One Princeton Athletics Team

I am proud and honored to lead the Princeton Department of Athletics and to work with such a dedicated “Team Around the Team” of staff, coaches and alumni volunteers. Our athletic program aims to complement and enhance the educational mission of the University and to provide our student-athletes with the opportunity to achieve, serve and lead.

We are extremely proud of our long tradition of competitive excellence and our firm commitment to Education through Athletics. Since the start of the 2014-15 academic year, we’ve had more than 20 different teams win at least one Ivy League championship, which speaks to the collective strength of our student-athletes and coaching staff. We have also had many former Princeton student-athletes achieve great individual success at the Olympic and/or professional levels.

In addition to focusing on providing the necessary resources for our student-athletes to achieve in their respective sports, we are fully committed to providing an environment and the resources for our student-athletes to achieve in the classroom, to embrace Princeton’s commitment to service and to be leaders in our community and beyond.

As always, none of this happens without the great support from you, our loyal and generous alums, parents and friends. I encourage you to read more about what distinguishes Princeton Athletics and see first-hand how our student-athletes continue to achieve, serve and lead at the highest levels. We also hope you will be a part of our team by cheering on our dedicated student-athletes on campus or in your local area and by supporting our efforts through the Princeton Athletics Friends Groups and Princeton Varsity Club.

Mollie Marcoux Samaan ’91
Ford Family Director of Athletics

JOIN OUR TEAM

Princeton Varsity Club: The Princeton Varsity Club (PVC) provides programming and events that benefit more than 1,000 Princeton varsity student-athletes across 37 varsity athletic programs. The PVC provides critical financial flexibility to the Department of Athletics.

Athletics Friends Groups: Athletics Friends Groups support a wide range of needs and opportunities within each of the 37 varsity athletic teams. The Department of Athletics and coaches rely on the financial support of the sport-specific Athletics Friends Group for continued competitive success.
An Unmatched Tradition of Athletic Success

The Tigers have accounted for 452 Ivy League Championships since the league’s inception, more than 25% of all titles awarded. Princeton teams won 14 Ivy League championships and one other non-Ivy League championship in 2015-16 alone, capturing the Ivy League’s unofficial all-sports points championship for the 29th time in 30 years.

Ivy League Championships since the league’s inception

452

All-time National Championships won by Princeton, 120 team and 83 individual titles

203

Olympic appearances by Princeton student-athletes, including 13 in the 2016 Summer Olympic Games

157

Princeton’s finish in the Director’s Cup in 2015-16. Princeton was the second-highest finishing non-FBS conference school

33

PRINCETON FOOTBALL
2016 IVY LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

Ivy League Championships:
Princeton Athletics has won 80 Ivy League Championships this decade (2010-2016), nearly 30% more than its next closest Ivy League competitor. 
NOTE: graph does not include any 2016-17 Ivy League championships.
Ashleigh Johnson is no stranger to ACHIEVEMENT. She quickly established herself as one of the nation’s top collegiate water polo goalies shortly after arriving on campus, and has twice been voted the top female water polo player in the world.

Johnson helped the United States women’s water polo team to its second consecutive gold medal at the 2016 Rio Summer Olympics, on her way to being named the tournament’s top goalkeeper. Johnson was the first ever African-American to make the U.S. Water Polo National Team, and was the only non-Californian on the the 2016 gold medal winning team. Johnson capped her incredible year by being recognized as the 2016 Sportswoman of the Year in a team sport.

The Miami, Fla., native joins Bill Bradley ’65 as the only Princeton student-athletes to compete for the Tigers after winning Olympic gold.

Every year, Princeton’s 17 co-ed varsity Athletics Friends Groups raise money to support a wide range of needs and opportunities for each of the 37 varsity athletic teams, noted below. Alumni volunteers work diligently to secure the philanthropic and volunteer support that enables coaches to recruit and develop some of the finest scholar-athletes in the world. By supporting today’s student-athletes and providing them with the best possible academic and athletic experience, Athletics Friends Groups volunteers and members help sustain the success of Princeton teams.

- Travel: out-of-region and out-of-season competition, training trips and foreign trips
- Recruit hosting: transportation, lodging and dining
- Specialized technology and equipment: software, video and editing
- Team banquets and awards
- Professional conventions and clinics
- Events for alumni and friends
- Athletics Friends Group communications
Steven Cook ’17
Basketball, Economics

On the court, Steven Cook is known for his tremendous athleticism and competitive spirit. A two-time All-Ivy League selection and team captain and career 1,000-point scorer, Cook has been a leader in the Tigers’ frontcourt for much of his career, but his service-driven mindset away from Jadwin Gym is what truly defines him.

