Finding women’s voices in supernatural fiction

As director of the Program in Creative Writing in the University’s Lewis Center for the Arts, Lee brings this meticulous nature to the classroom, where he impresses upon Princeton students the importance of scrutinizing each word on the page.

“My approach to teaching writing is to teach reading — how to read a text and how to read one’s own text, from the point of view of an artist,” Lee said. “To really try to take apart what happens, sentence by sentence by sentence, you just need to read very carefully, and with a different kind of hat on.”

Since publishing his first novel, “Native Speaker,” in 1995 at the age of 29, Lee has been heralded for his poignant, engrossing fiction, which has explored themes of alienation and identity through the prism of Korean Americans and other immigrants to America. His novels — the others are “A Gesture Life” and “Aloft” — have won numerous prizes including the Hemingway Foundation/PEN Award, the American Book Award, the Anisfield-Wolf Literary Award, the Gustavus Myers Outstanding Book Award and the New Atlantic Independent Booksellers Association Book Award for Fiction.

His latest work, “The Surrendered,” has garnered praise from literary critics for its gorgeous prose and for its careful examination of its characters’ troubled psyches. The New York Times called the book “the most ambitious and compelling novel of his already impressive career.”

Lee wanted to write a novel that wasn’t so much about the Korean War as about “what war does to its participants and witnesses and those who are just caught up in it,” he said. “I never conceived of the book as a Korean War novel, or even a war novel. I was interested in tracing the effects of bloodshed and violence across time in very singular characters.”

In the shadow of Iraq and Afghanistan

Lee began work on “The Surrendered,” published in March by Riverhead Books, more than a decade ago. The riveting first chapter describes June riding

Continued on page 8

Sentence by sentence

Acclaimed novelist Lee shares meticulous writing approach in classroom

As director of the Program in Creative Writing in the University’s Lewis Center for the Arts, Lee brings this meticulous nature to the classroom, where he impresses upon Princeton students the importance of scrutinizing each word on the page.

“My approach to teaching writing is to teach reading — how to read a text and how to read one’s own text, from the point of view of an artist,” Lee said. “To really try to take apart what happens, sentence by sentence by sentence, you just need to read very carefully, and with a different kind of hat on.”

Since publishing his first novel, “Native Speaker,” in 1995 at the age of 29, Lee has been heralded for his poignant, engrossing fiction, which has explored themes of alienation and identity through the prism of Korean Americans and other immigrants to America. His novels — the others are “A Gesture Life” and “Aloft” — have won numerous prizes including the Hemingway Foundation/PEN Award, the American Book Award, the Anisfield-Wolf Literary Award, the Gustavus Myers Outstanding Book Award and the New Atlantic Independent Booksellers Association Book Award for Fiction.

His latest work, “The Surrendered,” has garnered praise from literary critics for its gorgeous prose and for its careful examination of its characters’ troubled psyches. The New York Times called the book “the most ambitious and compelling novel of his already impressive career.”

Lee wanted to write a novel that wasn’t so much about the Korean War as about “what war does to its participants and witnesses and those who are just caught up in it,” he said. “I never conceived of the book as a Korean War novel, or even a war novel. I was interested in tracing the effects of bloodshed and violence across time in very singular characters.”

In the shadow of Iraq and Afghanistan

Lee began work on “The Surrendered,” published in March by Riverhead Books, more than a decade ago. The riveting first chapter describes June riding

Continued on page 8

Finding women’s voices in supernatural fiction

Senior Emily Silk’s thesis sprung from a 19th-century short story that is a staple of high school and college English courses. Her project ended up taking an out-of-this-world turn.

The short story, “The Yellow Wall-paper” by Charlotte Perkins Gilman, addresses a theme that intrigued Silk — the intersection of medicine and gender in 19th-century America, and the way male doctors treated women diagnosed with so-called “hysteria.”

But Silk, who is an English major, was reluctant to make Gilman’s story the focal point of her thesis. “It had been analyzed to death,” she said.

Instead, Silk dug into 19th- and 20th-century American literature and found other women writers who were exploring the same themes, but in an unusual genre: supernatural fiction.

“They were writing ghost stories, using the genre to write about things they weren't able to talk about in realist genres, such as sexuality, marriage problems, domestic abuse and dissatisfaction with traditional women's roles,” as well as their treatment by male doctors, Silk said. “The most exciting part is that many of these stories, despite their high quality, have been largely overlooked in the critical literature on supernatural fiction.”

The short stories refute or subvert the way that male doctors

Continued on page 6

What’s inside?

