Tilghman to grads: Embrace value of liberal arts education

Karlin Dienst

Making a stand for a liberal arts education in today’s difficult economic climate, Princeton President Shirley M. Tilghman urged graduates to bring to the fore the talents they have developed as they embark on the future.

“In a world that is changing as rapidly as ours, developing the capacity to learn new things is as critical as how well you think or how much you know,” Tilghman said June 5 in her annual Commencement address. “Your education is the best vaccine I know against early obsolescence.”

Speaking to a crowd of approximately 10,000 students and guests assembled on the front lawn of Nassau Hall, Tilghman championed a liberal education in the face of “economic hard times” that “always elicit calls for more goal-oriented education.” Arguing against efforts to shrink the breadth of higher education, Tilghman maintained that the “kind of thinking” that emphasizes education merely as a means to specific jobs is misguided.

“It is ironic that these calls for more outcome-oriented education in the U.S. come at precisely the moment when other nations are racing precociously in the opposite direction,” Tilghman said. “They have taken note of the immense creativity of the American economy over the past 50 years, and have concluded that education in the liberal arts promotes in citizens innovation, independent thinking and the ability to work across disciplinary boundaries.”

As other nations have begun to believe that an education that “specializes too early and too narrowly produces well-trained technocrats but very few innovators,” Tilghman said she “rejects the notion that a liberal arts degree has suddenly become obsolete.”

Tilghman offered the example of James Madison, a member of the Class of 1771 and the fourth president of the United States, who pursued far-ranging intellectual interests while at Princeton, which she said helped build a foundation for his public career.

Tilghman explained that Madison was “a leader in interdepartmental links helped forge path for valedictorian

Michael Hotchkiss

A single molecule helped define the academic path of Nathaniel Fleming, the valedictorian of Princeton’s Class of 2012.

During the fall of his sophomore year, Fleming was juggling classes in organic chemistry, biology, neuroscience, French and music. The workload was intense, Fleming said, but it began to pay off when the connections between the classes started to emerge. Take a molecule known as PGF2, which affects neurotransmission and pain sensitivity in the brain. It appeared as a topic of his organic chemistry class, then resurfaced in a neuroscience class in a new context.

“I’m studying it from one angle, which is the very pure nitty-gritty chemistry of it, and then in the same semester I see how important this molecule is to the brain in defining our behavior,” Fleming said. “I thought it was great because I’m so fascinated by and interested in how people work and how the body functions. And I started to see those connections being drawn.”

That focus on the natural sciences — coupled with a consistent curiosity about how different fields interact and overlap — led Fleming to pursue a concentration in psychology, along with completing all of his science prerequisites for medical school. At the same time, he worked toward a certificate in another lifelong passion, French. His academic achievements, including a 4.0 grade point average and As grades in eight classes, led to him being named valedictorian.

The Eugene Ore, native delivered the valedictory address at the University’s Commencement ceremony on June 5.

Fleming received many other academic prizes and awards at Princeton. He was awarded the Shapiro Prize for Academic Excellence after his freshman and sophomore years. After his junior year, he received the psychology department’s Howard Crosby Warren Junior Prize, as well as the Class of 1939 Princeton Scholar Award for achieving the highest academic standing for all preceding college work at the University. In December, he was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa.

“I’ve never had this feeling about a student before, that he has so much to give our society that I hope it comes to fruition,” said Barry Jacobs, professor of psychology and the Princeton Neuroscience Institute, who was Fleming’s adviser for his senior thesis. “I think he has — at least among the students I’ve met — a somewhat unique possibility or talent to give of himself in a meaningful way.”

Singer, mentor and chef

Fleming was more than an academic during his time on campus. He was a musician, a mentor and the Tuesday night dinner chef for his roommates in Spelman Halls. (Tofu stir-fry with peanut sauce is a specialty.)

Fleming worked for three years at the University’s Writing Center, helping other students polish their writing, and he served as a head fellow during his senior year. He was also an academic peer adviser for Mathey College and a peer adviser for Mathey College and a student before, that he has so much to give our society that I hope it comes to fruition,” said Barry Jacobs, professor of psychology and the Princeton Neuroscience Institute, who was Fleming’s adviser for his senior thesis. “I think he has — at least among the students.

Valedictorian Nathaniel Fleming, shown delivering his Commencement address, pursued a concentration in psychology and a certificate in French.

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James ‘Jay’ Dominick, the top-ranking information technology administrator at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, will become vice president for information technology and chief information officer at Princeton on Aug. 13. He will succeed Betty Leydon, VP and CIO at Princeton since 2001, who is retiring at the end of the academic year.

“I am delighted that Jay Dominick has accepted Princeton’s offer to become the University’s next CIO,” said Provost Christopher Eisgruber, to whom Dominick will report. “Like Betty Leydon before him, Jay comes to Princeton with a proven track record of success as a leader in academic IT management.”

