

TOUGH CLASSES ARE CHANGING / ROCKET SCIENCE GUY

PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY

NOVEMBER 2023

Hear Me Roar

*Brooke Shields '87
is having a moment,
drawing on her
Princeton experience —
and people are listening*



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An editorially independent magazine by alumni for alumni since 1900



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James Tralie '19, sitting at the desk, and his NASA colleagues prepare to broadcast from the Great Basin Desert in Utah where OSIRIS-REx returned a half-pound specimen from an asteroid. Page 44.

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Photograph by Dimitri Mais

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Bending the Socioeconomic Curve in Selective College Admissions



The most prominent U.S. college rankings have recently made changes to give more weight to educational outcomes and to diversity, and less credit to markers of prestige and affluence.

While I remain a strong critic of rankings as a precise decision tool for students and families, these methodological shifts are a welcome development, and one that Princeton has argued for. They may broaden the national conversation away from a fixation on selectivity and increase public literacy about important factors like graduation rates, economic outcomes, and access for students from less privileged backgrounds.

Followers of the various ranking schemes will note that Princeton's rank has not changed on the most widely cited lists, even as the calculations that underlie the rankings have. Indeed, our position is stable even when metrics that favor Princeton, such as alumni-giving rates, are eliminated (as *U.S. News & World Report* did this year). We do equally well on rankings that prioritize the cultivation of leaders (*Forbes*), the economic value-add of a particular college (*Wall Street Journal*), and overall quality (*U.S. News*).

One reason for this consistency is that Princeton has for many years assiduously focused on what the rankings are just now prioritizing: excellence *and* access. Harvard economist Raj Chetty, whose landmark studies on inequality in higher education have generated much of the pressure on the rankings, recently said this on *PBS NewsHour*: "Princeton, in particular, has been a leader in admitting and recruiting more kids from lower-income families."

I hope our experience can offer some practical insights on ways more schools can bend the socioeconomic curve in college admissions.

The chart here depicts the percentage of Princeton first-year students at the bottom and top of the U.S. income distribution over the last 25 years. The lines have been steadily converging, most sharply in the last decade, which means we are enrolling more lower- and middle-income students and fewer very high-income students.

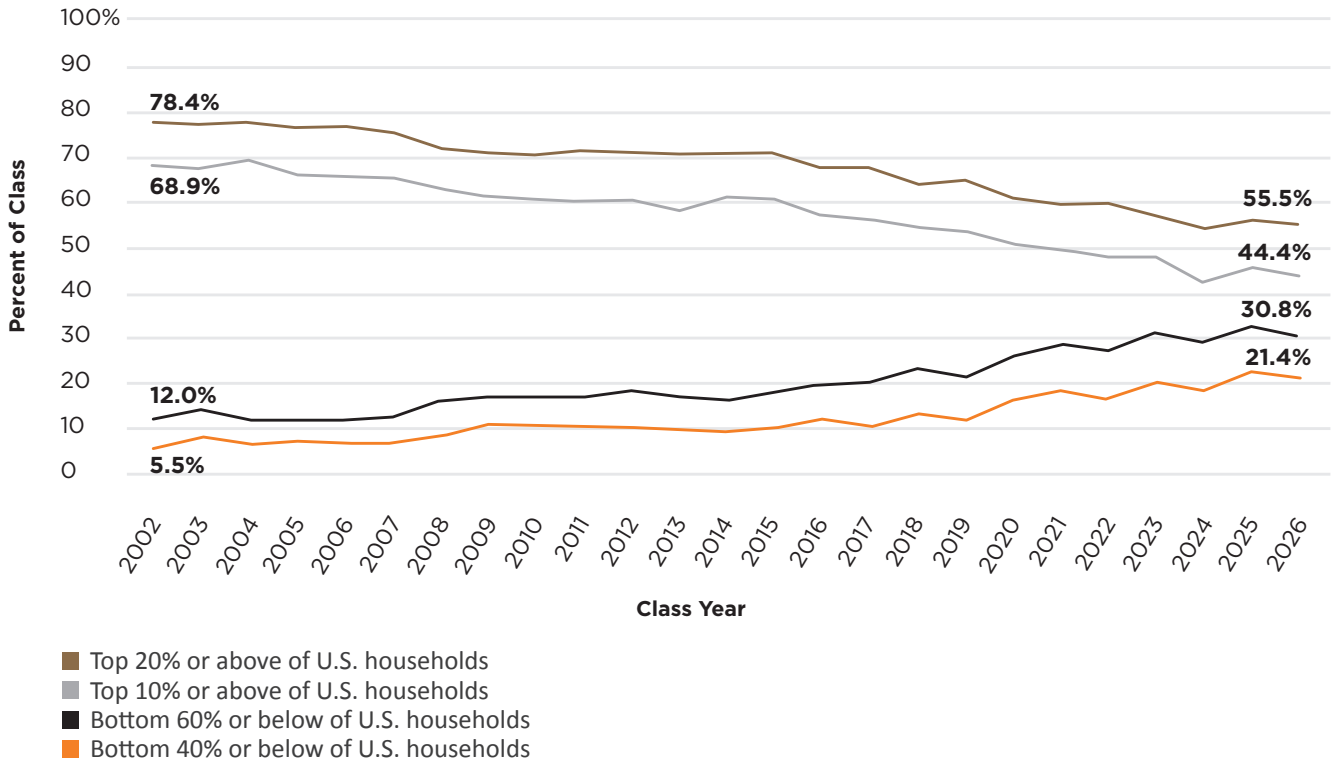
Today, more than one in five incoming Princeton undergraduates is eligible for a Pell Grant. Nearly as many are the first in their families ever to attend college. Students representing the top 10 percent of households by income, meanwhile, have dropped from 61 percent in 2011 to 44 percent today. In reflecting on how we have achieved



The Emma Bloomberg Center for Access and Opportunity brings together Princeton's nation-leading initiatives supporting college access and success. Pictured at the center's dedication this spring (from left, with the Princeton tiger mascot): Emma Bloomberg, a 2001 Princeton graduate and founder and CEO of Murmuration; Michael R. Bloomberg, founder of Bloomberg Philanthropies and Bloomberg LP and 108th mayor of New York City; Jill Dolan, dean of the college; Khristina Gonzalez, director of the center; and students Kaelani Burja, Alison Parish, and Hannah Faughnan.

PHOTO BY STEVE FREEMAN

Family income of Princeton undergraduates over time



these trends, at least four successful strategies emerge:

First, we train our Admission team to recognize that persevering through socioeconomic disadvantage is a direct indicator of potential success in college and beyond. Holding down a job while standing out academically in high school counts for a lot at Princeton.

Second, we invest heavily in pre-college bridge programs that encourage talented low-income and first-generation students to apply to highly selective schools and support their successful transition to college, at Princeton and elsewhere.

Third, we offer incredible financial aid. Two-thirds of Princeton freshmen receive aid. Nearly a quarter of our student body pays nothing to attend. We know college can be very expensive even for upper middle-class families, so our aid extends to families making up to and even beyond \$300,000 a year, including those at higher income levels with more than one child in college.

Finally, as PAW readers well know, we are expanding our student body. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts, in his disappointing opinion striking down affirmative action, said, “College admissions are zero sum.” Not so at Princeton, where we have added undergraduate seats to allow us to accept more talented students from all backgrounds. We have also expanded our transfer program, with a focus on community college students and active military and veterans.

While I am proud of Princeton’s achievements on socioeconomic diversity, you will not see a “mission accomplished” sign on this chart. We have work to do,

particularly as it relates to the representation of students from middle-class families. The middle class will be an area of special focus for our Admission team in the coming years.

You will also not see Princeton advertising our latest ranking—but neither do we withhold information from rankings outlets, as some schools have done. These journalistic exercises, even if flawed, can contribute to public appreciation of the value of higher education, which is desperately needed.

Princeton alumni can help by spreading the word about the progress we’ve made, which is also not as widely known as we’d like. I hope it fills you with pride that Princeton is more excellent and more diverse (these are mutually reinforcing qualities) than ever in its history, and that you’ll help us tell that story.

It must be acknowledged that the strategies outlined above are labor- and time-intensive and require an all-hands-on-deck mentality from hundreds of people over many years. They are also expensive and made possible by Princeton’s endowment, which exists thanks to the strong bonds we enjoy with our alumni.

Those bonds may no longer figure into the rankings, but all of us at Old Nassau know they remain the secret sauce to Princeton’s success, and we value them today more than ever.

INBOX

YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE LATEST ISSUES

ELIZABETH TSURKOV

Regarding “Sister of Kidnapped Ph.D. Student Seeks Help” (On the Campus, October issue): This is a heartbreaking case, deeply troubling



for the prospects of scholars the world over doing research in disaster/war-torn regions — exactly those parts of the world which urgently need the kind of in-depth analysis which a student like Elizabeth Tsurkov can provide. I ask the administration to recall the Princeton motto, “In the nation’s service and the service of humanity.”

The administration of the University needs to act to help Elizabeth Tsurkov.

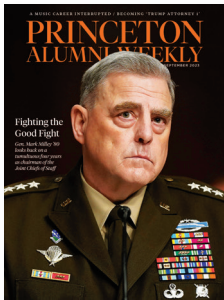
Princeton’s ties to the State Department and the diplomatic corps are many. I hope the administration will use them to act in service to this brave young woman.

CHRISTINE STANSELL '71

New York, N.Y.

GEN. MARK MILLEY '80

The profile of Gen. Mark Milley '80 (“Enemies, Foreign and Domestic,” September issue) was well done, itself a chapter in our nation’s history. Readers will no doubt ponder his view that the



U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan was “a logistical success but a strategic failure.”

Based on my two years in Panjshir Valley, in the Afghan

foothills of the Hindu Kush, I certainly agree with his strategic point. Many Americans, though, would reverse his verdict, calling it a logistical failure but a strategic success — that is, the actual pullout was a hot mess but the overall decision, after two decades of costly effort, was essentially right. Maybe there is a consensus on a different judgment,

this one from Hamid Karzai on the assassination of Ahmad Shah Massoud by al-Qaida two days before 9/11 — “Oh what an unlucky country.”

FLETCHER M. BURTON '88

Nashville, Tenn.

Editor’s note: The writer, a former U.S. foreign service officer, established the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Panjshir, Afghanistan, which he led from 2005 to 2007.

Gen. Mark Milley '80 and officers like him confirm the incredible value of the ROTC programs to our military and our country. His commitment to an apolitical military speaks volumes, and it’s something that other government institutions should emulate.

THOMAS DAVISON '74

Brandon, Fla.

Thank you, Mark Bernstein '83, for your fantastic storytelling over the years. This piece on Gen. Mark Milley '80 illustrates

the clear and purposeful writing style that enlightens our Princeton community.

Gen. Milley saved our country, and his service truly represents our historic model of service for others to make the world a better place.

RICHARD D. PURCELL '83

Fair Haven, N.J.



MUSEUM CONSTRUCTION

It is flatly uncharitable to believe that University Architect Ron McCoy *80 would make any comment in devious double-speak, deliberately designed to distract from and obfuscate what is now an overwhelmingly obvious observation: that the Princeton campus is overbuilt.

In reply to questioning about the sprawling footprint of the art museum, currently under construction, Mr. McCoy is quoted as submitting that the new museum “embraces the landscape around itself and brings that landscape into the room” (From the Editor, July/August issue).

But, of course, putting a roof over any space irremediably removes it from the landscape. That space, in being covered (by sheer definition) is now “structure.” In a stretch, one might call the space a garden room. But it is not a garden. It is no longer landscape.

An overbuilt campus is an unfortunate but reversible error in planning performance. Real leadership will take responsibility for the error and commit, over time, to making corrections, not excuses. The prior landscaping genius

Nordic inspired. Canadian perfected.

Set to open 2026, Cabot Revelstoke is an all-season resort offering luxury residences, a clubhouse featuring spa, fitness, culinary and social amenities —all within steps of world-class golf at Cabot Pacific and world-class skiing at Revelstoke Mountain Resort.



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of Beatrix Farrand, the purposeful and pastoral peripatetic pedagogy of the campus, and the natural beauty of even the earth itself, warrant and deserve nothing less.

ROCKY SEMMES '79

Alexandria, Va.

It is somewhat of an unwritten rule that architects do not comment on work by other architects. It is impossible to know the constraints and the process of how a building was conceived. However, the design of the new art museum requires a straightforward statement. At our recent 50th reunion, I questioned a number of our classmates about the exterior design. Everyone I spoke to had a similar reaction that it is inappropriate from its aesthetic standpoint, the quality of the spaces remaining around it, and the imposition on the surrounding buildings and gardens. The historic Ralph Adams Cram buildings have wonderful human scale, timeless natural materials, and variety in craftsman details. The new art museum has none of these and seems alien to the center of the older campus.

Even recognizing that a lengthy process led to this design, it seems essential to review the result. In addition to the aesthetic issues, the *Financial Times* has reported that the architect has been “accused of sexual misconduct.” Whether these accusations are correct or not should be reviewed by the University. Given the above, it may be necessary to seriously consider what would be unthinkable under normal circumstances, which would be some kind of serious reappraisal of the building. Clearly, the building is far enough along that any changes would be expensive, schedule-altering, and time-consuming. However, since the building is so long-lived, and given the high aesthetic and moral standards of the University, a reappraisal seems mandatory.

DAN WIGODSKY '73

San Antonio, Texas

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

Many thanks to Preeti Chemiti '23 for her important opinion piece (On the

Campus, September issue). As Princeton students manage their campus careers, especially with their peer expectations of “effortless perfection” amid Princeton’s high-status, high-achievement, high-stress environment, they surely will find that more mental health issues will undoubtedly arise. This is even more true now that Princeton was just ranked by *The Wall Street Journal* as the best college in the nation, which will create even more of its own pressures of expectations.

All this can add to the weight of other mental health issues that all people everywhere carry from their backgrounds, family histories, and other situational experiences, including the effects of serious and persistent mental illness like schizophrenia, clinical depression, and severe anxiety. In addition to campus-based resources such as at the Counseling Center, near campus is NAMI Mercer, the National Alliance of Mental Illness Mercer County chapter. Part of a stellar national network, NAMI Mercer supports, educates, and advocates for all loved ones with any form of mental issue. We provide resources and connections. We offer support groups. We help individual loved ones and their family members address seemingly intractable problems of mental illness. NAMI Mercer is an ever-ready resource of all possible help and support for any of the University community at any time. Learn more at www.namimercer.org. We are here to help.

THOMAS H. PYLE '76

PRESIDENT, NAMI MERCER

Princeton, N.J.

VIRTUAL CLIMATE SUMMIT

We are thrilled to announce our Second Annual Virtual Climate Summit, “Turning the Tide,” on Nov. 12 at noon Eastern, hosted by the Class of 1986 in collaboration with the Princeton University Speakers Bureau.

This year’s program will be headlined by Princeton professor Elke Weber speaking about current research in the area of climate sustainability. The plenary session will be followed by a brief

Q&A, then breakout sessions on subjects such as energy, nature, buildings, transportation, sustainable living, policy, and finance.

The purpose of the summit is for alumni from all classes to share expertise and information about climate change solutions across a wide range of disciplines, both to raise awareness and accelerate action. By sharing our efforts across decades of Princeton alumni, we have the unique opportunity to build a powerful force for good in a time when it is urgently needed, and together raise hope that we will indeed solve this crisis.

Participants are encouraged to RSVP at princeton86.org.

ELISABETH S. RODGERS '86

PRESIDENT, CLASS OF '86
New York, N.Y.



LACROSSE LINEUP

Joe Rosenbaum '03 identified the men's lacrosse players in March's From the Archives photo. They are, from left, Sean Hartofilis '03, Julian Gould '03, Oliver Barry '05, Mike Wenzel '06, and J.G. Guidera '05.

FOR THE RECORD

The story about Princeton's 2022-23 Annual Giving results (On the Campus, September issue) conflated two classes that set giving records. The Class of 1963 raised \$3.5 million, a record for a 60th reunion class, while the Class of 1973 raised \$6 million, its highest total as a class.

FRANK WOJCIECHOWSKI; ALAMY; COURTESY OF MICHELLE SILVERTHORN '04; COURTESY NOVOTRATZ BRIDGE YEAR PROGRAM.

ONLINE Exclusives

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Q&A: GOING INFINITE

Michael Lewis '82

“I said even before it started that he is going to be convicted. ... The question is what the punishment is, and that ends up being a matter of discretion for the judge. The two stories in the courtroom are simple criminal fraud or incredible sloppiness, and I think wherever you land on that, the story makes no sense unless you understand him — and understanding him is breathtakingly difficult.”

— Michael Lewis '82, talking with PAW senior writer Mark F. Bernstein '83 about his new book, *Going Infinite*, which details the rise and fall of Sam Bankman-Fried, often called “cryptocurrency’s golden boy.”



TIGER OF THE WEEK

Building Inclusion

How did **Michelle Silverthorn '04** end up on stage as the featured closing speaker of the Women 20 Summit at the G20 in Aurangabad, India, last spring?

“This is a lovely Princeton story,” she says: A fellow alumna connected Silverthorn with another alumna who was involved with the summit and looking for a speaker who could share the U.S. perspective on equity and inclusion.

Silverthorn fit the bill. After a career with big law firms, she founded a diversity and inclusion company called Inclusion Nation.



PAWCAST

Ukraine, Russia, and Nuclear War

Jeffrey Burt '66, James Hitch '71, and Peter Pettibone '61 were all partners of prominent international law firms, heading their Soviet and Russian practices. They've closely watched Russia's invasion of Ukraine evolve over more than a year, and they have a message: The threat of nuclear war is very real. On the latest PAWcast, they discussed Putin's rationale, the role of NATO, and just how far this war could go.



BRIDGE YEAR EXPANDS

“Although I don't want to hold strong expectations of what I want to be by the end of the nine months, I hope that I at least grow into a wiser and kinder person. ... I pray I can be someone who lived through experiences that broaden the way I think and see the world.”

— **Soree Kim '28**, who's in Cambodia this year with the University's Novogratz Bridge Year Program, in which undergraduates delay enrollment to volunteer abroad. The program is expanding in Costa Rica and Cambodia.

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YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



ALUMINARY

Marisa Goldenberg '98

President, Princeton Club of Austin

When it comes to Orange & Black Day, don't mess with Texas — specifically, the Princeton Club of Austin (PCA). Last year, Marisa Goldenberg '98 led a group of alumni wearing tiger tails and ears, bright orange boas and cowboy hats for a Princeton birthday celebration at a local park and playground. "It was a beautiful day, but somehow we had the park all to ourselves," said Goldenberg, who became PCA president in 2021. "We may have scared the neighborhood families away."

This year, the club shifted its Orange & Black Day gathering to the aptly named Easy Tiger, a bake shop and beer garden with an outdoor patio, and the turnout was another orange-out. "Texas may be far from Princeton, but it's clear that Princeton is never far from our local alumni's hearts," Goldenberg said.

Goldenberg settled in Austin after college, but the travel and demands of work in the tech industry prevented her from immediately engaging with the local alumni club. "I always felt connected back to Princeton — especially during those first few years when I saw Princeton alumni all the time at my work," said Goldenberg, now the founder and managing director of consulting firm Syndify. "But it took 20-plus years before I actually interacted with my regional alumni association."

In early 2020, she decided to volunteer with the Alumni Schools Committee, and that opened the door to becoming treasurer of the PCA, which had experienced

significant growth in the previous decade. The following year, as president, she led a revitalized leadership team that instituted a branding overhaul, sent out an eye-catching promotional mailer and planned a diverse slate of events. "Anecdotally, we've heard that the more targeted events are what motivate many alumni to attend their very first regional event," said Goldenberg, who encouraged her team to organize a Celebrate Princeton Pride party, Tiger Author Talks, and a new Tiger mentor program. "We love suggestions — and especially love new volunteers to put them into action. Because as I learned, it's never too late to get involved!"

Since Goldenberg became president, the Austin club has been recognized with a trio of regional association honors: the 2022 John Maclean Award as "most improved" club; the 2022 CORA Award for Innovation; and the 2023 Leland Award for "general excellence in regional alumni activities." "We've seen incredible momentum in Austin," she said. "Through our regular newsletters, event photos and social media, our local alumni always know that a vibrant Princeton community is here for them — whenever they have time to engage. We often hear from alumni who are unable to attend our local events that they love receiving the updates and are proud to be a Tiger in Austin."

As a member of the Alumni Council Executive Committee, Goldenberg also serves on the Committee on Regional Associations (CORA) and takes turns hosting Third Thursday Tiger Talks that focus on specific themes of interest. "Over the course of the last year, it's been incredible to see the turnout for these meetings grow," she said. "I learn something new at every meeting, and it's also been rewarding to have follow-up, one-on-one discussions with other regional presidents who want to reinvigorate their clubs."

For Goldenberg, the spirit around Orange & Black Day captures something uniquely special about Princeton. "The most successful companies I admire have a strong vision that not only serves a greater purpose, but unifies and inspires their team to action," Goldenberg said. "Princeton is no different. Its commitment to service is woven into the University's DNA and it reinforces this commitment to serving humanity and contributing to society at every opportunity throughout the entire journey from applicant to student to alumni."



Photos courtesy of Marisa Goldenberg '98

THANK YOU

To all the alumni who showed their true colors on Orange & Black Day weekend.

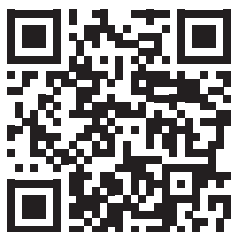
The worldwide Princeton community rose to the occasion October 21-22 to celebrate Homecoming and the University's 277th birthday like true MVPs!

On campus, at regional parties and online, where alumni posted photos and videos with the hashtags **#OrangeAndBlack** and **#BackToTheBest**, Tiger spirit soared.

So take a victory lap, Tigers. Thanks for suiting up and celebrating like champions!



Tiger with Alumni Association President Monica Moore Thompson '89 and Vice President Ryan S. Ruskin '90



See the brightest orange and black at alumni.princeton.edu/orangeandblack

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Alumni Day

Save the Date

FEBRUARY 24, 2024



Photo: Drew Kelly

WOODROW WILSON AWARD

Fei-Fei Li '99

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



Courtesy of Cornell University Photography

JAMES MADISON MEDAL

John Fitzpatrick *78

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

- Reconnect with friends, fellow alumni and Princeton families.
- Hear from the award winners.
- Celebrate at the luncheon in Jadwin Gymnasium.
- Attend the Service of Remembrance.
- Enjoy the All-Alumni Reception.