International student, scholar services enhanced

Admission offered to 8.18 percent of applicants

Communiversity celebration set for April 24

Online exhibition celebrates Year of the Tiger
International student and scholar services enhanced

University offices that interact with Princeton’s international students and scholars are undergoing a major restructuring this year that is intended to provide improved and more comprehensive services. The reorganization has several components, including:

• The Davis International Center, which has previously reported to the Dean of Undergraduate Students Kathleen Deignan, began reporting to Diana Davies at the beginning of the spring semester. Davies, associate provost for international initiatives since 2008, has been promoted to vice provost for international initiatives, effective Feb. 1.

• Paula Chow, director of the Davis International Center for nearly 36 years, will retire on June 30. The new director’s responsibilities have been modified and updated to reflect current needs, and a national search is under way. The process will involve representatives from international students, faculty and leaders of the Friends of the Davis International Center.

• The staff of the Office of Visa Services will move from the Office of the General Council to the Davis International Center on July 1.

• The assistant dean who serves as the international undergraduate student adviser will move from the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students (ODUS) to the Davis International Center, and her responsibilities will be expanded to include social and educational programming for all international students, effective July 1. Her other duties not related to international students will be reimbursed among ODUS staff.

• All of these offices will move under one roof at 36 University Place in the fall.

By creating a more centralized structure for international student and scholar services, we’re striving to avoid duplication of services for some constituencies, address the need for more services for other groups, ease communication between service units and academic departments, and enhance the highest level of effectiveness among all service units by clarifying the functions and goals of each unit and applying a comprehensive, strategic approach,” Davies said.

The plan is the continuation of work begun in October 2007 by President Tilghman and Provost Christopher Eisgruber when they proposed initiatives that map out an international vision for the University. One result was the hiring of the new director.

Continued on page 8

International student and scholar services enhanced

Ruth Stevens

University offices that interact with Princeton’s international students and scholars are undergoing a major restructuring this year that is intended to provide improved and more comprehensive services. The reorganization has several components, including:

• The Davis International Center, which previously reported to Dean of Undergraduate Students Kathleen Deignan, began reporting to Diana Davies at the beginning of the spring semester. Davies, associate provost for international initiatives since 2008, has been promoted to vice provost for international initiatives, effective Feb. 1.

• Paula Chow, director of the Davis International Center for nearly 36 years, will retire on June 30. The new director’s responsibilities have been modified and updated to reflect current needs, and a national search is under way. The process will involve representatives from international students, faculty and leaders of the Friends of the Davis International Center.

• The staff of the Office of Visa Services will move from the Office of the General Council to the Davis International Center on July 1.

• The assistant dean who serves as the international undergraduate student adviser will move from the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students (ODUS) to the Davis International Center, and her responsibilities will be expanded to include social and educational programming for all international students, effective July 1. Her other duties not related to international students will be reimbursed among ODUS staff.

• All of these offices will move under one roof at 36 University Place in the fall.

By creating a more centralized structure for international student and scholar services, we’re striving to avoid duplication of services for some constituencies, address the need for more services for other groups, ease communication between service units and academic departments, and enhance the highest level of effectiveness among all service units by clarifying the functions and goals of each unit and applying a comprehensive, strategic approach,” Davies said.

The plan is the continuation of work begun in October 2007 by President Tilghman and Provost Christopher Eisgruber when they proposed initiatives that map out an international vision for the University. One result was the hiring of the new director.

Continued on page 8

Harmony School, ULNS and U-NOW openings available

A s part of the University’s continuing efforts to provide assistance to faculty, staff and graduate students with preschool children, the Harmony School now is offering University families a 20 per cent tuition discount for its child care and summer camp programs. Openings are available.

In addition, the University League Nursery School (ULNS), which also offers discounted tuition for University families, is accepting applications for 3- and 4-year-olds for its summer camp, as well as remaining openings for 3- and 4-year-olds for its summer camp.

