

# Princeton Terrace Club

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER \* SPRING 2013

*Dear Fellow Terran,*

Terrace Club continues to be the most popular eating club at Princeton. In early February, an all-time record of 168 sophomores and 15 juniors signed into the Club, greatly exceeding the number of students admitted by any other club. Even more remarkably, these results all occurred in the first round, necessitating the unprecedented closing off of any further sign-ins from the second round.

Another significant recent development has been a change in our professional staff. In December, we hired a new Club Manager, Steve Krebs, who brings with him formal training and abundant experience as an executive chef and facilities manager. A new Sous Chef, Rick Daniels, whose culinary background includes a stint at the renowned Fontainebleau Miami Beach, is overseeing the preparation of exquisite meals that already are the talk of the street. Several other employee changes have been made in the kitchen, including the hiring of a chef whose lunch responsibility is to preside over a made-to-order grill station. Long-time beloved chef Gladys Morin still works her food magic in the kitchen.

The clubhouse and grounds have received a makeover as well, including some new furniture and imaginative murals designed by current members, and there also have been electrical, plumbing, and roof repairs and upgrades. There is a more positive buzz than ever within the confines of the clubhouse where students spend a lot of time even outside of dining hours. Many members truly consider Terrace Club their extended family and campus home, as well as the source of what is widely considered to be the best music around.



In order to ensure that Terrace Club can continue to thrive, the clubhouse requires significant renovation and modest expansion. Changes are being considered that are designed to enhance the functionality of the Club and maintain its unique spirit and character. We are truly excited about these potential improvements. A current draft of the building plans, which continue to evolve, is located on the Club's website [www.princetonterraceclub.org](http://www.princetonterraceclub.org).

The Terrace Future Campaign is intended to raise the money needed to allow future generations to enjoy the Club. We are currently examining estimated construction and related costs, including the establishment of a modest reserve that can be used for future capital projects and contingencies. In addition, we are carefully assessing our capacity to raise alumni contributions so that we can set an appropriate fund-raising target. In the meantime, we need volunteers from all eras to help with various facets of the Campaign. If you are interested in being a volunteer, please send an e-mail to [info@princetonterraceclub.org](mailto:info@princetonterraceclub.org). Also, a return donation envelope is enclosed if you are inclined to contribute to the Club's future at this time.

Please drop by the Club whenever you are in town, especially at Reunions, which will include music performances on an outdoor stage on Friday and Saturday evenings as well as a post P-Rade reception, delicious meals, and more.

**Sandy Harrison '74**  
Chairman, Board of Governors

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# State of the Club

## *Hello Terrans!*

I would like to formally introduce myself and provide a bit of information on the road that has led me to Terrace Club.

I was born and raised in Ridgefield, NJ, which is located 5 miles from the George Washington Bridge. Thus, I spent a lot of time in my youth enjoying the NYC life—its food and its culture. I received a degree in Hospitality Management from East Stroudsburg University in 1987. While at school, I worked all four years at Caesars Pocono Palace and at the time of my graduation was one of the Sous Chefs.

The next few years were spent working at various restaurants including L’Affaire in Mountainside, NJ, Merrimakers in Matawan, NJ, and Ocean Palms in Port St. Lucie, FL. Eventually, I settled in to a role with a food service company that catered to businesses such as AT&T, J&J, and New Jersey Bell.

In 1998, I assumed the position of Director of NJHA Conference and Event Center in Princeton. I spent the next 13 years there creating a catering/banquet facility with more than 2 million dollars per year in revenue. I created all the menus, trained the kitchen staff, and even did all the marketing. Yet not a week went by without my donning the kitchen whites and helping staff prep for meals. A change in the leadership at NJHA led to downsizing and for the first time in my life I was without work ... a frightening time but one that inevitably opened the door for me to join the Terrace family.

It is apparent that Terrace has long been home to the best social life and the most close-knit community on the Street—my goal is to make it the best place to eat as well. I think we are well underway with substantial changes in the kitchen and in our approach to providing the best prepared and presented food we can.

## Meet Steve Krebs, Club Manager

*Words to live by: “If more of us valued food and cheer and song above hoarded gold, it would be a merrier world.” (J.R.R. Tolkien)*

I’ve also been working on areas of the building that were in much need of repair or replacement. We are being proactive instead of reactive with regards to maintenance and keeping our club a place that will thrive for generations of Terrans to come.



On a personal note, I live in Robbinsville, NJ, which is just a few towns away from Princeton. In August, I will have been married for 22 years to my wife Nancy. We have 4 children—Steve, 18, who is committed to West Virginia University in the fall, Ryan, 16, Shea, 9, and Haley, 6. So, believe it or not, I come to Terrace Club for peace and calm!

Just as I have enjoyed getting to know the students and working with them to ensure that Terrace remains a welcoming and one-of-a-kind place, I look forward to meeting many of you and learning more about the history of this great club.

*Bon Appétit,*  
Steve

## A Note from Club President Neal Donnelly '14

More sophomores joined Terrace this spring than ever before in the history of the club. To those of you who sustained Terrace through years of thin membership, I imagine that must be surprising. You might wonder, has the club compromised on the ideals that attracted you in the first place? Actually, I believe that Terrace's expansion vindicates the importance of doubling down on our core values: food, music, self-direction, and unequivocal love.