Learn more at alumni.princeton.edu/alumniday

Alumni Day is a free event, open to all alumni and their guests.

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@PrincetonAlumni on social media and visiting alumni.princeton.edu

JOIN PAW'S NEW BOOK CLUB

There's an old joke around the PAW office: The reason *so many* Princeton alumni write books is that they've already done it: their thesis. They know they can write a book because they already have.

We don't just joke about alumni books around here — we also read them. We've had the privilege and the pleasure of reading mysteries and thrillers, thoughtful takes on culture and intensely thorough works of research. Many have been featured on the PAWcast (available on Apple, Google, Spotify, and Soundcloud), where we often interview alumni authors as their books land on the shelves.

But why should we have all the fun? This year we're adding an extra layer to our podcast interviews by inviting you along for the ride. We'll even buy 50 of you the book.

We're calling it PAW Book Club (catchy, right?), and here's how it'll work: Four times a year we'll pick a book, and if you join, you'll read it as well. We'll keep in touch by email, and when you're ready, send us your questions. Send audio files of you asking them if you can, because when we record the podcast with the author, we'll include your name and your voice. You can also email written questions.

We're kicking this off with the first interview in early January, and we picked a terrific book: Jennifer Weiner '91's new novel, *The Breakaway*. The protagonist is a woman who's right on the brink of getting engaged when she gets roped into leading a two-week cycling trip. But there's much more

going on — themes about intergenerational trauma, parent-child relationships, body image, sex, and women's autonomy in a post-Roe world. It raises a question, maybe one we should all ask ourselves from time to time: When should we follow the world's rules for us, and when should we break them?

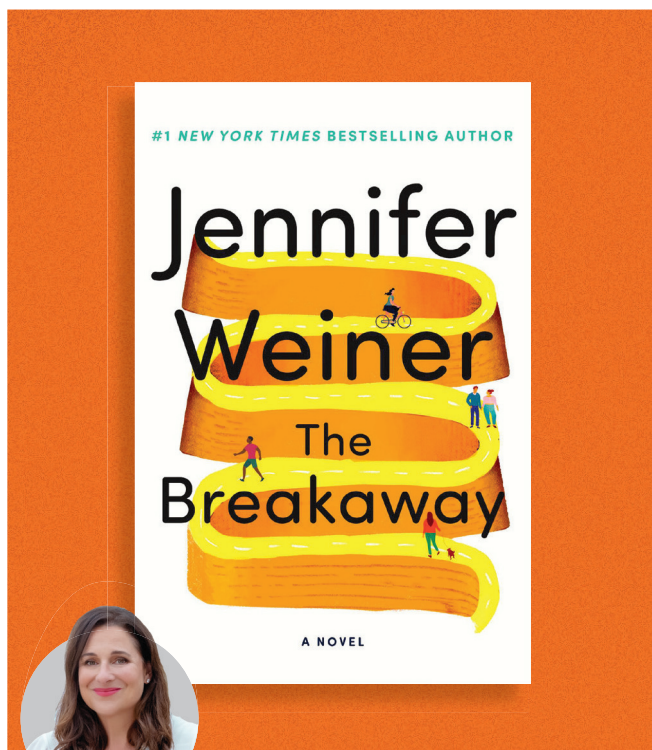
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WEINER '91

The Breakaway to the first 50 alumni who sign up. Jennifer has graciously offered to sign them — in an orange pen. Sign up at bit.ly/paw-book-club and email ehulette@princeton.edu if you have any trouble. We'll take it from there.

And if you're a reader — or you just like being in the literary know — remember that PAW does a lot with books written by Princetonians. We write stories, we feature them on our website, and we have a monthly newsletter devoted entirely to sharing them with you. Subscribe to the books newsletter at paw.princeton.edu/email. And if you've published a book recently, tell us about it (cspike@princeton.edu) so we can share it with alumni. Remember, you alumni love to read books as much as you love to write them. 📖



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ON THE CAMPUS

NEWS, SPORTS, AND STUDENT LIFE



PAW-SITIVE INFLUENCE

Coach, the Department of Public Safety's first therapy dog, entertains the Princeton cheerleaders before football's Sept. 29 win over Columbia. The 3-year-old Labrador has been a regular at campus events since August 2021.





SULEIKA JAOUAD '10, LEFT,
AND JON BATISTE

PERFORMING ARTS

Music's Healing Power

How Princeton University Concerts' post-pandemic series connects with artists and audiences

BY LUCIA BROWN '25

WRITER SULEIKA JAOUAD '10 was diagnosed with leukemia a year after graduating from Princeton. During her time in the oncology ward at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City, Jon Batiste, her friend from band camp at age 13, learned about her illness and surprised Jaouad with his entire band, which played an impromptu concert in her hospital room.

"I remember just being so struck by the fact that hospitals are musicless places. There's lots of sound and noise: There's the beeping of IV poles, there's the wheezing of respirators, there are the alarms that go off whenever someone is in critical condition," Jaouad told PAW. "To have that noise be replaced by music had such a powerful effect that day. It transformed the space

of sadness and suffering into something full of catharsis and joy."

Now married, Jaouad and Batiste are constant collaborators. Jaouad listens to every draft of his songs; he is often her first reader. Their most recent collaboration is the documentary *American Symphony*, which follows the composition of Batiste's four-movement eponymous symphony alongside the return of Jaouad's leukemia in 2021.

On Nov. 15, the couple will explore Jaouad's experiences with leukemia and isolation in a performance at Princeton called "The Beat Goes On: Healing from Cancer Through Music" — the newest installment of the Princeton University Concerts (PUC) Healing with Music series.

"I feel really excited about the idea of sharing Princeton with Jon and being

able to collaborate together in this way, because it's so in line with what we've been living and breathing and practicing for the last year and a half," Jaouad said.

Healing with Music was developed by PUC director Marna Seltzer, who wanted to rethink how PUC did concerts — how they did everything — when programming returned to Richardson Auditorium in the fall of 2021 after a pandemic hiatus.

The impetus for the series, Seltzer told PAW, was "a recognition that everybody was doing some form of healing, for whatever reason, and that was something that we shared way more than we did pre-pandemic."

In an innovative "concert-conversation" format, artists share their relationships with healing and music's role in that journey through a combination of live performance and dialogue. Last year's PUC season featured three Healing with Music performances.

Finding artists for this kind of

series requires sensitivity. The PUC team went beyond the traditional conversations with agents and managers and asked about artists who had experienced some kind of illness and were interested in sharing their personal stories.

"There are a lot of questions around who wants to talk about those things, and there's a certain amount of courage that is required for someone to step up and speak," Seltzer said.

Joshua Roman, a cellist and November 2022 Healing with Music artist, opened up on stage about developing long COVID and symptoms like dysautonomia, a disorder affecting the autonomic nervous system. During the pandemic, he had been questioning his relationship with the cello and performing.

"[PUC] asked me, first, if I would be comfortable sharing my condition at all," Roman said. "It's a big deal for me to walk on stage and say, 'I have a condition which affects my cognitive and physical abilities.'"

In a case like Roman's, Seltzer explained, disclosing the condition could affect his ability to book future performances. But the courage and

vulnerability of speaking about illness, particularly alongside the music that has been so critical for each artist's healing, creates opportunities for connection that can be completely transformative — for both audience and artist.

“Because I’m used to going up on stage and being a presenter, a performer, a perfectionist, to instead walk up on stage and literally talk about what feel, in many ways, like deficiencies, felt important,” Roman said.

Roman’s experience at Princeton directly inspired his new project, Immunity, which he will be workshopping in his new position as a creative associate at Juilliard.

This year, while the format of the Healing With Music events will mostly remain the same — a short video profile of the artist, released to audiences beforehand, and a conversation with live music — PUC will enrich each experience with community partnerships and programming.

In addition to Jaouad and Batiste, the series also includes a March 3 conversation with David Leventhal, the founder of Dance for Parkinson’s Disease (Dance for PD), and Princeton faculty experts about the intersection of dance, healing, and music, followed by a performance by dancers from local Dance for PD chapters. The American Repertory Ballet will offer free Dance for PD classes leading up to the event.

On April 24, pianist Jonathan Biss will perform and join writer Adam Haslett for a discussion of anxiety, depression, and music. The Princeton Public Library will host book clubs around each performance, starting with Jaouad’s *Between Two Kingdoms: A Memoir of a Life Interrupted* in early November.

Looking forward, Seltzer hopes to expand Healing with Music into more forms of healing, including racial and political healing.

“Our goal with all of our events has always been to create ways for people to make their own personally relevant connections to what we’re doing,” Seltzer said. “We’re seeing people come into the concert hall for different reasons other than just going to a concert.” **P**

COURTESY BEVA FOUNDATION

LABOR MARKET RESEARCH

Former Professor Claudia Goldin Wins Nobel Prize in Economics



GOLDIN

CLAUDIA GOLDIN, A PROFESSOR at Harvard who previously taught at Princeton for six years in the 1970s, was named the recipient of the 2023 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel on Oct. 9. Goldin was honored “for having advanced our understanding of women’s labor market outcomes,” the Nobel Committee wrote in its announcement.

The prize, which comes with an award of 11 million Swedish kronor (about \$997,000), will be presented Dec. 10 at a banquet in Stockholm.

Goldin’s research centers around women’s impact on the economy and the earnings gap between women and men. Her work “provided the first comprehensive account of women’s earnings and labor market participation through the centuries,” and examines “the main sources of the remaining gender gap,” according to the committee.

Understanding the role of women in the labor market “is important for society,” Jakob Svensson, chair of the Committee for the Prize in Economic Sciences, said in the announcement. “Thanks to Claudia Goldin’s groundbreaking research we now know much more about the underlying factors and which barriers may need to be addressed in the future.”

Goldin’s work shows that female participation in the workforce decreased as the labor market transitioned from largely agricultural to industrial, then increased alongside the growth of the service sector. Goldin attributed these changes to “the result of structural

change and evolving social norms regarding women’s responsibilities for home and family,” according to the committee. Goldin also showed the earnings gap between women and men in the same jobs is exacerbated after the birth of a woman’s first child.

Goldin’s research also covers income inequality, technological change, education, and immigration, according to Harvard. Her latest book, *Career and Family: Women’s Century-Long Journey Toward Equity*, was published in 2021 by the Princeton University Press.

In an interview with *The Harvard Crimson*, Goldin said the honor “means a tremendous amount. ... Big ideas and long-term change matters, and I am delighted.”

Goldin taught at Princeton beginning in 1973 as an assistant professor of economics and remained on the faculty until 1979. From 1987 to 1988, she was a visiting fellow in Princeton’s Industrial Relations Section. Her doctoral students include Cecilia Rouse, former dean of Princeton’s School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) and, until earlier this year, chair of the Council of Economic Advisers, and Leah Boustan ’00, a professor of economics at Princeton.

Goldin is the 18th economics Nobel winner who has either studied or taught at Princeton. Former Princeton professors Ben Bernanke and Philip Dybvig were among the three economists honored in 2022, and alumni David Card *83 and Joshua Angrist *89 were among three recipients in 2021. **P**

By J.B. and B.T.



STUDENT DISPATCH

How Princeton Athletes Face the Challenges of Campus Dining

BY ALEXANDRA BERTILSSON '26



WHEN GRACE ANNE MCCOOEY '26 finally walked out of a particularly difficult field hockey practice, it was already 7:30 p.m. One look at her watch told her she had minutes before she needed to rush up campus if she wanted to get dinner before dining halls closed. Her stomach grumbled — she needed food. Moving as fast as she could, she showered, changed, and ran out of Jadwin Gym. At 7:58 p.m., she reached Rockefeller College, with just two minutes to spare.

Varsity athletes make up about 18% of Princeton's undergraduate population,

according to the Undergraduate Admission website, and as scholars and athletes, they face many competing demands, with full schedules of training and classes and narrow timeframes to access the dining halls. McCooley and her dinnertime dash represent one end of the spectrum. On the other are athletes whose teams practice early, before dining halls open for breakfast, and don't have time to eat between practice and class.

Alternatives do exist: "Late Meal" at Frist Campus Center opens when dining halls close, with all students given an allowance of \$9.50 for lunch or dinner. However, many athletes struggle with the scarcity of healthy options — burgers, fries, and quesadillas are often the main warm foods on offer.

"My body feels strange when I eat a lot of junk food — clogged or uncomfortable. Even the healthier options [at Late Meal] are super greasy," said Simon Xiao '26, a libero on the men's volleyball team.

The problem extends beyond regular meal hours into pre- and post-training nutrition. "Fueling stations" around

Jadwin Gym are designed to make energy and recovery snacks easily accessible, but athletes point out that they offer sugary, processed foods and are rarely restocked, earning them the colloquial title of "starvation stations."

"I've had to adjust to having to take my nutrition into my own hands," said Liz Agatucci '24, a forward on the field hockey team. "I need to go and spend my own money with things that work for me because the nutrients [fueling stations] provide don't fuel my body correctly."

Hector Martinez, the sports performance dietician on campus, said he is acutely aware of these gaps and is working to improve the nutrition of student-athletes while also providing personalized advice.

"Currently, Athletics is evaluating protocols and procedures pertaining to the fueling needs of student-athletes to enhance their experience. Student-athletes can also meet with me to discuss strategies on how to meet their energy needs amidst many competing demands, and/or certain behaviors that prevent them from fueling properly," Martinez wrote in an email to PAW.

Martinez added that he actively works to make nutrition information more accessible to athletes to ensure that they feel equipped with the knowledge to make the best choices. Athletes receive weekly emails with nutrition information and attend teamwide information sessions led by Martinez, who notes that it's essential these sessions don't add stress to already busy schedules.

"I've had to adjust to having to take my nutrition into my own hands. I need to go and spend my own money with things that work for me because the nutrients [fueling stations] provide don't fuel my body correctly."

— LIZ AGATUCCI '24
Forward, field hockey

ROBERT NEUBECKER; ISHAAN JAVALI

Many student-athletes are grateful for this personalized approach: “Hector has been so supportive and so helpful — you can tell that he really cares. Every time, I have gotten the help and support that I’ve needed,” Agatucci said.

Among the programs aimed at the specific needs of athletes is a dining plan during winter break, when training resumes but dining halls remain closed. Athletes are provided a per diem of \$45 to buy food from local businesses to ease the financial burden of eating and training during this period.

Despite the challenges, many athletes who spoke with PAW are against an athlete-specific dining hall.

“Maybe in other schools an athlete dining hall makes sense, but I love eating with non-athletes — it makes me feel like I’m part of the wider school community. It’s done in the spirit of equality,” said Nicholas Lawson ’25, an épéeist on the men’s fencing team.

“I feel like in other schools, athletes live in an athlete bubble, and this way we see more people — it’s simply better,” added Julia Jongejeugd ’26, a heptathlete on the women’s track and field team.

Athletes who spoke with PAW say the five dining halls currently open do provide necessary nutrition and variety. They voiced a desire not for a different dining system, but for an improved one that more intentionally accommodates the needs of athletes on campus — whether that means having easy and quick access to nutritious food before and after training, or simply more time to get to a dining hall.

Issa Mudashiru ’25, a defender on the men’s soccer team, advocated for extending Late Meal until midnight, while McCooey, a forward on the field hockey team, would like to see a fresh approach to supplementary nutrition.

“I would give every team a separate fueling station, tailored to what each team needs, male and female athletes,” McCooey said. “I would also do more than just bars — fruit, bagels, real foods, not super processed foods that make you feel awful.” ■



FOUR STILLS FROM KOYAANISQATSI

CLASS CLOSE-UP

‘My Mind Is Blown’

A course ahead of (or behind?) its time

IMAGINE HAVING A LONG, insightful conversation with friends about a film, only to discover some of you watched it in reverse. That’s what happened in Professor D. Graham Burnett ’93’s undergraduate course, *Historical Consciousness: An Introduction*, though it was no accident. Burnett’s class, which is new this fall, centers around how the past has been conveyed and conceived in different times and places, how the past remains present, and the implications of humans as historical creatures.

“We are time-bound beings,” said Burnett, a professor of history. “We’re creatures that live in time, and the kinds of things we think and the way we work are inextricable from the when.”

The dozen enrolled students were assigned *Koyaanisqatsi*, a 1982 experimental film consisting of footage that has at times been reversed or slowed down, with no dialogue or obvious connection between one scene and the next. During a lengthy class discussion, students made perceptive comments, like comparing the movie to the weaving together of fabric, and Burnett said historians literally control time in their work. Then he played the movie.

That’s when everyone else realized that depending on whether they copied the URL from the syllabus or played it

on Canvas, some watched the 90-minute movie as originally intended, but others saw it backwards.

“My mind is blown!” one student exclaimed.

Burnett said this represented a “discovery to be made about the nature of time, a discovery to be made about the nature of cinema, and a discovery to be made about this moment.”

Mahalia Norton ’24 said the class is “like a wizard experience” because something “weird” always happens. For example, in one class, everyone closed their eyes and described an image they viewed together the week before. Norton described the experience as “like having a séance.”

Burnett said that exercise lent itself to some of the technical and demanding course concepts, as it “really gave us an opportunity to confront the problem of historical recovery itself ... because we didn’t all remember the [image] in the same way.”

Norton said she enjoys the class in part because the challenging material has “touched the deepest corners of my brain [and] I can feel myself engaging with the world differently.”

“As a history major, it’s made a lot of the lessons that I’ve learned feel much more tangible and given me a lot of confidence as a thinker,” she said. ■

By J.B.

'FREE AND VIGOROUS INQUIRY'

Scholars See Role for Outsiders in Some Campus Debates

BY JULIE BONETTE

FIFTEEN ACADEMICS CONVENED by Princeton's James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions are going beyond the well-known "Chicago Principles" in protecting free speech on college campuses by creating their own "Princeton Principles."

Among other things, the document suggests trustees, alumni, students, and perhaps even government officials may need to step in and help colleges that are "failing to maintain cultures of free and vigorous inquiry."

Robert P. George, a professor of politics at Princeton and director of the Madison Program, convened academics from both inside and outside the University to discuss free speech issues, which led to the creation of the Princeton Principles for a Campus Culture of Free Inquiry. Five of the original 15 signers are affiliated with Princeton. The document is available at bit.ly/jmp-principles.

University spokesman Michael Hotchkiss told PAW by email that "the

'Princeton Principles' are not endorsed or authored by Princeton University," and cited Princeton's Statement on Freedom of Expression, which states in part that the University "is committed to free and open inquiry in all matters," and that "except insofar as limitations on that freedom are necessary to the functioning of the University, Princeton University fully respects and supports the freedom of all members of the University community 'to discuss any problem that presents itself.'"

The Madison Program's principles add to the Chicago Principles of Free Expression — a 2014 University of Chicago commitment to free speech that has been adopted by nearly 100 colleges and universities, including Princeton — by stating that college faculty and administrators have a duty to protect free speech and should aim to hire and promote individuals with diverse viewpoints.

The Madison Program's principles

further state "other agents including regents, trustees, students, and alumni groups in the wider campus network may and indeed should become involved" if faculty are failing in these duties, and government intervention should also be considered as "a last resort."

John K. Wilson, co-editor of AcademeBlog.org, wrote that the principles' "failure to reject external political intrusions is a threat to free inquiry rather than a path toward it."

"At a time when legislative intrusions pose an extraordinary threat to academic freedom, the Princeton Principles offer little resistance and tepid applause for repression," Wilson wrote.

George told PAW by email that "reasonable people of goodwill disagree about lots of very important things," but the signers of the Madison Program's principles are "glad our critics have the right to criticize us ... We are first in line to defend *their* right to free speech."

In September, Rep. Josh Gottheimer, a Democrat from New Jersey, joined the ongoing debate about whether *The Right to Maim*, a book that some claim is antisemitic, should be included in a fall course at Princeton. Gottheimer wrote an open letter to President Christopher Eisgruber '83 expressing dismay and saying Princeton is "obligated" to protect its students.

In his response, Eisgruber wrote that while both free speech and equality are fundamental to a great university, "we can achieve our mission ... only if people of all backgrounds feel welcome, respected, and free to express their opinions," but that will never extend to "censoring speech, syllabi, or courses."

Princetonians for Free Speech was not involved in drafting the principles but supports them. Edward L. Yingling '70, co-founder of the group, said he and co-founder Stuart Taylor Jr. '70 started Princetonians for Free Speech after "feeling that a lot of universities had lost their way."

"Their purpose was based on free speech and academic freedom and open discourse. You really can't advance knowledge if you don't have that," Yingling said, because otherwise, "you're just an indoctrination camp." ■



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CAMPUS REACTION

Students Gather to Mourn After Violence in Israel, Gaza

BY JULIE BONETTE WITH REPORTING BY ANIKA ASTHANA '25

IN THE WEEK AFTER HAMAS' surprise attack on Israel and Israel's ensuing counterstrikes in October, the University community responded with vigils, fundraisers, rallies, listening circles, and academic presentations, and by writing letters, including one by President Christopher Eisgruber '83.

More than 400 people attended a Tigers for Israel vigil on the Frist South Lawn Oct. 12, with support from the Center for Jewish Life (CJL), the Mamdouha S. Bobst Center for Peace and Justice, Public Safety, Counseling and Psychological Services (CPS), Chabad of Princeton, and other departments.

Two students sang a song in Hebrew as mourners gathered — several wearing or holding Israeli flags — in front of an array of photos of those who have been murdered, kidnapped, or are missing after the attack on Israel by Hamas, a political and militant organization that governs the Gaza Strip, on Oct. 7.

More songs, prayers, candle lighting, and remarks followed from speakers including Rabbi Eitan Webb and Gitty Webb, co-directors of the Scharf Family Chabad House, and Rabbi Gil Steinlauf '91,

director of the CJL at Princeton.

Leona Teten '27, a Jewish Israeli citizen, attended the vigil because “I have family in Israel, and in my high school I was very involved with Israeli activism ... So, I wanted to come out and show support for my community.”

On Oct. 13, a vigil organized by Princeton Students for Justice in Palestine drew a crowd of around 300 people to the front lawn of Nassau Hall, bringing together people from the campus community and the neighboring areas. Faculty members, alumni, students from other colleges, and families with young children came together to mourn and grieve.

Nine people lined up in front of the Nassau Hall steps and alternated between holding signs and going up to speak. The speakers led a repeat-after-me, chanting, “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free.”

