



The Cap and Gown Club of Princeton
61 Prospect Avenue, Princeton, New Jersey 08540

Princeton Prospect Foundation Report

Thursday, February 20, 2021

Valeria Torres-Olivares '22, Vice President of Cap and Gown Club

The Cap and Gown Club recognizes the importance of the cooperation of our Officers, Chairs and Graduate Board to provide a welcoming and inclusive environment for our members. The chairpersons have worked over the past year to improve the experience of the membership and increase the club's involvement in the community. We hope that Cap and Gown continues to be an inviting environment to our members and guests and serve as a place of growth for our members.

Community Outreach

Community Outreach Chairs encourage civic service by working with community partners to provide volunteer opportunities for membership and organizing events and fundraisers within the club. In addition, Community Outreach Chairs must serve on the Community Service Inter-Club Council, which organizes the Trick or Feed fundraiser and TruckFest. In our time as Chairs we prioritized strengthening our relationship with Cap's community partners. Although we were virtual for most of our term, we still worked to connect Cap with Princeton's community. We accomplished this by organizing a fundraiser with the Princeton Mutual Aid Network, a group that mobilizes to meet the needs of community members in the town of Princeton. The money we raised from this fundraiser went towards helping a family struggling with unemployment pay their electricity and wifi bills, helped another family struggling with unemployment pay their rent, and helped a single mother of 5 pay for physical therapy sessions to treat her debilitating back pains. The fundraiser with the Princeton Mutual Aid Network was a meaningful way for Cap to help those in our own community, even virtually. *Emma Parish and Imane Mabrouk, Class of 2021*

Technology

As the Cap Technology Chair for 2020-21, my main objective was to update the bicker website for the spring 2021 bicker— our first ever virtual bicker. The old website did not include the full scoring functionality, such as inside greens and inside reds, that the officers wanted and also had an intuitive user interface. The updated website has a cleaner user interface and added functionality. I continued with the documentation started by my predecessor that will hopefully allow future Tech Chairs to easily learn the codebase and roll out changes. In addition to the bicker website, I helped edit our first ever Cap podcast series that our Cultural Enrichment chairs spearheaded

Dora Zhao, Class of 2021

Cultural Enrichment

The Cap and Gown Club values its diversity and inclusivity as essential to the club's community. For the 2020-2021 academic year, our Culturally Cap Chairs were Patrycja Pajdak '21 and Yezekiel Williams '21. During this difficult year, they worked to foster a virtual Cap community and provide every member, especially juniors who had few in-person moments in the club, with a positive club experience. Some highlights from this past year include:

- Cap Mafia - a virtual two-week team tournament
- Cap Public Radio (CPR) - a new podcast
- Weekly "Members of the Week" emails
- Birthday shout outs via email
- Secret Santa gift exchange for the holiday season

Patrycja Pajdak and Yezekiel Williams, Class of 2021

Sustainability

Like my predecessor, I'm really proud of the sustainability efforts that were implemented at the Cap & Gown Club during my time as Sustainability Chair. This past year I continued to increase transparency by developing a relationship with the club steward. In doing so I was able to stay up to date on everything that Cap does to be sustainable and communicated that with the rest of the club. From a groundwater recharge system to ground source heat pumps, Cap is already doing what it can to limit environmental impact. To keep members aware of their sustainable behaviour when we were on campus I continued the monthly newsletter titled *Being More Sustainable Isn't Unobtainable* in which we highlight sustainable (and some unsustainable) behavior around the club. This was a great way to engage the entire club and open up a dialogue about how simple changes could lead to a more sustainable club all around. This was difficult to continue with the pandemic but we continued to remind our members through engaging emails about the importance of sustainability both in cap and wherever they may be residing. We still have a long way in terms of reaching full sustainability, but we are making small, positive changes which I hope will last for the long-term!

Trisha Madhavan, Class of 2021

Safety

As Cap's second Safety Chair I followed my predecessor's lead in prioritizing the safety of our members and guests. I created a member safety duty schedule for the spring semester taking into consideration member's scheduling conflicts and preferences. On the day of, I sent reminders to everyone on duty that night and made sure each person knew their responsibilities. Unfortunately we were only able to get through a portion of the schedule when the University sent the student body home due to COVID. While the role of Safety Chair is less involved now that there are no in person events, the position will continue to be a very important addition to the club when we do eventually reopen.

Sumner Brinkley, Class of 2021