another bone-marrow biopsy as a test of cure. Day after day, as the pathologists carefully unpacked the results, her daughter, Asma, duly became anxious.

“Did you get the report?” she asked me. “Maybe tomorrow,” I told her several days in a row. But I knew what it meant when pathology took longer than expected: It meant that there was more to look at, and more was never good.

I had just put on my boots at the end of one day when the pathology report returned. I scanned it briefly. The chemotherapy had failed. I sighed, disappointed. I considered sharing the results with her daughter, but I was all alone, a first-year trainee with little experience. I put on my heavy winter jacket and headed for the airlock.

Just before the first set of doors closed behind me, Asma slipped her hand through and held them open.

“Excuse me, did you get the report?” she nearly shouted. “I was waiting with her all day for it.” Her eyes, heavy and sleepless, were filled with fear.

I hesitated, considering what it would mean to break bad news in a hallway. Instead, I lied. “No, sorry. Not yet.

Hopefully tomorrow.” She waited with me in silence for the few seconds until the outer door opened — seconds that felt like hours — and then I left. She returned to her mother’s side.

What remains vividly in my memory is not the next morning’s conversation in which I revealed her mother’s persistent cancer, but rather, that moment in the airlock when I didn’t reveal anything at all. I wish I would have had the courage to stand in front of a set of closed doors and tell Asma what I knew. When all she sought was the truth — whatever it might be — my own apprehension overwhelmed me, and I kept her in the dark.

If I had treated Maryam more recently, her unfavorable pathology would have been routed directly to Asma’s inbox. Perhaps she would have read it before I did, or perhaps a few minutes after I left, and she would have frantically searched for someone to help interpret the jargon. Perhaps she would have received the cellphone ding and, exercising restraint, would have still found me in the airlock to ask what was there.

I understand the logic behind the law: A patient’s medical information belongs only to her, and barring extenuating circumstances, a doctor should not withhold information. After all, is it not an essential tenet of the unwritten contract we have as doctor and patient, to share what I know?

But “do no harm” is greater. There’s a difference between a glaring, anonymous, automatic delivery, and a graceful, deft opening of the window shades, slowly, inch by inch, so as not to blind a person’s eyes. This is something that an app cannot provide — a skill irreplaceable, if not the only one that will ever be irreplaceable.

Now, more than ever, I turn to that time in the airlock as a reminder that I must always strive to center these moments of humanity: to turn difficult spaces into places of growth, and challenging conversations into moments of healing. ■

ERIC SILBERMAN '13 is a physician and writer based in New York City.

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 1943

DIMITRI M. BARTON '43

Dimitri died Nov. 11, 2022, at the San Francisco retirement home he shared with his wife, Marianne. He was 100 years old.



Dimitri was born in Tiflis, Georgia, Russia, the son of Harold Barton (Harvard 1909), the manager of the Washington, D.C., office of the American Arbitration Association. His mother died when he was a child. Moving to the United States, Dimitri prepped at Lawrenceville before coming to Princeton and lived at his family's home on Alexander Street while he majored in mechanical engineering.

Dimitri spent three years in the Merchant Marine during the World War II before going to Stanford Business School for his MBA. After seven years with a large retail organization, The Emporium, he was eager to branch out on his own. He started a real estate development and investment firm, Barton Development Corp., while working as a real estate broker with Grubb & Ellis.

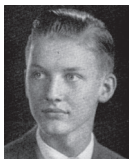
In 1956, Dimitri married Marianne Patton and the two had three children in quick succession: Tamara in 1957, Maria in 1958, and Dimitri Patton in 1960.

He is survived by his three children and by Marianne, his wife of 66 years.

THE CLASS OF 1948

WILLIAM F. MAY '48

Bill died Oct. 27, 2023, two days after his 96th birthday.



He came to Princeton from Houston and graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1948 with a degree in history and humanities. He served as president of Whig Hall and the Debate Panel, and was a member of Prospect Club.

An ordained Presbyterian minister, Bill earned a B.D. from Yale Divinity School in 1952 and a Ph.D. in religious studies from Yale in 1962. He became a professor and chair of the religion department at Smith College. In 1966, he founded and chaired the Department of Religious Studies at Indiana University. He was appointed Joseph P. Kennedy Sr. Professor of Christian

Ethics at the Kennedy Institute of Ethics at Georgetown University in 1980.

Further renown came to Bill at Southern Methodist University, where he held the first Maguire University Chair of Ethics and was founding director of the Cary M. Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility, a position he held from 1985 to 2001. He also received several postdoctoral fellowships, including one from the Guggenheim Foundation.

A founding fellow of the Hastings Center and member of the President's Council on Bioethics, Bill is recalled as a prolific and introspective writer whose publications include *The Physician's Covenant: Images of the Healer in Medical Ethics* and *The Patient's Ordeal*.

Bill is survived by children Catherine May Maletta, Theodore, Elisabeth May Kelley, and David '80.

JACQUES E. WALLACH '48

Jacques, our last remaining international correspondent, died Aug. 26, 2023, at age 95.



Born in Basel, Switzerland, Jacques arrived with his family in New York via ship from Lisbon in 1941. He was only 13 and possessed a minimal knowledge of English when his parents decided to emigrate to the United States during World War II. At Princeton, Jacques earned a B.S.E. in chemical engineering, graduating in June 1948 at age 20 after eight semesters (only 2 ½ years of study). He was a member of Cloister Inn.

"Those years at University were truly wonderful years," he would write in a 2020 autobiographical piece. "However, it was only later that I realized it was not an advantage to be channeled through the education years too young and too quickly."

Following what he called "a year of indecision," Jacques returned to his native country to join the Schmoll Corp., which was the family business. There, Jacques worked alongside his brothers — who included Raymond A. Wallach '47 — in a metal trade business that focused on scrap metal.

Jacques' industriousness helped the company to gain a significant presence in Switzerland to the point where he wrote in

our 10th-anniversary book that "the volume of business contacts occupies me almost completely during the week and brings me often to the surrounding countries." He remained with the company for 44 years.

Jacques' wife, Elsbeth Geissberger, predeceased him. He is survived by their children, Daniel, Claudine, and Michèle; five grandchildren; and one great-grandson. The Class of 1948 sends its condolences on the passing of our esteemed classmate.

JACK M. ZIMMERMAN '48

Jack died July 23, 2023, at age 96, after several months in hospice care, an end-of-



life option that he helped bring to the United States.

A graduate of the Salisbury School, Jack earned his degree with honors in biology in June 1949. He was a member of Elm Club and received the 1870 Sophomore English Prize. From 1945 to 1947, he served in the Army in the Pacific as an infantry leader and subsequently as a surgical technician. Jack's Princeton ties ran deep, as his brother Edward was in the Class of '44 and his daughter, Anne Zimmerman Morgan, is in the Class of '79.

Jack spent his professional career as a surgeon. He completed his medical training and residency at Johns Hopkins University and became board-certified in general and thoracic surgery. His long medical career included serving as chief of surgery at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Kansas City, followed by 32 years as chief of surgery at Church Home and Hospital in Baltimore and as associate professor of surgery at Johns Hopkins.

Jack, who noted in our 50th-reunion yearbook that he had developed an interest in the palliative care of the mentally ill early in his career, "considered his greatest achievement to be his role in bringing hospice care to the U.S.," according to the memorial from his family. While on sabbatical in London, Jack had visited St. Christopher's Hospice, the first hospice in the world, and was inspired to open one of the first hospices in the United States at Church Home and Hospital. He was the author of *Hospice: Complete Care of the Terminally Ill*.

Jack married Doris Lockett Perkinson in 1953. She survives him, as do their children Anne and her husband Walter Morgan III '78, and J. Wickham Zimmerman and his wife Allison. He also is survived by five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1949

ROBERT W. COSSUM JR. '49

Bob died Nov. 19, 2023, in Houston, Texas, his home state for most of his career as a

geologist. His wife, Carol, had died less than five months earlier. He is survived by sons, Bobby, John, and David; five grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

Bob was born in Evanston, Ill., Aug. 7, 1927. Like many of us '49ers, he joined the Navy in 1945, just before his 18th birthday and just before the end of World War II. The Navy delayed his arrival at Princeton for several years, but he remained a '49er, graduating in 1952. He majored in geology and joined Cloister Inn. His first job was in Houston with Sinclair and then Sohio, which took him to New Orleans for several years. Returning to Houston in 1963, Bob joined Zapata Norness and continued in the petroleum business for his entire career, with extensive travel to South Africa, Venezuela, and the North Sea.