Eisgruber said that Dominick impressed the search committee with his “deep commitment to academic values and his understanding of Princeton’s mission, his service-oriented approach to IT operations, and his experience with a broad range of initiatives in both academic and administrative computing.” He added, “I am confident that he will be an effective and responsive leader for Princeton’s Office of Information Technology (OIT).”

Serving as a member of President Shirley M. Tilghman’s cabinet, the CIO leads more than 250 staff. Eisgruber noted that among an array of responsibilities, the CIO will focus on priorities including: sustaining the service-oriented practice of OIT; assisting with new initiatives in the use of online pedagogy; addressing IT security needs; and implementing systems improvements related to the University’s financial systems and reporting.

Dominick said he is looking forward to his new position at Princeton. “I am honored and delighted to have been chosen for this position and sincerely appreciate the trust placed in me by Provost Eisgruber and President Tilghman,” he said. “I look forward to continuing the rich tradition of excellence that Princeton has become known for under Betty Leydon’s leadership. Princeton has taken bold steps in defining the future of teaching and research in the digital world and I am excited to be joining that effort.”

Dominick has served as vice chancellor for information technology and CIO at UNC-Charlotte since 2008. For 10 years previously, he was the first CIO at Wake Forest University, after holding increased levels of responsibility since joining the institution in 1991. He also worked at the Research Triangle Institute in Research Triangle Park, N.C., and served as an officer in the U.S. Air Force. During his career, Dominick has taught courses in IT and telecommunications.

Dominick earned a Ph.D. in information and library science at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, which is his undergraduate alma mater. He has also completed national security studies from Georgetown University and an MBA from Wake Forest

Seven new trustees named

Princeton has named seven new members to its Board of Trustees, effective July 1.

The new members are: Robert Hugin and Peter Wendell, who were elected by the board to serve for eight years as charter trustees; Ruth Simmons and John Wynne, who were elected by alumni to serve for four years as alumni trustees; and Angela Groves, who was elected by the senior, junior and two youngest alumni classes to serve four years as young alumni trustee.

Biographical information about the new trustees follows:

Ayala, of Makati City, Philippines, is the founder of Hybrid Social Solutions and SunTransfer, which provide rural communities with solar products for access to electricity, water and other essential services. He also is a trustee of the World Wildlife Fund and the Philippine Tropics and Forest Conservation Fund. Ayala graduated from Princeton in 1984 with a degree in economics and holds an MBA from Harvard University. He is the regional Alumni Schools Committee chair for the Philippines.

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The Board of Trustees has approved the appointments of the following 26 faculty members:

Professor

Afif Mian, in economics and public affairs, will join the faculty on July 1, 2012, from the University of California-Berkeley, where he has been a faculty member since 2009. He previously taught at the University of Chicago.

Mian’s research focuses on links between financial markets and the macroeconomy. His work emphasizes the role played by political, governance and organizational arrangements in shaping the effectiveness and scope of financial markets. He has published widely on topics ranging from the origins of the global financial crisis, the political economy of government intervention in financial markets, and the link between asset prices, household borrowing and consumption, Mian holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Sophie Morel, in mathematics, will join the faculty on Sept. 1, 2012. She has been a professor at Harvard University since 2009 and also has served as a member of the Radcliffe Insti- tute for Advanced Study at Harvard. Previously, she had been a member of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton and a research fellow at the Clay Mathematics Institute.

Morel is a specialist in number theory, algebraic geometry and representation theory. Her work focuses on the Langlands problem, an area of number theory and algebraic geometry that has been of great interest to mathematicians in recent decades. A graduate of the École Normale Supérieure, Morel holds a Ph.D. from the Université Paris-Sud.

Esther Estricher, in astrophysical sciences, will join the faculty on July 1, 2012. Her interests are in theoretical and computational astrophysics, including the formation of stars and planets; dynamics and thermodynamics of the interstellar medium; star formation; the evolution of spiral galaxies; astrophysical turbulence; and numerical models for astrophysical dynamics.

Ostriker will come to Princeton from the University of California, where she has been a faculty member since 1981. She previously was a postdoctoral fellow at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics and a postdoctoral researcher at the University of California-Berkeley, where she earned her Ph.D. She is a Harvardsky grate.

Andreas Wimmer will join the faculty as the Hughes-Rogers Professor of Sociology on July 1, 2012. Wim- mer’s research interests include the dynamics of nation-state formation, ethnic and immigrant-making and political conflict from a comparative perspec- tive. He has conducted fieldwork in Mexico and Iraq, and has engaged in interdisciplinary research projects that cross into political science and social anthropology. His books include “Nationalist Exclusion and Ethnic Confl icts: Shadows of Modernity” and the forthcoming “War and the Evolution of the Inner City.”

