



ON THE VINE

THE IVY CLUB NEWSLETTER

Spring 2021

Graduate President's Report



What a year it has been - one to remember and, for many, to forget! Prospect Street's haunting silence throughout the winter replaced the buzz and beating heart of normal social life. Our members were robbed of those

familiar moments which, for most of us, have become happy anecdotes to recount for the rest of our lives: singing around the piano; haphazard encounters; playful competition around the pool and table tennis tables; zealous discussions in the dining room or library; the emotional support of caring friends; late night study sessions; the excitement of party nights; post-party PBJs; Hoagie Haven. Instead, our undergraduates had to make do with the poor substitute of virtual life, doing their best to develop meaningful relationships through social media.

I want to commend our undergraduates for their resilience in making the most of the unfair cards they were dealt. Our officers orchestrated successful pre-bicker virtual social events intended to give sophomores a chance to meet members and learn about Ivy. As a result, we had 195 bickerees, roughly in line with past years, but only 66 bids were offered to account for members returning from gap years. We have a wonderful new section of 2023 and an impressive new group of officers whose bios are included in this issue.

Spearheaded by Governors Shea Owens '94, Ant Taylor '01, Moyin Opeyemi '19 and former undergraduate presidents, Folasade Runcie '18 and David Babikian '20, we launched Ivy Zoom Regional Roundtables, intended as a forum for

younger and older members to meet each other. Moderated by Gordon Ritter '86 in San Francisco, Dr Barbara Romer '93 in New York and Angela Riemer '95 in Washington DC, we kicked off 3 stimulating discussion groups. We hope to roll out more regional and industry gatherings.

The social unrest which has spread throughout the world is cause for us to reflect on our values as a club which is a strong, diverse association of individuals whose bonds of friendship span generations. The Ivy community is defined by the quality of the relationships that flourish among all our members, and those relationships depend in turn on the members themselves. Threaded into our DNA is mutual respect, goodwill and friendship which rest on the bedrock principle that we treat each other equally and with integrity. Part of our club's unique spirit stems from the different, often disparate, perspectives that members bring, engendering civilized discussion which furthers personal growth. Ivy's culture is built upon our appreciation of the qualities unique to each member's character and depends upon sociability and willingness to contribute to our community. We are proud of how Ivy has evolved over the years to become regarded as the most diverse and intellectually stimulating club on the Street. Our leadership role among our peers is best exemplified by our pioneering financial aid program, which is now over 10 years old.

I wish you all a happy spring and summer and am keeping fingers crossed that we might see each other in person sooner rather than later and hopefully at our next Club Dinner.

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Interview with Gen. Christopher Cavoli '87



Ivy's own Chris Cavoli '87 was commissioned into the Infantry from ROTC upon graduation. On October 1, 2020, he was promoted to the rank of General. The details of his brilliant career are too lengthy to list here, but along the way, he was deployed to Bosnia and Afghanistan, received an MA in Russian and

East European Studies from Yale, and was Deputy Executive Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He is married with two children and speaks Italian, Russian and French. The Club's first and only 4-star General was kind enough to give an interview to The Vine.

What made you decide to pursue an Army career after Princeton?

I'm not sure I ever pursued an Army career, I just kind of ended up having one. Princeton's motto is "In the Nation's Service," so it was almost inevitable that the sense of service I felt coming out of Princeton was going to translate into a career in the Army. I think most people in the Army don't look too far forward and decide year after year if they're staying in the Army another one.

My dad was an Army officer. I grew up moving around Army posts and other places all over the world. I was born in Germany, spent elementary school in Italy – in Rome and Verona, and later spent more time in Germany; then went back to Italy for high school. So I appreciated and knew the lifestyle.

I received an ROTC scholarship at Princeton, and that kind of canted me in the Army direction. And then, as we closed in toward graduation, I realized that the sense of service in my heart was real, and that this was something I really wanted to do. I wanted to start my adult life off by being committed to something bigger than myself, and the Army gave me the opportunity to do that.

Then, you know, once you're in the Army - it's both extremely fun and meaningful. I was an infantry officer. It's tough, physical, outdoor work mixed with leadership and management, so it's the perfect

combination of all the features of a job I was looking for and I just kept staying with it year after year.

What was the biggest surprise along the way?

I've been surprised by a lot of little things, but it's the big things that really mattered most, and they have not been surprising at all. The quality of our Soldiers, the reward of doing this for a living, the feeling you get when you hear the National Anthem, the pride you get representing your country – none of that has been a surprise, and those are really the most important things.

Tell us briefly about the scope and duties of your current position.