Bob's home life ranged from the YMCA program now called Adventure Guides (Indian Guides) with his sons, to sports like bowling, tennis, and golf. He proudly supported Carol's counseling career, and they were active supporters of Christ Church Cathedral in Houston.

THE CLASS OF 1951

WILLIAM K. METTLER '51

Bill was born in Orange, N.J., and graduated from Andover. At Princeton, he majored in English, managed the wrestling team, and was a member of Cap and Gown. He roomed with Lew Esler, Phil Hungerford, Phil Matter, Tom Mangan '52, and Ed Tilden.



Before coming to Princeton, Bill enlisted in the Navy and participated in the invasion of Okinawa. Upon graduation, he went to work in the family business, Interwoven Stocking Co., in New Brunswick, N.J., and then Reprostat Corp. in New York City. He enjoyed traveling and spending time in Florida on the water.

Bill died Jan. 17, 2024. He was predeceased by his daughter Alison Wilson. He is survived by his wife, Mary Lou McGlynn; daughters Melissa and Elizabeth; son Anthony; and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

JOHN N. SCHULLINGER '51

John graduated from the Hotchkiss School.

At Princeton, he majored in geology, was a member of the Key and Seal Club, and rowed on the crew team. His roommates were David Chang, Lawrence Davis, and Perkins Wilson.



After Princeton, he earned a medical degree from the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University. After serving in the Navy as a medical officer on ships in the Arctic Ocean, he taught and practiced surgery at Columbia

Presbyterian Medical Center. With a focus on the surgical issues of infants and children, especially those with cancer, he joined Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital.

Upon retiring, John split his time between New York City and Woodstock, Vt. He pursued studies in astronomy and geology and continued to provide surgical care to children during his annual trips to Chinese orphanages. He was a founding member of The Children of China Pediatrics Foundation.

John died Nov. 13, 2023, in Dartmouth, N.H., of natural causes. He is survived by his daughter, Sallie Schullinger-Krause.

JAY M. SCHWAMM '51

Jay was born April 17, 1930, in Brooklyn and grew up in New York City. He attended the



Ethical Culture School and New York Military Academy before majoring in history at Princeton, where he particularly enjoyed taking part in discussion forums led by Albert Einstein.

Jay completed his required military service in the Army Reserve Counterintelligence Unit, graduated from Harvard Business School in 1953, and served as chairman and CEO of the American Trust Company Bank, building successful relationships in the emerging Mexican banking sector.

He left the bank in 1962 to pursue other business ventures — representing Westinghouse in the USSR, producing spaghetti westerns, and developing dishware with pop artist Peter Max — as well as politics. Jay served as one of Hubert Humphrey's most valued advance men on the 1964 campaign trail and spent 1968 as special assistant to the vice president in the Executive Office Building of the White House. Jay later established Redafco, a real estate development and finance company where he worked until his death, developing major commercial buildings and other properties.

New York City, where he was a longstanding member of the Lotos Club, was always home. In recent decades, a wide (and ever-widening) circle of friends and family came to know him, with respect and affection, as Papa Jay.

Jay died Oct. 16, 2023. He was predeceased by his loving wife of two decades, Judy Mello Schwamm. He is survived by his daughter Jennifer Schwamm Willis '79; sons Michael and Lee '83; seven grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

THE CLASS OF 1952

WILLIAM ALEXANDER MILLS '52

A proud Canadian, Alex was equally proud to be a member of the great Class of 1952. He roomed with Doug Hardy, Bob Warren, and Dick Billings and belonged to Cottage



Club. Varsity hockey team captain, Alex was honored to receive the Blackwell Trophy, given to the Princeton player who contributes most to the sport. He served as class

secretary, Commons waiter-captain, and University Chapel deacon. Alex loved all things Princeton, including the classmate connections he and his wife, Jane, made over the decades. Alex delighted in brother J. Paul Mills '64 and daughters Tracy '82 and Jill '85 being fellow Tigers.

Still working in real estate and land development, Alex died Nov. 27, 2023, following complications of a fall. Alex excelled in spotting land-use changes ahead of the curve. No project was dearer to his heart than his family's ongoing Buena Vista Ranch project on the Arizona side of the Mexican border.

When not working, Alex enjoyed golfing, skiing, and spending time at the family's cottage in Muskoka. Married for more than 70 years, Alex and Jane treasured their six children, 12 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1953

COWLES W. HERR '53

Born in New York City, Cowles attended the Lawrenceville School before coming to



Princeton. He was a member of Cap and Gown and majored in politics, writing his thesis on the "Reorganization of the New Jersey Judicial System."

After graduating, Cowles served as an engineer in the Navy on the USS *Harwood*, a destroyer based in Newport, R.I. After completing his military service, he entered Columbia Law School and, after graduating in 1958, returned to his family's law firm, Herr & Fisher, in Flemington, N.J. He was a member of the board of trustees of Hunterdon Medical Center and a governor-appointed leader of the New Jersey Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection.

Cowles lived on an operating farm and offered a helping hand to fellow farmers, assisting with plantings and harvests and fostering a sense of camaraderie among the local farming community.

Cowles died Jan. 7, 2024. He is survived by his wife, Janet; four children; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

CALVIN H. HOOKER '53

Calvin died Aug. 24, 2023, in Brunswick, Maine.

At Princeton, he majored in architecture and became a member of Court Club, but left after his junior year and was drafted into the Army. He served in the Corps of Engineers and was stationed for a year in France.



After completing his military service, Calvin entered Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in the School of Architecture and graduated in 1957. He worked for an engineering firm in Boston, moved to Columbia to earn a master's of science degree in civil engineering in 1960, and then joined a civil engineering firm in New York. Deciding he would rather teach, Calvin moved to New England College in Henniker, N.H., to become director of the Professional Program in Engineering.

After 31 years of college teaching, Calvin took early retirement and created Adventures in Language & Culture, an international student exchange organization, hoping to add to international understanding and satisfy his urge to travel. He was a longtime member of the Concord Chorale, a member of various other singing groups, and served as a church organist and choir director for many years.

Calvin is survived by his wife, Connie; three children; and two grandchildren.

GEORGE A. IVES JR. '53

George was born in New Bern, N.C., and died there Oct. 4, 2022.



He attended the New Bern public schools until his junior year of high school, when he transferred to Woodberry Forest School in Virginia. After graduating from Woodberry, George came to Princeton, where he majored in English and wrote his thesis on "The Role of Frank Norris in Early American Nationalism." He joined Colonial Club and Naval ROTC, sang in the Varsity Glee Club, and was on the staff of the *Tiger*. After graduation, George served two years in the Navy, stationed in London as a communications officer. It was there that he met and married his wife, Gisela von zur Muehlen.

After completing his commission in the Navy, George joined the U.S. Foreign Service and was posted to Asunción, Paraguay. Returning to Washington, he served in various capacities in the State Department but ultimately returned to New Bern to join the family business. He served the community in a variety of roles: as chairman of the Tryon Palace Commission, co-chair of the 1974 New Bern Bicentennial Celebration, a member of the Chatham Hall Board of Trustees, and trustee of the N.C. Symphony. He and Gisela also edited and published his mother-in-law's memoir titled *In God's Hands: A Noblewoman's Struggle for Survival in War and Revolution*.

George was predeceased by Gisela and is survived by his three daughters: Caroline Howard Pearce, Tanya Ives Jorgensen, and

Dorothy Gregory Ives; son George Allen Ives III; and four grandchildren.

HAROLD PILSKALN JR. '53

Harold died Jan. 31, 2023, of complications of Alzheimer's disease.



He was born in Cleveland, and came to Princeton after graduating from Western Reserve Academy in Hudson, Ohio. Harold rowed crew and was a member of Colonial Club. He majored in sociology and did an experimental thesis on the moral judgments of children.

After graduation, Harold went to Harvard Law School to acquire an LL.B. and then entered the Marine Corps, serving briefly in Virginia and then at El Toro Marine Corps Air Station in Santa Ana, Calif. He was admitted to the District of Columbia Bar and then moved to California, where he specialized in real estate and title insurance law, on which he lectured frequently. He was a member of the California, Massachusetts, Washington, D.C., and American bar associations, and achieved admission to the U.S. Supreme Court Bar. He served as executive vice president and member of the board of directors of several national cooperate title insurance companies, was a partner in a California real estate law firm, and ran a private law practice in Massachusetts until he retired in 1998.

