A BRIEF HISTORY OF CLASS DAY

The tradition of the Princeton Class Day dates back to as early as 1856, and in 1898 it was described as "a day over which the Graduating Class has full charge and which we run to suit ourselves, in our characteristic way." Although seniors no longer smoke long white clay pipes before smashing them on the cannon, Class Day still features student speeches, remarks by the University President, and the presentation of awards. During the 21st century, prominent Class Day speakers have come to entertain and advise the class; recent speakers have included comedians, actors, and statesmen. Other elements of contemporary Class Day exercises include the presentation of a symbolic key to the campus by the University President, the wearing of orange and black class jackets, and the singing of "Old Nassau."

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CLASS JACKETS

Senior class jackets, popularly known as "beer jackets," are a common sight on Class Day. This article of clothing traces its origins to 1912 when a group of students decided to wear blue denim overalls and jackets to prevent beer from spotting their clothes. The following year, the Class of 1913 followed suit, but chose to wear white instead of blue. After the First World War, costumes were embellished with humorous logos, including jabs at Prohibition. Although overalls were abandoned following the Second World War, beer jackets have remained an integral part of Commencement activities.

This year's class jacket was designed by Rita Fang '17. Class Day & Class Jacket Histories courtesy of the Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library.

RECENT SPEAKERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Jodi Picoult '87</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Christopher Nolan</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Al Gore</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>David Remnick '81</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>Steve Carell</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>Brooke Shields '87</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>Charles Gibson '65</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>Katie Couric</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Stephen Colbert</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>Bradley Whitford</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>Bill Clinton</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>Chevy Chase</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>Jon Stewart</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>Jerry Seinfeld</td>
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CLASS DAY

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WELCOME
Jacob Cannon '17
Deana Hamlin '17
Paulina Orillac '17
Class Day Chairs

PRESIDENT’S REMARKS
Christopher Eisgruber ’83
20th President of Princeton University

CLASS PRESIDENT’S REMARKS
Andrew Sun '17
Class President
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

PRESENTATION OF THE CLASS PRIZES

Kathleen Deignan
Dean of Undergraduate Students

Acknowledgement of Pyne Prize Winners
Allen Macy Dulles Class of 1951 Award
Frederick Douglass Service Award
Harold Willis Dodds Achievement Prize
W. Sanderson Detwiler 1903 Prize
Walter E. Hope Class of 1901 Medal

STUDENT REMARKS

Maddie Meyers ’17

PRISCILLA GLICKMAN ’92 MEMORIAL PRIZE

Kimberly A. de los Santos
John C. Bogle ’51 and Burton G. Malkiel ’64 Executive Director,
Pace Center for Civic Engagement

PRESENTATION OF ATHLETIC AWARDS

Mollie Marcoux Samaan ’91
Ford Family Director of Athletics

Class of 1916 Cup
Art Lane ’34 Citizen Athlete Award
William Winston Roper Trophy
C. Otto von Kienbusch Award

STUDENT REMARKS

Sukrit Singh Puri ’17
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

INDUCTION OF HONORARY CLASS MEMBERS
Presentations by:

Nathan Suek ’17
Class Vice-President

Caroline Snowden ’17
Class Treasurer

Ariel Hsing ’17
Class Social Chair

Nusrat Ahmed ’17
Class Secretary

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Baz Luhrmann

CLOSING REMARKS
Jacob Cannon ’17
Deana Hamlin ’17
Paulina Orillac ’17
Class Day Chairs
HONORARY CLASS MEMBERS

Baz Luhrmann
Class Day Speaker

David Leach
Former Senior Associate
Athletic Director for
Campus Recreation

Bryant Blount ’08
Assistant Dean of
Undergraduate Students

Ann Halliday ’78
Associate Secretary, Special
Assistant to the President and
Special Assistant to the Dean of
the College, Office of the Vice
President and Secretary

F. Scott Fitzgerald
Author, Member of Class of 1917

Jeff Nunokawa
Professor of English,
Head of Rockefeller College

Penna Rose
Director of Chapel Music,
Office of the Dean of
Religious Life

SPIRIT OF PRINCETON
AWARD RECIPIENTS

Hillel Friedman ’17
Durva Trivedi ’17
Matt Blazejewski ’17
Hajrah Hussain ’17
David Mazumder ’17
Colin Lualdi ’17
Bri Christophers ’17
The Class of 2017 would like to thank the following retiring faculty members for their commitment to the education of undergraduates at Princeton:

- Dilip J. Abreu
  Economics

- Anne Catherine Case
  Woodrow Wilson School / Economics

- Esther da Costa Meyer
  Art & Archeology

- Benjamin A. Elman
  East Asian Studies / History

- Jan T. Gross
  History

- Barry Leonard Jacobs
  Psychology / PNI

- Robert Owen Keohane
  Woodrow Wilson School

- Yannis George Kevrekidis
  Chemical and Biological Engineering / PACM

- Daniel N. Osherson
  Psychology

- Samuel George H. Philander
  Geosciences

- Jean-Herve Prevost
  Civil and Environmental Engineering

- Mark David Rose
  Molecular Biology

- Lawrence Rosen
  Anthropology

- William Bailey Russel
  Chemical and Environmental Engineering / PRISM

- George W. Scherer
  Civil and Environmental Engineering / PRISM

- Brent Donald Shaw
  Classics

- Arthur John Stewart Smith
  Physics

- Edwin S. Williams
  Humanities / Linguistics
SIX WORD MEMOIRS FROM THE CLASS OF 2017

DEANA HAMLIN Motto: Don’t mix faith with doubt SIMON WU various small fires, various small fires JEN LEE All roads lead to Frist JACOB CANNON I’m finally ready to go here MONICA WEI On the eve of the morrow MARINA MACKLIN Remember to give annually, 2017? JOSEPH SMITH Innovative, Novel, Valuable, Educated, Sensible, Teacher CARLOS SOTELO Making uplifting bonds to last beyond JULIA PEIPERL I got better as I went beyond DO-HYEONG MYEONG Read, Wrote, Listened, Learned, Challenged, Changed MINSEUNG CHOI Hey, let’s grab a meal. Sure! VIOLET SHARPNESS Did you go out last night? LEAH WALLACE C’s get degrees ADAM HARDEJ It’s just a battle for resources JOSH ROBERTS Eating from the tree of knowledge REBECA DE LA ESPRIELLA Learned what I am made of EMILY CHEN Challenges, joys, late nights with friends WARREN BEIN Learned about the world, and myself JULIO CASTILLO Where I found my chosen family MEAGHAN O’NEILL What a TIME to be ALIVE!! HUNTER DONG Cry, sweat, bleed, love, survive, thrive BRIDGET JACQUES Challenge, self-discovery, survival, friendship SARAH MENDENHALL Andrew sun andrew sun andrew sun NICHOLAS MEAD Row, eat, sleep, repeat DANIELLE PINTZ C’est la vie DAVID TING No reorientation without disorderliness. Find mentors DAN MOZLEY Tigers Tamed, Bars Emptied, Origies Organized DANIEL TEEHAN love and solidarity throughout trying times VLADIMIR FEINBERG For sale: textbooks, never read PAULINA ORILLAC Zee-group love turned real-world love AARON YIN Real school starts now VICTOR XU furiously cool, wickedly funny, undeniably authentic JACK O’BRIEN Wake up, sheeple ANDREW HUNT oregon boy tries east coast, leaves SOLVEIG GOLD...in the service of the humanities ANDREW HILLIER Four years of tradition and orange MEILY REIEN On my way to Chinese class SAMANTHA ESSIG I learned what diversity really means DANA FESJIAN laugh it off because life’s embarrassing NATHAN LAM The best things are left un- BEAR ALTEMUS “I found a new way...” ZACH CURRIER Have a sense MARNI MORSE 1/6 undergraduates are sexually assaulted annually CHRISTINE LI Lifelong friends. A lifetime of learning CLAIRE ASHMAD I have never laughed so much SIMON GEE Don’t it?” with the Honour Code ALLYSON KIM Do I really have to graduate? JIYON KIM Broken down and built up again JUSTINE HAMILTON Making true friends and learning constantly NICOLE KATCHUR To the years, ever so fleeting JONATHAN LIN The best damn place of all SAM GRAVITTE Walking on moonbeams, staring out to sea TIM LAU To friends, to memories, to life KATIE WOO I can’t cause I’m in Marquand JEFF CHEN Believe in yourself ASHLEY TSUEJ I am still friends with freshmen PAULANI CORTEZ-VILLAS All the memories. Four short years MARNI MORSE haters gonna hate potatoes gonna potate MARLYSE VIEIRA Please don’t ask me for donations NANCY GROWING Exploring, laughing with incredible individuals JOY ZOU Remember who you are ALEXANDRA HOUSTON effort won’t betray you, drinking might HANNAH YANG Memories, and of friends, at Princeton BEAR GOLDSSTEIN Blu blu blu scooby doo ALEXANDRA ROBINSON I learned to hear my alarm ARIADNE MYTELKA Supported in an orange plaid embrace ELIZA DAVIS Liz, Herder of Cats CATHERINE NIU I discovered a world of brilliant thinkers ALICE CATANZARO Started Woody Woo, ended up Muslim ALISTAIR BERVEN Fines are temporary, paint lasts forever TIFFANY MILLER Can I have my money back? ALEKSANDRA CZULAK Learned something new every day here POUPAE SINSUB I grew to truly love myself ZACHARY KENDRICK Washington, walk sign armed to cross KHYAN RÄYNER “They said: ‘It’s impossible!’ It wasn’t” SAMVITHA RAM Loved the highs and the lows HANA KU It’s all true and even worse ISABEL SHIPLEY Stopped to smell the flowers KATHERINE O’MALLEY Washington walk sign is on to cross ERYNN KIM East Pyne Dead Poets Society KENDALL BEDFORD Princeton helped me see the world DOROTHY CHEN thank goodness for kft STAN PALASEK Compact simply connected 3-manifolds are spheres KEVIN CHEN I’m so hungry, anyone want wa? DANIELLE HOWELL Lessons, memories, and friends for life DAVID HERRERA Many many many many mathematical adventures AMANDEEP SAINI Can’t Believe How Much I’ve Grown JASON MANLEY Mom still wishes I was pre-med CATHERINE ADAMS Princeton is a rollercoaster without seatbelts KEVIN GRIFFIN If only Olive was in attendance ADEED YAKO Do more, complain less BENJAMIN ZHANG Exhausting yet exhilarating, very special indeed KEVIN WONG had trouble sticking to the word~ LOULLY SANEY Forever grateful for the challenges, opportunities ALEXANDRA EAKES More than I could have imagined LYDIA LIU Good things happen BRENDAN HUNG I should be..., but why not? MATTHEW DAIGGER Challenges faced made me much stronger AMY FREYBERGER Get married. Love Jesus. It’s awesome LANCE GOODRIDGE Trials and (eventual) triumphs DEMI FANG Regret neither selfish nor selfless acts GRANT GOLUB Never stop always trying something new LAUREN WODARSKI Find your people, keep them close ERIC XU Always found ways to surprise me JESSICA ACKERMAN It’s all true and even worse HALEY CHOW It’s all true and even worse RICHARD CHANG Challenging Humbling Empowering Inspiring Eye-opening Meaningful ALEXANDRA LOH I am rehearsals, Frist booths, best friends ADJOA MANTE explore, serve, reflect and care YI TEING Unforgettable JULIE CHEN nonlinear, probably just like post-grad JOSEPH YATES Built: cars, submarines, rockets, friendships, memories LUCY TANG Feel extremes of all the emotions CHRISTIE JIANG developing and engaging a gospel worldview ELIZABETH SELLES per aspera ad astra
BERNARDO DA SILVA Rock the damn boat SAFA SYED Learning to challenge my first impressions ONYEMAECHI UZOIKE I Saw, I Conquered, I Loved CAROLINE TUCKER History learned, songs sung, friendships forever BLAKE FELDMAN Six words are not enough to SALWA AHMED Ceaselessly inspired by our innovative community JULIA SCHORN spongebob narrator voice: 4 years later... BRIANA PAYTON I matriculated, I loved, I graduated KISHAN BHATT aspired to listen, inspired to learn ZHIYU LINDA LIU We grew up together, lifelong friends DANIEL GIFT Challenge is the soil for success COLIN LuaLid The people make Princeton Jennifer BU Once in a lifetime. So grateful! LAUREL EASTERLING I earned my (zebra) stripes ROBERT DELUCA Friends juggling words, drinks and ideas BLAKE LAWSON Be confident – you went to Princeton KURT THIEMANN This is water. This is water SCARLETT GRABOWSKA I came, I saw ROCCO AMOROSO Kiffa Conroy is an all star CORRIE KAVANAUGH Psets are more fun with friends ERIN NOLDER Afraid of accidentally plagiarizing this memoir HAYLEY ROTH Felt rich in everything but time CLARE SHERLOG Greatest lessons weren’t learned in classrooms ERIC SCHNEIDER Admitted. Enrolled. BLINKED! Surreal: Already graduating! TERRENCE KUO go to class and fall asleep KANOE SHIZURU Good vibes go fast SOPHIE NGUYEN Talk to others; they’ll teach you LORENZO QUIOJUE Love of unseen things; true blue NADIA DIAMOND 1/6 undergraduates are sexually assaulted annually SAM MATHEWS Rockies win it all this year HOPE LORAH Trust the huck, and run deep ALEXANDRA DANIELS Wouldn’t change a second for anything CIARA CORBEIL “I go to school in NJ.” CHRISTOPHER PERRON Made some friends; found a home RYAN DUKEMAN Would have been a Harvard A DAVID GILHOOLEY Winning so much; tired of winning JASON CHOE The risks paid off... I think PRISCILLA YEUNG 8,000 miles from home, a home AYELET WENGER “Where did I put my prox?” MATT BLAZEJEWSKI Asked for help and helped others ALICE TAO Fueled by coffee, sustained by friends NATHAN WEI Blessed far beyond what I deserve ANDREW SUN Did anyone actually read my emails? KELLY ZHOU If you were right, I’d agree ADA RAUCH Look for my