

# Cannon Club

## September Newsletter

*from Board Chair Chuck Freyer*



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### The Year Begins...

The Fall semester and athletic season is underway at 21 Prospect Ave, the home of Cannon Dial Elm 'Gunners'. We start the year with a full membership complement of juniors and seniors, to which we just added 6 great new members in fall Bicker, bringing our total to close to 220--a very full house!

### Meet Officers Tommy and Jessica



Our **undergraduate officers** seasoned from service last Spring, worked hard over the Summer, planning a great fall season of events, parties and community service. Please take a couple minutes to view the videos from [Tommy Matheson '25](#), a football co-captain and House Manager, and [Jessica Lin '25](#) our Bicker Chair, telling you a little about themselves and what Cannon means to them.



Also, you should know that we just inducted Princeton Athletic Director **John Mack** as an honorary member of Cannon Dial Elm after he was chosen for that honor by a vote of the undergraduate membership last Spring.

Our incredible Manager **Bill Conrad** was unexpectedly hospitalized just after Labor Day and is now home recuperating, but is anxious to get back to the kids and his kitchen, the best on the Street. The rest of the kitchen team and house staff are picking up the slack while Bill recuperates, but we miss him. Those of you who know Bill, might want to send him a Get Well greeting at [cdegm21@gmail.com](mailto:cdegm21@gmail.com).

## Now a quick wrap of **CANNON at the PARIS OLYMPICS**

As the 2024 Olympics came to a close on Aug. 11, two gold medalists carried the American flag through a raucous Stade de France. On the left side of the stars and stripes strode Katie Ledecky, the swimmer who defined a decade of competitors on her way to becoming the most decorated female American in Olympic history. Alongside her, with his left hand on the flagpole and a beaming grin on his face, Princeton's own **Nick Mead '17** flew the colors with pride after bringing home a gold medal in the men's coxless four rowing final. Mead's selection as flag bearer capped off a roaring success not just for the United States, which took home the most medals at the Games, but for Princeton Tigers past and present.

- 7 of the school record of 25 students, past and present, competing in Paris, were from Cannon: pretty impressive, right?



### In Track and Field:

- Princeton sent a sizable delegation to Paris in track and field with four athletes. Leading the way were Norwegian brothers **Sondre** and **Simen Guttormsen '23**, who were members of CDE their junior year. The siblings competed in the pole vault against Swedish legend Armand "Mondo" Duplantis, considered by some to be the greatest vaulter of all time. Simen did not make it out of the qualifiers, but Sondre met the required height of 5.75 meters and advanced to the finals. There, he finished in eighth place out of twelve finalists as Duplantis predictably took the gold with a world record performance.
- On the women's side, 2-time All American discus thrower **Obiageri Amaechi '21** competed for Nigeria. Amaechi fouled on her first two throws and made it only 45.45 meters on her final throw, far short of her personal best 63.17 meters, which would have been enough to qualify.

### In Water Polo:

- Two Tigers competed with the U.S. women's team in water polo, which fell in the bronze medal match against the Netherlands. Legendary goalkeeper **Ashleigh Johnson '17**, a member her junior year, considered one of the greatest of all time in her position, put up a dominant stretch of games, holding each of three opponents to single digits — usual scores are in the low teens — in the group stage. Next, the United States won a thrilling quarterfinal match against Hungary in a 5–4 defensive battle aided by Johnson's incredible 17 saves. In the semifinals, the United States was downed in a shootout against Australia. In the bronze medal match, a late push by the Netherlands resulted in a tight 11–10 loss. **Jovana Sekulic '26**, a current Cannon member, also logged significant time in the water as a key member of the national team.

### In Field Hockey:

- Though the U.S. women's field hockey team did not make it out of the group stage, Tiger star **Beth Yeager '25**, who took off last year but is back this Fall, logged crucial minutes in each group stage game. Yeager did not score at the 2024 Games, but took dangerous shots and set up the lone goal in the U.S.A.'s 1–0 triumph over South Africa. The United States bowed out early, with an opening loss against Argentina and a concluding win over South Africa bookending losses to Great Britain and Australia and a draw with Spain. Beth will be looking to add her third Ivy League Offensive Player of the Year as the field hockey team seeks to improve upon last year's third place Ivy League finish.

