

HOW DOES THE ALUMNI INTERVIEW ENDURE?

PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY

APRIL 2024

INTO THE LIGHT.

THE ART OF MARY WEATHERFORD '84



PRINCETON UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM

ART *on* HULFISH



Christina Fernandez Multiple Exposures

February 10–April 28, 2024

ART @ BAINBRIDGE



Denilson Baniwa: Under the Skin of History

April 13–September 1, 2024

The exhibitions and programs at Art on Hulfish and Art@Bainbridge are made possible by Annette Merle-Smith; Princeton University; William S. Fisher, Class of 1979, and Sakurako Fisher; J. Bryan King, Class of 1993; John Diekman, Class of 1965, and Susan Diekman; Julie and Kevin Callaghan, Class of 1983; Annie Robinson Woods, Class of 1988; Barbara and Gerald Essig; Rachelle Belfer Malkin, Class of 1986, and Anthony E. Malkin; the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts; and other generous benefactors.

LEFT: Christina Fernandez, *Untitled Multiple Exposure #2 (Bravo)*, from the series *Untitled Multiple Exposures*, 1999. Courtesy of AltaMed Art Collection, AltaMed Health Services. © Christina Fernandez
RIGHT: Denilson Baniwa, *Pajé Yawareté traz novidades à aldeia de Santa Isabel, Oiapoque, Amapá* (Pajé Yawareté brings news to the village of Santa Isabel, Oiapoque, Amapá) (detail), 2018. Courtesy of the Artist. © Denilson Baniwa. Photographer: Sallisa Rosa

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An editorially independent magazine by alumni for alumni since 1900



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Mary Weatherford '84's unusual use of neon is on display in her 2012 painting *Coney Island II*, which is nearly 9 feet tall. *Photograph by Jonathan Muzikar.*

CAROLYN FONG



Published using 100% recycled paper

APRIL 2024 PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY

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Princeton Pre-read 2024: 'The Worlds I See'

*When I took office in 2013, I established the Princeton Pre-read, a ritual that introduces incoming first-year students to Princeton's intellectual life through the experience of reading and discussing a book together. The Class of 2028's book is *The Worlds I See* by Woodrow Wilson Award winner Fei-Fei Li '99. Here's an excerpt from my foreword to the Pre-read edition, which the incoming class will receive this summer. I encourage all alumni to read along with us!*

Dear Members of the GREAT Class of 2028,

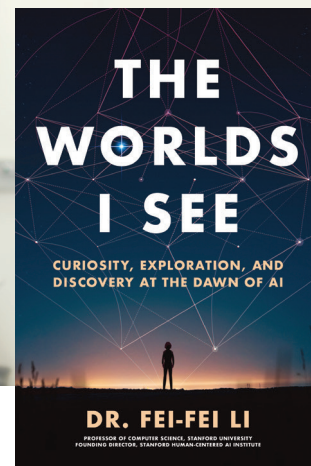
Warm greetings from Princeton! My colleagues and I look forward to welcoming you to campus later this year. Your talents, interests, and perspectives will add tremendously to this community, and I am confident that you in turn will develop and grow through the experiences, interactions, challenges, and opportunities that await you here.

I am delighted to share with you this copy of the Princeton Pre-read selection for 2024, Fei-Fei Li's *The Worlds I See: Curiosity, Exploration, and Discovery at the Dawn of AI*. The Pre-read is one of many traditions you will encounter at Princeton and is part of a series of activities that will introduce you to the scholarly and communal life of the University. I like to think of it as a natural counterpart to the Pre-rade, a joyous ceremony in which you and your classmates march together to enter Princeton through FitzRandolph Gate.

Like several other Pre-read authors, Fei-Fei Li was herself once a Princeton undergraduate. Professor Li is a proud alum of Princeton's great Class of 1999, and she currently serves as the Denning Co-Director of the Stanford Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence and as the Sequoia Professor of Computer Science at Stanford University.

Professor Li's book weaves together multiple narratives. One of them is about her life as a Chinese immigrant in America. She writes poignantly about the challenges that she and her family faced, the opportunities they treasured, and her search for a sense of belonging in environments that sometimes made her feel like an outsider.

A second story is about how she found her life's mission—her "North Star," she says—as a scientist. Professor Li beautifully illuminates the persistence that science demands, the disappointments and detours that are inevitable parts of research, and the discoveries, both large and small, that sustain her energy. Wherever your interests lie in the humanities, the social sciences, the natural sciences, or engineering, I hope that Professor Li's example will inspire and encourage you as



you explore the joys of learning at Princeton, a place that Professor Li calls "a paradise for the intellect."

A third story is about artificial intelligence and what it means for our future. Professor Li's research helped to catalyze the rapidly evolving forms of AI that are changing the world. Now she is focused on ensuring that the AI revolution will be "unequivocally human-centered." Professor Li predicts that this quest will "define this century," requiring not just scientific expertise but also an understanding of philosophy, ethics, and law, among other disciplines.

For Professor Li, these three narratives connect not only in her personal experience, but through more basic truths about insight and innovation. Issues about how to develop a human-centered AI, and how to understand our personal identities, come together in "the question of what motivates us, in our hearts and our minds, as we create," she writes. The answer to that question, she suggests, "will shape our future"—and, I would add, it will also shape your life during your time at Princeton and afterward.

Professor Li will join us during Orientation Week to talk about *The Worlds I See*. Over the course of the academic year, I will host several Pre-read discussions in the residential colleges that will provide us with opportunities to talk about the book and the broader issues it raises.

I look forward to examining these topics and others with you, and to welcoming you when you arrive on campus later this year. In the meantime, I hope that you enjoy *The Worlds I See*.

PHOTO BY DREW KELLY, BOOK COVER COURTESY OF MACMILLAN PUBLISHERS

INBOX

YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE LATEST ISSUES



KUTCH '01

VIRTUAL SURFING

Regarding “Surfing to Take Away the Suffering” (February issue), about neuroscientist Jason Kutch '01: I haven't stopped thinking about this inspiring article since first reading it, and I keep thinking how wonderful it would be to surf in a lab, as is described there. If we can row at a Row House and cycle at a gym, why not allow people the chance to surf the same way, without risking drowning? Sign me up, please!

JULIA DOUTHWAITE VIGLIONE '90

Seattle, Wash.

CONTE'S AND THE CREW

While Pete Carril and the basketball team may have been the more famous Princeton athletes to grace Conte's, long before 1980, the pizza joint was the preferred watering hole for Princeton's Class of '71 heavyweight crew. In addition to our undergraduate years, we returned regularly to Conte's for our crew's reunions. Conte's staff once even made us Karl Hofamann '71's infamous “pig lips” pizza, for which Hofamann personally supplied authentic Alabama pig lips as a topping. Thankfully, it didn't become a regular menu item.

After the passing of one of our freshman crew, Steve Powers '71, in 2001, we decided to have a memorial service for Steve at Princeton. The service was followed by pizza at Conte's and a row on Lake Carnegie. Since then, our crew has had a reunion almost every year at various locations around the country. We have also rowed in half a dozen or so masters races from California to Connecticut. It culminated at our 45th class reunion, where we gave the Princeton crew an eight-oared shell named “Class of 1971.”

OSMAN “OZ” BENGUR '71

Baltimore, Md.

FINDING BALANCE

In response to the PAWcast discussion of student mental health (published online Dec. 30): I learned and grew a lot during my four years at Princeton and I am very thankful for them. But one very negative thing I “learned” early at Princeton was that sleep is a waste of time. As a result, I lived many decades of my life with that misinformation, and this led to many missed opportunities to share more with my spouse, my sons, my friends, and yes, myself. It is only now, being retired from a very demanding and fulfilling career, that I understand the joy of not living life as though you're on a treadmill.

I hope that today's students can graduate with the knowledge that there can be — there needs to be — balance. But this will only happen if that is what the faculty and administration view as the ideal.

STACEY ROTH BACHRACH '77

Rocky Hill, N.J.

LOOKING FOR SPORTS

In the February 2024 issue of Princeton Alumni Weekly that I received in the mail, there are no articles or information about Princeton's major sports — especially basketball, hockey, wrestling, swimming,

etc. Princeton Alumni Weekly going back over the years has always given some space to the major sports teams. After all, close to 18% of Princeton undergraduates currently are on varsity sports teams, so the lack of information or coverage is neglectful. Princeton athletes deserve the coverage. If Princeton alumni are informed as they should be about major Princeton University sports activities, then maybe there would be more alumni support and attendance would rise at various sports contests.

STEVEN JAY FELDMAN '68

Manalapan, N.J.

DESCRIBING A BOUNTY

Mark Bernstein '83's excellent piece on Gen. Mark Milley '80 (“Enemies, Foreign and Domestic,” September issue) is insightful, probing, and well-written. However, I wanted to draw your attention to one sentence that refers to “a \$30 million fatwa, or bounty, issued by a prosecutor's office in Tehran.” A fatwa is a ruling on a point of Islamic law issued by a Muslim cleric — they usually pertain to questions from individual Muslims who are unsure what Islamic law dictates in an ambiguous situation (e.g. purity rituals, prayer, food, etc.). In Judaism, this is called a rabbinic responsa. A prosecutor cannot issue a fatwa. (I think the confusion stems, particularly in the Iranian context, from the fatwa that Ayatollah Khomeini issued against Salman Rushdie that called for his execution in 1989. That was a religious ruling, declaring Rushdie a heretic, from an Iranian cleric who was dual-hatted as the Supreme Leader of the country.)

To suggest that a legal bounty — perhaps similar to the \$25 million bounty issued by the State Department for information leading to the capture of Osama bin Laden in the 2000s — is the same thing as a fatwa, when millions of nonpolitical fatwas are issued around the world by clerics to their faithful, can easily be construed as Islamophobic. While I am certain this was not PAW's or Bernstein's intention, I did want to flag it. Perhaps

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INBOX

subject matter experts can be consulted in the editing process going forward.

JORDAN REIMER '08 *12

Washington, D.C.

Editor's note: The article has been updated online to reflect that Milley described the bounty as a "fatwa."

PRANKSTERS AND PROCTORS

You asked for stories about University proctors (From the Archives, January issue).

It was winter sophomore year, likely January or February 1976 (but the picture is often fuzzy from a distance). My Holder Courtyard roommate Jeff Georgia '78 and I were finishing up a late evening meal at Commons, when the idea struck: "Let's grab that big stodgy portrait off the wall and hang it outside our room for all the courtyard to admire!"

And just like that, the deed was done. I believe the dining hall was called Lower Eagle (closest to our entry). It was a big old formal portrait, all reverential pomp-and-circumstantial portraiture, with a fine fantastic formal frame. Our second-floor room was centered on the northern side of the courtyard, and our outdoor placement of the portrait gave the whole courtyard an air of rarefied respectability (or so we believed).

We even enhanced the presentation with dedicated lighting, making judicious use of a desk lamp centered just so above the new courtyard addition.

Well, everything was fine enough, and the evening was quietly unfolding when quietly and surreptitiously, snow started falling. Then next thing you know, we had a knock at our door.

That's when the four of us in our quad had our first genuine encounter with the proctors. They were firm but fraternal.

Back into Lower Eagle went the old patriarchal figure, and as I recall Jeff and I, within a day or two, had some delicate conversation with a dean. Our lesson in art history was completed.

ROCKY SEMMES '79

Alexandria, Va.

ELIZABETH WINKLER '11

Thank you for Sophie Steidle '25's interview with Elizabeth Winkler '11

(Newsmakers Q&A, published online Feb. 13). Her book on Shakespeare is the most important recent book on Shakespeare by a Princeton alum or faculty member.

Elizabeth courageously takes on a taboo topic. Having read dozens of reviews of her book by the general public, it's clear to me that many educated people are shocked by the vitriol that has been hurled at Elizabeth for her exceptionally professional treatment of this topic. She is a top-notch investigative reporter who has exposed the false claim that we are 100% certain that Shakspere of Stratford wrote Shakespeare. Harvard's eminent Shakespeare scholar Marjorie Garber told Elizabeth it doesn't matter to her who the author was.

Elizabeth's Princeton education has taught her the importance of critical thinking, especially about assumptions that are not to be questioned because of the powerful unconscious effects of groupthink.

I hope all Princeton students, faculty, and alums will read her entertainingly informative book.

RICHARD M. WAUGAMAN '70

Potomac, Md.

GHOST ARMY HONORED

Referencing your March 21, 2012, article "Freddy Fox Goes to War," I was aware of Freddy Fox '39 at Princeton through the Princeton University Band, where I was the photographer one year (through my roommate, drum major Bill Jerome '76), because Freddy supported it — like all things Princeton — with great enthusiasm. I showed the PAW article to my dad, who as a new West Point graduate had commanded the combat engineers of the Ghost Army (one of four field units) and been sworn to silence for 50 years, only talking about it in the late 1990s. He said, "Sure, I'd met with Fred when I reported to headquarters. Great guy."

Fast forward to March 21, 2024, when the Ghost Army will receive a Congressional Gold Medal for distinguished contributions to the nation in a ceremony at the Capitol. Only 184 such medals have been voted by Congress since the Revolution, and about 10 World War II units have been so honored. Rick Beyer, who wrote the PAW article, led the charge

to recognize the Ghost Army's contribution to victory in the European theater. I'll be at the ceremony representing my dad — and Freddy.

RICHARD G. REBH '76
Arlington, Va.

Editor's note: The U.S. Army's 23rd Headquarters Special Troops, aka the Ghost Army, used inflatable tanks, sound effects, false radio communications, and other stagecraft to deceive German troops in the months following the D-Day invasion. This issue went to press before the March 21 ceremony at the Capitol.

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

I have an enduring debt to the late Professor Anthony Vidler (In Memoriam, December issue). Few students knew him as I did. He was my preceptor during his first semester at Princeton. As a senior, I served as his research assistant. And in 1972 as I was completing my M.Arch. degree, he invited

me to join his recently established Ph.D. program in architectural history. Kriti Siderakis '82 *88 (Inbox, February issue) is right to remind Princetonians about the certificate program for which Professor Vidler had once served as director, the European Cultural Studies Program.

And yet, to Princeton's credit, this was not an innovation. As an undergraduate, I participated in the Special Program in European Civilization (SPEC), directed by Romance languages and literatures professor Blanchard Bates *41. This was a certificate program that allowed students to take three of their eight departmental courses in any other departments and to write an interdisciplinary senior thesis. SPEC had been created in 1950 and first directed by Professor Ira Wade *24. Those of us who were Professor Bates' thesis students in 1968-69 had the rare privilege of working with Professor Wade for one semester, when he came back from *continues on page 9*

REUNIONS

The Clean Energy Transition: Research Initiatives at the Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment

Princeton University welcomes **Iain McCulloch**, noted polymer chemist and the new director of the Andlinger Center.

Thursday, May 23, 2024

acee.princeton.edu/reunions



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YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

ALUMINARY

Melissa Zdrodowski '94

Chair of the Alumni Council's Communications and Technology Committee

Ask Melissa Zdrodowski '94 about the many roles she's played as an alumni volunteer, and she'll whisk you back to the day her Tiger spirit roared to life. After finishing up her first year, she was surprised to be called back to campus from her home in Philadelphia to play in the pit orchestra for the Triangle Show during Reunions.

"I was just blown away watching the P-rade," she recalls. "I thought, 'This is the greatest thing I've ever been a part of.' I remember feeling so energized by the older alumni coming down Elm Drive, psyched to see us, while we were cheering for them. I thought, 'This is why you go to a place like this. It's that tradition.'"

Zdrodowski began giving back before graduating, joining the committee for her senior class pledge campaign for Annual Giving (AG). As an alumna, she began making her mark by encouraging classmates to participate in AG during local phonathons and as a member of the special gifts committee for '94's 5th Reunion campaign, the first paw prints in a trail of volunteering that brought her to her current post as chair of the Alumni Council's Communications and Technology Committee (CAT).

When Zdrodowski moved to the San Francisco Bay Area a few years after graduation, she expanded her Princeton ties through '94's AG participation team and the Alumni Schools Committee. Soon, the call of Reunions became irresistible. She served on the committees for her 10th and 15th class reunions and then co-chaired her 20th with two classmates. "We decided to co-chair the 25th too," she said. "It was incredible. You see a lot more when you take on bigger roles. You see how the Alumni Association works and all the support from the University."

Meanwhile, Zdrodowski was using her skills in communication and technology, honed by a successful career in marketing, to improve the ways her class used email, collected dues, encouraged people to register for Reunions and conducted class business. On the heels of her 25th Reunion, she became class vice president.

Her new role led to another opportunity. "I remember getting the call asking if I'd serve on the Class Affairs Committee of the Alumni Council," she said. As a voice on the Council for all classes, she began connecting with other generations of Princetonians.

In 2021, when the University began migrating TigerNet — the online alumni community and suite of



volunteer tools — to a new platform called Hivebrite, Zdrodowski's tech savvy helped smooth the transition. She dug deep into the process, learning the platform and providing key feedback to the University team facilitating the transition.

At about the same time, the chair of CAT was looking for new committee members. Zdrodowski jumped in. "I was curious about how we can better support all the different alumni groups with the tech tools we have," she said.

In July 2023, she stepped up to the chair role. She's built a committee intent on sharing ideas and experience across the alumni network. "A lot of groups are doing amazing things — lecture series, panel discussions, wine tastings. We want to hear how they're bringing people together. Another priority is thinking about how to collect and archive that [event] data."

At CAT's helm, Zdrodowski is also keen to promote Orange & Black Day, which launched online in 2021 and has expanded into on-campus and regional gatherings around the globe. Last October, she invited Tigers in her town to a party in her backyard. "I even made the Princeton brownies, which were delicious," she said, citing the Orange & Black Day recipe that was shared on the Princeton Alumni website.

Cheering on alumni traditions and creating new ones has kept her Tiger spirit strong. "When you're giving back, it's fun," she said. "You also meet amazing alums who are doing incredible things."

2024 ALUMNI TRUSTEE ELECTION



Board of Trustees, 2023-24

REGION I ALUMNI TRUSTEE CANDIDATES

EVERY YEAR, the volunteer committee of the Alumni Council known as the Committee to Nominate Alumni Trustees (CTNAT) develops slates of alumni candidates for election to the Board of Trustees. Alumni trustees are elected for staggered four-year terms across the following categories: At-Large, Graduate Alumni, Recent Graduate School Alumni, and Regional Alumni. There are two slates of candidates for the 2024 Alumni Trustee Election. Polls will open on April 9 and will close on May 15. All undergraduate and graduate alumni are eligible to vote on both slates. For more information visit: alumni.princeton.edu/ctnat



Ithowho (Ita) E. Ekpoudom '03
New York, NY



Edward Felsenthal '88
Montclair, NJ

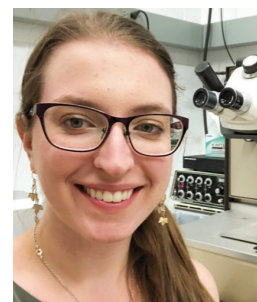


Caitlin Rich Zulla '99
Boston, MA

RECENT GRADUATE SCHOOL ALUMNI TRUSTEE CANDIDATES



Cole M. Bunzel '08 *18
Mountain View, CA



Sarah Marie Michelle Bruno *21
Baltimore, MD



Sarah Islam *10 *22
Minneapolis, MN



YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



1



2



3



Photo: Steven Freeman

Monica Moore Thompson '89
President of the Alumni Association and
Chair of the Alumni Council

DEAR TIGERS,

In this first year of my term as president of the Alumni Association, I have had the incredible privilege of meeting alumni on campus and around the world, and in each location, I am invigorated by the passion, loyalty and love for Princeton we all share.

The Venture Forward campaign, which promotes alumni engagement as one of its strategic pillars, hosted alumni receptions in Hong Kong (December), Los Angeles (January), West Palm Beach and Naples, Florida (February). At these events, I met with enthusiastic volunteer leaders to thank them for the efforts to galvanize, organize and welcome Princetonians in their regions. Additionally, Princeton alumni in Africa gathered for our first major alumni event in Kenya (February).

During Homecoming on Oct. 22, we celebrated the 277th anniversary of Princeton's charter with our new tradition, Orange & Black Day. Hundreds of Tigers met on campus and in the regions to mark this special occasion and Princeton's birthday. And on Alumni Day in February, we recognized Fei-Fei Li '99, winner of the Woodrow Wilson Award, and

John Fitzpatrick '78, who received the James Madison Medal, for their contributions to society and their service to our nation.

Reunions 2024 is fast approaching, annual festivities that reflect the unparalleled alumni celebration of Princeton and each other. I look forward every spring to saluting the Old Guard, each major Reunion class and our graduate alumni and to welcoming the senior class! I hope that you will join me this year, May 23-26.

These shared experiences and traditions bring Princetonians together and allow us to recognize and appreciate our collective impact locally and around the world. I am filled with gratitude for the incredible strength of this alumni community and our ability to find common ground in Princeton.

***I am Princeton. You are Princeton.
Together, WE are Princeton!***

Three Cheers,

Monica Moore Thompson '89



4

Alumni celebrated Orange & Black Day on campus (1), online and around the globe and gathered for special Venture Forward events with President Christopher L. Eisgruber '83, including in Hong Kong (2). On Alumni Day on Feb. 24, the Princeton Prize in Race Relations celebrated its 20th anniversary (3), one of several events that attracted more than a thousand alumni back to campus (4).

Photos: Susan Fou; Sameer Khan/Fotobuddy

continued from page 5

retirement to replace Professor Bates on sabbatical.

In 1973 Professor Vidler and history professor Carl Schorske created the Western Cultural and Historical Studies program, which merged with SPEC in 1975 to become the European Cultural Studies Program, still in operation nearly three-quarters of a century after SPEC had been initiated. All four of these men were intellectual giants.

