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John Stossel ’69

ON THE COVER: Tigers in the wild. Illustration by Henry Payne ’84, who celebrates his 25th reunion this year.
Each year, Princetonians of every era come together—not only in the joyful festivities we call Reunions, but in a striking demonstration of shared purpose and commitment known as Annual Giving.

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Vintage celebrations:  
A closer look at the Old Guard

In the P-rade, no group of alumni gets more cheers per capita than the Old Guard. The men from Princeton’s pre-World War II classes become campus celebrities for those few hours on Reunions Saturday. But the jaunt down Elm Drive is just one part of an eventful weekend, according to Dottie Werner, who has organized Old Guard reunions since 2000.

The Old Guard luncheon has long been the main event for alumni whose classes have passed their 65th reunion. President Tilghman awards the Class of 1923 Cane to the oldest returning alumnus, and other University and Alumni Association leaders mingle with the alumni and their families.

Old Guard alumni also have the opportunity to dine together throughout the weekend and chat over cocktails in their reunion headquarters at Forbes College. Student volunteers help to provide a hospitable stay, making up the beds at Forbes.

Since 2000, Reunions attendance by the Old Guard has doubled, reaching a peak of 74 alumni and more than 100 family members and guests in 2008.

Werner, the Alumni Association’s coordinator for class affairs, stays in touch with Old Guard alumni throughout the year, sending birthday cards and checking in by phone. In her nearly three decades working at the University, 17 Princeton classes have enshrined Werner as an honorary classmate – a group that spans from 1922 to 1978. This May, in addition to attending the Old Guard events, she’ll celebrate the Class of 1954’s 55th. (Werner notes that she’s the “only gal” in the class.) Werner says that Reunions energizes her, and it seems to have the same effect on alumni in the Old Guard. She tells the story of centenarian and silver-cane winner Leonard Ernst ’25, who was so determined to watch the senior class dash across Poe Field a few years ago that he ignored an approaching thunderstorm. When the wind nearly blew away the Old Guard’s spectator tent, Werner finally convinced Ernst to take shelter and watch from inside a University van. “He laughed through it all,” she says.  

By B.T.

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New take on an old look

Reunions fashions have taken a traditional turn. After more than a decade of black beer jackets, this year's seniors returned to an ivory base, with a clean and simple design that includes a black chevron, a silhouetted tiger, the Princeton shield, and of course, the numerals “2009.”

The design, by Garrett Brown ’09, won a classwide vote, beating out a dozen other entries that ranged from a bold tiger print to a whimsical cartoon of Calvin and Hobbes on a bicycle.

Brown, who will attend Reunions for the first time this year, said he drew inspiration from archival photos of beer jackets on the Princeton Web site. He aimed to make a “sleek” update of the stencil-painted white denim designs of decades past.

Nancy Edwards ’09 and Maria Salciccioli ’09, chairwomen of the jacket committee, were happy to see their classmates supporting a fresh look. “Every class wants to do something different,” Salciccioli said.

If the white jackets continue, the Class of 2009 can stake its claim as a trendsetter. And if next year’s seniors go back to black, that’s fine too, in Salciccioli’s view. Then 2009 will stand out even more.

By B.T.
In its last major reunion before entering the Old Guard, the Class of 1944 has planned a salute to World War II veterans, with special emphasis on the 22 classmates who died while serving their country. Reunion chairman Herb Hobler worked to locate relatives of those 22 men, and eight will be represented by family members at a class memorial service Friday at Trinity Church. The reunion will honor all veterans in the class — nearly 90 percent served in the military — and in the P-rade, World War II-era Jeeps and the U.S. Army band Pershing’s Own will lead the ’44 contingent through campus. Based on early registration, the class expects a record turnout for a 65th reunion.

Class of 1949
The Class of 1949 celebrates “Three Score and Plenty More,” starting with a Thursday-night dinner at the historic Nassau Club with entertainment by the Tigertones. On Friday and Saturday nights at the reunion’s Forbes College headquarters, classmates and their guests will enjoy the toe-tapping rhythms of the Larry McKenna jazz band. Bob Abernethy ’49, former NBC correspondent and host for PBS’s Religion and Ethics Newsweekly, will present “Amazing Grace: Religion, Morality, and the American Experience” at 10:15 a.m. Friday at Betts Auditorium. The class will hold its memorial service Saturday at 10 a.m. in the University Chapel.
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Triangle Reunion Party
on stage after the show Friday!