Wimmer has been a faculty member at the University of California-Los Angeles since 2005. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Bonn, the University of Neuchâtel and the University of Zurich, where he received his undergraduate and doctoral degrees.

Associate professor

Erika Milam, in history, will join the faculty on July 1, 2012. Milam is a historian of science who specializes in the history of the life sciences and the animal-human boundary. Her interests include evolutionary biology, gender and science, the connection between the natural and social sciences, and the history of Harvard through science. She is the author of “Looking for a Few Good Males: Female Choice in Evolutionary Thought.” Milam will come to Princeton from the University of Maryland, where she earned her Ph.D. in 2008. She previ- ously was a postdoctoral fellow at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin. A graduate of Carleton College, she holds a master’s degree from the University of Cambridge and a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Assistant professor

The following appointments are for three-year terms, with the possibility of reappointment.

Alin Coman, in psychology and public affairs, will join the faculty on July 1, 2012. A specialist in collective memory, Coman is a postdoctoral research associate at the University of Pittsburgh and a two-year postdoctoral fellow at the University of California-Berkeley. A graduate of Babes-Bolyai University, he holds a Ph.D. from the New York University New School for Social Research.

Javier Guerrero, in Spanish and Portuguese languages and cultures, will join the faculty on Sept. 1, 2012. A postdoctoral fellow at Lawrence University, he focuses on contemporary Latin American literature and literature from Spain. Guerrero earned a bachelor’s degree from the Universidad Central de Venezuela, a master’s degree from the Universidad Simón Bolívar and a Ph.D. from New York University.

Liora Halperin, in Near Eastern studies, will join the faculty on Sept. 1, 2012. Halperin specializes in cultural and political history of Israel. She is a graduate of Harvard and holds a Ph.D. from the University of California-Los Angeles.

Ted Hamilton, in sociology, will join the faculty on Sept. 1, 2012. Hamilton holds a master’s degree from Xavier University, a master’s degree from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro and a Ph.D. from the University of Texas-Austin.

Brian Herrera, in theater in the Lewis Center for the Arts, will join the faculty on July 1, 2012. He is currently a faculty member at the University of New Mexico and holds a master’s degree. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Brown University and a Ph.D. from Yale University. Herrera focuses on performance history.

Greg Kaplan, in economics, will join the faculty on July 1, 2012. A macroeconomist, he is a faculty member at the University of Pennsylvania and previously was an economist for the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. Kaplan is a graduate of Macquarie University and a master’s degree from the London School of Economics and a Ph.D. from New York University.

Matthew Karp, in history, will join the faculty on July 1, 2013. A specialist in U.S. history, he is a faculty member at the University of Pennsylvania, where he received his Ph.D. Karp is a graduate of Amherst College.

Ning Lin, in civil and environmental engineering, will join the faculty on July 1, 2012. Lin, who was born in China, came to Princeton in 2010 and is now a postdoctoral fellow at the Mas- sachusetts Institute of Technology. She holds a bachelor’s degree from Huazhong University of Science and Technology and a master’s degree from Texas Tech University. Her fields of specialization are mechanics, material- s, structures and storm hazards.

Mariangela Lianits, in physics, will join the faculty on Sept. 1, 2013. She is currently a postdoctoral fellow at Princeton, focusing on theoretical and experimental physics. Lianits is a graduate of the University of Athens and a postdoctoral fellow at Stanford University.

Han Liu, in operations research and financial engineering, will join the faculty on Sept. 1, 2012. A specialist in statistics, Liu is a faculty member at Stanford University. He received a bachelor’s degree from the Harbin Institute of Technology, a master’s degree from the University of Tokyo and a Ph.D. from Carnegie Mellon.

Rosina Lazar, in history, will join the faculty on Aug. 1, 2012. A specialist in Latin/Latina history, she holds a bachelor’s degree from Stanford, a master’s degree in history and a Ph.D. from the University of Southern California.

Suchit Sarkar, in mathematics, will join the faculty on Sept. 1, 2013. He is a faculty member at Columbia University, focusing on topology. A graduate of the Indian Statistical Institute, Sarkar earned his Ph.D. from Princeton.

Sara Hottinger, in history, will join the faculty on July 1, 2012. Currently a faculty member at the University of Melbourne, she holds a Ph.D. from Tel Aviv University.

Jack Tannous, in history, will join the faculty on Sept. 1, 2013. Tannous, who studies the late antiquity period, earned his Ph.D. from Princeton in 2011 and is a postdoctoral fellow at the École Pratique des Hautes Études in Paris, with the school library and museum. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Princeton University. He is a member of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton.

