



# ON THE VINE

THE IVY CLUB NEWSLETTER

Spring 2012

## CIA Director David Petraeus Visits The Ivy Club

| By Chris Ghaffari, '12

On April 5, 2012, the Ivy Leadership Program welcomed its most prominent speaker to date, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency David Petraeus, for a very special evening session. The event capped the robust pilot year of the Club's Leadership Program—an ongoing dialogue with distinguished leaders from a wide range of fields.

In a club-wide reception on the terrace, some 200 members and guests greeted the Director before his keynote remarks. Among them: all of Ivy's junior and senior members, Board members and their partners, Princeton ROTC (Reserve Officers' in Training Corps) cadets, and several members of the newest Ivy section—sophomores—who were selected by lottery. Also in attendance was former governor of New Jersey Christie Whitman, whom the Program hosted for a leadership session in December.

Over cocktails and hors d'oeuvres Director Petraeus mingled with club affiliates young and old. He cracked jokes at his own expense and swapped



[above] Director Petraeus talks with Ivy membership

Army stories with another Program speaker, Professor Paul Miles of the History Department. Director Petraeus listened as much as he spoke. He even posed for a biceps-bared photo with senior rower Andrew Lewis.

The session following in the Great Hall had a similarly congenial flair. With the room packed to capacity, seniors Greg Colella and Mika Devonshire moderated a relaxed conversation with the Director. He thoughtfully fielded questions on Afghanistan, Iraq, the crisis in Syria, and Iran's nuclear program.

He reflected on his time in the Army and at Princeton, suggesting that the best leaders relish taking the road less traveled. Aligned with this approach was his comment "When people told me

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[above] Director Petraeus speaks in the Great Hall

Photography by Andrew Wilkinson

## Graduate President's Report

| *By Jim Q. Griffin '55*

Photography by James G. Cole



[above] James Q. Griffin '55

Ivy regenerates itself every February with the arrival of our new section. During the last century, the admission process has continued to evolve reflecting contemporary social attitudes on the campus, but our fundamental focus on our individual's integrity, accomplishments, goodwill and respect for others has remained constant. This year the connecting fiber from past members continues to infect the newest ones and leavens Ivy's bread. The current undergraduate compliment perpetuates the values of prior generations which underpin our open civil society.

The selective eating club admissions process provides a bickeree with only one choice. Should an applicant be unsuccessful, the one alternative is to apply to a non-selective Club or drop out of the system. The graduate Interclub Committee is exploring the feasibility of reintroducing some form of multi-club bicker. In Ivy's case, we want to be sure that any new process does not change focus on the individual or force an individual into a system against their free will.

Ivy continues to be well managed by our outstanding steward, Betty Rascher. We remain in financial equilibrium, the operating budget is in the black, the building properly maintained, the exceptional staff is fairly paid and the fund drive to repay a very small bank bridge loan is bearing fruit.

Molly Jones has joined the management team to coordinate the Board affairs, supervise communications and is helping with the leadership initiative in addition to supporting other undergraduate activities.

## Eating Clubs, The Ideal Social Solution

| *By Caroline Shifke '12, Undergraduate President*

Students accepted for the class of 2016 have been visiting campus recently, and some of their most persistent questions are about eating clubs. The prevailing perception of the eating clubs is often negative and, I believe, misguided. Looking back on my time at Princeton, I feel that it was this same club system that helped make these past four years the best of my life.

In many ways, eating clubs provide an ideal social structure for a college campus. They offer the experience of a tight-knit community while maintaining a social inclusivity coherent with the broader goals of the University. While providing a comparatively safer social scene, the eating club system also provides much more for the Princeton student body. Clubs combine the social and the intellectual in one small community, providing everything from a place to spend time with friends to a quiet spot for studying.

While perhaps not readily apparent on first glance, the Princeton eating club system actually facilitates social inclusivity. Although each club has its own private membership, the clubs still remain largely open to the entire student body as any student can visit on a night out or attend a meal as a guest of a member. In contrast to social systems at other schools, eating clubs do not have the same affiliation limitations of fraternity houses, which are often closed to non-members, or economic limitations of bars, which can be quite costly.

Additionally, while bars are off limits to underage students, a person from any grade can visit the eating clubs. This allows for a uniquely cohesive undergraduate student body, one in which friendships across grades are not only possible but also supported and encouraged. As compared to other university social structures, this open-door approach allows students to develop a much more expansive and diverse social group even among peers their own year.



Moreover, eating clubs allow for a safe socializing option. Each club has bouncers and bartenders who help ensure that the clubs remain safe environments. The wrist-banding system promotes legal drinking and the clubs' proximity to campus dramatically minimizes drunk-driving concerns.

