



# ON THE VINE

THE IVY CLUB NEWSLETTER

Fall 2011

## Leading Lady: Caroline Shifke

By Gwen McNamara, Special Writer

Harry S. Truman said: Men make history, not the other way around. Well, at the Ivy Club it's now a woman's turn. Caroline Shifke '12 is serving as the Undergraduate President for the Ivy Club – the first woman to do so.

At a time when the Ivy Club is embarking on a new Leadership Program to demonstrate the strength of leadership and cultivate tomorrow's leaders, Caroline's time at the helm represents an important milestone for the Club and illustrates the benefits of the organization's focus on diverse and outstanding individuals.

"Becoming President has meant different things," said Caroline. "To me it's about taking on a leadership position at an organization I care deeply about. To others it has had a broader impact. Overall though it's exciting to be President in and of itself."

### The Next Step

Since becoming co-ed in the early 1990s, the Ivy Club has welcomed hundreds of women through its doors. Over time, several female members made in-rows as undergraduate officers, but never before as President.

Christine Williams '92 was among the first women to be a part of the Club.

"I rode crew and a huge number of male rowers belonged to the Ivy, so a group of female rowers and I bickered together," she said. "It was a great experience. We were treated ... like family."

She fondly remembers fitting in – like donning a tie to smoke cigars on cigar night. "Our



photography by James G. Cole

[above] Caroline Shifke '12

experience might not have been the norm, but we didn't rock the boat much," she said. "I really do have wonderful memories, cherished memories and am grateful for the experience."

The fact that the Ivy Club has elected its first woman president doesn't shock Ms. Williams.

"From a historic perspective it's exciting, but I'm not at all surprised," she said. "It's the next step for the Club. I liken it to Obama being elected – our country took that next step. It's good to see that a woman is now leading the Club."

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photography by James G.Cole

## Graduate President's Report



[above] James Q. Griffin '55

At last spring's Board meeting, we discussed the tendency of human institutions to revert to peer group norms. Those below average struggle to improve and those above the salt, either through deference or hubris, tend to drift to the center. A major responsibility of Ivy's Board is not to let the latter scenario happen at 43 Prospect Avenue. The best antidote is to constantly get better: better food and service, improved building, sound financial

health and maintaining an open and civil society filled with goodwill. The result is we continue to attract our fair share of the best the university has to offer. As the famous pitcher Satchel Paige once said "Don't look back, someone maybe catching up with you."

Our new wing is a gem in the Princeton commonwealth's crown. The new Ivy leadership series, developed in conjunction with Stanford's business school, is a first for the Club system, and is in keeping with our goal of developing the whole person outside the classroom. We aim to constantly improve upon the existing excellence.

James Q. Griffin '55  
 Graduate President, Board of Governors

## Thank you to our departing undergraduate officers. Best of luck in your future endeavors!

[below] Ivy Club Officers, 2010-2011

From left to right: Thomas Gasparini (House Manager), Scott Baxter (Social Chair), Kate Adamson (Undergraduate Governor), Betty Rascher (Steward), John Zacharias (Undergraduate President), Stephanie Evans (Bicker Chair), Spencer Zakarian (Treasurer)





## News from the Ivy 1879 Foundation

### Leadership Program Takes Form

**These are hard times in which  
a genius would wish to live.**

**Great necessities call forth great leaders.**

*-Abigail Adams in a 1790 letter to Thomas Jefferson*

Once again, our country and society globally demonstrate a great need for strong leaders. The exceptional aptitude of Princeton University students particularly in the undergraduate sections of our Ivy Club provides the potential to satisfy this need. In alignment with the attributes Ivy strives to uphold, a progressive Leadership Program has been evolving to encourage and develop among its members the personal growth and moral character demanded of strong leaders for worthy enterprises and causes. Developed in collaboration with Stanford University's Center for Leadership Development and Research, the Ivy Club Leadership Program allows student members to explore the meaning and underlying principles of leadership using real life examples through interaction with a dynamic collection of highly regarded world leaders and academics. In a casual setting, students are able to speak with these accomplished individuals, learning their secrets of success and hearing of their personal challenges. Contact with such successful leaders provides Ivy's undergraduates with a once-in-a-life-time learning opportunity and the ability to form their own leadership calculus that can guide them when they graduate into the real world.