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:

• Princeton researchers have found that herpes and other viruses that attack the nervous system may thrive by disrupting cell function in order to hijack a neuron’s internal transportation network and spread to other cells. These find- ings reveal a previously unknown and highly efficient mechanism that some of the most common strains of herpes viruses in humans may use to proliferate in the nervous system, said lead author Tal Kramer, a doctoral student in the lab of the paper’s co-author Lynn Enquist, the Henry L. Hillman Professor of Molecular Biology.

• Taking their cue from the humble leaf, researchers have used microscopic folds on the surface of photovoltaic material to significantly increase the power output of flexible, low-cost solar cells. The team, led by scientists from Princeton, reported in the journal Nature Communications that the folds resulted in a 47 percent increase in electricity generation.

• The influence of the ground beneath us on the air around us could be greater than scientists had previously thought, according to new Princeton research that links the vast air-quantifying oxygen in Earth’s atmosphere to a sudd- en change in the inner workings of our planet.

• Using silk strands pulled from cocoon and gold wires thinner than a spider’s web, researchers at Princeton have created a removable tattoo that adheres to dental enamel and could eventually monitor a patient’s health with unprece- dented sensitivity.

• Olga Troyanskaya, a computational biologist at Princeton, and cancer oncol- ogist Karin Sörensen, of the University of Pennsylvania, have launched an innovative research collaboration to learn more about cancer, possibly leading to new treatments for dogs and humans.

• Princeton’s Graduate School offered admission to 1,226 of the record 12,077 applicants who applied for the 2012-13 academic year, with the school’s global reputation and strong financial aid program contributing to a continued increase in applications, particularly among international students.

• The Princeton chapter of Phi Beta Kappa honored Daniel Oppenheimer, associate professor of psychology and public affairs, and Michael Smith, the McCosh Professor of Philosophy, with its annual awards for excellence in undergraduate teaching.

• The Princeton Graduate School presented awards to six graduate students in recognition of their outstanding abilities as teachers. The annual Association of Princeton Graduate Students Teaching Award was presented to: William Holloway, chemical and biological engineering; Maria Korolev, chemistry; hea Nawrocki, history; Jolyon Thomas, religion; and Joshua Vandiver, politics. Prunty, associate director of Princeton’s Postdoctoral Fellowships Program, received the Friends of the Davis International Center Excellence in Teaching Award, which is given annually to an international graduate student.

• Princeton honored four exceptional New Jersey secondary school teachers at its 2012 Commencement: Daniel Kaplan, Matawan Regional High School, Monmouth County; Michelle Shafer, High Point Regional High School, Sussex County; Aisha Burroughs, Burlington County College, and James Dowling, Middlesex County Academy for Science, Mathematics and Engineering Technologies, Editor; and Victoria Wasmuth, Dr. Ronald E. McNair Academic High School, Jersey City.
ten Princeton faculty members travel to emeritus status

Time at Princeton as a visitor, he joined the faculty in 1989.

The principal question that Johnson-Laird has answered is how individuals who have had training in logic or probability are able to reason: They use mental models of the world.

Johnson-Laird has published books and articles in English and Japanese, been an associate editor of various journals in the field and served as president of the Association of Teachers of Japanese. His honors include an Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession from the Modern Language Association. Makino earned bachelor's and master's degrees at Waseda University in Tokyo, a second bachelor's and master's at the University of Tokyo, and after coming to the United States as a Fullbright Scholar, a Ph.D. in Linguistics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Makino, who has published books and articles in English and Japanese, served as associate director of the Princeton Writing Program, and as director of the Princeton Office of Mathematical Sciences. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Johnson-Laird is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Finnish Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Browder has served in a variety of capacities in the fields of astrophysics and mathematics. His research has played a major role in convincing the astronomical community of the universe in which most mass resided in dark matter rather than visible stars; helped explain the dynamics of the interstellar medium, the volume between stars; advocated new ways of thinking of the geometry of the universe; and contributed to the development of synthesis cosmological theories.

Ostriker's leadership efforts include past service on advisory boards for the Sloan Digital Sky Survey. He also spent 16 years as chair of the astro-physics program at Princeton, directed the Princeton Institute for Computational Science and Engineering, and served as provost of the University, helping establish its pioneering, no-loan initiative for graduate student funding and serving as treasurer of the National Academy of Sciences.

Makino joined the faculty in 1991 and has distinguished himself as the director of the University's Japanese language program. Maker has served as co-director of the East Asian Linguistics Project and director of the summer language program for Princeton's Undergraduate Group in Japan. Darley began his career at New York University, where he started the line of research that sparked his career interest in social psychology—looking into why bystanders who had witnessed the murder of Kitty Genovese in the Bronx had not intervened. With his Columbia University colleague Bibb Latané, Darley conducted innovative laboratory and field experiments that tested and confirmed their hypothesis that the unresponsiveness of bystanders was driven by uncertainty about what others thought they ought to do.

