Eisgruber urges graduates to ‘reclaim our civic culture’

Speaking to graduates at Princeton University’s 260th Commencement on Tuesday, May 31, President Christopher L. Eisgruber called for a commitment to engaged discourse and a renewal of civic culture.

In his address to some 10,000 students and guests seated across the sun-dappled front lawn of Nassau Hall, Eisgruber said that while he was tempted to send off the graduates with “a wish that such high spirits will mark all of your future endeavors,” he would not want to “ignore the challenges that are evident all around us.”

“The world you enter is, in too many places, troubled and turbulent, fraught with disturbing amounts of anger, resentment and violence,” he said. “The world that awaits you will sometimes be frustrating and difficult, but it is a world that needs your talents, your citizenship and your engagement.”

He spoke of the “shockingly coarse presidential election campaign” in the United States “occurring at a time when politics has become strikingly polarized.”

Such divisions around “ideological silos” might pull people apart, but Eisgruber emphasized the deep experiences Princeton students have had in common.

“You have shared friendships, rivalries, highs and lows, cooperation, competition and conflict, and these experiences have formed your identities not only as individuals but also as Princetonians,” he said.

The “intellectual resources” that allow today’s Princeton graduates to “connect with one another” will be important in helping to “resist or reverse the partisan-ship that so threatens America and the world today,” Eisgruber said.

“We need people who commit themselves to forging a public culture...Continued on page 6

University celebrates Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment with ceremony and symposium

Eight years after its founding, the Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment celebrated its new home with a ribbon-cutting May 18, and kicked off a three-day symposium with leading experts from science, technology, industry and government.

Princeton University created the center in 2008 following a $100 million gift from international business leader Gerhard Andlinger, a member of the Princeton Class of 1952. The center’s mission is to preserve the planet through education and research on energy-related environmental issues and sustainable energy technologies such as batteries, building design, solar cells and biofuels. The building, which has many sustainable features, was completed in the fall.

“The work conducted within the Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment brings together engineers, scholars, scientists and policy experts from throughout our campus, and around the world,” said Princeton President Christopher L. Eisgruber.

“ Their diverse perspectives and experiences spark the synergies essential to developing sources of renewable and affordable energy.”

Emily Carter, founding director of the Andlinger Center and incoming dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science beginning July 1, said she appreciated the permanence of the building, because problems related to energy and the environment will persist for generations. The building’s design embodies the mission, she said, because with “almost every part of the building, you look out on gardens, you look out on nature.”

Seeing evidence of melting glaciers in New Zealand was one of the experiences that inspired Andlinger to make the gift to Princeton to combat climate change. “The lowest-hanging fruit is to reduce waste or increase the efficiency of energy, and it can be done a thousand different ways,” Andlinger said.

Also dedicated was the center’s lecture hall, Maeder Hall, named in recognition of a gift from Paul Maeder, Class of 1975.

Continued on page 6
Erickson develops strategic initiatives for disability services at the University.

As director, Erickson leads ODS and seeks ways the library can stand the many ways the library can serve their needs.

Library career began in special libraries and included posts in Ireland and the United Kingdom. She began working in academic libraries in 1992 and spent some time at Dalhousie University, Trinity College Dublin and Trinity College Dublin. In 2000 she was appointed deputy librarian at Cambridge University. At Princeton, Jarvis will succeed Karin Trainor, who is retiring.

Yunh-Lin (Lynn) Loo, the Theodore D. '78 and William H. Walton III '74 Professors in chemical and biological engineering at Princeton University, has been appointed director of the Engineering Center for Energy and the Environment, effective July 1. Loo ends her term as acting vice dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science and she succeeds founding director Elizabeth Patterson, who has been appointed dean of engineering.

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Seven named to Princeton Board of Trustees

SUSAN PROMHOLO

Princeton University has named seven members to its Board of Trustees, effective July 1:

• Henri Ford and Philip Hammarskjöld, who were elected by the board to serve for eight years as charter trustees;
• Blair Effron and Thomas Roberts, who were elected by the board to serve for four years as term trustees;
• José Alvarez and Derek Kilmer, who were elected by the national alumni to serve four years as alumni trustees; and
• Azza Cohen, who was elected by the junior and sophomore classes to serve as a young alumni trustee.

Biographical information about them follows:

Ahern, of Boston, is a senior lecturer at Harvard Business School, where he teaches a retailing course and an entrepreneurship course for MBAs and executives in the AgBusiness initiative, an international executive program focusing on current issues in the global food system. He shifted to teaching following a nearly 20-year career in the private sector. He served as chief executive officer of the Stop and Shop Supermarket Company. Alhene received his bachelor’s in business administration from Harvard in 1985 and an MBA from the University of Chicago. He serves on a number of corporate and nonprofit boards including TJX Corporation, Digital Lumena, the Joyce Foundation, Daily Table and the National Center on Time and Learning.

Cohen, of Highland Park, Illinois, graduated this year with a degree with high distinction in philosophy and biology from the University of Chicago. She directed two documentary films during her time at Princeton, “Refugee Refugee” and “Springs of Dust,” and in 2014 worked as an intern at Forbes India. She also has served as program coordinator for the Princeton Summer Journalism Program, contributed to The Daily Princetonian as an opinion columnist, co-edited the Student Services Student Advisory Board and served on the Commencement Committee for the Class of 2016. Cohen is one of Princeton’s 2016 Henry Rutgers Award winners. The award recognizes students who have made significant contributions to the University through work, activities, or leadership.

Effron, of New York, is co-founder of Centerview Partners, a leading independent investment bank specializing in general advisory, mergers and acquisitions, defense assignments and divestitures. A member of the Class of 1984, Effron founded the Manhattan Venture Capital Business School and launched his career in investment banking with Dillon Read & Co. (now part of Barclays and then UBS), holding a variety of senior banking and administrative roles and helping to build a large institutional client base. Effron serves on the boards of Lincoln Center, New Visions for Public Schools, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the Art, the Council on Foreign Relations and the New York City Partnership. Effron is a member of The Hamilton Project at the Brookings Institution.

Ford, of Los Angeles, is vice president and senior fellow at the Ford Foundation. He has served in various positions at the Ford Foundation, including four years as director of the Ford Foundation’s Administration from the University of Southern California. A Princeton trustee, Ford has served as president of the Association for Academic Surgery, Society for Black Academic Surgeons and the Surgical Infections Society. Among his current leadership roles, Ford is on the American Pediatric Surgical Association board of Governors and American College of Surgeons Board of Regents.