Class of 1954
The Class of 1954 will celebrate its 55th reunion at Princeton Stadium,
an appropriate venue for a class that made headlines on the same site in
the glory days of Princeton football. Once again, classmates will be sporting
their famous happi coats. Special events include a memorial service in
the University Chapel; private tours of Morven and Drumthwacket; a
Thursday dinner at the Boathouse; and the first-ever reunion reception at the
new Lewis Library designed by Frank Gehry. Reunion music will include
Stan Rubin ’55’s Big Band Sounds, Dixieland, a Japanese drum band in
the P-rade, and the grand finale with Bob Milne, America’s premier ragtime
pianist.

Class of 1959
On Thursday, the Class of 1959 goes back to the classroom for a class-only
seminar in McCosh 50. President Tilghman, Dean of the Faculty David
Dobkin, Woodrow Wilson School
professor Aaron L. Friedman, and
physics professor William Bialek will
speak about the teaching of science at
Princeton. Friday’s schedule includes
the class memorial service at the Uni-
versity Chapel as well as a ceremony

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Class of 1964
The Class of 1964 begins its 45th reunion celebration with a two-day excursion to the Gettysburg battlefields with celebrated Civil War historian James McPherson, a Princeton professor emeritus and honorary ’64 classmate. On campus, at Holder Courtyard, the reunion theme is “1964 Ever-more,” and class entertainment will include John & Carm and the Princeton Footnotes Thursday evening; Parrotbeach and the Tigertones Friday evening; and Nik and the Nice Guys and the Tigerlilies Saturday evening. The West Windsor-Plainsboro South High School Marching Band will set ’64’s rhythm for the one and only P-rade. Other highlights include a Friday-morning viewing of the plans for the Christian Menn-designed pedestrian bridge over Washington Road, made possible by a generous gift from John Streicker.
can’t have a Magical Mystery Tour without magic, the class invites children of all ages to see the magicians performing in Dod Courtyard. This year marks the 15th anniversary of the Class of 1969 Community Service Fund. Its flagship program, Princeton Internships in Civic Service (PICS), reached an all-time high of 75 internships in the summer of 2008.

Class of 1969
The Class of 1969’s 40th will be a “Magical Mystery Tour” (the album was released about halfway through ’69’s time at Princeton), complete with the return of the Fab Four from Las Vegas Saturday night. In ’69’s reunions logo, the Walrus has morphed into a Tiger (and we all live in an orange submarine). The reunion committee is particularly excited to have honorary classmate Paul Muldoon and his renowned group Rackett playing a concert Thursday at 10 p.m. All on campus are invited. And since you can’t have a Magical Mystery Tour without magic, the class invites children of all ages to see the magicians performing in Dod Courtyard. This year marks the 15th anniversary of the Class of 1969 Community Service Fund. Its flagship program, Princeton Internships in Civic Service (PICS), reached an all-time high of 75 internships in the summer of 2008.

Class of 1974
“Rock Stars in Stripes” take center stage at the 35th reunion. The Class of 1974’s big weekend begins with dinner on Thursday night at Madison Hall in Rockefeller College. On Friday, classmates will enjoy dinner and a reception at the Boathouse, featuring entertainment by the Tigerlilies. After dinner, the East Coast Band will rock the Rocky courtyard. Saturday’s agenda includes the P-rade and a family dinner. The Roaring 20 will perform during the dinner on the Frist lawn. Saturday night’s party will feature the Fabulous Grease Band, with a special appearance by Old Nas-Soul. For its community-service project, the class is collecting new and “like-new” books, which will be donated to Anchor House, a nonprofit organization in Trenton that provides emergency shelter to runaway and abused children, from infants to young adults.

