



ON THE VINE

THE IVY CLUB NEWSLETTER

Fall 2021

Graduate President's Report



[above] Dominic Moross '90

On August 30, Ivy opened for the Fall Semester with an informal cookout that was thoroughly enjoyed by our undergraduate members, who were thrilled to be back in person. This was followed by a

Mykonos-themed members-only event, and Lawnparties. The calmness and camaraderie within Ivy is such an important and welcome balance to the intense life of Princeton students. Perhaps the silver lining of last year is that, for many, these defining qualities of our club are appreciated more than ever.

After 22 years, our beloved Betty Rascher has decided to retire at the end of this calendar year. Betty encapsulates all the attributes of a successful Steward: patience, tough love, sensitivity, surrogate parenting (when required), confidante, part-time therapist, and occasional disciplinarian. She has been a rock for our Board, and she has impacted generations of members in whose hearts she will be warmly remembered. We shall miss Betty and wish her well in her retirement. After an impressive and thorough search process spearheaded by Governor Bill Ughetta, we chose Phil Vicino to take over as our new Steward and General Manager. Phil is a veteran of the hospitality sector and brings with him a slew of creative ideas. We are all looking forward to this next chapter in Ivy's long history. I hope that you will be able to stop by the Club to meet Phil.

Much has been going on within and around the club, including fall bicker, which brought us 10 impressive new members. In June, we officially

closed the sale of our parking lot to the University, and, with the help of Governors George Knight and Ryan Salvatore, we have begun work to create a new parking area and construct a more useful and beautiful back yard. Our Precept Room on the second floor has been handsomely renovated, thanks to the generosity of Charlie Scribner '73 and his wife Ritchie Markoe Scribner, a cousin of Francis McAdoo '38 in whose honor the room has been renamed. The room now has full video conferencing capability.

We always receive interesting news from our alumni, but worth highlighting are Fred Vyastel '16 and Hannah Scott '21, both of whom competed in the Tokyo Olympics. An interview with Fred, who won a bronze medal, is featured in this publication, and a podcast interview of Hannah is available here: (<https://m.soundcloud.com/alanna-boudreau-136403602/interview-with-olympian-hannah-scott-21>).

As I reflect on the past year, the Covid period tested us all. We faced the existential threat of meeting financial commitments and juggling social pressures while having to meet the Club's operational and maintenance needs, together with the rapidly rising number of members needing financial support. I am proud to say that, on balance, we have emerged stronger as a club with our values intact. Through the generosity of our board and graduate members, we continue to have the most generous financial aid program. When the Club was closed, we provided the highest rebate on the Street to our class of 2020, whose spring term was abruptly ended, and meaningful financial support to our loyal staff. The pandemic further highlighted the importance of friendship, keeping an open mind, and civil discourse to reach a balanced, fair assessment of all issues.

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Interview with Fred Vysavel '16



[above] Fred Vysavel '16

his country and was able to share with us about the experience, from training to the A Final, and described how his upbringing and his time at Ivy contributed to his success.

The Ivy Club has a rich history of Olympic athletes. This past summer Fred Vystavel '16 and Hannah Scott '21 competed in rowing at the Tokyo olympics - Hannah in the womens' quadruple sculls for Great Britain, Fred in the mens' coxless pair for Denmark. Both did Ivy proud. Fred took home Bronze for

Describe your personal upbringing a bit. What was/is your family culture like?

I had a somewhat multicultural upbringing, being born to Danish and Swedish parents, and growing up in Belgium, England, and Spain. My sister and I were brought up to be open, kind, and considerate of other people's feelings. My parents have always been supportive of whatever my sister and I have done or plan to do. We're a tight family, who enjoys traveling just as much as some good Danish 'hygge' at home in front of the tele.

What is the guiding principle in your life, broadly speaking?

I generally try to always have a positive outlook on life, and enjoy whatever it is I do. That doesn't mean it always has to be 'fun' in the moment – rowing isn't always sunshine and rainbows – it just has to be worthwhile. I firmly believe that if something stops being that, it's time to stop and move on.

I'm not a religious man but I do believe in the "do unto others as you would have them do unto you", and think about how my actions will affect those around me. Put another way, I like to try and be that guy who will wait for you to tie your shoe laces while the rest of the group keeps walking.

What have been some pivotal changes in your approach to rowing throughout your career – be they mental or physical – that have allowed you to broaden your capabilities?

I've been fortunate enough in my rowing career to row with a multitude of very different people, with each experience shaping who I am today, both as a person and as a rower. I was dealt a very good hand by starting out with rowing at Eton College, UK, which set a solid foundation. Princeton then added a huge second layer on top of that, where I developed both physically and mentally, paving the way to my time on the Danish team.