Hammarskjöld, of Atherton, California, is the chief executive officer of Hellman & Friedman LLC and chairman of the board of directors of Breakthrough Philanthropy. Following graduation from Princeton, he worked for three years in the retail grocery industry that culminated with him serving as CEO of the Stop and Shop Supermarket Company. Alvarez received his A.B. in history at the University of Chicago. He serves on the board of directors of TJX Corporation, Stop and Shop Supermarket Company, and Aurora Diagnostics, B&W TEK, Infor Global Solutions and LiveCure. Prior to Summit, Roberts was an analyst at Booz Allen Hamilton. He received an A.B. in economics from Princeton and an MBA from Harvard Business School, where he was a Baker Scholar. Roberts serves as the chairman of the advisory board of the Alydar Funds, Summit’s private equity investment management affiliate, the nation’s largest private equity affiliate of the American Enterprise Institute, and the Fessenden School board of trustees.

The following is an updated list of University employee obituaries.


More news on the Web

Visit the News at Princeton webpage at princeton.edu/main/news for recent stories, such as:

• Three Princeton University faculty have been elected to the National Academy of Sciences in recognition of their distinguished and continuing achievements in original research. They are: Tracy Marsella, associate professor of psychology and the Princeton Institute for the Science and Technology of Materials; Igor Klebanov, the Eugene Higgins Professor of Physics; and Stasios Leberis, a professor at the Institute for Advanced Study and a Princeton visiting lecturer with the rank of professor in physics.

• The Princeton University chapter of Phi Beta Kappa presented its annual awards for excellence in undergraduate teaching to Pablo Debenedit, dean for research, the Class of 1950 Professor in Engineering and Applied Science and professor of English.

• Thirty high school students from around the United States have been named recipients of the 2016 Princeton Prize in Race Relations and were honored April 29-30 during the annual Princeton Prize Symposium on Race, held on the University campus.

• Before arriving to campus, members of Princeton’s Class of 2020 will read “Our Declaration: A Reading of the Declaration of Independence in the Defense of Equality” by political philosopher Danielle Allen, Class of 1993. President Christopher L. Eisgruber, described this year’s Pre-read as “a profound and engaging book that speaks to urgent questions about the relationship of liberty to equality, the significance of historical legacies, and the meaning of political documents.”

• Scientists from Princeton University and NASA have confirmed that 12,848 objects observed outside Earth’s orbit are truly space objects and are indeed planets. Reported in The Astrophysical Journal, it is the largest single announcement of new planets to date.

• An enlarged photograph of U.S. President Woodrow Wilson throwing out the first pitch at a baseball game was removed from the wall of a dining hall at Wilson College, one of Princeton’s residential colleges, based on the recommendation of Wilson College students that was supported by Head of the College Edward Cadava and University leaders.

• Joseph Scherrer, Class of 2016, is one of 12 students nationwide to be named 2016 Hertz Fellows by the John and Fern Hertz Foundation. Fellows receive a stipend and full tuition support valued at $250,000 for up to five years of graduate study in the applied physical, biological and engineering sciences. Scherrer, from Nashville, Tennessee, will pursue a Ph.D. in physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

• Death rates have declined among children and young adults in the poorest counties in the United States, according to a study published in Science by Janet Curin, Princeton’s Henry Putnam Professor of Economics and Public Affairs, and Hannah Schwandt of the University of Zurich. These children may be more likely to live healthier lives as they grow older, regardless of the poverty level where they live.

• Five faculty members in the Lewis Center for the Arts’ Program in Theater were nominated for major awards: Jane Caplow, lecturer in theater, received the Ruth Morley Design Award from the League of Professional Theatre Women and was nominated for a Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Lighting Design for a Musical for “The Color Purple”; John Doyle, visiting lecturer with the rank of professor in theater, was nominated for a Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Directing of a Musical and a Tony Award for Best Direction of a Musical for “The Color Purple”; Roberto Hernandez, lecturer in music, was nominated for a Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Set Design for a Play for “Red Speedo”; Anika Vaihich, lecturer in theater, was nominated for a Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Costume Design for a Play for “The Legend of Georgia McBride”; and Anne Washburn, lecturer in theater, received the Herb Alpert Award in the Arts, a prize of $75,000 given annually to pioneering mid-career artists.

The following is a updated list of University employee obituaries.

Current employees


Retired employees


McKay to retire as VP for Facilities after nearly 40 years at Princeton

EMILY ARONSON

VICE PRESIDENT FOR FACILITIES Michael McKay has announced plans to retire at the end of the calendar year, capping a nearly four-decade career at Princeton University. McKay has served in his current role since 2003 and has worked at the University since 1977.

As vice president for Facilities, McKay oversees the departments involved with the planning, operation and maintenance of the University's physical space. This includes: Building Services; Grounds and Building Maintenance; Engineering and Campus Energy; Facilities Finance and Administrative Services; Facilities Operations and Maintenance; the Office of Design and Construction; the Office of Real Estate Development; the Office of Sustainability; and the Office of the University Architect.

“Mike McKay has been a superb leader for Princeton's Facilities Organization and a devoted steward of this University's campus,” President Christopher L. Eisgruber said. “Generations of Princetonians will benefit from the expertise and hard work that he and his dedicated team have invested in our buildings and grounds. I am grateful for his exceptional service to Princeton.”

Executive Vice President Treby McKay reports, observed that during McKay's tenure as vice president for Facilities, the University has maintained the most comprehensive campus planning processes in its history. “The University campus is 1.5 million square feet, from the Frick Chemistry Laboratory and Whitman and Butler college projects, to the newly opened Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment,” Williams said. “Princeton has served as an international model for our energy-saving co-generation facility and practices, and created and made extraordiary progress on the institution's first Sustainability Plan. All the while, Mike has carefully stewarded our grounds and buildings. His leadership and deep knowledge were critical to these and countless other accomplishments that have maximized the value of our teaching and campus experience for the University community.”

McKay will leave the University as assistant director of engineering in Facilities and later was promoted to director of engineering, a position he has served for 10 years as general manager of plant and services, where he was responsible for several departments within Facilities.

McKay said there were countless interesting projects and developments during his career at Princeton.

“If I was going to single out one thing that I have been proud of during my time at Princeton, it is the pleasure of working with everyone in Facilities,” he said. “The dedication, hard work and fellowship of the staff make Facilities a special place.”

Before coming to Princeton, McKay was as a senior physicist with Westinghouse and served as an officer in the Army Corps of Engineers. He is a member of the Association of Higher Education Facilities Officers, and has served as president of the International District Energy Association and on the boards of the New Jersey Independent Energy Producers and the American Coalition of Competitive Energy Suppliers. He also was a member of a Congressional Blue Ribbon Panel that evaluated energy options for the U.S. Capitol.

McKay earned a bachelor of science in engineering degree from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and a master's degree in management from Boston University.

Williams will lead a national search for McKay's successor for Facilities to succeed McKay.

Nicole Legnani, in Spanish and Portuguese, will join the faculty this summer after having served as a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard. Legnani earned her bachelor's and doctoral degrees from Harvard, in addition to a master's from Yale.

Daniela Mairhofer, in classics, will join the faculty this summer. She comes to Princeton from the University of Vienna, where she has been an assistant professor since 2014. From 2007-14 she served first as a research assistant and then as a senior researcher at the University of Oxford. She received her B.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Innsbruck.