Class of 1979
The Class of 1979 challenges members to “Show Your Stripes” at the 30th reunion in Scully Courtyard. The celebration begins Thursday night with a class talent show for the entire family. On Friday, ’79 gathers for a class dinner on Frist’s south lawn, followed by the Singles Mingle party, organized with help from the major reunion classes from 1974 through 1994. Entertainment includes Dirty Little Secrets, featuring Bill Harwood ’79 and Terry Silverlight ’79, who will play cool jazz during the class cocktail party Friday and after the P-rade Saturday. “Disco golf carts” blasting music from the ’70s will accompany the class during the P-rade. Costumes will feature the class’s 25th-reunion blazer and straw hat along with new ’79 polo shirts, baseball caps, tiger-striped sunglasses, and rain ponchos (just in case). The class community-service initiative includes 1,979 hours of volunteer work prior to Reunions and work in the Forbes garden on Saturday morning before the P-rade.

Class of 1984
The Great Class of 1984 greets its 25th reunion with an invitation to walk the orange-and-black carpet, dodge the P-parazzi, and join in the Academy Award-themed gala “1984 Thanks the Academy.” The weekend
kicks off Thursday with 1984 Gives Back, a community-service event that matches members of the class with current undergraduates to help with renovations and construction at the River City School, a new, independent, community-based school in downtown Trenton. Friday’s agenda includes reconnecting at alumni-faculty forums and a class dinner at the Graduate College, followed by the Studio ’84 dance party at Whitman College. After the class leads the P-rade on Saturday, it will return to Whitman Courtyard for a gala dinner and party.

Class of 1989
The ’89ers are “Juggling It All and Having a Ball” as they return for their 20th reunion, a circus-themed celebration at Dodge-Osborn Courtyard in Wilson College. Entertainment at headquarters will include professional juggling performances, juggling workshops, face painting, ringmaster costumes, a moon-bouncer for kids, snow cones, popcorn, cotton candy, slushy drinks, and more. The class is collecting donations of food or gift cards for its community-service project. In the P-rade, the Class of 1989 will be marching with Trenton Central High School’s Invincible F5 Torncados band. The Princeton Footnotes will perform before Saturday dinner. The band Red Hot Rhythm will play under the big top Friday night, and Manhattan Rhythm Machine headlines Saturday night’s music.
The P-rade begins at 2:00 P.M. on Saturday with the ringing of the Nassau Hall bell. See the map for detail on staging areas for classes and spectator viewing sites.

**Reunion Headquarters**

- 70th/1939, 75th/1934 ..........Forbes College and all Old Guard
- 65th/1944..........................Forbes College
- 60th/1949..........................Forbes College
- 55th/1954..........................Princeton Stadium, Palmer Pavilion
- 50th/1959.........................Blair-Joline Courtyard
- 45th/1964..........................Holder Courtyard
- 40th/1969.........................Dod-Mc Cormick Courtyard
- 35th/1974.........................Cuyler-1903 Courtyard
- 30th/1979.........................Scully Courtyard
- 25th/1984.........................Whitman College Courtyards
- 20th/1989.........................Dodge-Osborn Courtyard
- 10th/1999.........................Foulke-Henry Courtyard
- 5th/2004.........................Pyne-1901 Courtyard
- APGA..............................Whig Hall Tent
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fast Club, an ’80s cover band. The class is hoping its 15th spirit will reach Baja, Mexico, where classmates are supporting Arial Homes, a nonprofit that offers volunteers the chance to help build sustainable and low-cost homes for people in impoverished areas.

Class of 1994
When the Class of 1994 was at Princeton, the synthesized pop, big hair, and flashy fashion of the ’80s gave way to the alternative rock, carefree hair, and laid-back clothing of the ’90s. The 15th-reunion theme, ”Smells Like Fifteen Spirit,” is a nod to the grunge music and lifestyle that many class members enjoyed as undergrads. (The reunion logo is a parody of the cover for Nirvana’s Nevermind.) Reuners will be wearing ripped jeans and flannel shirts, in true grunge style, but the musical entertainment will be a bit more upbeat and danceable. On Friday, Right On!, a show band with a full horn section, will provide the evening tunes, and on Saturday, the class will cut footloose with the Breakfast Club, an ’80s cover band. During the day on Friday, volunteers will get their hands dirty with Isles, a Trenton-based nonprofit, renovating a local historic textile mill into an environmentally friendly space for public-interest groups, youth activities, art studios, and other community endeavors. On Saturday morning, the class will hold a memorial service in Prospect Garden.

