Dear Neighbors,

I hope you had a wonderful summer. For many of us, it provided an opportunity to refresh our energies and resume some of the activities we’ve had to forgo for the past two years. Whether you traveled, visited family and friends, or explored all that the Princeton area has to offer, I hope it was an enjoyable few months.

Here at the University, we spent much of the summer preparing for the arrival of our largest incoming undergraduate class in school history. Thanks to the steadfast support of alumni and friends, we were able to admit a larger number of talented young people from throughout society and the world. I cannot wait to see what they will do, and, thanks to initiatives such as Welcoming Week and the expansion of the TigerCard off-campus dining program, I am confident that the Class of 2026 will embrace the town along with the campus as their new home.

We are thrilled that, in addition to welcoming students to campus, we can now also welcome the community back to campus spaces and events. Nearly three years into the pandemic, after carefully evaluating campus conditions, we are once again able to allow visitors access to certain University buildings. We enthusiastically invite you to return to enjoy a performance at Richardson Auditorium, take in a public lecture, cheer on the Princeton Tiger student-athletes, or worship in the University Chapel. You can find the University’s current visitor policy, including vaccination and testing requirements, by visiting https://ehs.princeton.edu/VisitorPols.

I look forward to seeing you around campus, and extend best wishes for the autumn months ahead.

Sincerely,

Christopher L. Eisgruber
President

Community names building in honor of Laura Wooten, longest serving U.S. poll worker

The University has renamed a building for Laura Wooten, who was recognized as the longest-serving election poll worker in the United States, in honor of her outstanding service to the nation and to humanity. Wooten was a longtime resident of Princeton and worked in Campus Dining for more than 27 years. She died in March 2019 at the age of 98.

After the Board of Trustees approved the change, Marx Hall was renamed Laura Wooten Hall as of July 1. The building, located along Washington Road, houses the University Center for Human Values, academic offices, a department library and teaching spaces.

The trustees’ action followed the recommendation of the Council of the Princeton University Community (CPUC) Committee on Naming, which is made up of faculty, staff, graduate student, undergraduate and alumni representatives. The naming of Laura Wooten Hall is intended to honor her extraordinary contributions and emphasize the importance of civic engagement at all levels.

President Christopher L. Eisgruber said: “I am grateful to the Naming Committee for this inspiring recommendation, and I am delighted that Princeton will honor Laura Wooten for her extraordinary contributions to our nation and the democratic process. The addition of Laura Wooten’s name to the tapestry of our campus will recognize Princeton’s history, the breadth of our community, and the positive impact that one remarkable person can have through lifelong dedication to public service and civic values.”

Wooten volunteered at local, primary and general election polls in New Jersey for 79 years. Last summer, Gov. Phil Murphy signed “Laura Wooten’s Law,” citing her as the longest serving poll worker in the country. The legislation focuses on middle school curriculum guidelines to ensure that students study the values and principles underlying the American system of constitutional democracy, the function of government and the role of a citizen in a democratic society.

“Laura Wooten’s life is a study in civics,” Murphy said at the signing ceremony. “She set a tremendous legacy of service. Even more importantly, in her life, born in the segregated South, she persevered through sexism and racism, including right here in New Jersey. Her life stands as evidence that change in a democracy comes not from those who hold elective office, but through the work of ordinary citizens.”

Wooten was born in Goldsboro, North Carolina, on Dec. 19, 1920, the same year women’s right to vote was ratified in the U.S. She moved to Princeton as a young child at a time when the schools were segregated and began volunteering at election polls after graduating from high school in 1939. “Her status as the longest continuously serving poll worker in the nation is a rare and exceptional achievement, one that offers a powerful example of how ordinary citizens can perform extraordinary service to the nation,” wrote Associate Professor of History Beth Lew-Williams, chair of the CPUC Committee on Naming.