Ellis Monk Jr., in sociology, will join the faculty this summer from the University of Michigan, where he was a postdoctoral fellow and an assistant professor. Monk received his B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania, effec- tive summer 2016. Vinitsky made extraordinary progress on the boards of the New Jersey Independent Energy Producers and the American Coalition of Competitive Energy Suppliers. He also was a member of a Congressional Blue Ribbon Panel that evaluated energy options for the U.S. Capitol.

Michael Zalatell, in Near Eastern studies, will join the faculty this summer from Microsoft Research, where he has been a postdoctoral researcher and an associate professor at Microsoft Research. Zalatell also did postdoctoral work at Stanford University. He earned his B.A. from Harvard and his Ph.D. from the University of California-Berkeley.

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Brian Herrera, an assistant professor of theater in the Lewis Center for the Arts at Princeton, is a self-described “cultural historian” whose work, both academic and creative, examines the history of gender, sexuality and race within and through U.S. popular performance.

One ‘Latin explosion’ after another

Herrera wrote “The Latino/o Theatre Commons 2013 National Convening: A Narrative Report,” an account of the first national gathering of Latino/o theater-makers since the 1980s. His 2015 book, “Latin Numbers: Playing Latino in Twentieth Century U.S. Popular Performance,” has received wide acclaim, including the George Jean Nathan Award for Dramatic Criticism. The Nathan Committee took particular note of the “clear and profound understanding of the success and impact of the 1957 musical ‘West Side Story,’” which takes up a chapter in the book. Herrera examines every aspect of the groundbreaking musical — from the media controversy surrounding the depiction of Puerto Ricans to the decision to cast unknown Latino actors — weaving in issues of politics, economics and cultural identity, peppered with theater trivia.

“One book is an important contribution to the field of Latino/a popular culture studies,” said Wolt. “[Brian’s] work intertwines history and analysis of performance through a wide range of stories. The chapter on ‘West Side Story’ completely changed how people think about that musical. The book is now required reading in the field.”

The book grew out of Herrera’s dissertation. “I decided to write the book in the context of the summer of 1999, the summer that everyone was ‘Livin’ La Vida Loca’ [the hit song by Latino star Ricky Martin, which won the Grammy for Song of the Year],” he said.

“The historian in me was frustrated by the lack of historical awareness that this ‘newness’ of Latinos in U.S. popular entertainment and performance was being celebrated as a new thing,” Herrera said.

Herrera is working on a new book, “Casting: A History,” which he said grew out of his research for “Latin Numbers.” “I kept going to the library and looking for a history of casting — with its controversies around race and gender and equity — and I couldn’t find one,” he said.

“A theater-maker who nurtures ‘creative intellect’ in the classroom

The creative and the academic reside hand in hand in Herrera’s work as a theater-maker, scholar and teacher. His autobiographical show “I Was the Voice of Democracy” — about an essay he wrote as a teenager that won a national contest — premiered in 2010 in Albuquerque and has been seen in venues from New York to Beirut and Abu Dhabi. In 2013, he launched two new story work shows, “Boys Like That” and “Touch Tones.”

“Professor Herrera’s work sits at the intersection of many different fields and illuminates their commonalities,” said Stacy Wolf, professor of theater and acting chair of the Lewis Center for the Arts at Princeton.

“Brian possesses tremendous vision about the possibilities of theater and performance studies, as well as Latino and American studies, at Princeton,” said Wolf. “[Brian’s] work intertwines history and performance with ideas about identity and equity — and I couldn’t find one.”

Herrera’s “Playing Against Type” in fall 2015 and described the course as “an in-depth analysis of the current process of casting performance work… where representation of persons of color and LGBTQ actors is finally becoming part of the conversations which determine who tells stories in film, theater and television.”

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Commencement
Continued from page 1

that enables a shared, respectful and engaged discourse through which we can negotiate differences and address the urgent issues confronting us,” he said. “Taking up that project will call upon all the resources that your liberal arts education has provided you.”

Eisgruber added, “Renewing our civic culture requires many things, not least among them a certain humanistic imagination.”

He gave two examples. Eisgruber spoke of his friend Mickey Edwards, the former Republican congressman from Oklahoma, who previously taught at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton.

“He had a reputation as an independent thinker and a maverick,” said Eisgruber. He described how Edwards decided to confront the polarization in politics by working with the Aspen Institute to create a program for state politicians centered around three-day philosophical seminars that would bring people together and help build bridges across party lines.

For his second example, Eisgruber lauded Lin-Manuel Miranda, the creator and star of the hit musical “Hamilton.”

“Unlike most musicals, ‘Hamilton’ is self-consciously and unabashedly political, and, unlike most things political, it appeals forcefully to both sides of the ideological spectrum,” Eisgruber said. “Lin-Manuel Miranda has thus done something that neither our politicians nor our current Supreme Court seem capable of doing, namely, he has produced an intelligent and inspirational account of the American founding that transcends political lines.”

Eisgruber said that Princeton’s own “struggles with history” — notably the “redacting” this year with the Woodrow Wilson’s racism and, more broadly, with this University’s exclusionary past, “underscore the need to understand one another and to address the future collectively.”

Said Eisgruber: “We need to be able to see other people’s points of view, and we must forge shared spaces for disagreement and deliberation. And understanding one another requires, among other things, finding new ways to comprehend the history that has affected, and continues to affect, different groups and different ways.”

In closing, Eisgruber encouraged the graduates to return often to Nassau Hall with updates on their progress as they bring “leadership and engagement” to help address such challenges. With his congratulations and wisdom words, he said, “We are proud of you, we will miss you, and we eagerly anticipate what you will achieve, because all of you are now, and forever shall be, part of Princeton’s Great Class of 2016!”

Milestones and memories
The ceremony’s two other speakers were valedictory Cameron Platt, an English major from Santa Barbara, California, and salutatorian Esther Kim, an English major from Marietta, Georgia.

Platt said she initially was daunted to speak to her fellow students who represent such “exquisite variety” and whose time at Princeton has been “rich with difference.”

She described how as a Princeton student she became more aware of how important it is to have the right to speak — and how crucial it is to listen.

“As we fixate on the right to speak, we cannot forget its attendant imperative: to listen,” Platt said. “I hope that all of us might listen to others with compassion, with care, and with a keen awareness of the responsibility that we carry as speakers. Because the truth is that we never speak only for ourselves. The things that we say, and the things that we do not say, change the lives around us.”

Kim delivered the salutatory address in Latin. This 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 formal address but today often contains humorous tributes and a warm farewell to Princeton campus life.

In her address, Kim honored her classmates and said [English translation]: “We have shared many experiences — suffering wounds caused by meningitis vaccines, surviving floods and blizzards, fighting (and often losing) battles with our schoolwork, etc. … You leave us with this: Seize the day — and the years to come!”