RICHARD A. ETLIN '69 '72 '78

New York, N.Y.

FOR THE RECORD

A letter in the February Inbox section mischaracterized the beginnings of the Program in European Cultural Studies. Carl Schorske led the program at its founding in 1975. Anthony Vidler served as director from 1980 to 1987.

The Princeton Portrait illustration of author Katherine Fullerton Gerould



GEROULD

published in the May 15, 2019, issue was based on an incorrect reference photo. An accurate photo of Gerould, left, has replaced the illustration in PAW's online archive.

The Hoagie Haven article in the March issue misidentified Mike and Niko Maltabes in a photo. Mike is on the left.

YOUR PERSPECTIVE

Let us know what you think



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

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ONLINE Exclusives

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HENDERSON '98



BERUBE

CATCH THESE COACHES

On the latest PAWcast, Princeton basketball coaches **Mitch Henderson '98** and **Carla Berube** talked about their paths in coaching, their goals for a player's four-year experience, and some of the challenges and perks of the job. Find the podcast at paw.princeton.edu, or wherever you get your podcasts.

HOLLYWOOD HELP

Have you ever thought about a career in film? PAW talked with five Tigers about how they managed to break into the business. **Max West '19**, a motion picture literary agent at WME,



WEST '19

recommended building up your taste by reading and watching a lot of material.



HIGGS '01

Kiska Higgs '01, president of production and acquisitions at Focus Features, said majoring in philosophy helped her "learn to make sense or at least peace with chaos," which has helped her in Hollywood.



STERN '19

And **Eli Stern '19**, director and writer of *California King*, said it's easy to think creative people are naturally brilliant, but really

"it comes down to who can work the hardest and the longest." Read more advice at paw.princeton.edu.

AN OLYMPIC HOPEFUL

Ibrahim Ayorinde '23, a record-setter on the Princeton track and field team, took the first step in his bid to run at the Paris Olympics, competing in the 400 meters for Canada at the World Indoor Championships in March.

In an interview with PAW, Ayorinde credited his college teammates with



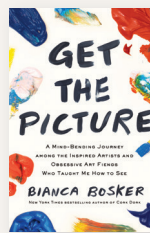
AYORINDE '23

advancing his development as a sprinter. "We all pushed each other at practice," he said. "It made it easy to be good because everyone wanted

to be good." Find the story and others about Tiger Olympians at paw.princeton.edu.

BOOK CLUB GIVEAWAY

The PAW Book Club is starting its third read, **Bianca Bosker '08's** new work of



gonzo journalism, *Get the Picture: A Mind-Bending Journey Among the Inspired Artists and Obsessive Art Fiends Who Taught Me How to See*.

PAW will mail free signed copies to a randomly chosen selection of book club members. Sign up at bit.ly/paw-book-club.

READY TO REUNE?

Send us your all-time favorite photo you've ever taken at Reunions, and we'll feature a selection in the 2024 Reunions Guide.



SCAN the QR Code with your phone to submit photos.

ON THE CAMPUS

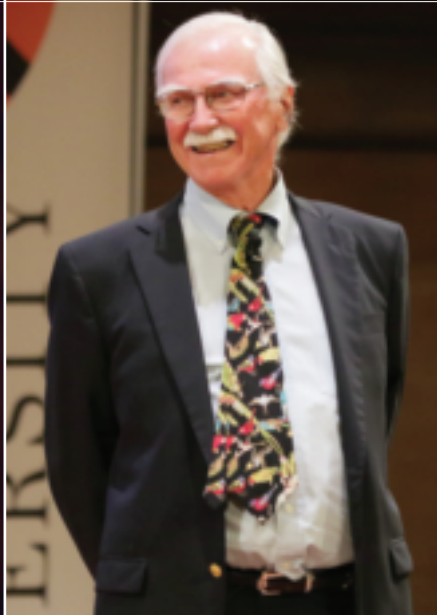
NEWS, SPORTS, AND STUDENT LIFE



TUNE EVERY HEART

Singer-songwriter Molly Trueman '24 plays one of her original songs for returning Princetonians at the Alumni Day luncheon in Jadwin Gym Feb. 24. Trueman also spoke about her experiences as an undergraduate in the music department.





ALUMNI DAY

Spotlight on Science

AI leader Fei-Fei Li '99, 'bird guy' John Fitzpatrick *78 earn top awards and speak about their fields

BY BRETT TOMLINSON

YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT you'll learn at Alumni Day, the University's annual cerebral celebration, held on Feb. 24. For example, Princeton has a curling team. President Christopher Eisgruber '83 confessed this was news to him, too, as he listed the extracurricular pursuits of Brian Sheng-Kai Li '24, a comparative literature major and one of two recipients of the University's highest undergraduate distinction, the Pyne Honor Prize.

"And because this is Princeton University," Eisgruber said, "we not only have a curling team, we are good at it: Brian and his teammates captured the silver medal at last year's national collegiate curling championship!"

The other Pyne Prize honoree, sociology major Casey Beidel '24, recalled that his first exposure to Princeton was a rain-soaked Orange Key tour led by Paige Allen '21, who also won the Pyne Prize. Beidel is an Orange Key guide as well, so perhaps another Pyne winner will be able to share a similar story a few years from now.

The top alumni honorees, Woodrow Wilson Award winner Fei-Fei Li '99 and James Madison Medalist John

Fitzpatrick *78, were recognized for extraordinary contributions to their scientific disciplines.

Li, a computer science professor at Stanford and co-director of its Human-Centered AI Institute, has led pioneering advances in artificial intelligence and computer vision. Fitzpatrick, a professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at Cornell and director emeritus of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, has been a dedicated researcher and conservationist and a leader of citizen science projects. Both delivered lectures to a nearly full house at Richardson Auditorium.

Fitzpatrick noted that he was the first ecology and evolutionary biology graduate to win the Madison Medal, which has been awarded annually to graduate alumni since 1973. "I am thrilled and honored by the choice of a 'bird guy' to receive this award," he said.

Birds are "fantastic models for how nature works," he said, providing vivid illustrations of global annual cycles and serving as sensitive environmental indicators. In recent history, what they have indicated is alarming: A 2019

ALUMNI HONOREES

*Woodrow Wilson Award winner Fei-Fei Li '99, left, and James Madison Medalist John Fitzpatrick *78.*

Science paper found that the North American bird population has lost nearly 3 billion birds, about a third of all breeding adults, since 1970, across nearly all habitats. Ornithologists are studying the human factors at work in this trend, including massive centers of light that disrupt migration, mercury contamination, habitat loss, and the use of certain pesticides.

Birds have also shown an extraordinary ability to inspire citizen scientists — from adventurous birders to those pouring seed into their backyard feeders — who build remarkable data sets from their observations. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, recognizing that potential in 2002, created eBird, an interactive site for recording bird sightings. Now, it is the world's largest citizen science project and collects more than 100 million bird sightings per year.

"We are at the opening now — just the opening — of what will become a global opportunity to look at very fine detail of what bird populations are doing and measuring what they're telling us about their local situations — some good, some worrisome, some downright catastrophic," Fitzpatrick said.

Li, a physics major as an undergraduate, recalled that Princeton was one of the first places she visited after her family immigrated to New Jersey from China when she was 15. It was, after all, Einstein's intellectual home — and "the dinosaur exhibit was free."

More than a decade later, Li was a member of Princeton's computer science faculty when she and her colleagues developed ImageNet, a collection of 15 million digital images intended to capture the diversity of the visual world and serve as a "training dataset" for object recognition, a key thread in artificial intelligence.

ImageNet has been used to help computers see what humans see, Li said, paving the way for a next step: building AI to see what humans don't

see. She explained the phenomenon of “change blindness,” in which we often don’t notice a major change in our visual field, and how this can lead to mistakes in high-intensity situations, such as an operating room. AI could help surgery teams keep track of instruments and avoid medical errors, for example. Researchers are also building AI to augment human capabilities, Li said, with applications that could allow people with disabilities to use brain waves to control robotic limbs.

Li said that in all cases, the development of AI should “be guided by concern for human impact. It should strive to augment and enhance humanity, and it should be inspired by our human intelligence — both emotional and cognitive.” With that in mind, her work at the Human-Centered AI Institute has drawn on expertise from a wide range of fields, including medicine, law, neuroscience, social sciences, and the humanities. Her memoir about that work, *The Worlds I See: Curiosity, Exploration, and Discovery at the Dawn of AI*, will be the Pre-read for Princeton’s Class of 2028.

More than 1,000 alumni and guests attended the Alumni Day festivities, which included the morning program at Richardson and a luncheon in Jadwin Gym. In addition to the alumni honorees and undergraduate Pyne Prize winners, four doctoral students were presented with Jacobus Fellowships, which fund the final year of graduate school: José de Jesús Montaña López (chemical and biological engineering), Geneva Smith (history), Pasquale Toscano (English), and Ryan Unger (mathematics).

After lunch, the University paid tribute to alumni, faculty, and staff who died in the last year at the annual Service of Remembrance in the University Chapel. At a closing reception in Chancellor Green, attendees celebrated the work of the Princeton Prize in Race Relations, a program created by alumni to highlight the work of high school students around the country, which completed its 20th year in 2023. **P**

RENDERING BY THE GRADUATE HOTEL



COMING SOON

Downtown Hotel Aims To Open Before Reunions

GRADUATE HOTELS, a chain that operates 33 locations in the U.S. and England, mostly in college towns, is nearing completion of a new 180-room hotel in Princeton at the corner of Nassau and Chambers streets. The opening is scheduled for May. As of mid-March, the hotel was not yet taking reservations.

“Princeton is the quintessential college experience,” Graduate Hotels founder Ben Weprin told PAW. “When we first started Graduate, Princeton was at the top of our list. ... The history, the heritage, the backdrop, the charm, the sophistication — it’s just the idea of what somebody thinks college looks like in America.”

The hotel, in turn, will take design cues from the University. Renderings of the lobby show wooden bookcases, ornamental tigers, framed class jackets, and a palette of orange and black. The design team interviewed alumni to gather information about meaningful Princeton landmarks and traditions. In the guest rooms, headboards have been fashioned to emulate the 19th century student canes that inspired the first cane spree. Bedside lamps resemble the cannon on Cannon Green (including a floral detail visible in archival photos but now hidden underground).

Weprin launched the first two Graduate locations — Athens, Georgia; and Tempe, Arizona — in 2014, and in

a 2016 *Wall Street Journal* interview, he mentioned his interest in buying the Nassau Inn. That never materialized, so he went searching for other options.

Plans for the building were approved in February 2021, and construction began the following year. The project incorporates the existing building at 20 Nassau St. — a century-old, five-story brick Colonial revival structure — as well as new construction along Chambers Street, where the main entrance will be. The hotel will nearly double the guest-room capacity in town. (The Nassau Inn has 188 rooms and the Peacock Inn 16.)

Graduate officials estimated in 2021 that construction of the new hotel would cost more than \$100 million, and Weprin confirmed that price tag. “We spent a lot because we think it merits it,” he said. “It’s an elevated product for an elevated community, an elevated market.”

Getting approval for a new hotel in downtown Princeton was not without obstacles, including a series of zoning meetings and objections from neighbors on Bank Street, to the west of the hotel site. “When people are super passionate about where they live and where they’re from, you expect that as part of the process,” Weprin said. “Our job is to prove our commitment and our dedication to each one of these markets.” **P** By B.T.



STUDENT DISPATCH

Princeton Gets Serious About Scooters, Forcing Students to Adapt

BY ANIKA ASTHANA '25



A YEAR AGO, electric scooters were a staple of campus life. Princeton students could be seen whizzing down walkways between classes or on their way to extracurricular activities. Today, electric scooters have become rare, as the University has banned and subsequently confiscated the once-prominent vehicles.

To substantially reduce the use of personal electric vehicles (PEVs) such as scooters and e-bikes, Princeton's Department of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) announced in December that PEVs could no longer be "used, stored, parked, or charged" within a zone that covers the majority of campus, including academic buildings, the residential colleges, Princeton and Roberts stadiums, and the boathouse. The policy went into effect on Jan. 25.

The 2024 policy is a stricter version of the University's earlier effort to curb electric scooter usage. Previous regulations, implemented in August 2023, banned PEVs on weekdays between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. The original policy, intended to address safety issues, was met with mixed reactions from the student body and ultimately did not have a substantial impact on reducing PEV usage.

In an email to the campus community, EHS wrote, "Despite efforts to educate the campus community about the updated policy and alternatives for getting around campus safely, compliance with the new PEV restrictions has been low." A third-party consultant assisting the University with mobility planning "found nearly the same levels of e-scooter use during restricted hours in October 2023 as those seen in February 2023."

The lack of impact from the initial policy might have stemmed from the lack of enforcement. As Madeline Cramer '26 told PAW, "Nobody I know has ever gotten a ticket for riding a scooter."

When the 2024 ban was announced, students still had their doubts about whether the University would actually enforce it, said Masha Khartchenko '24. Scooter owners were told to remove their

vehicles from campus, and Princeton offered a free shipping service to send them home. In late January, just before the start of spring semester classes, the University began impounding unattended scooters. Just over 100 PEVs had been impounded as of early March, according to the Department of Public Safety.

Some students have turned to electric bikes to manage their busy schedules and the expanding campus footprint. With the University's current policy, e-bikes in "electric-assist" mode are permitted on campus roadways. Electric bikes are only allowed on pedestrian pathways and sidewalks if they are used in "traditional" mode and must yield to pedestrians at all times.

Despite these stipulations, increased e-bike usage might become the University's next focal point. "I understand the reasoning behind the policy, but walking honestly feels more dangerous than before now that lots of people have replaced scooters with electric bikes that are bigger and faster," said Sterling Hall '25.

For now, the University's enforcement efforts are focused on keeping scooter usage under control. Students reported seeing Princeton staff cutting locks off scooters and piling the unauthorized vehicles into a pickup truck. Owners can claim their devices for return by completing an online form.

In addition to confiscation, the University has been encouraging other methods of transportation. Princeton's Bike Library loans out a fleet of 100 Breezer bikes, which are "professionally refurbished and ready to ride." The bikes are marketed as cheap, effective alternatives to PEVs, and cost \$25 to rent for one semester, or \$40 for the year. By mid-February, the rental requests closed as all available bikes had been claimed for the spring semester.

By one admittedly anecdotal measure, Khartchenko said, the University's strict enforcement of the ban has been effective. "The number of times that I got hit by a scooter last year was one, and this year it was zero," she said. "I would say that is a positive trend." ■

CLASS CLOSE-UP

Stepping Into the Community to Understand Affordable Housing

THOUGH 98% OF PRINCETON undergraduates live on campus, the current turbulence of the country's housing market has some students already stressing about housing uncertainties after graduation.

That's partly why Aaron Shkuda, project manager of the Princeton-Mellon Initiative in Architecture, Urbanism, and the Humanities — which aims to “develop a more dynamic and nuanced understanding of urban issues today,” according to its website — is offering a new class this spring, *Affordable Housing in the United States*, that examines past and present housing issues and the policy, design, activism, and economic factors at play.

One can easily find both luxury housing and the unhoused in large cities, but, according to Shkuda, an urban and metropolitan historian, “a lot of that dynamic is hidden in Princeton, and so I want to try to get [the students] to be able to read the built environment [and] understand the places around them.”

During one of several walking tours this spring, Shkuda's 25 students explored a Princeton suburb and then researched records dating back to the 1920s to uncover how certain buildings



HOMETOWN VIEW

Fern Spruill, center, leads students on a walking tour and shares her family's generational history in Princeton.

and areas changed over time.

“It was really interesting to see the history of who was living here and to experience the surroundings of Princeton on a more personal level,” said Allison Jiang '26, a sociology major who had

never ventured into Princeton's suburbs on her own.

Economics major Brett Feyerick '25 is a member of the University's real estate club and the son of a policymaker at Ginnie Mae — the Government National Mortgage Association — but it wasn't until this class that he learned about “the history behind the housing market, the good and the bad.”

That “dark history” is intertwined with racial segregation, Feyerick said, and “in certain urban areas, it's super expensive to live, and certain groups are marginalized and sort of pushed out of the housing market.”

Shkuda said he thinks Princeton is full of empathetic students “who want to make a difference in the world, but also, they have to live in housing eventually, and it's a really scary prospect of like, ‘Oh gosh, where might I live?’ And so, I think there's a little bit of productive self-interest there.”

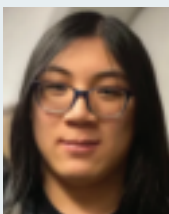
For the midterm, students wrote papers on policies that shape New Jersey's affordable housing, and for the final, they are working in groups to develop policy, design, and urban planning recommendations for specific sites in Princeton that either are currently or could be converted into affordable housing.

“It's been really nice to get to know more about how the University plays a role in the surrounding neighborhoods here,” said Jiang. “I just want a better understanding of the community I'm in.” **■** By J.B.

Campus Mourns Another Student Death

Editor's note: If you or someone you know may have suicidal thoughts, you can call the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline or chat online at 988lifeline.org.

JAMES LI '27 WAS FATALLY STRUCK by the Princeton Dinky shuttle train Feb. 16 at the railroad crossing on Faculty Road. New Jersey Transit is investigating and has not released the cause of death. Li is the second freshman to die this academic year and the seventh Princeton student to die since May 2022.



LI '27

father is Dapeng Li.

A lauded writer and novelist, Yiyun Li has written about her journey through

A student in Yeh College, Li was a Princeton High School graduate. His mother, Yiyun Li, has been a faculty member since 2017 and serves as director of the University's Program in Creative Writing; his

depression and grief after her older son, Vincent, died by suicide when he was struck by a train in 2017. In 2022, *The New York Times* wrote that Yiyun Li had become “something of a beacon to those suffering beneath unbearable weight.”

A University statement about Li's death listed resources that can help students, and in an interview with PAW, Counseling and Psychological Services director Calvin Chin said, “One thing that can be helpful when a tragedy like this happens is to just lean into the emotional support that you can get from other members of the community.” **■**

By E.H.D. and J.B.



MAKERSPACES

Places to Make Something Worth Your While

BY JULIE BONETTE

OVER THE YEARS, the Princeton University Library makerspace in the Lewis Science Library has been home to many a project, from a virtual reality experience that students created by 3D scanning sculptures to a Ms. Frizzle costume sewn by a student for an eating club event. Makerspace staff offer low-tech programs like pillow-making, and a “build and play” area supplies hands-on activities like kinetic sand and a mini Zen garden.

“Having a makerspace ... ties into our mission to enrich teaching and learning, provide dynamic resources, and be an active and creative partner in engaging in new forms of learning and research,” said Wind Cowles, the library’s associate dean for data, research, and teaching, via email.

The library’s makerspace, which also includes a virtual reality room and a partially sound-proofed video production room, is one of three open-access makerspaces available to anyone with a University ID. The Keller Center’s makerspace is tucked away in a corner of the H wing of the E-Quad, and the Council on Science and Technology’s

(CST) interdisciplinary technology space, the StudioLab, is in Fine Hall.

Hours vary, but the spaces tend to be reserved for courses during the day and have open hours at night. They also host events, from regular group meetings to an esports tournament in the StudioLab that drew about 70 people.

Students are taking advantage: During the 2022-23 academic year, the StudioLab offered 210 trainings and had 714 machine reservations, and during the 2023 calendar year, 1,287 people checked out equipment from the library’s makerspace for a total of 2,925 checkouts.

“We’re continuing to build out the kinds of equipment that we have in the space, and it’s all based on how people are using it, what kind of things they ask for on a regular basis,” said Ariel Ackerly, makerspace specialist at the library.

Makerspace staff across campus collaborate to offer standardized equipment training so users can easily transfer learned skills, such as soldering or 3D printing, across spaces. Staff members also collaborate through

GETTING CREATIVE

STEM meets the arts at the CST StudioLab, where users can work on academic and personal projects.

MakeNet, a Discord server that acts as a hub of resources and information where the University community can ask questions and share ideas.

The Keller Center’s makerspace boasts the only open-access full woodworking shop on campus. It looks like an arts and crafts playground on steroids: An old-school player piano and vintage arcade machines awaiting repair are scattered among laser cutters and embroidery machines.

When PAW spoke with Castle Kim, former design lab manager, before he departed Princeton, he said students are welcome to come without an idea — to meet with friends or just to have fun.

Brendan Byrne, CST StudioLab manager, wanted “to see capital A art” produced in the space when he joined Princeton in 2019, but since then, he’s also “really begun to appreciate the small projects that bring people so much joy.”

Byrne has seen all kinds of projects come to fruition, from the robotics club designing a Pac-Man maze and then programming a robot to successfully navigate it for a Pacbot Competition, to a postdoc making cookie cutters for his spouse.

The big draw of the StudioLab is the performance zone, complete with theatrical lights, surround sound, and a motion capture system, but Byrne also wants the lab to be inviting and stimulating, which is especially evident in the lengthy bookshelf full of items and artifacts like Rubik’s Cubes, chess pieces, and prototypes that he said “get people excited about the space” and blend STEM with the arts.

Penelope Georges, CST associate director of STEM initiatives, teaches courses in the StudioLab every semester. She said her “students like being in there — they’re engaged, there’s things for them to be doing actively.”

“I think that’s where all of the expansive thought and the creativity happens — the magic.” ■



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CAMPUS ACTIVISM

Students Launch Israel Divestment Campaign

A PETITION THAT DEMANDS the University divest its endowment from holdings in Israel had been signed by 683 Princeton community members as of early March, and students expressed dismay over President Christopher Eisgruber '83's remarks on the subject at the February meeting of the Council of the Princeton University Community (CPUC).