Class of 1999
The Class of 1999 gallops back for its 10th reunion, the “Tentucky Derby.” Inspired by the Run for the Roses, this derby aims to become a Princeton classic, full of the color, pageantry, and tradition that encompass both the Kentucky Derby and Princeton Reunions. In a nod to Kentucky Derby tradition, the class will don seersucker, Paul Band Friday, and rockin’ cover band the Rockets Saturday. Meals will include an old-fashioned Kentucky barbecue and a Derby infield cocktail hour. Nightly entertainment will include master spinner DJ Choomatic on Thursday, the soulful Charles St.

Class of 2004
This year, ’04 “Pleads the 5th” as it celebrates (and re-creates) four years of undergraduate mischief with a prison-break theme that includes a tiger mugshot logo and stylish orange-and-black jumpsuits. Three of the weekend’s bands feature ’04 classmates, the reunion committee reports, guaranteeing that the jailhouse will rock. As part of its probation, the Class of 2004 will build on the success of Arts Alive, its undergraduate post-9/11 service project. The class will team with CitySmiles, a nonprofit organization in Trenton, to collect art supplies for the group’s “Art All Night” event.
Graduate Alumni
The Association of Princeton Graduate Alumni’s theme, “Galileo’s Galactic Magic,” celebrates the International Year of Astronomy and the 400th anniversary of the Galileo telescope. Highlights include Thursday’s community-service project in which graduate alumni and their families and friends can help build houses for Martin House in Trenton. Friday features a welcome reception, co-sponsored by the APGA and the astrophysics department, at the APGA tent with a visit from President Tilghman. Following the reception, graduate alumni will make a private visit to Peyton Hall to view the night sky through a telescope.

Saturday is packed with exciting events, starting with a special panel discussion entitled “400 Years of Telescopes: From Galileo to the Search for Extrasolar Planets.” Following the panel is a gourmet lunch at the APGA tent complete with a giant moon-toss game, a galactic illusionist, and awesome giveaways. After lunch, Galileo himself will lead graduate alumni in the P-rade. After the end of the P-rade, graduate alumni will gather at the nearby Icahn Lab atrium for a reception to recognize retiring faculty members and celebrate the graduate students who received Tribute to Teaching awards. The reception will conclude with a performance by the Nassoons.

For its community-service project, APGA is again collecting eyeglasses in support of the Princeton-in-Asia Summer of Service program in an effort to provide access to corrective lenses for needy students in China’s most rural areas.

Have you ever stopped to think what goes on behind the scenes at Reunions? For starters...

- Dining Services crews set out more than 27,000 meals at major Reunion sites
- Maintenance crews set out more than 100 tents totaling over 183,000 square feet
- Carpenter crews set out 265 sections of band staging plus 800 sections of dance floor to make 34,080 square feet of wooden flooring
- Electrician crews set out 11 miles of tent wiring and heavy duty service cable
- Building Services crews set out more than 15,000 chairs and more than 1,100 round tables at more than 30 sites

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Margaret Moore Miller ’80
Assistant Vice President for Alumni Affairs and Director, Office of the Alumni Association

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n 1954, climber and chronicler James Ramsey Ullman '29 completed *The Age of Mountaineering*, a historical account of the world’s most famous climbs, including the recent ascent of Mount Everest by Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay. While Hillary’s quest to reach the world’s tallest peak captured international acclaim, few climbers were well-known at the time, and many majestic mountains remained “unclimbed,” as Ullman noted in his book.

Fifty-five years later, most of those mountaineering frontiers have been conquered, thanks to improved navigation technology, lighter equipment, and a rapidly expanding community of high-altitude climbers. A handful of intrepid Princeton alumni have joined that group, topping mountains such as Aconcagua in Argentina, the Vinson Massif in Antarctica, and Cho Oyu and Mount Everest in the Himalayas. Scores of other alumni reach summits around the world – from Kilimanjaro to Mount Princeton – and share their experiences and photos with classmates in PAW’s class notes.

Clif Maloney ’60, one of the most accomplished Princeton mountaineers, has reached five of the seven summits (the highest points on each continent). He started climbing in his undergraduate days, during a summer trip to the Alps, but more than three decades passed before he had the time and flexibility to return to serious treks. Including the time it takes to acclimatize, high-altitude climbs can take weeks.

