



# ON THE VINE

THE IVY CLUB NEWSLETTER

Spring 2016

## Ivy Makes Shift to Multi-Club Bicker

By Eliza Mott '16, Undergraduate President, and Michael Moorin '16, Bicker Chair



[above] Ivy Club Membership, May 2015

Last fall, Ivy’s officer corps began discussing whether the club should switch its membership application process from single to multi-club Bicker, whereby interested undergrads (a.k.a. bickerees) are allowed to simultaneously bicker two clubs. By late November, the officers had reached a consensus that switching would increase Ivy’s access to quality bickerees, who otherwise would not attempt membership at Ivy because they wanted to bicker more than one club. The officers felt that adapting our system to multi-club Bicker would not be a radical change, but, in fact, would bring us closer in line with Ivy’s former Bicker process. Prior to the recent past, sophomores could bicker as many clubs as they wanted. By allowing interested sophomores to bicker other clubs in addition to Ivy, the process more closely resembles that earlier system.

Ivy’s officers approached the membership in early December with a proposal to make the shift. After a club-wide meeting and vote, the membership ultimately expressed strong approval for participating in the multi-club Bicker process. Thanks to

cooperation and swift accommodation from the Inter-Club Council, Ivy was able to implement multi-club Bicker this spring, joining every other Bicker club except Tower.

Transitioning to multi-club Bicker with only a month and a half to go before the start of the process was not easy. Throughout the month of January, the officers spent a lot of time deciding how to alter the system in order to accommodate so many more bickerees, many of whom could not be assumed to be “set” on wanting to be in Ivy. During this process, a primary consideration was how to keep the well-known system of in-depth interviews

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## A Message from Graduate President, Charles Lowrey '79

Photography by David Kelly Crow



Over my last six months at the helm of Ivy, I have come to realize that the Ivy Club is a place of continual movement. Just as a new section of members is getting settled, another is graduating. New friendships are formed, while others disappear upon graduation of the

senior class. As the Board of Governors tries to decide how we can best support this fluid motion, as well as some of the more mundane workings of the Club, we've decided to create a number of new Board committees to focus on certain important issues.

Our bylaws and constitution need to be revised and updated. Governors George Frelinghuysen '73, John MacMurray '61, Corbin Miller '71, and Alison Bridges '96 have volunteered for the Governance Committee. They are reviewing the documents to assure that they reflect a sustainable and healthy outline for Club governance.

A House Committee consisting of Regan Kerney '68, Caroline Shifke '12, and Corbin Miller '71 has also been constituted to support the undergraduates with the new multi-club Bicker process and the daily guidelines for Club behavior, as defined in the House Rules. These three Governors have been meeting with the student officers to understand both undergraduate members' needs and necessary Club requirements. This committee will closely coordinate with the Governance Committee to ensure proper alignment of the different documents.

As you might imagine, the needs for renovation and improvement of our Clubhouse are constant and continual, notwithstanding the work that was completed during the building of the Griffin Wing. A Building Committee including Ivy member architects George Knight '89 and

Ryan Salvatore '02, along with Corbin Miller '71, is working with the selected architectural firm to develop a prioritized list of maintenance repairs and upgrades for the building.

Finally, we have also reconstituted a Nominating Committee to consider new members for the Board of Governors. With many of our Board members having tenures of multiple decades, we need to combine both the experience of these long-standing members with the integration of new members. Marco Tablada '93, Dominic Moross '90, and John Zacharias '11 have volunteered to undertake the critical actions of reviewing the Board structure, Board tenure, and the nominating process.

We are reminded of the importance of the institutional memory represented by the Board of Governors, as we discussed the potential shift back to a multi-club Bicker process. As graduate members, we can help serve the undergraduate officers and membership, by reminding them of the challenges and successes encountered in the past. A hopeful bi-product of these four committees is the greater involvement of a committed and talented Board of Governors, which will produce a strengthened bond with undergraduate members and a stronger and even more vibrant Ivy Club.



Photography by Andrew Wilkinson



## Ivy Makes Shift to Multi-Club Bicker

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largely intact, while making a few new non-essential but beneficial improvements. In order to get the membership's perspective on the changes being considered and to gather alternative suggestions, the club held another town hall meeting in the library. Ultimately, it was decided that we would keep the 10-interview system, while modifying the rating system to require more particularity from reviewing members and to allow for greater differentiation between bickerees. Instead of choosing between the three options of "up," "neutral," or "down"—as was the system the prior year, members chose between "strong up," "up," "neutral," "weak down," or "down," thus providing a wider range of assessments.