Princeton Israeli Apartheid Divest (PIAD) launched late last fall with a rally and the petition, which urges the University to "not participate in both

the ongoing massacre in Gaza and the continued implementation of Israel's apartheid regime, which has been enabled by investments in companies and institutions that have worked to enact and normalize Israel's violence against Palestinians for decades."

The petition demands that Princeton divest and dissociate from companies affiliated with Israel until a ceasefire is reached, and that Princeton work with Palestinian institutions.

PIAD has not received a formal response from the University. But at the Feb. 19 meeting of the CPUC, Eisgruber answered questions related to the petition, doxxing, and the University's institutional restraint policy and divestment procedures. He said it is extremely rare for Princeton to take such a drastic measure as divestment, and it would only occur "after multiple years of engagement."

"Under the standards of the University, there has to be consensus around [divestment], and there's the opposite of that on issues involving politics in the

Middle East," Eisgruber said. "There's a sharp disagreement."

Students silently made their voices heard by holding up red thumbs-down signs.

"People should disagree with one another about things," Eisgruber said, "and you're disagreeing now. I'm OK with that. Your thumbs can be down — that's fine. Disagreement is what we do."

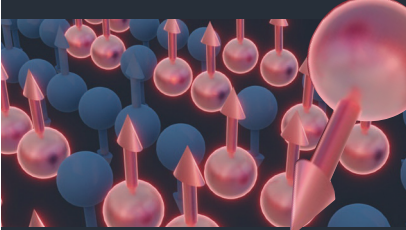
As the meeting concluded, students chanted "we will not rest until divest."

According to PIAD organizers, who asked not to be named because of safety concerns, about 30 to 40 of the group's student leaders are working with alumni who have led past divestment campaigns, students at other universities, and local groups to build support for the divestment campaign.

In 2014, a CPUC subcommittee announced there was not enough consensus or sustained interest to consider a petition calling for divestment from Israel, and the following year, undergraduates declined to vote in favor of a similar referendum. **P** By J.B.

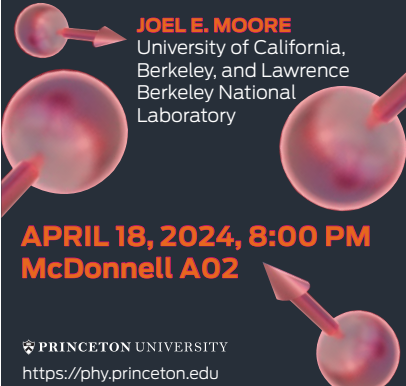
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IN SHORT



MILLEY '80

Recently retired **Gen. Mark Milley '80**, the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has joined Princeton's School of Public and International Affairs as a visiting professor and visiting lecturer. Milley, whose role runs through June 2025, will deliver lectures; meet with students, alumni, and faculty; participate in "SPIA in D.C." events; and collaborate with the Security Studies Ph.D. program, according to a February SPIA announcement. Milley is also a fellow in residence at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. The

Princeton and Georgetown positions were announced on the same day.

Alice McGuinness '24 and Nathalie Verlinde '24 received one of Princeton's highest honors,



MCGUINNESS '24



VERLINDE '24

the **2024 Sachs Scholarship**, named for Daniel Sachs '60. McGuinness, a history major from Milwaukee, will pursue two master's degrees at the University of Oxford, in modern South Asian studies and forced migration and refugee studies. Verlinde, a molecular biology major from Princeton, will spend a year researching technological interventions and treatments for

neurological disorders at NeuroRestore in Lausanne, Switzerland. The Sachs program also supports one year of study at Princeton for a visiting scholar from Oxford. Jack Nunn, a doctoral candidate in medieval and modern languages, will spend the next year in Princeton's history department. **P**



Dear Tigers,

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

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

- ✓ **Registration is open and required prior to check-in!**
Reminder: Satellite class alumni can register only **one** guest.
- ✓ Plan to attend the **Annual Meeting of the Alumni Council**
at 11 a.m. Friday, May 24, in Richardson Auditorium. Celebrate
your fellow alumni, learn more about the Alumni Association and
escape the elements — there's air conditioning!
- ✓ Sign up your kids for **Tiger Camp**, administered by YWCA Princeton,
on May 24 and 25. Spaces are filling up quickly, so don't delay.
- ✓ The new **Stadium Parking Garage** is a great option for parking
and offers electric vehicle charging stations. New electric buses
will be transporting alumni and friends to locations around the
perimeter of the campus.
- ✓ Alumni with accessibility needs can indicate them on the Reunions
registration form. Questions? Contact **pureunions@princeton.edu**
- ✓ **Be Green.** Bring your own water bottle to campus and place
reusable and compostable cups in the proper collection bins.
- ✓ Visit **reunions.princeton.edu** to learn more and read the
latest updates!

With love,
Princeton



Photos: Fotobuddy



ROWING

Silver Lining Sculler

The pandemic cut short Hannah Scott '21's time on campus — but helped launch her international career

BY JEN WHITING

THE PHOTO IN FRONT OF FitzRandolph Gate was a bit late, but it still held the emotion and pride of a Tiger becoming an alumna: Hannah Scott '21 wears a cap and gown, her arms interlocked with classmates, as she visited campus for a delayed graduation.

For Scott, the COVID lockdown that began in the spring of her junior year ended her Princeton rowing season and sent her home to Great Britain. But Scott flipped the script. "I kept going that year," she said. "Princeton taught me about balance — not to be too much of any one thing — and I didn't want to say no. No pause on my Princeton life, no pause on my team life."

When the news came from the University that most students would be participating in remote instruction for her senior year, Scott decided to train with the Great Britain national team with the goal of competing at the 2021 Olympics in Tokyo. "I think I'm still the youngest member of the GB team to go to the Olympics," she



LATE TO THE GATE

Hannah Scott '21, an Olympian for Great Britain in 2021, donned her cap and gown at a graduation celebration with friends in 2022.

said through a soft smile. The five-hour time difference allowed Scott to train with the national team from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. and then jump on Zoom for classes beginning at 4 p.m. Scott made the team and rowed in the quadruple sculls in Tokyo, three months after graduation.

Now, with the 2024 Paris Olympics on the horizon, Scott is once again racing for a seat on the Great Britain team. This spring will be spent at a training camp in

Portugal and then racing in Varese, Italy, and Lucerne, Switzerland. No time for a trip to Reunions.

Scott first saw Princeton's campus on her official visit as a student-athlete, which was also her first visit to America. "I wasn't sure about America; it was so far from home. But Princeton felt like home," she said. "This was the place I wanted to be. It just felt right."

Scott rowed in the first varsity eight her freshman year for Lori Dauphiny, the head coach of women's open rowing. "Lori was a key reason I came to Princeton. When I visited, I got to see her work. It's so powerful how she leads a group of women. I just felt like I could trust her with three or four years of my life," Scott said, before pausing briefly. "She led us in a culture of relentlessness. There were definitely no egos on our team — there just wasn't room for that." Another pause, this one punctuated with a soft chuckle. "Lori even taught me about female anatomy ... women use their hips!"

Even though Scott's time at Princeton was cut short by the pandemic, she made the most of two seasons with the Tigers. She was part of two Ivy League Championship teams, rowed in the NCAA Championships, and in her final season was a part of the first varsity eight that went undefeated in the regular season. "I really wanted to be shaped in those years by a coach who had the same values. I knew I would be formed in those years," she said.

Dauphiny encouraged Scott's Olympic pursuit, even amid a global lockdown. "We were sad I couldn't row my senior year, but she's one of those women who encourages you to stay grounded in reality while pursuing what you love," Scott said.

At the 2021 Olympics, the U.S. team included the captains of Scott's sophomore-year crew, Claire Collins '19 and Emily Kallfelz '19. "In the middle of the Olympic Village in Tokyo, we saw each other and started shouting across the plaza," Scott said. "We hadn't rowed together since COVID."

All three are vying for spots in Paris this year, and Scott would also like to row as teammates again someday: "I'd really love to do an alumni boat for the Head of the Charles." ■

ALAMY, COURTESY OF HANNAH SCOTT '21



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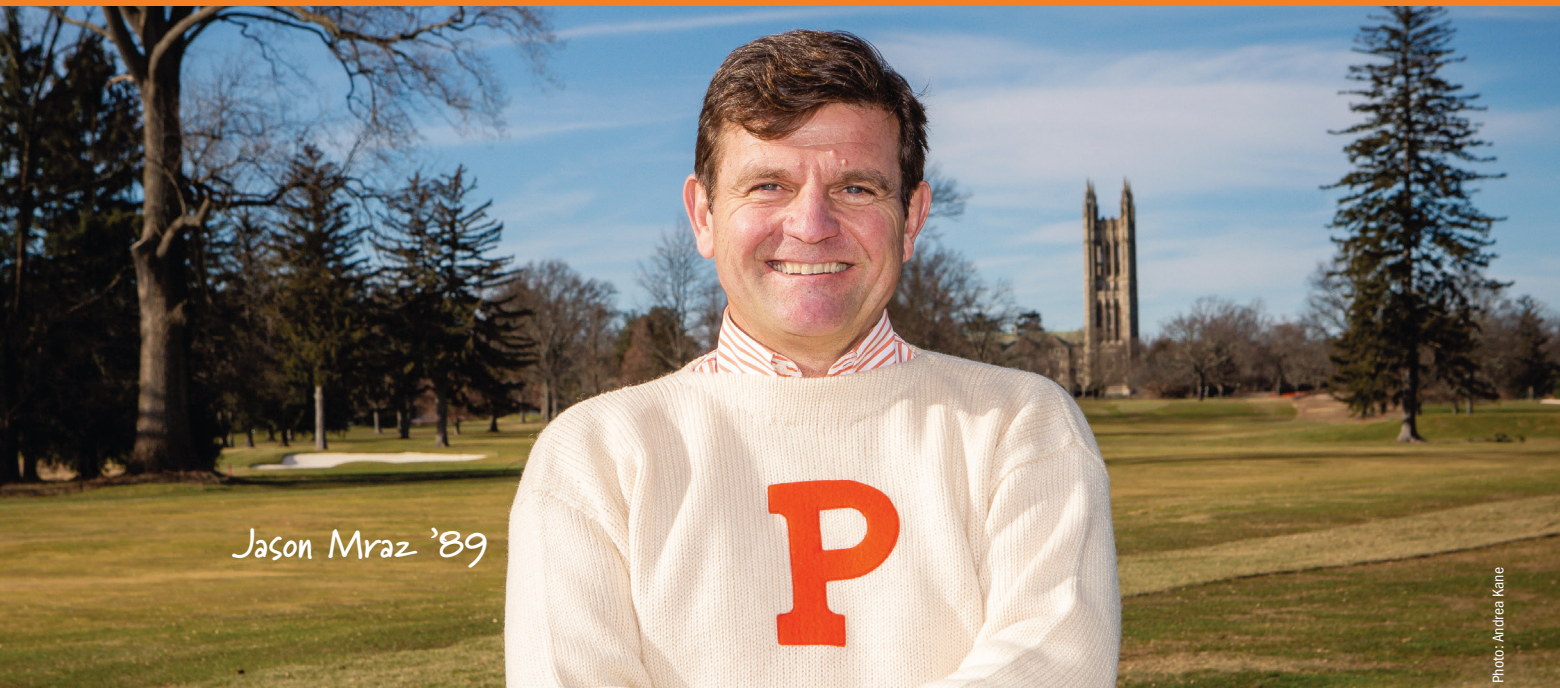
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RESEARCH

ADVANCING THE FRONTIERS OF KNOWLEDGE

LASER FOCUS

Assistant professor Lawrence Cheuk '10 and his team have discovered a method to link individual molecules together into special states that are quantum mechanically "entangled." Using tightly focused laser beams, the team was able to control molecules — which is typically difficult to do in a laboratory. "Using molecules for quantum science is a new frontier, and our demonstration of on-demand entanglement is a key step in demonstrating that molecules can be used as a viable platform for quantum science," Cheuk says of this groundbreaking research, which was published in the journal Science in December.



COMPUTER SCIENCE

Recalibrating the Price of Ease

Building technology that works for workers in the gig economy — as well as consumers

BY KATHARINE GAMMON '03

ANDRÉS MONROY-HERNÁNDEZ grew up in Mexico, in an activist family. His parents moved to the north of Mexico where they were part of an organization trying to help workers create unions in Mexico for workers at U.S. car factories that had just moved across the border. He carried that drive with him as he studied human computer interaction and became a researcher at Microsoft and Snap Inc. for a decade.

Monroy-Hernández started to notice that platforms such as Uber, Lyft, and DoorDash were smooth for consumers but harmful for the workers who labored within them. He wondered: Was it possible to build technologies that worked for both sides? “Part of my background and growing up in a union-friendly home probably influenced this,” he says. That desire to help make the world better led him to Princeton to found the HCI (Human-Computer Interaction) Lab, where he focuses on social computing and building public interest platforms — tech that can serve the greater good of society.

One prong of the lab’s research tries to understand what current workers in



MONROY-HERNÁNDEZ

the platform economy are experiencing and works with labor organizations to offer them better data. The researchers use tools, like one they have built called FairFare, to collect crowdsourced data from drivers. That helps them peer inside the black-box algorithms that companies employ to guide pricing information. Drivers can easily and anonymously link their job data to analyze average fare breakdowns, and the researchers offer that information back to unions and worker collectives.

This data has led to other research questions, such as understanding the take rate — the rate the company takes from a driver — and how it changes in different circumstances. The team’s research

has revealed that in some cases, a driver can receive less than half the fare paid by customers; in one case, Uber collected as much as 53%. They have also found that the take rate is higher near airports.

The lab is sending students to interview drivers on various platforms to understand their day-to-day lives, struggles, and how they work within the confines of each platform. Researchers have learned the lack of transparency is one of the most jarring aspects of being a worker. “Not just the issues around not only integrity, but also things around like how tasks are assigned, or how the pricing works,” says Monroy-Hernández. “A lot of them know people who have been kicked out of these platforms and it’s unclear why that happens.”

Another arm of the lab’s research imagines a better future: creating alternatives to the existing platforms that could be owned and operated by the drivers themselves. In some places, driver-owned options exist, but consumers and drivers may not know about them. The lab is building an app that will open the nearest local driver-owned option — something Monroy-Hernández equates to buying locally from a farmer’s market instead of going to Walmart. “My hope is that as we develop these alternative, decentralized platforms,” he says, “consumers can make choices to support locally owned and operated food delivery systems or rideshare systems rather than the mainstream ones.”

Monroy-Hernández adds that consumers can build awareness in other ways too — simply by talking to their drivers. He often shares back with drivers the amount he paid and asks how much of that they received.

The gigification of the economy is growing, and workers are increasingly being managed by algorithms — from drivers to lawyers and doctors on demand — which makes the research critical. “My hope is that we can think about a better future and how technology can be empowering rather than harmful for communities,” Monroy-Hernández says. “Here at Princeton, there is a lot of excitement about how we can build technologies that are beneficial for society.” ■

Five Princeton Professors Awarded Sloan Research Fellowship

P RINCETON ASSISTANT professors Ellora Derenoncourt, Boris Hanin, Chi Jin, Aleksandra Korolova, and Ian Zemke have been awarded Sloan Research Fellowships. The five are in a class of 126 early-career scholars who “represent the most promising scientific researchers working today,” according to the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, which awards the fellowship.

Each fellow receives a two-year, \$75,000 award to advance their research.

“Sloan Research Fellowships are extraordinarily competitive awards involving the nominations of the most inventive and impactful early-career scientists across the U.S. and Canada,” says Adam F. Falk, president of the foundation. “We look forward

to seeing how fellows take leading roles shaping the research agenda within their respective fields.”

An assistant professor of economics, Derenoncourt is a member of the Industrial



DERENONCOURT

Relations Section of Princeton’s Department of Economics and the founder and faculty director for the Program for Research on Inequality. Her research focuses on labor economics, economic history, and the study of inequality.

Hanin is an assistant professor of operations research and financial engineering. His work focuses on deep learning, probability, and spectral asymptotics. Hanin’s aim is to provide mathematical tools that allow developers to improve their designs before building the actual systems.



HANIN

Jin, an assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, studies the mathematical underpinnings of machine learning and artificial intelligence. His work particularly focuses on reinforcement



JIN

learning, which relates to decision-making through rewards and penalties in machine learning.

Assistant professor Korolova’s research interests include societal impacts of



KOROLOVA

algorithms and machine learning, privacy, and algorithmic fairness and auditing. She holds joint appointments in computer science and the School of Public and International Affairs, and is associated faculty in the Center for Information Technology Policy.

Zemke, an assistant professor of mathematics, researches Floer homology, cobordism, and knot theory. He became a faculty member in 2020, after serving as a postdoctoral researcher (2017-18) and instructor for the University.



ZEMKE

Sloan has awarded its fellowships annually since 1955 to researchers in chemistry, computer science, earth system science, economics, mathematics, neuroscience, and physics. Fellows are nominated by fellow scientists and selected based on their research accomplishments, creativity, and potential in their field. **By C.S.**

FACULTY BOOKS

IMAGINATION: A MANIFESTO

Ruha Benjamin

Toni Morrison’s words, “Dream a little before you think,” serve as a guide in Ruha Benjamin’s new book,



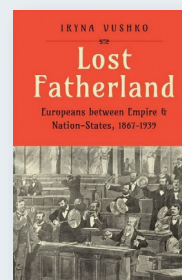
Imagination: A Manifesto (W. W. Norton & Company). In it she challenges readers to dream beyond some of the constraints our society has set

for itself. What would a world without prisons look like? What about a world where everyone has the food, shelter, and love they need? These concepts seem inconceivable, but Benjamin argues we have the power to use our imaginations to challenge systems of oppression through collective organizing.

LOST FATHERLAND

Iryna Vushko

Iryna Vushko explores the rise and demise of the Habsburg Empire and its effects on the lives and roles of 21 key figures of the time period. These portraits offer new insights into the political and cultural chaos and achievements that profoundly



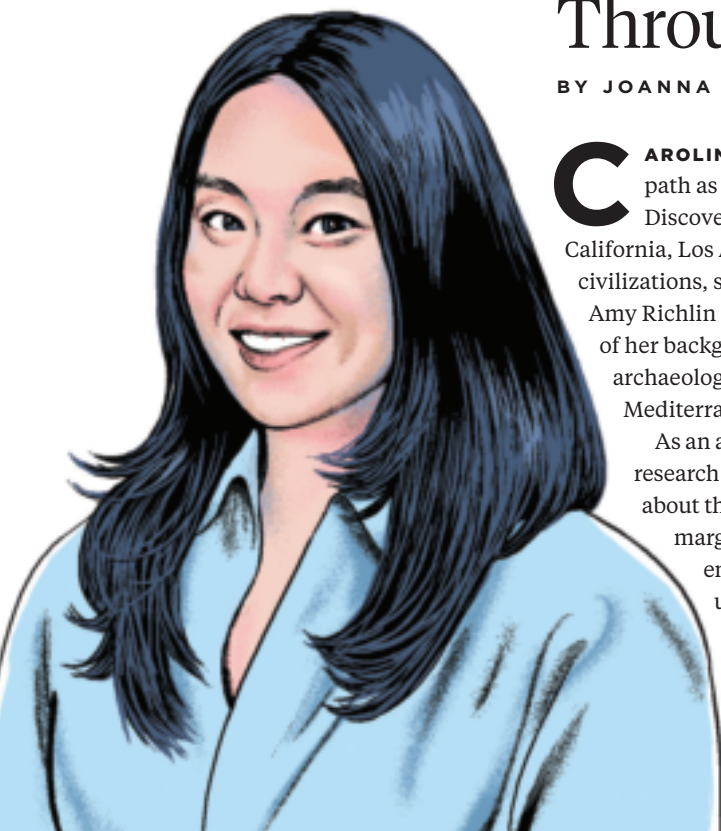
shaped much of European identity throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. Understanding this history of conflicting ideologies

throughout Europe is still relevant and timely today. *Lost Fatherland* (Yale University Press) is a captivating work that showcases the tension and struggles faced by many central European countries over the course of this often tumultuous time period, while also leaving room to express the hopes and dreams felt by many citizens as well. **P**

BEHIND THE RESEARCH: CAROLINE CHEUNG

Exploring Ancient Worlds Through Historical Records

BY JOANNA WENDEL '09



CAROLINE CHEUNG TOOK AN UNEXPECTED DETOUR from her intended path as a biochemistry major when she enrolled in the summer course Discovering the Romans after her freshman year at the University of California, Los Angeles. While pursuing a B.S. in biochemistry and a B.A. in classical civilizations, she heeded advice from her mentor in the UCLA classics department, Amy Richlin '73, who encouraged her to explore archaeology to take advantage of her background in science. Cheung went on to earn an M.A. in classical archaeology from Florida State University and a Ph.D. in ancient history and Mediterranean archaeology from the University of California, Berkeley.

As an assistant professor in Princeton's classics department, Cheung's research focuses on the material culture of ancient Rome and what it can reveal about the daily life of ordinary people, especially marginalized groups, such as women and enslaved people, whose voices are not usually represented in the historical record. She also has a particular interest in agriculture and food production. "My father's a chef and I've grown up around very good food my whole life," Cheung says. She's interested in the foods people ate and what they reveal about cultural trends.