*Attendance priority is given to our undergraduate membership. If space is available, graduate members may join the session. Please contact Molly Jones at [ivy.club.board@gmail.com](mailto:ivy.club.board@gmail.com) at least one week prior to the program you are interested in attending to learn if space is available. The schedule for 2012 sessions will be posted on the Ivy Club website [ivyclub.net](http://ivyclub.net) once the presentation dates are confirmed.*

### The schedule of Leadership Program presenters includes:

*Already delivered:* **Robert George**, Princeton University politics professor on character and ethics in leadership

*November 11:* **Charles Lowrey**, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, U.S. Businesses, Prudential Financial, Inc.

*November 18:* **Peter Pace**, Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Retired United States Marine Corps General

*December 2:* **Christine Todd Whitman**, former Director of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Governor of New Jersey

*December 9:* **John Fleming**, Princeton University English professor to discuss strong leadership in literature

### Speakers in 2012 will include:

**David Petraeus**, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency and Former Commander, International Security Assistance Force and the United States Forces Afghanistan

**Bill Ford**, Executive Chairman of the Ford Motor Company

**Ricardo Poma**, Founder of Poma University in El Salvador, prominent Latin American businessman

**Theodore Kattouf**, Chief Executive Officer of AMIDEAST and former Ambassador to Syria and to the United Arab Emirates

**Paul Miles**, Princeton University history professor to discuss great historical leadership figures

**Charles O'Reilly**, Director of the Center of Leadership Development and Research, Stanford University Graduate School of Business

## Member Close-Up: Ayenat Mersie



[above] Ayenat Mersie '12

**Section Year: 2012**  
**Country of Origin:**  
**Ethiopia**

### An Insider's View

Ayenat was just a young child when her family left Ethiopia in 1991, following the political upheaval of the time. Her father's subsequent career with the United Nations moved her and her three older sisters to numerous stops across the globe until they settled in northern Virginia.

An avid young reader, Ayenat sailed through high school and had her heart set on going to Columbia University. She was exhilarated at the prospect of going to school in New York City. Yet, after being accepted to Princeton, a spring visit to campus altered her plans for the future as she realized that Princeton was actually the perfect fit.

To date, Ayenat's Princeton experience has surpassed even her high expectations. She enjoyed a semester abroad in London her junior year and has been both challenged and greatly fulfilled by the Politics Department classes she has taken in pursuit of her Comparative Government major. She is also taking the required courses to receive a certificate in African Studies.

It wasn't until she was a sophomore at Princeton that Ayenat, working through an internship with the World Food Bank, finally had a chance to return to Ethiopia. It was a homecoming that she found both inspiring and heart wrenching. Her extended family greeted her with open arms, but, despite her fluency in Amharic, she distinctly felt that she was seen as an outsider, as an American.

Following her passion for international development, Ayenat is now applying for

Princeton fellowships in Asia and Latin America with a view towards working for a non-governmental organization or teaching abroad after graduation. After a few years in the field or working in D.C., Ayenat expects she will have focused her interests and will return to school to further her studies.

### Ivy Impact

In her first years at Princeton, Ayenat never considered joining a sorority within the Greek system, but as the time to consider an eating club approached, she realized a keen desire to belong to the unique community of the Ivy Club. She feels strongly that Ivy has provided the friendships and fellowship that she had so desired. "To me, the Ivy Club is just like having a family on campus." She has thoroughly enjoyed getting to know people outside her major that she probably wouldn't have crossed paths with otherwise. Dinner at Ivy is the experience Ayenat enjoys most. Leaving her phone and overstuffed book bag in the foyer, Ayenat finds her hour-long dinners to be a very welcomed, and needed, reprieve from the many stresses of her studies.

## Leading Lady: Caroline Shifke

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### Family Ties

The second of four children, Caroline grew up in Manhattan. Her parents met in law school at Tulane and then moved to New York City, where they have been ever since.

