

# COLONIAL CLUB

Spring Newsletter



May/June 2016

## A Letter from the President of the Graduate Board



Fellow Members,

There is a persistent quality to Colonial Club. In the popular imagination, Colonial Club and its peers persist in timeless, hazy, Gatsby-esque memories of youthful shenanigans and blissful, unthinking privilege. It is worth

remembering, as we celebrate our 125th anniversary that Colonial was born not in the 1920s, but in the early 1890s—the Belle Époque rather than the Jazz Age. “Midnight in Paris” (an under-appreciated Woody Allen film<sup>1</sup>) posits that each generation believes that the Golden Age is the one that they missed, and it’s not difficult to imagine our predecessors in the Colonial Club of the 1920s pining for the simpler, happier times of the Gay 90s when liquor was legal and academic requirements were even more relaxed.

125 years of continuous operation is a real achievement for any organization that has to make a New Jersey payroll and pay Princeton property taxes. A random walk down Prospect Street provides a reminder that Clubs can and do fail—only to be reanimated as immaculately groomed zombies serving the University’s seemingly limitless appetite for real estate within longbow shot of Nassau Hall.

It hasn’t all been smooth sailing. Colonial’s colorful history includes a number of instances (at least three since 1970) when the club was essentially broke and bailed out by generous alumni members. Miraculous escapes make for engaging reading, but they’re no way to run a railroad (a type of enterprise from the 19th century with its own problems...) A primary mission of your current Grad Board leadership has

been to reorganize the Club’s operations and finances to reduce the risk of going out of business. I am happy to report continuing and significant progress on that front and with the work of our excellent club manager and her team, I believe we have moved from 19th century business practices all the way to the 21st century in only a few years. There’s a lot to be nostalgic about at Colonial, but some things are best left in the past, boats beating backward, etc, etc.

Finally, I am happy to report that the 125th Anniversary Celebratory All-Member New York Cruise was a great success—literally, a movable feast—and that all undergraduates were successfully returned to land.

Heres hoping to see you soon at \*your\* Club, but failing that, may \*your\* Club live long in your hearts and memories.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Angela Ben Stetson".

<sup>1</sup>“Midnight in Paris” is also notable for an amusingly frivolous lawsuit by the estate of William Faulkner over the use of the phrase “the past is not dead. Actually, it’s not even past.”

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## Undergraduate President's Address

My name is Christopher Yu, and it is my honor and pleasure to serve as the new undergraduate president of Colonial Club. I was born in Manhattan and raised in Longview, a small town in East Texas. At Princeton, I'm studying political economy under the Department of Politics, with certificates in neuroscience, cognitive science, and East Asian studies. This summer, I will be extending my academic research on cross-border M&A in the private sector, serving as a summer analyst for Morgan Stanley's Corporate M&A and Strategy division in New York.



It is my pleasure to give an update on the happenings here at Colonial Club, and in celebration of our 125th anniversary, I look forward to the many fond memories that will be made here throughout the year!

The spring semester has been alive and well, and I'm delighted to inform that the Colonial Club spirit has been soaring higher than ever. With over 80 new sophomores joining us this February, the Colonial family has flourished, and the club's sense of community continues to grow stronger with each passing day.

Our membership has had exciting fun with events ranging from our classic semi-formals to novel Easter egg hunts, therapy dog study breaks, and member appreciation dinners. Meals have been delicious thanks to Gil's fantastic oysters and Korean ribs, and discussions over dinner have been lively and fun, with kudos due to our weekly "Colonial Times" and the competing "Colonial Free Press."

Thanks to our fantastic officer corps, we've kicked off several new initiatives including midterm care packages, member birthday celebrations, and sophomore bonding nights. Furthermore, we've attempted to make the club experience even better for our members via event and food feedback surveys, website blogs, club guides, and semester releases of our social calendar.