Physically, I've learned to listen to my body well over the years, and know what things work for me and what don't.

Mentally speaking I've become better at decision making – important in such an athlete-driven programme that the Danish squad is – and I don't let things I can't control get to me. This latter point is important when training full time, as one doesn't have the luxury of 'distractions' that study/work provides.

What values or beliefs were deepened during your time at Princeton, and how?

I think general openness to people that have walked, and do walk, different paths in life is something I got to practice even more while at Princeton. Being exposed to a truly diverse and across-the-board driven student body was fundamental to my maturing as an individual, inspiring me to make the most of my time at Princeton: in the classroom, social settings, and at the boathouse.

What drew you to Ivy? What aspect of the Ivy community has been most impactful in your life?

Initially the fun atmosphere on nights out, as an underclassman, and the fact it was pretty international. Once a member, I learned that the general culture at the Club, most evident at meals, [is what] makes Ivy so great. Some of my fondest memories from Princeton are from Ivy meals: [especially those shared by] the 'breakfast club', featuring the rowers and other early birds. The friendly staff, great food, the interesting conversations enjoyed around the tables, and the friendships formed at the club ... those are memories and connections I cherish today.

What is something most people may not appreciate or notice about the sport of rowing?

How brutally demanding it is. It's a grind, but



there's no two ways about it. Unless you've tried it yourself, or personally know someone who has gone through an Olympic cycle – which I haven't actually done myself, as I only joined the Danish team Fall 2018 after a couple of years of 'staying fit' by myself – then I'd say most people won't come close to appreciating the level of commitment required to even make it to the Olympic Games. Broken down, we'd be logging a full 24+hrs' worth of quality training, every six days.

Describe how the A Final felt. What was your mental state before, during, and after?

I'd say surprisingly cool and under control, but it was no surprise. We had figured out what worked for us, mentally speaking, in the lead up to Final Qualifiers in May – dubbed "The Regatta of Death" by the rowing community, as there are only two available qualification spots left for the taking, in each category. For us that was kind of our Olympic Final, in that we had nothing to lose but everything to gain on the day; and we executed it pretty much perfectly. So, fast forward three months to us sitting on the start line of the A Final in Tokyo, we were cool. Nothing had changed. We were faster and more ready than ever to go out there and race our race. We had dialled into that state of mind we found in May the morning of the Heat, squashing any nerves that usually spring up on the first race day. We had spoken after the semi-final that there was

a medal for the taking, but we stopped that kind of chat quickly, as we haven't been a result-focused boat, but more process-oriented. I think as soon as you start thinking about the result before the race it's kind of game over, as I think that's when the nerves start to kick in. We therefore treated the Final as any other race, which may also have been easier this year given there were no spectators.

The race itself was very similar to the Semifinal. The wind had slightly dropped but it was still tricky water. We got out well and had established a solid 2nd/3rd position over the middle part of the race. We held our composure coming into the last 500m, keeping an eye on the rest of the field. It was hard to do any real kind of sprint because that was when the water was the roughest, so coming into the last 250m – the "red buoys" – we went through

our closing sequence, trying to increase boat speed while still being cautious in the bad water. The tough conditions saw a lot of good crews falling short of their potential, and we didn't want to join their company. I recall seeing Canada really start to move in the last 100m over in lane 1, making me call a couple last second "Go!", while trying not to sound panicked. I also recall looking over and thinking we'd finished a seat or so ahead of the Canadians crossing the line, but I didn't celebrate until I saw Joachim raise his arm, prompting me to look right and see "3. DEN" on the big screen.

Directly after the race was a whirlwind of emotions, as the medallists were herded to a side pontoon and



led to a tent to change into our medal ceremony outfit, and then onto the medal ceremony itself, followed by interviews with media. We had short moments in that 40-min post-race period where we just laughed, shook our heads, and hugged each other. I cried a little when the Danish flag got raised. Such a surreal morning, one I will never forget.

Describe the experience of teamwork as you've lived it in preparation for the Olympics. What has your teammate Joachim Sutton taught you?

The past year and a half taught me so much about teamwork as I had never been in a pair project before. The fact that we were only two people in the boat presented lots of opportunity for greater flexibility

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Betty's retirement



[above] Betty Rascher with Ant Taylor '01

have been like extended family. I'm going to miss reunions, formals, Ivy dinners in New York, and interacting with the officers and students. . . I want to thank everyone for their support and love - the Board, the staff, and most especially the late Jim Griffin who mentored me when I first arrived at Ivy."

