Honoring top alumni and students

Since 2007, bringing to the classroom her gift for penetrating the inner lives of her characters.

In writing her newest novel, Kohler researched biographies, letters and literary works of the Brontë family. Living in an underheated parsonage in the gloomy Yorkshire moors of northern England, Charlotte, Emily and Anne Brontë endured poverty, loneliness and the death of their beloved mother and two eldest siblings. Their novels repeatedly were rejected by publishers. Yet they persevered, and eventually gained recognition as one of the most talented families of writers in the English-speaking world.

Joyce Carol Oates, the Roger S. Berlind ’52 Professor in the Humanities, called the novel “a tour de force of style, vision and imagination; a deeply moving and utterly convincing reconstruction of the private, inner life of Charlotte Bronte,” by author Joyce Carol Oates, Kohler’s Princeton colleague. In January, Kohler read from the novel at Labyrinth Books in Princeton.

What interested me was exploring how much of Bronte’s life came into ‘Jane Eyre,’” Kohler said. And so, in “Becoming Jane Eyre,” Bronte is motivated to work on her novel construction of the private, inner life of Charlotte Bronte.”

Kohler was driven to write “Becoming Jane Eyre” in part by thinking about a question that fiction writers are often asked: Does the novel stem from the author’s life?

“What’s inside?

Tilghman to deliver James Baldwin Lecture 4
Perspective on: Lessons from financial crises 8
Ex-White House adviser Jones named fellow 8
Wood to succeed McDonald as VP for development 2
Wood selected to succeed McDonald as vice president for development

Elizabeth Boch Wood, assistant vice president of development for capital giving and a major architect of the University’s $1.75 billion Aspire Campaign, has been named vice president for development, effective July 1, 2009; the successor to Brian L. McDonald, who has led the University’s fundraising program since October 2005.

“When we opened the search, our goal was to find a candidate who would join a team of incredibly talented people and lead the development program at Princeton and of the Aspire Campaign, and I wish him every success wherever his exceptional talents and energy lead him,” said President Christopher L. Eisgruber. “At the same time, in keeping with the rigorous respect and admiration for Liz Wood, I look forward to working with her in attracting the financial support that Princeton requires to fulfill its highest aspirations for undergraduate education, graduate education, and scientific research. Brian has positioned us well to achieve the critically important goals of the campaign, and I have every confidence that Princeton is positioned for the future. We have much to accomplish but I am confident we will succeed. Princeton is very fortunate to have such an exceptional president, such talented and hard-working staff, fantastic faculty and administrative partners, an extraordinary volunteer corps, and the most generous and devoted donors. I am greatly looking forward to working with all of them.”

McDonald first came to Princeton in 1995 as a senior associate director of leadership gifts during the Anniver- sary Campaign. In 2001 she left to become the chief development officer for the Cancer Institute of New Jersey, and in 2005 she returned to Princeton to oversee what was then the Office of Principal Gifts. In 2008 she was promoted to the position of assistant vice president of development for capital giving. Prior to her work at Princeton, Wood served on the development staffs of Harvard and Brown universities. She is a magna cum laude graduate of Amherst College and lives with her husband and two children.

“I am delighted to have the opportunity to lead the development program at this University, which I have come to love and admire so greatly over the last 15 years,” Wood said. “Because of Brian’s leadership, the Aspire Campaign has made wonderful progress toward its goals and we are well-positioned for the future. We have much to accomplish but I am confident we will succeed. Princeton is very fortunate to have such an exceptional president, such talented and hard-working staff, fantastic faculty and administrative partners, an extraordinary volunteer corps, and the most generous and devoted donors. I am greatly looking forward to working with all of them.”

McDonald’s leadership in the Princeton class of 1983. As an undergraduate he was a member of the Princeton College Cooperative and a varsity sweeper for the Princeton Flyers, Princeton’s varsity track and field team. He also served as student council president and as an entertainment committee member of the Princeton National Annual Giving Committee. Over the past eight years under McDonald’s leadership, the University has raised almost $1.7 billion. It has increased average giving per year by 55 percent while also significantly increasing the number of donors. Total giving in fiscal year 2008 alone was $357.5 million, the highest annual amount in Princeton’s history. Major achievements of the Aspire Campaign so far include $191 million on behalf of Annual Giving, $88 million for financial aid, and significant support for priority areas as energy and the environment, the arts, neu- roscience, global initiatives and the quality of residential life. McDonald played a central role in planning the campaign and in organizing, training and motivating the staff and volunteers necessary to carry it out, while also strengthening relationships with campus partners and other offices. He initiated or expanded efforts to encourage higher levels of engagement by women (through Women in Leadership), black alumni (through the Connect initiative), young alumni, graduate alumni and parents.