Growing up part of a big family within a big city only pulled Caroline closer to her family members, as they each provided great support for each other. She relayed a story of playing baseball when she was young – when it came time to split the girls to head to a softball team she didn't want to go. She wanted to stay and play baseball with the boys. Her parents stood by her and still do today, along with her siblings, which include her older brother Jonathan '10 (Ivy Club Undergraduate

## Campaign Update

| *By Charlie Lowrey '79*

The Ivy 1879 Foundation has continued to make progress on our \$8.5 million fundraising campaign which provided for construction of the Griffin Wing and other necessary clubhouse improvements. We currently have a \$1.6 million balance remaining on the bank loan and borrowed funds utilized to pay for construction. We are eager to repay these coffers to return Ivy to full financial stability. Please consider making a donation to the Ivy 1879 Foundation towards this project. We are sincerely grateful to those that have already graciously donated to this major improvement to life at Ivy.

We are also proud to share that an additional approximately \$160,000 has been designated to a restricted scholarship fund in honor of Priscilla Glickman '91. The Glickman family chose this designation to ensure that “other worthy Princeton students may have the enriched college experience which the Ivy Club provides, and which Priscilla so valued and loved.” Scholarships will be provided to undergraduate members demonstrating financial need to assist in covering the supplemental cost associated with Club membership.

Please consider the Ivy 1879 Foundation when you are making your year-end donations. Contributions can be made through our website at [ivyclub.net](http://ivyclub.net) or by contacting Molly Jones at [ivy.club.board@gmail.com](mailto:ivy.club.board@gmail.com) or 609-423-8136. Thank you!

President 2009-2010), a younger brother at Duke University and younger sister in high school.

This close-knit circle of support has helped Caroline shape her leadership style. Not a “top down” dictator, she strives to have personal relationships with each member at Ivy to gain their respect and support. Actively involved in most facets of Club life, she aims to motivate by example and create a collective spirit to inspire others.

### Looking Ahead

As president, Caroline is focused on ensuring that the Club secures another strong bicker class and that the process is a smooth, open discussion among current members. She and her officers want members to feel comfortable to stand up for their thoughts, even when theirs is a minority opinion. “The Club’s membership is an important part of what makes it such a remarkable institution,” she said. “I hope to do my part in keeping the Ivy the special, welcoming home that it is for so many by preserving our traditions and values.”

[below] Great Hall, Griffin Wing



## Undergraduate President's Report

photography by James G. Cole



[above] Caroline Shifke '12

The Ivy Club has experienced an exciting and action-packed, though relatively brief, 2011 academic year to date. Our semester commenced with a Fall Bicker that brought in seven new members, raising our numbers to approximately 140 undergraduate members.

As always, each new Ivy member brings something unique to the club. The group includes a professional figure skater, a rugby player, a dancer, a rower, a singer, a soccer player, someone from as far away as France, and another from as close as Lawrenceville. They've been embraced warmly by the existing membership, all of whom have been thrilled to share our club with these new friends.

As midterms approach, the Griffin Wing and New Library have been seeing even more traffic than usual. It is rare to walk into one of the beautiful spaces and not see a familiar face, studying diligently under one of our new Chinese lamps or reclined comfortably on a couch with a book. In addition to these more studious endeavors, members still most frequently come to the club as a location to escape the stressful confines of the classroom. One can find half of the membership outside, eating lunch or throwing around a football any time the sun looks like it will even consider shining. Indeed, one recent Sunday afternoon, our Community Service Chairs organized a trip to go apple picking. Afterwards, half of the apples were brought to a nearby shelter while the rest were shared amongst the club. If the clouds threaten our outdoor pursuits, the members turn to the new ping-pong table as an increasingly favorite pastime. Even those like me, who have no hand-eye coordination, enjoy merely watching this surprisingly entertaining spectator sport.

One of the most thrilling aspects of the current Ivy undergraduate experience is the pioneer Leadership Program introduced this year. With the incredible support and guidance of Ivy alumnus Jan Buck '67, the undergraduates have been establishing a program geared towards creating a better understanding of the elusive idea of leadership. The program consists of approximately 10 student-moderated sessions with world leaders, such as Christie Whitman, David Petraeus and, Ivy's own Ricardo Poma '68 and Bill Ford '79. Through these interactive sessions, the undergraduates will be able to engage the concept of leadership in a wide variety of manifestations in the attempt to create a nuanced working definition leadership. The undergraduates feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to both participate in and help create such a novel program.

