



ON THE VINE

THE IVY CLUB NEWSLETTER

Spring 2014



Photography by Karin Belgrave



[above] Ivy gives Harvard a good fight on the Thames

Celebrating 135 Years!

Just under 265 Ivy Club members packed the dining rooms of the Princeton Club of New York on March 6 to celebrate Ivy's 135th anniversary. A merry time was enjoyed by all as members had the chance to connect with friends from across the strata of active Ivy membership. "We really had a ball," remarked Christine Miranda '08. "The turnout for this event was amazing." An outstanding 55 sections had representation at the event, ranging from the section of 1952 all the way up to the current undergraduate officers of the section of 2015.

"At Reunions I have a chance to connect with my section mates," shared Paul Caminti '89. "But this event created a great opportunity to connect with friends from sections above and below mine." Encouraging the attendance of members from all sections was a major motivator for hosting the event in New York. In recent years the Alumni Dinner at the

Club had become an event with almost exclusively undergrad and recent graduate attendance. More than a third of those in attendance at the March 6 dinner were from sections that graduated more than 15 years ago.

The characteristic draw of Ivy camaraderie was in full swing during the evening. "When I was at Princeton, Ivy provided a great source of community," stated Wyatt Rockefeller, Undergraduate President of the Section of '07. "This event again felt like a great point of connecting."

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Griffin Portrait to Adorn Great Hall

| *By Charles Lowrey '79*

Photography by James G.Cole



James Q. Griffin '55 is synonymous with The Ivy Club. While he would gruffly deny this fact, anyone who has been part of the Club over the past three decades would respectfully disagree. Jim has both tirelessly and steadfastly served as Chairman of the Ivy Club's Board of Governors for 32 years. While he has served in this post, 1,916 undergraduates have become members of the Ivy Club, a population which represents 66 percent of all living members. Rare is the recent grad that can't recall a friendly exchange with Jim about Princeton sports, news on the street, or just life in general. His humility, quiet intelligence, uncompromising commitment to morality and personal vivacity are so integral to his leadership style that these traits have woven their way into Ivy's institutional fabric.

During his three decades of service, Jim has led Ivy to overcome major hurdles and achieve great accomplishments. During even the most tumultuous of times, Ivy has remained on a path of strength. He

has seen the Club through the changes brought on by the differing agendas of different University presidents as well as the shifting demands of an ever changing student body. Among the greatest accomplishments of his tenure are the inclusion of women in 1991 and the major expansion of the Clubhouse.

In tribute to his complete dedication to Ivy and his unrelenting pursuit of the funds required to build the stunning expansion of the Clubhouse in 2010, the Board of Governors decided to name the Clubhouse expansion the "Griffin Wing." As the capstone to this naming, last year the Board gave the funds required to commission a portrait of Jim to hang in the Great Hall. Acclaimed portrait artist John Boyd Martin was commissioned to create the portrait.

Based out of Kansas City, Kansas, Mr. Martin's work can be found in a vast array of settings in more than 47 cities across the country. Mr. Martin is a graduate of the University of Kansas, School of Fine Arts, who began his career in advertising as an art director and illustrator, winning more than 150 local and national awards for his creativity and talent. In 1982 he turned his attention to portrait painting full time, taking his inspiration from the Impressionists with regards to discipline, perception and sensitivity. Some of his best known portrait commissions are Ross Perot, West Virginia Governor Bob Wise, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Richard Meyers, along with numerous corporate executives, institutional leaders, academic scholars and leading athletes. Jim's portrait was unveiled at the 135th Anniversary dinner in New York, to a standing ovation by the attendees of the sold-out event honoring Jim.

While Jim would say that he is just trying to carry on the ideals represented by the Club, we would disagree and say that we all try to live up to the ideals set forth by Jim Griffin. The Club is vastly better as a result of his efforts and we, as members of the Club, are better people because of his effort, intelligence and belief.



