TWO VIEWS ON VOTING

ALU

UNDERSTANDING POLLING PRINCETON IN THE TIME OF COVID

## HEALTH CARE BY DESIGN Dr. Bon Ku \*09 takes

a new approach in medicine

OCTOBER 2020 PAW.PRINCETON.EDU

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October 2020 Volume 121, Number 2

#### PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY

An editorially independent magazine by alumni for alumni since 1900

#### **PRESIDENT'S PAGE**

INBOX

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#### PRINCETONIANS

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#### Speech Impediments

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#### **PAW Readers Wanted**

Help us make the magazine better consider offering your feedback as a member of our reader panel. Join by writing to us at paw@princeton.edu.

#### Welcoming the Great Class of 2024

On August 30, I welcomed the Great Class of 2024 to Princeton University over Zoom. Here is what I told them. -C.L.E.

t is my pleasure to greet Princeton's Great Class of 2024! Opening Exercises is always one of my favorite events of the year because our incoming students provide this University with a fresh burst of talent, imagination, and spirit.

We may be on Zoom right now instead of on campus, but I feel the same way this year. I cannot see you, but I know you are out there, a spectacular group of Tigers who will dazzle and amaze us over the coming years.

And though today you are literally dispersed throughout not only the country but indeed the world, I know that all of you are destined to come here to New Jersey and to this campus. I look forward to that day and to welcoming you to Princeton in person.

You are an extraordinary collection of people, and you begin your Princeton journey in unprecedented circumstances. Though none of us would have chosen this remote beginning to launch your Princeton experience, my expectation is that you will rise to the challenge, and that you will emerge as one of the special classes in this University's history.



Addressing the incoming class from my office in Nassau Hall

My expectation is that your class will be special because you, and all of us, are living through one of history's pivotal moments. The coronavirus pandemic has disrupted life to an extent we have not seen since World War II. Your generation is not being required to risk your lives in battle, but you, like all of us, have been asked to make sacrifices, to adapt, and to do difficult things so that we not only persist successfully through this pandemic but indeed emerge from it stronger than before. For our part, my colleagues and I on the faculty and in the administration are committed to finding new ways to teach, and to connect and build community with you. We want to make sure that you get the best education we can deliver in these challenging circumstances, and we are working with energy and creativity to do that.

We also recognize that you are doing something difficult, and admirable, by persisting with your education. Even in the best of times, learning requires hard work and commitment. A college education is not something that students receive or consume; it is something that you make, by investing your effort and your time to confront provocative questions, to understand complicated ideas, and to sharpen your thinking. That is part of what makes learning so challenging—the need to persist, to keep going, to put in the hard work even when it doesn't feel like you're making progress.

We know that these hard things get even harder when we cannot be on this campus studying together and supporting one another. That gives all of us a mission, a mission to create virtually the community that would normally exist physically, the community that helps us all to succeed and achieve our goals. We need to reach out to one another, connect with one another, support one another, as teachers and as students together. You have a responsibility to be there for each other—and both the opportunity, and the responsibility, to ask for help when you need it. We are here for you.

Creating this virtual community won't be easy. It's not something that any incoming Princeton class has ever had to do before. It's not something for which there is a standard playbook. But I am confident we can do it together. You are, after all, Princeton's Great Class of 2024, and I expect you will do many unprecedented and amazing things during your time as students and beyond.

To create an online community of learning, we need not only to develop personal connections but also to share certain values. One of the most important values, which will be the subject of your upcoming session about Princeton's honor code, is academic integrity. That value has unified generations of Princetonians. I want to say a bit about academic integrity, because in the online environment that value becomes at once more demanding and more important than ever to the constitution of our community.

Academic integrity is about honesty. It is about telling the truth about how you came to your conclusions, and it is about standing up for what

#### THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE



Historian Jill Lepore, the author of this year's Princeton Pre-read, "This America: The Case for the Nation," speaking with Tejas Gupta, a member of the Class of 2024, during the Pre-read assembly.

you believe. It means being clear about which ideas are your own, and which are not. It is about being true to other people by giving them credit for their ideas.

It is also about being true to yourself by taking full advantage of your education. As I said earlier, your education is what you make of it. No one learns anything by cheating.

I want to be clear about this: getting something wrong—that's honorable. Trying hard and failing that's honorable. Failing is part of learning for all of us. My own freshman year here was really tough. You will find, as I did, that there are people here who understand what you are going through and who will support you. But cheating—that's never okay, because it is a betrayal of the whole practice of learning.

Mutual respect is another value that defines Princeton as a community of scholarship and learning. That value is particularly important now, because you begin your college career not only during a pandemic, but in a period of political turbulence unlike any we have seen in the United States for at least fifty years.

When this summer began, people marched in the United States and around the world to protest the unjust killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and Rayshard Brooks. As the summer concludes, the disturbing news continues: the nation has been outraged again after a Kenosha, Wisconsin, police officer shot Jacob Blake seven times in the back.

We are in the midst right now of a great national reckoning with America's long history of racism. That reckoning, moreover, takes place during a bitterly contested, profoundly consequential presidential election that both political parties describe as a battle for the nation's soul.

The American nation is, of course, the subject of this year's Pre-read by Jill Lepore, who will speak with all of you later today. Her book's opening epigraph is from the great historian W.E.B. DuBois. As you may remember, it goes this way: Nations reel and stagger on their way; they make hideous mistakes; they commit frightful wrongs; they do great and beautiful things. And shall we not best guide humanity by telling the truth about all this, so far as the truth is ascertainable?

Few quotes are so apt to our moment. Our nation is indeed reeling and staggering. We need to be honest about our nation's hideous mistakes and frightful wrongs, as well as about the things that make it great and beautiful.

We at this University must stand firmly against racism and for equality and justice. In late June, I asked the University's leadership to consider how best we can combat systemic racism, and you will be hearing more from me about that work during the coming week and in the months ahead.

We also need, as part of our scholarly and teaching mission, to do what DuBois urged us to do. We must seek the truth about our nation and about racial justice. I invite all of you to embrace and participate in that conversation. Accepting that responsibility will require difficult and sensitive conversations, in class discussions and beyond. It will call upon us both to speak up bravely for what we believe and to treat those with whom we disagree with respect. In a time when the pandemic has rendered our interactions virtual and remote, we will need to find ways to connect humanely, sympathetically, and compassionately.

I have asked for a lot in my remarks this morning, I know. You become Princeton Tigers not in easy times but in hard ones. You have genuinely daunting challenges to confront. And you are up to it. I am confident of that—as I have said before, you will amaze us. To the Great Class of 2024: I am glad that you are Princetonians, and I look forward to getting to know you in the years ahead. Welcome to Princeton.

much

#### PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY

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Editor Marilyn H. Marks \*86 Managing Editor Brett Tomlinson Associate Editor Carrie Compton Digital Editor Elisabeth H. Daugherty Class Notes/Memorials Editor Nicholas DeVito Senior Writer Mark F. Bernstein '83 Writer/Assistant Editor Carlett Spike

Art Director Marianne Nelson

**Publisher** Nancy S. MacMillan p'97

Advertising Director Colleen Finnegan

**Student Interns** Becca Berman '23; Arika Harrison '21; Mara Harwin '22; Tina A. Stanley '22; Marissa Webb '21

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Local Advertising/Classifieds Colleen Finnegan Phone 609-258-4886, cfinnega@princeton.edu

**Ivy League Magazine Network** Heather Wedlake, phone 617-319-0995 heatherwedlake@ivymags.com

#### Address Changes

alumrecs@princeton.edu, phone 609-258-3114

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## Inbox

#### **RESEARCHING RACISM**

In light of the protests concerning institutional racism in America, I'd like to suggest that the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs is well-positioned to delve into this issue. Specifically, I'd like to see either a policy task force or research seminar focused on practices of institutional racism in American institutions and governmental organizations.

The opportunities to investigate the different varieties of such practices are so varied that the bulk or all of the undergraduate and graduate students at the school could devote their independent work to topics in policing, the justice system, education (preschool, K-12, undergraduate, and advanced degrees could all afford different task forces), health care, and banking. I'm sure that I'm omitting a number of spaces in which institutional racism takes place. It may be that plans are already in progress for such scholarship. If so, then I commend those involved for their timely initiative. If not, I can think of no more timely effort to be in the nation's service and in the service of all nations.

Tim Scott '90 Portland, Ore.

#### A SCHOLAR AND A FRIEND



DAFRIEND Professor Thomas P. Roche Jr. (In Memoriam, June/ July issue) was a legend to generations of students. He

### WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU

Email: paw@princeton.edu Mail: PAW, 194 Nassau Street, Suite 38, Princeton, NJ 08542 PAW Online: Comment on a story at paw.princeton.edu Phone: 609-258-4885 Fax: 609-258-2247 was especially important to those of us who took part in campus theater productions. Tom was not only an enthusiastic participant in and supporter of productions on campus but also a generous host, friend, and mentor. Tom was one of the principal financial backers of a play that I produced in New York City my senior year — an off-off-Broadway production of Damian Long '98's thesis project. He gave us the seed money we needed to rent the theater, and didn't complain at all when we lost most of it.

The memorial tributes to Professor Roche that I have seen so far have emphasized his kindness, personal generosity, and charismatic spirit. I feel that it is equally important, however, to note his exceptional scholarship. Tom was a scholar who surpassed Harold Bloom in his analysis of Shakespeare, Petrarch, and English Renaissance literature. He used a rigorous understanding of religion and classical literature to completely upend about 150 years of Shakespeare scholarship. In his brilliant and frankly revolutionary analysis, he applied numerology and theology to Shakespeare's sonnet sequence, putting the tired trope of biographical analysis to rest, and uncovering the allegorical nature of the entire sequence. His analysis was like having a veil lifted from your eyes it was impossible to unsee the truths he revealed.

Tom Roche was a world-class teacher and a true friend — funny, brilliant, generous, and kind. He will not be

Letters should not exceed 250 words and may be edited for length, accuracy, clarity, and civility. Due to space limitations, we are unable to publish all letters received in the print magazine. Letters, articles, photos, and comments submitted to PAW may be published in print, electronic, or other forms.

#### forgotten by those who knew him. Matthew Ferraro '00 *East Providence, R.I.*

The obituary for Thomas Roche Jr. in the June/July 2020 issue of PAW reminded me how T.P. Roche, as he was then known, altered the course of my life. I arrived at Princeton in 1962, ready to major in economics and pursue a career in business or government. As a distribution requirement, I took Professor Roche's seminar on selected works of Shakespeare. I fell head over heels, graduated *magna cum laude* in English, and found a love of literature that stays with me to this day.

Thanks for leading me to the Pierian Spring, Professor, and for teaching me to drink deeply from it.

#### William Brauer '66 Albany, Calif.

#### **TUITION DISCOUNT**

I think it's completely absurd that Princeton thinks there is justification in implementing announced policies and discounting tuition only 10 percent. I think about the Princeton experience I had, and 50 percent of it wouldn't be possible under these circumstances. The University shouldn't charge this amount for the reduced experience only because it can. **Don Parker '82 Devon, Pa.** 

#### \_\_\_\_\_

#### SALLY FRANK '80

Regarding the recent article in *The Daily Princetonian*, "How the Eating Clubs Went Coed," (July 13, 2020), I am hoping you will permit me to use this forum to address Sally Frank '80.

Dear Ms. Frank,

Like you, I graduated from Princeton in 1980. Unlike you, I took the path of least resistance. I studied, played sports, and bickered successfully at Cap and Gown my sophomore year. I did not know you, but I certainly knew of you, as we all did because of your attempts to bicker at the all-male clubs. My silence spoke volumes, and for that I apologize. How I wish the thought to recognize injustice had even occurred to me back then in those seemingly carefree days of the late 1970s. Fighting for gender equality is similar to fighting for racial equality; if one accepts the benefits of the status quo, one is complicit in injustice.

It wasn't until after your brilliant legal victory that I fully understood the enormity of what you had taken on. I am 40 years late here, but nevertheless I want to go on record as saying thank you. Generations of women, Princeton students among them, have benefited from your passion to fight for gender equality.

Sue Hunt Hollingsworth '80 Shaker Heights, Ohio

#### **PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS**

As a physician I read with interest the complaints of the recent law school graduates about having to take the bar exam, which has been impacted by the virus situation (Alumni in the News email, July 21). It certainly sounds as though they weren't confident to take the exam but they also went on to complain about having to finish law school online, losing money attributed to housing, etc. They don't seem to realize that millions of high school and college students, to say nothing of enrollees in graduate programs including medical schools, experienced the same problems.

I am pretty close to the Hopkins medical-education establishment and follow alumni affairs, and while the curriculum in most medical schools has been undergoing a lot of changes recently, I haven't heard of any dropping licensing requirements for physicians nor do I believe any hospital or health system would hire a physician who could not pass state licensing requirements. Indeed, most require board certification, which requires even more exams. So why should attorneys not have to pass a minimum examination requirement? The complaint seems, frankly, childish. Fred Gehris M.D. '64 Lutherville, Md.

#### **MUSICAL PIONEERS**

The article about David Benjamin Lewin \*58 (Princeton Portrait, June/July issue) was interesting. I thought readers might be interested in another computermusic pioneer, Lejaren Hiller '45 \*47. Hiller earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from Princeton and worked for DuPont before moving to the academic world and working on computerized compositions.

#### Inbox

## 2020 ANNUAL MEETING

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#### FROM THE EDITOR She Brings All Topics to Life

If you're a regular reader of PAW, you know the work of Elyse Graham '07. She writes articles faster than I can read them, becoming the most prolific contributor to the historical "Portrait" that appears regularly on our last page. She has authored PAW cover stories on people including mathematician Oswald Veblen, a savior of WWII-era refugee scholars, and poet T.S. Eliot, whose letters were recently unveiled at Firestone Library. She has a day job as an associate professor of English at Stony Brook University in New York; this semester, she's teaching an introductory class that she describes as "programming for philosophers and philosophy for programmers." Elyse lectures in costume — Mozart one day, Harry Potter the next, complete with a glowing wand and wafting smoke — to grip the attention of 600 or so students on Zoom.



And now she has a new book. Make that two.

Over the summer, publishers came out with You Talkin' to Me?: The Unruly History of New York English (Oxford University Press); and A Unified Theory of Cats on the Internet (Stanford Briefs). The first is a colorful account — so colorful I cannot quote the opening lines here — of New York history, class, and culture as well as language. The second explores the culture of the internet: "Westerners have used cats for centuries as symbols of pathos, anger, and alienation. The communities that helped

to build the internet, whose members construed themselves as outsiders who worked against the mainstream, made snark and alienation a part of their identity." Both books are published under Elyse's pseudonym, E.J. White.

Elyse began her association with PAW as a student writer. We have always known her to be a prodigious researcher; it was no surprise that in researching the internet book, the former cat hater got a kitty so she could better understand her subject. The name chosen by this longtime teller of alumni tales seems especially fitting, a tribute to a renowned Princetonian who, like a cat, has been misunderstood: Aaron Purr. — *Marilyn H. Marks \*86 h'88* 

#### A PRINCETON ORIGINAL Remembering Henry Martin '48

When CHARLES SCRIBNER III '73 \*77 read about the death of Princetonian and New Yorker cartoonist HENRY MARTIN '48 in late June, he reached out to PAW and sent this "fitting memorial" — an unpublished cartoon that Martin drew for Scribner in 1976, when Scribner was completing his doctorate in art history. At the time, Scribner also was commuting to his family's publishing house, which was producing two books of Martin's cartoons. "He was unique," Scribner wrote, "and the angels are now chuckling!" 🔶



One example of his work can be found on YouTube at bit.ly/LejarenHiller. Jon Harper \*68 *Hamden, Conn.* 

#### **RETHINKING LEGACIES**

Anthony Romero '87's Alumni Day address (feature, April 8) and the letter to alumni from President Eisgruber regarding renaming the Woodrow Wilson School give us pause for thought. My other alma mater, Queen's University at Kingston, Ontario, is debating the naming of a building after Sir John A. Macdonald. Sir John A. was our first prime minister and a Canadian visionary. He was also, sadly, a proponent of indigenous residential schools, which inflicted tragedy.

I believe that we must acknowledge both the strengths and shortcomings of our historical leaders. It doesn't mean that we have to tear down their statues, but the plaques and our teachings must be revised to reflect that these things are complicated. **Ken Lyon '77** 

Peterborough, Ontario, Canada

#### TESTING DECISION

Thank you, Princeton, for making the SAT and ACT optional for 2021 ("SAT and ACT Optional, Early Action Canceled For 2021 Applicants," published online June 18). My daughter is a junior and didn't have the chance to take the test this spring, and she has asthma so we've been physicaldistancing. It makes me so proud to know the University understands the hardships of families and can support admissions decisions by reviewing other criteria. Laura Fried '96

Waterbury Center, Vt.

#### FROM CANS TO CUPS

To your Reunions refreshment article ("Here's the History Behind That Cup You're Raising to Old Nassau," published online May 13),



a correction: You say cans gave way to cups in the late 1980s. In truth, I designed and introduced the first logoed plastic cup for our 10th reunion in 1981, and made them available to all reunions supplied by Ritchie and Page Distributors. **Stu Rickerson '71** 

Rancho Santa Fe, Calif.



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I give because

Class of

-ERIC PLUMMER '10

\*93

Class of

Princeton molds tomorrow's leaders and innovators

I give because

-HAROLD Y. KIM \*93, WITH HIS WIFE, JULIA KIM



Over nearly three centuries, Princeton alumni have helped to build the future and to open the gates for the next generation of leaders. New challenges await us, and the path to a brighter tomorrow points *forward together*.



NEWS AND RESEARCH > THE CLASS OF '24 > POLL WORKERS > MARCHING METRICS

## onthe Campus

Inspired by nature and nestled among the trees outside Prospect House, *Titan*, a sculpture by Michele Oka Doner, was installed in 2010 as a gift from the artist in honor of alumnus Micky Wolfson Jr. '63. Read more about Princeton's outdoor art at artmuseum.princeton.edu/campus-art. *Photograph by Ricardo Barros* 

#### **On the Campus / News**





#### A Virtual Welcome Around the world but together online, the Class of '24 begins its Princeton days

btaining a student visa was a nerve-wracking process for Weilyn Chong '24, but she was finally able to secure it about a week before she was to travel to Princeton in August. Packed and ready to go, Chong received the news — the day before her flight — that the University decided most students could not return to campus because of the ongoing spread of COVID-19.

As a result, Chong instead began her Princeton journey from her family's apartment in Hong Kong.

"I'm kind of glad now, looking at other universities that did open," Chong said. While she realized that it was safer for students to stay at home, she admitted she "was definitely bummed out for a while."

The transition has been challenging, as Chong must attend classes between 9 p.m. and midnight. She's working on figuring out the best structure for her days so she can find balance and proper rest. Chong also tuned in to Opening Exercises, which ran into the wee hours of the morning. In his virtual welcome address, President Eisgruber '83 told the class he looked forward to the day they could finally meet in person. "Creating this virtual community won't be easy," he said. "It's not something that any incoming freshmen class has ever had to do before. It's not something for which there is a standard playbook. But I am confident that we can do it together."