Maloney’s most recent major climb was the Vinson Massif, where the summertime temperatures rarely top 30 degrees below zero. Despite the thin air and biting cold, Maloney’s group reached the summit with relatively few complications, spending just seven nights on the mountain. Based on the records available, Maloney believes he is the oldest American to top the Antarctic peak.

At home in New York, Maloney stays in shape by running – he’s a superstar in his age group at the ING New York City Marathon – and he has completed the urban climbing challenge of scaling the Empire State Building’s stairs in 15 minutes. But nothing compares with the feeling of topping a 20,000-foot mountain. “It’s an interesting way to see the world, with a purpose,” he says.

Lee Elman ’58, like Maloney, made several significant climbs after his 50th birthday, including Aconcagua (22,834 feet), Mount Kenya (17,058 feet), and more than a dozen summits in the American and Canadian Rockies. But the highlight of Elman’s career came in 1986, when he was part of a joint American-British expedition to Mount Everest that aimed to find the bodies of George Mallory and Andrew Irvine, two famous climbers who disappeared on the mountain in 1924.

The trip was unsuccessful – after reaching 22,500 feet, the party aborted its attempt due to severe weather and the threat of an avalanche – but Elman has fond memories of the experience. Climbers can experience a Zen-like cleansing, he says, but they also have to be cognizant of the dangers of their sport. “Your opposing player is the mountain, not a human being, and you have to respect it,” Elman says.

Laura Bakos Ellison ’90, an experienced climber and skier, has a deep understanding of the perils that mountaineers face. In 2000, she and three friends reached the sum-
mit of Cho Oyu (26,750 feet), on the border of Nepal and Tibet, and then skied down the mountain — a treacherous but thrilling journey. Since the climb, two of her three climbing mates from that trip have died in mountaineering accidents.

Ellison, the mother of two young children, has not made any significant climbs in the last few years, but she still feels an urge to return. Why are climbers so drawn to their sport? She laughs at the question and quips, “It’s certainly not just because it’s there,” contesting Mallory’s famous reason for going to Mount Everest. Climbing, Ellison says, is beautiful, satisfying, challenging, and spiritual. And no matter how breathtaking a picture may be, it can never approach the feeling of being there.

Chuck Demarest ’64 was just 9 years old when he got hooked on climbing, after a brief hike in the Rockies on a family trip. He returned to the American West during his undergraduate summers, taking jobs on farms and ranches and exploring the mountains. After graduation, he moved to Colorado permanently.

The peak of Demarest’s climbing life would come much later, in 1998, when he and a party of friends reached the top of Mount Everest. He was the 106th American to sit on that hallowed ground, and the first Princeton alumnus. “It was calm and fair and not too cold,” he told PAW a few months later. “I tuned off my oxygen, took some photos, and just drank it all in.”

Today, Demarest’s climbs are more laid back. He’ll leave home at 4 a.m. for some local mountain, climb to the top, take a nap, read a book, and begin heading back down when most hikers are on their way up.

Demarest’s company, Aragon Elastomers, makes polyurethane holds for climbing walls, and he has mostly positive impressions of the climbing boom. Climbers get into the sport for the right reasons, he says. They may have something to prove to themselves, but reaching a summit is not an act of conquest.

Says Demarest: “Climbing is, for me, an expression and verification of freedom.”  By B.T.
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Following greatness
Author Bob Smiley ’99 tracks Tiger Woods

Bob Smiley ’99 never liked Tiger Woods. Smiley, a golfer who grew up within an hour of Woods in southern California, resented Woods for his success and for making a game that requires immense skill and mental focus look easy. To boot, Woods was known for ignoring fans. Smiley rooted against him.

But in January 2008, Smiley began to rethink the golf superstar. At the time, Smiley, an out-of-work TV sitcom writer with a new baby and a toddler at home, was “desperate for some sort of work.” The only writing project he had had recently was a column for ESPN.com about following Woods for one day on the tour. After receiving good feedback from fans who enjoyed living vicariously through him, Smiley got the idea of shadowing Woods for every hole of an entire season and seeing what he could glean — about life, success, and golf — from being in close proximity to greatness.

“By the time I turned 30 years old, I started asking myself, ‘What is Tiger doing that I’m not doing,’ because clearly everything he touches turns to gold,” Smiley says.

