

November 2025

CANNON DIAL ELM CLUB



NEWS FLASH!!!

Cannon and other Club members will not have to pay for a dining hall meal plan in addition to paying Club fees! See below for details.



We had a great turnout for Homecoming

Well, the Harvard game did not end as we had hoped, but our team gave it their all, including our undergraduate President Scott Becker playing Center. We are hoping for a better result against Yale on 11/15. In the meantime, check out Vice President Nick Crowley's latest post on recent CDE athletic accomplishments on the [website](#).



Despite the final score, we had a GREAT TURNOUT at Cannon Dial Elm after the game. Hundreds of alumni and football families filled the house, ate their fill of the tailgate spread, and had a great time!! I gave lots of tours and greeted scores of alumni from our Cannon, Dial, Elm, and DEC constituencies, as well as our post-2012 CDE members. Believe me, Cannon Dial Elm is your home no matter what

your constituent alumni group. Every Dial or Elm alum I greeted in our beautiful building told

me they were impressed with the sense of belonging and family that they felt on crossing our threshold. That sense of family is the CDE Core Value!

I was hoarse by the end of the night from talking to alums about our **Thrive in '25** campaign. Hopefully, you all know about this effort to improve the experience of our current members with our plans to:

- expand the dining room by 30%
- modernize our kitchen
- add a dumbwaiter to facilitate movement of food and supplies from the basement to the first floor kitchen.

Construction starts after the turn of the year, but we still need to reach our fundraising goal. The gap is almost \$500,000, which may look big, but if everybody chipped in just a little bit, we would close the gap for sure.



So, PLEASE go to cannonclub.com and donate to this important cause (even if you have already done so) or use the handy form below to submit your contribution. The Thrive in '25 campaign will enable Cannon to thrive long into the future! We really need your help. You will be PROUD to have played a part in this effort to help ensure Cannon Dial Elm remains a welcoming and comfortable place for our members to eat, study and enjoy fellowship with their clubmates!

Below are notes we received from several alumni expressing why they made significant contributions to our **Thrive in '25** campaign. You saw two of these comments in my last newsletter, and excerpts are included again because I think they bear repeating:

... the Club exemplifies the values of good fellowship and friendship as well as or better than any other club on the Street ... And, having benefitted by membership in the Club in my student days then, I feel an obligation to support it now.

Lee Spencer, Cannon '65

My eating club experience was a vital part of my time at Princeton ... I believe that club life is now more important to Princeton students than ever before. The increased size of the student body and the pressures of today's academics lead our students to seek a home base - a place where friendships are formed and activities enjoyed. The students I interact with especially value the camaraderie engendered at the selective clubs.

Bob Axelrod, Elm '69

The eating club experience at Dial Lodge was one of the best things about my college experience at Princeton. The best part of Dial was not just the people I already knew in the club when I joined, it was the people I didn't know at the time that made it so special.

We forged lifelong friendships that last to this day. When we all get together (e.g., Reunions, weddings, tailgates, Oktoberfest!), it reminds us all of the times we spent together at Dial...and we create new memories for the future!

Before we had Cannon, Dial Lodge alumni didn't have a home. Since we re-opened, I feel we have one at Cannon and I know that every Dial Lodge member who has come back to the club feels the same way. I think it's critical to continue this for future students who join our club.

*Thank you to those who have contributed to **Thrive in '25** already and I urge those who haven't yet to please make a donation. It's for a great cause and allows us to continue the great tradition for the future.*

Bernie Stiroh, Dial Lodge '88

Let me again offer a new way to support **Thrive in '25**: if you would consider a gift of \$750 or more, make a pledge now but pay it later this year, in 2026, in 2027 or spread it over two or three years in equal installments. PLEASE GIVE!

Don't Harvard Our Princeton



If you DID make it back to campus for Homecoming you saw an overwhelming reaction to the University's proposed new dining plan that would require all Club members to purchase a University Dining hall meal plan for \$900/year IN ADDITION to their meal contract with their Eating Club. Virtually all members of Eating Clubs wore t-shirts with the name of our website [DONT#HARVARDOURPRINCETON.COM](https://dontharvardourprinceton.com). The same text appeared on yard signs and posters in all the clubs, and even on a banner pulled by a small plane flying over the stadium during the Harvard game.

Big News

My BIG NEWS is that the University has acknowledged the alumni uprising and their threats to withhold donations. As a result, next year, juniors and seniors will now be given the right to 2 free meals a week in the dining halls (essentially the same thing they do now) but will be able to bank those free meals to use over holiday breaks when some students, and particularly in-season athletes, remain on campus. That is a big help for Cannon athletes.

This is a DIRECT RESULT of alumni response to the appeals made by the eating clubs to their alumni. So, I offer a BIG THANK YOU to every Cannon Dial Elm alum who reached out to President Eisgruber or the Annual Giving Office to register their opposition to the plan.

But, before we celebrate this victory for the clubs too hard, we need to remember that the University's campaign against the clubs, and particularly the selective clubs, will no doubt continue, with the ultimate goal of making them into small dining halls open to all students. The best way for you, as CANNON DIAL ELM ALUMNI, to defeat this University objective is to allow our club to remain among the most desirable to join on the Street. You can do that by donating to the **Thrive in '25** campaign to ensure that Cannon Dial Elm members have the best possible club experience with a new kitchen and enlarged dining room!

So, until I write to you again, enjoy the rest of the Fall and Holiday Seasons; but PLEASE make a donation to the **Thrive in '25** campaign at cannonclub.com, or by using the form below.

Best regards,



Chuck Freyer
Chair
Graduate Board of Trustees

Thrive in '25

Enclosed is my contribution to the Thrive in '25 Campaign:

Contributions may also be made online at cannonclub.com/thrive-in-25, by venmo@cannonclub, or designate Cannon Dial Elm as recipient at princetonprospectfoundation.org/donate

Your name

Address 1

Address 2

City State Zip

This gift is in memory / honor of

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

☐ Please charge my card:

☐ AmEx ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa

For \$ _____

Name on card

Card #: _____

Exp Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Signature