Three times during McDonald’s ten-ure the University has been recognized by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) for overall excellence in educational fundraising among private research universities, and throughout his tenure Princeton has achieved the highest rates of giving and participation by undergraduate alumni among all doctoral degree-granting institutions.

“It has been an honor and a privilege to work with Shirley and with such exceptional colleagues, and it has been a particular pleasure to work with the best donors and the best volunteers in all of higher education,” McDonald said. “I am very grateful for my time at Princeton and for the wonderful progress toward all of our goals that has been achieved. As I leave Princeton, I have every confidence that Princeton is well positioned for the future.”

“I am very pleased to announce that Princeton has selected an exceptional and knowledgeable candidate to succeed Brian McDonald as vice president for development currently: Elizabeth Kieran, 72 (1995- 2010, maintenance). Retired employees

Wood studies, effective July 1, 2009; Saeed Tavazoie, molecular biology and the Lewis-Sigler Institute for Integrative Genomics, effective July 1, 2009. Assistant professor for three- and one-half-year terms

Elected in 2010 was Wood McDonald to Princeton’s five-year Aspire Campaign in 2007 with a goal of raising $675 million to focus on six key strategic priorities: Annual Giving, Engineering and a Sustainable Society, Exploration and Continued on page 6

Five faculty promotions approved

The Board of Trustees has approved the promotions of five faculty members. The faculty members and their departments, by the academic rank to which they are being promoted, are: Ferguson — William Glasgow, English, effective Sept. 1, 2009; Carolyn Rouse, anthropology and African American research, effective Sept. 1, 2009; Carolyn Rouse, English, effective Sept. 1, 2009; Carolyn Rouse, English, effective Sept. 1, 2009.”

The Princeton University Bulletin is printed on paper made with 30 percent post-consumer waste fiber. Permission is given to adapt, reprint or excerpt material from the Bulletin for use in other media. Application to mail the Bulletin is filed under the authority of Act of August 24, 1954, Public Law 83- 220. The Bulletin is printed on paper made with 30 percent post-consumer waste fiber. Permission is given to adapt, reprint or excerpt material from the Bulletin for use in other media.
Program builds network of scholars from developing nations

A network of promising scholars from developing countries is taking shape through a program at Princeton and the University of Oxford inspired by two leading political scientists’ desire to give developing nations a stronger voice in world affairs.

A few years ago, Robert Keohane of Princeton and Ngaire Woods of Oxford were wrestling with the belief that global governance seemed dominated by the United States and Europe with little input from developing countries. “With that in mind, we started to think about how we could do that, how we could reframe and enrich the debate and bring rich perspectives and voice to it,” Woods said.

Their solution was the Global Leaders Fellowship (GLF) program, which provides up to six fellowships annually to younger scholars from developing countries. The fellows spend one year at Oxford and then one year at Princeton pursuing postdoctoral research on international governance issues with leading figures in the field. The program, launched in September 2008 and co-directed by Keohane and Woods, supports the fellows as they study issues such as climate change, poverty, energy security and pandemics, and then bring their knowledge back to universities, governments and organizations in their home countries.

“If you’re a brilliant scholar from a developing country, what’s going to help you sharpen your ideas is access to top universities and exposure to other brilliant scholars from the developing world,” said Woods, a professor at the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge. The program currently has 10 fellows from Asia, South America and Africa. Five are at Princeton, based in the Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance in the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. The other five are at Oxford, based in the Global Economic Governance Programme and the Centre for International Studies within the Department of Politics and International Relations.

Keohane, a professor of public and international affairs in the Wilson School and an eminent scholar of world politics and international institutions, said the fellows “have demonstrated that there is a pool of first-rate promising younger scholars from developing countries.

“If the GLF can play even a small role in improving governance, it will have a positive impact that justifies both the expense and the time spent engaging in it,” he said.

Keohane said the Princeton-Oxford program has worked “like a dream.” An executive committee of Princeton and Oxford faculty members selects the fellows from a pool of some 300 candidates.

The program has worked “like a dream.” An executive committee of Princeton and Oxford faculty members selects the fellows from a pool of some 300 candidates.

By the numbers

A comprehensive effort to limit the spread of flu-like illness on campus has been under way since the H1N1 flu virus emerged worldwide in spring 2009. The University has taken a range of steps to prevent and treat the virus and to promote healthy behaviors among students, faculty and staff. University Health Services (UHS) and the Office of Environmental Health and Safety led preparedness planning with a team from several departments, including the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students, the Office of the Vice President for Campus Life, the Graduate School, the Department of Facilities, the Office of Human Resources and the Office of Communications.