name on toothpaste HARRISON BLACKMAN Black coffee: is it in you? NICHOLAS SEXTON halo pub ice cream is good ANDREW SCHILLING Princeton epochs: Pre-Frosh, Pre-Thesis. Thesis. Post-Thesis MARISA SALAZAR More to save, more to learn ELLIOT YONG Be bold, daring, and always questioning ANDREW TYNES Better social skills and smaller ego MARISA CHOW We’re made it! Soli Deo Gloria ANNA WALKER From “nice” to myself; Gunny Love DANIEL HOFFMAN Never satisfied, always happy ZACHARY KNOWLES Falling behind but always having fun EMILY AVERY So much orange, so little time GRAHAM TURK Stress is temporary, friendship is lasting STACEY PARK balance on that hyphen; own it KAHEEM COHENS Growth and introspection TIFFANY RICHARDSON Have hope and trust your journey THOMAS PATRICK BYRNE Hammis Aequus Durando JULIA WANG There was pie. Then. There wasn’t MICHAEL ZHANG blessed to have the best friends CHRISTINA RICE Love God, people, life together ROSS BARRON There’s no place like home except BRIANA CHRISTOPHERS Be bold and your full self RUBY SHAO revel in your passions with love RICHARD PEAY Perpetual interplay of excitement and ennui LAUREN WODARSKI Your Intelligence is unique, & love universal JANA SURIANO knowledge empowers when tempered with perspective MARGARET WANG Becoming comfortable in different shoes ERIKA DAVIDOFF Reevaluating everything I thought I knew HUN CHOI Hardest but most rewarding four years NATASHA TURKMANI Full of love and growth DANIELLE SAWTELLE Don’t be afraid to try everything SOFIA GALLO Diverse intellectual ideas made me better DAVID MAZUMDER Philosophizing in daylight, serenading the night SHUBHAM CHATTERJEE Princeton is hard, you’re not alone EVA LEWANDOWSKI Spend time discovering who you are AUDREY POTTS Life-long friendships and rewarding challenges CHARLES ARGON finding a vocation, learning about loving ALEX JOW Insightfully Crafting My Character and Vision MORGAN NICOLE HALLOCK I’ll forever work for the imaginable NAHRI CHUNG good times were had by all ARIANNA LANZ Can’t wait to continue learning ALEXANDER LEE Best damn place of all DAVID KOLET-MANDR IKOV Twas a night time, I guess BEN FALTER Thesis deadlines invading, send help before- ANGELA XU Through distinctions from others, discovering self RACHEL XU I learned how to fail HANS BRASE It will all be worth it TRUST KUPUPIKA If you have a choice, don’t BEN SORKIN Opportunity awaits those who seek AARON ROBERTSON Creating myself under the Italian sun STEVEN TSAI Keep on swimming, keep on swimming NATHANIEL COPE Robots, climbing, drinking, and treasured friends EMMA WINGreen Travel the world, came back home MAX GREENWALD Always growing, sometimes learning, never unmotivated VIBHAALAKSHMI SIVARAMAN period of incredible growth lifelong memories AVANEESH NARLA Continually fascinated by quotidian serendipity GABRIELLA BARBER It went by too fast!! KELLY HATFIELD Always with love CAREY CAMEL Learn to love and look around BRADLEY SCHNEIDER Embrace your successes AND your failures CASON CRANE Late nights: often dancing, sometimes studying ACHILLE TEN KIANG Never would have made it without friends SIYAN LI Expand yourself and chase the unimaginable SARAH LOSSING Opportunities Abound, Take Advantage, Time Flies ROBIN SPIESS Every reading is an optional reading MATTHEW SILBERMAN Maturing Without Forsaking My Inner Child ISABELLA DOUGLAS Somewhere between sleep deprivation and enlightenment DIANA HERNANDEZ A time I will treasure forever ALANA JASKIR Cheers to late-night psets and wine
But come on, look at this place. Look at these people, who breathe life into these Gothic walls. Princeton isn't paradise, but it's pretty darn close. “I wish there was a way to know you're in the good old days before you've actually left them,” says Andy Bernard towards the end of The Office. When I think back to writing my thesis, to those mornings when the birds would start singing as I went to bed, when I was too tired to keep working but too stimulated from coffee to sleep, I wish I could have taken solace in the fact that I was actually in the good old days. And I wonder; in retrospect, was there anything better than those mornings? It seems to me that in the light of nostalgia, even some of the darkest parts of Princeton become some of the brightest.