One student spoke about attending the Oct. 12 vigil hosted by Tigers for Israel, where the audience was asked to pray for all innocent lives lost. He then turned to his audience and echoed the same message: “I ask everyone to keep

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Students sing in Hebrew at an Oct. 12 vigil organized by Tigers for Israel. Princeton Students for Justice in Palestine gathered the next day.

in mind and pray for all innocent people in the region, both Palestinian and non-Palestinian.”

In an Oct. 10 open letter, Eisgruber acknowledged the hurt and grief felt around the world, including at Princeton, after Hamas' “cruel and inhumane attack.”

“The nightmare underway in Israel and in the Palestinian territories is being deeply felt on this campus. That pain will inevitably continue in the months ahead. My heart goes out to everyone personally affected,” Eisgruber wrote.

According to Steinlauf, additional security has been implemented at the CJL. The center said that Princeton students have been raising funds to support those who were impacted, hanging posters of missing Israelis on campus, and making and selling bracelets with the names of missing Israelis.

The School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) hosted an Oct. 12 online panel discussion that featured Daniel Kurtzer, a former U.S. ambassador to Israel and professor of Middle East policy studies at Princeton; Salam Fayyad, a visiting senior scholar and former prime minister of the Palestinian Authority; Mona Yacoubian, vice president of the Middle East and North Africa Center at the United States Institute of Peace; and Razia Iqbal, also a visiting scholar.

SPIA Dean Amaney Jamal, who was born in the United States but spent some of her teenage years in the West Bank, spoke before the event.

“I recognize and acknowledge the deep pain and suffering of Israelis today,” Jamal said. “And it is my sincere hope that my empathy and care for Israeli civilians should not be misperceived as negating my simultaneous empathy and care for the Palestinian civilians in Gaza and the West Bank. Equally true, nor should my concern and care for Palestinian civilians negate my simultaneous empathy and care for Israeli civilians. Empathy and care are not zero sum.” ■

IN SHORT

Princeton was **ranked No. 1 among national universities** for the 13th consecutive year by *U.S. News & World Report*, which released its annual Best Colleges ranking Sept. 18. Princeton also finished first in the *Wall Street Journal/College Pulse* rankings, published in early September, and America's Top Colleges, published by *Forbes* in August.

University spokesman Michael Hotchkiss said in a statement to PAW, "Whatever rankings show from year to year, Princeton remains committed to contributing to the world through research and teaching of unsurpassed quality. What has changed this year is that more Princeton undergraduates are receiving more financial aid, thanks to the University's enhanced aid program. About a quarter of undergraduates now pay nothing to attend Princeton, and 66% of newly enrolled students receive aid"

About 80 student activists, professors, and staff gathered in front of Nassau Hall Sept. 21 to call attention to the struggles of unionized workers. The **Workers' Town Hall** was organized by Princeton's student-run Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDSA) chapter and included speeches by history professor Matthew Karp, graduate student activist Mauro Windholz, and Jeffrey Coley, the president of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 175.

"I feel privileged to work here, and even more privileged to have a union behind me — to not have to shrivel in a corner and pretend that nothing is bothering me," Debbie Sidoran, a union worker in Building Services, told PAW. "We live in strange times, and we need union strength more than ever."

Princeton undergraduates received an **average course grade point average of 3.56** during the 2022-23 academic year, matching an all-time high first recorded during the pandemic, when grading policies were relaxed. The 2022-23 course GPA was about 0.26 points higher than in 2005-06, the year following the implementation of the so-called grade-deflation policy, and about 0.17 points higher than in 2014-15, the first year after the revised grading policy went into effect. The annual grading report is available online at bit.ly/grading-memo. 



From left: John Poggi '68, Valerie Poggi, Hannah Bartges, John Bartges '73, David Carroll '73, Douglas Grover '73, Stephanie Wishnack and Marshall Wishnack '68

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CAMPUS ACTIVISM

Princeton Students Join New York Climate March

ABOUT 60 PRINCETON STUDENTS joined an estimated 75,000 people during a climate march in New York City on Sept. 17. The March to End Fossil Fuels took place at the beginning of the U.N. General Assembly and had a heavy focus on President Joe Biden, demanding that his administration stop oil and gas projects and declare a climate emergency.

The effort to get Princeton students to the march was organized by two climate activist student groups on campus: Divest Princeton and the Princeton Student Climate Initiative. The organizations also received funding from the University to pay



for students' train tickets to New York City.

The day started with a rally outside of the Wawa on campus, where students gathered to hear speeches and get pumped up before heading into the city. "It was kind of like a microcosm of what the protest was because it had that protest energy," said Eleanor Clemans-Cope '26, a co-coordinator of Divest Princeton, which has been advocating for the University to end fossil-fuel-funded research on campus.

"If you're following climate change science, we're all very alarmed that the future for our children and grandchildren is looking very bleak," said Lee Ketelsen '77, who attended the march with her family, including her 4-year-old grandson, and a grassroots climate activist organization called Mothers Out Front. "I'm glad that Princeton students and all students are getting active, because they will really be the leaders of the future." 📍

By Anna Mazarakis '16

IN MEMORIAM

William B. Russel, a former dean of Princeton's graduate school and longtime



chemical and biological engineering professor, died Sept. 24 at age 77. During Russel's service as dean from 2002 to 2014, the graduate school increased diversity in its student body,

revamped housing with the completion of the Lakeside apartments, and developed "Dissertation Completion Enrollment" (DCE) status, which expanded funding for Ph.D. students. Russel's research in engineering centered on materials science, including the behavior, structure, and dynamics of colloidal systems, according to a biography published by the Dean of the Faculty's office. He transferred to emeritus status in 2017 after 43 years on the faculty.

Janet Martin, the first woman to earn tenure in Princeton's Department of Classics, died Aug. 30. She was 84. Martin, a scholar of literature and history of the Middle Ages, came to the University in 1973 and was an early participant



in the Women's Classical Caucus, an organization that aims to incorporate feminist and gender-informed perspectives in the field and promote equity and diversity.

On campus, she chaired the faculty committee that advocated for a program in women's studies (though she resigned as chair before its approval, in protest of the administration's lack of support). She retired from the faculty in 2010.

Joseph Kohn *56, described by peers as a major figure in modern mathematical



analysis, died Sept. 12 at age 91. Kohn was known for his work on the interaction between partial differential equations and functions of several complex variables,

according to a biography from the Dean of the Faculty's office. He earned a Ph.D. in mathematics from Princeton and returned to join the faculty in 1968, teaching for the next 40 years. Kohn chaired the mathematics department in three separate stints. He also was active in the Princeton Go Club, playing the ancient board game that he first picked up as a graduate student.

Victor Laurie, a longtime member of the chemistry faculty, died Sept. 13.



He was 88. Laurie's research included using spectroscopy to study molecular structure, according to a family obituary. He also edited the *Annual Review of Physical Chemistry* and *The Journal of Chemical Physics*. Laurie had

a longstanding interest in computers — dating back to his Ph.D. studies at Harvard — and in retirement worked to educate senior citizens about the use of personal computers.

Robert Lisk, a biology professor who directed Princeton's Program in



Neuroscience in the 1980s, died Sept. 12 at age 88. Lisk studied neuroendocrine regulation, including the biochemical mechanisms involved in animal reproduction. He transferred to

emeritus status in 1990 after teaching at the University for 30 years. In retirement, Lisk lived in Ontario, Canada, and embraced his passion for music, playing the organ for his local church congregation, according to a family obituary. 📍

CALVIN KENJIRO GROVER '27; DAVID KELLY CROW / PRINCETON UNIVERSITY; PRINCETON UNIVERSITY; JOHN JAMESON / PRINCETON UNIVERSITY; COURTESY LAURIE FAMILY; COURTESY LISK FAMILY

FOOTBALL

Walking the Walk

Jalen Travis '24 is poised for a career in public service, but the NFL might come calling first on the lineman

BY JUSTIN FEIL

JALLEN TRAVIS '24 DESCRIBES himself as a “determined change maker.”

Whether the 6-foot-9, 315-pound Princeton team captain is on the football field or off, he has been striving to make an impact. Pro Football Focus, which rates every Division I college player, ranked the two-year starter the No. 1 offensive tackle in the country through the first two games of his senior year. He aspires to play in the NFL.

“The window to accomplish [your] dreams in terms of playing in the NFL is very small,” Travis said. “I think I’d be remiss if I didn’t take advantage of that and pursue my dreams while they’re in front of me.”

Travis, though, has further aspirations. He would like to earn a law degree to work toward “making change and influencing the change I want to see in my communities.” He was a senior at DeLaSalle High in Minneapolis when George Floyd’s murder sparked him to co-found the Just Action Coalition. He had been a leader in pushing for student advocacy throughout high school and organized the school’s walkout following the Parkland shooting, but starting the nonprofit that empowered youth to address racial biases and police brutality through the political process was eye-opening.

“We were there and made sure we were able to speak up when necessary to contribute in a way that we believed would make our community safer and rebuild that trust and establish that trust between law enforcement and the community they serve,” said Travis.

Earlier this year, Travis was one of 62 college students to receive the Truman Scholarship,

which awards each scholar up to \$30,000 to be used at any time toward an advanced degree aimed at working in public service.

“You just hope that one day you get to coach a guy like Bill Bradley ’65,” said head coach Bob Surace ’90. “I can only imagine [Butch] van Breda Kolff in 1963 having that guy that is so talented in so many ways. I’m not trying to use hyperbole or put undue pressure on him.”

There was a time when Travis’ athletic pursuits more closely followed Bradley’s

“Each step along the way I’ve been able to gain and learn instrumental things to help me better curate my path when football is over, so I know exactly what I want to do and how I want to attack it.”

— JALEN TRAVIS '24

Princeton offensive tackle



or his brothers’ — Jonah, who led Harvard men’s basketball to four NCAA Tournament berths, and Reid, who played at Stanford and Kentucky and now plays professionally overseas. The fourth of five children, Travis also has two sisters who competed in college athletics. While he played AAU basketball with a pair of top-five NBA draft picks, Jalen Suggs and Chet Holmgren, Travis saw being a football lineman as his challenging yet rewarding pro path beyond college.

“If I do my job, my hard work will shine through,” said Travis. “I think that’s part of what went into me choosing football, just being the person I am.”

On campus, Travis lends his voice to the Princeton community as a member of the Student-Athlete Service Council, a Princeton Advocacy and Activism Student Board liaison, and a student advisory board member in the Program for Community-Engaged Scholarship. He interned for the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice last summer, and in the summer of 2022 he interned for U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar and was awarded the Leonard D. Schaeffer Fellowship.

“Each step along the way I’ve been able to gain and learn instrumental things to help me better curate my path when football is over, so I know exactly what I want to do and how I want to attack it,” Travis said.

He remains adamant about the importance of community service, penning an op-ed in *The Daily Princetonian* last year that called for the University to give course credit for service, in response to an oft-heard complaint that students don’t have enough time to serve. Travis has pulled off a tough juggling act by balancing school, service, and football.

“I choose to allot that time to stuff I truly believe in,” Travis said, “helping and giving back because I think that’s what in large part has formed my identity to this point and continues to form it — because I truly believe there’s no higher privilege in this world than to share what you have with other people and help them achieve.” ■

WRESTLING

Dubuque Chosen as New Head Coach

SIX MONTHS AFTER PRINCETON wrestling celebrated its first individual national champion in 72 years, the program faced a different kind of milestone: its first coaching change since 2006.

Chris Ayres, who led the Tigers' rise from a winless team to an Ivy League champion, was named head coach at Stanford on Sept. 11. Joe Dubuque, a veteran assistant who has been one of two associate head coaches at Princeton since 2017, was announced as the Tigers' new head coach on Sept. 19.

Dubuque, a New Jersey native who won two NCAA championships at Indiana University, said he was grateful for the opportunity.

"This is a dream job for me, to continue doing what I love at the place I love," he



DUBUQUE

told PAW, adding that the announcement had sparked hundreds of texts from friends around the state and in the broader wrestling community. "It was overwhelming just to know the love and support that I have."

Dubuque thanked Ayres, a friend and mentor whose tenure in the last 17 years has been one of the most remarkable stories in Princeton athletics. After two

winless seasons (2006-07 and 2007-08), Ayres' teams made a decade-long climb toward the top of the Ivy League pack, culminating in a 2020 win over Cornell that secured the program's first league championship in 34 years.

"We went through a lot of experiences together — a lot of adversity, a lot of amazing times," Dubuque said. Ayres, he added, gave him freedom to coach in a way that matches his personality — driven, emotional — and he expects that to carry forward in his new role.

Dubuque was in Patrick Glory '23's corner in Tulsa, Oklahoma, last March when the four-time All-American captured the NCAA title at 125 pounds — the same weight class Dubuque had competed in at Indiana. It was the ultimate validation for what he'd been telling Princeton recruits for years: "You can get the best education in the country while having the resources to compete for a national championship." **■** By B.T.

PRINCETON ATHLETICS

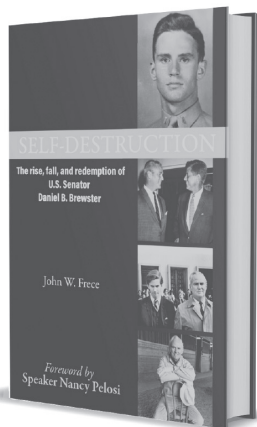
War Hero and U.S. Senator Danny Brewster '46

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

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RESEARCH

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IMAGING AND ANALYSIS CENTER

SEEING CLEARLY

A team led by Princeton researchers is the first to directly observe and distinguish electron orbital structures of atoms within a molecule. In the image here, captured using an atomic force microscope, iron and cobalt, which are chemically similar, can be distinguished by their shapes (the iron atom is square-like) and brightness (cobalt is brighter). “People have predicted certain orbital structures, but they have never seen them,” said Professor Nan Yao, director of Princeton’s Imaging and Analysis Center (IAC), where the image was produced. The research was published in the journal Nature Communications in March.



FOR MORE Princeton research news visit PAW.PRINCETON.EDU.



ARMSTRONG '01



FOSTER '98



MACKEY '07

2023 MACARTHUR FELLOWS

Three Alumni Win Prestigious 'Genius Grants'

BY JULIE BONETTE

THE MACARTHUR FOUNDATION announced in October that three Princeton alumni — Andrea Armstrong *01, Diana Greene Foster *98, and Lester Mackey '07 — are among the newest class of MacArthur fellows.

Each of the 20 recipients in the 2023 cohort will receive a “no strings attached” award of \$800,000 distributed over the next five years from the MacArthur Foundation.

Armstrong, who received her master’s in public affairs from the School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA), was recognized for “bringing transparency to detention policies, conditions of confinement, and deaths in U.S. prisons and jails.” She is a professor of law at Loyola University New Orleans’ College of Law and founder of Incarceration Transparency, a database with information on deaths of those incarcerated in Louisiana.

“My work focuses on ... the conditions in which people live and unfortunately die in our prisons, jails, and detention

centers ... including the ways in which [deaths are] hidden from public view, and trying to understand who was dying, why they’re dying, and how we can reduce these deaths behind bars,” says Armstrong. She credits her time at SPIA with helping her to analyze statistics and envision new policies.

“The skills and the things that we learned [at SPIA] — those transfer across so many different domains. I’m just incredibly grateful for it,” she adds.

Armstrong is motivated in part because “when we think about who are the people who are least protected by law, in many cases those are incarcerated people.” She hopes to increase transparency around confinement and eventually aims to work herself out of a job by proving the government can and should collect and publish more information around incarceration.

Foster, who received her Ph.D. from SPIA, is a professor of obstetrics, gynecology, and reproductive sciences at the University of California, San

Francisco. The MacArthur Foundation cited her work “investigating how reproductive health care policies and access impact individuals’ physical, mental, and socioeconomic well-being.”

After realizing there was a lack of data around the question of whether abortion harms women, Foster and collaborators conducted the Turnaway Study, “and what turns out to be important from having done the study is not harm that’s caused by abortion, but harm that’s caused by people not being able to get an abortion. And we see that in worse economic outcomes, worse physical health, and worse outcomes for their children.”

The study found that 95% of those who received abortions said more than five years later that it was the right decision for them.

Foster told PAW her research was influenced by her years at Princeton, when she went from receiving a yearly prescription of birth control pills from University Health Services to a three-month supply after switching to private insurance. “It made me so mad because I knew that the Princeton model was better.”

Foster plans to spend some of the award money to help fund *The Turnaway Play*, a production written by her sister, Lesley Greene, about Foster’s own research, which is set to debut in Ithaca, New York, in May 2024.

Mackey, who received his bachelor of science in engineering (BSE) in computer science, was commended for “pioneering statistical and machine learning techniques to solve data science problems with real-world relevance.” According to the MacArthur Foundation, his work “focuses on techniques to improve efficiency and predictive performance in computational statistical analysis of very large data sets” that he uses to “develop scalable learning algorithms with direct benefit for society.”

Mackey has been a machine learning researcher with Microsoft Research New England since 2016.

“I use computer science and statistics and math to help solve problems in the world, and I’ve gotten to work on a wide variety of problems,” he says.

Mackey’s past and present projects include monitoring seismic activity as part of the United Nations’

“I thought, what a satisfying life it would be if I could do this work that I find satisfying on an intellectual level, but it also could translate into something that’s helping the people in the world around me.”


— LESTER MACKEY '07
2023 MacArthur fellow

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, improving weather forecasts two to six weeks in advance, and, with his wife, Lilly Fang '07, a former attorney who is now in software engineering, predicting disease progression of Lou Gehrig’s disease (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS).

Mackey was first drawn to this work in high school after receiving

a book on careers from his mother. Computer science stood out because it is mathematical and practical, “and that appealed to me because I love math, but I also wanted to see the concrete practical impacts of my work in the world,” he says.

“I thought, what a satisfying life it would be if I could do this work that I find satisfying on an intellectual level, but it also could translate into something that’s helping the people in the world around me.”

The MacArthur Foundation encourages individuals to pursue professional and passion projects without restriction, according to the foundation website, and the awards represent “an investment in their potential.” This year’s cohort also includes Courtney Bryan, a composer and pianist who was a postdoctoral research associate in Princeton’s African American studies department from 2014 to 2016, according to the University. 

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PRINCETON PLASMA PHYSICS LABORATORY

Joining Forces in the Search for Fusion

BY STAV DIMITROPOULOS

THE IDEA OF CHEAP, accessible, and limitless energy was imparted on Ahmed Diallo at a young age. A principal research physicist at Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory (PPPL), Diallo is a native of Burkina Faso in West Africa, one of the poorest nations in the world, where rural areas have a 3% electrification rate.

“I grew up in an urban area, but electricity was intermittent and much more expensive than in the U.S.,” says Diallo. He draws parallels between his homeland’s urgent need for resources and the Earth’s need for new power solutions as motivation for his research.

Last summer, Diallo worked in Cadarache, France, overseeing installation of diagnostic tools for the measurement of plasma temperature and density inside the W Environment in Steady-state Tokamak, or WEST. “W” is the symbol for the chemical element tungsten, and a tokamak is a device that confines plasma and holds the greatest potential for commercial controlled fusion energy. Last year, Diallo was part of a team awarded a \$1.6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to research the use of tungsten in WEST.

Tungsten is a rare gray metal and when turned into a fine powder is flammable and can spontaneously ignite.

“At PPPL, we’re building an impurity power dropper, a tool used to coat the plasma-facing wall of the WEST device, a process expected to significantly enhance the machine’s performance,” Diallo says.

WEST is the predecessor of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER), the largest-ever fusion device, a tokamak with 10 times the plasma volume of any of its contemporaries. An agreement to build ITER was reached in 1985 with the aim of supplying the world with limitless, carbon-free energy from nuclear fusion by 2025. All 27 European Union countries plus China, India, Japan, South Korea, Russia, and the U.S. are members of ITER. The mega-tokamak is billions of dollars over budget and many years behind schedule though. Construction began in 2010, with the original first plasma turn-on date set for 2018, but in 2016 the ITER council pushed the launch date to 2025. In the first half of 2023, the ITER council announced that the timeline would be revised yet again.

“Lately, it’s like all of humanity’s

creative powers have joined forces to find alternative sources of energy,” Diallo says.

Diallo came to the U.S. to pursue a bachelor’s degree in physics from the University of Montana. He was drawn to the school by the “cost, the appeal of the mountain region, and a good recruiting job by the university’s admissions office,” he says. He did his Ph.D. at the University of Iowa, landed a postdoc position in Switzerland and a fellowship in Australia before returning to the U.S. to join PPPL in 2009. Last year, he became a program director for the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, where he focuses on transformative research and development to enable commercial fusion energy. Diallo has received a number of awards, including the DOE’s Early Career Research Program Award and the 2022 DOE Oppenheimer Fellowship.

Part of a team of about 700 at PPPL, Diallo remains focused on the upgrade of the National Spherical Torus Experiment (NSTX), Princeton’s own magnetic fusion device. He’s also part of a team working on developing a new method that prevents damage to the mirrors used in semiconductor chip manufacturing.

In 1994, Princeton researchers performed the first controlled fusion experiment that produced significant power, heating plasma to around 300 million degrees Celsius. WEST has already set a world record, fusing plasma for six minutes and 30 seconds — injecting and extracting over 1,000 megajoules of energy in the process.

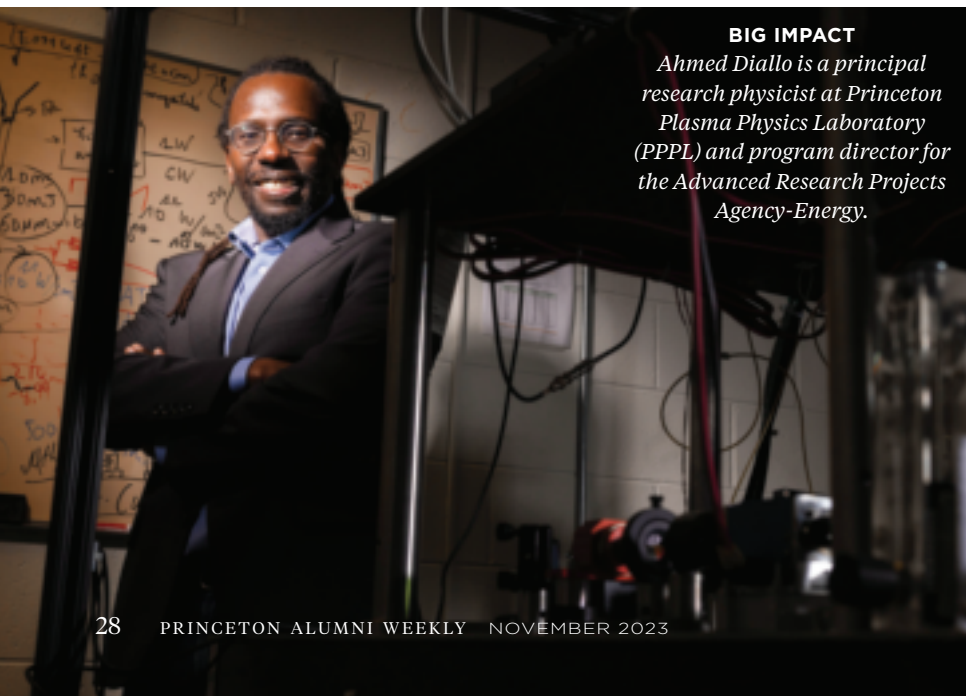
“Our own reactor validates the physics of the spherical tokamak, which will enable the design of a future fusion power plant. Then, we can go to WEST and hone the skills needed for the development of future devices,” says Diallo.