HarperCollins liked his idea and gave him an advance to cover his travel expenses. Hundreds of holes later, the result was Follow the Roar: Tailing Tiger for All 604 Holes of His Most Spectacular Season (published last November), which covers Woods from January to June 2008, when a painful knee injury forced him off the tour after his remarkable come-from-behind victory in the U.S. Open. In a self-effacing and funny account that is part personal memoir, Smiley weaves in his adventures — buying tickets from scalpers at Augusta National Golf Club, sleeping on the couches of strangers to save money, and sneaking into the press tent at the U.S. Open.

Smiley played varsity golf at Princeton for one semester but left the team when he didn’t make the travel squad. An English major who earned a certificate in theater, he wrote for Triangle Club and was co-chairman of The Princeton Tiger magazine.

As Smiley witnessed Woods up close for months and saw him often fall behind in tournaments, flub his fair share of shots, and figure out how to hit around a tree or clear a sand trap, Smiley began to appreciate the determination of this world-class athlete. Woods is no robot, Smiley realized, and has to block out fans, the press, and other distractions to maintain his concentration.

Smiley never spoke with Woods for the book, but he is hoping to secure an interview to add as an introduction to the paperback edition, due out in August.

Through 604 holes, Woods never gave any indication that he recognized Smiley. “I thought, I’ve been within three feet of him 50 times,” Smiley says. “I kept waiting for him to look over and give me that look of ‘Hey, wait a minute, there’s that guy again.’ But it never happened. Tiger has a way of looking through people.”

By K.F.G.
Trivia

Gothic and classical
The 2009 Princetoniana Challenge
By Nora Odendahl ’85, on behalf of the Princetoniana Committee

Princeton is known for its many buildings in the collegiate gothic style, intended
to evoke England’s medieval universities, but the campus also contains some buildings
(including Nassau Hall) that refer to ancient Greek and Roman architecture. The
classical style also has a long association with institutions of higher learning. In fact, the
word “academy” can be traced back to Plato’s school for philosophy and its successors.

Use your P-rade walking shoes to explore the campus and answer these questions
about gothic and classical features at Princeton, stretching from the Graduate College to
the University Chapel.

Gothic style: Where can you find...
1. This tower, with medieval-style features that include a pointed archway, oriel window directly above the arch, turrets, and a crenellated roofline? (Shown in a circa 1903 postcard.)
2. A sundial that is a 20th-century replica of the 1551 original at Corpus Christi College, Oxford University?
3. A carved portrait of the architect who designed the building on which his face appears, as well as the sculptor’s own self-portrait?
4. This building with octagonal towers, spires, and stone tracery in the stained-glass windows?
5. A residential college that.revives the traditional collegiate gothic style – yet was designed by an alumnus of the Graduate School who was born in Greece and has written a book on classical architecture?
6. A tower containing the fifth-largest carillon in North America? (A carillon is a set of large bronze bells played on a keyboard; it evolved from the medieval bells that were rung to announce events.)

Classical style: Where can you find...
7. This building, the third constructed on campus, with classical pediments at the top and arched, Palladian-style windows?
8. A pair of buildings in the style of Ionic Greek temples, designed by the architect who was also responsible for the San Francisco Ferry Building?
9. An auditorium whose many rounded arches are in the Romanesque style?
10. This 1850 building, designed in the classically inspired Italianate style of the Victorian era? (Shown in a circa 1903 postcard.)
11. A white building that, with 58 columns along its façade, suggests a modern interpretation of the Parthenon?

Answers to the 2009 Princetoniana Challenge appear on page 23.

For more Princeton lore, visit the Princetoniana section of the Princeton University Web site at http://tigernet.princeton.edu/~ptoniana/index.asp.
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When the shoe fits

By Sue Repko '84

Sue Repko is an urban planner, writer, and co-moderator of the writing discussion group on TigerNet. She lives in central New Jersey with her husband, Ken Berger '79, and their two teenage sons. She’s working on a memoir about a shooting accident from her childhood.

After passing through 1879 Arch in my first P-rade in June of 1984, I paused at the top of the steps. The Prospect Street sea of black and orange seemed to roar and part. I sealed the moment into memory, then skipped down in my “Big Brother is Watching” beer jacket and let Princeton accept me all over again.