The University awarded degrees to 1,291 undergraduates in the Class of 2016, five from former classes and 906 graduate students. It also conferred honorary degrees upon six people for their contributions to the humanities, journalism, economics, law, medicine and public service: Ben Bernanke, former Federal Reserve chairman who previously served on the Princeton faculty; Eric Foner, the DWIGHT CLINTON Professor of History at Columbia University; Robert Rivers, retired surgeon and Princeton alumni; Shuli Hjo, journalist and founder of CaiXin Media in China; Bryan Stevenson, public-interest lawyer and founder of the Equal Justice Initiative; and Frona Zeitlin, the Ewing Professor of Greek Language and Literature, Emeritus, at Princeton.

Princeton also honored excellence in teaching at the Commencement ceremony. Four Princeton faculty members received President’s Awards for Distinguished Teaching and four outstanding secondary school teachers from New Jersey were recognized for their work.

On May 30, seniors were recognized at Class Day ceremonies in the University Chapel, rather than on Cannon Green, due to the threat of thunderstorms. The keynote speaker was best-selling novelist Jodi Picoult, a member of the Class of 1987. Picoult urged students to stay true to their moral compass. “Thanks to years of lessons from your parents and your friends and your professors, the knowledge of what is right already burns inside you like a pilot light. … In fact your only job, as an official grownup, is to not lose sight of that flame.”

In the afternoon, advanced-degree recipients participated in the Hooding ceremony in Jadwin Gymnasium, where Dean of the Graduate School Sanjeev Kulkarni congratulated the students.

More than 100 degree recipients elected to be hooded by their faculty advisers in recognition of the close mentoring relationship that often develops during graduate study.

“Our purpose today is to recognize the efforts, dedication and accomplishments of our graduates, to congratulate them on completing master’s and doctoral programs, and to celebrate their transitions into a broad range of careers in which they will achieve distinction over the coming years,” Kulkarni said.

Randall Kennedy, a 1977 Princeton alumnus, former trustee and the Michael R. Klein Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, spoke at the interfaith Baccalaureate service May 29 in the chapel. He called on the Class of 2016 to advocate for higher education.

Kennedy said: “Insistence upon academic freedom. Facilitation of respectful deliberation. Joy in academic discovery. Delight in artistic brilliance. A determination to do better tomorrow than we did today. These are the representative features of the Princeton that inspires us, the Princeton we admire, the Princeton we love, the Princeton in whose honor we ought to be ambassadors for higher education.”

Webcasts of Princeton graduation events are available on the University’s Media Central website at mediacentral.princeton.edu. Images are available at www.princeton.edu/tpr/gradpics/2016. ▶
1) Randall Kennedy, a member of the Class of 1977, former Princeton trustee, and Harvard Law School professor, emphasizes the importance of supporting higher education in his Baccalaureate address.

2) Class Day keynote speaker Jodi Picoult, a bestselling novelist and 1987 alumna, and President Christopher L. Eisgruber lead the informal procession of the beginning of the celebration.

3) At the Graduate School Hooding ceremony, Justene Hill (left), who earned a Ph.D. in history, receives her hood from her adviser, Tera Hunter.

4) Seniors smile for the camera while standing on front campus.

5) Fidelina Martinez and Juan Leiva, natives of El Salvador who live in Trenton, New Jersey, help their son Gerson Leiva (center), the first in his family to go to college, get ready before the Commencement procession.

6) Cameron Poole, an English major from Santa Barbara, California, delivers the salutatory oration.

7) President Eisgruber (center) with honoraries degree recipients (from left) Bryan Stevenson, Robert Rivers, Eric Foner, Ben Bernanke, Fiona Zemlin and Shuli Hu.

8) Esther Kim delivers the salutatory address.

9) Dan Zeltzer, who earned a Ph.D. in economics, celebrates with his wife, Efrat Kedem, and their 3-month-old daughter, Amalia.

10) President Eisgruber (center) with the President’s Awards for Distinguished Teaching/recipients (from left) Robert George, Celeste Nelson, Brian Kneifflan and Michael Cook.

11) Director of the Program in Teacher Preparation Christopher Campisano (left) and President Eisgruber (third from right) with New Jersey secondary school teacher award winners (from left) Richard Wertz, Matthew Morrisson, Barbara Fasano and Ronald Duncan Jr.

12) Having just stepped through FitzRandolph Gate, members of the Class of 2016 celebrate receiving their degrees from Princeton.
Ronald C. Davidson, a pioneering plasma physicist for 50 years and former Princeton University employee, died May 19 in Cranbury, New Jersey, from complications of pneumonia. He was 74.

"Ron was an anchor for the laboratory both through his science and through his wisdom," said Stewart Prager, director of research and a Princeton professor of astrophysical sciences. "His contributions not just to PPPL's science but also to plasma physics writing are large and widely known. Within the laboratory, he was a mentor and a guide to people young and old. His impact within the laboratory was enormous."

Davidson led PPPL from 1991 to 1996, a challenging time when the lab was preparing the National Tokamak Fusion Test Reactor (TFTR) for experiments with deuterium and tritium, recalled Dale Meade, who now serves as a laboratory director. The experiment was a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week enterprise and broke new ground in tokamak research, Meade said. In November 1994, the TFTR achieved 10.7 million watts of fusion energy, a world record at the time and enough power to supply 3,000 homes. The machine set many world records before it was shut down in 1997 after Davidon stepped down as director.

Davidson kept notes on all the experiments in the laboratory on green spiral notebooks. Meade said. Every Sunday morning, he would call Meade and department heads for a full report. "He was just amazing in terms of how organized he was and how thorough in terms of analyzing the situation and developing plans to move forward," Meade said. "What made it all even more pleasurable to be so easy to work for and work with. He was extremely personable."

Davidson was an expert in fields including high-intensity charged particle beams, which studies the collective behavior of beams of charged particles that speed together through accelerators. These particles can fly apart and break again in a tokamak. He was crucial in troubleshooting experiments. His contributions to understanding the behavior of these damaged particles are even more critical because of the destructive consequences for future accelerators.

After serving as director of PPPL, Davidson was deputy director of the U.S. Heavy Ion Fusion Science Virtual National Laboratory, a collaboration with Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. He also worked on the Paul Trap Synchrotron project, which simulated a particle accelerator. Both projects ended in 2012.

In addition to his research, writer and academic. He wrote four graduate-level plasma physics textbooks and served as editor of the journal Physics of Plasmas from 1991 until last year. Davidson was a member of Princeton's Department of Astrophysical Sciences for 20 years until 2011, and he was appointed to the department chair. Adam Seckow, a physicist at Sandia National Laboratory, one of many graduate students whom Davidson advised, recalled that Davidson was "an excellent mentor. He was very patient — a top-shelf scientist," Seckow said. "He led by example with his wisdom and judgment, his intelligence and productivity."

