



ON THE VINE

THE IVY CLUB NEWSLETTER

Fall 2020

Graduate President's Report



[above] Dominic Moross '90

It's been nearly six months since COVID-19 was declared a pandemic, and we continue to feel the weight of the situation as the school year unfolds. In accordance with the University's mandate, Prospect Street is closed for the fall semester.

While we miss the hustle and bustle of our student members, we are using this down time to tend to a number of maintenance projects and ensuring that the premises remain clean in advance of the spring semester when we hope the landscape will have changed. The health and safety of the Club's members, staff and their families remain first and foremost on all of our minds. Ivy is committed to the well-being of our family and all who are involved with the running of our Club.

Thanks to a recent generous gift, we have embarked on a renovation of our Precept Room on the second floor with the aim of restoring the historic windows and converting the room into a more useful study space including state of the art video conference capabilities for remote meetings. The donation honors our senior member, Francis McAdoo '38. We are also working on plans to bring the third floor study space into the 21st century, both technologically and in terms of design and comfort, and we will share the new design with you on our website.

Spearheaded by board member Shea Owens '94 and former officers Moyin Opeyemi '19 and Folasade Runcie '18, we are embarking on regional, Zoom-enabled "Ivy Chat" forums to connect Ivy undergraduates and recent

graduates with established alumni who are interested in sponsoring or mentoring younger members. We hope that these forums will be enriching for all participants and might result in job or internship opportunities for our members. If you have an interest in learning more or becoming involved, please email Alanna (alanna.boudreau@theivyclub.net).

Reconnecting with old friends has never been more relevant than today given the uncertain times we are all living through and the unintended consequences of being apart from family and friends for extended periods. Some time ago we introduced you to Wavelength, our private member database through which you can connect and reconnect by various metrics (region, profession, graduating year etc.). We plan to email you soon with an update describing new functions for the site. When you receive the link, I encourage you to check and, if necessary, update your details in the database and make good use of Wavelength which I am confident will enrich your interactions with fellow Ivy members.

To support our loyal staff in the early part of this year we made a request to our membership to pay graduate dues. I am pleased to say that this appeal kicked off a good response from many graduates. Now we start a new fiscal year in which your dues are more important than ever. We hope that especially those who have not paid in recent years will consider doing so by mail or at theivyclub.org/graduate-member-dues/.

I hope you have a wonderful fall and send my best wishes for the coming holiday season.

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Interview with Lewis Flinn '89



[above] Lewis Flinn '89

Lewis Flinn '89 is the composer and lyricist of the Broadway musical Lysistrata Jones. Flinn has composed scores and songs for over 50 Broadway, Off-Broadway, and regional productions including TONY nominated The Little Dog Laughed, Charles Busch's Die Mommie Die, The Divine Sister, The Tribute Artist (Drama Desk Nom for Best Music) and The Third Story. He has been a guest artist at Cornell, Dartmouth, The Boston Conservatory, The Royal Academy London and The American Academy of Dramatic Arts. He composed the themes and music for the TV shows Power of 10 and Million Dollar Password as well as scores for dozens of national commercials. Stay up-to-date with Lewis at www.lewisflinn.com.

Lewis, thanks for joining us at The Vine. When did you start composing, and how did that process evolve?

I started composing when I was 5 or 6. I was taking piano lessons, and I didn't like the pieces my teacher was giving me so I made up my own. I studied piano classically all through high school, but shifted to composition when I realized I wasn't going to cut it as a professional classical pianist. I was a music major at Princeton, and [was] writing more [traditional pieces] as required by the department. I was also involved in Triangle Club and Tigertones, so my musical vocabulary expanded. I wrote an opera for my thesis, which leaned more toward musical theater - the music department didn't really know what to make of tonal music. After graduating, I realized I needed to make money so I started writing music for commercials in NYC, started a band and became involved in the theater world. Those paths eventually led to writing themes for national TV shows and musicals on Broadway

Describe a turning point in your development as an artist.

My first Broadway show was "Dreamgirls" and I had never seen a live audience react so enthusiastically. People were giving standing ovations in the middle of songs - that didn't happen in the classical world. It made me realize that a composer needs to consider his/her audience, especially if the composer wants to earn a living outside of an academic environment. There must be a balance between art and entertainment.

How has the pandemic impacted your life and work, and what do you foresee for the future of theater?

Like all of us, I am pivoting, pausing, and adapting as best I can. Right now, everything is stalled. My newest musical was scheduled to open out of town in March 2020 and move to Broadway fall 2020. We are now scheduled to open out of town in March 2021, but I'm not holding my breath. My family moved out to our farm in rural Pennsylvania during lockdown, so I am currently focused on renovating a barn and raising ducks and trying to stay positive. I would predict that a few Broadway shows will open sometime in 2021, but until there are tourists coming to NYC, it will not be sustainable. . . Off-Broadway, which relies on a local audience, may bounce back sooner.