I'm in charge of leading, organizing, training and equipping our Army forces to accomplish American national interests in Europe and Africa. In that capacity I am responsible for Army activities in 104 different countries from the tip of Norway to the southern tip of South Africa.

I'm the commander of that enterprise. A commander in the military has a pretty simple job description. As the commander I am responsible for everything our organization does or does not do. I manage the organization's processes; everything from its budget to its readiness metrics, but most importantly, I lead the Soldiers of the organization and the Department of the Army's civilians within the organization. I bear responsibility for their welfare and that of their families.

In the Army we talk about leadership as the act of providing purpose, direction and motivation. I have to have everything from a near-term daily grasp of what we're doing, to a strategic vision for where this command needs to be 15, 20 years from now, and everything in between.

One of the most enjoyable parts of my job is living and working overseas, and the daily interaction I have with my European and African colleagues. We work with their armies at the tactical level, and at my level, I get the opportunity to have rich, professional interactions and personal relationships with them. That's very valuable to me and has been very rewarding over the years.



What are your fondest memories of your time at Princeton?

My fondest memories at Princeton were at the Ivy Club. There's nowhere really like it. We used to have a tradition -- at the first snowfall, oatmeal would start to be served with breakfast. I remember sitting in a big, overstuffed leather chair in front of a roaring fire with that morning's newspaper and a cup of coffee, and watching the snowflakes come down. Allen, our head waiter, came out -- and he said, "Chris, there'll be oatmeal this morning. Are you interested?" And I said, "Absolutely." I have many memories like that -- good times at dinner, the tradition of sitting down at the next available seat so that all the members of the Club always got to know each other well. That was really prized. Playing a round of billiards after dinner, having a beer on a Friday night -- those were some of my truly fondest memories of Princeton and they were spent there on Prospect Avenue inside the Ivy Club.

What influence do you feel your Ivy friends and your experience as a member of the Club have had on your life, not just your career?

Very profound influences, in some cases personal, where a friendship named is a friendship forever. But I think the real influence was inspirational.

The members of the Club were -- are -- incredible. I was constantly challenged intellectually. The conversations we would have at dinner really brought out the best in everybody, and the members were all so very accomplished, adventurous, well-traveled, extremely well-read, just very admirable people.

Just saying something as simple as, "What are you doing this weekend?" could bring out an unbelievably surprising answer.

One of my clubmates, Doug Burden, rowed in three Olympics; Henry Huntington's an Arctic explorer. He lives in Alaska and has climbed Denali multiple times. "Scooter" St. John produced television game shows, and on, and on, and on, and on. Just the diversity of the group and what they were capable of, and then later in life, what they accomplished was really inspirational. And that is what truly influenced me to try to do my best all the time. That's what had the greatest impact on my life.

Greetings from Ivy's New President



Dear Graduate Members, Family, and Friends of Ivy,

I hope you all are doing well. I am pleased to be writing to you with an update on the Ivy undergraduate experience this spring. Despite the constraints surrounding social gatherings and in-person events this semester, the current officer corps has been working hard to preserve the strong sense of community and friendship that Ivy is known for. From virtual competitions to in-person one-on-one coffee chats, we are trying to make sure that members, new and old, feel Ivy's presence in their everyday life. In times like these, we realize that Ivy's true beauty lies not only in the bricks of 43 Prospect Avenue but also in its strong and vibrant community. Although we are not sharing meals, having face-to-face conversations, nor enjoying each other's company within Ivy's clubhouse, we have been encouraging students to find ways to engage with fellow members while simultaneously following University health guidelines. The current officer corps is a group of exceptionally talented individuals (Vice President Katie Dykstra, Treasurer Andrew Hama, Social Chair Henry Barrett, Bicker Chair Brooke Baxter, House Manager Ogechi Adele) and I am extremely excited to be working with them. They have done a phenomenal job working together, proactively planning for next fall. I have high hopes for what we will be able to achieve when the Club opens next semester. As the school year comes to a close, we look forward to welcoming new members into our special Ivy community, as well as properly sending off our beloved seniors. I am extremely honored to be your president and look forward to serving the club and its membership; I cannot wait until we can come back together with renewed enthusiasm and vigor as we take on the final months of this school year.

Sincerely,
Miles Wilson

Graduates in the News

Bevis Longstreth '56 published his fourth historical novel on April 2, 2021. Titled *Chains Across the River*, it tells a relatively unknown but important story of the American Revolution involving General Washington's obsession to block the British fleet from sailing upstream on the Hudson, and Captain Thomas Machin's extraordinary success in doing so.