[above] Ivy gives Harvard a good fight on the Thames

Celebrating 135 Years!

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Strong attendance and the chance to mix over cocktails both before and after dinner created opportunities for networking and new introductions.

For many this was a time to reminisced about the glory days spent on campus and the life-long friends made. “This kind of event reminds you of the lasting friendships that you made,” commented Caminti ’89. “The people that I met through Ivy are now doing really exciting things all over the world.” For Morris Cheston from the section of ’59 this event brought back memories of the grand 100th anniversary celebration of Ivy lawn and reminded him “what a great place that Ivy is.”

Graduate House Chair Regan Kerney served as the evening’s Master of Ceremonies, frequently bringing chuckles from the crowd with his anecdotes about Ivy and life on Prospect Street. Over dessert, Ivy Governor Charlie Lowrey took to the podium to honor Jim Griffin ’55 and his countless contributions as Ivy’s long-standing Graduate Chairman. Lowrey unveiled a recently commission portrait of Jim which will be hung in the Great Hall to honor the depth of his imprint on Ivy. The membership was moved to a standing ovation in response to the presentation. “It was great to see Jim honored after so many years of dedication,” shared Rockefeller. Caminti further added “Jim has done an amazing job of retaining the Ivy spirit through all of these years.”

We thank all who could attend for joining us and apologize to those that wanted to attend but were unable to do so due to our capacity limitations. We will be looking for a larger venue next time!

Celebrating the New Women of Ivy Window

Join us during Reunions weekend for a reception to view the new Women of Ivy’s stained glass window in the Lower Library! Drop in when you can to toast this stunning new work of art and reconnect with your fellow alumna members. Significant others are welcome. *The window was not installed by the time this newsletter went to press, so you’ll need to come see it to catch a glimpse!*

Friday, May 30 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Lower Library at The Ivy Club

News from the Ivy 1879 Foundation

Full Year for Roundtable Program

| By Tyler Coulton '14

A toast for another successful year of The Ivy Club Roundtable (RT)! Each month, we had the pleasure of inviting especially interesting guests to gather over dinner and drinks with members in the upstairs Music Room. We are so pleased to have been able to host so many wonderful people:

- Our inaugural RT was an overdue talk with club manager extraordinaire Betty Rascher, who shared stories and advice over a memorable dinner in the Music Room.
- We next hosted Anshu Jain, Co-CEO of Deutsche Bank (and the father of two current members: Arjun Jain, section of 2014; Aranya Jain, section of 2015), for a question-and-answer session in the Great Hall that spanned everything from finance internships in New York to wildlife conservation in the Serengeti.
- Perennial RT favorite English Professor (and current Master of Rockefeller College) Jeff Nunokawa joined us in October for a discussion of his daily writing exercises, which have their own write-up in *New Yorker's* "Talk of the Town" (July 4, 2011).
- We were happy to welcome back two of our own — Isabel



[above] Left to right: Section of '82 members Bob Bennett, Jay Wallace and Rip Wilson

Wilkinson (section of 2008) and Danny O'Shea (section of 2007) — to hear their take on the changing landscape of journalism. Wilkinson serves as Editor of *New York Magazine's* "The Cut" (she was formerly fashion and art editor at *The Daily Beast*); Danny serves as Editorial Director of *HuffPost Live* among years of experience at *The Huffington Post*.

- Barbara Cassani joined us in late November for a discussion of her many professional milestones, as founder and CEO of a highly profitable, low-cost airline in England, to her instrumental role in London's winning bid for the 2012 Olympic games. Cassani is also the mother of a current member, Lauren Davis, section of 2015.

- On the day of December formals, we had the pleasure of welcoming Chris Dercon, current Director of the Tate Modern in London, who presented the Tate's ongoing renovations and engaged members in the library in lively conversation about the increasingly important role of museums today as centers of cultural and social life, all before we dressed for dinner.



