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ZOOM

in on america

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PLANNING YOUR FUTURE: AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES



A Yale University student wears a decoration on his mortarboard during Class Day at Yale. AP Photo

In this issue: American Universities

Zoom in on America

PRINCETON

Founded in 1746, before the American Revolution, Princeton is the fourth-oldest college in the United States. It is a private institution located in the town of Princeton, New Jersey and a member of the Ivy League, a collegiate athletic conference of eight schools including also Brown University, Columbia University, Cornell University, Dartmouth College, Harvard University, the University of Pennsylvania, and Yale. Princeton was the first university to offer a “no loan” policy to financially needy students, giving grants instead of loans to accepted students who need help paying tuition. The University offers courses in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences and engineering. Today, more than 1,100 faculty members instruct approximately 5,200 undergraduate students and 2,600 graduate students. Princeton colors are orange and black.



People stand near arched openings at Princeton University's new Whitman College, in Princeton, New Jersey. AP Photo

The name under which today's Princeton University was founded and functioned for the first 150 years of its operation was the *College of New Jersey*. For a decade it was located in the town of Elizabeth and then in Newark before it was moved to Princeton in 1756. Its first quarters, *Nassau Hall*, was built on the land donated by Nathaniel Fitz-Randolph. In 1859 a song “Old Nassau”, written by Harlan Page Peck, won the *Nassau Literary Magazine's* contest for the best college song. With music written to the lyrics by a teacher of German, Karl Langlotz, it has been University's anthem up till today. It is the University's long tradition for Princeton alumni to teach “Old Nassau” to freshmen.

The College was awarded university status in 1896 in recognition of an expanded program it offered and its name was officially changed to Princeton University in honor of its host community of Princeton in the state of New Jersey.

Princeton education program includes highly ranked graduate programs through the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and School of Engineering

and Applied Sciences. Princeton requires all undergraduate students to write a senior thesis, which is a unique aspect of the University's academic program.

Among famous alumni of the University we find U.S. President Woodrow Wilson, mathematician and Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences awardee, John Forbes Nash, whose long fight with schizophrenia was the basis for Sylvia Nasar's biography, *A Beautiful Mind*, as well as a film of the same name starring Russell Crowe, model and actress Brooke Shields, and first lady Michelle Obama.

Princeton's legends and traditions known as Princetoniana include two picturesque parades held annually within the University grounds. The older one, the “P-rade”, which is the major event of the annual Princeton Reunion, gathers over 20,000 alumni and guests. Members of each class from oldest to youngest, accompanied by their families and even pets, march in themed costumes to the tune of music bands through campus to the baseball field. The parade ends with the graduating seniors race onto the field where they are formally welcomed as alumni. Princeton Reunions last four days and feature large outdoor tents, elaborate costumes, sporting events, alumni and faculty presentations, fireworks, and bands from rock to swing. A new parade (beginning in 2004), called “Pre-rade” is an annual event for freshmen. They march with the president and members of the faculty in full regalia. Students wear T-shirts from their different residential colleges (each college has their unique traditional outfit.) Alumni, in Reunions garb, are present too. Older classes welcome the freshmen and introduce them to Princeton's “Locomotive”. At Blair Arch the freshmen participate in a “Step Sing” and are taught the words to Princeton's anthem.

Legends apart, there is a superstition that keeps undergraduate students away from FitzRandolph Gate. It says that if a student exits campus through that gate before their graduation, he or she may be cursed never to graduate.

A Special Alumnus

We mentioned above that freshmen are taught the University anthem as one of the first things at Princeton.

The most popular instructor in teaching “Old Nassau” to freshmen was Frederic (Fred) Fox, University’s graduate in 1939. Having had a career as a journalist, a soldier in World War II, a Congregationalist minister, a White House assistant during President Dwight D. Eisenhower and a teacher in East Africa, Dr. Fox returned to the uni-

versity in 1963 and was appointed an official “Keeper of Princetoniana” - the function he performed until his death in 1981. As a recording secretary he taught the song to every incoming class as part of a presentation of the Honor Code in Alexander Hall and was a well-known figure for generations of Princeton students and graduates.

HARVARD

Harvard University is named in honor of the college’s first benefactor, John Harvard of Charleston, who - upon his death in 1638 - left his library and half his estate to this institution. Harvard is the oldest University in the United States and dates back to 1636. It is located in Cambridge, Massachusetts, just outside of Boston. The College has the largest endowment of any school in the world. John Harvard’s statue is placed in front of University Hall in Harvard Yard, and is perhaps the University’s best known landmark. The University has a total undergraduate enrollment of 6,722. The University’s color is crimson and its Motto is: Veritas (Latin for “truth”)



Harvard University Arts and Sciences undergrad graduates react as their school’s degrees are conferred during Harvard University commencement exercises, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. AP Photo

With more than 323,000 living alumni in over 200 countries all over the world, Harvard is an American global university. Naturally, most graduates live in the United States - 270,000.