Prior to visiting France, Diallo spent a few days in Seville, Spain. PPPL has been awarded a \$5.1 million DOE grant to help develop the Small Aspect Ratio Tokamak (SMART), a new spherical tokamak the University of Seville is constructing. “This device should also provide a nice platform for PPPL to test novel ideas,” he says.

“But what I’m doing in Seville is not strictly helping them. I’m also learning by working with them, and all this will definitely come back to Princeton.” ■

BIG IMPACT

Ahmed Diallo is a principal research physicist at Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory (PPPL) and program director for the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy.



BEHIND THE RESEARCH: JOSHUA WINN

Seeking Answers in the Stars

BY AGATHA BORDONARO '04



AS A KID GROWING UP IN DEERFIELD, ILLINOIS, JOSHUA WINN subscribed to astronomy magazines, eagerly followed the latest NASA developments, and spent a lot of time at Chicago's Adler Planetarium. Despite his love of space, it took him a while to realize he could make a career out of it. Winn dabbled in various areas of physics, including optical and medical physics, while earning his bachelor's and master's degrees from MIT. "I was very lucky, because right around the time I graduated [in 1994] was the beginning of what we now understand to be the boom in exoplanet science," he says. Advancements in detection methods suddenly allowed for the discovery of many new planets beyond our solar system. "It was a real time of opportunity to become part of this whole new area of astronomy."

Excited by this "growth field," Winn went on to earn his Ph.D. in physics from MIT in 2001 and hold National Science Foundation and Hubble postdoctoral fellowships at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. His research focuses on examining the properties of the more than 5,500 exoplanets that have been discovered to date — such as their orbital structure, mass, and atmosphere — to understand more about how planets form and evolve.

Quick Facts

TITLE

Professor of Astrophysical Sciences

TIME AT PRINCETON

7 years

RECENT CLASS

Topics in Modern Astronomy

WINN'S RESEARCH A SAMPLING



WHAT GOES AROUND

The theory of planet formation suggests that in a planetary system, the rotation of the star and the orbital revolutions of its planets should be neatly aligned, with the planets' orbits and the star's equator all lying within a single plane. But in 2009, Winn and his team began finding planets that were orbiting their stars in totally new ways: tilted 35 degrees off the equator of the star, rotating perpendicularly over the north

and south poles of the star, or even spinning "backwards," with the planet and star turning in opposite directions. These misaligned orbits have inspired astronomers to further study exoplanet characteristics so they can refine the theory of planet formation.



"PLANETS WHERE THEY DON'T BELONG"

Astronomers have theorized that giant planets can only form far away from their

parent stars. That's because these planets need solid materials to form, and common space molecules such as water and ammonia exist as solid materials only when it's very cold, far away from the heat of a star. But in 1995, astronomers discovered the first "hot Jupiter" — a giant planet so close to its star that it takes just a few days to orbit and likely harbors a molten lava surface. In 2020, Winn published a study examining one such "hot Jupiter," dubbed WASP-12, whose orbit appears to be gradually shrinking and will result in the planet crashing into its star within a few million years. "We still don't really understand where these planets came from and what was wrong or incomplete with our original theory," he says, but such extreme cases "might give us a clue about why the planets are the way they are."



FINDING EARTH 2.0

Winn and his team at Princeton are currently working with universities in the United Kingdom to launch the Terra Hunting Experiment, which will use a new Doppler spectrograph and a freshly refurbished telescope in the Canary Islands to monitor a few dozen stars for signs of a planet that resembles our own. "We'll get more data than anybody has gotten before, so maybe that will be what allows us to detect a kind of Earth 2.0," Winn says. He expects the project to be operational in about 2025, and it will run for 10 years. **P**

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



Hey, Brooke Shields '87,
you've spent your whole life
in the public spotlight as a MODEL,
ENTERTAINER, and AUTHOR.

Tell us ...

Now What?

By E.B. BOYD '89

Photograph by DIMITRI MAIS

IN EARLY 2021, IN THE HEART OF THE PANDEMIC, Brooke Shields '87 suffered a serious break to her femur, requiring multiple surgeries. Then came a potentially life-threatening staph infection. "It gave me a lot of time because I was in the hospital for a month by myself," Shields says. "I thought, 'If you die, what will you *not* have done?'"

Shields, the world-famous model and movie star who studied Romance languages and literatures at Princeton, had accomplished more in her first 18 years than most people do in a lifetime. But lying in that hospital bed, she cycled through how much more she wanted to do.

The list included an online community for women over 40 called *Beginning is Now*, which she launched later that year. Meanwhile she's working on a possible beauty brand. She's also continued to act and perform while writing a new book that redefines the experience of aging. And this year she raised her first round of financing for a new company.

"Starting your own business is a marathon," she tells PAW. "So many of the things I've done have been versions of sprints, like jumping into a show you have to learn in nine days. This is taking patience and endurance."

Last year, she launched a podcast called *Now What?* about what people do when life doesn't go according to plan. It seems like a surprisingly democratic choice for someone who's floated among the glitterati since before she could drive. But many actors are turning to the medium, both for its creative freedom and the chance to connect directly with audiences.

"I'm fascinated in how people decide to continually pivot," says Shields. "We [can] get so stuck in what we want [our life] to be, or what we think it should be, or what it has been in the past."

Shields knows from pivots. After shooting to fame as a child, she made the unusual decision to slow her career to go to college — and then faced crickets. She eventually found her way back into entertainment via Broadway, followed by a hit TV show that earned her two Golden Globe nominations. She's since written two memoirs (and two children's books), while continuing to work as a model and spokesperson, and more recently plunging into Netflix rom-coms. "I often look at my

life as a kaleidoscope where all these perfect pieces fit, and then you shift it just a little bit, and it's chaos. Then you have to either stay settled in that chaos, or shift it just a little bit more, and a new pattern arises."

Shields, 58, started *Beginning is Now*, whose conversations take place on Facebook and Instagram, after reaching midlife and noticing how the broader culture starts ignoring women right at the point they're finally becoming comfortable with themselves. "Nobody talks to us," she says. "Nobody markets to us. Nobody says you can be sexy. Nobody says you can try new things. Nobody says you don't have to give a shit anymore."

This year has been a turning point for Shields. While she's never been out of the public eye, Hulu released a documentary in April that has propelled her back to the forefront of the national consciousness. *Pretty Baby: Brooke Shields* examines the media's sexualization of girls and young women through the lens of Shields' early life — and in doing so invites viewers to rethink their conception of who she is and how their ideas got cemented.

In the '70s and '80s, Shields sat at the top of the cultural pantheon. (Think: covers of *Vogue*, box office smashes like *The Blue Lagoon*, and the notorious Calvin Klein ads.) But it came at a price: Shields was frequently attacked for projecting an overly sexualized image of teenage girlhood. The Hulu documentary unpacks the behind-the-scenes dynamics at work in that era, when the women's liberation movement had turned its back on conventional notions of femininity, and in response, the advertising industry turned to ever-younger models. When the public didn't like what they saw, it was the girls who were attacked, not the photographers and filmmakers using them as canvases for their own ideals.

"There was this pivot toward young girls to sell lip gloss and Calvin Klein jeans, and nobody said, 'Wait a second, this is not OK,'" says Ali Wentworth, producer of the documentary, which takes its title from the 1978 film of the same name. Director Louis Malle cast the 11-year-old Shields as a child prostitute in early 20th century New Orleans. The film was based on a true story, but its subject matter generated intense controversy — and put Shields and her mother in the hot seat for taking the role in the first place.

The podcast *Now What?* offers a more expansive view of Shields as well, even from the person the public has come to know in the decades since. The voice in your earbuds isn't the poised beauty icon, or the genial talk-show guest, or the goofy comedian. Instead, it's a warm, curious, and deep-hearted interviewer, with a wry sense of humor and a down-to-earth fearlessness about exploring the most wrenching of topics. Whether she's talking with *Good Wife* actor Julianna Margulies about the challenges of growing up under a deeply flawed parent, or with *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt* star (and former Princeton Quipfire! improviser) Ellie Kemper '02 about both Wawa runs and the pain of professional rejection, it feels like a curtain is being pulled back, and we're finally getting a glimpse of the real Shields, in all her complexity and colors.

"I just interviewed [singer-songwriter] Sara Bareilles, and she practically brought me to tears because she talked about doing the things that scare you and realizing where your limitations are, but [not making] them *who* you are," says Shields. "She talks about finding your voice and what that means to all of us differently."

Before she came to Princeton, the teenage Shields rarely felt she

STAGE PRESENCE

*Shields performs in the 1984 Triangle Club production of *Revel Without a Pause*. A *Daily Princetonian* story at the time said she saw herself on equal footing with her fellow cast members. "This is my first school play," she said.*



could have a voice of her own. Social media didn't exist yet, and the journalists and talk-show hosts who interviewed her struck her as more interested in advancing prevailing narratives than hearing what she actually thought. In one such interview, when she was about 12, "I say to this woman, after she's asked the same question four times, just slightly changing the words" — about whether Shields thought Malle's *Pretty Baby* had robbed her of her childhood (she didn't) — "and I'm trying not to be rude — I say, 'Excuse me, ma'am, but I don't think you want my answer.'"

On sets, Shields remained focused on delivering what was asked. "The pride I derived from my job stemmed primarily from being liked and accepted," she wrote in her 2014 memoir, *There Was a Little Girl*. Princeton, though, marked a turning point. It wasn't so much a life-changing experience, Shields emphasizes, as a life-revealing one. Her experience on campus helped her tap back into herself — her own ideas and sensibilities. "I needed to reveal myself to myself," she says. "I needed to learn that I could have an opinion."

WHEN SHIELDS MOVED INTO MATHEY COLLEGE in the fall of 1983, she was probably the most famous freshman the school had ever seen. Taking time out to go to college wasn't typical of young celebrities, but it'd always been part of Shields' plan. Both her parents cared deeply about education: Teri Shields, who hoped for more for her daughter than she'd had from her own working class upbringing in Newark, and Frank Shields, a University of Pennsylvania graduate from New York's Upper East Side. When a brief marriage ended in divorce, Teri waived alimony, asking only that Frank, a business executive, pay for their daughter's schooling.

Shields, for her part, wanted time away from the fickle worlds of modeling and acting, where she knew her worth was often based

on arbitrary qualities, like her much lauded beauty. "I remember thinking, 'This will be the one thing that can't be taken away from you,'" she told Minnie Driver on that actor's podcast.

With plans to stay close to home and dreams of ivy-covered Gothic buildings, Shields fell in love with Princeton during a fall football game. "The atmosphere made me giddy," she wrote in *Little Girl*. "I could feel an excitement for knowledge ... I was so comfortable with these people [who] were extraordinarily genuine and smart, but not affected."

Soon after matriculating, however, Shields was consumed with loneliness. "People tried to be so nice. They just tried to give me my space. And I was like, 'I don't want space ... I want friends,'" Shields recalls in the documentary.

An elitist skepticism was probably also at work. After women's lib, serious women were no longer supposed to be interested in makeup and fashion — the very things Shields symbolized. A woman from the Class of 1973, Princeton's first fully coed cohort, wrote a scathing letter to PAW. "Who, one wonders, is the talented and intellectually superior student who has not been admitted to Princeton this year so that Brooke Shields might be?" It seemed doubtful, the letter continued, that Shields' "film and modeling experience" would be "likely to enrich campus life." (Several other alumni wrote in later, challenging those assumptions and defending Shields' right to attend.)

What her classmates may not have realized was that Shields actually had a lot in common with them. Studio 54 snaps notwithstanding, Teri, with whom Shields lived most of the time, had always insisted her daughter lead a normal life. Resisting the lure of Hollywood, Teri kept them in the New York area and sent her daughter to regular schools, including Dwight-Englewood School in New Jersey. Work was mostly restricted to after classes and weekends and vacations. Shields routinely spent time with her father's second family, first in Manhattan and



POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE

News media covering Shields' graduation in 1987.

then on Long Island, including her five step- and half-siblings. “All of those things that were associated with being these sexy personas just didn’t feel like who I really was,” Shields says in the documentary. “The nerdy, kind of dorky person who was creative and intelligent was at the core of who I was.”

Working in fashion and films, Shields had developed a strong work ethic to balance it all with school. James W. Wickenden Jr. ’61, Princeton’s director of admission from 1978 to 1983, later said Shields’ academic qualifications were never in doubt. The admissions committee mostly worried that such a successful actor and model wouldn’t stick it out all four years and wouldn’t participate in campus life. A conversation with Shields convinced Wickenden her interest was genuine.

Still, the loneliness that freshman fall nearly knocked her off course. Shields went home every weekend and soon started talking about dropping out. Teri convinced her to stay, insisting that “if I quit, I would never, ever forgive myself,” Shields wrote in *Little Girl*. And Teri was right. When Shields keynoted Class Day in 2011 (wearing her 1987 beer jacket), she told the assembled seniors, “I graduated more confident and more proud of myself than I had ever been ... Without the four years of learning and growth that culminated in my degree, I would have never survived my industry, a business that predicated itself on eating its young. I would have become a cliché. I never would have been able to adapt or reinvent.”

ON AN EARLY EPISODE OF *NOW WHAT?*, Shields shared with Wentworth that one of her earliest “now what” moments was trying out for Princeton’s eXpressions dance company her freshman year — and not making it. “It was so embarrassing ... to really put myself out there and not be good enough,” she said. “I just thought, maybe it’s true, maybe I’m not good.” The following summer, Shields threw herself into dance classes in Manhattan, and the next year, she made the troupe. “Those were the things that were the most revelatory for me,” she tells PAW. “It’s not that it always works out. But it’s that you have to put the work in and see where that takes you.”

Shields was most known on campus for performing with Triangle Club. “Triangle was this unbelievably safe, nonjudgmental environment where I could grow, and be challenged, and know what it feels like to be a part of a team,” she says. The close-knit community also gave her the freedom to experience the social aspects of college life. “They were protecting me,” Shields says. “No one was going to write about it or secretly photograph me and release it to Page Six.”

Since Princeton didn’t have a film studies department, Shields chose to major in Romance languages and literatures, with a concentration in French. One day junior year, one of her professors, Karl Uitti, called her into his office. “He saw me not trusting any of my instincts, or my opinions, and waiting and watching to see what other people said,” Shields says. “He wanted to stop that and say, ‘No, you actually have opinions. So why don’t you just allow yourself to have them and see what happens?’”

It was a defining moment for Shields, who credited Uitti in her senior thesis for “helping me to have faith in my own hypotheses.”

“He had seen this very hardworking person who wanted to do

better and keep growing,” Shields says. “He seemed to just ask more of me.”

In her thesis, Shields examined two of Malle’s films through a literary lens, in part to reclaim the meaning and artistry of *Pretty Baby* from the desecration it had received at the hands of American critics. (“I think it’s possibly the only really beautiful film I’ve ever been in,” she told an interviewer this year.)

Shields was particularly interested in the theme of lost innocence, and she analyzed how Malle was using film not strictly as entertainment but more as an artistic medium to provoke contemplation. Screenwriter Polly Platt had written *Pretty Baby* as an allegory for what she was seeing in 1970s Hollywood. “Malle holds a mirror to society and asks us all to take a good look,” Shields wrote. “He wants to shake [the audience] out of complacency and force them to re-evaluate certain conventionally accepted attitudes.”

AFTER GRADUATION, SHIELDS LOST HER FOOTING in the film industry. “I had no idea that going away from the Hollywood game for years while getting an education would have such a negative effect,” she wrote in *Little Girl*. She struggled to find her way back. In 1994, she was tapped to play Rizzo in a Broadway revival of *Grease*. Two years later, a guest spot on *Friends* as Joey’s demented stalker put her comedic chops on display. Then she got her own sitcom, *Suddenly Susan*. “I used to think that I would only be credible if I went to those dark places and was a ‘thespian,’” Shields told Kemper on *Now What?* “And then I got older, and I [realized] I don’t enjoy it. I only enjoy comedy.” (“Music to my ears,” replied Kemper, who performed with the Upright Citizens Brigade before snagging her breakout role on *The Office*.)

Shields says her memoirs are among her proudest accomplishments, including 2005’s *Down Came the Rain*, about her postpartum depression and her path to recovery with help from therapy and medication. An agent suggested she write about her experiences, given how little the condition was understood at the time, but Shields hesitated, dubious that people would want to hear about the struggles of a celebrity. During her first year at Princeton, a publishing house had approached her about doing a book on college life for young women, only revealing after the contract was signed that they wanted to use a ghostwriter. Instead of going deep, *On Your Own* ended up being “a very silly book with short sentences about important things like the versatility of leg warmers,” Shields wrote in *Little Girl*.

Shields insisted on writing *Down Came the Rain* herself. The book received rave reviews and was widely praised for raising awareness about a much-overlooked condition. “Had I not gone to Princeton, I wouldn’t have been able to pitch a book and make it to *The New York Times* bestsellers list,” she tells PAW. “You have to be taught how to think, how to write, how to see what you think.” The concepts she learned in her college psychology classes, along with her own experiences in therapy, “allowed me to have authentic views of my experience and myself and get them down on paper.”

Shields’ ceramics instructor, the celebrated Toshiko Takaezu, also planted seeds that influenced her writing. “She taught me to get out of my comfort zone and stop trying to be perfect,”

Shields says. Sitting at her pottery wheel, Shields would try to force her clay into perfect shapes. Takaezu would walk by and knock them over. “That’s not how the flow of any artistic endeavor works,” Shields recalls Takaezu saying. “The tighter you hold, the less you are free.” Takaezu’s guidance, Shields says, “allowed me to write a book about postpartum depression and not be overly maudlin or, ‘poor me.’” (Shields keeps a pot she made with Takaezu on the landing of her New York home.)

Unexpectedly, after the book came out, the actor Tom Cruise took a swing at it. A member of the Church of Scientology, which looks askance on psychotherapy and medication, Cruise attacked Shields as “dangerous” and accused her of spreading “irresponsible misinformation.” Shields stood up for herself with a *New York Times* opinion piece dismantling Cruise’s claims and arguing his comments were “a disservice to mothers everywhere.” Cruise eventually backed down and apologized.

“She goes a thousand percent,” Wentworth says. “That is part of how she has remained sane and sustained a career and a life. You can knock Brooke down, and she will get back up. There’s no lying under her duvet and feeling sorry for herself.”

THE HULU DOCUMENTARY CAME ABOUT AS A RESULT of conversations Wentworth and Shields had about her early work experiences. “The documentary was a huge act of trust on my part because I hadn’t, maybe ever, *not* been reduced to whatever the lowest common denominator was,” says Shields, who had no say over the final cut. Others had previously approached her about doing a project on her life, but “it was always thin,” Shields says. Lana Wilson, the film’s director, who also helmed the Taylor Swift documentary *Miss Americana* (and who received an Emmy nod for her direction of *Pretty Baby: Brooke Shields*), suggested something more ambitious. “I wanted it to be about a bigger topic,” Shields says. “This ignites other conversations.”

And ignite it has. Shields has made the rounds this year of morning shows, podcasts, magazine articles, and even a long interview in *The New Yorker*. Since the #MeToo movement, audiences seem open to recontextualizing what was happening to young models and actors in the ’70s, ’80s, and ’90s in general, and in Shields’ life in particular. “What happened to [Shields], and the way people talked about her, and the perception of her, isn’t really about her as an individual,” BuzzFeed culture writer Scaachi Koul says in the documentary. “It’s just about women.”

The film also allowed Shields to take stock of herself. “I’ve never seen my whole life all together. I just lived it,” she says. “And seeing it all together, I was proud of how I came through it.” It also created an opening to break from the persona cast in the public eye years ago and fully own her identity. “This is a level of my voice I’ve been wanting to inhabit,” she says.

This fall, Shields screwed up her courage to create a solo performance of stories and songs at New York’s famous Café Carlyle. “It’s not what I do,” she says, but “whenever there’s something that scares me, I have to do it.” A week later, she was on stage at the Irish Rep, starring in *Love Letters* opposite *Mad Men*’s John Slattery.

When asked what she wants to see in her next few decades,



LADY LIBERTY

Shields rides in the 1986 P-rade with members of the Class of 1946.

Shields talks about her two daughters, acting, and her mission to bring the lives of midlife women out of the shadows. “Career-wise, I just hope I’m still working. I’ll play the Maggie Smith roles. I’ll learn how to roll a wheelchair if I need to,” she jokes.

She’s also gamely embracing new avenues for sharing parts of herself on her own terms. During the COVID lockdown, Shields partnered with her trainer to broadcast workouts on Instagram — unself-consciously fumbling with her phone to figure out how to split the screen. After her older daughter left for college, Shields shared her grief on TikTok, tears and all. And when Jordache tapped her for a jeans campaign last year, including a photo featuring her bare back, she had one requirement: No retouching. “It was important for you to see this is my 56-year-old body,” she told *People* magazine. “There is something about owning your sexuality at this age that is on point for where we are today.”

“She finally understands her worth and her power,” Wentworth says. “Now is not the time she wants to be shushed or told, ‘Your time is up.’ She’s just finding her voice.” **P**

E.B. BOYD ’89 is currently working on a book about women entrepreneurs.



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Princeton's toughest classes may not look the same,
but that doesn't mean academic rigor is suffering.

BY **SUSAN RESLEWIC KEATLEY '99**

ILLUSTRATION BY **TIM BOUCKLEY**



IN CLAIRE GMACHL'S INTRODUCTORY physics class for engineers, first-year students work in teams to tackle problems such as: How much energy would a hyperloop (an ultra-high-speed transportation system proposed by Elon Musk) save, or how would melting polar ice caps affect the spinning of the Earth? Gmachl, a professor of computer and electrical engineering at Princeton, says the class, Mechanics, Energy, and Waves, is different from what incoming students would typically learn.