The Princeton University Bulletin (© 2010 The Trustees of Princeton University) is published semimonthly in September, October, February, March, April and May, and monthly in November, December and June. This frequency coincides with the academic year and excludes University breaks and exam weeks. The Bulletin is published by the Office of Communications, 22 Chambers St., Suite 201, Princeton, NJ 08542. A total of 15 issues will be published between September 2009 and June 2010. A publication schedule can be found at <www.princeton.edu/bulletin> or by calling (609) 258-3603. Permission is given to adapt, reprint or excerpt material from the Bulletin for use in other media. Application to mail the Bulletin (UPIS 445-100) at Periodicals postage is paid in New York, N.Y., and additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Princeton University Bulletin, Office of Communications, Princeton University, 22 Chambers St., Suite 201, Princeton, NJ 08542

Subscriptions

The Bulletin is distributed free to faculty, staff and students. University employees can manage their delivery options at <www.princeton.edu/news/signup>. Others may subscribe to the Bulletin for $20 for the 2009-10 academic year (costs subject to change without prior notice). The Bulletin is currently distributed to approximately 33,000 Princeton parents and people over 65. Send a check to Office of Communications, Princeton University, 22 Chambers St., Suite 201, Princeton, NJ 08542. Questions can be directed to (609) 258-3603 or <bulletin@princeton.edu>.

The Princeton University Bulletin is printed on paper made with 30 percent post-consumer waste fiber.

Readers’ comments: In compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and other federal, state and local laws, Princeton University does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, age, national origin, gender identity, religion, national or ethnic origin, disability, or veteran status in any phase of its employment process, in any phase of its admission or financial aid programs, or in any aspect of its educational programs or activities. The non-discrimination policy includes the determination of any individual by the University to coordinate its efforts to comply with Title IX, Section 504 and other equal opportunity and affirmative action regulations and laws. Questions or grievances regarding Title IX, Section 504 or other aspects of Princeton’s equal opportunity or affirmative action policies should be directed to the Office of the Vice Provost for Interdisciplinary Equity and Diversity, Princeton University, 205 Nassau Hall, Princeton, NJ 08544 or (609) 258-6110.

Deadline

In general, the copy deadline for each issue is the Friday 10 days in advance of the Monday cover date. The deadline for the next issue, which covers May 3-5, is Friday, April 23. A complete publication schedule can be found at <www.princeton.edu/bulletin>. Call 258-3603 with questions.

To submit events for consideration for “Nassau notes,” go to <www.princeton.edu/main/news/share/submitevents>.
Admission is offered to 8.18 percent of applicants

By the numbers

Computers are everywhere on Princeton's campus today, but decades ago, a computer was a rare -- and massive -- piece of equipment. The University was an early proponent of computing, with its professors using computers as early as the 1930s.

• Princeton mathematicians John Todd and James von Neumann formed 229,000 additions per second. The machine was used for academic pursuits, weather prediction, and in the sciences and engineering. It had a primary source of computing, computing technology comprised six departments in the new Engineering Quadrangle.

• Renowned Princeton statistician John Tukey, an early pioneer of digital computers, was installed. The machine was the primary source of computing, computing technology comprised six departments in the new Engineering Quadrangle.

• The students receiving outright offers of admission this year come from 50 states and Washington, D.C., with the largest number of students admitted from California, followed in order by New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Texas.

More news on the Web

Visit the News at Princeton Web page at www.princeton.edu/main/news/ for other recent stories, including the following:

• Deirdre Moloney, who created and leads the fellowship advising program at George Mason University, has been appointed the director of fellowship advising at Princeton.

• The University's first class of students began the 2005-2006 academic year to enroll its new "steady state" population, and 1,308 are expected to enroll in the fall, as in past years.

• Among this year's applicants: more than 4,000 had a combined score of 1300 or higher on the three sections of the SAT; and they come from 3,893 high schools in 146 countries, including the United States.

• The students receiving outright offers of admission this year come from 50 states and Washington, D.C., with the largest number of students admitted from California, followed in order by New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Texas.

• The cartoonist Henry Martin, a 1948 graduate of Princeton, has donated nearly 700 original drawings along with some of his humor books to the Princeton University Library. Martin worked as a cartoonist and illustrator for more than 50 years, publishing in The New Yorker, Punch, Ladies' Home Journal, The Saturday Evening Post, and the Princeton Review.

• The expansion of the freshman class in the range of 1,300 students to 1,451 students is expected to remain on the wait list, as in past years.

• The University plans for the second portion of the entering class, 20 students, will defer their enrollment as part of Princeton's Bridge Year Program.

• The service abroad program was endorsed by a president's committee in the summer of 2008 and launched last spring with the selection of 20 enter- ing freshmen for the pilot group. For the class of 2014, 20 admitted students are expected to spend nine months abroad participating in community service projects beginning this fall.

By the numbers

The Board of Trustees has approved the promotions of 13 faculty members.

The faculty members and their departments, the university units to which they are being promoted, are:

• Associate professor of computer science at the center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral and Social Sciences, effective February 1, 2010.