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, the clubs at Princeton are much more than simply places to party and eat meals as they serve as safe spaces in which students can engage in intellectual discussions outside of the classroom, learning from their peers and always striving to better themselves. Each club has its own unique identity and offers activities and services that extend beyond the more obvious components. Without eating clubs, Princeton would still provide academic learning; with the clubs, Princeton offers a full education.

## CIA Director David Petraeus

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that coming to Princeton for graduate work was a sure way to sink my military career," he explained, "I knew it was the right choice." He displayed the true grace and humor of a leader throughout.

At the conclusion of the talk, the Director was met with a rousing ovation. Former undergraduate president Caroline Shifke announced that the Ivy Board had elected him an Ivy Fellow and presented him with a "military" medal of Ivy's own: an emerald-studded, gold ivy leaf hung from a ribbon of Ivy colors.

Director Petraeus imparted to Ivy's sons and daughters the essence of the Program's findings on leadership thus far: distinguish yourself, but never forsake your duty to the people around you who are indispensable.

They are words for every Ivy member to live by; and a great culmination of the year's intensive inquiry on leadership.

## Member Close-up: Andrew Choi

Section Year: 2014



[above] Andrew Choi '14

feels very much a part of its fabric.

The first time Andrew set foot in the Ivy Club it felt "very regal" and not aligned with who he was, but as his time on campus progressed, his perspective changed. Now, a full semester into his membership, Andrew is thrilled that he chose Ivy and

Andrew is a first generation Korean-American from Moore Park, California. His parents immigrated at young ages to the United States, seeking the educational opportunities that schools here could provide. Andrew and his younger brother grew up in a household where a strong work-ethic demanded that long hours be spent studying, leaving minimal time for socializing outside the family. A self-starter, Andrew has worked since he was young and even now, when not in class, runs a website development business. Over the last two years at Princeton, he has thrived in his Operations Research and Financial Engineering major.

## A Fresh Look at Bicker

During his freshman and sophomore years, Andrew's understanding of the Ivy Club deepened through fellow members of Footnotes, a campus a capella group. These interactions changed his initial impression and he came to appreciate the diversity of the membership. Therefore, when it came time to bicker, he decided to try for membership at Ivy. Walking into his first bicker conversation, Andrew thought that the process would be trite and considered that it may be difficult to share who he was. Yet, he found that he was quite wrong. During bicker, he had very substantial and deep conversations on topics ranging from economics to rugby. He even attended an oyster eating contest during his interview with one member. He found it impressive and refreshing to meet so many different and intriguing Club members.

Since joining Ivy, Andrew's conviction about belonging within the Club has been further cemented. He is energized by the varied interests and life experiences that Ivy's members each bring to the Club and feels that "you couldn't force a more diverse crowd than Ivy's membership."

## News from the Ivy 1879 Foundation



[above] Leadership Committee with Director Petraeus

### What is Leadership? Through New Program, Ivy Members Search for Answers

| By Kevin McGinnis '11, \*15

As Ivy Club members, we are fortunate to share a special bond with the great members that came before us. And, in nearly every field of endeavor, members of our illustrious Club have gone on to become influential leaders. From hockey star and WWI hero Hobey Baker, to Supreme Court Justice John Harlan II, the history of the Club is rich with examples of remarkable leaders. But what exactly is leadership? And, more importantly, how can we prepare current and future Ivy members to carry the mantle of leadership passed down to them? Over two years ago, Graduate Member Jan Buck '67 came to Board President Jim Griffin '55 to spur on discussion of these questions and the search for innovative answers. A undergraduate-driven Leadership Committee was created and the collaborative effort spawned the Ivy Leadership Program, a new and exciting initiative for undergraduate members launched in the fall of 2011.

At its core, the Ivy Leadership Program cultivates an environment of learning and discussion around all aspects of leadership. Rather than teach from any book or pre-existing theory, the program

charts a novel path as it empowers Club members to develop their own intuitions and conclusions regarding leadership. Seminar-style discussions encourage members to interact with contemporary leaders and scholars in an informal, conversational setting. The response from the Club has been tremendous: more than 130 members have participated in at least one of the program sessions over the past seven months.

### Great Leaders, Great Wisdom

In the program's inaugural session in September 2011, **Princeton Professor Robert George** mediated a conversation on the topic of ethics in leadership. Drawing on examples ranging from the civil rights movement to the hotel business, George explained that great leadership requires careful ethical decision-making. In positions of leadership, the burden of maintaining personal integrity is often compounded by the pressure of delivering results. And doing what is right often has a cost. But, as George eloquently argued, only by upholding the highest standards of ethical behavior can a leader truly be worthy of the mark of greatness.