Quick Facts

TITLE

Assistant Professor of Classics

TIME AT PRINCETON

5 years

RECENT CLASS

The Science of Roman History

CHEUNG'S RESEARCH A SAMPLING



MIGHTY VESSELS

Cheung's forthcoming book, *Dolia: The Containers That Made Rome an Empire of Wine*, considers the dolium (plural: dolia), an extremely large ceramic vessel used to produce, store, and transport wine. By providing a means for wine to be moved in great quantities across vast distances, dolia enabled the growth of Rome's large-scale wine industry. Cheung

examines the dolium both as a piece of technology that profoundly shaped the Roman economy and as a lens into agriculture, food production, and the specialized knowledge of craftspeople who manufactured and repaired these vessels.



FORGOTTEN NAMES

Cheung has examined the dolium as a window into the lives of the ordinary Romans

who made these essential objects. In an article in *World Archaeology* published in February, Cheung considers the workshops where these vessels were made and the identities of their makers, sometimes revealed by names stamped onto the vessels themselves. She argues that dolium makers exhibited advanced skills that gave them a distinct professional identity, even though many of them were also enslaved. As she notes, "just because [these craftsmen] are making highly valuable materials doesn't mean they had a better or easier life."

BURIED TREASURES

This summer, Cheung will return to Pompeii to resume her archaeological fieldwork for the first time since 2019. She is part of the research team of Pompeii I.14, a collaborative project focused



on excavating a single block of the Roman city that was preserved in ash by the catastrophic eruption of Mount Vesuvius in A.D. 79. Cheung and her collaborators have discovered evidence that this block may have included a commercial zone with shops and restaurants. The team hopes that learning more about this block will lead to new insights about the city's growth and development. **Q**

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



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

Photo: Andrea Kane

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1746 Society Annual Reunions Breakfast Seminar

Saturday, **May 25** | 8:30 a.m.

GUEST SPEAKER:
Ronald J. McCoy
University Architect

Members of the 1746 Society and the Class of 1974 will receive invitations soon. Check your mailboxes and inboxes!

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1746 SOCIETY PRINCETON UNIVERSITY



HOME SWEET HOME

*Mary Weatherford '84's landmark
midcentury modern home in Los Angeles
punctuates her style.*



'I'm Painting the Experience of a Moment'

After gathering force for years, Mary Weatherford '84 is now an art star

BY CONSTANCE HALE '79

PHOTOGRAPH BY CAROLYN FONG



HOME SWEET HOME

*Mary Weatherford '84's landmark
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'I'm Painting the Experience of a Moment'

After gathering force for years, Mary Weatherford '84 is now an art star

BY CONSTANCE HALE '79

PHOTOGRAPH BY CAROLYN FONG



Mary Weatherford '84 never fails to surprise, I think, as I watch her on stage.

She is joined by artist Suzanne Jackson, collector Tomal Shah, and a couple of curators for an event in May celebrating female artists at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Weatherford's answers to questions are eclectic, ranging from the scientific ("Neon and argon are on the periodic table, and if you apply electricity, they glow red and blue"), to the political ("The point is agency — to see ourselves as subjects, not as objects"), to the poetic (Trying to make a great painting is like "grabbing for smoke").

Her presence, too, surprises. Her long-sleeved emerald dress clings to her frame, its draped-knot collar adding sass to the class. Her auburn hair falls to her shoulders. All elegance, until the clunky tomboy shoes: a pair of caramel-colored Oxfords. No heels for her.

And her career surprises. It started inadvertently at Princeton, kept going quietly for five years in New York, and drew art-scene attention with her first show. Slowly, Weatherford gathered force, especially after she moved back to California 10 years later.

Today, at 61, she is an art star, represented by a major gallery (David Kordansky), fresh off an exhibit in Berlin (*Drink the Wild Air*) and one in New York City (*Sea and Space*). Her very smallest paintings sell for \$100,000 and the largest for many times that, huge canvases with veils of transparent hues and attached bars of neon, cords dangling provocatively.

Critics and curators say she shows "an ecumenical historical awareness" and is "revivifying abstract art." Her biographer Suzanne Hudson '06 writes: "Each painting exists, fully realized, as though a toothpick planted in shifting sand — hardly a defense against a swell or a riptide, but a statement implying a question about encompassing fate."

Weatherford possesses a prodigious intellect as well as an eye-hand harmony that would make the average carpenter jealous. Her subjects include politics, mathematics, outer space, philosophy, linguistics, literature, opera, art history, bridges, engineering, science, faith, death, and resurrection. And the themes of Emily Dickinson.

Her paintings are lush, enormous, full of sentiment, and devoid of sentimentality — at once epic and deeply personal. The stakes are as big as the canvases, the paradoxes as profound as the painter herself.

In an interview a few days before the SFMOMA event, Weatherford recalls her very first memory: "Pink and white stripes," she says, the image popping out. "My mother is lowering me into my crib. I think they were sheets, but maybe they were curtains."

The setting for the memory is Ojai, California, where Weatherford was born in 1963. Her father, William, was the vicar of an Episcopal mission; her mother, Regina, a history graduate of Stanford.

"Ojai is considered a holy place," Weatherford says. It attracted "interesting people" like the Indian philosopher Krishnamurti and Franklin Fireshaker, a Ponca elder who was responsible for the first paintings that Weatherford ever saw — dreamscapes of tribal legends.

"It might be the only place in the United States where the mountains run east-west," Weatherford says of Ojai's particular magic. "The moon never sets. You're always seeing it in the sky."

Mary, the first child, was followed by sister Margaret and three brothers. Her mother educated the five in her own way, outlawing coloring books in favor of their own creations. She and Mary shared a fanaticism for handcrafts — complicated macramé, Ukrainian eggs, and later, clothes sewn from Vogue patterns. During the craze for click-clacks, they poured resin into decorative grape molds, studded the resin with flowers, dropped in strings, and let the balls set. "We'd start click-clacking, and they would shatter," Weatherford says, laughing. The flowers had made them unstable.

When she was 6, Weatherford's parents took her to see a Vincent van Gogh show. William Weatherford held her up in front of *Wheatfield with Crows*, one of the artist's final paintings, and told her it was the most frightening painting he'd ever seen. "He held me there for a long time so that I could see why," she adds.

William also spent hours teaching his daughter about cars and carpentry. "I hated helping him bleed the brakes," she says. When Mary decided to build a wooden box, William, whose own father had been a carpenter, insisted she make a "proper" one — without any screws and with inset handles.

"I learned car mechanics and joinery," she says wryly. "That's why I was comfortable in the sculpture studio with power tools."

In high school, in San Diego, Weatherford excelled at chemistry and calculus, which she credits for her "love of the parabola." Art she considered tame. "We'd make watercolors of an old dock or an old cowboy boot," she says, dismissively. She was "smitten" with theater; with friends she saw Shakespeare in Balboa Park, and they turned plays into dramatic monologues for the speech team.

One thing that attracted Weatherford to Princeton

was its proximity to Manhattan and Broadway. In her first few days on the East Coast, she stayed in New York with her aunt, an art educator, and her uncle, a curator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. They took Weatherford to the Met and to the blockbuster Picasso retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art.

"I loved New York City. I loved the people, the accent. I was an immediate East Coastophile. I thought, 'Thank God I'm out of San Diego.'"

Weatherford auditioned for a short play her first week at



IN A FLASHE

*Weatherford's 2014 painting Canyon was created
with neon and the vinyl-based paint Flashe.
It measures more than 9 feet by 8 feet.*

Princeton and later performed with eXpressions Dance Company and Theatre Intime. But then she took an acting class. “I couldn’t deal with it. When we had to start saying things to each other like, ‘Boo! Bah!,’ copying each other and stuff, I didn’t want to do it. So I dropped out.”

Figuring she should do something serious rather than major in theater, at first she settled on architecture. Meanwhile, her roommate was from Montclair, New Jersey, and a neighbor would take the two to SoHo. “We went to the Solomon Gallery and Leo Castelli,” Weatherford remembers. “We saw Walter De Maria’s *Earth Room* on Wooster Street. Can you imagine a 17-year-old seeing the *Earth Room*?”

But it was during her sophomore year, in Jerry Buchanan’s painting class, that Weatherford fell in love with painting. She became one of eight classmates to major in the “tiny” visual arts department, housed then, as now, in a former elementary school at 185 Nassau St. with an air of easy informality.

“Princeton was a kind of sleeper art school, unlike Yale, Rutgers, or Tyler [at Temple],” Weatherford says. “If I had been at a very competitive art school, I might not be an artist today.”

It wasn’t just the lack of pressure at 185 Nassau that shaped her. “Taking physics was a real thrill. And comp lit. And Greek and Roman sculpture. I took silent cinema and the coming of sound from P. Adams Sitney, the preeminent scholar of American avant-garde film.” She even took an engineering course.

She appreciated the intellectual rigor within the visual arts department — to a point. “We couldn’t major in studio art without fulfilling the requirements for art history. I took Rococo to Revolution, where I learned to look at things with a socioeconomic lens. Then I got a C-plus in Renaissance Architecture, a 200-level course, even though I studied hard; I made hand-drawn flash cards. I said, ‘OK, from now on I will only take 400-level courses. I will only write papers.’ I did a workaround.”

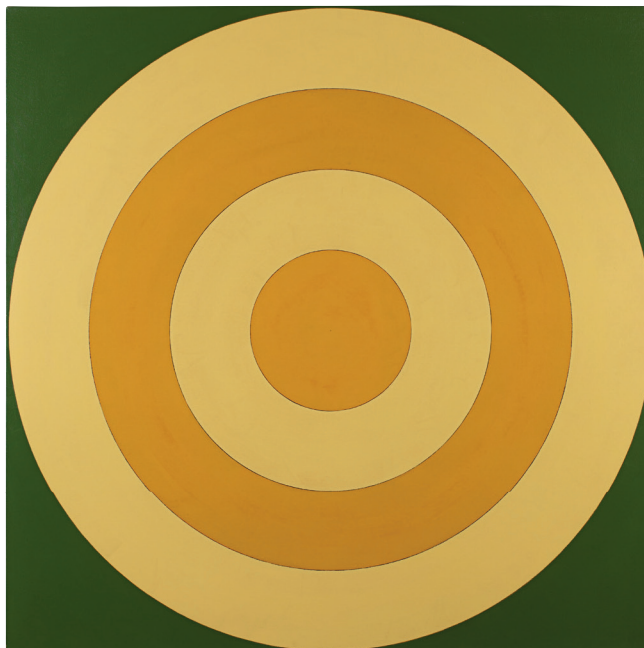
Sitney called her a “walking paintbrush.” Sculptor Andrea Blum asked her point-blank if she intended to be an artist. Shocking herself, Weatherford blurted, “Yes!”

One faculty member who was influential was Sam Hunter, a professor of art and archaeology, historian of modern art, editor, critic, and a curator at the Princeton University Art Museum. She became his research assistant and later he championed her, buying paintings from her friends, including her in a show, and writing the first scholarship on her art.

When Weatherford graduated, she snagged a coveted slot in the Independent Study Program at the Whitney Museum of American Art. “I borrowed someone’s Datsun and drove with a friend to an apartment at 100 Forsyth St. I was subletting from Marjorie Keller, the girlfriend of P. Adams Sitney. It was this avant-garde scene — all these women. At a party, we climbed to a fire escape and ate steak tartare. I thought, ‘This is the life.’”

Weatherford had arrived in New York when abstract painting and the conversations around it had been in full force for four decades. Jackson Pollock was the giant of abstraction. However, feminist artists like Judy Chicago and Miriam Schapiro had begun to challenge the male hegemony.

Weatherford’s personal list of “art heroes” both defied and reflected the times, including Old Masters and American



ON TARGET

Still early in her career, Weatherford’s 1989 oil-and-pencil piece is Madame Butterfly and measures 5 feet by 5 feet.

modernists active between the two world wars. But painters whose style is seen easily in her work include Morris Louis (“I love the veils”), Helen Frankenthaler (“My stain paintings with silk-screened flowers were inspired by her lithographs in the Princeton collection”), and Joan Mitchell (“the master of color”).

Private, even secretive, about her art, Weatherford worked at a postcard-and-photo-book shop in SoHo favored by downtown artists, then at various galleries. She earned attention in a cheeky 1988 *New York Press* roundup that called her the most “congenial, helpful, and non-threatening director around.”

She was painting “targets,” concentric circles that she used, partly, as a vehicle for color study. (Imagine her doing with circles what Josef Albers had done with squares.) She remembered visiting natural history museums as a child and seeing a slab of a tree with the dates marked off on its rings. She saw them as circular timelines, a visual representation of the idea that time and the way we evolve is not linear. A scene from *Vertigo* inspired her — Kim Novak’s character gazes at a giant redwood and says, “Here I was born and here I died.”

In 1989, Weatherford had a project room at New York’s PS1, an arts center later affiliated with MoMA that showcases art overlooked by established museums and galleries. Her targets invited comparisons to pop artist Jasper Johns and color-field pioneer Kenneth Noland, but she had digested a heavy dose of feminist film theory at Princeton and postmodernism at the Whitney and was developing a renegade purpose: “I was using *formats* invented by men, but I wanted to subvert them.”

Soon she scaled the targets up, way up. “I decided that the next logical move for a feminist artist was to walk straight into the house through the front door — to make big paintings,” she said in a 2009 talk.



Her provocative titles alluded to tragic female characters from opera, novels, and ballets: Cio-Cio-San, Camille, Odette. She photographed herself in a flowing dress, weeping, and transferred it onto canvas. She painted an array of red trees titled *Her Insomnia*. Hysteria, female sorrow, the social assumptions that lead to the undoing of women — the feminist themes were fairly explicit.

WORKSPACE
Weatherford in her 10,000-square-foot studio in Glendale, California.

white peonies against a black-green ground, blood-red rose stems with thorns, oil-and-ink feathers, black swans and white swans.

A *New York Times* art critic praised Weatherford's "determination to turn abstract painting into a crossover art form." Sam Hunter wrote in *New Directions* that his former student's "ease and mastery in large scale form recently combine with vibrant color interaction and nuanced surface to subvert even her most didactic intentions. ... Her art clearly sustains her declared aim to 'make political art that can be beautiful.'"

The year 1992 was a watershed. After a big show, she felt her work was too cool, too distant. She became less concerned with art history and more with her own history. There was a moment, she says, when she decided, without trepidation, to oppose postmodern ideas, to become "the author rather than the reader."

"For me to make art about *my* experience, for me to think that is a worthwhile topic — that's political," she says.

There was another shift: She turned to assemblage and things she'd done in her childhood. "When I was in elementary school, we would make these incredible tidepools. We'd line the bottom of a shallow flower pot with sand, and build a tidepool with stones and fill it with shells, and I'd made sea anemones by pushing clay through garlic presses. I'd pour the resin over the whole thing." She would set it on her dresser and peer into this ocean world.

In 1994, Weatherford made her first painting with starfish, *the ocean is in the sky*. Moths, chrysanthemums, jellyfish, shells, and sharks all became her subjects, whether painted on the surface or affixed to it. She added whole sea sponges, what one critic called "organless masses ... extending in bulbous efflorescence."

Weatherford moved home to California in 1999. She doubled down on landscape painting with coastal scenes, cloudscares, birds, rocks, and sea caves, describing her themes as "the big ones: mortality and morality."

As she moved to staining, the surfaces of her works changed. She seemed to stretch out — more white space, more loose and layered washes, more veils of luminous color. The caves yawned, inviting the viewer into a mysterious, immersive environment. Weatherford describes the style today, with a laugh, as "Frankenthaler meets Warhol."

Then came Bakersfield.

"For me to make art about *my* experience, for me to think that is a worthwhile topic — **that's political.**"

Also explicit was her fascination with the surface of the painting. Some of her Violetta paintings feature a target created with a handmade "drawing machine" using string, a metal square edge, and a pencil to carve ovals into wet oil paint. ("It was like a giant Spyrograph.") Another features delicate, silk-screened violets that flutter across an expanse of almost fluorescent yellow.

She was also experimenting with materials that lacked the "historical baggage" of oil and the "sheen" of acrylic. She loved the vinyl-based paint Flashe. "It was so matte, it absorbed the light. Like a fresco."

From targets she moved to silk-screened images: unearthly

Wanting to make an exhibit of large-scale paintings in a museum-sized space, she accepted a residency at Cal State Bakersfield that would have her teach a five-week class and make paintings responding to the high-desert landscape.

At the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley, in the vast and prosaic Central Valley, Bakersfield is known for pistachios, almonds, and oil fields. "It's like Texas inside California, or the town that time forgot," Weatherford says. "I wanted to see the cotton fields, where Texans and Oklahomans came after the Dust Bowl. I wanted to research the Kern River, the place where John Steinbeck conceived *The Grapes of Wrath*, the Bakersfield sound.

"I got into Merle Haggard and Buck Owens and looked around for honky-tonks where these guys still played. And they did, at Trout's in Oildale. I would go to the club and try to do the two-step."

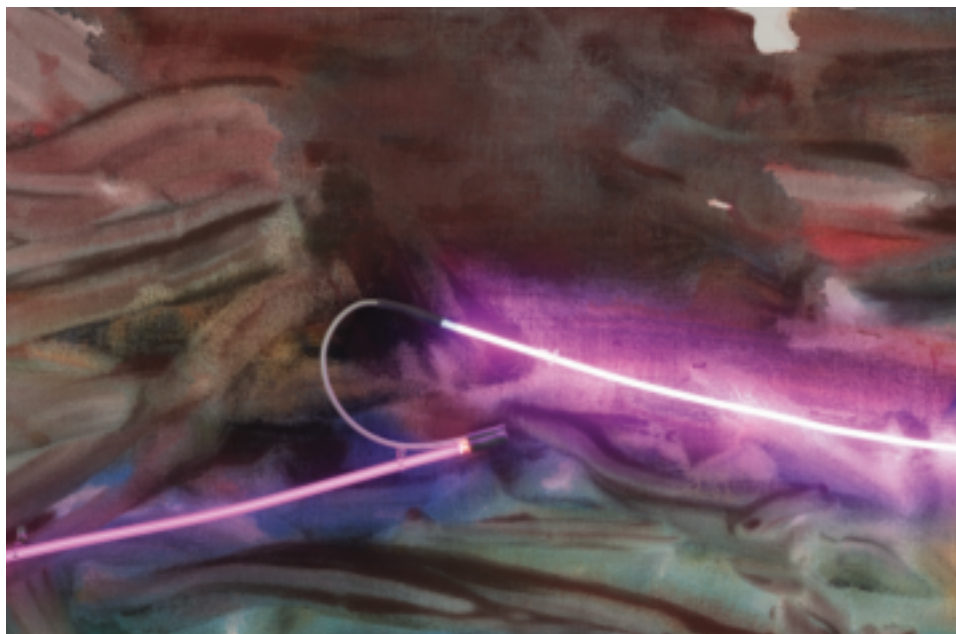
The town's main drag was once studded with fancy hotels and businesses, but years after Highway 99 diverted traffic, only derelict shells and old neon signs remain. One of them is a giant T — all that is left of a Thriftmart sign. The Bakersfield signs haven't been taken down just because, well, there's no reason to.

"The color of the sky in the San Joaquin Valley is so beautiful," Weatherford says, "and at the end of the afternoon, the sun goes down behind the mountains, but it stays light for a couple of hours. One day I was driving around and the sun was setting and the sky was turning colors and these signs were coming on."

"I thought, I wonder if I could put a piece of neon in a painting. The neon will represent the town. Other artists have put neon words on canvases, but I wanted the neon to be not a sign, not a letter, not something recognizable, but an effect. This goes to the loss, the seeing something in your peripheral vision that's passing you by. You see it, it's passed. You don't quite recognize it, but you know it went by."

She called Center Neon, a 50-year-old family business in Bakersfield, and asked how much they'd charge for a 3-foot-long crooked piece of neon. She mounted those eerie lights on color-washed surfaces, setting the canvas aglow, and left the power cords hanging heavy and crude, plugged into anchoring transformers.

"I had come to a point where I thought, I want to make work about people's lives. Whenever you see photographs from



of a moment that is over. Every experience is one of constant movement, even a conversation. ... We enter a dialogue, it's moving, and we become different people because of it. We lose the person we were when we began.

"This leads to a kind of melancholic state. It may be hard to understand how I might depict that in a painting, but that's what I'm trying to do."

Today Weatherford lives northeast of Los Angeles, atop Mount Washington, in a midcentury modernist home designed by premier architects, which she restored. She works nearby in Glendale.

After weeks of finagling and many emails, I finally gain entrance to Weatherford's studio, which resembles nothing so much as an airplane hangar — a clean and exceedingly

BRIGHT LIGHTS, LITTLE CITY

Weatherford was inspired to use neon by old signs she saw in Bakersfield, California.

"Everything is transient, it's a moment that will be then gone. That's loss; joy and loss. They are somehow knitted together in a depiction of a moment of joy and utter hopelessness."

space you see the cities glowing. Or, even when you're driving through a dark landscape, you see a light, and you say, "There's somebody, some human, there."

The neon tubes are literal lights as well as linear elements; a cut as well as a compositional force. They illuminate the layered surfaces and jolt them alive. Critics have compared the canvases to visual tone poems, "psychogeography," and a "reframing" of the abstract painting and of the tradition of art.

"I don't ever think of [my] work as landscape in the sense of 'I'm painting that landscape over there,'" Weatherford told an audience in Berlin in June. "No, I'm painting the experience

organized airplane hangar. It is 10,000 square feet with a 10,000-square-foot parking lot and a redwood vaulted ceiling, built after World War II. (It was actually a bolt-manufacturing plant, owned previously by her uncle.)

I wander among the nine staff members and studio assistants who help her keep the space organized for utility. Neon rods are stacked on wooden shelving and packed in boxes; plastic buckets of Flashe pigments are arrayed on horseshoe-shaped tables, beckoning like pots of fingerpaint, and dozens of grouting sponges line up at the ready, clean but colorfully stained.