• Cristian Galbiati, physics, effective July 1, 2010; Aash Ghangara, psychology and the Princeton Neuroscience Institute, effective July 1, 2010; Anamay Jamal, politics, effective July 1, 2010; through the selection of 20 enter- ing freshmen for the pilot group. For the class of 2014, 20 admitted students are expected to spend nine months abroad participating in community service projects beginning this fall.

• Yihin Kang, molecular biology, effective February 1, 2010; Simona Marchesi, French and Italian, effective July 1, 2010; Markus Prior, politics, effective July 1, 2010; Susan Wheeler, creative writing in the Lewis Center for the Arts, effective July 1, 2010; Assistant professor of computer science — Rupert Frank, mathematics, for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2010; Michael Hoch- man, mathematics, for a three-year term beginning July 2, 2010; Sergey Norin, mathematics, for a three-year term beginning July 2, 2010; Keren Yahl-Yehi, politics and international affairs, for a three-year term effective February 1, 2010.

T he Board of Trustees has approved the promotions of 13 faculty members.

The faculty members and their departments, the university units to which they are being promoted, are:

• Yihin Kang, molecular biology, effective February 1, 2010; Simona Marchesi, French and Italian, effective July 1, 2010; Markus Prior, politics, effective July 1, 2010; Susan Wheeler, creative writing in the Lewis Center for the Arts, effective July 1, 2010; Assistant professor of computer science — Rupert Frank, mathematics, for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2010; Michael Hoch- man, mathematics, for a three-year term beginning July 2, 2010; Sergey Norin, mathematics, for a three-year term beginning July 2, 2010; Keren Yahl-Yehi, politics and international affairs, for a three-year term effective February 1, 2010.
Communiversity celebration planned

The Communiversity celebration, which annually brings the town and University together for a day of performances, food, games, and music, is planned for noon to 5 p.m., Saturday, April 24.

Scheduled to take place rain or shine on Nassau and Witherspoon streets and the campus, the event is sponsored by students at the University and the Arts Council of Princeton. Merchants, nonprofit organizations, musicians, performing and visual artists, food vendors and many University student organizations and performing groups will turn the area into a colorful fairground with activities for students and families alike.

The Princeton University Band will kick off the festivities as it marches up Witherspoon Street beginning at 11:45 a.m. Campus Communiversity activities will feature performance groups including the TapCats, Raks Odalísque, Triple 8, Ballet Folklorico and the Princeton Tango Club; student organization booths with food, demonstrations and activities; sports clinics put on by University athletes on the Firestone Library green; and performances by the University’s a cappella groups in the East Pyne arch.

The University’s Chinese lion dancers will perform in front of the main stage on Nassau Street beginning at 2:15 p.m. The Davis International Center will present a flag procession starting at 2:25 p.m. on the Nassau Street stage and ending on campus. International students will sponsor a “Global Village” featuring food, information booths, performances and artwork from around the world. The University Rotaract Club will exhibit a “shelter box” used to provide housing for world disaster relief efforts.

The event also will include tours of the campus by the student-led Orange Key guide service; an organ concert at the University Chapel; children’s crafts hosted by the Cotsen Children’s Library and the Princeton University Art Museum; exhibitions of student work from the Lewis Center for the Arts; free bike repairs by the Cyclab; and visits from the University’s tiger mascot and cheerleaders.

For more information on Communiversity weekend events that begin Friday, April 23, contact the Arts Council at 924-8777 or visit www.artscouncil@princeton.org; for more information about Communiversity, also call the University’s Office of Community and Regional Affairs at 258-5144.

Human genome project leader Lander to speak

Eric Lander, one of the principal leaders of the effort to discover the blueprint for the human genome, will speak on “Secrets of the Human Genome” at 8 p.m. Monday, April 19, in McCosh Hall, Room 50.

Lander, a 1978 Princeton graduate, is a geneticist, molecular biologist and mathematician. He directs the Broad Institute of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University. In the 1980s, Lander joined with Professor David Botstein — who currently directs Princeton’s Lewis-Sigler Institute for Integrative Genomics — and other colleagues to create the first practical plan to make and use a comprehensive genetic map of the human genome. Lander elucidated how to develop maps of complex, multi-gene diseases such as diabetes and heart disease.

In addition to performing large-scale genome sequencing, Lander and his Broad Institute colleagues have been a driving force in biomedical research. Major studies include investigations into human genetic variation and its role in disease and treatment outcome, the molecular basis for human cancers and metabolic diseases, and the genetics and biology of infectious diseases.