In a 2018 University interview, Wooten said: “Voting is your voice so if you don’t

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Students can ‘pay with points’ at local merchants in new program

Starting this fall, Princeton students can pay for meals and snacks at certain restaurants in town with the new Community TigerCard program.

Each semester, students on the University’s unlimited meal plan are issued 150 “dining points,” each worth one dollar, that they can spend on food and non-alcoholic drinks at campus dining locations and at participating restaurants off-campus.

The initial group of restaurants is Bent Spoon, Jammin’ Crepes, Proof Pizza, Say Cheese and Small World Coffee on Witherspoon Street. The University intends to add up to 10 more merchants by the end of 2022.

Any unused points from the fall semester roll over to the spring semester, but unused points at the end of the academic year will expire. To use points in town, students will swipe their University ID cards — aka TigerCards — when checking out at the restaurants. University faculty and staff who put money on their TigerCards may also use them in the program.

Mark your calendar

Annual Veterans Day observance
Nov. 11, 9 a.m.
University Chapel

Photo by Maddy Pryor, Office of Communications
Princeton’s Pre-read is a young alum’s book that started as a senior thesis

In the 2022 Pre-read, first-year students will see how their Princeton journeys can take them far beyond what they’ve imagined. “Every Day the River Changes,” traces Class of 2019 graduate Jordan Salama’s voyage along Colombia’s most important river and exemplifies the opportunities students have to pursue their passions at Princeton.

“Every Day the River Changes” was originally written as Salama’s senior thesis and later expanded into a book named a Kirkus Best Nonfiction Title of 2021. The travelogue was inspired by Salama’s international experiences while at Princeton, and connected his studies in Spanish, creative writing, environmental studies, journalism and Latin American studies.

The Class of 2026 read the book over the summer in preparation for discussing it with Salama and President Christopher L. Eisgruber during Orientation. Faculty and staff members are also encouraged to read and discuss each year’s Pre-read selection.

“I hope that Jordan’s story will inspire you to think imaginatively and creatively about what you do with your time at Princeton. The possibilities are almost limitless,” Eisgruber wrote to students in his foreword to the special Pre-read edition. “Jordan’s book will introduce you not only to the individuals, communities, and cultures that Jordan experienced but also to the kinds of opportunities that await you at Princeton.

“Every Day the River Changes” has been praised by the New York Times, Publishers Weekly and other media. Outside magazine said the book “impresses with its sweeping history, evocative descriptions and fascinating stories of people living along the river” and added the book is “a reminder that the best travel isn’t necessarily an epic adventure but a chance to hang out, getting to know new people — and yourself in the process.”

Salama said he is honored to have his book selected as the Pre-read.

“Jordan’s book is a fresh approach to the genre of travel writing,” Eisgruber said in his book foreword. “It invites us, as Jordan says, to join him not only in ‘a journey down a river’ but also in ‘an immersion into the lives of the ordinary people who find themselves alongside it’.”

Eisgruber began the Pre-read tradition in 2013, choosing a different book each year as a way of introducing first-year students to the intellectual life of the University. His selections range in topics—from supporting first-generation college students to living a meaningful life—and often examine important and timely issues, such as freedom of speech and systemic racism.

An American writer of Argentine, Syrian and Iraqi Jewish descent, Salama works as a journalist on assignments that have taken him all over the world. He is a resident writer for National Geographic and regularly produces essays and stories for The New York Times, Scientific American and other publications.

President Christopher L. Eisgruber (left) with author Jordan Salama ’19. Still from a video by Danielle Capparella, Office of Communications

Romus Broadway photo collages are on display in the Witherspoon-Jackson neighborhood

Princeton University Library (PUL) and Princeton Arts Council are stig the 13th annual photography exhibition celebrating the history of Princeton’s Witherspoon-Jackson neighborhood. Drawing from PUL’s Romus Broadway photography collection, the exhibition, curated by Jennifer Garcon, PUL’s Librarian for Modern and Contemporary Special Collections, features photographic collages that document Witherspoon-Jackson’s history. They will admit the neighborhood through May 2023.

