The bequest enabled Princeton to establish the endowed professorship that honors William O. Baker ’39, who served 22 years on the University Board of Trustees and was the first elected Graduate School representative on the board. Baker, a Bell Labs scientist, actively promoted science and technology education. The professorship was the first step in creating the Department of Computer Science.

In appreciation of their friendship and Macfarland’s serendipitous suggestion, the University used a portion of Condit’s bequest to create the Class of 1932 Scholarship, in honor of both men.

## LOOK TO THE FUTURE—YOURS AND PRINCETON’S

**From Algorithms to Animal Herds, Endowed Chairs Power Scholarship**

Robert Sedgewick introduces students to the power and potential of computing. Simon Gikandi reexamines the influence that the historical events of the European world of the 16th century into the national and international level. —Simon Gikandi

Sedgewick, the founder of Princeton’s computer science department, has revamped “General Computer Science”—which enrolls more than 500 students each year. Sedgewick says, “Now I feel the course is more personal and student-driven because of the interaction.”

An early adopter of the online education platform Coursera, Sedgewick’s three massive open online courses, called MOOCs, have reached more than 1.1 million students globally since 2012.

Simon Gikandi holds the Robert Schirmer Professorship of English, established through the bequest of Robert Schirmer ’21.

Theories about globalization and the emerging modern world are often considered solely from a European standpoint, but Gikandi’s scholarship rejects that notion. He explores the global dimension of English and how it developed and evolved outside the British Empire, including the Caribbean.

By coordinating decision-making, sensing, and motion, a current project uses models of animal group dynamics to inform how to best direct mobile sensor networks to observe wildlife.

Leonard interweaves control theory, fluid mechanics, robotics, computer science, oceanography, and biology in her research. She was among the first to investigate the simple rules that enable individual agents—whether living organisms or robotic vehicles—to work together in groups and promote groundbreaking research. They draw attention on both the national and international level.

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**In my early work, I tried to understand how European categories such as literature and culture were transported and translated to the colonial world,” he says. “My more recent work sets out to establish alternative genealogies for the theories and practices of modernity. . . . In my work as a whole, I seek to establish historical and conceptual connections between the events taking place in, let’s say, Amsterdam in the 17th century and at Cape Coast, Ghana, at about the same time.”**

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**Researchers from different disciplines ask different kinds of questions about the same topics, and it is often listening to and responding to these that lead to innovative research,” Leonard says. “My work involves abstracting out from concrete problems to develop approaches and methodology for designs that are generalizable, so it is ripe for making connections between seemingly unconnected disciplines.”**

Leonard, who has collaborated on dance projects with the Lewis Center for the Arts faculty, teaches laboratory courses in Engineering and the Arts with four colleagues. In one assignment, students are challenged to compose a movement piece inspired in part by how animals coordinate in flocks and herds. The students use real-time feedback to create rules for how participants will react to light, sound, and one another’s movements.

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In 1983 the University was notified that Stephen Hobart Condit of Parsippany-Troy Hills had left some 50 acres of New Jersey real estate in an unrestricted bequest to Princeton.

Condit, a Lehigh University graduate, had contributed to Annual Giving in years past in memory of two alumni he believed were related to him. But this gift—which eventually amounted to more than $1 million when the property was sold—seemed out of the blue.

Then came a letter from Condit’s lifelong friend James Merrill Macfarland ’32, who revealed that Condit once had asked him for advice on handling his estate. Macfarland knew that his friend had wanted to attend Princeton and that Condit’s younger brother died in an accident before matriculating at the University. He proposed that Condit divide his estate among institutions that meant the most to him, including Princeton.

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**LOOK TO THE FUTURE—YOURS AND PRINCETON’S**

LIVING LEGACY

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**THE CASE OF THE MYSTERY BEQUEST**

How Friendship Helped Launch a Department

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**LIVING LEGACY**

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Members of the Princeton Juggling Club, from left, Alexander Xu ’19; graduate student Lugaj Stulfaran; John Van Orden III ’18; and Isabella Grabski ’18

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Endowed Professorships: An Enduring Tribute

The Case of the Mystery Bequest

A New Way to Balance Your Financial Priorities

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