Lander has received many honors for his work, including a MacArthur Foundation “genius grant.” He currently is co-chair of President Barack Obama’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.

Lander’s talk is designated as a Louis Clark Vanuxem Lecture sponsored by the University Public Lecture Series.

Journalists to discuss state of economy

Journalists Matthew Taibbi of Rolling Stone magazine and Gillian Tett of the Financial Times newspaper will discuss “The Current State of the Economy” at 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 28, in McCosh Hall, Room 10.

Taibbi is a contributing editor at Rolling Stone. His reporting on the 2008 U.S. presidential campaign trail received the National Magazine Award for columns and commentary. He is the author of The New York Times bestseller “The Great Derangement.”

Tett is the U.S. managing editor of the Financial Times. The author of the book “Foo’s Gold,” Tett has overseen coverage of the global financial markets for the Financial Times and was named journalist of the year at the British Press Awards in 2009.

The discussion is designated as a Stafford Little Lecture sponsored by the University Public Lecture Series.

In celebration of the Year of the Tiger on the Chinese Zodiac, the Cotsen Children’s Library has mounted an online exhibition of “Tigers in Picture Books.” This collection pays tribute to Princeton’s noble mascot in the many guises he has assumed in children’s books from the Renaissance to the present day. Visitors to the Cotsen gallery may receive a complimentary copy of the library’s publications, “Tigers” and “More Tigers,” upon which the online exhibition was based. The tiger above appears in a 1663 work illustrated by Chinese artist Qinchua Guo.

A collection of European artwork donated by art connoisseur and Transatlantic Review founder Joseph McCrindle is on view at the Princeton University Art Museum through June 13. Upon his death in 2008, McCrindle bequeathed to the museum both an important collection of European drawings and an endowment supporting student internships. The works include “Saint Jerome in His Study” (1528) by Joos van Cleve.
Penn President Gutmann to discuss university leadership

Amy Gutmann, president of the University of Pennsylvania and former Princeton provost, will present a lecture titled “Leading Universities in the 21st Century: Chances and Challenges” at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, April 29, in McCosh Hall, Room 306.

The event is the James A. Moffett ’29 Lecture in Ethics and marks the 20th anniversary of Princeton’s University Center for Human Values. Gutmann was the center’s founding director.

It will be an honor to welcome Amy Gutmann back to the University to deliver the Moffett Lecture in Ethics and a pleasure to salute her role as founder of the University Center for Human Values,” said Charles Beitz, the center’s current director. “In the 20 years since its founding, the center has emerged as the country’s leading interdisciplinary center for the study of human values in public and private life. This would be hard to imagine without Amy’s vision and energetic leadership.”

Before assuming the presidency of the University of Pennsylvania in 2004, Gutmann served as Princeton’s provost beginning in 2001 and a faculty member at the University beginning in 1976. She is a prominent political philosopher, having written widely on democratic theory, ethics in public policy, education and many other subjects. Among many other public service positions, she has served since 2009 as chair of President Barack Obama’s Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethics Issues. Established in 1990 through the support of Laurence S. Rockefeller, the University Center for Human Values fosters ongoing inquiry into important ethical issues in private and public life, and supports teaching, research and discussion of ethics and human values throughout the curriculum and across disciplines.

Fristfest events celebrate spring

Princeton students, faculty, staff and their families are invited to the Frist Campus Center to celebrate spring and the conclusion of the academic year at the annual Fristfest on Thursday, April 29, through Saturday, April 30.

Fristfest kicks off at 4 p.m. April 29 with an outdoor picnic and carnivale on the Frist south lawn featuring live entertainment, games and giveaways. The New York City-based band Dende and Hahahoe, and two Princeton student groups, Funkmaster General and the Plagiarists, will perform.

Students with an active meal plan contract can swipe their TigerCard ID on the south lawn to receive food tickets for the picnic dinner. Non-meal plan holders may use cash or Paw Points to purchase $2 food tickets in the Frist Food Gallery. Tickets may be purchased and are valid on April 29 only. The celebration continues at noon April 30 with the “Iron Tiger Throw Down” culinary competition presented by Dining Services in the Frist Food Gallery. Samples will be provided to audience members, who also will have an opportunity to vote for their favorite recipe.

A “Moonlight Movie” presentation of the horror-comedy film “Zombieland” will take place at 9 p.m. on the south lawn, with free refreshments. Fristfest concludes May 1 with the Princeton University Wind Ensemble’s "Concert Under the Stars" at 9 p.m. on the green in front of 3879 Hall.

