Welcome, Class of 2016!

Generations of Princetonians, and now the Great Class of 2016, have hailed Princeton as "the best old place of all." The Princetoniana Committee of the Alumni Council can help you discover why—through the history, lore, and traditions of Princeton. (Did you know, for example, that Princeton was the first college to call her campus a “campus?”)

Princeton was founded as a place of learning, liberty, and tolerance. It is no accident that Princeton was at the spiritual heart of the American Revolution; indeed, President John Witherspoon was the only college president and clergyman to sign the Declaration of Independence. And James Madison, Class of 1771 and first president of our Alumni Association, was the intellectual force behind the writing of the Constitution. The spirit of learning, liberty, and tolerance still flourishes at Princeton in a continuum that links you and your classmates with fellow alumni across generations in affection for each other and for Old Nassau.

During Freshman Week, you will find opportunities to learn about and enter an ongoing stream of Princeton history and traditions. You will issue forth from the Opening Exercises into the Freshman "Pre-Rade," figuratively joining the long line of classes in the Princeton Reunions P-Rade. You will be introduced to Princeton songs and cheers at the Freshman Step Sing that afternoon. Orange Key student guides will lead you and your parents on historical tours through the campus.

The new Princetoniana website, currently undergoing revision and due to re-launch this fall, will deepen your knowledge and appreciation of your University and its traditions.

Even as you get to know Princeton as "the best old place of all," we know that the Class of 2016 will continue the transformation of our University into the "best new place of all." With your character, intelligence, energy, and talents, that's inevitable. Cheers to the Class of '16! Welcome, Tigers!

Bruce Leslie '66
Chair, Alumni Council Committee on Princetoniana