Moreover, we've attempted to expand opportunities for our members to network and explore different

career paths. For instance, our asset management team, Colonial Investments, held a career panel featuring our seniors in finance, consulting, and quantitative trading. We've also launched Colonial Development, an in-house software development team working on a modern, dynamic website exclusively for Colonial member use.

We're also proud to announce that our members raised over \$500 through our Charity Talent Show this April, and thanks to our service partnership with the Princeton-Blairstown Center, we've had the opportunity to go on a club field trip packed with canoeing, rappelling, rope courses, climbing, and hiking!

As Colonial Club celebrates its 125th anniversary, we can't wait to see our alums back at Reunions, and we look forward to hearing all of your stories and memories! We warmly welcome you back to Colonial anytime for a meal or a tour of the clubhouse; a lot has changed, and we'd be more than happy to show you around.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to email me at [atcju@princeton.edu](mailto:atcju@princeton.edu). I look forward to hearing from you!

All the best,

*Christopher J. Yu*

Christopher J. Yu '17  
Undergraduate President

### Want to relive that Colonial experience?

Visit the Colonial Club gear store to boast your club logo wear and accessories!

[http://bestclubgear.com/Colonial\\_Club\\_Gear.html](http://bestclubgear.com/Colonial_Club_Gear.html)



*Bound together by genuine ties of friendship*



# Colonial Club's 125th Anniversary



1891



1893



1897



1907



A. PLATT ANDREW



CHARLES H. ANGELL



ROBERT D. BETTE



HAMILTON B. BOGUE JR.



BENNY W. BRIDGES



GEORGE W. CASE JR.



OWEN M. EDWARDS JR.



HERBERT P. FISHER



HOWARD S. FORMAN



KENNETH C. KISTLAND



L. FRIEDMAN LITTLE



CALEB WHISLER LORD



DWIGHT M. LUBBOCK



GARMOND H. MILLER



JAMES A. MILLER



WALTER T. NOBLE



CHARLES W. OFFERY



WILLIAM T. SABINE JR.

## The Founding Members



## The Class of 2016

*Bound together by genuine ties of friendship*



## Woodrow Wilson and Colonial Club

Much has been written this academic year about President Wilson and the appropriate role of his legacy in today's Princeton. Wilson has been a legendary figure on campus, but this year campus progressive activists have been successful in raising awareness of the problematic aspects of his legacy—in particular, his attitudes on race. President Eisgruber recently announced, however, that the name of the policy school will not change, nor will that of the residential college, but there will be some other initiatives to contextualize his legacy and otherwise promote diversity. Among all the talk of Wilson's racial attitudes, his views on and approaches to higher education have been moved to the background. Examining Wilson's relationship to Colonial Club and the others reveals much about his role in Princeton's social history and provides a new lens through which to evaluate his role here. By opposing the elitism and social climbing that the early clubs represented, he was generally pro-meritocracy, anti-privilege, and in favor of equality of opportunity—for white men. He was regressive on race—even by the standards of his time—but his progressive attitudes to education and class were a big step forward from those of previous Princeton administrators, and were in contrast to those of many among the alumni who opposed him.

Woodrow Wilson, 1879, joined the faculty as a professor of Jurisprudence and Political Economy in the spring of 1890. His rise in stature among the faculty paralleled the rise of Colonial Club among the students. During Wilson's first decade on the faculty, the university was undergoing rapid change. For most of the nineteenth century, Princeton was a small, college, and much less ambitious Wilson Committee report called the "intellectually lethargic." Student primarily on academics; standards extracurricular and social offerings the student body almost doubled in from wealthy backgrounds increased. many students from the antebellum increasingly from the industrial and and Midwest. President McCosh schools to "feed" into Princeton as a after the Civil War.

As a culture of gentlemen's clubs for and Philadelphia, the idea took hold was the first and the only one truly in the University's dining offerings. social institutions than dining ones; mention "social intercourse" as a number of the later clubs. The clubs status and the center of campus social a status symbol and an obsession for than academics or intellectual hierarchy of clubs, approximated by their age, with Ivy on top and Colonial in the top five. The clubs became so important that prospective students visiting with their parents would prioritize meeting with eating club officers over investigating the University's academic offerings. Freshmen would try to align themselves with a particular club as soon as they arrived. In some cases club networking began even earlier, at the country's top boarding and preparatory schools.