• From Aug. 30, 2009, to Feb. 19, 2010, UHS identified a total of 703 cases of flu-like illness among undergraduate and graduate students, and dependents of students. These cases generally were mild, and most of these people have recovered and are no longer ill. The number of cases has declined sharply since mid-December.

• The Individuals vaccinated with H1N1 flu vaccines included 2,156 students, 1,057 staff, 999 faculty and 331 dependents of students and employees. The University was required to distribute the H1N1 flu vaccine according to the CDC’s health priority guidelines, first providing vaccines to individuals in high-risk categories and later offering vaccines to clinics to all students, faculty, staff and dependents age 10 and older when vaccine supplies become available.

The group of scholars now working in the field around the world will form a “Global Leaders Network.” The 2009-10 cohort of fellows, now based at Princeton, includes Arunabha Ghosh, a native of India who earned his Ph.D. at Oxford and has worked as a policy specialist at the United Nations Development Program in New York and at the World Trade Organization in Geneva. George Gray Molina worked as the chief economist for the president of Bolivia, his home country, during two administrations.

Continued on page 7
President Tilghman will deliver the annual James Baldwin Lecture in an address titled “The Meaning of Race in the Post-Genome Era” at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 9, in Richardson Auditorium, Alexander Hall. The event is free and open to the public, but tickets are needed for entry. The lecture series, sponsored by the Center for African American Studies, aims to celebrate the work of Princeton faculty and to reflect on issues of race and American democracy. The lectures also honor the work of the late essayist and novelist James Baldwin, one of America’s most powerful cultural critics.

“I can think of no better person to deliver the Baldwin Lecture than President Tilghman,” said Eddie Glaude, chair of the Center for African American Studies and the William S. Tod Professor of Religion. “She is a visionary in the truest sense of the word. She understands clearly the incredibly vexed nature of any discussion of race and American democracy. What she has to say about the meaning of race in a post-genomic age will extend far beyond Princeton’s gates. And this is indeed in keeping with the spirit of James Baldwin.”

Under the leadership of Tilghman, a molecular biologist who has been Princeton’s president since 2001, the University has made great strides in academic initiatives focusing on race in America. Most notably, Tilghman oversaw the establishment in 2006 of the Center for African American Studies after the program existed as an academic certificate program for 37 years. In 2009, she was awarded Harvard University’s W.E.B. Du Bois Medal for her leadership in strengthening Princeton’s commitment to African American studies.

Tickets for students, faculty and staff were made available beginning Feb. 23 at the Frist Campus Center ticket office, continuing from noon to 6 p.m. weekdays while supplies last. There is a limit of two tickets per person.

For individuals without tickets, there will be a wait line outside Richardson Auditorium on March 9 for any seats that remain after 5:20 p.m. The lecture also will be Webcast live at <www.princeton.edu/WebMedia/> and archived online for later viewing. Individuals watching the Webcast of the event will be able to engage other viewers via the social media tools Facebook and Twitter. To join the discussion, visit <www.princeton.edu/live>. ♥
Oppenheimer gives final talk in President’s Lecture Series

Princeton geoscientist Michael Oppenheimer, a leading figure in climate change studies, will present the final talk in this year’s President’s Lecture Series at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, March 4, in 101 Friend Center.

Oppenheimer will speak on “The Copenhagen Climate Summit in Context: What Came Before, What Happens Next?” While the December 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen has puzzled or disappointed some observers of the climate negotiation process, he will argue that careful analysis suggests progress was achieved toward establishing an effective international political and legal framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Oppenheimer is the Albert G. Milbank Professor of Geosciences and International Affairs and the director of the Program in Science, Technology and Environmental Policy in the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. He was involved with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that was awarded the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts to raise awareness about climate change issues and solutions.

The President’s Lecture Series, inaugurated in 2001, brings together faculty members from different disciplines to learn about the work others are doing in a variety of fields. Oppenheimer’s talk will be webcast at <www.princeton.edu/WebMedia>.

N.J. Chief Justice Rabner to speak

Stuart Rabner, chief justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court, will engage in a public conversation with Princeton Provost Christopher Eisgruber, a noted legal scholar, at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 3, in Dodds Auditorium, Robertson Hall.

Rabner will deliver informal remarks titled “The New Jersey Supreme Court: A Perspective From the Bench” before his conversation with Eisgruber. The event is the annual John Marshall Harlan ’20 Lecture in Constitutional Adjudication, which celebrates the legacy of Harlan, the eighth U.S. Supreme Court justice to graduate from Princeton. Rabner became the eighth chief justice of the state Supreme Court in June 2007. He previously served as chief counsel to former New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine and as state attorney general. Rabner graduated in 1982 from Princeton as a major in the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and graduated from Harvard Law School in 1985.