When Huntington's disease struck his young wife Polly and then his daughter Suzanne and son Peter, he worked tirelessly for many years with the National Huntington's Disease Society board, the Northeast Regional group's organization, and Centers of Excellence on issues of care, family support, and increasing awareness of the disease.

Predeceased by his first and second wives and eldest son, Harold is survived by his brother Robert, daughter Cindy, and grandson Harold.

CHARLES W. SIBBERS '53

Chip was born March 29, 1932, in Rockville Centre, Long Island, N.Y., and came to



Princeton after graduating from Baldwin (Long Island) High School. He was a member of Cannon Club and majored in sociology. He wrote his thesis on "The Influence of Drinking on High School Prestige Rating."

After graduating, Chip served in the Marine Corps and then graduated from Harvard Business School. Moving to Poquoson, Va., he went to work for NASA doing project control/cost analysis.

Chip died Feb. 2, 2024, in Poquoson. He is survived by his wife, two sons, and a daughter.

DAVID A. WEST '53

David was born in Philadelphia and attended Germantown Friends School before coming



to Princeton. He joined Tower Club, majored in history, and wrote his thesis on the "Progressive Movement and World War I."

He served as an officer in the Navy after graduation and then returned to Philadelphia, where he worked for several years at the Philadelphia National Bank. In 1958, he moved to Smith Kline & French in the pharmaceutical industry, and in 1960 he joined Lea Associates, a marketing research agency where he served as vice president and eventually as owner.

When Lea Associates was absorbed by IMS, David spent several years in Mexico City, returning to Philadelphia in 1976. In retirement, he served on the boards of his church, the Germantown Friends School, and the Philadelphia Zoo.

Susan, David's wife of 70 years, died in March 2023, and David died Sept. 15, 2023. He is survived by five children; 15 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1954

FRANKLIN C. ELLIS JR. '54

Fra died Sept. 17, 2023.

He prepared for Princeton at Culver Military Academy, where he participated in swimming and publications. A music major, he wrote his senior thesis on Stravinsky, sang in the Chapel Choir, and participated in 150-pound crew. His father, Franklin C. Ellis, was a member of the Class of 1923.

After two years as a first lieutenant in the Army, he earned a master's degree in music at Northwestern, taught music for two years at Trinity-Pawling School, and having realized that his quest for harmony extended to the whole environment, earned a master of science degree in city planning at the University of Illinois.

He married Sandra Townsend in 1967 and they moved to Puerto Rico, where he engaged in city planning for two years. Then he embarked on a 20-year career in teaching and composing at the Cate School in Carpinteria, Calif., where he directed plays, conducted the choir, played the organ and piano, taught music theory, wrote songs, and dreamed of writing a Broadway-style musical.

An energetic lover of nature and an ardent advocate for environmental justice, he enjoyed skiing, ice skating, horseback riding, bike riding, sailing, swimming, canoeing, windsurfing, and walking, both in California and at their family retreat in Canada.

Fra is survived by his wife of 56 years, Sandra; daughters Rebecca, Amy, Terri, and Jeannie; seven grandchildren; and his younger brother Gary.

ERNEST P. FRANCK '54

Ernie died Nov. 28, 2023, after a life of service to country, community, and family.



He prepared at Chaminade High School in Mineola, N.Y., where he was active in sports. He majored in mechanical engineering, was president of Elm Club and the Intramural

Athletic Association, and undergraduate member of the University Council on Athletics. He also participated in IAA softball, track, hockey, football, basketball, and swimming.

After graduation, Ernie served as an ensign in the Navy's Civil Engineer Corps, mostly in Japan, during which he played in the Navy baseball league and the All-Navy playoffs. Ernie retired from the Navy as a captain after a career in the reserves that spanned more than a quarter century.

Professionally, he led his consulting engineering firm, designing electrical and mechanical components for large construction projects.

He married Ellen Jamieson in 1960 and they moved to Sea Cliff, N.Y., where they raised four daughters. He was a long-serving volunteer, active in the Kiwanis, Girl Scouts, and the American Lung Association, to name just a few. In retirement, he and Ellen wintered in Venice, Fla.

He is survived by his wife Ellen; daughters Gail '83, Peggy, and Carol; and four grandchildren. He was predeceased by his daughter Elizabeth.

IVAN P. HALL '54

Ivan died in Hoenow, Germany, Feb. 1, 2023.

He prepared at Groton School, where he participated in soccer, crew, and debating.



At Princeton, he majored in history (as had his father, William W. Hall 1925) and the Special Program in the Humanities. He was a member of Campus Club, the Whig-Clio Debate Panel, and St. Paul Society, and rowed 150-pound crew.

An internationalist with a facility for languages, he served as an interpreter in Germany for two years in the Army and then taught English and history in a German secondary school for a year. Between 1961 and 1969 he earned an M.A. in international relations at the Fletcher School, became a cultural officer in the U.S. Information Agency in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and studied Japanese and Chinese languages and Far Eastern history pursuant to his Ph.D. in Japanese history at Harvard.

Ivan was an acerbic, independent-minded expert on matters of Japanese culture and Japan-U.S. relations, with influential publications including *Cartels of the Mind* about Japanese sidelining of foreign professionals from its institutions, and *Bamboozled!: How America Loses the Intellectual Game with Japan and Its Implications for Our Future in Asia*.

He is fondly remembered on both sides of the Pacific for his activism, academic mentorship, and pushing the envelope toward social justice.

Ivan is survived by a nephew and a de facto adopted mentee who followed in related careers.

JOHN E. VANDERSTAR '54

John died Dec. 6, 2023.

He prepared at William L. Dickinson High School in Jersey City, N.J.



At Princeton, he majored in aeronautical engineering, was president of Key and Seal, chaired the Orange Key Guide Service, participated in 150-pound crew, and was sports director of WPRU.

In 1961, after serving as a flight navigator in the Navy and earning an LL.B at Harvard Law School, he joined Covington & Burling in Washington, D.C., where he practiced in all areas of federal court and administrative agency litigation and arbitration, including antitrust, commercial, sports, broadcast, and civil-rights law. He retired as a partner in 2000.

He was devoted to work in civil rights, actively engaged with the ACLU, the National Organization for Women, the Legal Counsel for the Elderly, the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, and Planned Parenthood.

John was also active with the Episcopal Church as a delegate to various official meetings, participating in the drive to ordain women, and writing the 2006 General Convention resolution declaring the institution of slavery a sin.

He married M. Elizabeth "Liz" Culbreth in 1985. In 2009, they moved to her hometown, Waynesville, N.C., where they became deeply involved in its life.

He is survived by Liz; daughters Pippa '85, Alexandra, Thankful '88, and Eliza; two grandchildren; a half-brother; and two half-sisters. He was predeceased by his brother Ronald and his infant daughter Liza.

John is remembered as a man of great intellect, integrity, and humor, and as a devoted husband, father, and friend. He will be deeply missed.

THE CLASS OF 1955

WHITELAW TODD TERRY JR. '55

Todd died Dec. 2, 2023, after a brief illness. His wife, Valerie, said Todd "really loved



Princeton; he was very proud to have gone."

Todd was born June 28, 1932, in St. Louis, Mo. He attended Andover, where he participated in soccer,

student government, and dramatics. At Princeton, he joined Ivy Club and majored in history. Todd rowed on the 150-pound crew team that went to Henley. Valerie said the team couldn't afford to ship their own shell to England, had to borrow one, and failed to win. Todd was also a member of Orange Key and enjoyed sailing. His senior year roommates were Peter Shea, Roly Morris, and Dick Mestres.

After graduation, Todd served as a first lieutenant in the Marines for three years. He spent the majority of his professional life as a stockbroker and retired from Morgan Stanley in 2020. Valerie said he loved to travel, play tennis, and attend the theater. "We would go to London or Paris twice a year, see two or three plays and just have fun. We also went on a couple of barge trips with his old roommates, Roly Morris and Dick Mestres, and their families. Mainly, we had a fun time."

Todd is survived by his wife of 63 years, Valerie Pantaleoni Terry; son Michael; and daughter Elizabeth Jane.

THE CLASS OF 1956

HENRY F. DAWES '56

Harry died Sept. 5, 2023.

Coming from Dwight Morrow High School



in Englewood, N.J., he followed his father, Wetmore Dawes '26, to Princeton, where he joined Key and Seal Club and majored in philosophy. Harry loved

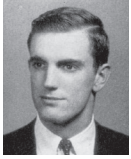
studying philosophy and observed that writing his thesis was one of the most stimulating intellectual experiences of his life. He earned a medical degree at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons which, after service as a captain in the U.S. Air Force in Pakistan, led to a long career as a general surgeon. He took great pride and satisfaction as a surgeon during a time of exciting changes in the profession.