Richard Arthur Olson '65 wrote *It's All Greek to Me*, which takes place in a philosophy class at a college (known as "Old Ivy") on Zoom, where it was performed and recorded. It's the eve of Election Day 2020 (and also All Souls Day), and they are studying Plato, including the death of Socrates. The discussion involves not only how to live but also turns to current events and gets rather personal among the students of widely different backgrounds. (It might be described as a comedy of manners.) A link to the video will be found on The Ivy Club Facebook page.

In December 2021 Columbia University press published *Hubert Harrison: The Struggle for Equality, 1918 - 1927* by **Jeffrey Perry '68**. It follows *Hubert Harrison: The Voice of Harlem Radicalism, 1883-1918* and together these books comprise what is believed to be the first full-life, multi-volume biography of an Afro-Caribbean.

Chris Johnson '74 has been working as an attorney in Riyadh since 2010, and manages a multicultural team representing multinational businesses and financial institutions. classmate **Vern Cassin '74** is there as well, serving as General Counsel for the King Faisal Foundation.



Shea Owens '94 and **Ant Taylor '01** together organized a series of region-specific Zoom sessions this spring in an effort to connect recent Ivy grads with older alum.

Moyin Opeyemi '19 and **Folasade Runcie '18** aided in organizing the sessions, all of which were marked by warm reminiscing, sharing of lessons learned during the pandemic, and reformed connections.

Dr. Lucy McBride '95 gave a private 30-minute talk on topical COVID considerations for Ivy members, conducted over Zoom, in late March. Dr. McBride has grown a wide audience through her twice-weekly COVID19 newsletter with the goal of dispensing real-time, fact-based information and guidance on getting through the pandemic, mentally and physically. She has also appeared on CBS' Evening News, NPR and has written opinion pieces for the Washington Post and Huffington Post with the goal of helping people address mental and physical health in tandem.

In July 2020 **Aliza Fogelson '00** published her debut novel, *The Lending Library*, a "beautiful, heartwarming novel" (Booklist) about a daydreamer who gives her small town, and herself, a gift when she opens a lending library in her sunroom while confronting a life-changing decision.

Amanda Dennis' '03 debut novel, *Her Here*, will be published by Bellevue Literary Press in March 2021.

Joshua Geltzer '05 was selected as special assistant to President Biden and special advisor to the homeland security advisor on countering domestic violent extremism. Geltzer will work with Clare Linkins, President Biden's senior director for counterterrorism, to comprehensively analyze the threat of domestic terrorism during the first 100 days of the new administration.

Adam Hyndman '12 was nominated for a Tony Award in 2020. Hyndman was producer of the Broadway production of *The Inheritance*, which is nominated for Best Play. The awards ceremony was postponed last spring and are still forthcoming.

Samantha Weissman '17 and Benjamin Sussman got married this past December in Miami, Florida. The warm weather made for a perfect outdoor wedding surrounded by close family and friends.

We would love to hear from you. Please send us your news. Email Alanna.boudreau@theivyclub.net



Dr. Lucy McBride '95 on COVID-19



My name is Lucy McBride. I am a practicing Internal Medicine physician in Washington DC. I was a pre-med student and an art history major at Princeton. I then earned a Masters in Pharmacology from the University of Cambridge, UK,

as a Fulbright Scholar. I headed to medical school at Harvard then did my internship and residency at the Johns Hopkins Hospital.

I have been a primary care doctor in private practice for fifteen years. In addition to preventing and treating disease. I've always been interested in the human experience of illness and health. To me, taking care of patients involves understanding their unique health conditions, their broad human needs, and addressing mental and physical health in tandem.

When the pandemic hit, it was clear right away that my patients were starved for real-time, fact-based information and guidance on managing everyday decisions to protect their health and safety. It also was clear that we were entering a mental health crisis, a parallel pandemic of anxiety, fear, grief, and trauma.

In March 2020 I started writing a regular COVID newsletter, trying to help a wider audience make sense of the news, interpret public health guidance, and understand how to make complex decisions in an ever-evolving—and very stressful—time. Since then, the newsletter has grown and is now reaching over ten thousand people.

Indeed, no one is immune to the stress of our lives upended, the fear of a potentially lethal virus, and the deluge of bad news, particularly when robbed of our normal coping strategies.

In my office for the last year I have been helping patients manage their underlying health conditions alongside the very real physical and mental health manifestations of the pandemic.

People are suffering from high blood pressure, weight gain, back pain, headaches, insomnia, depression, anxiety, and addiction. These emotional and physical phenomena are intrinsically related. The evidence is clear that our mental health directly informs our physical health. I witness this every day in real time.

Anxiety is normal. It's part of the human condition. Particularly during a pandemic, anxiety can take on a life of its own. When it's in overdrive, it can alter our thoughts, feelings, behaviors, and decisions—and it can actually make us sick.