What's your view on the political/social/creative roles of composers today and how do you incorporate those into your work?

I think every piece of theater is political- from the Greeks to today. In commercial theater, the trick is not to preach to the audience, but craft the entertainment so that it causes an audience member to reflect or consider things a bit differently without feeling that the author is wagging a finger at them. A spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down.

What's your advice for an undergraduate student who hopes to make a career in composition and theatre? What advice, specifically, would you give to your younger self?

I would tell any student to discover their authentic voice/style and stick to it. Don't replicate what other artists are doing just because it is popular. Go to a graduate program (I didn't) as you will meet people that can help you. Get a website, but



make sure anything you put on it is well produced, with real instruments and good singers. People (producers, directors, audiences, etc) won't see past bad production. You can't say "imagine if it had real drums" or "imagine it with a really great singer". Try to get a mentor or assist someone and realize a career in the arts is a marathon, not a sprint. Figure out how to enjoy the journey (on a budget).

During your time at Princeton, how did the Ivy Club factor into your social and creative life?

Ivy was certainly the center of my social life. My

good friend, Mike McCoy (the piano in the entry hall is dedicated to him) would hold court around the piano late nights - everybody singing along (the crew team was known to have some outstanding voices). I miss that energy.

As 2020 comes to a close, what do you hope we collectively take away from the year, and what do you hope we leave behind?

I hope we leave behind the virus, zoom readings of plays, and take away an awareness that live entertainment- concerts, theater, opera, sports- is worth it and better than binge watching Netflix.

Graduates in the News

Ben Taub '14 won the Pulitzer Prize for Feature Writing for the 2019 article "Guantanamo's Darkest Secret," about Mohamedou Ould Slahi, who was held at Guantanamo Bay without charge from 2002 to 2016. Taub's reporting on war crimes in Syria was short-listed for a National Magazine Award and won the Livingston Award for International Reporting, the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award for International Print reporting, and the Overseas Press Club Award for Investigative Reporting. Taub was named one of the Forbes 30 Under 30 in 2017.



[above] Image of Ben Taub speaking at Ivy.

Lauren Collins '02, a staff writer at The New Yorker, wrote a moving essay entitled "Reinventing Grief In An Era of Enforced Isolation" about the loss of her father, who passed away not long ago.

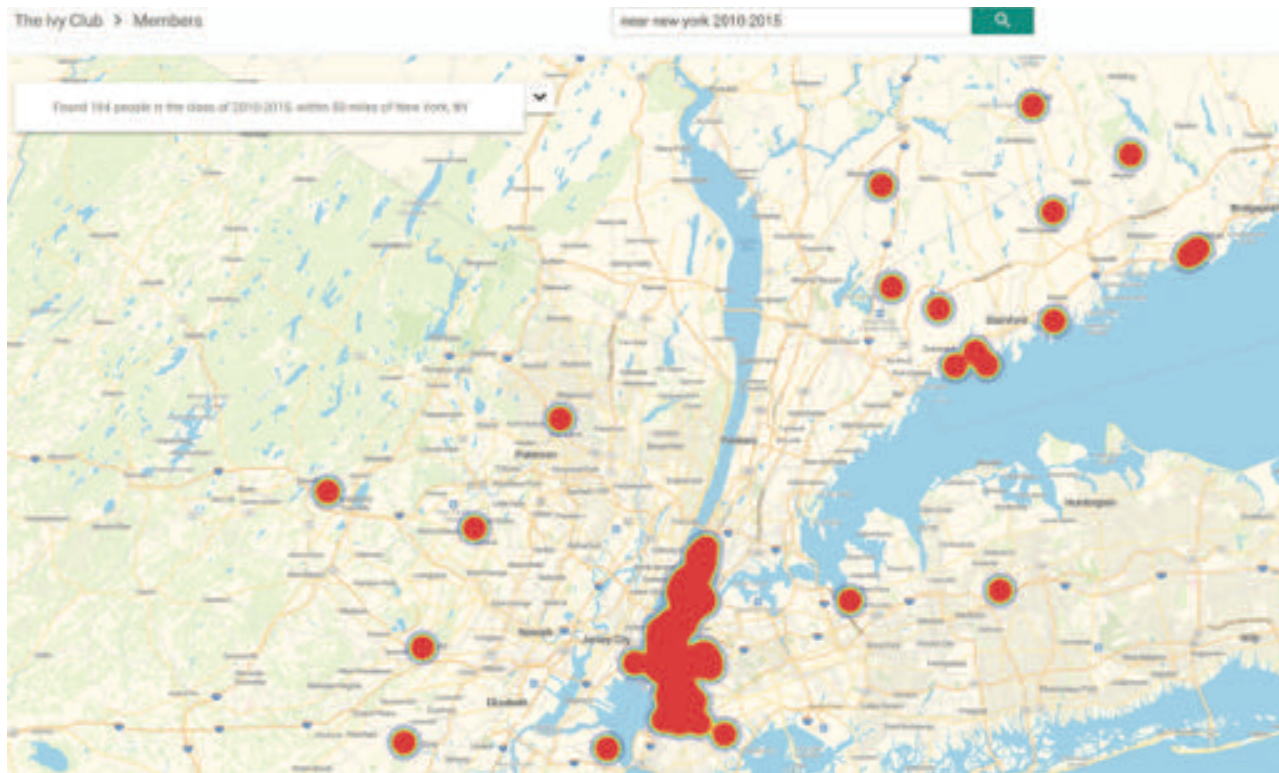
Inspired by his own experiences with student housing while an undergrad at Princeton, **Derrick Milam '93** is co-founder and COO of Vie Management, a student housing financing, acquisition, development, and management company. In a recent interview with Black Enterprise, Milam described how his company has taken steps to ensure the wellbeing of students who are unable to return home from school due to the viral outbreak. The firm aims to develop communities with an emphasis on health, fitness, and education.