Harvard is also the oldest university in America. The Great and General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony established this private institution of higher education in 1636.

Harvard is *alma mater* of 47 Nobel Laureates, 32 heads of state, and 48 Pulitzer Prize winners. With a statistics like that the University enjoys a reputation of one of the most prestigious institutions of higher education in America. If you add to this the largest academic library

in the world, it might seem that Harvard’s students do nothing but study and read. Actually, Harvard students engage in many other activities which occupy their time, even though they may just as well eventually contribute to individual development of students. The University puts a lot of stress on students’ extracurricular interests and candidates with hobbies, passions and those who engage in the life of their communities stand a greater chance of getting aboard than those who don’t.

Sport ranks high in Harvard’s effort to build competitive excellence. The tradition was born around 1780 when the first wrestling match between sophomores and freshmen was held. New sports were added to the list with time: football, boat racing, baseball, track, lacrosse, tennis, fencing, sailing, golf, hockey, basketball, etc. In 1874 the first Harvard Athletic Association was formed. The famed rivalry between Harvard and Yale has been going on since 1852 when both Universities met in a crew race on Lake Winnepesaukee in Center Harbor, New Hampshire, an event which was America’s first intercollegiate athletic event. Today Harvard and Yale end every football season with “The Game” (since 1875). There is a tradition (since 1884) to wave “Little Red Flag” each time Harvard football scores against Yale. According to it the alumnus of the College who has seen the most consecutive games between the competing Universities carries the original small flag to every Harvard-Yale game.

Together with 7 other universities: Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Pennsylvania, Princeton and Yale, Harvard forms a collegiate athletic conference, which was established in 1954. Some 20 years later the term “Ivy League” was coined by Caswell Adams of the New York Herald Tribune for the conference. The signing document stated that “emphasis upon intercollegiate competition must be kept in harmony with the essential educational purposes of the institution.”

Apart from sport, Harvard students engage in other extracurricular activities such as visual arts, music, and theatre. They develop their skills and interests in students’ clubs,

circles and organizations. They make video productions, edit publications including *The Harvard Advocate*, the oldest college art and literary magazine in America, which was established in 1866.

Harvard University includes ten faculties and the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, which together make up 11 principal academic units. The ten faculties oversee schools and divisions that offer courses and award academic degrees. Harvard's schools and institutes include the top-ranked Business School, Medical School, Gradu-

ate Education School, School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Law School and John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Harvard also has the largest endowment of any school in the world. In 2014 it amounted to \$36.4 billion. Harvard University has a total undergraduate enrollment of more than 6,000 students, 99 percent of whom live in campus. Harvard employs 2,400 faculty members and offers more than 10,400 academic appointments in affiliated teaching hospitals.

YALE

Yalies (students of Yale) are keen on the University's many traditions. One of them is the annual football match against Harvard, *The Game*, which takes place on the weekend before Thanksgiving. *Class Day*, held on the Sunday before Commencement, is a day of unusual (or silly) hats worn by the students to the enjoyment of on-lookers as well as their own. The Commencement ceremony during which university degrees are conferred, is Yalies' most joyful tradition. Last but not least is the mascot, the Yale Bulldog "Handsome Dan". The tradition began in 1889, when a Yale student saw the dog sitting in front of a shop, bought him from a New Haven blacksmith for \$ 5 and named him Handsome Dean. The dog befriended no one but Yale students and his love was duly returned by them. He was taken on a walk across the field before *The Game* started. Naturally, Yale athletic team goes by the name *The Bulldogs*.

Read more about the Yale mascot at: http://www.yalebulldogs.com/information/mascot/handsome_dan/



Yale University students wear a variety of head coverings during Class Day at Yale. AP Photo

Yale University is situated 90 minutes from New York in the city of New Haven, Connecticut. Its history goes back to 1701 when the charter was granted for a school

"wherein Youth may be instructed in the Arts and Sciences (and) through the blessing of Almighty God may be fitted for Public employment both in Church and Civil State."

However, it was only in 1718 that the school officially became Yale College. The name honors a Welsh merchant Elihu Yale, whose monetary and book donation geared University's early activity. Like Princeton and Harvard, Yale is also a private institution. Its total undergraduate enrollment is nearly 5,500.

Yale is made up of the College, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and 13 professional schools including the top ranked Law School and highly ranked School of Management, School of Medicine, School of Art and School of Nursing. The School of Drama, School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and Divinity School are also highly regarded graduate programs.

During their time at Yale students are encouraged to live in one of the 12 residential colleges. Each college has a master and a dean and it is a tradition for students and teachers to eat together in the dining halls.

There are a lot of different competitions and rivalry between residential colleges. Pranks such as stealing a college's flag may be a start of a battle.