Like many of us at our 60th reunion, however, Harry did comment how happy he was, in this tumultuous and litigious age, to be retired. In recent years he and Nancy lived in Harrisville, N.H., and Highland Beach, Fla.

Harry is survived by his wife, Nancy; children Christopher, Victoria, Jennifer; stepdaughter Rebecca Morton; and six grandchildren.

A. SLADE MILLS JR. '56

Slade, our class vice president, died Dec. 8, 2023, in New York, of a metastatic cancer.



He came to Princeton from Phillips Exeter Academy, following his brother Edward Mills '55. Slade joined Cottage Club, where he was elected president. He majored in modern languages, an ideal grounding for his international business career with Rheem and Epic, which included living in Santiago, Milan, and Mexico City. Along the journey, he served for three years in the Navy and attended the Harvard Business School Advanced Management Program.

Slade's community contributions were equally impressive. His service as co-chair of the New York Youth Symphony was lauded for his unreserved enthusiasm for 22 years — always in the audience to cheer on the student musicians. Slade was equally invested in the work of 1956 ReachOut, where he was tireless in the effort to give less privileged youth a guide to higher education. A young colleague praised him as “an authentic, deeply driven gentleman in all the best senses of that bygone word.”

Slade is survived by his wife and partner in charity, Phyllis; children: Sally Gebbie, Alfred III, and Alison LeMaire '86; and eight grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1957

STEPHEN E. DEVOE '57

Steve died Nov. 13, 2023.

After graduation from the Park School in Indianapolis, Steve followed his brothers, Charles '52 and John '56, to Princeton, where he is best known for his stellar performance on the varsity basketball team. He majored in electrical engineering, took his meals at Ivy Club, and joined ROTC. Senior year he roomed with fellow basketballers Don Davidson and Ken MacKenzie, along with Tony Bruns, George Carneal, Curt Dohan, Jack Hunt, and Frank Logan.

Following active service in the Army, Steve continued in the Reserve, where he attained the rank of captain. During this period, he married Mary C. Ochsner, a graduate of Smith, and they had three children, Curt '82, Chuck '85, and Julia '89. Steve went to work with his brother Chuck, and father in L.M. DeVoe Co., specializing as a manufacturer's representative in engineering sales. Stating that he started law studies “as a hobby” at Indiana University, he obtained a J.D. there in 1965, and gradually switched to full-time law practice. He became a partner in the firm of Henderson, Daily, Withrow & DeVoe, and later of counsel to Bose, McKinney & Evans.

Steve succeeded his brother John as president of the Indianapolis Racquet Club, was a director of the U.S. Tennis Association, and helped to found the Indiana Pacers pro basketball team. He also



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served at various times as board chairman of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and president of the Woodstock Club, helped to establish the Dayspring Center (a homeless shelter), and was active in Trinity Episcopal Church affairs.

Steve is survived by his wife of 64 years, Mary; their three children; and seven grandchildren, including Tanner '14.

ALAN C. FITTS '57

Alan was born Nov. 20, 1934, in Plainfield, N.J. After graduating from Plainfield High School, he took a post-grad year at Lawrenceville in 1953, attaining All-American status in swimming for setting the New Jersey state record in the 200-yard freestyle. At Princeton, he joined Charter Club and continued to swim. He graduated from Lafayette College in 1958.

During his 40-year career in investments, Alan worked in sales and trading in New York and Philadelphia at several firms, including Salomon Brothers and Merrill Lynch. Alan had a sharp mind and a dry wit, enjoying the New York Times crossword puzzles and closely following the stock markets even after his retirement from Wellington Management Co. in 1998. His athletic interests varied from racquet sports to skiing, yoga, and fitness. At 60, he began running triathlons, beating participants 20 years younger in the swimming leg of the races. At 81, he completed his last triathlon, the Philly Tri.

After retirement, Alan renewed his passion for the guitar and played and chanted in Sanskrit at yoga classes in the Philadelphia region until COVID-19. He also learned to play the harmonium. He was a 55-year member of the Merion Cricket Club, swimming laps almost to the end of his life.

Alan died April 11, 2023. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Jody; sons Alan Jr. and his wife Nancy, and Caleb and his wife Kendra; grandchildren Charles, Susanna, and Josie. Alan's first wife, Susanna, died in 1972.

THE CLASS OF 1958

STEPHEN H. LEWIS JR. '58

Steve died June 27, 2023, in Greenwich, Conn. He was 86.



He came to Princeton from Scarsdale High School, where he participated in publications, debating, and photography.

At Princeton, Steve majored in English and was a member of the Pre-Medical Society, the Outing Club, and Court Club. His roommates were Dick Weltz and Roger Baldwin.

After graduation, he earned a medical degree from Albert Einstein College of Medicine, where he met Jane Gantman.

They married and had three children, Jonathan, Robert, and Jennifer. Steve practiced pediatric medicine for 41 years until he retired. His dry wit and intelligence will be missed by all who knew him. Friends and family will especially miss hearing about one of his ever-expanding set of hobbies over a pint of Swiss almond Haagen-Dazs.

Steve is survived by Jane, three children, six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and his brother. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.

THE CLASS OF 1959

JONATHAN V.D. NORMAN III '59

Jon died Feb. 23, 2023, his 85th birthday.

He came to Princeton from Louisville Male High School, where he played baseball and was president of the debating society. At Princeton he was a member of Whig-Clio, Orange Key, Army ROTC, and Tower Club, where his father, Jonathan Norman Jr. 1927, had been president. Two uncles had also gone to Princeton. Jon majored in English and after graduating served six months on active duty as an Army officer.

Discharged from active duty, he joined Commonwealth Life Insurance in Louisville for three years, interrupted by an 11-month call back to active duty. Discharged again in Louisville, Jon focused on investment research and became a chartered financial analyst. In 1969, he married Mary Foshee of Louisville, a Vassar grad to whom he remained married until his death.

In 1970, Jon joined JJB Hilliard-WL Lyons, a regional brokerage firm in Louisville where he remained for 43 years, rising through the ranks to senior vice president and chief investment officer. With improvement of the lives of disadvantaged people in mind, over the years he served on numerous charitable boards and organizations, particularly Wayside Christian Mission, where he served as board chairman and capital fund campaign chairman.

Jon is survived by his wife, his sister, and several nieces and nephews, to whom we send condolences.

THE CLASS OF 1960

CLAUDE R. ENGLE III '60

Claude came to Princeton from the Landon School for Boys in Bethesda, Md.,

with a calling to electrical engineering and the theater. With us, he surrendered his interest in performance, instead going into stage managing, technical direction, and especially lighting. He became lighting designer and stage manager for Triangle Club and technical director for both Theatre Intime and the Savoyards. He

also coxed the 150-pound crew for two years. In his hours at Quadrangle, he installed the finest sound system on Prospect Avenue.

Claude went directly into theatrical design in New York. After two years of Army service, he undertook exterior architectural lighting design work exclusively and worked for 50 years with many leading U.S. and international architects. A few of the most notable of Claude's design projects are the Louvre Pyramid, Paris; the Reichstag, Berlin; the Millau Viaduct, France; the British Museum and Millennium Bridge, London; and One World Trade Center, New York City.

In retirement, he and Francine enjoyed travel to their widely spread family and the cultural life of Sarasota. He also became conductor of Kennebunkport's Seashore Museum Trolley, especially popular with the kids for his railroad stories and songs — and still performing magic tricks.

Claude died Dec. 3, 2023. He is survived by Francine and their shared five children and 10 grandchildren. Our condolences to them all.

JOHN A. WALLACE '60

Born and raised in Hartford, Conn., John came to Princeton from Loomis Chaffee



School after a post-grad year at Brighton College, England. At Loomis, he edited the school newspaper and was president of the student council and captain of the basketball team.

He transitioned to rugby with us, perhaps the English influence. John majored in history in the Special Program in the Humanities and was treasurer of Cottage Club. He graduated *summa cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa before going on to Harvard Law School.

Moving to Atlanta, John became a partner in King & Spalding law firm, where he was recognized nationally as a trust and estates lawyer. He was elected president of the American College of Trust and Estates Counsel, was a professor at Emory Law School, and served as a leader of numerous civic, charitable, and professional organizations. John was particularly devoted to Morehouse College, the Piedmont Healthcare Foundation, the Westminster Schools, and Loomis Chaffee School, serving on their boards for many years. A keen golfer, John also enjoyed many other sports and friends.