***"Colonial more than any other club has shown there is a middle ground. You can achieve the benefits of smaller dining and social communities while remaining grounded in voluntary membership and egalitarianism."***

semi-rural, mostly Presbyterian than it became later. The recent campus that Wilson inherited emphasis was by no means were generally low, while expanded significantly. Meanwhile, size and the number of students Whereas Princeton had drawn South, now its student body was financial centers of the northeast (1868-88) had encouraged private way to maintain the student body

the wealthy thrived in Manhattan at Princeton as well. Ivy Club founded to compensate for a deficit The rest were always more Colonial's founding documents mission, a phrase later lifted by a very quickly became a marker of life. Eating club membership was undergraduates—more important development. There was a social

hierarchy of clubs, approximated by their age, with Ivy on top and Colonial in the top five. The clubs became so important that prospective students visiting with their parents would prioritize meeting with eating club officers over investigating the University's academic offerings. Freshmen would try to align themselves with a particular club as soon as they arrived. In some cases club networking began even earlier, at the country's top boarding and preparatory schools.

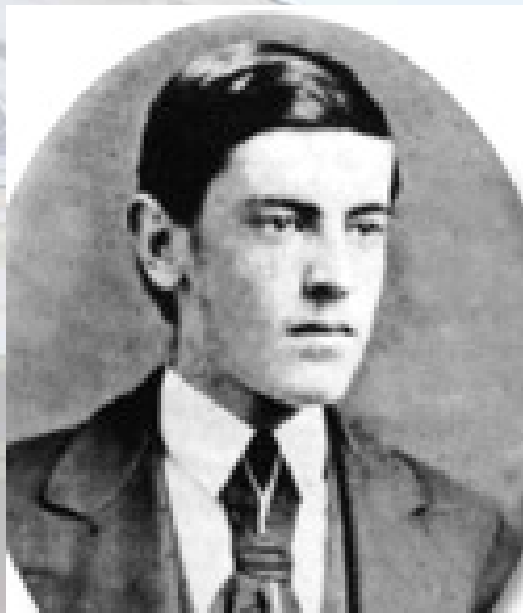
Wilson hated this new aspect of Princeton life. He believed that the rising social elitism he was witnessing around him was a threat to the educational mission of the University. Wilson believed that undergraduate



education should primarily be about academics and the life of the mind rather than the social and extracurricular life that most students prioritized. Colonialite W. Barksdale Maynard '88 summarizes in his biography of Wilson: "intellectual attainment was the only legitimate object of a university, Wilson repeatedly told audiences."

After ascending to the Presidency in 1902, Wilson was determined to be a reformer and shape the University in line with his vision. Wilson was an anglophile who saw Oxford as the ideal of undergraduate education, with its small-group tutorials and quadrangular residential colleges.

### Young Woodrow Wilson



One of Wilson's major academic reforms was the preceptorial system, still in existence today. He wanted educators to live with undergraduates meet with undergraduates in small groups to discuss material and further their understanding. This educational experience was the opposite of what was available at the eating clubs. Maynard puts it eloquently: "to Wilson, these elitists [of Ivy Club] were the anti-preceptors."

Wilson's downfall was when he tried to take on the clubs. Wilson wanted to transform the Princeton campus by building a series of residential quadrangles approximating the Oxford colleges that would be self-contained with academic, social, and dining life. This idea was called the Quad Plan. The closest analog today is Yale's residential colleges, built several decades later. With this plan, Wilson threw down the gauntlet to the clubs. When creating the alternative to the eating clubs that became Wilson College, naming it after Wilson was the obvious symbolic choice - finally students had an alternative to the club system that Wilson had so despised. Wilson failed mainly because he was taking on a major constituency—the alumni, including the early Colonialites, who loved their clubs. (Wilson's increasingly autocratic leadership style also alienated him from some of the faculty and trustees.) There is one major lesson for Princeton leaders today—you can't bring about major reforms to the University without getting the alumni on board. Wilson never really recovered from the failure of the Quad Plan.



