



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

Princeton Prospect Foundation Report

Friday, February 17, 2023

Dariya Brann '24, 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 provide opportunities for community service by partnering with local Princeton organizations and the university itself to support and encourage member participation. As chairs, we serve on the Community Service Inter-Club Council, which organizes Truckfest in April, a major fundraising event in cooperation with other clubs and local small businesses. Community Outreach Chairs are responsible for increasing visibility and membership turnout at such events, by managing ticket purchases internally and sending reminders. A significant partner of the Cap & Gown Club, continuing from the previous year, is Arm in Arm Trenton. Through accessible, inclusive fundraising within the club, we successfully raised over \$350 in donations toward their mission. Arm in Arm is a local, non-profit organization that has served Mercer County families for over four decades by providing services such as financial support or food; currently, they host more than 4,000 families within their food pantries and work with 600 at-risk families to prevent housing insecurity. Through communication with Shariq Marshall, Operations, Volunteers, Communications and Development Coordinator at Arm in Arm, we set the groundwork for member service trips to one of their locations, which we hope to expand and continue. As Community Outreach Chairs, we believe that careful consideration of the community around us is the most significant aspect of our role and therefore take care in choosing our partners.

Sofia Teixeira, Class of 2023; Gigi Pacheco, Class of 2023

Technology

As the Cap Technology Chair for 2022–2023, I had the dual responsibility of running the website we use for bicker and creating community at Cap through online activities. Our bicker website (created by our previous three Tech Chairs) is an incredibly useful and well-made tool, so I maintain it by setting it up for fall and spring bicker and updating it with new functionality. This included support for 1-on-1 bicker conversations as well as improvements to the discussions interface. Aside from bicker, I also ran several club-wide projects to build community at Cap, which included an analysis and leaderboard for our club group chat as well as maintaining an interactive website with guidelines for what is worthy of being sent to our listserv. Most notably, I also updated our online, club-wide Valentine's Day pairing system to include more fun and interesting matching criteria.

Alex Baroody, Class of 2023

Cultural Enrichment

Cap & Gown Club is proud of its commitment to a welcoming, diverse, and inclusive community. As Culturally Cap Chairs, we strive to inspire community engagement across class years through our communication efforts and careful planning of events. Alongside the Social Chair, we helped to facilitate programs that fostered a tight-knit Cap community and to create Cap memories that current members can look back on long after graduation. Such programs include Member of the Week, birthday shoutouts via email, study breaks, nights out, and a Cap-based Jeopardy Night.

Mikala Parnell, Class of 2023; Riley Martinez, Class of 2023

Sustainability

Although Cap already does a lot of great work in terms of sustainability—including carbon neutral heating, only providing takeout containers upon request, and recycling—I have worked hard to improve member awareness of sustainability here at Cap and create continuity between this semester and the next to work on larger long-term sustainability goals. I took over as Sustainability Chair at the beginning of the fall semester. Since then, I have regularly attended ICC Sustainability meetings to collaborate on improving street-wide sustainability, and created graphics for members to learn how they can be more sustainable and where they can put their waste items. I have also worked with the club steward on two major projects, which I hope the next Sustainability Chair will continue to push for: finding a new composting company for our compostable waste, and transitioning from disposable cups on nights out to washable cups using the newly installed dishwasher under the bar. I am proud to be a member of a club that prioritizes sustainability and grateful for the opportunity to help Cap become more eco-friendly!

Sophia Richter, Class of 2023

Safety

The Cap & Gown Club prides itself on ensuring the clubhouse is a safe space for both its members and guests. As Safety Chairs, our goal was to improve and support processes aimed at ensuring

safety, such as safety duty and SHARE training. We first redesigned the safety duty assignment process by expanding the scheduling conflict form. Along with basic scheduling conflicts, we also allowed members to provide their affinity groups, preferences for friends, and requests to not be scheduled with certain club members. This information helped us create safety duty shifts that allow members to feel empowered and comfortable while keeping people safe on nights out. Rather than releasing the shifts each week at a time, we released the whole schedule for the semester to allow for better planning and support swaps well in advance as conflicts arise. Additionally, we maintained communication with Officers and SHARE peers to quickly respond to trends in safety concerns as they arose. Last, we authored a short guide for future chairs to help guide their own safety assignment process.

Austin Davis, Class of 2023; Katie McLaughlin, Class of 2023

Alumni Relations

The Cap & Gown Alumni Relations Chairs aimed to bridge Cap's diverse undergraduate population with its tight-knit alumni community. Continuing the work of last year's chairs, we reignited the Cap Connections Coffee Chat initiative to pair students with alumni for small-group conversations. The alumni represented industries including non-profit law, product management, and venture capital. We also re-established a Cap Community LinkedIn for students and alumni to connect with each other. Throughout the year, the alumni relations co-chairs worked with Cap leadership & the Alumni Relations Committee to coordinate outreach & future events.

Reis White, Class of 2023; Rohan Jinturkar, Class of 2023

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The DEI Chairs are dedicated to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) within Cap & Gown. We are committed to incorporating DEI considerations into every aspect of the club as an important step in creating an environment that is welcoming and inclusive to all members. This year we focused on Spring and Fall Bicker. We set up an anonymous DEI hotline so bickerees and members could share any complaints or concerns that came up during bicker. We also gave a presentation before bicker to all members that included information on do's and don't's for maintaining an inclusive and equitable environment during bicker. Additionally, we provided support for members who wished to bring up DEI concerns during bicker.

Outside of bicker, we also ran DEI office hours during mealtimes when members could casually discuss any DEI-related concerns. We worked closely with the officers to reform the Cap restroom policy, which now allows all members and visitors to use whichever restroom they feel most comfortable using. We hope future DEI chairs can collaborate with the affinity groups to further promote an inclusive environment at Cap.

Travis York, Class of 2023; Tiffany Huang, Class of 2023

Social Media

As the Cap Social Media Manager for 2022-2023, I had the privilege of running our Instagram account alongside Shelby, our Social Chair. I designed graphics for various events throughout the year for the platform and posted pictures/videos of members at our events. Our follower count is modest yet increasing, and through the platform, we were able to provide students with valuable information about bicker, post Q/As about Cap, and congratulate members for their many accomplishments throughout the year.

Casey Beidel, Class of 2024