John died Nov. 15, 2023. Laura, his wife of 53 years, and son, John Jr. '89, both predeceased him. He is survived by two children and six grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1961

JEFFREY W. MORGAN '61

Jeff died Nov. 4, 2023, in West Hartford, Conn., after an accident.

Born in nearby Middletown, he came to us from Phillips Academy. At Princeton, he



rowed freshman crew, was in the Orange Key, took his meals at Tower Club, and majored in architecture. He roomed in 1903 Hall with Ray Unger, John McCobb, Phil Shambaugh, Doug Kerr, and Joe Segura.

Following Princeton, Jeff lived in Massachusetts and Illinois before returning to Connecticut, where he would spend the rest of his life. Over the years he worked in the data-processing industry for RCA, Travelers, Hamilton Standard, and ITT Hartford. So far as we know he was never in touch with Princeton or the class, and we are grateful to Chuck Watson for spotting his obituary in the *Hartford Courant*.

Jeff is survived by his wife, Sandra; son Gregory; daughter Susanne Taylor; and grandchildren Morgan and Crew.

THE CLASS OF 1962

JOHN P. GRADY '62

John died in Stamford, Conn., on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 23, 2023.



He came to us from Binghamton (N.Y.) Central High School. At Princeton, he majored in architecture, was a member of the national champion fencing team in 1961, and served as secretary of Cottage Club.

Following graduation, he served two years in the Navy and earned a master's degree in architecture from Harvard in 1966. He was a partner in the design firm Chermayeff & Geismar in New York City for more than 30 years, where he oversaw the firm's design of large-scale public exhibitions and took great pride in developing a closeness between his work and its location, culture, and history. He produced many exhibits, including at the Ellis Island Immigration Museum and the Statue of Liberty in New York, the Smithsonian in Washington, and the Kennedy and Truman presidential libraries.

John was loved for his sense of humor and fun and his sincerity, thoughtfulness, and hard work.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Virginia; children Patrick '95, Sara, and Michael; and two grandchildren. The class extends its condolences to all.

ROBERT S. HAZELTON '62

Bob died Nov. 14, 2023, in Pepper Pike, Ohio.

He graduated from John Marshall High School in Cleveland. At Princeton, he majored in philosophy and was a member of the freshman wrestling team. Senior year he roomed with Bob Borda '63 and Bill Green '63.

Bob returned to Cleveland after graduation and earned a master's degree in

philosophy and a Ph.D. in library science at Case Western Reserve University. He then spent nearly his entire career at the Eaton Corp., serving for many years as vice president of emerging technology, networks, and IT architecture. He retired from Eaton in 2004.

Bob was a gourmet Chinese cook, an art collector, a blues devotee, and a woodworker. He played tennis and squash into his 70s.

He was predeceased by his first wife, Sandra, who died in the crash of TWA Flight 800 in 1996. He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Cindy; two sisters; and two brothers. The class extends its sympathy to all.

MICHAEL J. PAINE '62

Mike died Feb. 4, 2023.

He came to us from Phillips Exeter. He majored in history, played freshman lacrosse, roomed with Bruce Pirnie, enjoyed life, and was president of Colonial Club.



Mike was ordained after attending Union Theological Seminary. He married Victoria Moore in 1964. A year later he moved to West Virginia University, Morgantown, as the school's first Episcopal chaplain. He played in a local band — Mother Witherspoon's Mind Garage — and twice took his "Electric Liturgy of the Lord's Supper" to a packed Princeton Chapel as well as big city venues.

Moving to Boston, he worked for Old Colony Trust but quit, teaching a variety of subjects at Roxbury Latin and traveling. He retired from preaching at age 45, primarily for "body repairs" — two retinas and two hip pins. While recuperating, Mike read and re-read several authors (McLuhan, Fuller, Einstein, and Bohr). He published *Sermons for the Church of Is*. After Victoria died in 2017, he moved to Pittsford, N.Y., where his youngest son, Skye, teaches college French.

The class extends its condolences to his sons, Ward, Barth, Amos, and Skye; eight grandchildren; and brother F. Ward Paine '56.

ALAN R. PEARLMAN '62

Alan died Nov. 23, 2023, in Canterbury, England.



He came to us from Taylor Allderdice High School in Pittsburgh. At Princeton, Alan majored in philosophy and was a member of the Woodrow Wilson Society. A winner of a Fulbright scholarship, he pursued the study of English and comparative literature at Cambridge and Yale. After a year in New Haven, he left for Mississippi, where as a member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) he participated in theater and living-art projects allied with the

civil-rights movement.

From Mississippi, Alan moved to Berkeley, where he continued his studies and began teaching theater and comparative literature. In 1975, he returned to England to work as a theater officer for Southern Arts. In 1979, Alan became a lecturer at the University of Kent in Canterbury and developed practical as well as an academic drama course. He remained an active faculty participant at Kent for the next three decades.

While teaching, Alan met and married his wife, Britta, and fathered a son, Mikhail "Mischa." In retirement Alan and Britta enjoyed attending jazz concerts and traveling.

The class extends its condolences to Britta, Mischa, and the family.

THE CLASS OF 1963

RICHARD M. HAVERLAND '63

Dick died Dec. 9, 2023, at home in Little Compton, R.I., of lymphoma. He was a '63 stalwart and president from 2003-08 who had a successful career in insurance.



Born in Brooklyn, Dick graduated from Chaminade High School on Long Island.

At Princeton, he majored in history, was on the golf team and the cheerleading squad, and ate at Tower.

After a Stanford MBA, Dick became a financial analyst, then joined Progressive Insurance in Ohio, rising in 14 years to president. He later was a senior executive at American Financial Group, Continental Corp., and Highlands Insurance. As a retiree, Dick served on boards and for eight years as an elected councilman in Indian River Shores, Fla. He also became a Life Master in bridge.

He flourished in sports for a lifetime, right up until his diagnosis months before our 60th: three-time national champion in platform tennis in the senior category; winner of golf tournaments in USSGA Seniors and at many clubs, carding a 70 in 2022; and runner-up in the 75-plus division in the Summer National Pickleball Games at age 81.

Dick is survived by his wife of 58 years, Rosemary; daughters Julia, Lucy '94, and Laura; eight grandchildren; and siblings Jim, Bill, and Patricia.

ROBERT F. LEWIS II '63

Bob died Dec. 4, 2023, in his hometown of Santa Fe, N.M., from the lingering effects of traumatic brain injury suffered years earlier when he slipped on ice.



Bob came to Princeton from Fort Lauderdale High School, where he was president of the student council, graduation speaker, and a finalist in the National Merit

and National Honor Society tests. An English major, he wrote his thesis on Robert Frost, took his meals at Quadrangle Club, and was a member of WPRB and vice president of the University Press Club. His roommates, who became lifetime friends, were Roger Collins, Chip Morse, and Bill Helm. "Bob was a scholar, always a scholar, and a very gentle, very loyal guy," said Bill.

Bob worked for Prudential Insurance, retiring in 1998 as president of its disability management services unit. Prudential "enabled me to marry (twice, lastly to a Pru employee), have two children, get an MBA, work and live in upstate NY, Los Angeles, Houston, and Tokyo along the way, and retire comfortably to Santa Fe," he wrote in his entry in our 50th-reunion yearbook.

Bob earned a master's degree in management from Rutgers in 1971 and a Ph.D. in American studies from the University of New Mexico in 2006. He wrote his doctoral thesis on baseball, a lifetime passion. That led to him publishing *Smart Ball*, an account of MLB's progression as a global business brand that continues to appeal to a consumer's sense of an idyllic past in the midst of a fast-paced, and often violent, present.

Bob is survived by daughter Jennie and son Brian. His wife, Dianna, died in 2019.

THE CLASS OF 1964

ALBERT L. PERRY III '64

Al died Oct. 31, 2023, at his home in New Canaan, Conn., of prostate cancer. He was 82.



Al graduated from the Hotchkiss School in 1960. At Princeton, he majored in English, was a member of Cap and Gown, and maintained

lifelong friendships with Dave Kranz, Ken Gibson, and Howie Hallock. More recently, he authored *Johnny Poe at Princeton*, a novel about a football legend at the end of the 19th century. Al came from a long line of Princeton graduates, grandfather Julian Gregory 1897 and uncles Julian Jr. '35 and Stewart '36.