The University held advising and residential-college meetings online. There was a virtual Step Sing, featuring videos from alumni, including the "grandparent" Class of '74 (see bit.ly/ step-sing), and a discussion with Preread author Jill Lepore about her book *This America: The Case for the Nation*, in which students asked her questions directly.

"I appreciate that people are still putting in the effort to kind of have us have an experience akin to what we would have had on campus," said Joshua Arce '24, from Salem, Oregon. "We're still able to get some experience, even if it's virtually."

The Class of 2024 includes 1,155 students — nearly 200 fewer than last year, due to an increase in deferrals. There are slightly more men (50.6 percent) than women (49.4 percent). International students come from 48 countries and make up almost 12 percent of the class. More than half of U.S. students identify as minority students. More than 15 percent are first-generation college students, and 11 percent are children of alumni.

While most first-year students began the semester from home, some relocated to establish connections. Bashar Eid '24 from Des Moines, Iowa, decided to move to Jersey City. He found his three other roommates, who are also Princeton freshmen, through a student group chat. University financial aid helped cover the cost of his new apartment, he said.

"The decision to move out just came from me wanting to get out of the house and meet new people," Eid said. He's been able to connect with other students in the area and said he is also glad to be somewhat closer to campus, though he hasn't visited Princeton.

Dusu Sidibay '24, from Boston, moved to campus because she lacked an adequate study space at home and was worried about distractions. She's also been able to make connections with other students on campus, meeting people for walks or studying near friends in Studio '34, the self-service café in the lower level of 1967 Hall at Butler College. While there's little else to do, she said, it's better than nothing.

About 215 undergraduates received permission to return to campus because they were unable to learn at home or find suitable alternative housing. Among them is PAW intern Arika Harrison '21, from Salem, Oregon, who said that with no in-person events and very few people, "it's not like it's fun here." Harrison returned because it was a better alternative to study compared to being at home, she said.

The 67 undergraduate and 178 graduate students who returned from the states on New Jersey's travel-advisory list had to quarantine in their rooms for 14 days. All students on campus who are not showing symptoms have to be tested for COVID-19 two times a week, by providing a saliva sample. Through Sept. 6, one asymptomatic graduate student tested positive, according to the University.

Apart from the social scene, anxiety about remote learning lingered as well. Sidibay said her biggest concern was "Zoom fatigue." "Not only do we have class online, but then extracurriculars, [and] that's how you get away from classes," she said. Adjusting to the workload of college has also been challenging, she added.

Rauniyar Sriyans '24, a student in Nepal, said it has been difficult to get school supplies. "I haven't even received my Pre-read yet," Sriyans said. "How do I expect to receive my textbooks?"

While the experience of virtual learning at Princeton is new for the Class of 2024, this is the second time for everyone else. Kevin Martinez '23 said he has struggled over the past few months. His uncle died of COVID.

"I was dealing with my own problems," Martinez said. "Then I also needed to be a shoulder for [my mom] to cry on, which is hard, but I mean we got through it."

Martinez returned to Princeton for the fall and is hopeful the semester may go better now that his environment has changed. But he's still concerned for others who may struggle like he did. "I don't think anybody who doesn't adjust well should really be held super accountable for their failings and shortcomings," he said. "It is really just a weird situation."  $\Phi$  By C.S.

#### University Sets Diversity Goals, Considers Continuing-Ed Program

Princeton is exploring the creation of a continuing-education or outreach program that would grant credits or degrees and extend the University's educational mission to underserved students, President Eisgruber '83 announced in September. Eisgruber also outlined the administration's aims to increase diversity among faculty, researchers, and contractors as part of the University's effort to address systemic racism.

Peer institutions already have continuing-education and outreach programs, Eisgruber noted. "This kind of teaching initiative might simultaneously help to address the effects of systemic racism and expand the horizons of our scholarly and educational community," he wrote, adding that online learning "adds to the tools" the University might employ. Provost Deborah Prentice is leading the effort to explore potential programs. Eisgruber said any program would require support from the faculty and trustees.

The president announced in June that he had asked his cabinet to suggest actions "to identify, understand, and combat systemic racism within and beyond the University." Proposals were due Aug. 21, and Eisgruber outlined the initial findings in the first week of September. He wrote that many of the items were "unglamorous, focused not on flashy symbols but on the nuts and bolts of University management."

Topping the list was an effort to expand diversity among tenured and tenure-track faculty, with a goal of increasing the number of tenured or tenure-track faculty members from underrepresented groups by 50 percent over five years. In 2019–20, 4 percent of tenured and tenuretrack faculty were Black and 4 percent were Hispanic, according to the University's Diversity Dashboard.

Additional diversity initiatives will aim to address postdoctoral researchers, non-tenured faculty (lecturers and visiting faculty), graduate students, and vendors and contractors who work with the University.

Since 2016, the Council of the Princeton University Community's Committee on Naming has worked to advise the trustees on naming buildings or spaces on campus to "bring a more diverse presence to the campus." Eisgruber's September announcement expanded that work, asking an ad hoc committee to recommend principles to govern changes in naming and other campus iconography.

Eisgruber also pledged support for ongoing anti-racism and diversity-related professional development and educational opportunities on campus.

To promote accountability, the University plans to collect and publish data on the new initiatives, including an annual diversity, equity, and inclusion report.  $\Phi$  By B.T. and E.H.D.

#### READ Eisgruber's Sept. 2 letter at bit.ly/eisgruber-0902.

#### LETTER SPARKS FEDERAL PROBE

Two weeks after President Eisgruber '83 shared plans to combat systemic racism, the U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, citing the president's letter as evidence of "admitted racism," wrote that it was investigating Princeton's compliance with the Civil Rights Act and other nondiscrimination assurances required by law. The Department of Education requested records and interviews, warning that sanctions could include "an action to recover funds."

In a statement, the University said it has complied with all regulations and would respond "in due course." "It is unfortunate that the Department appears to believe that grappling honestly with the nation's history and the current effects of systemic racism runs afoul of existing law," the statement said.  $\diamondsuit$  By B.T.

#### IN THE ELECTION'S SERVICE

#### Aiming to Fill a Shortfall, Students Rally Their Peers to Serve as Poll Workers

With the November elections drawing near, state and local officials have been reporting significant shortfalls in the number of poll workers available, as many who are at risk for complications from COVID-19 have decided to sit out this fall. An organization co-founded by several Princeton students has been trying to reverse that trend by recruiting college and high school students to fill these openings at the polls.

Ella Gantman '23, one of the cofounders of the nationwide nonprofit Poll Hero, explained that the cause of the poll-worker shortfall — COVID-19's persistence — could indirectly be part of the solution. "The fact that a lot of schools aren't going back actually makes this project possible," she said. As they attend classes remotely, many potential college-age poll workers will be in their hometowns on Election Day, and poll workers are required to work in the place where they're registered to vote.

The Poll Hero co-founders, who include seven Princeton undergraduates, students from a Denver high school, and Avi Stopper, an entrepreneur and University of Chicago business school grad, launched their work in July and set out to recruit 1,000 poll workers in their first month. They blew past that mark in a couple of weeks. As of mid-September, they had signed up more than 16,000 poll workers. In addition to spreading the word about the need for more poll workers, Poll Hero connects the new recruits with local officials to arrange for registration and training.

Co-founder Kennedy Mattes '23 said election officials have been grateful. "As our project is becoming more known," she said, "we've had election officials in different cities reach out to us, to ask if we can work on recruiting young poll workers in their specific areas."

Young people are energized and



engaged in the election, said Kai Tsurumaki '23, a Poll Hero co-founder and fellow at Princeton's Vote100 project, which aims to increase civic engagement among undergraduates. For most college students, this will be their first chance to vote in a presidential election, and Poll Hero offers a nonpartisan way to get involved. Health and safety are concerns for young people, too, Gantman said, but for those able to take the risk, it's a chance to make a valuable contribution and keep more polling sites open in November.

Four of the Princeton students involved in Poll Hero had previously worked with Stopper to advocate for expanded access to mail-in voting. Late in the summer, they shifted focus to the poll-worker shortfall. The message seemed to resonate on social media, particularly among college students.

As Poll Hero grew, so did the work for its organizers. In the week before classes began, Ryan Schwieger '21 led Zoom calls helping people take the first steps to register with local officials. Gantman recruited college students, reaching out to student-athletes and their coaches, directors of student life, campus Democrat and Republican clubs, and service organizations. Tsurumaki designed social-media graphics, partnering with the U.S. Elections Assistance Commission on outreach for national poll-worker recruitment day on Sept. 1. And Mattes trained new members of the team "so that people are still able to volunteer with the Poll Hero project while also managing their school work."

Schwieger, a sociology major who is writing his senior thesis on gerrymandering in North Carolina, said that Poll Hero has offered a window on important behind-the-scenes work that is largely unnoticed and underappreciated. He points to the contributions of the late Laura Wooten, a longtime employee in Princeton's dining halls, who was believed to be the longestserving poll worker in the United States. She worked the polls for 79 years until her death in 2019.

Poll Hero's organizers are looking forward to working the polls for the first time — Gantman in Washington, D.C.; Tsurumaki in New York City; Mattes in Cincinnati; Schwieger in Waxhaw, North Carolina; and dozens of other Princetonians around the country. "We're glad that we can do our part," Schwieger said. � By B.T.



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#### 50 Years of UNOW How NOW and Princeton filled a key need for faculty, staff, and grad students

n the spring of 1970, the Central New Jersey chapter of the National Organization for Women was poised to launch the most ambitious project in its year-old history: a new center offering full-day care for young children.

Word was already out: Teachers were being hired, parents were calling, and an official at a local church had offered space. But when the church's board considered the proposal, they voted it down.

"The board members thought that women should stay home with their children," NOW member Francesca Benson remembered in an oral-history interview.

Within weeks, however, NOW seen then as politically radical — found a strange-bedfellows new partner: staid, venerable Princeton University, whose first female undergraduates had enrolled only the preceding fall. And that September, the University NOW Day Nursery opened its doors in a Universityowned building on Broadmead Street.

Fifty years later, UNOW is flourishing. Before pandemic restrictions reduced its capacity by roughly a quarter, the center served 170 children from infancy through prekindergarten in a spacious, light-filled new building that the University erected on Broadmead three years ago.

To mark UNOW's milestone anniversary, former board member Carolyn Jones, whose son spent four years at the center, spearheaded the oral-history project UNOW & Then (available online at unowandthen. princeton.edu). Interviewers have recorded conversations with 16 people important in UNOW's history, and student researchers have combed through archives. A planned fall gala at the Frick Chemistry Library has been postponed until October 2021.

"This relatively small story about one institution and one group of women in Princeton in 1970 — that's connected to Second Wave feminism, to the history of women's labor and child care," says Richard Anderson \*18, who co-chaired the initial phase of the oral-history project. "All of these issues come together in the story."

Founded in 1969, about three years after its parent organization, Central New Jersey NOW had an activist mission from the start. Members uncovered sexist bias in elementary school reading textbooks and staged an hours-long sit-in that persuaded the Yankee Doodle Tap Room in the Nassau Inn to end its menonly policy. But NOW's feminist work was often controversial.

"There was a lot of face-to-face insulting and hazing. Even in Princeton, sophisticated, educated, allegedly liberal people could be incredibly rude and nasty," says retired English professor Elaine Showalter, who served as NOW chapter president in 1970. "At the same time, it never occurred to me for a second that we wouldn't win. It just seemed to me we're on the right side of history."

When NOW began planning its daycare center, working parents in Princeton had few options: Nursery schools were typically part-time cooperatives that required parents to contribute volunteer labor, such as the University League Nursery School, which started in 1949 and closed last year. "Our concept was quite different," says Elisabeth Hagen, a NOW member who helped negotiate UNOW's agreement with the University. "It was to have children taken care of the whole working day, to free the parents up to work."

By the time NOW's arrangement with the church fell apart, an ad hoc University committee had independently recommended that Princeton offer day care for the children of faculty, staff, and graduate students.

But NOW ran the day-care program in line with its own values, establishing collaborative, non-hierarchical management structures and hiring teachers committed to delivering a playbased curriculum devoid of gender bias. Girls could build with blocks; boys could play dress-up and cuddle stuffed animals.

"We tried very hard not to ever, ever say, 'Oh, she's just like a girl' or 'Oh, isn't he acting just like a boy,' because there was still so much of that out there," says Victory Chase \*77, one of UNOW's first teachers.

Although NOW's connection with the project lapsed sometime in the 1970s, UNOW's founders say they are thrilled by its success.

"It was really a great time, and it was great of Princeton to step forward and do it," Showalter says. "And for it to have survived and blossomed and flourished — it's just such a happy story." ♦ By Deborah Yaffe

## Princeton in the Rankings

For the 10th straight year, Princeton was ranked No. 1 among national universities by U.S. News & World **Report**, which released its annual list of the top American universities Sept. 14. U.S. News also placed the University second in its list of best-value schools (behind Harvard) and fourth in its ranking of the best undergraduate teaching (behind Brown, Elon, and Georgia State, and tied with William & Mary).

Following is a list of how Princeton fared in other rankings this year:

#### Money:

**No. 3** in the Best Colleges in America, Ranked by Value

#### Princeton Review:

No. 1 in Best Value Colleges; No. 2 in Best Financial Aid; No. 5 in Best Career Placement

*Washington Monthly:* No. 5 among national universities (rated on social mobility, research, and promoting public service)

#### CNBC.com:

**No. 4** among private institutions that "pay off the most"

Times Higher Education World University Reputation Rankings:

**No. 6** on a list that includes almost 1,400 universities across 92 countries

**QS World University Rankings: No. 12** among "global universities"

Campus Pride Index: 5 out of 5 stars for institutional commitment to LGBTQ programming

Niche.com: No. 6 among best colleges; No. 2 in best colleges for public policy ♦

#### IN SHORT

#### Princeton announced that KWANZA JONES '93 AND JOSÉ E.

FELICIANO '94 have made a \$20 million contribution to support the expansion of the undergraduate body. The couple's gift is the largest by Black and Latino donors in University history. Two new dormitories will be named in their honor. Jones is an artist, investor, lawyer, and entrepreneur. Feliciano is founder and managing partner of a California-based private investment firm.

Princeton researchers will be among the leaders of the Co-Design Center for Quantum Advantage, one of five new centers for the advancement of QUANTUM SCIENCE RESEARCH.

#### Headquartered at Brookhaven National Laboratory, the center will receive \$115 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Energy over the next five years. Electrical engineering professor Andrew Houck '00 has been named deputy director.

The Graduate School is accepting applications for a new PRE-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP for

students from groups historically underrepresented in higher education. The fellowship, which began as a pilot program last year, will fund one year of study before students enroll in doctoral programs in one of 18 University departments, spanning engineering, natural sciences, and the humanities. The program aims to assist students who would benefit from an additional year of training before pursuing a Ph.D.

Donald Wilson Bush, a descendant of Woodrow Wilson 1879 and president of the Woodrow Wilson Legacy Foundation, wrote an open letter to Princeton Board of Trustees Chair Louise Sams '79. condemning the REMOVAL OF WILSON'S NAME from the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs and the residential college that was named for the former Princeton and U.S. president. Bush wrote that the trustees "failed to preserve the honorable memory of Woodrow Wilson's accomplishments." The full letter is available online at bit.ly/ WWLF-letter.

The board of education for Princeton Public Schools has changed the name of JOHN WITHERSPOON MIDDLE SCHOOL to Princeton

Unified Middle School, responding to community concerns about honoring the University's sixth president. According to the Princeton & Slavery Project, Witherspoon, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, "had a complex relationship to slavery." He tutored free Africans and African Americans in Princeton but owned slaves and opposed the abolition of slavery in New Jersey. In July, a group of University faculty members called for removing a statue of Witherspoon near East Pyne Hall, among other anti-racism demands.



IN MEMORIAM: BRUCE BLAIR, a research scholar and expert on the risks of nuclear war, died July 19 in Philadelphia. He was 72. Blair, an Air

Force veteran, served as a launchcontrol officer in an underground nuclear-missile bunker, which inspired his later work on the risk of accidental nuclear war. He wrote extensively about nuclear threats, received a MacArthur Fellowship in 1999, and created Global Zero, an international organization that worked toward nuclear disarmament. He joined Princeton's Program on Science and Global Security in 2013.



#### IN MEMORIAM: ALEXANDRA SHULZYCKI, a staff member whose career in engineering and technology at Princeton spanned 32 years, died July

3 in Princeton at age 89. Shulzycki emigrated from Poland in 1960 and became a U.S. citizen in 1964, according to her family. The following year, she joined the University in a NASA-funded project led by professors J. Preston Layton and Paul Lion. Her later work included research on transportation and computer graphics. ♦



## 171

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-LEONARD COLEMAN '71



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#### **Research / On the Campus**



### Marching, Measured Omar Wasow's research examines how protest movements can shape an election

Protests in the United States during the civil rights era, particularly between 1960 and 1972, sometimes led to violence. Politics professor Omar Wasow, the child of two activists, has studied media coverage of this period to see whether those protests and their portrayal had any bearing at the ballot box.

The voting population at that time was 10 percent Black, so Wasow zeroed in on the white vote: "When the [protest] tactics were primarily nonviolent, the counties proximate to nonviolent activism tended to vote more liberally," he says. But when protesters initiated violence, proximate counties voted more conservatively. Following Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination in 1968, a week of violent protests dominated nightly news reports. "In the counties with violence, the Democratic vote fell by at least 2 percent, which was enough to help Richard Nixon win the 1968 presidential election," Wasow says.

As the protest movement in support of Black Lives Matter continues into the 2020 election season, national media outlets have looked to Wasow and his



"We are seeing a significant majority of public opinion is sympathetic to the concerns of protesters." - Politics professor Omar Wasow work with increasing frequency. How will the protests — the peaceful ones as well as those marked by violence influence the result?

According to Wasow, civil rights leaders chose to march on Birmingham and Selma in 1964 because they knew Alabama police would quickly resort to violence. In 1965, on the evening of the now-famous Bloody Sunday, when protesters were beaten on the Edmund Pettus Bridge as they attempted to march from Selma to Montgomery, Americans tuned into ABC were watching a documentary on the Nuremberg trials. The film, which detailed the brutality and inhumanity of the Nazis, was interrupted by reports of the protests, accompanied by footage of police beating the protesters.

"The overlap was so shocking that public opinion for civil rights just spikes," says Wasow. "I found that ... if peaceful protesters were the object of violence, that tended to generate very sympathetic press. But if both protesters and the state engaged in violence, then the press tended to focus on riots and crime." Wasow is studying the 2020 protests and whether they will affect the election.

According to Wasow, the media's taste for the sensational meant that the



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#### On the Campus / Research

civil rights protesters of the '60s had to walk a fine line, dramatizing injustice while telling a story that generated sympathy. But today, when traditional news outlets are but a piece of a wider mosaic comprising the media, activists wield influence through their social-media accounts to great effect, says Wasow.

"We are seeing a significant majority of public opinion is sympathetic to the concerns of protesters, and the media coverage has tended to elevate concerns about rights and justice rather than crime and riots," he says.

