Standing with families: Community House heralds 50 years with Youth Leadership Summit and anniversary celebration

“Do not go where the path may lead; go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.” This quote, attributed to Ralph Waldo Emerson, was cited by LaTanya Buck, dean for diversity and inclusion at Princeton University, in her remarks at the Community House Youth Leadership Summit, held Nov. 5. She was on campus to celebrate the completion of two major public art commissions for the University.

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Maya Lin: Connecting art and the environment with two new campus works

“The Princeton Line” takes its name from the train line that once extended to the site where the Lewis Arts complex now stands and is part of Lin’s series of “Earth Drawings.”

“Einstein’s Table,” a large granite “water table,” was completed this year and is adjacent to the top edge of “The Princeton Line.” The elliptical table, surrounded by seven spheres, recalls drawings of the Earth’s orbit around the sun. The work is an homage to former Princeton resident Albert Einstein and his theory of general relativity.

Steward said these works were the culmination of a 10-year effort to add work by Lin to the University’s growing public art collection.

Lin achieved international recognition as an undergraduate at Yale University, when her design for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., was chosen in a national competition. The recipient of a 2016 Presidential Medal of Freedom, she is known for her commitment to sustainability.

Before bringing the discussion to a close, Steward asked, “What last advice would you give to folks about engaging with ‘The Princeton Line’ and ‘Einstein’s Table’?”

With ‘Einstein’s Table,’ it’s ‘slow down,’” Lin said. “With ‘The Princeton Line,’ it’s ‘get to know what’s right underfoot, understand what’s going on in your community.’”

Jamie Saxon, Office of Communications

save the date

Campus Farmers’ Market

Wednesdays • April 8 - May 6
11 a.m. - 3 p.m. • Firestone Plaza
President Eisgruber honored as innovation leader in New Jersey

Princeton President Christopher L. Eisgruber was recognized as the 2019 Educator of the Year by the Research and Development Council of New Jersey at the council’s 40th annual Thomas Alva Edison Patent Awards. Eisgruber was honored for his leadership of the University’s efforts to connect research to real-world problems and solutions.

New Jersey Gov. Philip D. Murphy and Nokia Bell Labs Nobel laureate Arthur Ashkin, as well as 15 patent award teams, were also feted before 300 guests at the Nov. 14 event held at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, New Jersey.

According to Kim Case, the council’s executive director, “President Eisgruber’s tenure as Princeton president includes collaborations with innovation giants such as Microsoft, Google and New Jersey’s own, Celgene. His administration also launched the Princeton Innovation Center BioLabs, a premier co-working space for science startups. Princeton’s innovation impact is building exciting momentum, with the potential to benefit the economy, attract talent, and continue New Jersey’s legacy as a supportive environment in which to advance research and development.”

A video tribute shown at the ceremony highlighted Eisgruber’s leadership in embracing innovation at the University and the development of an innovation ecosystem throughout New Jersey.

In addition to the collaborations cited by Case, the University has selected architects and planners for a proposed new Lake Campus that would include space for academic partnerships and innovation initiatives.

“It’s an honor and a real pleasure to be able to accept this award from the Research and Development Council of New Jersey. Your vote of confidence means a great deal to me and to Princeton University,” Eisgruber said. “We’re very proud of the partnerships that we’re creating with you and others in New Jersey to reinforce both the innovation ecosystem around us and the research and scholarly and teaching ventures at Princeton University.”

The Research and Development Council of New Jersey is a nonprofit organization whose membership spans academia, government and industry.

Princeton University Art Museum Adds Nassau Street Retail Location

The Princeton University Art Museum opened a new, second location of its Museum Store on Palmer Square in support of its mission of bringing the visual arts to local communities. Its grand opening on Nov. 29 celebrated the visual arts and artists in the local and regional Princeton community.