As a primary care doctor, my job is to help patients recognize that mental health matters to our everyday lives and that it directly informs our physical health. It's to help people address mental health and physical health in tandem; to protect them from disease and arm them with tools to manage vulnerability. To name, normalize, and navigate anxiety as an essential part of being healthy. When we do that, people are empowered and better able to make smart decisions. In short, they are healthier from the inside out.

For me, helping people acknowledge their humanness and connect it to their health has been one of the silver linings of the pandemic. My hopes are that: 1) our healthcare system evolves to better serve patients' whole health and 2) in the meantime, individuals know to bring their mental health to the doctor's office.

To learn more about Dr. McBride and subscribe to her newsletter, visit www.lucymcbride.com.



Meet the New Officers



President | Miles Wilson is a rising Senior and member of the Princeton Men's Water Polo team. He is also an active member and Treasurer for the Princeton Black Men's Association. Outside of the pool and his leadership roles, Miles finds a great deal of joy in his academic work, where he focuses on multimedia storytelling through his studies as a Visual Arts major. Miles is from Irvine, California, and when he's not spending time hanging out with family and friends, he loves to spend time at the beach surfing and snorkeling.



Vice President | Katie Dykstra is from Ponte Vedra, Florida and is currently a Junior in the Computer Science department. On campus, she is involved with Tiger Capital Management and Business Today. In her free time, she enjoys practicing yoga, reading, and traveling.



Treasurer | Andrew Hama, Ivy's new treasurer, is from Atlanta, Georgia, and is a Junior in the Economics Department. On campus, Andrew is involved in Tiger Capital Management, Club Basketball, and TruThursday. In his spare time, Andrew enjoys exercising, reading, and spending time with friends.



Bicker Chair | Elizabeth "Brooke" Baxter is a Junior from Devon, PA and will be serving as Bicker Chair this year. Brooke is majoring in History and pursuing a certificate in Statistics and Machine Learning. She is a member of the women's rowing team, the Behrman Society and works for the Office of Sustainability. In her free time, she also works for a cryptocurrency startup and enjoys reading and skiing.



House Manager | Ogechi Adele is a Psychology major from Atlanta, Georgia pursuing a certificate in French. Ogechi joined Ivy out of love for the people, the camaraderie, and the lifelong memories. She will be serving as Ivy's House Manager this year and is eager to bolster community and joy among members after a difficult year apart.



Social Chair | Henry Barrett is a Junior in the School for Public and International Affairs with certificates in the History and Practice of Diplomacy and Russian and Eastern European Studies. He is originally from Texas but currently lives in Vero Beach, Florida. Harry is incoming Social Chair, and he is excited for and hopeful for the day when members can reunite safely in the Ivy Club.

Correspondence: A Stroll Down Memory (via Ivy) Lane

George M. Chester, Jr.

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March 31, 2020

Gentlemen (Messrs. Moross, Miller and Engel):

I write to congratulate and thank you for your fine letter of last month regarding the sale of Ivy's back lot to the University. Although as a "landaholic" (as someone once called me) I hate the thought of selling land, you clearly made the right decision, having negotiated an outstanding agreement with the University. The entire Ivy membership owes you a great debt of gratitude for your efforts and wisdom.

There is one material oversight in your letter, however. Although of the three of you only Corbin is of the Era likely to know of what I speak, the sale of Ivy's back lot doesn't just eliminate an unusually convenient parking area, it also will now render impossible one of the great moves of Ivy Club's storied athletic history. Of course, I refer to the extraordinarily difficult achievement of sending the ball of one's croquet opponent "to Astrophysics." Such a feat was rarely accomplished -- though repeatedly attempted -- and, of course, as one of the few who actually once managed it, I still vividly remember that sunny Spring afternoon more than a half century ago.

"To send someone to Astrophysics" required that one knock the croquet ball of one's opponent across the upper lawn, down the brick steps (or grassy drop off to the lower lawn) to Ivy's driveway, down the driveway, through the back gate, across Ivy Lane and into the basement window well of the Astrophysics building. To accomplish such an extraordinary feat required luck and skill far surpassing any "hole in one" in a game of golf. It was, for me, the apogee of my Princeton athletic career, surpassing both my participation in our JV Hockey Team's loss to Yale at New Haven 16 to 1 (before the game was called) or my loss as a member of the Freshman Squash Team to the 12 year-old son of some school's squash coach at the Junior Nationals as my teammates sat in the gallery laughing at me throughout the match. Laugh as they did, none ever experienced the exquisite joy of sending a fellow clubmate "to Astrophysics."

Well, such is the historical wreckage in Progress' wake.

Best wishes,



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Donations

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!