Betty leaves big shoes to fill. After an extensive search and interview process throughout the spring, the Club has hired Phil Vicino to take her place as general manager. A veteran of the sector, Phil brings over 30 years of experience in food service, banquet and hotel operations. He has worked at the Waldorf Astoria in NYC, the Ritz in

It's a season of transition at the Club. After two decades of loyal service as Ivy's steward, Betty Rascher will be retiring at the end of the calendar year. "Ivy has been my second home for two decades," Betty said in a recent interview. "The undergraduates

DC and the Four Seasons in Philadelphia. He lives in Clarksboro, NJ with his wife and their three teenage children.

It is difficult to adequately articulate our gratitude for everything Betty has contributed to Ivy over the last two decades, perhaps the most profound of which being her steady presence in the lives of the Club's undergraduate members. We wish her a restful and joyous retirement.



[above] Betty Rascher, Phil Vicino and the student officer core at September Formals.

Interview with Fred Vysavel '16

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in how we trained – doing a lot of the cardio sessions separately, for example – but also provided plenty of challenges, as there's no hiding in the pair. We learned, through some trial & error, how to be clear in our communication, understanding and taking into account the differences in our personalities, both on and off the water. The key to our teamwork in the pair, and with our coach, was the balance between taking enough personal ego out of the equation, while still maintaining our own personal identity. [Our coach] Jens learned to trust us and truly let us get on with figuring out how best to row the pair together. He respected that we sometimes needed to go out on the water by ourselves, and not have him coach us from his launch. This requires a huge amount of selflessness, which was the foundation of the successful teamwork we experienced in the run up to Tokyo and the Games themselves.

Joachim's relentless self-confidence in his ability to race, and out-race others, is something that I valued greatly in the boat. I don't think I've ever lacked it, but I've certainly grown a lot as a racer from being with him. This augmented confidence meant that we could take the race to the very best out there, together.

What are you most grateful for?

Probably that I could finish off my rowing career on such a high. Not just with an Olympic medal – something I had never dreamt of as I had always seen the Olympics as something totally beyond my reach – but to be given the opportunity to represent all my schools, friends, and family, on the biggest stage of all, that is something I'm super grateful for. I'm immensely proud of the quality of people I have around me and who have supported me on this journey.



Members in the News

Ant Taylor '01 was recently recognized for his entrepreneurial ingenuity in a Rolling Stone feature. Taylor is the founder of Lyte, “a ticketing system that’s designed to empower fans while weakening scalping.”

“The Rescue” is a new documentary by **Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi '00** and Jimmy Chin. The documentary follows the divers who rescued a young soccer team from an underwater cave in Northern Thailand.

Veracity Worldwide, a leading business and investment advisory firm founded by **Steven Fox '91**, has appointed **Daniel Crocker '89** as its new Chief Executive Officer. Daniel has over two decades of experience as a senior diplomat for the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Katy Milkman '04 is a behavioral scientist and the James G. Dinan Professor at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Her book *How to Change: The Science of Getting from Where You Are to Where You Want To Be* (Portfolio | Penguin Random House) explores tactics and habits we can integrate to improve our capacity for change and maturation. In addition to researching and teaching, Milkman hosts the popular behavioral economics podcast *Choiceology*.

This past spring, **Jay Wood '88** hit a record of 400 wins as head coach at St. Christopher’s School in Richmond, VA. Wood is in his 31st season as the Saints’ head coach, and also teaches English at the school.

Daniel Grossma '85 has been researching airships for years. His recent documentary exploring the Hindenburg mystery was released on the PBS show NOVA.

E. Jones '84 was deployed to Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan from September 2019 to May 2020 with the US Navy Medical Corps and was one of two orthopedic surgeons at the NATO Role III hospital treating US, Afghan and Coalition combat casualties.

Morgaen L. Donaldson, '94, a professor in the University of Connecticut Neag School of Education, has been selected as the next Philip E. Austin Endowed Chair. Donaldson is the Neag School’s Associate Dean for Research; director of the Center for Education Policy Analysis, Research, and Evaluation; and coordinator of the Ed.D. Program. Donaldson worked as a teacher in urban and semi-urban high schools before becoming a professor and focuses her research on education leadership, teacher quality, educational policy, educational reform and evaluation.

Raghav Gupta '98’s book, *One to Ten: Finding Your Way from Startup to Scaleup* (Lioncrest Publishing), is out 9/28. The book targets first time tech entrepreneurs of B2B businesses. The thesis is that while it’s easier than ever to get from Zero to One, it’s really hard to get from One to Ten, when founders must overcome so many growing pains. To get from One to Ten, founders need to achieve product readiness, a repeatable sales engine and to scale their human capital. The book contains frameworks, mental models and case studies to help founders successfully navigate from One to Ten and beyond.

