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Jack Hittson historian@princeton71.org Mid-October, 2025

Dear 1971 Classmate:

# **OUR 55th YEAR...EVENTS UPCOMING!**

# Looking Ahead to Our 55th Reunion, May 21-24, 2026!

For well over a year now, our tireless Reunion Committee, led by Chair Jeff Hammond, has been developing an outstanding program so that you can enjoy connecting with Classmates and others, good food, great entertainment, interesting forums and other festivities. If you haven't already done so, we recommend that you now make travel and lodging reservations with good cancellation and change policies since destination Princeton is particularly popular at this time of year.

Registration for our 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion is projected to open in November 2025. Please keep an eye on our Princeton University Class of 1971 website, princeton71.org, and your email for more information now and in the weeks and months ahead.

#### Nashville October 8-12, 2025

By now, Classmates and guests are back home after rocking it in Nashville. On the Nashville itinerary were stops at The Hermitage and the Grand Old Opry. Like all the events that Geoff Smith and those working with him have organized, the Nashville gathering provided opportunities to make new friends, to reconnect with old friends and to just have a great time! Go to our Princeton University Class of 1971 home page and scroll down "In the News" for a full report. If you don't see the report right away, come back in a few days and have another look.

#### Fall, Football and More

If you are in the Princeton area on Saturday, October 25, 2025, please join us in Princeton Stadium for the "homecoming" football game with Harvard. We currently expect that, before the game, there will be, as in recent years past, a buffet luncheon at Fine Plaza right near the stadium. After the game, please join us for the annual Class of 1971 reception in Tiger Inn's Class of 1971 Library. If you plan to attend the reception and you can inform Reunions Chair Jeff Hammond at reunions@princeton71.org of that in advance, it will be of great help in planning food and beverage service. As for more than a quarter century, the cost of the reception is paid by the Class.

Other men's and women's fall sports are also under way now. For your favorite sports and teams, check goprincetontigers.com. If you're in the Princeton area or online at any time, please check the Princeton.edu website for more information on events that you might enjoy or find interesting. Or just "ramble round the campus."

## Service of Remembrance and Alumni Day February 21, 2026

This year, please join us Saturday, February 21 for the mid-afternoon Service of Remembrance when Classmates whose deaths we learned of in 2025 will be remembered. Also, in the morning, we can choose from keynote addresses by those receiving the James Madison Medal and the Woodrow Wilson Award and separate addresses on interesting topics by other speakers. Please also join us at the Class of '71 table(s) for the traditional Saturday lunch in Jadwin Gym at which there will be remarks by the winners of the Pyne Prize, the Jacobus Fellowship recipients and other speakers.

#### IN THE NEWS THIS PAST YEAR

### **Homecoming 2024**

Well, the game was lousy as Cornell dominated the Tigers at Homecoming on Saturday, November 2, but the pre-game tail-gate on Fine Plaza, next to Princeton Stadium, was fun. On a beautiful fall day, we joined members of the Class of 1970 for a morning tour of the new campus led by Ed Gwazda '70. As Ed framed it, given the construction boom, Princeton is now the "best NEW old place of all." Folks seen at the campus tour, pregame tailgate, post-game homecoming reception at Tiger Inn or elsewhere on campus included Ginger and Jamie Pitney, Fern and Mark Mazo and family, Diane Haines and Bill Armiger, Ken Hall, Doug Blair, Mike Twomey, Marj and Howard Zien, Tina Sung, Alan Curlee, David Chamberlain, Jeff Hammond and Ron Senchesak and his sister Barb. The Tiger Inn reception was buoyant as we were joined by some friends from '69 and '70, members of the men's rugby team and current undergraduates from Tiger Inn. One would hardly know that we had lost the game! Great fun.

# Service of Remembrance and Alumni Day February 2025

At the Alumni Day 2025 Service of Remembrance, the following nine Classmates were remembered: Montague Blundon, III, William J. Bostian, John A. Lawrie, Jr., David M. Martin, Elliott D. Moorman, Roger M. Poor, Jan M. Sloman, Mark H. Tallman and Hugh K. Wachter '68 h57 h71. Thank you again to Classmate Linda Blackburn who represented the Class this year and placed a carnation in the now traditional wreath which stands at the front of the Chapel during the Service.

