It Takes a Village to Make a Freshman Seminar
Robert Socolow
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It takes a university dedicated to excellence, independence and curiosity for centuries.

It takes a college which has countered the Freshman Year’s deficiencies that come with survey courses and remote professors by inventing the Freshman Seminar.

It takes an Office of the Dean of the College to foster these seminars and to work with professors to improve them. Liz Colagiuri, Dov Grohsgal, Sha Sanyal

It takes a Council on Science and Technology to encourage Freshman Seminars that communicate science and to help professors create compelling course elements. Naomi Leonard, Catherine Riihimaki

It takes a committed donor to help fund seminars that address the environment. Tom Barron

It takes an inspiring librarian to introduce students to Mudd Library, which conserves Princetoniana for centuries, and to assure that the capsules will be accessible at their reunions. Dan Linke

It takes entrepreneurial campus communication professionals to promulgate the course’s story Dan Day, Wendy Plump, Steve Schultz, John Sullivan, Morgan Kelly, Greta Shum

It takes a “campus reunions guru” to make key introductions. Mibs Southerland Mara

It takes a resourceful host at Wilson College, troubleshooting so the classroom works. Laurie Hebditch

It takes communicative in-house engineers sharing how they run the campus. Tom Nyquist, Ted Borer

It takes a committed leader of the Office of Sustainability, sharing campus goals. Shana Weber

It takes a brilliant scholar of the ice-age record, responding to the students’ summaries of the first scientific papers they had ever read. Michael Bender

It takes a passionate reunions aficionado, telling freshmen they had entered a stream. Frank Derby

It takes a scientist-legislator willing to come to class to share how politics works. Andrew Zwicker

It takes supportive faculty colleagues who are Freshman Seminar veterans. Stan Katz, Hal Feiveson

It takes an incredibly generous on-campus home at PEI, providing spiritual and logistical support. Kathy Hackett, Raj Chokshi, Holly Welles, Stacey Christian, Frances Juhasz, Angela Petsis

It takes a brilliant, selfless junior colleague and climate-science expert to share all aspects of course content and strategy and to make mentoring a delight. Nadir Jeevanjee

It takes Caitlin Daley, a force of her own, attending to the students and me with incredible care.

It takes a friend, who says Do It! Mimi Schwartz

It takes six wonderful students, ready to try anything and pitch in whenever there is a job to do.