For more than 20 years he taught English and history at New Canaan Country School and was guided in his teaching by Maya Angelou's words, "People may not remember everything that you did, or all that you said, but people will always remember how you made them feel."

Al maintained a love of baseball throughout his life, including an encyclopedic recall of trivia about the game along with a collection of memorabilia.

Al is survived by his brother Gregory '65, his sister Ginger, and four nieces. His brother Stephen died in Vietnam in May 1969. Al is being remembered through the Albert Perry Scholarship Fund at New Canaan Country

School, www.countryschool.net/endowed-funds-giving.

MICHAEL B. TERRY '64

Mike died Dec. 19, 2023, after an illness of several months in Prescott, Ariz. He was surrounded by his wife of 49 years, Marjolein, a native of The Netherlands whom he married in The Hague; and their three children. He was 81.



Born on an Army base in Henderson, Ky., Mike was the son of Frederick Terry, a third-generation West Pointer who was killed during World War II, and his widow, Emelie. Mike was the stepson of Edward Clifford 1927.

Mike came to Princeton from Darrow School in New Lebanon, N.Y., and ate at Campus Club. He majored in economics and graduated *cum laude*. Continuing his family's distinguished military tradition, Mike served as an officer in the Navy for three years after graduation and then received an MBA from Harvard Business School in 1970. He worked at First National Bank of Boston and then at Eaton Vance Management as a fixed-income portfolio manager.

Mike and Mar raised their family in Needham, Mass., where he enjoyed attending his children's sporting events as well as golfing, skiing, and traveling. An avid historian, he researched family genealogy and digitized family photos and letters. In retirement, he and Mar moved to Prescott, where he loved entertaining family and friends, taking daily walks, and watching the sunset over the mountains.

Mike is survived by Mar; children Frederick, Christopher, and Anina '02; and seven grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1965

ERNEST T. PASCARELLA '65

Ernie died Jan. 23, 2024, in his hometown of Iowa City.



He came to Princeton from Erie, Pa., and roomed with Bonomo, Diamond, Iacavazzi, Michael, John O'Brien, Pett, and Pizzarello. Ernie was the dominant football lineman for the Princeton Tigers, earning All-Ivy honors and perfecting the art of decimating opponents, then graciously helping them to their feet. His crushing blocks enabled Captain Cosmo to lead the nation in scoring and our Tigers to a glorious undefeated season.

Graduating with honors as a religion major, Ernie joined the Marines, receiving a Bronze Star and three Purple Hearts during the Vietnam War as a platoon leader, rifle-company commander, and first lieutenant

with the 1st Marine Division.

Upon returning, he earned a master's degree from Penn and a Ph.D. in higher education from Syracuse University, embarking on a teaching career at the University of Iowa, where he held the Mary Louise Petersen Chair in Higher Education. He was described as one of the most frequently cited scholars on higher education, his work was cited in five U.S. Supreme Court cases. He also co-authored a groundbreaking book, *How College Affects Students*.

Ernie is survived by his three children, Andy, Alison, and Emily; seven grandchildren; and his sister, Julie Karsznia.

Ernie was a true giant in many ways, truly personifying Princeton in the nation's service. Ernie, we will miss you — Cosmo and your teammates.

THE CLASS OF 1966

PETER N. UPTON '66

Peter died Nov. 21, 2023.

He came to Princeton from Amherst Central High School in Buffalo, N.Y., where he was captain of the soccer team and ran track. At Princeton, he majored in philosophy, played 150-pound football, belonged to Cannon Club, and worked in the student laundry.

After graduation, Peter enlisted in the Navy. Decorated for his tours of duty as a special services officer in Vietnam, he documented that service in several articles. One of them, a short story titled "Death of the 43," served as the catalyst for a documentary, *Be Good, Smile Pretty*, aired on both PBS and 60 Minutes.

Peter's fellow Navy and Vietnam veteran, former Secretary of State John Kerry, spoke movingly at his memorial service.

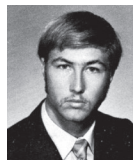
After discharge, Peter earned a Juris Doctor degree from Boston University and joined the Navy JAG corps as a judge. Later, he was engaged in private law practice in Hartford. He also pursued his true passion, painting, until his sight failed later in life.

Peter is survived by his two children, Hilary Upton-Walker and Patrick Upton, and his granddaughter, Carmela Walker. The class extends its heartfelt condolences to them all.

THE CLASS OF 1971

JOHN GARRETSON '71

Our most respected and steadfast classmate Jack died of complications of dementia April 27, 2023, in South Florida.



Jack joined our class with two from Hamilton Taft High School and 42 others from Ohio. He made his mark at Princeton in swimming as co-captain, multiple record-

setter, and All-American in 1971. Jack graduated with honors in sociology, belonged to Quad, oversaw urban work-scholarship programs, and lived with a colorful brotherhood (Barbieri, Hoxie, Winsky, Cutchins, K. Warner, Muther, C. Kemp, and Beeler) in third-entry Walker. Classmates remember him for his energy, drive, and good cheer.

Jack married Tara in 1971 and was devoted to her, their children (Jenny, John, and Tyler), five grandchildren, and his brothers. After graduating with honors at Northern Kentucky's Chase College of Law, he established a thriving community-oriented practice in his hometown of Hamilton, Ohio. Jack ethically and compassionately focused on personal injury, family law, and criminal defense, including six death penalty cases. He retired in 2016. He also served the community as housing authority chair, bailiff, prosecutor, judge, and probation officer.

Jack remained physically active: scuba diving, climbing Mount Rainier, and running the Boston Marathon. The class extends its condolences to Jack's family and his many friends and admirers.

WILLIAM W. LONDON '71

Bill died Oct. 22, 2023, in Boulder, Colo., after years of living with Parkinson's and Lewy



body dementia.

Bill came to Princeton from Casady School in Oklahoma City, where he lived almost his entire life.

He played freshman soccer and lightweight football, roomed with Yeary, Winant, Chamberlain, Baine, Loughlin, and Metzger, and belonged to Quad. Roommates valued his insight, integrity, intellect, quiet humor, constant smile, unfailing kindness, and calm, thoughtful demeanor. He tolerated good-natured teasing about the rigor of majoring in geology, graduated with honors, earned a master's in petroleum engineering at the University of Oklahoma, and became an independent oil and gas producer.

As a wildcatter, Bill successfully developed oil fields in Texas and Oklahoma. He married his Casady classmate Coe in 1974 and raised three children. Bill enthusiastically took up distance running as a competitor in 38 marathons (including eight Boston and nine New York City); as a coach for his children and their peers; and as a founder and director of a long-standing community running event. He was a master storyteller, rode horses competitively, gardened, read history voraciously, and supported Coe's and their children's activities.

To Coe, his children Lauren, Lucy, and Aidan, his grandchildren, other family, and many friends, the class extends its deepest sympathies.

ERIC A. ORDWAY '71

Eric died July 9, 2023, in Norwalk, Conn., of pancreatic cancer.

He came to Princeton from the Browning School in Manhattan. He was an actor at Theatre Intime, roomed with Camp and Kern, and majored in politics. He met his future life partner Kate during junior-year-abroad studies in Paris. Their long-distance relationship to Smith culminated with marriage after graduation.

Returning to Paris, Eric studied music, then earned a master's degree in Latin American studies at New York University before becoming (with Kate) an inspiring teacher and dean at Browning for 10 years. He switched careers and completed Brooklyn Law School.

Eric then began a renowned career in international law at Weil, Gotshal, & Manges, taking advantage of his multilingual and interpersonal skills. He exhibited selflessness and multiple talents throughout his life: professionally as a specialist in international arbitration and advocate for social justice at the Vance Center and the United Nations, and personally as a professional jazz pianist, art collector, New York sports fan, and raconteur.

Eric always prioritized his family (wife Kate, sons Demian, Nick '02, and John), establishing a nurturing life for them in suburban Westport, Conn. The class extends its condolences to his family and friends.

THE CLASS OF 1973

DEREK P. MCDOWELL '73

In tribute to his calling, Derek would want us to say that he entered eternal life Aug. 27, 2022, in Brooklyn, N.Y.



He was born Sept. 8, 1951, in Washington, D.C. He came to us from George Washington Preparatory School in Los Angeles, where among other

accomplishments he was president of his class. At Princeton, he majored in WWS, took his meals at Stevenson Hall, and was a member of the Aquinas Institute. During one break, he traveled overseas as a roadie for Miles Davis. We remember Derek as a funny and devoted friend.