The Leadership Program has highlighted one other favorite element of the Ivy Club experience. Through all of the graduate support and involvement, it is readily clear that membership in Ivy lasts far past undergraduate days. One of the things I love most about the Ivy Club is that it truly is a community to which you belong for your whole life. We are all so excited that homecoming is approaching, and look forward to the opportunity to meet even more graduate members of the Club. I hope to see you all in November!

Caroline Shifke '12  
Undergraduate President

### Undergraduate Officers (2011 – 2012)

*Caroline R. Shifke (President)*

*Brian T. Kusiak (Undergraduate Governor)*

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*Spencer K. Gaffney (Social Chair)*

*Lukasz Mosakowski (House Manager)*



## A bit of history: The “unwritten” rules of Princeton University from the early 1900’s

### COLLEGE CUSTOMS – 1919

The following customs are, of course, unwritten laws, but they have grown up with the history of “Old Nassau” and are a cherished part of her life. As a manifestation of Princeton spirit, they are respected by all Princeton men, and for that reason, anyone who enters into the life of Princeton for the first time will, of course, desire to observe them.

Until the third Saturday in May, the regulation headdress for Freshmen is a black skull cap. After that date straw hats may be worn.

Freshmen should not wear college colors in any form.

Only black shoes, socks and ties may be worn. Fancy vests of every description are not to be worn. These restrictions apply until Washington’s Birthday.

Freshmen should not smoke on the streets or campus.

Playing football or baseball on the campus is forbidden to Freshmen. This restriction does not apply to Brokaw Field.

Freshmen are not expected to walk on Prospect Avenue, McCosh Walk or the walk in front of Nassau Hall. This applies at all times including days of games.

Seniority of class determines the possession of the sidewalk. Therefore, Freshmen are expected to get off the walk for every class and members of the faculty.

Freshmen are not permitted to walk between the large elm and fence to the left (on entering) of the chapel.

Unless accompanied by visitors, Freshmen should not occupy seats in the grandstand at the University Field.

Freshmen are always expected to carry wood for the bonfire celebration of important athletic victories.

Freshmen are not allowed to wear white flannels, knickerbockers, mackinaws or short sheepskins.

After the 9 o’clock bell has been rung in the evening, Freshmen are expected to remain in their rooms. This restriction extends only to Washington’s Birthday.

Freshmen are not allowed to ride bicycles.

Playing marbles is a privilege of Juniors only.

Freshmen are not allowed to go to chapel or class without a coat.

The spinning of tops is the privilege of Seniors only.

The “Horseshoe” seats in Alexander Hall are reserved for Seniors. All Sophomores and Freshmen must sit in the gallery.

Only Seniors have the privilege of sitting around the sun dial.

## Yale Football Game Schedule

Saturday, November 12

Kick-off at 12 p.m.

Parking on Club grounds will be limited to Ivy Club members only. Please enter through the Prospect Avenue driveway as Ivy Lane will be closed.

Due the early start of the game, Brunch will be served from 10:30 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. for members and their guests. At noon the Clubhouse and terrace will be closed, and will re-open after the game. A complimentary buffet, as well as soft drinks and beer, will be provided until 6:30 p.m., at which time the Club will close for the evening. It is expected that members making use of the Club’s facilities will be in good standing with respect to annual graduate dues.

While members are welcome to bring alcoholic beverages to traditional tailgate functions, the Board of Governors requests that alcoholic beverages not be brought into the Clubhouse. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



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**Staff**

Steward  
 Betty Rascher  
 ivybetty@princeton.edu  
 (609) 924-2236

*Communications and Fundraising Support*

Molly Jones  
 ivy.club.board@gmail.com  
 (609) 423-8136

# Paying Your Dues or Making a Donation

If you'd like to pay your graduate member dues or make an Ivy 1879 Foundation tax deductible donation, you can utilize the Club's website at [theivyclub.net](http://theivyclub.net) or contact us at (609) 924-2236. Thank you for your support!

