

# Cannon Club Summer Newsletter

*from Board Chair Chuck Freyer*



All's well here at **Cannon Dial Elm Club** as we look forward to the new academic year. We have a very active and engaged officer corps, led by Josh Coan and Kate Monihan. Josh is a leader of the Men's Volleyball team, and Kate captains the Women's Ice Hockey team. This summer she put aside her stick and took a swing at an internship at Major League Baseball in NYC!

The pandemic is definitely in the rearview mirror now, and we hope it will never be repeated. We are looking ahead with confidence for several key reasons.

- The **2023 bicker** section was among our largest, and is extremely strong and diverse. We can expect the new juniors to spend much of their time at the club, as do the seniors. Our sense of community is strong, as is our performance in intramurals where we are perennially Street champions.
- Our **undergraduate leadership** is strong, and working hard to ensure that all our members, whether or not they are athletes, treat Cannon as their campus home. It is where they go to both socialize and do their course work. As those of you who have been in the club in recent years know, you will find the Crane Room sofas, and the tables in the upstairs library and study rooms, occupied by students with laptops at virtually any hour of the day or night. This is where they choose to study and socialize. That desire to spend time in the club is Cannon's secret sauce. It is evidence of the sense of community that sets us apart from some of the other clubs, and led to our extremely strong result in 2023 bicker, hopefully to be repeated in 2024.
- Since we reopened the club 10 years ago, we have been blessed by steady financial support from our alumni. While the University helped all the clubs with covering their fixed costs during the pandemic, we are back to reliance on you, **our alumni**, for a significant portion of the annual budget.



**Reunions 2023** had some of the best weather I can remember in my 50+ years of Goin' Back. We hosted numerous alumni from different Classes and all five constituencies. One highlight was the presentation to the Club by the Class of 1968 at their 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion of a large painting of 'Big Tuna', a very convivial fish and the name of a favorite tippie at Cannon during their years. We drank a similar concoction at Elm, but with a different name. Speaking of which, Frank Thomson and Dick Schneider both '69 dropped by a day before Reunions kicked off for a look around and to drop off a memento from their time in Dial. A pitcher, side plate and books of matches! If you have any memorabilia from your time in the Club, please feel free to contribute it to our growing collection on display in the conference room.

Our manager and head chef Bill and his staff fed literally hundreds after the P-rade. Then they came back one day later for a cocktail party at the Club for the graduating seniors and their parents, an important constituency of the Cannon family. Then on Tuesday, we held our traditional reception after graduation for seniors and their families. Bill and his staff did themselves proud on all these occasions. At that gathering we honored a number of the graduates, including Ella Gantman, a Pyne Prize winner this year and newly elected Young Alumni Trustee on the Cannon Graduate Board, and Gunners who carried off 5 of the 7 scholar athlete awards presented by the Princeton Varsity Club--Pretty impressive!!

- **Serena Starks '23** was the Art Lane '34 Award Winner in recognition of her selfless contribution to sport and society;
- **Grace Stone '23** and **Quincy Monday '23** received the inaugural Chris Sailer Leadership Award for a Senior who demonstrates exceptional leadership and a commitment to serving others;
- **Daria Frayman '23** was awarded the Otto Von Kienbusch Award as the top Female Senior Student Athlete;
- and **Ella Gantman '23** earned the Class of 1916 Cup for the Senior with the Highest Academic Standing.
- We were also home to 11 of the 24 finalists.



The **Class of 2023** was an extraordinary group. In addition to all their accomplishments on campus and at Cannon, several graduating officers are looking at establishing a mentorship program for our undergraduate members, addressing career guidance and transition to the work force.

We have had to deal with several issues in the clubhouse this year. We currently get steam and chilled water from the University to heat and cool the club. The University will be moving to an environmentally friendly **GeoExchange** system to serve the Club starting after 2030. So when our 50-year old steam boiler developed problems this Spring shortly before Reunions, which did eventually get repaired, we installed backup electric water heaters in hopes of nursing the current system until the University makes its conversion. Luckily, we were able to repair the old system in time to host Reunions, but now we have a backup in the event of a future failure.

We had told you last Fall that our highest priority with respect to the building this year was to start **repointing** the building's exterior, a job that we thought would take several seasons to complete. However, once that process got started, we discovered that the issues went much deeper than we had realized, and that the job was at least twice as big as originally thought. As you can see from these pictures, immediate action is required to maintain the structure, now 112 years old. So, we are proceeding with a repointing of almost the entire structure this summer. It comes at a significant cost, but we really have no alternative. Unaddressed, the problems will continue to grow. Initially estimated at \$85,000, the cost of the project has doubled. The skill of the masons and their level of craftsmanship assures us that the cost is warranted, ensuring that the Club stands strong for the next century.



If you would like to help us with these issues, as we hope you will, there are several ways to do so.

First, we ask that you become an **Alumni Member** if you aren't now, or renew your membership if you already are an Alumni Member. Your annual membership will help us to pay for the projects I have mentioned, and any others that come up over the next year. If you want to do more than that, gifts to the Higgins Memorial Fund in any denomination will also support capital projects around the club, as well as providing financial assistance to deserving undergraduates within the limits permitted by the University under its recently expanding and very generous financial aid policy. **Please visit the Donations Page on our website, [www.cannonclub.com](http://www.cannonclub.com) to pay dues or make a contribution.**

Alumni membership provides some tangible benefits, as well:

As an **Alumni Member** at the basic level, you will be given the opportunity to request a parking spot in the back lot or Stadium Drive garage for alumni events; be notified when the Gear Store is open twice annually; and receive donor recognition in the club's website. If you choose to join as a **Leadership Member**, you will receive the benefits listed above as well as priority status for reserving a parking spot at alumni events. As a **Top Gun** member, you are also entitled to all the above benefits, plus first priority for parking in the backyard lot and have your name listed on donor board in the Club's front hall.

We thank you for your past support and ask that you please help us with our work. Come back and see for yourself. We think you will like what you see.

For one thing, I hope you will be able to come back for at least part of Princeton's 2023 **Homecoming Week**. The date for the Harvard Football game is October 21, but there are other games that week which will likely showcase Cannon talent:

Oct. 17 – Women's Soccer (7 p.m.)

Oct. 20 – Women's Ice Hockey (6 p.m.)

Oct. 21 – Women's Ice Hockey (3 p.m.)

Oct. 21 – Men's Soccer (4 p.m.)

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CF' or similar initials, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chuck Freyer '69  
Chair  
Graduate Board of Trustees