Eisgruber, a 1983 Princeton graduate, is the Laurence S. Rockefeller Professor of Public Affairs in the Wilson School and the University Center for Human Values. His books include “The Next Justice: Repairing the Supreme Court Appointments Process” and “Religious Freedom and the Constitution” (with Lawrence Sager).

The event is sponsored by the Program in Law and Public Affairs.

Obama’s ‘pay czar’ Feinberg to discuss ethics and faith

Kenneth Feinberg, who was appointed last year by President Barack Obama as the U.S. Treasury Department’s “pay czar” will speak at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 2, in 101 McCormick Hall.

The event is titled “America’s Pay Czar on Ethics, Faith and Executive Compensation: A Conversation With Kenneth Feinberg, Special Master for Executive Compensation.” Feinberg will be interviewed by David Miller, director of Princeton’s Faith and Work Initiative, on issues of ethics and faith related to his current role as well as his broader views on corporate governance and the role of business in society.

Obama appointed Feinberg to oversee all forms of compensation of senior executives and highly paid employees at seven firms that received exceptional assistance under the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP). Feinberg, a well-known Washington lawyer, previously served as the special master of the federal Sept. 11 Victim Compensation Fund.

Feinberg will be accompanied by Robert Johnson, deputy special master for TARP executive compensation and adviser on executive compensation and corporate governance to senior officials at the Department of the Treasury.

The event is sponsored by the Faith and Work Initiative, under the auspices of the Center for the Study of Religion. It is part of the initiative’s ongoing public series offering conversations with CEOs and thought leaders about faith, ethics and leadership in the executive suite.

March 1-21

A new exhibition titled “Architecture as Icon: Perception and Representation of Architecture in Byzantine Art” opens Saturday, March 6, at the Princeton University Art Museum. Nearly 70 works of Byzantine art and architecture from A.D. 300 to the early 19th century will be on view, including this Greek bowl from the Benaki Museum in Athens.

To submit “Nassau notes”: <www.princeton.edu/ods>

For additional events sponsored by specific departments, programs and offices:

University “A to Z” search page: <www.princeton.edu/mats/tools/a/z>

For audience members needing assistance:

Office of Disability Services: <www.princeton.edu/others/disability>

To submit “Nassau notes”:

<www.princeton.edu/mats/news/whatsubmitnotes>
Research team targets self-cannibalizing cancer cells

Hilary Parker

A team of scientists from Princeton and the Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ) has embarked on a major new project to unravel the secret lives of cancer cells that go dormant and self-cannibalize to survive periods of stress. The work may help produce new therapies for stem changes that render cancer cells dangerous and resistant to treatment.

“We want to know: What role is this self-cannibalizing playing in the middle of a tumor?” said team member Hillary Coller, an assistant professor of molecular biology at Princeton. “To treat cancer, it may be that you want to get rid of this ability in tumor cells, so we’re searching for inducers and inhibitors of this process.”

Eileen White, associate director for basic science at CINJ, and Princeton chemist Joshua Rabinowitz recently received a $1 million National Institutes of Health (NIH) Challenge Grant through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act to support the research efforts that are made possible by the longstanding partnership between Princeton and CINJ. The two institutions have worked on their relationship when Princeton officially joined CINJ as a scientific collaborator to enhance current investigations and foster future work at the frontier of cancer research. CINJ is a Center of Excellence at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and New Jersey’s only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center.

For more than 50 years, scientists have known that significant differences exist between the metabolic processes of normal and cancerous cells. These processes encompass the complex set of chemical reactions that control everything from converting food into usable energy to manufacturing cellular components for growth and reproduction. But the causes and consequences of these metabolic differences remain largely unknown — and the possibilities for exploiting these differences as potential targets for new therapies have been largely untapped. The NIH project is designed to fund inquiry into these important questions.

The altered metabolism of cancer cells allows them to grow rapidly and proliferate, leading to the development of aggressive tumors often able to spread, or metastasize, to other areas of the body. But when subjected to stressful conditions, such as oxygen- and nutrient-deprivation in the center of a tumor or an onslaught of chemotherapy agents, these cells are able to stop proliferating and cannibalize portions of themselves, a process known as autophagy.

“This ingenious property allows these cancer cells to tolerate enormous amounts of stress,” said White, who also is a professor of molecular biology and biochemistry at Rutgers University. “If they’re starving or stressed, they eat themselves and bunker down until the stress is removed. Then, as soon as the stress is gone, they grow back, often killing the patient. If we can understand this process and exploit it for cancer therapy, we may develop new ways to kill the cancer cells without killing the normal cells.”