Our second guest was **Charles Lowrey '79**, an Ivy Club Board Member and current Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Prudential Financial, Inc.'s U.S. businesses. Lowrey began his prepared remarks with a pointed question: "Do I look like a leader?" In doing so, he demonstrated a useful exercise for all would-be leaders as they prepare for new roles or evaluate ongoing performance. Lowrey also discussed in detail the burdens of leadership in business, nevertheless stressing that leadership can be highly rewarding.

On the topic of leadership in combat, we were fortunate to have **Peter Pace**, a retired General in the U.S. Marine Corps and the 16th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Gen. Pace spoke powerfully about the death of Lance Corporal Guido Farinaro, a young man he led in combat in Vietnam. When Farinaro was struck down by a sniper in 1968, he was the first soldier killed

under Pace's command. The weight of that moment had a profound and life-changing impact on Pace. From that point on, he said, he dedicated himself to serving in a manner that would pay respect to the sacrifice of Guido Farinero and other Marines like him. It was clear that throughout his time as a Marine, Pace carefully considered the impact of each of his decisions on the young soldiers that would be tasked with carrying out his orders. His care and commitment to those he led was inspiring.

**Christine Whitman** joined us in December. As the 50th Governor of New Jersey and the first woman to hold that position, Whitman's remarks covered the unique responsibility of leadership in politics. She also spoke on the important role female leaders must play in solving the world's most challenging problems. Given the complex set of issues facing the world today, she expressed a firm belief that no one group has all the answers. As Whitman explained, we can all benefit from leaders who bring diverse perspectives and life experiences to their positions.

**Princeton Professor Emeritus John Fleming**, a renowned scholar of Literature, entertained and educated the group by opening his remarks with a poetry reading. Drawing on examples from Shakespeare's "Henry V" and Tennyson's "Ulysses", he provided stirring evidence that great leaders exist in fiction as well. Most importantly, however, he emphasized the importance of a broad and deep education for leaders and society at large. Knowledge coupled with curiosity, he suggested, remains key to the success of great leaders.

**Professor Charles O'Reilly**, the Director of the Leadership Center at Stanford's Graduate School of Business, has been a consistent and strong supporter of Ivy's efforts to establish its Leadership Program. In February, he traveled to the Club along with Susan Feland, Producer of a Stanford video series entitled Leadership in Focus. Together, they presented video vignettes featuring Stanford Business School Alumni explaining difficult decisions they faced in their early careers. Throughout each case, Ivy members candidly analyzed and discussed the leadership decisions as they were presented. For many members, this was an excellent first-exposure to the case-based

approach as used by one of the best business schools in the country.

**Theodore Kattouf**, a former U.S. Ambassador to Syria and current CEO of AMIDEAST, visited in February. Tracing his rise through the ranks of the Foreign Service, Ambassador Kattouf candidly admitted that leadership did not come naturally to him. Instead, he described it as a skill that he developed over time through personal effort and exposure to effective leaders. Hearing leadership defined firsthand as a trait that can be cultivated and improved through practice, introspection, and hard work went a long way towards reaffirming the value of Ivy's Program and its goals.

As elaborated earlier in this newsletter, **CIA Director David Petraeus** joined us in early April for an outstanding program (refer to earlier piece for details).

**Paul Miles**, a long-time Princeton Professor of History, capped off this year's program by discussing "General George Washington and Great Military Leadership." Professor Miles highlighted the four main factors that underpinned Washington's success as a military leader: physical courage, strategic vision, persistence, and political savvy. Extending his analysis to Washington's presidency, Miles suggested that Washington's strategic vision was the key crossover trait that enabled him to guide the young nation through its infancy.

As we conclude this year's series of incredible speakers, I can think of no better opportunity to reflect on the program's extraordinary development. We have been so fortunate to receive exceptional support from CIA Director David Petraeus, the Stanford Business School, our brilliant speakers, and many others who have shepherded the program from idea to reality. It is a testament to the efforts of our Leadership Committee that the club now has an incredible resource for leadership development. But more than a gift, this program is a challenge: As Club members, we have a responsibility to develop the Ivy Leadership Program as a new tradition and to apply its lessons in the service of others.

## News from the Ivy 1879 Foundation



[above] Left to right: Class of '82 members Bob Bennett, Jay Wallace, and Rip Wilson

### A Tribute to an Ivy Leader

Last August the Ivy Club lost beloved graduate member Robert E. Bennett, Undergraduate President of the Section of 1982. Bob passed away after a long battle with cancer. In recognition of our steadfast friend and wise colleague, a memorial fund has been created at the Club in “Benny’s” honor. Support from this fund will be used first to design and construct a stained glass window in Bob’s memory and second to reduce the debt incurred to build the Griffin Wing. We are proud to share that we are approaching our \$200,000 goal

for this fund. We extend a big “Thank You” to those that have already contributed their support. Bob would have been humbled by your generosity.