Now, I want you to remember the days when the good old days were good right as we were living them. Didn’t we sense it, even then, how special this time and place was? Those times we lingered too long in the dining hall or stayed up too late in a friend’s common room learning more from each other than our homework; the sunny days we lounged on Poe Field or walked along the towpath; the nights we beheld with quiet wonder the yellow glow of the Gothic windows and the lamplight strung like pearls from Henry to Blair, or danced in the moonlight listening to “Dancing in the Moonlight.” And here’s the good news: this side of paradise can be ours next reunions.

Princeton is like a dream! Which is lucky, because we Princeton students didn’t get all that much of a chance to sleep here, between endless problem sets, Small World-fueled Firestone sessions, and getting woken up by those crazy jumping-on-the-bed parties that my upstairs neighbors were always having. Instead, we experienced the dream-like reality of this place, in which seemingly anything can happen. What makes Princeton like a dream is not perfection, but bizarreness. Dreams are weird: I soon found myself on Outdoor Action, farming potatoes in rural Pennsylvania and defecating in holes in the ground. Then, just the way a dream illogically transforms, I was suddenly in an enormous chapel in suburban New Jersey at something called “Opening Exercises,” watching giant fish puppets fly back and forth above my head.

Luckily, you didn’t go through this dream alone. To me, the most beautiful part of Princeton was sharing a bizarre dream with all of you — like McCosh during flu season, or “drunk meal” on a Saturday night, or the dance-floor at Terrace’s famous “Butts
Butts Butts." And once you wake up from a normal dream, you can't go back. But with this one, you can fall back asleep and re-live an alcohol-soaked version of it for three nights every year.

BRIANA PAYTON

To be a Princetonian is in some ways to stand out. From the moment we were accepted, we have all had to grapple with the various ways people perceive our admission to such an elite university, and make our own meaning of it as well. Getting to and through Princeton does mean a lot, but not always in the ways people assume. For some of us, it means that our grandparents, who were sharecroppers and descendants of slaves, are here finally enjoying the opulence they have historically had to supply for others. For others of us, it means our parents, who only dreamed of raising children in America, let alone sending them to Princeton, stand by cheering us on with unspeakable joy. For others still, it means our loved ones, who have gone on to a better place, are smiling down as their wildest dreams live on through their children. No matter who we are or where we come from, we did not get here alone. This tribute is as much to our class as it is to the family members, mentors, and everyone who has supported us in our journeys to and through this amazing university.