It's a sensitive question. In May, a data analyst named David Shor tweeted out Wasow's study amid the violent protests that gripped Minneapolis after George Floyd's murder. Citing the study and Nixon's electoral bump, Shor's implication that the rioting could play into President Donald Trump's reelection effort sparked a Twitter firestorm, and Shor lost his job. "David Shor was baselessly accused of 'anti-Blackness," says Wasow, who believes Shor presented the paper respectfully but was "fallaciously smeared by critics."

One thing that has not changed since the '60s is the ability of images to create lasting changes in public opinion. "A young woman named Darnella Frazier shoots the killing of [George] Floyd, and that video of his callous murder really transforms politics," says Wasow, who likens the video to the powerful images of Emmett Till's mutilated body that his mother, Mamie, insisted be published after his lynching. "Darnella Frazier bore witness in an echo of the way Mamie Till bore witness. In order to challenge the status quo, you have to make people sit with something really uncomfortable." • By Jennifer Altmann

#### NEW RELEASES



While most scholars focus on Giovanni Piranesi's etchings and artwork, Heather Hyde Minor and **Carolyn Yerkes**, associate professor of early modern architecture, instead draw attention to his work as maker of books in *Piranesi Unbound* (Princeton University Press). Drawing on new research, the authors reveal new insight into Piranesi's readers and ways in which his books were used.

On Being Me (Princeton University Press) is an accessible collection of essays about using philosophy to contemplate a wide avenue of human concerns such as death, love, and regret. Written by moral philosopher **J. David Velleman \*83**, the book, which is illustrated by Emily C. Bernstein, presents an invitation to use philosophy in moments of need.

**Dan-el Padilla Peralta '06** integrates archaeology, anthropology, and sociology in *Divine Institutions* (Princeton University Press) to argue that religion held the ancient Roman community together as it underwent vast political and cultural change while expanding into an empire. Padilla Peralta shows how religious observance was a prime strategy for uniting Romans of many different backgrounds.

**Peter Singer,** professor of bioethics, has challenged meat-eating for more than 40 years. In *Why Vegan? Eating Ethically* (Liveright), Singer presents a collection of the most influential essays of his career to condemn the consumption of animal products on the basis of the environment, public health, and animal rights.

Degenerative Realism: Novel and Nation in Twenty-First-Century France (Columbia University Press) by French professor **Christy Wampole** examines a new trend in bestselling French novels that use the realist genre in a style she calls "degenerative realism." These novels represent a range of fears — from immigration and demographic change to new technologies and globalization — that often form the backdrop for a dystopian breakdown of societies. **•** 

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#### **On the Campus / Research**

#### FACULTY BOOK: JULIAN E. ZELIZER

## Considering Gingrich's Pugnacious Legacy

BURNING DOWN THE HOUSE NEWE CINGRICH, THE FALL OR A SPEAKER, AND THE RISE OF THE NEW REPOBLICAN PARTY JULIAN E, ZELIZER Julian E. Zelizer, the Malcolm Stevenson Forbes Class of 1941 Professor of History and Public Affairs at Princeton, has chronicled America's

volatile late-20th-century political history in eight previous books. He spoke to PAW about his latest, *Burning Down the House: Newt Gingrich, the Fall of a Speaker, and the Rise of the New Republican Party* (Penguin Press), which argues that Newt Gingrich's takedown of Democratic Speaker of the House Jim Wright in 1989 set in motion a "more aggressive, more partisan, and less restrained" politics that is still with us today.

#### What prompted you to focus on this now mostly forgotten battle?

Gingrich really was the guy who wrote the playbook for how Republicans approach politics, even before Donald Trump was on the radar as a candidate. Someone needed to tell the story of Gingrich in his early years: how this guy who was a maverick and an outsider all of a sudden became in line to be speaker of the House. This is the origin story of the modern Republican Party.

#### You argue that Gingrich foreshadowed Trump. What are some differences?

In 1989, Newt Gingrich showed that in pursuit of partisan power, he was willing to break with convention, and governance wouldn't be a priority. Trump does it on a scale that even Gingrich wouldn't have imagined. He is truly unrestrained. President Trump also is more willing to dive into reactionary nationalist politics than Gingrich was. In the '80s, Gingrich's mantra was, "Washington and the Democrats are corrupt. The whole system is broken."



"In 1989, Newt Gingrich showed that in pursuit of partisan power, he was willing to break with convention, and governance wouldn't be a priority."

— History and public affairs professor Julian E. Zelizer

#### What surprises did you find in Gingrich's archives?

One was just how consistent he was in the strategy of focusing on the corrupt Democratic establishment. Similarly, he was very deliberative about how to use modern media. The third surprise [was that] a lot of the Republican leadership, the old guard, accepted what he was doing.

You depict Jim Wright as an unpleasant, abrasive character. Do you think he violated House ethics rules, as Gingrich charged? He didn't break any laws, and he didn't violate the rules technically, though clearly he stretched them sometimes as much as possible. I don't think he was more corrupt than other politicians. He was not Richard Nixon. You could argue he was not as bad as Gingrich himself.

#### There's some irony in Gingrich's own downfall in the late 1990s.

Yes, he's having an affair as he's heading the impeachment of the president for his relationship with an intern. And he suffers ethics reprimands for his videotapes and book deal. He's explicitly violating rules. His basic message was that everyone is expendable, so, ultimately, he was subject to the same kind of treatment.

#### What are the lessons for today's politics?

One lesson is that partisanship isn't this big, inevitable thing. There are political leaders who have been key in creating the system we have. Another is that the Republican Party has moved in a direction that makes governance really difficult. I really think Republicans need to think about what the costs of that are. And the final lesson is that the Democratic Party has never gotten where politics has moved. They're playing by old rules.

#### You're blaming Democrats for not understanding the new world order, but not for contributing to partisanship?

There's this idea in political science of asymmetric polarization. That means Republicans moved much further to the right than Democrats have to the left. Democrats remain much more divided internally. It's not that Democrats are blameless at all. But the weight of the changes in modern politics has been produced by the Republican Party. You can have very intense partisanship while still accepting certain conventions of governance, certain limits. Or you can do it Gingrich-style, where everything's on the table. Interview conducted and condensed by Julia M. Klein

**READ** a longer version of Zelizer's Q&A at **paw.princeton.edu** 

#### Vischak's Work: A Sampling

VISUAL ELEMENTS Vischak's current book project. Self and Society in Ancient Egyptian Elite Tomb Monuments, reinterprets a series of Egyptian tombs built between 3500 and 1000 **BCE.** Her book considers how Egyptians understood the landscape around them, both as an inhabited space and as a key visual component of the monuments they created. Vischak's approach to art history, with its focus on the physical environment, is influenced by her training as an archaeologist — as is her belief that the smallest fragment of pottery can and should be analyzed with the same depth and care as the most elaborate painted tomb.



**BOUNTIFUL BREWS** During an excavation trip at Abydos in the beginning of 2020, Vischak and her colleagues unearthed seven rows of beer-brewing vats. They estimate that the brewery contains more than 300 vats, each capable of holding up to 70 liters. Beer was a cornerstone of the ancient Egyptian diet, and depending on the number of brewing cycles, as many as 100,000 liters of beer could be produced per month. Vischak believes the brewery was probably administered by the state. She hypothesizes

it supplied beer for the workers who constructed nearby royal monuments and also for rituals honoring the dead, as suggested by huge deposits of beer jars found near the kings' tombs.



**BUILDING COMMUNITY** Advocacy and community outreach are key parts of Vischak's role as co-director of the North Abydos Expedition. She is collaborating on a proposal to have Abydos designated as a World Heritage Site administered by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Vischak often brings local students to the site to help them feel connected to their heritage. She also recently installed the site's first informational signs to help make Abydos more accessible to tourists. While Vischak says the research is important, it's more meaningful to do "what we can to make [Abydos] of value to the community," she says.  $\diamond$ By J.W.





BEHIND THE RESEARCH: DEBORAH VISCHAK Unearthing Ancient Egyptian History

In college, Deborah Vischak became fascinated by the origins of ancient civilizations. She watched the first Gulf War unfold while taking a course on the ancient Near East. "There was all this conversation about Iraq in the media, and we were learning about how unbelievably deep the history [was]," she recalls.

That course increased Vischak's interest in the history of the region and led to a curiosity about ancient Egypt, which was also linked to the area through cultural exchange by at least the fourth millennium BCE. While pursuing her Ph.D. in Egyptian art and archaeology, she completed field work at Abydos, the burial site of Egypt's first kings and a major pilgrimage destination for the worship of Osiris, god of the dead.

Now a professor in the Department of Art

"How do we get historical understanding out of something that is material or visual instead of something that's textual?" asks Deborah Vischak. and Archaeology and the co-director of the North Abydos Expedition, jointly sponsored by Princeton and New York University's Institute of Fine Arts, Vischak balances teaching and research with the challenges of overseeing an active archaeological excavation. *By Joanna Wendel* '09

Bon Ku \*09 leads Thomas Jefferson University's Health Design Lab — found in an old vault in a building once occupied by a Federal Reserve Bank.

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## Designing Doctors

Can a new creative mindset solve health-care problems?

By Katherine Hobson '94



r. Bon Ku \*09, wearing heavyrimmed glasses, blue scrubs, and orange-and-black Air Jordans, hops onto a table that doesn't look as if it was designed to hold the weight of an adult human. He lies face down on a cushion with three cutouts that supports his body from his head down to his hips. Ku is in the Health Design

Lab he directs at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, demonstrating a simple option for treating hospitalized COVID-19 patients who need to be proned — carefully turned from their backs to their stomachs — to increase the oxygen level in their blood. Proning emerged as a strategy during the initial months of the pandemic, but for those patients who were conscious, especially those who were obese, it wasn't always comfortable. Ku asked a fellow emergency-medicine physician in New York City for ideas, and the doctor mentioned prenatal massage pillows, with their deep indentations to accommodate a pregnant woman's chest and belly. It's an existing product with no bells and whistles, and it epitomizes one of Ku's guiding principles: Design solutions don't have to be high-tech or exciting. They just have to work.

Ku and his fellow members of the Health Design Lab (HDL) are approaching some of the questions raised by the novel coronavirus in the same way that they tackle other knotty problems in health care. They use design thinking, a humancentered, collaborative, creative mindset that begins with open-ended questions rather than a clearly defined hypothesis. A design challenge might begin with a big, sweeping question such as "How might we create fulfilling and sustainable roles for health-care providers?" or a narrower one, such as "How can a primary-care exam room be designed to improve a visit between a doctor and a patient?" And now, in the COVID era, there's a whole new list of questions, such as "How might we design hospitals to protect their workers?" and "How might we expand widespread testing?"

Treating sticky problems as design challenges is the hallmark of the lab, which hosts collaborators from all over Jefferson and is the center of the design track at Jefferson's Sidney Kimmel Medical College, one of seven "scholarly inquiry" tracks available to medical students. That design program is the first of its kind and is something like a minor for the 25 or so students per class who follow its curriculum throughout their four years of medical education. The work done at the HDL might result in a new device, process, program, or approach. The lab is "a test kitchen for the hospital," says Ku. "We test new recipes for health care." And like a test kitchen for food, some things end up on the menu, and others don't. "Both are important," he says.

ince late 2016, the lab has been located in a bank vault in the basement of an old Federal Reserve Bank building that was constructed in the 1930s and now houses Jefferson medical offices. Previously the space was "a graveyard for abandoned medicine equipment," says Ku. When searching for a home for the lab, it was important that it be part of the hospital. "We wanted space for



water-cooler moments," where people from other departments could easily come to brainstorm and collaborate, he says. (It's also an easy walk to and from the Jefferson emergency room, where Ku typically works two overnight shifts per week.) It's about 4,000 square feet separated into two main sections: a large anteroom and a workspace. To get from one room to the other, you pass through an enormous round opening — the giant vault door now permanently propped open.

Since the pandemic hit, the layout has been reconfigured and equipment repurposed to focus on COVID-related projects. Masked lab members are using some of the lab's 3D printers to make batches of what look like transparent swizzle sticks, but are actually single-piece nasopharyngeal swabs used to test for COVID infection. (The swabs, made out of surgical-grade resin, were designed at the University of South Florida; thanks to open-source computer files, they can now be manufactured at hospitals including Jefferson.) Lab members have also used the printers to produce "ear savers" that make the constant wearing of masks more comfortable.

At the same time, the lab is continuing to support non-COVID activities. One collaboration with surgeons began with a specific problem: During operations for head and neck cancers, surgeons



needed to take precious time during the procedure to tailor to the patient the titanium plates used in reconstructing the jaw. How could they do that work earlier in the process? They turned to the HDL and its 3D printers. Now lab members use imaging data to print 3D models that help surgeons bend plates to fit the patient ahead of time. Because the printer uses scans converted to data files, the patient doesn't even have to be on site. Those efforts have expanded to other surgeries. Ku and lab co-founder and managing director Robert Pugliese, an emergency-medicine clinical pharmacist by training, explain that caesarean sections on patients with uterine fibroid tumors are tricky because the benign tumors can hemorrhage if nicked by a scalpel. So the lab can now print 3D models of a patient's uterus using MRI-scan data, showing the location, size, and shape of the tumors and permitting surgeons to better plan for the procedure.

Student projects have covered a range of health-care problems. One team of medical, occupational-therapy, and industrial-design students worked on improving the experience of pelvic exams — which can be unpleasant under the best of circumstances — in the ER. Because ERs typically lack gynecological beds, "clinicians often improvise by pushing a bedpan under the person's pelvis," wrote Ku and Ellen Lupton — a senior curator for contemporary design at Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum — in *Health Design Thinking*, a book published in March. That could be demeaning and lead to suboptimal exams, they wrote. To design an alternative, empathy for the patient was key. To better understand that patient perspective, two male med students got on a table and assumed the position necessary for a pelvic exam. Team members talked to hospital administrators to understand the constraints on cost and storage of a potential device. They eventually came up with a prototype: "a collapsible, portable wedge that is moderately priced, medically appropriate, and easy to store," called Tilt, the book reports.

u aspired to medicine initially because it was his parents' "American dream," as he said in a 2016 TEDx talk. His mother and father immigrated from South Korea and worked at a variety of jobs around the U.S. before opening a restaurant in Newark, New Jersey. (They're now retired in South Korea.) They wanted a career in medicine for their firstborn son. And so, Ku says, it became his dream, too. He went to the University of Pennsylvania, where he majored in classical studies and studied Greek and Latin,

#### "We wanted space for water-cooler moments."

and then to Penn State for medical school. He disliked it — not because of the school itself, but because of medical education in general, which felt outdated given the complex world med students graduate into. "We're training [students] to practice in the 20th century, and we need to change that to the 21st century," he says. Ku longed for less memorization and more emphasis on creative thinking and problem-solving. But he was energized by the possibility of being able to immediately help another human being, something he'd witnessed on an undergraduate trip to El Salvador, where he watched physicians treating patients in a poor community. "The health needs of these patients were overwhelming to me, nothing like I'd ever encountered before," he says.

Emergency medicine offered him the chance to give people the immediate help they needed, and Ku started at Jefferson in 2006. He enjoyed his job, and he pursued research in bedside ultrasound. But after a while, Ku had a creeping feeling that he wasn't making a difference. In his 2016 TEDx talk, he said he felt as though he was keeping patients from dying, rather than helping them to live. He believed he wasn't addressing the larger forces that were bringing people to his ER. He noticed that he was repeatedly seeing the same patients, mostly people of color from the most underserved Philadelphia neighborhoods, struggling to control chronic diseases like Type 2 diabetes. "What can I really do about this?" he wondered.

eeking inspiration and time to think, Ku stepped away from the ER for a year and enrolled in the one-year master of public policy program at the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs. "It was a total reset," he says. He took classes in various disciplines, learning from economist Uwe Reinhardt and physician and global-health expert Adel Mahmoud. He says he became comfortable with ambiguity, as not every potential solution to a policy problem can be tested with the kind of double-blind, placebo-controlled studies that are the gold standard of medicine. And he was inspired by an elective on entrepreneurship with Ed Zschau '61, a senior research specialist at the Keller Center for Innovation in Engineering Education. Tim Ferriss '00, the podcast host and author of books including The 4-Hour Workweek and The 4-Hour Chef, made a guest appearance in that class, inspiring Ku to "go outside my lane" and collaborate with people in other specialties. Ku longed to creatively take on knotty problems such as urban homelessness. A lab devoted to thinking like a designer, in a more openended, cross-disciplinary way, seemed like one way to do that.

But he had no model for that. And he had no formal training in design, though he'd always been interested in areas such as architecture and clothing design. As a kid, he was fascinated by the variety of fonts included with the then-new Macintosh computer. As Ku and Lupton explain in their book, there are two key principles of design thinking: a human-centered perspective that "starts with the needs and desires of people, rather than with a business proposition or an artistic idea," and a creative mindset "favoring open-ended exploration." Over the past 15 or so years, design thinking — with its focus on observation, imagination, and making prototypes - has been popularized by the firm IDEO, the Stanford d.school, and others who have spread the mindset beyond the design world to areas such as business and education.

Ku reached out to those institutions and other designthinking veterans to learn more about this way of thinking. The approach "blended scientific discovery, merged with the creative mindset of artists," he says. He loved it. Design thinking had made its way into health care over the past decade, but Ku specifically wanted to create a space for formally teaching design thinking to med students. Doctorsin-training have had to hew pretty close to perfection to make it through the competitive weeding-out processes of college and med-school admissions, and, "No one is used to failing!" says Ku. But, he wonders, if you don't get used to low-stakes failures like the kind a kid might get on a sports field - or a med student in a design lab - what will happen when you first fail as a physician? What will you do when you confront a stressful decision for which there is no single correct answer? "So much in medicine is not black and white," says Ku.

To help students develop some of the skills that Ku felt couldn't be taught in a traditional classroom, in 2014 he created the Innovation and Design Application (IDeA) program at Jefferson. The program accepts a handful of Princeton sophomores each year, who are accepted early to Jefferson's Sidney Kimmel Medical College; they forgo the MCAT and some premed prerequisites (they attend a science boot camp before starting med school) and participate in the design track while at Jefferson. "Iteration and learning from failure were not something that I was conditioned to see value in for most of my academic life," says Nick Safian '17, a Jefferson med student accepted through the IDeA program. "Working in the lab is incredibly freeing," he says. "You can go to the design lab for a session and not have to worry about getting something wrong or performing for someone who is evaluating you."

Ku wanted a medical career to be possible for different types of people, with a wider variety of academic experiences and mindsets. Chitra Parikh '21, who is in the IDeA program and was an HDL intern in 2019, says the program has let her focus on her Princeton architecture major and her independent work in health-care design while also planning for med school.

Students say Ku is a generous mentor, quick to respond and genuinely interested in their work and progress. The culture of the lab is "very group-based, interactive, and hands-on," and feels less hierarchical than a traditional academic setting, says medical student Ellen (Roop) Solomon '17, who was also accepted to Jefferson through IDeA. "Bon is one of those people who invests as much in his students as he invests in the lab and in medicine broadly," says Parikh.