Colonial's relationship to Wilson's legacy is ambiguous. He didn't like the Club at all, and he would have gladly shut it down had he been able. But the club today doesn't much resemble the one it was a century ago. Colonial more than any other club has shown there is a middle ground. You can achieve the benefits of smaller dining and social communities while remaining grounded in voluntary membership and egalitarianism. Eating clubs are a great part of

undergraduate social life. Wilson was wrong on that. But he was right that eating club elitism—manifest today in Bicker—is contrary to the spirit of the modern university. Modern Colonial gets it right.

### *A note on sources*

Thank you to Michael Marshall '57 senior thesis "The Origins and Development of the Princeton Upper-class Eating Club Systems, 1868-1917," Colonialite W. Barksdale Maynard '88's excellent "Woodrow Wilson: Princeton to the Presidency" (2008), and James Axtell's "The Making of Princeton University: from Woodrow Wilson to the Present" (2006).

To the Esteemed Class of  
1966 Colonial Club Alumni

You are cordially invited to attend a  
Reunions Luncheon to Honor the Class of 1966!

Colonial Club Dining Room  
Friday, May 27, 2016

11:00am Reception  
11:30am Luncheon and Class Remarks  
\* Please RSVP by Friday, May 20th \*

To Kathleen Galante, Club Manager  
609.924.0255  
manager@colonialclub.com

Thank you!

We look forward to  
seeing you back for Reunions!

## Colonial Celebrates 125 Years



## Reunions 2016 Friday, 5/27 - Sunday, 5/29

"GOING BACK...GOING BACK...  
GOING BACK TO...COLONIAL CLUB!"



Friday, May 27th  
10:00 pm - 3:00 am  
TAP ROOM IS OPEN

Saturday, May 28th  
10:30 am - 1:30 pm  
Milk Punch Brunch ...you know you love it!

2:00 pm: P-Rade  
3:30 pm - 7:00 pm  
Smokin' BBQ Feast...After the P-Rade

10:00 pm - 3:00 am  
TAP ROOM IS OPEN

Sunday, May 29th  
10:00am - 12:30 pm  
Homeward Bound Brunch Buffet

*Bound together by genuine ties of friendship*



# Give to Colonial!

Colonial has continued to thrive over the years thanks to the generous support of our alumni! Please continue to support your club with your dues payments and thoughtful donations to the club.

## Dues

The Dues Structure is now \$25.00 for all those who graduated within the last ten years and \$50.00 for all those who graduated eleven plus years ago. Paying your dues provides admission to all alumni events at Colonial, including meals at Reunions and Homecoming. Dues may be paid at the door, at any event or online. Non dues payers may be asked to pay their dues before visiting for a Club event. If dues are not paid, the member and his/her guests/family members will be charged an event fee. Guests and family members of dues-paying alumni are always welcome. We look forward to seeing you!

## Annual Giving

Now, more than ever before, Colonial Club needs your support. We need your help to sustain our wonderful reputation on the Street and to offer our current student officers the marketing tools necessary to continue our great traditions and increase membership. Please make your unrestricted gift today!

You can donate a tax-deductible gift to the PPF/ Colonial Account to support our educational spaces or you can donate a gift directly to The Colonial Club for its immediate use toward the general upkeep and ongoing maintenance of the Club. The "Pay Club Dues" tab on our website will guide you. You can also email, call or use the envelope provided. Colonial Club thanks you for your generosity and support to the club!

## Stay Connected

Be sure to update your contact information at [www.colonialclub.com](http://www.colonialclub.com) so that you may continue to receive news from the club.

Keep us updated on your life and we may post it in the next newsletter! Send your life news and celebrations to [manager@colonialclub.com](mailto:manager@colonialclub.com).