The Class of 1971 had a nice turnout at the annual lunch in Jadwin. Eleven Classmates and four partners were in attendance or spotted during the day. Before and during lunch, alumni and company were treated to remarks by the 2025 Pyne Prize winners and the 2025 Jacobus Fellowship recipients, each of whom dazzled those assembled with their achievements and presentations. The two featured talks in the morning were given by Madison Award winner David Card \*83, a Nobel laurate economist who discussed the importance of political economics at Princeton, and Wilson Award winner Elena Kagan '81, a Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, who was interviewed by fellow constitutional scholar, President Christopher Eisgruber '83.

#### Our Off-Year 54th Reunion, May 22 – 25, 2025

Our 54<sup>th</sup> Reunion is in the books, and to quote superlative Reunions Chair Jeff Hammond, "if you missed it, you missed a good one." (Jeff admits his bias but maintains the truth of his assessment, with which this writer and all others in attendance concur.) We had good attendance, despite the weather, which was cold and drizzly. On the plus side, our wool 25<sup>th</sup> Reunion jackets came in handy and the weather cleared for the P-rade and fireworks.

We enjoyed a full three days, starting with a Thursday reception at Tiger Inn and finishing with a class reception and dinner at the Lewis Library Atrium. After the dinner, former University VP and Secretary Bob Durkee '69 regaled us with stories from Princeton University's history.

In between we sampled Alumni Faculty Forums, swayed to the music of the Tigerlilies at our Friday BBQ and prepped for the future at our Class-sponsored lecture by Jeff Hammond on disasters in America. To see Jeff's tips for home disaster preparation and his presentation, login to the Class website and scroll to the article on the 54<sup>th</sup> Reunion where you will find the link for the lecture. Much noticed in the P-rade for an off-year Reunion, we stepped lively behind a complement of Taiko drummers! As for all Class of 1971 Reunions, however, the best part of our 54<sup>th</sup> was catching up with old, and making new, friends, while wafting nostalgic and telling tall tales.

Attending our 54<sup>th</sup> Reunion were Classmates Bill Armiger, Jay Bagdis, Jim Beha, Linda Blackburn, Bob Boyle, Rande Brown, John Brower, Charles Bushong, David Chamberlain, Ed Chambliss, Barbara Croken, Paul Deibel, Maria DiFedele w71, Steve Dreyfuss, Paul Fitzgerald, Paul Flowerman, Jeff Hammond, Hillary Harmon '85 w71, Laird Hayes, Pat Hess w71, h71, Ellen Higgins, Jack Hittson, Ronnie Hittson h71, Hank Holoszyc, Vaughan Howard, Fred Lepore, Kirk Liddell, Art Lowenstein, Dave Lyon, Wayne Maxson, Mark Mazo, Sandy McAdoo, Bill McCarter, Melissa McGinnis w71, Randy Meadows, Bill Metzger, Paul Mickey, Kathy Molony, Steve Muther, Ray Ollwerther, Jonathan Perel, Doug Pike, Jamie Pitney, Stu Rickerson, Roger Saltman, David Schankler, Ron Senchesak, Porter Shimer, Rob Slocum, Randy Snow, Stuart Sovatsky, Tom Stubbs, Tina Sung, Alan Usas, Howard Zien and many spouses, partners and guests. Thank you also to Tina Sung who hosted Maria DiFedele w71 and Melissa McGinnis w71.

# Mini-Reunions and Gatherings Off-Campus

When Vice President Geoff Smith joined the Executive Committee on July 1, 2021, he brought with him the inspiration and energy for a number of Class Mini-Reunions and gatherings off-campus. Geoff, we all hail you with multiple locomotives and many thanks for your leadership, foresight, spirit and initiative for these activities. Thanks also to you and your planning partners for bringing about, over the past few years, so many of these very wonderful and enjoyable events.