Ku wants to interest even more people in thinking like a designer. He and Lupton, who is the author of a host of design books, met in 2018, at a panel. They hit it off and decided to mount an unusual collaboration to produce what Lupton calls a "handy, accessible, and useful" book that shows how design can be applied to health care, with examples and contributions from a variety of institutions, companies, organizations, and



individuals. Now the authors are working on a second edition, updated with COVID-related examples. As an ER doctor, Ku has a unique, front-line perspective on so many of the problems in health care, says Lupton. "It's where inequity shows the most, where people's anxiety shows the most, where people are frustrated," she says.

fter the HDL was established, Ku wanted to address a question that had dogged him earlier in his career: What can be done to help underserved Philadelphians engage with the health-care system to avoid those regular ER trips? He saw architecture professors at the University of Kansas present their work on communitydesign projects, including the renovation of an Airstream trailer, and immediately thought that he could do the same thing to bring community health projects to neighborhoods that most needed them. With the help of grants, and with brainstorming by HDL members and Princeton interns, the CoLab Philadelphia program launched in the summer of 2018. Pre-pandemic, Ku hauled the 26-foot trailer behind his Subaru to vulnerable neighborhoods, where, in partnership with community groups, lab members offered services such as health screenings, HIV testing, activities for kids in neglected playgrounds or vacant lots, and a nutrition-education program that includes cooking demonstrations and meal kits. During the pandemic, the Airstream has been used to stage Jefferson's walk-up COVID-testing program, and this fall it will travel to parking lots in areas of the city with limited access to testing.

COVID didn't hit Philadelphia nearly as hard as New York City. But it was still terrible and overwhelming. Ku says he worked a Sunday overnight shift and there were no COVID cases. Forty-eight hours later, the ER was full of people showing symptoms, and Ku intubated his first COVID patient. In a *New York Times* video filmed during the early weeks of the pandemic, Ku calls it "the strangest thing — I never experienced anything like this in my career." Every patient in the ER, regardless of why they were there, potentially had COVID, and no one had experience identifying or treating the new disease. Frontline health-care workers have been among its victims.

"I respond to stress by doing," Ku says. The HDL has been a welcome outlet for him and other lab members who felt frustrated and wanted to help, but didn't know how. Despite the pandemic and racial and socioeconomic disparities in COVID outcomes, he remains optimistic that our health-care system can be made better. He's especially encouraged by the "frank conversations we are having about racism," since it drives many social determinants of wellness, including housing, access to transportation, and access to health care. Whether it's towing the Airstream around the city, thinking about how ERs will need to be redesigned in the age of COVID, or treating patients, Ku considers his best work to be hands-on, and he wants to keep it that way. "I don't want to be the chef-owner who doesn't cook on the line," he says. "I want to cook on the line." �

Katherine Hobson '94 is a freelance journalist focusing on health and science.





## Making It Count Thoughts on voting during a pandemic

**Q&A: RICK PILDES '79** 

# l Voted

ick Pildes '79, a constitutional law professor at New York University, is a leading scholar of election law and legal issues affecting democracy. He is also appearing regularly on CNN as an expert on voting and elections throughout the fall. Pildes spoke with PAW's senior writer,

VOTE

Mark F. Bernstein '83, about possible legal challenges to the upcoming election and how to prevent them.

What are the biggest legal challenges likely to be? I think the biggest risk to the election spinning out of control is if there is a close election in several critical states, but there are also hundreds of thousands of absentee ballots in those states that still aren't counted on election night. If those late-counted ballots appear to change the outcome of the election, we could have an explosive situation. Whichever candidate starts out ahead but sees his lead eroding after election night is likely to claim that the count is being manipulated, and their partisan allies will rally to that cause. Many people, encouraged by partisan actors and fueled by social media, will be extremely quick to see sinister things going on behind the scenes. That would be very dangerous and destabilizing.

#### You have written that the legitimacy of voting by mail has largely been settled. Can you explain why? I know that's a surprising claim for people to hear, but President Trump, the administration, and the Trump campaign have all said that absentee voting is legitimate. Their criticism is not against absentee voting; it is against what the president calls universal mail-in voting. The distinction is that with absentee voting, the voter has to apply to receive a ballot. With universal mail-in voting, the state automatically mails out absentee ballots to everyone on the voter rolls. The difference is significant because the overwhelming form of mail-in voting that people will use this fall is absentee voting, which the president has endorsed. Only eight states have universal mailin voting, and four of them have been using that system for years without objection.

Voted

VOTE

#### Aren't some people arguing, though, that people should be required to vote in person if they can do so and that widespread absentee voting invites fraud?

This issue has become highly politicized, so people are processing it in partisan terms. What we're seeing is that Republicans are much less likely to say they will vote by mail and more likely to say they will vote in person. For Democrats, it's the opposite. It gets hard to communicate to the public in a way that penetrates those partisan biases. Nevertheless, there are good reasons for as many people as possible to vote in person. Having a large Election Day vote will help ensure that we have results that are known on election night and broadly accepted.

#### What can voters do?

There has been so much attention on giving people the option of voting absentee that I think we're at risk of not getting the message out about how important it is for people to vote in person if they possibly can. Given the pandemic, it's important that people have the option of voting absentee, but we also know that there are a number of problems that are almost inevitable with absentee voting. Will ballots actually get delivered in time to people who request them? Will ballots that are mailed back be received by the legal deadline? We will almost certainly have an unprecedented level of absentee voting, which means that the U.S. Postal Service will be overwhelmed.

Historically, we also know that absentee ballots are rejected at significant rates. People who are voting absentee for the first time are particularly likely to have their ballots rejected. Absentee voting is a more complicated process than in-person voting, and usually there is no one present to correct you if you make a mistake in completing your ballot. During the primaries, we've seen that some places have rejection rates of 10 percent or higher for mail-in votes. Traditionally, the rejection rate for absentee ballots is closer to 3 or 4 percent. In a typical election, where 5 to 10 percent of people vote absentee, a rejection rate of 3 or 4 percent is not likely to affect the outcome of the race. But if you have 60 percent of people voting absentee and 4 percent of those ballots are rejected, and the election is close, that becomes a problem.

The message needs to shift from ensuring that people have the right to vote absentee to encouraging people to vote in person so long as they can do so reasonably safely. Dr. [Anthony] Fauci and others have said that voting in person is safe [for most people] if they take precautions such as wearing a mask and keeping physically distant from others.

If you do vote absentee, request your ballot as early as possible. Return it without using the mail, if you can. Many states have official drop boxes where you can deposit your ballot. You can also deliver your ballot to a poll worker in

"If you have 60 percent of people voting absentee and 4 percent of those ballots are rejected, and the election is close, that becomes a problem." – Rick Pildes '79 person on Election Day. If you do return your ballot by mail, absolutely mail it as early as possible. Don't procrastinate.

#### What legal challenges could be made after Election Day?

The Electoral Count Act of 1887 sets the date by which states must certify their official election results. In this election cycle, that date is Dec. 8. The law also states that the Electoral College must meet to select the president six days later, or Dec. 14.

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio has introduced legislation to move those dates back until the beginning of January, to give states time to complete their vote counts without being rushed. The Electoral Count Act was enacted in a time when transportation and communication were much slower, but there is no reason today why the vote certification and meeting of the Electoral College have to be so early. They could be moved later and still allow Congress to certify the winner before the presidential inauguration, which is fixed in the Constitution for Jan. 20 and cannot be changed. That shouldn't be a partisan or controversial issue, but it is not clear if Congress will act.

#### What happens if states have not finished counting all their votes by Dec. 8?

That is the ultimate nightmare scenario. Let's say there are disputes about the final count in certain states - how absentee ballots have been counted, for example, or whether a state has properly determined that signatures on those ballots are valid. Let's say the courts rule that either Biden or Trump has won the state and is entitled to its electoral votes, but the losing side convinces themselves that the counting has been rigged. If they have control of the state government, they could choose a competing slate of electors, and in that case you would have two different sets of electors, both claiming the right to cast that state's vote in the Electoral College. The new Congress, the one that takes office next January, would then have to decide which slate of electors to accept. This has happened only once before, in the highly contested election of 1876, when Samuel Tilden won the popular vote in several Southern states but Congress voted to accept a different set of electors pledged to the Republican, Rutherford Hayes.

We don't want to get anywhere near that situation. Because this has happened only once before, there is not a lot of legal precedent and many important questions that might arise don't have a clear legal answer. Can the state legislature appoint a slate of electors independently, for example, or does the governor, who may be of a different party, have a veto? Given the electoral moment we are in, all the possibilities at that point are so troubling that it is hard to believe that whatever the outcome, the other half of the country would accept the decision as legitimate.

#### Do you have any final advice for our readers?

Let me repeat: If you're going to vote absentee, drop your ballot off early and in person, if you can. If you're going to mail it back, mail it early. But most important, if you can vote in person, do that. Even if you have to wait in long lines, if you wear a mask and remain physically distant from others, many medical experts believe you can do it safely. And it is a risk worth taking to protect the integrity of the election.  $\diamond$ 

## A Brief History Of Voting Rights

#### **Q&A: J. MORGAN KOUSSER '65**



organ Kousser '65, professor emeritus of history and social science at Caltech, has testified in more than 50 voting-rights cases. This spring, Kousser testified in a major Florida voting-rights case, Jones v. DeSantis, which challenged a Florida law passed after a 2018 ballot measure restored the right of formerly incarcerated people to vote upon completion of their sentences. The law stipulates that people convicted of felonies cannot vote until they have paid fees related to their convictions, a move that the ACLU likened to a poll tax. Ruling on Sept. 11, the state's Court of Appeals upheld the law. Though that decision is expected to be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, it makes it unlikely that many of the estimated 800,000 Floridians who have completed their sentences will be able to cast ballots in the November election.

Lavinia Liang '18 spoke with Kousser about America's long history with voting rights.

#### How would you describe the history of voting rights in the United States?

Interestingly, in the 18th century, poll taxes at first increased the enfranchised, since more men could qualify to vote under poll taxes than under the traditional requirements of land ownership. It was only in the late 19th century that they were used to disfranchise Blacks, particularly in the South. In the 1980s and 1990s, the ACLU did a lot of work with Native American suffrage, and they got a lot of laws eliminated that had made it more difficult for Native Americans to vote. But those kinds of laws are coming back now. And we've had various kinds of laws that were enforced against Asian Americans.

There are continuous patterns of [improvements and regressions], and large bursts of political power by groups that are not in the superior position in the polity have often been reversed, at least partially, afterward. Right now, for African Americans and Latinos, we seem to be in a retrograde time — which seems very paradoxical, considering that after the George Floyd protests there seemed like there was a sort of interracial, interclass consensus that white supremacist policies ought to stop. But nobody's told the judges that, and they seem to be going in a retrograde fashion.

"The most comprehensive suppression device the one that will probably be used the most this year is voter purges." – J. Morgan Kousser '65

#### What are common obstacles to full enfranchisement?

There were, in the 1980s, what were called "vote caging" efforts. The Republican Party decided that they would send out postcards to registered voters in minority areas. If the postcards were returned as undeliverable, then a representative for the Republicans would go to the polls on Election Day, and if that person then showed up to vote, they [the Republicans] would challenge them, saying that they don't live in that place anymore, or that they must not be that person.

Voter-ID laws started to pass, and they got stricter and stricter. For example, in Texas, a student-ID card doesn't qualify as a voter ID. A card with your picture on it saying you work for Texas state or local government won't work. However, a card saying that you can carry a gun — that is good evidence.

The most comprehensive suppression device — the one that will probably be used the most this year — is voter purges. This can be done on the basis of an interstate voter-registration roll. Suppose there is a person with your same name in Illinois and you're registered to vote in New Jersey. Someone could say, "I think that person is registered to vote in Illinois, and not in New Jersey." When this happens, the government sends you a card asking you to affirm: "Yes, I am who I say I am, and I want to continue to register to vote." But suppose that you don't return the card. The government can cut you off the rolls, and they don't have to tell you. There are 200,000 purges in Wisconsin now that are tied up in litigation — that number of votes could carry Wisconsin, easily. ◆

**READ** a longer version of Kousser's Q&A at paw.princeton.edu

# What Are The ODD DD DD S

Data journalists try to predict an unpredictable election

**BY MARK F. BERNSTEIN'83** 



s the presidential election enters the home stretch, one sentiment that unites the nation is skepticism about the polls. Don't trust them, Democrats say: Hillary was ahead in 2016 and lost. Don't trust them, Republicans echo: They said we were behind, and Trump pulled it off. David Byler '14, a

political columnist for *The Washington Post*, is one of many data analysts who will tell you that the polls were pretty accurate in 2016. The final average at the website Real Clear Politics, where Byler worked at the time, predicted that Hillary Clinton would win the national popular vote by 3.2 points; she won

by 2.1. Because she narrowly lost several battleground states, where polls were less accurate than those conducted nationally, she lost the Electoral College. The national polls in fact were further off the mark in 2012, when they predicted a 0.7-point Obama victory in the popular vote and he won by 3.9 points, but because they only misjudged the margin and not the ultimate winner, no one remembers.

In a normal universe, Byler would have spent the last half of August in Milwaukee and Charlotte at the Democratic and Republican conventions. Generations of political columnists made their reputations in the crowded arenas and smoke-filled rooms. Byler, a relative novice, thinks they would have been fun, but even when there isn't a pandemic he works remotely from his home in Los Angeles. As a data journalist, shoe leather is less important than internet access and a phone.

Data analysis is one of the few fields in journalism that is growing. Byler and his colleagues apply big data — the reams


of statistical information such as polling results, economic reports, or census files — to help understand the news. Or, to predict it, in the case of elections. Where a traditional journalist might try to discern what voters are thinking by visiting a diner in Ohio, for example, a data journalist could skip the diner altogether in favor of polling or government data from similar areas across the country, to paint a bigger picture. To put it another way, Byler does for politics what bookmakers do for football games and meteorologists do for hurricanes.

Along with his professional peers, such as Nate Silver of the website FiveThirtyEight, Nate Cohn of *The New York Times*, and Harry Enten at CNN, Byler tries to make sense of the polls, explaining what is significant and what isn't. Millions of Americans turn to these experts daily — or for some obsessives, hourly — to get the latest on the horse race or whether the margin is narrowing in, say, Michigan. They are also the people millions of others curse for "blowing it" in 2016.

**YLER'S FIRST POLITICAL MEMORY** is from election night in 2000. He grew up in Parkersburg, West Virginia, where his parents, both doctors, were staunch Bush supporters. Young David followed the returns, coloring each state on a map as red or blue as the results were called.

"I noticed that the Republican states were also the Confederate states," he recalls, "and I had learned in school that the Confederates were the bad guys. So I had this little existential crisis. I remember going to my parents and asking, "What's happening here?" I think that was the first elections question I ever asked." Regrettably, he does not recall his parents' response.

Many political-data journalists come to the field from other areas. Silver, for example, first honed his love of probabilities as an online poker player, while Enten was an amateur meteorologist. Byler has always loved pure mathematics and statistics. At Princeton, he majored in operations research and financial engineering. He also edited the *Princeton Tory* and participated in campus ministry. As a conservative, evangelical Christian from West Virginia, he felt able to observe his classmates as something of an outsider. Byler sees his undergraduate years as a period of generational transition between relative student apathy and activism. From the sidelines, he was fascinated.

"It felt as if a lot of the people [then] were adopting an ideology that would easily fit into the left establishment," he says. "To me, that was a bit boring. I almost wished people were willing to stake out stances that were more passionate."

Byler's columns for the *Tory* reveal him to be more of an analyst than an advocate. In 2012, for example, he wrote a long analysis of Occupy Princeton, a campus offshoot of the left-wing Occupy Wall Street movement. It was a topic that seemed teed up for a conservative diatribe, but rather than attack the group, Byler spent nearly 2,000 words analyzing its structure and its goals. His conclusion: "While the *Tory* does not endorse the positions of Occupy Princeton, the reasons for its popularity are certainly thought-provoking."

Though Byler has written for other right-leaning publications, including *The Weekly Standard* (now

defunct), it is hard to find any ideological biases in his work. Indeed, he prefers not to discuss his views on politics, believing that they are irrelevant and that doing so is counterproductive. "People will distrust you if they disagree with you," he says.

Like most ORFE majors, Byler was headed toward a career in finance or consulting. He had a few lucrative job offers, but with deadlines to accept them approaching, he sent a blind email to the political website Real Clear Politics. It was forwarded to Tom Bevan '91, who founded the site with John McIntyre '91 in 2000. Bevan, in fact, still has the email, which politely expressed Byler's love of politics and asked if there were any job openings. Impressed that Byler would forgo a much higher salary to do something he loved, Bevan decided to take him on.

For a little over two politically rich years, from the 2014 midterms through the 2016 election, Byler assisted Sean Trende, one of the most respected data journalists in the

## "Being aware of the limits of the discipline is a huge part of not being overconfident," says David Byler '14.

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business. Trende began by giving the new Princeton graduate a reading list that included more than five years of Trende's back columns as well as staples of modern political science literature, such as David Mayhew's *Electoral Realignments* and John Judis' *The Emerging Democratic Majority*. He was impressed that Byler devoured everything he was given and, later, by his clear-headedness. Early on election night in 2016, Trende tweeted that exit polls pointed toward a clear Clinton victory. He soon received an annoyed email from Byler reminding him that there was yet far too little information to justify such a call. "David was a good reality check for me," Trende says.

Byler moved on to *The Weekly Standard* as its chief elections analyst in October 2017, remaining through the 2018 midterms. It was there that he made his first forays into election modeling. His Senate forecasting model, called Swing Seat, crunched current economic data as well as polling data going back to 1992 to generate its projections. Swing Seat predicted that the Republicans would win 52 seats. They won 53.

As gratifying as it was to nearly nail the results, Byler was even more pleased that his model helped tease out how public opinion and public events interact. Both parties believed, for example, that the contentious confirmation hearings for Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh would help their side in the upcoming midterms, but Byler thinks his model illustrated that the sexual-assault allegations against Kavanaugh worked to the GOP's advantage, firing up its base and helping to secure a few tenuous seats that enabled it to retain the Senate.

"You could have gotten to this conclusion without a model," he wrote in a post-mortem for the *Washington Examiner*, "but the model helped by drawing a clear trendline, using pre-established rules (which is a good safeguard against unconsciously cherry-picking data to strengthen your point) and giving us a quantifiable estimate of how much the story moved the needle. Put simply, good model-driven analyses can help us be less speculative on questions about what does and doesn't move public opinion and how our institutions and elections respond to shifts in the electorate."

*The Washington Post*, eager to beef up its data analytics before the presidential race, hired Byler in January 2019, a month after *The Weekly Standard* folded. His most significant contribution to the paper's coverage was designing the Post Opinions Simulator, which tried to predict the early primaries (with roughly equal numbers of hits and misses). The Simulator also included a feature that allowed readers to manipulate the model by changing variables, exploring, for example, how the New Hampshire primary might turn turn out if Amy Klobuchar doubled her fundraising or Andrew Yang improved his polling.