ONLINE: More information www.princeton.edu/frist

Science, engineering communication is focus of workshop

A workshop designed to help faculty, staff and students better explain their research to nonscientists and the media will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, April 23, in the Frist Campus Center, Room 330.

Hosted by the Princeton Center for Complex Materials, the workshop is tailored for members of the University community, but registration is open to the public. Registration must be completed by Monday, April 19, on the event website at <www.princeton.edu/~pccm/outreach/seicommworkshop>.

The workshop will explore issues such as climate change, the teaching of evolution, the safety of vaccines and other scientific topics, and will address how to craft a message and prepare for media encounters.

Chris Mooney, a science journalist and visiting associate in Princeton’s Center for Collaborative History, will speak at the workshop. Mooney is the author of “The Republican War on Science” and “Storm World: Hurricanes, Politics and the Battle Over Global Warming.” He writes for The Intersect, a Discover magazine blog, and also serves as a senior correspondent for The American Prospect magazine and a contributing editor to Science Progress magazine.

CALENDAR

For broader listings of campus public events:

PUBLIC EVENTS CALENDAR
<www.princeton.edu/events>

Information on tickets is available at the website below:

UNIVERSITY TICKETING
<www.princeton.edu/ods/ticketing>
258-9220

For listings by selected University sponsors:

Art Museum
<artmuseum.princeton.edu>
258-3783

Athletics
<www.princetonathletics.com>
258-3158

Center for African American Studies
<www.princeton.edu/interdisciplinarystudies>
258-4105

Lewis Center for the Arts
<www.princeton.edu/arts/events/calendar>
258-1600

Library
<library.princeton.edu/>
258-3813

Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies
<www.princeton.edu/~priirs/calendars>
258-4851

Richardson Auditorium
<www.princeton.edu/~richaud/
258-5900

School of Architecture
258-3102

School of Engineering and Applied Science
<www.princeton.edu/engineering/events>
258-6454

Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs
<www.princeton.edu/Events>
258-2943

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

Penn President Gutmann to discuss university leadership

Permalink: <www.princeton.edu/odis/news/share/>

For broader listings of campus public events:

PUBLIC EVENTS CALENDAR
<www.princeton.edu/events>

Information on tickets is available at the website below:

UNIVERSITY TICKETING
<www.princeton.edu/ods/ticketing>
258-9220

For listings by selected University sponsors:

Art Museum
<artmuseum.princeton.edu>
258-3783

Athletics
<www.princetonathletics.com>
258-3158

Center for African American Studies
<www.princeton.edu/interdisciplinarystudies>
258-4105

Lewis Center for the Arts
<www.princeton.edu/arts/events/calendar>
258-1600

Library
<library.princeton.edu/>
258-3813

Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies
<www.princeton.edu/~priirs/calendars>
258-4851

Richardson Auditorium
<www.princeton.edu/~richaud/
258-5900

School of Architecture
258-3102

School of Engineering and Applied Science
<www.princeton.edu/engineering/events>
258-6454

Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs
<www.princeton.edu/Events>
258-2943

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

Penn President Gutmann to discuss university leadership

Permalink: <www.princeton.edu/odis/news/share/>

For broader listings of campus public events:

PUBLIC EVENTS CALENDAR
<www.princeton.edu/events>

Information on tickets is available at the website below:

UNIVERSITY TICKETING
<www.princeton.edu/ods/ticketing>
258-9220

For listings by selected University sponsors:

Art Museum
<artmuseum.princeton.edu>
258-3783

Athletics
<www.princetonathletics.com>
258-3158

Center for African American Studies
<www.princeton.edu/interdisciplinarystudies>
258-4105

Lewis Center for the Arts
<www.princeton.edu/arts/events/calendar>
258-1600

Library
<library.princeton.edu/>
258-3813

Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies
<www.princeton.edu/~priirs/calendars>
258-4851

Richardson Auditorium
<www.princeton.edu/~richaud/
258-5900

School of Architecture
258-3102

School of Engineering and Applied Science
<www.princeton.edu/engineering/events>
258-6454

Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs
<www.princeton.edu/Events>
258-2943

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

Penn President Gutmann to discuss university leadership

Permalink: <www.princeton.edu/odis/news/share/>
The senior thesis: Quintessential Princeton

The capstone of Princeton students’ academic journey is the senior thesis, an independent work that requires seniors to pursue original research and write a scholarly paper under faculty advisement. Research topics are inspired by learning experiences in and out of the classroom – on campus or around the world. Known as a quintessential part of the Princeton experience, the senior thesis encourages students to develop as independent thinkers by tackling a rigorous intellectual challenge. This issue of the Princeton University Bulletin profiles four students – each a Princeton concentrator – who have met that challenge in the areas of public and international affairs, psychology, English, and civil and environmental engineering.