Weatherford arrives, wearing jeans, a blue sweater with a thick cowl, and work boots. Her hair hangs straight and unstyled. She is accessible and open, making me feel welcome and showing great consideration with her bevy of assistants.

The first question was hers: What did I think of a new canvas hanging behind us, not yet neoned? Was it any good?

She takes me back to the rear portion of her studio. Here she paints alone, with canvases stretched on the floor, a tall ladder nearby so that she can take them in from on high. She points down at the painting in progress. “I’m trying to get a color I saw in the water on Kauai.”

In her now highly evolved method, she spreads over the floor heavy-gauge Belgian linen with an exaggerated warp and weft that creates pockets for the paint. After it is prepped, she mixes Flashe pigments and, using sponges and large brushes, lays swaths of color. The dried canvas is stretched and hung on the other side of the building. She attaches neon tubes (replete with cords), choosing the color for the way they interact with the paint.

She told *The Brooklyn Rail* art journal that in the studio she hangs the lights with fishing lines and moves them around like puppets. But staff and visitors to the studio jokingly call her “the human level” for her seemingly supernatural eye.

By the time I leave, Weatherford and I are chatting like girlfriends and she’s wondering whether she might come to a writers retreat I lead on Oahu in Hawaii. “I want to write poems about color,” she says.

She did come to the retreat. She didn’t write about color, but rather, in charming iambic verse, about barnacles. She made a lei out of nuts and shells that showed off her manual dexterity. She garnered attention with the flowered pants she donned for dinner, and I’d call her glamorous if that didn’t mask her down-to-earth quality, or her kindness in getting a plate of food each night for my 89-year-old mother.

PARADISE FOUND

In her 2021 painting Light Falling Like a Broken Chain; Paradise, Weatherford uses Flashe paint on a linen canvas measuring 24 feet across.

Just before July 4, at the

Altadena Town & Country Club, I meet Weatherford for a final in-person interview after months of snatched conversations and Zoom meetings. Her initial reluctance to be interviewed has evaporated, and we’ve developed an easy rapport.

When I arrive, she’s at her tennis lesson, and when she finishes, she leads me into the dining room for a late lunch.

We talk about Sam Hunter, the tide pools she made as a kid, how her art is political, and why Princeton was the right place for her to study art. She muses about radical shifts in the art world (“Young women are selling work for \$1 million”).

We talk about Berlin (“ugly architecture”), where she has just been for an opening. A few days later, she sends me a transcript of remarks she made there. “There is loss in my works from the very beginning. It’s been made sharper since the death of my sister (in 2012). Yet even before that particular loss, the suffering, the sense of something heavy in the human condition, was already present.

“Take *Night Blooms Green* — the blooms are transient, they’re moving. Everything is transient, it’s a moment that will be then gone. That’s loss; joy and loss. They are somehow knitted together in a depiction of a moment of joy and utter hopelessness.”

As the waiter clears our plates, Weatherford muses softly: “When an artist observes, senses, takes it in, and then runs all that through the mill and renders it in a way that is meaningful — it’s transcendent, it’s divine.” ■

CONSTANCE HALE ’79 is a journalist and poet based in California.



28,917 interviews offered

7,330 volunteers

161 countries

THE
ALUMNI INTERVIEW
ENDURES

The numbers get bigger, the world gets more complicated,
but this tradition is going strong

BY DAVID MONTGOMERY '83

ILLUSTRATION BY TIM BOUCKLEY

Robert Bernstein '08 will never forget the encounter he had more than two decades ago at the intersection of East Grant and North Swan roads in Tucson, Arizona. It was the winter of 2003-04, and he was a high school senior. He was sitting at a table outside a shopping plaza, having the first substantive conversation of his life with a Princetonian — [his alumni interview](#).

"Kids from Tucson didn't really go to Princeton," Bernstein recalls. "I didn't know anyone from Tucson who had gone to Princeton, so meeting with Fred was impactful for me."

Fred Frelinghuysen '75, the interviewer, guided the conversation to Bernstein's interests, including civics work and politics. He guessed that Bernstein might one day work in Washington, D.C. "I would try to get a sense of what the University didn't have" in a prospective student's written application, Frelinghuysen says of his approach during roughly eight years of volunteering as an alumni interviewer. The admission office "had the numbers. They had the recommendation letters. But what's this person *like*?"

"I was just touched that this person, the interviewer, showed so much interest in me, lent so much time, just the authenticity and sincerity of the questions," Bernstein says. "And I remember leaving the interview and thinking, 'Who knows what will happen? But that was a wonderful conversation.'"

After Bernstein was admitted, Frelinghuysen sent him a letter of congratulations and a book, *Katharine Graham's Washington*. Bernstein tucked the letter inside and shelved the book close by his desk, where it remained all through his years at Princeton, then law school, and throughout his career to this day. He did eventually land in Washington; now he's a lawyer in Denver. One of the first steps he took upon graduating from Princeton was to become an alumni interviewer himself, to try to give to new generations of applicants the same meaningful encounter he had valued so much.

Last June — nearly 20 years after that indelible conversation in Tucson — an email popped up in Bernstein's inbox. Cyrus Hatam '23, a newly minted alumnus, was reaching back out to his alumni interviewer to explain just how much their conversation in a Washington, D.C., coffee shop had meant to him. "I always tell people how we talked for nearly two hours and went on several tangents about basketball," Hatam wrote. "In case you were wondering, Arnold Schwarzenegger is still one of my idols, and I actually started a campaign to get him to speak at our graduation this year (which unfortunately failed but maybe next year)."

Hatam moved to San Francisco after graduation and took a job investing in clean energy. In his note to Bernstein, he added one more thing: "I definitely want to become an interviewer as well."

Three Tigers, in three cities, are now linked across decades by this distinctive, deeply traditional, sometimes awkward, and more-complicated-than-ever feature of the journey to a Princeton education. Alumni interviewing is the largest form of volunteer service to the University, with more than 7,000 alumni conducting interviews each year. The interviews are optional, but most applicants seize the opportunity. As the

number of applications has surged past 39,000 a year, the most in Princeton history, tens of thousands of these conversations are taking place — mostly via video chats, but also in coffee shops, libraries, offices, and parks — across the country and around the world. For students, the alumni interview is a near-universal rite of entry to Princeton, the first point of contact in a lifelong relationship with the University. For the vast majority of applicants who don't end up at Princeton, it may feel like the conversation that didn't go anywhere.

The rich exchanges of Frelinghuysen, Bernstein, and Hatam — and the strong alumni engagement they inspired — represent the ideal of the interview process. The University maintains a strong commitment to the program because the interviews can provide vital insights about applicants, according to Karen Richardson '93, the dean of admission.

Admission officers "don't have the chance to sit down and have a half-an-hour conversation with applicants to learn more about them and to ... give some more meat to their application," Richardson says. "The write-ups that we receive from [alumni interviewers] can help to really bring some of that story to life. It can either confirm or disprove some of the narrative that we are seeing in the student's essays and the recommendation letters ... We're trying to figure out, as we're building this community, who this student might be and how they might contribute to the dynamic community that's already here."

Still, with the odds of gaining admission to Princeton getting slimmer, interviewers sometimes joke about going years without seeing anyone they interviewed be admitted. But Richardson says the interviews perform an ambassadorial function for the University even if they don't lead to an admitted student. They show that Princeton is the kind of place that cares about meeting applicants as individuals. "Our hope is that every student — whether they are admitted or not, and whether they're admitted and decide not to come to Princeton," Richardson says, "that they can walk away saying, 'Wow, that was a really nice conversation that I had with this person, and I learned about this place.'"

Yet the persistence of Princeton's program is increasingly unusual. Some other highly selective universities have scaled back alumni interviews in recent years or eliminated them entirely. They generally cite the challenge of recruiting enough alumni to offer interviews to most, if not all, applicants who want one. In addition, the national spotlight on elite university admission practices, coupled with the recent Supreme Court decision forbidding the consideration of race and ethnicity as factors in admission, make it a potentially more sensitive matter to rely on thousands of alumni — who are not, after

all, professional admission representatives — to engage with prospective students.

Columbia suspended its alumni interview program as of the 2023-24 admission cycle because alumni were unable to interview the “vast majority” of applicants, according to a statement last May. The University of Chicago replaced alumni and on-campus interviews with an option for applicants to submit a two-minute video introduction, starting with the Class of 2023. Brown has also shifted to video introductions since the 2019-20 academic year, “in the interest of ensuring equity of experience and opportunity among applicants,” according to its admission webpage.

“We found at Brown, at least, and I’m going to assume that it’s starting to happen across the board, that as the volume of applicants continued to increase each year, there were just not enough alumni interviewers to conduct these interviews,” says Connie Livingston, a former assistant director of admission at Brown who is now head of counselors at Empowerly college admission counseling. The videos are “really a great opportunity to get to know students a little bit better, which is exactly what the purpose of an alumni interview is.”

The University of Pennsylvania recently recast alumni interviews as “alumni conversations” which “provide an opportunity for you to learn about Penn through an alum’s experience, and for us to learn more about you,” according to the admission website, which also cautions, “Please don’t worry if you’re not contacted for this opportunity,” because the availability of alumni volunteers is limited. At Cornell, instead of interviews, the university offers applicants the chance to request an informal, non-evaluative conversation with an alumnus to ask questions about the university.

Harvard and Yale offer interviews at the discretion of their admission committees, in part based on prioritizing applicants about whom admission officers would like more information to make their decisions.



**FRED
FRELINGHUYSEN '75**

One way to interpret that approach is, “The students who are definitely not getting in are not getting an interview, and the students who are definitely getting accepted are not getting an interview,” says Laurie Kopp Weingarten, president of One-Stop College Counseling. Whereas, “if you apply to Princeton and you have very bad grades, you will still get an interview, even though you’re not getting into Princeton.”

Like Princeton, Dartmouth aspires to offer alumni interviews to as many applicants as possible, as do MIT and Stanford. At Georgetown, alumni interviews are required of all applicants unless no alumni are available for interviews in a particular region. At Princeton, there continues to be such strong alumni volunteer support for the program that interviewers reach out to 93% to 94% of applicants who opt to be interviewed, according to the University. “We are very fortunate in that ... alums want to be ambassadors for Princeton and still have such a connection to the place that they want to be able to share those experiences,” Richardson says.



**ROBERT
BERNSTEIN '08**

Many of those who are not contacted for interviews live in countries where there are few alums to conduct them. There also have been times in recent years when conflict or unrest caused even remote interviews to be temporarily suspended in Syria, Yemen, and Iran, says Nasser Bin Nasser '03, chair of the interview program in Jordan who also has served as chair for Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Lebanon. The lack of an interview —

either because the prospective student opted out, or because an interview connection could not be made — is never counted against an applicant, according to the admission office.

The University has also taken steps to prepare interviewers to operate in accordance with the Supreme Court decision on race and ethnicity in admission. In addition to two webinars that interviewers were invited to attend in recent months, the Office of the General Counsel prepared a FAQ sheet on the court ruling that interviewers must acknowledge having read. The document reminds volunteers not to ask questions “relating to race, color, national origin, ethnicity, or ancestry” and not to mention those characteristics in their interview reports. If an applicant brings up those demographics, alums should shift the discussion to how such characteristics may have shaped the student’s “experiences, determination, courage, leadership skills, and accomplishments — all of which are perfectly fine to discuss with the applicant.”

Richardson says that interviewers have long been instructed



**CYRUS
HATAM '23**

to focus on “lived experiences” rather than demographics, so the practical effect of the court ruling on the conversations should be minimal. Helen Dorini ’91, senior assistant dean and liaison to the alumni interview program, adds, “I don’t think alums need to change what they were doing, if they’re doing things the way we wanted them to do it in the past.”

THESE POTENTIALLY LIFE-ALTERING CHATS started happening in a formalized way just after World War II. There was a nationwide surge of applicants to college, and admission officers needed help assessing candidates. “The Admissions Office will still, of course, make the final decision as to which candidates shall be admitted, but the reports of alumni who have had an interview with them will be of invaluable assistance,” *The Daily Princetonian* reported in 1946.

Through the 1960s and 1970s, regional Alumni Schools Committee members played roles in both recruiting applicants and interviewing many of them, according to coverage in the *Prince* and anecdotes from alumni of the era. Alumni would get tips from guidance counselors, and they might be familiar with a student before the interview. By 1983, the Princeton interview was enough of a cultural phenomenon to earn the honor of mockery in the film *Risky Business*. In one scene, a hapless Princeton interviewer is trying to make sense of the Ray-Bans-sporting character played by Tom Cruise, while an outrageous house party swirls in the background.

Since then, the practice has evolved significantly. Today, interviewers are discouraged from contacting high schools and are not provided any background on students before the interviews so their impressions will be fresh. They also receive extensive training materials on how to conduct the interviews, though there’s no prescribed set of questions to ask. “In my mind, the most important part of this interview is that they try to have a good, warm conversation,” Dorini says.

The logistics of deploying more than 7,000 volunteers to reach as many applicants as possible are dizzying. The interviewers are organized into more than 300 Alumni Schools Committee regions, each responsible for applicants from different parts of the United States or from different countries. In addition, there is a “central pool” where alumni can pick up interview assignments outside their region to support regions or countries that have a shortage of volunteers. A volunteer may interview anywhere from a handful to more than a dozen applicants a year. Nearly 20% of the interviewers come from the most recent five classes of graduates, but the interview pool

spans eight decades: Interviewers for single choice early action this past fall ranged from the Class of 1944 to the Class of 2023.

Sitting atop this global network is the Princeton Schools Committee, which oversees and supports the Alumni Schools Committee regions, in partnership with the Office of Admission. The current volunteer chair of the Princeton Schools Committee is the seemingly indefatigable Charlene Huang Olson ’88, who says alumni interviews are more vital than ever. Given Princeton’s strides at drawing applicants from diverse backgrounds, Olson says, a large number of prospective students “don’t have family or friends who went to Princeton. They may never have met a person who went to Princeton. And a lot of them have never been to campus. ... They just know that Princeton is a phenomenal school.” The interview serves as a first encounter. “We are making an impression on these young students,” Olson says. “They’re formulating their impression about Princeton and about Princeton alumni.”

More volunteers are always welcome because “the number of

applicants doesn’t usually ever go down,” Olson adds. (To sign up, go to bit.ly/psc_signup.)

Sometimes the conversations fall short of the ideal reflected in the exchanges that Bernstein and Hatam still cherish. Bradley Saft ’00 recalls how his interviewer in the mid-1990s turned the conversation into a trivia test: Countries with multiple capital cities? Largest landlocked country in Africa? Name of a country that begins with the letter “A” but doesn’t end in “A”?

To that last one, Saft said Azerbaijan, but the interviewer argued that Azerbaijan wasn’t a country (even though the

U.S. recognized it in 1991). He was looking for Afghanistan.

“I came out of it feeling honestly very deflated because I didn’t think I was going to get in because I didn’t know the answers to these questions,” Saft says now. But he turned his

disappointment into an opportunity. “I thought, boy, if I’m ever fortunate enough to be able to be admitted here and to matriculate, I want to create better experiences for the students that I meet than the one that I had. So when I graduated, the first thing I did was sign up for alumni interviewing. I really wanted to have the opportunity to make great experiences for people who are interested in the school.”

Saft became chair of the Princeton Schools Committee in 2019 and helped foster a significant evolution in the interview program known as “Positively Princeton.” The idea was for interviewers — in case they had any doubt — to think of themselves as ambassadors for Princeton and communicators of an applicant’s qualities rather than simply as evaluators or, worse, judges. “If you go into it approaching the conversation



HOUSE PARTY

Members of the the Princeton Schools Committee and admission office gather at Maclean House in April 2023.

[by] saying that you are here to evaluate a high school senior, it sets you up for a dynamic that is inherently confrontational, as opposed to, I am here to educate, to enlighten, to share the love, and to add some color to the application that the admission office may not have,” Saft says. “When you go into it thinking that is your goal, then it’s inherently a positive conversation. It can’t be anything but positive.”

That approach is second nature to the newest generation of alumni interviewers, such as Ashlyn Lackey ’18, who has served as a recent alumni rep on the Princeton Schools Committee and recruits young alum interviewers. “You are not a gatekeeper” to Princeton, she says. “You are a portal into Princeton.”

PART OF BEING A PORTAL TO PRINCETON is embodying a University community that may defy the expectations of students who have an outdated image of the place, says Aseneth Garza Scott ’13, who grew up in Texas near the Mexican border and has interviewed students from there as well as from Georgia and Tennessee, where she is a dean at an arts magnet school.

“I have had students tell me, ‘You’re not at all who I expected to see’ — meaning a Latina whose parents didn’t go to college, for whom Princeton was her dream school, and who used her Ivy League education to work in public schools, says Scott. “When I was interviewing people in South Texas ... I was someone from my community ... Kids were really curious about how my narrative was at Princeton ... It was often, like, ‘What got you there?’ ... They’ll ask me, ‘What’s it like being in the cold?’ ... What is it like living with people that are not Hispanic?”

Still, there is an evaluative component to the interviews. Interviewers are asked to rate their “overall impression” of the student on a scale from “enthusiastic” to “with reservation.” But admission officers say the other two sections of the interviewers’ reports are more important: Interviewers are asked to write up to 3,000 characters on the content of the conversation, including what the student is enthusiastic about and any special circumstances that might shed light on their lives. They are also asked to write up to 1,000 characters on their overall impression, including such observations as what the student’s strengths are, would they make a good roommate, would they thrive at Princeton.

Interviewers typically devote part of the conversation to asking students if they have any questions. The students’ curiosity is often driven by what’s in the news, says Nasser, one of more than 800 graduate alums who volunteer to interview undergraduate applicants. His first week at Princeton coincided with the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and now, during interviews he conducts at a coffee shop in Amman, Jordan, students express some of the same worries that loomed back then. “This year I have a lot of students asking me whether it’s safe for Muslims, whether it’s safe for

Arabs, at Princeton,” he says. “People can feel free asking me this kind of question. But I don’t think they could ask an American interviewer that same question ... My message is that Princeton is a safe space. Regardless of what’s going on in the broader context of the country’s politics, Princeton itself is a very safe space.”

The Supreme Court decision hasn’t blocked communication of the essence of students’ stories, which goes deeper than demographic categories, says Doris Ofori ’17, who was born in Ghana, raised in the Bronx, and now serves remotely as the interview chair for Ghana while she attends business school. “You can remove the fact that they’re Black, remove the fact that they’re Ghanian, remove all these labels that we identify as affirmative-action-related,” she says. “At its core, the student’s drive, the student’s motivation, the student’s ambition will still be evident ... It’s about what are those unique experiences ... as a byproduct of all the things you have to deal with growing up that have shaped you and formed you to be this individual.”

The 15 alumni interviewers who spoke with PAW say they are impressed and even inspired by most of the students they meet. But for some it was hard getting used to long dry spells of writing

glowing reports on students without any being admitted. As admission rates hover around 5%, an average of 19 out of 20 conversations will not lead to an admitted student. (Of 39,644 applicants to the Class of 2027, 1,782 were admitted, or about 4.5%, according to the University.) Of course, each interviewer only meets a tiny sample of applicants and can’t know the strengths of the others. Lloyd Lawrence ’76, a longtime volunteer and interviewer mentor, whose

Interviewers are “here to educate, to enlighten, to share the love, and to add some color to the application that the admission office may not have. When you go into it thinking that is your goal, then it’s inherently a positive conversation.”

— BRADLEY SAFT ’00

Former chair of the Princeton Schools Committee

preferred interview locations are Dairy Queens around Austin, Texas, recalls interviewing one young woman who seemed beyond outstanding. Yet she didn’t get admitted. “I don’t take it as a personal failure, but I just wonder what manner of other students, what kind of qualifications they were presenting, that would make hers look ordinary,” Lawrence says.

Faced with the unforgiving math, alumni interviewers focus on what’s most important about their role: To sustain stimulating and authentic conversations, then write the most compelling 4,000-character reports that they can. Whatever the outcome, such an encounter can still have an impact, and will certainly say something about Princeton, wherever the students end up.

“You don’t know who’s going to become a future Tiger,” Olson says. “The fact that Princeton offers this to any student who would like one, I think that’s the ultimate message of welcome ... It’s that personal connection that also sends this message to the students that Princeton is a little different. We think you’re not just an applicant number. You’re a person — and we want to meet that person.” ■

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

**95*

Class of

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who have become lifelong friends and colleagues —
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PRINCETONIANS

ALUMNI STORIES AND PERSPECTIVES



CREATIVE CRAFTSMANSHIP

Andrew Moe '92 comes from a family of builders, so it's no surprise he ended up running his own furniture business called Studio Moe in Portland, Oregon. He builds with "urban salvaged" lumber from wild trees that died or were harvested independently for the purpose of using them as lumber. For instance, he's used trees taken down by the city because they're in danger of falling on public roads. This method of harvesting is eco-friendly and can add character to woodworking projects because of the diversity of the wood. "I've always been intrigued by doing as much as I can with as little as possible and letting the materials speak," Moe says.



READ MORE about other TIGERS OF THE WEEK at paw.princeton.edu.

JAY FRAM



ESSAY

How a Wind Phone Can Help a Grieving Community

BY MARY LEOPOLD '89

OUR DIMPLED, BEAUTIFUL son, Oliver, died on Dec. 9, 2021, at the age of 19. Perhaps there are no words in the English language to denote a parent who has lost a child because losing a child is so unspeakable, utterly out of order, and inexpressible in its depth of pain. Other cultures have terms to describe bereaved parents: *Verwaiste eltern* in German means “orphaned parents,” and *thakla* is the term used for a bereaved parent in Arabic. Can we assume that these cultures are more adept at naming the unnameable?