Autophagy is believed to confer stress resistance to cells by providing energy and disposing of old or damaged cell parts that might otherwise prove poisonous to the cell over time, and it is not unique to cancer cells: Coller studies a metabolic state known as glutaric acidosis in fibroblast cells. Fibroblasts are found in connective tissue, which includes cartilage and the connective tissue known as stroma that provides support to body structures, such as organs, glands and also tumors. Akin to dormant cancer cells, quiescent fibroblasts take a break from the normal cell growth cycle, but maintain the ability to re-enter the cycle in the future. Like dormant cancer cells, quiescent fibroblasts often engage in autophagy.

Cancer researchers now recognize that a full understanding of how a tumor behaves in response to stress requires knowledge about the metabolism of the cancerous cells and the stromal cells in the tumor, which often constitute a large percentage of the tumor itself, as well as an awareness of how the metabolism of cancerous and noncancerous cells affect one another. Supported by the NIH Challenge Grant, the interdisciplinary team is seeking to define the metabolic networks in stromal and tumor cells, identify the metabolic adaptations that take place as cells transition between different metabolic states, and demonstrate how these changes alter tumor-stromal interaction. The team also is supported by grants from CINJ and the New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research.

The research effort makes use of wide-ranging scientific techniques, including DNA microarray analyses to identify the gene expression changes that underlie metabolic alterations and state-of-the-art methods to identify altered metabolic states by quantifying the concentrations of metabolites — compounds generated during biochemical processes that provide chemical clues into which metabolic processes are taking place — and watching how they change over time.

To do this, the team relies on Rabinowitz’s expertise in the use of mass spectrometry to observe the flows, or fluxes, of metabolites that have been labeled with stable isotopic tracers — nuclei which, like radioactive tracers, have extra neutrons. These tracers are not radioactive, however; instead, they are detected solely based on their different masses.

“If you only take a snapshot of which metabolites are present at any given time, you can miss the bigger picture of what is taking place, especially because many metabolites turn over every few seconds,” said Rabinowitz, an associate professor of chemistry and genomics. “Adding isotope-labeled nutrient is the equivalent of determining how fast a stream is moving by adding red food coloring at a given point upstream and seeing how long it takes for the food coloring to make its way downstream.”

The project complements clinical trials investigating ways to modulate autophagy in cancer cells, some of which are already under way at CINJ. One study is assessing whether adding hydroxycamolone, an anti-malaria drug known to have autophagy-blocking activity, to standard therapy for recurrent colon cancer will increase the number of cancers that go into remission or boost the length of remission.

“The ultimate test will be to take all of our findings and use that information to develop novel approaches for eradicating cancer,” White said. “If we can prevent tumor cells from utilizing this altered metabolic state then that should be the Achilles’ heel of tumors.”

The cutting-edge research effort demonstrates the merits of the collaboration between Princeton and CINJ, which developed through a natural progression driven by science.

“By uniting Princeton’s expertise in systems biology, genomics and metabolism with CINJ’s top-rate cancer molecular biology and clinical expertise, these collaborations provide opportunities for interaction that promises what the National Cancer Institute has been encouraging — translational research that harnesses basic discoveries for the prevention and treatment of cancer,” said James Broach, a Princeton professor of molecular biology who directs the partnership in collaboration with CINJ Deputy Director Edmund Lattime.

The partnership has already generated groundbreaking results. Last year, a group of Princeton and CINJ researchers led by Princeton molecular biologist Yihin Kang identified a gene, known as Metathemer or MTDH, which is involved in metastasis and treatment resistance in some 30 to 40 percent of breast cancer patients. The work constituted a breakthrough in the understanding of the disease, laying the groundwork for the development of new treatments, and also established research methods that could be used to identify genes responsible for the metastasis of other types of cancer.

Wood

Continued from page 2

in the Arts, New Frontiers in Neuroscience, Citizenship and the World, and the Princeton Experience. Earlier this month the campaign passed the $1.143 billion mark achieved during the Anniversary Campaign, making this the most successful campaign in Princeton’s history. The campaign is scheduled to end on June 30, 2012.

The co-chairs of the Aspire Campaign are University trustees Robert S. Murley and Nancy B. Peretsman, who said, “It has been a privilege to work with Brian for many years, both as vice president for development and as a legendary volunteer. Under his leadership, the Aspire Campaign has flourished and is well positioned to achieve its lofty goals. While I shall miss working with him from his office in the Helft Building, we look forward to standing shoulder to shoulder with him in future support of the campaign as a volunteer on behalf of Old Nassau.”