The outcome of this year's Bicker process indicates our switch to multi-club Bicker was highly successful. The number of spring bickerees increased 51%, from 102 in 2015 to 154 in 2016. Despite this massive increase in volume, exceptional dedication from our membership ensured each bickeree was given 10 substantial interviews. Of this pool, 68 sophomores and one junior were admitted. This made Ivy the most selective club this year, with a 45% acceptance rate. Many new members have expressed their gratitude for the switch, saying without it, they would not have bickered Ivy. This is evidence that we are now attracting many amazing new members we would have missed with our prior process. Furthermore, our new members exhibit an unprecedented level of extracurricular diversity.

While results were positive, the officers and membership maintain that there is much room for reform in Ivy's Bicker process. Overall, the officers and membership were delighted with the results from our switch to multi-club Bicker, and the ease with which it was implemented. It is expected Ivy will continue to participate in multi-club Bicker in the future and will continue the legacy of bringing on excellent new members.

## Clubhouse Receives Notable Improvements



[above] The Green Room has received a handsome makeover and is now more functional for member use.

The following renovations to the Clubhouse were recently completed:

1. A new oak front door that retains the window and ivy leaf carving from the original, and replacement of the threshold and door closer hardware.
2. Repair of damaged plaster and repainting of the Green Room, along with new carpet and leather chairs, as well as, improved lighting and the addition of electrical outlets to facilitate laptop charging.
3. Replacement of the old flagpoles on the façade.
4. Restoration of decorative plasterwork in the Dining Room, and repainting of the entire Dining Room ceiling.
5. Upgrades to the Wi-Fi infrastructure that is provided by the University to all clubs and permits access to the University's network for students studying in the Club. Further permanent upgrades to the system will be undertaken during the summer of 2016.
6. Repair of exterior brick walls, tuck-pointing, and restoration of stonework on the building's portico.

## News from the Ivy 1879 Foundation

### Autumn Push for Griffin Fund

This fall, we will be initiating a formal campaign to raise funds for the James Q. Griffin Fund. The Griffin Fund is an on-going endowment that will provide for capital improvements to Ivy's educational spaces, as well as, funding for programs. The Fund received some initial contributions at year-end, and we are hopeful for a showing of strong support from the full membership when we launch the campaign.

The Griffin Fund reaches beyond serving as a tribute to Jim's legacy, in that we hope it will support the values that he spent decades infusing

into Ivy and in each of us. His vision was to make Ivy "more than just a place for eating meals." He wanted the "Ivy experience" to be a unique Prospect Street opportunity that augmented a Princeton education by developing the whole individual. From participating in the Leadership Series of lectures to attendance of New York Global Conferences, these member experiences would not have been possible without Jim's commitment to this mission and will only be secured for future sections with your generous support.

You will be hearing from us this fall, so please contemplate including the Griffin Fund among your philanthropic priorities for 2016.



Photography by David Kelly Crow

[above] Educational Programs, such as this Leadership presentation by Secretary James A. Baker '52, will be ensured for future generations through support of the Griffin Fund

## Meet the New Cabinet of Undergraduate Officers



**Mina Para**  
President

Hometown: Portland, ME  
Major: Economics

A first generation Princetonian, Mina comes from a long-line of pizza makers, as he grew up tossing dough in the restaurant his parents bought the year he was born.



**Gonzalo Mocerrea**  
Vice President

Hometown: Locust Valley, NY  
Major: Politics and Philosophy

While his attempt to walk on to the tennis team failed, Gonzalo still loves to play tennis, as well as soccer, squash, and intramural hockey.



**Lauren Berger**  
Social Chair

Hometown: Hammonton, NJ  
Major: Neuroscience

Hailing from the blueberry capital of the world, Lauren, in fact, comes from a family of blueberry farmers!



**Antigone (Tiggy) Valen**  
Treasurer

Hometown: San Francisco, CA/  
Paris, France  
Major: Operations Research and  
Financial Engineering

On campus, Tiggy is primarily involved in Business Today, where she is overseeing the inaugural Women in Business Conference and is serving as Director of Corporate Contacts and Finance.



**Natalia Perina**  
Bicker Chair

Hometown: Washington, D.C.  
Major: Computer Science

Having just joined Ivy during fall Bicker, Natalia is looking forward to her new role and seeing if technology can help to make a more efficient and better Bicker system.



**Ray Mennin**  
House Chair

Hometown: Bethlehem, CT  
Major: Politics

A sprinter on the track team, Ray brought Princeton fame as this year's Ivy League champion in the 400-meter sprint.

## Message from Undergraduate President, Mina Para '17



Dearest Graduate Members,  
Salutations! My name is Mina Para, and I was elected Undergraduate President in February. I have thoroughly enjoyed my new role in the Club thus far, and I am excited for the next year ahead leading the Ivy Club. When I am not keeping busy in the Orange Bubble, I enjoy

being outdoors, surfing, and supporting my beloved Liverpool FC.