#### Baja and the Sea of Cortez

There is a popular marketing slogan in Baja California, "No Bad Days," and that is exactly what 12 intrepid '71 Classmates experienced on a February 25 – March 6, 2025 tour of this remote and beautiful Mexican peninsula. Wildlife viewing and contact highlighted the trip including a misty morning in Scammons Lagoon where all of the group were able to rub the heads of several extraordinarily friendly 40-foot, 40-ton gray whales who chose to hang out for a while with us in our 25-foot panga boat. This year's Whalers included Linda and Tom Stubbs, Kathleen Newe and Paul Diebel, Marian and Terry Pflaumer, Julie and Geoff Smith, Ellen Higgins and John Brower, and Laura Rojas and Tom Connell.

# San Diego

For more than a quarter of a century, the Class of 1971 has held Southern California Mini Reunions organized by several local Classmates at various times during the year, in various formats and tied to various events. All have been successful in bringing together friends and deepening relationships and camaraderie among Classmates. The February 21–23, 2025 version was no exception, and we thank all who joined us.

As Classmates have been doing since 1997, a large number registered for the 2025 San Diego gathering. Classmate attendees were Mike Pepper, Rick Ostrow, Tom Stubbs, Jack McNab, Richard Neill, Paul Deibel, Michael Phelps, John Drummond, Geoff Smith, John Arigoni, Dan "KP" Kirkpatrick, Stu Rickerson, Bill Kuntz, Scott Alexander, Dennis Macaleer, Brian Langston, Doug Miller, Ellen Higgins, John Brower, David Mushen, Brad O'Brien, John Neale, Andy Kesler, Tom Sinclair and Mike Ladra who were joined by many spouses, partners and guests.

Thank you to the outstanding San Diego planning and hosting committee!

#### **Class Forums**

We are indeed gifted with extraordinary and insightful Classmates. A number of them have led Class Forums to expand our understanding and view of the world, and 2024-2025 was no exception. As Princetonians, we are never too old to learn.

Fixing What Ails Us: Healthcare Reform. This Class Forum, held March 20, 2025, addressed the timely topic with 41 attendees who tuned in to consider the future of healthcare in the US and how can we pay for it. Physician Classmates Jim Hart and John Langley and Tom McGuire, a health economist, were featured. The debate was especially robust on matters related to single payer systems and Medicare advantage plans. During the Forum Classmate Manuel del Valle Colón posted links to books and publications mentioned and relevant to the topic. You can view his notes at princeton71.org by scrolling down the "In The News" page to the link at the end of the next to last paragraph.

Africa: What Americans Need to Know and Why It's Important. In late 2024, 50 Classmates tuned in to hear the Africa perspectives of their Classmates Terry Pflaumer, Tom Hart and Rob Walbridge. Terry and Tom have served many years in the

Foreign Service in many parts of the world. Rob has lived in the Ivory Coast for over five decades and has had a career in education there. Their forum explored crucial issues confronting this vitally important continent which is little understood by Americans.

It's a Small World: Travel Tips and Tales. On October 10, 2024, those assembled heard from three of their Classmates with extensive travel experience who regaled us with stories of wanderlust and with helpful hints. Mike Decker has travelled to over 150 countries on his way to achieving his goal of visiting every country represented in the UN. Varel Freeman is not far behind on his country checklist having worked and visited across the globe for the World Bank and other economic ventures. Duncan Payne has traipsed across south and central Asia and numerous exotic locales with little more than a carry-on bag. A robust 75+ minute panel covered topics as diverse as laundry, insurance and even the occasional need to grease a palm. We enjoyed their stories and valuable advice on how to plan, pack, afford, stay out of trouble and enjoy one's next adventure.

Thank you and locomotives to the speakers for sharing experiences and perspectives on these topics with us. And also, a very hearty thank you and locomotives to Reunions Chair Jeff Hammond for, over the years, organizing these forums, recordings of which can be viewed by logging on to the Class website princeton 71.org under the Events heading at the top of the page.