Located at 56 Nassau St., the new Museum Store features a variety of handcrafted offerings from regional artisans, as well as items related to the museum’s collections and current exhibitions. Proceeds from the store will support the more than 275 programs the museum offers each year, including gallery teaching programs for over 10,000 primary and secondary schoolchildren annually.

“The Museum Store seeks to deepen and extend the visitor experience of the Princeton University Art Museum, and provide visitors with opportunities to live with great design,” said Nancy A. Nasher-David J. Haemisegger, Class of 1976, Director James Steward. “Our new location on Nassau Street allows us to extend this mission to greater numbers of visitors to our community.”

This new location represents the museum’s ongoing commitment to community engagement and to the vitality of downtown Princeton. It also complements the opening of Art@Bainbridge, a contemporary gallery project that opened in September in historic Bainbridge House at 158 Nassau St.

happenings

Feb. 8 Princeton Women’s Basketball vs. Columbia. Celebrate National Girls & Women in Sports Day with a sports clinic hosted by Princeton student-athletes. First 500 fans will receive a free Girl Power shirt. Players will sign autographs after the game. 4 p.m. clinic, 5 p.m. game. Jadwin Gym. goprincetontigers.com/tickets

Feb. 12 “The Division: John Doar, the Justice Department, and the Civil Rights Movement,” with Professor of History Kevin Kruse. 4:30 p.m. 010 East Pyne. Free and open to the public. humanities.princeton.edu/event/old-dominion-work-in-progress-talks-kevin-kruse

Feb. 14-15, 20-22 “Sister Mok-rahn.” This critically acclaimed play captures the stories of separated people, like those in the divided North and South Koreas, through the perspective of a female North Korean defector, 8 p.m. Wallace Theater. tickets.princeton.edu

March 5 “Perilous Reporting: The Growing Threat to Journalists in the Field.” A panel of distinguished faculty and visiting journalists discuss the issue of violence targeting reporters and writers. 4:30 p.m. 101 McCormick Hall. Free and open to the public. humanities.princeton.edu/event/perilous-reporting-growing-threat-to-journalists


April 29 “Bioethics and the Transformation of Health Care in America,” with the University of Pennsylvania’s President Amy Gutmann and David and Lyn Silfen University Professor Jonathan D. Moreno. 4:30 p.m. Friend Center 101. Free and open to the public. lectures.princeton.edu

For more details visit www.princeton.edu/events and sign up for the UPROAR community e-newsletter at community.princeton.edu/about-us/newsletter
The Princeton community is a great place to live, learn and play in, and its recreational programming is a big reason why. No one embodies this notion more than Ben Stentz, who grew up playing sports and going to camp through the Princeton Recreation Department, and is now its executive director. He shared with us why their commitment to healthy play and relationships keeps kids and families signing up in droves.

How many people participate in these programs each year?

Roughly 300 kids play each winter season across the basketball and squash programs. Princeton University student volunteers help coach the youth basketball teams, and we have 30 to 40 of those student coaches.

Is there a story that stands out to you over the years?

A couple come to mind. In the summer, we have a men’s basketball league that’s been operating for more than 30 years. Through the ‘90s and into the early 2000s, we had many varsity Princeton basketball players who would play in our league over the summer. It was such a nice cycle of us bringing local kids on campus to play all winter and having some of the real greats from Princeton basketball playing in the community men’s league.

With the Dillon League, we’ve seen Princeton students get so into the coaching piece that it’s really neat. For many years, we’d get to the last day, and they would often dress up — we’d have students show up on that last day in a tux to coach their fourth-graders.

You really see people having fun, keeping it in perspective. … So many relationships have been formed in that gym on Saturday mornings between kids, between parents, between students and community members.

It’s stayed a homegrown thing and I’m grateful that the University continues to let us use the facilities and values the partnership.

You grew up in Princeton — what changes have you seen as a long-time resident and now as a municipal leader?

