

# Princeton Tower Club

## Report to the Princeton Prospect Foundation

April 21<sup>th</sup>, 2016



### 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. The History department and the Woodrow Wilson School continue to hold precepts in the building. This semester, Tower is hosting three history precepts and one Wilson School taskforce seminar. To best accommodate these classes, our Woodbridge Precept Room was renovated in fall; we have added a new set of chairs as a new table, which better fits the room such that the instructor can more easily use the blackboard. This semester we installed a new clock at the request of the History Department.

Our membership currently includes 3 SHARE peers, including Colleen O’Gorman ’17—SHARE’s President—and Marie Siliciano—SHARE’s Vice President for External Development. 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 completed a special ninety-minute workshop with the SHARE peers last week, specially tailored towards eating club officers. We welcomed 128 new members to the club this spring, bringing us to 343 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, Ryan Dukeman ’17 and Sukrit Puri ’17, scheduled a lineup of speakers, including Professor Brian Herrera, Rochelle Calhoun, Vice President for Campus Life at the University, and the Dean of the College, Professor Jill Dolan.

### 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’s student groups. A variety of campus groups have already reserved rooms within the building for organizational meetings, including Princeton Faith in Action, All-Nighter with Anna Aronson, Mock Trial, and Orange Key. 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 avid advantage near midterms and final exams.

In addition, Tower’s newly elected community service chairs, Hope Lorah ’17 and Frank Nguyen ’17 have furthered the club’s partnership with HomeFront’s ArtSpace program in Trenton, through which homeless citizens of Trenton make art, furniture, and other creative products and sell them for income. Hope and Frank recently visited HomeFront’s Ewing campus to discuss how we can best support the organization going forward. Tower is recruiting volunteers to assist ArtSpace with their 6th annual ArtJam held locally in Princeton, a month-long gallery in Palmer Square during which they sell materials that their participants have made. Furthermore, through on-campus fundraising events Tower was able to raise more than \$1600 to donate to ArtSpace this spring. As part of the Interclub Community Service Council, Hope and Frank worked to acquire sponsors and donations and recruit volunteers for the third annual TruckFest charity event. Hope and Frank have also worked to advertise other community service opportunities on campus such as a recent blood drive and Relay for Life events.

## 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. The 2016 Sustainability Chairs, Graham Turk '17 and Sophia Feist '18, are working to phase out disposable coffee and beverage cups, which a survey distributed to the club revealed to be the most egregious unsustainable behavior in the opinion of members. In collaboration with the Activities Chair, Hayley Roth '17, the Sustainability Chairs will sell reusable thermoses to members at the beginning of the fall semester in order to discourage disposable cup use. Members' greatest concern with this was the need to wash cups, so Tower plans to offer a service where members can leave their dirty thermoses at Tower overnight, which will be run through the dishwasher to be picked up in the morning.

Another of Tower's 2016 sustainability initiatives is to reduce and compost food waste. Currently Tower collects food waste in a separate composting bin, but it is disposed with the regular waste stream. The sustainability chairs will place a scale beneath this waste to discourage members from adding to the pile. Tower is also working to form a partnership with University Dining Services to bring the club's weekly compost to a University pick-up site. Princeton's food waste is collected by AgriArk, a Lawrence, NJ company that converts food waste into fertilizer through a biodigestion process.

In addition, Tower has continued to replace old fluorescent light bulbs with LEDs around the club as a measure to reduce electricity consumption. The sustainability chairs have also designed stickers to place above light switches and paper towel dispensers to encourage members to save resources. Finally, the sustainability chairs will collect data on energy use and prominently display it in the club, both as a means of encouraging members to reduce energy use and to make this a reminder, seen before and after every meal, that sustainability should be a constant consideration for all. 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, Maddie Clayton '17 and Terrence Kuo '17, have significantly improved the in the club's technological state by repairing the club's electronic room control system, maintaining the functionality of the Cluster Printer in the club, and reorganizing and upgrading the club's computer clusters. They have further developed the feature on the club's website that provides scheduling information for the various rooms in the club, by implementing an up to date, modern friendly user interface and expanding the number of rooms that can be reserved. The emeritus Technology Chairs were able to successfully negotiate with the University, and Tower's access to puwireless was greatly improved at the end of fall semester, resolving a long time complaint amongst club members.

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.