#### ONGOING CLASS FUNCTIONS AND NOTABLE ACTIVITIES

#### Princeton University Class of 1971 Website and More

Our Class website, princeton71.org, expertly managed by our long-serving and seemingly indefatigable Tech Chair Alan Usas, is a valuable source of information about Classmates, past and future Class activities, and University happenings. More than that Alan is involved in one way or another with the substance, form and method of all Class communications, from the occasional old-fashioned mailing of items like this letter, to Linda Carroll's Class Notes, Mark Swanson's memorials, email blasts from a number of Class Executive Committee members, website information and materials, and much, much more. In addition, following each major campus or other Class event, photos and videos are assembled and posted in the website Photo Gallery linked to the website. Enjoy reliving these Class gatherings at any time! With this in mind and with the exception of this letter, the Class uses email exclusively to share news with Regular, Associate and Honorary Classmates. Accordingly, please keep your email address information current with either Alumni Records or Alan. Alan, we thank you for your energy, good humor, dedication and thoughtful contributions to our Class welfare!

# READ and SEE MORE at princeton 71.org.

#### **Finances**

This past year ended June 30, 2025, 238 Classmates contributed \$25,604 to the Class dues account. The average dues payment was \$107.58. These numbers are impressive. A Locomotive cheer to all who helped!

Class dues will remain at \$71 per Classmate. Your dues payments continue to pay for 1) the Class website, 2) mailings, 3) the Alumni Council annual Class assessment, 4) the fall football homecoming reception and 5) the off-year reunion lunch and cocktail hour. As explained in my October 2022 letter, following University guidance, and with these reunion and reception expenses in mind, annual dues donations are no longer considered tax-deductible. If you have any question, however, please consult your tax advisor.

The Class of 1971 continues to be fortunate that, in 2021, Howard Zien agreed to extend his ten years as our Treasurer at least until June 30, 2026. To quote Howard, serving as our Treasurer "has been a little bit of work and loads of fun. I have learned so many things and even more important, I have met so many of you, my Classmates!" Howard, thank you for your good spirit and your ongoing service to our Class and to Princeton!

#### **Class Notes**

Please keep sending your news to Class Secretary Linda Carroll. Linda reports that Classmates have steadily been providing content for our PAW Class Notes. Send your update to Linda via the enclosed card or by email to secretary@princeton71. org. In a more somber vein, please contact Mark Swanson, Class Memorialist, via email at memorialist@princeton71.org, if you have information on a deceased Classmate.

Thank you, Linda, for all you do to bring current news of Classmates to all of us. And thank you, Mark, for all you do to help us remember our departed Classmates. *FIND MORE about Class Notes and Memorials at princeton71.org* 

# The Class of 1971 Caring Committee, Memorials and Class Associates

The Class has formed a Caring Committee to provide individualized support to Class members who are affected by personal health conditions (be they physical, cognitive, or emotional), illness or death of a family member and who are desirous of support. We would like to establish a roster of Class volunteers willing to make personal visits or phone calls, so please volunteer by emailing caring@princeton71.org if you are able. The Class of 1971 Caring Committee is Mark Swanson, Ben Tousley, Jim Hart and Greg Winsky.

In October 2023, with Mark's leadership, we formalized our efforts to better communicate with Class Associates (widows, widowers and other next of kin) and to offer them the opportunity to become involved in the Class of '71 community. Family members of deceased Classmates receive a personal message of condolence and an invitation to the Alumni Day Service of Remembrance from Greg Winsky and Ben Tousley. They also receive an annual e-mail from Jim Hart. Our '71 volunteers will also personally greet and spend one-on-one time with Associates when they return to visit Princeton. We thank our hard-working Class Associates Committee members, Linda Blackburn, Tina Sung, Jim, Ben and Greg. *FIND MORE about Caring, Class Associates and In Memoriam at princeton71.org* 

# **Annual Giving**

Kathy Molony, Annual Giving Chair, reports that, for the July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025 year, the Class of 1971 contributed \$229,030 and achieved 47% participation which is a great showing for our 54th. Overall, University giving for the year was an impressive \$68,407,815 and participation was 43.9%. Thank you, Kathy!