The horse race, though, has only been part of Byler's focus. In March, he wrote a column assessing how Democratic moderates broke their prisoner's dilemma before Super Tuesday to coalesce behind Joe Biden and thwart Bernie Sanders. Throughout the spring and summer, Byler assessed more than a dozen of Biden's possible running mates and what they could bring to the Democratic ticket. Although he did not predict whom Biden would choose, and made the case pro and con for each, his assessment of Kamala Harris now looks prescient. "Joe Biden may be the presumptive Democratic nominee for president, but he is not the future of his party," he wrote in a column on April 16. "So he should choose a running mate who represents the future and can lead on policy after the Biden era. That person is Sen. Kamala D. Harris (D-Calif.)."

(In mid-August, following Harris' selection, Byler landed in social-media hot water for a day after describing her as a "small-c conservative, party-friendly" pick. Byler explained that he did not mean Harris herself was conservative, but rather that she was a relatively low-risk selection.)

ACK WHEN BYLER JOINED Real Clear Politics, Trende also gave him a few nonpolitical books to read. Knowing Byler's background in math and statistics, Trende assigned Thomas Kuhn's 1962 classic, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, and Paul Feyerabend's *Against Method*. Kuhn, in particular, maintained that science is a social activity as well as a rational one, and that human biases always warp the search for truth. Scientists work within a particular paradigm (such as Newtonian physics) until a new paradigm (relativity or quantum physics) comes along and upends the old certainties. Trust your models, in other words, but remain skeptical that they can explain everything.

"Every 22-year-old probably has too much faith in methods and is too wide-eyed about what we can really know," Byler says. "Being aware of the limits of the discipline is a huge part of not being overconfident."

While he cautions against paying too much attention to the horse race, Byler acknowledges that it consumes public attention, driving clicks and page views. At their best, electoral models can help illustrate which factors drive opinion and which don't, as well as detecting late shifts in support. Part of any data journalist's job is helping readers understand concepts such as probability — that saying a candidate has an 80 percent chance of winning, for example, doesn't mean that it's a sure thing.

Furthermore, polls are a snapshot in time and rely on assumptions the pollster makes about the composition of the likely electorate. If those assumptions are wrong, the poll will miss the outcome. In fact, there is likely to be even more uncertainty this year, since no one has experience modeling an election held largely by mail during a pandemic. That is why Byler and others advise not reading too much into any single poll, good or bad, but taking the average instead.

evertheless, many of us treat polls like a crystal ball or a security blanket, craving an expert in a nerve-wracking election season who can hold our hand and assure us that everything is going to be all right. No one knows this better than Sam Wang, a Princeton professor of neuroscience and

founder of the Princeton Election Consortium website. When people point an accusing finger at analysts for blowing the 2016 election forecast, Wang is the man many of them have in mind.

After predicting the 2012 presidential race with almost perfect accuracy, Wang announced in the weeks leading up to the 2016 election that Hillary Clinton had a 99 percent chance of winning the Electoral College (he shaved that to 93 percent by Election Day) and promised to "eat a bug" if he was wrong. The Sunday after the election, Wang dutifully swallowed a cricket live on CNN.

In an article for the Summer 2020 issue of the *Columbia Journalism Review* (CJR), "Our Polling Trauma," Wang revisited his famous mistake. The problem, he wrote, was converting polling margins into probabilities. The polls, in short, never showed a race that justified Wang assigning Clinton a 99 percent probability of winning. "I overestimated the precision of my model," he confesses.

What he should have done was emphasize that even a twopoint difference between the final polls and the outcome in key states could enable Trump to squeak through. Accordingly, Wang will not give probabilities on the Princeton Election Consortium homepage this year. He will focus instead on predicting the raw number of electoral votes and Senate seats

Poll numbers describe current conditions, Sam Wang emphasizes. They do not predict the future.



Biden and the Democrats are likely to win, as well as the party's chance of holding the House.

Those predictions may occupy the sexy banner spot atop the PEC's homepage, but there is much more data and analysis throughout the site. Wang still trusts the numbers; he worries, in fact, that we continue to misunderstand what happened four years ago. "If we become afraid of polls, I think we are learning a false lesson," he wrote in his CJR article. "It isn't that polls were inaccurate during the last presidential election. … The problem is that our brains may have turned an emotional experience with polling into a lasting trauma."

Byler says much the same thing. "There is a psychological tendency that a lot of people have to either chuck the polls or believe in them religiously," he observes. "It's my job to find a middle path between those outlooks."

Wang, nevertheless, deprecates people (we know who we are) who obsessively check FiveThirtyEight during election season and focus on swings of tenths of a percentage point in its model's results, changes that are essentially meaningless. He illustrates this with a hypothetical: If there are two bullets in a six-chamber gun, you'd have a 67 percent chance of surviving a game of Russian roulette, yet no sane person would consider those safe odds. Remove a bullet and your chances rise to 84 percent. To paraphrase Clint Eastwood: Do you feel lucky today? Poll numbers describe current conditions, Wang emphasizes. They do not predict the future.

Used incorrectly, they can also drive passivity. Wang is trying to use the data on his website as a vehicle to direct an engaged citizenry. In a sense, he remarks, pollsters are indeed like oddsmakers predicting a football game, though with one critical difference. You, the voter, can affect the outcome.

To encourage that, the Princeton Election Consortium is hyping "moneyball" districts, a term derived from Michael Lewis '82's book about undervalued baseball statistics, to identify down-ballot races where voters have the most leverage. He focuses particularly on state legislative races that could flip control of a chamber and thus influence political reapportionment for the next decade (Wang also directs the Princeton Gerrymandering Project). Voters can use that information to decide where to direct their campaign contributions or where they might volunteer to make phone calls or write postcards. For the sake of our democracy — and your sanity — Wang pleads, stop refreshing polling websites every half hour, and get involved instead.

"I don't think it's bad for people to be really interested in elections," Byler says, laughing. "As hobbies go, that's a comparatively good one. But I also want people to have healthy blood pressure. I hope we are doing a better job explaining what polls and probabilities mean."

Come election night, he and much of the rest of the country will be glued to the internet and the TV as results trickle in, possibly over many days. By that point, of course, the game will be over, so to speak. Until then, whatever your political leanings may be, there is still time to go down on the field and try to influence the result. For a good citizen, that might be a better way to spend the next few weeks than sitting in the stands, staring at the scoreboard.  $\blacklozenge$ 

Mark F. Bernstein '83 is PAW's senior writer.

CLASS NOTES . MEMORIALS . TWIST, CARVE, SHARE! . PROTECTING ONLINE SPEECH . SEEKING AN ANTI-RACIST ETHOS

#### BIRD BY BIRD: A living sculpture in New York City beckons to the birds Native plants lure insects and offer a green rest stop along migratory routes that are too often broken up by man-made structures in cities. This is Anina Gerchick '76's Birdlink visually striking public art that benefits both humans and wildlife. The sculpture pictured stood at Sara D. Roosevelt Park in lower Manhattan. One sculpture that was on Governors Island is now in Brooklyn, and another is planned for the Bronx this spring. The human built environment takes away the green spaces that were once wildlife habitat, Gerthick says, and "I feel like people need to take responsibility for it."

READ MORE about Gerchick's ecological art at paw.princeton.edu

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#### **NEW RELEASES**



Michael Cannell '82's A Brotherhood

Betrayed: The Man Behind the Rise and Fall of Murder,

*Inc.* (Macmillan), delves into the history of organized crime and Murder, Inc., a coast-to-coast enforcement group controlled by a unified coterie of Mafia kingpins. Cannell tells the true tale of Abe Reles, a witness whose testimony could have destroyed the entire Mafia, had he not died mysteriously while under police protection.



In Healthier Traditions: Quick and Easy (Transamerica Center for Health Studies), dietician

Christina Badaracco '12 contributes to a new, free online-only cookbook that offers healthy recipes for home cooks using readily available ingredients with simple swaps to increase nutritional value.



In America Through Foreign Eyes (Oxford University Press), former foreign minister of Mexico **Jorge** 

**G. Castañeda '73** argues that Americans should care what foreigners think of the United States, given our increasing reliance on international partners. Providing insight into waning American exceptionalism, Castañeda shows how a recent uptick in nostalgia and nationalism aligns the U.S. more closely with the rest of the world. •

#### GALLERY: ANITA PAN \*20

## **ART IN A CREAM FILLING**



One day in March, during a 14-day quarantine after leaving Princeton to return home to Vancouver, Canada, Anita Pan \*20 started kicking around an idea to help her pass the time: recreating famous works of art ... out of Oreos. Classmates in her master's of public policy program at the School of Public and International Affairs gave her encouragement to try it.

"I took them up on this challenge," Pan says. Her first effort was a little Degas ballet dancer, but she didn't really like how it turned out. "And because I didn't like it, I had to continue," she says. "So it just evolved."

Pan, who received her undergraduate degree from the University of British Columbia, says she's had no art schooling, but has always liked galleries and museums. She uses a toothpick to sculpt the cream and sticks to regular Oreos — Double Stuf would be too thick.

By early June, Pan had sculpted and published about 50 creations in her chosen medium, mostly great works of art like Adam reaching for God's hand on the Sistine Chapel ceiling and Vincent van Gogh's *Starry Night*. She's also sculpted several Princeton architectural icons, including Robertson and Nassau halls. And, as a surprise for her virtual graduation, she made portraits of everyone in her MPP class.

The more complex reliefs take about 40 minutes. Unused halves of the Oreos are reserved for cheesecake crusts.

She received positive feedback on Instagram, and as she prepared in June to go back to work and perhaps slow down on the cookies, Pan said she was glad to have provided a diversion. "It was just a fun little project," Pan says.  $\diamond$  *By E.H.D.* 



### "A free, open, and secure internet has never been more important."



# ORA: JESSICA DHEERE '93 DIGITAL WATCHDOG

In a time of physical isolation, one expert weighs in on the importance of internet freedoms

Jessica Dheere '93 began a master's degree in media studies at The New School in New York in 2005, just as social media took off. In the summer after her first year, she visited family in Cyprus. What turned out to be a one-month war between Hezbollah and Israel had broken out in nearby Lebanon that July, and she got reporting assignments to cover the reconstruction. She moved to Beirut and finished her degree online.

Dheere leveraged her knowledge of online journalism and emerging social media to teach citizen reporting and advocate for internet freedom in Lebanon. This led her to co-found the Social Media Exchange (SMEX), a Beirut-based digital-rights research and advocacy group focused on documenting government infringements on online free speech in the Arab region. After a decade developing SMEX in Beirut, she served as a fellow in 2018 and 2019 at Harvard University's Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society. In September, she became director at Ranking Digital Rights (RDR), a research program at the New America think tank that scores tech platforms and telecom companies on their respect for human rights. Still on the board at SMEX, she is now based in Washington, D.C. PAW interviewed Dheere in the spring.

## How has the coronavirus affected internet freedoms?

A free, open, and secure internet has never been more important. China's repression of online speech, including by one of the first doctors to highlight the problem, contributed greatly to the deadly delay of the rest of the world's recognition and understanding of the severity of this crisis. This should highlight the importance of a free internet and free speech, not to mention that so much of life has migrated online, and without the internet, the world would be at even more of a standstill.

Some measures, such as the rapid passage of disinformation laws, can have chilling effects on speech or severely compromise privacy. And they have little demonstrated effect at limiting — Jessica Dheere '93

the spread of so-called fake news. Free expression and privacy are the human rights most at risk when government and company policies seek to curb speech or gather user data, especially location data, for surveillance or other purposes, which is what we're seeing right now.

#### How does this relate to SMEX?

A large part of my work in internet freedom has been about resisting the potential for perfect control that can occur when states and companies cooperate too closely in "normal" times of the digital era — the advent of the pandemic has only made this fight more urgent.

After the Arab Spring in 2011, we started developing a database of laws affecting digital rights in the region. We located the laws, analyzed them, and tried to figure out how the law was being applied to the online space. This effort is called cyrilla.org, and it's expanded to Latin America, sub-Saharan Africa, and elsewhere. Another project, muhal.org, is a database of instances in which people in Lebanon have been detained for speech crimes.

## Can digital technologies still be a democratizing force?

I definitely think they still have a role. But you can't simply say that social media is a democratizing force. Technology doesn't only help the individual. It also helps governments.

But I am optimistic. We're still at the beginning, and we don't understand all of the threats. The European Union is leading in regulating tech companies. Philanthropic funders are getting a handle on technologies affecting global societies and political participation and channeling much-needed support to a vibrant and global civil society ready to take on the challenge. Interview conducted and condensed by Louis Jacobson '92

**READ** a longer version of Dheere's Q&A at **paw.princeton.edu** 

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#### PAWCAST: BARTON GELLMAN '82

### On America's Surveillence State, Past and Present



On this month's PAWcast we spoke with three-time Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Barton Gellman '82 about his new book, *Dark Mirror: Edward Snowden and the American* 

Surveillance State, which recounts his experiences reporting on the cache of files provided to him by Snowden, who revealed the NSA was collecting troves of data on Americans' phone records and online activities. Gellman discussed Snowden, his revelations, and what's happened since.

**Spy games** At first, a lot of people thought, "We're sitting here in America. What do we care what the NSA intercepts overseas?" But what I was able to show, with a few of my colleagues, was that overseas operations collected an enormous amount of information about Americans, because the internet doesn't follow sovereign boundaries. If you send an email from, you know, one side of your house to another, it's probably going



to be copied and stored in Singapore, because Google has a data center there, and it backs up and load-balances its internet traffic all around the world. So these overseas operations were, as the NSA calls it, "incidentally" picking up a lot of American content. And the U.S. had not grappled with this feature of the modern surveillance state.

**The red line** We have lots of rules and checks in place over powers that are there for good reason — law enforcement is important. But if you gave police everything they wanted, then you would have a police state. And we don't want that. And so, likewise, we do want to find ways of checking the intelligence community — of forcing it to operate within boundaries. And my book is part of the debate over where those boundaries should be.

**The source** I see [Snowden] as someone who saw behavior, and who saw operations that he thought were wrong, and he didn't think he should stay silent about them. ... He was trying to enable a public debate in this country. Whether he broke a law is not especially in question. He certainly broke laws to do this and would acknowledge as much.

**"Open book"** People sometimes like to talk about having nothing to hide. My experience is that almost no one has nothing to hide. If I came to your house and said, "Please log on to your email, and let me now spend the next couple of days reading it all," you would start to feel uncomfortable. And you would start to realize that if someone published these things on the net, you would be very sorry for that to happen.

You're [also] the keeper of other people's secrets. ... Privacy is an essential condition for living our lives with freedom. And if you were living in a fully transparent world, it would change your behavior in ways that would very much constrain your life. • *Interview conducted and condensed by C.C.* 

LISTEN to the whole interview with Gellman at paw.princeton.edu



## Three Books On Dystopia

**P.W. SINGER '97** has written several nonfiction books about national security and the military and has been called "the

premier futurist in the national-security environment," by *The Wall Street Journal*. In May, Singer and co-author August Cole published *Burn-In: A Novel of the Real Robotic Revolution*, a book that uses the techno-thriller format to explain AI and the future. Singer, who is also a senior fellow at the New America think tank, provided PAW with three other works of fiction that he believes speak to our real world today and tomorrow.

*It Can't Happen Here,* by Sinclair Lewis Published in 1935, Lewis' novel was written as both satire and warning. In the midst of hard times, the United States elects a populist wrapping himself in a combination of fear, false promises, and faux values. Once in power, the leader undermines each of the bedrock institutions of a democracy, from rule of law to an apolitical military, and uses paramilitary forces to go after minorities and domestic protesters. And soon, what was

thought impossible to happen in the U.S. has happened. *The Three Body Problem,* by Cixin Liu (translation by Ken Liu) COVID-19 may have started in China, but China has come out of it more influential and more assertive on the global stage. The repercussions will shape everything from the next decade of geopolitics to the technology you use at work and home. Cixin Liu's bestselling science-fiction trilogy of the world after an alien invasion captures this vision. Though it was first published in China in 2008, today's reader will find many telling echoes in the tale of China confidently taking advantage of a crisis, while the U.S. bungles its response.

Agency, by William Gibson Gibson envisioned cyberspace and cyberpunk culture in the '80s and '90s, and his latest novel may be just as prescient. Agency tells a heist-type story of a group of techies, publicists, hipsters, and hackers all racing to shape the future of a digital-assistant AI that you access through your glasses. Yet the real driver is "the Jackpot," a slow-moving ecological disaster that has remade the world. A character in this future asks about (our) life before a global environmental collapse from the accumulated effects of pollution and climate change: "Did we ever come to terms with the sheer cluelessness of it?" ◆



## SEEKING A NEW ANTI-RACIST NORMAL IN THEATER

By Kelvin Dinkins, Jr. '09



Kelvin Dinkins, Jr. '09 is an assistant dean of the Yale School of Drama and general manager of the Yale Repertory Theatre.

that conjures an overwhelming sense of joy and fear that still accompanies milestones in my life. The joy of "I made it" and the fear of "What if I fail?" I am the first on both sides of my family to attend an Ivy League university. I was elected the first and only Black president in the Princeton Triangle Club's nearly 130-year history. Today, I am on a short list of Black managers working in a multimillion-dollar regional theater. Being the first or the "only one" is not a badge of distinction when it comes

Getting into Princeton is a memory

to being Black in predominantly white spaces. Since high school, I have seen how rare it is that someone like me is in a position of influence and power. The exceptionalism that equips Black leaders to navigate these predominantly white spheres at the highest levels comes at no small cost.

During my MFA studies in theater management and producing at Columbia University I was taught by premier Broadway and off-Broadway producers and industry leaders. Our classes took place in professors' offices

I realized that the higher I climbed in this business, the rarer it became to find people who look like me. overlooking Times Square, and as I took in the billboards of the Broadway shows they helped to produce, I never considered that so much of what I saw was controlled by white people. Indeed, most of my education and training in theater was exclusively entrusted to white people. I convinced myself that being among the few in these spaces of influence and power meant that I had to assimilate, learn the tools and secrets to success, and simply become the change I wanted to see. However, as I applied to entry-level jobs at a myriad of theater companies, everyone I interviewed with was white, and I had to confront the fact that advancement in theater is an inherently racist system that significantly serves white people and perpetuates itself with no accountability for the erasure of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC).

After grad school, I became the general manager of Two River Theater in Red Bank, New Jersey. Two River was a member of the League of Resident Theatres (LORT), a collective-bargaining association representing more than 70 theaters across the country, which gave me access to industry leaders with the titles and careers that I wanted. At my first LORT conference, I did not see one managing director of color. I realized that the higher I climbed in this business, the rarer it became to find people who look like me, and, yet again, I was the only one in the room. As the only person of color in these spaces, the experience of engaging with my colleagues around topics of equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) quickly turned into a feeling of entrapment: Now that you have made it this far, please represent all Black people or speak for all people of color. A feeling of isolation took root, and I believed that being a person of color endeavoring to lead in theater would be a long and lonely journey. Thankfully, I was wrong.