The food from the kitchen is better than it's ever been. Meals at Terrace have always had that home-cooked feel that the dining halls lacked. Recently though, and in spite of the unprecedented demand, the complexity of the cuisine has been stepped up a notch. And on top of all the great food cooked by the dedicated kitchen staff, we now have 4th Course, prepared and served by students at 10:30 pm four nights per week. It fills the clubhouse back up at night, and if you're the sort who struggles with oversleeping lunch, it's a lifesaver.

Musically, we're holding down the fort with twice-weekly shows ranging from funk to hip hop to electronica to punk. My favorite shows this semester have been D.V.S., Clear Soul Forces, Mokaad, Miracles of Modern Science, and Escarioka. But a lot of what makes Terrace so attractive is less in the specific points of success and

more in the method that creates them. Unlike any other eating club, Terrace is an organization run by students, for students, with the help of a professional staff and graduate board. Terrace is a do-ocracy at every level. The more time and effort you're willing to invest, the more trust you earn and the more resources you're given to actualize your visions. The product is an organization that actually does things its members want and that attracts those who want to actively shape their experience.

Finally, Terrace has got the love. It's a club that loves itself unapologetically. Bickering a club seems nonsensical when you can join one that will be excited about you from day one and is filled with members who simply want to share with you the joy they have discovered.

Bear in mind that though I aspire to compare the current day with the Terrace of yore, I really have nothing to go on but secondhand stories. Just a curious new member sixteen months ago, I've since plunged into Terrace as deep as I can go. It's bizarre to go so fast from a new disciple to running the show, and I've done my best to stay true to the values I learned here. It's been a wild trip with ups, downs, and crazy benders, and I'm so grateful that it's one that I've been able to take. I can't wait to see you all at Reunions. It should be a hell of a time, and I'd love to hear all your stories.

## "How Gnome Chomsky Got His Hat" by Leana Hirschfeld-Kroen '13

From the first hazy night I made eye contact with a pregnant Siamese cat and stroked the fur of a simian saxophonist, my fate was sealed. The creatures on the taproom wall beckoned to me, and as a fresh-faced freshman, I nodded, accepting their call. Three semesters later, as my friends dispersed to the many mansions on Prospect Street, I made my offering to the womb and became a baby Terran.

My Terran childhood proved a daunting experience, to say the least. Entering with three acquaintances to my name, I was gun-shy at dinnertime, rarely venturing to the colonized territories on the second floor. But Terrace is a warm, welcoming place, littered with couch potatoes and industrious studiers happy to be distracted by conversation, so the club soon became a second home to me. Now, it is where I work, play, and everything in between.



Throughout the week, I man the servery with our fantastic kitchen staff, doling out their creations to the dulcet tones of Eminem, and greet members as they walk through the door. As starving zombies enter the club, buckled by the weight of coursework and sleep deprivation, I watch them undergo a miraculous transformation; the music, the scintillating aromas, and the bright colors of the kitchen wash over them like a healing salve, and they leave with a spring in their step, loins girded for a night of laptop-bound procrastination.

Did I say bright colors? We have begun to paint again, continuing the legacy of generations who left their bright, bizarre mark on the house. I know that future Terrans will continue the tradition. The privilege of being asked to invent our own home is too great to be abandoned.

# In memoriam: Gordon Harrison '68

Long-time Terrace Club Treasurer Gordon R. Harrison '68 passed away on November 4, 2012 at the age of 66 after bravely battling pancreatic cancer for over two years. Born in Glen Ridge, NJ, Gordon lived in Verona and attended College High School in Montclair, NJ until he entered Princeton University in 1964. While a student, Gordon served as sports chairman of his eating club and was a top player on the University's golf team. After graduating with an A.B. in classics, he continued at Princeton pursuing a graduate degree in classical archaeology. He subsequently enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve, then resided in Princeton for the rest of his life. Few Princetonians have ever spent as much time on campus as did Gordon for nearly fifty years. For much of that time in the past two-plus decades, he could be found almost every day including weekends busily working away in the second floor business office of Terrace Club.



Gordon also was the treasurer of several other Princeton eating clubs over the course of four decades. Further, he was the long-time treasurer of Princeton Prospect Foundation. A passionate devotee of barbershop harmony singing, he was bass section leader, front row member, and treasurer of both the Big Apple Chorus in Manhattan and the Princeton Garden Statesmen Chorus. He also was a member of over five quartets. In 2002, the Big Apple Chorus named Gordon Barbershopper of the Year.



A memorial celebration for Gordon was held at Quadrangle Club on November 14. Over a hundred people were in attendance to commemorate Gordon's remarkable life and devotion to Princeton. Various barbershoppers performed that evening in tribute to Gordon, and there were many words of fond remembrance spoken. Gordon was a big part of Terrace Club and is sorely missed.

## Join us for Reunions 2013 @ Terrace!

Featuring TWO live shows on an outdoor stage, beginning at 10 pm:

Friday, May 31st

**THE SLACKERS**

*Ska-reggae-soul sextet*

Saturday, June 1st

**TBA**

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Princeton Terrace Club welcomes alumni volunteers of all ages and interests. If you are interested in volunteering or attending an upcoming Board meeting, please contact Chairman Sandy Harrison '74 at [sandy.harrison@comcast.net](mailto:sandy.harrison@comcast.net).