The photos, which were acquired in fall 2021 by PUL’s Special Collections, were part of Romus Broadway’s work to document his beloved neighborhood. Born in Belle Mead in 1939, Broadway relocated to Princeton with his parents at the age of four. He graduated from Princeton High School, after which he lived in the Air Force and worked for American Airlines until 1965.

Electric vehicle fleet arriving on campus

In support of the University’s commitment to net-zero by 2046, TigerTransit, the University shuttle service, is transitioning from the existing diesel fleet to 17 battery-electric buses with zero tailpipe emissions from New Flyer. Currently being built to the University’s specifications, each 35-foot Xcelsior bus will have a seating capacity of 26 passengers and two wheelchairs, including one for people with reduced mobility.

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Though he sustained career-ending injuries when he was struck by an impaired driver while riding his motorcycle, Broadway earned an Honors degree at Princeton and later earned his master’s in Latin American studies from Boston College in Massachusetts and pursue his love for history and photography by researching his family history and chronicling the people and events in the Witherspoon-Jackson neighborhood.

For the last decade, the Arts Council has celebrated Broadway’s documentation at its annual Safe Streets event in August. After he died in 2020, Princeton University purchased the collection, which was then digitized under the guidance of Garcon.

The collection consists of approximately 90 photograph collage boards, 30,000 photographic negatives, 760 color slides, and several hundred loose photographic prints which document the history of the public community in the Witherspoon-Jackson neighborhood from the late 1950s through the early 2000s. University Archivist and Deputy Head of Special Collections Dan Linke believes that, “Given the interconnectedness between the Witherspoon-Jackson neighborhood and its many residents who worked for the University, it encompasses both town and gown like no other part of Princeton.”

Linke first met Broadway several years ago to review his photographic collection with him. “After his passing, the family reached out to both the University Library and the Historical Society of Princeton (HSP),” Linke said. “We agreed that it meant long-term preservation, and, while the collection held potential for both institutions, together we decided that Special Collections was better positioned to acquire it and undertake the work that it deserved, including preservation, digitization.”

This collage exhibition is an outgrowth of a five-year collaboration with HSP’s Arts Council, the Witherspoon-Jackson Historical and Cultural Society, and the Witherspoon-Jackson Neighborhood Association. To celebrate the launch of the public exhibit, Garcon gave the Jim Floyd Memorial Lecture about the Broadway Collection and post-custodial archiving and preservation. The lecture was part of the Joint Effort Safe Streets 2022 programming, which included nine days of tributes, education, sports and celebration in the Witherspoon-Jackson neighborhood starting in August.

The programming and the Romus Broadway collection offer an opportunity for people to better understand the community, especially as it undergoes rapid transformation amidst rezoning.

“Other things will change, something might be from the distant past to have value, but this collection documents something that will likely soon be gone,” Linke said. “This is the single greatest collection of photographs of the neighborhood, a special community not only within Princeton, but within New Jersey, with roots back to before the Revolution.”

The Romus Broadway photographic collection is currently undergoing processing with plans for full online exhibition as part of PUL’s digital repository.

Brandon Johnson, Princeton University Library
Modern immigrants’ children have climbed the economic ladder as quickly as the Ellis Island generation did

by Leah Boustan

The University is also developing a new, interactive digital campus map to replace maps currently on Princeton Mobile, allowing students to see how building expertise in a discipline like economics could help her produce the kind of policy-relevant work that legislators really need. Boustan declared Economics as her concentration at Princeton and started spending her free time in the computer lab of the Industrial Relations (IR) Section — a group widely known for training and supporting some of the most famous labor economists and empiricists in the field.