“Having worked closely with Liz since 1995 during the Anniversary Campaign for Princeton, we are confident that she is the right person to lead us forward,” they said. “We are excited for the opportunity to join forces with her to successfully complete the Aspire Campaign and to continue to build on our strengths in a post-campaign environment.”
Kohler

Continued from page 1
by the rejection letter she receives from a publisher on the morning of her father's operation. She also resolves not to waste any more time putting beseeching letters to her former professor, with whom she has fallen in love. She will, however, "use him in my work, the ultimate revenge," Kohler writes. She will say, "I will write to all those who have snubbed and ignored her. She will write out of rage, of a deep sense of her own worth and of the injustice of the world's reception of her words. She will write about something she knows well: her passion."

Kohler recalls being asked the "How much of the novel is true?" query by a fan of her first novel, "A Perfect Place," a psychological tale about a woman who has repressed a shocking secret. "I said, 'None of it,' and my husband said, 'Every word.' In a way we were both telling the truth. You don't make it up. It comes from somewhere," Kohler said.

The dynamics of power
Kohler became a student of fiction writing later in life, after raising her three daughters. At 41 she enrolled in Columbia University's master of fine arts program in creative writing, after earning her bachelor's degree at the Sorbonne in Paris.

Her first published story, "The Mountain," received an O. Henry Prize for short stories in 1983. She later won the Willa Cather Prize for 1998 for "One Girl: A Novel in Stories" and a second O. Henry Prize in 2008 for her story "The Transitory Object." Her work has been published in Brazil, England, France, Germany, Holland, India and Japan. Kohler has taught writing at several schools, including Bennington College and Columbia.

Susanna Moore, a lecturer in creative writing, said Kohler's writing offers "a meticulous examination of her characters' lives, rendering the painful differences between her expectations of reality with wisdom and grace. Her sensitivity and generosity, as well as her forcefulness, have made her into a very good teacher, calling for new discriminations in her students (as well as in her readers)."

Kohler's upbringing in Johannesburg under apartheid rule had a profound effect on her perspective of the world and, later, on her writing. "I think children are very much aware of injustice," Kohler said. "I'd say to my parents, 'Why are white people in cars and black people standing in line? I became interested quite young in the use of power.'"

Her 2004 novel "Crossways," which is set in a wealthy Johannesburg suburb in the late 1960s, explores two kinds of abuse of power — the dynamics between a white family and their Zulu house servant, and the violence say to my parents, "Why are white people in cars and black people standing in line?" I became interested quite young in the use of power.

Kohler became a student of fiction writing later in life, after raising her three daughters. At 41 she enrolled in Columbia University's master of fine arts program in creative writing, after earning her bachelor's degree at the Sorbonne in Paris.

Continued from page 1
by the rejection letter she receives from a publisher on the morning of her father's operation. She also resolves not to waste any more time putting beseeching letters to her former professor, with whom she has fallen in love. She will, however, "use him in my work, the ultimate revenge," Kohler writes. She will say, "I will write to all those who have snubbed and ignored her. She will write out of rage, of a deep sense of her own worth and of the injustice of the world's reception of her words. She will write about something she knows well: her passion."

Kohler recalls being asked the "How much of the novel is true?" query by a fan of her first novel, "A Perfect Place," a psychological tale about a woman who has repressed a shocking secret. "I said, 'None of it,' and my husband said, 'Every word.' In a way we were both telling the truth. You don't make it up. It comes from somewhere," Kohler said.

The dynamics of power
Kohler became a student of fiction writing later in life, after raising her three daughters. At 41 she enrolled in Columbia University's master of fine arts program in creative writing, after earning her bachelor's degree at the Sorbonne in Paris.

Her first published story, "The Mountain," received an O. Henry Prize for short stories in 1983. She later won the Willa Cather Prize for 1998 for "One Girl: A Novel in Stories" and a second O. Henry Prize in 2008 for her story "The Transitory Object." Her work has been published in Brazil, England, France, Germany, Holland, India and Japan. Kohler has taught writing at several schools, including Bennington College and Columbia.

Susanna Moore, a lecturer in creative writing, said Kohler's writing offers "a meticulous examination of her characters' lives, rendering the painful differences between her expectations of reality with wisdom and grace. Her sensitivity and generosity, as well as her forcefulness, have made her into a very good teacher, calling for new discriminations in her students (as well as in her readers)."

Kohler's upbringing in Johannesburg under apartheid rule had a profound effect on her perspective of the world and, later, on her writing. "I think children are very much aware of injustice," Kohler said. "I'd say to my parents, 'Why are white people in cars and black people standing in line? I became interested quite young in the use of power."