An economics major with an equally impressive academic portfolio, Cook has raised money for the Gidel Mother of Mercy Hospital in Sudan and has served as a business operations intern for the anti-poverty Heartland Alliance in his hometown of Chicago, helping to reorganize the group’s business operations systems at Heartland’s health clinic.

In recognition of his service and contributions on the court, Cook was one of five Division I basketball players named to the Allstate NABC Good Works Team. Cook will formally be recognized for this accolade in Phoenix at the 2017 NCAA Men’s Basketball Final Four.
Whether it be the lacrosse field or the theater stage, Sam Gravitte can be assumed to have a leading role. Gravitte’s versatility (he holds his high school’s record for career touchdowns) has allowed him to excel as a midfielder, defenseman and face-off specialist during his Princeton lacrosse career, all while balancing his academic pursuits and love for the arts.

An anthropology major from Ridgefield, Conn., with certificates in theater and music theater, Gravitte has appeared in a number of University productions, including “Spring Awakening” and “Annie & Rose.” This past fall, he directed and starred as the male lead at the Berlind Theater at McCarter in “Once,” a Tony Award-winning musical. This past summer, Gravitte participated in a six-week Global Seminar on French theater in Paris and Avignon.

Gravitte is a tenor voice in the student a cappella group “Shere Khan,” which has toured internationally and produced several albums. Additionally, he serves as a residential college advisor (RCA) in Mathey College, providing indispensable guidance and support to underclassmen.
Elise Wong ’19
Field Hockey, Woodrow Wilson School

Elise Wong has quickly established herself as a force for Princeton field hockey, starting every game during her two years on campus en route to Regional All-America honors. Wong’s undeniable instincts and toughness were instrumental in the Tigers’ improbable run to the 2016 NCAA Final Four. When not competing for the Orange and Black, she hones her talents internationally as a member of the U.S. Junior National Team.

Wong’s achievements stretch far beyond the confines of Bedford Field and truly epitomize EDUCATION THROUGH ATHLETICS. After graduating from high school (Lake Forest, Ill.) a year early, she has thrived academically in the Woodrow Wilson School, amassing enough credit hours to secure advanced standing at Princeton. She is spending the spring semester abroad, in Holland.

Wong’s quiet leadership and commitment to service has been on display through her on-campus volunteer efforts with the Student-Athlete Service Council, the Varsity Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and her role as a Student-Athlete Wellness Leader.

PVC MEMBERSHIP

PVC Lifetime Membership: Those interested in making a one-time gift to the PVC can elect to join as a lifetime member. Lifetime members receive all annual membership and service circle benefits for life and are invited to special events throughout the year.

PVC Service Circle: Those interested in helping to support leadership opportunities for varsity student-athletes can elect to join as service circle members, where a portion of your annual gift is used to support annual PVC service initiatives. Service circle members receive all annual membership benefits.

PVC Annual Member: Those wishing to join in support of broad-based initiatives benefiting all Princeton varsity student-athletes can elect to join as an annual member.

Earn Your Stripes: The PVC is continuing to offer full annual “membership benefits” for young alumni (Class of 2011-2016) who make a gift of any amount to an Athletic Friends Group.

All gifts to the PVC are fully tax-deductible and benefit all 37 varsity athletics programs. To learn more about membership in the PVC, please visit PrincetonVarsityClub.org.
Tiger Athletics Give Day

Tiger Athletics Give Day (TAGD), a 24-hour giving challenge across all varsity Athletics Friends Groups and the PVC, recently celebrated its third year. In total, nearly 13,000 Princetonians have participated in TAGD, contributing more than 15,800 gifts in support of Princeton Athletics.

2016 TAGD RESULTS

$1.9 Million
Total dollars raised across the 17 Athletics Friends Groups and the PVC, representing the single biggest day of giving in Princeton Athletics history.

$195,000
Bonus Funds provided by the Princeton Varsity Club Board of Directors and Advisory Committee to incentivize donor participation across pre-defined competitions.

8,500
Total gifts made in support of Princeton Athletics.

PRINCETON WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL
2015 & 2016 IVY LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

We are so grateful to our alumni, parents and friends who come together to support our tremendous Princeton student-athletes and coaches. We encourage you to STAY CONNECTED with the Tigers and be a part of our Princeton Athletics team.

To learn more about Princeton Athletics, please visit: GoPrincetonTigers.com