Davidson was born in Canada in 1941 and grew up on a family dairy farm in British Columbia. He was driving a tractor by age 11 and attended elementary school in one room. He led a simple, hardworking life with giving him a strong work ethic. He became interested in plasma physics when he was a graduate student at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. In 1963, he enrolled in the new Program in Plasma Physics at Princeton, then directed by the late Princeton physicist Thomas Stix, and received his Ph.D. in 1965. During his career, Davidson worked at several prominent institutions. He became director of PPPL after spending a decade at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as a faculty member and founding director of the Plasma Fusion Center.

He did postdoctoral research for two years at the University of California-Berkeley. He went on to become a physics professor at the University of Maryland for a decade, with one year as a visiting researcher at Los Alamos National Laboratory. He spent two years as assistant director for Applied Plasma Physics in the Department of Energy in Washington, D.C., before going to National Science Foundation. Davidson won numerous honors in his lifetime, including the prestigious Jacob Milstein Prize in Plasma Physics in 2008, the highest national honor in plasma physics. He was a fellow of the American Physical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

In a 2014 interview, Davidson said he was optimistic about fusion energy becoming a reality, noting that "science and technology in the Office of Information Technology, senior developer/analyst William Thomas, after 30 years. Effective April 1: in the department of molecular biology, research specialist Robertbody and after 28 years; in academic technology services in the Office of Information Technology, coordinator, Russell Stevens, after 10 years.

Effective July 1: in operations and planning in the Office of Information Technology, William Marks, after 10 years; in the Office of Information Technology, senior developer/analyst Shane Farrell, after 28 years; in planning in the Office of Information Technology, assistant director for finance. Bruce Brill; after 10 years; in technical services, assistant director James Glasson Jr., after 28 years; in the Woodrow Wilson School, director of finance, Anna Goldfarb, after 17 years; in athletics, men’s and women’s diving head coach, Adam Sefkow, after 10 years; in security and, archaeological research scholar Adelaide Hagens, after 10 years; in engineering and applied science, building manager Robert Kennedy, after 4 years.

Faculty obituaries

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More than 40 diversity task force initiatives completed or in progress

Emily Aronsson

Princeton University has made significant progress during the past year to foster a more inclusive campus climate, and continues to implement new programs and practices related to issues of diversity, equity and inclusion.

In May 2015, a Special Task Force on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion endorsed more than 40 strategies to improve the campus environment. A progress report on the task force’s recommendations notes that, a year later, all of the recommended actions have begun and many are complete.

“We have made important progress this year, but our work is ongoing,” Vice Provost for Institutional Equity and Diversity Michele Minter said. “Ensuring an inclusive campus climate requires a sustained and long-term commitment. New activities and ideas will emerge, and we want to continue to engage students, faculty and staff in these efforts.”

Highlights of the progress to date include:

- Appointing LaTanya Buck as dean for diversity and inclusion, a new position in the Office of the Vice President for Campus Life.
- Allocating additional funding for staff and student-initiated programs at the Carl A. Fields Center for Equality and Cultural Understanding, Women’s Center, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Center.
- Adjusting programming and the use of space at the Fields Center to better serve the needs of students of color, as well as creating a diversity peer educators program at the center.
- Providing funding to hire faculty and develop courses to expand academic offerings related to issues of race, ethnicity, culture and difference. An initiative to diversify the faculty has been underway for a few years, while a number of courses focused on cultural identity and diversity were taught for the first time this year and more are scheduled for next year.
- Expanding communications to graduate students about identity-based resources for them.
- Developing new or expanded diversity-related programming for undergraduate and graduate student orientations.
- Expanding training for administrators and student leaders about how to respond to bias concerns, as well as providing training opportunities on inclusive teaching practices for faculty and Assistants in Instruction (AIs).
- Establishing the Campus Conversations on Identities initiative to support campus-wide public programs about identity and difference.
- Other task force recommendations should be fully implemented during the upcoming 2016-17 academic year, and resources are in place to ensure that new programs and practices requiring ongoing attention will receive continued support.
- Among ongoing initiatives, the first phase of renovation at the Fields Center is scheduled for completion by fall 2016 and further work is expected in 2017. Students have helped identify renovation needs so the center may serve as a hub for cultural affinity groups and focus programming on issues related to diversity, inclusion and social justice.

Some of the continued efforts for the next academic year include:

- The offices of the dean of the college and vice president for campus life continuing to expand programs that address social and cultural needs of low-income and first-generation students. The Office of the Dean of the College has already launched the Scholars Institute Fellows Program, which builds on the Freshman Scholars Institute summer program, to offer comprehensive mentorship and support to low-income and first-generation students during their four years at Princeton.
- The Office of the Dean of the Faculty identifying more opportunities to offer diversity and inclusion training for faculty.
- The Office of the Vice President for Campus Life continuing to work with eating club leadership to enhance diversity-related training, as well as working with the undergraduate and graduate student governments to include diversity, equity and inclusion as core values for student organizations.
- Faculty, student, staff and trustee groups, including the new Board of Trustees Special Committee on Diversity and Inclusion, will continue to provide oversight and help review ongoing University initiatives.

“The themes of the task force’s report will remain institutional priorities as this important work continues,” Minter said.

Faculty news

The Board of Trustees has approved the following faculty moves.

Promotions

Thirteen faculty members will be promoted effective July 1.

Professor — Jeffrey Dohen, English; Devle Fore, German; Jenny Greene, astrophysical sciences; Elizabeth Harman, philosophy and the University Center for Human Values; Elad Hazan, computer science; II University Professor — Hans Halvorson; Stacey Sinclair, psychology and African American studies; Nicholas Turk-Browne, psychology.

Assistant professor — Lisa Boulanger, Princeton Neuroscience Institute; Sarah McGrath, philosophy; Mala Murphy, molecular biology and the Princeton Neuroscience Institute; Gerard Wysocki, electrical engineering.

Assistant professor — Javier Gómez Serrano, mathematics.

Endowed professorships

Fourteen faculty members have been named to endowed professorships, effective July 1, except where noted.

• Victor Kofi Agawu, the Hughes-Rogers Professor of Music.
• David Belles, the Meredith Howland Pyne Professor of French Literature.
• Elizabeth Davis, the Damon B. Pfeiffer Professor in the Life Sciences.
• Daniel Garber, the A. Watson Armour, III University Professor of Philosophy.
• Zemer Gitai, the Edwin Grant Conklin Professor of Biology.
• Hans Halvorsen, the Stuart Professor of Philosophy.
• Lars Hedin, the George M. Moffett Professor of Biology.
• Wendy Hoffer, the Scheide Professor of Music History, effective Sept. 1.
• Mark Johnston, the Henry Putnam University Professor of Philosophy.
• Joshua Katz, the Cotsen Professor in the Humanities.
• Simon Levin, the James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, effective Aug. 1.
• Anne McClintock, the A. Barton Porter Professor of Gender and Sexuality Studies.
• Tracy R. Smith, the Roger S. Berlind ’52 Professor in the Humanities.
• James Stone, the Lyman Spitzer Jr., Professor of Theoretical Astrophysics.