He graduated from Rutgers Law School in 1977 and for many years practiced law and operated several businesses in Brooklyn. He was also pastor and chair of the board of trustees of the Pentecostal Evangelistic Outreach Church in Brooklyn for 15 years until his death. At his memorial service in Brooklyn's New Life Cathedral Sept. 16, 2022, there were heartfelt tributes to his pastoral leadership, compassion, and fellowship.

Derek is survived by his wife, Shellie; sons Johanan and Matthew; grandson Caleb; brother Myron; and others in a large and close family. The class is grateful for Derek's

exemplary ministry and fellowship, and offers our heartfelt condolences to his wife, children, and family.

THE CLASS OF 1977

R. STANLEY ROACH '77

Stan died Sept. 30, 2023. He led a passion-filled life and was a lifelong learner.



He was valedictorian of Guymon High School and majored in economics at Princeton. He went on to Harvard and earned an MBA with a concentration in marketing and finance in 1982. He had a career in Silicon Valley as a marketing executive and entrepreneur and co-founded Objective Software.

He was a loving and committed father to his children. Stan got joy from the small things in life. He loved nature, travel, good food, movies, music, and connection with others. He was a friend to many. His enthusiasm, spirit, laughter, and smile were contagious. He was involved in his local Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) community of San Francisco Bay Area, achieving 22 years of sobriety and serving as a sponsor to many others in the process of recovery. The AA philosophy was very influential in his life and brought him peace, humility, servitude, and a sense of community.

He created warm memories and easily made friends while at Princeton. He went on the latest Peru trip to help with wheelchair distribution and made more friends on that trip. Stan will be missed by many, but he lives on through the countless people that he touched.

He is survived by his daughter, Marissa Lubitch; sons Alexander and Benjamin; mother LaQuita; brother Randolph. He was predeceased by his father, Don.

THE CLASS OF 1983

JUDITH R. KING '83

Judith died Dec. 30, 2022, of cancer. If you met her even once, you surely remember



her oversized charm, wit, and intelligence. And if you were lucky enough to call her a friend — and very few people had as many friends as Judith — you were doubtless embraced by her fierce love, loyalty, and concern for everything you did and thought. She was a huge personality and leaves the world and her family and friends with a correspondingly huge void.

A *magna cum laude* English major, Judith won an award for the novel she submitted as her thesis. After Princeton, she served as a magazine editor and then copywriter for some of the world's best-known brands. She then established her own public relations firm, where she managed

the communications of nonprofits and brands spanning many industries. As in her personal life, she was a force of nature professionally, and was often asked to speak and write to share her expertise.

Judith is survived by her mother, Ruth; her siblings Debbie, Jonny '87, and Gideon; and many nieces and nephews.

THE CLASS OF 1986

ISABELLA DE LA HOUSSAYE '86

Isabella, the lawyer, mother, art curator, and endurance athlete, died Dec. 2, 2023, almost



six years after a diagnosis of non-small-cell lung cancer. She was 59 and a lifetime nonsmoker. Isabella came to us from the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Grand Coteau, La. At Princeton, she majored in politics and joined Cap and Gown. Her senior thesis, "Habib Bourguiba's Political Longevity: Thirty Years of Control in Tunisia," explored a major figure in the country's push for independence.

She earned a law degree from Columbia in 1990, where she was the first female editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Transnational Law* and then practiced with White & Case in New York and Hong Kong. After this, she worked to bringing pan-cultural ethnographic items to the United States by starting Material Culture, a store and auction house in Philadelphia.

Outside the office, she founded Bike, Breathe, Believe, a nonprofit using cycling to promote cancer awareness. Together with her husband, she cycled across the country in 2020 to raise awareness about the risk of lung cancer to never smokers.

Summarizing her life as an explorer here is impossible. She climbed mountains (four of the Seven Summits), ran more than 100 marathons, and walked the Camino de Santiago twice, often with a family member. The Explorers Club named her a fellow.

To her husband, David Crane '81, and her children, Cason '17, David '18, Bella, Oliver '22, and Chris, the Class of 1986 offers our condolences as well as our appreciation for sharing Isabella (and your house) with us.

GRADUATE ALUMNI

SIGURDUR HELGASON *54

At the age of 96, Sigurdur died Dec. 3, 2023, in Belmont, Mass.

He was born in Akureyri, Iceland, in 1927. Enthralled with mathematics from birth, as a child he enjoyed measuring circular objects around his home to calculate pi.

After beginning at the University of Iceland, he studied mathematics at the University of Copenhagen. In 1952, he came to Princeton on a Fulbright grant and earned a Ph.D. in mathematics in 1954.

Following positions at MIT, Princeton, the University of Chicago, and Columbia, he joined the MIT faculty and remained for more than 60 years. Sigurdur's contributions to mathematics include the texts *Differential Geometry and Symmetric Spaces*, and *Differential Geometry, Lie Groups, and Symmetric Spaces*. His research contributions include the Plancherel and Paley-Wiener theorems for Riemannian symmetric spaces, and he helped create the modern theory of Radon transforms.

Sigurdur held honorary doctorates from the University of Copenhagen, the University of Iceland, and Uppsala University, and was awarded the American Mathematical Society's Steele Prize. On his 80th birthday, in Reykjavik he chaired an international conference on integral geometry, harmonic analysis and representation theory.

Sigurdur is survived by his wife of 66 years, Artie; children Thor and Anna; and four grandchildren.

EUGENE A. HICKOK *54

Gene died Dec. 7, 2023, at age 95, in Deephaven, Minn.

Born in Tulsa, Okla., in 1928, Gene grew up in Minneapolis. He earned a bachelor's degree in geological engineering from the University of Minnesota and an MSE in geological engineering from Princeton in 1954. He served in the Marines and was deployed to Korea.

Gene was a founding partner of Geraghty, Miller and Hickok, a New York-based consulting hydrology firm. In Guatemala City, he worked for International Development Services to develop the first large capacity wells, water storage, and ground water irrigation systems there.

Back in Minnesota, Gene founded Eugene A. Hickok and Associates, which employed approximately 100 engineers in three states. The firm developed water resources under the auspices of the World Health Organization for all Central American countries. A senior spokesman on water resource issues, Gene testified in several landmark court cases relating to water and environmental law.

In the 1970s, he and a friend bought and ran the H&H Ranch in Drummond, Mon., raising 900 head of cattle in early grass-fed style.

Gene was predeceased by his wife, Barbara; son Matthew; and daughter Mary Catherine. He is survived by six children and 16 grandchildren.

ISY HAAS *57

Isy died June 24, 2023, in Tempe, Ariz.

He was born June 18, 1934, in Istanbul to Polish Jewish parents. After undergraduate work at Robert College in Istanbul, Isy came

to the United States. At Princeton, he earned an MSE in electrical engineering in 1957, working under George Warfield.

After a summer working at IBM, Isy became interested in computers and accepted a job at Remington Rand Univac, working on positive-gap diodes. Moving to California, he went to Fairchild Camera and Instrument (later Fairchild Semiconductor), where he developed Avalanche switching and wrote papers on four-layer diodes. Calling himself a “cynical circuit designer,” Isy preferred evaluating devices.

He joined Amelco (eventually incorporated into Teledyne Technologies), where he designed and evaluated integrated circuits and became knowledgeable in many aspects of design and evaluation. He worked with Lionel Kattner on diffusion, and they evolved a proof of principle for diffused isolation. After leaving Amelco, Isy worked on MOS devices for General Instrument Corp. Eventually deciding that he wanted to be his own boss, Isy went into consulting, taking up what he liked best and did best: developing integrated circuits of all kinds.

Isy is survived by his wife, Lynda, and daughter Ilana.

JEROME B. SCHNEEWIND *57

A scholar of the history of philosophy, Jerry died in Baltimore Jan. 8, 2024, at age 93.

Born May 17, 1930, in Mount Vernon, N.Y., Jerry earned a bachelor’s degree from Cornell in 1951 and a Ph.D. in philosophy from Princeton in 1957. From 1954 until 1956 he served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps.

Jerry joined the Johns Hopkins faculty in 1981, retiring in 2002. Prior to Hopkins, he taught at the University of Chicago, Princeton, Yale, the University of Pittsburgh (dean of the College of Arts and Sciences 1969-1973), Stanford, the University of Leicester, and Hunter College (provost 1975-1981).