The town has changed in so many ways — it’s gotten bigger for sure. One thing I love about working here is that the Princeton Recreation Commission, which is an all-volunteer group, has really understood that there are things that work best if they largely remain the same. We’ve worked really hard to preserve the character and charm of Community Park Pool even as it has grown and been updated. We’ve kept the charm of Dillon Basketball because we’ve captured things that work, and keep the focus on the fun and relationships.

The culture of youth sports has changed. It’s become a business in many respects. The mentality has shifted to “more is better,” with a desire for more intensity, more practice, more games. I will retire from here knowing that this isn’t necessarily good for our kids. The Dillon League hasn’t changed much at all, and we’re really proud of that.

So … will we skate on Lake Carnegie this year?

Well, it’s already mid-January and it’s supposed to be 60 degrees this weekend. If I had to wager on it today, I’d say it’s not a good bet. But you never know … you get a week or more of deep freeze and maybe we’re out there. I always say, when it starts freezing, we’ll start checking it!

Princeton Recreation Department Executive Director Ben Stentz, fourth from left, gathered during a Jan. 11 Dillon Basketball League game in Dillon Gym with Princeton University student coaches and Recreation Department coordinators. (Photo by Denise Applewhite, Office of Communications)
When you go to a concert, you expect music. When you meditate, you expect silence. But what might it be like to combine these experiences?

Dasha Koltunyuk, a 2015 Princeton alumna who is marketing and events manager in the Department of Music and Princeton University Concerts (PUC), was inspired to find out.

She reflected on her love of classical music — she is an accomplished pianist — and her interest in mindfulness. Since her sophomore year, she has attended weekly meditations for Princeton staff, faculty and students, led by Matthew Weiner, associate dean of the Office of Religious Life. Imagining the merging of sound and silence, she came up with the idea for live music meditation.

Each event is a half-hour of guided meditation, led by Weiner, with live music performed by a world-class soloist or small ensemble visiting campus. Held during the noon hour, it is a free event open to the University and local community. At the end of the meditation, the musical artists and the audience share their experiences together.

The first event took place in fall 2015, with the Calidore String Quartet, in Mathey College Common Room. The series has flourished, offering three to four events a year, usually in Richardson Auditorium and drawing upwards of 200 to 250 people. Artists have included the Escher String Quartet, clarinetist Martin Fröst and pianist Henrik Måwe, vocalist Bobby McFerrin and Gimme 5, jazz pianist and composer Brad Mehldau, the Takács String Quartet, and violinist Stefan Jackiw and pianist Jeremy Denk, among others.

Perhaps no one is more surprised than Koltunyuk at the series’ success — in particular, the diversity of audience it attracts. “Everyone, no matter how much or how little experience they have with classical music or with meditation, comes to each session as a complete beginner,” Koltunyuk said. “Every time it’s a new experience. And that’s the beauty of music — it’s an eternally living, breathing force.”

For Weiner, the series extends his campus-based mindfulness work to the wider community. “Giving people the opportunity to be still, to soften their hearts and minds, and to deepen silence together, this is what allows us to then listen together in a way we all agree brings us joy,” he said.

“For me, few experiences have been more profound than listening to music in this kind of setting,” said Koltunyuk. “My hope is that people who attend the live music meditations can take the experience with them, and apply it to all listening experiences in their lives.”

Spring events include cellist Jean-Guilen Queyras at 12:30 p.m. Feb. 6, and the Dover String Quartet at 12:30 p.m. April 16. The organizers recommend arriving a half-hour early. Check venue information at princetonuniversityconcerts.org.

Spring Reunion events include cellist Jean-Guilen Queyras at 12:30 p.m. Feb. 6, and the Dover String Quartet at 12:30 p.m. April 16. The organizers recommend arriving a half-hour early. Check venue information at princetonuniversityconcerts.org.

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Jazz pianist Brad Mehldau performs during a live music meditation in Richardson Auditorium in fall 2019. (Photo by Jamie Saxon, Office of Communications)