"In a classic physics lab, students might measure energy conservation in a roller coaster," says Gmachl, who came to the University in 2003. "But in this class, we focus on how you would design a roller coaster to minimize energy loss to friction and air resistance, for example, and then measure it. So, it's an interaction between science and engineering."

Gmachl's course is one of five that engineering professors have introduced as an alternative to the first-year math and physics prerequisites. The aim is to teach math and physics to first-year students within the context of solving engineering problems. "Students today want to do engineering to change the world," says electrical and computer engineering professor Andrew Houck '00.

Engineering is not the only department at Princeton where pedagogy is evolving. A year ago, a discussion grew about notoriously hard classes and how they were (or were not) evolving in the wake of New York University's cutting loose organic chemistry professor Maitland Jones — who retired from Princeton in 2007 and is now an emeritus professor of chemistry — after students filed a petition claiming that his class was too hard. PAW spoke with students, faculty, and administrators to see how difficult classes at Princeton are being taught and found differences not only in engineering, but in organic chemistry and molecular biology. In each case, the expectations among students, and the responsiveness of professors to those students, are driving change in teaching and learning.

Says Martin Semmelhack, professor of chemistry since 1978, "It's a matter of trying to change to match the audience."

This will undoubtedly lead to questions about academic rigor from those who endured these so-called "weeder" classes. But reexamining the balance between pain and fulfillment among students — before and after the pandemic — is a concern not just at Princeton. *The Wall Street Journal* reported in September how "the world's most competitive school systems" in Singapore,



"I think listening to the rumors hurt me. When you go into a class thinking it will be horrible, you tend to doubt yourself and underperform. But the professors make getting an A attainable."



**AMAR
ABOU-HUSSEIN '25**
Neuroscience major

Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan are "easing up" on students to make learning more enjoyable.

Don't worry. At Princeton, the classes are still hard. But as Amar Abou-Hussein '25 says of taking organic chemistry, "It wasn't as hard as it seemed at first. The professors make you feel like you have a fighting chance."

Decades ago, lecture notes were the only resource for students taking orgo, the colloquial name for organic chemistry. Today, in addition to attending lectures and taking notes, students can access the professor's lecture notes — "PDFs of the actual handwriting," says Abou-Hussein — and videos of the lecture online. It's one of several shifts, but something Abou-Hussein says "is not common at Princeton, and is really helpful."

"I now remind myself that organic chemistry is just one of four, or even five classes a student is taking," says Erik Sorensen, professor of chemistry and the other organic chemistry lecturer. Semmelhack and Sorensen acknowledge the pandemic's detrimental effects on student learning and well-being and note that they have observed a greater spread in the preparation of incoming students. "We now obsess over exams and have adopted a more pro-student approach," Sorensen says.

The teaching team of Sorensen, Semmelhack, and Sandy Knowles, director of the organic chemistry labs, meets and reflects on questions such as: When the students leave here, what should they know? What should be their experience? "I've always been aware of the impact of good teachers," says Sorensen, drawing on his own story of getting hooked on chemistry because of a great teacher.

"We've cut some of the material from lectures," says Semmelhack. "Not whole topics, but pieces of things." And when designing exam questions, they add more scaffolding. "For example," says Sorensen, "instead of asking the students, 'In order to make this molecule, what would you start with?'" — a standard "synthesis" question in organic chemistry — "we now give them some possibilities to start with, almost like a word bank."

Organic chemistry precepts now center on peer-group problem-solving, a "Maitland Jones philosophy," says Semmelhack. About 10 years ago, the traditional attendance-optional mini-lecture format of the precept was shelved for an attendance-mandatory workshop-style class. Students work with graduate and undergraduate teaching assistants, and in some cases, one of the course instructors. "Precept is super important,"

says Abou-Hussein. “It teaches you how to think about solving problems, and things that are fundamental in exams are taught in precept.” She speaks highly of the undergraduate TAs, who in addition to helping in precept, host review sessions before exams. “Since they are your peers, they are really there to help,” she adds.

Tom Silldorff ’23, a chemistry major now pursuing a master’s in education at Temple University, was one such undergraduate TA. A science lover ever since his eighth grade science teacher ignited a gummy bear into a fireball — “That was everything,” he says — he took orgo as a freshman at Princeton. The class is fundamentally different than anything he encountered in typical science classes, says Silldorff. “It’s more qualitative, it requires spatial reasoning [for thinking about molecular structures], and there are no equations to memorize,” he says. “Instead, you need to understand trends, patterns of molecular behavior. So you can’t come in and do what you always did — memorize and cram — and succeed.”

“My mission is to remove the memorization,” says Semmelhack, “and help the students understand the basic concepts.” And to understand, Silldorff says, students need to engage daily with the material to build up a comfort level. He likens it to learning a language. “When you master Spanish, you dream in Spanish. It has to be the same in organic chemistry.” Silldorff says it’s difficult to convince some students of this, but the message has a greater chance coming from an undergraduate TA. “We were involved very recently as students,” he says, “so we can confirm, ‘This is how you succeed.’”

Despite the changes in organic chemistry, its reputation as a hard class, if not the hardest class at Princeton, precedes it. “I think listening to the rumors hurt me,” says Abou-Hussein, who struggled in the first semester but got the hang of it in the second. “When you go into a class thinking it will be horrible, you tend to doubt yourself and underperform. But the professors make getting an A attainable.”

When speaking about the greater spread in student readiness in the engineering program, Houck isn’t fazed. In fact, he says it’s a mistake to wring one’s hands over it. “We’re teaching the best students in the country,” he says. “Sure, students coming into the school of engineering are coming in with different amounts of preparation, but all admitted students are capable of success.”



**ANDREW
HOUCK '00**
Professor of electrical
and computer
engineering

“We’ve gone from a situation in which very few first-year students had exposure to actual engineering professors and concepts to now, when almost every student has the option to take some form of engineering in the first year.”



Still, sometimes students quit when the coursework gets tough. “If the challenge is in solving a problem with a real-world application, students are more likely to embrace the struggle,” Houck says.

In 2014, Houck led a committee to review the undergraduate courses offered by the engineering school. At that time, most of the freshman engineering students did not take any courses within the engineering school. And when first-year students withdrew from the engineering school, comments such as, “It wasn’t what I expected,” or “I didn’t like my engineering classes,” were often left. “What was interesting was that they hadn’t even taken any engineering classes yet,” says Houck.

Houck and a team of engineering faculty developed a new first-year course sequence, consisting of five courses, offered for the first time in the 2017-18 academic year through the Keller Center for Innovation in Engineering Education. The class was piloted with 30 students in 2017 and has since quadrupled in size.

To design the curriculum for his class, The Mathematics and Shape of Motion, Houck looked at Math 104, the traditional first-year math course, and talked to everyone who teaches a sophomore-level engineering course. “I said, ‘What do the students need to learn? What do they not need?’” Gmachl, who is also an adviser in engineering, says she regularly saw students who did not persist in engineering. “They were doing a lot of hard work — math, physics, chemistry, writing — without seeing where it was going,” she says.

Houck repeatedly emphasizes that any students who want to succeed in engineering can. “We aren’t here to weed people out,” he says. “The specific intent is to lift all boats, to lift all students.” Part of encouraging them, he says, is having explicit conversations with students about rigor. “We talk about how the role of a problem set in high school is to practice what you learn, whereas the role of a problem set in college is to wrestle with it.” Importantly, the new courses are not targeting the most prepared incoming students, who instead go directly to multivariate calculus and may take a sophomore-level engineering course. Instead, the ideal student is in the middle of the pack, and very likely has not had engineering exposure before.

Andra Constantin ’23 was one such student. “I didn’t know what kinds of problems engineers solved,” she says. Ultimately, she majored in computer science, within the engineering school, and credits the first-year courses with building

her confidence. “The courses challenged my thinking and reasoning because we were solving real problems where there was sometimes not a ‘right’ answer. I thought back to how I succeeded in the classes when I faced challenges later,” she says.

Peter Bogucki, associate dean for undergraduate affairs in the engineering school, says that until recently, 25% or more first-year students who started in the B.S.E. program left the engineering school to pursue other majors. Now it’s around 18% overall, and 15% or less for students who have taken the first-year course sequence. “For some students, engineering isn’t the right path, and the new courses won’t change that,” he cautions, “but, for others, these courses show them what engineering is, and that can excite a student. And we are demonstrating to the engineering world that we can do this.” Bogucki adds that the new course sequence is just as rigorous as the traditional math and physics track. “The students who take these classes do just fine as sophomores,” he says.

“We’ve gone from a situation in which very few first-year students had exposure to actual engineering professors and concepts to now, when almost every student has the option to take some form of engineering in the first year,” says Houck. Beyond the earlier exposure to engineering, the students in the new sequence learn together as a cohort, something critical for success, according to Houck and Gmachl. Rather than being distributed among various intro math and physics sections, a group of students lives through the experience of first-year engineering together. “Through cohort building, we downplay competition and encourage collaboration,” says Gmachl, “which is more like real life, where engineers work in teams to solve problems.” Of her cohort, Constantin says, “it was one of the most important parts of the experience — we still have a group chat. There was no other class at Princeton with 70 kids where I knew everyone’s name. It made me feel like I had a home base.”

Across campus in molecular biology,

Jodi Schottenfeld-Roames and Laurel Lorenz, both departmental lecturers, can relate to the importance of community building in science instruction. They teach molecular biology’s “core lab,” MOL 350, a required course for molecular biology majors during fall semester of their junior years (and select sophomores in the spring who plan to study abroad junior year). Intended to



ANDRA
CONSTANTIN '23
Computer science
major

“The courses challenged my thinking and reasoning because we were solving real problems where there was sometimes not a ‘right’ answer. I thought back to how I succeeded in the classes when I faced challenges later.”



help students prepare for their senior thesis, Schottenfeld-Roames says, the class more generally shows students how to transition from textbook learning to research. “The mindset of the course is, what was the real process of science behind the textbook?” she says. Through studying the tracheal system in fruit flies, students learn how to ask a research question, how to read scientific papers, how to collect data using various lab techniques such as dissection, microscopy, precise gene editing, and how to write a research paper. “We want to ensure that every single student sees themselves as a biologist,” she says.

How does the class accomplish this? Surprisingly, perhaps, by first focusing on community building. The professors form groups of three to four students who work together all semester. “We create diverse teams with diverse skill sets,” says Schottenfeld-Roames. She goes on to say that when she started, she received the advice that students should choose their own groups for comfort level. But, she says, “that was not ideal. It didn’t help all students in the course use the skills needed to effectively collaborate and develop as scientists.” Lorenz adds, “I think about group work in terms of leadership skills, and stress that skills like listening, critical thinking, and implementation are part of being leaders.” Students in the class speak highly of the approach. Says Victoria Merengwa '24, “I loved the group work. Regardless of background, it was like, ‘OK, we are all in this together!’”

Early in the class, Lorenz introduces students to an assignment adapted from a 1950s National Public Radio program called “This I Believe.” Students reflect on questions such as: What brought you into science? What keeps you persisting, moving toward your goals? “This helps build connection and allows students to think about the unique perspectives they bring into the class,” Lorenz says. Schottenfeld-Roames has aimed to build connections outside of the classroom, with senior undergraduate course assistants for the junior core lab class and an undergraduate colloquium in which seniors majoring in molecular biology present their work. “Every time you talk about science, it helps. And it’s a no judgment zone. Every question matters,” she says.

Says Maryam Kamel '23, who is a research technician in the department of rehabilitation and regenerative medicine at Columbia University, “Schottenfeld-Roames and Lorenz have built a community of molecular biology majors — I knew my cohort so well.” Says Jason Hong '22,

who is in an M.D.-Ph.D. program at the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University, “Before undergraduate colloquium, I had worked in two labs and never said a word in lab meeting. However, last year, I found myself actively contributing to discussions on various research projects and asking many more questions during my NIH post-bac research experience.”

The students learn to be scientists with assignments that teach them how to read and write and research papers, but, says Schottenfeld-Roames, “We recognize there are different learning styles in the classroom, and we give students different opportunities to demonstrate their understanding of the science.” For example, instead of an oral presentation that had to be in the classroom, students may now make a video of themselves standing in front of a chalkboard presenting, flipping through a PowerPoint presentation, or doing a live sketch, Khan Academy-style. “We also give lots of low-stakes assignments throughout the semester in order to provide regular feedback,” she adds. “The daily engagement forced me to keep up,” says Merengwa. “I had to do something every day of the week.”

And lest anyone bemoan any rigor that may be lost with a focus on community building, support, and accommodation of different learning styles, Hong says, “Everything I’m hearing as an incoming M.D.-Ph.D. student, I learned three years ago in core lab. We hear about framing a story in science — what do we know? What do we not know? We did that in core lab. It prepared me to think like a scientist.”

From these three classes at Princeton, a story emerges. Students have changed. Some might see them as more demanding, more in need of praise, less willing to struggle alone. On the flip side, they want to learn — but maybe not the same way their parents learned — work in a collaborative environment, and ultimately change the world. And with more diverse student bodies come students with different levels of preparation.

This isn’t a challenge unique to Princeton, says Allison Slater Tate ’96, whose husband and father are alums and whose son is in the Class of ’25. Slater Tate is director of college counseling at Lake Mary Preparatory School in central Florida and says over the past three decades, “We have widened access to higher education but are now facing the challenge of supporting brilliant students who face vast inequities in high school preparation and helping them succeed.”



“I think about group work in terms of leadership skills, and stress that skills like listening, critical thinking, and implementation are part of being leaders.”



LAUREL LORENZ
Lecturer in
molecular biology

COVID has only exacerbated such inequities and made the job of college admissions teams harder, says Ed Venit, managing director at the EAB, a Washington, D.C.-based consulting firm specializing in education. “High school grades assigned in 2020 and 2021 may not be as precise as an indicator as they had been previously,” he says, as schools in various combinations of remote or hybrid scenarios had to assess students differently.

Karen Richardson ’93, dean of admission at Princeton, echoes these sentiments. “Our job and our goal is to bring in students who we believe can be and will be successful here, academically.” Richardson herself was one of those less-prepared students, coming to Princeton 30 years ago, “from a tiny public high school that didn’t offer AP courses,” and was part of a program similar to today’s Freshman Scholars Institute, offered through the Emma Bloomberg Center for Access and Opportunity. The center provides support to students who are heading to Princeton with fewer resources, starting with a summer program to get acclimated to campus and the rigor of Princeton. “This helps us get students to and through Princeton,” Richardson says.

Steve Dandaneau, executive director of the Association for Undergraduate Education at Research Universities and associate provost at Colorado State University, says for institutions to be successful, “Equity and excellence can’t be divided.” He says some students may have deficits in academic preparation but assets in other areas, and getting rid of the deficit thinking will change the way people learn.

We may already be watching this now at Princeton, in organic chemistry, first-year engineering, and molecular biology core lab. In each case, the professors have reflected on what they are seeing and hearing from students. Instead of relegating such sentiments to a “kids today” attitude, the professors have addressed them and are teaching reshaped classes that are just as rigorous as earlier versions.

Venit talks about systems profiled in the book *Antifragile*, by Nassim Nicholas Taleb, in which stress makes systems such as muscles, for example, stronger. “Maybe it will turn out that higher education is one such system,” he says, and stress from generational change, the pandemic, and other factors, “will have created something better than would have come about otherwise.”

SUSAN RESLEWIC KEATLEY ’99 *majored in chemistry and is now a writer and host of the podcast Science Fare.*



WATCH

THIS

SPACE

James Tralie '19 is there when NASA makes news,
explaining the deep science of historic achievements
and having the time of his life doing it.

BY WAYNE COFFEY

PHOTOGRAPH BY NATALIE SIMPSON



MAN ON A MISSION

Four days before OSIRIS-REx completed its 4 billion-mile journey in late September, Tralie stands alone with his wonder in the Utah desert.

THE TOWN OF DUGWAY, UTAH, is on the eastern edge of the Great Basin Desert, 85 miles southwest of Salt Lake City. It is home to 618 residents and a vast and desolate military testing ground that is larger than the state of Rhode Island. It was where James Tralie '19, senior planetary science producer/ animator for the NASA Goddard Space Flight

Center, awakened in the predawn hours of the last Sunday in September, primed for an epic aeronautical achievement and one of the greatest workdays of his young life. He had tried to get a full night's sleep. He went for a run the night before in hopes of burning off surplus energy. It didn't work.

"It was like waiting for Christmas morning," Tralie says.

The occasion was the denouement of a NASA mission called OSIRIS-REX, short for Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, and Security-Regolith Explorer. As part of the historic, \$1 billion endeavor, an unmanned spacecraft ventured to the far reaches of the solar system to the asteroid Bennu where it collected a half-pound sample of carbon-rich matter that NASA scientists believe might offer important clues to the origins of the universe. It was the first time NASA had ever attempted to bring a piece of an asteroid back to Earth, and if you think it sounds complicated, you are right.

Launched in September 2016, the mission spanned seven years and 3.86 billion miles. The return trip alone from Bennu took three years and covered 1.2 billion miles and would've taken much longer if the spacecraft had not been traveling more than 27,000 mph. Tralie, 26, was just starting his sophomore year at Princeton when OSIRIS-REX began, one of the handful of geoscience majors in the entire University, an abundantly gifted young man who had no clue his career trajectory would land him in the Utah desert on the morning of Sept. 24, when OSIRIS-REX, and its coveted asteroid sample, descended on Dugway — and Tralie told the world all about it as the principal commentator of the mission on NASA TV.

Over the full run of the three-hour, 20-minute broadcast, Tralie was stationed in the corner of an airplane hangar, about 10 miles from the landing spot, with a bank of monitors in front of him, his makeshift studio cordoned off with black curtains. He had a few handwritten notes and a laptop, but no teleprompter, which proved to be no problem. One part scientist and one part anchorman — think a cross between Carl Sagan and David Muir — Tralie skillfully and energetically explained to viewers what they were seeing and why it was important, making even the most arcane scientific concepts understandable. He explained how the spacecraft would enter the Earth's atmosphere over San Francisco, at a temperature of more than 5,000

degrees, and decelerate to 11 mph in just 13 minutes as it descended toward Dugway. Tralie's favorite TV show as a kid was *Bill Nye the Science Guy*. You could tell.

"It's so much fun, communicating this stuff," Tralie says. "You start to feel a deep connection with the far reaches of the cosmos."

TRALIE GREW UP JUST NORTH OF PHILADELPHIA in Fort Washington, Pennsylvania (so named because Gen. George Washington and 12,000 of his Revolutionary War soldiers set up an encampment there before moving on to Valley Forge in the winter of 1777), and academic stardom seemed all but hard-wired into him, given his genes. His mother, Mary Poteau-Tralie '91, earned her Ph.D. from Princeton in French language and literature and went on to a 32-year career as a French professor at Rider University. His father, John, was an aeronautical engineer for 25 years, helping to build Earth-observation satellites and other spacecraft (he worked for Lockheed Martin, the company that built OSIRIS-REX) before beginning a second career as a mathematics teacher at Upper Dublin High School, where his students included his son James. It wasn't supposed to happen, but the regular A.P. calculus teacher went on maternity leave, and John Tralie was the only person certified to replace her. "It was uncomfortable for both of us, but I couldn't have messed him up too much. He got a 5 on his A.P. exam," John Tralie says. James' older brother, Christopher Tralie '11, has a Ph.D. from Duke University and is an assistant professor of mathematics and computer science at Ursinus College.

Young James' interests went well beyond the classroom. He was first violin in the school orchestra and was a play-by-play broadcaster for the livestreams of his high school football games. A shortstop and pitcher for the Upper Dublin baseball team, he was good enough to attend showcase events in front of college coaches. "I thought I was going to be a professional ballplayer," Tralie says.

But gradually his greatest passions became filmmaking and storytelling, pursuits that took root not long after his

NASA / KEEGAN BARBER

PRECIOUS CARGO

NASA recovery team members prepare the space return capsule to be airlifted to the so-called cleanroom, where, as Tralie explained to viewers, the U.S.'s first asteroid sample would be handled with the utmost precaution to ensure it would not be contaminated.



parents gave him a Flip video camera for his 10th birthday. He joined a computer club and learned how to create animations. He made a short, PSA-type video on the dangers of drugs and alcohol and wound up winning first place in a local film festival. For four straight years he won first place in a film competition sponsored by WHYY, the PBS station in Philadelphia, earning acclaim for a film about his fascination with his camera called *Seen Through A New Lens*. Another documentary, *The Tech Generation Gives Back*, was accepted into the White House Student Film Festival, where he met President Barack Obama, Spike Lee, and British filmmaker Steve McQueen.

Tralie continued to make films at Princeton, including one on the scientific underpinnings of seismology that accompanied his senior thesis, though perhaps his most celebrated work to date is a two-minute, 19-second short he directed for NASA in 2020, a year after he joined the agency. The film — *MAVEN Explores Mars to Understand Radio Interference At Earth* — was selected as one of 28 films for the prestigious SIGGRAPH Computer Animation Festival, a showcase of the best storytelling and visual effects in short films (the winner was a project produced by Pixar) that is one step removed from the Academy Awards.

Currently Tralie is directing two docuseries — one for NASA on OSIRIS-REx, and one for Hulu on NASA's James Webb Space Telescope, which gives astronomers detailed images of the cosmos never before seen. He doesn't limit his creative work to the space orbit, however. Tralie has done animations and short films for a host of corporate clients, among them Nissan, Taco Bell, Apple, ZARA, Facebook, and many others.

"It's a nice mental break from a lot of the science," Tralie says with a laugh.

Frederik Simons, professor of geosciences and the department's associate chair, taught Tralie in a freshman seminar and several other courses and was one of the advisers for Tralie's senior thesis: *Seismological Analysis of the Mohorovičić and Mantle Discontinuities Below Cape Verde Using Receiver Functions*. Simons saw Tralie's promise immediately. One of the invaluable advantages of being a student in a small major is that you have freedom to pursue your areas of interest and get an extraordinary amount of faculty attention.

"He has really managed to combine his early passion [filmmaking] with his added science. I can't imagine someone being better at that than he is. What's next? He'll be coming to some IMAX near you."

— FREDERIK SIMONS

Professor of geosciences and the department's associate chair



SHOW TIME

Tralie was on air for more than half of the three-hour, 20-minute NASA livestream of OSIRIS-REx, which attracted millions of viewers, among them astronaut Butch Wilmore, right.