In my next career move, I became the assistant dean/general manager at the Yale School of Drama/Yale Repertory Theatre. As I enter my fourth year in this role, I am part of an organization and community fiercely committed to dismantling oppressive inequities in our field. The School and Yale Rep have undertaken significant steps to address

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their culture and practices by requiring employees and students to participate in Beyond Diversity workshops delivered by Carmen Morgan and her company, artEquity, which trains and consults with organizations on creating and sustaining a culture of equity and inclusion through the arts. To hear leadership and my colleagues actively partaking in difficult conversations to make lasting change was unlike anything I had experienced in practice or education. The students are actively engaged in evaluating and demanding change from leadership, and our culture continues to encourage that agency needed for true change and accountability. Though we still have a lot of work ahead, I no longer feel that I must carry the weight of being the only one in the office to challenge racialized inequities and advocate for equity, diversity, and inclusion. Over the past five years, the students, staff, and faculty have conducted a cultural assessment and devoted time and resources to continuously extend EDI training to our community, our curricula, and our professional practices.

I feel an obligation to challenge the practices that are preventing our industry from being prepared for the innovations needed for the next generation of theater's BIPOC leaders. The only way I know how to do that is to consistently call out oppressive and white-supremacist practices that have disproportionately affected BIPOC artists and managers in theater. The first of these practices is a failure of white leaders to proactively and authentically recruit and engage with emerging BIPOC leaders across the industry. I must also call out the educational institutions devoid of BIPOC faculty or leadership in their programs. Centering white people, white narratives, and exclusive white leadership in theater-producing and education is a perpetuation of systemic racism, and the absence of BIPOC leading artists, practitioners, and resident faculty members in 2020 is nothing short of unethical.

I must call out our industry, which has long needed a structured, resourced commitment to the development and recruitment of BIPOC talent. "There just aren't any qualified people of color in the pipeline": I have heard this excuse before. When I first entered an executive-search process as a job candidate, I faced an all-white-male search committee composed of board members who asked me with straight faces how I could "fix" their theater's diversity problem and who touted first how much they "value" diversity before discussing my qualifications. As a young, Black search candidate I have always guestioned whether my role in these recruitment calls is a checked box for diversity or a constant reminder of the numerous barriers to entry for BIPOC leaders. The tradition of regional and commercial theater in this country is built on centering the wealth and presence of white people at every level from donor to board member to theater owner - who do not question why an industry dedicated to the art of empathy, history, and complex human narratives has failed to recognize and rectify its own implicit and unconscious bias.

#### ... [A]n industry dedicated to the art of empathy, history, and complex human narratives has failed to recognize and rectify its own implicit and unconscious bias.

I must call in the white gatekeepers controlling pathways to executive leadership, theatrical training programs, and nonprofit board seats: They must interrogate problematic education, governance, and workplace cultures and do the work to build diversity at all levels of their institutions. They must consider and model true allyship. They must risk their own comfort, privilege, and power for the sake of people at an overwhelming historic disadvantage. People in positions of power who are resistant to this work or are too overwhelmed to deeply invest in antiracism and EDI are not the leaders our industry needs right now. Race should no longer be a predictor of success, and I call on my BIPOC colleagues who feel the same to be explicit in denouncing racially abusive spaces that

have never been psychologically safe for us to work in and thrive as professionals and students.

As a producer, I long to produce and promote Black people's stories as more than trauma porn, anachronisms, or the perpetuation of highly racialized, stereotypical narratives that are only staged in February. I think back to 2007 when I saw, for the first time, an all-Black cast in a professional production of Passing Strange at the Public Theater in New York. That was the closest thing I had ever seen to my lived experience in the shape of a musical – it was so uplifting, I saw it five more times. Similarly, Lydia R. Diamond's Stick Fly, which premiered at McCarter Theatre when I was an undergrad, showed me a Black family living in Martha's Vineyard grappling with the same kind of modern "living room" drama that I saw repeatedly in white plays. Black people and our artistry span so much further than a reaction to the systems of this country's oppression and racism. We come from joy and traditions rooted in this country and many others that celebrate and exalt liberation and happiness. The dignity, excitement, and innovation of Afro-futurism should not feel so far from now. This is why I make theater.

Early on in my career I was encouraged to be less vocal on these and other issues for fear of never being hired by the boards and industry leaders I criticized. I was afraid to address the harmful racial abuse I suffered from white colleagues and board members convinced they were putting me in my place. Today I find resolve in rejecting those fears. I would like to live without fear that my skin color will cost me an opportunity or, worse, my life. Two days before my Princeton graduation, Carmelita Becnel, a mentor and Black staff member in the theater department, encouraged a small gathering of theater students to "Be fearless." I carry this offering with me wherever I go. The next generation of theater leaders and educators deserve to boldly and fearlessly pursue new forms of innovative and inclusive theater that are not built on a foundation of racist practices. This should not be a radical thought.

# **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



# 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 1944**



John B. Collins '44 John died March 25, 2020, in New York City. He was born May 1, 1923, in Old Greenwich, Conn.

He came to Princeton from the Loomis School. He was involved in football, hockey, and track, and his club was Quadrangle. He served as an advertising executive with McCaffrey and McCall in New York, where he and his family lived.

John is survived by his wife, Elaine; son Peter Bolton; and daughter Susan Collins Vick.

#### Harry G. Haskell Jr. '44

Hal died Jan. 16, 2020, in Wilmington, Del. He was born May 27, 1921, in Wilmington.

He came to Princeton from St. Mark's, where he played football, hockey, and crew. At Princeton he was a member of Ivy Club. Later in life, he served Princeton as a Career Services Volunteer.

Before owning his own business, he worked with Computer International, Computer Time Sharing, Inertial Motors Corp., and Interpoint Corp. In semi-retirement, he and his wife, Mimi, enjoyed traveling to enjoy their eight children and 19 grandchildren. In our 50threunion yearbook, he said he was "keeping his oar in" government affairs when time allowed.

Hal's wife predeceased him. He is survived by his sons, Christopher, David, Harry Jr., James, and Malcolm; daughters Elizabeth, Laurie, and Mary; 19 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.



#### **Robert R. Hermann '44** Bob died April 5, 2020, in St. Louis, Mo. He was born in St. Louis Jan. 3, 1923. He attended St. Louis

he was active in track, tennis, soccer, school publications, and dramatics. At Princeton he majored in engineering, was active in rugby, and was a member of Triangle Club and Charter Club.

Bob served in the Navy aboard an aircraft

carrier for two and a half years. After the war he came back to St. Louis and started Standard Container Co., a packaging company. He started seven other companies, which are subsidiaries of his original company. As president of the National Professional Soccer League, he helped bring professional soccer to the United States.

He served many community organizations, as president or member, including the St. Louis Zoo, Missouri Botanical Garden, Barnes-Jewish Hospital, St. Louis Opera, and St. Louis Symphony.

He was chair of the International Center for Tropical Ecology at the University of Missouri, St. Louis, and created the World Ecology Award, which has been presented to environmentalists such as Jacques Cousteau.

Bob is survived by his wife, Mary Lee; children Robert Hermann Jr. '75 and Carlota Hermann Holton; and stepchildren Lesley, Mark, Robert, and Stephen Scherer.

#### THE CLASS OF 1946 Russell L. Pellett '46

Russ died April 23, 2018. Born in Franklin, N.J., he lived a good part of his life in Nashville, Tenn. His wife of 63 years, Margaret "Peggy," predeceased him by seven days.

Russ came to us from the Lawrenceville School. At Princeton he took his meals at Cannon, and his roommates were John Fischbeck and Fred McFall.

He joined the Navy V-12 program for war service and was sent by the Navy to Cornell with 50 Princeton classmates to study engineering. He graduated from Cornell in early 1945. Russ always considered Princeton his alma mater and graduated Cornell only by virtue of war service. He attended Princeton Reunions as a loyal '46er.

After discharge from the Navy in 1946, he began work with the New Jersey Zinc (NJZ) Co. He earned an MBA from Harvard Business School, then he returned to NJZ at its Depue, Ill., plant in the engineering department. There he met Peggy. A corporate reorganization with Gulf and Western Industries and subsequent relocation took him and his family to Nashville, where he eventually retired.

He was a devoted husband and a kind and generous father and grandfather. He and Peggy continued to be very active in their retirement and had many friends and interests. Russ was a skilled golfer and a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church. He served as an elder, was part of the church's Good Samaritans, and played in the Changing Gears Bell Choir.

He is survived by daughter Katherine and her husband, Jerry; sons Lawrence and his wife, Marilyn, and Arthur and his wife, Helene; and grandchildren Arthur, Mary Elizabeth, and Leah.

#### THE CLASS OF 1948



Henry F. Merritt '48 Buzz had strong connection with and loyalty to Princeton and to our class. His father, Henry, was in the Class of 1915, and an uncle, Schuyler, was in

the Class of 1922. For almost 70 years, Buzz attended almost every '48 class reunion.

Born July 21, 1927, he grew up in New York City, graduated from St. Bernard's School and Phillips Exeter, started Princeton in the summer of 1944, left for two years of Navy service, and then returned to major in economics, play varsity baseball, and join Triangle and Cottage Club.

Buzz earned an MBA at New York University, and began his business career at Central Hanover Bank & Trust in New York and with its correspondent banks in the South and Southwest. He soon focused on design, negotiation, and management of investments in oil and gas exploration in the U.S., Europe, and Asia. He continued as a consultant in this specialty well into his semi-retirement in 1995.

Buzz and Jane met and married in Bangkok, Thailand, in 1970. Back in the U.S. they settled in Redding, Conn., where their son Schuyler was born in 1986. International travel for business and with the family was frequent and extensive. In Connecticut Buzz was a leader in the Redding Land Trust, as well as in park and other conservation efforts. He was an aviator with multiple instrument ratings, an avid skier, fisherman, bird hunter, ocean yacht racer, and glee club and barbershop-quartet singer.

Buzz died May 12, 2020. He is survived by wife Jane, son Schuyler, and three nephews.

#### THE CLASS OF 1949 Donald C. Foote '49

Don died July 20, 2018, in Hilton Head, S.C., his home following his retirement. He is survived by his wife, Judy; and his four children, Brad,

Donny, Jeff, and Nancy. Don came to Princeton from Phillips Exeter Academy in 1945. He lived in Little Hall, but withdrew from Princeton without declaring a

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major. He then went to work in New York as a media buyer for Young & Rubicam and lived in Peekskill, Dobbs Ferry, and Red Hook, N.Y. In the 1970s he moved to California to join the DBC Advertising Agency as senior media buying consultant.

We had little contact with Don over the years, but in our 50th-reunion yearbook *To 1999 and Beyond* he wrote to tell us that he was "semi-retired but still active" as a media consultant. His major hobby was tournament bridge, "where I've accumulated 2,200 Master points" — no mean feat.

Our sympathy and condolences go to Don's wife and children, all of whom survived him.

#### John N. Jackson II '49

John died April 5, 2020, in St. Cloud, Minn., his lifetime home.

He was a graduate of St. Paul Academy in St. Cloud. John came to Princeton after brief service in the Army at the end of World War II, and served again during the Korean War. He majored in economics and was a member of Tower Club.

John left Princeton in 1949, prior to graduation, and went to work at Waldorf Paper Products Co., a manufacturer of paper-packaging products. Other than his two-year time back in the Army, he spent his entire career with Waldorf (later Champion International), retiring in 1997 after a credited 48 years of service.

John was a lifetime member of the House of Hope Presbyterian Church, close to his St. Paul Academy classmates and active in many community organizations. He loved travels near and far with his wife, Polly, and his many friends often commented on his "infectious laugh" and his ability to treat everyone with dignity and respect.

John is survived by Polly; his children, David, Peter, and Lisa; and six grandchildren. We send our condolences and respect to his entire family.

#### **THE CLASS OF 1950**



Saul W. Brusilow '50

Saul died April 19, 2020, in Maryland. He was a pediatrician and biochemical geneticist who developed groundbreaking therapies to

treat rare and often fatal genetic defects.

He graduated from Brooklyn's Poly Prep and served in the Navy before Princeton. He majored in biology, lettered in track, and belonged to Cloister.

He earned a medical degree from Yale. After residency in pediatrics at Johns Hopkins, he accepted an instructor's position. During the 50 years he taught there, he held three directorships and retired as a professor emeritus. On an occasion honoring him, a colleague stated that the therapies Saul developed "have saved the lives of thousands, mainly children." At his award from the Kennedy Foundation, he was described as "almost unique as a scientist to have discovered the defect, figured out how it functioned, developed the treatment, manufactured the drug in his laboratory because no drug company would, and standardized the treatment worldwide." An associate added that while others would have withered in the face of the regulatory hurdles he faced to get treatment approval, Saul's tenacity won out.

Saul became an avid sailor in later life.

He is survived by son William '75, daughter Susan, and four grandchildren. His wife Sallie, whom he married in 1952, and son Alexander predeceased him.

#### Sheldon H. Elsen '50

Shel died March 27, 2020, of Parkinson's disease. He lived in Scarsdale, N.Y., for the last 50 years.

At Princeton Shel was a member of the Liberal Union and belonged to Prospect. He graduated with high honors in history, and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

He earned a master's degree in sociology from Harvard as a Woodrow Wilson Scholar. In 1952 he enlisted in the Army and served in Army Intelligence in Berlin.

With a law degree from Harvard, he began a long legal career in New York City, early on as an assistant U.S. attorney and then in a litigation firm he and friends founded. An adjunct law professor at Columbia for 50 years, he was active in the New York City Bar Association, the American Law Institute, and the American College of Trial Lawyers.

He was chief counsel of a New York commission during the city's fiscal crisis. He wrote influential law-review articles and argued successfully before the U.S. Supreme Court.

He was a constant reader, often in French and German — two of the seven languages he mastered. He loved opera and his home on Martha's Vineyard.

Shel is survived by son Jonathan; daughter Susan '79 and her husband, Charles '79; and five grandchildren. His wife Gerri, whom he married in 1952, died in 2009.

#### John Q. Robinson '50



Jack died March 20, 2020, in an auto accident in Rocky Hill, N.C. He lived in Cranford, N.J. A graduate of his hometown

high school in Montclair, N.J., at Princeton he studied psychology and belonged to Cloister. He left Princeton in his junior year to enter the Army, where he completed officer training at Fort Riley, Kan. Following his discharge as a second lieutenant, he held several jobs in sales, married, and completed his education at Upsala College's evening division. He then joined his father-in-law's commercialcollection business. His advice at our 25th: "Don't pay your bills too fast." When he retired in 1998, he was its owner and president.

Jack was a competitor on the tennis court and at the bridge table. He was devoted to barbershop singing, both vocalizing and directing. He greatly enjoyed coaching boys' basketball, and was a New York Yankees and Knicks fan.

We will remember Jack, especially at our mini-reunions, as a dedicated Tiger, gregarious and always with a warm handshake and smile. He enjoyed being with his longtime partner, Addie Vogel, at her Grafton, Vt., home and in Florida.

Jack is survived by Addie and one daughter and two sons from a previous marriage.



William L. Winters Jr. '50 Bill, affectionately known as "Grandoc," died March 13, 2020, in Houston, Texas. A graduate of Highland Park

(III.) High School, he served two years as a Navy medic in the South Pacific before coming to Princeton, where he belonged to Tiger Inn. Though he left Princeton short of his degree in 1949 to enter Northwestern University Medical School, he remained loyal to Princeton. (He planned to attend our 70th.) He earned a bachelor's degree in medicine at Northwestern and graduated with a medical degree and honors in 1953.

After residency at Temple he joined its medical school faculty. He moved to Houston in 1968 to practice cardiology and become a member of the clinical faculty of Baylor College of Medicine.

His career covered the scope of modern cardiovascular medicine. Along the way he became president of the American College of Cardiology, president of the Methodist Houston Hospital medical staff, and author of many medical journal articles. The William L. Winters Center for Heart Failure Research at Baylor College of Medicine was established in 1998.

Bill was a man of great faith. He sought distant places to fly-fish and traveled worldwide with Barbara, his wife of 66 years.

Bill is survived by Barbara, three sons, five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

#### THE CLASS OF 1952

Charles C.J. Carpenter Jr. '52

Chuck graduated as salutatorian from the Lawrenceville School. His father was a member of the Class of 1923 and the Episcopal bishop of Alabama. Chuck majored in English and joined Ivy. He competed in JV wrestling and football and varsity crew, was a Chapel deacon, and belonged to the Student Christian Association and St. Paul's Society. He roomed with Tom Worthington. In 1956 Chuck earned a

medical degree at Johns Hopkins, then turned to research in India for two years until returning to serve as a professor at Johns Hopkins and physician-in-chief at Baltimore City Hospitals. From 1973 until 1986 he was chief of medicine at Case Western Reserve, where he founded the Division of Geographic Medicine.

Chuck went to Brown University, where he was a professor of medicine and physician in chief at the Miriam Hospital, as well as head of an AIDS research program. His commitment to the study of AIDS ranged over a number of countries and populations, including women and prisoners. He was co-editor of seven editions of *Cecil Essentials of Medicine*.

Chuck died March 19, 2020, covered with professional distinctions, and much missed by his wife, Sally; and sons Charles '82, Murray, and Andrew. The class sends condolences and respect for our distinguished brother to them all.

#### **THE CLASS OF 1953**



Mack Clovis Harris III '53 Mack died April 2, 2020, in Wichita, Kan., where he had been living for the last 11 years. He was born in Hollywood, Calif., and came to Princeton

from Phillips Exeter Academy. Mack majored in politics and wrote his thesis on Mexican immigration to the United States. He was a member of Cottage Club.

Following graduation, Mack served as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Airborne Artillery and was a master parachuter with the "Red Devils" unit. After leaving the service Mack began working with the investment firm Reynolds & Co. and then moved to Dallas, Texas, where he became an executive with Murchison Brothers, handling securities analysis, investigation, and acquisition of companies.

Alcoholism haunted him until he found and maintained sobriety for the last 40 years of his life. During that time he was strengthened by his Christian faith and worked with many others struggling with alcoholism and chemical depression, bringing them understanding and hope.

Mack is survived by two sons, a daughter, and four grandchildren, as well as three of his five stepchildren and six stepgrandchildren.

#### **THE CLASS OF 1954**

Benjamin F. Aiken '54

Ben died April 13, 2020.

He prepared for Princeton at Valley Forge Military Academy, where he played football, basketball, and tennis. Ben chose basic



engineering as his major, but his primary interest was in electrical engineering. He was a member of Dial Lodge, sang in the Glee Club and was its publicity manager, and served

as treasurer of the Wesley Foundation.

He spent three years in the Navy, becoming chief engineer on the destroyer USS *Dyess* in the Mediterranean Sea during the Suez crisis. He married Susan Benck July 20, 1957.

Following studies of business at Temple University and engineering administration at George Washington University, he spent three years with Turner Construction Co. He then established Concord Realty, which bought and managed properties in Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia. Ben enjoyed woodworking in his home in Falls Church, Va. Ben and Susan moved to the Riderwood Village retirement community in Silver Spring in 2005.

Ben is survived by his wife, Sue; sons Peter and Tim; daughters Jenny and Jane; and seven grandchildren.



Frank Lee Zingale '54 Lee died May 8, 2020, in St.

Louis, Mo.

He had prepared for Princeton at John Burroughs School in St. Louis, where

he was active in soccer, publications, and dramatics. At Princeton he majored in English and wrote his thesis on "William Faulkner: A Search for Order." A member of Campus Club, he was active in Whig-Clio and enjoyed playing the piano, writing, and painting.

