

PRINCETON PIONEERS PAY IT FORWARD

W. Hodding Carter III '57 and Carol Obertubbesing '73 Reflect on the University's Place in Their Lives

STANDING UP FOR TRUTH AND JUSTICE

The “eureka” moment that set **W. Hodding Carter III '57** on course as a journalist and activist came as he walked out of a sophomore-year economics class.

“There’s a major connection between Greenville, Mississippi, and New Delhi,” Carter remembers thinking. His education, he realized, gave him a sense of his place in the world.

After several years in the military, Carter spent 17 years as a writer and manager for the *Delta Democrat-Times* in Greenville, where he spent a lot of time in the hot seat for his pro-civil rights editorials. He then shifted to government service for several years with the last eight months as President Jimmy Carter’s State Department spokesman during the Iran hostage crisis.

After Washington, he turned to broadcast journalism and racked up four Emmys and an Edward R. Murrow award. A stint promoting journalism and the arts at the Knight Foundation preceded teaching public policy at the University of North Carolina. The skills he needed for all these careers—to be an observer, critic, and commentator, Carter says—were honed in Princeton precepts wrestling ideas with faculty members’ “great minds.”

Carter has had the opportunity to watch his alma mater evolve during 15 years as a University trustee, and from the sidelines through one of his children, Catherine Carter Sullivan '80. In another pivotal moment, facing a sea of faces in McCosh 50 to give a talk after Sullivan graduated, Carter marveled at the transformation before him, from the homogeneity of his campus years to a diverse crowd representing “folks from all walks.”

“It’s been a long, hard process of change,” he says, “not a casual change for Princeton—and at the end of the

1746 Society members W. Hodding Carter III '57 and Carol Obertubbesing '73 both have made plans to support Princeton.



day that makes it all the more impressive. Princeton has gone from the outstanding college it was when I attended to a world-class university.”

PROMOTING EQUALITY AND ENGAGEMENT

Being a pioneer is not easy, but it galvanized one of Princeton’s first women undergraduates, **Carol Obertubbesing '73**, with a sense of purpose.

Professionally Obertubbesing has promoted outreach and education for public radio and television and been a communications and public relations consultant. Today she continues her nonprofit work as president of the Woodstock Folk Festival where she tries to build community through music. She also has welcomed Princeton newcomers to her adopted city, Chicago, as a mentor for Alumni Corps/Princeton Project 55 since 1993—“a window through which I get to see another Princeton,” Obertubbesing says.

It almost didn’t turn out that way. During freshman year she struggled academically, and socially found it difficult to make female friends since she was often

the only woman in her classes. She even considered transferring. But an English professor—Ann Wood, now Columbia University Professor Emerita Ann Douglas—changed all that.

Obertubbesing recalls going to Wood’s office and finding her engaged in a lively conversation with history Professor George Forgie. They invited her to join them. “They treated me as an equal. My opinion was important. It was the first time I felt I belonged.”

Her Princeton years, during the Vietnam conflict, were a time of national upheaval. Obertubbesing teamed up with her future husband, the late Michael Epstein '71, to support the Union for National Draft Opposition. This work, plus involvement in Princeton’s newly organized Women’s Center, became “a thread that goes through my life, the reason I got involved with serving Princeton alumni and the broader community.”

Because Princeton made an impact on their lives, Carter and Obertubbesing have committed to supporting Princeton now and in the future. You can, too.

THE LITERALLY GENEROUS DORIAN

Love of literature inspired a \$1 million bequest from Ira Dorian '37 and his wife, Lillian, to Firestone Library. Words mattered to them—for Ira, as a Cranford, New Jersey, lawyer and civil servant, and for Lillian, as a writer of humorous verse.

Their gift establishes the Lillian and Ira D. Dorian '37 Fund to purchase books and materials, stipulating that, whenever possible, these pertain to Armenian culture, a heritage the couple shared.

Retired from the Air Force Reserve as a lieutenant colonel after Army service in World War II, Ira returned to practice law before the New Jersey Supreme Court and in Cranford. One of his proudest accomplishments was helping establish Cranford’s public library.

Lillian, who was a sales promotion director for the ABC television network in New York City prior to their marriage, composed light-hearted poems that were published in numerous publications, including *Good Housekeeping* and the *Wall Street Journal*.

The Dorians often returned to campus for Reunions, accompanied by a tiger puppet that Ira waved at spectators along the route.



Lillian and Ira Dorian '37 at their engagement.



The Dorians at the 2010 P-rade.

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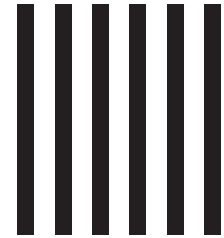
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Already a member of the 1746 Society? Thank you! But if you have designated Princeton as a beneficiary of your estate and haven't told us, please let us know so that we can welcome you as a 1746 Society member.

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A student presents research in "Emerging Micro and Nano-Engineered Technologies," a Richard L. Smith '70 Freshman Seminar.

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Cover: Admitted students visit campus in April for Princeton Preview to sample the University's academic, residential, and social offerings.



PRINCETON *generations*

SPRING 2017

Ideas and Strategies from the *Office of Gift Planning* at Princeton University

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The Office of Gift Planning is hosting two gatherings this spring. Department of Computer Science Chair and Gordon

Y. S. Wu Professor in Engineering Jennifer Rexford '91 will speak at the 1746 Society luncheon on **April 27**.

The **June 3** Reunions Seminar will feature estate planning expert William Zabel '58. We look forward to seeing you at these campus events!

To learn more, please call the *Office of Gift Planning* at [609.258.6318](tel:609.258.6318) or e-mail us at 1746soc@princeton.edu.