The University encourages extracurricular activities in art and architecture, music, sports and community life. The Yale University Art Gallery, the British Art Museum and the Peabody Museum attract visitors to come and see their collections. There are over a dozen a cappella singing groups. The Yale Whiffenpoofs, an undergraduate a cappella singing group is the oldest collegiate a cappella in the United States. Established in 1909, it has just 14 spots for which men in the junior year compete. The Yale Dramatic Association is yet another example of the University drama program. *The Yale Record* is the oldest humor magazine in the United States. On the sports arena, the Yale Bulldogs compete in the Ivy League. Students engage in the affairs of the local New Haven community.

COLUMBIA

Columbia University is a private institution of higher education. It is a member of the Ivy League. The University comprises such schools as Columbia College, the School of Engineering and Applied Science, and the School of General Studies. The university also has global research outposts in Amman, Beijing, Istanbul, Paris, Mumbai, Rio de Janeiro, Santiago, Asunción and Nairobi. Columbia University has a total undergraduate enrollment of 6,170.



A statue of Alexander Hamilton outside Hamilton Hall on the campus of Columbia University in New York City. Columbia was founded as King's College, which Hamilton attended before going off to fight in the Revolutionary War. He rose to become George Washington's right-hand man, a story told in a musical, "Hamilton." AP Photo

New York and the fifth oldest in the United States. Even though the turmoil caused by the American Revolution in 1776 brought the development of the College to a halt, the institution continued to influence American life through the people who were associated with it. The list includes: John Jay, the first chief justice of the United States; Alexander Hamilton, the first secretary of the treasury; Governor Morris, the author of the final draft of the U.S. Constitution; and Robert R. Livingston, a member of the five-man committee that drafted the Declaration of Independence.

The College got its present name - Columbia - in 1784. The School of Journalism was established by Joseph Pulitzer in 1912. Columbia annually administers the Pulitzer Prize.

The 1960s were the years of crisis for the University. In the times of the opposition to the Vietnam War, more than 1,000 students protested and occupied five buildings at the Morningside campus in April 1968. The protesters were removed by the New York City police. Following these events some research activities and modernization plans were halted.

The revival started in the 1980s and since then a lot of new facilities have been constructed including College Halls and sports facilities. Butler Library underwent renovation and the Philip L. Milstein Family College Library was created. The University also continued to develop the Audubon Biotechnology and Research Park.

Founded in 1754 by royal charter of King George II of England as King's College, Columbia University is the oldest institution of higher education in the state of

STANFORD

Stanford University is located 35 miles south of San Francisco and 20 miles north of San Jose, in the heart of Silicon Valley in the city of Palo Alto. This private institution of higher education ranks high in the world's leading teaching and research universities. The University opened in 1891. Currently the number of undergraduate students is close to 7,000. With 2,118 faculty members and 21 Nobel laureates who are currently members of the Stanford community, the University offers 4:1 student to faculty ratio. Stanford is home to 7 schools: Business, Earth Sciences, Education, Engineering, Humanities and Sciences, Law and Medicine.



On the Stanford University campus. AP Photo

Stanford University is a private institution that was founded in 1885.

The key word at Stanford University is research. Another important concept is interdisciplinary work. Students within Stanford's seven schools work across disciplines.

There are more than 5,300 externally sponsored projects throughout the university, with the total budget for sponsored projects at \$1.33 billion during 2014-15. Of these projects, the federal government sponsors approximately 82 percent. In addition, nearly \$230 million in support comes from non-federal funding sources.

Stanford has 18 independent laboratories, centers and institutes that provide a physical and intellectual inter-

section between schools and disciplines. Research centers include Physical Sciences, Environmental Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences, and Biological and Life Sciences

Numerous Stanford student organizations include the Stanford Pre-Business Association and Stanford Solar Car Project, which consists in designing, building and racing a solar car every two years.

On the sports arena, there is an annual football competition that awards the Stanford Axe. Tennis and golf are also popular sports among Stanford students.

Stanford has a number of well-known theatrical and musical groups, including the Ram's Head Theatrical Society and the Mendicants, an all-male a cappella group.

Activity Page

Exercise 1: True or false?

1. Harvard is the fourth-oldest college in the United States.
2. Yale athletic team's name is The Bulldogs.
3. Stanford annually administers the Pulitzer Prize.
4. The Game takes place on the weekend before Thanksgiving.
5. Harvard is the second oldest university in America.
6. Alexander Hamilton, the first secretary of the treasury, studied at Yale.
7. Harvard's 323,000 living alumni are in over 200 countries all over the world.
8. Stanford Solar Car Project consists in designing, building and racing a solar car every year.
9. Columbia was founded in 1754 by royal charter of King George II of England as King's College.
10. The key word at Stanford University is research.
11. Columbia's revival started in the 1980s and since then a lot of new facilities have been constructed including College Halls and sports facilities.
12. There are a lot of different competitions and rivalry between residential colleges at Yale.
13. "Pre-rade" is an annual event for freshmen at Princeton.
14. Stanford is not a member of the Ivy League.