When I think of my 19-year-old self, I am immediately transported to my sophomore year at Princeton, where I experienced boundless curiosity, self-exploration (and the attendant challenges), intellectual expansion, and the inevitable peaks and shallows of young adulthood. It reminds me we lost both Oliver and the chance to stand by his side as he piloted his way into his own future.

We do not have clear answers as to how Oliver died as all the reports were inconclusive. We did learn — six months



OLIVER LEOPOLD

of agony later — that he had several undiagnosed heart conditions which may have contributed to his death. Living with the uncertainty has been excruciating.

The grief over losing a child of any age is unrelenting and all-consuming. In the early months, I struggled with (re)defining myself, continuing to provide care for my psychotherapy clients while dealing with my own grief, being present for my surviving child, and completing regular tasks like grocery shopping.

To say that I have lost my child is not quite accurate: I have an ongoing, very active relationship with Oliver. Much of my energy is still directed toward mothering Oliver — loving him,

I began thinking, how can I create such a space for grief to be welcomed, encouraged, and normalized?

COMMUNITY CARE

In the wake of her grief, Mary Leopold '89 decided to bring a wind phone to a golf course in her local community in Evanston, Illinois. The phone invites grieverers to “talk” with loved ones who have died.

preserving his memories, and continuing to ask, “How can I be of most help to others?” He guides me to strength and action.

I began thinking, how can I create such a space for grief to be welcomed, encouraged, and normalized? Our society does not encourage frank discussion of grief, nor are there places — outside of religious institutions and cemeteries — that openly welcome grieverers.

Shortly after Oliver died, I learned about the concept of a wind phone and it deeply resonated with me. Itaru Sasaki, a Japanese garden designer, created the first wind phone (*Kaze No Denwa* roughly translated to the telephone of the wind) in 2010 after the death of his beloved cousin to cancer. He placed a vintage phone booth in his private garden with a nonworking rotary phone at its center. Sasaki continued to connect with his cousin by picking up the receiver and letting his words be carried by the wind. The following year, after a tsunami and earthquake destroyed towns and took the lives of more than 15,000 citizens, Sasaki moved the wind phone to a strikingly beautiful public space overlooking the Pacific Ocean in the town of Otsuchi. It was there that mourners could speak with their departed loved ones, many whose bodies were never recovered. Sasaki has since inspired the creation of wind phones all over the world with the sole purpose of holding space for grieverers. Bringing a wind phone to my community of Evanston, Illinois, became my primary focus and a productive way to channel my grief.

With help and unanimous support from Canal Shores Golf Course, we were able to purchase (with funds raised in two days!) a replica of a British phone booth, which now rests on the 11th hole. Canal Shores, where famed actor Bill Murray learned to play golf, is a unique course: It crosses city streets and is flanked by a river, and trains

run along its side. It is an inclusive, totally unpretentious space that hosts summer concerts, dog playdates, joggers, volunteer lumberjacks removing invasive species, and cross-country skiers in the winter months.

Since its placement in June 2023, many have sought out the wind phone to connect with their departed loved ones. To mark the second anniversary of Oliver's death, we hosted a candlelight vigil at the phone booth as the sun was setting. People gathered in the summer months, relaxing in lawn chairs.

As I walk by these days, I often see people in the wind phone, receiver in hand. I am always breathless when I stumble upon grieverers who have learned about it from our local newspapers, other therapists, clergy, and friends.

Volunteers and neighbors have tended to the wind phone in the loveliest of ways: A retired electrician placed a solar panel atop it to offer light in the darkness. He also created a gentle path leading up to the wind phone. A local artist painted a butterfly mural on the back to dissuade tagging.

I began a secondary project: painting the names of departed loved ones on rocks to place at the wind phone. Rock by rock, I imagine and honor a life. Priming, painting, decorating, sending a picture of the completed rock, and finally placing the rock are all tiny acts of love. I've completed several hundred so far, and plan to continue.

For many, seeing their loved one's name displayed on a rock is an emotional moment of recognition and connection. The growing pile is a reminder that we are never alone.

In our culture, grief is often a solitary and isolating process. As a grieving parent, I want nothing more than to say Oliver's name in conversation. No, it does not make me sadder than I already am. I am already thinking of Oliver every moment of every day.

The grief will always fill me, but/and I am learning to grow my life around Oliver's death. The wind phone represents such an expansion around the pain of profound loss. The timing of

PRINCETON'S WIND PHONE

A Tool for Healing

MILLET ISRAELI '92 HAS A LOT OF experience with grief. That's why the grief therapist was recruited in 2022 to work on a memorial celebration for her class as part of its 30th reunion. She suggested creating a temporary wind phone — used to "call" loved ones who have died — on campus. The rotary phone on a makeshift podium was placed in Prospect Garden, where it stood throughout Reunions weekend.

The project planted a seed — why not bring a permanent wind phone to campus?

"There had been a few suicides on campus, and just a general feeling that people wanted to pause and take a moment to tend to their losses," Israeli says. She hoped the wind phone could be another tool to help students work through their emotional pain.

She has firsthand knowledge of the comfort it offers. After learning about the wind phone and its purpose, Israeli organized the installation of one along the Appalachian Trail in Fahnestock State Park in Putnam County, New York. That one was set up like a bulletin board, with the phone attached and a poem that reads in part, "Though I've lost you, I feel you here/In this shrine of trees in nature's sanctuary." Israeli also created an Instagram page (@wind.phone.ny) where people can share their experiences and stories with the wind phone.

This time she worked with student leaders Chioma Ugwonalu '24 and Stephen Daniels '24, and many campus partners including the TigerWell program, which aims to support well-being on campus. Members of Princeton's Carpenter Shop built a structure to house the rotary phone.

The effort bloomed around the time



CONTINUOUS CONNECTION

Millet Israeli '92 spearheaded the project to bring a permanent wind phone to Princeton's campus. Unveiled in 2023, it's located in the garden behind Maclean House.

the University was looking for ideas for Wintersession classes, so Israeli signed up to teach a workshop titled The Wind Phone: Words Left Unspoken and the Art of Loss. In conjunction with the workshop, the new wind phone was unveiled — its new home is in the garden behind Maclean House.

You just pick up the receiver and talk, Israeli says. "I've had more than one person say, 'I did not think that I would be able to do that.'" But it can be a powerful experience, she adds. "The wind phone, among other things that have sort of been born out of grief, can either create something beautiful or offer something beautiful to the viewer, the user, or the caller." ■ By C.S.

this essay is fortuitous, as I've recently learned that Millet Israeli '92 installed a wind phone at Princeton in concert with her 2023 Wintersession workshop, The Wind Phone: Words Left Unspoken and the Art of Loss (see sidebar).

Let us continue to say the names and tell the stories of our loved ones. Let us grieve without shame or judgment and connect around our shared losses. Let us

place the rocks of our loved ones in every corner of our brutal and beautiful world. In the spirit of connection, I would love to hear your story. ■

MARY LEOPOLD is a clinical social worker in private practice, specializing in the treatment of children and adults. She lives in Evanston with her family and menagerie of animals.

TRISTAN SNELL '00

One Man's Experience Taking Down Trump

BY AGATHA BORDONARO '04

WHEN TRISTIAN SNELL '00 first began his investigation into Donald Trump's Trump University in 2011, the former New York State assistant attorney general didn't know whether he had a case.

Snell, who is a lawyer and frequent commentator on MSNBC, NPR, and CNN, went on to successfully prosecute Donald Trump for fraud in 2018, resulting in the former president having to shell out \$25 million to his victims and representing his first major legal loss in half a century.

Now in his new book, Snell is revealing what it took to beat Trump — who is currently facing 88 felony counts as of mid-March. PAW talked to Snell about his experience prosecuting Trump and the importance of restoring faith in the American judicial system.

Why did you decide to write this book?

In late 2022 and early 2023, it was clear to me that we were on a path where Trump was probably going to get indicted and tried, likely by multiple prosecutors. Yet it was equally clear to me that a very large percentage of my audience did not, and still does not, believe that he's ever going to face any justice. There's a lot of pessimism, if not outright cynicism, about whether justice is possible. I think that people have lost faith in the process. I wrote the book to give people a sense of hope and optimism, grounded in reality, to show that it really can be done — that it is possible to bring a major case like this against a powerful figure and win. It is painstaking and can be slow and seem frustrating to the outside observer, but often that is the kind of deliberate thoroughness that it takes to win.



TRISTAN SNELL '00

Why do you think some people have lost faith in the U.S. judicial process?

There's a number of high-profile people who have just been very, very, very difficult to bring down because they have a combination of money and ruthlessness — ruthless use of attorneys and a lot of unprofessional but effective tactics. These people have thereby been able to look like they're evading the law. We aren't really going to be able to have a system of "the rule of law" if we don't believe that the law applies to everybody. That's a bedrock principle that we cannot live without. If we can't get that faith back, if we really believe that there's a certain class of super oligarchs who are above the law, it's going to be tough for us to continue as a country — and as a society.

What was the process of prosecuting Trump?

That case was just a grind. A slog. There's no other way to put it. I think these things usually are. We just had to keep on chipping away. I talked to about a hundred people, witnesses, to get a very detailed portrait of what

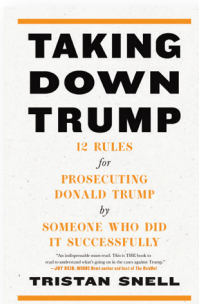
had happened. But it was just showing up, clocking your hours, looking at every single piece of material, figuring out where more material could be gotten from. Writing up the court papers. Crunching the numbers, sitting there with the spreadsheets, and figuring out what the numbers mean. You hardly ever go to court, and even if you do, the culture of the office really frowns on showboating of any kind. So you're not going to get famous by doing that work.

You say that early on in your research for the case, you knew you were on to something. And this was in 2011, before anyone imagined that Trump would become president of the United States.

My job was to go see how "bad" the alleged fraud was, which was a different way of saying, how many more resources should we throw into this matter? I was able to report back about six weeks later that it was really horrible and I was able to say that with a great deal of detail. There was nothing political about doing this at all, simply the fact that a very big fraud had occurred and it was our job to try to get these people their money back.

You mention that the case stalled and almost died at several points along the way. What were the issues?

Most of them had to do with resistance up on the executive floor; Eric Schneiderman, who was then the attorney general, did not really want to go forward with the matter and was kind of on the fence a lot of the time. So sometimes we'd be able to go forward, sometimes we'd have to pull back. We finally won him over, and that's what allowed us to go forward with the case. Then we had the frustrations with actually dealing with Trump's lawyers and how much they were stonewalling us. We weren't really getting much material out of Trump's people, so we were unsure whether we were going to continue with the case. **Interview conducted and condensed by Agatha Bordonaro '04**



READ a longer version of this story online at paw.princeton.edu.

COURTESY OF TRISTAN SNELL '00

CLASS NOTES

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



MEMORIALS

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

THE CLASS OF 1945

GEORGE R. MOFFITT JR. '45

George died May 25, 2023.

He came to us from The Hill School, earning a bachelor's of science degree from Princeton and a medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania. His father was a member of the Class of 1902.



A lieutenant (junior grade) in the Navy, he served in Korea as a surgeon with the 1st Battalion, 11th Marines, 1st Marine Division. In the Battle of Chosin Reservoir, his battalion was trapped by 120,000 Chinese troops and fought their way out over 17 days in 25-below-zero weather. For this, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the U.S. Presidential Unit Citation, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation, and the Korea Service Medal.

George practiced cardiology in the Harrisburg, Pa., area for more than 45 years, culminating with the Moffitt Heart & Vascular Group. He served at Carlisle Hospital, Polyclinic Hospital, Holy Spirit Hospital, and Harrisburg Hospital (chief of cardiology and president of the medical staff). He was clinical professor of medicine at Penn State and president of the Dauphin County Medical Society and the Harrisburg Academy of Medicine.

George is survived by his wife, Ann; three sons; one daughter; a stepdaughter; three grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

THE CLASS OF 1951

CHARLES S. GANOE '51

Charlie was born in Abington, Pa., and graduated from the William Penn Charter



School in Philadelphia. At Princeton, he was an economics major and a member and treasurer of Elm Club. He roomed with William Huston, L. Murray Houser, and Henderson Supplee.

After earning an MBA from Wharton Graduate School of the University of Pennsylvania, he joined Fidelity Bank, heading their international department. In 1979, Charlie moved to Princeton and held senior executive positions at The New York Bank for Savings, American Express

International Bank, and The First American Bank of New York. After which, he opened his own marketing consulting office. He served on numerous boards and worked tirelessly for our class holding a variety of positions, the longest as class secretary from 2011-23.

A curious traveler, Charlie visited more than 100 countries in all parts of the world. Most recently, he traveled to Cuba, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam, and North Korea. He was a member of the Council on Foreign Relations for 45 years. He began road racing when he was 50 and for more than 25 years competed in over 40 half-marathons and 12 marathons in the U.S. and Europe. He spent his summers with family in a cottage in the Adirondacks.

Charlie died Oct. 3, 2023, in Princeton of heart failure. A private burial was held, where the family wore orange and black and played Princeton songs. He is predeceased by his wife, Susie, and survived by his daughters, Hemsley and Alice, and five grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1952

JOHN JEFFREY DAVIS '52

After graduating from Columbus Academy and coming to Princeton, Jeff joined Tower and roomed with Dave Carruthers.



He left in junior year, transferred to Ohio State, and graduated there in 1953.

Jeff had a long, successful career in life insurance. He sold a million-dollar policy on a horse, Citation, that won the Triple Crown. He was president of the Young Businessmen's Club in Columbus. Later he retired to Boynton Beach, Fla., where he died Oct. 5, 2023.

The class offers condolences to Jeff's children.

THE CLASS OF 1954

ARTHUR C. CANADAY '54

Art died March 1, 2023.

He prepared at Bolles School in Jacksonville, Fla., and was active in tennis, publications, and debating. Majoring in politics at Princeton, he wrote his senior thesis on federal-state relations during the Eisenhower administration. (Years later,



after three years as a legal and administrative assistant to a U.S. congressman, Art wrote that he felt that his thesis could be applied to almost any decision-making

situation.) He joined Tower Club and the Pre-Law Society.

After two years of service in the Army, he earned a law degree at the University of Florida Law School and an LL.M. at Yale Law School. He married Diana Clough in 1962.

Art is remembered for his unfailing optimism and patience. He touched many lives during his career in law and politics as a federal judge, a lawyer, and counsel to a governor of Florida. He loved painting, classical music, and spending time with his family in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina.

Art is survived by sons Jeffrey and Clifford; daughters Lynn and Karen; and grandchildren Jason, Lindsey, Kevin, Douglas, and Dylan. He was predeceased by his wife, Marjorie; his first wife, Diana; brother Nicholas '50; and sister Carol Ann.

N. CLARK MORAN '54

Clark died Oct. 2, 2023, of complications of a fall and COVID-19.



He prepared at Baltimore Friends School, where he was senior class president, captain of the football team, wrestled, and played lacrosse.

At Princeton, he majored in religion and wrote his senior thesis on Quakerism. He joined Ivy Club, played varsity lacrosse all four years, and participated in freshman wrestling and rugby.

After two years as a lieutenant in the Marine Corps, Clark earned an MBA at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He worked for Alcoa in Buffalo, N.Y., for a short time but soon returned to Baltimore, married Martha "Skipper" Gilbert in 1959, and began his career in investment securities. He worked with Thomson & McKinnon Auchincloss Kohlmeyer and later at Baker Watts, Legg Mason, Alex. Brown & Sons, and Ferris Baker Watts. He served as governor of the National Association of Securities Dealers in the 1970s and later as an arbitrator in disputes before the association.

Clark was a sports fan and enjoyed playing tennis and paddle tennis. He was an avid deep-sea fisherman and pursued the sport off the Delmarva Peninsula, and North Carolina's Outer Banks and the Duck-Corolla area.

Martha, his wife of 63 years, died of liver disease two weeks before him. Clark is survived by daughters Whitney and Peyton, son Gilbert, and three grandchildren.

GUSTAV PAUMGARTNER '54

Gustav died Sept. 23, 2023.

He prepared at the Lichtenfels Gymnasium in Graz, the second-largest city in Austria.

At Princeton, he was a member of Prospect Club. His year as a Fulbright scholar at Princeton awakened a deep fascination for the biological sciences.

Gustav earned a medical degree in Graz and a doctorate in Vienna in 1960. His subsequent appointments took him to the Pharmacological Institute and the Medical Clinic II of the University of Vienna in 1961, a research position at the New Jersey College of Medicine, and in 1971 the department of clinical pharmacology at the University of Bern, Switzerland. In 1979, he was appointed professor of internal medicine and became director of Medical Clinic II at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, retiring in 1999. In 2013 Gustav returned to Vienna as a visiting professor at the clinical department of gastroenterology and hepatology at the university's department of internal medicine.

The focus of Gustav's career as a physician-scientist was in the field of bile secretion and its disorders in the context of cholestatic liver diseases. He played a leading role in the application of the latest techniques and the development of new therapeutic concepts. His work has been reflected in more than 500 scientific publications in the journals of internal medicine, gastroenterology, and hepatology, as well as book contributions and chapters in the international textbooks.

Despite his achievements, his demeanor was characterized by modesty in his clinical and scientific activities and expressed in his love of nature, skiing, music, and literature. Gustav was generous and highly esteemed.

Gustav's first wife, Dagmar, died of cancer. He is survived by his wife, Christel; and her children and grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1956**HENRY F. DAWES '56**

Harry died Sept. 5, 2023.



Coming from Dwight Morrow High School in Englewood, N.J., he followed his father Wetmore Dawes 1926 to Princeton, where Harry joined Key and Seal Club and majored in philosophy.

He loved studying philosophy and observed that writing his thesis was one of the most stimulating intellectual experiences of his life.

Harry earned a medical degree at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, which, after service as a captain in the Air Force in Pakistan, led to a long career as a general surgeon. He took

great pride and satisfaction as a surgeon during a time of great changes in the profession.

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

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

DERICK L. DRIEMEYER '56

Derick died Dec. 8, 2023, after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease.



He followed his brother Clark '53 to Princeton from St. Louis Country Day School, bringing his exceptional talent at soccer and helping the Tigers to great success over four years. Derick joined Cap and Gown, majored in history, and was business manager of the *Nassau Herald* among many activities. After graduation, he served in the Navy as an intelligence officer in the Western Pacific. Harvard Business School followed, which led to a long career in investment management with AG Edwards & Sons in St. Louis.

In his spare time and after retirement, Derick loved many hunting and fishing trips to Argentina, Alaska, Alabama, Louisiana, and South Dakota for deer, dove, pheasant, turkey, salmon, and trout. When home, he was an active volunteer and supporter of the St. Louis community, especially the Danforth Plant Science Center, whose director praised Derick's passion for lifelong learning and for helping others to grow.

Derick is survived by his wife of 56 years, Sally; children Steve and Debbie Drinkwater and her husband Mark; and three grandchildren.

EDWARD C. WHITE '56

Eddie died Dec. 15, 2022, after a long illness.

Among the first Black students to attend Princeton, Eddie came to our class from Arts High School in Newark, N.J., already established as a musical performer. He played in the University orchestra and Band as well as the bass fiddle in Stan Rubin '55's Tigertown Five. He served as vice president of the orchestra and joined Terrace Club.

Eddie majored in the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, presciently writing a thesis on "The Islamic State in the 20th Century." This interest led to a Harvard master's degree, studying Arabic in Cairo, and a distinguished career in the U.S. Foreign Service in East Africa, North Africa, the Middle East, Europe, the South

Pacific, and the Caribbean. In retirement, he picked up with his musical career with the Princeton Jazz Quintet, which performed regularly in Princeton and New York City.

Eddie was predeceased by his wife, Viola; and son Marc. He is survived by his son, Edward Jr. '77; two brothers; a daughter-in-law; a granddaughter; and a great-granddaughter. All miss his wit, humor, and compassion.

GORDON WILSON '56

Gordon died Oct. 19, 2022, of complications of a fall. He is survived by his wife, April; his sons Speke and Reid; and five grandchildren.



Growing up in Lake Forest, Ill., Gordon followed his father John P. Wilson '28 to Princeton after attending St. Paul's School, bringing with him his superb ice hockey skills. He was a stalwart player at Baker Rink for four years. He joined Ivy Club and majored in art and archaeology. After graduation, he enlisted in the Marine Corps, followed by a law degree from the University of Michigan.

Gordon spent most of his time in trust banking and investment advising with the Washington, D.C., investment firm of Gardner, Russo & Gardner while committing much attention to preserving African wildlife as deputy director of the African Wildlife Foundation. His greatest joys were sailing his 90-year-old sloop on Lake Charlevoix in Michigan and scuba diving with his wife, with a final adventure in the Dampier Strait off New Guinea. When he ran out of air one day, he knew it was time to quit. Gordon also loved squash, tennis, golf, bridge, and coaching youth ice hockey — all sports seasons covered by an active, life-loving classmate.

THE CLASS OF 1957**CHARLES R. COOKSON '57**

Charlie died May 19, 2023, of prostate cancer. He was a diplomat, international entrepreneur, and educator.



He came to Princeton from the Darlington School in Rome, Ga. Holder of a University scholarship, Charlie became head waiter at Commons, majored in the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, and joined Dial Lodge. He also served on the business board of the Triangle Club. As a son of an Army officer, he had been born at Fort Sill, Okla., and spent time there again as an Army ROTC member. Following college, he served in Army artillery units, attaining the rank of first lieutenant.