Silk

One early 20th-century work Silk studied, “The Gospel” by Josephine Daskam Bacon, had just a single paragraph in an anthology written about it, “because it’s nothing,” she said, “coming through Bacon’s many other writings, including newspaper pieces on women’s roles in society in that period.” Silk came up with a fresh analysis of the story. “The Gospel” tells the story of a woman who has a nervous collapse after being unable to cope with her domestic duties as a wife and mother. While taking the rest cure treatment, she meets the ghost of a former patient who attempts to convince her to accept a traditional domestic role rather than strive for intellectual engagement. Though the anthology deemed Bacon’s story a positive portrayal of the rest cure, Silk asserts that the tale conveys pessimism about the treatment.

Silk got so wrapped up in her research on early American ghost stories that the topic also became a focus of another senior thesis she wrote — a collections of poems for her certificate in the Program in Creative Writing. Ten of the 31 poems in her creative thesis involve fictional characters, and the rest explore moral and historical themes. Silk’s passion for literature blossomed during her sophomore year in a class on Miltonic writers from the 14th to the 18th century, taught by Associate Professor of English Jeff Dolven. “I saw how much fun it can be to dive into a text,” Silk said. “The class made classics by authors that I wasn’t initially excited about — Milton, Chaucer — come alive, and they are now among my favorite writers.”

After graduation, Silk, who is from Basking Ridge, N.J., will be a Princeton Project 55 Fellow, working with the CityBridge Foundation in Washington, D.C. Silk will conduct research on best practices in education and put together reports with suggestions for improving aspects of the D.C. public school system. After that, she may pursue graduate school in American literature.
Testing ways to encourage students to save energy

**Erik Quinones**

W ith dorm rooms mostly empty and a snowstorm blanketing the Princeton campus, senior Julia Yang and a hardy group of student environmentalists spent three hours on the first morning of winter break combing residential halls for signs of energy savings.

This effort was the centerpiece of Yang’s senior thesis, in which she tested the effects of behavioral messaging aimed at encouraging students to conserve resources. Yang, a psychology major who is pursuing a certificate in environmental studies, used a flier campaign to study whether manipulating how messages are presented would change student behavior.

“This was a really good field experiment for me, because it does have practical implications and it can be applied in so many ways on college campuses and with different environmental initiatives,” she said.

Yang collaborated on the project with her thesis adviser Elizabeth Levy Paluck, the Office of Sustainability, Students United for a Responsible Global Environment (SURGE) and the Department of Undergraduate Housing. In addition to providing insights into insights into behavioral and psychological theories, Yang’s thesis will be used as a model for continuing sustainability awareness efforts on campus.

“It was a phenomenal effort and paved the way for future collaboration in the science and practice of sustainability campaigns on campus,” said Paluck, an assistant professor of psychology and public affairs.

Toward the end of the fall semester, Yang worked with her collaborators to craft an e-mail that was sent by the housing office to residents of 716 dorm rooms seeking their participation in a “sustainability audit” of their rooms. The e-mail asked students to unplug their refrigerators and televisions as they left for break, building upon the “Pull the Plug!” campaign created in 2006 by SURGE and Greening Princeton, an alumni group.

Yang designed six fliers to hang on the doors of 472 rooms in 1901, Laughlin, Scully and Bloom halls and Forbes College whose residents agreed to participate in the audit. The fliers had the same visual design and roughly the same number of words, but each carried a different message framed to test certain behavioral theories.

To gauge the effectiveness of social norms messaging, each explores how people may conform to group identity, some fliers noted that 75 percent of all Princeton students or previous residents of a particular dorm room had “pulled the plug.” Another flier said the Daily Princetonian student newspaper would publish the results of how many residents of a particular hall unplugged their appliances.

Yang also devised messaging to test prospect theory, a method typically used to examine economic decision-making behavior, by including the messages “Princeton will lose energy” or “Princeton will gain energy” if dorm residents unplugged. Other students received a generic flier that simply urged students to “save the environment,” while others received no flier.

The project suffered a minor setback when a storm hit campus as winter break began, leaving some students in their rooms temporarily and reducing the study’s sample size. Yang’s team — including 16 volunteers from student environmental groups, representatives from undergraduate housing and Shana Wooler, manager of the Office of Sustainability — ultimately inspected 372 rooms on Dec. 19.