He was best known for his innovative research on the history of ethics and for placing major thinkers in moral philosophy in their broader cultural context. Among his books were *Sidgwick’s Ethics and Victorian Moral Philosophy* and *The Invention of Autonomy*. Along with the history of ethics, his teaching covered types of ethical theory, the British empiricists, Kant’s ethics, and utopian thought.

Jerry served as president of the American Philosophical Association’s Eastern Division in 1995-96 and chair of the group’s national board from 1999 to 2002.

Jerry is survived by daughters Sarah, Rachel, and Hannah, and four grandchildren.

DAVID C. MONTGOMERY *59

David died of Parkinson’s disease Dec. 12, 2023, in Hanover, N.H.

Born March 5, 1936, in Milan, Mo., he earned a B.S. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in 1956 and a Ph.D. in physics from Princeton in 1959.

On the faculties of the University of Maryland, the University of Iowa, William & Mary, and Dartmouth, David taught undergraduate and graduate physics classes at all levels. He received visiting teaching and research appointments at universities and laboratories in the U.S., the United Kingdom, Europe, and Japan. David’s specialty was plasma physics. He published two books, *Plasma Kinetic Theory* with Derek Tidman and *The Theory of the Unmagnetized Plasma*, and nearly 200 papers in scientific journals.

To mark David’s 60th birthday, the *Journal of Plasma Physics* published a special issue on nonlinear plasma physics, a topic he pioneered. He was awarded an honorary degree by the Technical University of Eindhoven for his work in two-dimensional hydrodynamics and magnetohydrodynamics.

David’s interest in social justice led to his serving on the support committee of the American Friends Service Committee.

David is survived by his wife of 66 years, Shirley; daughters Elizabeth and Kathleen; and grandchildren Wynn and Scott.

GEORGE M. PEPE *67

George died May 2, 2023, while in hospice near his home in San Diego. He was 83.

Born in 1939 in New York, he graduated from Holy Cross with a bachelor’s degree in classics in 1961 and earned a Ph.D. in classics from Princeton in 1967.

Beginning in 1965, George taught in the Department of Classics at Washington University for 53 years. He continued to teach after attaining emeritus status in 2015.

George’s teaching and scholarship focused on Roman history and political theory. He also taught beginning and intermediate Latin and Greek. He was a founder and longtime director of WashU’s “Text and Tradition” program, which introduced first-year students to the intellectual roots from which much of modern thought has developed. George was a generalist and polymath rather than a publishing scholar, rigorously keeping up with contemporary work in classics and starting conversations about the new scholarship he carried around daily under his arm.

His honors include the Governor’s Award for Teaching Excellence (1992), WashU’s Distinguished Achievement in Teaching Award (1993), and the David Hadas Teaching Award in Arts & Sciences (2013).

George is survived by his wife, Kathy Garcia; and his children, Anthony and Rachel.

PAUL E. SPRAGUE JR. *69

An American architectural history educator, Paul died Dec. 12, 2023, in Milledgeville, Ga.

He was born Feb. 28, 1933, in Cumberland, Md. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Rutgers in 1954 and served in the Air Force for three years. He did postgraduate work at Oberlin before earning a Ph.D. in art and archaeology from Princeton in 1969.

Paul held faculty positions at Lake Forest, Notre Dame, the University of Chicago, and the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. He served as a consultant to the City of Lake Forest, Ill., and was the proprietor of History Preservation Services in Chicago. Paul’s publications include *Frank Lloyd Wright and Prairie School Architecture in Oak Park* and *The Architectural Ornament of Louis Sullivan and His Chief Draftsmen*.

Paul was a board member of the Society of Architectural Historians, the Midwest Art History Society, and the Society of Industrial Archaeology. A member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, he served as vice president of the Victorian Society in America.

Paul is survived by his wife, Susan; and daughters Sharon and Wendy.

ORVILLE JOSEPH ROTHROCK *87

On Aug. 10, 2023, Joe died at his home in Albuquerque, N.M., at age 92.

Born in Monticello, Ind., April 13, 1931, Joe grew up in Arlington, Va. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Harvard in 1953 and a Ph.D. in art and archaeology from Princeton in 1987.

After graduating from Navy Officer Candidate School in Newport, R.I., in January 1954, Joe served until 1958 in the Korean War with the Seventh Fleet, a North Atlantic patrol, and as a communications liaison officer with Project Vanguard at the time the USSR launched Sputnik.

Joe came to Princeton to teach in 1961, and in 1966 he became curator of the Graphic Arts Collection at the University Library. While occupying that position, he developed interests that developed into the subject of his doctoral dissertation, “Jacques Callot and Court Theatre (1608–1619).” In 1978, Joe joined the art history faculty of the University of New Mexico, where he specialized in the history of graphic arts and photography until his retirement in 1998. He then became a writer of poetry and completed two books of poetry.

Joe is survived by his three children, Emily, Sarah, and Ian; and four grandchildren.

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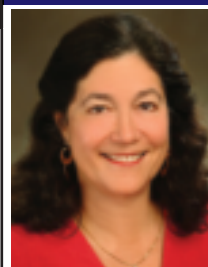
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ANDREW CLERK IMBRIE 1895 (1875-1965)

He Wrote the Song That Poked Fun at Professors for Some 85 Years

BY ELYSE GRAHAM '07

ALMOST 130 YEARS AGO, a Princeton senior, Andrew Clerk Imbrie 1895, created a song that would become a core part of Princeton's culture. This was the "Faculty Song," a wisecracking tribute to the professors who, like the pelican on the sundial in McCosh Courtyard, tear at their own hearts to nourish the young. For almost a century, the "Faculty Song" celebrated the convivial, combative relationship between students and faculty.

The tradition that students called "senior singing" started in 1760. Every night around the time of Commencement, the graduating class would sing a medley of college songs and popular ditties on the steps of Nassau Hall. (Today, the seniors perform a one-night "step sing" on the steps of Blair Arch.)

In 1894, Imbrie met, during his summer vacation, a young man who was studying at Trinity College in Connecticut, and who explained a similar tradition that Trinity students had started.

"I learned about its faculty song from him," Imbrie later wrote. "So in the spring

Students would submit suggestions for verses to a student committee that would select the best ones; some verses were judged so funny that they remained unchanged for decades.

of 1895 I wrote some verses about members of the Princeton faculty, and they were printed for the Senior singing." (The song took its tune from a Scottish ballad called "The Muckin' o' Geordie's Byre.")

The song was a hit. Thereafter, some 85 senior classes sang the "Faculty Song," updating it every year with new verses to reflect new jokes and new faculty. Students would submit suggestions for verses to a student committee that would select the best ones; some verses were judged so funny that they remained unchanged for decades.

For Paul Ramsey, a professor of

religion: "Ramsey's a self-righteous gent / Who preaches from the Testament, / But beer does more than Ramsey can / To justify God's faith in Man."

For Walter Hall, who managed to become the most popular instructor on campus despite the notable disadvantage of having graduated from Yale: "Here's to Eli Walter Hall, / If he had any dope at all, / He'd shoot that darned New Haven pup / And bring a Princeton Tiger up!"

For Albert Einstein, who gave lectures at the University, though his home was the Institute for Advanced Study: "The bright boys here all study math / And Albie Einstein points the path / Although he seldom takes the air, / We wish to God he'd cut his hair."

For the math professor Solomon Lefschetz, who had a reputation for "kibitzing" at colleagues' lectures: "Here's to Lefschetz, Solomon L., / Unpredictable as hell; / When he's laid beneath the sod, / He'll then begin to heckle God."

For Robert Russell Wicks, the Dean of the Chapel: "Here's to Reverend Bobby Wicks, / Who knows the soul's most inward tricks; / He teaches socialistic knowledge, / In this most capitalistic college."

Imbrie, meanwhile, moved to New York City and joined his father's business, Abbey & Imbrie, a company that manufactured fishing tackle. He became the secretary for his class, a noble service, and wrote many accounts of Princeton's people and history. (This included writing a biography of James Collins Johnson, a former slave who had escaped captivity and, after a trial in 1843, kept his freedom and lived in Princeton for the rest of his life.)

Alums took joy in quoting the song everywhere from presidential biographies to the journal *Science*. The faculty, meanwhile, vacillated between grumbling and glee: "Getting into the Faculty Song is, to some of the faculty," one alum wrote, "almost what making a club is to the sophomore."

Sometime in the 1980s, the "Faculty Song" fell out of favor. But the *spirit* of the "Faculty Song," the tributary teasing of teachers, will endure at Princeton for as long as the campus serves as the grand terrain for the seekers of knowledge and their guides. ■



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