AYELET WENGER

I still don't know who we are. Chances are, I've never met you. But we're a thing, right? We're Class of two-thousand-and-whichever-we're-up-to-now, we've got this whole story about Outdoor Action (which I didn't go on), lawnparties (which I skipped), bicker (which I didn't do), the same emails (which we barely read), the same course books (which we never read), registering on time for courses (might have happened once), and that senior thesis (which we've agreed to put behind us). Now suddenly we're a we. A yearbook. A tent at reunions. An obituary section in the Princeton Alumni Weekly. Maybe one day we'll be a building for freshmen to pee on. The thing about this we is that sometimes it's not true. Sometimes the pronoun leaves out the people who don't quite look like everyone else, who aren't American enough, size-6 enough, social or antisocial enough for this bubble of orange, who never found Susan Patton's dream guy, never figured out where the McGraw Center actually is, never did whatever it is that Princeton students are supposed to do. Sure, we don't have the same Princeton. But we, Class of 2017, we who brushed shoulders, returned each other's proxes, lent each other tampons, learned and promptly forgot each other's names, we who are different in ways that really matter and ways that really don't, we are Princeton. Princeton's the kid in a pastel dress staggering her way across Washington Road.
And Princeton's that kid rocking the bright purple hijab, watching her go, wondering where we will go next.

**AVANEESH NARLA**

Everything that Princeton is today is because of our contributions. Princeton may have shaped us individually, but collectively we have transformed Princeton during our time here. We should be proud of making this great institution what it is. Our impact has been a result of our resilience and ambition. When the system didn't listen to us, we spoke back to the system, over and over again. We occupied Eisgruber's office; we defended free speech; we expressed our voices through the ballot, both in the university and nationally; we opened the discussion on mental health; we fought for the environment; we fought for gender equality; we even defeated the damn meng! And we couldn’t have done so alone. Congratulations on graduation, 2017!

**JANELLE TAM**

Through these years, I've learned:
That being curious is good, and that my curiosity can be satisfied
That I create my own opportunities
That asking for help is one of the wisest things that I can do
That sometimes I surprise myself, with things that I'm good or bad at, but that I won't learn what those things are unless I explore outside of my comfort zone
That there are so many fresh and beautiful and different ways of life, and ways of thinking that are the threads woven into the tapestry of this community
That good things can come out of bad, that sometimes we grow the most from the most challenging periods of our lives, and that not all that is broken is any less beautiful

**EMILY CLIFFORD LIBRESCO**

Princetonian F. Scott Fitzgerald was known for allowing his characters' subjective perspectives to describe events and experiences instead of saturating his texts with omniscient details. When I reflect upon the beauty and wonder of my time at Princeton, I can't help but employ his approach by acknowledging that the details of my experience differ from those of any of my Classmates. In This Side of Paradise, protagonist Amory Blaine says to another student, “You’re a Princeton type.” That statement would mean very little now, in a class as diverse as ours. We could allow our vastly different impressions of events to divide us, but there is a better choice. Instead, we should cherish the ways in which our various perceptions of communal events complement one another and enhance the experience for all of us.
VIDUSHI SHARMA

The most common way we deal with economic, racial, and disciplinary differences is by drawing lines around ourselves. We affirm our own group identities by ding others with stereotypes, and at Princeton, stereotypes abound: Athletes find ‘easy’ majors and engineers lack creativity. Frat-stars join TI and wealthy literati schmooze in Saint A’s. Students pursuing NGO-careers are impractical idealists and those headed to Wall Street are sell-outs. I think Sotomayor’s challenge to us—if we are serious about being in the service of all humanity—is to resist this sectarianism and to question these stereotypes by exploring each other’s worlds.