Resignations

The following faculty members have submitted their resignations, effective July 1 except where noted:

• Adam Beaver, assistant professor of history, to accept a position at Harvard University.
• Shamik Dasgupta, associate professor of philosophy, to accept a position at the University of California-Berkeley, effective June 30.
• Myrto Kalouptsidi, assistant professor of classics, to accept a position at Harvard University.
• Zsofi Patafiafi, assistant professor of mathematics, to accept a position at École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne.

Scientists, Princeton University administrators and policymakers visited the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory (PPPL) May 20 to dedicate the National Spherical Torus Experiment (NSTX-U), an upgraded spherical tokamak fusion reactor. U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz (center) is pictured with (from left) Stefan Gerhardt, principal research physicist at PPPL; Princeton University President Christopher L. Eisgruber; David McComas, vice president for PPPL and professor of astrophysical sciences; U.S. Sen. Cory Booker; U.S. Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman; and Stewart Prager, director of PPPL and professor of astrophysical sciences.
Eighteen Princeton faculty members transfer to emeritus status

Umsha Patel

E
ighteen Princeton University faculty members were transferred to emeritus status in recognition by the Board of Trustees. Transfers are effective July 1, 2016, except where noted.

They are:

- Scott Burnham, the Schirer Professor of Music, effective Sept. 1, 2016;
- Edward Champlin, the Coten Professor in the Humanities and professor of classics;
- Douglas Clark, professor of computer science, science, effective Feb. 1, 2016;
- Ronald Comer, lecturer with continuing appointment of psychology, effective Sept. 1, 2016;
- John Cooper, the Henry Putnam Professor of Philosophy;
- Annette Freidin, Dwight D. Eisenhower Professor of International Affairs and professor of economics and international affairs;
- Paul D'Argembeau, the A. Barton Hepburn Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs, effective Dec. 31, 2016;
- Robert Freidin, professor of linguistics in the Council of the Humanities; and
- Michael Freidin, professor of astrophyiscal sciences;

Abdellah Hammoudi, professor of anthropology;

Nancy Weiss Malkiel, professor of history;

Kirk McDonald, professor of physics;

Ignacio Rodríguez-Iturbe, the James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor in Civil and Environmental Engineering and the Princeton Environmental Institute;

Jerome S. Bruner, professor of philosophy and director of the University’s Program in Philosophy and Public Affairs;

and

James W. Tang Professor in Chinese Art and professor of art and archaeology; and

P. Adams Sitney, professor of visual arts in the Lewis Center for the Arts;

Seunghoek Suecker, professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering;

Ronald Surtz, professor of Spanish and Portuguese languages and cultures;

and

Robert Willig, professor of economics and public affairs.

Since 2014, they have been a scholar of the history of music theory, analysis and criticism renowned for his interpretations of music and the history of music in the 19th and 20th centuries. He has published nearly 50 articles, most focusing on the music of Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert. His 1995 book, “Beethoven: Hero,” won the Wallace Berry Award from the Society for Music Theory as the outstanding book in music theory, and his 2013 monograph, “Mozart’s Grace,” won the Otto Kinkeldey Award from the American Musicological Society for exceptional merit.

On campus, Burnham has been a popular instructor, an active adviser and mentor to undergraduates and graduate students, known for his abstract conceptions in concretes in ways. He received the Undergraduate Engineering Council’s Excellence in Teaching award three years in a row.

Ronald Comer has studied, taught and advised topics of social and clinical psychology throughout his career. He received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Pennsylvania and his Ph.D. from Clark University. He joined the Princeton faculty in 1975.


Comer, who received the President’s Award for Distinguished Teaching in 1993, has taught a number of popular courses in abnormal psychology, developmental psychopathology and controversies in clinical psychology. He developed a clinical psychology program for undergraduates, including giving students opportunities to engage in independent research with mental health professionals and advising students interested in health professions. He has served on departmental and University commit-
tees, including serving as chair of the Interdisciplinary Review Board. He oversees human research participant studies.

Douglas Clark is a renowned scholar of ancient philosophy, with a focus on ancient ethics and politics and a broad interest in ancient epistemology, metaphysics and philosophy of mind. His first book, “Reason and Human Good in Aristotle,” won the American Philosophical Association’s 1977 Matzche Foundation Book Prize. Cooper has also published works on Plato, Seneca, ancient moral philosophy, political theory, ethical theory, and ways of life depicted in the picture of philosophy. He has brought these topics into the classroom in formats ranging from fresh-
man seminars to the graduate-level classical philosophy program.

Cooper has been recognized at Princeton with the faculty Outstanding Teaching Award and the Howard T. Behrman Award for Distinguished Achievement in the Humanities. He has held fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, American Council of Learned Societies, and John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, and was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Cooper earned his bachelor’s degree at Harvard, attended graduate school at the University of Oxford on a Marshall Scholarship, and returned to Harvard for his Ph.D. He taught at Harvard and the University of Pitts-
before being appointed to the Princeton faculty in 1994.

Augs D’Argembeau received the 2015 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences for his body of research on consump-
tion, poverty and welfare. Among the best known of his works are three books: “Economics and Consumer Behavior” with John Muehlbauer, “Understanding Consumption,” and “The Analysis of Economic Time Series.” Deaton is also widely known for research with Princeton’s Anne Case on mortality of middle-aged white men and for research with Princeton’s Daniel Kahneman on the link between income and happiness. Some of Deaton’s other key research topics are demand analysis, econometrics, saving behavior, measuring poverty in India, commodity pricing, and the relationship between health status and economic status. Deaton is a fellow of the Economot-
omic Society, a corresponding fellow of the British Academy, a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, an honorary fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and an honorary fellow of the All Souls College, Cambridge. He is a member of the American Philosophical Society and of the National Academy of Sciences. Deaton earned his B.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge.

He taught at the Harvard College History Center before joining the Princeton faculty in 1983.

Paul D’Argembeau’s research contribu-
tions span several areas in sociology. He has studied the production and consumption of sanitation; research on the classification of art and how cultural capital determines life success. D’Argembeau’s work on theoretical analysis with Walter Powell on mechanisms leading organizations to herd-like behavior has been widely cited. D’Argembeau has also studied the role of American public opinion, the role of network externalities and cultural stratification, and the relationship between culture and cognition.

In addition to being an intellectual leader in the field, D’Argembeau has mentored students who now teach at leading departments across the country, and he has served on numerous national panels and committees. He is a member of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, the American Society for the History of Science, the American Society for Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society.