Darley, a graduate of Swarthmore College where he earned his Ph.D. in 1968, joined the University of California-Berkeley. He moved to Yale University and his Ph.D. at the University of Oxford and earned his doctorate in 1965. Darley's research topics include the best-selling books “Race Matters” and “Democracy Matters,” as well as “The American Evaporation of Philosophy: A Genealogy of American Pragmatism,” which won the 1992 Critic’s Choice Award. West has participated in protests on issues from apartheid South Africa to the Iraq War. He has also made numerous media appearances in feature films, documentaries and television shows; hosted a radio show; and recorded an album of spoken word and music albums.

Danson has had a 44-year career of outstanding scholarship and teaching, mainly in Shakespeare and Renaissance studies. He is the author of many articles on Shakespearean drama, some of which have appeared in books about the literature of 19th-century Britain, as well as the author of several books and monographs on many topics including Kaufman's Seminar in Munich and on a curatorial position at the museum. Danson was recognized for his expertise in Renaissance studies. He is the author of the influential book "Princeton Lectures on Analysis" over the last twenty-five years. He also has received many awards for his contributions to the field of Renaissance studies.

Johnson-Laird is a recipient of the National Medal of Science and the Wolf Prize. West, the Class of 1943 University professor of astrophysical sciences; Hugo Meyer, professor of art and archaeology from the University of California-Berkeley. He received his Ph.D. in 1968 as an associate professor in psychology at the University of Michigan. Danson's research topics include the best-selling books "Race Matters" and "Democracy Matters," as well as "The American Evaporation of Philosophy: A Genealogy of American Pragmatism," which won the 1992 Critic's Choice Award. West has participated in protests on issues from apartheid South Africa to the Iraq War. He has also made numerous media appearances in feature films, documentaries and television shows; hosted a radio show; and recorded an album of spoken word and music albums.

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Summer news on the Web

While the Bulletin does not publish during the summer months, the University homepage at www.princeton.edu will continue to be updated with news and features stories about people and programs at Princeton. Listings of public events during the summer also may be found in the “Featured Events” section of the Princeton website at www.princeton.edu/events.

Frist hosts concerts, activities

The Frist Campus Center will present its Summer Program Series, featuring concerts and other activities, on the following Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. on its South Patio:

• June 20: T-shirt painting (while supplies last)
• June 27: Key Wilde & Mr. Clarke (children’s music)
• July 11: Burne Holiday (Princeton University student band, alternative rock)
• July 18: Flower pot painting and planting (while supplies last)
• July 23: Quincy Manumford (rock)
• July 29: Daedalus Quartet

All events are free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. In case of inclement weather, activities will move indoors to the Frist Food Gallery on the A level.

ONLINE: More information www.princeton.edu/first

Summer carillon series planned

The University’s 90th annual Summer Carillon Series, featuring carillonneurs from around the United States and abroad, will be held at 1 p.m. each Sunday from July 1 through Sept. 2 at Cleveland Tower on the Graduate College campus.

The concerts are performed on the University’s renowned Class of 1892 Bells, the fifth-largest carillon in the country and one of the top 10 in size worldwide.

The following are details on the dates and performers:

• July 1: Jeff Davis, California
• July 8: Dick von Dijk, the Netherlands
• July 13: Trevor Workman, Great Britain
• July 22: Margaret Pan, California
• July 29: Robin Austin, Princeton
• Aug. 3: Julia Littleton, Pennsylvania
• Aug. 12: Lisa Lonie, Pennsylvania
• Aug. 19: George Matthew Jr., Vermont
• Aug. 26: Steve Schreiber, Pennsylvania

ONLINE: More information www.princeton.edu/cultural-activities

Richardson summer concerts set

Princeton Summer Chamber Concerts will present the following performances at 8 p.m. in Richardson Auditorium of Alexander Hall:

• Tuesday, June 19: The Daedalus Quartet
• Monday, July 9: The Chiara String Quartet
• Wednesday, July 18: Vienna Piano Trio
• Monday, July 23: Manhattan Brass Quintet

Free tickets may be picked up at the Richardson Auditorium ticket office beginning at 6:30 p.m. on the evening of each performance.

ONLINE: More information www.princetonchamberconcerts.org

Gathering to honor Katzenbach

A gathering in honor of former U.S. Attorney General and Princeton University Trustee Emeritus Nicholas Katzenbach will be held at noon Thursday, June 21, in Richardson Auditorium of Alexander Hall.