Graduate President’s Report

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I must thank Betty and her team for successfully maneuvering us through this strange period. The enthusiasm and optimism within our club is as strong as ever. That said, we continue to face serious inflationary pressures, especially in food and labor costs, and very much rely on your graduate dues to help maintain our landmark home. If not already done, please ensure your membership is in good standing by paying your dues as soon as possible (<https://theivyclub.org/graduate-member-dues/>).

As we look toward the beginning of a new year, I wish you and your families a very happy and festive holiday season.



[above] 50th reunion for the section of '71 and friends



[above] Ivy Formals



[above] Ivy olympian Hannah Scott '21, celebrating a rowing win this past summer



[above] Harry Moross '23 and Will Houston '91 at the Club's Mykonos party



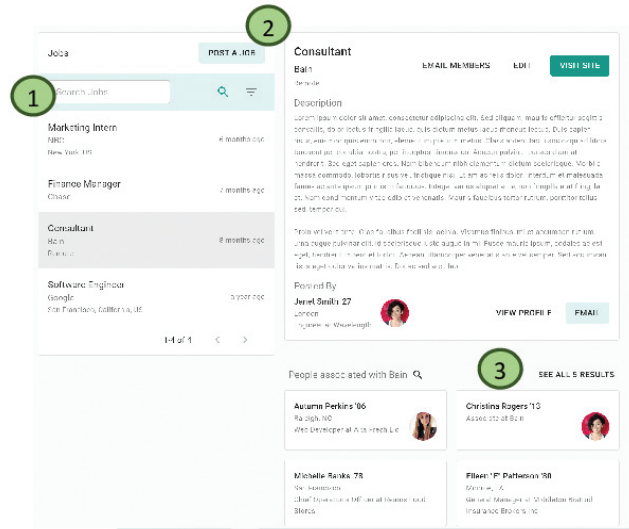
[above] Ivy Formals

Up and coming: Ivy's Exclusive Job Board

We are excited to announce a new job-board feature on Wavelength, Ivy's alumni networking platform. Set to launch in January 2022, the job-board will allow alumni to network and grow their career opportunities while job posters can ensure and welcome the quality of candidates Ivy supplies.

Post and Find Job Opportunities on Wavelength

Regardless of class year and location, Ivy Members share the same passion, connection, and drive as you had on Princeton's Campus. The new job feature allows alumni to network and grow their career opportunities while job posters can ensure and welcome the quality of candidates Ivy supplies.



1. Search for jobs in your area or interest
2. Posting a job has the same criteria as any site, and it includes an expiration date so it removes your post for you!
3. Suggested searches beneath the job posting highlights of those who work at the company, in the industry, or live nearby the posting to encourage ongoing networking

Please reach out to our Director of member services, Alanna Boudreau, if you have a job opportunity you'd like to see included.

Message from Ivy's Undergraduate President



To all of Ivy's Graduate Members, Parents, and Friends,

I hope you are doing well and staying safe as we continue to fight against and emerge from this global pandemic. I am writing to you with an

update on the undergraduate experience at the Ivy Club this fall. I am happy to let you all know that after a year and a half of being unoccupied, the Ivy Clubhouse is once again back to hosting its vibrant community of undergraduates. Whether it's by playing a game of pool or having a conversation in the Great Hall, members are taking full advantage of every opportunity they can get to reacquaint themselves with the Clubhouse and their fellow members. I can say with confidence that the Ivy Club is truly beginning to feel like a home to its

undergraduate members, and as we get to know our peers at tap nights and over meals, the membership is beginning to feel more and more like a family. Having only returned to the Club a few months ago, I would like to give a special thank you to the amazing staff that has been helping support and educate members on the many historical practices and traditions that Ivy has. I am extremely grateful to be working with Katie, Henry, Andrew, Brooke, and Ogechi as a team of undergraduate officers dedicated to protecting Ivy traditions and cultivating the Ivy undergraduate community during this academic year, and I am proud to say that we have seen extremely positive results from our efforts. As always, we are so grateful for the work that Betty has done for the Club, and as her days working for Ivy come to a close, we are extremely impressed by the work that her successor Phil Vicino has been doing in preparation for her departure. As we occupy the many different spaces 43 Prospect has to offer, we continue to be reminded that the Ivy Club truly is, and always will be, the best club on the Street.

Sincerely,
Miles Wilson

The Ivy Club, Board of Governors

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Staff

Steward
 Betty Rascher
 steward@theivyclub.net
 (609) 924-2236
 General Manager
 Phil Vicino
 gm.steward@theivyclub.net

Director of Member Services
 Alanna Boudreau
 alanna.boudreau@theivyclub.net
 (607) 597-9242

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!