### Campaign Update

The Ivy 1879 Foundation continues to progress towards raising the \$8.5 million utilized to provide for construction of the Griffin Wing and other necessary clubhouse improvements. Since your last update in October, \$60,911 in donations has been received by the 1879 Foundation, a portion of which will be used to repay the \$547,948 borrowed for construction. In addition to the sum owed to external sources, we need to repay the \$1.3 million loaned from internal funds for this project to return Ivy to full financial stability. Please consider making a donation to the Ivy 1879 Foundation in support of this major Club improvement—we need to repay these debts.

Donations to the Campaign or Bennett Memorial Fund can be made online at [theivyclub.net](http://theivyclub.net) or by contacting Molly Jones at (609) 423-8136 or at [ivy.club.board@gmail.com](mailto:ivy.club.board@gmail.com).

### Paul Ingersoll, Former Board Member, Will Be Remembered



[above] Paul Ingersoll the attention of a group of undergrads with his warmth and charismatic tales. He was a committed philanthropist to many valuable causes and always found the time to prioritize the Ivy Club among them.

Paul Ingersoll '50, a cherished friend and Board member of the Ivy 1879 Foundation, passed away on January 2, 2012 due to heart failure. Paul was a very warm and respected member who at Reunions or during other visits to the Club would draw

While at Princeton Paul was a member of the freshman football team and played on the University’s rugby team that won the Bermuda’s Governor’s cup in 1950. Upon departing from campus, he was sent to Germany to serve in the Army. Once he returned from war, he climbed the ranks within a number of industries, including insurance, manufacturing and banking and then in 1978, joined Christie’s, the international auction house, to start the company’s first regional office in North America. He continued in this role until he retired three decades later.

The Ivy Club, the Board of the Ivy 1879 Foundation, the Section of 1950 and countless others will sincerely miss Paul.



## Jason Ramirez: New Undergraduate President



[above] Jason Ramirez '13

Dear Graduate Members,

Hello from the Ivy Club. My name is Jason Ramirez and I was recently elected the new Undergraduate President of the Ivy Club. I would like to share with you some exciting updates about the Club.

We recently admitted our new sophomore class. The club is proud to welcome the sophomores, as they represent an eclectic mix of the student body—international students, students from a variety of academic and extracurricular backgrounds, and most importantly students who love the Club and are excited to be new Ivy members.

Ivy also had a changing of the guard, as the new officer corps was elected. First, I want to say that the former officers did a tremendous job leading the Club and ensuring all the members had a fun

and fulfilling year. They left big shoes to fill, but I am confident our new officer corps will continue their tradition. We are all excited to be making the Club the best it can be.

Ivy continues to be a place where our members learn and grow. Our weekly Roundtable discussions bring in professionals and academics to talk to our members about their field of expertise. We recently welcomed back Lauren Bush for a Roundtable discussion, where she shared with us the story of her FEED Projects. The Ivy Leadership Program has been a tremendous success. The visit of CIA Director David Petraeus truly crowned the program's achievement for the year.

As you can see, the Club is alive and well. I would like to thank each one of you for your support and generosity. The clubhouse is in great shape, and the members continue to enjoy the new wing. As always, anytime you are back in the Princeton area, please stop by Ivy and say hello. The members love meeting alumni and hearing stories from your time as undergrads (and it gives us an excuse to turn the tap on during the day).

Sincerely,  
Jason

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*Undergraduate Governor – Brian T. Kusiak*

*Bicker Chair – Tess McNamara*

*House Chair – Lukasz Mosakowski*

*Treasurer – Adam-Jorge M. Hyndman*

*Social Chair – Spencer K. Gaffney*

### 2012-2013 OFFICERS

*Undergraduate President – Jason J. Ramirez*

*Undergraduate Governor – Mark C. Linnville*

*Bicker Chair – Naomi C. Wood*

*House Chair – Alexander J. Taaffe*

*Treasurer – Emily W. Levy*

*Social Chair – Aaron B. Scheinfeld*

## Ivy Club 2012 Reunion Schedule

**Friday, June 1, 2012**—The Club will be open until midnight. There will be no food service, but refreshments of beer and soda will be available.

**Saturday, June 2, 2012**—Brunch for members and their guests will be served from 11:30 a.m. until 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 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Refreshments of beer and soda will continue to be available until the Club closes at midnight.

**Sunday, June 3, 2012**—There are no events scheduled at the Club on this day.



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## Paying Your Dues or Making a Donation

If you'd like to pay your graduate member dues or make an Ivy 1879 Foundation tax deductible donation, you can utilize the Club's website at [theivyclub.net](http://theivyclub.net) or contact us at (609) 924-2236. Thank you for your support!