Wife, mother, and founder of JSkills (an AI-powered career discovery platform for users to match their skills to multiple industries) **Theola DeBose '96** recently wrote an essay in the PAW describing the loss of life-as-we-knew-it before quarantine became a reality. Formerly a war correspondent for the Washington Post, DeBose now runs her own company providing consulting for journalists seeking to make a career transition.

The Army has promoted **Chris Cavoli '87** to the rank of 4-star general, technically the rank of General. There are fewer than 20 Army Generals on active duty today. General Cavoli remains Commander of US Army Europe and assumes responsibility for US Army Africa, as well.

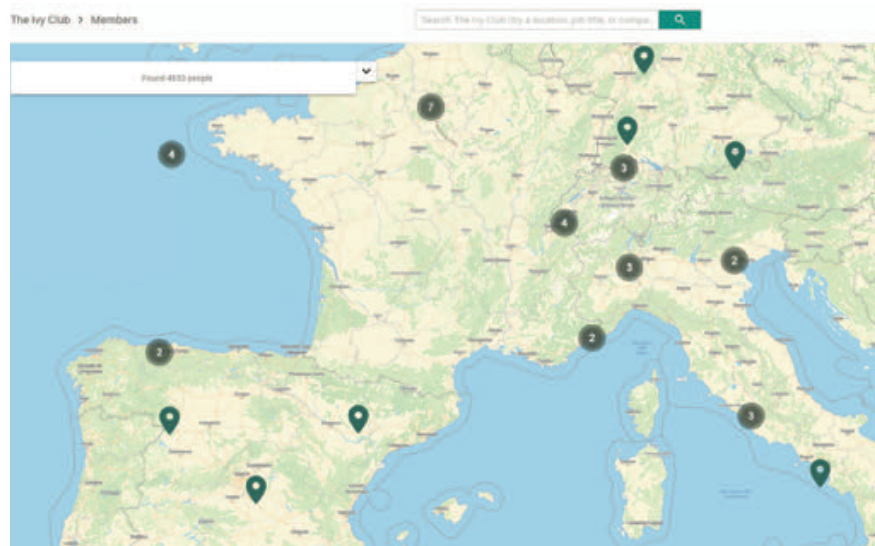


Wavelength



To continue to grow The Ivy Club’s community beyond Princeton’s campus, we have an alumni platform hosted by Wavelength. This Ivy branded site provides alumni the opportunity to reconnect with classmates, network, find job opportunities, and so much more.

Using the platform’s Map Based Search Directory, you can search for each other by class year, location, career and more. By keeping your profile up to date as you change roles and locations, your peers are better able to connect with you and we can share more relevant information and updates!



Your alumni network is there for you when and where you need it. Are you moving to a new location and want to see if you know anyone there? Find out on the platform. Trying to advance in your career and looking for advice? Set up a coffee chat with an Ivy Club member who might be able to help. This is a strong community and our hope is to provide you easy ways to continue to engage with each other and The Ivy Club no matter where you are across the globe.

In Memoriam



[above] Redmond C.S. Finney '51

Only two Princetonians have been named All-Americans in two sports, and both were members of Ivy. The first, of course, was Hobey Baker '14 for football and hockey. **Redmond C.S. Finney '51** was the second, in football and lacrosse. A beloved father, husband, teacher, mentor and coach, Finney passed away last year in Bar Harbor, Maine at age 89.