The outgoing officers: Eliza, Jack, Sterling, Michael, Danielle, and Billy have done an exemplary job over the past year. They are, along with the entire graduating class, a special group of people, whose presence in the club will certainly be missed. However, with the new officer corps coming aboard, which includes Gonzalo Mocerrea (Vice President), Tiggy Valen (Treasurer), Natalia Perina (Bicker Chair), Lauren Berger (Social Chair), and Ray Mennin (House Manager), I am fortunate to be surrounded by a team that I am confident will build upon the successes of last year's officers, ensuring Ivy remains the same great community it has been for us.

The Clubhouse itself is a vibrant home for our membership and at the core of our collective experiences at Princeton. Everyday, you can be sure to find students working in the crypt, lounging around a fire in the Griffin Wing, or relaxing downstairs with a game of pool. Our Leadership & Roundtable programs have done a great job in bringing highly esteemed guests to speak at the Club, such as South African President Jacob Zuma and Saudi Arabian Prince Turki bin Faisal Al Saud.

We also recently admitted a new class of Ivy members. This year, Ivy's admission process integrated with the multi-club Bicker system, now allowing prospective sophomores to bicker Ivy and another club simultaneously. Joining multi-club Bicker has increased the accessibility of the club, and it has also allowed

Ivy to select its membership from a wider pool of prospective sophomores. Ultimately, our Bicker process has brought about a class of sophomore members that we are all excited about. They are as thoughtful, engaging, talented, and unique as ever, contributing to the diversity of interests and personalities that define the Ivy Club.

I encourage you all to come and visit Ivy to chat, as it is always a great experience reminiscing with you all on Ivy's history and past. Undeniably, our alumni are as valuable to the Ivy Club as the membership itself. I hope to see you around the Club soon.

Sincerely,  
Mina Para



### Over 100 Years Beneath the Pen of Ivy Members

This spring Ivy was the gracious recipient of a stunning, antique partners' desk and three executive desk chairs which were kindly donated by Morris Cheston, Jr. '59. Beyond its aesthetic beauty, the desk holds the charmed history of having served Ivy members for more than a century. R. Sturgis Ingersoll, Ivy section of 1914, utilized the desk for 60 years before it moved down the hall of the Ballard Spahr's Philadelphia office in the 1970's and became the property of Mr. Cheston '59, who used the desk until its recent journey to Ivy's lower library.

## Ivy Club 2016 Reunion Schedule

**Friday, May 27, 2016**—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 28, 2016**—Brunch for members and their guests will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 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 to 6 p.m. Refreshments of beer and soda will continue throughout the evening. The Club closes at midnight.

**Sunday, May 29, 2016**—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.*

### Ivy Club, Board of Governors

William J. B. Brady III '87  
Allison Sewell Bridges '96  
Peter L. Briger, Jr. '86  
James M. Buck III '81  
Leonard S. Coleman, Jr. '71  
Robert A. Engel '86 (Secretary)  
Thatcher Foster '14  
George L. K. Frelinghuysen '73  
Benjamin H. Griswold IV '62  
J. Regan Kerney '68 (House Chair)  
George C. Knight '89  
Charles F. Lowrey, Jr. '79 (President)  
John C. MacMurray '61  
Nicholas Martin '15  
Corbin R. Miller '71 (Treasurer)  
Dominic H. R. Moross '90  
Ryan M. Salvatore '02  
Marco A. Tablada '93  
Antony L. Taylor '01  
John L. Zacharias '11

### Ivy 1879 Foundation, Board of Trustees

John F. Cook '63 (President)  
Erik M. W. Caspersen '92  
Christopher A. Cole '81  
Alexander D. Evans '90  
Gregory L. Guyett '85 (Treasurer)  
Frances P. Jain '97 (Secretary)  
Wyatt G. Rockefeller '07  
Caroline R. Shifke '12  
Alexander T. van Hoek '08  
T. Randolph Harris '72 (Counsel)

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### Consul

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[above] Ivy Board members Len Coleman '71 and Antony Taylor '01 along with guest, Alejandra Melendrez, enjoy the races at the 2015 Kentucky Derby





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**Save the Date  
Ivy Club Member Dinner**

**Wednesday, October 5, 2016**

**Racquet and Tennis Club  
370 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022**

**Formal invitation to follow**

**Dues Payments and  
Donations**

If you haven't already made your dues payment for this year, please do so on our website at [theivyclub.net](http://theivyclub.net) or by contacting us at (609) 924-2236. Tax deductible donations to the Ivy 1879 Foundation can also be made online or by phone. Thank you for your support!