During Tralie's time at Princeton, there were 20 professors in the geosciences department — two for each student. Tralie was only a freshman when he joined Simons and a group of students on a geological research trip to France and Spain.

"He was curious, confident, and creative," Simons says. "[From the start] he wanted to know stuff and he was open to what we were offering, and he kept coming back for more. He has really managed to combine his early passion [filmmaking] with his added science. I can't imagine someone being better at that than he is. What's next? He'll be coming to some IMAX near you."

WHEN TRALIE FIRST SAW THE NASA JOB POSTING for a producer and animator, he could scarcely believe his good fortune. "It was as if that exact job was written for me," he says. Nancy Jones, senior communications manager at Goddard Space Flight Center and Tralie's supervisor at NASA, felt the same way. An executive producer spoke to Jones about Tralie shortly after he started at NASA and she decided to invite him to a department meeting of the planetary-science group. "He had us at hello," Jones says. "He came in with the biggest smile and such great, positive energy. It was so endearing. When he left, we were like, '[We're sold] on him after one meeting, and we haven't seen his content yet.'"

As much as he has enjoyed the animation and production work for NASA, Tralie found himself yearning to get time on the other side of the camera. A fluent French speaker who minored in the language at Princeton, he developed a love of performing during his years in L'Avant-Scène, Princeton's French theater workshop, acting in medieval and classical productions under the direction of Florent Masse, professor of the practice in the French and Italian department and a hugely influential person in Tralie's theatrical growth. Masse cast Tralie as the lead in



THE BIG REVEAL

Weighing just 250 grams, the sample from asteroid Bennu is unpacked before being sent to Houston, where NASA will analyze part of it and store the rest in a deep freeze. Says Tralie: “The technology in 30 or 40 years will undoubtedly be able to teach us so much more.”

such classic French plays as *Lucrece Borgia* and *Le Cid*, and introduced him to the acclaimed French director Guillaume Gallienne, taking him and other students on a weeklong trip to Paris to meet with actors and watch multiple plays at La Comédie-Française, the oldest active theater company in the world, dating to 1680. The time on stage had a profound impact on Tralie. Soon after he was hired by NASA, he told Jones of his interest in being on-air in NASA’s growing multimedia department. He got his first hosting gig in October 2020, when OSIRIS-REx secured the sample from the asteroid Bennu.

“He had to go prove himself, and he did,” Jones says. “He did an excellent job.”

After that auspicious debut, Tralie continued to get more and more commentating opportunities, among them the annular solar eclipse broadcast, which he covered from Kerrville, Texas, on Oct. 14, taking viewers inside the so-called “ring of fire” that appears when the moon passes between the sun and Earth. Still, for Tralie, nothing could match the thrill and challenge of the OSIRIS-REx sample return broadcast in September, when he was effectively the play-by-play man for an unprecedented aeronautical undertaking. His excitement was palpable when the OSIRIS-REx spacecraft separated from the capsule that carried “precious cargo from the other side of the solar system,” the spacecraft heading for another asteroid (return date is 2029, so please check back), the capsule heading for the Dugway desert. When “the creamsicle-colored parachute” deployed and the capsule was minutes away from landing, Tralie tried to keep his emotions in check. It wasn’t easy. You never know how it’s going to go after a 1.2 billion-mile journey.



SCAN this QR code to watch a video prepared by James Tralie '19 for PAW on his experience at the OSIRIS-REx event.

“This is like a marathon runner savoring the last lap here as we approach the finish, the landing in the Utah testing and training range,” Tralie said on the broadcast.

The Sample Return Capsule (SRC) kept descending, from 3,000 feet to 2,000 feet to 1,000 feet. In the corner of an airplane hangar in the Utah desert, Tralie steeled himself for the moment, the way he used to when he was pitching and the bases were loaded in a tie game. “They always say there’s nothing worse than being the mother of a pitcher,” Mary Poteau-Tralie says. “I would be a nervous wreck, but he always stayed calm.”

And so it was on Sept. 24. Tralie’s aspirations include doing a full-length feature film based on his maternal grandparents, who met when his grandfather was a French Navy man stationed in Philadelphia working to secure armaments in advance of D-Day, meeting his English-speaking grandmother in the process. At a dance they communicated entirely through a French-English dictionary. It was cumbersome, but it worked, and so did the marriage. It is a rich story, but for now, all Tralie could think about was OSIRIS-REx and how much he loves his job.

When touchdown happened for the SRC, Tralie said on NASA TV, “A journey of a billion miles to asteroid Bennu and back has come to an end, marking America’s first sample return mission of its kind, and opening a time capsule for an ancient solar system. Unofficial touchdown time 8:52 a.m. Mountain.” He paused. “The team can breathe an immense sigh of relief.” **P**

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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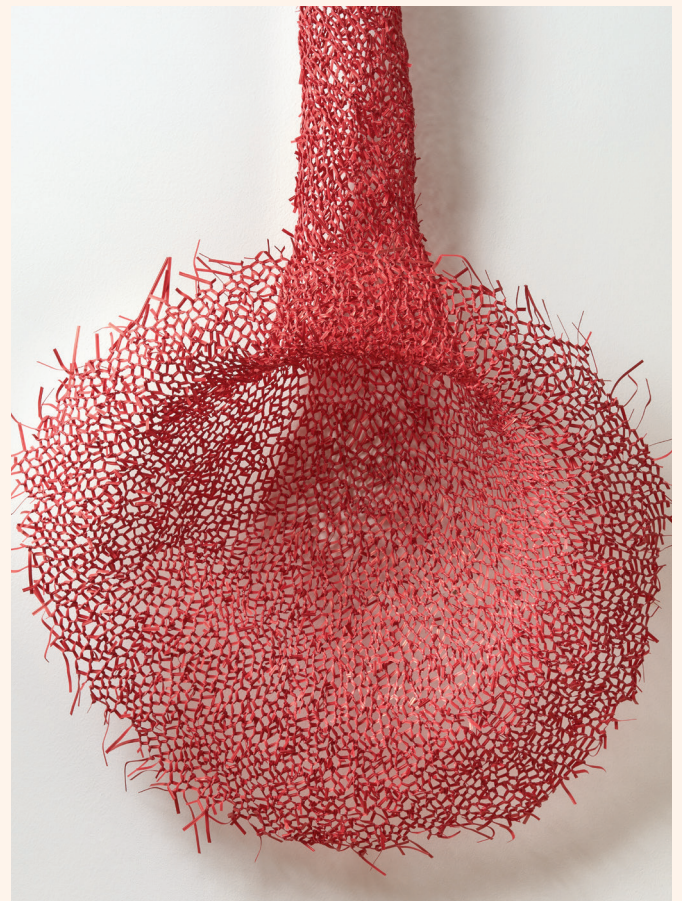
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LEFT: Renée Cox, *Young Yo Mama* (detail), 1980, printed 2023, from the series *Yo Mama*. Courtesy KODA, New York. © Renée Cox
RIGHT: MiKyoung Lee, *Reflected Memory 2* (detail), 2022. Collection of the artist. © MiKyoung Lee. Photo: Joseph Hu

PRINCETONIANS

ALUMNI STORIES AND PERSPECTIVES



STUNNING SNAPSHOTS

Sarah Meister '94's interest in photography was first sparked by Peter Bunnell, the late professor and MoMA curator who taught a course on the history of photography at Princeton. She went on to intern at MoMA and worked her way up to curator by 2009. Among her achievements was the purchase of 38 photos taken by Ernest Cole — a South African photographer known for his work exposing the realities of apartheid. Mesiter is photographed here at the exhibit. She is now executive director of Aperture, a nonprofit publisher devoted to photography. "I believe that photography makes a difference in our world like little else," Meister says.



READ MORE about Meister and find other **TIGERS OF THE WEEK** at paw.princeton.edu.



BRANDON NICHOLSON '05

Mentoring Black Male Students in STEM

BY TOM KERTSCHER

THE HARSH REALITY OF INEQUITY greeted Brandon Nicholson '05 on his first day at a preparatory school in affluent Marin County, California.

Some of Nicholson's high school classmates drove up in "absolutely brand new" cars. Unlike his earlier school days in his native Oakland, California, "there was no discussion about supplies or things we have to bring."

"That ultimately solidified my interest in the space of equity and policy, just understanding that there are exponentially more resources available there," Nicholson adds. "But no young person was more deserving of access to a quality education in Marin than anyone I encountered in Oakland. That really became the thrust for me to try and work on education policy."

Nicholson is the founding executive director of The Hidden Genius Project, an Oakland-based organization that for more than a decade has trained and mentored upwards of 9,000 Black male students in technology creation, entrepreneurship, and leadership skills. Early success led to branches in the San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles, and Detroit.

Inc. magazine named the project to its best in business list for 2021. The magazine cited the project's 15-month Intensive Immersion Program, which gives students in grades nine through 11 more than 800 hours of education and mentorship in computer science and business. Participants have a 90% post-secondary education matriculation rate.

Nicholson says The Hidden Genius Project utilizes the concept of "targeted universalism," espoused by equity expert

"We can focus on specific needs and resources necessary to effect results with a particular population — Black boys and Black men in high school — but as we do that work, it has a benefit for all of us."

— BRANDON NICHOLSON '05
 Founding executive director of
 The Hidden Genius Project

LEADING BY EXAMPLE


Brandon Nicholson '05's The Hidden Genius Project received a \$3 million grant from Google to expand to Chicago and Atlanta.

John A. Powell. "It's this whole idea that a rising tide lifts all boats," Nicholson says. "We can focus on specific needs and resources necessary to effect results with a particular population — Black boys and Black men in high school — but as we do that work, it has a benefit for all of us."

The effectiveness of tech mentoring was underscored in a November 2021 survey of working-age Black Americans commissioned by Jobs for the Future, a nonprofit that works for equitable economic advancement. Among Black tech workers who had consulted mentors, 89% who had formal mentors and 78% who had informal mentors said the mentors were "extremely" or "very" useful in achieving their career goals. Only about 7% of Black Americans work in tech, which has led to a number of mentoring programs to attract more Black people to tech.

In September 2022, Google announced it was giving The Hidden Genius Project a \$3 million grant, which expanded the program to Chicago and Atlanta. It's a move toward the organization's goal to reach 10 cities by 2025. Many youths entered the project with no formal computer science education but, "thanks to the technical and coding skills they learned through The Hidden Genius Project, they are now using technology to build their own businesses," Google CEO Sundar Pichai wrote in a blog post.

"We have so much more we want to do in the communities where we currently are," Nicholson says, "but we also want to collaborate and join arms with people doing the work in other communities where we see there is a great deal of potential, but not nearly as much access to opportunity to manifest that potential." ■

 **NOMINATE OTHER INSPIRING ALUMNI**
 This story is part of a new series highlighting the stories of alumni doing inspiring work. To nominate others, please email paw@princeton.edu.

NANA KOFINTI, 510 MEDIA

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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.



CUSTOM FINISH

William Sofield '83 stands in the Steinway Tower at 111 W. 57th St. in Manhattan. His company, Studio Sofield, designed the building's interior. Opposite: Inspired by the grand historical towers of Manhattan's Upper East Side, Sofield also designed the luxury building at 135 E. 79th St.

WILLIAM SOFIELD '83

For Celebrity Designer, the Luxury Is in the Details

BY DAVID SILVERBERG

SPEND JUST 10 MINUTES surveying the interior of a New York City residential building designed by William Sofield '83 and you'll be treated to the prolific designer's intimate attention to details.

Inside midtown Manhattan's 111 W. 57th St., otherwise known as the Steinway Tower due to its base being the former home of the Steinway & Sons piano store and recital hall, the residential skyscraper boasts some of Sofield's graceful touches that share narratives beyond the aesthetic appeal: The lobby's custom gold-and-silver-leaf murals feature depictions of elephants surrounded by ebony trees breaking out of the Central Park Zoo, in what Sofield calls an homage to the resources used to make pianos.

Look up and you'll see four ebony trees and leaves intertwining within a dome acting as a light fixture.

"I see architecture as a series of emotional experiences that engages both mind and body," Sofield, 62, tells PAW.

A sought-after designer of the interiors and exteriors of residential buildings, retail outlets, hotels, private clubs, and fitness clubs, Studio Sofield, based in New York, has created spaces for brands such as Tom Ford, Gucci, Bottega Veneta, Harry Winston, and Ralph Lauren. He's also designed residences and commercial projects for Tom Ford himself, and celebrity couple Kelly Ripa and Mark Consuelos. He's worked on projects in Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, Las Vegas, and in countries such as China, Germany, Switzerland, Indonesia, and Spain.

Sofield is adamant that a building design shouldn't just be attractive to those inside the site but also for those outside. At the Steinway Tower building, Sofield added engravings outside featuring branches gripped by animals such as owls, dragonflies,



and partridges. "Buildings have a civic responsibility too, and I added the sculptures as I knew there was a bus stop close to the building entrance where people would stop and might take in this piece," Sofield says.

He did the engraving himself, a skill he honed when he apprenticed with an Italian millworker on the Upper East Side after graduation. "My academic background didn't include an understanding of the craft of design. I wanted to dedicate myself

"I learned that luxury has nothing to do with cashmere and 24-karat gold but what people enjoy touching and feeling and how I can bring that relationship out in the design."

— WILLIAM SOFIELD '83

to specializing in the trades because a lot of technical knowledge was disappearing quickly, as New York rents then were rising so high that many craftspeople had to close their shops," he recalls.

Raised in Metuchen, New Jersey, 5-year-old Sofield was fascinated by the design of homes. He dabbled in sketching blueprints of "homes that looked like they were from *The Jetsons*, then I would also sketch places that were Neo-Gothic."

While at Princeton, Sofield revelled in not just the architectural history courses and inspiring professors such as the late William Shellman '41, but also the look of the campus. "It was a romantic and bucolic time there, and I remember an impromptu party at Prospect House where people brought candles to fill a massive cedar of Lebanon with lanterns," he says. "There was an old part of the Art Museum that stylistically bridged Romanesque and collegiate Gothic architecture, and it's

a shame it's no longer there."

After launching a design studio with a partner, Sofield sought his own direction and began Studio Sofield in 1996.

On his design philosophy, Sofield says, "I want my work to have an impact on people and I try not to do what others are doing. I learned that luxury has nothing to do with cashmere and 24-karat gold but what people enjoy touching and feeling and how I can bring that relationship out in the design."

Drawing inspiration from the outside more so than the design community, Sofield is known to take meandering walks in cities such as Tokyo and London to absorb how pedestrians interact with the outdoor spaces. Not every saunter will feed directly into a blueprint, but they help nurture his appreciation for both art and history. As he puts it, "going down a very controlled and planned path isn't interesting to me as an artist." ■

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

THOMAS E. FARRELL '43

Tom died March 24, 2023, at his home in Venice, Fla. He was 103 years old.



Tom was born in Youngstown, Ohio, and prepped at Mercersburg Academy. At Princeton, he majored in chemistry and was a sports manager and a member of the Band and Terrace Club. After graduation, Tom spent three years in the Navy as an aviation electronics technician's mate and then began a long career with Firestone Tire and Rubber Co.

In 1954, Tom married Marjorie Bertolet. They raised their three children, Jane Louise, Susan Ann, and Thomas Scott, on Princeton Avenue in Pottstown, Pa. Tom worked for Firestone until he retired as chief chemist in 1981.

Tom enjoyed his retirement years in Florida, where he and Marge were involved in church activities along with playing tennis and golf year-round. He loved to play golf and loved his friends, but he especially loved Marge and his children and grandchildren.

Tom is survived by his wife of 68 years, Marge; daughter Jane; son Tom; and three grandchildren. He was predeceased in 2021 by his daughter Susan.

THE CLASS OF 1948

FREDERICK J. BEEBE '48

Fred died May 15, 2022.

After serving in the U.S. Naval Reserve from 1944-46, Fred graduated *cum laude* from Princeton in 1950 with a degree in a combination of history and religion. The Chapel Choir and Glee Club were among his undergraduate activities, and he was a member of Campus Club. His grandfather, Frederick G. Beebe, was a member of the Class of 1888.

"I have valued the splendid education I received at Princeton," wrote Fred in the class's 50th-reunion yearbook. "The opportunity for exploration, the guidance of faculty, and the discipline expected were very important formative elements in my being equipped to face the challenges of the years that followed."

After earning an M.Div. at Princeton Theological Seminary in 1953, Fred became

assistant pastor of Community Presbyterian Church in Beverly Hills. So began a long career that included being organizing pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Claremont, Calif.; multiple roles with the Presbytery of Chicago; executive presbyter of the Presbytery of St. Louis; and executive director of the synod of Southern California and Hawaii. He retired in 1991.

Fred married Elizabeth McNett following his first year in seminary, and they raised two children, Jonathan and Gwendolyn.

After he and Elizabeth divorced, Fred married Joan "Jo" Beedee in 1972. He also earned a doctor of divinity degree that year from Eden Theological Seminary. Fred and Jo were, in his words, "committed to the struggle to open the way for all people to be fully accepted into the life and ministries of the Presbyterian Church (USA)."

Jo died in 2021. Fred is survived by his children. The Class of '48 sends its sympathies in memory of our distinguished classmate.

JAMES I. MARSH JR. '48

Jim, a resident of Yarmouth, Maine, died Feb. 26, 2023, at age 95.



Born in Pittsburgh, Jim prepped at Mercersburg Academy. Following his freshman year at Princeton, he was drafted into the Army Air Force. His role as a weather observer took him to a remote part of Alaska. He returned to Princeton, graduating in 1950 with a degree in psychology.

Jim worked for the General Electric Co. as a personnel manager/human resource manager for 37 years — first in Schenectady and later in Utica. This role allowed him to use his innate talent for relating to people of many different backgrounds.

Jim married Anne (known as Happy) in 1953. The couple — married for 69 years before Happy died — were great international travelers, visiting six of the seven continents and sailing the Caribbean frequently. Upon Jim's retirement from General Electric in 1987, he and Happy moved to Maine to be closer to their three children and their grandchildren.

Civic duty meant a great deal to Jim. He sat on the Oneida County Board of

Cooperative Education for 25 years and served on the Herkimer County Community College board and on the president's advisory committee of Southern Maine Community College. In speaking of his commitment to public education, Jim said it is "where we can make the biggest difference in people's lives."

He is survived by children Elizabeth, James III, and Anne; 11 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. The Class of 1948 sends its sympathies on the passing of a man remembered fondly as a "character" with "a kind and genuine heart."

RUSSELL B. NEWTON JR. '48

Rusty, who served his country, his college, and his class generously, died March 1, 2023, one month shy of his 99th birthday.

Born in Montezuma, Ga., Rusty served in the Army Air Corps from 1942-45. As a command pilot in the European theater, he flew 47 combat missions and, noted one obituary, "never lost a plane or a crew member — a miraculous accomplishment." He also served during the Korean War.

Rusty exhibited an entrepreneurial spirit from an early age, selling eggs and flowers grown by his mother from the back of his bicycle during the Great Depression. He earned his undergraduate degree in economics from Princeton in 1949 and, later, an MBA from the Wharton School.

An active alumnus, Rusty was a Princeton trustee (1981-85), a member of the class executive and steering committees, and a longtime Annual Giving volunteer and campaign chair. "I value good friends and good education, an experience renewed as a trustee," he wrote in our 50th-reunion yearbook. "'Princeton in the Nation's Service' is a good motto for all of us. I have tried hard to live up to that, both in business and in volunteer work."

Rusty worked in the textile business, was a consultant at Booz Allen Hamilton, owned a refinery, and founded an asset management company (Timucuan Asset Management). He also served on many business, educational, and civic boards.

Rusty was married to Julie Harris for 50 years — from 1949 until her death in 1999. He later married Joannie Stein, who survives him, along with his and Julie's children: Russell III, Matthew, William, Helen N. Hartung, and Julie St. John '83; 11 grandchildren, including Helen M. Hartung '06 and Madeleine St. John '20; and five great-grandchildren. The Class of 1948 fondly remembers our classmate, whose life was dedicated to service.

THE CLASS OF 1949

DONALD W. MALONEY '49

Don died June 30, 2023, in Abington, Pa., just a few days before the 70th anniversary



of his wedding (July 8, 1953) to Edna Bates. She died in 2008; their children, Kevin, Megan '77, Siobhan, Deneen '82, Brian, and Shelagh, all survive.

A native of Teaneck, N.J., Don majored in biology, joined Key & Seal, and did his medical training at Penn. He spent his professional life in internal medicine, at Abington Hospital and in private practice. Known for his warmth as a doctor, he retired after 20 years as chief pulmonary surgeon at Abington. He was active in many professional groups over the years.

Don also loved music, and he was a talented ragtime pianist. As an undergraduate he belonged to the Hot Club of Trenton, and he joined classmates Heher, Rinaldi, and Stone, playing for parties and reunions. In his later years he played woodwind for the Philadelphia Doctor's Symphony, and he continued playing ragtime piano until a broken ankle interrupted his foot style.

Don's quiet sense of humor underlaid everything in his life. A photograph in our reunion yearbook of the two of them is titled "Don, Edna, and an unidentified volcano."

GEORGE ROBERT ZELLER '49

Bob died Jan. 25, 2023, at home in Shrewsbury, N.J., with his family and



golden retriever by his side. He was 94.

Bob was born in Newark in 1928. At Princeton, he majored in politics, was on crew, managed the lacrosse team, and was in Dial Lodge. He graduated *magna cum laude*, then served as a Navy officer during the Korean War aboard the USS *Mississippi*.

Bob had a 30-year career in advertising in New York, at NBC Television, then at Lintas. As vice president, he directed television business affairs and secured celebrity talent.

Bob was a lifelong firefighter and fire truck salesman, for Mack Trucks and later for Fire & Safety Services, selling Pierce fire trucks on the Jersey Shore for 18 years. He was a lecturer at Shrewsbury's Christ Church.

Bob was predeceased by brother Ted '54. He is survived by his wife, Virginia; stepsons Jay Czarnecki '87 and his wife Nancy, and Michael Czarnecki and his wife Tracy; son James and daughter Amy by his first marriage; and grandchildren Dylan Czarnecki '13; Adam Czarnecki; Callie Czarnecki, and Gabriella Czarnecki.

THE CLASS OF 1951

DAVID P. FOGLE '51

Considered a stalwart champion of historic architecture, planning, and preservation,



David was born and raised in Kentucky and graduated from Exeter. He majored in architecture at Princeton, rowed on the 150-pound crew, and joined Dial Lodge.