Reddy was a Baltimore native. He graduated from The Gilman School in 1947, where he was awarded the Fisher medallion, the highest honor given to a student each year. He was a celebrated member of the School's football, lacrosse, and wrestling teams.

Finney came to Princeton to study religion, and was named captain of the wrestling team in addition to his All-American honors. Following

graduation, he served two years in Korea with the Navy, and then earned a master's degree at Harvard.

In 1954, Finney returned to Baltimore to teach religion, mathematics, and history at Gilman, and to coach the sports he excelled in. In 1968, he was named headmaster of Gilman.

A thoroughly remarkable man, Reddy Finney lived by the virtues and ideals he urged the young men of Gilman to uphold. In addition to being a fatherly presence in the lives of the boys he served, he brought about monumental shifts in the School's ethos, most notably helping to create the Gilman Upward Bound program for children from impoverished backgrounds; and co-founding B.E.S.T., a partnership that provides financial assistance for promising African-American students from the Baltimore area to attend 18 private schools. Finney served Princeton both as class president and Alumni Trustee.

One of his students said, "He was giant of a man, a person of integrity who taught everyone what that word meant. He brought white middle-class and African American students and diversified Gilman School in every way — racially, socioeconomically and religiously.... He wanted Gilman to be a part of the city of Baltimore."

Princeton's Finney Field is named for Reddy's grandfather John M.T. Finney 1884, who played football at Princeton and went on to earn a medical degree at Harvard. He would later help to build Johns Hopkins into the leading medical center it is today. We should all be proud of Reddy Finney and his family, and grateful for the many lives he inspired and the extraordinary legacy he left.



Ivy's New Landscape



[above] Proposed site plan including new southern boundary

The impending sale of Ivy's southern parking lot will allow us to undertake a number of long-deferred landscape improvements to our magnificent property. Envisioned to complement the transformational alterations made to our clubhouse over the past decade, the landscape projects will expand outdoor social and recreational

spaces for our members; beautify the grounds; demarcate the Club's newly-drawn southern boundary; and improve access, serviceability and safety. The Club has engaged the award-winning, Philadelphia-based, Robinson Anderson Summers Landscape Architects to lead the design. Envisioned improvements include the following:

- A new brick wall and portal at the new southern property line featuring our distinctive Flemish Bond masonry
- The reformation and expansion of a walled memorial garden featuring a fountain, seating and planting
- The reinstatement of the central lawn with large plantings to frame southern views
- An informal sitting area in the southwestern corner of the property surrounding a natural gas fire pit
- A lower terrace, immediately accessible from the Lower Library and overlooking the lawn
- Beautification of plantings at the Club's façade and front garden
- A "hidden garden" to the west of the clubhouse featuring screening of Quadrangle Club's service yard
- A cascading path along the Club's western edge connecting the front yard to the rear yard
- A new staff parking area
- Improved accessible parking and service vehicle circulation
- More generous walks, and expanded bicycle parking
- Improved site lighting and drainage



[above] ‘Hidden garden’ at western yard



[above] View south from Lower Terrace



[above] Lower terrace



[above] View west from Lower Terrace

Message from Ivy’s Undergraduate President



Dear Graduate Members, Parents, and Friends of Ivy,

I hope you are all doing well, especially during this unprecedented time. I am writing to you with an update on the undergraduate experience at the Ivy Club this Fall. It has certainly been an unusual semester with the temporary closure of the club and the majority of our students attending school from home. That being said, all of the undergraduate officers have been doing their best to maintain a strong sense of community (even virtually). I consider myself incredibly fortunate to be working so closely with Sydney, Alex, Ed, and Sasha; my only wish being that we could all be spending this last year at the club together! We are

all missing the library, pool table, ping pong, our delicious dinners and, of course, familiar faces. We hope that we may return to 43 Prospect again this Spring, so that we can create some final memories together as seniors. As always, we are so grateful for Betty who has continued her service to the club, even through such difficult circumstances.

This may not have been the final Fall semester that the class of 2021 had hoped for, nor the introduction to Ivy that our newly welcomed Junior members expected, but we have stayed positive, adapting to our new conditions, and perhaps gained a newfound appreciation for what Ivy means to each of us. In times like these, where we unexpectedly find ourselves apart, the incredible Ivy community shines bright—and we are so thankful to be a part of this. And to the graduate members, as we look forward to a time when we are able to open our doors again, we eagerly await the prospect of welcoming you back to the club.

Best regards,
Claire Guthrie, Undergraduate President

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The Ivy 1879 Foundation supports the preservation of Ivy's historic Clubhouse, educational initiatives including Leadership and Roundtable programs, and financial aid to help Ivy students maintain their membership in the Club.

Tax-deductible donations to the Foundation can be made by check or online at theivyclub.org
Thank you!