Charlie joined the State Department, which led him to a post in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. There he married a Brazilian

woman, Nubia Pereira Rezende, and they had three children, Ricardo, Charles II, and Marcela. Continuing to live in Brazil after leaving the State Department, he started his own export-import business. After Nubia died, he returned to the U.S. and obtained a master's degree in public policy from William & Mary College, while operating a consulting business engaged with Development in Democracy Inc. He married Patricia Cox.

He and Pat retired from Virginia to Okatie, S.C., where he became active in tutoring young children and socializing with his neighbors, many of whom he met while walking his dog or playing bridge. He is survived by Pat, Charles II, Marcela, Ricardo '87, and their families.

THE CLASS OF 1958

MALCOLM B. ROBERTS '58

Mal died May 7, 2023, in Anchorage, Alaska. He was 86.



He came to Princeton from the Webb School, where he participated in basketball, debate, orchestra, football, tennis, and dramatics. At Princeton, Mal majored in history, ran track, and was a member of Cannon Club. His roommates were John Ferch, Don Ward, Dave Grundy, and Fred Miller.

After graduation, Mal created *Pace* magazine for the youth of the 1960s. For *Pace*, in 1967, he interviewed Alaskan Gov. Wally Hickel, and that led to more than 40 years of work together: speechwriting, travel, books, and global outreach when Hickel was secretary of the interior. Mal stayed with Hickel through the formation of the Institute of the North and participation in the UN's first four environmental conferences. In the mid-1990s, Anchorage was becoming an international hub. To strengthen the city chemistry and create a "Community of Friends," Mal had a major role in Bridge Builders of Anchorage, with the leaders of 13 international organizations.

In 1970, he married Cindy Graham, who was named Mrs. America in 1978. They had three children and four "honorary adopted" children. They all survive him. The class extends its deepest sympathy to them all.

THE CLASS OF 1959

ROBERT A. GILBERT '59

Bob died Aug. 30, 2023. He is survived by his son, daughter, and two grandchildren. His wife of 44 years, Gail, an interior designer whom he had met at work in 1964, predeceased him in 2008. At the time of his death Bob was in hospice care.

Raised in Millburn, N.J., Bob was a natural athlete, playing varsity basketball



and baseball in high school and winning freshman and JV letters in baseball at Princeton. A member of Terrace Club, he roomed with Mike Colten senior year. Unlike many of us, Bob focused on his career at an early point in his Princeton studies, joining the architecture department and, after graduation and a brief stint in the Army National Guard, earned a master of architecture degree from the University of Pennsylvania. Architecture in various formats became Bob's career path. In our 25th-reunion yearbook he reported that his work "has been interesting and exciting and includes a wide range and variety of projects."

Bob and Gail retired in 2003 to Albemarle Plantation in Hertford, N.C., where, until his passing, he engaged in the many avocations he had acquired over the years: golf, bowling, fishing, reading, choral singing, cooking, bridge, and listening to his extensive collection of music.

MALCOLM A. MOORE '59

Mal died July 13, 2023, in Seattle, the city that he and his wife, Phoebe Ann, had



adopted and where he practiced law for 58 years. He is survived by Phoebe Ann, three children, and six grandchildren.

Coming from College High School in Upper Montclair, N.J., where he was editor of the school newspaper, Mal dined at Quadrangle, majored in the Woodrow Wilson School, managed advertising for the *Prince*, and chaired the Prince-Tiger Dance. He roomed with Buchanan, Huddleston, Ryan, Chuck Smith, and Dunc Stewart.

Following graduation, Mal attended Harvard Law School, then joined Hughes Hubbard & Reed in New York City. Three years later the Moores moved to Phoebe Ann's hometown of Seattle, where Mal joined the firm of Davis Wright Tremaine, growing its trusts and estates section to a national practice. He became chairman of the real property, probate, and trust law section of the ABA, president of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, and a lifetime member of the American Law Institute. Among other honors he was chair of the Joint Editorial Board for Uniform Trust and Estate Acts.

Mal helped establish Seattle's Elisabeth Carey Miller Botanical Garden and Dunn Gardens. For many years he served on the boards of Lakeside School, where his children attended, and the Virginia Mason Franciscan Health Foundation.

The class extends its sympathies to Mal's family.

BRUCE E. NICKERSON '59

Lung cancer took Bruce at his home in Lexington, Mass., July 4, 2023.



He was born to English teachers in New York City, and a peripatetic childhood took him throughout the country before settling in Charleston, S.C., where

his father took a position at The Citadel. Secondary schooling saw Bruce at Exeter, igniting an interest in math leading to his major at Princeton and his enjoyment of bridge, choir, Glee Club, and Theatre Intime. He dined at Court Club with senior-year roommates Bill Wetterstrand and George Collins. Following graduation he worked in the insurance industry while studying to become an actuary, settling in Harvard, Mass. He became a fellow of the Society of Actuaries, lending his talents to companies like Massachusetts Mutual Life and Capitol Bankers Life.

His 1960 marriage to Fran Hamburger produced four children and a joint and lifelong participation in choirs and choral groups, community activities, and the breeding and showing of award-winning Tonkinese cats. Bruce and Fran especially loved spending summers at Eagle Camp on Grand Isle in Lake Champlain, Vt. Above all they were travelers, reaching more than 150 countries including all of the '59 ocean and river cruises, from the Danube through Europe to the Volga to Moscow and down the Yangtze in China.

To Bruce's wife Fran and their children, class extends its deepest sympathy.

GRAHAME P. RICHARDS JR. '59

Born in Paducah, Ky., Bill (as he was known) attended Ritenour Senior High School in St.



Louis. He lived in Devon and later Wynnewood, Pa., where he died Jan. 23, 2023.

At Princeton, Bill majored in economics and was a member of Quadrangle Club. His senior-year roommates were Fincher, Hummer, Kurland, Wilhelm, and Zink. His activities included Naval ROTC, Orange Key, and the Baptist Students Association. Completing his active-duty obligation after Princeton in 1962, he obtained a law degree from the University of Missouri and married Anne-Marie Rainville. He also continued his naval affiliation, serving 30 years in the Navy Reserves and achieving the rank of captain.

Early in his career Bill practiced law in Philadelphia, specializing in trust and estate law and charitable dispositions and deferred giving. He did volunteer work with the American Heart Association, the Boy Scouts, the Navy League, the Pennsylvania Prison Society, and numerous activities to support

Princeton, including Planned Giving. He then moved on to become program director of the Lenfest Foundation, a family charitable organization in partnership with the Pew Charitable Trusts, Annenberg Foundation, and others.

Anne-Marie and Bill were blessed with a large, energetic, and joyous family: three daughters, three sons, and 14 grandchildren. Bill described this as “family planning.” The class extends condolences to Anne-Marie and her family on the loss of Bill.

EDWARD E. RUHNKE JR. '59

Ted died March 11, 2022.

A native of East Orange, N.J., at high school Ted played football, ran track, worked on the school newspaper, and was senior class president. At Princeton, he majored in chemistry, was a member of Tower Club, and performed with the Triangle Club. His senior-year roommates were Jerry Brisco and Dunc Dempster.

Following graduation, Ted attended the University of Virginia Medical School, earning a medical degree in 1963. Ted was class president all four of his years at UVA and formed a strong attachment to the Commonwealth. After his residency in Connecticut and a tour with the Army, he returned to Virginia to take up an OB-GYN practice in Petersburg. Ted married Mary Stewart in 1964. She, son, Edward III, and daughter Sarah, and several grandchildren survive him.

Ted had an active medical practice and is credited with having delivered close to 8,000 newborns. In addition, he devoted himself to activities with Habitat for Humanity and also served as chairman of the Petersburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority. In 2012, Ted was recognized by Virginia Gov. Bob McConnell as outstanding senior volunteer in Virginia for 2012.

THE CLASS OF 1961

RONALD E. GOLDMAN '61

Ron, also known to us as “Goldie,” died of acute myeloid leukemia Sept. 28, 2023. His



Los Angeles Times obituary said, “Like everything else in his life, he faced this challenge with humor and a warm smile.”

Born in Los Angeles, he came to us from Beverly High School, where he and Jim Blair were football co-captains and he was student body president. At Princeton, Ron majored in architecture, played varsity football, ate at Cottage Club, and roomed with Jim Blair, John Boorn, Bob Diaz, Gary Loftus, Don Spangenberg, and Gary Fields.

Following an M.A. in architecture and

urban planning at MIT, Ron entered the profession and in 1975 founded Goldman Firth Rossi Architects in Malibu. Thus began a remarkable career during which his work with homes, schools, religious buildings, and commercial developments was celebrated as “architecture that shelters without enclosing and defines without limiting.” He won more than 50 design awards over those years and was involved in many community service activities locally and nationally.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Barbara; children Karen and Mark and their families, which include a grandson; brother Ken '64; and sister Lynne.

JOSEPH E. PRATHER '61

Joe died Nov. 27, 2023, after a long struggle with Parkinson's. He and Ev had only recently relocated to a retirement community in Summit, N.J.



Born in Philadelphia, he came to us from Okemos (Mich.) High School. At Princeton, he majored in biology and took his meals at Cannon Club, but left the University after junior year to get married.

After working for the Edson Tool & Manufacturing Co. in New Jersey, he founded Macaw Co. in Ireland and later was president of a sporting goods company, Griffin & Howe, that channeled his interest in hunting and fishing.

Joe was the heart and soul of our class, serving in so many ways for virtually his entire adult life. Over the years he was our vice president, reunion chairman, and president, and founded our class foundation. He never missed a reunion from our sixth on, not to mention every mini-reunion, always impeccably dressed and never with a hair out of place. He chaired the University's Alumni Council Committee on Reunions and was the grand marshal of the P-rade for seven years.

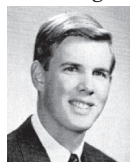
Joe is survived by his wife of 63 years, Ev; daughters Wendy and Margaret; sons Tony *98, Christopher, and Alexander; and their families, which include 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1962

ROBERT R. BISHOP '62

Bob died May 4, 2023, at home in Wayne, Pa.

Coming to us from Episcopal Academy in Overbrook, Pa., Bob was editor in chief of the Academy's newspaper *Scholium*, active in student council, glee club, choir, soccer, squash, captain of the tennis team, and valedictorian of the senior class. At Princeton, he played soccer and squash, was vice chairman of the Chapel Deacons, and ate at Cap & Gown.



Following graduation, Bob earned a law degree from Penn in 1965 and a master's degree in teaching from Harvard in 1972. A Penn law professor advised him to try something different for a few years, so Bob joined the Peace Corps and taught in Tanzania, where he met his wife, Sarah “Sally” Bradley Barfoot. They married in 1968 and were in the U.S. for eight months in 1969. Returning to Tanzania for two years, they both taught at the International School. In 1972, Bob began a 35-year career at Episcopal Academy in a variety of positions, ending as academic dean.

He is survived by Sally; their sons Stephen, Sean, and Benjamin '99; and their families. The class extends its sympathy to all.

HARRY C. CRAWFORD III '62

Tad died peacefully at home Oct. 6, 2023, of Parkinson's disease.



The son of Harry C. III '36, Tad entered Princeton from Weston (Mass.) High School, where he was notably the first exchange student to France his junior year. He was a Woodrow Wilson School major and dined at Quadrangle. Due to his fluency in French, he joined Mobil Oil Corp. in France, returned briefly to Manhattan, and then resumed his career overseas. In the course of this time, he joined the Marine Corps Reserve, and he was always proud to be a Leatherneck. His career with Mobil eventually led to his managing Mobil operations in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, eventually returning to the U.S. and becoming an executive in the human resources division.

Tad retired to Martha's Vineyard in 1995, where he helped found the Island Health Council, chairing it for several years. He was active in the Vineyard Conservation Society, and a lifelong Unitarian, serving a time on the Unitarian Universalist President's Council. He was passionate about sailing, both recreationally and in racing.

The class extends its condolences to his wife, Judy, and the entire family.

WILLIAM B. ICENHOWER '62

Bill died April 14, 2021, in North East, Pa.



He came to us from Upper Darby High School in Drexel Hill, Pa., where he was a member of the student council, editor of a weekly newspaper, and a member of the cross country and tennis teams. At Princeton, Bill majored in economics and ate at Quadrangle, where he participated in IAA touch football.

Following graduation, he served in the Navy from 1962 to 1964, took pre-med

courses at the University of Colorado, taught chemistry at Cheshire Academy for one year, and entered Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons, earning a medical degree in 1971. He moved to the West Coast for his residency, specializing in emergency medicine.

He and his first wife, Elizabeth, had three daughters, Ann, Wendy, and Gail. Later he practiced in Saudi Arabia for two years and in Germany as chief of emergency medicine at the 97th Army Hospital. Earning a master's degree in public health, he specialized in epidemiology, and as of our 50th reunion was a public-health officer in Maryland.

His obituary lists his wife, Barbara; and a large family as survivors. The class extends its condolences to all.

THE CLASS OF 1964

ROBERT B. HERBERT '64

Bob died Dec. 7, 2023, in Raleigh, N.C., of complications of a stroke.



He came to Princeton from the Chicago Harvard School, which taught him to love history and European royalty. Bob wrote his senior thesis on the Mexican Revolution of 1910. He was active in the Triangle Club, Orange Key tours, and Whig-Clio. He was a convivial member of Court Club. Bob roomed with Dave Isaac, Don Marsden, Dave Miller, Jim Williams, and Bob Wood.

Bob earned an LL.B. at the University of Virginia. After Army service, he and his wife, Jenny, moved to Raleigh, where he practiced law at First Title Insurance Co. Jenny and he had two daughters, Deming and Carlyle. Carlyle died in 2014.

Bob was a pillar of Christ Episcopal Church in Raleigh. He taught Sunday school and confirmation classes, served on the vestry, read the lessons, and made a joyful noise with hymns. Bob also served at St. Saviour's Center, the outreach program of Christ Church. He was a founding member of the Hospice of Wake County, where his co-workers adored him.

The class extends its condolences to Bob's partner of 32 years, Christopher Lipe; his daughter, Deming; and grandchildren William Gayle Dorroh IV, Charlotte Hartshorn Dorroh, and Campbell Wyss Dorroh. May Bob's memory be eternal.

THE CLASS OF 1966

CHARLES F. MARTIN II '66

Charley died Nov. 10, 2023, in Triangle, Va.

Charley came to Princeton from St. Andrew's School in St. Andrews, Tenn., where he edited the school newspaper, was a member of the Literary Society and National Honor Society, and played tennis and basketball. At Princeton, he majored



in physics, ate at Cloister Inn, played IAA sports, and was enrolled in Navy ROTC. Afterward, he earned a master's degree in physics from the University of

Michigan and graduated first in his class from Bettis Reactor Engineering School.

He served in the Navy for 31 years, first in the office of Adm. Hyman Rickover, director of Naval Nuclear Propulsion, and later in direct energy conversion technologies.

Charley and his wife, Linda, moved to Triangle in 1983, where he continued working on direct energy conversion until retirement in 2000. He then devoted himself to teaching physics at the high school level.

He belonged to Immanuel Anglican Church, where he was a member of the vocal and handbell choirs and served in several volunteer positions.

Charley is survived by Linda, sister Karen Martin, and brother Hallock Martin, to all of whom the class extends its condolences.

THE CLASS OF 1970

RODOLFO B. FERNANDEZ '70

Rudy, who never wavered from his childhood dream of becoming an engineer, died at his Florida home March 16, 2023.



Emigrating from Cuba after the 1959 revolution, he had immense pride in his American citizenship. After graduating from Brandeis

High School in New York, he came to Princeton and majored in civil and geological engineering, and served as president of Campus Club. Rudy's affection for Princeton traveled with him through life, and for many years he interviewed applicants on behalf of the Alumni Schools Committee.

At Jacobs Engineering, Rudy specialized in water infiltration/inflow and was valued as a talented mentor and professional engineer, as he was to those among his many professional affiliations. To round out his zest for life, he enjoyed beekeeping, karate, kayaking, "O gauge" model trains, bridge, poker, his fountain pen/ink collection, and rooting for the Miami Marlins.

Rudy is survived by his wife of 44 years, Donna; and their son David. With them we celebrate his life, his inquisitive mind, and the impact he had on so many around him. He loved and enjoyed everything and everyone in his life, and we will all miss him greatly.

JAMES M. KASENGA '70

Jim died Jan. 26, 2023, at his retirement home in Palmer Township, Pa.

He came to us from Lincoln High School in Denver, courtesy of an uncle from Brooklyn who took him on a campus tour prior to his senior year. Jim was a member of Cloister,



worked in Commons, and became one of the many of us caught up in sociology and politics. He wrote his thesis on "The Legal Profession and a Changing Society," but as

important was active in the Trenton Action Project, which foreshadowed his lifetime of helping others.

Following a master's degree in counseling at Lehigh, Jim spent a career mixing teaching and social work, serving with Upward Bound, vocational rehabilitation agencies, and for years as a high school guidance counselor. Cementing his spot in the Nation's Service Hall of Fame was his volunteer retirement job: children's librarian, including the persona of Dr. Starfish, teaching sea life and friendship.

Jim is survived by his wife of 50 years, Donna, married in the Chapel; children Joshua and Jamie; grandchildren Nico, Noah, and Elizabeth; and brother Paul. In their sadness and ours, his sense of giving can serve as both a comfort and a call to action.

RICHARD S. SPRINGER '70

Dick died April 9, 2023, following a massive heart attack.



His life after Princeton could have been predicted with considerable accuracy by many of us. He loved Oregon and politics in equal measure, and he loved Oregon politics most of all. Temperamentally suited to a life in and around public affairs, Dick possessed the ability — rare in people of any age but especially in college students then as now — of imagining himself in another person's shoes. As a result, he was a master of the nearly forgotten art of respecting people with whom he disagreed.

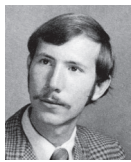
And so, in the natural course of things, upon completion of his naval service, he attended the University of Oregon Law School and shortly afterward began a three-decade career in public service.

A lifelong Democrat, Dick served as deputy district attorney for Multnomah County, and then spent 16 years in the Oregon House and Senate. He held the post of Senate majority leader and was an early and effective advocate for conservation, gun safety, and women's reproductive rights.

Dick is survived by his partner, Jan Coulton (daughter of Henry Coulton '34); his children, Josh and Tess; and two grandchildren. He loved them even more than Oregon politics, and our hearts go out to them.

JONATHAN H. STEIN '70

Jon, who embodied the technical skills of medicine combined with the generosity of



teaching, died March 17, 2023, of kidney failure in Tequesta, Fla.

Jon joined us at Princeton from Freeport High School on Long Island. His athletics there segued to the Karate Club at Princeton, along with campaign work for John Lindsay and Eugene McCarthy, and as a member of Stevenson. Although pre-med, he majored in English and wrote his thesis on "Isolation in the American Novel." Jon went to Tufts medical school, then spent 20 years training and practicing cardiology in New York.

In 1995, the lifelong New Yorker took the huge step of relocating to Louisiana. The family's inculcation into the South continued through his 2010 professorship at the University of Mississippi in Jackson. He was in his last term in law school when he died. Throughout, he retained his steadfast devotion to Princeton, interviewing dozens of applicants. His athletic interests never flagged, as he completed multiple New York City Marathons and took up scuba diving, while sticking with the Yankees and the football Giants.

Jon is survived by his wife of 30 years, Karen; children Peter and Whitney; and seven grandchildren. With them we recall and revere a man of vision and energy, generosity and skill, and love for his friends.

THE CLASS OF 1971

P. MICHAEL KOZMA '71

We lost a dedicated journalist and family man when Mike died May 21, 2023, in North



Carolina of esophageal cancer.

Mike came to Princeton from West Columbia, S.C., and Brookland-Cayce High School. He participated in Tiger band (trombone), Trenton Tutorial, and the Wesley Foundation. As a founding member of Wilson College, he served as social chair and roomed with Hubbs, Kalil, Deibel, and Hull. An English major, he finished his thesis in 1977. His roommates remember him for the warmth and solidarity of his friendship, his sense of humor, and a frantic energy that lit up his smile.

In his 45-year journalism career, he shared in numerous awards for excellence with *The Columbia Record*, *The Fayetteville (N.C.) Observer*, and *The Bergen (N.J.) Record*, where he served as an editor for 17 years. Mike loved fiction, blog and music writing, trombone playing, and singing. His extensive music collection was highlighted by his beloved Grateful Dead recordings and memorabilia. Mike was proud of his Lebanese ancestry, especially the history and cuisine. He

was an active Alumni Schools Committee interviewer.

Mike married Alyce in 1972 and they had two daughters, Cara and Michelle, and five grandchildren. He enjoyed living and hiking in the Blue Ridge Mountains and later moved to High Point, N.C., to be closer to his grandchildren. The class extends its condolences to his family and friends.

THE CLASS OF 1973

SHARON ALVE DAVIS '73

Sharon died Sept. 1, 2023, in Houston of ovarian cancer.

She was born in Spencer, N.Y., in a Finnish-American community. She attended Spencer-Van Etten High School, where she played the clarinet and was treasurer of her class. Encouraged by her brother-in-law Leslie R. Hill *65 *67, She came to Princeton, where she majored in English. She wrote her thesis on "The Devil, the Fool, and the Dance of Death: Some Ideas on Art and Religion from Shakespeare's Plays."

At the end of her junior year, Sharon married William C. Libby II '71 in the Princeton Chapel. They had two sons, William C. Libby III and Jason Armas ("beloved" in Finnish) Libby. Their marriage ended after 10 years. Sharon later married Charles Davis, who predeceased her. The class sends its condolences to Sharon's sons.

RICHARD B. HAMILTON JR. '73

Richard died Sept. 2, 2023, in Harrison, N.Y.