[above] New Bob Bennett '82 Memorial window adorns the south facing window of the Great Hall

Photography by Charmaine Lee

- Like our first, our final RT was in every sense closer-to-home. Arun Goel, owner and proprietor of Varsity Liquors on Nassau Street, joined us in February for the Ivy Roundtable Wine Tasting, an ever-popular tradition in the Club.

My co-chair, Emily Eitches, and I could not be happier to have led Ivy's Roundtable, and we are confident to have left the group in able hands. Liz Lian and Tyler House, both section of 2015 members, held their first, of what will surely be many successful Roundtables, in early April with

Frank Bruni, former restaurant critic at the New York Times. We look forward to hearing great things.

Tyler Coulton and Emily Eitches
Roundtable Co-Chairs, 2013-2014

Emily Eitches is a senior in the Politics department from Los Angeles, CA; Tyler Coulton is a senior in the Department of Art & Archaeology from Bucks County, PA.



Lasting Tunes of a Great Ivy Member

| *By Dan Peck '89*

Ivy Club has always been blessed by attracting exceptional people to bicker to join its ranks. Among those who joined Ivy in the 1980s, perhaps none was as iconic as Mike (Sta-Puft) McCoy '89. Mike left us in December 2012; still in shock over his passing, members came together immediately to pay tribute to the man and his memory. Although Mike is remembered for many amazing traits, anyone who visited the Vine in the late eighties from breakfast until the wee hours will recall his incredible presence at the Club piano. 'Why incredible?' one might ask. It's impossible to convey the force of nature that was Mike's voice - the star of Triangle performances and Tigertone arch sings, Puft simply blew listeners away with his range, his power, and the joy he clearly took when performing for others. Mike's "Runaround

Sue" and "My Girl" solos were sought after at every performance, including Carnegie Hall, where he sang while at Princeton; his still-memorable "Burger Day" song, however, is what many in the Sections from '88-'91 will remember.

In tribute to Puft, a number of members donated the required funds to purchase a newly refurbished Model M Steinway piano to replace the foyer piano which, due to a cracked sound board, was beyond repair. The piano has been rededicated to his memory. A plaque has been placed on the piano's music stand for members to gain an appreciation of this signature Ivy member.

Mike exploited the Vine in the best sense of the word. His incredible pipes echoed during the day from the piano, and his opponents at the billiards table wailed in the evening. Late night (dinner to breakfast on many occasions), even the most focused bridge teams withered across from Puft, whose uncanny skills allowed him to lay down victorious hands before opponents had even calculated their points. A gifted athlete, he excelled at tennis and basketball as well. Most of all, though, Puft's winning grace, humility, and humor, attracted every single person who knew him. He was the ultimate Ivy man, and his memory is memorialized with love in his favorite place at our cherished institution.

Words of Goodbye



[above] Thatcher Foster '14

The class of 2014 is graduating. What makes us different than any other class that has preceded us? Probably nothing. We may have an Obama, an Icahn, or a Bezos in our mix but no one knows that yet. Myself and others have finally and brutally accepted that our career paths do not lie in the childhood fantasies of Hollywood or the NBA. Yet, there is optimism in this “rotation?” “section?” of ivy members. A large part of which is owed to the general education and schooling that we have received both through Princeton and more specifically Ivy. When I graduated High School, the big bad world seemed as sinister as a drunk Tiger Inn Viking, now I feel more prepared than every – a sentiment that is shared with my fellow club members. We have all valued and loved our time at Ivy from conversations with generals, to wine tastings with Arun “are you really an expert” at Varsity, and rip roaring conversations with the legendary Reagan. We are more confident, more personable and most importantly: more mature and complete people because of Ivy. It is sad that it must end, but the sadness shows that we all had a great and memorable time here at the ivy club – even if now, we have to adopt the feared slogan of “Alum.”