Katzenbach, a Princeton alumnus who was a towering figure in U.S. civil rights history, died May 8 at the age of 90. A full obituary can be found at www.princeton.edu/main/news/archives/833/86/082909.html

ONLINE: More information president.princeton.edu/leadership/obituary

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

University “A to Z” search page www.princeton.edu/realty/tools/az

For audience members needing assistance:

Office of Disability Services www.princeton.edu/ods 609-258-8840

To offer submissions for “Nassau notes,” use the online form: www.princeton.edu/realty/news/sharesubmission

Calendar links

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/ticketing 609-258-9220

For listings by selected University sponsors:

Art Museum www.princetonartmuseum.org 609-258-3788

Athletics www.goprincetontigers.com 609-258-3588

Center for African American Studies www.princeton.edu/caas/events 609-258-4270

Center of the Humanities humanities.princeton.edu/calendar 609-258-4717

Frist Campus Center www.princeton.edu/arts/ 609-258-1700

Lewis Center for the Arts www.princeton.edu/arts/events/calendar 609-258-1500

Library www.princeton.edu/rb/exhibitions 609-258-3181

McCarter Theatre www.mccarter.org 609-258-2787

Music Department www.princeton.edu/music 609-258-4241

Office of Information Technology www.princeton.edu/academicresources/ 609-258-2949

Public Lecture Series lectures.princeton.edu 609-258-6100


Princeton University Concerts www.princeton.edu/puccom 609-258-2800

Richardson Auditorium www.princeton.edu/tech/aud 609-258-5000

School of Architecture www.princeton.edu 609-258-3741

School of Engineering and Applied Science www.princeton.edu/engineering/events 609-258-4555

Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs www.princeton.edu/events 609-258-2943

For more information, contact Penna Rose at prose@princeton.edu.
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the crusade to found a free and independent nation" and was the author of "a number of the most important documents that guide our nation to this day," including the framework for the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

"Without taking anything away from Madison's towering intellect, I would argue that the years he spent at Princeton, engaged in the study of subjects such as mathematics and political philosophy, powerfully prepared him for his life's work," Tilghman said. She said that Madison's accomplishments at Princeton remain relevant to today's Princetonians. "Just as the nascent United States depended upon well-educated individuals who brought historical perspective, political theory and a sympathy for the complexity of human nature to the task of designing a new master in finance, the country and the dozens of others represented on this lawn today need thoughtful, open-minded and well-informed citizens to chart their course and influence their future. No, we are not about to administer the last rites for a liberal education."

Noting that a liberal education is not the "only valuable form of education," Tilghman said that "to be successful in the 21st century, just as in the 18th century, a society requires citizens who are steeped in history, literature, languages, culture, and scientific and technological ideas from ancient times to the present."

She also emphasized that "a liberal education is a privilege that brings with it a responsibility to use your education wisely, as much for the benefit of others in your community and nation and the world as for your own private good."

Concluding the address with her traditional send-off, Tilghman said: "So, as you walk, skip or run through the FitzRandolph Gates today, as citizens of this and many other nations, I hope you will carry forward the spirit of Princeton and the liberal education you have received. The future is now in your hands. And I expect you to do as you have done at Princeton — to aim high and be bold!"

Pomp and circumstance

Tilghman shared the podium with two Princeton seniors: valedictorian Nathaniel Fleming, a psychology major from Eugene, Ore.; and salutatorian Elizabeth Butterworth, a classics major from Auburn, Mass.

Fleming told his classmates that the knowledge they have acquired while at Princeton will prepare them for the future. "Don't just think of yourself as a chemical engineer, as a sociologist, as a consultant; we have lots of those already. We do not have any more of you. Bring your own individual knowledge and experiences to your work," she said. "Think of your Princeton transcript as your fingerprint: Nobody else has the same one, and your complete list of classes — including that random one that you took senior year because it looked like fun — helps define your unique intellectual identity. Use this to your advantage."

Butterworth delivered the salutatory address in Latin, one of her key areas of study. The Princeton tradition dates to the first Commencement in 1748, when the entire ceremony was conducted in Latin.

The Latin Salutatory, Princeton's oldest student honor, began as a serious, formal address, but today it often contains humorous tributes, recollections and a farewell to Princeton campus life.

Butterworth honored Princeton as the "best alma mater in the world," noting that "here in your embrace we cultivated virtue, knowledge and friendship." She said: "Be well, my friends. Today we come to a sad parting, but not to the end of our friendships. Daily I will see your images on Facebook! And we will come together again and again at Reunions, so that we may rejoice in Bacchus bringing sweet memories."