I didn’t always want to be a Tiger. Five years earlier, I’d never heard of the Ivy League. Kids from my small Catholic school in southeastern Pennsylvania didn’t go to colleges like Princeton. But with hard work, luck, financial aid, and coaches who believed in me, that’s where I ended up, and my universe expanded exponentially.

My high school basketball coach was the first to suggest Princeton. She contacted the Princeton coach, who came to a game and talked to me on the phone. Then my parents and I took a drive one gray Saturday to visit the campus and see the team in action.

As we got closer to Princeton, the houses got bigger, set back farther from the road, culminating in the largest one I’d ever seen – the governor’s mansion, although I didn’t know it at the time. We passed the seminary buildings and then arrived at the campus itself with its imposing gothic buildings holding all that history, knowledge, and, yes, power. Could I really go here?

My dad was a public high school teacher and a gunsmith; my mom was a homemaker. My grandparents had toiled in coal mines, steel mills, and factories, on railroads and farms. I was the third of six children, with two older sisters already attending private, Catholic colleges in Pennsylvania. Our mom had sat at the kitchen table late at night, filling out financial aid forms to make it possible.

I wrote a letter of thanks to those donors who had made it possible for me to be there. And then it was over.

It took years for me to settle into the idea of being a Princetonian, to make room in my psyche next to the experiences of my youth. My dad’s occasional ribbing – “She went to Princeton” – kept me honest. It’s hard to say Princeton without sounding elite. Don’t get me wrong: When I want to be heard by certain people, I pull Princeton out of my hat. But in much of my post-college life, it hasn’t mattered. It’s what you do that counts, whether it’s getting affordable housing built or teaching a girl how to make a layup.

Still, I’m proud to be one of those orange-and-black dots on a timeline that stretches back to 1746. Proud and goofy, in awe and a little bit in love. That’s why, this year, I’ll eagerly don a new jacket, lace up my hand-painted, tiger-striped Chuck Taylors, get weepy, and belt out every dot on a timeline that stretches back to 1746. Proud and goofy, in awe and a little bit in love. That’s why, this year, I’ll eagerly don a new jacket, lace up my hand-painted, tiger-striped Chuck Taylors, get weepy, and belt out every
1. **Blair Arch** is part of Blair Hall, given to Princeton on its 150th anniversary by John Insley Blair, a trustee and railroad magnate. DeWitt Clinton Blair, Class of 1896, donated funds for a later addition to the dormitory.

2. The **Mather Sun Dial** is in the courtyard between the University Chapel and McCosh Hall. A 1907 gift from Sir William Mather, it was intended to show the connection between Oxford and Princeton or, more broadly, between England and the United States.

3. Carved faces and figures, including waterspout gargoyles, were typical of the medieval cathedrals that inspired the **University Chapel**. Above the Chapel's main door are carved portraits of its architect, Ralph Adams Cram, wearing glasses, at the upper right, and of Clifford MacKinnon, who in 1991, at age 96, revealed that he had been the sculptor of the two portraits.

4. The photo shows a corner of the Graduate College's **Procter Hall**, another collegiate gothic masterpiece designed by Cram. This dining hall alludes to medieval refectories and the monastic life of scholars.

5. **Whitman College**, dedicated in 2007, was designed by Demetri Porphyrios '80. *Classical Architecture* (1998) is one of several books that he has published.

6. The Class of 1892 Bells are located in the **Cleveland Tower** at the Graduate College. With 67 bells, this carillon is North America’s fifth-largest traditional carillon. Each bell sounds a different note, and the largest bell weighs almost four tons.

7. Built in 1803, **Stanhope Hall** may have been designed in part by Benjamin Henry Latrobe, who also made alterations to the original Nassau Hall after a fire and who is best known as the architect of the U.S. Capitol. In keeping with classical principles of symmetry, Stanhope originally had a twin, called the Refectory and later Philosophical Hall, on the other side of Nassau Hall. Today Stanhope houses the Center for African American Studies.

8. **Whig and Clio halls**, facing the back of Nassau Hall, were built in 1893 in the style of Ionic Greek temples to replace an earlier pair of buildings in a similar classical style. The architect, Arthur Page Brown, is best known for the 1898 San Francisco Ferry Building.