D’Argembeau earned his bachelor’s degree at Swarthmore College and his Ph.D. at Harvard. He taught at Yale before joining Princeton in 1992. D’Argembeau is now a professor of sociol-
ogy at New York University.

Robert Freidin is a scholar of generative linguistics and grammar, a framework for understanding human language pioneered by his former colleague, Noam Chomsky, and others in the 1950s. Working in the premise that human beings have an innate faculty for understanding and constructing language, Freidin has focused on generative humanities constructs some of the landmark six-volume collection, “Syn-
tactic Generative Grammar,” with Howard Lasnik. Freidin’s work on syntax at Princeton have led him to publish two textbooks, “Foundations of Generative Syntax” and “Syntax: Basic Concepts and Applications.”

Freidin received his B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania and then earned his Ph.D. at Indiana University Bloomington. After stints at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Brown Uni-
versity and McGill University, Freidin joined the faculty at MIT, the Pennsylvania State University and the University of California Berkeley, with the premise that human beings have an innate faculty for understanding and constructing language. Freidin has written a number of key papers and essays in the field.

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Abdellah Hammoudi is an anthropologist who has conducted fieldwork in his native Morocco as well as in Libya, Saudi Arabia and Egypt. He has been studying examining issues including development, political economy, civil society, authority, legitimacy, democracy and religious experience. He has written books on Moroccan ritual tradition and Moroccan urban development. And he authored an acclaimed personal and ethnographic account of his own experience of the hajj, “A Season in Mecca.”

For more than a decade, Hammoudi served as director of Princeton University’s Institute for the Transregional Study of the Contemporary Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia. He has also taught, lectured and edited a collection of essays on feminism with Princeton’s John Borneman.

Hammoudi earned his Ph.D. at the residential college system and the programs for freshmen, expanding and work abroad, enhancing academic breaking no-loan financial aid policy, tal Physics in 2016. He has published a Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics in 2016. He has published extensively, and his teaching has been highly rated by students. McDonald earned his bachelor’s degree at the University of Arizona and his Ph.D. at Caltech. He then took a fellowship at CERN, the European particle physics laboratory, and a fellowship at the University of Chicago before joining the Princeton faculty in 1976.

Ignacio Rodriguez-Iturbe is a pioneer in the field of hydrology. He is known for developing rigorous mathematical theories for hydrologic processes and for geophysical and biological processes for which the water cycle plays a central role. His work has provided methods for examining fundamental problems in hydrology, for solving engineering problems linked to drought and flood, and for studying rainfall, vegetation's interplay with the water cycle, and river networks.

Rodriguez-Iturbe is the author of several influential textbooks on hydrology, river basins and hydroecology. He is a member or fellow of many academic societies, and he has won numerous awards, most notably the Bowie Medal of the American Geophysical Union and the Stockholm Water Prize of the Stockholm International Water Institute. Rodriguez-Iturbe attended the University of Zulia in Venezuela for his undergraduate education. He received a master's degree from Caltech and a Ph.D. from Colorado State University. He then taught at the University of Zulia, MIT, Simon Bolivar University, the International Institute of Advanced Studies in Caracas, the University of Iowa and Texas A&M University. Rodriguez-Iturbe joined the Princeton faculty in 1999.

Jerome Surtz is a装饰者 of Chinese art history. He served as the founding director of Princeton’s Tang Center for East Asian Art, and it nurtured it into a leading center for Asian art in the United States through its symposia, lectures and scholarly books. Surtzberg has continued to publish, lecture and curate exhibitions during his tenure. Some of the topics on which he has written are the aesthetics of old age in Chinese culture and literature. His courses have spanned traditional and contemporary Chinese painting, architecture and gardens, and Chinese cinema and photographs.

Surtzberg taught at the University of Washington for 25 years before coming to Princeton in 2001. He earned his bachelor’s and doctoral degrees at Stanford University, and he earned a master's degree at the University of Oregon. P. Adams Sitney is a leading historian of avant-garde cinema. He is the author of “Visionary Film: The American Avant Garde,” which was published in 1974. In 1970, Sitney co-founded the Anthology Film Archives, an international center for the preservation, study and exhibition of film and video, with a particular focus on independent, experimental and avant-garde cinema. In 1976, Sitney is the author of four other books about film, editor of many journal and anthologies, and recipient of numerous honors, including the American Academy in Berlin’s Anna-Maria Kellen Berlin Prize. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Sitney joined the Princeton faculty in 1980, and he has taught courses on film history, major filmmakers, the language of cinema and avant-garde cinema. He also has taught courses outside of film studies, participating in humanities sequence courses on great books in Western European and American civilization. His efforts earned him the University’s President’s Award for Distinguished Teaching in 2001. Sitney earned his bachelor’s degree and his Ph.D. from Yale.


Suckewer is a fellow of the American Physical Society and American Optical Society. He has published more than 200 papers and has more than two dozen patents and patent applications. After earning his M.S. at Moscow University and his Ph.D. and D.Sc. at Warsaw University, Suckewer was a researcher and professor at Warsaw’s Institute of Nuclear Research. He joined the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory in 1975 and became the principal investigator of research programs related to the X-Ray Laser Project in 1980. Suckewer’s group developed several types of X-ray lasers based on the Chinese painting's body image in Chinese films, landscape painting and the family model in Chinese art and culture. His courses have spanned traditional and contemporary Chinese painting, architecture and gardens, and Chinese cinema and photographs.

Suckewer was appointed to the Princeton faculty in 1987, after which he headed a new X-Ray lab on campus and became director of the Program in Plasma Science and Technology. In recent years, he has added research interests in bioengineering and medical application of lasers, and plasma science: at pluses for internal combustion engines that decrease their negative effects on the environment.

Ronald Surtz’s scholarship has focused on religious texts, particularly religious writings by women in the pro-modern period. His books have covered the influence of medieval literacy and court activities on the evolution of Spanish drama; themes of gender, power and author- ity in 15th-century Spanish literature; and the Franciscan nun Mother Juana de la Cruz. Most recently, Surtz has also edited two collections of essays on an anthology of edited plays, and a translation of de la Cruz’s sermons. According to Surtz, his work has taught since 1973, his courses have spanned the departments of Spanish and Portugue- guese languages and cultures, history, religion, music, art, architecture and comparative literature.

Surtz earned his B.A. at Yale and received a Ph.D. from Harvard.

Robert Willig studies industrial orga- nization, regulation and antitrust. He gave the paper “Consumer’s Surplus Without Apology” rejuvenated quantitative approaches to industrial and regulatory policy analysis. One of his lasting contributions to research on industrial strategy was his authored 1982 book “Contestable Markets and the Theory of Industry Structure,” which ana- лyses and integrates prices and structure in economic markets without entry barriers. Wil- lig’s work has also examined the impacts of mergers, privatization, intel- ligence, political and economic disputes, and various forms of legal and administrative regulation in a wide range of industries. Willig’s interest in antitrust and regulation extended beyond academia. He was the deputy assistant attorney general for economic analysis in the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Depart- ment of Justice from 1987 to 1989 and has advised state, federal and international agencies on welfare-enhancing economic policy and the theory and policy of antitrust. Willig earned a bachelor’s degree at Harvard, Willig received his Ph.D. from Stanford. He worked in the economics group at Bell Labs before joining Princeton in 1978. Willig served for many years as the faculty chair of the International Affairs program and of the economics field in the Woodrow Wilson School. 