The University awarded degrees to 1,230 undergraduates in the Class of 2012, five from other classes and 832 graduate students at its 265th Commencement. It also conferred honorary doctoral degrees upon six people for their contributions to athletics, music, education, the humanities and science: Peter Carril, basketball Hall-of-Famer and former Princeton coach; Aretha Franklin, the singer known as "the Queen of Soul"; Eduardo Padron, president of Miami Dade College; Joan Wallach Scott, the Harold F. Linder Professor in the School of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study; Joseph Taylor Jr., the James McDonnell Distinguished Professor of Physics Emeritus at Princeton; and Karen Uhlenbeck, the Sid W. Richardson Foundation Regents Chair in Mathematics at the University of Texas-Austin.

As it does each year, Princeton honored excellence in teaching at the Commencement ceremony. Four Princeton faculty members received President’s Awards for Distinguished Teaching: Maria Garlock, associate professor of civil and environmental engineering; Carol Greenhouse, professor of anthropology; Daniel Rodgers, the Henry Charles Lea Professor of History; and Jeffrey Schwartz, professor of chemistry.

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By the numbers

The University awarded degrees to 1,230 undergraduates in the Class of 2012, five from other classes and 832 graduate students at its 265th Commencement.

Those students receiving degrees from the Class of 2012 included:

• 621 men  
• 609 women
• 1,015 bachelor of arts  
• 215 bachelor of science in engineering

A total of 535 undergraduates, or 43.2 percent of the class, received honors, including:

• 124 highest  
• 179 high  
• 278 others

Graduate students receiving degrees:

• 331 doctor of philosophy  
• 328 master of arts  
• 63 master in public affairs  
• 26 master of architecture  
• 23 master in public policy  
• 22 master in finance  
• 13 master of science in engineering  
• 4 master of engineering  
• 8 master of arts in Near Eastern studies  
• 2 master of fine arts

Honorary degree recipients pictured with Tilghman and University Orator Stephen Osman (second from left) were: (from left) Daniel Rodgers, Carol Greenhouse, Jeffrey Schwartz and Maria Garlock.

For more on the 2012 Commencement ceremony and related events — including stories, speech texts, social media coverage, photos and video — visit www.princeton.edu/main/news/archive/S33/89/17G94.
study-abroad peer adviser for the Office of International Programs, following his experience studying in France during the spring semester of his junior year.

In addition, he was part of the Glee Club and the Chamber Choir. Gabriel Crouch, senior lecturer in music and director of choirs at Princeton, said Fleming was committed to music and sharing it with others, rehearsing with the groups 8 1/2 hours a week despite his many other obligations.

“Somehow, he never misses a rehearsal. He’s never late. He’s never less than perfectly prepared. He never looks tired. He never looks burdened,” Crouch said. “He carries this sense that it’s a privilege to do this.”

Fleming said he came to embrace the opportunity to set aside the stress of classes and focus on music in rehearsals and performances — including during the Glee Club’s weeklong tour of France in January.

“There’s nothing quite like the experience of performing in a concert, especially in a choir where you really feel a connection with everyone singing in the group,” he said. In the Writing Center, Associate Director Keith Shaw said Fleming offered fellow students careful, cheerful questioning about their projects.

“Students recognize that Nathaniel is an invested ally, and his approach inspires confidence in their work and enthusiasm for their projects, which is really the most we can ask for,” Shaw said.

And as a head fellow, he helped other student tutors prepare for the delicate task of setting other students on the right path with their writing.

“Fellows need to learn how to work with students intellectually and how to respond to their emotional cues,” Shaw said. “Nathaniel was always good at this, but he’s stunningly good at helping our newer fellows face the challenges of difficult interactions with their students.”

Bridging interests in the classroom

Fleming’s senior thesis in the psychology department highlighted his interest in reaching across disciplines. The project focused on the neuroscience of religious epiphanies and proposed a theory of how sudden, transformative religious experiences are experienced by the brain.

“Lots of times, there’s this kind of invisible barrier that rises up between religion and spirituality and the scientific approach to that,” Fleming said.

“A lot of psychology and neuroscience has already focused in various ways on studying religion and spirituality. But it’s very difficult to integrate the perspective of people who have these beliefs into your scientific approach,” Jacob said. The thesis reflects Fleming’s commitment and motivation.

“It’s the perfect thing for a student to do who’s up for it, and he certainly is,” Jacob said. “It allowed him to stretch.” In the fall of 2011, Fleming joined three other students for a challenging class in his other major academic focus — French. In the contemporary French prose course, the students tackled 10 thick, complex texts and a significant amount of theory in 12 weeks.

“In all of our class discussions, it was obvious that Nathaniel did not compartmentalize our course, separating it from all other disciplines he was studying,” said Christy Wampole, assistant professor of French and Italian. “Instead, he found compelling ways to connect what he’d learned, particularly in his psychology courses, with concepts we addressed in our conversations.

“I find this to be a somewhat rare talent: to create constellations between disciplines, to allow questions to echo between them.”

