The "eureka" moment that set STANDING UP FOR TRUTH AND JUSTICE
W. Hodding Carter III ’57 and Carol Obertubbesing ’73 Reflect on the University’s Place in Their Lives

“IT’s been a long, hard process of change,” he says, “not graduated, Carter marveled at the transformation evolve during 15 years as a University trustee, and from Carter has had the opportunity to watch his alma mater precepts wrestling ideas with faculty members’ commentator, Carter says—were honed in Princeton the University of North Carolina. The skills he needed Knight Foundation preceded teaching public policy at After Washington, he turned to broadcast journalism and racked up four Emmys and an Edward R. Murrow Iran hostage crisis. He then shifted to government service for several years of his place in the world.

After several years in the military, Carter spent 37 years as a writer and manager for the Duke 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 those assignments—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 McCabe ‘57 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 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 newsmen to her adopted city, Chicago, as a mentor for Alumni Corps/Princeton Project 55 since 1995—“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 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 my alma mater.” After several years in the University, she served as a congressional aide and in the Clinton Administration. One of her 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. Lillian and her husband also accompanied by a tiger puppet that Ira waved at spectators along the route.

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 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.

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.

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Lillian and Ira Dorian ’37 at their engagement.

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IDEAS AND STRATEGIES FROM THE OFFICE OF GIFT PLANNING AT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

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 or e-mail us at 1746soc@princeton.edu.

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