# **Planned Giving**

Chair Bill Zwecker reports that the Class of 1971 now has 56 Classmates, spouses and widows who are members of the 1746 Society and have included Princeton in their estate planning. Of the 56, 11 are deceased. From those 11, 8 bequests, totaling \$527,519, have gone to unrestricted gifts to the Classics Department, the Library for the purchase of books, the Department of Engineering and various athletics programs. Of the Classmates who have made life income gifts, 8 are in the form of Annual Giving Legacy Gifts totaling \$1,010,000.

The total value of the Class of 1971 Planned Giving Fund was approximately \$7,139,287 as of September, 2025. Please contact Bill if you have any question about the 1746 Society. Thank you Bill!

# Save the WILD Life Fund (SWLF)

For many years the Save the WILD Life Fund (SWLF) has provided significant financial support and "nice to have extras" for Class of 1971 Reunions. This support is continuing for our 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion for which we thank Stu and SWLF. Most notably that support has brought us Rock & Roll Hall of Fame members Smokey Robinson, Darlene Love, Creedence Clearwater and Mike Love with his Beach Boys and helped to shape 1971's reputation as the place to be to see "Bands of Our College Times," all without increasing Classmate Reunions fees.

# **READ MORE** about SWLF at princeton71.org.

Since its inception in 1991, SWLF has been supported by many Classmates and led by its well-known Chair Stu Rickerson and a small group of trustees. We thank Stu for his Tiger spirit and creativity which have been so much a part of all our Reunions. We also thank the SWLF trustees.

The Class looks forward to continuing to collect your donations for SWLF primarily as part of our several forms of Class dues solicitations. Your donations are periodically turned over to Stu and his trustees to determine how, in collaboration with '71's Reunion Chair, they will be disbursed for Class Reunion expenses and thereby will reduce event registration fees. In this, our 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion year especially, please consider making a donation to SWLF. We know Stu and his trustees appreciate your donations.

University guidance advises that payments and donations provided to pay expenses of reunions, such as donations for SWLF, are not tax-deductible. If you have any question in this regard, however, please consult your tax advisor.

# Classmate Meetings, In Person or via Zoom, Anytime, Anywhere

Longtime Zooms: There continue to be two weekly Zoom sessions which typically have 15 to 30 participants and welcome all comers. One is currently Wednesday afternoons on the East Coast at 4:00 pm ET and the other is currently Monday evenings on the West Coast at 5:00 pm PT. Thanks to Zoom, you can join one or both without regard to your geographic location. Many thanks and Locomotives are due Art Lowenstein (East host) and Tim Tosta (West host) whom you should contact to join either one.

Classmate Meetings: In addition to the foregoing weekly Zoom sessions, at any time, if you need or desire to, get together with a group of your local Classmates or sign on to one of the many affinity group sessions that started up before and during our virtual 50th Reunion. And when you do, please send a picture of your group, with names of group members, in described order, to Class Secretary Linda Carroll at <a href="mailto:secretary@princeton71.org">secretary@princeton71.org</a> so it can be shared with the Class. To schedule a Zoom meeting with other Classmates, you can reserve a time on the Class Zoom account by contacting Technology Chair Alan Usas at zoom@princeton71.org.

# **Class Leadership**

If you have any thoughts about Class activities or other matters, please contact any of us on your current Class of 1971 Executive Committee (so called in our 1985 Constitution and our more recent Bylaws). I thank these dedicated volunteers, identified on the left side of the first page, for their service to our Class and to Princeton.

To conclude, and perhaps not knowing how and yours are faring in these still challenging times, it is my hope that at least some of what you may find in this letter may encourage you to continue and/or renew your connection to your Great Princeton University Class of 1971 and the people in it.

With appreciation,

Jamie Pitney President



# A few of our events!



Princeton Pre-Game Reception Cambridge 10-26-2024

San Diego Mini Reunion 2025



**Reunions 2025** 

Princeton Women '71



# More 2025 Reunions fun.....



Alan Usas, Jeff Hammond, Jill Brooks and Stu Rickerson

# Alumni Faculty Forum Panelist Mark Milley '80



# Friday Night Class Dinner in Fine Plaza





Fern Mazo, Tom Stubbs & Linda Stubbs