Roommates were Richard Warren and Charles Ilsley.

After four years in the Navy, David earned a master's degree in city and regional planning from the University of California, Berkeley. He returned to Kentucky to help the state develop master plans for its towns, then joined the U.S. State Department and worked on several projects in Chile, Guatemala, and Brazil.

In 1970, he joined the architecture school at the University of Maryland, where his reputation as an internationally acclaimed restoration architect was launched. Early projects included the Rossborough Inn (the university faculty club) and Chalfonte Hotel in Cape May. David and his students traveled to work on projects in Russia, Egypt, Mexico, and Spain. His work with students restoring Riversdale, the home of Lord Baltimore descendants, and England's Kiplin Hall brought a letter of praise from then Prince Charles.

Upon retirement, David was a restoration adviser to the city of Annapolis, where he died on June 25, 2023.

THE CLASS OF 1952

ROBERT D. FOULKE '52

Bud, one of our smartest and most accomplished, came from Minneapolis and majored in English.



He earned a master's degree in 1957 and Ph.D. in 1961 in English at the University of Minnesota.

Bud took a job as assistant professor of English at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn., in 1961 and became associate professor in 1966. In 1970, he moved to Skidmore College, where he was professor and chairman of the English department until 1992.

Bud had visiting professorships at Princeton, Woods Hole, Williams, Regents College London, and Clare Hall, Cambridge. His connections to honorary societies and social organizations are too many to list.

With his wife, Patricia, he began a new career in travel writing with 15 books and many articles.

Bud died Feb. 15, 2023. He is survived by his children, David and Carolyn, to whom the class sends its best — with large respect for their father's high achievements.

ROBERT R. WORTH '52

Bob came to us from The Hill School. He majored in basic engineering and joined



Charter Club. He rowed on the 150-pound crew and roomed with Hal LeBlond and others.

After Navy service, he began a career in college textbook publishing in sales at McGraw-Hill and W.A. Benjamin until starting his own company in 1966.

Worth Publishing had good lists in biology, psychology, and sociology. His private interests during long residence in New York included Day School, *Adirondack Explorer* magazine, and the Adirondack Museum.

Bob died May 30, 2023. He is survived by his wife, Blaikie, known to many in the class as his companion at Reunions; and their children, Robert F., Monty, Eleanor, and Alexi. The class sends good wishes to them with a smile and memories of their lively father, plus a salute to Bob for his Navy service.

THE CLASS OF 1953

ALLEN CARTER GARDY '53

Carter was born in Doylestown, Pa., and graduated from Doylestown High School



before coming to Princeton. He joined Tower Club and majored in politics. He wrote his thesis on "Television and the 1952 Election."

After graduation, he was drafted and spent the better part of two years at White Sands Proving Grounds before returning to Doylestown and the family business, where he became owner and manager of the Gardy Printing Co. from 1960 to 2005, expanding from a primary concern with paper boxes to include a wide range of printed objects.

Carter died July 29, 2023, in Doylestown. He is survived by his wife, Nancy; their son, Allen Jr.; grandchildren Jack and Emma; and great-grandchild Savannah.

ROBERT S. GOLDMAN '53

Bo, award-winning playwright and screenwriter, died in Helendale, Calif.,



July 25, 2023.

"Bo," as he was called, came to Princeton from Phillips Exeter Academy and majored in English, writing his thesis on Virginia Woolf.

He was a member of Ivy Club, president of the Triangle Club, and was a member of Theatre Intime.

After graduation, Bo served a three-year stint in the Army as a personnel sergeant stationed on Enwetak, an atoll in the Marshall Islands of the central Pacific Ocean used for nuclear bomb testing.

Returning to New York, Bo began a career in theater that led to two Academy Awards, two Golden Globe Awards, and

two Writers Guild of America Awards, as well as the guild's Lifetime Achievement Award in 1998. Among his screenplays were *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (1975) and *Melvin and Howard* (1980). He also wrote *The Rose* (1979), *Shoot the Moon* (1982), *Scent of a Woman* (1992), and *Meet Joe Black* (1998). Eric Roth wrote in *The New York Times*: "The great Bo Goldman. He's the pre-eminent screenwriter — in my mind as good as it gets."

Bo was predeceased by his wife of 63 years, Mab Ashforth. He is survived by four daughters, one son, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1955

WILLIAM R. CLARK JR. '55

Bill, who split his time at Princeton into two halves, died March 23, 2023, in Audubon, Pa.

He was born Aug. 7, 1933. At the Loomis School he played tennis and soccer and joined the orchestra. He entered Princeton with the Class of '55, left at his request in the fall of his junior year, spent two years in the Army, came back in the fall of 1956, and graduated in June 1958. He majored in history, joined Charter Club, played clarinet in the Marching Band, and competed on the rifle team.

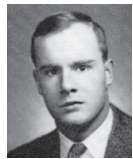
After Princeton, Bill earned a law degree from the University of Connecticut Law School and joined the trust department of the Philadelphia National Bank. Bill enjoyed target shooting, flying and participating in Project '55.

Bill is survived by his wife, Sue; sons Cameron and Douglas; and five granddaughters.

THE CLASS OF 1957

CLIVE CHANDLER '57

One of the most peripatetic members of our class, Clive died at Alta Bates Hospital near his home in Piedmont, Calif., May 25, 2023.



He attended Lakeside Academy in Seattle and Phillips Andover Academy in Massachusetts before coming to Princeton. He held scholarships all four years, including the DeWitt Clinton Poole Scholarship for his thesis work in 1956. He also earned part of his college expenses as a Commons busboy and as student manager of the Chancellor Green student center. Clive was a member of Campus Club, where he served as co-chair of the bicker committee and club treasurer. He was also chairman of the Clio Party at Whig-Clio. His senior-year roommates were Dave Browning, Bruce Bringgold, Jay Clark, John McKenna, Jim Shea, and Phil Sullivan.

Following graduation, Clive joined the U.S. Foreign Service as the youngest foreign service officer in history. He had

assignments in Italy, France, Algeria, Washington, and the United Nations, attending the session where Nikita Khrushchev of Russia banged his shoe while speaking. In 1968, Clive earned a law degree, graduating *magna cum laude* from Georgetown University.

He also married (Margaret) Ann Eliel that year. He then left the foreign service to work at the Dewey Ballantine firm in New York City. Following his law practice, he joined Trinidad-Tesoro Petroleum Co. in Trinidad and then Buttes Gas and Oil Co. in Oakland, Calif., where he and his family made their home in nearby Piedmont.

Clive was active in the Piedmont Community Church and other civic affairs. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Ann; daughter Margaret '93; son Ted '97; and their families.

GORDON B. FOWLER '57

Gordon died June 2, 2023.

Son of Dudley F. Fowler 1913, he came to Princeton from St. Paul's School in New Hampshire. At Princeton, he majored in economics, worked as an engineer for WPRB, and joined Quadrangle Club.



Senior year he roomed with Hal Brayman, Harris Colt, Bob King, John MacKay, and Henry Elliott.

Gordon met Molly Rulon-Miller, a Smith College graduate, while in prep school, and shortly after college graduation they married in 1957. They had two sons, Gordon Jr. and Douglas.

Gordon Sr. earned a master's degree in economics at Columbia University in 1958 and then worked in the investment field for Cigna and its predecessor companies in Hartford, Conn., until retirement as a vice president. The family lived for many years in West Hartford, Conn., where he was president of the Taxpayers Association. He also served on the board of Cedar Hill Foundation, and after moving to Duncaster Retirement Community in Bloomfield, Conn., served on its board of directors.

Gordon is survived by his wife, two sons, and four grandchildren.

DAVID F. ISLES '57

A prominent mathematician in our class, Dave died July 1, 2023, at his home in Concord, Vt.



Coming to Princeton from Cranford (N.J.) High School, Dave majored in mathematics. He was on the fencing team for two years, then changed his interests to the Outing Club and the Mountaineering Club, of which he became president. He took his meals at Cloister Inn, where he participated in

intramural football. Senior year he roomed with Whitey Blume and Al Kissling.

After college he obtained a Ph.D. from MIT and then joined the faculty of Tufts University, where he specialized in mathematical logic and taught for more than 40 years. He published numerous manuscripts and journal articles in his chosen field but demonstrated broader interests by learning six languages and reading books in all of them. In 1972, he married Karin E. Johnson, and they had two children, Matthew and Peter. As a mountaineer he scaled peaks on five continents, including participation in the 1971 International Himalayan Expedition to Mount Everest.

Dave and his family lived in Cambridge, Mass., for many years, but eventually moved to their vacation home in Vermont. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Karin; and his two sons and their families, including four grandchildren.

WILLIAM B. MATHER JR. '57

One of the so-called "Townies" in our class, Bill came to the University from Princeton



High School. Son of medical missionaries, Bill was born in Beijing, China, fled to the Philippines when World War II began, and was interred with his parents in a Japanese prison camp until coming to the United States after the war. He died June 15, 2023, in Shelburne, Vt.

At Princeton, Bill majored in chemistry, captained the cross country team, and ran on the track team. He also competed in canoeing in the Olympic trials in 1960. A member of Court Club and the Outing Club, Bill roomed with John Bowers and Tom Van Auken his senior year.

In 1961, Bill obtained a Ph.D. in chemistry at Caltech, publishing three papers on electroanalytical chemistry, and began a long career with Texaco. He worked in research, but switched to finance and then to sales management, helping the corporation with mergers and reorganizing after bankruptcy. The corporation recognized him with a Four-Star Award for his varied services.

Spending summers at Camp Keewaydin on Lake Dunmore in Vermont, Bill met his wife, Margaret Mitchell, a cottager there, and they married in 1961. They had three children, Marcy, Timothy, and Mary. Retiring from Texaco just before its acquisition by Chevron, Bill and Margie moved to Vermont, where Bill worked with family-owned newspapers, climbed all 46 peaks in the nearby Adirondacks, and canoed with his children and grandchildren. Margie predeceased Bill; he is survived by his three children and their families.

THE CLASS OF 1959**JAMES W. JENNINGS '59**

Jim died peacefully March 5, 2023, close by his native Philadelphia and surrounded by his family. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Helen Lippincott; daughter Elizabeth; son James; and five grandchildren.



Coming from Chestnut Hill and Phillips Exeter, at Princeton Jim dined at Cottage, majored in history, played varsity squash, enjoyed rugby, and had an entryway of roommates (Barr, Beall, Furman, Gongaware, Mosher, Robbins, and Vehslage). Enrolled in NROTC, he opted for the Marine Corps, serving three years as a communications officer at 29 Palms in southern California and gaining a love of the desert.

Following the Marines, Jim attended the University of Penn law school, then joined Morgan Lewis and Bockius in Philadelphia, where he was a partner for 32 of his 37 years, specializing in business and finance.

In retirement, education, philanthropy, and sports were his interests. He served on the boards of the Shipley School, from which his children graduated; the Philadelphia YMCA; and the Radian Group. While squash and tennis were lifetime pursuits, he became passionate about golf in his 50s, often shooting his age well into his 80s. As a man for all seasons, he watched Turner Classic movies, did *The New York Times* crossword daily, read crime novels, and enjoyed classical music. The class extends its sympathies to the family.

RICHARD M. LEHMAN '59

Dick died Nov. 20, 2022, at his home in Kiawah Island, S.C., with his wife, Sylvia, and other family at his side.



Born in Philadelphia, he attended William Penn Charter School for his grade school education, excelling academically, playing varsity football, and winning the Philadelphia city wrestling championship. A pre-med major at Princeton, he ate at Ivy and played rugby, transferring to Temple Medical School at the end of his junior year seeking a career in neurosurgery.

Dick served in the Army National Guard during a residency at Temple; then in 1967 he did a fellowship at the Montreal Neurological Institute at McGill with a special interest in surgery for seizure disorders. He practiced at Hahnemann Medical School until 1972 when he moved to Williamsport, Pa., to establish his own private practice.

Interests in running and mountain climbing led to completion of the Boston Marathon and the ascent of Denali in Alaska. Multiple trips to Alaska resulted in a move

to Anchorage in 1980, where he established a neurosurgical unit. In 1990, he returned to McGill on sabbatical to study movement disorders (Parkinson's and epilepsy). He returned to "The Lower 48" with a professorship at Rutgers in 1991 and retired in 2006.

Dick is survived by his wife, Sylvia; his brother, James; sister Suzanne; three children; six grandchildren; and two step grandchildren. The class extends its sympathies to the family.

ROBERT B. WARDEN '59

Bob died Jan. 27, 2023, at home in Berkeley, Calif. Born in Augusta, Kan., he spent his youth in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.



Bob was a graduate of Swarthmore (Pa.) High School, where he was class treasurer, involved in the yearbook, and a member of the band and orchestra, playing clarinet and saxophone. A chemical engineering major at Princeton, he ate at Court Club and participated in the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, the bridge club, Whig-Clio, and the Marching Band. In his senior year he roomed with Jack Caton, Chris Heller, Rudy Hutz, Wayne Lake, John Rorke, and Paul Toot. Following graduation, he obtained a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota and spent a postdoctoral year at Cambridge, all in chemical engineering.

In 1964, he joined Chevron Research Co. in Richmond, Calif., remaining until his retirement in 1999. In 2008, he became a director of Theta Oil & Land Co., serving as treasurer for several years.

Bob loved travel and enjoyed the performing arts: music, theater, opera, and ballet. For many seasons he saw three performances of every program at the San Francisco Ballet.

He married Emily Henning in 1962 and the Wardens had two children, Elizabeth and Bruce '92. Bob is survived by Emily, their two children, two grandchildren, and a brother, William.

THE CLASS OF 1960**ARTHUR S. ROSENBLATT '60**

Answering the phone, he'd burst into song, an oldie from his glory nights in Triangle,



a medley basso profundo from *West Side Story*. Warm. Whip-smart. Charismatic. He could crack you up with an arched eyebrow or a classic Rosenblatt zinger. Recount the hot new Broadway play you saw last night. "Oh that," he'd reply dryly, "saw it in London last year." Zap.

Arthur, aka Rosey, aka Ross, grew up in Revere, Mass., where his dad owned a fruit

market, and whence sprang his lifelong ardor for the Red Sox, Patriots, and the Kennedys. Princeton: hosting WPRB's Eclipse ("calculated to keep you in the dark"); earning Chapel credits, this nice Jewish boy, by claiming to attend Father Halton's Masses; and suffering the casual cruelties of bicker before joining Key & Seal.

Arthur worked in New York advertising in its golden age but preferred getting stoned with pals in the West Village to Mad Men martinis. Also: author of a half-dozen best-selling children's books, headliner of *Cooking with Arthur* on NPR. In the early '80s, he moved to Norfolk, Conn., home of his closest friend and Triangle co-star, Vint Lawrence, and there was elected first selectman (de facto mayor) three times. His last six years he was confined to a nursing home, but bore it with valor, buoyed by old friends who loved him and stayed in close touch. Ever a star, Arthur died Oct. 29, 2022.

MICHAEL G. SOUTHWELL '60

Mike brought his enthusiasms music and bicycle racing, to us from Royal Oaks High



School in Michigan, and applied them here to a major in music and to the Orchestra and Chapel Choir. He added four years of soccer in the athletic line and membership in Terrace Club.

Mike earned a master's degree and a Ph.D. in English at the University of Wisconsin before settling into his career teaching English at the City University of New York. He specialized in teaching English as a second language and business English and became a pioneer in computer-based language instruction.

Mike became a dedicated oenophile and an enthusiast for playing old music on ancient instruments. He also became a philhellene scholar and guide for others to Greece, and did the same for students of historic New York City architecture. Beyond that, his spare time involved skiing, running, birding, progressive politics, and more wine.

On his retirement in 2001, Mike decided to resume a closer relationship to the class. His computer skills soon led to appointment as our webmaster and, in time, election as class president in 2020.

Mike died June 11, 2023, of leukemia. He is survived by his wife, Lillian; their sons, Alex '93 and Adam; and three grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1961**ROBERT A. EPSEN '61**

We lost Bob to cancer March 24, 2023, in Mill Valley, Calif.

Born in Omaha, Neb., he came to us from Westminster School in Connecticut. At



Princeton, he majored in English, ate at Colonial, was an Orange Key keyceptor, and served on the Undergraduate Schools Committee. He roomed with John O'Neill

and Olin West.

After five years in banking and serving in the Army Reserve and having relocated to the Bay Area in California, Bob attended Stanford Law School. He then joined the San Francisco law firm Heller, Ehrman, White and McAuliffe, where he spent the rest of his career. He retired as general counsel in 2004. He was a member of the Pacific-Union Club and the Guardsmen and served on and chaired school boards in the community. Bob was a loyal and active member of the class, especially on our Annual Giving committee.

Leslie, Bob's wife of 31 years and the sister of classmate Olin West, died in 2009. He is survived by daughters Francie Devlin and Lisa Lenzo; a stepson, Lee Underwood; and their families, which include four granddaughters and two step-grandchildren.

STEPHEN A. HELLER '61

Steve died Jan. 29, 2023, of kidney failure. Born in Newark, N.J., he came to us from



Columbia High School in Maplewood, N.J. A *cum laude* biology major, he was in the Orange Key, the Pre-Med and bridge clubs, and the Campus Fund Drive. He ate

at Elm Club and roomed with Mike Miles, Dave Fisher, and Ken Moyle, with whom he remained in touch over the years.

After earning a medical degree at New York University and serving OB-GYN residencies at University Hospital and Bellevue Hospital, and having joined the Navy Reserve, he served on active duty as a lieutenant commander from 1970-72 at Guantánamo Bay in Cuba, the sole OB-GYN there. He, his wife, Suzanne, and sons then relocated to the state of Washington, his home for the rest of his life. He entered into practice at Valley General Hospital in Renton, Wash., with Dr. John Hodgers, whom he had met at Guantanamo Bay. Lifelong friends, they practiced together for 24 years.

Steve is survived by his wife of 55 years, Suzanne; sons Geoffrey, Mark, and Jonathan and their families; one granddaughter; and sister Lois Martin.

THOMAS C. KOEHLER '61

Tom died of leukemia March 15, 2023, in San Diego.

Born in Morristown, N.J., he came to us from Deerfield Academy. He was with us for only two years, moving on to join the Navy and earn his Naval Aviator wings in

1961, fulfilling a lifelong dream. He served in the Navy until retirement in 1980, as a commander. His aviation career included two combat tours in Southeast Asia, logging more than 200 combat missions over Vietnam. Overall, he flew more than 5,400 hours and earned the Distinguished Flying Cross as well as other decorations. Along the way he earned a B.A. in international relations at the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif.

After retirement he worked with the Singer Corp. as an aviation project manager for several years. Then, for the next 32 years, worked with his wife, Nancy, in her business, Home Medical Claims, assisting the elderly with all facets of their lives. He also was a docent on the USS *Midway*.

Tom is survived by his son Steve, daughter Katie Bianchi, and four grandchildren. Nancy, his wife of 61 years, died a month after Tom.

ROBERT D. SCHWEIZER '61

Bob died Feb. 28, 2023, in hospice in Tucson, Ariz., his home for many years,



after a general decline in his health.

Born in New Brunswick, N.J., he came to us from Pingry School. At

Princeton, he majored in biology, performed in Triangle, and was a cheerleader and a keyceptor. He took his meals at Quad, where he lived during our senior year.

Following a medical degree at Cornell, he served in the Air Force, including a tour in Vietnam. After the service, Bob was a radiology resident at NYU Hospital-Bellevue Medical Center. In 1974, he went into private practice with Radiology Limited in Tucson, retiring in 2000.

For some years thereafter he consulted with three green companies in Arizona and California. This all comes from his entry in our 50th-reunion yearbook. We have no information about his life since then. In recent years it appears Bob became largely reclusive. He had no survivors, and there was no obituary.

THE CLASS OF 1963

ROBERT W. MATLACK '63

Dick died peacefully June 7, 2023, at Quarry Hill Retirement Community in Camden,



Maine, after a prolonged battle with Parkinson's disease.

He came to Princeton from Moorestown (N.J.) Friends School, where he played varsity soccer, was president of the honorary Varsity Club, and leader of the visual aids club and the stage crew. At Princeton, Dick was one of the first early concentrators in the

physics department, wrote his senior thesis on "A Photoelectric Investigation of Multiple Quantum Jumps Using a LASER," and took his meals at Campus Club, where he was treasurer senior year. He played soccer all four years and captained the team in his senior year.

Upon graduation, Dick volunteered with the Quakers as a conscientious objector in Algeria, and helped rebuild that country's infrastructure after the Algerian War. While there, he met Hilary Duckering, who was volunteering as a nurse with an English organization sponsored by the United Nations. They married July 17, 1965, in Nottingham, England, and settled at Westtown Boarding School in West Chester, Pa., where he taught high school chemistry.

In 1969, they moved to Cape Elizabeth, Maine, and Dick started his 30-year career with Scott Paper Co. He retired in 1999 and a year later, he and Hilary moved fulltime to the camp where he had spent summers with his family growing up in Owls Head, Maine, a coastal resort and fishing town.

In retirement, Dick enjoyed kayaking, sailing, woodworking, and creating in his machine shop. He was also active with the Georges River Land Trust and served many years on its board of directors.

Dick is survived by his wife of 57 years, Hilary; son Duncan; daughter Megan; and four grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1965

ROBERT C. VAUGHAN '65

Rob died May 10, 2023, at Jersey Shore Medical Center, Neptune, N.J.



Born Aug. 11, 1941, in Long Branch, N.J., and living in Little Silver for 66 years, he graduated from Red Bank High School as president

of the senior class, playing basketball and baseball. At Princeton, he majored in psychology and was president of Cloister Inn senior year.

Rob served in the Army Reserve at Fort Devens, Mass., and Fort Hancock on Sandy Hook, N.J., then worked toward a Ph.D. in psychology at CCNY. His career involved strategic planning for Prudential Property and Casualty, with a final career in child support enforcement in New Jersey.

Two things we knew about Rob: He bled orange and black every moment once he set foot on campus, and his love of basketball led to a regular online column for roundball fans, dealing with the games — a season ticket holder — plus inside stories, anything about recruiting, and the score of games played during his career.

Rob's wife, Diane (Vassar, Rutgers), daughter Vera '92, and son William (Middlebury '01), brother John, six

grandchildren, a niece and a nephew, survive him.

The class sends its condolences to the family of this hard-core Tiger, who lived to see this year's Tiger run on the court, for which we are all grateful.