“The sample is not as big as we hoped, but it is really something,” Paluck said.

Yang found that 38 percent of students who have a refrigerator television in their rooms did unplug them. While there was not a major distinction in the effectiveness of social norms messaging versus prospect theory messaging, she found that students responded more strongly to both types of messaging than the generic flier or no flier.

“It was really rewarding to actually get results, to know that — no matter which one was most effective — my messages did have some kind of positive impact on energy conservation,” she said.

Paluck said Yang’s work was “original and rigorous.”

“Julia’s done an admirable job analyzing her results,” she said, noting that Yang learned new techniques to examine complicated datasets. “She plowed through so many dense statistical reading I gave to her, used graduate student help and worked with me on the analysis and interpretation. So Yang’s work is not as big as what we were so excited to see — so this was an advance — food for thought, and for future testing,” Paluck said.

Weber noted that Yang’s research will benefit the Office of Sustainability’s efforts to encourage individuals on campus to save energy.

“Work like this can give us a glimpse into how sustainability communication and education efforts on campus can actually result in behavior change,” Weber said.
Lee Continued from page 1

on top of a train car with her 7-year-old twin siblings, Hee-Soo and Ji-Young. They have joined the throngs of refugees fleeing south on the eve of the Korean War, piling onto a train so packed that they must ride on top. When the train stops short, the twins are thrown to the ground. The wheels have severed Hee-Soo’s legs and Ji-Young’s windpipe, her lungs helplessly as the life drains from Ji-Young’s body.

The scene is based on the experience of Lee’s father, who witnessed his younger brother falling from a boxcar and losing his life as the family left Pyongyang, now the capital of North Korea, in 1950. Lee was born in Seoul and emigrated from South Korea to the United States when he was 3, but didn’t know about his father’s experiences before the War. Still studying the subject in a college course and pressed his father for details. The story of his father’s death troubled Lee for years, and eventually formed the catalyst for “The Surrendered.”

“The kernel of that story, which had really haunted me, was the haunting idea of something dedicated to honor and retell,” said Lee, who has taught at Princeton since 2002. Nonetheless, he put his notes aside several times to work on other novels. “I think for me this was certainly the most difficult time I’ve had writing a book,” Lee said. “I felt like I was on a mission to Mars and I had nothing with me.”

The novel was challenging in some ways because it deviates from Lee’s previous works, which were in-depth psychological investigations of a central character, told in the first person. Lee started writing “The Surrendered” with a main character — Hector, a Korean War veteran. But he eventually expanded it to become the entwined stories of over a dozen characters, and three events that have shaped characters whose lives have been shattered and rebuilt in the shadow of the Korean War.

“Chang-rae Lee is a true author of globalization,” said Edmund White, a professor of creative writing in the Lewis Center. “All of his books, but especially his latest, ‘The Surrendered’ — which moves from Korea to New Jersey and New York and ends in Italy — reveal his grasp of the international situation and current traumas of contemporary war. As a friend, teacher and writer, Chang is gentle but strong, wry but serious, joyously curious but relatively adult.”

The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq became “the spiritual and emotional backdrop” to the writing of “The Surrendered,” Lee said. “I think the wars — and 9/11 — informed the novel in a way I hadn’t really expected or counted on. Those events encroach upon our lives, consciously or unconsciously.”

As he shaped his characters, Lee found himself studying their imagined physical dimensions much the way a visual artist would. Because Lee is June, the Korean orphan who in adulthood is ravaged by stomach cancer, and Sylvie, the wife of a missionary who crosses the church’s color and tone as “the hue of the book, of its pews and pewter shade, this rubbed, high-burnished grayness.” Lee was struck by the chapel was shockingly startling and impressive. “It feels like an English class in some ways, and I really appreciated that,” said junior Chloe Hall after class. “There’s a lot to learn from studying more experienced writers.”

For sophomore Zach Nickwic, who took Lee’s “Introduction to Fiction” class, said Lee’s “attention to detail and ability to pinpoint exactly what your piece needs is amazing.”

At times, Lee finds he needs to gently nudgestudents to explore darker themes in their fiction, such as betrayal, addiction or violence, some of the themes in “The Surrendered.”

“Sometimes students seem shy about writing about people who do the wrong thing — we’re all taught to do the right thing and focus on the right thing,” Lee said. “And then there’s literature about people who do the wrong thing, despite themselves. What would the story be if they did the right thing? No story at all. Fiction wants to look at all the things that go wrong.”