After two years at Washington University School of Medicine, he had a successful business career spanning more than 50 years, first as an executive with Gardner Advertising and Ralston Purina and subsequently in realestate development with E.W. Ellermann.

A world traveler and connoisseur of music, art, literature, opera, theater, and film, Lee was blessed with style, charm, and wit, which endeared him to his large circle of friends.

Lee is survived by his daughter, Laureson Z. Skae; two grandchildren, Courtney Carl Nelson and Alexander Carl; and a great-grandson, Maddox Nelson.

#### **THE CLASS OF 1955**



**George Gering '55** George died March 21, 2020, of a heart attack in Delray Beach, Fla. He was 86 years old and had been vigorous until a week before his death, continuing

to play golf and visit his gym. Sandy, his wife of 64 years, said a bout of lung cancer "never stopped him. He continued to run and to handle his business up until the end. He was in great shape. He was 6-foot-2, 156 pounds, and

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not until a week before he died did he say he wasn't feeling well."

George was born Nov. 2, 1933, in Newark, N.J., and graduated from Newark Academy. At Princeton he joined Dial Lodge, majored in mechanical engineering, and roomed senior year with Barry Schenk. In IAA sports he played basketball, softball, and volleyball.

Since 1980 he and his wife had split their time between homes in New Jersey and Florida until five years ago, when they moved full time to Delray Beach. George continued to run his business that created and sold equipment used in the automotive industry. In New Jersey he was president of his golf club and in Florida served on the board of his club.

George is survived by Sandra; their three children, Bradley, Linda Kreisberg, and Margery Feinberg; seven grandchildren; and his brother, Steven.

#### **THE CLASS OF 1957**



Walter E. Blankley '57 Despite other achievements, Walt wanted to be remembered first for his effort to help break the poverty cycle in Immokalee, Fla. Immokalee is home to

Hispanic and Black residents who work the local tomato fields and serve at the hotels and restaurants of nearby Naples, where Walt and his wife of 61 years, Rosemary, lived.

Walt, an early learner himself, supported a child early-development center in Immokalee served by mentors from Immokalee High School. These students in turn became eligible for three annual full-cost scholarships to Arcadia University, formerly Beaver College, where Rosemary was a 12-varsity-letter athlete. A Blankley family foundation also supported Arcadia (as well as Princeton). Immokalee provided Arcadia diversity as well as talent with ambition.

Walt's high school basketball coach induced his Princeton counterpart in a phone call to take an interest in Walt. That plus the best SAT scores in southern New Jersey won Walt a full-tuition Princeton scholarship. Walt was the first of his family to attend college. He belonged to Cannon Club and roomed with Norm Augustine. A mechanical engineering major, Walt joined Ametek, a manufacturer of electromechanical and analytical devices with \$5 billion in annual sales. He was there 40 years, the last 10 as CEO.

Walt died peacefully April 27, 2020, of bladder cancer. Besides Rosemary, Walt is survived by a son, Stephen; and a daughter, Laura Pantano.

#### James M. Shea '57

Jim led a double life. He was a physician professionally and by avocation, a devotee of the arts. He pursued each with passion. He always wanted to be a doctor, said Lucille, his

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widow. Jim chose orthopedic surgery and had a practice in Manchester, N.H., his home. Iim did well, said Phil Sullivan, a classmate, friend, and fellow physician.

At Princeton, Jim chose as his major art and archeology. The price was having to make up the science courses he missed while at Princeton at Harvard Medical School and then seek admission to McGill's medical school, from which he graduated. Arthritis in his hands and lower back pain, which plagued him since age 16, required him to retire in 1999. Thereafter he fully indulged his other major passion. He and Lucille frequently traveled by bus to Manhattan, where they visited museums and galleries and attended the opera.

Jim had other interests, too. He raised bees, becoming known at state beekeeper conventions. He was a triathlete into his early 80s (one-mile swim, 12-mile bike ride, and 24-mile run). And he wrote poetry, published locally and once (four lines) in The New Yorker.

He and Lucille met at the Catholic hospital where he performed his surgeries. They had one son, James Patrick. Jim died March 29, 2020, of pneumonia after a year of troubles.



#### Henry Clay Ward '57

Clay's penultimate stage of life began in 1989. "Largely because Harriette went to work to help send our kids through private school and college, I

was able to retire," he wrote. Clay was 55 then.

Clay's career was as an electrical engineer with New Jersey Bell including predecessors and successors - the final one, Verizon. He left as a divisional manager in charge of what came to be known as cellphones. Subsequently, he devoted time to his rose and vegetable gardens, caring for their large, shaggy white dogs, and traveling. He and Harriette attended virtually every class reunion and many of the mini-reunions in this country and abroad. He lugged about an oxygen tank to compensate for the damage smoking had done to his lungs. He was an active member of their 1704 Episcopal church, serving on the vestry and as warden.

He attended the Lawrenceville School. At Princeton he dined at Terrace Club and roomed senior year with Beresford Smith.

Clay died April 9, 2020, of the effects of Alzheimer's, which had become apparent to Harriette five years before. "He was happy, in a fantasy world better than the reality world I was in," she remarked. He leaves behind Harriette, whom he married in 1958, two daughters, one son, and four grandchildren.

#### L. Jerome Wolcott Jr. '57

Jerry was decisive. He decided to come to Princeton whereas most of his family had gone



to Harvard, Yale, or Cornell. In the Air Force as a supply officer, he decided to become a fighter pilot, and did. A mechanical engineer and president of a division of a family-owned

foods company in the irrigated desert of eastern Washington, he decided to move to congenial, balmy southern California, take two years to earn an MBA, and then spend the rest of his working life as a tax auditor for the IRS in Irvine, Calif.

Then he decided to die. "One day, he told me, 'I'm done,' " his daughter, Jennifer Lagrow, said. He stopped eating and drinking. Two weeks later, on Dec. 30, 2018, he died. Her explanation: As an engineer, one moves logically, from step to step, or stage to stage.

Jennifer described Jerry as "laid-back, quiet, sometimes sarcastic." At Princeton he hawked wares at football games for the Banner Agency; played bridge, poker, and the guitar; and dined at Elm Club. His senior-year roommate was Whit Courtney.

Jerry is survived by Jennifer, son Paul, and three grandchildren whom he loved. Jerry's wife predeceased him by six months. Another son, John '87, died suddenly during his junior year attending Princeton.

#### **THE CLASS OF 1958**



Marion Jay Epley III '58 Jay died March 27, 2019, in Singer Island, Fla. He was 82. He came to Princeton from Bronxville High School, where

he participated in basketball, swimming, and tennis and was a member of the student council.

At Princeton he was a member of Dial Lodge, where he took part in several intramural sports. He majored in the Woodrow Wilson School. He roomed with a number of clubmates in the Rockefeller Suite.

After graduation Jay earned a degree at Harvard Law School and joined White & Case, eventually becoming executive partner of the worldwide corporate department. Jay and his family moved to Turkey to open offices in Istanbul and Ankara. After retiring in 1992 he co-founded and ran a legal and financial consulting firm based in Prague, advising various Eastern European governments on privatization.

Over the years, Jay was involved with many civic and charitable organizations, especially in Bronxville, where he and Mary Jane raised their family. Jay was known for his keen intelligence and sardonic wit.

Jay met Mary Jane King in high school, and they married in 1960. They had four children, Michele, Michael, Mark '87, and Melissa; and 12 grandchildren, all of whom survive him. The class extends its deepest sympathy to the entire Epley family.

#### John Arthur Ferch '58

John died May 5, 2020, at his home in Fairfax, Va. He was 84. He came to Princeton from

DeVilbiss High School in Toledo, Ohio, where he was president of the student council.

At Princeton he was on the freshman lightweight crew, a member of Campus Club, student manager of the student center, and a member of the Undergraduate Schools and Scholarships Committee. He majored in the Woodrow Wilson School. His senior roommates were Dave Grundy, Paul Hatcher, Bob McConnell, Fred Miller, Henry Kaneps, Mal Roberts, and Don Ward.

Shortly after graduation he married Sue McMurray and was accepted into the Foreign Service, which led to nine different positions. From 1982 to 1985 he was "our man in Cuba" and was ambassador to Honduras from 1985 to 1986. When Iran-Contra broke, his insistence on written instructions forced him out of the Foreign Service but he became national intelligence officer for economics at the CIA and later director of the Department of Labor's international assistance programs. The best description of his career is his fascinating book Fencing with Fidel.

John is survived by his wife, Sue; daughter Carol Anne "Ché"; sons Johnny and David; and three grandchildren. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.



Richard S. Hendey Jr. '58 Dick died May 16, 2020, in White Plains, N.Y. He was 84. He came to Princeton from Kent School, where he participated in football, baseball, and student government.

At Princeton Dick played football and baseball and was a member of Cap and Gown Club. He majored in basic engineering and held a Class of 1930 Memorial Scholarship for four years. He roomed with Jim Baber, Carlos Ferreyros, Dave Fulcomer, Norm Kurtz, Fred Perkins, and Irwin Silverberg.

After graduation he served in the Marine Corps and then earned an MBA from Harvard Business School.

Dick's career was in environmental engineering at several major corporations in New Jersey, New York, Colorado, and Connecticut. He settled in White Plains, where he was elected to the Common Council and served for 12 years, was a volunteer fireman for 50 years, and was a Boy Scout leader.

Dick is survived by his wife, Barbara; their children, Sara Hendey Brote, Richard S. Hendey III, and Elizabeth Hendey; three grandchildren, Erik, Oscar, and Sophia Brote; his son-in-law, Wilhelm Brote; and his sister,

Susan Hendey Jenkins. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.



Anthony L.C. Piel '58

Tony died April 3, 2020, of cancer in Stuart, Fla. He was 83.

He came to Princeton from Millbrook School. At Princeton

he wrote his thesis on the Barbizon School of Art. Years later his professor, Ira Wade, returned his final exam with a book the professor had just published and a note saying "this is how teachers learn from their students."

After two years in the Army, Tony went to Harvard Law School, where he took a new bridge program between the law and medical schools. He joined Citibank and went to live in Paris with his wife, Liz, and two children. At Sloan School at MIT, Tony learned about the World Health Organization and joined up, wanting to do something meaningful and pursue his interest in medicine. He traveled around the world for WHO. Eventually, Tony was appointed head of the legal department and later rose to become director of the cabinet for the director general.

Tony is survived by Liz; his daughter, Lizbeth '87; his son, William; and granddaughter Florence. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.



#### David N. Pipkorn '58

David died May 9, 2020, in Easley, S.C. He was 83. He came to Princeton from Shorewood High School in Shorewood, Wis., where he was

active in dramatics and student government. At Princeton he was a member of Court Club and the Outing Club. He majored in electrical engineering and roomed with Gerald Rouse.

After graduation David earned a master's degree and a Ph.D., both in physics, from the University of Illinois. He worked in physics research and development at several locations including Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Then he worked at Mead Corp. in high-speed inkjet printing equipment. Kodak took over that division, and he retired from Kodak in 1991.

David spent much of his time in fishing, camping, and Scouting activities, but he was also interested in finance and investments, earning an MBA from Rochester Institute of Technology.

David is survived by his wife, Georgene; his son, Eric; his daughter, Lisa; grandsons Trevor and Lachlan; and his brother, Justin. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.

#### William J. Stone '58

Bill died May 11, 2020, in Nashville, Tenn. He was 83.



He came to Princeton from Calvin Coolidge High School in Washington, D.C., where he was salutatorian of his class and played football and basketball. At Princeton he played

football and lacrosse and was a pre-medical student majoring in chemical engineering. Bill was a member of Elm Club, the IAA board, and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. He roomed with Herb Carr and Gale Kelly.

After graduation he earned a medical degree from Johns Hopkins, was chief resident in internal medicine at Vanderbilt, and studied nephrology at Cornell Medical College. Bill joined the Army, practicing nephrology, serving in Texas and then in Vietnam. Then he joined the faculty in the Department of Medicine at Vanderbilt, eventually becoming a full professor in 1980 and teaching for more than 50 years. At Vanderbilt Bill was beloved for his outstanding clinical leadership and commitment to training medical students, residents, and nephrology fellows.

Bill is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Roberson Stone; his children, Kathryn Stone Rohrman and her husband, Justin, Brian David Stone, and Lauren Stone Hollingsworth and her husband, Mark; four grandchildren; and five nephews. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.

#### **THE CLASS OF 1959**



**Robert T. Manfuso '59** Born in Washington, D.C., to a life of thoroughbred horse breeding and racing, Bob died March 19, 2020, of causes related to a suspected heart

condition at his Chanceland Farm home in West Friendship, Md.

At Landon, where he prepped, Bob played football and served on student council. At Princeton he majored in politics, rowed with the 150-pound crew, managed Triangle's publicity, ate at Cannon, and ran Esquire Sales, purveying perfume to undergrads to take home for Christmas gifts.

Following graduation Bob worked for a time as marketing and sales director at Burton Parsons, a family-owned pharmaceutical firm. While there, and together with his brother and another set of brothers, he founded Fourbros Stable, beginning his lifelong career of breeding and racing horses.

In the mid-1980s he joined a partnership to purchase Laurel Park racetrack, followed several years later by purchase of Pimlico race course, bringing both tracks back to prominence, restoring the reputation of Maryland racing, and being credited with reviving Maryland thoroughbred racing.

In 1987, with his life partner, Katharine Voss, he developed Chanceland Farm for training

and breeding horses. Named Maryland Breeder of the Year in 2016, Bob helped breed Cathryn Sophia, that year's Maryland-bred Horse of the Year. In 2019 he and Katharine bred two more Maryland champions.

Bob is survived by Katharine; son Robert Jr.; daughter Elizabeth Pothier; two sisters; and four granddaughters. We offer condolences to all.



**Charles H. Melville '59** Born in Cincinnati, Charlie died Nov. 13, 2018.

He came to Princeton via Wyoming (Ohio) High School, where he was president of the

senior class and played on the football and golf teams. At Princeton Charlie majored in economics, was a sports announcer for WPRB, joined Whig-Clio, played in the University Band, wrote biographies for the *Nassau Herald*, and trod the links on the golf team. He ate at Tiger Inn and roomed with clubmates Dick Konz, Bob Fitzpatrick, and Arthur Allen.

After graduation Charlie matriculated at the University of Cincinnati Law School, becoming editor-in-chief of the *Cincinnati Law Review* and earning a law degree in 1962. He worked in private practice for 10 years, in corporate practice as general counsel to Senco Products, in the business world of marketing and sales with Senco, and then brought his career full circle as counsel to Strauss & Troy.

Charlie continued his connection to golf throughout his life and added other hobbies and interests that included skeet, trap, sporting clays, and pistol shooting; photography; astronomy; furniture building; and sailing.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Linda; sons Jeffrey and Thomas; daughter Frances; and four grandchildren. We have sent condolences.

#### Ralph H. Perry III '59

Ralph Perry, known to us as undergraduates as Ralph Miller, died July 2, 2019, in Vero Beach, Fla.

Born Dec. 8, 1936, in Glen Ridge, N.J., Ralph attended Henry B. Whitehorne High School in Verona, N.J. He graduated from Princeton as a religion major, writing his thesis on "The Alleged Communist Infiltration in the American Churches." He was a member of Dial Lodge, the St. Paul's Society, Orange Key, and Army ROTC — serving after graduation in the Army Reserve from 1959 to 1969. He met his future wife, Helen Bryant, on a blind date and they married shortly thereafter in 1963.

Ralph spent many summers during his youth with his grandparents at the venerable Tunxis outdoor recreation club in the Massachusetts Berkshires, and later throughout his lifetime with Helen and his family, serving as president, secretary, and club historian. His professional

#### PRINCETONIANS / MEMORIALS

career included work as a securities broker at E.F. Hutton, Reynolds & Co., and Dean Witter Reynolds in New York City, where for a time he chaired Ronald McDonald House. He completed his career as senior vice president at Morgan Stanley in Hartford, Conn., before retiring with Helen to Vero Beach.

Ralph is survived by Helen, son Christopher, daughter Ashley Kineon, brother Stephen, and four grandchildren. We have sent condolences.



#### **Charlton Reynders Jr. '59** Rink, whose career in finance included co-founding

Reynders, Gray & Co., an investment advisory firm, died March 24, 2019, with his wife of

nearly 60 years, Nonie, at his side.

Rink's interests included more than investments. He became a lifetime trustee of the Hospital for Special Surgery and, as a dog breeder, he was treasurer and member of the Board of Governors of the Westminster Kennel Club. He was also an accomplished writer, talented enough to write the "On Language" column in *The New York Times* when William Safire was on vacation and the "Street Talk" column for *The Wall Street Journal*.

Rink spent his childhood in Washington, D.C., and New England before prepping at St. Paul's, where he played football and hockey, rowed, and wrote for the school paper.

At Princeton Rink majored in English, presided at Charter, became managing editor of *The Tiger*, rowed with the lightweights, and roomed with Duke Butterworth and Mike Jones.

After graduation he served as a naval officer, coordinating communications during the Cuban missile crisis. He then entered the financial industry, becoming the youngest vice president ever at Harris, Upham before founding Reynders, Gray. During his busy career, Rink found time to support his class and Princeton as class agent, special-gifts solicitor, and ASC interviewer.

Rink is survived by, his wife, Nonie; sons John III \*93 and Charlton III '88; daughter Alys; and seven grandchildren. We have sent condolences.

#### THE CLASS OF 1962



Robert M. Crowell '62 Bob died March 24, 2020, after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease. Bob came to us from Northwestern High School in

Hyattsville, Md., and was valedictorian of his class. At Princeton he majored in Russian and wrote his thesis on Chekhov. Subsequently, Bob went to Harvard Medical School, graduating in 1966, and then completed his residency at Massachusetts General Hospital.

His long career was remarkable, as a

neurosurgeon at Mass General and a researcher, author, and teacher directing neurological and stroke training elsewhere. He authored, coauthored, or edited more than 160 neurosurgery publications. A legendary doctor, Bob was also known as humble and kindhearted in his relationship with patients. Bob relocated in 1993 to the Berkshires in western Massachusetts.

In Boston, Bob and Barbara Roy met and married. They became parents of Wyatt and Eve. Bob and Barbara later divorced. Tragically, Eve predeceased them in 2005. In 1987 Bob and Mary Woodson were married. Mary died in 2016.

After retiring, Bob continued his life of service. After Eve died, Bob and Barbara, who had remained friends, established in her honor Eve's Fund, dedicated to supporting the Navajo Nation, providing medical literacy and wellness resources and helping more than 60,000 children.

Bob will be fondly remembered by many. The class extends its sympathy to his entire family.



Lawrence T. Lamont Jr. '62 We recently received word that Larry died Oct. 4, 2017, in Mountain View, Calif. Larry came to Princeton

from Turtle Creek High School in Turtle Creek, Pa. At Princeton he majored in physics and, after graduation, spent the rest of his life in California. He earned graduate degrees from California State University and from the Eurotechnical Research University. Throughout his career he conducted research in the fields

of plasma physics, high-vacuum science and technology, and thin-film science and technology. He held 14 U.S. and foreign patents. In 2000 Larry started a company named

Cougar Labs that designed and manufactured advanced thin-film cluster tools used for research and development through process development and production.