### In Swimming:

- **Adell Sabovic '25**, Princeton's lone Olympic swimmer, put on an impressive performance for his home nation of Kosovo in the 100-meter men's freestyle. Sabovic placed second in his heat with a time of 51.77, though this time was not enough to send him through to the semifinals. Since Olympic heats are typically organized by speed, even winning an earlier heat, such as the third, is often not enough to qualify in a field containing ten heats. After his race, Sabovic was selected by Kosovo to carry the flag at the closing ceremony alongside track athlete Gresa Bakraçi. His selection made him one of three Tigers to bear their home flag, alongside Mead of the United States and Noble of Uganda. Adell was a Social Chair at Cannon last year.



I hope you agree that is a most impressive performance for Cannon Dial Elm. If you come back this Fall, ask to be introduced to some of those who are current students, to congratulate them!

### Our Alumni

Cannon Dial Elm is unique in the composition of our alumni base, with Cannon, Dial, Elm and DEC constituencies, as well as the CDE alums from 2012 onward. As I mentioned in Newsletters last Spring, in an attempt to generate better communications with our alumni, we have created the **CDE Alumni Network** and are enlisting volunteers from each Class in each constituency to act as a Class Captains to encourage and foster Classmates from their year and club to reengage with each other and with Cannon Dial Elm. The network is largely built out now and many of you should receive a note from your Class captain with a copy of this Newsletter. If you don't, it means we still need a Captain from your section. If you are interested in engaging and reengaging with clubmates, please consider joining our Alumni Network team. Just reach out to me and we will take it from there. This program is designed to be

an easy lift for the volunteers. We will provide you with everything you may need, and ask only an hour or so a month of your time, although we hope that reconnecting with your old friends will lead to many more enjoyable hours for the volunteers.



Finally, we cannot do all the wonderful things we do for our undergraduate members, and maintain our beautiful and historic clubhouse, **without your help**. As I do in each of these letters, let me encourage you to become an **Alumni Member** if you aren't already, or renew your membership if you are an Alumni Member. Your annual membership will help us to pay for all the things that make Cannon the success it is.

If you want to do more than just pay dues, gifts to the *Higgins Memorial Fund* in any denomination will also support capital projects around the club, as well as provide financial assistance to deserving undergraduates within the limits permitted by the University under its recently expanding and very generous financial aid policy.

**A form to use if you want to donate to the Higgins Fund and/or pay your dues appears at the end of this letter. You can also donate or pay dues by going to the Donations Page on our website, [cannonclub.com](http://cannonclub.com).**

Chuck Freyer '69  
Chairman  
Graduate Board of Trustees  
Cannon Dial Elm Club

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### Cannon Dial Elm Club Alumni Membership

To Become an Alumni Member or renew your membership, please return this form to: Cannon Dial Elm Club PO Box 7788 Princeton, NJ 08543-7788

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Class of '23         | \$ 25 / yr or \$ 50 / yr Leadership Level   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Classes of '18-22    | \$ 50 / yr or \$ 125 / yr Leadership Level  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Classes of '13-17    | \$ 75 / yr or \$ 175 / yr Leadership Level  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Classes prior to '12 | \$ 100 / yr or \$ 250 / yr Leadership Level |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Top Gun              | \$1000 /yr or more                          |

Memberships and contributions may also be made online at [cannonclub.com/donate/](http://cannonclub.com/donate/), by [venmo @cannonclub](mailto:venmo@cannonclub), or via the Princeton Prospect Foundation at [princetonprospectfoundation.org/donate/](http://princetonprospectfoundation.org/donate/) designating Cannon Dial Elm Club as recipient

This gift is in honor/memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please inform the family/honoree of the gift.  
Their name and address: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ A check made payable to Princeton Cannon Dial Elm Foundation is enclosed

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