While Fleming piled up achievements at the university, his time at Princeton began as something of a surprise even to him. Growing up in Oregon, the son of a letter carrier and a dance instructor, he excelled academically, becoming fluent in French through a K-12 language immersion program in his school district. But many of his family ties are in California, and the East Coast didn’t seem like a natural college destination.

After his mother encouraged him to apply, though, Princeton emerged as his choice, even from afar. He first set foot on campus when he arrived in the fall of 2008. One of the buildings he recognized was the Frist Campus Center, from its cameo in the opening credits of the television show “House.”

“The biggest question mark for me was the campus culture, what student life would be like and how I would fit in. I think that’s the big question for anyone but especially for me coming from Oregon. How’s it going to work?” said Fleming. “It worked very well. What I discovered about Princeton in terms of student life is that you can try to describe what campus culture is, but that’s basically impossible to do. You have such a wide variety of people here. No matter who you are, what your interests are, you are going to find people here who are like you and share your interests.”

As his time at Princeton drew to a close, though, Fleming found himself looking back.

“I still have moments from time to time when it’s hard to believe that this is a real experience — that I’ve been here for four years and have almost completely my studies here,” Fleming said.

“Looking ahead, Fleming has accepted a position as a clinical research associate with the Interdisciplinary Melanoma Cooperative Group, part of the New York University Cancer Institute, where he will assist with skin-cancer research projects and perform research of his own. In the future, he plans to apply to medical school and pursue a career in medicine or public health.

Following the announcement of Fleming as valedictorian, Crouch, the director of the Glee Club and Chamber Choir, thought about Fleming’s impact at Princeton.

“How did he manage to leave such a deep footprint in a music program and in a writing program and in a language program and in a psych program?” Crouch wondered aloud. “How does one person do that?”

Commencement

In addition, four outstanding secondary school teachers from across New Jersey were recognized for their work. Other honors for students were presented over the last few days of the academic year. Six graduate students were honored for excellence in teaching during the Association of Princeton Graduate Alumni’s Tribute to Teaching Reception on June 2. Advanced degree candidates participated in the Hooding ceremony at McCarter Theatre on June 4, where the keynote speaker was columnist and author George Will.

In his address, Will, a 1968 Princeton graduate alumni and a member of the University’s Board of Trustees, urged the degree recipients to communicate the value of the academy to a broader society, and also to “communicate the sheer fun of the intellectual life.”

Also on June 4, seniors were recognized at Class Day ceremonies, where the keynote speaker was actor and comedian Steve Carell. He lightheartedly lamented the waning of personal interaction in the Digital Age, before closing with some “helpful hints.” He said: “Every once in a while, put something positive into the world. We’ve become so cynical these days — and by ‘we,’ I mean us. So do something kind. Make someone laugh. And don’t take yourself too seriously.”

At the Baccalaureate service the day before, author and journalist Michael Lewis, a 1982 Princeton graduate, spoke about how good fortune plays an important role in success. “Life’s outcomes, while not entirely random, have a huge amount of luck baked into them,” he said. “Above all recognize that if you have had success, you have also had luck — and with luck comes obligation.”

Commencement is the last of the many festivities enjoyed by graduating students. It is an occasion filled with an array of emotions — especially jubilation — as Princetonians connect with each other while looking to the future. LEFT: Graduating seniors Dustin Davidson, left, and Paolo Iaccarino get a hug on Cannon Green after the ceremony. ABOVE: Seniors share a laugh before the start of the Commencement ceremony.
Faculty chosen for endowed professorships

- Richard Register, the Eugene Higgins Professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering
- Jennifer Restorf, the Gordon Y.S. Wu Professor in Engineering
- Alex K. Cheng, the Louise S. Rockefeller Professor of Sociology and International Affairs and the University Center for Human Values
- Christopher Sims, the John F. Sper- zerd ’52 University Professor of Economics
- Christopher Skinner, the Henry Bur- chard Fine Professor of Mathematics (through June 30, 2013)
- Ned Wingreen, the Howard A. Prior Professor in the Life Sciences.

Employee retirements

Effective May 1, 2012: in the HVAC shop, lead HVAC mechanic Raymond Duling, after 29 years.

Effective June 1, 2012: in sociology, graduate administrator Blanche Anderson, after 37 years; in the plasma physics lab, lead technician Carl Bunting, after 32 years; in industrial relations, infrastructure operations analyst Kathleen Carroll, after 10 years; in the plasma physics lab, electrical technician Paul Ernst, after 11 years; in the Graduate School, associate dean for finance and administration Sandra Mauchinney, after 17 years; in University Services, executive assistant Nancy Walters, after 18 years.

Effective July 1, 2012: in the library, senior librarian Yasuko Makino, after 14 years.