Her 2004 novel "Crossways," which is set in a wealthy Johannesburg suburb in the late 1960s, explores two kinds of abuse of power — the dynamics between a white family and their Zulu house servant, and the violence attachment to their swimm instructor. A film based on the novel was released in Europe last year and will open in the United States this summer.

As she has done in her own work, Kohler helps students in the classroom use personal experience as a starting point for fiction. Junior Marina Shuster, who is from Ukraine, wrote several short stories based on the lives of her grandfather and other family members in Kohler's "Introductory Fiction" class last fall.

"I've always felt I had a story to tell and I didn't know how to do it," said Shuster, an ecology and evolutionary biology major. "Sheila said, 'Let the story tell itself.'"

Junior Isabel Pike, an anthropology major, also took Kohler's "Introductory Fiction" class and found herself writing stories about Uganda, where she grew up.

"I definitely noticed a change in my pieces," she said. "I became the beginning of the class, Pike said. Kohler has helped her think about the forward momentum of stories and the development of point of view, she said. "Sheila gave useful criticism of my writing and created a really nice environment in the classroom."

"I am about finding the right distance from the details in your life and entering into the minds of the characters. I tell my students that we always walk a tightrope between telling the truth and structuring the story — it's very hard to do both."

In "Becoming Jane Eyre," Kohler believed she was leaving autobiographical fiction behind for the comfort of a historical novel. But she was surprised to find elements of her own experiences as a writer creeping in to Bronte's story.

"When one takes a historical character, that person acts as a sort of screen behind which one can both hide and onto which one can project so much that is true in one's own life," Kohler recently wrote in a blog about the inspiration for the book. "Believing I was writing about someone else's life, I was able to create a middle distance and to find myself in her story."

Arrojo's research explores how developing countries can make the best of new technological tools. He has been researching international trade agreements, with the aim of finding ways to make global institutions more aligned with the needs of people in poorer countries. He is weighing whether to return to work with a think tank such as RIS or to go into government work on the relationship between developing countries and multinational corporations.

Rahmane Idrissa, who is from Niger and holds a Ph.D. from the University of Florida, has researched democracy in Africa, focusing on the governance of the GLF program, according to Sharma, is that it creates a network of scholars from regions of the world far from their home countries. "You get access to thinking in Latin America, Africa, Asia," she said.

Bo Qu, a native of China with a Ph.D. from Peking University, is researching how China interacts with the international monetary system, particularly the international financial and monetary system, "with the interchanges between China and the United States."

The 2010-11 cohort, now studying at Oxford, includes Le Thanh Forohor, a Vietnamese scholar with a Ph.D. from Lund University in Sweden. The author of numerous publications on the politics of aid to developing countries in Asia, she is currently pursuing research on the effect of aid on public policy and the role of international donors in public health care governance.

Dina Nogoo Sarbo, a native of Ethiopia with a Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee, worked in three ministries of the Ethiopian government and the United Nations Institute for Economic Development and Planning in Dakar, Senegal. He assisted refugees in Ethiopia, Sudan and Somalia in the 1980s, and was a cabinet minister in the Ethiopian government from 1991 to 1992. He plans to research ways to help the developing world, particularly Africa, "to participate effectively in the global political economy."

Rahane Idrissa, who is from Niger and holds a Ph.D. from the University of Florida, has researched democracy in Africa. Ben Hongsheng, a native of China with a Ph.D. from Nankai University, is focusing his work on the relationship between developing countries and multinational corporations. Lezzy Barreiro Lemos, who holds a Ph.D. from the University of Brasilia and has been a staff member of the Brazilian Federal Senate since 1993, said the program offers her the opportunity to study "failures in new democracies."

Woods, the GLF co-director, said these scholars and their projects have the potential to "ultimately change the orthodoxy" and have an impact on the study of global governance.

"A lot of the existing literature is quite fatalistic," she said, noting that for small countries the message has been to avoid involvement, later, you're never going to be a rule maker."

But through the work of the GLF scholars, she said, "We can learn how smaller players or weaker players can make real use of opportunities."
Lessons from financial crises

Yes, a lot of the aspects of today remind us of things policymakers should have learned from previous experiences. That is one of the things that I emphasize to my students: When you look at the historical evidence, you find many recent risks in the U.S. economy that were repetitions of things that happened in the past.

Bad and lax regulation of the financial industry played a big role in this and previous crises. Regulation tends to ebb and flow. During the past 10 to 15 years there was a loosening of government regulation of banks and investment firms, which allowed financial institutions to take more risks. There also are common elements of moral hazard, when people took actions expecting that they would not suffer the consequences in the case of a disaster, but would benefit from the upside.

