

Princeton Tower Club

Report to the Princeton Prospect Foundation

February 27th, 2018



Education

Tower actively supports intellectual life at Princeton, both by providing a clean and well-maintained space for studying and by offering the clubhouse as a venue for academic gatherings. This Spring, SLA220, “The Great Russian Novel and Beyond: Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Chekhov, and Others” taught by Professor Ellen Chances holds 2 precepts in Tower. The club is also deciding on funding to renovate the room in order to make it more accessible to educators, such as purchasing a new blackboard.

In the spirit of its emphasis on sexual harassment awareness, Tower is requiring its current officers, Bicker Committee, and all future officers to attend SHARE training. Current officers will be completing a special workshop with SHARE peers on 9 March, specially tailored towards eating club officers. We welcomed 125 new members to the club this spring, bringing us to 351 active members overall.

Tower will continue its roundtable program allowing members to meet important figures on campus and discuss various issues with them over dinner in our Precept Room. The club’s Roundtable Coordinators, Zach Schoenfeld ’19 and Alex Fager ’19, scheduled a lineup of speakers, including Professor Brian Herrera (Theater), Professor Keith Whittington (Politics), and Professor Gabriel Vecchi (Geosciences).

Civic Engagement and Community Service

Tower furthers its civic engagement mission by making itself available as a building and space available for the use of Princeton academic classes and Princeton’s student groups. A variety of campus groups also have regular meetings in Tower, including the Princeton Editorial Board, the International Relations Council, and Princeton CONTACT, a group of students that volunteer for the national suicide hotline. Tower members also have the opportunity to reserve the Woodbridge Precept Room for study groups when there are no precepts or meetings taking place, an opportunity of which the membership takes advantage near midterms and final exams.

During Halloween, Tower helped raise money in the annual Trick-or-Feed campaign in order to benefit the Trenton Soup Kitchen, and our Community Service Chairs are currently involved in a project to create and sell Prospect Avenue Calendars to fight food insecurity in the surrounding area.

In addition, Tower’s current community service chairs, Andrea Delgado ’19 and Samone Blair ’18 planned Truckfest alongside the other CSICC chairs in Spring ’17. All the proceeds for Truckfest went to Meals on Wheels and Send Hunger Packing, charities that promote food security. In the Fall, our community service chairs worked alongside CSICC once again during Prinetoween to raise awareness and proceeds for the same two charities.

Tower-wide, our community service chairs started an initiative that allowed members to email the secretary to promote service projects across campus on the Tower

listserv. Tower also hosted the Bachelor/Bachelorette auction that allows Tower members to auction off date ideas for donations. All proceeds went to Homefront. The Bachelor/Bachelorette auction will take place this year on 2 March with all proceeds going to Homefront again.

Sustainability

The Princeton Tower Club's commitment to pursuing sustainability involves an active approach. Our goal is not just to reform club infrastructure, but also to create an *ethos of sustainability* within the club and thereby encourage long-term behavioral change for our members. An ethos of sustainability is the understanding that sustainability does not exist as a separate good but should be embedded within all that we pursue, and be more than a marginal aim.

Tower's sustainability initiatives are designed to adjust norms and behavioral patterns in order to better respect our natural environment. Long term goals include going zero waste and drastically reducing our energy and water usage. The 2017 Sustainability Team was Amber Lin '19 (now House Manager), Matt Chang '19, Carley Stamps '19, and David Kim '19. Amber and Matt also intern for the Office of Sustainability through the Ecoreps program. The team has worked on initiatives that included reintroducing composting at the start of Fall 2017 through AgriArk, a Lawrence, NJ company that converts food waste into fertilizer through a biodigestion process.

Additional waste reduction initiatives included replacing one-time use plastic cups with reusable cups for all members' nights and smoothies at lunch, which are washed and reused using Tower's industrial dishwashing machines. For times when disposable plastic cups are necessary, the team started a Solo-cup recycling initiative through Terracycle in Spring 2017 and developed a system to collect plastic solo cups on all nights out. Through this system, Tower has successfully diverted hundreds of thousands cups from the landfill in the past year. The cup-recycling initiative also spread to the rest of the street through the newly formed "Greening the Street" group, in which representatives from all eating clubs meet every month to discuss and support each other in sustainability initiatives.

Tower's newest project for Spring 2018 is a thorough energy audit of all our lighting, power, and heating systems, done in conjunction as a student class project for ENE202, Designing Sustainable Systems - Applying the Science of Sustainability to Address Global Change taught by Professor Forrest Meggers.

In these ways and more, we plan to encourage an ethos of sustainability within the club and encourage large-scale and long-term change.

Technology

Tower's Technology Chairs, Maryam Bahrani '19 and Adeniji Ogunlana '19, have significantly improved the in the club's technological state by installing a new Nintendo Switch in the Blue Room, maintaining the functionality of the Cluster Printer in the club, and reorganizing and upgrading the club's database. They have further improved the backend technical aspects of Bicker and automated the updating of membership data on Tower's website.

The Technology Chairs will continue maintaining the club's wireless and printing services so that members can enjoy fast access to online resources. They plan on looking into more technology services, ensuring that the club is kept up to date.