## Host Your Next Event at Colonial Club!

Colonial Club offers a classy, unique venue for your upcoming corporate or social events.

Reach out to our Club Manager, Kathleen, for menus and event planning assistance, [manager@colonialclub.com](mailto:manager@colonialclub.com)

## Graduate Board of Governors

Joseph Studholme '84 - President  
Angelica Pedraza '12 - Vice President  
David Genetti '98 - Treasurer  
Paul LeVine, Jr. '72 - Secretary  
Julian Dean '13  
Kristen Epstein '97  
Norman Flitt '72  
Sean Hammer '08  
David Hou '11  
John McMurray '95  
Sev Onyshkevych '83  
Edward Ritter '83  
Andrew Stein '90  
Hal L. Stern '84  
Andrew Weintraub '10

## Undergraduate Officers

President:	Christopher J. Yu
Vice-President:	Robin Li
Treasurer:	Gregory Magana
Social Chair:	Likith Govindaiah
House Manager:	Andrew Ruchames
Beverage Chair:	Ryan O'Connell
IM's Chair:	Toan Lu
Communications Chair:	Belinda Ji
Assistant Social Chair:	Matthew Lucas
Assistant Social Chair:	Will Kelly
Community Service Chair:	Jenny Peng
Sophomore Representative:	Jackey Liu
Sophomore Representative:	Alisa Fukatsu
Sophomore Representative:	Rochelle Forni
Finance Chair:	Shirley Fu
Activities Chair:	Jesus Covarrubias

## Obituaries

**(William) Keith Rabe '71** passed away last year after battling chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.



Keith came to Princeton from Houston, TX, where his family was involved in the energy business. He had spent some of his

childhood in Europe, where his father had worked for Shell.

He always had diverse interests. At Princeton, he was an engineer by training, but also excelled in English literature and the visual arts. He always loved sailing and the ocean. At Colonial, Keith was an enthusiastic member and all his closest friends were in the Club, including Daniel Cunningham '71, John Rooney '71, Karl Schmalz '71, Mark Mazo '71, Eric Mazur '71, and others.

After graduation, he completed an MBA at the University of Texas and worked in the energy industry. He changed careers, spending several decades working with Native American tribes in Wyoming and Montana, before eventually returning to Texas.



**Bennett Wren '50** passed away from cancer last summer. Ben grew up in Oklahoma City before attending a military academy in Minnesota for high school.

At Princeton and Colonial he was a psychology major and rowed crew his freshman year.

After graduation he joined the Navy effort in the Korean War. He achieved great career success with a number of retail ventures. He led his father's business, selling office supplies and equipment and expanding its scope to interior design and decoration. He then dedicated more than three decades to a clothing business in California.

**Jim Metcalfe '53** passed in Louisville, KY, where he spent most of his life. He came to Princeton after attending the Choate Hall Prep School in Connecticut.



While at Colonial he was a brilliant athlete, running on the track team while dabbling in basketball. At the time he planned to work in agriculture but actu-

ally ended up in finance as a Senior Vice President of the Citizens Fidelity Bank of Louisville. Jim dedicated significant effort to charitable causes, in particular the eradication of cerebral palsy. He was on the board of United Cerebral Palsy for many years.

## In Memoriam

*We honor those who recently passed...*

Mr. Charles Barham, III '53	Feb 13, 2016
Mr. Colin C. Carpi '53	Dec 10, 2015
Mr. Richard C. Smith '54	Nov 30, 2015
Dr. James H. Case '57	Nov 09, 2015
R. Layton Runkle, M.D. '61	Dec 13, 2012
Sharon R. Seiler, Ph.D. '82	Aug 04, 2015

## Job Board

Colonial Club offers a job board to our members to help secure internships and career opportunities.

Please contact our Club Manager, Kathleen Galante, [manager@colonialclub.com](mailto:manager@colonialclub.com), to add your company and available positions to our ongoing Job Board.