Richard, or "Richie" as he was called by his three sisters, was born in New York City and was raised in Tinton Falls, N.J. He attended Monmouth Regional High School with his future Princeton classmate Melinda Boroson. Upon graduation he then followed his father, Richard Bothwell Hamilton '45, to Princeton, as did his sister Kathryn Hamilton Fink '76. At Princeton Richard majored in economics. His thesis was titled "The Determinants of Cost Variation and the Role of Economics of Scale in the Costs of Education."

Richard was a talented and successful media executive in New York City, first at Benton & Bowles and later at its successor DMB&B. He was a deeply respected leader and mentor in his field. He was a devoted member of the Harrison community and the local 12-step community.

He was devoted to his children, Eric and Lisa, and shared with them his love of Alfred Hitchcock movies and the New York Yankees, as well as his commitment to self-improvement and the gratitude he felt for his family and support system.

The class sends its condolences to Richard's children and his sisters.

ROBERT GREGORY PLIMPTON '73

Greg died Dec. 4, 2023, after a short illness.

Born in Leominster, Mass., Greg grew up in North Palm Beach, Fla., graduating from Riviera Beach High School. At Princeton, he studied economics, dined at Cottage Club, partook in crew and sailing, was director of the Refreshment Agency, and was named to *Esquire* magazine's 1970 list of Best Dressed College Men. He roomed with Fred Drake, Ed O'Lear, Brad Shingleton, Jim French, and Peter Randall, along with several other classmates over the four years. Greg earned a law degree from Georgetown School of Law in 1976. He acted as class secretary for 20 years.

During a life of adventure and volunteer service, he practiced law a bit, but mostly engaged in a wide variety of entrepreneurial enterprises and diversions including real estate, construction, software development, transportation, writing, flying, diving, sailing, yoga, and property management. He invented, patented, and manufactured Thermalbar thermometers. Married and divorced twice, he had two sons, Alden and Dawson.

In 2010, Greg entered the Peace Corps, spent mostly in Peru sanitizing wells and building solar water pumps and eventually becoming the coordinator for renewable energy. In 2014, a heart attack brought him back to the States. He settled in Fort Myers, Fla., working with migrant workers and Habitat for Humanity, living happily near one of his sons and five grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1975

COLINE E. COVINGTON '75

Coline died of brain cancer July 17, 2023, in London, the United Kingdom, where she practiced as a Jungian analyst.

She came to Princeton from the Chapin School in New York City, majored in politics, and was a member of Cap and Gown.

Following Princeton, Coline received a diploma in criminology from Cambridge University and then a doctorate in sociology from the London School of Economics.

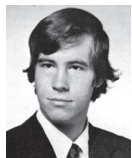
Before training as a psychoanalyst, she worked as a consultant to local UK authority agencies to develop programs preventing young offenders from being sent to prison. In conjunction with the Metropolitan Police, she set up the first victim-offender mediation project in the country.

Coline was former chair of the British Psychoanalytic Council and former editor of the *Journal of Analytical Psychology*. From 2011 to 2013, she was a senior scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C., and a visiting research fellow in international politics and development at the Open University.

Coline was also a fellow of the International Dialogue Initiative, a think tank for politicians and psychoanalysts working together. She published several books on psychology, including *Who's to Blame?: Collective Guilt on Trial*, published shortly before her death. We mourn the loss of this gifted classmate.

DOUGLAS B. LEE '75

Doug died May 29, 2023, of a heart attack in Boulder, Colo. He was an author, editor,



and filmmaker of human and natural history, wilderness, and wildlife.

He came to us from American Community School in London, U.K. At Princeton, he majored in Germanic languages and literatures, graduating *magna cum laude*, and was social chairman for Dial Lodge. Friends remember his gifted storytelling, sense of humor, and adventurous spirit, along with his sensitive and caring heart.

After eight months sailing from Rhode Island to the Caribbean and back in 1976–77, Doug spent more than 14 years as a staff writer and editor for *National Geographic* magazine. An assignment in Botswana captured his heart, and thereafter he considered that country his second home. He went freelance in 1992 and wrote and co-produced two natural history features for *National Geographic* TV. He also maintained ties to Louisiana and coastal Mississippi, where he had spent boyhood summers. Among his books are *On the Hurricane Coast* and *Katrina's Wake*.

Doug is survived by his sister, Janet Havens, and his brother, James "Steve" Lee. We join them in mourning the loss of this memorable and talented classmate, a loyal friend to many at Princeton and all over the world.

THE CLASS OF 1976

MAYMAY QUEY LIN '76

Maymay died Nov. 2, 2023, in New York after a long illness.



A native New Yorker, she came to Princeton after graduating from Washington Irving High School in Manhattan. Maymay roomed in Foulke Hall with Elaine

Leong Eng and Nivea Teresa Velázquez, and they became close friends for life. She majored in Romance languages and literature and received a teaching certificate from the State of New Jersey.

After graduation, Maymay returned home to New York and found it difficult to obtain a teaching position, so she took a job as an editor at Reader's Digest General Books, where she built her career. She also worked as a medical research editor.

Maymay developed a strong circle of Princeton friends that she kept up with for more than 50 years and that acted as an online and in-person support group including: Elaine, Nivea, as well as Dolores Chavez de Daigle, Julio Rivera, Vanessa Austin Davis, Rosemary Garces '78, Sonia Sotomayor, and Pauline Lee. Maymay traveled with many of them on vacations.

Maymay was devoted to her large family. She was known for her wit and her effervescent laughter brought joy.

The class sends sympathy to her siblings, Jose, Moonmayter, Ning, and Antonio; nieces and nephews Eileen, Janet, Joseph Sr., Omar, Natisha and her children Jonathan and Natalia, Sebally Jr., Antonio Jr. and Tyler; and numerous grand-nieces and grand-nephews.

THE CLASS OF 1978

MARTIN PENSAK '78

We learned belatedly of Martin's unexpected passing Oct. 13, 2022, at home in North Carolina.



Martin grew up in Princeton, in a family comfortable with the sciences, big questions, and exploring for answers. After

Princeton High School, he joined us and majored in statistics. That will surprise some, who assumed someone so deeply engaged with computers must have been an electrical engineer. Martin served on the tech team at WPRB, joining Freshman Week because he liked the people and was intrigued by the work. Having a knack for keeping things running, he ended as the station's tech manager and served as a WPRB trustee for years after graduation.

Martin spent the bulk of his career at DuPont, having a hand in establishing its early email system and retiring as its cybersecurity manager. Marriage with his beloved Margaret began over their shared love of rescued dogs, deepening from work friendship into wonderful partnership. Martin was a dedicated volunteer with Habitat for Humanity and other local organizations. He was the person everyone called for IT help, never refusing to share his knowledge and skills.

Princeton friends remember Martin for his kindness and willingness to help others in ways that preserved their autonomy and dignity (and for his relentless, horrible puns).

THE CLASS OF 1982

MARK A. BASHAM '82

Mark died in the arms of his children on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021, after a short illness.

Mark came to Princeton from Santa Fe High School and majored in politics and



political economy. He played freshman football and club rugby and was a member of Tiger Inn.

Always a proud New Mexican, he returned to Santa Fe and earned a law degree at the University of New Mexico Law School. He was in private practice but served as a city attorney for Santa Fe from 1996 to 2000, and as a county probate judge from 2007 to 2016.

One of Mark's dreams was to have a cabin up in Pecos, in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, and when he accomplished it he shared it widely with family and friends, describing his time there as if in disbelief of his luck.

Princeton friends remember Mark's bright eyes, ready laughter, and quickness with a quip. He loved a good debate, making him a natural for the law.

Classmates extend their condolences to Mark's children Jordan, Mack, and Austin; his companion Lisa Estrada; and sister Donna. He will be missed by many.

RAY M. CLAPP JR. '82

Ray died Dec. 24, 2021.

He was born and raised in San Antonio,



Texas, where both his parents were schoolteachers, and attended Alamo Heights High School before coming to Princeton.

He majored in chemical engineering, played 150-pound football (middle linebacker), and was a member of Cottage Club.

After college, Ray earned an MBA from the University of Texas, Austin, and embarked on a successful career first in engineering, and then in private equity. A committed outdoorsman and adventurer, Ray had a private pilot's license, loved travel, and enjoyed his time as a scoutmaster in the Boy Scouts, leading trips on campouts, backpacking, canoeing, and scuba diving. Moving back to San Antonio, he was an active member of the MacArthur Park Church of Christ.

Ray is survived by his wife, Marianne; his two sons, Benjamin and Ray III; his daughter-in-law Mary; sisters Donna Dove and Brenda Butler; and stepchildren Jonathan, Elizabeth, Michael, and Benjamin Warren. To Ray's family and friends, the Class of 1982 extends heartfelt sympathy at their loss.

GRADUATE ALUMNI

MICHAEL G. STRINTZIS '70

Michael died Nov. 23, 2019, in Athens, Greece.

He earned a degree in electrical engineering from the National Technical University of Athens in 1967, and a master's

degree and Ph.D. in electrical engineering from Princeton in 1969 and 1970. He then joined the electrical engineering department at the University of Pittsburgh.

In 1980, he became professor of electrical and computer engineering at the University of Thessaloniki, Greece, and in 1999 the founder and director of the Informatics and Telematics Research Institute, Thessaloniki.

Michael authored or co-authored more than 600 academic publications and was cited by more than 13,000 publications. He became associate editor of the IEEE's *Transactions on Circuits and Systems for Video Technology* in 1999. In 1984, he was the recipient of the Centennial Medal of the IEEE. He was elected an IEEE fellow for contributions to digital filtering, image processing, and coding.

Michael was a pioneer in multidimensional signal processing, especially in image and video processing. His impact on the academic community included the DeCarlo-Strintzis theorem for stability testing of multidimensional recursive digital filters.

Michael is survived by his daughter, Natalie Strintzis; and his grandson, Nicholas.

JAMES DUNCAN ROBERTSON *73

Duncan died Nov. 26, 2023, at his home in Augusta, Ga., after a long illness.

Duncan was born March 14, 1944, in Kingston, Ontario, Canada, and grew up near New Haven, Conn. He earned a bachelor's degree from Yale in 1966 and a Ph.D. in Romance languages and literatures from Princeton in 1973.

He taught at the University of Michigan and the University of San Francisco before joining the faculty of Augusta University in 1990. In the Department of English and World Languages, Duncan taught French, Latin, and Spanish until retiring in 2010. He was the author of *The Medieval Saints' Lives* and *Lectio Divina: The Medieval Experience of Reading* and was a co-editor of *The Vernacular Spirit: Essays on Medieval Religious Literature*.

While his specialty was medieval studies, Duncan's scholarship and interests spanned the literature and cultures of many countries and eras. Active in the Alliance Française, he was fluent in several languages and advocated reading texts in their original languages. He was an avid amateur musician who played piano and guitar and was a member of several choirs.

Duncan is survived by his wife of 34 years, Susan, and his sons, Michael and David.

JEFFREY J. FARRINGTON *75

Jeffrey died unexpectedly Nov. 16, 2023, in Pennington, N.J.

He was born Nov. 29, 1951, in Troy, N.Y. He studied piano at the New England Conservatory of Music and earned an MFA in music at Princeton in 1975.

At the conservatory Jeffrey studied with Robert Helps and Katya Andy, and later privately for 30 years with Sophia Rosoff. He studied music theory and composition with Milton Babbitt *42 *92, Robert Cogan *56, J.K. Randall *58, and Ernst Oster.

While at Princeton, he discovered the music of Professor Edward T. Cone '39 *42, who had previously been known more as a critic than a composer. Jeffrey was instrumental in producing and making available commercial recordings of Cone's music. On several of these, Jeffrey performs the piano part. He prepared performance materials for performances of Cone's works by the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Jacques Lacombe. He served as musical property executor Cone's estate.

Jeffrey taught piano and music theory at the Westerhoff School of Music & Art and had a number of private piano students.

He is survived by his siblings, Gregory and Polly-Alida; nephew Timothy; and great-nieces Eleanor and Frances.

AMY K. TODRES *81

Amy died in Princeton Nov. 15, 2023, at the age of 67.

She was born in Neptune, N.J., Sept. 17, 1956. Amy earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Rutgers in 1977 and a Ph.D. in cognitive psychology from Princeton in 1981. She was a postdoctoral fellow at the National Institutes of Health.

Amy began her career as a member of the technical staff at AT&T/Bell Laboratories. Between 1987 and 2001, she advanced from research manager to executive director of Telcordia Technologies (formerly Bellcore). She also worked at SAIC and Engility. For seven years she was the senior director of High Performance Technologies. Amy's areas of expertise included research and development, program management, business development, and establishing partnerships with government, industry, and academic institutions.

She served Princeton as a volunteer for Graduate School Annual Giving.

Amy is survived by her husband of 31 years, Eike Barthel; stepdaughter Katrin; grandchildren Julius and Linus; and siblings Wendy and Benjamin.

ERIC R. BIEL *85

Eric died Nov. 27, 2023, in Bethesda, Md.

Born in Cleveland in 1959, Eric earned a B.A. from Johns Hopkins, and joint JD-MPA degrees from Yale and from the Woodrow Wilson School.

Eric's government service included positions in the Department of Commerce, the Department of Labor, the bipartisan Commission on Protecting and Reducing Government Secrecy, and as senior policy adviser to Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan. He worked on private sector engagement, supply chain issues, and labor rights in a range of countries and under trade preference programs, and on key issues in the International Labor Organization. He led initiatives to promote and protect workers' rights and to improve working conditions through adherence to international labor standards. In 2009, he began teaching Business and Human Rights at the Georgetown University Law Center.

Eric's post-government activities included the Council on Foreign Relations Task Force on the Future of the U.S. Workforce, and as an adviser to Burson-Marsteller, Human Rights First, and the Fontheim International law and consulting firm. Before entering government, he was an attorney at Arnold & Porter and Mayer Brown & Platt.

Eric is survived by his wife, Dana Rosenfeld; sons David and Josh; and brother Steven.

GARRETT M. DECKEL *98

Garrett died unexpectedly at her home in New York Oct. 8, 2023, at the age of 56.

She was born in Louisville, Ky., April 1, 1967, and raised in northern Virginia. Garrett earned her undergraduate degree at Barnard in 1988, her master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1991, and her Ph.D. in philosophy at Princeton in 1998.

At Princeton, Garrett studied in the Center for Human Values, where she was a Graduate Prize fellow. Her dissertation topic was "Internal Freedom." She also received a fellowship in psychoanalysis at Columbia and a William Penn Fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania.

A practicing psychiatrist, Garrett trained at Mount Sinai Medical Center and Columbia University Center for Psychoanalytic Training and Research. She was board certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. Garrett was active in the American Psychiatric Association, the New York County Medical Society, the American Psychoanalytic Association, and the American Professional Society of ADHD and Related Disorders. She was a psychiatry department faculty member of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

Garrett is survived by her husband, Christian Becker; her daughter, Annika; and her father, Albert Deckel.

Graduate alumni memorials are prepared by the APGA.

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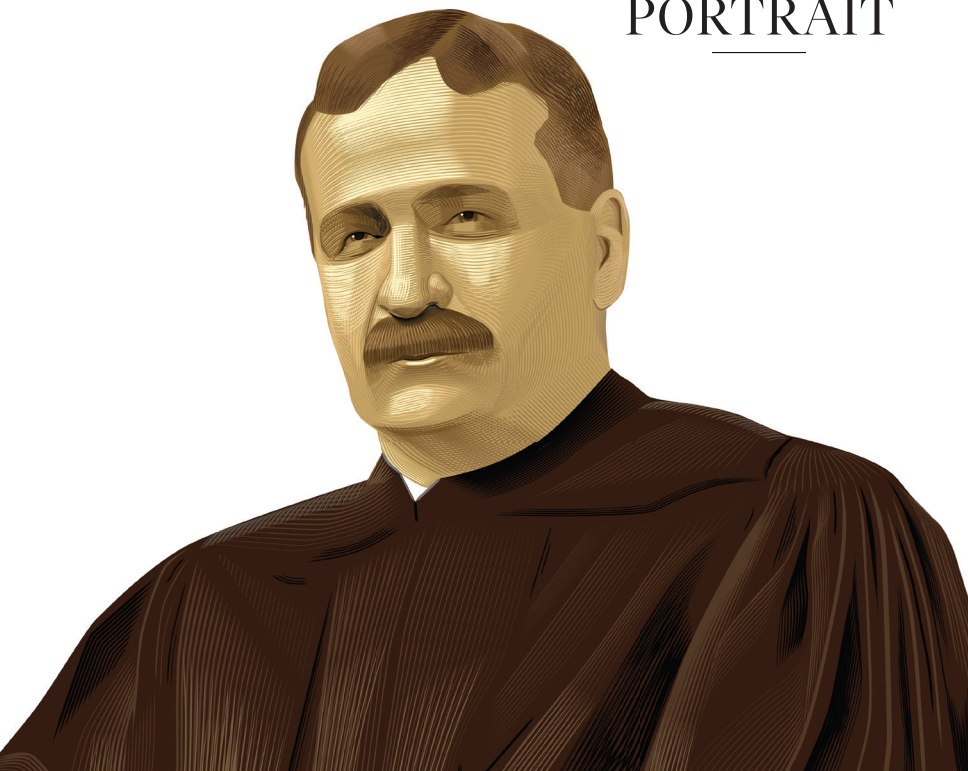


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JOHN FINNEY 1884 (1863-1942)

Math Be Damned, He Fell Upward Through a Career in Medicine

BY ELYSE GRAHAM '07

THOSE WHO BELIEVE universities today coddle students with grade inflation might consider the example of John Finney 1884, who, in his sophomore year, visited the head of the Department of Mathematics, John Duffield, to talk about his fear that he would fail his upcoming math exam.

“What do you expect to do upon leaving college?” Duffield asked, according to Finney’s autobiography, *A Surgeon’s Life*.

“Study medicine,” Finney said, “if I ever get through mathematics.”

“Well, I don’t believe you will need much mathematics in the study of medicine, will you?”

“I hope not, sir, as it would certainly spoil it for me if it did.”

“Well, John, now strictly between ourselves, you go on back to your room and stop worrying. Take the final examination when the time comes, do the best you can, and you can count upon a final grade of 80 in mathematics.”

After graduating with the requisite good marks, Finney went to medical school at Harvard. This was a time of transition for the medical profession, when old ways were warring with new. Doctors didn’t believe the proposal of one emeritus Harvard professor, Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr., that they were causing outbreaks of childbed fever by not cleaning their hands enough — which later proved to be true. Then again, doctors *did* clean their hands, using mercury bichloride — which turned out to cause mercury poisoning.

Finney accidentally set his first patient, whom he was treating for a stomachache, on fire. (He was trying something called “dry cupping,” which entailed burning a splash of alcohol dry

Finney accidentally set his first patient, whom he was treating for a stomachache, on fire.

in a glass, then applying the hot glass to the patient’s body. He spilled the burning alcohol.) That was the inauguration of a career filled with humorous and odd incidents, medicine being the most human of sciences.

The first hospital he worked at, Massachusetts General, sterilized surgical instruments by putting them in the oven at a local bakery, where they baked alongside the bread; he left them in the oven too long and turned their wooden handles to charcoal. Once, when he assisted at a difficult birth, a trainee nurse fled the room; when another nurse found her and asked what was wrong, she said, overcome with emotion, “Oh, isn’t it dreadful, dreadful! I’ll send back my engagement ring immediately!” When he diagnosed another woman with gallstones, she cried, clasping her hands, “Oh! Doctor, doctor, don’t tell me that I must be operated on. I have just become a widow, and I do so want to live.”

In 1889, Finney moved to the Johns Hopkins Hospital, where he witnessed the introduction of rubber gloves in surgery. (PPE, or personal protective equipment, as we say in this not-quite-post-pandemic age.) His supervisor, Dr. William Halsted, invented them, so Finney was among the first to wear this lifesaving piece of equipment.

Halsted was in love with Caroline Hampton, the head nurse in the operating room. But she had to stop working in the operating room because the chemicals everyone used to sterilize their hands, carbolic acid and mercury bichloride, burned her skin so badly. Halsted, who longed to have her back, ordered from a maker of rubber goods a custom pair of fine rubber gloves to save her hands. Hampton returned to the operating room — she wound up marrying Halsted — and soon, everyone was wearing the gloves, which saved countless lives. Thus, Finney later wrote, “Venus came to the aid of Asclepius.”

In 1913, Finney crowned a life of honors by becoming the first president of the American College of Surgeons. Which just goes to show that a Princeton man can do anything, long division be damned. ■

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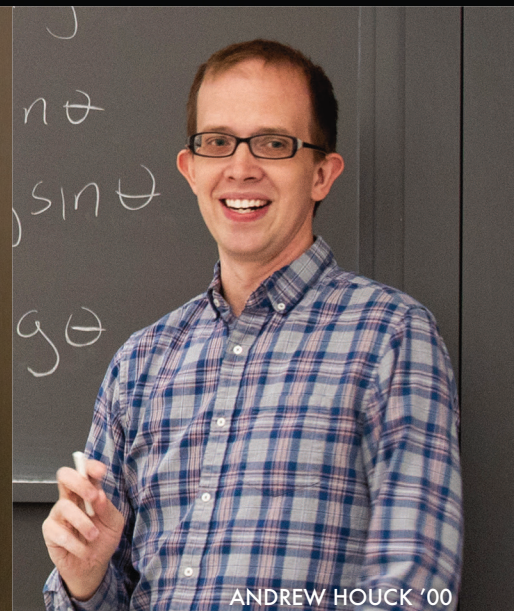
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#VentureForward #ForwardTogether

THE PRINCETON CAMPAIGN

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

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