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United Way of Greater Mercer County Vice President for Resource Development Sandra Bouffard (right) joined University staff members Jessica Talarik (left), Erin Metro (center left), and Kristen Morgan (center right) from the Office of Community and Regional Affairs; Daniel Sherman (center right) from the Office of Finance and Treasury; and Jaclyn Immordino (right) from the Office of Human Resources, in recognizing the University’s total contribution of $142,692 to the United Way campaign.
Princeton Research Day highlights work from opera to plasma

Michael Hotchkiss

From campus to the concert hall, Princeton Research Day drew a wide range of formats — all designed with the general public in mind.

“It’s a wonderful cross-section of the research enterprise at Princeton,” said Pablo Debenedetti, dean for research, who co-organized the Day with the Class of 1950 Professor in Engineering and Applied Science and professor of chemical and biological engineering.

A taste of the day’s diversity of research:

• Senior Heather O’Donovan sang a piece from her English translation of the 19th-century comic opera “Les Noces de Jeannette.”

• Postdoctoral researcher Luca Comiso highlighted the character-istics of plasma, such as how milk spreads through hot coffee and the stuff of the universe itself.

• Graduate student DJ Rasmussen explained his efforts to make climate change projections accessible to people making long-term financial decisions.

On the first level of Frist, undergraduates, graduate students and postdocs circulated around poster presentations, admired art installations and watched digital presentations. The second and third floors were the site of 90-second and 10-minute presentations, poster displays and performances. Impromptu presentations and question-and-answer sessions could be heard around every corner.

Julia Peiperl, a junior in the Department of English who is pursuing certificates in theater and music, shared sketches and costume designs she created for a February performance of Sophocles’ tragedy “Elektra,” which was set in the 1950s.

“There are lots of people in the arts and humanities here, which is really cool, because I don’t think people realize how much research goes into costume design,” Peiperl said. “I really like being able to show off all of the research and thought that went into the costumes.”

Regardless of the type of research being conducted, postdoctoral researcher Grant Murphy said it is crucial to be able to convey it to the general public.

“Scientists are ambassadors to the general public,” said Murphy, who presented his work on creating proteins with senior Matthew Yolpe. “Science can be truly transformative and the more scientists are able to explain what they do, the better society will be able to understand and adopt new technologies and techniques.”

To help presenters be prepared to share their work with a broad audi-ence, a wide range of workshops and one-on-one assistance were available in the weeks leading up to the event.

“The workshops were designed to help undergraduates, graduate students and postdocs communicate their stories more effectively, to share their research in a way that others not only grasp it but appreciate it. That is harder to do than it might seem,” said John Weeren, director of the Princeton Writing Program, who led a session designing and delivering a captivating presentation.

In all, Princeton Research Day pre-sented an important opportunity for undergraduates, said Jill Dolan, dean of the college, the Annan Professor in English and professor of theater in the Lewis Center for the Arts.

“Princeton is one of the very few universities, really, in the world where undergraduate students are encouraged to do the kind of original research that every single undergradu-ate on this campus does,” she said. “So taking the opportunity at the end of the year to do a major public event in which students can present that work is groundbreaking.”

Alumni celebrate 100 years of Jewish life at Princeton

Michael Hotchkiss and Jamie Saxon

A century after small Friday night dinners marked the earliest expressions of Jewish life on campus, Princeton University alumni spanning eight decades returned to campus for a three-day conference, “L’Chaim! To Life: Celebrating 100 Years of Jewish Life at Princeton.”

Nearly 900 Princeton alumni and guests participated in the conference April 14-16, representing classes from 1949 to 2015 and hailing from more than 25 states and from nations includ-ing Canada and Israel.

Highlights included a conversation with President Christopher L. Eisgruber; a discussion with Presidents Emeriti William G. Bowen, professor of economics and public affairs emeritus, and Harold T. Shapiro, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, and professor of economics emeritus; and a reception and dinner with remarks by President Christopher L. Eisgruber; a discussion with Presidents Emeriti Richard W. Lee, president and university secretary, and Harold T. Shapiro, professor of economics and public affairs emeritus, and addressing the challenges faced by Jewish students on campus, the recent controversy over the legacy of Woodrow Wilson, concerns about anti-Semitism on campus, and whether students are insulating themselves from open dis-cussion of difficult topics.

Princeton today

At the Friday panel discussion “The Student Experience,” facilitator Jill Dolan, dean of the college, asked four undergraduates and a graduate student to describe the many aspects of Jewish life at Princeton.

The conversation ranged from the positive impact of pluralism on the Jewish community at Princeton to the welcoming environment and activities at the Center for Jewish Life to the larger intellectual and academic offer-ings through the Program in Judaic Studies.

When Dolan asked the panel, “How well do you feel you’re integrated into the mainstream of Princeton life outside of the diversity of the Jewish commu-nity?” senior Samuel Major shared an anecdote from his Outdoor Action (OA) trip during freshman orientation.

“I was nervous because I keep not only a strict kosher diet but also I’m gluten-free. I’m a disaster,” said Major, eliciting empathetic laughter from the audience. “Little did I know that my entire OA trip was not only gluten-free — because of me. That entire OA trip was not only kosher but gluten-free. I’m a disaster,” said Major, eliciting empathetic laughter from the audience. “Little did I know that my entire OA trip was not only gluten-free — because of me. That speaks to the extent to which Princeton bent over backwards to accommodate me and my Jewish identity and make sure I was comfortable, not only on campus but in the midst of the woods on the Appalachian Trail.”

Twins anniversaries

A lecture by astrophysicist David Spergel, a member of the Class of 1982, celebrated twin anniversaries: the 100th anniversary of organized Jewish life at Princeton and the 100th anniversary of Albert Einstein submit-ting his paper on general relativity.

“Looking at Jews and general relativity, you end up touching on many aspects of not just the Jewish experi-ence at Princeton but the development of key ideas in physics and many key world events, the First World War, the Second World War, nuclear weapons and various changes in our society,” said Spergel, the Charles A. Young Professor of Astronomy on the Class of 1897 Foundation, professor of astrophysical sciences and chair of the Department of Astrophysical Sciences.

Spergel highlighted the work of a range of Jewish astronomers and physi-cists associated with the University from the 1930s to today — including Ein-stein, who was never on the faculty but had an office on campus, faculty mem-bers Martin Schwarzschild and John Wheeler, and Jacob Bekenstein, who received his Ph.D. from Princeton.