As Boustan hits the road to talk about her new book, she’s able to marvel at how things have come full circle. When Faber signed on as Boustan’s undergraduate senior thesis advisor, he was the director of the IR Section. Last year, Boustan herself was given the title, an honor she doesn’t take for granted. “The IR Section is a true intellectual community,” she said. “The faculty sit right beside the graduate students — almost like in a lab — and work closely together. And the research coming out of the Section is always connected to the real world, from minimum wage to unemployment to the immigration work that I have been doing.” Boustan says her research and her role as an economic historian give her hope for the future of immigration policy.

“Sometimes we feel so stuck. We feel polarized. Congress can’t pass legislation. On immigration, we’ve been at a stalemate for 50 years. But you look at history, and you see we’ve had wild change. It reminds me I’m living in one small moment in history. I think economic history helps us to envision the possibility of scope for change.”

— Delaney Parrish, Department of Economics
Graduate students join Princeton Fire Department, continuing a long tradition of community service

Princeton faculty member Syukuro “Suki” Manabe has been honored as one of America’s “Great Immigrants” by the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Every Fourth of July, Carnegie Corporation celebrates naturalized citizens who have enriched and strengthened the nation through their contributions and actions. This year, Carnegie honored 34 individuals from 32 countries and a wide range of backgrounds.

The Carnegie Corporation cited Manabe’s “groundbreaking work using mathematical models to predict climate change,” for which he won the 2021 Nobel Prize in Physics. His many other honors include the Blue Planet Prize, the Volvo Environment Prize, the Konrad Franklin Medal, the Crawford Prize and as member of America’s “Great Immigrants.”

In the 1960s, Manabe produced a series of studies that are widely attributed to launching the long-term study of climate change, with the help of leading climate researchers. Manabe’s work, carried out at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), is a joint endeavor by Princeton University and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Manabe was born in an isolated mountain hamlet of Japan, where his father worked as the village doctor. Equipped with a Ph.D. in mathematical physics, he came to the United States in 1958 to work as a research meteorologist for the U.S. Weather Bureau. That soon led to a founding position at the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory at Princeton University, where he spent 39 years before retiring as the department’s director.

Manabe's fundamental research in the field of climate science has been widely recognized. He has been honored with the American Meteorological Society’s Gold Medal, the Asahi Prize, the Benjamin Franklin Medal in Engineering, the Volvo Environment Prize, the Solar Prize, the Stockholm Environment Prize, and the Nobel Prize in Physics. He was also lead author of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's fourth and fifth assessment reports, which informed the 2015 United Nations climate agreement.

Laura Wooten

Laura Wooten has been recognized for her service by the New Jersey State Senate, municipality of Princeton and a number of organizations including the League of Women Voters of New Jersey; the National Association of Secretaries of State; the New Jersey chapter of the NAACP; and the National Newspaper Publishers Association, a trade association of more than 200 African-American-owned newspapers across the country.

Wooten was a Princeton University student for more than 27 years. Before that, she worked as a nurse's aide at Princeton Medical Center for 18 years and was a teaching assistant at Community Park School in Princeton.

She was well known among Princeton faculty, students and staff, engaging everyone in conversation as she checked meal cards at the entrance of the Princeton’s Faculty Club. Wooten was a campus legend as a custodian in Building Services. They knew her as the “door lady” for many years.

For the sixth year the Office of Community and Regional Affairs partnered with W.B. Mason to offer Princeton University employees the opportunity to purchase a backpack for the annual Princeton University School Supplies Drive to benefit economically disadvantaged Princeton school-aged children. W.B. Mason also donated binders, notebooks, pens, crayons and tissues. This year, Princeton University employees donated 187 backpacks. Pictured above are Kevin Gluck (W.B. Mason), Emmanuel Jimenez (W.B. Mason), Kristin Appelt (Princeton University), Cindy Sandoval (Princeton Human Services), Melissa Mercuro (Princeton University), Princeton Mayor Mark Frena, Kimberly Figueroa-Martinez (Princeton Human Services), Rhodaleyn Jones (Princeton Human Services), Brian Donis (Princeton Human Services), and Brandon Urias (Princeton Human Services).

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