Exercise2

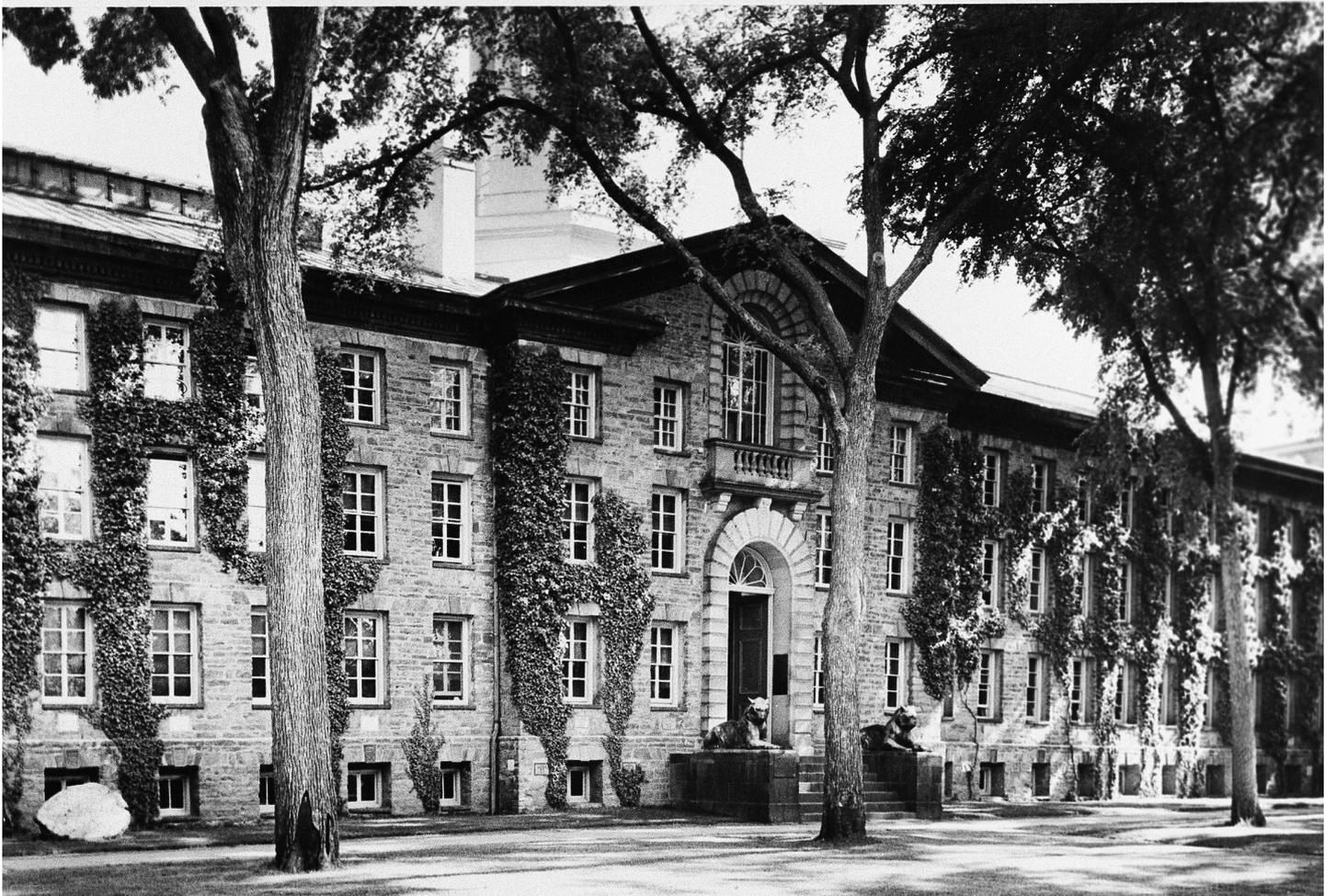
Match the words 1– 5 with their meanings: a-e:

1. commencement
 2. sophomore
 3. undergraduate
 4. faculty
 5. a cappella
- a. A second-year undergraduate student in a college, university or a high school.
 - b. The ceremony of conferring degrees or granting diplomas at the end of the academic year.
 - c. Singing without instrumental accompaniment.
 - d. A student who has not yet obtained their academic degree.
 - e. The academic staff of a university.

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At top is an engraving of the old Nassau Hall as it appeared in 1756. Below is the 1956 photo of the building on the campus of Princeton University. It was in this building that President Washington and the Congress celebrated the end of the Revolutionary war. AP Photo