ROBIN SPIESS

Princeton is where we learned to pretend to be adults until we somehow became them. This is where we learned as much in class and from our learned professors as we did about ourselves, and where we determined the types of people we wanted to be. This is where we made mistakes and where we started to learn from them. And it’s where we shouldered huge responsibilities and wrote hundreds of pages, whether we’d done enough research to write those pages or not. Where we learned time management, or at least learned to complete adequate—even good—essays and projects in under 24 hours. Where we learned what independent research meant, and felt the thrill of having written our own books.
RICHARD SENDER CHANG

One thing I hope we remember are the times when we put ourselves out there to serve others. Regardless of what forms of service we undertook, let us reflect and consider the lessons we learned from such experiences: lessons on the institutional nature of certain injustices, lessons on the difference we can make—even in one person’s life. It may be tempting to be overwhelmed by the magnitudes of the challenges we face today. But we are all more than able to make a difference and step up to the challenge—no matter our job, location, or background. Service can start with our families, and then extend to our neighborhoods, our religious communities, our towns, our cities, our country, our world.

GRAHAM TURK

It’s rare to be surrounded by 1300 other people going through such similar experiences. While this condition may never exist again, I think it’s important not to lose the built-in empathy it gives us, especially after we walk through FitzRandolph Gate. It allows us to understand without being told. It was precisely the realization that there is no one mold for a college student that allowed me to embrace Princeton’s inherent challenges and live presently in those moments I shared with my classmates. I realized that values are deeply individual - there is nothing innately wrong, for instance, with prioritizing the Terrace dance floor over your mattress (on occasion), or procrastinating the senior checkout surveys by browsing Princeton Memes for Preppy AF Teens. Parents: “AF” stands for academically formidable.

DANIEL C. MOZLEY

It’s not necessary to abandon group affiliations, but rather to recognize that they represent just the tip, not the totality, of one’s identity. Think about it: the defining aspects of our time at Princeton lie in the interpersonal experiences and connections that we have shared with one another. When Jeff Nunokawa remembers your name despite interacting with hundreds of students every day; when your freshman year roommate actually follows through on an offer to grab a meal. These are the moments that Princeton is made of. When we move beyond artificial social barriers, we realize that we’re all students with different passions and ambitions, but equally nervous about the present and optimistically hopeful for the future. In our time at Princeton and beyond, it will be relationships, not awards, and persons, not prizes, that define us.
The beauty of a language is in its ability to unite a community of people; to build a common heritage despite different backgrounds. The Class of 2017 is united through the way we speak. The inside jokes and strange abbreviations are unique to us and can only really be learned and absorbed through the four years where we are fortunate enough to call this beautiful place our home. It is only when you meet the 90 year old man chugging beers at the P-rade or your co-worker at your job at Goldman Sachs, or even when you meet someone in this class that you didn’t get the chance to know before, that it will strike you how powerful the way we speak is and how lucky we are to share a language with the amazing people who sit here today, who have come before us, and who will continue to fill these chairs for many years to come.

By dropping me into a pool of the brightest and kindest people, Princeton has taught me to engage the very people who used to intimidate me, teaching me to see beyond their perfections and my imperfections. I’ve learned that it’s okay to ask for help when we can’t pronounce or solve those Lagrangian equations, and that it’s also okay to bother our friends and say thank you instead of sorry for their time when we needed a sympathetic ear. The limitations of our imperfections teach us to reach out, connect, and be stronger together.

Following the ceremony, seniors—denoted by class jackets—may pick up lunch for themselves and their four guests on Alexander Beach near Witherspoon Hall.

If you return to Cannon Green to eat after the ceremony, please use the seats closest to West College, as the other seats will be moved to prepare for this afternoon’s Graduate School Hooding Ceremony.

Please do not leave your seat to take photos. Professional photos from University photographers will be available online at www.princeton.edu/pr/gradpics/2017. Please note that any personal photos or videos taken during this event should be used for personal purposes only.

OLD NASSAU

Tune every heart and every voice,
Bid every care withdraw;
Let all with one accord rejoice,
In praise of Old Nassau.

In praise of Old Nassau, we sing,
Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah!
Our hearts will give, while we shall live,
Three cheers for Old Nassau.

Performed by: Ariel Becker ’17, Kishan Bhatt ’17, Chang Che ’17, Caroline Griffin ’17,
Andy Hunt ’17, Audrey Marie Jones ’17, Saunghee Ko ’17,
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