There also is a recurring element of financial bubbles, when prices for certain assets rapidly increase as their value is overestimated, followed by a bursting of the bubble and a sharp decline in prices.

You and other Princeton faculty have focused research on financial market bubbles. Why is understanding bubbles so important?

There is often an association of financial bubbles preceding periods of economic crisis, though the severity of the crises have varied in degree. The current economic crisis was preceded by the credit market and real estate bubbles, and in the early 2000s we had the “dot-com” bubble when Internet-related stocks boomed and then crashed. Financial bubbles historically are linked to new technologies, such as railroads, electricity or automobiles. The recent credit market bubble occurred at a time when new methods of financial engineering improved risk management. The introductions of these new technologies often coincide with speculative periods that drive up prices of associated assets. Financial experts working in areas related to these new technologies have an incentive to exaggerate values, and investors often do not understand how much an innovation is really worth because it’s new.

The working being done in our department is focused on understanding the logic behind financial bubbles. It is not necessarily about predicting when bubbles may occur or implode, but knowing the kinds of symptoms financial bubbles generate. Policy makers could watch these symptoms and take preventive measures to limit possible market fallout. Even if you can’t detect a financial bubble for sure and even if there are costs to intervening in the situation, it doesn’t mean you should not do it. It is for the same reason you do not cross a busy street even if you think you will be hit by a car.

How do you see the United States pulling out of the recession based on the lessons from past crises?

Every crisis is a little different so it’s difficult to say certain things need to happen before we get better. Still, we now know that different kinds of economic crises vary a lot, and a big variable is how deeply a crisis affects a country’s economy. Starting from the premise that a modern economy needs a financial system that works well, which I think the economic data show, the question for the future is what are the conditions that would put a U.S. banking system more immune to the kind of disasters it has had recently?

We also can examine why some countries’ economies fared better than the United States’ during this last crisis. We talk about lax regulation as one of the causes, and we see that countries that had more rigorous banking regulations, such as Canada, experienced a milder crisis.

While part of the story is still being told, evidence so far points to needing a system in which financial institutions are better regulated and adequately funded in the kinds of risks they take. What happened in the U.S. this time is that taxpayer money covered the losses that major financial institutions incurred by taking large risks, and that is the worst of all worlds.

Former White House adviser Van Jones appointed visiting fellow

Van Jones, former adviser at the White House Council on Environmental Quality, has been appointed distinguished visiting fellow in Princeton’s Center for African American Studies and the Program in Science, Technology and Environmental Policy at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.

An environmental activist and social entrepreneur, Jones will hold a one-year appointment for the 2010-11 academic year and teach a course in the spring semester focusing on environmental policy, with a special emphasis on policies that create green economic opportunity for the disadvantaged. Fellows in the Center for African American Studies engage in scholarly work for one semester and teach for the other semester.

“We understand that universities are wonderful places for diverse voices to engage in conversation,” said Eddie Glaude, the chair of the Center for African American Studies and the William S. Tod Professor of Religion. “The appointment of Van Jones represents our commitment to this value, especially in the context of difficult discussions about environmental challenges and African Americans. We’re looking forward to a year of intense engagement with Van. We hope to model the give-and-take that is a hallmark of a genuine learning environment.”

Jones is a globally recognized pioneer in human rights and the clean-energy economy. He was named one of the 100 most influential people in the world by Time magazine in 2009, and is the best-selling author of “The Green Collar Economy: How One Solution Can Fix Our Two Biggest Problems,” which explores the social, economic and political implications of the creation of green jobs.

Jones was a primary advocate for the Green Jobs Act, which President George W. Bush signed into law in 2007, and served from March to September 2009 as the Obama administration’s special adviser for green jobs, enterprise and innovation at the White House Council on Environmental Quality. Jones helped to shape the Obama administration’s policy approach to making America’s homes more energy efficient.

“I am honored to be joining the distinguished faculty of the Center for African American Studies at Princeton,” said Jones. “I am also happy to have been named a fellow at the Woodrow Wilson School. America is at a crossroads, facing economic and ecological crises. The next generation of job-creating, green solutions will be even more challenging to conceive. And they will be even more difficult to implement. I look forward to contributing to solutions to one of America’s highest challenges with the students and scholars of Princeton.”

Jones’ appointment will continue building upon his body of work that has sought to transform the nation’s understanding of environmental justice. Glaude said. A 1993 graduate of the Yale Law School, Jones has co-founded three nonprofit organizations: the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, Color of Change, and Green For Change. For close to two decades, he has been addressing the complex issues of environment, poverty, race and politics. Glaude said, “His tenure at Princeton will bring to the Center for African American Studies and its students a nuanced understanding of these issues.”

Photo: Steve diagonal