9. The Romanesque-style **Alexander Hall** was designed by William Appleton Potter and dedicated in 1894. Potter was also the architect of Chancellor Green Library, Witherspoon Hall, and East Pyne.

10. The Italianate residence **Prospect** was designed by John Notman, one of the founders of the American Institute of Architects. Originally part of a separate estate, Prospect and its grounds were given to the University in 1878. For 90 years thereafter it served as the official residence of Princeton University presidents, including Woodrow Wilson, Class of 1879.

11. **Robertson Hall** was designed by Minoru Yamasaki and opened in 1966. It alludes to the architecture of our nation’s capital as well as that of the ancient classical era.
for John Stossel ’69, life just isn’t that simple. An inveterate contrarian, Stossel has urged readers of his books and viewers of his ABC News and 20/20 segments to resist popular notions on topics ranging from corporate greed to irradiated food and pesticides. Using common-sense arguments to challenge accepted wisdom, he explores some of the holes in the fabric of our belief system on issues of morality, capitalism, the media, and government. Stossel talked with PAW before Reunions 2009, where he will participate in an alumni-faculty forum titled “Wall Street, K Street, and the New Regulatory Era.”

You’ve built a reputation for challenging many of the ideas that we Americans take for granted. Where did this contrarian streak come from, and did your Princeton education plant any seeds?

Maybe, but I didn’t become contrarian until I’d worked 10 years as a consumer reporter and started to see how the government solutions I’d promoted eventually did more harm than good. Then I started to question everything, including what I’d learned at Princeton. From my professors in the ’60s, I was taught that the wise, educated elites in the academy and in Washington could plan our lives better than we stupid people could.

How would you label yourself — conservative, liberal, libertarian?

Libertarian, because the liberals want to use government force to dictate speech, to dictate private contracts, to force arrogant social engineering on people despite its record of harm. And the conservatives want to use government force to regulate people’s personal lives. And I want government to keep the peace and leave people alone, making me a liberal in the classic sense, but since today’s liberals have stolen the word, I’m left with libertarian.

What do you consider your niche in the media world?

Lonely contrarian.

In one case, you wrote that the problem with DDT wasn’t the pesticide but its overuse. Your analogy was: “We need water, for example, but six feet of it will kill us.” Do you think we Americans have lost our common sense?

Yes, in many ways. DDT is a good example. We are standing by while millions die in Africa because of foolish and scientifically discredited beliefs about DDT. We are hysterical about global warming, when there are far bigger problems. We, like little children, want to believe that government can “fix” the economy and protect us from pain. This isn’t common sense. This is wishful thinking.

News about investor scams, Ponzi schemes and corporate bonuses have refocused attention on one of your favorite topics: greed. Have any of your views changed?

No. Greed is a constant. Most people are greedy in some way. And the beauty of free markets is [that they] self-regulate. If your greed leads you to make stupid decisions or hurt your customers, you eventually go out of business. Greed is only a problem when you couple it with government force, and that’s what’s happened now, with government announcing some greedy people are too big to fail. They should be allowed to fail.

A lot of people might say that today’s problems are due to the failure of self-regulation in the markets. True?

This assumes that there was deregulation in America under Bush, and this is nonsense. Bush talked about deregulation, but he never did it. His administration added more rules to the Federal Register — some 70,000 pages per year — than any president prior. The current financial problems were pushed by Congress, which pushed banks to lend to people who had bad credit and which subsidized Fannie and Freddie and implied a government guarantee to their dumb loans.

Another of your popular subjects over the years has been the role of government, especially its limitations. What is your take on what Congress and the Obama administration are doing to try to restart the economy?

It’s a fatal conceit to think government can fix the economy and protect us from pain. A bubble has to pop. We have to let prices find a real floor. Again, I think this is an arrogant conceit that is going to make things worse.

What do you think is the proper role of government in the kind of situation the country is facing?

To have simple rules that everyone can understand, and to keep the peace. And free people will invent things, start new businesses, and create a situation that will start the economy growing again.

You’ll be back for Reunions. Do you plan to march in the P-rade with the Class of 1969?

Sure. I like to hang out with my friends.

— Interview conducted and condensed by Doug Hulette
Welcome Back Alumni!

Susan Gordon supports going ‘green’

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