Stars to watch (Ivy members of 2014 off to exciting and unique challenges):

- Ben Taub, a photographer with experience in Syria and Turkey who plans to return to the region next year.
- Sus “the skipper” Shipton, teaching and educating in an array of subjects in Southeast Asia.
- Charles de Carvalho, enterprising and getting involved in the tech worlds of Madrid and London.
- Johanna Erikson, recently returned from a trip to Nepal, Johanna spent time heli-skiing in Austria, glacier climbing in Sweden and that is just the

start. She plans to visit every country in the world, and just may.

- Bernard LaGrange, international man of mystery and insightful and dedicated art curator and enthusiast. Bernie plans to work in a gallery with hopes of eventually starting his own.

I say, in the words of someone much wiser than myself: “Only rarely in life do you discover the GOOD in goodbye. That means you have found something special and it should be treasured, so when you leave it – make sure you don’t leave it forever.” – Beyonce Knowles aka Sasha Fierce.

In Betty we trust and always shall trust,
The class of 2014.

Introduction to the New Undergraduate President



My name is Nick Martin. I was elected Undergraduate President at the beginning of the semester, and I could not be more excited to lead the Ivy Club over the next year. I am a junior from New York City in the economics department. On campus, I play rugby, so, if I end up running the club into the ground, you’ll know the concussions have finally caught up with me.

As the year winds to a close, I continue to lean on Thatcher and the outgoing officer corps for guidance. I am worried to experience life without them around next year, but, fortunately, the Club has elected an amazing group of officers alongside me. On top of being diligent and perceptive, they are all very good friends of mine, and I am thrilled to live with them next year. They are: Andrew Mills (VP), Cliff Bersani (Treasurer), Katherine Kanehann (Bicker Chair), Chris Murphy (Social Chair), and Tobias Citron (House Manager).

Ivy remains the core of its members’ college experiences. A look around the Clubhouse will



reveal members studying in the Griffin Wing and the library, as well as relaxing in the billiards room or in front of the TV. The arrival of warm weather has kept the porch filled with outgoing seniors sunbathing away any lingering memories of their theses. Outside of the brick walls, the Club competes in intramural sporting events with, in some cases, unprecedented participation rates. Recent Leadership Program and Roundtable events have completely filled up, reflecting the members' eagerness to participate in these enriching programs.

Of course, the beautiful clubhouse would be nothing without the vibrant membership who fills it. In February, the club admitted 69 new members through spring bicker. Individually, they are driven and thoughtful, and, collectively, they contribute the diversity of interests and personalities that defines the Ivy Club.

I encourage you to come back and visit whenever you can. It's always fun to hear stories about years past, and it'll give you a chance to relive the glory days. I hope to see you around soon.

Sincerely,
Nick

2014-2015 OFFICERS

Undergraduate President – Nick Martin
Undergraduate Governor – Andrew Mills
Bicker Chair – Katherine Kanehann
House Chair – Tobis Citron
Treasurer – Cliff Bersani
Social Chair – Chris Murphy

2013-2014 OFFICERS

Undergraduate President – Thatcher Foster
Undergraduate Governor – Levi Malik
Bicker Chair – Alex Bayman
House Chair – Eve Levin
Treasurer – Tess O'Meara
Social Chair – Will Pinke

Highlight: Ivy Club 2014 Reunion Schedule

Friday, May 30, 2014—A cocktail reception for the women of Ivy will be held in the Lower Library from 5:30-7:30 p.m. All are invited to come view the new Women of Ivy stained glass window in the Lower Library. The Club will be open until midnight for the general membership. There will be no food service, but refreshments of beer and soda will be available.

Saturday, May 31, 2014—**Brunch for members and their guests will be served from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.** The cost is \$15 per person. Children under 10 years old are free.

Following the P-rade, food and beverages will be available from approximately 4-6p.m. Refreshments of beer and soda will continue through the evening. The Club closes at midnight.

Sunday, June 1, 2014—No events are scheduled at the Club on this day.

**The Board of Governors requests that members do not bring their own alcoholic beverages into the Clubhouse.*

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