In an essay for our 40th reunion, Larry said he found great satisfaction combining his work as a researcher with the teaching of science in local community colleges. He also wrote that his favorite pastimes were woodworking, climbing, hiking, gardening, and flying.

Larry is survived by his partner of more than 40 years, Diane McGiven; and by his children, Christina Kemp and James Lamont.

#### Kendrick B. Melrose '62



Ken died May 3, 2020. He hailed originally from Orlando, Fla. At Princeton Ken majored in mathematics, was a sprinter all four years

on the track team, an ardent member of Tiger Inn, and active in Orange Key. He roomed in the Lockhart Lair with Ed Weihenmayer. After graduating with honors from Princeton, he earned a master's degree in electrical engineering at MIT and later an MBA at the University of Chicago.

Ken spent the bulk of his business career at the Toro Co., taking the helm of that organization as president in 1981 and turning it into a major success, continuing until his retirement in 2006. Post Toro, he formed an LLC called Leading by Serving that enabled him to address leadership, culture, and ethics in the business world. His extensive involvement and support of Christian Union made possible the acquisition of its headquarters center in Princeton. For a number of years, he funded a course on Christian ethics in business on campus. Ken loved whitewater rafting and spending time with his children and grandchildren.

The class extends its condolences to his son, Rob '92; daughters Kendra '02 and Lia; and partner Kaye O'Leary.



Taylor died April 23, 2020, in Boston of peripheral T-cell lymphoma.

Taylor, known as Chip at Princeton, came to us from

Phillips Exeter Academy, where he participated in lacrosse and worked on the yearbook. At Princeton he played soccer, hockey, and lacrosse as a freshman and lacrosse in his upperclass years. After graduation he attended Harvard Law School, earning a law degree in 1965. While there he married Pamela Warner; they had three children, John, Seth and Anne. Their marriage ended in divorce in 1982.

After Harvard he worked at the Wall Street firm of Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft until 1968, when he joined the legal department at Johnson & Johnson. Working on both domestic and international assignments, he became international counsel and eventually corporate secretary. He retired in 1994.

In 1993 Tayokr married Barbara Hauter, and upon retirement they moved to Santa Barbara, Calif. He became active in various charitable organizations while staying physically active by hiking, cycling, running, and playing golf.

In addition to his children and wife, Taylor is survived by his stepdaughter Melora, stepdaughter-in-law Susan, and 10 grandchildren. He was predeceased by stepson Robert.

#### THE CLASS OF 1964



**Charles L. Layne '64** Charles died Feb. 11, 2020, in Los Angeles of complications following surgery.

He grew up in Issaquah, Wash., and attended Issaquah

High School. At Princeton he majored in religion, was on the freshman track team (javelin throw), sang in the Nassoons, and was a member of Tiger Inn.

#### MEMORIALS / PRINCETONIANS

Following graduation Charles became a teaching fellow at International College in Beirut, Lebanon. Returning to the U.S., he earned a BFA (actors training program) at the University of Washington in 1972 and embarked on an acting career, adopting the stage name of Charles Lanyer. He soon joined the prestigious American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco. Moving to Los Angeles, he appeared in popular TV shows such as Hill Street Blues, Dallas, and NYPD Blue as well as films such as The Stepfather and Die Hard 2. Eventually he returned to his first love, the stage, performing frequently at the American Conservatory Theater, South Coast Repertory Theater, and Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts. He won more than a dozen awards for his stage performances.

Charles is survived by his wife, Sara; a sister; a brother; and nieces and nephews whom he loved. The class extends its condolences to them all.

#### THE CLASS OF 1966



Rajaona Andriamananjara '66 Rajaona died Sept. 30, 2016, of pancreatic cancer. He was educated at the Lycee Gallieni, in his native Madagascar. He transferred from

the University of Michigan to Princeton our junior year. He was a Woodrow Wilson School major and belonged to the Woodrow Wilson Society.

After Princeton he earned a master's in international affairs degree at George Washington University, followed by a doctorate in economics at the University of Michigan.

Rajaona was an economist with the International Monetary Fund and held various governmental positions in Madagascar, including adviser in the Directorate of Planning, director general of planning in the Ministry of Finance and Planning, and director general of the Institute of Madagascar for Techniques of Planning. He was well known as a staunch defender of Malagasy, the national language of Madagascar.

He lectured and published widely on international matters and development issues and was president of the Madagascar National Academy of Arts, Letters and Sciences; fellow of the African Academy of Sciences; and president of UNESCO's World Commission on the Ethics of Science and Technology.

The class extends its sympathy to Rajaona's wife and to his sons and their families.

#### **Richard Joel Kates '66**

K

Dick died March 9, 2020, a result of pancreatic cancer.

Dick came to Princeton from Newton High School in Newton, Mass., where he played football, ran track, and belonged to the National Honor Society. At Princeton he majored in biochemistry, played rugby, was in the Orange Key Society, and ate at Dial Lodge, where he



served as Bicker chairman. He roomed with Bob Moya, Bill Parent, and Graham Findley.

After graduation Dick earned a medical degree from Columbia College of Physicians

& Surgeons, followed by an internship and residency in obstetrics and gynecology and a fellowship in reproductive endocrinology and infertility. He served as a major in the Army Reserves from 1970 to 1976.

Dick's medical practice was affiliated with Hartford (Conn.) Hospital. He reported in our 50th-reunion yearbook that he had delivered more than 5,000 babies, including to secondgeneration families and infertility patients. Sadly, he also reported that his retirement at age 70 coincided with the diagnosis of pancreatic cancer.

Dick and his wife, Maxine, had homes in Avon, Conn., and Sunapee, N.H. In addition to Maxine, he is survived by daughter Robin '93, son Stephen, and five grandchildren. The class extends its heartfelt condolences to them all.



**Lewis P. MacAdams Jr. '66** Lew died April 21, 2020, of complications related to Parkinson's disease.

Lew came to Princeton from St. Mark's School of Texas,

where he was basketball team captain, senior class president, and school newspaper editor. At Princeton he majored in English, ate at Colonial Club, was news director of WPRB, edited the *Nassau Lit*, chaired Arts at Princeton, and served on the editorial board of *The Daily Princetonian*. After graduation he earned a master's degree from the University of Buffalo.

Lew was author of a dozen books and recordings of poetry, as well as *Birth of the Cool*, a cultural history of the concept of coolness. A contributing editor of *L.A. Weekly*, he also contributed regularly to *Rolling Stone*, *Men's Journal*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and *Los Angeles* magazine.

Best known for his extraordinary work in restoring and protecting the Los Angeles River, he was founder and president of Friends of the Los Angeles River, mentoring generations of activists in that cause. His work is commemorated by a seven-foot concrete monument with renderings of Lew in his trademark porkpie hat, situated in the renamed Lewis MacAdams Riverfront Park.

The class extends its condolences to his companion, Sissy Boyd; daughter Natalia; sons Ocean, Will, and Torii; brother Alan; and sister Kathy.

#### THE CLASS OF 1974

#### Samuel P. Harbison '74

Sam died March 26, 2019, at his home. Born and raised in Pittsburgh, he was a math major at Princeton but took as few classes in that major as possible so he could spend his time pursuing his love for computers and



#### programming.

Sam was one of the pioneers in that field and co-authored a widely read book on C language programming, C: A Reference Manual, which is

still in use today. Although he learned to love computers on giant mainframes, he also was an early advocate of the personal computer.

After earning a Ph.D. at Carnegie Mellon, he worked at a startup there and then for Texas Instruments. He most recently worked at Google in Pittsburgh.

His wife, Diana, said he had two mid-life crises. In the first, he took up motorcycle riding, and for the second he indulged his other great talent in music as a valued bass in the Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh.

Sam is survived by Diana; two sons, Samuel Drew and Michael; grandsons Oliver and Gregory; and a granddaughter, Lucy. Remembrances may be made to the Pine Creek Presbyterian Church or the Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh.



#### Christopher G.

Mackaronis '74 Mack died peacefully March 6, 2020, surrounded by family. He was a valued member

of the golf team from 1970 to 1974 and enjoyed alumni golf more recently.

He followed Princeton sports fanatically; when Princeton basketball broke Penn's unbeaten record, he cut the net down and gave it to the star player, a friend. Mack was a beloved member of Cottage Club, where he regularly lost in beer pong to lifelong friends who never let him forget it. Mack was a lover of history, his major. As an undergraduate he was also a wonderful entertainer, often hosting friends in his room.

He found joy throughout life preparing delicious food accompanied by fine wine and good conversation.

Mack spent his legal career fighting age discrimination in employment while working for the EEOC, AARP, and private firms. He often spoke on behalf of older workers in local and national media. Mack found post-collegiate outlets for his athleticism in golf, and he documented hikes in the American Southwest with beautiful landscape photographs.

Mack is survived by his daughter, son, brother, sister, and former spouse. The family welcomes in-memoriam donations to the V Foundation ("Victory Over Cancer") or the National Parks Foundation.

#### **THE CLASS OF 1975**

### Jan Clare Viehman '75

Jan died Aug. 9, 2019.

She came to Princeton from Wakefield High School in Arlington, Va., with the intention of becoming a math major. Instead, she majored in religion. After graduation she began to study law



at the University of Virginia but soon decided law was not her passion.

At the time of our 25th reunion Jan had been a computer software developer for more than

23 years. Pursuing a craft she had begun in 1975, Jan was already making and selling art quilts, as well; she had the first solo show of her work in 1999 and enjoyed learning more about both the artistic and business aspects. She later went on to found a business, Jan's Quilts, and exhibited her creations as recently as 2015.

Jan sang in the Glee Club at Princeton and enjoyed being in the cast of Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. She and Bill Crutchfield '73 \*78 were married in 1976; the brief marriage ended in divorce. Jan was devoted to her cats and considered them to be family. She left no close relatives. Her classmates mourn the loss of this talented woman who found such great satisfaction in creating art with fabric.

#### THE CLASS OF 1980



Martin Benno Blumenthal '80 Benno died Dec. 15, 2018. He graduated from Huron High School in Ann Arbor, Mich. As an undergraduate he tackled difficult topics in physics,

including, for his thesis, the Einstein–Podolsky– Rosen (EPR) paradox, and worked to construct a localized quantum mechanical model. He graduated *magna cum laude* and went on to earn a Ph.D. in physical oceanography at MIT/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. His research there, on the oceanographic energy spectrum, led to a varied career studying oceans and climate.

He arrived at Columbia University in 1987 as postdoc and made a long career there, producing a wide range of publications in geoscience and data science. Benno created the Data Library at Columbia, and at his death colleagues praised him, too, for his kindness to others.



#### John R. Gavin '80

John died Nov. 25, 2018, of lung cancer. He entered Princeton with the Class of '79 from Big Foot High School in Walworth, Wis. After he and two Princeton

friends took a year off — John to teach sailing – they then joined the Class of '80.

He began as an architecture major, and later switched to economics. His twin brother, Michael, attended Swarthmore. John lived for ideas, friends, and experiences, and had an ascetic indifference to material possessions. Senior year he was president of Terrace Club.

John read exceptionally widely and played classical guitar. He worked in New York City as a currency analyst and later, in his old Connecticut farmhouse, as a software engineer. He took frequent working trips to Paris. He loved and supported ballet and opera and at times took long sabbaticals to travel.

He is survived by his twin; another brother, Peter; and sisters Lorrie, Kate, and Megan.

#### David A. Grady '80

David died May 30, 2016, at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center. His death was linked to disabilities resulting from grave injuries sustained in Vietnam in 1968 during his service in the Marine Corps.

Following his military service, David entered Princeton, where he majored in sociology. His thesis, "Thwarted Expectations: Learned Helplessness in the Chronic Pain Syndrome," helped him graduate *summa cum laude*.

In 1985 David earned a doctor of psychology degree from Rutgers. He built a career from his passion, evaluating and advocating for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder.

David is survived by his wife, Evelyne; son Russell; and daughter Grace '20. David is buried at Washington Crossing National Cemetery.

#### THE CLASS OF 1981

# P

Manuel Vellon '81

The world lost a great soul May 27, 2020, when a tragic hiking accident took our beloved friend, Manny Vellon. Manny was a beacon in the lives of

everyone in his orbit. His unalterable logic, unquenchable curiosity, razor-sharp insights, unsinkable humor, and steadfast friendship touched and shaped everyone who knew him.

An electrical engineering and computer science major, Manny became a software developer at HP, then joined Microsoft, where he became group program manager. Living in Bellevue, Wash., he co-founded the Virtual Worlds Group at Microsoft to study social interaction, collaboration, and real-time communication on the internet.

After Microsoft, Manny started a consulting business to help startups and venture-capital companies. After his first "retirement," Manny co-founded Likewise Software. After his second, he became partner and CTO at Level 11, which pioneers consumer technologies at theme parks, hotels, and cruise ships.

Manny leaves a legacy of decency, honor, and humanity that will be carried on by his loving wife, Sally — Manny's high school sweetheart and soul mate of 45 years — and their two extraordinary children, Danielle '13 and Steven.

Manny's loss impoverishes us all, but his presence has made the world richer for everyone who crossed his path.

#### THE CLASS OF 1983

#### Peter A. Lynn '83

Peter died suddenly June 5, 2020. He was the son of Roseclaire and Richard Lynn of Sands Point and East Hampton, N.Y. Peter prepared for Princeton at Saint Ann's School in Brooklyn Heights. At Princeton he studied electrical engineering (in between battles of wit with the great Ashley Montagu) before transferring to Brown University to complete a degree in computer science. He remained a loyal Princetonian and enjoyed his time as an alum at football games, Reunions, and participating in the P-rades.

His entire career was in the New York financial-services sector, focused on computer programming and engineering. He helped pioneer the crossing-network platform for large-volume stock trading.

He married Linda Berry of Manhasset, N.Y., where they settled to raise their daughter Alexandra "Sandy" Lynn, his pride and joy. They summered in East Hampton when not traveling overseas.

He was a past member of the Princeton Club of NY and Manhasset Bay Yacht Club. His passions were his family, friends, reading, biking, skiing, sailing, and attending his daughter's regattas. He will be remembered for his quick wit, intelligence, and kindness.

Peter is survived by his beloved wife, Linda; daughter Sandy; father Richard; a brother and sister-in-law; and two nieces.

#### THE CLASS OF 1989

#### Jonathan W. Jaffee '89

Jon, our gentleman rocker who wrote his Wilson school thesis on Guns N' Roses, then battled multiple myeloma cranking quadrophonic power ballads in hospice, died with the amp still buzzing April 21, 2020, in Solana Beach, Calif.

Jon came to Princeton from Princeton, Hoagie Haven's menu memorized since childhood, pizza cheesesteak (no. 17) his favorite. He grew up blocks from campus, where father Dwight was an economics professor. Jon's mother, Annette Williams, penned novels the family inspired. He excelled at tennis at Princeton Day School, and at squash well into college.

Professor Stanley Katz guided Jon's thesis, "An Evaluation of Warning Labels on Rock and Roll Albums" (mischievous mix tape included), shaping a lifelong love of academic inquiry and arcane discography, if disdain for parental advisories.

As a student he shared Axl Rose's edgy intensity but not the mop top, maturing into an easygoing professor with James Taylor's relaxed hairline. Jon coupled his UCLA law degree with a Berkeley Ph.D. in business administration, mentoring a whimsical generation of Golden State MBAs from faculty perches at USC, Pepperdine, and recently Claremont. He never realized his SoCal dream of bringing Hoagie Haven to Abbot Kinney.

Jon is survived by children William and Lucy; his sister, Elizabeth (no. 1, Italian); and grandmother Gertrude, age 102. The Jaffees rock on.

## Classifieds

## For Rent

**Paris, Marais:** Elegant, 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment, vibrant Pompidou museum/ sidewalk café quarter on 13c pedestrian street, full kitchen, w/d, AC, cable. desaix@verizon. net, 212-473-9472.

**France, Paris-Marais:** Exquisite, sunny, quiet one-bedroom apartment behind Place des Vosges. King-size bed, living/dining room, six chairs, full kitchen, washer, dryer, weekly maid service, WiFi, \$1350 weekly. corinnabarbara@gmail.com

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

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## The Women Got Their Scoops

By Elyse Graham '07

In 1946, The Daily Princetonian ran an unusual headline: "Girl Reporters Join 'Prince' News Staff." Doris Pike and Ruth Donnelly, the wives of Princeton students who had returned from the war to finish their studies, had begun to collaborate on a column that reported on married life at Princeton. The Princetonian already had the basic lumber of a newspaper office: hard-nosed editors, mild-mannered reporters, copydesk chiefs, the rat-a-tat-tat ka-ching of typewriters, a telephone, a dictionary, runners to rush drafts to the letterpress printing office in town – but after 70 years, it finally had the element that every great newsroom needs: intrepid girl reporters to serve up hot scoops.

Pike and Donnelly had a lot to report on. They learned about the hidden lives of the 90-odd student wives living on campus, as other *Princetonian* reporters seemingly had been afraid to do. (The column got its start, they wrote, when they saw a student "hovering nervously" outside Brown Hall, which was home to many married couples. When they approached him, he blurted, "We want a column on married life at Princeton from the wives' standpoint.")

Some of the women had been spies, medics, or servicewomen in the war: Doris Bernabei and Norma Kerr served in the Navy, Anne Chamberlin served in the Office of War Information in Egypt, Joan Robinson served in Britain's Auxiliary Territorial Service, Barbara Betts worked for the Red Cross, Patricia Lathrop held the rank of lieutenant in the Army Nurse Corps, and others whom Pike and Donnelly discreetly left unnamed – worked for the Office of Strategic Services, the wartime predecessor to the CIA. Still others built engines and calculated ballistics for aircraft and arsenal factories.

Keeping house at the University required ingenuity. A waffle iron, a gas can, and a hot plate had to provide such home cooking as the clever chef

They learned about the hidden lives of the 90-odd student wives living on campus, as other *Princetonian* reporters seemingly had been afraid to do. could devise. Wives did the cooking, shopping, cleaning, and typing, and about a third of them worked in town as researchers, teachers, shop clerks, secretaries, or nurses. They sat in on courses at the University when the instructors gave permission. (Pike and Donnelly published a list of courses that departments had given blanket permission for women to audit.) Many instructors got used to the new faces in their classrooms and even found a new source of vanity in comparing how many "voluntary listeners" they could draw. "One department came up with the idea that wives could not be permitted to attend one of their lectures," Pike and Donnelly wrote, "for the lecturer was too young and handsome."

Graduates of Middlebury (Pike) and Wheaton College (Donnelly), the reporters were wry, sly, good-humored observers of domestic life in the dormitories. In time, they wrote, men became almost inured to seeing women on campus paths. Their spouses, James Donnelly '43 and Otis Pike '43 (who became a New York congressman), were veterans of the Army Air Corps and the Marine Air Corps, respectively.

"In closing," the women wrote in one column, "we would like to reassure the Sons of Princeton ... that the womanhood on Tiger territory will be removed as soon as we can tutor our husbands through, but in the meantime, that womanhood will go on having a mighty good time." ◆

> Ruth Flavin Donnelly, left, and Doris Orth Pike

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