THE CLASS OF 1966

THOMAS P. TOWLER '66

Tom died June 22, 2023. He was a resident of Summerland, Calif., having lost his Malibu home to fire.

Tom came to Princeton from Troy (Mich.) High School. In our 55th-reunion yearbook, he described his early departure from Princeton: "I was booted out of Princeton at the end of my sophomore year for hitting the trifecta, academic, Chapel, and social probation." He never returned.

Tom enlisted in the Army, serving for a year in Vietnam. He enrolled at the Art Institute of Chicago and later at L'Ecole Jacques, in Paris. He was an NEH fellow and a fellow of the American Film Institute.

His academic career included service as a professor and department chair at Cornish College in Seattle, guest artist at the University of Iowa, and visiting professor and guest artist at the California State University, Long Beach.

Tom had a successful 30-year career in television screenwriting and producing. He was a producer and writer for *JAG* and loved working with Edward Woodward as a writer for the original *The Equalizer*.

Tom is survived by wife Enrica and daughter Paige, to whom the class extends its heartfelt condolences.

THE CLASS OF 1967

CHRISTOPHER BARKER '67

Christopher, age 79, died April 24, 2023, at a senior care home in Norwich near his home of Walerstown, England. He had suffered from melanoma and lingering effects of COVID.

He was one of four children born to British writers George Barker and Elizabeth Smart. His father subsequently married three more times and among the four wives produced 15 children. One of the wives, Elsbeth Parker, also a writer, became Christopher's stepmother. His birth mother was Canadian and Christopher had a North American affinity, though mostly growing up in the English countryside near Norfolk.

Christopher graduated from King's School in Canterbury, England, where he played rugby. He spent freshman year with us before dropping out to return to England to pursue a career in photography. He became a celebrated professional, first working for London Studios and then for London's *Sunday Times* and *The Telegraph*. His childhood, surrounded by artists and

friendships with many parental writer friends, led him to publish *Portraits of Poets* in the 1980s and later a memoir, *The Arms of the Infinite*, about his family and English writers and artists he knew and photographed from London's Soho district. He also photographed British actors Anthony Hopkins and Richard Attenborough.

Christopher married Clare O'Brien in London and they had two children, Leo (1979) and Lydia (1981). He worked in New York occasionally to support his children's education.

At his death, obituaries recalled how he was admired for his perpetual optimism and friendliness, and brilliant conversation at any party. He loved music, from opera to Welsh choirs to Radiohead. He ran marathons most of his life and in his 70s, partly bored, he worked in movies as an extra to keep busy and supplement his pension. He is survived by his children and partner of eight years, Tina.

BABATUNDE A. EBOREIME '67

Babatunde died Dec. 10, 2021, in Pasadena, Calif., where he had lived and practiced as an OB-GYN and internal medicine



(gastroenterology) physician for more than 45 years.

He was born and raised in Nigeria and graduated from Government College school in Ibadan, where he belonged to the literary and debating society, dance club, was prefect and head of House residence, and president of the dramatic society. He was a swimming and cricket team member.

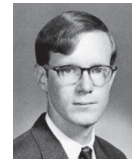
At Princeton, Babatunde majored in biology and was pre-med. He roomed at 226 1940 Hall with Adekunle Oshodi, Fred Gordon, Bob Prager, Paul Van de Water, and Joseph La Tome. He participated in the International Students Association, Model United Nations, and the Pan African Organization the Americas.

Babatunde graduated from Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University in New York in 1971. He did his internship and residency at Long Island Jewish Hillside Medical Center and did further studies in internal medicine at Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center.

He moved west to Pasadena to begin his private practice. He was a certified American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology doctor affiliated with Huntington Memorial Hospital. He practiced all phases of OB-GYN medicine from birth to cancer treatment to problem pregnancies and some internal medical issues related to women's health. He had the highest ratings on the patient evaluations of doctors over many years and was highly respected throughout the Los Angeles region.

JOHN H. NEELY V '67

John died April 30, 2023, in Salem, Mass. He joined us from Shady Side Academy in Pittsburgh, where he was valedictorian,



editor of the school newspaper, ran cross country, wrestled, and was a member of the Glee Club, St. Andrews Society, and the Octettes choral group. He won Pittsburgh Civic Club awards for his leadership.

At Princeton, John majored in history and wrote his senior thesis for Dean Richard Challener '44, for which he won the University's Joline Prize. He roomed at 124 1903 Hall with Ed Soderstrom, sang in the Chapel Choir, worked at the Student Pizza Agency, and was a member of Whig-Clio, the James Madison Assembly, and Cloister Inn.

From 1968 to 1969, as a sergeant in the Army's 101st Airborne Division, he was a platoon reporter in Thua Tien Province, Vietnam, where he earned a Combat Infantry Badge, a Bronze Star, and a Purple Heart. John wrote about his PTSD in our 50th-reunion yearbook.

After the Army, he attended Harvard Law School, graduating in 1972. He practiced environmental law in Denver, then moved to Massachusetts to join the state government doing regulatory law. He married Caroline Kaneko one day after Princeton graduation. Their 10-year marriage produced son John in 1972. While working for Christine Sullivan, the Massachusetts secretary of consumer affairs, John left the office to date her, and they married May 21, 1977. His second marriage produced daughter Abigail '01 in 1979 and son William in 1982. John worked in legal consulting and commercial banking law both in Salem and Boston.

When Christine died in 2016, John renewed hobbies: military history, travel to Shakespeare plays including London's Globe theater, studying Baroque art, and travel with daughter Abby to Africa for her research study. He had learned to ski in his 30s, and pursued that and stamp collecting.

John is survived by his children; his partner of recent years, Candace Mesa; and four grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1968

NEIL A. OMENN '68

Neil died March 13, 2023, in West Palm Beach, Fla., of complications of cardiac



amyloidosis during a routine admission.

Neil joined us after entering with the Class of '66, following a gap for Army service. He came to Princeton from Chester (Pa.) High School, where he was active in student council, track, and playing French horn in the state band and orchestra. At Princeton, he majored

in politics, writing his thesis on “Private Pre-Payment Plans for Medical Care,” and was active in Whig-Clio, WPRB, the Trenton Tutorial Project, and the Latin Affairs Committee. He was awarded a research grant by the Committee on Regional Studies. Neil ate independently and lived at 126 1903 his senior year.

Following graduation, he was employed in fiscal affairs for the City of Philadelphia. He subsequently became an investment adviser and then assisted his father in managing family investments in Boynton Beach, Fla. He was an active contributor and supporter of several charitable organizations, including the Omenn Fund for Dental Services for Needy Children and Populations at the Hebrew University/Hadassah Medical Center Dental School in Jerusalem. He was an avid tennis player and played four times a week until the time of his passing.

Neil was preceded at Princeton by his brother, Gil '61. His family is making a gift to Princeton, and a University professorship will be established in Neil's name. The class offers its deepest sympathies to his extended family and friends.

THE CLASS OF 1972

PETER C. HUNTER '72

Pete, Des Moines businessman, avid and accomplished mountain climber, and rugby



player, died April 19, 2023, in hospice near his retirement home in Oyster Harbors, Osterville, Mass. A native of Davenport, Iowa, Pete came to Princeton from Phillips

Exeter Academy.

He majored in economics and went on to earn an MBA from the Wharton School at Penn. He was a member of Tiger Inn and a key member of Princeton's 1971 Ivy League Tournament Champion team.

Following Wharton, Pete returned to Iowa as CEO of regional brand Hiland Potato Chip Co. of Des Moines. He was a member of the Young Presidents' Organization.

Pete climbed mountains across North and South America and twice scaled Mount Everest. In addition to his spirit of adventure, he is remembered by friends for his sharp intellect, keen wit, and kind heart.

Pete is survived by his sons, Peter Jr. and Christopher; his daughter, Katherine Jane Snow and her husband Nick; grandchildren Hunter and Tripp Snow; his mother, Carolyn; and three brothers, Jeff, Dan, and Ed.

THE CLASS OF 1975

SHEIRA GREENWALD '75

Sheira died March 22, 2023, of pneumonia, complicated by multiple sclerosis, with which she had been diagnosed in 1987.

Cheryl, as she was then known, came to Princeton as a graduate of Taylor Allderdice



High School in Pittsburgh. At Princeton, she majored in history, and then earned an MBA from Harvard.

Upon her marriage in October 1989 to Elihu

Davison, she decided to retain her surname but change her first name to “Sheira,” which means “song” in Hebrew. Sheira and Elihu lived for many years in Morristown, N.J., relocating in 2019 to Naples, Fla.

Sheira's career was spent on new communication technologies, including online home and business information/transaction services — fields that she helped pioneer. She worked for several years at AT&T and later was an independent consultant. An active Princeton volunteer in northern New Jersey for both the ASC and the Princeton Prize in Race Relations, she was also board president for Morris County Head Start.

The effects of multiple sclerosis limited Sheira's mobility and balance in recent years. Nevertheless, she faced her situation with dignity, courage, and a memorable happy smile. In addition to Elihu, she is survived by her mother and her sisters. We join them in sadness.

THE CLASS OF 1985

DAVID J. MILBERG '85

The Classes of 1985 and 1986 are saddened to report that David died July 4, 2023, after a brief illness.



He grew up in Rye, N.Y., attending Horace Mann before entering Princeton with the Class of 1985. After arriving, he immersed

himself in all things theater, acting and directing with Theatre Intime and Triangle while singing with the Nassoons. A history major, he was also a member of Tower and Campus.

After graduating in 1986, David worked in finance in New York City, first with Bankers Trust and Lehman Brothers, and then for the last 25 years of his career with Milberg Factors Inc., a commercial finance firm begun by David's grandfather in 1936. Along the way, he earned an MBA from Columbia with honors.

David combined his passions for theater and business by investing in Broadway productions and joining the boards of several theater organizations, including the Triangle Club (trustee and treasurer), the Prospect Theater Co., and the Lincoln Center Business Council. He also sang with the Amor Artis chamber chorus.

David will be remembered as a loving father, son, brother, and friend, with a remarkable intellect, a gentle soul, a beautiful singing voice, and a lifelong passion for theater and business. He is

survived by his children, Beverly, Ava '24, and Emmett; his parents, Leonard '53 and Ellen; his siblings, Dan and his wife Margot, and Sandra Milberg Shapiro '92 (ex-spouse, David '92); and many extended family members.

THE CLASS OF 1995

KEVIN W. FONG '95

Kevin died July 29, 2022.

He grew up in Miami and graduated from Ransom Everglades School. At Princeton, he lived in Rocky, and majored in history, graduating in 1996. Kevin met his wife of 18 years, Christine, as students at the University of Miami School of Law, and later became a partner at Big Rock Partners.

An accomplished musician, particularly on the violin, he was a fan of the Beatles and Depeche Mode. Kevin was the glue that held his groups of friends together, calling them just to let them know he was thinking about them, often leading to deep, meaningful conversations. His friends remember him as someone who was generous with his time, sense of humor, and friendship, and as someone who got along with anyone, “be it a poor barrio kid, to players from the Miami Heat basketball team who lived in his building.”

Kevin was a devoted father to his children, Michael Dorney, Jules Dorney, and Chloe Fong. In addition to his wife and children, Kevin is survived by his parents, Michael and Susan Fong, and his sister Christina Fong. The class extends its condolences to Kevin and his family.

GRADUATE ALUMNI

NICHOLAS D. DAVIS '57

Nicholas died April 25, 2023, in Sewanee, Tenn., at age 92.

He was born in Memphis, June 9, 1930. He earned a B.A. and a B.S. in architecture from Rice University in 1953. Following military service in the Army Corps of Engineers, he earned an MFA in architecture from Princeton in 1957.

In 1960, Nicholas settled into an architecture practice with Jay T. Liddle in Jackson, Miss. In 1963, he was invited to Auburn University for a one-year appointment and stayed until his retirement in 1995, teaching design and architectural history. He was named Alumni Professor in 1982.

His many built designs include residences, a college library, the restored Auburn University Chapel, the Hargis Maffett Museum near Birmingham, Ala., and the Loachapoka United Methodist Church, which won a national AIA design award and was featured on the cover of the journal *Faith and Form*. In 2000, he became a fellow of the American Institute of Architects. His work reflected his lifelong study of Frank

Lloyd Wright and his fascination with organic forms and geometric structures.

He self-published a limited-edition book of his drawings and essays, *Delta Oxbow*.

Nicholas is survived by his wife, Carolyn; daughter Jennifer; son Nathan; and two grandsons.

CLYDE LAURENCE HARDIN *58

Larry died April 1, 2023, in Syracuse, N.Y.

He was born in Des Moines, Iowa, Aug. 27, 1932. His academic credentials include a B.A. from Johns Hopkins in 1953, an M.A. from the University of Illinois in 1954, and a Ph.D. in philosophy from Princeton in 1958.

Larry joined the faculty of Syracuse University, where he taught in the Department of Philosophy for 36 years. He served for one year as acting chair of the department, seven years as director of the university's honors program, and five years as director of graduate studies in philosophy. He attained emeritus status in 1995.

Larry was an expert on the philosophical problems associated with color perception. He wrote an award-winning book, *Color for Philosophers: Unweaving the Rainbow*; produced an edited volume, *Color Categories in Thought and Language*; and published 60 articles and book chapters. In retirement he was in worldwide demand as a lecturer on these topics. He received grants and fellowships from the National Science Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Larry is survived by his wife of 55 years, Evamaria; sons David, William, and Christopher; stepdaughter Susanne McMillen; and five grandchildren.

DOUGLAS K. CANDLAND *59

At the age of 88, Doug died in Lewisburg, Pa., April 16, 2023.

Doug was born in Long Beach, Calif. He did his undergraduate work at Pomona College and earned a Ph.D. in psychology from Princeton in 1959. After a postdoctoral year at the University of Virginia, Doug joined the faculty at Bucknell, where he remained all his teaching life. Doug established a degree program in animal behavior and one in environmental science. The animal-behavior laboratories built by Bucknell in 1968 gave Doug an opportunity to work in indoor-outdoor facilities with socially housed animals to study primate behavior.

Doug's books included *Psychology: The Experimental Approach*, *Archeopsychology and the Modern Mind*, and *Feral Children and Clever Animals*. The latter led to a 10-year TV career in which Doug interviewed and commented on presumed feral children, primate behavior, and animal rights. Programs included a BBC production on the history of human obligations toward animals.

After retiring from teaching, Doug edited

the *Review of General Psychology* from 2002 and 2014 and was a frequent author of commissioned book reviews.

Predeceased by his wife, Mary Elizabeth, Doug is survived by sons Kevin and Christopher and three granddaughters.

MILTON W. HOWE *70

At age 81, Milt died of Parkinson's disease Sept. 3, 2023, in Santa Cruz, Calif.

Born July 6, 1942, in San Francisco, Milt came to Princeton in 1965 after earning a bachelor's degree in geology from the University of California, Santa Barbara. He studied sedimentology with Professor F.B. Van Houton *41 and earned a Ph.D. in 1970 with a dissertation on the Tertiary sediments in Colombia.

After Princeton, he joined Gulf Oil and worked out of Jakarta in New Guinea. After leaving Gulf, Milt joined British Petroleum Alaska in its San Francisco office. He worked for BP for several years in both London and Dallas, where he was chief geologist for BP's North American operations.

Milt left BP in 1988 and moved to Santa Cruz, where he had built a home. He developed interests in skiing, woodwork, wine-making, and viticulture. At Princeton, Milt and his wife, Nancy, formed lifelong friendships with Eric Luttrell *68 and Bob Handfield *70 and their wives. The six of them managed to get together no matter where their careers took them.

Milt is survived by Nancy; son Noel; daughter Romeny; and four grandsons. Milt's daughter Dani predeceased him in 2004.

VLADIMIR SCHEFFER *74

Vladimir died after a sudden illness April 14, 2023, in New Brunswick, N.J.

Born in Venezuela Nov. 8, 1950, Vladimir immigrated to Florida more than 50 years ago before settling in New Jersey. He received a Ph.D. in mathematics from Princeton in 1974. His area of scholarship was partial differential equations and geometric measure theory. His dissertation topic was "Regularity and Irregularity of Solutions to Nonlinear Second-Order Elliptic Systems of Partial Differential Equations and Inequalities."

Vladimir taught at Princeton before becoming a tenured professor Rutgers, where he taught for many years. He translated from Russian a book on ergodic theory by Jakob Grigorevich Sinai, and it was published by Princeton University Press in 1976. In 1993, he proved the existence of paradoxical weak solutions of the Euler equations of ideal incompressible liquids, which correspond to the sudden occurrence of turbulent flows without external stimulation. In 2000, with Jean Taylor he published an extensive postponed proof from the geometric measurement theory by his Princeton

dissertation adviser, Frederick Almgren.

Vladimir is survived by his wife of more than 40 years Ruth; his nephew, Ethan; niece Samantha; and several cousins.

WILLIAM K. HELLMUTH *77

Bill died April 6, 2023, in Gulf Stream, Fla., at age 69.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Bill was born June 3, 1953. He did his undergraduate work at the University of Virginia and earned a master's degree from Princeton's School of Architecture in 1977.

Bill began his career as an architect at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill in New York. He joined the firm of HOK in St. Louis and then in Washington, D.C., where he became HOK's CEO and chairman. He oversaw diverse and complex award-winning projects in more than 20 countries. Bill's projects included the American embassies in Nairobi and Moscow, the EPA's campus in North Carolina, and the National Air and Space Museum near Dulles Airport in Chantilly, Va.

He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Nancy; son Will; daughter Grayson; grandsons Chase and Henry; and brothers Ted and John.

SYLVIE BAJEUX *79

The first Haitian woman to be inducted into France's Légion d'honneur, the highest French order of merit, Sylvie died of cardiac failure in San Juan, Puerto Rico, May 7, 2023.

Born Sylvie Tourdot July 24, 1942, in Troyes, France, she moved to Haiti with her parents during World War II. She married Jacques Wadestrandt, a Haitian Harvard graduate who died during an attempted coup of dictator François Duvalier's government.

Sylvie later married Haitian political activist Jean-Claude Bajoux *77. The two entered Princeton Graduate School, and Sylvie earned an M.A. in architecture and urban planning in 1979. After Princeton, the couple moved to San Juan, where they worked to free Haiti from despotism and to defend the rights of Haitians abroad. Returning to Haiti, they founded the Centre œcuménique des droits humains (CEDH), one of Haiti's most important human rights organizations. They were targets of violence and an assassination attempt.

When Jean-Bertrand Aristide was overthrown in February 2004, Sylvie served as an investigator on the Commission d'Enquête Administrative (CEA), tasked with investigating the Aristide government's corruption and theft of public funds. After Jean-Claude's death in 2013, Sylvie continued her political and human rights efforts.

Sylvie is survived by her son, Jacques Wadestrandt.

Graduate alumni memorials are prepared by the APGA.

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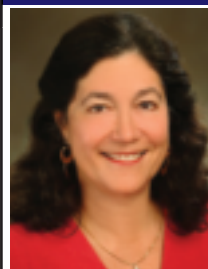
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BELLE DA COSTA GREENE, 1879-1950

This Librarian Lived Under a False Identity, and Did It With Class

BY ELYSE GRAHAM '07

TO BE A RARE BOOKS LIBRARIAN and to live in absolute Jazz Age elegance are both sensible fantasies, but not ones that a sensible imagination would normally bring together. It's too much, too fabulous, to happen all at once: the books, the galas, the fringed silk dresses, the velvet bindings, the Art Deco. For Belle da Costa Greene, however, this was simply her life. The personal librarian for J.P. Morgan, Greene set the standards for manuscript collecting in the United States at a time when American money meant something it never had before. She became the first director of the Morgan Library in New York City.

And she did all this while living under a false identity.

Greene got her start at Princeton. When she began work there as a librarian in 1901, she gave her birth year as 1883 and her name as Belle Greene. Over the years, she would embellish her name and tell anyone curious that her paternal line was Portuguese and her maternal line was Dutch, a family of Virginia worthies. In fact, her parents were African American

and the descendants of slaves; her father, Richard Theodore Greener, was the first Black Harvard graduate. She grew up in modest but genteel circumstances in Washington, D.C., and Manhattan. By the time of the state census of 1900, her mother, who had pale skin, had made the choice to start representing herself and her children as Portuguese. In that segregated age, this change of identity — which included a new surname — was a secret of the highest order.

That new identity unlocked, for young Belle, a door to an otherwise impossible dream: to become a librarian. "I knew definitely by the time I was 12 years old that I wanted to work with rare books," she later told *The New York Sun*. "I loved

New York City's high society loved her. She attended galas, balls, art exhibition openings, in demand for her sparkling erudition and bohemian flair.

them even then, the sight of them, the wonderful feel of them, the romance and the thrill of them."

In 1906, Morgan hired Greene as his personal librarian on the advice of his nephew, Junius Morgan 1888 *1896, who lived in Princeton and was a benefactor of the University's library. The elder Morgan had just built a library in Manhattan to hold his personal collection. (The library's construction cost \$1.2 million, or more than \$43 million today.)


Greene turned his collection into a wonder of the age. She sorted his books, which were an unsorted mountain of treasures, and gave them catalog numbers.

She traveled abroad to inspect foreign collections, negotiated with booksellers, and handled payments, while making choices about what new items to acquire: Caxtons, First Folios, manuscripts of works by Chaucer, books of Byzantine illuminations, medieval gospels in treasure bindings.

New York City's high society loved her. She attended galas, balls, art exhibition openings, in demand for her sparkling erudition and bohemian flair. She had free use of J.P. Morgan's box at the Met. The painter Henri Matisse drew her portraits. She stole so many hearts with her wit and free-spirited elegance that when a rumor went around that she had accepted a marriage proposal, newspapers published her denial: "Miss Belle da Costa Greene, librarian of the J. Pierpont Morgan Library, is still heartwhole and fancy free."

Would she have married if not for her secret? The answer is unknowable, but she lived a good life, a bookish and beautiful life, and she got it at the price of a lie far smaller than the lie that she wouldn't have deserved it under her real identity. And she never forgot her start at Princeton, using her glamor and influence to support the University's library. In 1934, for example, the Friends of the Princeton Library, of which Greene was vice chair, advertised a "mystery dinner" to be held as a fundraiser at the Plaza Hotel. The Friends promised "a surprise in store" for those who bought tickets. What that surprise was is lost to history, but given the excesses of the gilded class, anything was possible short of a *soirée musicale* starring Gatsby and Daisy themselves. ■

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